

commentary

from our viewpoint...

We could see the first girl vs. girl campaign

John Hanna, the Associated Press correspondent in Topeka, has declared the official opening of the Silly Season in Kansas politics, as candidates jump in (and out) of the ring, dance around and generally make ready for the 2002 elections.

He defines that as the time between when candidates officially are not running and the filing deadline is in June, though some would say it's the silly season any time the Legislature is in session.

In Kansas politics, the maneuvering and posturing that come before the campaign apply only to one party: the Republicans.

Democrats don't have to posture, plan or forge alliances. There aren't enough of them. This season, they already know who their candidate for governor will be. She is Kathleen Sebelius, state insurance commissioner, the only elected Democrat in the Statehouse, and daughter-in-law of a widely revered former congressman (and Republican) from Norton.

Sebelius comes across as a champion of the taxpayer, a no-nonsense administrator and, supporters hope, her name alone may sway some otherwise loyal Republicans.

She will be a formidable candidate, no matter who the Republicans put up. If the GOP candidate does not have the star quality of a Bill Graves, in fact, she is a real threat to take the Statehouse for the Dems for the first time since Joan Finney ousted Atwood's Mike Hayden.

On the Republican side, conservatives met in a back room at Sen. Sam Brownback's Topeka home a couple of months ago and anointed State Treasurer Tim Shallenberger as their boy. Shawnee County Treasurer Rita Cline, whose claim to fame is she got sued for hanging the Ten Commandments in her office, dropped out (though she had been the first to file for governor) and is running for state treasurer.

Phill Kline from Johnson County, who ran against Rep. Dennis Moore for Congress, hopped out of the ring and into the race for attorney general.

Which left two moderates, Lt. Gov. Gary Sherrer of Salina and state Rep. Kent Glasscock of Manhattan. Sherrer is an appointed lieutenant governor with little political clout. He replaced Colby's Sheila Frahm after the governor made her a U.S. senator (and Brownback, whose wife is a millionaire, promptly chased her out of office in a conservative triumph).

Sherrer's main claim to fame is that he taught Bill Graves at Salina High School. He seems to have trouble making up his mind whether he is in or out, but it won't make any difference. He's out.

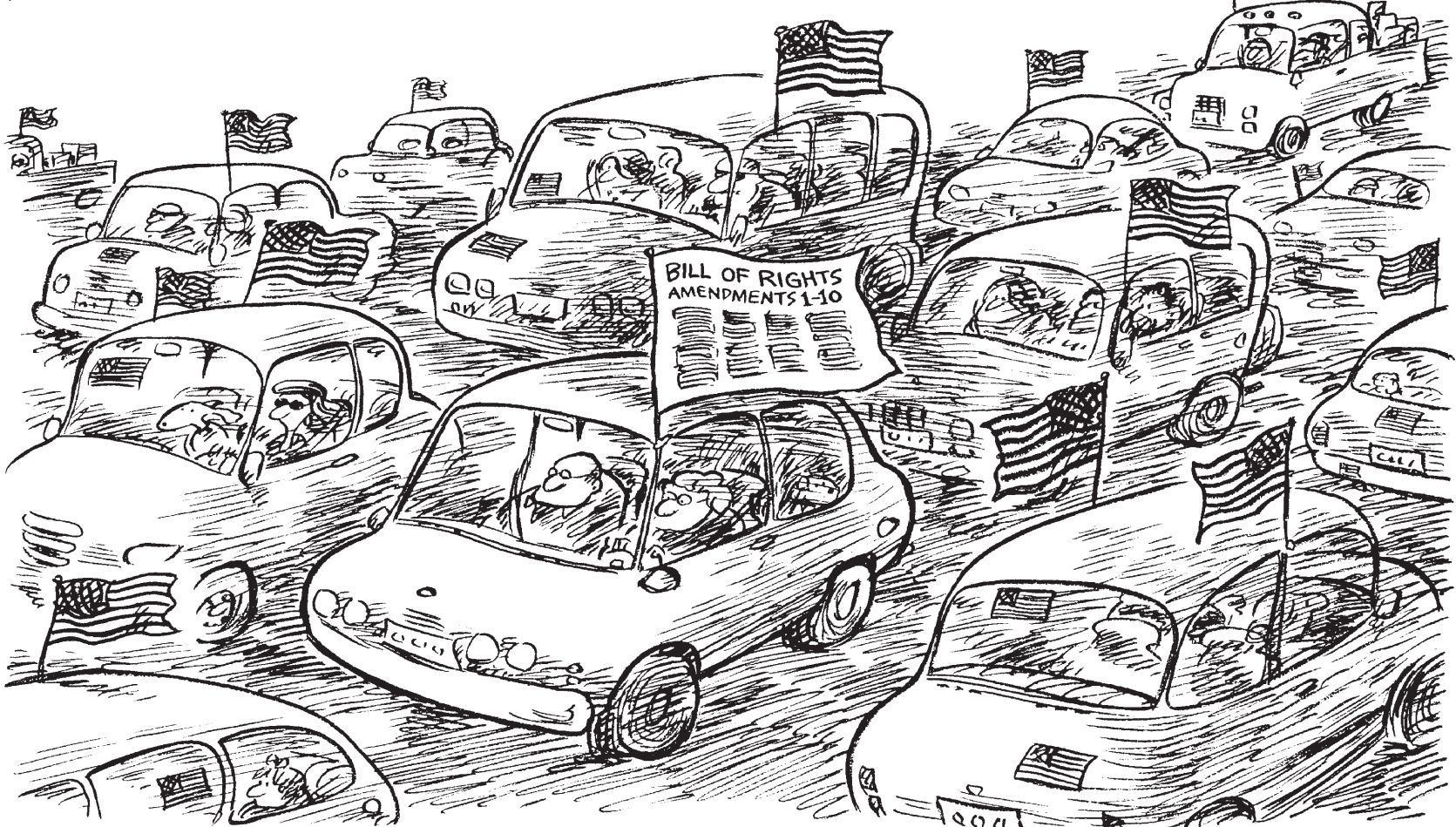
Glasscock, whose wife is Graves' chief of staff, is as bright and capable as anybody in Topeka, but his personality is less than electric and his campaign has been going nowhere.

