

commentary

from other pens...

Open meetings flaw needs to be changed

The Garden City Telegram on Open Meetings ruling:
Gov.-elect Kathleen Sebelius' victory...in a challenge to the Kansas Open Meetings law exposes a flaw in the statute that needs some correction.

Even the judge in the case noted the loophole seems to run counter to the spirit of the democratic process.

Fourteen news organizations, including this one, sued for access to Sebelius' state-government review team deliberations. Sebelius balked, noting the teams aren't covered by the Kansas Open Meetings Act because she's not yet governor...

News organizations argued otherwise. They said her transition team has Statehouse offices, the governor-elect has a state security detail, the Legislature appropriated \$150,000 to cover transition expenses, and Sebelius could use state employees...

Shawnee County Judge Eric Rosen...ruled the Open Meetings Act doesn't cover the teams because Sebelius won't have powers to issue executive orders, for example, until she is governor Jan. 13...

Rosen noted the court didn't have the power to change state law, but did take issue with the loophole. "If the openness of the decision-making process is an inherently sound democratic principle, is it not equally worthwhile before Jan. 13, 2003, as it is after that date?" he wrote.

It is, and the Kansas legislature can make sure the loophole gets closed.

Sebelius, who has promised an open process, can initiate that correction. A statement of that intent in her inauguration speech would send a powerful signal to the legislature and the people of the state.

The Chanute Tribune on slot machines to raise revenue:

Gov.-elect Kathleen Sebelius faces a Herculean task — trying to find enough revenue to cover the state's expenses. Right now the imbalance is hundreds of millions of dollars.

One place Sebelius is willing to look: slot machines at racetracks.

It's a bad idea. No matter what the degree of fiscal difficulty the state faces, expanding our reliance on gambling revenues isn't appropriate.

Gambling is a perfectly harmless form of entertainment for some folks. But for some it's positively toxic. For them, gambling is addictive. State revenue generated by their play is, in some cases, blood money.

The state's general prohibition on gambling is a remnant of long-standing opposition to gambling on religious grounds. Frankly, we find it impossible to view gambling as a moral issue, per se. But, as is the case with many Biblical prohibitions, the admonition is a practical one...

