

Opinion

A Kansas Viewpoint



Get ready for 2008

From the Norton Telegram
 And now there is calm...after the storm. Political storm, that is. Campaign seasons are like weather patterns: Clear. Cloudy. Mild. Stormy. Hot. Cold. Unsettling. Windy with occasional blowing dirt. And the mid-term 2006 campaign contained all of the above. And them some.

It was somewhat of a relief to wake up today and not see a television ad attacking, degrading, deceptively describing, plain out lying, and in some cases bordering on defamation of character in an attempt to win votes.

But you won't hear of any lawsuits being filed because this is politics at its worst and an accepted form of roping in votes. Shameful, but it won't ever end.

As you know, the 2006 mid-term vote is the forerunner of the 2008 presidential campaign which will include all of the ingredients we found hard to stomach.

The 2008 campaign will kick in this week. There are a number of presidential wannabes moving up to the starting line. And if you think the mid-term was bad, this one looking us in the face will create shock and awe.

One of the unfortunate realities of elections is the aftermath — the wounds that are slow to heal. Elections pit neighbor against neighbor, friend against friend, family member against family member. The candidates who lose elections will shake hands with the winners, that's how it's done. But it will take some time for the losing side of an election to even coolly embrace the winning side. Those are different animals to tame. And it's probably a pretty good bet that many of you reading this editorial have experienced the latter.

The presidential election in November 2008 seems like a long way off. And it will seem even longer as we get ready to endure more nasty, negative, lying, deceptive television ads. And the wounds of the mid-term vote will barely heal — if at all — before the candidates again start their trek to whatever the office.

First up will be John McCain, Hillary Rodham Clinton, Rudy Guillani, Mitt Romney, John Kerry, John Edwards, Joe Biden — just to name a few. And these and the other presidential wannabes will campaign for a year and a half — until a decision on a candidate for each party is made by summer of 2008.

Many will be weeded out along the way, and those with the money and machinery necessary to carry on will carry on...and on and on and on. Take a deep breath.

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

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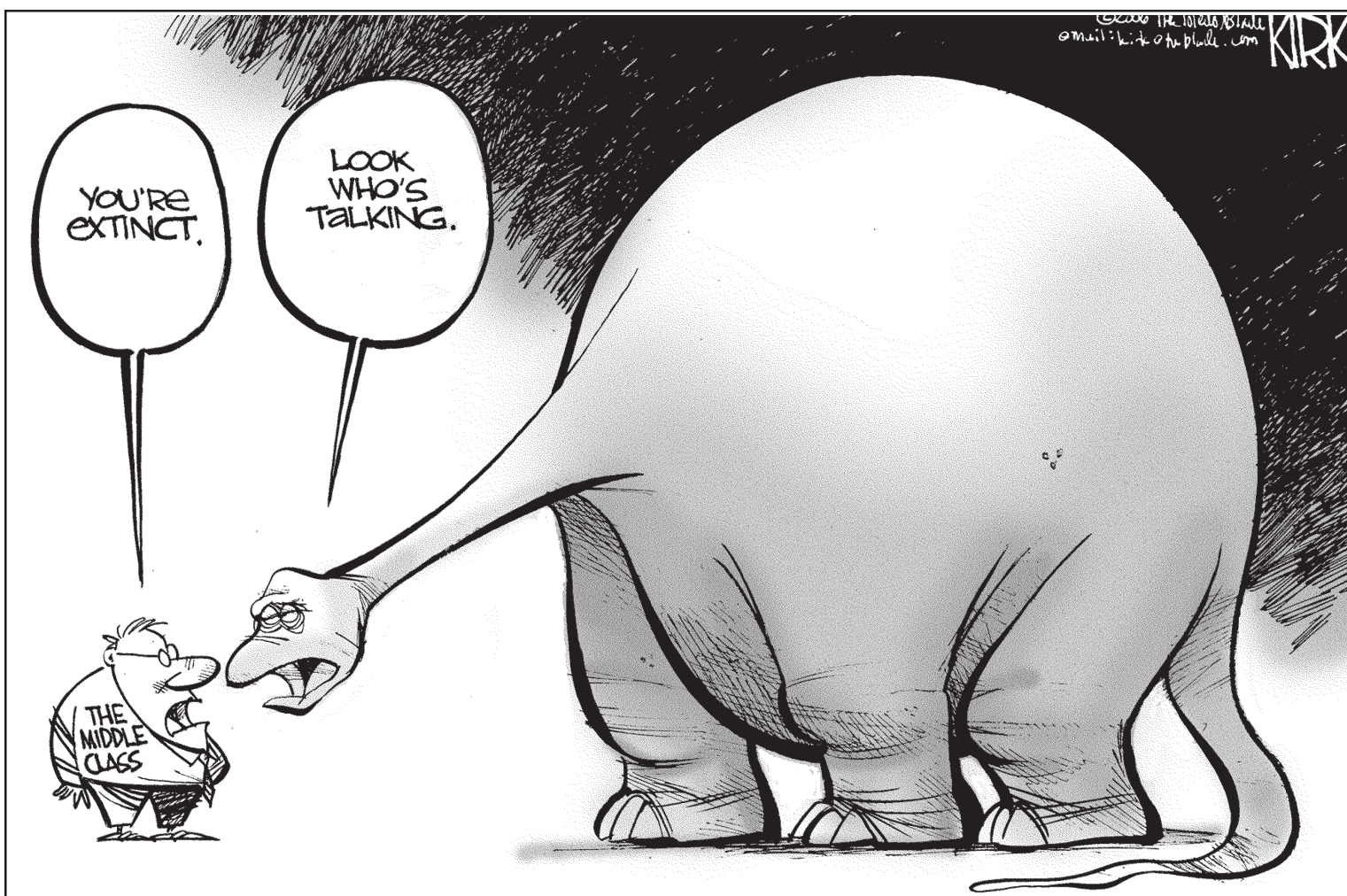
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Hoop history



John Van Nostrand
 • Line in the Dust

I'm sure Steven Michael Farney will bring back as many memories to the readers as the point totals in all the games in his book.

