

## Governor near building strong Democratic party

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius continues building a Democratic party that could stand for decades as a viable force in Kansas politics.

Success is not sure, not yet, but the governor has succeeded in attracting many Republican leaders to her fold. She's close to a realignment that would be nothing short of a revolution.

For most of a century — some would argue, since its founding, when Free State Republicans came to the fore — Kansas has been dominated by the Grand Old Party.

This one political reality means that many who might otherwise have become Democrats based on their beliefs joined the Republican ranks so they would stand a chance of holding office.

Kansas elects Democrats now and then, but only now and then. Most young politicians can read, especially the handwriting on the wall.

But dominance comes at a price. Holding, usually, the governor's office and two-thirds of the Legislature, the GOP itself split into liberal and conservative wings. The liberals like to style themselves as moderate, but everyone knows better.

So does the governor.

And she is calling them home to her party.

Her running mate, Mark Parkinson, is a former Republican state chairman. Her candidate for attorney general, Paul Morrison, won office as a Republican for Johnson County district attorney. The former attorney general, the ever-liberal Carla Stoval-Steckline, came out last week for the Democrat.

If the governor keeps building this coalition,

and finds someone to take her place, the results could change Kansas politics forever.

Succession is key, though. Unless the Democrats have someone to run, not just for governor, but for other major offices after she's gone, the revolution could sputter and die.

What does this mean for Republicans?

First, they need to understand that the threat is real, but it creates an opportunity to focus their party.

Instead of two wings, based on radical-right-religious belief or big government cloaked in a moderate guise, the party needs to get back to its roots.

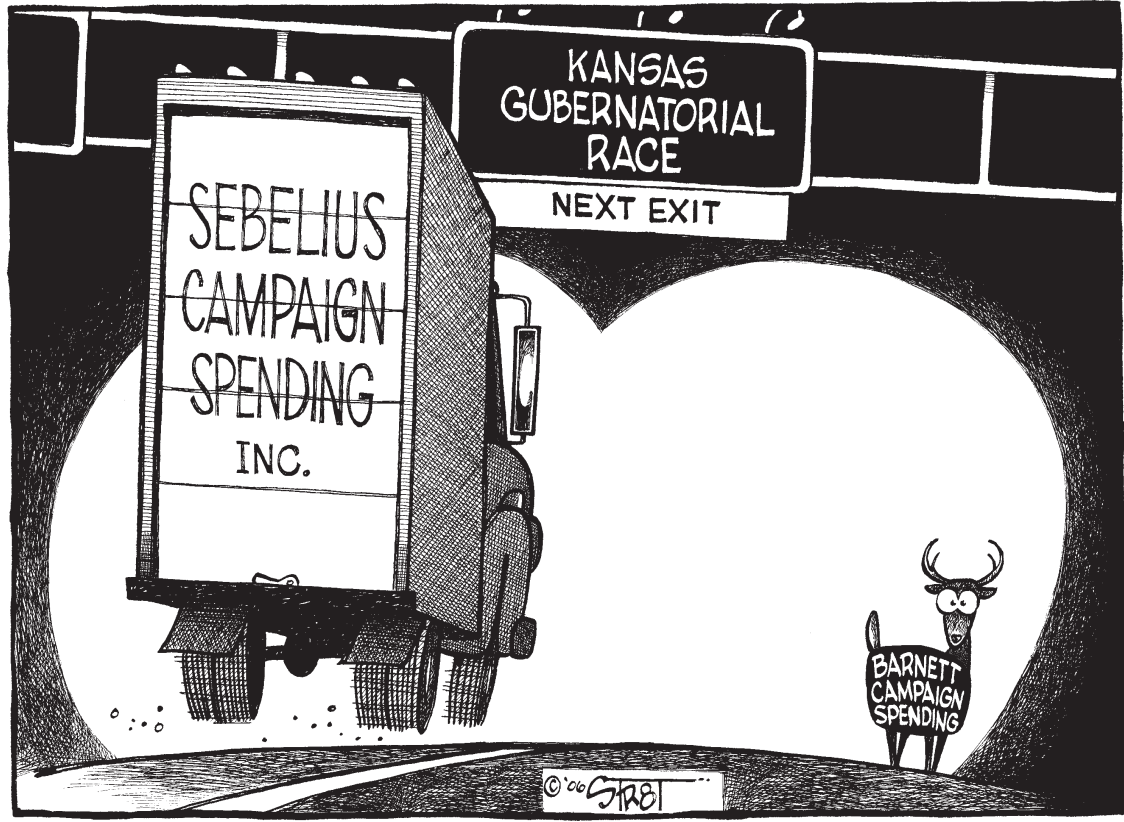
It should be the party of freedom and prosperity, fighting against poverty, big government, slavery of all kinds, high taxes and oppressive regulations.

