

from our viewpoint...

People can be part of hiring process

The Goodland City Commission has a big job ahead, hiring a city manager.

Nothing this commission will do can be more important. It's vital that the people of Goodland feel they are a part of the process.

In a sense, the voters and taxpayers of this city are the stockholders of this "company," and they deserve a ringside seat as the new manager is chosen.

Yes, it's true, the Open Meetings Law allows the City Commission to go behind closed doors to talk about the candidates. To a limited degree, that's fine.

The commissioners will be discussing perceptions of the candidates, maybe some rumors, opinions, things that maybe shouldn't be public.

But the hiring process needs to be open.

And when the commission is discussing that process — how it plans to go about finding a manager, what criteria it will use, who will advise the commissioners, how much they plan to pay — all that should be done in public view.

The city will get a fair number of applications and a good selection of candidates from professional city administrators. Many will be well-qualified to take over at city hall.

The choice may be difficult. The commissioners certainly can use the advice and opinions of their "stockholders."

The selection process used in Salina earlier this year was a good example of open government. The finalists were invited to town and introduced at a public reception. They were questioned in open session.

With a few exceptions, there was no reason for any secrecy in the process. We hope it will be that way in Goodland.

This town deserves a top-notch manager to fill the shoes of Ron Pickman, who guided city government in an open, honest and professional manner. He'll be hard to replace, but the right candidate is out there.

Another important decision will be selection of an interim manager to run things after Pickman leaves in June. Sometimes a city supervisor can step up to fill the top job, but right now, Goodland lacks experienced senior managers ready for the job.

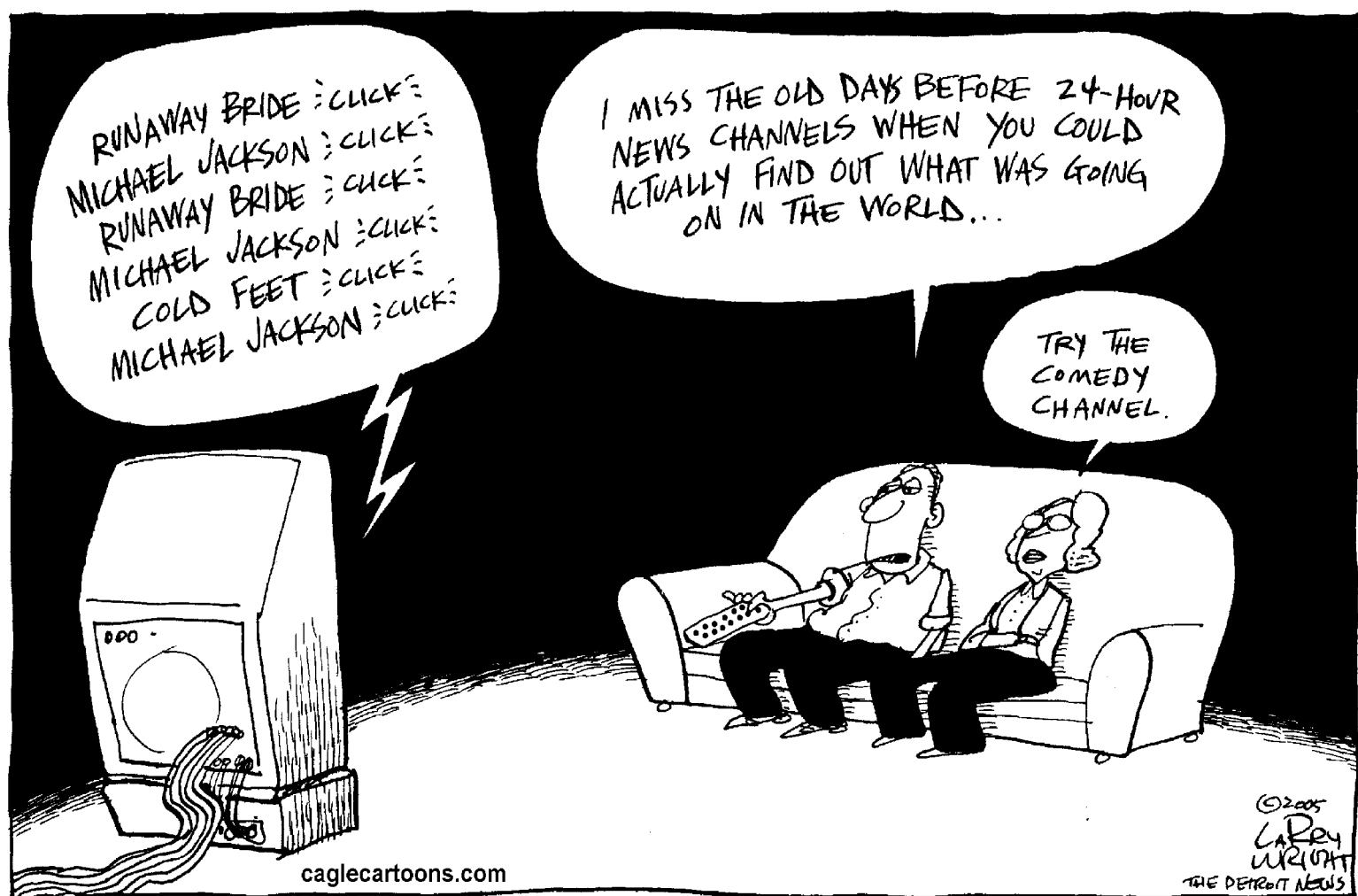
Another option is to hire a professional "interim" manager, something that churches and school districts rely on these days.

