

from our viewpoint...

# David and Goliath face off in primary

Let's see now, it's David and.... what's that guy's name? Oh, Goliath!

That could characterize the Aug. 3 primary election in the 40th Senatorial District featuring Ralph Ostmeyer, Grinnell, and Dan Rasure, Goodland. Both are Republicans and one of them has to go to make way for the other to take on Democrat Tim Peterson of Monument in the Nov. 2 general election.

I say David and Goliath because Mr. Ostmeyer is just completing his second two-year term as state representative for the 118th District. He had filed for re-election, but withdrew to enter the Senate race after the incumbent, Sen. Stan Clark of Oakley, lost his life in a dirt storm collision on I-70 in late May.

Mr. Rasure, on the other hand, is taking his first bite out of the political pie. And what a bite he chose to take. He is 22 years of age. This should prove to be an interesting, very interesting, match up.

First reaction would be, "He doesn't stand a chance." That is in reference to David (Dan) beating Goliath (Ralph). But those of us who have dabbled in politics all our lives — or a good part of it — in this Senate district said the very same thing in 1976 when another "David," Goodland novice Richard Gannon, a Democrat, surprised another "Goliath," veteran Republican Sen. J.C. Tillotson of Norton, to win that seat. Gannon was 26. His parents, Bill and Geraldine Gannon, still farm south of Goodland.

Tillotson was not only an 18-year veteran, but he was also chairman of the Judiciary Committee and vice president of the Senate.

A further reflection on that race was the fact that Peterson, who will face either Rasure or Ostmeyer in the fall, was a member of a very, very small Gannon-for-Senate committee. The others were Peterson's mother, Richard Gannon's wife Martha, and yours truly. What a blast that fall was.

Ostmeyer, at this point, would be the overwhelming favorite. He would have to be. He's got the credentials by way of service in the Kansas House, the experience, the know-how on the campaign trail. A tough guy to beat.

Rasure, at this point, has nothing on his side. Few credentials, little experience, unmeasured know-how. Tough doesn't enter the conversation.

But before we place our bets, it might be wise to reflect on what happened in this senatorial district 28 years ago, a lesson hard learned for a powerful incumbent.

Never take anything for granted. Especially in the world of politics. —Tom Dreiling

