

from our viewpoint...

## Kansas buying out of state again

Who says the world has to make sense? Because if it did, the State of Kansas wouldn't be buying \$14 million worth of Homeland Security supplies from a single New Hampshire contractor.

Fire chiefs have complained that they can't buy from Kansas suppliers. The New Hampshire outfit, Fisher Safety, says it has contracts to supply emergency equipment to 14 states.

Apparently, Kansas officials wanted a single-source contract and didn't try to find local vendors, because it was easier and quicker.

Capt. Mark Bruce, director of emergency operations for the Kansas Highway Patrol, told a legislative committee last week that Fisher allows a "one-stop shop" for fire departments and emergency management agencies using the grant money.

Bruce said the contract's "large-volume efficiencies" allow the smallest department to get the same price as the largest.

He noted that Fisher will buy about 30 percent of the equipment, \$4.2 million worth, from Kansas suppliers which include Nex-Tech in Lenora. While that is laudable, that leaves \$9.8 million going out of state.

Officials said agencies can use an in-state bidder if the price is the same or less, but the program is not set up to actually encourage that.

You'd think state officials would have more sense, but apparently not. You'd think they'd have a marked preference for buying from taxpayers who support them, but apparently not.

Next thing you know, they'll be contracting to have welfare calls answered in India.

Oops.

They already tried that.

No, Kansas government has no faith in or loyalty to Kansas taxpayers. From call centers to drivers licenses to fire and emergency equipment, it sees no value at all in shopping with those who pay the bills.

And surely there are plenty of tax-paying businesses who can supply these needs, even if the cost is a little more.

The Legislature needs to crack down on state purchasing. Unless we support Kansas businesses, there'll soon be no businesses in Kansas to pay taxes or support the state.

Kansas, as the saying goes, needs to dance with the one who brung her.

And that means a strong preference for buying at home. — *Steve Haynes*

## where to write

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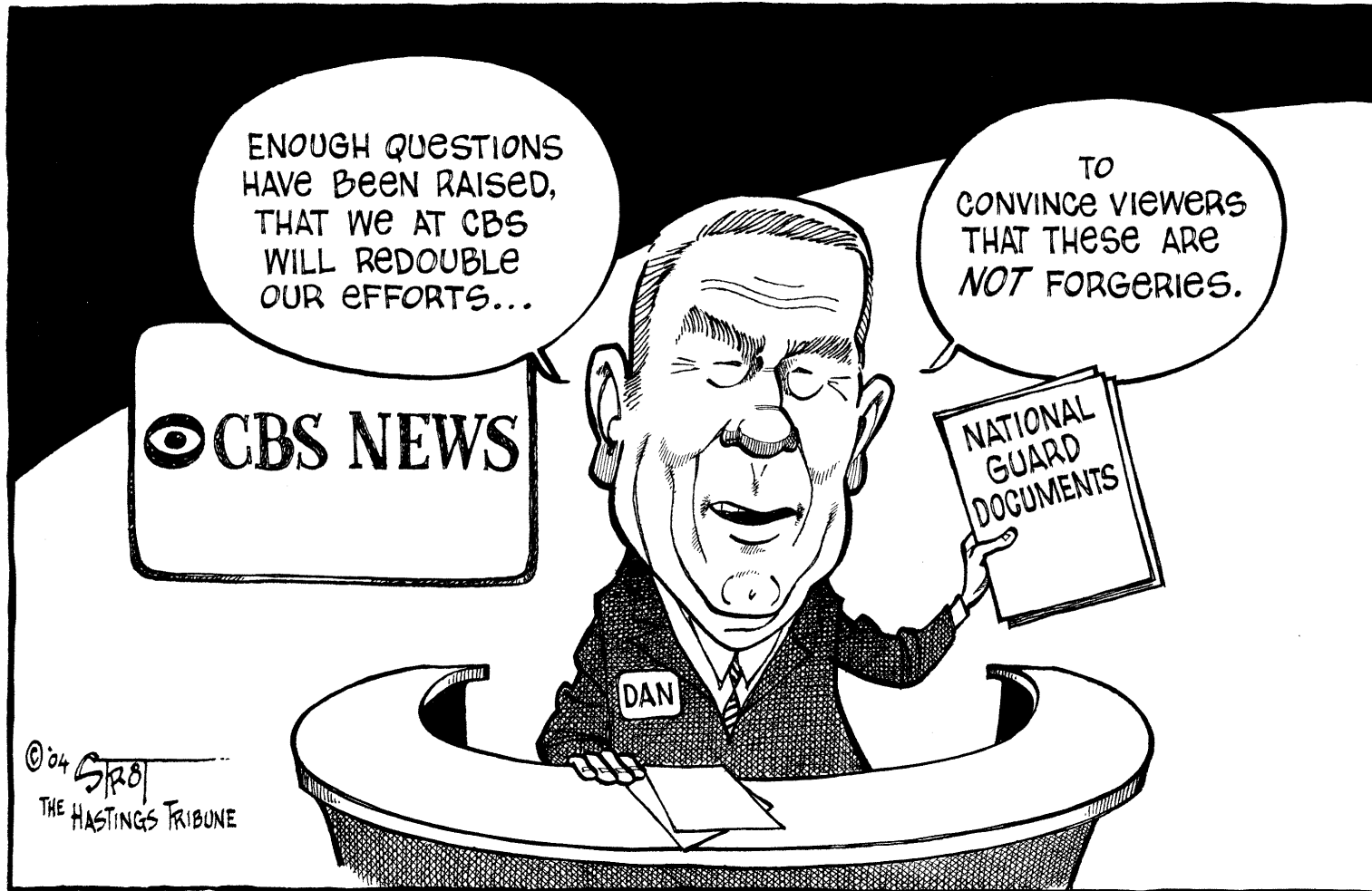
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## Some people come up with quotes easily

I don't know about you, but I get jealous of people who can turn a phrase better than I can. I don't think it's true jealousy though. If it were, I doubt if I would enjoy reading their quotes as much as I do. Here are some that came to me by e-mail under the heading "Great Quotes by Great Ladies!"

