

# Opinion

## Your turn

### One-size-fits-all does not work

**Kansas Rep. Jerry Moran**

Last week, this paper ran an editorial on the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) that Congress passed four years ago. This legislation was written in response to problems with Florida voters' ballots in the 2000 Presidential election.

During my time in Congress I have come to realize that when a specific problem or crisis captures America's attention, the government tends to overreact and implement overreaching legislation without regard to the unintended consequences. I did anticipate what would happen to small-town voters and was one of the 48 Members in the House of Representatives to vote no on this legislation.

HAVA is another example of the federal government dictating burdensome requirements to state and local authorities. I agree with Mr. (Steve) Haynes that this is "one more nail in the coffin of rural America." I do not believe in "one-size-fits-all" legislation and continue working hard to be the voice for rural America and, most importantly, Kansas.

*Editor's note: Rep. Moran wrote in response to a Friday, July 28 editorial written by Steve Haynes, owner of Nor'West Newspapers.*

### Don't see the good

**Edna Hatcher Colby**

I've just re-read the Friday, July 28, 2006, edition of the opinion column of the *Colby Free Press* that the owner of this newspaper wrote, titled "Let 'em sue us."

Steve Haynes didn't like the way rural America was being treated concerning voting in rural America. Frankly, I don't see that voting machines are doing any good at all unless the ballots can be checked after the voting of everyone had been completed. Fraud and inaccuracies have occurred all over the country. It is criminal not to be able to re-count the votes. There should be a law.

If I went to vote on a machine I'd have to be shown how but no one has to show me how to use a pen or pencil. A handicapped person has more of a chance to choose who he/she wishes to vote for with a ballot and pencil at home rather than hazard a trip to a voting machine.

Those machines apparently were made for the manufacturers to make money since some of the machines can't be checked for accuracy. I don't know if the voting machines are made by Democrats or Republicans but since they cause rural areas more expense and trouble than they are worth the machines should be declared "obsolete and useless."

When I worked in Los Angeles employees could take off work to vote but I voted by absentee ballot because I didn't want to drive or catch a bus in the smog for an hour or two. I've learned that the more cars there are and the closer together they are the more likely it is that there will be accidents so I vote by advance ballot. Advance voting is especially helpful for seniors and/or handicapped individuals.

Since writing this I received a message from Chellie Pingree, President of Common Cause saying: "We're also pleased to report that HR 350, legislation that mandates election system safeguard to make voting systems more secure and reliable—requiring a voter-verified paper ballot—now has over 200 sponsors." HR 550 might have a chance of reaching the floor of the house if both sides of the aisle approve of it and want some action.

Comments to any opinions expressed on this page are encouraged. Mail them to the Colby Free Press, 155 W. 5th St., Colby, Kan., 67701. Or e-mail [jvannostrand@nwkans.com](mailto:jvannostrand@nwkans.com) or [pdecker@nwkans.com](mailto:pdecker@nwkans.com). Opinions do not necessarily reflect the *Free Press*.

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**Nor'West Newspapers**

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### A women's world



**John Van Nostrand**

• **Line in the Dust**

Gosh, it has to be tough being a woman. A few weeks ago I helped a good friend of mine and his wife move into another house in metro-Denver. During a break of moving boxes from the garage to whatever room they needed to go to, my friend's wife noticed a box of magazines and junk mail. One of the magazines had a picture of a woman in a two-piece swimsuit in some advertisement.

My friend's wife said something to the effect of she was disappointed she does not look like the woman in the magazine. They had their first child a year ago and she said she is still battling the common effects of post-pregnancy, which includes extra weight. My friend handled the moment with respect and gentleness. He still showed his love and support for her.

I could not get in the conversation because I was too caught up in my own thoughts remembering reading magazine after magazine at my wife's pregnancy-related doctor appointments. Many of those magazines, in just as many ways, stated woman can return to their pre-pregnancy figures, but don't expect it overnight as pregnancy is a major stress on the body and some of the weight gain can stay longer than wanted.

From that point on, I renewed my promise to

myself that I would not let such an issue get in the way between me and my wife.

But women and this issue go beyond how it is treated at home with their husbands.

Women are bombarded with images to always improve their appearance. Women go shopping at the stores and they see the young 20-something employees, probably reminding them how they looked when they were at that age. The woman in the catalogs modeling the clothes always look better than perfect. One of those shopping channels on cable TV sell clothes that make women look thinner than they actually are.

Even though there may literally be more to a woman, that does not make them less of a person.