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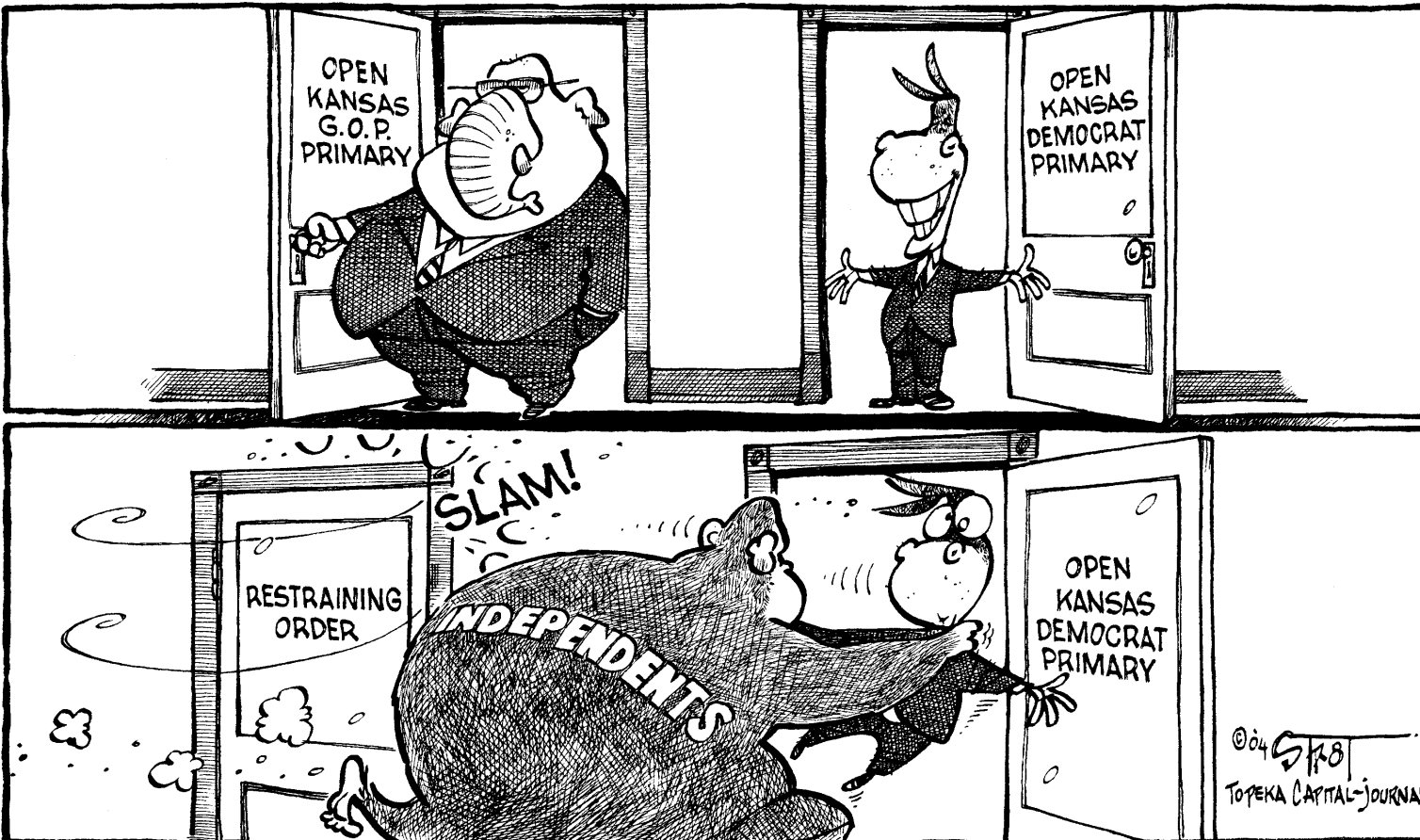
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# 60 years later we're learning a lot about war

I don't know about you, but I've been hearing and seeing a lot about World War II lately: D-Day, Normandy, liberation of Europe, etc. The thing that amazes me most is the extreme secrecy surrounding the launching of the "where and when" of those events.

It's another example of something lost to us today. Our modern media (as well as some government representatives) would never feel tied to absolute secrecy; after all, the public has a right to know. Well, I don't think so — if it's a matter of saving lives and national security.

I can't help but feel that some of the current news stories are very near to being treasonous.

Recently I read a good book — the best part of which was the Author's Afterword. I'd like to share some of James Michael Pratt's words at the end of his book Ticket Home:

Answer to why he picks his parents' generation to write about: "the years the World War II generation lived were pivotal and transitional to creating the world we now enjoy."

"I believe, for example, that love alone will save this world from a destruction to be caused ultimately by lack of it."



**lorna g t**  
• commentary

"I believe in romance in all of its dignity — most cherished of all the soul's dreams are to truly love and be loved." (Not a lot of 'dignity' seen in modern romances, is there? Some modern 'love stories' are abusive, brutal, promiscuous, and some even dehumanizing. — LGT)

"I believe in virtues taught to me by my parents and so many others of their generation. They are timeless in their power to build healthy relationships and heal the challenges which confront us. Naïve? If so, I'm perfectly happy to skip through life believing wrongs can be righted with integrity and honor."

"My stories are of love from the perspectives of a generation who has lived long enough to be authoritative about it...from those who said 'I do' and did." (The generation news anchor Tom Brokaw called 'The Greatest Generation'.)

eration.')

That generation "is looking back now, often wondering what happened to time. They entertain grandchildren who have no concept of a devastating universal economic Depression, a world at war, making do or doing without. We still have so much to learn from them."

"They lived both in a violent time and a gentler slower-paced world. They saved a world engulfed in wars created by madmen ..., and united they reshaped forever the map of the world and the destinies of nations."

