

from our viewpoint...

Governor's actions get mixed review

Cheers and jeers.
First, thanks to Gov. Kathleen Sebelius for signing a bill to restore in-state tuition rights to children of immigrants who graduate from Kansas high schools.

It's important that we educate and advance the best and brightest students from our schools, whether they were born in this country or not.

While anti-immigration fanatics have railed against the bill, the last thing we need in this country is a class of under-employed, under-educated, under-skilled poor, people with no place to go and no expectation of a better life.

Immigrants come to this country because they want to work. Our system for handling and integrating them into American life is hopeless. But the fact is, they are here. It's unlikely that we will ever succeed in keeping them out.

Particularly, top high school graduates who want to go to Kansas colleges deserve some consideration because they represent the best and the brightest, people who will make fine Americans.

To get in-state tuition, students will have to promise to become citizens as soon as they can. They will have to pay their own way. They won't displace any Kansas citizens.

It was wrong for the Legislature to change the law and keep them out of our universities. The governor, by her support, has helped right this wrong.

With her general progressive attitude, it's hard to see why Ms. Sebelius stepped up to keep citizens of two Kansas counties from voting on consolidated law enforcement.

The bill would have allowed a vote on consolidation, under an elected sheriff or an appointed director in Cloud and Lincoln counties.

The governor cited opposition from statewide law enforcement groups in her veto message. Officers feared loss of jobs, she said, and possibly their pensions.

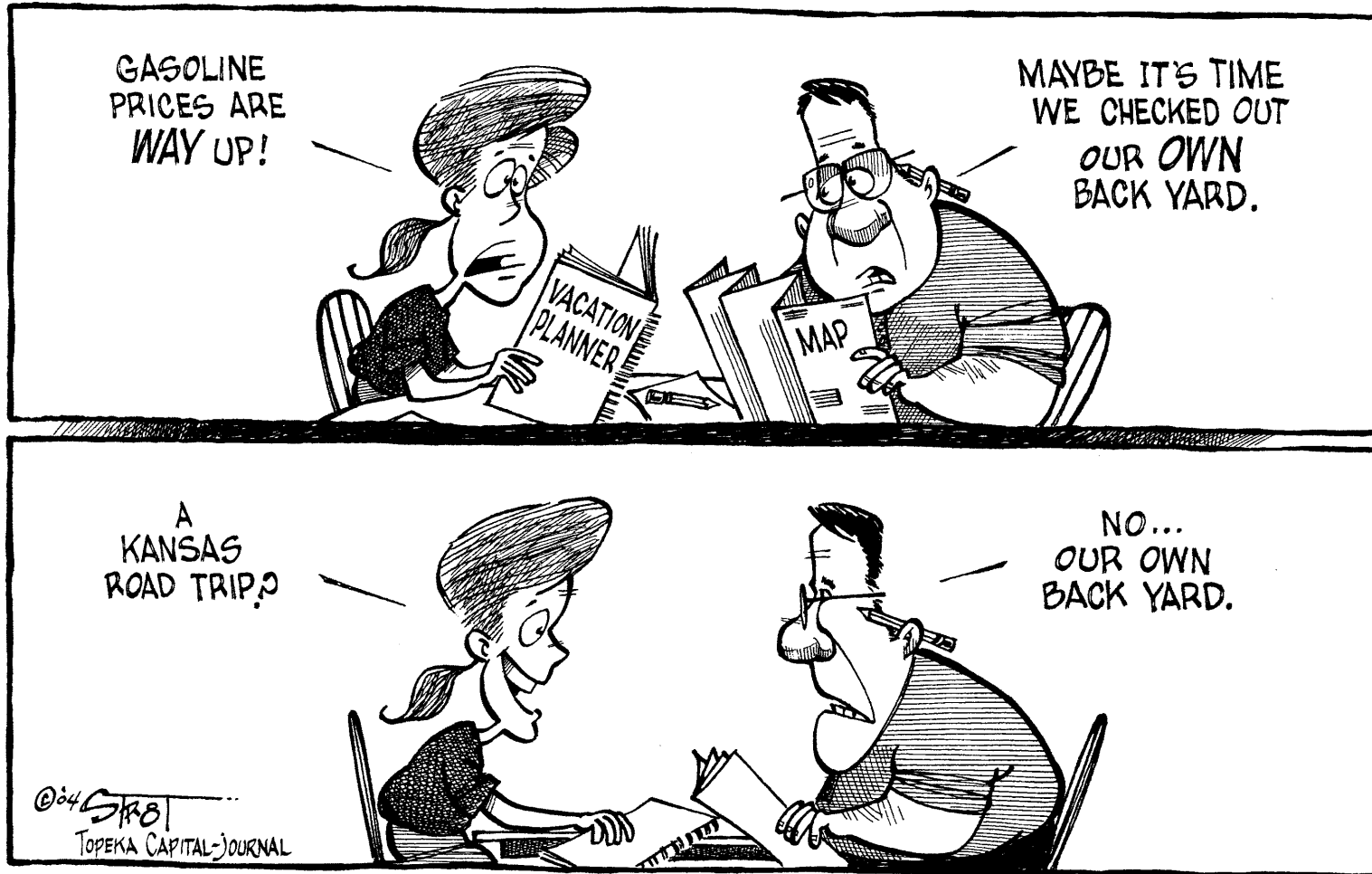
Heck, that was probably what backers wanted, lower costs. One source noted that in Cloud County, law enforcement had opposed the change while county commissioners pushed for it.

