

from our viewpoint...

## Spirited session begins in Topeka

We are in a new year, and the legislative jockeying is under-way in Topeka with both sides looking to November, and wondering how to best appear to do the right thing for the voters. This year the stakes are as high as ever with the state trying to keep the money in balance and yet having to respond to the recent court decision saying the formula for school finance is unconstitutional. Money for education is always a large slice of the state's budget, and with the recent years of declining revenues all parts of state government have had to slim down and do more with less. There is no indication this trend has turned around despite the favorable economic signs in the state. The judge's decision put the monkey on school finance squarely on the state government to find a satisfactory solution. There are indications the judge's decision will be appealed to the state supreme court, but no idea when this would be accomplished or if the higher court would address the issue. Governor Kathleen Sebelius told the legislators she wants to add \$300 million for education over the next three years to make Kansas schools the best in the nation.

She presented her Education First plan which targets giving additional money for more teachers, early-education programs and at-risk students who need help to succeed. "Let me be clear," Sebelius said, "No plan to revitalize our economy and create jobs can be complete unless it strengthens our schools. "We must act, not because a judge says we must, but because we love our children and our state, and we want what is best for both.

"I call on you tonight to join me in pursuing a new goal for our state. That a decade from now our schools are the best in the nation. ... let us take the first step, together, this year. "... it is a question of how we want our children and grandchildren, years from now, to remember this time when we were supposed to work together for them."

A tall order for the state legislature, and one that will get turned into political rhetoric to be used in the elections this year. Republicans are already talking about the taxes it will take to raise \$300 million, and saying it will be the biggest tax increase in history. Sebelius opened the speech asking for the type of cooperative effort to meet the challenges of the year.

"As I did last year from this podium, I call on each and every one of us to leave this chamber resolved to work together to confront the challenges. It will not be easy. "A year ago, the situation was bleak, but responding to my call, you rolled up your sleeves and went to work with me to solve the unprecedented financial problems.... No one thought we could do it. But by trusting one another and working together, we crafted a balanced budget that protected schools and restored vital safety net programs ... we did it all without raising taxes."

The governor's speech did not specifically say anything about raising taxes, but there would have to be a shift of priorities to find \$100 million for education for each of the next three years. Her vision is one of excellence for Kansas citizens and the schools which prepare our kids for the future. Giving our kids the best opportunity to succeed in the future is the responsibility of all the citizens of the state and we will watch with interest how the legislative leadership responds to the governor's call for cooperation. — *Tom Betz*

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Member: Kansas Press Association  
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e-mail: [star-news@nwkanssas.com](mailto:star-news@nwkanssas.com)

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N.T. Betz, Director of Internet Services  
([nbetz@nwkanssas.com](mailto:nbetz@nwkanssas.com))

Evan Barnum, Systems Admin. ([support@nwkanssas.com](mailto:support@nwkanssas.com))

