

from our viewpoint...

Looking for success; first part is attitude

For many, strategic planning is just another meeting, and when the plan is printed, they put it on the book shelf and forget it for 10 years or so — until someone says it needs it to be updated.

The statewide effort currently underway may not be quite the same as plans of the past, which were dreamed up in Topeka for the rest of the state to follow. Those leading this effort believe they are producing a bottom-up plan rather than a top-down plan imposed on the whole state.

The success of this effort may not be seen quickly, but if the “Kansas Prosperity” regional mini-summits are an example, there are plenty of ideas to fit into a statewide economic policy.

Wednesday, the northwest regional meeting will be held in Goodland. Leaders from all the 18 counties comprising this region are expected to be at the Goodland Elks to spend four or five hours shaping a regional economic plan which will be carried to the statewide Prosperity Summit in Wichita.

Ideas from those who attended sub-area mini-summits in Colby and in Hays will be the basis for the discussions Wednesday, but they can be modified or added to depending on the thoughts of those who attend the session.

Listening to the reports from the four groups at the Colby meeting, it seemed that while there are many different things to do for each segment, a couple of things kept coming up that overlapped.

There is a good sense the High Plains is a good place to live and raise a family, and those who live here need to be positive about that when talking to people from other areas or states. Not only should we have a positive attitude when talking to people who come through on the highway, but we need to be more positive about it when we talk to our young people.

It is true today most of our young people can’t wait to move away. Yes, part of that is because of the economy, but even when it was good, most of the young people were leaving. We encourage our kids to go get a good education, but do not encourage them to come back to live and work in northwest Kansas.

But you are going to say there is “nothing” here for them to come back to, and if they do come back, it is to fill lower paying jobs that do not have much promise of advancement.

Is this really true? Where is the positive attitude that develops opportunity no matter where you are? Have we as a community put our best effort forward to collaborate and find ways to improve the chances for our kids?

When you walk up and down the streets of our towns, how many of the shop owners are nearing retirement age? Where are the young people who are being nurtured to take those businesses into the next generation?

Many of the stores have closed because the owners wanted to retire. They either did not have children who wanted to take over the business or their kids did not have the skills and knowledge to do so.

It is easy to find excuses as to why there are not many young people in business here today, and we can tell ourselves it is the nature of the economy.

But positive thinking will result in positive action, and if you look at the Sherman County strategic plan done 12 years ago, most of those projects have been accomplished. With a positive outlook and working together there is no telling what can be done in the next 10 years.

Many of us live on the High Plains because we like it, and we wish more people appreciated the life here. We need to be looking for young people who want to live here and be in business to keep things going long after we have departed. — *Tom Betz*

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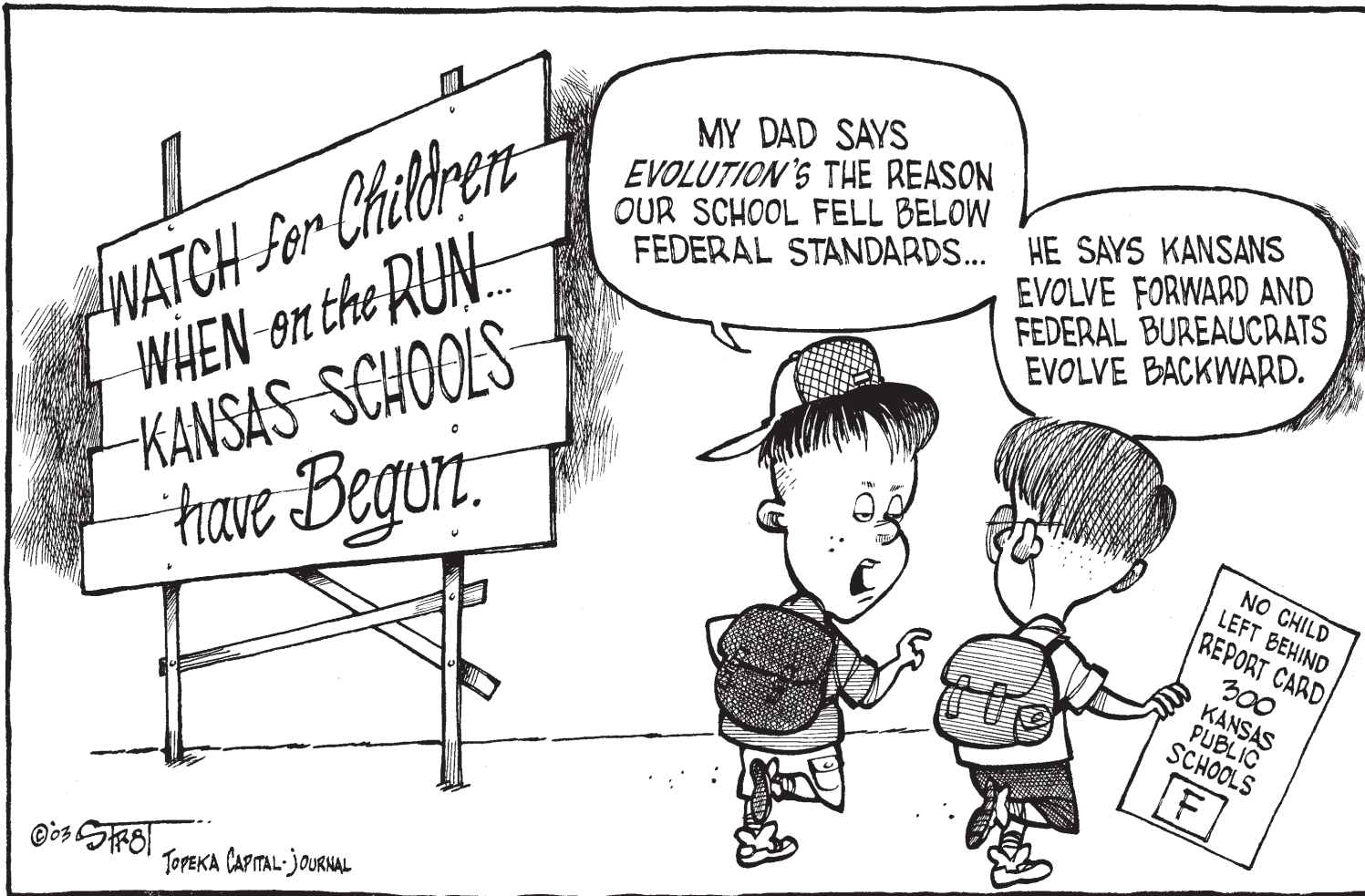
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Episcopal Church tearing itself apart again

