



Free Press
Viewpoint

Arts support plan
might be a start

Gov. Sam Brownback has backed down – a little – on his plan to do away with the Kansas Arts Commission, proposing that it be merged with the state Film Commission and placed in the Department of Commerce.

Last year, the governor vetoed the arts commission’s entire budget, nearly \$700,000, a move which supposedly cost the state \$1.3 million on federal and regional grants. Arts advocates were outraged, from Topeka to the local arts commissions which received a lot of the grant money.

Now the governor is proposing a \$200,000 budget for the merged commission and a plan for an income-tax checkoff to support the new Creative Industries Coalition.

Predictably, Henry Schwaller IV, the former chair of the arts commission who has tried to be a thorn in the governor’s side ever since the veto, pooh-poohed the plan. The check-off couldn’t possibly raise enough money to bring any federal funds, he sniffed.

Mr. Schwaller’s name ought to indicate which side of the tracks he comes from, and there is the problem with spending taxpayers’ money on the arts.

Most of us have no say in how it’s spent, and the programs produced often lack mass appeal. It winds up with a few people who could afford to see plays and concerts on their own spending tax money to put on programs that don’t serve most voters.

The logic and the ethics are suspect. In a time when schools and universities are short of state money, why put dollars into programs with so little support?

Well, everyone agrees the arts are “good.” And good for us, like broccoli. And a few dogged supporters won’t give up on reaching for that \$2 million, especially the paid staff of arts commissions in larger cities. Their jobs are on the line, after all.

Mr. Schwaller has been a leader in this movement. He’s a busy guy, according to his official biography, a real estate investor in Hays, where he also serves on the city council, and is a teacher in the business school at Fort Hays State University.

We don’t doubt his sincerity, or that of anyone who wants to spend public money on what should be a private pursuit. We simply think it’s wrong-headed.

If all the arts-commission supporters got out and raised money for the arts, instead of just complaining about the end of state support, arts programs in Kansas could be flush with donations.

Maybe it’s either more fun to complain, or some of these people just can’t get the idea that the idea of an elite few deciding how tax money will be spent on the arts isn’t so appealing to many people. Or that the state and federal governments don’t have any money “left over” anyhow.