For too long, both parties have bought into the idea that bigger is better. Both wings of the GOP have bought into bigger government and more state control of everything. They argue mostly about whose beliefs will be taught in our schools.

Someone needs to stick up for the little guy, the small businessman, the minorities, the workers, the people who can't afford more taxes and endless regulations.

That's the opportunity the Kansas Republican party has today, to become the party not of just one small religious group or the narrow interests of big government, state employees and those who want to control every aspect of our lives.

But the party of, by and for the people  
— Steve Haynes



## Wreathes need some updating

The Oberlin Business Alliance is trying to redecorate some middle-aged Christmas decorations.

The wreathes are still in pretty good shape — the greenery gets fluffed every year and the light bulbs replaced. However, the bows are getting ragged and many are more pink than red. These silly bows cost \$20 apiece and that means \$40 to refurbish each of half a zillion wreathes with one bow on each side.

Someone with a little ingenuity suggested that the alliance ask people to adopt a wreath and send in \$40 for the replacement bows.

I've sent in our \$40. Our wreath is the third one from U.S. 36 on the west side of the road. I'm naming it Belle.

Anyone else who wants to pick a wreath, buy a bow and beautify the town can get a hold of Glenva Nichols at the Chamber of Commerce office.

(OK, before Glenva has a coronary, I'll admit — I made up the part about picking out a wreath. The \$40 is a donation to beautifying the town. I'm still naming my wreath Belle, whichever one it is.)

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Cold weather is upon us and it brings out some weird things. Steve spent part of Sunday bring-



## Open Season

By Cynthia Haynes  
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ing the humidifiers up from the basement, cleaning them, putting in new filters, plugging them in and filling them.

We inherited our first humidifier from my mother-in-law about 10 years ago. It made such a big difference in how my skin felt that I bought a second one last year so I would have one on the main floor and a second upstairs in our bedroom.

I no longer feel like a lizard in the winter time. My skin is dry, but it doesn't scale right off.

The weird thing is we still have the dehumidifier going down in the basement.

So we're adding water to the air on two floors and trying to remove it on a third. Go figure.

□□□□□

We walk every day but Mondays, miles and miles. We'd walk Mon-

day, but after an 18-hour day I don't move any farther than I must.

We like to walk during the day, but that isn't always possible with work schedules.

So there we were last week walking up the street at 11 p.m. It was chilly, but not freezing. My feet were warm. I had on a hat and gloves. My legs were good and my torso was covered with a good, warm coat. Even my face wasn't complaining.

My neck, however, whined the entire walk.

"I'm cold. Why didn't you get a muffler? The head isn't cold. Why didn't you get a hat with something to cover me, too? You could have found a better coat. There are some in the closet with higher collars. If you had a higher collar, I wouldn't be cold."

I was surprised. Usually, it's my ears that do all the complaining.

## Chili cookoff brings fun, pain

While living in Texas, I was once asked to judge a barbecued brisket contest. Texans take barbecue seriously. It's their official state pastime.

Anyway, this week I was asked to judge a chili cookoff. The other judges included a small-town mayor, a radio personality, a popular high school wrestling coach, a Catholic priest and me. Not bad company.

So, armed with a bottle of antacids, we smelled, stirred, sampled and tasted. Some were mild, some were soupy and one was liquid fire. The latter was, literally, afloat with jalapeños. Grocery store shelves within a 50-mile radius are probably devoid of canned jalapeños because they were all put in that pot of chili.

Naturally, it was the winner. And I need another bottle of antacids.

—ob—

This week Jim took a phone call that I feared might change our lives. Our only thought recently has been to get the house to a livable stage before the opening weekend of pheasant season and to get moved out of the hunting lodge, where we've lived for five years, so our hunters from Oklahoma could have it for the weekend. Alas, they called and a crisis with one of the hunters is causing the entire group to cancel. The pressure, for us, is off.

Well-meaning friends have said,



## Out Back

By Carolyn Sue Kelley-Plotts  
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"I wouldn't tell Jim they called."

Not an option. He took the call.

However, our commitment remains the same. Push to completion and get moved in as soon as possible. Actually, I am somewhat relieved. I knew it would be close. The move would have resembled Lee's retreat from Atlanta.