Enter, stage left, the Queen of Kansas politics, Attorney General Carla Stovall, a proven veteran of the political trenches. Only she has the star quality needed to whip both Shallenberger and Sebelius, and now Glasscock has agreed to be her running mate, settling for minor immortality as lieutenant governor.

Now that she is in, the Republican primary is hers to lose. General Stovall (they really call her that on her web site) has picked up plenty of baggage in eight years in office, but dirt seems to bounce off of her. She does not always get along well with the conservatives, the Legislature, other state officials or the moderates in her own party. Only the voters seem to love her, but that should be enough.

All of which sets the stage for Kansas' first all-girl governor's race. Imagine how that could develop. — *Steve Haynes*

ETTA © 2001 FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM
HULME



Many reasons why we ought to be thankful

I don't know about you, but I have much for which to be thankful.

And for the most part, I am happy and content.

I truly appreciate living in a country that recognizes the value of a holiday for giving thanks.

Too bad we don't practice it better all the rest of the year.

Here are some quotes for you to contemplate this thanksgiving season:

• "Happiness lies for those who cry, those who hurt, those who have searched, and those who have tried, for only they can appreciate the importance of people who have touched their lives." — Unknown

• "The happiest of people don't necessarily have the best of everything; they just make the most of everything that comes along their way." — Unknown

• "Let us not look back in anger, nor forward in fear, but around in awareness." — James Thurber.

• "If you are successful, you win false friends and true enemies, "SUCCEED ANYWAY." The good you do will be forgotten tomorrow, "DO GOOD



lorna
g. t.

• commentary

ANYWAY." — Found displayed on Mother Theresa's wall.

And here are a few jokes to share with family and friends:

1. "Conscience is what hurts when everything else feels so good."
2. "Politicians and diapers have one thing in common. They should both be changed regularly, and for the same reason."
3. "I'm in shape. 'Round' is a shape."
4. "I am a nutritional overachiever."

This holiday season take time to think about all that the past year has taught you. Maybe you can come up with some truths to match these by Andy Rooney:

"I've learned that sometimes all a person needs is a hand to hold and a heart to understand. I've learned that life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes. I've learned that we should be glad God doesn't give us everything we ask for. I've learned that money doesn't buy class. I've learned that it's those small daily happenings that make life so spectacular."

As you gather with your loved ones around a bountiful table this year, I hope you will take time to thank your God for the many, many blessings you receive, not only daily, but moment by moment. I suggest you also share this poem:

"Count your blessings instead of your crosses; Count your gains instead of your losses.

"Count your joys instead of your woes; Count your friends instead of your foes.

"Count your smiles instead of your tears; Count your courage instead of your fears.

"Count your full years instead of your lean; Count your kind deeds instead of your mean.

"Count your health instead of your wealth; Count on God instead of yourself!" — Unknown

Can Bush and Congress go all the way?

Shocked into unaccustomed unity, Congress and the White House have moved quickly and cooperatively to fight terrorism on some fronts. They ought to resolve to do so on all.

If Congress could swiftly give President Bush authority to wage war on Al Qaeda and the Taliban and permission to tap the phones of possible terrorists, why can't lawmakers and the administration come to terms on airport security?

If the two sides can agree on bioterrorism upgrades and border security — both of which are likely to happen soon — why can't they reach a consensus on energy security, a stimulus package and a responsible budget?

Airline security legislation has been unconscionably delayed by differences over whether baggage inspectors should be federal employees, as Democrats insist.

Personally, I think Bush and House Republicans are right to say they should be federally supervised private contractors — on the grounds that incompetent civil servants are nearly impossible to fire and European countries have mostly found that the privatized system works well.

While the quarreling continues, Bush has cleverly moved to use National Guard personnel to bolster airport security, but it is not a long-term fix.

If neither side will yield, there ought to be a deal and a test: Some airports could be completely federalized, while others remain private. After a year, the issue could be revisited to see what the long-term policy should be.