Why, we ask, is the governor stepping in to help a special interest group here? Why not let people have a chance to vote on consolidation?

Most Kansas counties continue with the centuries-old system of a county sheriff and city police, even when there are only four or five officers in the county. It's an outmoded and inefficient system, but only two counties have overcome the inertia and ingrained special interests to try consolidation.

With two more, we might have gotten a chance to see how well the idea works — or doesn't.

The governor robbed voters of a chance to decide, and that decision seems both shortsighted and narrow-minded. We expect better. — *Steve Haynes*



It seems I am past being single, I'm alone

I don't know about you, but I'm single. Actually, I'm not sure that term applies anymore. I've been single for a long, long time. I used to go to dances and meetings geared to single people. But lately I realize that I'm beyond the "single age."

I guess now I'm just alone. Now living alone is not all bad. Harold Ivan Smith once gave (during a seminar) a list of advantages to being single.

The only one I remember is that you can sleep on one side of the bed for a week and then on the other side for a week, so you only have to change the sheets half as often.

Even that doesn't work for me, as I'm one of those who sleeps all over the bed, and I think that comes from some innate need to wear the mattress out evenly.

But being single can be a challenge. You have to take care of the house and the lawn and the cars and pay the bills and make all the business decisions — all by yourself.

And when you can't find something or you make a bad decision, there is no one to blame but yourself! And there are dangers too. You store up unspoken thoughts and then become a regular chatterbox when you have the opportunity to talk to someone.

Here are some quotes I've collected through



**lorna
gt**

• commentary

the years on singleness. I hope they give you a new perspective on the situation:

Cartoon showing a woman answering her door to a man: "I know we haven't been seeing much of each other lately, but that was the idea of the divorce" (New Woman magazine, Sept. 1984).

For people unhappy with their singleness: "Sometimes we are so busy waiting for The Big Thing, we overlook the little things that make the wait worthwhile" (Lois Wise).

Outlook on blind dates: "It's not a date, no really. It's a blind date. A blind date is more an interview with a prospective date, an exchange of resumes, silly chatter designed to test social skills, nothing more" (William Lashner, author of Hostile Witness).

Mother to child: "Honey, when you grow up and get married, etc., etc."

Someone has said, "Maybe we could help by not making it seem so inevitable...as if you've gotta (get married). Maybe we ought

to make it more special, only for people who choose to be married, not just be wed. Maybe?" (Perhaps that would lower our divorce rate and allow more people to be happy in whatever state they are.)

