



## Other Viewpoints

### Haskell needs visionary president

The naming of a new, permanent president is great news for Haskell Indian Nations University.

After almost two years without a full-time president on campus, the school is in serious need of consistent and visionary leadership. Hopefully, Chris Redman, who will take over as Haskell's president on July 3, will provide that kind of leadership.

Redman comes to the job with some experience that should be helpful. He has worked for Haskell since 2008, including two stints as the school's interim president. Before that he worked in various positions for his tribe, the Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma and then for the Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Indian Education Programs in Washington, D.C.

He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Oral Roberts University in Tulsa and a master's degree in human relations from the University of Oklahoma. Knowledge of both business and human relations should come in handy for the new president.

Haskell is an important part of Lawrence and an important touchstone for the American Indian community. In recent years, the school has taken giant strides in providing higher education opportunities for American Indians and Alaska Natives. Nonetheless, it continues to face challenges.

Although it has a board of regents, it is only an advisory body with no power to make policy decisions. That power remains with the Bureau of Indian Education, where policy-making often becomes mired in the bureaucracy of the federal government. The lack of any independent governing body for the school makes it difficult for Haskell to attract private donations from tribal organizations and others.

Any state university in the country knows how important private money is to maintaining or building its reputation and excellence. It would be a revolutionary act, but why couldn't the federal government establish a relationship with Haskell that resembles the relationship Kansas has with its state universities? State lawmakers are responsible for providing some tax support for those schools, but policy decisions are delegated to the Kansas Board of Regents which is more limber in responding to various university needs. Not every decision requires an act of Congress.

Haskell has important ties to the past but it also is a key portal to the future for many American Indian students, as well as the tribes they represent. As we noted, the school has taken great strides over the last decade or so, but more needs to be done. We hope Redman won't be afraid to think big and take a few risks to move this unique school forward.

— Lawrence Journal-World, via The Associated Press

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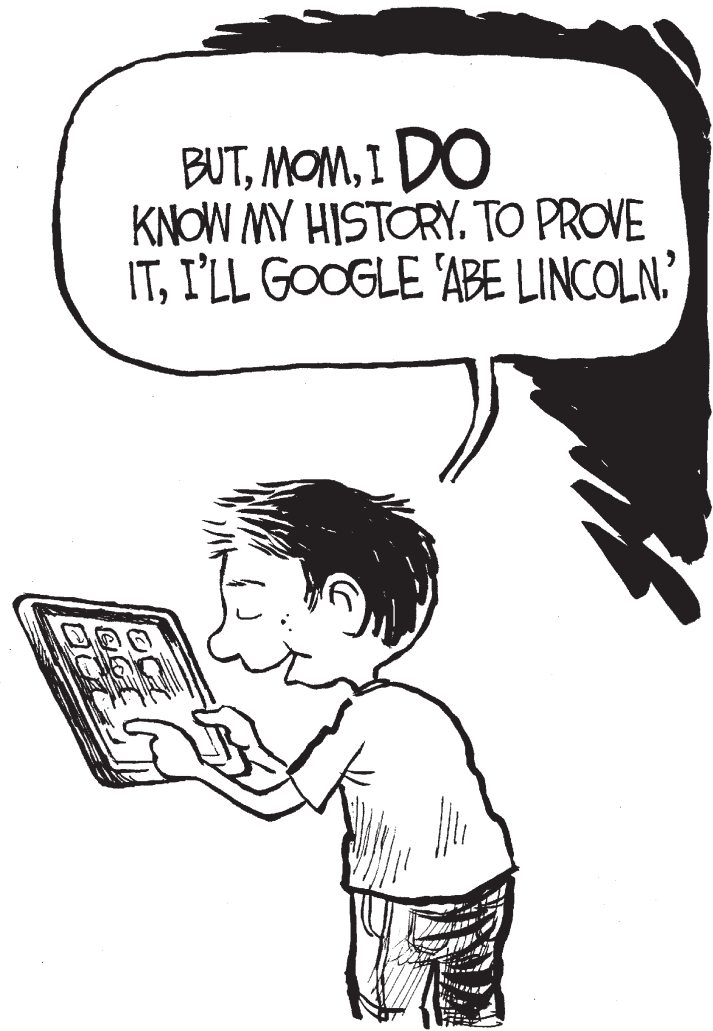
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### Help the kids, hang up the keys

Let's talk about a subject that has split many families, and how this "Man of the Plains" avoided getting caught in that net.

Elder driving. Yep, driving when you really shouldn't be.

This always causes a heated exchange between a parent and the kids. As an example, Mom has passed on and Pop is up there in age and he sometimes navigates his machine in a fashion that causes concern. Or, there's a slip of the tongue about some weird experience while driving. These are-tale signs the time has come for Pop to hang up the keys.

"But that's not fair! How would I get around?" he will ask, with a stern look that makes you feel guilty for bringing up the subject. Church, groceries, card club, and the list of reasons for hanging onto the keys goes on.

You need to be prepared and have answers that make sense. And don't think those six hated words, "You're getting too old to drive," will carry any weight. It won't. Expect a chilly reception from "old Pop" after you drop the "too old to drive" bomb on him. It'll take a while — quite a while — for him to allow those words to sink in. And then again, he just might resent the suggestion and continue driving.

The roads are packed with aging drivers who shouldn't be part of the pack. You'll spot them. Slowing everything down, or pretending to the racetrack mentality. And there is always that thought in the minds of others: "Well, there's another one of those 'shouldn't be' drivers."

How did I avoid the family confrontation? I hung up the keys myself.

