

Kansas Republican ponders presidency

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Sam Brownback, who is considering a White House bid in 2008, said Monday the Republican field has room for a “full-scale Ronald Reagan conservative” and pledged to make a final decision next month.

The Kansas senator said he was not discouraged from running by the Democrats’ strong gains in this month’s midterm elections, including assuming majority control of the House and Senate.

“It does not make it less likely,” he said in an interview. “I really believe that the basic conservative ideas and ideals were not repudiated. Our execution was.”

Name recognition poses a more daunting challenge for Brownback. Arizona Sen. John McCain and former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani have set up presidential exploratory committees. Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney and Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., also are weighing bids.

“I think there’s room for a full-scale Ronald Reagan conservative in the field,” Brownback said. “I’ve fully agree that other people have much higher name identification than I do. No question about that. But I think what you have to look at is the policy positions they get out once you have an effective campaign.”

Brownback, who was elected in 1996, is a forceful foe of abortion and embryonic stem-cell research. He also has taken a prominent role

in the fight against genocide in Sudan’s Darfur region.

Brownback has made several trips to Iowa, New Hampshire, Michigan and other states that hold early presidential nominating contests. While national polls show McCain and Giuliani running strong, similar polls have shown Brownback in the low single digits.

He dismisses the early surveys.

“Where are my positions and others versus the base of the party?” he asked. “I think that is really the key thing to look at, particularly at this point in time where you haven’t even had a campaign and all of that polling is based on name ID.”

Brownback downplayed the challenge of gaining national recognition while representing a small population state like Kansas.

“We’ve had three Republican nominees from this state in the last century,” he said, listing former Sen. Bob Dole, former Gov. Alf Landon and Dwight Eisenhower. “I don’t see that as being a negative in this century.”

Ken Ciboski, a professor of political science at Wichita State University, said Brownback hasn’t yet attained the kind of stature he needs to gain a nationwide following.

“He could do well in certain pockets or Iowa and some other states, but I don’t see him having this wide recognition as a Republican senator,” Ciboski said. “I think it would be a major uphill climb for him to try to get the nomination.”



COLBY COMMUNITY COLLEGE PHOTO

Colby Community College Administrative Assistant Kathy Britton chooses an “Angel” from last year’s tree sponsored by the Student Senate. Community service and helping others is one of the important goals for members of the Student Senate at Colby Community College. The group, with the help of advisors Skip Sharp and Diane Frazier, is sponsoring an Angel Tree for their December community service project. Each angel from the tree represents a senior citizen who resides at Infinia or Prairie Se-

nior Living Center. Angels will be on the Christmas tree in the CCC Student Union beginning Monday. Gift suggestions will be on the Angel. After purchasing the gift, participants are asked to return it to the Campus Bookstore by Friday, Dec. 8. Student Senate is encouraging participants to spend at least \$15 for each resident. Gifts do not need to be wrapped. They will be delivered to the recipients on Friday, Dec. 15.

New book helps teach kids manners

NEW YORK (AP) — Parents still seem to do the prompting when it comes to “please” and “thank you,” but maybe they’re too well mannered to chastise children for talking too loudly in the movie theater. And maybe it’s because they have food in their mouths — and know better not to talk — that they don’t tell the kids not to chat and chew.

Of course, it also could be that the grown-ups have forgotten their own childhood etiquette lessons — and that they’re committing many of the same sins themselves.

Don’t worry. Whoopi is coming to the rescue.

Whoopi Goldberg’s “Big Book of Manners” is one of several new illustrated children’s books that emphasize good behavior.

“Parental overseeing has been on the wane,” Goldberg says. “I want to go up to parents and say, ‘Do you see that your child has no clue, that they’re out of step?’”

That’s exactly what she has done. The comedienne-actress-radio host tells The Associated Press that she purposely wrote a book for young children so that the parents will have to read it — and get a crash course on manners themselves.

The biggest cross-generational offense she sees: the finger in the nose. “Everyone seems to be doing it,” she says.

That didn’t happen in Goldberg’s household when she was a child. “My mom, the community, taught me manners. Sometimes I had to remind myself, but it was the culture.”

When she’s in public, she tries to be the picture of politeness. Even when she’s at home, she tries to be on her best behavior — although

occasionally a bit of crankiness comes through. If she does forget a “please” or “thank you,” she goes back to the scene of the crime to right the wrong and apologize. “I don’t want to get out of the habit.”

She adds: “People know my face. I’m relatively calm when they come up to me. ... I want it to be a positive experience, but I do always want them to be respectful.”

And that brings her back to “Whoopi’s Big Book of Manners,” the first product in her multiple book deal with Hyperion Books’ Jump at the Sun imprint: “Respect is learned by rote. How adults comport themselves, kids will follow.”

Goldberg gives credit to the adults out there who disagree with her liberal politics but are cordial or even complimentary when they meet face to face. “A lot of people don’t like a lot of things I’ve done but they seem to be respectful. ... People seem to trust me. They know I’m thoughtful even if they don’t agree with me.”

Kids, though, who know Goldberg from “Sesame Street” and “The Lion King,” just look at her as if she’s a bit strange, she says, laughing. “Parents know me as a celebrity, but I talk to kids like kids.

“**Parental overseeing has been on the wane.**”

Whoopi Goldberg, author

I say, ‘Let me come down there to talk to you — and it’s not easy getting down there — but I look at them eye to eye, and they respond.’

Other books that aim to tame young readers:

— “Mind Your Manners!” (Farrar Straus Giroux) by Diane Goode. This story is a period piece about a 19th-century fancy feast that goes awry. It pokes fun at those who are stuffy and stodgy while reminding us that reasonable table manners make a meal more enjoyable for all.

— “Don’t Forget Your Etiquette! The Essential Guide to Misbehavior” (Farrar, Straus & Giroux) by David Greenberg and illustrated by Nadine Bernard Westcott. Miss Information, a frazzled-looking teacher, shares words of wisdom in

20 poems. Among her suggestions: “When you shake hands with the principal, it’s debonair and funny, to reach inside his pocket, for tissues (or some money).”

— “Stoo Hample’s Book of Bad Manners” (Candlewick) by, yes, Stoo Hample. A guide to the children no one wants to be — the toy hog, nose picker and soup slurper, among others. Watching some of the most unflattering behaviors just might be one of the most effective ways to persuade a child not to take them up.

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