

# commentary

from other pens...

## Watching Phill Kline could be entertaining

### The Emporia Gazette on watching Phill Kline:

A Kansas City-area couple is trying to start a group that could keep Kansas politics interesting for the next four years.

The group is called HAWK, but it has nothing to do with sports at the University of Kansas. The word is an acronym for Hundreds of Attorneys Watching Kline — as in Phill Kline, who will take office in January as the state's attorney general.

The couple's goal is to organize the lawyers in the state to monitor Kline's every action ...

Less than two months ago, Kline, a well-known Republican, barely squeaked to victory against a little-known Democrat, Chris Biggs.

Perhaps the problem was that Kline is too well-known, and a number of Kansans — Republicans as well as Democrats — don't like what they know about him. His foes expect him to try to bend the laws of Kansas to fit his personal opinions.

Kline's Republican supporters, most of whom hail from the fringe over there on the right, say that HAWK is a piece of vindictive politicking.

Absolutely. And a very nice one it is, too.

Granted, Kline hasn't done anything wrong yet — he hasn't even been sworn in. But those who learned to loathe him in his years in the Legislature and during his time as an unsuccessful congressional candidate have good cause to expect the worst.

If it gets off the ground, HAWK will serve as a constant, useful reminder to the attorney general that his job is to uphold the laws of Kansas and defend the rights of its citizens, not to impose his personal beliefs on the rest of the state. ...

### The Winfield Daily Courier on Sen. Pat Roberts' leadership:

Kansas Sen. Pat Roberts is expected to become chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee when Congress reconvenes.

This would be the greatest distinction gained by a member of the Kansas delegation since Bob Dole became majority leader and Nancy Kassebaum became chair of the committee on health and human services.

Roberts said again in Wichita (last) Tuesday that Congress shared the blame for Sept. 11. He will not go on national television to blame spy and investigative agencies, he added.

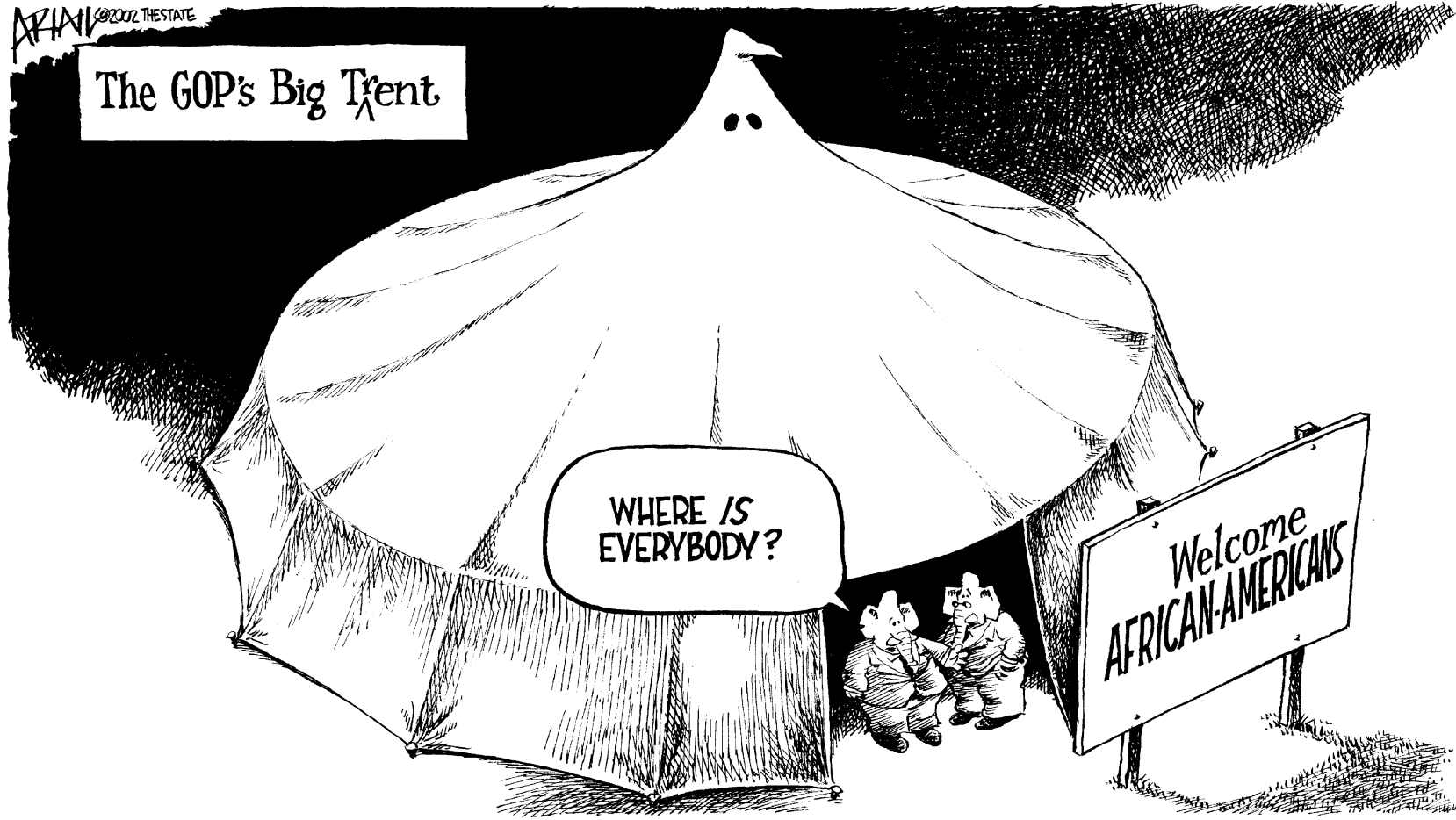
This will contrast the Kansan with the current chairman, Sen. Bob Graham, D-Fla., and the ranking Republican, Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Ala. We doubt this means, however, that Roberts will let up on those agencies when it comes to reform of their relationships.

