

from our viewpoint...

# Shouldn't give up on joint program

Sherman County commissioners need to think twice before they scuttle the joint grant writer program.

The county seems a bit miffed that the city has got the lion's share of the proceeds from the program over its first two years, though all four agencies — the City of Goodland, the county, the Goodland School District and the Goodland Regional Medical Center share equally in the costs.

Last time we checked, city residents were part of the county, too, and anything that benefits the city benefits the bulk of the county's taxpayers.

The hospital is owned by the county and run by a board appointed by the commissioners, so any benefits to the hospital are benefits to the county.

The school district covers most of the county, and its residents are all county taxpayers.

Grant writer Pennty Nemecheck claims credit for more than \$400,000 in grants over two years, with more than half of that going to the city. The county has received a few grants, and indirect benefits from most of the others.

Commissioners are correct in saying that "the county," meaning their budget and department, has not benefited much. But that is a narrow view of what a county is and does.

If a county exists only to tax city residents for projects outside the city limits, then it is the correct view. And city taxpayers — by the same logic — ought to succeed from the county — or abolish county government — because they benefit little from it.

If the county represents all its taxpayers, then the program seems to be doing OK for us. It's a pioneering example of intergovernmental co-operation, and it ought to grow and get better in the future.

The real question is, is the grant writer really worth \$36,000 a year, or could some city or county employee do the work for less?

On the face of it, the \$9,000 a year the county is putting into this budget looks pretty cheap. It's possible the county could use the program more intensively. That's certainly one thing the committee should look at.

It's possible the program can and will collect more bucks in the next couple of years.

From our perspective, it's an interesting collaboration, one that should be given a chance to get better. It should not be killed by parochial concerns. — *Steve Haynes*

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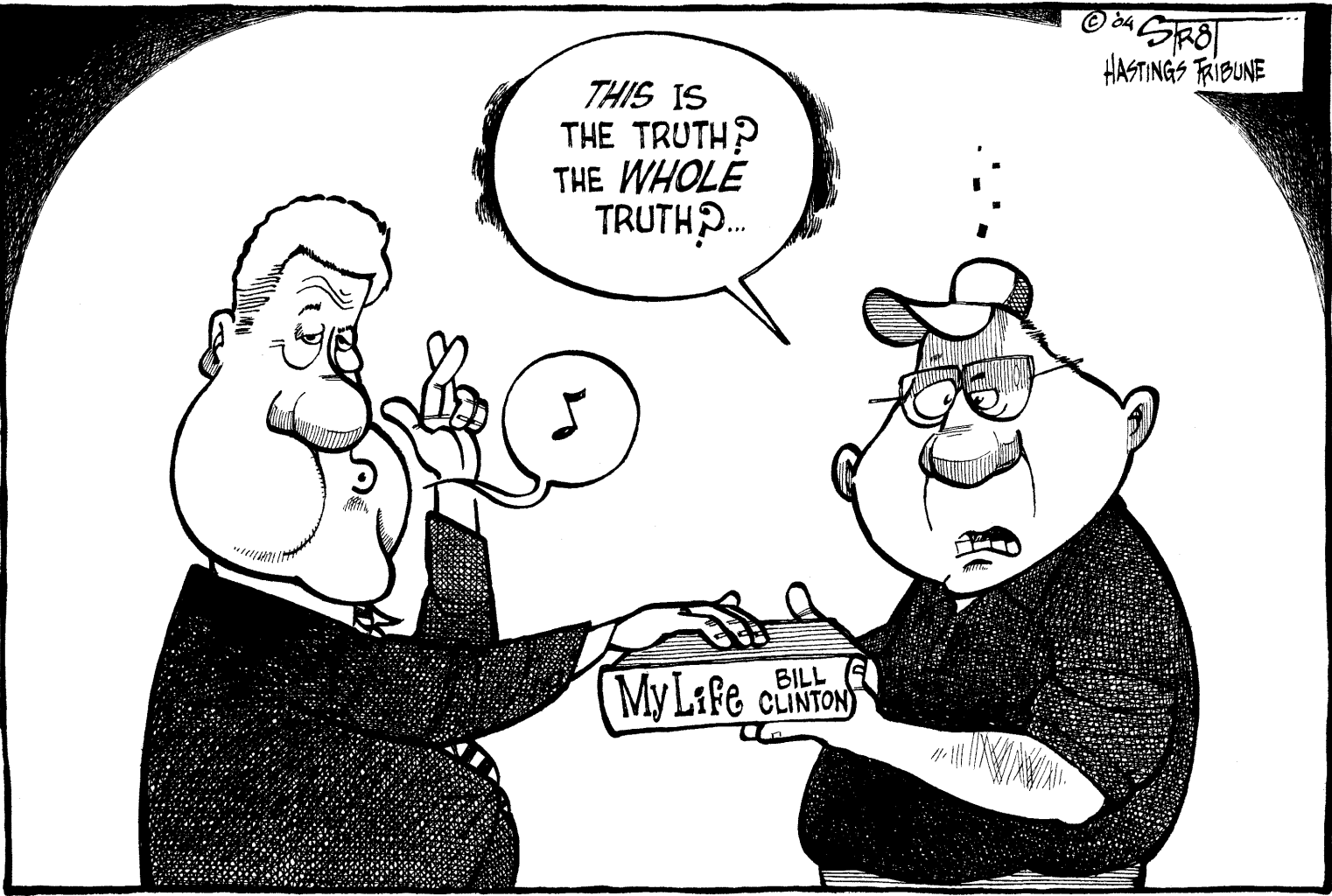
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## I finally got to be a bridesmaid

It may not have been the most romantic thing I've ever done, but it was close.

