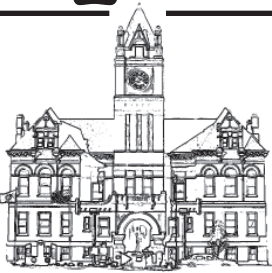


Opinion



Free Press Viewpoint

Facebook to change

By Steve Six
Kansas Attorney General

Facebook has agreed to changes to better protect children from predators and inappropriate content and to participate in a task force on implementation of age and identity verification software.

Social networking Web sites, like Myspace and Facebook, have become a tool for criminals and can be very dangerous for children. I'm pleased that Facebook has agreed to take steps to ensure the safety of kids and teens using their site.

The attorneys general of 49 states and the District of Columbia have been working together to improve social networking safety. The Facebook agreement is similar to an agreement reached with Myspace in January.

MySpace agreed to head a task force, which Facebook has joined, to explore and develop age and identity identification tools for social networking sites.

Changes agreed to by Facebook include providing automatic warning messages when a child is in danger of giving personal information to an unknown adult; restricting the ability of users to change their listed ages; acting more aggressively to remove inappropriate content and groups from the site and requiring third party vendors to adhere to Facebook's safety and privacy guidelines. Under the changes, the first time a Facebook user wants to change his or her age, website staff will review their profile to determine whether the change is appropriate. In addition, companies offering Facebook users services will now have to implement and enforce Facebook's safety and privacy guidelines as well.

Facebook also has agreed to maintain a list of pornographic websites and regularly sever any links to such sites. It will remove groups for incest, pedophilia, cyberbullying and other violations of the site's terms of services, as well as expel from the site individual violators of those terms.

Facebook also will:

- More prominently display safety tips;
- Require users under 18 to affirm they have read Facebook's safety tips when they sign up;
- Regularly review models for abuse reporting and perform a test using the New Jersey Attorney General's abuse reporting icon.

I will continue to work with the multi-state group to improve the safety of all social networking Web sites available to children.

Where to write, call

U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts, 109 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. 202/224-4774

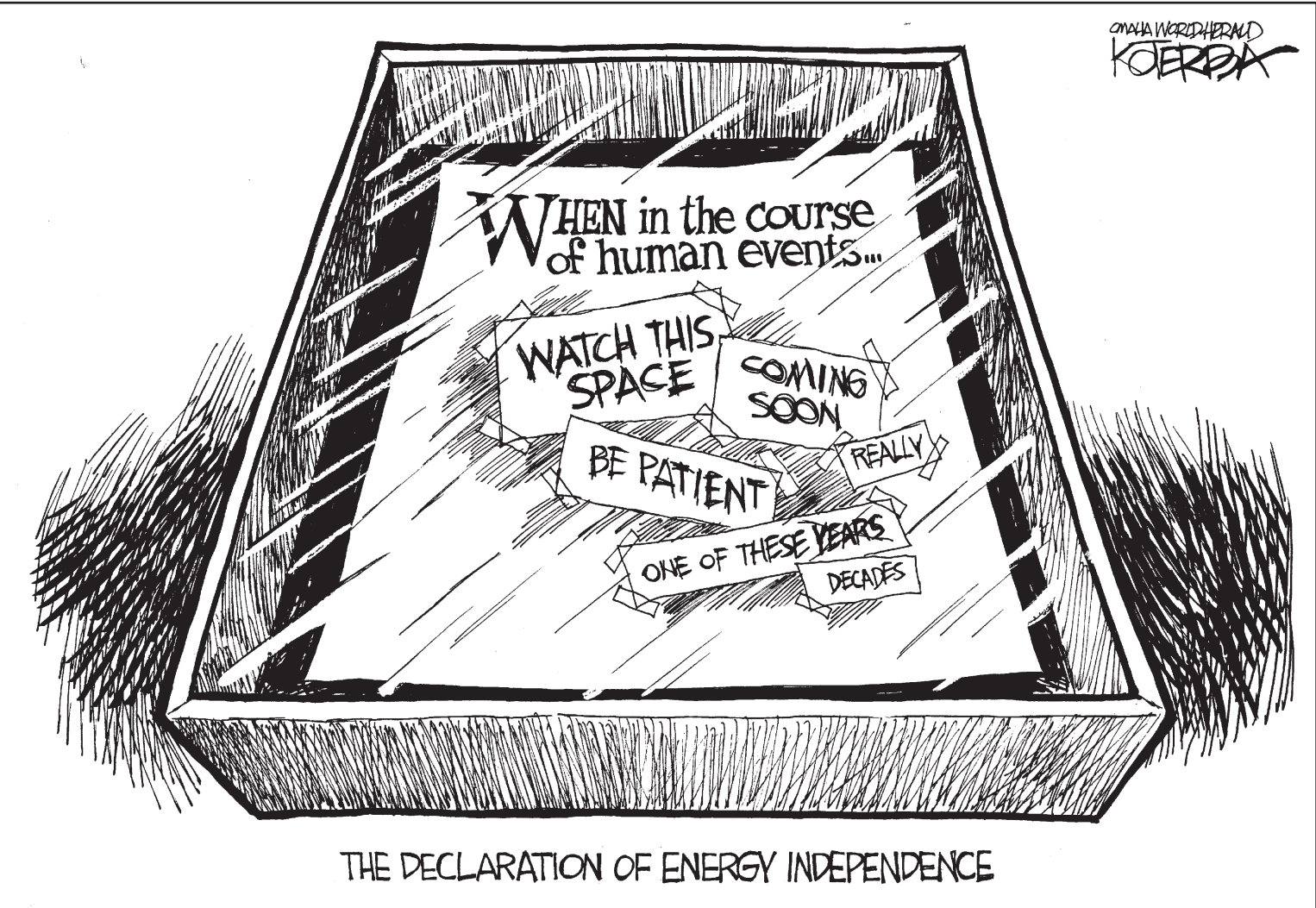
U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback, 303 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. 202/224-6521