Maybe they will learn with time. — *Steve Haynes*

Write us

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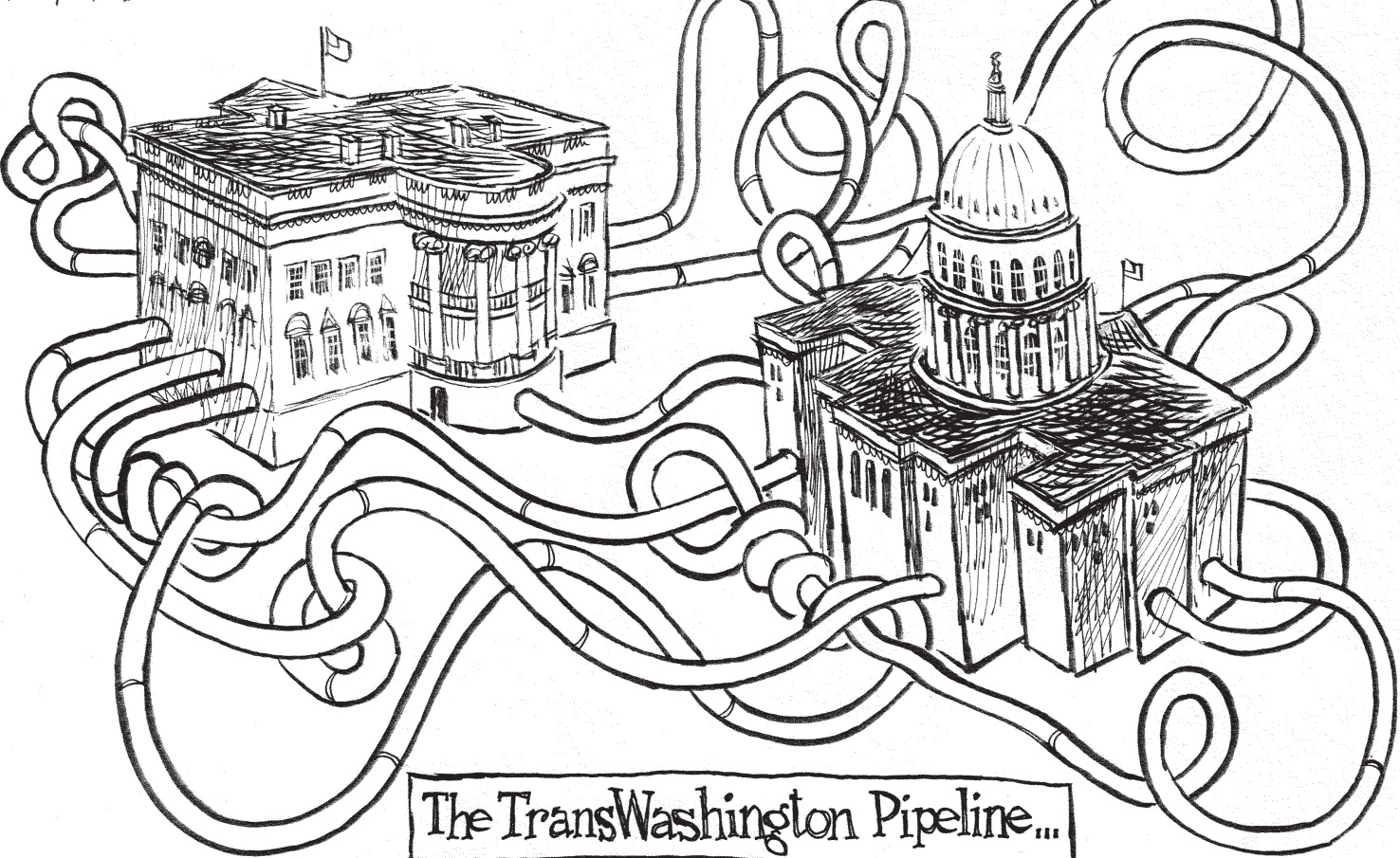
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Where were you on your 18th birthday?

We sang Happy Birthday to a young lady at Rotary the other day. There were a couple dozen of us, and we were off key and out of synch. Really off key and out of synch.

She put her hand over her eyes and her head on the table.

I’m not sure if she was critiquing our singing or just totally embarrassed. She was to turn 18 the next day. Singing that song badly, really badly, is a club tradition.

I got to thinking about her world and mine, the day when I turned 18.

Back in 1966, the biggest event of our lifetime had been the death of John F. Kennedy. Everyone could tell you where they were when JFK was killed in Dallas.

I suppose for my mother and father, it was Pearl Harbor.

And for my young friend, it’s probably 9-11 and the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

When I turned 18, it was legal for me to drink a beer, but not liquor. However, I couldn’t vote.

I remember being really annoyed that my sister, who is six years younger than I am, got to vote for president the same year I did. They



Cynthia Haynes

- Open Season

changed the law from 21 to 18, and I was born in 1948, a presidential year. So at 20, I was too young in 1968, and by 1972, the voting age was 18. I was 24 and my little sister was 18.

I never smoked, but I could have started buying cigarettes just about any time I wanted. I remember my parents, who did smoke, giving me a quarter to buy a pack of Pall Malls out of a vending machine.

It wasn’t legal for minors to buy out of the machine then, but who was going to stop me?

Yes, I remember buying alcohol before I was 21. I never did like beer. We would put the bottle on the window ledge outside our dorm room so that it wouldn’t be found by the residence hall director. But, then, I never remember anyone ever checking for alcohol in our rooms, either.

Today, my young friend could go to jail for many of the silly stunts I pulled back then.

Times have changed, and whether it’s for better or worse, I can’t say.

