

from our viewpoint...

Turnout will decide Primary Election

The primary election next Tuesday has several races and they are all for important positions.

Actually, any elected official should put importance into the job. But, before they can take over, they need to be elected and that is where the burden falls on the people.

People should study the candidates and know their goals and issues.

This includes every candidate, from the top legislative positions to the county races.

After a candidate takes office, they will be there for four years and, if they do not fulfill their promises, and bring integrity and honesty to the position, or in general do a poor job, then it could be a long four years!

The primary comes at a busy time. Many people are involved with the fairs and all the activities which are included. It is easy to put off going to vote or even forget to vote.

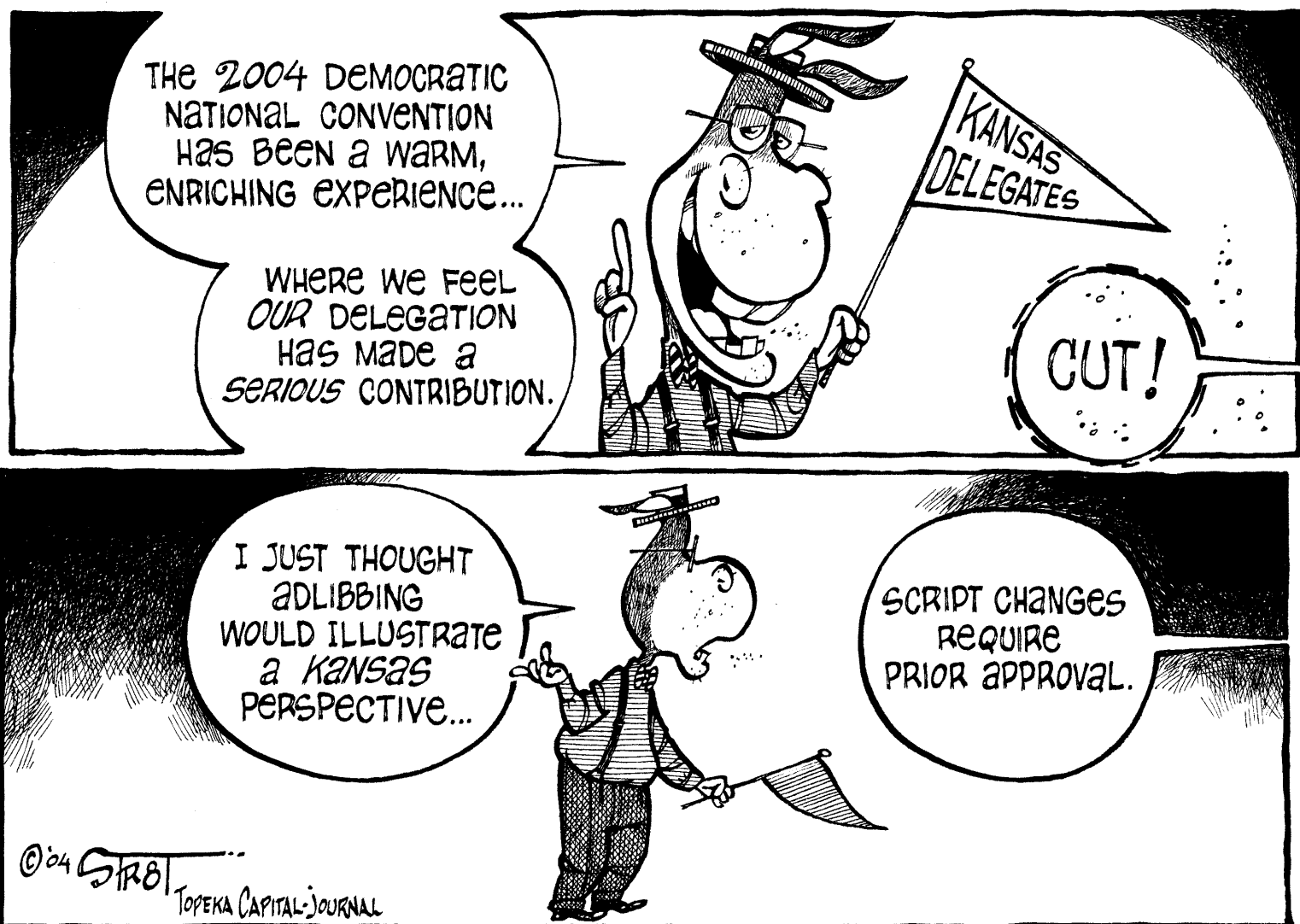
However, it is also easy to vote in advance by going to the county clerk's office at the courthouse. A booth will be set up, and the collection box will be ready to receive the ballots.

Before the election, newspapers will be featuring the candidates. These articles will give people an opportunity to learn more about them.

