

## Choosing a candidate may be hard for voters

Who should we vote for in the “minor” state offices, the ones below governor and attorney general where many voters may not have a clue who’s running, let alone who’s best?

It’s often a decision made on the basis of acquaintance, looks perhaps or a fleeting image — or party label.

Candidates don’t have the budget to blanket the state with advertising like those running for the Senate, governor or even Congress. Many are not that widely known across the state.

But voters have to choose, and there’s no shortage of candidates to run.

Take the race for state treasurer. Longtime incumbent Lynn Jenkins left the post to become the U.S. representative in the second district two years ago after unseating Congressman Jim Ryan in the Republican primary. Jenkins herself had been a mostly unknown factor, the Shawnee County treasurer, when she won the office.

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius appointed Mr. McKinney, then a state representative and minority leader of the House, in January 2009 to replace Jenkins, a Republican. Kansas law gives the governor discretion to appoint someone from either party to a state vacancy. (Interestingly enough, for a vacancy for county office or the Legislature, the governor must appoint the choice of the incumbent’s party.)

Thus, while he’s the incumbent treasurer, Mr. McKinney has to run his first statewide race

against a candidate with more party backing and more money. He’s apparently done a good job of working the treasurer’s position, tirelessly promoting programs to return unclaimed property and establish education spending accounts.

His opponent, Ron Estes, may have even less statewide name recognition, but his membership in the Republican party more than makes up for that. One poll a couple of months ago by Wichita television station KWCH showed him leading 58 percent to 37 percent.

There’s not been much on the race since. Mr. McKinney continues to work the state, county seat by county seat. That’s one thing that sets him apart out here in the western half of the state is that he is one of us. He is from Greensburg, west of Wichita, so we know he’s aware of where and what western Kansas is.

He has been to Oberlin, Colby, Goodland, Norton and St. Francis several times each. He knows the area as well as anyone.

Mr. Estes, we’re not so sure. We haven’t seen him, though he has made a few brief stops in the northwest. That’s not to say he wouldn’t be a good treasurer; just that he has not made much effort in our area. Maybe he doesn’t need to.

Many people, even if they didn’t meet a candidate, will be influenced by which one made the best effort in their area. Out here, for state treasurer, there’s no doubt in our mind who that would be. — *Steve Haynes*

## Best barbecue is hard to pick

We made a pilgrimage to Arthur Bryant’s in Kansas City the other day. It’s something as former Kansas Citians, and lovers of barbecue, that we just have to do at least once a year.

Bryant’s is one of Cowtown’s two most famous barbecue joints, the other being Gates and Sons. Bryant’s got the upper hand in national prominence, thanks mostly to the New York writer Calvin Trillin, a Kansas City native.

Mr. Trillin made a career, almost, of writing about food in his native town. He maintained in articles for several national magazines that Bryant’s was the best restaurant in the world, and Winstead’s in Kansas City made the best hamburgers in the world.

While his declarations seemed so tongue in cheek they could be passed off as just the ranting of someone who could remember when there was an element of truth there. Winstead’s art deco drive-ins did put out a marvelous burger, complete with a thick slice of onion, and Bryant’s might be the best place to eat in Kansas City.

It’s no fine dining place, to be sure. The floors, though mopped dozens of times a day, tend to be slick with grease. The tables are covered in red-and-white checkered oilcloth, the napkins are white (but paper) and there are no waiters. You get your food from a serving line.

Little has changed since the glory days of the ’60s, when you could always count on a crowd at Bryant’s no matter the time. Arthur gave free food to any cop who was hungry, and squad cars flocked around his restaurant. Despite the location at 18th and Brooklyn, just south of



### Along the Sappa

By Steve Haynes  
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the old Municipal Stadium, crime seldom blemished Bryant’s reputation.

In those days, when you ordered a sandwich, a cook with greasy hands would reach into a great pile of meat and slop a pound or so of brisket, oozing oil, onto a couple of slices of bread. If you asked for fries, he’d slap half a pound of those on the butcher paper the joint wrapped its product in, and there you go.

You didn’t want to take this stuff home and let it congeal. You knew it wasn’t good for your heart, but you didn’t want to see how not good. But my was it tasty.

Gates, up the street at 12th and Brooklyn or far south on The Paseo near the Country Club Plaza, was a little more refined — bright tile, more carefully measured and leaner meat, an emphasis on making you feel welcome. The ribs were great at either place.

Today, a few things have changed. For one, thanks to the Health Department, the guy grabbing the meat wears a plastic glove. The meat is much leaner. And prices are much higher.

But the “Q” is still great. It’s still an experience to go to the old places and eat that wonderful, sticky stuff.