The interim manager will have great influence on upcoming decisions. The choice will be important.

Whoever takes the job, interim or permanent, needs to be a professional capable of standing up and telling the commissioners when they need to follow the law and when they need to do the right thing.

It would be foolish for the commission to hire a "yes" man, rather than someone with the training and experience to keep the city out of trouble.

All in all, some big decisions coming up. The whole town will be watching, as it should be. — *Steve Haynes*



Too many people seem to be unhappy

I don't know about you, but I know too many people who are unhappy.

They can't seem to see anything positive in life. They claim to be Christian people, but their outlook is judgmental and haughty. No situation is up to their standards; they could make it better if they could just be in charge.

Every person is subject to manipulation and could be improved with just a little advice. "Take my advice and let me be in charge, and I'll prove how superiorly capable I am!"

Not even the church is safe. These "Christian" people need to control every program, or it won't be done as well as it should be. Their leadership and guidance is superior to any other person's. But their dependability rate is low. They will do things only when they want to, when it fits their schedules and measures up to their standards of necessity.

But the clincher is that they need to get all the credit and acknowledgment. If you don't lift them up and pat them on the back and let them have free rein to do as they please, they feel threatened and unappreciated. Then instead of talking it over with others who are also trying to do something, they begin a backbiting, under-the-surface campaign of innuendo, complaining and whining.

Well, I guess we're all a little like those



**lorna
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people — at least at times. The sad part is every day of that kind of behavior robs them (and us) of one day of joy and happiness. When we can't see the beauty of life around us, we take part in creating unhappiness and chaos. Even if we have good ideas, we have already trained people to not pay attention since all we've done in the past is denigrate.

It is hard to be around and work with people who are like that. We all need to examine our habits to see if we are making people around us miserable by our faultfinding behavior. Beauty can be found in our environments if we can train ourselves to look for it. Other people have good ideas and talents. It is much more rewarding to encourage, cooperate and praise others in their efforts than it is to pout when we ourselves aren't fully appreciated.

And although God prizes individuals, we aren't in this life all alone. God would much rather we look for the good in people and in situations; God wants us to model Christ like

behavior and attitudes. By not pushing ourselves forward, we can begin to see the good in the people whom we've kept "behind" us. I like this idea:

In *The Life of Alice Freeman Palmer*, written by her husband, George Herbert Palmer, there is the account of a club she had for little girls in one of the dreariest tenement sections of Boston. It was called "The Happiness Club." It had three rules, and one of them was that each child must see something beautiful every day. That in the drab streets and houses to which they were accustomed, was the hardest rule of all to follow, but with childish eagerness they did live up to it — even when the "something beautiful" they could report that they had looked at was nothing more than a sparrow shaking his feathers in the rain gutter, or a glint of sunlight on a baby's hair. What Mrs. Palmer wanted her children to understand was that beauty may be everywhere for those whose eyes and hearts alike are open to perceive it." (From *The Interpreter's Bible*, Genesis, p.487).