A few weeks ago Farney, from McPherson, called the Free Press and asked if we wanted a complimentary copy of his new book, "Title Towns: Class BB Boys Basketball Champions of Kansas 1952-1968."

At first, I thought it was just a typical telemarketer call, but Farney insisted we have a copy considering Brewster and Winona teams are in the book. I couldn't say no.

Farney explained the book's purpose in a press release that accompanied the book.

"I wrote 'Title Towns' because I felt these stories needed to be preserved and retold. I hope you agree and help me share these stories with even more basketball fans across the state."

Using various places and people for research, Farney reviewed each year's champion their entire season.

Names, numbers and little tidbits about the games during the season add to the drama leading up to the state tournament and championship game.

After losing in the first round at state in 1961, Winona responded the next year winning the whole thing. Winona, coached by Darol Hess, ousted Windthorst 53-39 in Dodge City. Winona's Harvey Daniels was hard to stop. He

finished the game with 29 points and 12 rebounds. Daniels scored 18 points by half. Daniels was a first-team all-state selection.

When Winona got home, a banquet in the team's honor included a speech by then Wichita State coach Ralph Miller.

Winona finished the season 24-2, losing to Washburn Rural and Sublette in consecutive games.

Winona's most interesting game was against Selden. The game was played in Leoville and more than the 600 people the place could hold showed up to watch.

Because of various safety concerns with that many people, and no one wanting to leave, the game was postponed and rescheduled the next day in Oakley — a bigger gym. A ticket-holding 1,162 people watched Winona win 72-67.

The Brewster Bulldogs won state in 1968 under head coach Don Dawes. Brewster de-

feated Lucas 59-51 in Dodge City for the crown. Jim McKee led Brewster with 25 points. McKee's points were key in Brewster building a lead in the third quarter and never fell behind. Brewster's Bill Deeds was a first-team all-state selection.

That was a historic year for Kansas high school basketball. District consolidation and enrollment numbers made the state reclassify all schools the following season. Brewster was the last team to win in Class BB.

Brewster played Dodge City during the regular season that year. That is unheard of, let alone laughed at, now. But it's not just those kind of games that are in the past. After 1968, some schools in Farney's book closed or merged with the neighboring district.

"And Brewster," Farney wrote, "Well, Brewster lives on, still the Bulldogs, still winning basketball titles even into the new century."

Thanks, Steven, for bringing back the not-to-old past.

He is speaking about his book 7 p.m. Nov. 20 at Pioneer Memorial Library in Colby; 9:30 a.m. Nov. 21 at Golden Plains High School in Rexford; 2 p.m., Oakley library and 7 p.m. (MST) at the Goodland library.

John Van Nostrand is publisher of the Colby Free Press.

Your turn

Thomas County has a good man

Fred Washburn Hoxie
 I am writing this letter for two reasons. The first one being that I would like to tell all of the citizens of Colby and Thomas County that you have a good man working for you as a public servant. His name is Undersheriff Jason Moses.

I recently had the honor and privilege to work with Jason as he planned and carried out one of the largest funerals this community has ever had. Jason carried this task out flawlessly and effort-

lessly.

Several adjectives come to mind which I can use to describe Jason, some of which are thoughtful, heartfelt and compassionate, but most of all professional.

I would like to say thank you to Jason for all his time and efforts.

Now, for the second reason for this letter. After seeing and reading the article printed in the Oct. 27 edition of the *Colby Free Press* about the recent tragedy in our community I personally feel that none of the above-mentioned ad-

jectives can be used. In my opinion, there was nothing thoughtful, heartfelt or compassionate about the article and it most definitely was not professional.

I realize that my opinions are not earth shattering and that my opinion will not cause the sun to rise in the west or will it slow global warming, but it is still my opinion and one in which I feel very strongly about sharing.

Once again, I would like to thank Thomas County Undersheriff Jason Moses for a job well done.

A four-lane alternate to I-70?

From The Hutchinson News
 Rice County might be taking the lead, but community leaders from Wichita to Goodland should get behind the latest effort to build the so-called Northwest Passage highway.

... The existing K-96 represents much of that diagonal highway, and the expansion of K-96 between Wichita and Hutchinson is a start.

But the Northwest Passage is not just about moving intercounty traffic along K-96. It is about much more. It is about four lanes from Wichita to Denver. Look at the grid of four-lane

highways across Kansas, and the Northwest Passage is a missing link.

While it has been a longtime dream, the highway idea has another shot on the horizon. The Rice County meeting precedes an important planning process the Kansas Department of Transportation has scheduled in November and December, and, specifically, a regional transportation workshop that will be Nov. 15 at the Kansas State Fairgrounds in Hutchinson.

KDOT is beginning to look at projects that would be candidates for the next comprehensive

transportation program. The current program will be complete in 2009. KDOT is trying to identify projects for preliminary design work.

The Northwest Passage should be one of them. It is not simply a localized project. It would prove to be a well-traveled highway and would benefit a large part of the state's population.

Likewise, it deserves vigorous advocacy not just by locals. It starts here, but a broad coalition of leaders and communities should be involved in support and creating some urgency.

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.

Mallard Fillmore
 • Bruce Tinsley

