

# Opinion



## Guest Viewpoint

### What can we expect from office holders?

While we elected a Democrat as governor, the Republicans still have a firm hold on many of the other elective offices in Kansas.

What can we expect from the others? ...  
— Phill Kline, attorney general — ... look for Kline to push the conservative envelope in a number of ways.

Abortion may be one area that gets far more attention than it got from Attorney General Carla Stovall. A number of organizations active in the pro-life movement are already chomping at the bit as they see a friendly face taking over the AG office. ...

... Kline will be forced to face the music on prison overcrowding. Recent state budget cuts have increased — not decreased — the likelihood that we'll need more prison cells in the future. ...

— Sandy Praeger, insurance commissioner — Expect some changes in the way the office is run, but nothing drastic. Sebelius did a good job and the worst thing Praeger could do is tinker with what isn't broken.

But this office will continue to be extremely important to the people of Kansas. Health insurance rates are going through the roof and consumers need a watchdog in Topeka to make sure they're getting a fair shake.

— Lynn Jenkins, state treasurer — While much of the activity in this office usually flies under the radar, Jenkins promised to work on some loan programs for farmers during the 2002 campaign.

She also will continue the effort to get unclaimed money back to the rightful owners in Kansas. It's good politics.

— Ron Thornburgh, secretary of state — Just re-elected to his third term, Thornburgh will continue to promote good citizenship and voting. We might see Thornburgh try to establish himself — like his predecessor Bill Graves — as a viable moderate alternative for the Republicans in 2006. — **The Newton Kansan**

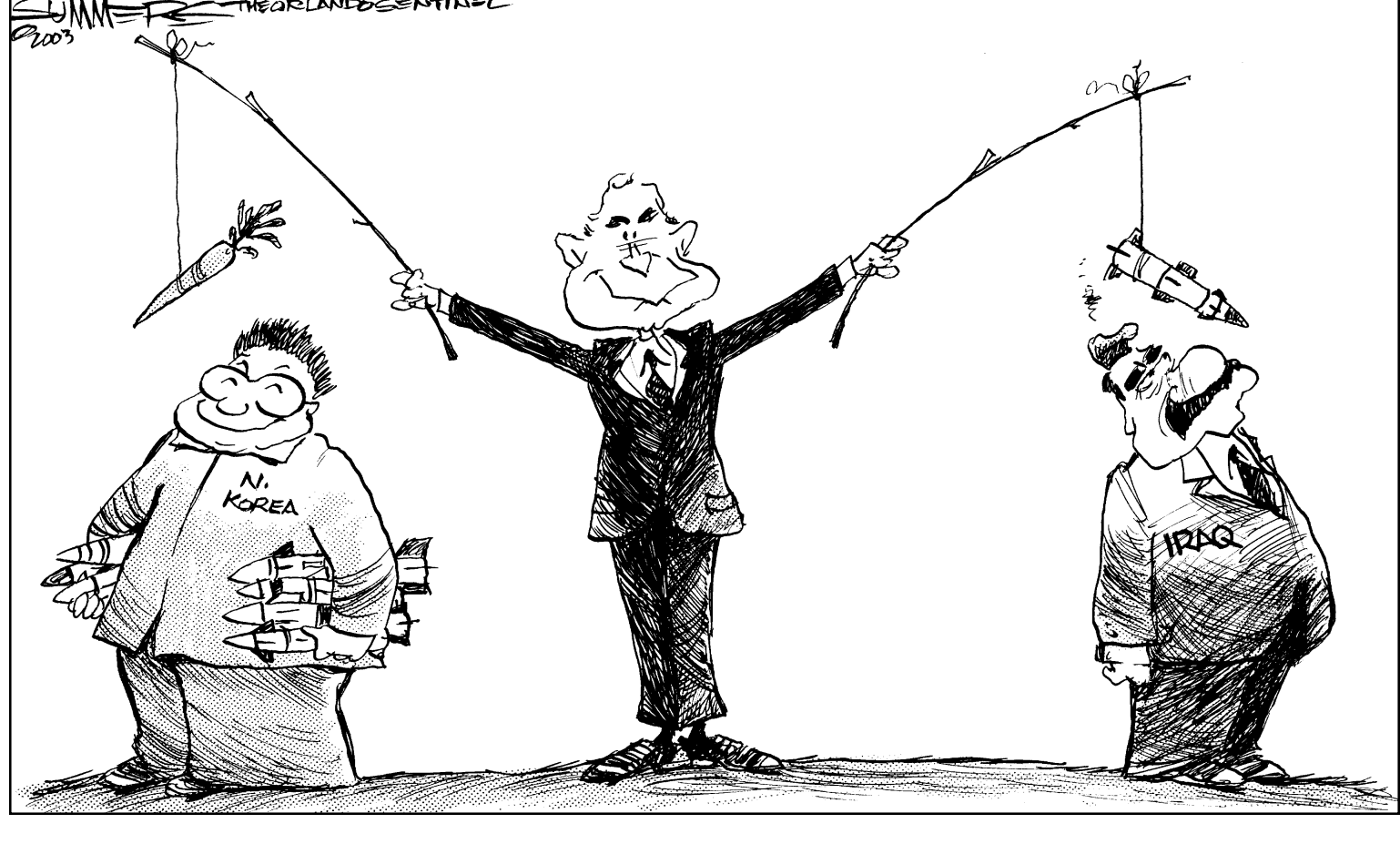
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**U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback**, 303 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. 202/224-6521  
**U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran**, 1519 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. 202/225-2715  
**State Rep. Jim Morrison**, State Capitol Building Rm. 174-W, Topeka 66612. 785/296-7676 e mail: [jmorriso@ink.org](mailto:jmorriso@ink.org) web: <http://www.idir.net/~jmorriso/>  
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### Try your hand at this test