Why not start a "Happiness Club" in your heart? I'll bet it will take root in the people around you. That kind of leadership God can honor and God's children can appreciate and follow.

Better option on judges: Real filibuster

By Dick Morris

The Republican leaders in the Senate do not have to make the false choice between endless toleration of Democratic filibusters that enfeeble their majority and the so-called "nuclear option" — a ruling that filibusters of judicial nominations are unconstitutional — which will set off partisan wrangling for the balance of the Bush tenure.

It is absurd to try to tell the American people why filibusters of judicial nominations violate the Constitution while those of nonjudicial appointments and of regular legislation do not. The American people are going to see the denial of the right of unlimited debate as the equivalent of FDR's court-packing plan, which doomed the second term of his presidency to utter failure. (He had a pretty good third term, though, winning the war.)

The better way to proceed is to make the filibuster politically radioactive by letting the Democrats talk themselves to death. Give them enough rope, and they will hang themselves by their vocal cords.

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist just needs to end the "virtual" filibuster and make the Democrats stage a real one, replete with quorum calls, 24/7 sessions and truly endless debate covered word for word by C-SPAN for all the nation to see — and ridicule.

Frist should bring up a judicial nomination of little consequence for the nation — say Charles Pickering — and let the Democrats explain, at tedious length, why they are tying up the entire nation over a judgeship for Mississippi. While the public might tolerate a filibuster over a Supreme Court nomination or over a particularly important piece of legislation, they would never allow a filibuster over



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so inconsequential an item. T backlash would be fierce.

To force the Democrats to filibuster over such a matter would be akin to the way President Clinton forced the Republicans to shut down the government in a budget fight. In the era of 24-hour news and cable television, the Democrats will find that they cannot stage a real, red-blooded filibuster without hurting themselves each day they talk.

A filibuster would attract wide notice. Bring the cots into the Democratic and Republican antechambers and stage quorum calls throughout the night, as in the old days of civil-rights legislation, and the nation will notice. The Democrats will leave America to wonder why they are spending all of their time debating a judgeship in Mississippi and not addressing the problems of healthcare, energy, gas prices, the economy, Social Security reform and the preservation and expansion of Medicare. The endless debate over so minor an item will make the country disgusted and will expose all to the true perils of unbridled partisanship in Washington.

When vote after vote for cloture fails, usually by the same deadening margin, the voters will increasingly see the case for squelching the filibuster and then the nuclear option would be welcomed by the nation.

The Republican leaders, and the Democratic majority leader before them, have allowed the filibuster to be rehabilitated in the public mind

by agreeing not to stage one. The gentlemanly filibusters of the modern era, where each side concedes unless one has 60 votes, have permitted virtual filibusters that incur no public wrath.

But let's remember that it was the specter of the Senate's being tied in knots by Sen. Richard Russell of Georgia and his gang that doomed the South to accepting civil-rights legislation. When Hubert Humphrey and his allies had to sleep in the Senate chamber so that minorities could get the right to vote, America saw the excesses to which the South would go to deny minorities their rights.

Frist and the GOP need to let the Democrats demonstrate how noxious the filibuster really is before they try to explain to America why they are curtailing it. And the best way to do that is to let the Democrats deploy their weapon. Call their bluff. And let 'er rip!

Dick Morris was an adviser to Bill Clinton for 20 years. Look for Dick's new book "Because He Could" about Bill Clinton. Copyright 2005 Dick Morris, All Rights Reserved. Distributed by Cagle Cartoons, Inc. www.caglecartoons.com Call Cari Dawson Bartley at (800) 696 7561 or e-mail: cari@cagle.com email for Dick Morris is dmredding@aol.com

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