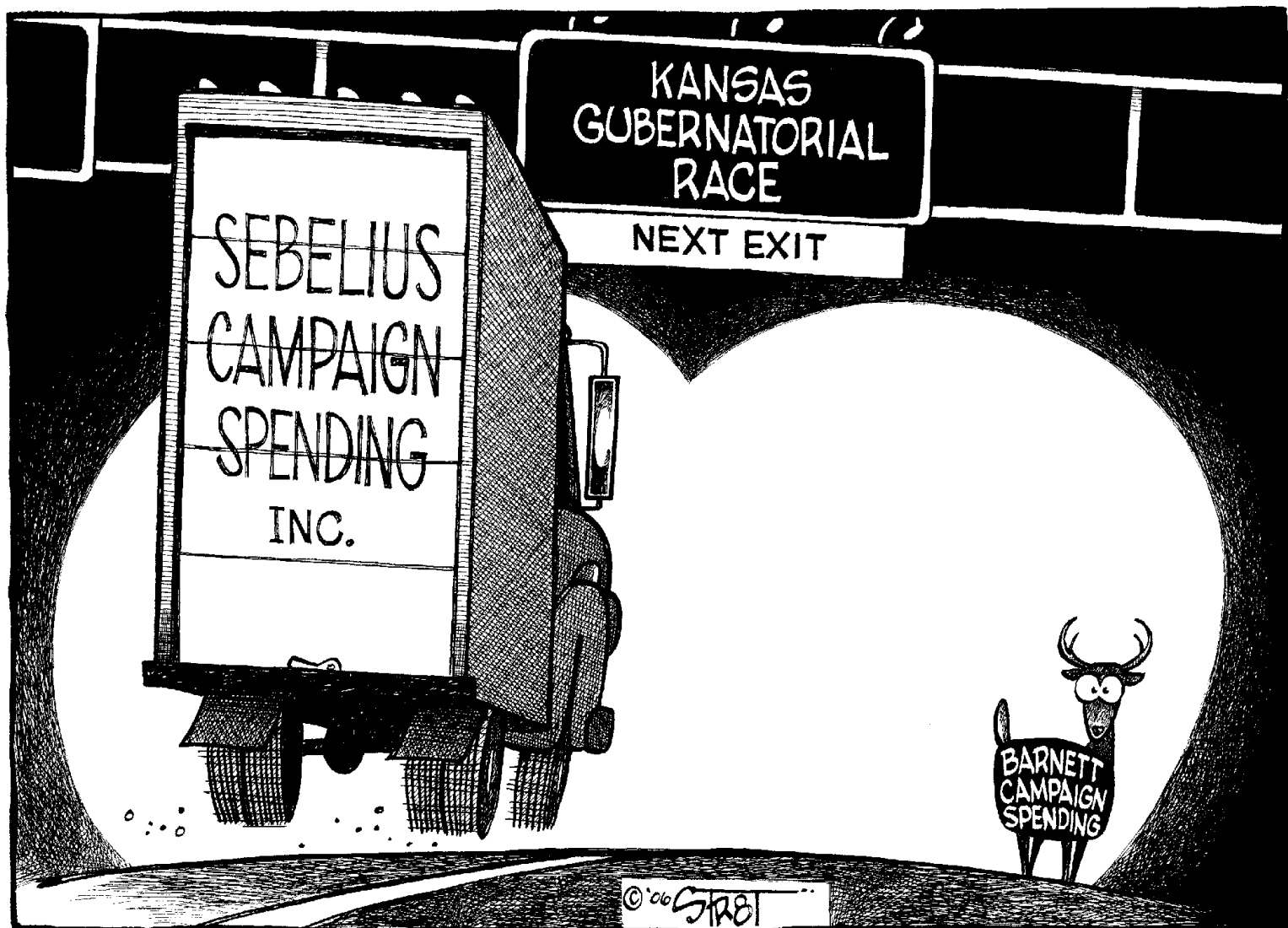


from our viewpoint...

Where is the truth in political rhetoric?

Politics.
Honesty, integrity, the truth.
Draw a line between those two sentences, because one seldom mixes with the other, especially in Kansas this year.
It's nothing unusual in this country, but candidates seem to think they have to shade the truth to be elected.
Maybe no one is exactly lying, but it's hard to catch anyone telling the unvarnished truth. It's enough to make a voter run screaming from the booth.
Take the governor's race.
Please.
Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, who seems a shoo-in for re-election and beyond that, maybe somebody's running mate, likes to brag about the money "she's" gotten for Kansas schools, "all without a tax increase."
The truth is she pushed for a \$350 million tax increase which Republican legislators turned down. Her claim is technically true, even if it's not credible. The governor stayed behind the scenes through most of the school battle, coming out after the dust had settled to claim the credit.
That's not the kind of "truth" daddy would have let us get away with as kids. Who knows, though. Her daddy was governor of Ohio.
Her opponent, Sen. Jim Barnett of Emporia, is no better. He's running on a no-tax-increase platform, though in the heat of the school finance fight, he backed a \$250 million increase.
Maybe voters are supposed to listen to today's "truth" and forget the candidate's record.
Then there's the attorney general race, where the challenger, Democrat Paul Morrison of Johnson County, claims he's leading Republican Phill Kline.
One thing we're supposed to forget is that Morrison was a Republican until he saw a chance to unseat Kline last year. Morrison maintains a "truth squad" which fires off press releases claiming that Kline lies. These call his statements "Phill's fibs."
And while there's no doubt the attorney general has stretched and bent the truth to suit his needs, Morrison has shown he can fib it up with the rest of them. His latest television ad shows doctors working on records and claims that Kline wants "your medical records" in the hands of government.
In fact, Kline's office tried to get a limited number of records from two abortion clinics involving underage girls, hoping to file statutory rape charges. Kline says he's just looking for lawbreakers, but the fight really is about abortion. Morrison knows that, too.
None of this is new in American politics. It's gone on since the founding of the Republic, the dark and disgusting underbelly of democracy.
Much as we claim to hate mudslinging, Americans decry a clean campaign. We go to sleep when candidates debate real issues. Dirt attracts attention. Lies become accepted truths. Exaggerations become reality.
Not a pretty picture, but there you have it.
Wouldn't it be nice if they all stopped fibbing and got back to business.? — *Steve Haynes*



Seattle known for great seafood, coffee

Fish, coffee and the Space Needle — my entire knowledge of Seattle up until this week, when I got to experience the real thing, if only for a couple of days.