Several local e-mailers bombarded my cyberspace box with the following test and I pass it along for your consumption. Each e-mail varied slightly, thus I randomly picked one of them out to use. I thought it interesting. Let's see what you think. The e-mail reads:

"Remember when our grandparents and great-grandparents stated that they '...only had an 8th grade education?' Well, check this out. Could any of us have passed this 8th grade test in 1895? That's right, eighteen ninety five.

"This is the eighth-grade final exam from 1895 in Salina, as taken from the original document on file at the Smokey Valley Genealogical Society and Library in that city.

"Here goes:

**Grammar** (Time, one hour)

1. Give nine rules for the use of Capital Letters.
2. Name the Parts of Speech and define those that have no Modifications.
3. Define Verse, Stanza and Paragraph.
4. What are the Principal Parts of a verb? Give Principal Parts of lie, play and run.
5. Define Case, Illustrate each Case.
6. What is Punctuation? Give rules for principal marks of Punctuation.
- 7-10. Write a composition of about 150 words and show therein that you understand the practical use of the rules of grammar.

**Arithmetic** (Time, 1.25 hours)

1. Name and define the Fundamental Rules of Arithmetic.
2. A wagon box is 2 ft. deep, 10 feet long, and 3 ft. wide. How many bushels of wheat will it hold?
3. If a load of wheat weighs 3942 lbs., what is it worth at 50cts/bushel, deducting 1050 lbs. for tare?
4. District No. 33 has a valuation of \$35,000. What is the necessary levy to carry on a school seven months at \$50 per month, and have \$104 for incidentals?
5. Find cost of 6720 lbs. coal at \$6.00 per ton.
6. Find the interest of \$512.60 for 8 months and 18 days at 7 percent.
7. What is the cost of 40 boards 12 inches wide and 16 ft. long at \$20 per metre?



Tom Dreiling

#### • My Turn

8. Find bank discount on \$300 for 90 days (no grace) at 10 percent.
  9. What is the cost of a square farm at \$15 per acre, the distance around which is 640 rods?
  10. Write a Bank Check, a Promissory Note, and a Receipt.
- U.S. History** (Time, 45 minutes)
1. Give the epochs into which U.S. History is divided.
  2. Give an account of the discovery of America by Columbus.
  3. Relate the causes and results of the Revolutionary War.
  4. Show the territorial growth of the United States.
  5. Tell what you can of the history of Kansas.
  6. Describe three of the most prominent battles of the Rebellion.
  7. Who were the following: Morse, Whitney, Fulton, Bell, Lincoln, Penn, and Howe?
  8. Name events connected with the following dates: 1607, 1620, 1800, 1849, 1865.
- Orthography** (Time, one hour) (Do any of you even know what this is?)
1. What is meant by the following: Alphabet, phonetic, orthography, etymology, syllabication?
  2. What are elementary sounds? How classified?
  3. What are the following, and give examples of each: Trigraph, subvocals, diphthong, cognate letters, linguals?
  4. Give four substitutes for caret 'u.'
  5. Give two rules for spelling words with final 'e.' Name two exceptions under each rule.
  6. Give two uses of silent letters in spelling. Illustrate each.