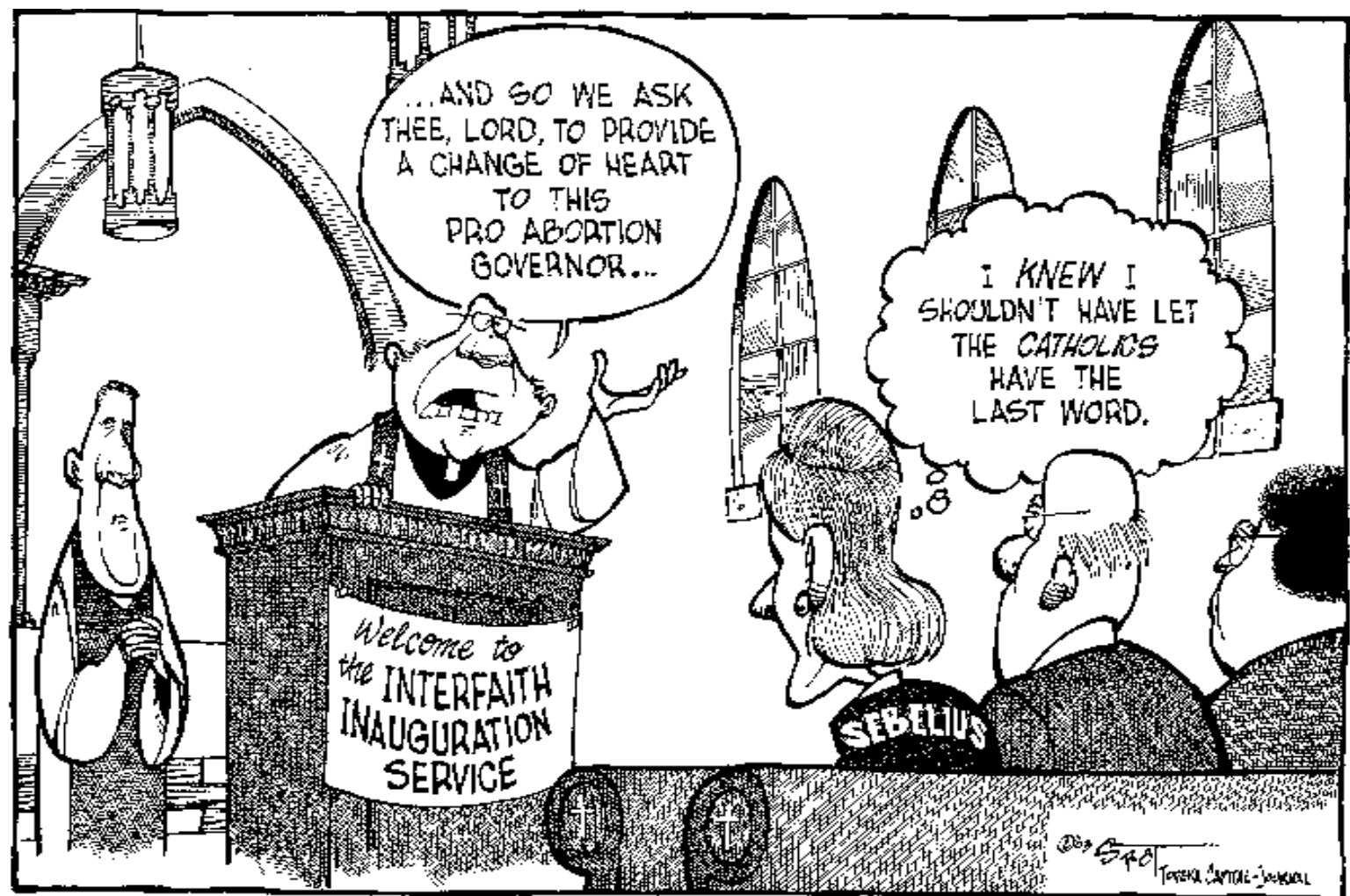
It's no surprise at all that the clientele is made up of a disproportionate share of low-income people. Those who can least afford to waste their money are the most likely to gamble.

As a tax policy, that's shameful...

If the public really isn't willing to pay for services, the services shouldn't be offered.

Rather than allow for the expansion of gambling, Sebelius should be pushing for an increase in property taxes, in the sales tax and the repeal of some of the tax exemptions.

That would be a much more honest approach to paying for state government.



Quick recipes from D.C. caterer

Orva Lewis Schultis in her cookbook "Simply Delicious by Orva" tried to make her recipes easy to follow, have few ingredients, and generally quick to prepare. If a recipe has a long preparation time she suggests making more and turn leftovers into a different meal. The following recipes are from her book.

Creamy French Celery Soup

3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
3 tablespoons flour
3 cans (10 1/2 ounce each) chicken broth and enough water to make 6 cups

1 large bunch celery, taken apart and washed thoroughly

1 bunch green onions
salt and pepper to taste

Easy Rouille
grated Parmesan cheese, if desired

In a heavy 3 or 4 quart pan with lid heat the olive oil slightly and whisk in flour. After well blended, add the liquid and whisk again. Cut celery into crosswise slices an inch or so wide and add. Wash and slice all of the green onions into the same size. Cover and simmer for about 30 minutes or until tender. Purée. Season to taste. Serve hot with a spoonful of rouille and a sprinkle of cheese if you want. Serves six.

Easy Rouille

1 cup mayonnaise (containing no sugar) Do not use low fat.



pat schiefen

- postscript

1 teaspoon finely minced garlic
a generous pinch paprika
salt to taste
Blend ingredients together and refrigerate.

The celery recipe is for Cynthia who ends up with an excess around the holidays.

