

Other Viewpoints

No tears from KU over Missouri move

Hooray for Kansas University basketball coach Bill Self for making it crystal clear the vast majority of Jayhawk fans are not going to shed any tears over the University of Missouri's departure from the Big 12 conference to join the Southeast Conference.

It would be nice if other KU officials had the courage and conviction to speak out with Self's clarity rather than trying to couch their reaction to Missouri's snub of the Big 12 with nicey-nice politically correct statements.

Self told *Journal-World* writer Gary Bedore, "I think everybody hoped that Missouri would stay, but I don't know of any Kansas fans that are crying over them leaving."

Asked whether the Jayhawks and Tigers would play again in men's basketball, Self said, "We will play them two more times - we've got them home and away this year." Asked about scheduling Missouri at a later date, the highly successful Self said, "Like I said before, we have absolutely no obligation whatsoever to play Missouri in basketball. None. If we do so, it will only be done because it's best for Kansas, not done because anyone else wants us to. We couldn't care less what Missouri wants. If in fact they want to play us, it will be strictly determined if we want to. It will not be determined by other people, because I'll be honest, the majority of Kansas fans don't give a flip about playing Missouri."

KU Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little and KU Athletic Director Sheahon Zenger issued statements to "wish Missouri all the best in the future," and added "We're sorry to see a century-old rivalry end."

Since the days of the late Missouri football coach Dan Devine, Missouri officials have tried to gain admission to the Big 10 conference. They were rejected at that time and again a year or so ago when they tried to get into the Big 10. After that rebuff, they asked to be admitted to the SEC. This was not a slam dunk because some SEC officials were not eager to bring in Missouri. Some didn't like Missouri trying to be assigned to the western division of the conference and they indicated they didn't like the idea of Missouri officials trying to dictate terms and bully SEC officials to do whatever Missouri wanted.

Eventually, Missouri got the OK to join the SEC, but only as a part of the conference's eastern division.

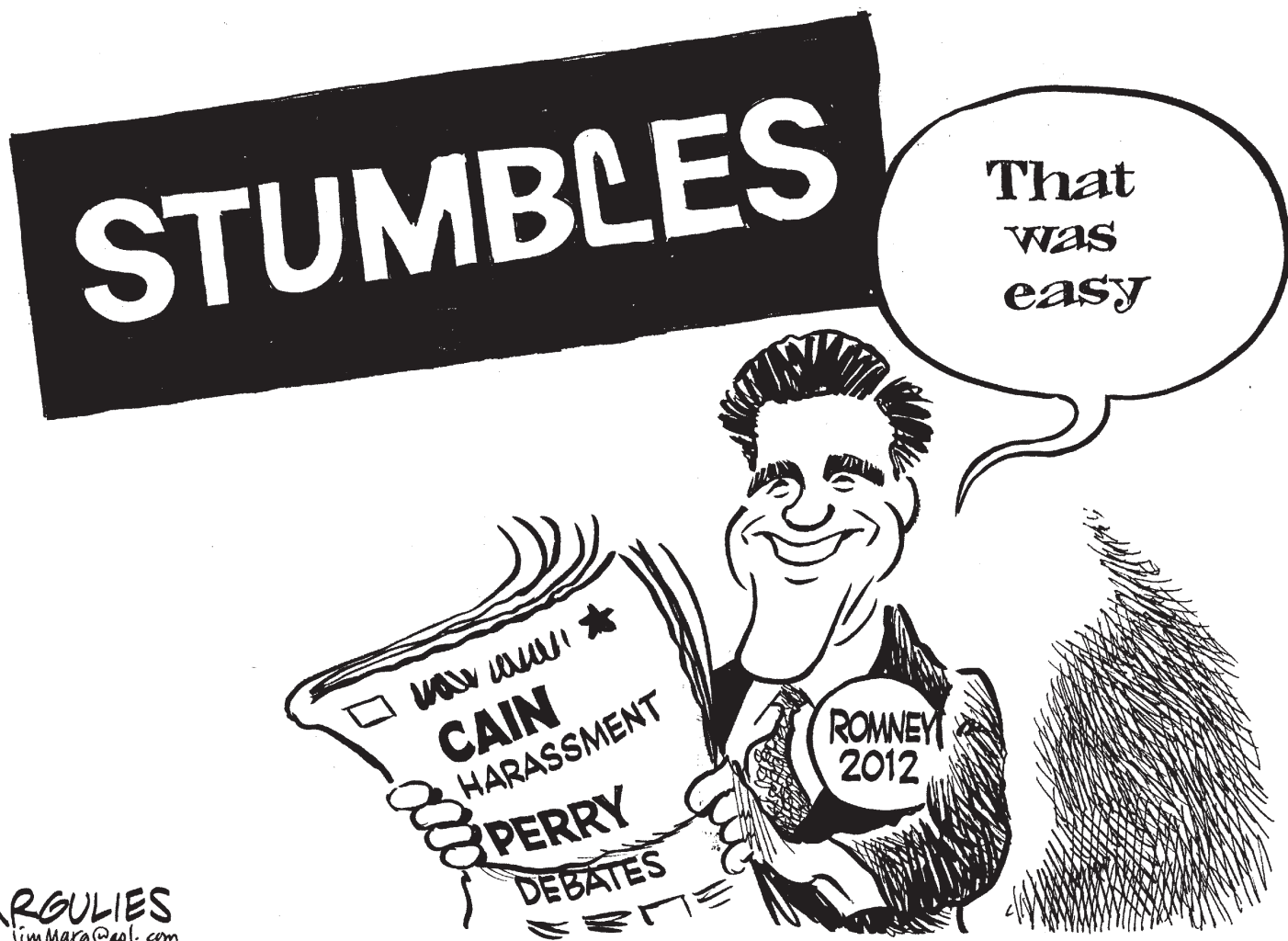
MU officials have said they want to continue athletic competition with the Jayhawks on an annual basis and have indicated they would consider an annual football game in Kansas City's Arrowhead Stadium. There will be considerable pressure by Kansas City business interests and the city's Chamber of Commerce and sports commission to entice KU officials to buy into such an event. Their efforts are not about school rivalry or tradition; it's only an attempt to help the Kansas City economy.