Roberts has been outspoken about the failure to coordinate information and analysis before Sept. 11. Our guess is his strategy is to pull the executive and legislative branches together to improve that condition.

Pat Roberts, who has earned his legislative spurs by long, hard work, is in a position to help guide this country back from the most dramatic experience of war on its soil since 1865. As a Kansan he inherits an expectation of commonsense talk and steady leadership.

We fully expect Roberts will meet this expectation. Our suggestion is that he be thoughtful but bold, and willing to test his ideas for new national security strategies on his audience. Restrained as he may be about blaming the agencies, Roberts' audience will be worldwide.

America and its friends need the kind of leadership Pat Roberts can provide.



## Those calendars don't seem to last as long

I don't know about you, but I'm getting ready to discard another calendar.

It seems like I just did that; can it really have been a year ago?

For the past month or six weeks, I've been carrying around two of them, making sure I don't miss any activities I've committed to while busily making new commitments for 2003. I can't imagine how I'd function if I lost my calendar. (Obviously I haven't come into the high-tech world of palm pilots yet.)

A calendar keeps me straight and on target, but it doesn't seem to last nearly as long as when I was younger. Years just are not what they used to be; they're shorter, they are used to be 365 days! I don't think they are anymore.

I hardly turn around from thanking the Lord for another new year, and I'm getting out Christmas decorations. Well, at least I'm thinking about getting them out. I really don't put many out anymore. The season goes so fast I hardly have time to store the boxes before I'm putting things back in them.



**lorna  
gt**

• commentary

Calendars! Have you priced on in a store recently? I remember when almost every business in our little town gave them away free. Now some people will pay \$12.95 for one if it suits their tastes or advertises their favorite product.

Cat and dog lovers are susceptible targets, as well as John Deere and Harley Davidson fanatics — to say nothing about what used to be called "pin-up" calendars. (Those used to be only of scantily-clad women, but lately I've seen that they aren't so gender-specific anymore.)

I occasionally buy a calendar, but usually rely on the ones given out for business advertisements. Thank you to you business people who still carry

on that tradition. I appreciate your consideration and thoughtfulness. Some of the pictures are absolutely breathtaking and are hard to give up at the end of the year.

My grandmother would save the pretty pictures even after the calendar had expired. She would either pin them to a sewing room or bedroom wall or put them in a scrapbook. Some of them decorated the walls of the outhouse for years and years.

She saved all the pretty greeting cards she received too, and that habit carried down through my mother to me. It is really hard to throw away something that you've thoroughly enjoyed. (I am particularly susceptible to Norman Rockwell pictures, but then I know that dates me — just as each new calendar does!)

May you become more aware of your God's goodness and love in this New Year, and may you make more opportunities to pass those things along to everyone around you. That way you can contribute to the year's being valuable, even if you can't stop it's being short.

## Returning to the roots of my youth

Well, this is a first for *The Goodland Daily News*, the first appearance of my column Pursuit of a Richer Life.

Usually this column appears on Tuesdays in the *Colby Free Press*, our sister paper. So this being a "first" for many readers, I will start out by sharing a little about myself.

I am a northwest Kansas native. I was even born right here at the Goodland hospital. Most of my youth was spent in Brewster, but for a short time my family lived in Goodland.

When I was probably 3, my family moved here to help my grandmother, Beverly Brannick, who was ill. She and my grandfather John lived in Goodland for many years and I am sure are known by many readers. I still have several family members who live here in the area.

After moving back to Brewster and living there up until my eight-grade year, my family decided to make a move to Colby. I attended high school there and graduated in 1994.

When it came time to decide on a college, I chose Southwestern Assemblies of God College in Waxahachie, Texas. Yes, I realize that is quite a mouthful, and it came to be even more of a mouthful when they were approved for university status my sophomore year. Waxahachie is the size of Hays, about 20 minutes south of Dallas on Interstate 35.

