

Opinion



Free Press Viewpoint

Missing: Governor

A big thank you goes to Kansas Republican gubernatorial candidate Jim Barnett for visiting Colby and western Kansas last week. Now only if his competition, the incumbent Democrat Kathleen Sebelius would do the same.

Western Kansas people, those who live west of Hays, feel forgotten in the proverbial big picture of Kansas. We are only known for our wheat harvest, the occasional blizzard that closes Interstate 70, and the gas stations and restaurants for eastern Kansas people on a ski trip to Colorado.

It's nice to see Barnett, who calls Emporia home, to come to the other side.

Sebelius is probably just playing politics. Her staff and her research probably told her there are not enough Democrats and votes around here to justify a trip. But that's no excuse not to visit a part of the state. It doesn't matter if it is an election year or not. A portion of a state should be forgotten just because of its political flavor. No part of any state should be forgotten by its governor.

Being a leader of anything, from the local Lions Club to a governor of state is a challenge. What makes that challenge even greater is the people look to the leader for answers, direction, and a role model.

It's tough for western Kansas people to maintain the pride and enthusiasm for what they do and where they live, when the state's own governor only shows up once a year and halfheartedly cuts the grand opening ribbon while wearing the obligatory smile for whatever new facility just opened.

New Colby Community College President Dr. Lynn Kreider said he wanted to get into the faces of legislators to create more publicity and attention to western Kansas, let alone the college. If he can do that, more power to him.

Western Kansas needs more out of its governor. She claimed she has made what education in Kansas is today. But does she really know our area public schools figure in a loss of enrollment year after year creating more pressure on the districts' budgets?

While Sebelius is thinking of new tax breaks to entice business and industry to come to Kansas, some western Kansas families, who have been here for generations, would love to have a break or two to ensure the family will be here for future generations.

It's a shame Sebelius thinks the only presence she needs to make in western Kansas during her campaign is through television commercials. Voters can easily turn her off and not just on the tube.

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

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@nwkansas.com or pdecker@nwkansas.com. Opinions do not necessarily reflect the *Free Press*.

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What time is it again?

The easy part about Daylight Saving Time is actually changing the clocks.

But even that has been argued.

Early Sunday marks the end of Daylight Saving Time. People love the extra hour of sleep since we move the clocks back one hour, but it is hard to find anything else that a majority of the people agree with on Daylight Saving Time. (I think everybody hates losing the hour of sleep when Daylight Saving Time started in April.)

I recently finished the book "Spring Forward" by Michael Downing.

I watched an interview of Downing, a teacher at Tufts University, earlier this year. In a very casual way, he said DST might be one of the most politically debated issues in America that does not receive as much political attention as it should.

After reading his book, I can see why.

Downing did extensive research about the history and incredible political pressure, from both sides, of Daylight Saving Time. It is really hard to categorize people for or against Daylight Saving Time, because it effects people and industry in a variety of ways.

Early on, after Daylight Saving Time debuted in the states after World War I, there were deaths blamed on Daylight Saving Time. Long before technology made changing the time on a clock easy, people climbed a ladder to move the hands on large clocks, like what is on the Colby Community College campus.



John Van Nostrand

• Line in the Dust

Downing found deaths related to people falling off ladders because of Daylight Saving Time. That just gave more ammunition for people against DST.

Some preachers feared Daylight Saving Time was the government's plan to stop people from attending church. Those preachers were upset the time change occurred on a Sunday morning. If people forgot to change their clocks, they would miss church.

Preachers know missing church is an easy habit to start.

But those same preachers were confused why congregation members were never early come the time change in spring.

If you really want to get confused by the combination of Daylight Saving Time and time zones, go to Indiana. On one end of the state, it's dinner time and the other end, people are finishing breakfast. (That's a little overstated.) Downing explains locations like that.

People in favor of DST were probably influ-

enced by the potential for money behind it all. Golf course owners love DST. More sunlight and time in the evenings means more people can play. Outdoor barbecue equipment industries liked it too.

Movie theater owners hated it. The psychology is that more sun will keep people outdoors longer — to play golf and not go to a movie.

One of the foundations for people in favor of Daylight Saving Time is how it reduces energy use during those months of the year. I am not convinced Daylight Saving Time reduces our addiction to power.

Where I worked in Iowa, the office was in view of a Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad line. No matter what time of year, it always seemed the same number of coal trains were passing through headed to the electric generation plants in far off places. If energy consumption declines with DST, should not there have been fewer trains during the summer?

Also, I have never heard of a major energy provider laying off dozens of employees because Daylight Saving Time has reduced operations and the need for employees.

Just remember to change your clock back one hour before going to bed Saturday.

And be careful if you use a ladder.

"Spring Forward" is available through Pioneer Memorial Library.

