

# commentary

from other pens...

## The first peaceful transfer of power

By Lawrence L. Knutson

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Two hundred years ago this week, a pair of ferociously competitive political parties proved that a hostile government takeover need not lead to bloodshed.

By the end of a mudslinging campaign between the political factions led by President John Adams and Vice President Thomas Jefferson, a grudging acceptance of the outcome took hold, even after the 36 House ballots needed to sort out the confusing tally and certify the result.

On March 4, 1801, Jefferson, once vilified as a radical revolutionary and scheming atheist, peacefully took the oath of office as the third president. He read his inaugural address and, not yet ready to move into the White House, walked back to his boarding house for dinner.

Of great significance during this first presidential inauguration in the new capital was what did not happen.

"The changes of administration, which in every government and in every age have been epochs of confusion, villainy and bloodshed, in this happy country take place without any ... distraction or disorder," wrote Margaret Bayard Smith, the wife of a Washington newspaper publisher who witnessed Jefferson's inauguration.

As historian Joseph J. Ellis, writing in "American Sphinx, The Character of Thomas Jefferson," said: "The most revolutionary feature of (Jefferson's) elevation to the presidency was its routine character."

Which is not to say Adams and his supporters were not bitter. The defeated president left the White House at 4 a.m. on Inauguration Day — a dozen hours before Jefferson's swearing-in — and departed by coach for Boston. Between his defeat and his departure he had filled judicial vacancies with representatives of the defeated Federalists.

One of them, John Marshall, was now chief justice of the United States. After administering the oath of office to Jefferson, he would lead a rear-guard Federalist campaign from the bench against the Jeffersonians.

Although Jefferson grumbled about Adams and his appointed "midnight judges," he was prepared to allay his political enemies' worst fears. He did so in an inaugural address that Jefferson biographer Dumas Malone called "one of the most memorable in the long series."

Jefferson frankly acknowledged the fears that the transition to a new government would be neither peaceful nor orderly.

But the new president also expressed his faith in the issue had now clearly been decided "by the voice of the nation" under the rules set by the Constitution. That being the case, he said, all Americans would, of course, "unite in common efforts for the common good."

He extended his olive branch, with what he called the sacred principle: "That though the will of the majority is in all cases to prevail, that will to be rightful must be reasonable; that the minority possess their equal rights, which equal law must protect, and to violate would be oppression."

And in the most quoted lines of the speech, in which he called the United States "the world's best hope," he added this:

"But every difference of opinion is not a difference of principle. We are all called by different names brethren of the same principle. We are all republicans, we are all federalists."