Being so close to Dallas, I really grew to love



**michelle  
hawkins**

• pursuit of a richer life

the convenience and pace of city life. Once I returned to Colby after graduating from college, it was a challenge and the "call of the city" kept beckoning me from the distance.

For over a year, I was sports editor of the *Colby Free Press*, and I found that I loved being able to write and do photography for a daily publication.

Still, I could not escape the call of the big city and decided to take a job with the photography division of the Hallmark as a manager of one of their photo studios in Baltimore, Md.

Although I was used to the city, moving to Baltimore on my own, no knowing a soul, and making a fresh start, was a bit of a challenge. I would say this period of my life was when I learned the most about myself and who I am as an individual.

The biggest challenge was overcoming small-town phobias of living in "shady" neighborhoods. I think I was more OK with the neighborhood at first than my family was when they left me there.

Although I was the only one of my ethnic group, I felt I would surly be safe. I had found the apart-

ment after searching on the Internet, it was fairly nice, excellent rent, and little did I know, in a bad neighborhood.

I found this out during the first month when I began hearing gunshots in the alley behind me and at one point when the police search helicopters continued to scan the area for some criminal on the loose. I began to wonder why I was there.

After only being with the company for a month, I was offered a promotion and a brand new store in Fort Worth.

Along with other benefits, the company was going to pay to break my lease and help me get settled in Texas. After living there throughout my college years, I knew that I liked the Metroplex and decided to take the job.

So after only four months of being a Baltimorean, I had the U-Haul packed and was headed south. I lived there for about two years and then made another big decision. I really missed working for a newspaper and the slower pace of northwest Kansas. I moved back home and went to work with the *Colby Free Press*, this time as the family and religion editor.

I am so happy to be back and feel fortunate to have the opportunity to fill in at *The Goodland Daily News*. I hope to get to meet many of the readers and get to be more familiar with your community. Hopefully, you will enjoy getting to see a bit more of me, too!

### Letter Policy

The Goodland Daily News encourages and welcomes letters from readers. Letters should be typewritten, and must include a telephone number and a signature. Unsigned letters will not be published. Form letters will be rejected, as will letters deemed to be of no public interest or considered offensive. We reserve the right to edit letters for length and good taste.

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## What do you do when you see a pedestrian?

Quiz for Kansas drivers:

1. When you see a pedestrian trying to cross the street ahead of you at a crosswalk, you are supposed to:

- speed up and get by before they cross.
- swerve to scare the pedestrian and see if they jump.
- ignore the pedestrian and hope you don't hit them.
- stop and let the pedestrian cross safely.

2. If the pedestrian is a grade school student, elderly person or in a wheel chair:

- You should yell at them to watch where they are going, what are they doin' in your way?
- aim for the toes.
- extra points!
- be sure not to hit anyone.

3. When groups of school children are present around a crosswalk, a driver should:

- slow down and be prepared to stop.
- swerve to dodge between the kids.
- Honk your horn.
- be careful not to leave a 7-10 split.

My theory is that most Kansas drivers are going to flunk this test. Most of them don't seem to have a clue about pedestrians.

The Uniform Traffic Code says that a driver must yield to any pedestrian in a crosswalk, marked or unmarked. A crosswalk is assumed to be next to any intersection, and most are not marked.

The general idea is that if you see someone in the street or about to enter the street ahead of you, you're supposed to stop the car.

Not speed up. Not honk. Not curse and shake



**steve  
haynes**

• along the sappa

your fist. And you're definitely not supposed to hit anyone.

The prevailing theory, though, seems to be that people ought to stay out of the street so they don't get hurt.

Drivers rush right by, whether the pedestrian is on the curb, in the street or out in front of them. The poor walker had better be agile.

If you don't believe me, try walking across one of the busier streets in any Kansas town.

I was walking across town the other day, trying to cross a busy street. Most drivers did not glance at me. No one stopped. No one slowed down. Even when I was out on the yellow line, the best response I got was a couple of people who swerved toward the curb to get farther away from me.

No one did what the law says we're all supposed to do.

When I'm driving, I try to yield to pedestrians. This can be dangerous both to the thoughtful driver — you could get rear-ended stopping for a pedestrian — and to the kid in the crosswalk.

If a kid tries to cross in front of you while you're stopped, he might get creamed by the impatient gal passing on your left, or the guy rushing by from the other direction. Once I had to get out and stop other traffic to get some school kids across the street.

Most kids today are none too trusting. They've been taught to stay on the curb until no one is coming, because they know most drivers won't stop for them.

Me, I assert my rights and step off the curb. But not too quickly, and with a wary eye on all oncoming traffic. I value my toes too much to be trampling.

And I've seen how well Kansas drivers yield to pedestrians.

### berry's world