I had noticed that things just weren't always



**Tom Dreiling**

• Man of the Plains

making a lot of sense while behind the wheel. I was 75 at the time. Some of the examples of "why I shouldn't be driving" included:

- 1) A need to blink rapidly and then squint to bring whatever I was looking at into focus.
- 2) Noticing things that weren't there and not noticing things that were. That explains why sometimes I would suddenly stop, and then look around and wonder why.
- 3) Pulling up to a curb to stop, then suddenly experiencing confusion because my foot hit the accelerator and I jumped the curb.

Those three personal experiences stick in my mind and played a major role in my decision to lock the pickup doors, hang up the keys and make other plans for transportation.

The brain controls our every move. When things are going smoothly, there's no hesitation. But when the brain forgets to alert the rest of the body, that's when trouble starts. And you can find yourself in unfavorable, if not downright deadly, situations.

When I told my sons what was happening, I know they wondered, "How do we tell him it's time to get out from behind the wheel?" Well, I answered that before they had a chance to ask. I abruptly announced I was going to give up

driving. You could almost hear the relief.

To underscore my intentions, I told them we would put the pickup up for sale. That became their responsibility. I wouldn't know where or how to begin. They determined the best place would be Craigslist. They posted it on a Sunday evening and by noon the next day the pickup was sold. The couple who bought it liked the looks from the photo that accompanied the printed sales pitch.

It was a 2001 Ford Ranger, extended cab, bright red with around 50,000 miles. I didn't drive much, generally no more than 7,000 or so miles a year. I had an idea what I wanted for it, my sons had another idea, and because of them I made more than I was going to ask.

So, since the sale, the first week of September 2010, they, the sons, have become my "taxi" drivers.

It was a tough decision to make. After all, when the pickup left for the very last time, that put an end to 59 years of driving. It hurt and that evening in bed a few tears were shed. But I knew "luck" had been with me — but most surely would run out if I kept driving.

If you have a mother or father, or both, still driving and you question their ability to do so safely, approach the issue as lovingly as you can. Don't hurt them. Don't scold them. Hear them out. Then tell them each time they pull away from the curb, you worry yourself sick until they return. That might be food for thought.

Good luck.  
Tom Dreiling of Aurora, Colo., is a former publisher of the Colby Free Press.

### Jobs recipe is less government intrusion

Recently, the U.S. Department of Labor released a dismal update on the state of our nation's economy. Not only did the national unemployment rate rise to 9.1 percent, but the number of Americans looking for work increased to 14 million.

Current economic policies are not working. In fact, they are working against us — creating an environment of uncertainty and hampering job growth. As I tour businesses in Kansas, business owners say to me, "What next? What harmful thing is Washington, DC, going to do next that puts me out of business?"

When the message coming from Washington is more taxes, regulation and intrusion into the free market, it's no wonder businesses are not hiring new workers. Instead of creating barriers to job growth, Congress and the administration must create an environment where businesses can start hiring again — and that starts by pursuing pro-growth policies.

First, Congress must reign in government regulations. Rather than hiring new employees, businesses are spending money complying with regulations and mandates — from efforts to regulate carbon, to the costly mandates imposed by the new health care law. According to the Small Business Administration, our smallest businesses, those with less than 20 employees, spend 36 percent more per employee than larger firms to comply with federal regulations — roughly \$10,585 per employee.

Small businesses are the backbone of the economy; they employ half of private sector workers, and have generated 65 percent of new jobs over the last two decades. It makes no sense to drive up their operating costs.



**U.S. Senator Jerry Moran**

• Moran's Memo

Second, Congress must replace our convoluted and burdensome tax code with one that is fair, simple and certain. One- or two-year extensions of tax cuts only add to uncertainty — so companies remain reluctant to hire workers or expand. When employers know what to expect, they can plan for expenses and invest in their companies, grow, and hire new workers.

Third, Congress must open foreign markets for American manufactured goods and agricultural products. Thousands of Americans depend upon exports for jobs, including more than one-quarter of manufacturing workers in Kansas. In the absence of trade agreements we risk losing more of our market share to competitors. Our pending agreement with Korea alone is worth \$11 billion and would create an estimated 70,000 new jobs. It is past time for the President to send implementing language to Congress for these agreements, so we can export more of our goods — and not our jobs.

Fourth, Congress must develop a comprehensive energy policy. Rising gas prices and events in the Middle East demonstrate the importance of access to a reliable energy supply. Higher energy prices hamper our economic recovery. No single form of energy can provide the answer — so we must develop traditional as

well as renewable energy sources. When employers have reliable energy, they can spend resources on hiring rather than energy costs.

Finally, Congress must reduce government spending. Our failure to balance the budget will result in increased inflation, higher interest rates, fewer jobs and a lower standard of living for every American. It is time to pass a responsible budget to reduce our deficit. That plan should include spending reductions, a balanced budget amendment to restrict Washington's ability to borrow money, and should address our long-term unfunded liabilities.

As John Adams once famously quipped: "facts are stubborn things." And the facts tell us Washington must change direction if we are to grow our economy and put Americans back to work. The failed economy we are experiencing and the financial collapse around the corner is the most expected economic crisis in our lifetime. We know what is going to happen if we don't act — and it would be immoral to kick the can down the road one more time because the politics are too difficult.

Americans deserve leadership in our nation's capital to confront these challenges. When we do, businesses will succeed, employees will be hired, and Americans will again be able to pursue the American dream.

Jerry Moran of Hays is the junior U.S. senator from Kansas. His committee appointments include Appropriations; Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; Veterans' Affairs; Small Business and Entrepreneurship; and the Special Committee on Aging.

### Mallard Fillmore

• Bruce Tinsley