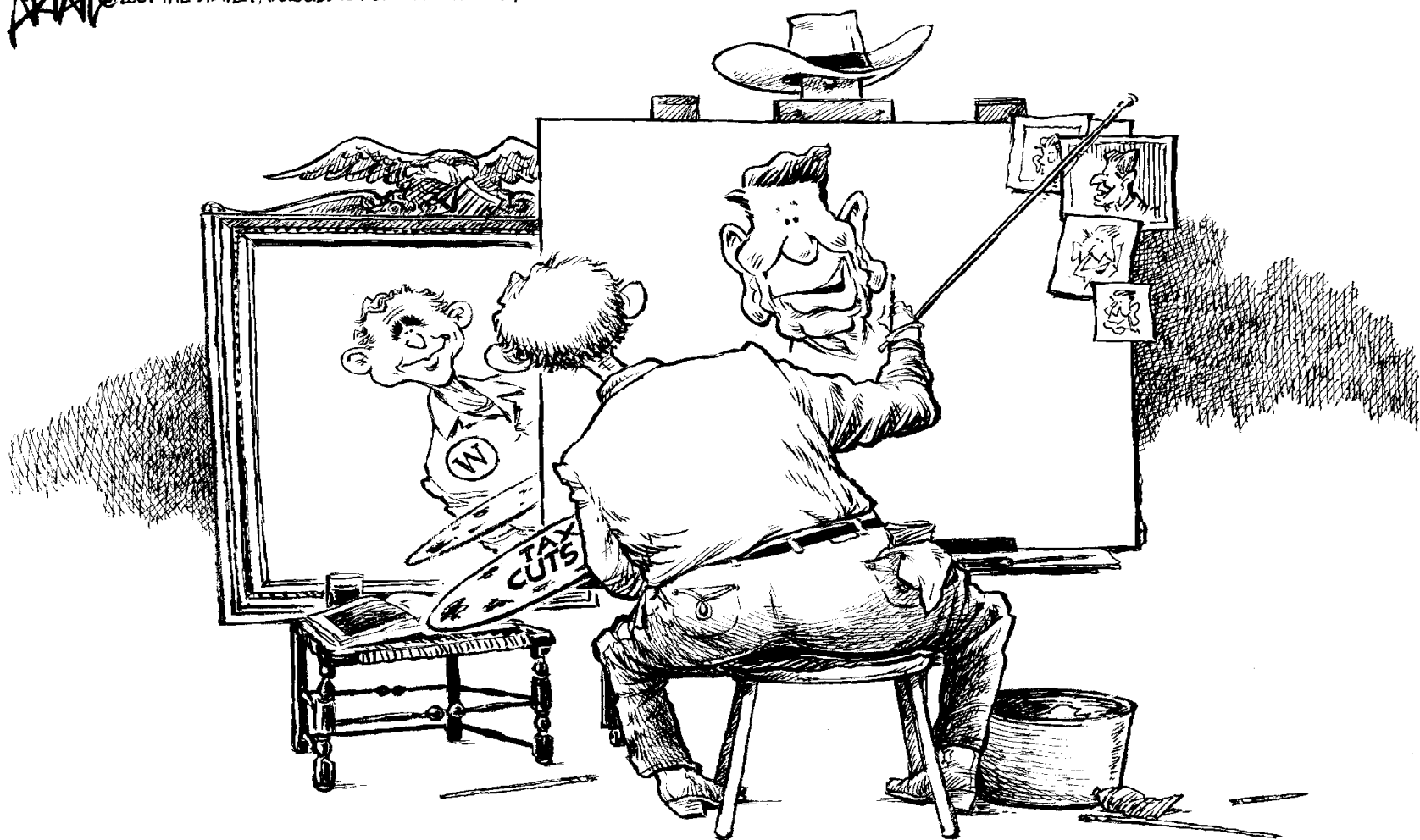
Malone wrote that in his speech, Jefferson established "his historic claim to the title of father of American political democracy."

Ellis, speaking last fall before a conference on presidential history, said Jefferson's peaceful assumption of the presidency guaranteed that debate over what America should be would last as long as the republic.

"In the end, the election of 1800 merits our attention because it demonstrated no side of the conversation would dominate American political culture indefinitely, that the American song would alternate between competing political harmonies, and that American politics, like history itself, would always remain an argument without end," he said.

**EDITOR'S NOTE** — Lawrence L. Knutson has covered the White House, Congress and Washington's history for more than 30 years.

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## Looking forward to a trip to state!

Going to state. That's what every high school team works for — and every prep sports writer. Going to state is your reward for a season of schlepping around to distant schools, writing sports stories.

I've been to at least one state basketball tournament for every one of the 10 years I've covered northwest Kansas sports. After watching all those tournaments, I've decided teams need three things to win it all: they have to play great defense, have strong guard play and they must have more than one weapon. Then Lady Luck must ride on their shoulders.

Shooting comes and goes, but defense can always be great. Every shot your opponent doesn't take is a shot he or she doesn't make. Every shot unmade is a shot your team doesn't have to match.

The 1992 Cowgirls shot in the 30-percent range in their opening round game and still won — because of their defense.

Great defense and great guard play go together. If your team can't get the ball to its wings or posts, they can't do anything. If your team harasses the opponent's guards, limiting their ability to reach their posts and wings, your opponent's options are limited.