The best restaurant in the world? I’m sure many would argue. But

every president and most presidential candidates since Harry Truman have eaten here. The place has pictures to prove it.

Heck, they even put Sara Palin’s picture on the wall.

So who am I to argue with an expert like Calvin Trillin. (I even got to shake his hand once, years ago.)

For sure, it is the best barbecue in Kansas City, maybe in the whole world.

That just might be. Except, of course, for Ollie Gates’ offering.

Come to think of it, it just might be a tie. I go back and forth, depending on which one I had last. I can’t make up my mind.

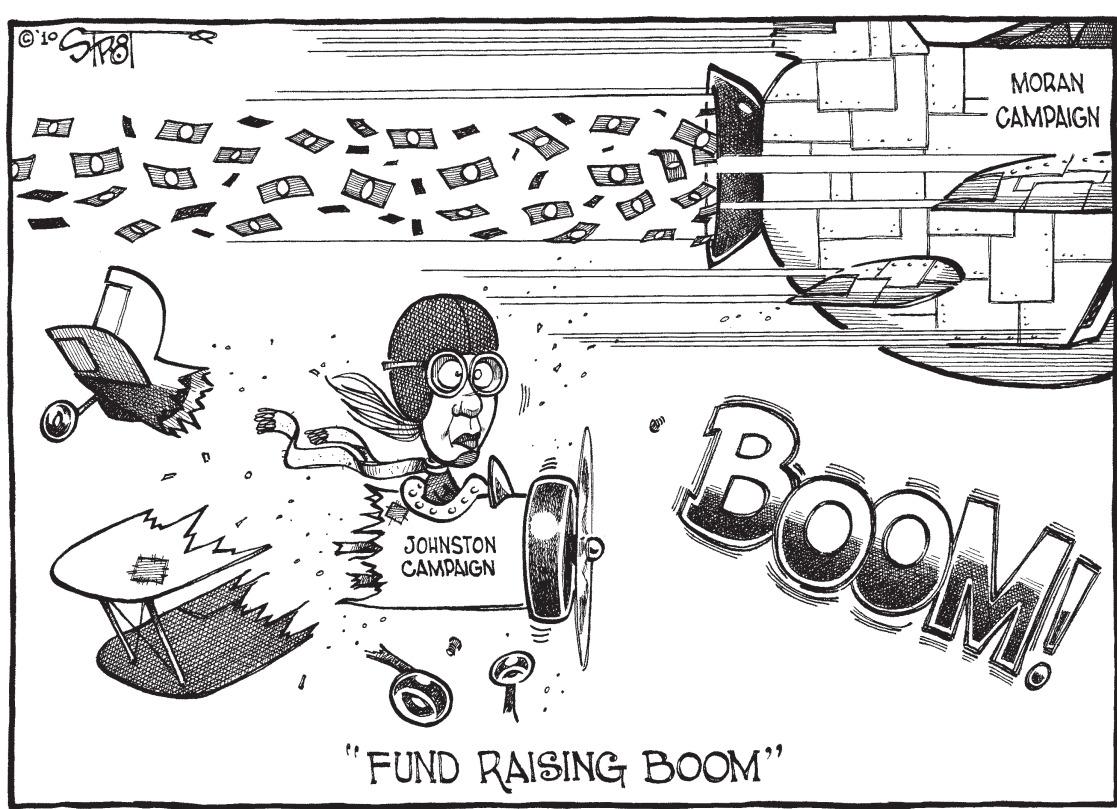
But the research is, ah, not such tough duty.

### From the Bible

Do not ye yet understand, that whatsoever entereth in at the mouth goeth into the belly, and is cast out into the draught?

But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man.

St. Mathew 15: 17-18



## Facebook could be interesting

When I opened up my e-mail after returning from our trip, I had 374 messages. Most were “junk mail” which I had to delete. But, hidden there amongst them, were some from friends and family.

At least I have a program that can delete “all unknown” sources although, I still have to sort through them because I never know if a friend who isn’t an “approved sender” has sent me something. Wouldn’t want to miss anything.

And then, just when I thought that nothing could beat e-mail, I was introduced to Facebook.

All the grandkids kept urging me to get a Facebook page. While at Jennifer’s house, I had her set me up. I don’t quite understand it yet, and I have only made one posting, but I do enjoy reading everyone else’s posts. While searching for people I know, I looked for my former sister-in-law. Twenty-five years ago I told her, “I may be divorcing your brother, but I’m not divorcing you and Kathy (her daughter).”