It is hoped KU officials will say "no way." If, by some chance, such a game should be scheduled, it should be played on the campuses of the two schools, not Arrowhead Stadium.

What happens to the annual post-season Big 12 basketball tournament in Kansas City will be up to the conference chancellors, presidents, athletic directors and coaches.

Again, it is refreshing to read and hear what Self has to say about Missouri turning its back on the Big 12. The last scheduled KU-Missouri basketball games - Feb. 4 in Columbia and Feb. 25 in Lawrence - as well as the Nov. 26 football game in Kansas City, are sure to be heated and emotional games.

- Lawrence Journal-World, via the Associated Press



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I mean - really - you know?

What does "I mean..." really mean?

That question keeps my brain busy. I will hear someone say, in response to a question, "I mean..." before he or she ever says what he/she meant to say.

In everyday conversations you will hear "I mean..." coming from the mouths of friends, co-workers and others as you discuss the weather or what's new - and the list is endless.

Keep track next time you are watching television or listening to the radio or just gabbing with a friend, and you will be surprised at how often "I mean..." becomes a part of the conversation.

It drives this Man of the Plains bananas. Why would anyone say "I mean..." when they had already stated what they meant. Often, "I mean..." ends up being a contradiction to what was said, leaving the listener wondering what the person really meant.

I hear senators and congressmen/women use "I mean..." many times when being interviewed by members of the press. In their case, however, I think they use it to protect themselves in the event they said something they wished they wouldn't have.

And then to top this off, an acquaintance informed me he just purchased a new pet from one of those places where they shelter homeless dogs. I complimented him and asked what he named the new pet. He replied, fighting back laughter, "Well, Tom, knowing your impatience with people using 'I mean...', I named my pet, Peeve!"

Seldom am I lost for words!



Tom Dreiling

• Man of the Plains

Well, here I go again! On Nov. 25, I will blow out 77 candles on my birthday cake. Or is it 76 candles? I use two ages because for some odd reason family records of my birth are in conflict. I am listed as entering "Occupy Hospital Nursery" on Nov. 25, 1935, in some cases, while other records list my arrival as Nov. 25, 1934. But that's not all. My mother said I was born at St. Anthony's Hospital in Hays, but the State of Kansas Certificate of Birth, as submitted by our family doctor, has him delivering me at our home at 212 W. 16th Street. So, what year is right?

I do get cards with some showing two ages with instructions to circle the correct one; I usually circle both.

Snippets

"These days presidential - and congressional - campaigns begin as soon as the last winner has been sworn in. 'Election cycles' will soon disappear, leaving in their wake a perpetually ongoing campaign which never pauses, only builds to a crescendo as the actual election approaches."

"Herman Cain is a man of the people - the tobacco industry people and the liquor industry people...."

"...The word is 'Leadership.' And if President Obama continues to ignore it as part of his vocabulary he won't get that second four-year term."

"...We need to do something, otherwise the already rich and greedy will go hog wild! ... The tax laws must be changed to level out the playing field...."

"Herman Cain's problem is easy to explain: he's had more cuddle-ups than he can count! That would make remembering names nearly impossible."

"The GOP candidates sing the same song: Protect the rich, destroy the middle class, gut the Affordable Health Care Act, privatize Social Security, deny a woman's right to choose, degrade education and demonize unions. Koch Brothers' money rules. Oh, forget about jobs - Job No. 1 is to make President Obama a one-term president; the book is 'The Wrecking Crew;' and the truth will set you free."

