

## Fort Hays a fine name for our state university

Change the name of Fort Hays State University? Why?

It's one of the ideas being floated by President Ed Hammond during his annual tour of the region, but not a good one.

Fort Hays State is a perfectly good name, with some geographic identity and a lot of history. The alternatives just aren't too attractive.

University of Western Kansas isn't likely to convince anyone from Johnson County that they've found Nirvana. Neither is Western Kansas State.

Eisenhower State could be anywhere.

It's not that the college has had its name forever. It was first known as the Kansas State Normal School, then Kansas State Teachers College and Kansas State College. In those days, it was one of three state schools that changed names in lockstep, identified only by the town: Emporia State and Pittsburg State.

Fort Hays State University may have been a step up. While similar to the other two, it's unique, and that's not a bad thing.

Many people don't know why the college is "Fort Hays State" and not just Hays State, but it's an interesting story. It goes back to the turn of the last century, when Hays citizens wanted to start a state "normal" school, as teacher training institutions were known in those days.

They talked Congress into donating the unused federal reservation of the old fort outside of town to the new school. That's why the

college is out on the edge of town, on former federal land that had been a military post in the Indian Wars.

And why the university is "Fort Hays State" today. Not every college has such a colorful past. It's something worth hanging on to.

There's a trend among former teachers' colleges, though, to differentiate names. In Missouri, where the schools once had geographic names — Northwest Missouri State, Southeast Missouri State, Central Missouri State — one is now Truman State and another became Missouri State, much to the disgust of University of Missouri alumni.

Trouble is, no one can remember where those two are now that they've lost their geographic ties. Then there is the University of Central Missouri, right down the road from the University of Missouri.

In Colorado, the old teachers' college is now the University of Northern Colorado, though it's a little south of Colorado State.

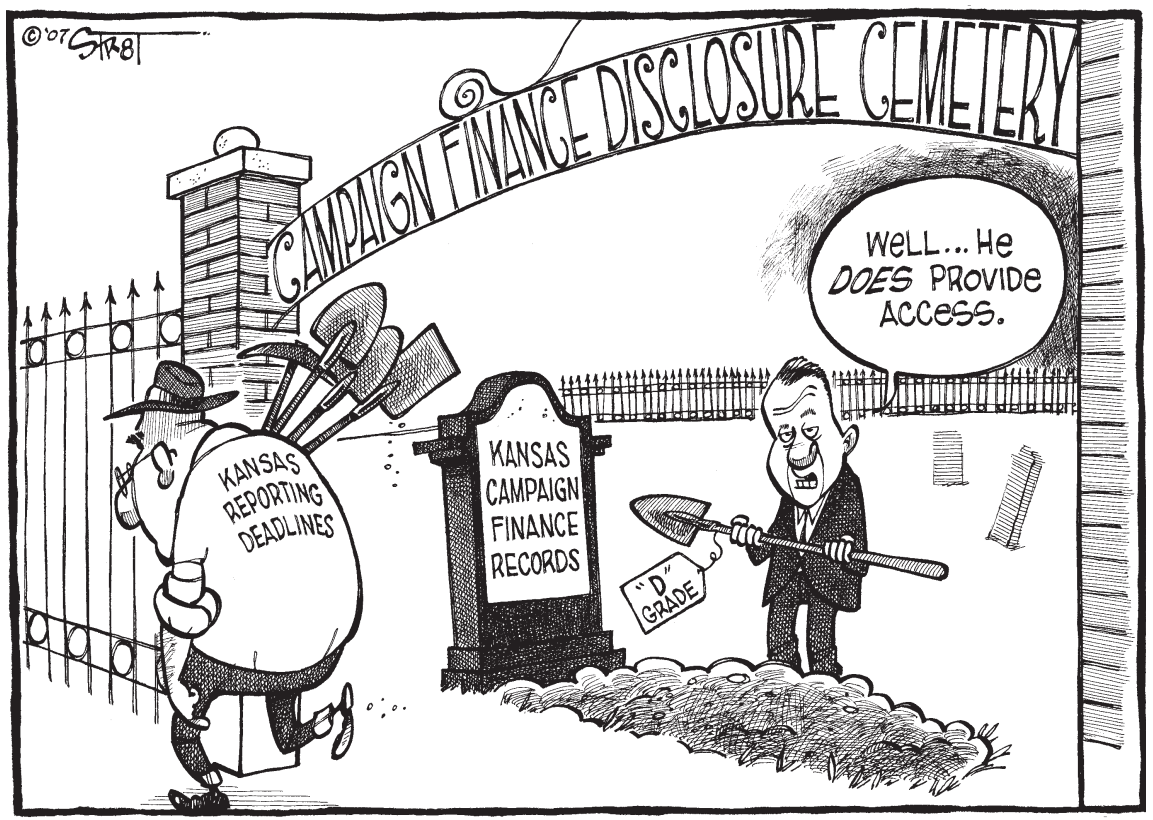
If all that sounds confusing to you, imagine what it must be for alumni and for prospective students.

