

# commentary

from other pens...

## In political silly season, GOP factions jockeying

By John Hanna

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA — Baseball has its long winter, between the World Series one year and spring training the next.

Fans don't have games to watch, but a lot of important action happens anyway. Outfielders, infielders and pitchers retire or jump teams.

Similarly, politics has its silly season. In Kansas, it typically begins sometime during the year before a general election and may not end until the June 10 candidate filing deadline.

Potential candidates test the opinions of party activists and make noises about running. Prominent party members play at making kings. Rivals jockey for position. Everyone tries raising money.

This year, the silly season involves a bigger contest than one between individual candidates. The two great factions within the Republican Party have renewed their ceaseless struggle for supremacy, and the silly season's activity will help determine which side prevails.

If the intrigues and plotting by leaders are successful, Kansas Republicans will have only two choices, a moderate against a conservative.

State Treasurer Tim Shallenburger is the only conservative in the race. He found himself drafted during a private meeting in September at U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback's Topeka home.

Kansas House Speaker Kent Glasscock jumped into the race in July. Attorney General Carla Stovall declared an interest in the race after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, and Lt. Gov. Gary Sherrer flirted with running in between meetings with other moderate leaders.

Signs point to Stovall emerging as the moderate candidate, with Glasscock as her running mate. If Glasscock doesn't join her ticket he could face increasing pressure to drop out.

For some moderates, the scenario is simple. They contend moderates make up about 70 percent of all Republicans. They worry that multiple moderates will split the vote and give Shallenburger the nomination.

"I don't know of very many credible observers who don't believe two strong moderates equals a Shallenburger victory," Sherrer said.

The definitions of moderate and conservative are fuzzy.

Some conservatives resent the use of the word moderate to describe Gov. Bill Graves and his allies, viewing them as liberals in the Nelson Rockefeller mold or even as Democrats too pragmatic to join the traditionally downtrodden Kansas party.

Others have framed the contest as one between country club elites and middle class workers and small business owners.

Positions on school finance and social issues, particularly abortion, appear to be crucial.

Abortion opponents typically are labeled conservatives. Shallenburger opposes abortion, and Stovall supports abortion rights.

On school finance, the moderates are willing, or even pushing, to increase taxes to raise more money for public schools.

Conservatives oppose tax increases. They include the Kansas House members who wore buttons at the end of last session proudly proclaiming that nothing could change their no votes.

If Stovall is the moderate candidate, she isn't discussing school finance. "It's premature for me to say anything specific about that," she said. Shallenburger declared himself generally against tax increases but said, "I don't think we need to rule anything in or out right now."

Sherrer and other moderates base their estimate on moderate strength on Graves' showing in the 1998 primary. He won 73 percent of the vote.

Graves spent a record \$1.6 million against a Miller campaign that didn't start until May. Graves portrayed himself as a champion tax cutter, appropriating conservative themes in doing so.

Shallenburger opened his campaign last month with speeches that played both to a conservative base and reached out to moderates.

The rhetoric is likely to remain similarly fuzzy for a while, until the primary draws near enough to start drawing the attention of voters.

For now, the silly season is underway.



## Put them on the Inernet and send them home

What does it mean when the flag is flying half mast on Capital Hill?

It means they all went home. Well they probably violated the sunshine laws and met somewhere else.

You know they may be on to something here, run the nation's business and not be in that mosquito infested swamp along the Potomac.

If we have the technology to go to the moon we have the technology to send them back to the gene pool they came from and still legislate. In fact it would be the best campaign reform that money could buy. They already man offices in their home districts. It would not be the end of the republic if they shared the same pew with the ones they see in little league, and at 4-H picnics. Now that would be real access to the ropes of power.

Members of Congress could live in their own homes instead of a granite and mortar home some place in Virginia. We might be able to cut their pay too.

Well they didn't really go home they just relocated. So there you see they are already doing it. Quick as the buzz of an anthrax meter they, moved television cameras, audio equipment and phone lines, even Brian Lamb and the C-Span cameras to a place called Fort McNair in Southwest D.C. Never heard of it.

Bet they hope Pat Buchanan never heard of it either. He might not let them in.

Instead of the House's electronic voting system



### wayne gattshall

- wayne's world

they can use their electronic signatures. Like those tax dodgers use when they send their money to shell banks in the Caribbean.

Well it was not quite the same as being on capital hill, but it was better than cell phones and flash-lights on the White House lawn.

Every night we see Geraldo Rivera and Chris Matthews interview news snoops in Afghanistan. We can even see the House of Commons too.

Last May the Governor of Massachusetts carried on her affairs of State from a hospital bed using the telephone and an Internet-linked laptop computer.

Last summer some members of the House of Representatives held hearings on the 2002 farm bill. They used closed circuit TV where we could see who was talking and we could ask and answer questions.

But it just isn't the same they would miss their fashionable Dolly Madison Washington white tie cocktail parties. It was First Lady Sarah Childress Polk who would not permit card-playing, liquor, or dancing in the White House — so the Washington elites just moved them to her Lafayette Square home.

## Watch those Internet bioterrorism antibiotics

Dear Attorney General Stovall:

My family and I are very concerned about the recent outbreaks of anthrax across the country. I have seen some offers on the internet for the drug Cipro, which is used to treat anthrax. Is it safe to purchase this drug online to protect my family from possible exposure?

Dear Kansas Consumer:

Cipro, short for Ciprofloxacin, is an antibiotic that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved for the treatment of anthrax. However the dose, quantity, and duration of treatment should only be determined by a physician once an in-person examination has been conducted.