After my friend's house was in order, he

thanked me for the help by buying me dinner at a restaurant down the street. My friend remembered what his wife said earlier, after noticing all the waitresses were women. Of course, there were those attractive 20-some-things.

"Kind of makes you wonder who was not hired," my friend said after one of those women refilled our drinks.

Sometimes the messages to women are much more subliminal.

Years ago I and other people I worked with were having an informal conversation about how some people can take the stage at parties and social settings.

A woman specified that conversation topic with women. She said she has noticed several times of how women at a party know who is the most attractive woman in the room without saying anything.

"You just have to watch body language, posturing and where people stand," she said.

It's unfortunate today's women have to deal with the pressure from society that implies they are important only from the neck down.

*John Van Nostrand is publisher of the Colby Free Press*

### We are called to be imitators

"O Lord our God, help us to tear their soldiers to bloody shreds with our shells; help us to cover their smiling fields with the pale forms of their patriot dead; help us to drown the thunder of the guns with the shrieks of their wounded, writhing in pain; help us to lay waste their humble homes with a hurricane of fire;"

The above is a snippet from The War Prayer written by Mark Twain in 1904 or 1905. He was not a supporter of the United States intervention in the Philippines. You can read more by going to: [www.lone-star.net/mall/literature/warpray.htm](http://www.lone-star.net/mall/literature/warpray.htm) or do a search for Mark Twain The War Prayer.

Right is right and wrong is wrong. If you don't know right from wrong, ask me. Is this the attitude that many of us have? The world has only red and green lights and black or white ethics and morals. There are no yellow lights and certainly no gray areas when it comes to ethics and morals. There are no allowed tolerances, except as I have allowed.

I have read the Scriptures and the Holy Spirit has told me exactly what Jesus meant, when He said He came not to abolish the law, but to fulfill it. I know with certainty which of the Levitical laws are still in force today and which ones aren't. Never mind that Jesus on several occasions explicitly accused the religious leaders of

**Ken Poland**

• **Ken's World**

His day and the generations before of wrong interpretation, miss application, and unequal enforcement.

Not to worry though, I know the perfect will of God because He told me. If you don't condemn the same sins as abominable that I do, then you are not in perfect obedience to God's word and will. If you don't march to the same cadence that I do, then you are out of step. If you don't toot the same horn, beat the same drum and chant the same chants that I do, then you are not worshipping properly and I cannot fellowship with you. And furthermore, I shall declare you condemned to eternal separation from God, if you don't change your ways.

We forget to remember or to take literally Jesus instruction to the disciples about forgiving 70 times seven. We choose to interpret literally the place where He tells His disciples that whatever they lose on earth will be lost in heaven and what ever they bind on earth will be bound in heaven. Wow! there you have it. I know what

the Scriptures say and I know the perfect will of God. Jesus promised it right there. There seems to be a little disagreement today on which religious leaders have that power, but I know. There is even a little disagreement on who knows what perfection is.

Perhaps we need to accept the fact we as a society of imperfect human beings must set standards and tolerances for one another that protect us from one another. We need to accept the fact only God is perfect and only He can set the standards and tolerances that guarantee our eternal destination when we depart this earth.

We are called to be imitators of Christ. Imitations or reflections are never perfect replications of the real thing. How do we know what the real thing is?

As we study the accounts of Jesus walk on earth and develop a faith and trust in Him, we may need to modify our intransigent attitude toward our fellow man and begin looking at ways to love our neighbors and enemies as Christ loves us. Will Mark Twain's war prayer then be our prayer? Will the world then know that we are Christians by our love, instead of our power, wealth and self proclaimed righteousness?

*Ken Poland is from Gem and occasionally contributes to the Colby Free Press.*

#### About those letters . . .

The *Free Press* encourages and welcomes letters from readers. Letters should be typewritten, if at all possible, and should include a telephone number and an address. These are used for verification of the writer only. If, however, you want your address and telephone number to appear with your letter, please ask us to do so when you submit your letter, or include a note with your letter. Most importantly, all letters must include a signature. Unsigned letters cannot be published. We reserve the right to edit for clarity and length, and, likewise, reserve the right to reject letters deemed to be of no public interest or considered offensive or libelous. You can expect your letter to appear in print within 24-48 hours of receipt. Letters to the *Free Press* allow readers to become engaged in public debate on topics they deem important. Please consider sharing your thoughts with the family of Colby Free Press readers. Thank you.

#### Mallard Fillmore

• Bruce Tinsley