When the Prose twins played for Little River, their terrifying defense — and offense — stifled other teams. I will never forget watching Weskan's Wendy Okeson, one of the greatest all-around basketball players from this area, vainly chase those pesky Prose twins in their two state semifinal meetings. The Proses could steal the ball from anyone and they were deadly outside shooters. Even without their great post, Nicky Ramage, Little River was unstoppable with the Proses.



## roxie yonkey

• star tracks

The main difference between Brewster's 1995 state champions and their 1996 third-place team was guard Travis Starns. Without Starns handling the ball, Brewster couldn't get past Sylvan Grove in the semifinals, even with Josh Reid, Kansas high school hoops' highest scoring boy.

Clafin's Jackie Stiles is the greatest shooter in Kansas hoops history. She's still setting nets on fire at Southwest Missouri State. When Clafin and Little River played in the regular and post seasons, fans would show up hours ahead of time to get seats. Stiles was signing autographs as a high school sophomore. I have one from her final appearance at state. But she and Shawna Stephens were the only players Clafin had, rally. Clafin fans cheered for Jackie, not the Wildcats. And Stiles never won a state trophy. The best her team ever finished was fourth.

Why? Clafin was much too one-dimensional. Foul out Stephens and Stiles had no one to pass to. All opponents had to do was stop Stiles. The opposition's guards had to be pretty good to do it, but Little River and Weskan did. I saw it happen.

Lady Luck doesn't just ride on your shoulders without help. Teams have to seize her. In the Cowgirls great run through the 1992 Class 4A tournament, they grabbed Lady Luck with both hands. No one who saw it will ever forget Amy Short getting a steal and racing toward the bucket. Because she had the proper fundamentals and her opponent did not,

Short got the steal and the opponent got the foul. Short made a free throw to win Goodland's opening-round game with no time left. I still have that picture hanging in my office.

Luck also walked with Goodland in the championship game. Jane Duell, who had never made a three in her life, hit one as regulation ended. Since the usual trey-throwers, Short, Jill Jones and Angie Hallagin, were well-covered, Duell had to take the shot.

We all held our breath for what seemed long seconds of time. In reality, only an eyeblink passed before the shot's flat trajectory took it to a spot above the hoop. It smacked the backboard and fell in. No one who saw that shot will forget it, either. I'll never forget flying off the floor in excitement. Who says sports writers can't jump?

Unfortunately, luck left the Cowgirls in overtime. Luck also walked with Brewster in last year's Class 1A title game. Hanover's shot fell out to send the game into overtime. Just like Duell's shot, the shot took forever in memory, but only an eyeblink in real time.

In overtime, Bulldog Cody Rush's free throws fell in, while Hanover's fell out. Then Rush, making his own luck, got a steal to seal the victory. In a similar situation to Short's eight years before, Rush was fouled and made a free throw to kill Hanover's last chance.

Winning teams have one more intangible behind them. That's you, the fan. So get down to Salina or Hays and support your team. Cowgirl coach Connie Livengood said the fans helped put Goodland over the top at sub-state this week. Let's put them and the Bulldogs over the top this week.

Go Cowgirls!  
Go 'Dawgs!

## Technology brings good, but raises threat level

Many people in my district will use robots to mow their lawns and vacuum their homes as soon as this summer. Some metropolitan hospitals are installing surgical "robots" in operating rooms.

Telehealth has been used as a remote medical "house call" since the early 90s. Increasingly, the delivery of more complex medical procedures, examination, diagnosis and follow-up care occur "remotely." Simple to use automatic defibrillating equipment is being located in malls and popular gathering areas to save lives from certain heart attacks. Technology is saving lives.

Our safety is more secure due to technology in automobiles, homes and the durable goods industry (refrigerators, stoves etc.). Products we use are not only more friendly but safer from accidental misuse. Our drinking water and food supply is the safest in the world with lifestyles improving daily all due to technologic advances.