That dorm room didn’t have a telephone or a television. My only plug-in devices were a clock radio and a hair dryer. I wore a dress to class every day and was addressed as Miss Desilet. No one had yet heard of women’s liberation, and as a pharmacy student, I was one of just six women in a class of 60. Today, more than half the classes are women.

I didn’t own a car or ride in an airplane until after I was married.

Sometimes, I miss those days when we had less but were somewhat freer. Then my cell phone rings, and that’s the end of my philosophizing for awhile.

“Happy Birthday,” Serena.

Cynthia Haynes, co-owner and chief financial officer of Nor’West Newspapers, writes this column weekly. Her pets include cats, toads and a praying mantis. Contact her at c.haynes @ nwkansas.com

Keep a free and open Internet

Last week, our country witnessed democracy in action.

After millions of Americans rose up in opposition to the misguided Protect IP Act and Stop Online Piracy Act being considered by the Senate and House respectively, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) withdrew his plan to consider the act this week. This was the outcome U.S. Senator Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) and I have been working to achieve.

As the lead Senate Republican in opposition, I am grateful that citizens across this country – including thousands of Kansans – had their voices heard. The Protect IP Act had the support of many influential senators and interest groups, but the majority leader’s decision to withdraw the bill demonstrates the power of engaged citizens using the open Internet.

In our increasingly global economy, the open Internet has become a driving force behind economic success. Whether you are a high-tech entrepreneur, a small business owner, or simply a Kansan with an idea, the open web facilitates innovation as a marketplace for ideas, goods and services. I share the goal of stopping intellectual property theft – but success cannot come at the expense of American innovation, Internet security, and freedom of speech. Our country needs smart public policy that reflects the evolving nature of the Internet, while at the same time, protects the creative rights of innovators.

In November, I joined Sen. Wyden in notifying Majority Leader Reid of our strong opposition to the two acts. In fact, our concerns were so significant that we were prepared to filibuster this flawed legislation to prevent it from becoming law.

Both tamper with the vital technologies that prevent fraud and protect consumers on the Internet – specifically the Domain Name System. Internet engineers have worked for 15 years to develop domain name security technology, which authenticates the web sites we visit to make sure they are secure. The Domain Name System filtering proposed in the acts would not actually remove fraudulent content, but



U.S. Senator Jerry Moran

- Moran’s Memo

just block the web address. The rogue foreign websites dedicated to infringement would still be accessible via IP address, which can easily be changed or replicated on servers, and users would have no way of knowing whether or not they were visiting a secure website. At a time when the United States faces an increasing number of cyber-attacks from abroad, the nation’s leading technology and security experts, including our own government’s national security experts, say the Domain Name System filtering provisions in these acts would kill our best hope for actually making the Internet more secure.

Additionally, both would create new liabilities for businesses due to definitions in the bills that could drag companies into unnecessary legal battles. Both bills take an overreaching approach at policing the Internet and give the Department of Justice the ability to block websites, without notice or a proper hearing, simply because a third-party posts a link to counterfeit goods on the site. Congress should not put into place a system that could force law-abiding innovators to utilize their limited resources in the courtroom, rather than invest in their company and hire new workers.

Finally, legal and human rights experts caution that the bills enable the silencing of speech. The overreaching approach of them would not only trample our Constitutional rights, but they would give foreign regimes the license to further censor the Internet for political and other reasons.

The goals of the bills can be achieved without doing serious damage to cyber security, job creation, and our right to freedom of speech. Sen. Wyden and I have introduced an

alternative proposal called the Online Protection and Enforcement of Digital Trade Act. It creates uniform and targeted online infringement policies that will help protect intellectual property rights – without threatening Internet safety and the thriving Internet marketplace. Please visit www.KeepTheWebOpen.com to learn more about the act.

I stand with millions of Americans in opposition to the Protect IP Act and Stop Online Piracy Act. As the debate over the best way to address intellectual property theft moves forward, I will remain vigilant in making certain that any bill brought to the Senate floor fosters the American values of innovation and entrepreneurship, while protecting a free and open Internet.

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.

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