It had been a year or so since I talked to Penny so it was fun to reconnect. She’s in Oklahoma and my niece is in the state of Washington. Don’t know if I’ll really “get into” Facebook: I don’t have an iPhone,



### Out Back

By Carolyn Sue Kelley-Plotts  
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iPod or anything with an “I” on it. I guess that means we can’t do pictures?

Anyway, I’m not sure my life is exciting enough to warrant postings all the time. To be sure, we’re busy. Just not anything exciting. In fact, right now, I’m waiting to see if it will warm up enough to finish painting the rental house next door. The forecast says we might get rain, but tomorrow looks good.

Two weeks ago, when we left for Mexico, it was a beautiful Indian summer. When we returned, we came back to fall. The ground is covered with dry, crackly leaves and it looks like my flowers got nipped by a frost. Some good Samaritan left a sack of green tomatoes on our front porch. Probably put them there because they knew our history with turnips hanging on a door knob.

Anyway, I think I’ll make a batch

of mock raspberry jam with the green tomatoes. My mom had so much fun fooling people with that recipe. Anyone who tastes it is convinced it is the real thing. But, honest. It’s made with ground green tomatoes, sugar, water and raspberry gelatin.

It’s good to be home, even if it is still the wreck it was when I left it. In fact, it’s worse because now all our luggage and “trip trash” has been dumped inside the front door. We dug out enough to get ourselves outfitted decently for church but, that’s about it.

I’ve been sorting the snail mail: lots of junk mail there, too. The best thing about being home, besides having our cats act like they really like us, is being back in our own bed. Ah, bliss.

## Consider this as election day nears

### Letter to the Editor

•From dependence back to bondage.”

So, where do you think we are? Do you think you agree or disagree with the above? About two weeks ago, I saw a lady on television who is now in her 80s telling of her experiences. She was born in Poland, and when Hitler took over Poland, she found herself under the German government. She was 12 at that time and remembered well her experiences, as follows:

“The first thing Hitler’s government did was to issue to all families a radio. The next was to nationalize the radio stations with the condition that only the German radio was to be heard. The third step was the nationalizing of the banks.

“The fourth step nationalized the auto industry. The fifth step nationalized the education system, providing all of the learning materials, which were the only ones to be used. The sixth step nationalized the health system, a step which saw the deaths of many people.

“Those whom the government did not feel were valuable to the society were simply disposed of. The government also turned to the churches to spread the government’s information.”

We live in a wonderful country. Liberty is one of our prized possessions. James Kennedy, a man who had five degrees, said recently, “Until the time the colonists signed the Declaration of Independence, no civilization in history had known liberty.”

He also quoted Karl Marx, who was asked what communism was really about and replied simply, “To dethrone God and to destroy capitalism.”

I in no way am trying to influ-

ence your vote. There are many important things happening in our country, which each of us need to consider before voting. I do, however, encourage you to vote your mind Nov. 2.

Arris Johnson, Hays, 1939 Decatur Community High School graduate

EDITOR’S NOTE: This letter, though thought provoking and familiar in content, contains quotations with an unreliable background. Because of copyright law, we have a habit of checking quotations. Loren Collins, an Atlanta lawyer and blogger who also holds himself out as an expert on comic books, says he has done the research on these. You can read about it at www.lorencollins.net/Tytler.

Briefly, he says the first and second parts of the “democracies” quotation appear to have been written at the middle of the 20th century by separate authors and do not appear together until a 1964 speech by Ronald Reagan during the Barry Goldwater presidential campaign. Today, there are thousands of references to the combined quotation, but none before mid-century. And, he says, Professor Tytler (not Tyler), a real person from the 18th century, apparently never wrote a book on Athenian democracy often cited as the source.

The other quotations are more difficult to track. You find what you want on the Internet. That’s not to detract from what Mr. Johnson has to say, only to note that much of what’s out there in the way of “information” may be of suspect origin. Interesting stuff.

— *Steve Haynes*

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The Oberlin Herald wants to emphasize photos of people doing things in the community. If you know of an event or news happening that we should attend, please call 475-2206.

Please be sure to allow a couple of days’ notice so we can arrange to be there.

Space in the paper is limited and so is the time of our staff, so we may not be able to get to every event, but we will try.

### Photo Policy

Because space is so limited, we cannot run team or group photos, any pictures of people lined up or of people passing checks, certificates and the like. (We will always try to make room for a story about any of these events, however.)

We do run wedding and engagement pictures and “mug” shots with stories and obituaries, when they are provided to us. Please remember that we need a clear, sharp picture. Dark or fuzzy prints

will not work.

We cannot return photos unless you submit a self-addressed, stamped envelope with clear instructions for return. Other photos submitted may be picked up at our office within two weeks. After that, they will be disposed of.

Laser proofs of photos which have run in The Herald are available, first come, first served.