



Republicans shooting themselves in the foot

Sometimes you have to wonder at the stupid things supposedly smart politicians do.

Take, for instance, the Kansas Republican party. No, really; you can have it.

The party is sitting in the catbird seat, or should be. The Republicans own Kansas as they never have before: All state elected offices, all but 33 seats in the House and all but eight in the state Senate, all four congressional districts, both U.S. Senate seats.

What could be wrong, then? And why would Republican leaders send a "loyalty" oath to legislative candidates, demanding that they pledge allegiance to the party's leadership in the House and Senate if elected?

The first thing you have to understand is that Kansas, for years, has had not a two-party system, like most states, but a three-party system where Republicans divide at the drop of a hat into conservative and "moderate" factions.

The conservatives hew to strict beliefs in social principles, including opposition to abortion, while the "moderates" have been known to align with Democrats on votes involving social issues and state spending.

These moderates, for the most part, aren't flaming liberal followers of Kathleen Sebelius, but compared to some of the conservatives, they can look pretty left wing.

And that chafes the conservatives, we know.

Some claim these moderate Republicans are people who would have become Democrats in any other state, but knew they'd never get elected to anything in Kansas that way.

The conservative wing controls the House and at least a share of the congressional delegation. It controls the party leadership and

would like to run the Senate, too. The Senate divides more evenly, with just the eight Democrats, about 14 conservatives and 14 moderates on any given vote, plus four or five members who float back and forth.

Gov. Sam Brownback is the darling of this right wing. Conservative groups led by the state Chamber of Commerce have recruited House members to run against some of the more liberal senators.

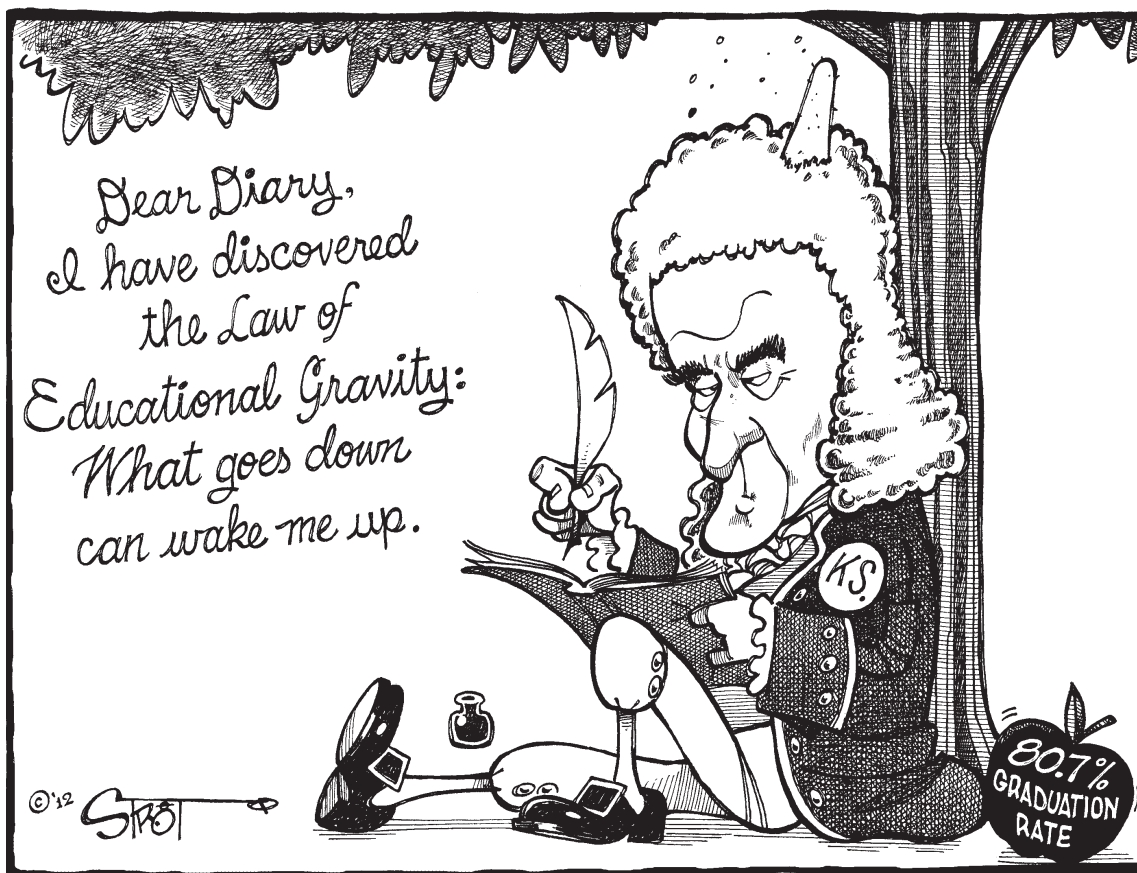
Whatever prompted the party to dream up this loyalty oath, it's a mistake and not likely to help the conservative cause. Any legislator or candidate who'd sign such a thing would be giving up the ability to vote as his or her constituents want. And that may not be blindly to follow the leadership.