Fort Hays State is a fine name with a good story behind it. Our advice is to stick with it.

For marketing purposes, it's as good as any of the new ideas. And surely Dr. Hammond has better things to spend his money on than changing the name on all those building, vehicles, business cards and so on.

Fort Hays is a growing, vital institution with the name it has. Just keep it.

— Steve Haynes.



## Self surgeon fixes his finger

Let's see — you've heard of self-denial, self-help, self-esteem and self-taught. But have you ever heard of "self-surgery"?

Jim should write a book called, "How to Operate on Yourself in Three Easy Steps."

Last week, I came home from work to find him with a painful, bandaged hand. He said he had been unloading some sheets of plywood and ran a sticker into his finger.

On closer inspection, the was obvious this was no ordinary sticker. This was a piece of wood, rammed crosswise entirely through his finger, just below the base of the nail.

He said, "I want you to get it out."

Now, I'm not very squeamish, but one look, and I knew it was out of my scope of "sticker-pickin'."

My prescription: a bread-and-milk poultice. That's my cure-all.

Don't laugh. You can call me old-fashioned, but I never had trouble with my children's stickers. If they got a little sticker, there were no tears because they feared the needle.

I would slap a bread-and-milk poultice on the sticker before they went to bed, and by morning, you



## Out Back

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could almost pop the sticker out with your finger. There must be some chemical reaction between the yeast in the bread and the lactose in the milk that has "drawing power."

In this case, though, a poultice made with a loaf of bread and a gallon of milk was not going to do the trick. I gave Jim two ibuprofen tablets and applied the poultice, but not before eliciting a promise from him that if it didn't work, he would go to a doctor.

Next morning, the splinter was still there, it still hurt, and he kept his promise.

I called him later to see how it had gone, knowing he would have to get a shot to deaden the pain before a real doctor could get it out.

Here's his version of what happened:

"Yeah, it's out. No, didn't hurt a bit. Yeah, he gave me a shot.

"Can you believe it, he wanted to X-ray it. No, I didn't let him. X-ray a sticker... are you kidding?"

"He stepped out of the room and I took the scalpel and cut it open myself. Calm down, it came right out.

"Yes, the doctor saw it.

"No, I didn't do any nerve damage. At least, I don't think so.

"Hey, he said he wouldn't charge me since I did it myself.

"Well, the doc did have to sew me up where I made the incision. Nah, don't worry, it only took four stitches.

"Carolyn? Are you there?"

"Carolyn?"

"Huh, she must have hung up."

Lord, help me. If he doesn't kill himself, I just might do it for him.

## Hanoi a strange place to visit

HANOI, Vietnam — I can't believe I, or any other American in their right mind, would be here.

I'm a child of the '60s. I remember the antiwar demonstrations, the headlines, the body counts, the boys who came back — and those who didn't.

While I wasn't particularly a hawk, my cousin George, mother's only nephew, was in the Army and served two or three tours over there amongst the jungles, the dangers and the mystery. Our family knew that our loyalties lay with the country, not with the protesters.

There were those who hated the war so much they sided with the enemy. I couldn't understand — and frankly still don't — those Americans who cozied up to the enemy.

The years have made the Vietnam War seem like a terrible mistake. America should have never gotten involved, but we did. We thought that we had to save the world from Communism. We didn't know that Communism would not survive.

Today, Vietnam is united under the Communist banner but it's capitalism that drives the country. Privatization is the name of the game and our guides advised us to never go to the government shops because the goods and services are inferior to those in the private sector.

Free speech is emerging, but not to the extent it's found in the U.S. Vietnam is more like a South American dictatorship than a Communist, socialist society. The top brass get rich and the common people struggle like they always have.

On the whole, we thought Hanoi



## Open Season

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was prettier than Ho Chi Minh City, the former Saigon. It's smaller, with lots of parks, trees and flowers.

We visited the home where Ho Chi Minh ruled Vietnam until his death in 1969 and the presidential palace, Uncle Ho's mausoleum (from the outside since it was under renovation), and the "Hanoi Hilton," the old French colonial prison where American fliers were held during the war.

The compound, actually called Hoa Lo Prison, was built in 1896 by the French to confine problem locals. It had been mostly torn down before the Vietnamese realized its tourist potential, and a new hotel and office tower occupies most of the site.