"There are many in their generation whose stories of life never fully blossomed. They were cut short by the most destructive war ever to have occurred in the history of mankind. These brave souls cut short in their youth were neither given a lifetime to fill with love nor...the years to train the next generation."

As we commemorate the 60th anniversary of the endings of that war, may we remember — or learn for the first time — the history of that period. May we honor those that preserved freedom for us — the ones who died and the ones who survived, never to be innocent again.

# We were disappointed in paper's decision

To the Editor:

We have subscribed to the local newspapers throughout the many years we have lived in Goodland. We always felt it was our civic responsibility to be aware of local happenings. The radio and the newspaper play an important part in helping a community to "feel" like a community.

The choice by this newspaper to publish pictures of the vehicles, including people frantically trying to save Christy Williams' life, greatly offended us.

We, and many other people in town, had



**from our readers**  
• to the editor

made the decision not to see the vehicle. This tragedy was bad enough without pictures being shown on the front page where it could be exposed to children.

It appears to us that this was done in a totally uncaring and unfeeling way for you to sell

more papers. When a family member expressed his feelings today, he was told that it was your right to publish whatever you wanted to, with no apology for the pictures.

The Salina Journal showed much more professionalism and even interviewed a family member.

Our paper will come up for renewal soon, and we will no longer be able to support our local paper. We will subscribe to The Salina Journal as so many others have all ready done.

Lynn and Barb Abbott  
Goodland

# Confusion can cause delay in getting help

Out on U.S. 83 the other night, everyone was pretty much lost.

The driver probably thought he was in his own lane, though the marks on the pavement showed he'd been more than three feet over the yellow line when he crashed into the front wheel of the semi.

The witnesses thought they were in Nebraska, though they were, in fact, more than four miles south of the state line.

The truck driver just shook his head. The impact had unseated the front axle of his tractor, causing the wheels to fold under, sort of like a cat with its paws tucked in.

The Red Willow County dispatcher just assumed the wreck was in Nebraska, too. She sent an ambulance and a passel of firemen south to look for it.

Fortunately, the driver only had a scratch or two, despite ramming the loaded semi at speed.

The wreck was well into Kansas, and the Oberlin dispatcher seemed surprised when I asked her if help was on the way.

She had to call sheriff's officers and an ambulance crew out of bed, and they still made it to the scene before the McCook firemen.

There should be some road safety lessons here:



**steve haynes**  
• along the sappa

- Slow down and think. It's an emergency, but being in a hurry won't make things any better. Rushing could make them a whole lot worse.
- When calling 911 from a cell phone, your call could go anywhere. Never assume the dispatcher knows where you are. Never assume you know where you are.
- On the north side of the hill, north of the feed yard in Decatur County, it's better than even odds that your call will hit a Nebraska tower. An emergency call will be routed to Nebraska, maybe to McCook, but not always.
- Cell phone systems are full of little quirks like that.
- A little knowledge of geography and attention to details, like the big "Welcome to Kansas" sign at the border, goes a long ways. Be aware.
- When calling from the road, always ask which dispatcher you have, what town he or she is in. You might be surprised at the answer.
- Of course, dispatchers ought to answer the

phone by county-seat name. Most people probably don't know what county they are in, but they do know town names.

Many dispatchers just say something like "911 emergency" or "County dispatch," which isn't as helpful.

- If someone is hurt, call for help now. Time is precious. But take time to figure out what is going on.
- Check for injuries. The dispatcher needs to know what to send and how to respond.
- Is anyone missing? Anyone trapped? Anyone bleeding?
- Keep people off the road and out of the way. No need in someone else getting hit.
- If it's safe, have someone with a flashlight warn oncoming traffic. Put on emergency flashers, especially at night. (People are pretty good about these things, actually.)
- Stay calm. Give the dispatcher your phone number and ask for a callback when help is on the way.
- And get specifics. Be sure help is coming to you. Dispatchers are good, but emergencies can be confusing.
- As always, communication is key. On the road at night, bad communication can cause serious delays.

## garfield