"Have you wondered how much the Democratic National Committee is shelling out to have these babes pop up like spring flowers and point at Herman Cain as a fast-operating hands-on guy?"

Snippets to milehitom@hotmail.com. Please keep them within three sentences.

Peace!

Tom Dreiling of Denver is a former publisher of the Colby Free Press and The Norton Telegram, and a former long-time editor of the old Goodland Daily News. He is a life-long Democrat, a curmudgeon come lately and a newly minted Coloradan.

Remember when pennies had value?

Until recently, I would often stop by the corner convenience store after work to treat my sweet tooth. From the time I was four years old and walked barefoot down to Vern Wagner's little general store, I've always been forced to satisfy my craving for chocolate.

Today, I wind up plunking down a buck plus tax for my favorite candy - either Reese's peanut butter cups or their mouthwatering chocolate sticks. While this chocolate treat is every bit as good as any "Denver Sandwich" or "Cherry Mash" I ate as a boy, today's bar appears to be about half the size I paid one nickel for 45 years ago.

Now that I think about it, a dollar is much easier to come by today than a nickel was when I was a youngster growing up in the northwestern Kansas farm community of Seguin. Back then, men worked 12- and 14-hour days on the farm for as little as \$1 an hour. Dad talked about men working for 50 cents a day during the Great Depression when you could buy an acre of ground for about the same price you would pay for a five-stick pack of Juicy Fruit gum.

For most people in this part of the country,



John Schlageck

• Insights Kansas Farm Bureau

times were rough in those days, and most people were ready and willing to work for darn near any price, just to keep bread on the family table.

A buck for a day's wages went a long way toward buying food before World War II, my dad used to say. Recalling those days some 70 years ago, Dad talked about bacon selling for 15 cents a pound, eggs were a dime a dozen, Ivory soap sold at five bars for less than a quarter, butter cost 20 cents a pound and a large loaf of bread was two pennies - remember pennies? They're something some people toss away today because they won't buy anything.

Whether we want to admit it, or even realize it, food still remains a good buy. Today, the average wage earner spends a much smaller per-

centage of his/her paycheck (approximately 11 percent) to buy food for the family. The average family in the United States probably eats better today than was the case 60 years ago.

Like food, clothing also cost little by today's standards. Seventy years ago, shoes sold for two bucks a pair, and you could buy a pretty nifty "goin'-to-church-suit" for less than \$5.

Dad had a brother and brother-in-law who owned a car dealership back in the days of my youth. I can remember them talking about a Model T with a sticker price of \$300 about the time their parents ushered in the "Roaring '20s." A full tank of gas (10 gallons) sold for less than two dollars, a quart of oil cost three bits and air for the tires was free.

You bet these prices seem unreal. When you think about it, a dollar just doesn't seem to go nearly as far as it used to. But then, very few folks will do as much, or work as hard, for the dollar as they used to either.

John Schlageck of the Kansas Farm Bureau is a leading commentator on agriculture and rural Kansas. He grew up on a diversified farm near Seguin, and his writing reflects a lifetime of experience, knowledge and passion.

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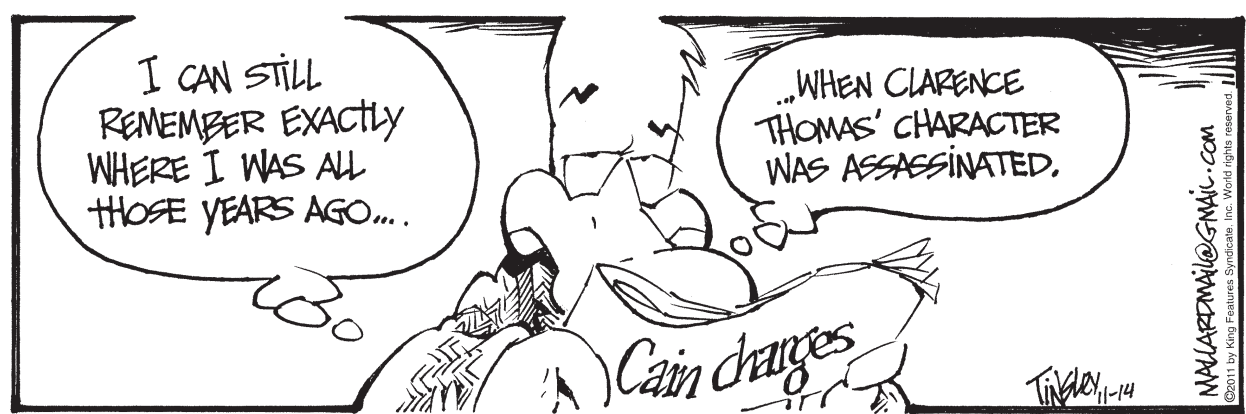
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