Now it stands, with broken glass and electric wires along the top of the walls, while inside mannequins sit in leg irons used by the French. A guillotine decorates a courtyard while paintings, statues and bas reliefs show the cruelty of the colonial rule.

The American part of the museum shows items left behind by the American prisoners and gives a one-sided story of the war and the captured American fliers, incarcerated

in the prison from 1964 to 1973. Oddly enough, today there is a Hilton Hanoi, a luxury hotel with pool, spa and fancy rooms, not too far from the old prison.

Our stop was enlivened by the Premier of North Korea, who arrived for a state visit. He was staying in our hotel and we had to go through a metal detector every time we entered the building. We got some great photos of his motorcade as he left for the presidential palace — and a wave as he got in the car.

On the streets, however, people sat on low stools, ate their rice and noodles, sold mats and brooms, talked, smiled and fished in the city's beautiful lakes. Life went on.

Hanoi, Vietnam — just another tourist location.

Who would of think it?

## From the Bible

There is no darkness, nor shadow of death, where the workers of iniquity may hide themselves.

Job 34:22

## Taiwan still part of China?

Chen Shui-bian is used to walking a fine line.

As the first opposition leader to be elected president of the Republic of China, his life is controversy. He faces daily protests from the Kuomintang and other opposition parties on Taiwan, contempt from the mainland Communist government and lukewarm support from his U.S. guardians.

In his seven years of office, he's been shot, seen his wheelchair-bound wife indicted for alleged corruption, been snubbed by the U.S. State Department and had to put his party's dream of independence on hold.

Yet he's firm and clear speaking to a group of American editors, noting that next year will mark the 20th anniversary of the lifting of martial law by the old government in 1988. Taiwan lived under military rule for 38 years after World War II, with no free elections.

Today, he says, it is among the freest nations in the world and has no intention of surrendering that freedom to reunify with the mainland.

"We cherish our hard-won democratic fruit," the president says. "The Martial Law period lasted 38 years. The last 20 years, we've worked very hard. Now, we have achieved true democracy. We have real freedom. We are proud of what we have now."

He notes that the first true popular election of a president came only in 1996, and his election in 2000 was the first peaceful transfer of power in the history of all China.

Under martial law, he said, the government maintained bans on newspapers and opposition parties. He spent a year in prison for libel as punishment for things he said about government leader.

While as president, Mr. Chen has not pushed for formal independence



## On the Sappa

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from the mainland, he has refused to adopt the official "One China" police which has long governed U.S.-China relations.

After World War II, with the eviction of the Japanese invaders, everyone — the U.S., the Communists, the Nationalists, the world — recognized China as a single nation.

After the Red victory in 1950, the Nationalists withdrew to Taiwan, where they ruled by military decree, first under President Chiang Kai-shek and after his death in 1975, under his party. The Nationalist claim even today to be the legitimate government of all China, while Mr. Chen's Democratic Progressive Party says it wants independence for a free Taiwan.

Interestingly, the mainland government finds the Nationalist position closer to its own. Independence, the mainland says, can only lead to war. Mr. Chen says he'll hold off as long as the Communists don't move to invade his island.

This year, in a somewhat disingenuous move, the Progressives have put their efforts into a push not for independence, but membership in the United Nations.

If that sounds different, it is and it isn't. The U.N. admits only sovereign nations and adheres to the One China policy. Control of the China seat passed to the Red government in 1971. Even so, Mr. Chen wants a referendum on U.N. admission.

The evening after our visit, he launched an 11-day around-the-

island torch relay promoting the U.N. bid, starting from a stage and giant posters erected in front of the presidential palace.

"We have full confidence that the referendum will pass," he told us. "We know we need to work hard to normalize relations between China and Taiwan, but China refused to give up the use of force."

He said he's worried that his tiny island, with just 23 million people, has invested too heavily in the mainland and won't be able to maintain an independent economy. Seventy percent of off-island investments are on the mainland.

"No other country relies so heavily on China in trade and the economy," he said, noting that despite the chilly official relationship, the two governments have opened commercial and banking links, with direct flights on the horizon.

No one thinks Taiwan will regain a U.N. seat any time soon. The U.S. State Department already has said we won't back the move. But the campaign puts more pressure on the mainland to open up.

It is, as we said, a fine line. Elections next year might return the island to a One China policy anyway. For now, though, the official line is on the edge.

"Since Taiwan is a sovereign nation and not a part of China," Mr. Chen says, "we believe it is important to seek recognition."

Fighting words, perhaps, or just a negotiating stance. It's hard to tell.

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