

from our viewpoint...

Imigration reform; we need it to work

Immigration reform is moving forward in Congress, but not without a lot of grumbling. The nation needs this bill, but we need to be sure whatever comes out of the mill is something that will work — that’s vital — and something everyone can live with. Our immigration and border control machinery is way past broken. Founded on illogic and surrealism, the system ground to a halt years ago. All the billions pumped into beefed-up fences and patrols and high-tech solutions have only served to point out how wrong the system is. Our country brutalizes immigrants, insults visitors and inconveniences citizens without keeping anyone out who really wants to get in — low-wage worker or terrorist alike. One important feature of the current compromise is the realization that we’re not going to uproot 12 million illegals and deport them all. We don’t have that many buses, that many judges or that many border cops. Our goal should be a rational system that regulates the flow of immigrant labor, not a wall to keep people out. That never has worked. They come no matter what we do, and more of the same isn’t going to stop them.

It’s OK to ask people who broke the law to come here to pay a fine to stay. Regulations requiring them to go back to their native land to apply for legal entrance probably won’t work, though, especially if they have to leave family and job to do it. As a nation, we have had enough of a system that deports parents while leaving citizen-children here, that divides families and dehumanizes visitors. That’s not America. Any bill needs to take into account the fact that our economy needs a certain portion of immigrant labor, and that those who come here to work often represent the best workers their lands have to offer.

We should welcome them, not degrade or insult them. At the same time, no law of man nor nature requires us to provide welfare services to immigrants, illegal or otherwise. Anyone who comes here to go on welfare or use taxpayer supported services should be denied. Congress should be tough on that, and so should the states that supply services. One thing all of us should fear is the trend for government to use fear of terrorism and immigration to tightly control travel and entry into the country. Our freedoms could be lost in police-state technology and star-chamber secrecy if we let them. Fear drives many decisions, and many of the things done to “protect” us can later be used to control all of us, citizen and visitor alike. It’s good to have law enforcement looking over our shoulder at the border, but not too closely. So far, what’s in Congress is a good start on reform, but nowhere near perfect. It’ll be interesting to see what comes out of the debate. — Steve Haynes

The Goodland Star-News

(USPS No. 222-460. ISSN 0893-0562)
Member: Kansas Press Association
Inland Press Association Colorado Press Association
National Newspaper Association
e-mail: star-news@nwkanssas.com

Steve Haynes, President
Tom Betz, Editor
Erica Harlan, Copy Editor
Sharon Corcoran, Society Editor
Pat Schiefen, Reporter
Sports Editor

Jordie Mann, Advertising Sales
Sheila Smith, Office Manager

Nor’west Press

Jim Bowker, General Manager
Richard Westfahl, DeLisa Allen, Betty Morris,
James Jackson, Lana Westfahl, Dana Huthansel,
David Erickson, Wendy Huthansel

 nwkanssas.com

N.T. Betz, Director of Internet Services
(ntbetz@nwkanssas.com)

Evan Barnum, Systems Admin.(support@nwkanssas.com)

Published every Tuesday and Friday except the days observed for New Year’s Day and Christmas Day, at 1205 Main Ave., 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 Star-News, 1205 Main Ave., Goodland, Kan. 67735. TELEPHONE: (785) 899-2338. Editorial e-mail: star-news@nwkanssas.com. Advertising questions can be sent to: goodlandads@nwkanssas.com

The Goodland Star-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, \$29; six months, \$46; 12 months, \$81. Out of area, weekly mailing of two issues: three months, \$39; six months, \$54; 12 months, \$89 (All tax included). Mailed individually each day: (call for a price).

Incorporating: The Goodland Daily News

1932-2003

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



Daughter says wedding plans going nicely

Plans for the big October wedding are progressing nicely. At least that’s what I’m told. As the mother of the bride, I might be the logical one to do the planning. However, since daughter is almost 30 and getting married in Augusta, Ga., she gets to do her own thing and Steve and I get to pay the piper — and the preacher and the caterer, etc., etc., etc.

I do know a little about what is going on, since I get regular requests for cash. (The happy couple gets a set amount from us, and anything they don’t spend is theirs to keep — or spend. Any expenses over that are also theirs.)

So far, Lindsay reports, they have purchased the rings and are waiting to have them engraved with their initials and the wedding date.

She has her dress. It’s white with a train that would have made Princess Di jealous. Lindsay took us to the fitting when we visited earlier this month. I got to carry the dress, and I think that it may weigh more than she does. But, it is gorgeous, and so was she when she stood there in the mirror with a seamstress hemming everything in sight.

This gown has more hem than a house full of curtains.

The kids decided to get married and have the



cynthia
haynes

● open season

reception in Aiken, S.C., because they could rent a garden attached to an old mansion in the park for a lot less than any place available in Augusta. Of course, that raises a whole different set of problems, since it’s in a different state than they originally planned.

Georgia doesn’t require blood tests and they weren’t sure the minister was licensed to marry people in South Carolina. As of Monday, the word was the minister is OK but they still don’t know about marriage requirements in South Carolina.

They had decided to say their vows once for the record at home in Augusta just before leaving for the wedding. Now maybe they won’t have to do that, especially since Steve claimed he might raise an objection that they were already married when that part of the ceremony comes around.

He would be sooooo in trouble if he tried

that, and I hope they don’t tempt him.

Other details, which I’m sure you’re waiting breathlessly for: the wedding party colors apple red and silver. The bridesmaids will be getting their dresses at a wedding shop, where they can choose from several styles in the same colors. It’s an obvious attempt to circumvent the ugly-bridesmaid’s-dress problem that has bedeviled women for years.