And for those who've lived alone too long: "I truly hate being a guest in someone's home. The bed seldom suits me. The blankets are usually skimpy. The pillows are flat or made out of hard rubber that smells of half-deflated basketballs. The toilet refuses to flush fully or the handle gets stuck or the paper runs out so that you're forced to search all the cabinets looking for the ever so cunningly hidden supply. Worst of all, you have to 'make nice' at all hours. I don't want someone across the table from me while I'm eating my breakfast. I don't want to share the newspaper, and I don't want to talk to anyone at the end of the day.

If I were interested in all that... I'd be married again by now and put a permanent end to all the peace and quiet" ("N" is for Noose, by Sue Grafton).

(Lorna GT has compiled some of her columns into book form. Please contact this paper at <star-news@nwkans.com> if you are interested in purchasing one. It is \$24 for a hardback book. This includes postage & handling.)

Quorum requirement is burden for progress

To the Editor:

Don Moler, executive director for The League of Kansas Municipalities says, "The league has felt for many years that the requirement that no two council members can speak to one another outside of an open meeting, on a council or commission with five members, was an overly burdensome requirement and did not serve the public's best interest."

A commissioner with the public's best interest in mind sometimes has to make decisions that are difficult, yet stand for what is best for the community and the people that he represents.

I believe there should always be four commissioners present to make decisions for our community instead of just three.

A commissioner conferring with another commissioner regarding the progress of our city, to me, is a commissioner working together for the betterment of our city. After all, that's why we were elected, to improve our community, not allow it to stay in the state that it is in.

State law allows for this change and change is what we need. It will afford us objectivity, direction and vision to make changes in Goodland that need to be made.

Our streets are deteriorating, our alleys are in terrible shape, our curbs and guttering are broken and our sewer system needs work. These are the issues that merit our concern, not fighting who's right and who's wrong.

On more than one occasion, I have told the commission that the people are the ones that elected us and we owe them our honesty, integrity and the best representation that we can give them.

I believe that policy and decisions that affect



from our
readers

• to the editor

the people we represent should be made with four commissioners present instead of just three.

I made a vow to God and to the people I serve, to serve them to the best of my ability and that is exactly what I am doing.

As a businessman, I have a large investment in this community and though our economy is tough, I continue to put my faith in my community by continuing to invest more.

All I want to do is give the people better government. I believe that all people who know commissioner Daniels and myself, know that we are trying very hard to make a difference in our community and the people that we serve.

A commissioner's perspective: "We cannot become what we want to be by remaining what we are." — Socrates

John Garcia, city commissioner
Goodland

To the Editor:

I rarely have need to go see a doctor. But after being sick for five days with no signs of improvement and at the end of my rope, I went to see Dr. Robert McCullough on Monday, May 10.

He admitted me to the Goodland Regional Medical Center, where they began giving me intravenous fluids. When blood work came back with a white blood cell count of 18,000,

Dr. Duncan Davis was called in. A CAT scan was done Tuesday morning at 11 a.m. Dr. Davis came in at 2 p.m. saying surgery was necessary, and I was on the operating table at 3 p.m.

It was a ruptured appendix with a lot of poison to be removed. I am so thankful to be alive. I am thankful we have a caring medical staff and such an excellent hospital facility. Everyone was there at the right moment to encourage me when I was feeling so low.

I especially want to thank Dr. Davis. He is a brilliant surgeon. I felt completely secure knowing he was doing the surgery.

Goodland is truly blessed to have someone of his caliber. We should be doing everything possible to see that he continues to be a surgeon for the hospital.

Please write a letter or do something to show your support of this fine surgeon. At the time of this writing, Dr. Davis is considering relocating elsewhere in Kansas. Hopefully, we can change his mind. Now is the time to show your support for Dr. Davis.

My family and I hope he will stay working at the Goodland hospital.

Rachel Stasser
Goodland

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