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

Your turn

Please consider the children

Ruth Heyka Belleville
Attorney General candidate Paul Morrison told the Kansas City Star on Feb. 26, 2005, "if there are kids that are getting abortions at the tender age of 10, 11, 12, 13 years old and they're not being reported to law enforcement, that's a problem."

Since, however, Planned Parenthood (a major abortion provider) has been funding Paul Morrison's bid for Attorney General, he has pulled back from what he used to consider "a big problem."

Why?

Because that would necessarily require medical evidence from abortion clinics, including Planned Parenthood.

It is confirmed that among pregnant girls aged 15 or younger, 60 to 80 percent were impregnated by adult men and Planned Parenthood has been caught providing cover for these men.

As Johnson County District Attorney, Paul Morrison used information provided through medical records to prosecute those who had taken sexual liberties with minors, the same thing he now chides our current Attorney General Phill Kline for doing. The media has not held

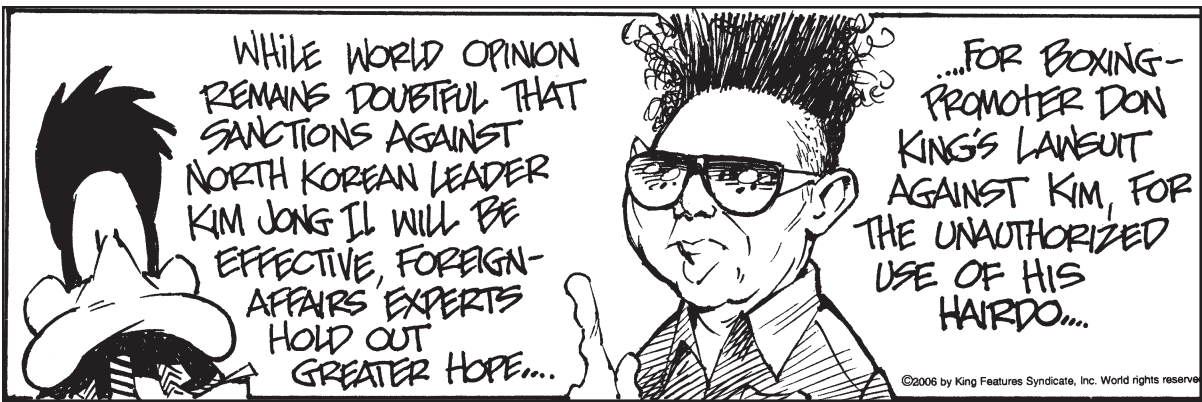
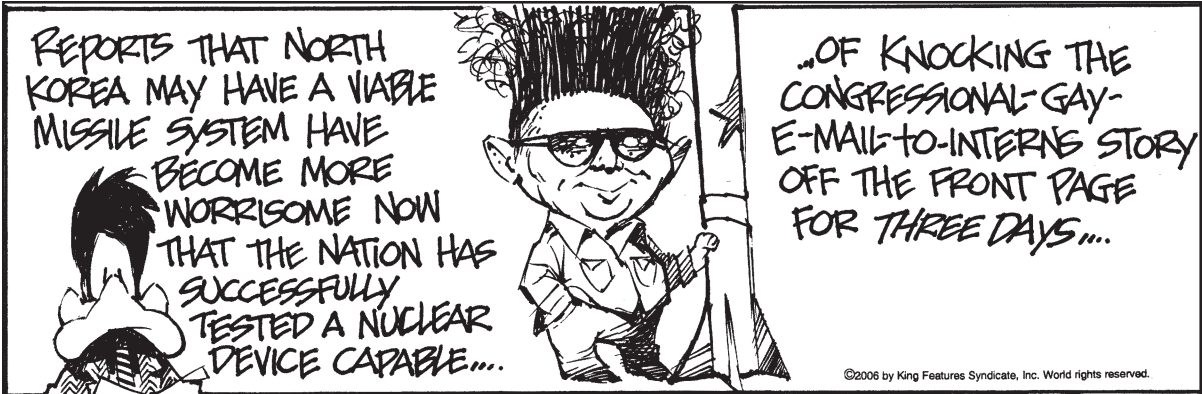
Paul Morrison accountable for this glaring hypocrisy.

Like our current governor, Kathleen Sebelius, Paul Morrison is a professed Roman Catholic and they both are beholden to the abortion industry as a result of lucrative campaign contributions received from that industry.

I intend to vote as a conscientious Catholic. I ask that before you vote, whether Catholic or not, please consider that children, born and unborn, continue to be sacrificed on the monetary altar of the abortion industry in this state and nation.

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. 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. Letters in regard to the Nov. 7 election will be published until Nov. 3.



Mallard Fillmore

• Bruce Tinsley