

## Other Viewpoints

# Losing side really won on ordinances

Vote on anti-discrimination ordinance:  
When the dust settled Tuesday on a nearly year-long battle over whether to expand Hutchinson's anti-discrimination ordinance to include sexual orientation, the clear victory went to those groups that opposed the measure.

But the clear winners were those who supported the change.  
Sure, there remains no ordinance on the books to protect gays and lesbians against discrimination – and thanks to state law, it will remain that way in Hutchinson and Salina for at least the next 10 years. For the next decade, the gay community will continue to have no recourse in the face of discrimination. That, however, is nothing new.

The ordinance's supporters are winners because the vote brought to the surface an issue that previously had remained hidden, and unspoken, in the heart of one of the most conservative states in the Union.

They're winners because nearly 42 percent of Hutchinson voters sided with them, in the face of an active and vocal resistance from the juggernaut of Hutchinson's religious community, which included scores of Hutchinson churches handing out or displaying "Vote No" literature for their congregants.

They're winners because even though national estimates put the adult gay population at between 2 and 8 percent, they managed to win the support of more than 40 percent of Hutchinson voters.

The victors of this election were the losers, because they resorted to outright lies about the nature of the ordinance. Throughout months of debate, they never let go of the clearly misleading statements that an expanded anti-discrimination ordinance would force churches to hold gay weddings or that they'd be forced to allow gay parties at their facilities.

Additionally, opponents resorted to a "bathroom" argument that preyed on residents' fears but was patently untrue.

The anti-discrimination ordinance's opponents can take satisfaction in Tuesday night's victory and feel good about protecting the advance of something they genuinely believe threatens their way of life.

In the long run, however, the night belonged to the ordinance's supporters.

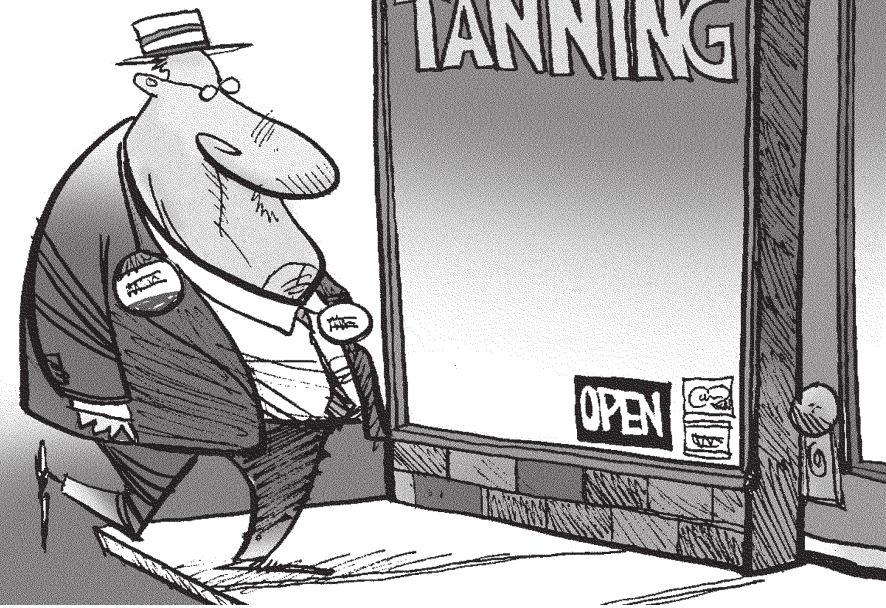
They used the legislative process to spark a dialogue and raise awareness about gays in Hutchinson. And with the odds stacked against them in what easily could be considered hostile territory, they managed to win far more voter support than could've been expected a year ago, when discussion began.

– *The Hutchinson News, via the Associated Press*

**THE PROBLEM:**  
FIGHTING THE IMAGE OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY AS THE PARTY OF OLD, WHITE GUYS...

**THE SOLUTION:**

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## Editor fails to fall back

I woke up last Sunday the same time I had been. About 7:30, I thought. Maybe 8.

Everyone else was up, but that's not unusual.

Cynthia almost always gets up before I do, no matter when that is. I can count on my fingers the number of times in 42 years I've been up before her, made the coffee and gotten the papers.

It's even more rare for her to go to bed after I do. And if I do get there first, I can't get to sleep, no matter how tired I am.

And I have to be pretty tired to crawl in bed ahead of her.

Anyway, we were staying with Merle and Mary, and they get up before either of us. Mary sometimes goes to work at 5:30, and Merle, while he might sleep a little later, likes to go for a long bike ride before he goes to work. Ten, 20 miles uphill, something just to get his day started.