Like refugees, everything we owned would probably have been crammed into an expandable trash bag and dumped in the new house. That would have, then, become one more mess to clean up.

Perhaps now we can accomplish the move in a more orderly manner.

—ob—

Did you hear about poor Bubba? He went to the doctor's office last week and the receptionist asked him what he had.

"Shingles," answered Bubba.

"Have a seat and the doctor will be with you soon," she told him.

Later, a nurse called his name and asked the same question, "What do

you have?"

Again, Bubba answered, "Shingles."

"Well, then, we'll have to get you weighed, test your blood, take your blood pressure and do a urinalysis."

After the tests, she led him into an office and told him to take off all his clothes and wait for the doctor.

Finally, the doctor arrived. While looking at Bubba's charts, the doctor said, "So, I understand you have shingles. Where are they?"

"On the truck," he replied.

"Where do you want 'em?"

## From the Bible

...nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

II Timothy 1: 12b

## Writers feel feds need leeway

To the Editor:

In reference to the editorial on Oct. 4, 2006, entitled, "We simply can't tolerate torture by United States," we would like to express our thoughts concerning interrogation of terrorists.

There are several definitions of torture. People generally don't agree with extreme physical torture (beheadings, dismemberment, burning bodies, hanging tortured victims from bridges or suffering from the repercussions of 9-11).

Webster's New World Dictionary defines torture as follows:

1. the inflicting of severe pain to force information or confessions, get revenge, etc.
2. any method by which such pain is inflicted
3. any physical or mental pain; agony; anguish
4. a cause of such pain or agony
5. [Rare] a violent, twisting, distortion, perversion (deviating from what is considered right or accept-

able), etc. Wicked.

We don't believe anyone agrees with painful physical torture. However, we feel many people would agree with nonphysical torture such as heat, cold, light, dark, loud voices, etc. It is the government's responsibility to protect its citizens.

Consequently, the government's hands shouldn't be restrained if it relates to saving lives — American or other. They must have the freedom (within reason) to do what is best to deter terrorism. It can't be effective if interrogators have to abide by volumes of regulations that can only be interpreted by lawyers and the courts.

We ask Mr. Haynes how he proposes to extract information from prisoners in a nonviolent way to save lives. The editorial was not

clear on this subject.

We are aware that we're dealing with people who have been brainwashed, bribed with many rewards, etc. They have no respect for life, regardless of age; they kill each other. — there are no boundaries.

Is our government to sit back and do nothing and allow them to continue inflicting pain and agony against innocent people? We must stop these raging monsters!

The issue may not be about "torture," but the "torture" (violent, twisting, distortion, perversion) by the liberal media trying to demoralize our United States.

The terrorists' goal is to "rid the world" of infidels. That is us!

Steve and Arian Arnold  
Rusty and Sharon Adleman  
Oberlin

## Group backs pro-life candidates

To the Editor:

We are deeply concerned about the impact of upcoming elections on our children and their safety. They are exposed to sexual predators, pornography, drugs, promiscuity, abortion, sexually transmitted diseases and a total lack of respect. We offer the following for your consideration because many candidates, on moral issues, are in direct conflict with the teachings of the Christian faith.

In the governor's race, Kathleen Sebelius vs. Dr. Jim Barnett, the contrast is stark. Gov. Kathleen Sebelius is a Catholic who supports abortion. She voted to keep late-term abortions legal and voted that we, as taxpayers, should pay for abortions.

She has opposed placing any restrictions on the abortion industry.

And she has taken huge amounts of money from the abortion industry as well as from Dr. George Tiller. We believe that is never permissible for a Christian to support the legalization of the killing of innocent lives by abortion, much less to lead the fight for legal abortion.

Additionally, Gov. Sebelius voted against placing first-time child molesters on a sexual predator registration list, she voted against a bill to crack down on pornography available to minors over the Internet and she voted against parental notification if a minor seeks an abortion.

On the other hand, Dr. Barnett is pro-life. He has a 100 percent pro-life voting record as a state senator. As a physician and state senator, he understands the issues and the morals that Kansans hold dear. He will work to protect our physical well-

being as well as the traditional family values we all believe in.

The same is true for the attorney general race between Phill Kline and Paul Morrison. Phill Kline is pro-life and is working hard as attorney general to protect our children from sexual predators, including those using the Internet.

Mr. Kline says he has been involved in over 700 cases of adults sexually exploiting children in the last three years.

His opponent, Paul Morrison, favored the early release of violent criminals in order to save money. Our safety, and our children's safety, should be the top priority of the attorney general.

Dolores Koerperich  
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Kansans for Life

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