So, what is bad about all this technology? Well, think of bio-terrorism (<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/>), cyber-terrorism, new warfare technology, identity theft and new psychological "crimes against people." To see all the possible threats to our future check the Internet using the search term "terrorism" and see what you get. If you are concerned about the Columbine School shootings and the Oklahoma City bombing, just consider those as "pre-school" level threats and you may understand the problem legislators face. Technology may be used to make our lives less fulfilling just as technology can make our lives more fulfilling. It all depends on how its use is implemented. The character of our elected officials is more important than ever.

**More laws — what is ahead this week:**  
How can we make law to protect privacy without being able to invade that privacy? How do we insure improved learning in our schools without "meddling" in the education system and established teaching methods? How can we help government protect you from "identity theft" without the government being able to steal your identity? We have a very serious "chicken and egg" problem. Increasing complexity of our world is creating a fundamental need to return to our American "roots." That is government of the people, by the people, for the people.

This week (March 5-9) we will be considering these issues:

- Defining when someone aged 12 might be treated as a child in need of care or an adult felon.



## jim morrison

• capitol review

- Defining further unlawful acts and practices under the charitable organizations and solicitations act and telephone solicitations.

- Video lottery machines and other lottery machines.

- If a minor shoplifts, should the parents be held libel for civil penalties?

- Changes in cosmetology licensure

- Should "heavy beer" (greater than 3.2) be sold in grocery stores?

- Water quality and EPA regulations.

- Encouraging alternative energy research.

- Discussions regarding lobbyists for such groups as the League of Kansas Municipalities and the Kansas Association of School Boards. They are not governmental agencies but receive their oper-

ating funds in the form of dues paid with city and school taxes. Could that be an improper use of tax money?

How should KAN-ED, the proposed statewide broadband network, be overseen?

The Senate substitute for HB 2035 has government overseeing the school network. The original House bill had the telecommunications industry and users of the network overseeing the operation. Gov. Bill Graves has indicated he will make an executive reorganization order to implement something like the Senate version if the conference committee cannot agree on a compromise. I am not sure I really care at this time. Just get it implemented so our rural areas (76 percent of the state is rural) may have access to a technologic "balance."

The 2001 Session:  
This session is almost over! In only two and a half weeks, all committee function will cease except that of the exempt federal and state, tax, and appropriations committees. Please contact me with any questions or request for assistance.

Representative Jim Morrison, [jmorrison@ink.org](mailto:jmorrison@ink.org)



## The Goodland Daily News

(USPS No. 222-460. ISSN 0893-0562)

Member: Kansas Press Association

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Inland Press Association Colorado Press Association

e-mail: [daily@nwkansas.com](mailto:daily@nwkansas.com)



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N.T. Betz, Director of Internet Services ([nbetz@nwkansas.com](mailto:nbetz@nwkansas.com))  
Evan Barnum, Systems Admin. ([support@nwkansas.com](mailto:support@nwkansas.com))

Published daily except Saturday and Sunday and the day observed for New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day, at 1205 Main St., Goodland, Kan. 67735.

Periodicals postage paid at Goodland, Kan. 67735; entered at the Goodland, Kan., Post Office under the Act of Congress of March 8, 1878.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Goodland Daily News, 1205 Main St., Goodland, Kan. 67735.

TELEPHONE: (785) 899-2338. Editorial e-mail: [daily@nwkansas.com](mailto:daily@nwkansas.com). Advertising questions can be sent to: [gdnadv@nwkansas.com](mailto:gdnadv@nwkansas.com)

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SUBSCRIPTIONS: In Sherman County and adjacent counties: three months, \$22; six months, \$38; 12 months, \$72. By mail in Kansas, Colorado: three months, \$28; six months, \$50; 12 months, \$95. (All tax included.) Out of area, weekly mailing of five issues: three months, \$25; six months, \$40; 12 months, \$75.

Incorporating:

The Sherman County Herald  
Founded by Thomas McCants  
1935-1989

THE SHERMAN COUNTY STAR  
Founded by Eric and Roxie Yonkey  
1994-2001

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