7. Define the following prefixes and use in connection with a word: bi, dis, mis, pre, semi, post, non, inter, mono, sup.

8. Mark diacritically and divide into syllables the following, and name the sign that indicates the sound: card, ball, mercy, sir, odd, cell, rise, blood, fare, last.

9. Use the following correctly in sentences: cite, site, sight, fane, fain, feign, vane, vain, vein, raze, raise, rays.

10. Write 10 words frequently mispronounced and indicate pronunciation by use of diacritical marks and by syllabication.

**Geography** (Time, one hour)

1. What is climate? Upon what does climate depend?
2. How do you account for the extremes of climate in Kansas?
3. Of what use are rivers? Of what use is the ocean?
4. Describe the mountains of North America.
5. Name and describe the following: Monrovia, Odessa, Denver, Manitoba, Hecla, Yukon, St. Helena, Juan Fernandez, Aspinwall and Orinoco.
6. Name and locate the principal trade centers of the U.S..
7. Name all the republics of Europe and give the capital of each.
8. Why is the Atlantic Coast colder than the Pacific in the same latitude?
9. Describe the process by which the water of the ocean returns to the sources of rivers.
10. Describe the movements of the earth. Give the inclination of the earth.

"That's it."

This test gives the saying, "He only had an 8th grade education." a whole new meaning.

I do want it noted that I passed this along as I received it. I assume it's on the up-and-up.

And I further note I would have failed it when I was an 8th grader, and if I was to put my mind to it today, I'd still fail it.

Have a good evening!

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*Dreiling is publisher of the Free Press.*

### Re-election strategy rings hollow

Bill Fletcher, Jr.

#### • Another Take

The alleged key elements of President Bush's 2004 re-election strategy have been recently revealed. The president apparently intends to emphasize the war against terrorism and homeland security. For many, this was no surprise since it has been clear since September 11, 2001, that the war against terrorism is as much about moving a domestic right-wing political agenda as it is about fighting terrorists.

Since 9/11, Americans have been subject to a failed military strategy in Afghanistan which has done little to destroy Al Qaida; we face regular terror alerts that are about as helpful as knowing that someday our sun will go supernova; and finally the beating of war drums regarding Saddam Hussein, despite the failure — at least as of this writing — to reveal any concrete evidence of possession of weapons of mass destruction. Rather than feeling more secure, most of us feel less secure.

What is striking about this strategy is that it ignores the domestic situation. This is far from surprising since Mr. Bush has a failed domestic strategy, to say the least. At its clearest, the strategy is pro-corporate. The administration came into office applauding corporations and claiming that they had received a bad rap. During the first two years, however, we have borne witness to historic exposures of corruption at the highest levels of corporate America. This has been accompanied by a sluggish economy, low levels of consumer confidence, and the steady disappearance of any-

thing approaching a social safety net.

Yet there is little discussion of this crisis. Nor is there real discussion about environmental deterioration and the growing proof of global warming, or of the healthcare crisis that continues to witness more than 40 million uninsured.

For reasons that probably have mostly to do with fear, President Bush remains popular here at home. By contrast, around the globe the level of unease is astounding.

The unilateralism and arrogance of this administration has everyone holding their breath. The fact that there is no significant international support for a U.S. attack on Iraq is illustrative. Not since the Vietnam War has the United States been more isolated. However, we have an administration that does not seem to particularly care about that. Rather than assuming the president is unbeatable in 2004, it would be worth examining the issues that are facing us, not limited to the war against terrorism and homeland security. What

is desperately needed is a compelling scenario that emphasizes two main points:

1) We are NOT better off today than we were prior to the Bush administration.

2) International arrogance on the part of the United States may result in a massive backlash that could mean anything from more terrorist attacks to trade wars.

The administration's record, rather than being impervious, is actually very vulnerable if an alternative emerges that is based on understanding the fears, angers, and hopes of the people of the United States. This means that this alternative must pay more attention to one-on-one discussions with voters than trying to outshine the administration's television ads.

The basic lesson of politics is not only that it is local, but also that in order to win over anyone, it starts with personal discussion and connection. As was demonstrated in the 2002 election when less than 40 percent of the electorate participated, if the people feel alienated and their views are ignored, they will vote all right — they will vote with their feet.

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Doonesbury

• Gary Trudeau