It seems like the dear old Episcopal Church is bent on tearing itself apart again.

This time, in fact, the church may rend the entire Anglican Communion, the worldwide offspring of the Church of England.

Now that the church’s general convention has ratified the ordination of an openly homosexual bishop — and blessed a service for same-sex marriage — many are talking about leaving.

Worse yet, the victors — the supposed champions of diversity — seem to feel that’s just fine.

It’s no surprise that Episcopalians would rather fight than do God’s work. It’s been the church’s lot for the last 20-30 years. First we fought over the modernized Book of Common Prayer, then the ordination of women to the priesthood.

The modernists won both battles, as they have won this one, and then proceeded to quash any opposition. That’s the problem; the liberals seem to believe in diversity only when it’s *their* diversity.

After the change in the prayer book, which for the first time abandoned the 1559 language of Thomas Cranmer, bishops forced the new book on many congregations. In Colorado, the bishop sued a church that refused to use the new list of Bible readings and ousted them, installing a new liberal leadership.

Many left the church. Whole congregations loyal to the old ways fled, calling themselves Anglican or Anglo-Catholic, anything but Episcopalian.

Then came ordination of women to the priestly roles reserved to men since the time of the apostles. Many thought it was about time. Many others left the church when the change



steve haynes

- along the sappa

came. Some priests made a point of leaving for the vastly more conservative Roman Catholic Church.

And they were welcomed with open arms. Now the issue of homosexual clergy threatens more of the same, only worse. The archbishop of Canterbury, titular leader of all Anglicans, has called a conference. It’s possible, given the uproar around the world, that the Episcopal Church in these United States may find itself ostracized for this decision. Third-world bishops have been outspoken, though no more so than some Americans.

Some observers have remarked that the church spends entirely too much time and energy talking about sexuality and not nearly enough on other matters of faith. Perhaps that is true, but sexuality, morals and the teaching authority of the church are central to organized religion.

One pastor boils the issue down to whether the church will continue to accept scripture as its moral authority, or whether its members will just do as they please. It’s a good point, though open to debate.

There is not a word of support for homosexuality in the Bible that I know of. But it’s always fascinated me that while the Old Testament and the Epistles condemn the practice, Jesus apparently had no word to say on the matter while on earth.

What that means, I’m not sure. In terms of

science, we understand little about the root causes of homosexual behavior. It has been loathed and feared in most societies, but is that just prejudice?

It would be easy to see all this as just a continuation of the quarrels that have, since the Reformation which created the Episcopal Church, split Christianity into a thousand sects. What difference will a couple more make? Other denominations have struggled with these issues, some deciding one way, some the other.

But Episcopalians have long prided themselves on their diversity. In a kinder, gentler era, that meant the division over whether you said a mass every Sunday — High Church, more Catholic — or just the Bible readings and prayers — low church, more like the Methodists.

Until the prayer book change, though, we mostly managed to live with our differences. You found a church where you felt at home, and then lived with its quirks.

No longer. But it’s hard to imagine that God put us here to quarrel. I think it’s our own poor understanding of what God wants that creates the problems.

And it’s not the argument that is the problem. We have to argue out our differences and pray greatly to find God’s way.

It’s the lack of tolerance for different views on both sides that makes the fight so wrong. It speaks to a lack of humility, a lack of prayer, a lack of good will. It’s nothing new, but I don’t think it’s anything we should be proud of.

The Lord, after all, will sort these things out in His time. I don’t think he’ll be giving points for those who hate and fight one another in His name.

Art Center thanks city for renewing lease

To the Editor:

On behalf of the Goodland Arts Council, I would like to thank the Goodland City commissioners for their approval of the proposed lease agreement of the Carnegie Library Building. The success of the Goodland Arts Council is due, in large part, to the support of the city.

However, it takes the support of many, many individuals for the arts council to continue to thrive. The board would like to especially thank those who attended the city commission meeting Monday night and offered their support, as



from our readers

- to the editor

well as the many people who wrote letters and made personal contact with commissioners and city manager. Your efforts ensured that the council can continue to provide programs for

our community.

The council has been an active part of Goodland for the past 25 years. That has only been possible through the cooperation and support of the entire community. Goodland’s strong spirit was very apparent at Monday night’s meeting and we thank you for your commitment to keep the arts an important part of our community.

Tina Goodwin
Carnegie Arts Center Director

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