Sweet Potato and Ham Medley

1 1/2 to 2 cups peeled and diced sweet potatoes

2 1/2 cups diced ham
5 green onions, sliced
2 tablespoons vegetable oil
3 tablespoons butter
1/2 cup heavy cream
salt and pepper to taste

Parboil diced potato for 3 minutes and drain. Heat butter and oil until it sizzles and sauté potato until begins to brown. Add onion and cook until it begins to wilt. Add ham and cook for about 5 minutes. Add cream and stir until absorbed. Season to taste. Serves 4. Good

recipe for leftovers. When working with sweet potatoes wear rubber gloves or your hands will turn yellow.

Ham and Cheese Rolls

1 package refrigerated crescent roll dough
4 ounces thinly sliced cooked country ham or if using deli ham, choose a type which isn't sweet

4 to 5 ounces grated Monterey Jack or Cheddar cheese

8 ounces sliced fresh mushrooms (optional)

1 ounce butter

Preheat oven to 350. If using mushroom, sauté in butter and allow them to cool. Unroll dough being careful not to stretch it. Divide ham, cheese and mushrooms among rolls. Roll up starting from the wide end. Carefully transfer rolls to baking sheet lined with foil. Spray foil with nonstick spray. Bake for about 20 minutes until golden. Serves four. Good with scrambled eggs for brunch.

I made this recipe and had the office rate it. I will use a one to five forks rating system with five forks as being the best. The consensus was four forks. Variations suggested were to add a little hot sauce. Also it was suggested to add pizza sauce. I also wondered why they could not be frozen for the future. One thing I missed was having to strike crescent roll dough on the counter and having it pop.

Korean crisis is a major threat for candidates

The first foreign-policy test for Democratic presidential candidates is at hand: Come up with a plan to solve the nuclear crisis with North Korea.

What strategies the various contenders recommend will tell us a lot about their ability to think through a horribly difficult strategic problem — and whether their natural bent in a crisis is toward appeasement, confrontation or some creative middle course.

Korea is a test, too, for President Bush, whose re-election — and the nation's place in the world — rides on his ability to maneuver through simultaneous challenges in Iraq, Korea, Afghanistan, the Middle East and the war on terror.

The first part of the test for Democrats is to say whether North Korea's restarting of its nuclear weapons program actually constitutes a crisis demanding urgent action.

The Bush administration claims it does not, with Secretary of State Colin Powell cautioning CNN interviewer Wolf Blitzer not to get "breathless" about the situation and Bush saying it can be handled "peacefully through diplomacy."

It's widely assumed that the administration really is pursuing a "one crisis at a time" strategy and doesn't want to let the Korean problem divert it from the forthcoming confrontation with Iraq.

Even though North Korea is believed to already possess two nuclear bombs and could produce five or six more within months — and Iraq is thought to be further behind — there is a logic to the administration's "Iraq first" priority.

Troops already are on the way to the Persian Gulf. The United Nations Security Council has demanded that Iraq disarm. The timetable for war is set for this month or next, before the weather gets hot.

Moreover, as various Bush allies have argued, Iraq is a North Korea in the making and needs to be stopped from developing nuclear weapons before military options become difficult or impossible.

Still, even if the administration doesn't want to label Korea a "crisis," it certainly demands immediate action — but the best course to follow is anything but clear.

Besides showing what they are made of as strategists, the Democratic candidates could conceivably help the country develop a wise solution to the problem.

So far, only one 2004 Democratic hopeful has commented at any length on the Korea situation — Sen. Joe Lieberman (Conn.), who has



morton kondracke

- commentary

been ahead of the pack on a range of issues including Iraq, homeland security and tax cuts.

However, Lieberman's instant reaction — on Blitzer's "Late Edition" on Dec. 29 — was disconcerting. Lieberman declared that North Korea's weaponry posed a crisis, but he seemed to blame it more on Bush than on North Korea's dictator, Kim Jong Il.

