

# Opinion

## A Kansas Viewpoint



### Kansas must reconsider choice

**From The Hays Daily News**  
 Nobody knows Kansas better than Kansans themselves. And when it comes to marketing our great state, that maxim should be applied with utmost vigor.

What appears commonsense to us is not shared by the Kansas Department of Commerce. The state agency recently announced that Kansas!, a tourism magazine that has been in distribution for 60 years, will be produced in Iowa beginning next spring.

KDOC said that Meredith Corp. in Des Moines was the only bidder that could offer editing, publishing and printing under one contract.

We're not impressed with the decision. There are valid reasons why any business operation should consider the lowest and best bid when making decisions. One of them would be to keep business local. Another is to keep Kansas taxpayers' money inside Kansas as much as possible.

The efficiencies offered by Meredith, which admittedly does an outstanding job with Midwest Living, should not be enough to lure this state contract away.

... Up to this point, three different companies in Lawrence and Topeka have been utilized to produce the magazine. "But since the Iowa-based 'Midwest Living' was part of a publishing company that could do what three contracts did, it was really a way to find efficiencies, instead, through one contract," said Caleb Asher, a spokesman for KDOC.

Sometimes it's not all about efficiencies. Sometimes it's not even all about price. Sometimes it's simply about a quality piece being produced by in-state companies.

This is one of those times. We urge the Kansas Department of Commerce to reconsider its decision.

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@nwkanssas.com](mailto:jvannostrand@nwkanssas.com) or [pdecker@nwkanssas.com](mailto:pdecker@nwkanssas.com). Opinions do not necessarily reflect the *Free Press*.

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### Birthday mayhem

My 33rd birthday was Friday. I went home for the weekend and spent it with family. I ran into an old friend from high school, someone I hadn't seen in a very long time. Also, a couple of things from my younger years came back to me. Kind of wild, yet nice.

We also went to the movies, to see "Jackass 2." Although it didn't inspire any really stupid activities, there was an accident involving my sister Chris and a bottle of water. Watching her watch the movie was more fun than watching the movie itself.

There was also a silly moment Saturday. Needless to say, Chris can't run in a straight line after going in circles, her iPod caused our mom to get accidentally "punked" and sometimes "normal" isn't so middle of the road.



**Tisha Cox**  
 • Off The Beaten Path

For me, there is nothing like loud, hard music to help put the hammer down when on the road, or at least help the miles go by a little faster when driving the speed limit.

Look in my car and you'll find a couple of homemade mix tapes with stuff by Limp Bizkit, Better Than Ezra and also music by the Scorpions and Sugar Ray, back before they went all soft and lead singer Mark McGrath became a television host.

A real favorite is "Fly" by the Foo Fighters, which is on a blue tape that always falls between the seats. (Yes, I own a car with a tape player.)

I'm sure everyone has their favorites, but here mine are, with help from my sister and fellow road warrior, Chris, we have compiled a list of our favorite "speeding" songs:

10. "Are You Gonna Go My Way," by Lenny Kravitz. First heard this one back in 1996 when it was on the first X-Games soundtrack. Thank you, Chris.
9. "No Sleep 'Till Brooklyn," by the Beastie Boys. No sleep 'till the destination. Always a good one.
8. "What I Got," by Sublime. Mellow, but lets you forget your cares.

7. "Going the Distance" Cake. Reminds us both of a favorite Japanese anime show about a racer named Speed with a car called the Mach 5.
  6. "Bad Religion." Godsmack. Always a good one for driving.
  5. "Minnie the Moocher." Big Bad Voodoo Daddy. A perennial favorite on hockey roadtrips.
  4. "Banditos." The Refreshments. *Just how far down do you want to go We can talk it out over a cup of joe And you can look deep in my eyes Like I was a super-model Uh huh It's just you and me baby No one else we can trust We'll say nuthin to no one No how or we'll bust Never crack a smile Or flinch or cry For nobody.*
  3. "Teen Spirit" by Nirvana. Chris likes to sing along to this one.
  2. "Fly" by the Foo Fighters. Summer song. Reminds me of good times.
  1. "Possum Kingdom." The Toadies. Has inspired various wild tangents, as well as a fear of opossums on the open road.
- These are all favorite songs we've listened to on almost every road trip together. However, the top road trip/inspiring wild idea album would be the first X-Games soundtrack.
- The first time we heard bands like Korn, Primus and more can be attributed to that album alone. And in turn, those bands have become the soundtrack for many a trip. Too many to count, in fact.
- \*\*\*\*\*  
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**Musical memories**  
 Speaking of memories, recently cruising Web sites for information on the new Chevy Camaro, I came across a humorous article on roadtrip songs, the kind that may lend themselves to helping a driver have a lead foot.

Of course, it was tongue-in-cheek, but inspired a discussion between my sister and I on some of our favorite road songs.

Some of the songs suggested in the article I wouldn't consider conducive for such activity, others, oh yes.

And no, I'm not condoning speeding, but merely offering a few favorite songs that would have fit the mold back in the day.

The article mentioned songs like "Faith" by Limp Bizkit, "Du Hast" by Rammstein and other by groups like White Zombie, The Offspring and Incubus.

### Your turn

## Kline must be voted out of office

**Tim Peterson Monument**  
 Asking the question, "What would Jesus do?" is an excellent method to reflect on the ethics of one's actions.

That question came to mind when I read about how Attorney General Phill Kline was going to various churches to further his reelection campaign.

His own campaign memo states that the one objective for attending these worship services would be to meet "money" people for the purpose of getting large campaign contributions.

Every gospel in the New Testament tells of the wrath of Jesus against those who were misusing his temple to gain wealth and power. The

gospel according to St. John states "Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple." (chapter 2, verse 15)

The answer is obvious what Jesus would have done to Phill Kline because of his repugnant abuse of God's house.

It is equally obvious what voters must do. They must vote him out of office.

## I wish you had been responsible

**Susan McMahan Brewster**  
 This is to the man who blatantly injured my dog and left him to suffer on County Road 3 and B, Sept. 26.

Not only did he not stop, but proceeded to flip my daughter off, who witnessed it, and sped away.

Your actions made my 17-year-old have a horrible day, but that was my 2-year-old's dog. Do you know how hard it is to explain to a 2-year-old that his dog is gone?

If you find yourself in a situation like this, have the decency to stop, try to contact the owner.

For goodness sake, don't let the animal,

whether it's domestic or wild, suffer — that is cruel.

I do need to thank my neighbor for cleaning up your mess and putting my dog out his misery. Then he went above and beyond and buried him for me.

I just wish you had been a responsible person.

**About those letters . . .**  
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