Meantime, good things seem to be happening with border security. As major immigrants-rights spokesmen attest, the Bush administration and Congress are resisting calls from exclusionist groups to limit immigration in response to terrorism.

Not one of the Sept. 11 hijackers was an immigrant — legal or illegal. All of them entered the United States legally, either on temporary student or tourist visas.

Even chief hijacker Mohamed Atta, though his tourist visa had expired, met existing requirements by applying for a student visa.

"Our intelligence agencies, State Department and immigration service act like stovepipes. They don't share information either before or after a visitor gets here," asserted Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., in an interview.

where to write

U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts, 302 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. 20510. (202) 224-4774

U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback, 303 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. 20510. (202) 224-6521

U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran, 1217 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 225-2715

State Rep. Jim Morrison, State Capitol Building Rm. 174-W, Topeka, KS 66612. (785) 296-7676

State Sen. Stan Clark, State Capitol Building Rm. 128-S, Topeka, KS 66612. (785) 296-7399

Kansas Attorney General Carla J. Stovall, 301 S.W. 10th, Lower Level, Topeka, KS 66612-1597 (785) 296-3751 Fax (785) 291-3699 TTY: (785) 291-3767



morton
kondracke

• commentary

As a result, she said, the head of Iraq's nuclear weapons program was able to get his doctorate at Michigan State, and one of the 1993 World Trade Center bombers had been a student at Wichita State. Hundreds of persons obtain student visas to attend classes in the United States and then disappear.

Feinstein and Sen. Jon Kyl, R-Ariz., have introduced tough legislation to require intelligence-sharing, to issue computer-traceable visas to visitors, and to require universities to report on students with visas.

They'd also ban student visas for citizens from countries the State Department has listed as sponsoring terrorism, though the ban could be waived.

Sens. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., and Sam Brownback, R-Kan., in cooperation with the Bush administration, are proposing a rival bill that omits Feinstein's requirement for an identity card for all aliens, including green-card holders.

Once differences between the bills are ironed out — and the process reportedly is moving swiftly — that measure should be passed and signed into law this year.

It will take time for the government to hire and train a new corps of visa officers and equip them with on-time intelligence, but that's all the more reason passing the legislation should be a priority.

The House and Senate Judiciary committees, meanwhile, should resolve to give serious oversight to Attorney General John Ashcroft's policy of detaining suspected terrorists and wiretapping lawyer-client communications.

Ashcroft isn't necessarily wrong in crowding normal civil liberties in order to fight terrorism, but Congress needs to make sure what he's doing works and isn't excessive.

Kennedy and Sen. Bill Frist, R-Tenn., are working out a bioterrorism package to upgrade the nation's public health infrastructure, speed vaccine production, and train medical personnel.

There's a difference in funding levels between

their proposal and the administration's — \$3 billion vs. the White House's \$1.8 billion — but both sides claim that problem will be worked out.

So why can't the same happen on a stimulus package and spending levels? Bush issued a veto threat last week against spending that exceeds the \$40 billion already approved for the Pentagon, New York and counterterror operations, or that goes above \$686 billion in new domestic discretionary spending.

Democrats are insisting on adding money — \$20 billion in Sen. Robert Byrd's package and \$18.5 billion in Rep. David Obey's — that the administration claims it can't spend. Surely there's a number we can afford that won't put long-term strains on what's left of the federal budget surplus.

After last week's party-line Senate Finance Committee vote on an economic stimulus skewed toward lower-income workers, it's hard to see how Congress can pass any legislation this year to boost the economy — unless Bush proposes a compromise and starts negotiating right away.

And then there's energy. What's called for is Democrats allowing limited drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Reserve and Republicans accepting higher fuel-efficiency standards and conservation programs. What's needed is a national-unity deal to make America less dependent on Persian Gulf oil.

What's needed, in fact, is a series of national-unity deals. We've had them on some issues. Why not on the rest?

Morton Kondracke is executive editor of Roll Call, the newspaper of Capitol Hill.

berry's world



The Goodland Daily News

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

Member: Kansas Press Association
The Associated Press

Inland Press Association Colorado Press Association
National Newspaper Association

e-mail: daily@nwkansas.com



Steve Haynes, President

Tom Betz, Editor/Editorial Page

Rachel Miscall, Managing Editor

Pat Schiefen, Copy editor

Sharon Corcoran, Sports Editor

Doug Stephens, Reporter

Eric Yonkey, Bill Wagoner, Advertising Sales

James Schiefen, Adv. Production Sheila Smith, Office Manager

Nor'west Press

Jim Bowker, General Manager

Ron VanLoenen Judy McKnight Richard Westfahl

Betty Morris Helen Dilts



nwkansas.com

N.T. Betz, Director of Internet Services (nbetz@nwkansas.com)
Evan Barnum, Systems Admin. (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. Advertising questions can be sent to: gdnadv@nwkansas.com

The Goodland Daily News assumes no liability for mistakes or omissions in advertising or failure to publish beyond the actual cost of the ad.

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

Nor'West Newspapers

Haynes Publishing Company