

from our viewpoint...

## Sebelius appears headed for victory

Call her Governor.  
So far, no one has laid a glove on Kathleen Sebelius. Like two or three other popular Democrats in the last century, she appears to be headed for an easy victory in November.  
It's not that you can't beat an incumbent governor; it's happened. But to succeed, someone has to try.  
None of the Republican candidates gained much traction in the primary.  
Robin Jennison of Healy, a former speaker of the House, is presentable enough and worked the state, but had no issues. The fact that he had spent his off years lobbying for the caisson interests did not endear him to many Kansans.  
Ken Canfield of Overland Park appeared to be a nice guy and a good thinker. An expert on fathering with no political experience, he failed to project much leadership.  
The Republican victor, Jim Barnett of Emporia, grasped the ring, but not so far the essentials of chasing an incumbent from office.  
You have to give voters some reason to change. If the incumbent is unpopular, then it's a little easier.  
You can't just ride the bus from town to town and talk with people. You have to go on the attack.  
Of course, it's hardly a fair race this year. The governor has millions piled up in her campaign account, more than all three Republicans raise. With the current level of excitement, Sen. Barnett is not liable to raise half as much as she has.  
Last winter, the GOP candidate did try to state out a position as a leader on settling the school issue. He proposed his own plan, but since he's not in the leadership, or even in fellowship with them, it went nowhere.  
Now the governor — who kept a low profile during the school debate and lawsuit — is suddenly claiming credit for "solving" the school issue. One television spot shows her "driving the bus."  
Everyone agrees it's a reach, but her image is unsullied by the battle and she's ready to take credit for the resolution. Such is politics.  
And the reality of politics is another four years of Kathleen Sebelius as governor, unless she happens to hitch her star to the Democratic ticket and wind up as somebody's vice president.  
There are no dim prospects in the governor's future, at least not in the short run.  
From this perspective, though, it's unlikely anything will change by November. Sebelius it is. — *Steve Haynes*

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## Cats aren't good at taking long walks

I love cats but I'm not fond of them trying to go for walks with me.  
Mollie was the first cat we ever had that went for walks.  
As soon as we got the dog out of her pen and started for the front of the house, Mollie was streaking ahead of us, trotting determinably down the street just behind the dog.  
She was pretty good for the first six or seven blocks. However, as we neared the top of the hill there were more and more interesting things to take her mind off the walk and her feet into bushes, under cars, behind houses and out of sight.  
At the top of the hill is a windbreak and that was a killer. There are birds in there and the cat inevitably disappeared into the thick trees and brush. We started grabbing her and carrying her past the windbreak, but she'd just get stubborn and turn around and head back toward it when released.  
Now, I really didn't want to leave a small cat up at the top of the hill at night near the highway, in a wooded area where there could be coyotes, owls and skunks.  
I also didn't want to spend the next half hour seaching and calling her.  
Mollie finally figured out that if she took off



**cynthia haynes**

● open season

and walked to the end of the first block, she could just wait for us at home, welcome us back when we returned. This makes her feel that she is going out with the people and the dog without actually having to put out too much effort.  
Soon after getting Frank from our son — we're just baby-sitting him — we found out that he doesn't like to be left behind. If we're walking, he'll walk.  
Frank is a better walker than Mollie. He keeps up better and doesn't tend to stray as much. He's also impossible to keep in the house once we're ready to set out.  
We have a cat door in the basement. If I toss Frank in the back door and hurry to the front sidewalk, he's usually able to get down the stairs and out the cat door before I can get to the front. He's fast and determined.  
However, last week he also was lost.  
We took off as usual and got about four blocks. I realized that there were only three of

us — Steve, me and Annie, the dog. Frank wasn't trotting behind in his normal determinate fashion.  
We backtracked and called both his name and, "here kitty, kitty, kitty."  
Pretty soon a yellow streak came out from under a car and ran towards us.  
Frank?  
Nope, not unless he'd grown long hair and lost his tail. A beautiful and very friendly Manx was purring and rubbing up against our legs.  
He indicated that he'd go on the walk with us in Frank's place.  
When dogs meet each other, they greet in the usual fashion with sniffing and, sometimes, growling. They then play or decide dominance with a short fight.  
When cats meet, they immediately hate each other and start a staring standoff. Nothing will stop a cat from going down the street faster than another cat.  
We found Frank near the end of the block and he chased his competitor back under a car. I'm sure the Manx lived near there, although I've never seen it before. Hopefully it will go back to being an inside cat and I can go back to trying to keep Frank from going for walks.  
Like that was going to happen.

## Sierra Club sell out on immigration?

By Kathleene Parker

As the United States, in October, reaches the astounding plateau of 300 million Americans, I wonder if environmentalists forget that Earth Day founder Sen. Gaylord Nelson and former Sierra Club directors David Brower, Dave Foreman and Martin Linton all urged population stabilization.  
Are they unaware that the Sierra Club in the 1980s called the United States the most overpopulated nation? But that was before a contributor handed the Sierra Club over \$100 million.  
By appearances, it seems that, just as some in business will sacrifice America's future for the soft slavery of cheap immigrant labor, the Sierra Club puts its own interests ahead of an environment that is buckling under a mostly immigration-driven population tsunami.  
I served in the mid-1980s on the Sierra Club's national Population Issues Committee. We recognized that the United States is one of the planet's fastest growing nations and a main driver of global climate change.  
We received no signals that our concerns were not shared. Club President Carl Pope himself used the "most overpopulated nation" reference, an acknowledgment of the huge footprint every American leaves on the environment. (The British Royal Academy of Sciences in the 1990s estimated that each person in an industrialized nation is the environmental equivalent of 10 or more in a developing nation.)  
Our concerns were based in part on a 1970s Presidential Commission's warning that the United States should never reach 300 million. Worse, by 2050 we could be 400 million. And, like a speeding train careening past the station, that could be only the beginning, with a possible one billion by 2100 — exactly the increase experienced in 20th century India! In contrast, most developed nations have stopped growing.  
The 1970s Nixon-appointed Rockefeller Commission, made up of representatives of business, clergy, education and the environment, advised that there was no economic advantage to growth beyond the then population of roughly 200 million. They warned, prophetically, that at 300 million, the government might be unable to adequately educate citizens, provide health care, protect the environment or maintain infrastructure.  
Such concerns were discussed within the Sierra Club in the 1980s. But then, in the 1990s,



from  
other pens

● commentary

inexplicably, some began to condemn as racist efforts to get the club to take a stand to reduce immigration to far-lower historical norms. The club hierarchy made similar accusations against candidates running for the board on immigration-reduction or population-stabilization platforms. After a 2003 election, some candidates charged that the club's stand was due to pressure from a secret donor.  
Then, an Oct. 27, 2004, the *Los Angeles Times* revealed that David Gelbaum, a math genius who applied mathematics to Wall Street investments, had contributed \$101 million to the Sierra Club. Gelbaum insisted he did not influence the election but admitted that he had earlier told the club that "if they ever came out anti-immigration, they would never get a dol-

lar from me."  
The Presidential Commission urged a national population policy which, had it happened, might have brought more prudent handling of our borders and spared Americans, whose birthrate is close to replacement level, a demographic slap in the face.  
In 1996, the Population and Consumption Task Force of the President's Council on Sustainable Development said that to achieve sustainability, we should undertake the dual tasks of population stabilization and greater production efficiency.  
That the population policy did not happen is not environmentalists' fault, but that a premier environmental organization has repeatedly implied that sustainability is possible without population stabilization, from my view, compromises their credibility and ignores the threat to the environment and global-climate change of a billion resource-consuming Americans.  
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