

# Opinion

## A Kansas Viewpoint



### Out for a Sunday drink

**From The Wichita Eagle**  
 Despite a 2005 state law allowing Sunday liquor sales, the Wichita City Council decided not to pursue the matter when most local liquor retailers said they didn't want to work Sundays.  
 Did the council think to ask Wichita residents what they wanted? Now it appears those same retailers are interested in Sunday sales because of the growing number of liquor stores in surrounding communities that are taking their business.  
 Is that trend any surprise?  
 Cheney, Colwich, Andale, Douglass, Walton, Benton, Garden Plain, Maize — all have approved Sunday liquor sales. Two more area communities — Park City and Kechi — approved ballot measures Tuesday.  
 So now, at the behest of local retailers who see competition closing in, the Wichita City Council is taking up the issue.  
 The Eagle editorial board supports Sunday liquor sales — simply as a matter of freedom of choice by consumers and private businesses. The existing Sunday prohibition is outdated and serves no compelling purpose. ...

Mayor Carlos Mayans and some council members want to put the matter to a public vote rather than just bring it before the council for approval.  
 ... This is a significant change, and a public vote would give it the stamp of community approval.  
 Unfortunately, the timing is off here — the issue should have been on Tuesday's ballot. A midterm election would more effectively sample the will of the people than a lower-turnout city election.  
 At this point, the best the City Council can do is add a vote on Sunday liquor sales to the city ballot this spring, preferably in the general election rather than the primary.  
 Until then, thank the City Council for forcing people to drive to drink on Sundays.

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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- U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback**, 303 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. 202/224-6521
- U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran**, 2443 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. 202/225-2715 or Fax 202/225-5124
- State Rep. Jim Morrison**, State Capitol Building, 303 SW 10th St. Rm. 171-W, Topeka 66612. 785/296-7676  
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## Our own definition of persecution

Some things we get upset at in other countries can be so close to us at home at the same time. It is just not as obvious.

Last weekend I went to Worldview Christian Weekend in McPherson. The conference, held at various places across the country this fall, have a variety of speakers talk about the importance of Christian faith development and how to attract others to the faith.

In addition to the speakers, which included 1980s heartthrob Kirk Cameron, there were various Christian-related organizations also getting their name and purpose out. One of those tables was from the Voice of Martyrs, a group that desires to help those in other countries who are punished in various ways because they follow Christianity.

For example, some women in China were put into prison because they were professed Christians. In another country, three young people were beheaded because Christianity is not allowed.

Above Voice of Martyr's display table of books, magazines and pamphlets was a map of the world showing which countries are known for how they critically treat Christians. Countries were broken into three categories; one where Christians are terribly mistreated (like death penalties) and other countries where Christians are always in pursuit but the penalties are not quite as tragic.



**John Van Nostrand**

#### Line in the Dust

Other countries, like the United States, were neutral. Apparently there are not enough attacks on Christianity to justify any action in those places.

I was tempted to ask the woman behind the table what the organization thinks of Christian treatment in America. Discrimination of Christianity in America is more polished and reached an intellectual level, rather than raw, brutal actions done in other countries. Maybe those kind of groups look too much for the obvious: torture and death.

Consider what has happened in the United States. Earlier this year, a Nevada public high school graduate had the microphone turned off during her graduation speech because she made references to her faith and how it helped her in school. (I've mentioned this in previous Free Presses and the Mallard Fillmore strip has commented on it as well.)

Last year, the Pritchard, Ala., city council

unanimously passed a six-month moratorium on churches opening in retail sectors of town. City councils know the city can have more tax dollar revenue from a traditional retail store than a church, which is exempt from many tax laws. Pritchard's council was no different.

Pritchard's mayor, a Baptist deacon, suggested the rule as a way for the city to preserve the best retail locations in town for retail businesses and urged potential churches to open in residential areas.

Many church leaders were outraged the council passed the law. Those leaders wondered if the city had violated the Constitution.

Probably the biggest anti-church moment in America of recent is the man who objected to the "under God" reference in the pledge of allegiance.

Victims of those situations in America are far from the victims in other countries I briefly explained, but they are still victims.

The timing of Worldview Weekend was intriguing. Sunday was the International Day of Prayer.

Those are to remember the persecuted church through prayer that day.

Maybe those prayers will be answered and a category won't have to be created for the United States on that map.

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

## Your turn

### Sebelius deserves the support

**Margaret Roulier Colby**  
 Seldom does northwest Kansas have a special place with a Kansas governor, as we have today. Her husband grew up in Norton where his father was a two-term Congressman.

Since she has been our governor, she has been to Colby four times that I know of. Twice she came at the invitation of Colby College to participate in their activities. She has been so interested in the col-

lege. Recently she was in Hoxie to show her concern for the suffering of the community in the tragic loss of their sheriff.

She has been an excellent governor and certainly deserves the support of people in northwest Kansas.

## Please accept my apology

**Elizabeth Edwards Colby**  
 I would like to apologize to all the veterans in the Veterans parade on Saturday. I, too, am a veteran. I am a Katz Ackered vet. I did not serve in a war or

conflict but I served my country. I was a military police person in Wurzburg, Germany. I have always encouraged people around me to respect and support the American flag and the national anthem. In the parade, my dog walked with me. I did

not know we would be carrying the large flag. When a young man played "Taps," my dog seemed to chime in on some of the notes. I truly apologize for this. He did not mean to disrespect the music or the veterans.

Please accept my apology.

## Thanks for the help

**Tina Schrick Colby Community College Nursing Department**  
 Colby Community College Level 1 nursing students would like to thank the community for the excellent turnout at the blood drive on Thurs-

day, Nov. 9. Approximately every two seconds, someone in the U.S. receives a blood transfusion and the Red Cross must collect around 400 units of blood each day to meet this demand. Due to the great turn out, we were able to

reach our goal of collecting 80 units of blood.

That includes 21 people who donated for the first time on Thursday. Once again, thank you to all the people who made this blood drive a success.

#### 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.

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• Bruce Tinsley

**Mallard's Ode to the Fruitcake**

In these days of mad "P.C." When it's taboo for you or me to make a joke, or friendly jibe... At any person, place or tribe... There's still one joke okay to make. At the expense OF THE Fruitcake...

TINSLEY 11-15

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