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1932-2003

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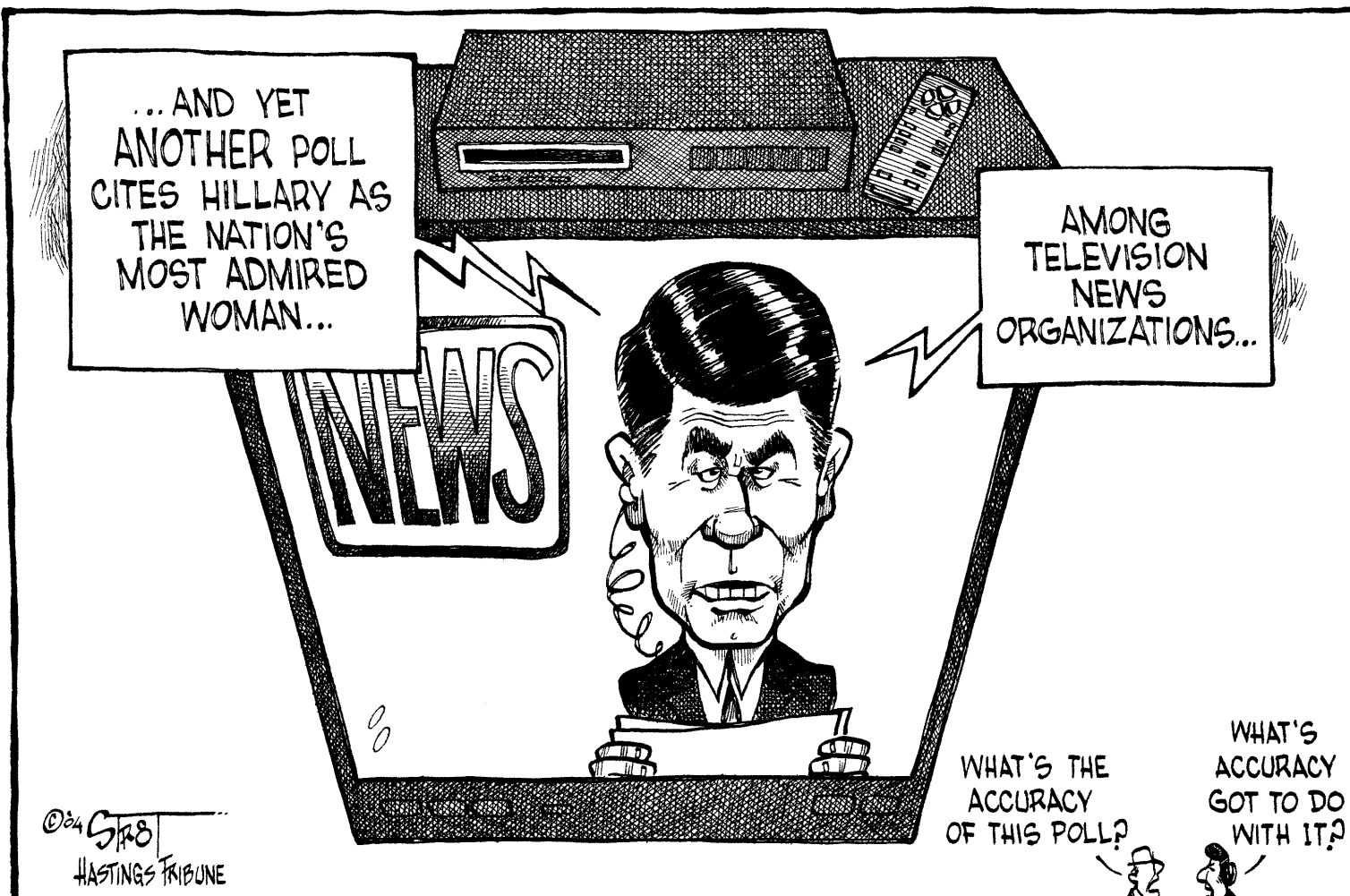
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## Pete Rose trying to weasel his way in

One of the headlines said Pete Rose had finally come clean, but that is hardly the case. Baseball's Hit King is making one last, desperate stab at getting into the Hall of Fame before his 15-year "window" passes him by.

As usual, Rose is trying to weasel his way through. His admissions, in his soon-to-be-published autobiography, don't amount to a full confession according to those who should know.

And while he finally admits he bet on baseball, Rose still comes off as a spoiled child who's been told he can't have a candy bar before dinner.

The great slugger's accomplishments are undeniable — 4,256 hits in a sparkling career, marred only by his disregard for baseball's most hallowed rule.

It is a sin for a player or manager to bet on the game, and it has been so ever since the 1919 Chicago Black Sox tried to fix the World Series.

The owners hired Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis to clean up the game, and as commissioner, he did just that.

Rose's public comments show that he just doesn't get it. After his retirement, he did a radio show from Las Vegas, of all places. He complained about how unfairly he had been



### steve haynes

- along the sappa

treated, and his guests, including some big-time gambling figures, nodded in agreement.

One theory about the timing of Rose's push is that after next year, he'll no longer be eligible for the regular ballot, voted by the baseball writers. Instead, his case would be turned over to the veteran's committee, which includes hall members and historians.

The thinking is the sports writers will be more sympathetic, though you couldn't tell that by reading the columns this week.

His supporters argue simply that Pete Rose deserves to be in the hall because of his accomplishments.

His detractors say he needs to come to terms with his gambling addition and with the truth, something that seems to be hard for Rose.

In his book, he reportedly admits gambling while he managed the Cincinnati Reds, but not as a player. He claims he never bet from the clubhouse and never bet against his own team.

But those who know the investigation say

otherwise. Fellow players say he did place bets from the clubhouse. Former Commissioner Fay Vincent, who helped conduct the investigation, says Rose has not yet come clean.

"Pete needs to tell the whole truth," Vincent said, "and he's only told half of it.... The shame of it is what a great ballplayer Pete Rose was, but what a miserable human being he is. I read the excerpts of this book and I don't think many people are going to buy it.