There is nothing wrong with being conservative or wanting conservatives to control the Legislature. Kansas is a conservative state, and voters gave the governor a huge majority in voting two years ago. They elected a conservative House and mostly conservative state officials.

There is nothing wrong with wanting to shift the Senate to the right, either, but there's a way to go about consolidating your position, one that might work. Then there are other ways.

And when you do something as undemocratic as putting out a loyalty oath to bind supposedly independent legislators, you've crossed a line. Like the heavy-handed plan to target all the supposedly liberal senators, it's a move that could backfire.

In August, we'll see just how successful these tactics have been, but from here, the oath in particular looks like a loser. — Steve Haynes



Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



scmccormick@nwkansan.com

Some of life's best things come in small packages.

For instance, watching our daughter's smile as she glided across the gym floor for her last high school prom. Another happened the week before when we saw her older brother, with a grin of accomplishment, graduate from chiropractic college. Not every moment of our existence is sweet, but those special glimpses sure make up for the down times.

The next small package of joy was found last Sunday out in the country. A mushroom!

Two years ago Lezlie and I became hooked on foraging for wild, morel mushrooms. I'm still unsure if it was beginner's luck since the first year we brought home bags and bags of these little treasures.

Our first cache saw us go from

devouring mushrooms until the novelty of their taste wore off. So we got good at drying them and ended up with three, gallon size Ziplocks of dehydrated jewels. Those kept us going, although many were given away. You can imagine how we looked forward to enjoying them fresh again.

We definitely had a case of over confidence when the weather turned nice the following season. With last spring we headed into the woods (ha, ha) again in pursuit of the fungus that we thought we knew so well.

But there was one problem. As it is sometimes around these parts, Mother Nature played a cruel joke on us as she withheld the spring rains needed to bring the morels up.

Now don't think we didn't try. Each spare moment that we had

was spent looking in vain for them. But Team McCormick was skunked in our second year.

After waiting two years to taste that unique sort of buttery, sort of nutty flavor, we set out again on Sunday. I doubt that we will have another year like the first. But I don't care much either. Four slightly dried out wild mushrooms found their way to our home and a sauce pan with a bit of olive oil, garlic, salt and pepper.

Having seen the smiles on my kid's faces and shared the epicurian delight of fresh morels, I could die a happy man.

Enjoy life's little pleasures as they're all around!

People reminded to stop and pray

Letter to the Editor:

It is once again time for the National Day of Prayer.

This is a day set aside for all to be in prayer for our nation and all levels of government. We are blessed to have a day set aside by former presidents, Roosevelt and Ronald Reagan. Our founding fathers called for prayer during the Constitutional Congress. In their eyes our new nation was a direct gift from God. Let us join in prayer on the National Day of

Letters to the Editor

Prayer to re-establish our freedoms and make our nation strong churches, fair reporting media outlets, schools that train our future leaders and remember the history that has made us a great nation.

We all need to stop and re-evaluate what is taking place in our nation. When we let prayer be taken out of schools, public

places and now even our military and historical documents are considered to be offensive and must be removed, we have lost a lot of our freedoms and the values our men and women have fought so valiantly for.

Let us join in prayer on the first Thursday of May.

Phyllis Carson
Bird City

Slow down in construction zones

Letter to the Editor:

Orange barrels along Kansas highways are a positive sign — they show that improvements are being made to roadways, that jobs and economic development opportunities are increasing across the state and that motorists will be able to get where they are going more efficiently for years to come.

Behind those orange barrels are highway workers, and those workers deserve our respect and attention every time we enter a work zone. Having vehicles drive by within inches of you is scary and

can be very dangerous. What motorists don't realize is that work zone safety is for them as well. In fact, nearly 90 percent of the people injured or killed in work zone crashes are not highway workers — they're motorists. And the number one cause of crashes in work zones is inattention.

This is why we participate in National Work Zone Awareness Week, which is April 23-27. It's a time to highlight the need for work zone safety for both highway workers and motorists, and it's an

important message that needs to be remembered all year long. You can learn more about this effort on our website at www.ksdot.org. Just click on the Go Orange logo on the main page.

We encourage motorists to slow down and pay extra attention every time they see these orange barrels along the highways. Lives are on the line in work zones, and the life you save could be your own.

Mike King
Kansas Transportation Secretary

Spring Creative Essay

Kobe Bryant
By Carl Fabre
Eighth grade

I was jumping all around full of excitement after Kobe Bryant had won his fifth NBA Finals Title. Kobe Bryant plays for the Los Angeles Lakers and he is my favorite basketball player in the NBA.