What surprised me – I'm sure you've figured this out by now – is that for the first time I can remember, I'd forgotten the switch from Daylight Saving Time, the annual "fall back" day.

Not the first time I'd forgotten the time change, mind you. I remember I was in Kansas City one Saturday in April. The next morning,



**Steve Haynes**

• Along the Sappa

I got up on Standard Time – and missed my flight back to Colorado.

There'd have been heck to pay, but in those days, the airlines were cutthroat competitive between a lot of city pairs, Kansas City-Denver included. United employees had been known to search the computer, then page Continental passengers and try to get them to switch to an earlier flight – on their airline. And a lot of other tricks.

So, I took my United ticket over to the Continental gates and, sure, they'd take me to Denver on an earlier flight, by hours, than the competition. The company wouldn't get paid, but heck, they had empty seats anyway.

And in those days, you even got lunch. Just try that today.

Competition today means trying to figure out who can charge the most for an overweight bag (\$90 on Delta) or overbook flights

the most, leaving more people behind. Or have the highest fee for changing flights. Customers are just something to cram into the back of the coach cabin.

But don't let me get on an airline rant. This column is about time changes.

Generally, and unlike everyone else at the breakfast table last Sunday, I don't like to get up in the dark, so I like Daylight Time. The longer the better. Nothing I like more than a good excuse to sleep in.

But still, I couldn't believe I'd forgotten the time change. I blamed it on being away from home, and not having to set all the clocks before going to bed. But I hadn't even set my own watch.

Not like I hadn't read about it. Usually, I'm the one who remembers.

Anyway, we had lots of time to talk about things that morning. Lots of time. And still got to dawdle over eggs and toast before we went home.

Maybe by March, I'll be ready to spring back.

*Steve Haynes is president of Nor'West Newspapers. When he has the time, he'd rather be reading a good book or casting a fly.*

## Sports ads aimed to create interest

Robert Burns said it best: "The best laid schemes o' mice an' men/gang aft a'gley." Sometimes, no matter how good the intentions are, things just go badly, whether in part or as a whole.

When the editor of the *Goodland Star-News* suggested that we do dual-town support pages for the Colby-Goodland game, no one could have imagined the outcome. Certainly not me. The idea was to have "dueling pages" that we thought would engender a sense of sportsmanship on both sides and to let people in each town show their team pride and spirit.

Colby merchants were more than willing to support the Eagles, and we prepped our page with photos of the team and the cheerleaders. Included on the page with our customers' ads was an ad created by the *Colby Free Press*. The *Free Press* sales team saw as many businesses as they could for this page, and we told everyone in advance that our page would run opposite a page from Goodland.

Not one voice was raised in objection to our format, with both communities facing each other. We were proud of the fact that so many businesses supported our Eagles.

The day we were to publish the ads, we finally saw the Goodland paper's page. It included the words, "Beat the Eagles." Please believe



**Sharon Friedlander**

• Musings

me, we did not write that ad, and we did not endorse it. It was written in Goodland.

What's more, not one Goodland business had stepped up to support their team. The Goodland paper had created its own ad so that the Goodland team would be represented. Everyone in our office thought that it was sad that the support for the Cowboys wasn't there.

To say that from here the whole idea went down hill is a vast understatement. We were accused of saying that we supported the Goodland team. We heard all manner of complaints, from one that our team wasn't wearing uniforms in the picture to another that we caused the team to be disheartened.

It was never our intent to do anything except show that Colby – and its newspaper – are behind our team in all its endeavors. We used the team photo that we took last summer for the Fall Sports Preview as well as the cheerleader

photo from that issue.

We try hard to make sure that we get coverage from all the coaches and schools so that we can follow the high school careers of our athletes. Some of these young men and women will go on to stellar careers in college and even in the pro ranks. Some will decide to go in a different direction entirely, but will have learned much from their coaches as they participated in sports in high school.

If we owe an apology to the Colby Boosters and parents for having our intentions misunderstood, then I am definitely offering one. We never intended to bring any bad light to our team and our players. We will continue to work hard to support the Eagles in all their endeavors, both academically and on the field.

*Sharon Friedlander, publisher of the Colby Free Press, enjoys reading, hot rods and critters. Contact her at sfriedlander@nwkansas.com.*

We encourage comments on opinions expressed on this page. Mail them to the *Colby Free Press*, 155 W. Fifth St., Colby, Kan., 67701, or e-mail colby.editor@nwkansas.com. Opinions do not necessarily reflect those of the *Free Press*, its staff or the owners.

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### Mallard Fillmore

• Bruce Tinsley