He said the Bush administration "dropped the ball by cutting off fuel shipments, which is the agreement that the North Koreans entered. In return for the fuel, they would stop this nuclear power plant producing plutonium. We stopped the fuel. They started up the plutonium plant."

However, the fact is that the United States stopped fuel shipments when it was learned that North Korea was secretly working on an enriched uranium plant in violation of its 1994 agreement not to develop nuclear weapons.

On CBS' "Face the Nation" Lieberman proposed immediate, direct U.S. negotiations with North Korea — which the administration so far refuses to engage in — "and I'd put the military option on the table as part of those negotiations."

Lieberman's approach seems both softer and tougher than Bush's — both rewarding North Korean misbehavior by granting its demand for direct talks and escalating the danger by talk of war.

Lieberman needs to explain how Bush — or a President Lieberman — could fight a war in Iraq and Korea at the same time with U.S. defenses reduced during the Clinton administration from 1.8 million personnel to 1.5 million.

The only other presidential contender to comment on the situation was Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.), who also blamed Bush.

He charged on Dec. 27 that North Korea's moves to restart its plutonium plant was "predictable and totally anticipated based on this administration's complete avoidance of a responsible approach to North Korea over a year and a half."

It's true that the Bush administration held back from dealing with North Korea, but any Democrat who's honest should be at least equally critical of the Clinton administration for its fecklessness.

After considering war to stop plutonium pro-

duction, Clinton was diverted toward diplomacy by former President Jimmy Carter and then concluded the 1994 deal, which North Korea soon breached while the Clinton administration ignored intelligence reports on its cheating.

Democrats also need to explain how — if at all — they would handle other players in the North Korean equation — China, South Korea, Japan, Russia and the U.N. Security Council.

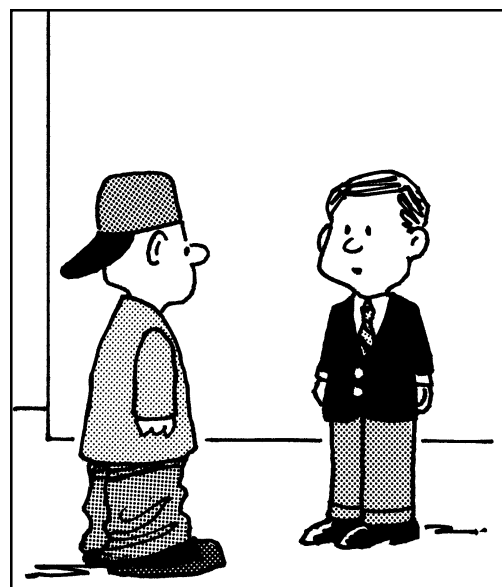
If they favor direct talks, cutting out other nations, they will have to explain why they are abandoning the usual Democratic penchant for multilateral action, the course that Bush is now taking.

Most of all, the Democrats need to say what their endgame is — to buy off North Korea with massive aid, as Rep. Ed Markey (D-Mass.) has suggested, or to force denuclearization, as proposed by former Clinton aides Sandy Berger and Robert Gallucci.

And they have to say what they'd do if, as seems entirely possible, North Korea rejects both pressure and promises and goes ahead building nuclear bombs. The danger is that Kim Jong Il will sell them. The world terrorist network is surely buying.

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
Managing Editor
Pat Schiefen, Copy Editor
Michelle Hawkins, Reporter
Sharon Corcoran, Society Editor
Eric Yonkey, Bill Wagoner, Advertising Sales
Skilar Boland, Adv. Production **Sheila Smith**, Office Manager

Nor'west Press

Jim Bowker, General Manager
Richard Westfahl **Ron VanLoenen** **Judy McKnight**
Betty Morris **Mary Jo Tapparo** **Lana Westfahl**
Teneile Lovelace

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, \$25; six months, \$42; 12 months, \$79. Out of area, weekly mailing of five issues: three months, \$30; six months, \$45; 12 months, \$80. By mail daily in Kansas, Colorado: 12 months, \$115. (All tax included.)

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