Kobe Bryant is nicknamed "The Black Mamba". The Black Mamba is the longest venomous snake in Africa. Kobe is nicknamed after the snake because he strikes with quickness and has the ability to shoot over the defender.

In 2006, Kobe scored 81 points against the Toronto Raptors. This is second in most points scored in a single game behind Wilt Chamberlain's 100 point game. In January 8, 2003, Kobe set a record for most three pointers made in

a single game with twelve three pointers.

Kobe Bryant will always be one of my favorite basketball players because every time I watch him play it just amazes me what he does on the basketball court. Kobe Bryant is one of the best mid-range shooters in the NBA and also one of the best finishers in the game.

I don't just like Kobe because of his ability to play basketball at such a high level, but I also like his basketball shoes. Right now I have two of his shoes; the Kobe V's and the Kobe VI's. He has already designed the Kobe VII's, but I still don't have them. I am hoping I will get them next year for high school basketball. No matter, what Kobe Bryant will always be my favorite basketball player in the world. What about you?

Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Dennis Floyd, Seattle, Wash.; Barbara Stevenson, Austin, Texas; Elmer Kellner, St. Francis; Clarence Schultz, Hays; Virginia Bouza, Leavenworth; Dr. Shalom LaForge, Wichita; Stan Wahrman, St. Francis; KJ Quigley, St. Francis; Carl Hendricks, St. Francis; Lily Ruth Edmonston, Bird City; Leah Walter, Denver, Colo.; Kyle and Crystal Schultz, St. Francis; Travis Milne, St. Francis; SueEllen Rethke, St. Francis; Eugene Lillich, Goodland; Royce Walz, Topeka; Mrs. William Kechter Jr., Vona, Colo.; Good Samaritan Village, St. Francis; Dwight Brewer, St. Francis; Wilhelm W. Lippert, Idalia, Colo.; Donald Gamblin, St. Francis;

Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Tobias and Sara Walters, California, Md.; Norman Morrow, St. Francis; Roger Orth, St. Francis; Cynthia Bancroft, Plano, Texas; Marvin Orth, St. Francis; Bill Brown, St. Francis; Ervagne Deargon, St. Francis; Jeffery Olofson, St. Francis; Jim Wiseman, Fremont, Neb.;

GOD SAYS
For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows | Timothy 6:10

The Saint Francis Herald
(USPS 475-960)
A Century of Service to Cheyenne County
P.O. Box 1050, St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050
Published each Thursday by Haynes Publishing Co., 310 W. Washington, St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050. Entered as periodicals matter at the post office at St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050, and at additional offices.
Official newspaper of Cheyenne County. Member of the Kansas Press Association, National Newspaper Association, Colorado Press Association and Inland Press Association.
Subscriptions: One year \$38 (tax included) in Cheyenne and adjacent counties; \$42 (tax included) elsewhere in Kansas; \$48 elsewhere in the U.S. Foreign subscriptions, \$28 extra per year (except APO/FPO). POSTMASTER: Send change of address to Box 1050, St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050

Church of Christ
332-2380, Pars. 332-3424
502 W. Spencer
Norman Morrow - Minister
Bible Class 11 a.m.
Morning Worship 10 a.m.
Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
625 S. River • 332-2680
Fr. Roger Meitl
Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m.
Weekday Mass 8:00 a.m.
Confessions Sat. 4-4:30

United Methodist Church
Church Office 332-2292,
Church 332-2254,
512 S. Scott
Pastor Warren Cico
Early Bird Service 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.

Seventh-Day Adventist Church
785-890-5718 • 3rd & Adams
Pastor Jerry Nowack
Sabbath School 9:30
Morning Worship 10:45

Salem Lutheran Church
332-3002
Pastor Chris Farmer
Sunday School 10 a.m.
Morning Worship 11 a.m.
Communion 3rd Sunday

Solid Rock Baptist Church
412 S. Denison
Welcomes You!
Pastor Allen Coon
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30
Prayer Meeting, Wed 7:30 p.m.

First Christian Church
Pastor Jeff Landers
332-2956 • 118 E. Webster
Bible Fellowship 9:15 a.m.
Church Service 10:15 a.m.

First Baptist Church
2nd & Scott • 332-3921
J.W. Glidewell, Pastor
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service 6:30 p.m.,
Wed. AWANA Club 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

St. Francis Community Church
332-3150
204 N. Quincy Street
www.sfccfamily.com
Pastor: David Butler
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Potluck & Communion - Every 2nd Sunday
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

Peace Lutheran Church, AFLC
202 N. College
Pastor Randy Nelson
Church 332-2928
Parsonage 332-2312
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Communion 1st Sunday

St. Francis Equity

Saint Francis Herald

Knodel Funeral Home
202 S. Benton • St. Francis
785-332-3131