Seattle, like most port cities, is known for its seafood.

Starbucks, the coffee that made Colby famous, has its home and origins in this Washington metropolis. So does Seattle's Best, another widely known brand.

The Space Needle was erected for the 1962 World's Fair. I remember the news coverage and photos. I was in the eighth grade, and a trip to Seattle was not in my wildest dreams. I'd never even been to Denver.

But Thursday, Steve and I boarded a jet in Denver and landed in the city of fish, coffee and that long-gone World's Fair.

Friday, we sailed on the USS Nebraska, a nuclear submarine. We met the crew, petted the missiles, visited the bridge and rode her into the dock. It was quite a trip.

To get back to the hotel, we had to take a ferry — a really big ferry that takes cars, buses, trucks and hundreds of people. We watched the Seattle skyline come into view in the twilight and saw the famous Space Needle coming closer and closer. And that was the last we saw of that landmark.
On Saturday, we got up early and headed



cynthia haynes

• open season

downtown for a three-hour visit to Pike's Place Market — a nine-acre, indoor-outdoor farmers market at the center of downtown Seattle.

I bought a cookbook. I always buy a cookbook. I hardly ever cook, but I love to read the recipes and I make notes about our trips in the front. My cookbook collection is sort of a travel diary.

I also bought an apron, which is another great buy for someone who doesn't spend enough time in the kitchen anymore to remember where the spices are.

What I really wanted was flowers. There were fresh bouquets everywhere. There must have been a dozen stalls selling flowers. For \$5 you could get a bunch of cut flowers when you have to catch a plane in four hours?

I stuck with the cookbook and apron — easier to carry, which is about as useful as a bouquet.

This is a farmers market and a craft show all in one. While I looked over leather goods, cro-

cheted items, artwork and jewelry, Steve looked out the windows, which overlook the bay. Neither of us spent any money at these pursuits, but we both had a good time.

Steve said he took pictures for tourists from half a dozen countries and several states. Most of them were girls, I suspect.

The market has six to eight fresh fish places, several selling cheese and a couple of bakeries. Steve stopped at every fish stall, including one with live crabs. One crab in particular was about to make it out of the tank. Of course, he was in trouble either way, since he was lunch in the tank and probably couldn't make it on the street.

Steve ended up buying some fresh salmon and a half pound of shrimp. The fishmonger wrapped them in an old copy of *The Seattle Times* and added a frozen gel pack. I put them in my carry on and they made it home in great shape.

It was nice to see that newspapers are still being recycled the old way in some places.

We had a \$4 coffee at Seattle's Best and headed for the airport. Seattle was a fun city and I'd like to return some day to see the museums, visit the Space Needle and walk along the waterfront. But for now, we'll just have to enjoy our salmon and stop in Colby for a \$4 cup of Starbucks.

Staying informed goal for democracy

To the Editor:
I try to read several newspapers and listen to television and radio news shows each week, as I hope you do, in an attempt to remain current concerning today's extremely complex and ever-changing world. I suspect you'll agree that that is a very lofty goal. But, we all really must try to pursue it. The strength of our democracy is at stake.

Through our political and governing processes, our elected representatives take our collective attitudes on current affairs and mold them via the democratic process into laws and national policies. These laws and policies are often appropriately and necessarily tested within our courts system to ensure that they are within the framework of our Constitution, the democratic bedrock that anchors and defines our free society. Each and every one of us is important to the continuing success of this process.

The strength, and sometimes the weakness, of this system is "the people." We are all human beings susceptible to, shall we say, temptations. I personally believe that the Devil is alive and well, and slinging temptations at all of us every day. Further, when one is in a position of increased authority and power, the temptations of greed and other such sinful desires multiply. One must have a very high standard of ethics to withstand these pressures. Yet regrettably, over time, these temptations can very subtly undermine even an otherwise high standard of ethics. One must always be vigilantly aware for the possibility of this external, slow, yet delib-



from our readers

• to the editor

erate attack on one's standards.

One's ethical and moral standards are those critical character traits that individually define each and every one of us. So the key to our democracy is the quality and standards of the people that define and run it. It is our responsibility to vote and elect only the finest people with the best moral and ethical codes, regardless of their political affiliation, to mold our laws and execute our democratic state. As they represent "We, the People," we must hold them

to high standards of conduct. And, should they fail to stand up to these standards, they must face the consequences. Our democracy demands nothing less from them, and us.

Soon it will be time for us, as citizens of this country, to exercise our civic responsibility, or privilege, as I prefer to think of it, to vote. Please familiarize yourself, in any manner you can, with all the candidates running for public office. Then, vote for those that have the ideas that most align themselves with yours, and who live by the highest ethical and moral standards. Vote for the person, regardless of their political affiliation. Remember, these are the people that will define and run our local, state and federal government for the next few years.

Randy J. Coleman
Goodland

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