"There are no heroes in this Pete Rose story. It's like looking under a rock, and seeing nothing but maggots."

Many hall members and veteran players agree with Vincent. "Pete Rose is history," pitcher Bob Feller is reported as saying.

So Rose is likely to remain on the short list (19 players) declared "permanently ineligible" by professional baseball.

He's not in bad company there. Shoeless Joe Simpson, star of the Black Sox team, had a .356 lifetime batting average, but he can't be in the hall. Landis banned him.

Not even a Kevin Costner movie (Field of Dreams) could rehabilitate Simpson's fallen star.

Some day, they'll make a movie about Charlie Hustle, but it'll be hard to make him a hero.

## We must overcome hatred and discrimination

To the Editor:

There was an excellent editorial in *The Goodland Star-News* on December 5 concerning the history of immigrants settling in our country, taking low-paying jobs that no one else wants, working hard, and overcoming the obstacles of looking different, having different cultural ways, and speaking other languages. Immigration is the history and the tradition of who we are as a nation.

Sadly to say, despite, the great heritage of the United States, there are still those who propagate hatred and discrimination.

Right before Christmas, a season symbolic of peace, hate literature endorsed by a national hate organization, printed in color on expensive paper, was distributed in Goodland. These flyers, placed in plastic bags weighted with rocks were thrown on many lawns within a several block area. The flyers contained offensive statements such as this: "Non-whites are turning America into a Third World slum. They come for welfare or to take our jobs. They bring crime. Let's send them home now...."

Now, the issue at hand is, How are we as a community and as individuals going to confront actions which encourage divisiveness, hostility, and prejudice?

We must draw the line between freedom of speech and outright aggression. Actions such as these have been known to be the first in a series of actions that lead to violence. If we are to be on guard these days for possible terrorism in our country and violence within our schools, then we must also stop hatred and aggression at the first opportunity in all situations.

The Goodland police did an excellent job of helping to clean up the offensive literature but



### from our readers

- to the editor

to our knowledge those responsible were never caught.

It might have been individuals from out-of-town who brought this literature into Goodland as a response to the earlier editorial.

More worrisome, is this offensive literature, might have been distributed by individuals from our own area! Actions like this are a threat to our community and the potential growth of our economy. (Imagine if a Realtor, showing a house to a prospective resident, found this on the lawn!)

We must take an immediate stand when actions like this occur. The first step is to publicly denounce actions inspired by hate and prejudice. We must verbally denounce these actions to our friends and families.

We must continually examine ourselves, and our own actions to make sure we model the example of community and acceptance to all which we want shown to ourselves and our own families.

Kristin Grayson,  
Cris Lovington  
Goodland

To the Editor:

On behalf of the American Heart Association I would like to thank the citizens of Goodland for helping make this year's Cardiac Arrest event such a success. The event raised

nearly \$5,000 to benefit the American Heart Association and help in the fight against the Nation's Number One Killer — Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke.

The American Heart Association has funded nearly \$2 billion in cardiovascular research since 1949. Thanks to such fund raising efforts as Cardiac Arrest, the American Heart Association has developed useful educational programs targeted toward all ages in order to teach them how to combat heart and blood vessel diseases.

I would like to thank the following people and businesses who helped make this successful event possible:

Parole Board: Kim Adolf, First National Bank; Eric Berens, Wal-Mart Supercenter; Barbara Disney, Sherman County Sheriff's Dept.; Susan Doke, The Insurance Agency; Linda Enfield, Grant Junior High; Yvonne Koehler, North Elementary School; Debbie Smith, Prairieland Animal Clinic; Dedra Smith, Pizza Hut; Sheila Smith, *The Goodland Star News*; Monica Stramel, Peoples State Bank; Lynn Swayne; Sandy Trachsel, Goodland Activities Center; Terry Twombly, Goodland Regional Medical Center; and Sheila Walz, Klip N' Kurl Salon.

High Bail Raiser, Jeana Roe. Judge, Steve Evert. Ron Pickman, City of Goodland; Richard Vasquez, Coca-Cola of Goodland; Mike Brannick, Taco John's; Michelle Cooper, Gambino's; and *The Goodland Star News*.

Again, thank you to the citizens of Goodland for your support of the American Heart Association. We're fighting for your life!

Randall C. Braden  
Regional Director  
Topeka

### garfield