"I refuse to think of them as chin hairs. I think of them as stray eyebrows." -Janette Barber.

"A male gynecologist is like an auto mechanic who never owned a car." - Carrie Snow.

"Laugh and the world laughs with you. Cry and you cry with your girlfriends." -Laurie Kuslansky.

"My second favorite household chore is ironing. My first being, hitting my head on the top bunk bed until I faint." -Erma Bombeck.

"A man's got to do what a man's got to do. A woman must do what he can't." -Rhonda Hansome.

"The phrase "working mother" is redundant." - Jane Sellman.

"Whatever women must do they must do



**lorna gt**  
 • commentary

twice as well as men to be thought half as good. Luckily, this is not difficult." -Charlotte Whitton.

"I try to take one day at a time, but sometimes several days attack me at once." -Jennifer Unlimited.

"If you can't be a good example, then you'll just have to be a horrible warning." -Catherine.

"When I was young, I was put in a school for retarded kids for two years before they realized I actually had a hearing loss. And they called ME slow!" -Kathy Buckley.

"I'm not offended by all the dumb blonde jokes because I know I'm not dumb, and I'm also not blonde." -Dolly Parton.

"If high heels were so wonderful, men would

still be wearing them." -Sue Grafton.

"I'm not going to vacuum 'til Sears makes one you can ride on." -Roseanne Barr.

"When women are depressed they either eat or go shopping. Men invade another country." -Elayne Boosler.

"Behind every successful man is a surprised woman." -Maryon Pearson.

"In politics, if you want anything said, ask a man - if you want anything done, ask a woman." -Margaret Thatcher.

"I have yet to hear a man ask for advice on how to combine marriage and a career." -Gloria Steinem.

"I am a marvelous housekeeper. Every time I leave a man I keep his house." -Zsa Zsa Gabor.

"Nobody can make you feel inferior without your permission." -Eleanor Roosevelt.

Guess I'll take Eleanor's advice. I won't let these clever women intimidate me. I'll keep on writing, and maybe someday I'll say something worth quoting.

## Cat a better paperweight than alarm clock

Cats make lousy alarm clocks.

I usually get up between 6:30 and 8 a.m. My preference is 8 a.m., but sometimes, duty calls.

Last week, I worked until 2 a.m. Monday night to get two newspapers ready to go. I was beat.

Tuesday mornings, I usually go to Norton to help put out *The Norton Telegram*, but I had gone over Monday night so that I could leave for Denver on Tuesday.

Theoretically, I could have gone to Norton on my regular schedule and still finished in time to leave for Denver at 11 a.m.

Practically, I knew that wouldn't work. There are always people who want, need, have to talk to you as you are trying to walk out the door. That's just life.

So we did the Norton paper Monday night and I drove home in the early morning hours to fall into my bed, exhausted.

By 8 a.m., though, April Alice had started to worry.

The human on the right side of the bed always leaves by then. She thought there must be a problem.



**cynthia haynes**  
 • open season

She moved from her comfortable position at our feet to my head and gave me a couple of wakeup licks. Then she kneaded my shoulder with her clawless paws. Finally, getting no response, she curled up by my chest and started to purr loudly.

Mostly, though, she purred herself back to sleep.

It's tough being a cat and trying to be an alarm clock. They're just not made for the job. A dog could bark an alarm. A cat just purrs.

Before I left for Denver, I tried to figure out whether the cats had learned to use their new pet door. We had it put in an inconspicuous basement window.

So far, I had been able to push April Alice through from the outside and had tried to push Molly Monster through with no success. Molly

is a big, muscular cat. It's hard to get her to do something she doesn't want to do.

I figured the cats would still hang around the back door most of the time to wait for us to let them go in and out and in and...

Still, it would be nice to know that, if one got caught outside when we were gone, it could get back to the food and water bowls.

I had already put a pet door on the garage and had equal success, or lack thereof, getting the cats to try it.

I had thought of putting cat food on the inside near the pet door to entice them in, but decided I might entice more than cats. There are plenty of raccoons, opossums and skunks around, and I don't need another pet.

I'm not sure if April Alice has yet figured out the magic door but Molly, for all her stubbornness, has it mastered. We put her out each night and each morning I find her sleeping in the middle of the dining room table — where she knows she's not supposed to be.

She doesn't even pretend to be an alarm clock. She's more of a paperweight.

## Grass in cemetery needs attention

To the Editor:

I read in your recent articles that "Supporters want grass on the infield" of one of your baseball facilities. If you guys want to plant grass, why don't you take a good look at the cemetery. I have a son buried in the Goodland Cemetery, and on my most recent visit, I was disgusted to see what has become of it.

We'd do as well by burying our loved ones in a field somewhere, because that's what the Goodland cemetery has become. The grass in the old part has all but disappeared, and the new addition has nothing but dust.

I can't be the only person concerned about this. Are you guys afraid of watering the place, planting a few trees and real grass? I've seen



**from our readers**  
 • to the editor

several people watering around the graves of their loved ones in a futile attempt to make something grow. It shouldn't be their responsibility to make the cemetery look nice.

The cemetery is city property, but for us that have loved ones buried there and have plans to be buried there ourselves when the time comes, it should be a place of peace, not just a place to bury the dead.

### garfield