In the meantime, stop and talk to the candidates. Ask them questions and tell them what you want and expect out of them if they are elected.

Our government is resting on your shoulders and when the curtain of the voting booth falls behind you, make sure you have marked an "X" in the right boxes.

— Karen Krien, *The Saint Francis Herald*



There seem to be more people with cancer

I don't know about you, but it seems like there is more diagnosed cancer all the time.

I don't remember even hearing the word "cancer" when I was a child, but now it seems epidemic.

No one yet knows how it starts or why — or even who is most susceptible. Millions of dollars have gone into cancer research, and we don't seem any closer to a cure.

Several of my friends have had cancer over the last few years, and my sister-in-law died from it. After watching the downward progress of my sister-in-law, I vowed I would never go through what she endured. The therapy seemed worse than the disease. But through the years, I have seen many success stories, and treatments are as varied as the number of doctors.

We pray for people we hear are suffering from it — as well we should. Yet, many seem to lose their faith when complete healing doesn't happen.

I read the other day something that touched my soul: "I remember asking the doctor why this was happening to our little girl, this perfectly beautiful creature. And the doctor said, 'You have to realize that every well person is a



**lorna
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• commentary

miracle. It takes billions of cells to make up a person. And all it takes is one cell to be bad to destroy a whole person.' So I came to see that the people who are sitting around alive are the miracles" (Simply Barbara Bush by Donnie Radcliffe).

That quote made me realize that most of us take our miraculously well bodies for granted and neglect being constantly grateful for them. Then we get very angry with God when something goes wrong.

A cancer patient gave me some words (written by volunteer Mary V. Miller) that she found very helpful during her ordeal.

It's called What Cancer Can't Do: "Cancer is so limited: It cannot cripple love. It cannot shatter hope. It cannot corrode faith. It cannot destroy peace. It cannot kill friendship. It cannot suppress memories. It cannot silence cour-

age. It cannot invade the soul. It cannot steal eternal love. It cannot conquer the eternal spirit." (However I have to admit I've seen cancer do some of these terrible things. So much depends on attitude.)

These words should help remind us of the bigger things of life.

We all need to see our lives as uncompleted paintings.

In the movie "The Last Leaf," the character Marie says: "Every day is a stroke in our painting."

The portrait isn't complete until the very last day, and how we live — right through our deaths — determines the beauty of the picture.

An unknown author says it a different way: "Life is not a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a pretty and well-preserved body, but rather to skid in broadside, thoroughly used up, totally worn out, loudly proclaiming: 'WOW, what a ride!'"

Be thankful for your today — every day. Thank God for the measure of health you have. Strive to make even the 'thorns in your side' into beautiful brush strokes that your family and friends will remember even after you're gone.

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Tuesday opportunity to elect native citizen

To the Editor:

The primary election Tuesday offers us a valuable opportunity. We will have a chance to nominate one of our native citizens to the state Senate. Dan Rasure recognizes the quality of life in northwest Kansas and wants to see it protected while moving forward in a positive, progressive manner.

To keep young families in Western Kansas, we must attract industry and new business. Most importantly, we must support existing businesses in expansion efforts to provide jobs. Not only will this improve our area's economy, it will increase our school enrollment, providing more state funding and allowing us to continue to provide quality education by certified teachers. Our students will receive the caliber of schooling needed to enter and compete in higher education.

We are fortunate to have the Goodland Regional Medical Center, a critical access hospital, in Sherman County. We need a senator who is concerned with the rising health costs and the strain they put on our seniors and fixed income citizens. We need to do everything possible to keep our current facility in an updated manner without raising property taxes.

Rasure will be an advocate for healthcare in northwest Kansas. The hospital has applied for Veterans Administration clinic status, which would benefit Veterans in Sherman County and in the Tri-State area. If this status is approved, veterans could travel to Goodland rather than Hays, Denver or North Platte for their basic



from our
readers

• to the editor

medical services. We need help at all levels to get this approved.

A strong agriculture base is vitally important to northwest Kansas. Dan Rasure's great grandfather began farming in Sherman County in 1919, and the farm is still in the family. He knows the importance of getting our goods to market, whether it be by rail or by roads. As our senator, Dan will work with us to help keep our roads, railways and runway services. Ra-

sure knows the importance of business, as he and his family have been in the lumber business for over 85 years.

Rasure's youth is an advantage for this district. He has the time, energy and fresh ideas to go to work for us. He has no hidden agenda. He is a knowledgeable citizen who desires to give of his talents to energize the people of Kansas. He will represent us in a reliable, honest and positive manner as we move forward together.

I encourage Sherman County citizens to go to the polls Tuesday and vote for our local Republican candidate, Dan Rasure. You'll be glad you did.

Gennifer Golden House
Goodland

where to write

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