Since the tragedy on September 11, 2001, several online pharmacies have started selling this prescription drug. Many pharmacy websites are selling fake Cipro at an inflated price, or are taking a consumer's money without delivering a product. My office, along with 40 other states, the FDA, the Federal Trade Commission, and the Centers for Disease Control, is currently investigating websites which sell bioterrorism products for possible deceptive and/or unconscionable business practices.

When choosing an online pharmacy, you should be sure that the pharmacy: Is registered with the Kansas Board of Pharmacy. You can call 785-296-4056 to inquire.

Requires a prescription from your doctor, who must be licensed to practice medicine in Kansas by the Kansas Board of Healing Arts. You can call



### carla j. stovall

- consumer corner

785-296-7413 to inquire.

Requires prescriptions to be sent by your doctor or local pharmacy by mail, fax, or phone.

Offers a full range of prescription medications, and not just the ones that have received media attention such as Cipro.

Red Flags which should caution you against using a certain online pharmacy:

Websites that only offer a limited range of prescription medications, usually the medications that have received large amounts of media attention such as Cipro.

Websites that ask you to agree to a Waiver of Liability waiving all your legal rights. Consumers should never agree to a Waiver of Liability in order to receive prescription drugs.

Websites that do not have a VIPPS (Verified Internet Pharmacy Practice Sites) seal on the website. To be VIPPS certified, a pharmacy must comply with the licensing and inspection requirements of its state and each state to which it dispenses pharmaceuticals. The VIPPS seal also indicates compliance with criteria established by the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy, in-

There is no doubt government could introduce some of this new economy cyberspace into the way government is run. But then they just can't be an expert without being seen peering over their glasses that is perched on the end of their noses.

These are the guys who say the nation state is as old fashioned as Lord Keynes but would bomb a pharmacy and two camels in Yemen.

So dial up we love New York City it is too late for monetary policy. They talk about tax cut roll backs and tax havens in the Bahamas. What ever happened to that anti-American Englishman Christopher Hitchins who thinks Henry Kissinger is a war criminal and should be brought before the world court.

Just as crazy is Ted Turner who gave a billion dollars to the UN then locks away his video with a recording of Nearer, My God, to Thee and footage of a American flag waving.

He has titled his memorial to posterity "The End of The World". Humm Turner's tirades at Evangelical Christians is legion. He used to be married to Hanoi Jane Fonda who now says she is born again.

Lets see, he has canned the End Of World tape to be run when Armageddon, comes? That's an oxymoron he either believes there will be an Armageddon or he doesn't. And if it is the muttering of those religious nuts why would he care? But if it was the end of the world who would watch it. Guess that tells us where he would be.

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cluding patients' right to privacy. You can find VIPPS information on their website, www.nabp.net.

Purchasing prescription drugs from foreign-based online pharmacies may increase the risk of buying an impure or adulterated product.

Websites that claim your online application will be reviewed by a doctor. Without further information, you do not know who the doctor is or where he or she is licensed to practice medicine, if at all, and no physician may ever contact you.

All prescription medications have serious and sometimes fatal side effects if taken by people with certain medical conditions. Not having a doctor actually give you an in-person physical before prescribing these medications is dangerous and against the law. For your safety and health, all prescription medications can only be prescribed by a physician who has developed a physician/patient relationship with you. Any company that tries to circumvent these basic laws does not have your best interests in mind.

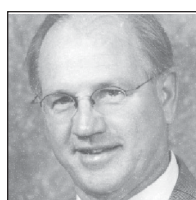
Attorney General Carla J. Stovall offers this public service to help you avoid becoming a victim of consumer fraud. Although some of the details have been changed, the cases appearing in this column are based on actual complaints. For further information or to file a complaint, please write Attorney General Carla J. Stovall, Consumer Protection Division, 120 SW 10th, 2nd Floor, Topeka, Kansas 66612, or call the toll-free Consumer Hotline, 1-800-432-2310. Leave your name, number and subject of your inquiry with the receptionist.

## Technical College is more than a name change

Every year for as long as I can remember, educational institutions have started the new academic year in the fall. This happened as usual this year, but one thing was different: we started this academic year as a Technical College.

This is a significant change for most everyone associated with the college and Goodland. Most of the staff has to watch their old habits and make sure they refer to their employer as the Technical College. Almost everyone in the community is challenged on how they should refer to the college. I tell people to drop the "V" word and refer to us now with the "C" word, college. We all realize that it is tricky, but with some time we will all grow accustom to the new name. It is probably easiest for me since I am new.

Several people have asked, what does this name change mean for the students? Well, let me tell you. Besides the obvious name change, students can now receive college credit for their classes. Credits that lead to an associate degree, which is highly



### kenneth clouse

- college notes

sought after by employers. An associate degree may lead to higher paying jobs for graduates and a stronger chance of transferring credits to a university. This degree will posture student to move more readily into supervisory positions.

When the college opened the doors on Aug. 22 for the fall semester, 620 students were enrolled. After several weeks, our numbers settled in at 593. The instructional programs started the year with excellent enrollment. This year's student profile features an average age of 19.7 years, which is younger than last year's 22.1. Seventeen percent of the students are female and 25.6 percent are

sophomores completing their second year.

The college provides numerous leadership opportunities each year for students. One of the premier opportunities is to be student senate representatives or class officers. These positions have been filled and students are engaging in numerous activities, many of which will be community-service oriented.

The new fitness center is getting a workout. Every evening, intramural sports such as 3-on-3 basketball, volleyball, 5-on-5 basketball and racquetball are enjoyed. The facility is also seeing a lot of traffic for weight lifting and aerobic exercise. Our students are fortunate to have such a fine facility.

The college staff wants the public to know that we have another fine year in progress. I personally want to encourage people to get to know more about the college. Community groups and individuals are always welcome to come for a tour of the campus, lunch in the Student Union, a visit to the bookstore or for a stop by the president's office. We enjoy showing and talking about the college.

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