The kids plan a buffet supper and dance after the ceremony. I’m in charge of picking a song for the official father-daughter dance. I’m choosing a swing dance. Steve should have a good time swinging a 90-pound woman in a 100-pound dress.

Lindsay said that she’s chosen the deejay. He’s called Freak Boy.

OoooooooK. Sounds like our kind of music.

The groom and his dad have set up the rehearsal dinner. I think they’re expecting the Atlantic fleet or all our combined relatives — whichever comes to more people.

Pick a song, buy a mother-of-the-bride dress and send money.

I think I’ve got the wedding thing down pat. I just can’t figure out why people say these things are so much work.

When the Beatles were Gods

“I declare that the Beatles are mutants, prototypes of evolutionary agents sent by God, endowed with a mysterious power to create a new human species.”

— Dr. Timothy Leary

The Sixties were much more than a time of hippies, music, drugs and free love. In fact, there were three distinct cultural streams that flavored the 1960s—the Kennedy years, the Beatles and the Vietnam era—each of which insisted on the primacy of youth.

The Kennedys moved into the White House in 1961, full of youthful energy. Suddenly, the idea that older people had to listen to younger ones was in the air. “The Kennedys represented youth in a transitional way,” writes author Mary Gordon. “They were young, but they didn’t threaten their elders.”

In those years, the phrase “children should be seen and not heard” was near-universally believed. But the educational system was already in the process of changing that notion. By the early sixties, children’s happiness and their comfortable social adjustment had become an educational goal as important as learning the three Rs. It was a world waiting for the Beatles to happen.

The dramatically different responses to the television appearance of Elvis Presley in 1956 and the Beatles in 1964 demonstrate how much things changed in only eight years. Elvis’ blatant sexuality provoked a rash of outraged sermons, as most adults found him ridiculous or dangerous. This as their children were screaming and swooning at his swiveling hips. There was virtually no crossover.

But in 1964, respectable grownups and intellectuals were also listening to the Beatles. The “boys from Liverpool”—John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr—did indeed seem like boys instead of men. They were exuberant, full of fun and were not seen as a threat.

The playfulness of those years led to the hippie movement and, ultimately, to an abdication of adulthood. There was a sense that there was no need to grow up anymore. But, as Gordon notes, “the flower child’s sense of well being gradually disintegrated as Vietnam became more central to consciousness.”

University students and academics began believing that the Vietnam War was a direct result of the greed and lies of old men in suits and uniforms. The government—called the



john
whitehead

● rutherford institute

“Establishment”—had withheld the real story in order to do its dirty work. Later, John Lennon would refer to the establishment as “the monster.”

All these cultural streams converged in the Beatles’ 1967 masterpiece album, Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band. When the album was released 40 years ago on June 1, it was a major cultural event. “It was the soundtrack to summer, and winter for that matter,” notes author Barry Miles. “You could not get away from it.” Indeed, young and old alike were entranced.

A religious awe surrounded Sgt. Pepper. The LSD evangelist Timothy Leary, after listening to the album, reputedly said in a mystical voice, “My work is finished. Now, it’s out.” Leary actually believed he could hear the voice of God in the music of the Beatles.

David Crosby of the Byrds, a popular rock band, brought a tape of the album to their hotel room and “played it all night in the lobby with a hundred young fans listening quietly on the stairs, as if rapt by a spiritual experience.” Paul Kantner of the acid rock band Jefferson Airplane said, “Something enveloped the whole world at that time and it just exploded into a renaissance.” And as one musicologist observed: “The closest Western Civilization has come to unity since the Congress of Vienna in 1815 was the week the Sgt. Pepper album was released. For a brief while the irreparable fragmented consciousness of the West was unified, at least in the minds of the young.”

Sgt. Pepper had such an amazing impact because it simultaneously mirrored its times and offered a solution to the social and political upheavals of the time. The solution offered by the Beatles was a return to spirituality and love for our fellow human beings.

Although the album begins as a light farce, it moves to a sobering awakening. The songs are somewhat bizarre and sometimes ghoulish, but, at heart, Sgt. Pepper was a spiritual experience for an increasingly secular world. George Harrison’s “Within You, Without You” quotes from the Bible and is a warning not to

get lost in materialism or we will lose our souls. And if we cannot regain our sense of spirituality and love for one another, then we face a foreboding future. In fact, the album’s final song, John Lennon’s “A Day in the Life,” points to the horrors of existence if humanity does not abstain from its destructive tendencies.

From Sgt. Pepper on, rock music was considered an art form. The summer of love followed. Optimism was in the air. There was hope that peace would eventually prevail and the destructiveness of humanity would end. Armed with “flower power,” young people took to the streets and demonstrated en masse against the Vietnam War.

But soon the color of the times faded to stark black and white. By 1968, student rebels around the world had adopted more militant tactics. Flower power was replaced by raised fists, as cultural heroes such as Martin Luther King and Bobby Kennedy were brutally assassinated.

The Beatles too were disbanding. They were not gods, after all, and the love that once united them grew cold. Thus, by the end of 1968, it was obvious that neither the Beatles nor love would save the world.

But the music of the Beatles is still with us—full of hope that we can live in a peaceful world. The lesson is that evil does not have to triumph but that good can prevail. However, we have to work for it.

Constitutional attorney and author John W. Whitehead is founder and president of The Rutherford Institute. He can be contacted at johnw@rutherford.org. Information about The Rutherford Institute is available at www.rutherford.org.

Letter Policy

The Goodland Star-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. We encourage letters, with address and phone numbers, by e-mail to: star-news@nwkanssas.com.