I complained to my sister Marie last fall that I had never been in a wedding except for my own.

Only a bride, never a bridesmaid.

She just smiled and said if she ever married again, she would fix that. When she got married the first time, I was about eight months pregnant. Not a good time to try to fit into any kind of bridesmaid's dress.

Then about two months ago, she called me and asked if I could help her elope. I'd finally get to be a bridesmaid or witness or whatever.

I could wear anything I wanted.

She said she wanted to get married either in Oberlin or in Colorado.

I checked out both places. In Kansas, or at least in Decatur County, the license is \$65 and there is a three-day waiting period.

In Colorado, the license is \$10 and you show some form of identification. There's no wait.

She opted for Colorado. It seemed more romantic anyway.

So on an overcast Wednesday morning, she and her fiancé picked up a license at the courthouse at 9 a.m. The wedding was scheduled to



cynthia haynes  
• open season

take place in the judge's backyard garden at 9:30 a.m.

But, Steve and I weren't quite ready. We arrived at the judge's house at 9:45 p.m., telling the happy couple that we weren't really late, we were just trying to make a memory for them.

Pity the poor bride with a perfect wedding. In 10 years, she won't remember a thing about it. The things that go wrong, those you remember.

Maybe it was a good thing we were late, though. The sun peeked out just in time for the "I Dos" and the ring and then went back into hiding.

Marie was beautiful in a long dress of dark blue. She carried a bouquet of flowers I had picked up at the grocery store for \$6.99 a bunch the night before.

Her new husband, Rick, looked both ner-

vous and excited.

After the ceremony, we went out for a champagne lunch and then we left the happy couple to enjoy a short honeymoon.

At lunch, I noted that since I was six years older, I usually was the first to do everything. This time, however, she had me.

Rick has six grown children and two grandkids. She was a grandmother a long time before I'll be.

She didn't miss a beat. She just smiled and reached into her wallet to pull out the pictures of her two new granddaughters.

I made sure I wasn't around when she got to tell our mother that she had gotten married.

I called Mom later and she said that Marie held out her hand with the wedding ring and asked her if she liked it.

Mother said she thought it was beautiful, but bemusedly asked Marie who got married.

When it all sank in, Mother was delighted. So was Marie's son Curtis.

"It's about time," was his comment, since the happy couple has only been dating for seven years.

Well, it only took 56 years for me to get to be a bridesmaid.

## Alzheimer's 10 warning signs

I said my father has Alzheimer's disease, and we are learning to deal with the changes in his condition.

What we know now is he started down this path years ago — eight to 10 — and we did not know for sure in those earlier years. Alzheimer's is one of those diseases that the earlier the diagnosis, the more the doctors and the medications are able to help.

Rhonda Riedel, outreach coordinator for the Alzheimer's Association of the Great Plains, gave me a copy of "A Guide for Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders," printed by the Kansas Department of Aging.

It has details about the disease, and the many facets of life it will affect. The booklet starts with an introduction and a list of the 10 warning signs.

### Ten warning signs

Alzheimer's disease is a degenerative disease of the brain. Its causes are unknown, and there currently is no cure. The Alzheimer's Association has developed a checklist of common symptoms of Alzheimer's disease (some of these symptoms also may apply to other dementing illnesses). If you review the list and find several areas of concern, you should make an appointment with a physician for a complete examination.

**1. Recent memory loss affects job skills:** It is normal to occasionally forget an assignment, a colleague or a business associate's name or telephone number, and remember them later. Those with a dementia such as Alzheimer's disease, may forget things more often and not remember them later. They may repeatedly ask the same question, not remem-



tom betz  
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bering the answer.

**2. Difficulty performing familiar tasks:** Busy people can be so distracted from time to time they may leave the carrots on the stove and only remember to serve them at the end of the meal. People with Alzheimer's disease could prepare a meal and not only forget to serve it., but also forget they made it.

**3. Problems with language:** Everyone has trouble finding the right word sometimes, but can finish the sentence with another appropriate word. A person with Alzheimer's disease may forget simple words. or substitute inappropriate words, making their sentence incomprehensible.

**4. Disorientation of time and place:** It is normal to forget the day of the week or your destination for a moment. But people with Alzheimer's disease can become lost on their own street or in a. familiar shopping mall, not knowing where they are, how they ot there or how to get back home.

**5. Poor or decreased judgement:** People can become so immersed in an activity or telephone conversation they temporarily forget the child they're watching. A person with Alzheimer's disease could entirely forget the child under their care and leave the house to visit a neighbor. They may dress inappropriately, wearing several shirts or blouses.

## garfield