U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran, 2202 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. 202/225-2715 or Fax 202/225-5124

State Rep. Jim Morrison, State Capitol Building, 300 SW 10th St. Rm. 143-N, Topeka, Kan. 66612. 785/296-7676 e-mail: jmorriso@ink.org web: www.morrisonfamily.com

State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer, State Capitol, 300 SW 10th St., Rm. 128-S., Topeka, Kan. 66612, 785/296-7399 ostmeyer@senate.state.ks.us

Comments to any opinions expressed on this page are encouraged. Mail them to the Colby Free Press, 155 W. 5th St., Colby, Kan., 67701. Or e-mail jvannostrand@nwkansas.com or pdecker@nwkansas.com. Opinions do not necessarily reflect the *Free Press*.



Special time



Joe Falkoff

- A Sideline View

With graduations at Colby, Brewster, Golden Plains and Colby Community College set to take place this weekend and next, it's made me reflect back to when I went through my commencement ceremonies in high school and college.

I graduated from Blue Valley Northwest High School in 2003 and from Westminster (MO.) College in 2007. The one thing that sticks out from going through both experiences is how different your emotions are when you graduate from high school compared to college.

Getting done with high school was sad, but it was also exciting because I knew I had four years of college to look forward to.

The atmosphere was electric. We were tossing a beach ball around, and everyone was just so giddy about being done. After 18 years of living at home and getting to school every morning at 8 a.m., we could finally move on with our lives. High school becomes such a drag by the end of your senior year, there's not much you miss about it anyway.

College was a different story. Where graduating from high school felt like an actual celebration, my college graduation felt more like a funeral.

No one looked like they were ready to leave. It felt like we were being forced to leave.

The reason being is that college truly is the best four years of your life. To go from that back to basically being in high school again, living with your parents and also looking for

friends are going to be together. Even when they do come home the next summer, people change in college.

They make new friends and by their sophomore or junior a lot of kids probably won't even come home anymore. So really make these next three months count

- Don't stress about college or what classes you're taking because it's nowhere near as hard as people make you think or you may have watched on TV.

You're basic English, science and math classes are no different than high school. In fact, I thought college was easier than high school until my senior year. Whereas in high school, you've got to be in class all day, in college you may not have a class until 2 p.m.

It gives you that much more free time to get your work done. Granted, there's a lot more things to keep you distracted in college, but you'll learn to manage those before long.

- This is for mostly for kids going to KU and Kansas State, get ready for the best time of your life.

Having hung out at both schools quite a bit, they are both really good college towns, and it's up to you to the most out of it. Don't waste one second of your college experience, because trust me, it doesn't get any more exciting when you get into the real world.

- Finally, congratulations to the 2008 seniors at Colby, Brewster, Golden Plains and Colby College. This is a weekend you'll always remember.

Your turn

What we buy matters

Sue Evans

Colby

Saturday, May 10, is World Fair Trade Day and like most of you reading this letter, until recently that had absolutely no meaning to me either.

I learned about Fair Trade when I spent eight days in Nicaragua, enjoying the hospitality of a coffee farming family and actually picking coffee "cherries" and seeing first-hand how coffee beans are processed. I was able to immediately connect with my host family and the other coffee farmers because their problems are so similar to those we have in western Kansas — drought, cost of production, cash flow, market price, operating capital, pests, diseases, transportation and earthquakes. Well, that last one isn't exactly a problem we have, but it is the ugly first cousin of our nasty problem, hail.

Fair Trade means a fair price for a commodity such as coffee, and here in our community we certainly understand prices for commodities. On Thursday, Board of Trade prices for our commodities — \$6.46 1/2 for wheat and \$8.68 for corn—brought smiles to the faces of our farmers and local business community. Coffee was being traded at \$1.3490 per pound; and I've learned that this is a reasonable price in the volatile coffee market. But there's a big

difference in the profits our farmers will see for the wheat and corn they grow and the profits the small coffee farmers around the world will see for the coffee they produce.

More than half of the global coffee supply is grown on true small family farms in the poorest countries in the world. Without Fair Trade, out of every coffee dollar, it is estimated that these small-scale growers receive 4-6 cents. With Fair Trade these producers receive internationally agreed upon prices for conventional and organic coffee.

For example, Equal Exchange, the largest U.S. Fair Trade retailer, pays producers \$1.36 per pound for conventional coffee and \$1.56 for organic coffee. Equal Exchange imports the "green coffee," roasts and sells the coffee to coffee drinkers like us. Fair Trade also means green trade because it guarantees that farmers use eco-friendly practices. Fair Trade coffee (and tea) are responsibly grown and healthy for us, for farmers and for the world we live in. Fair Trade also supports farming communities like Filas Verdes, Nicaragua, where I visited. I asked the coffee farmers I met what Fair Trade meant to them. They said the biggest benefit was a good price for their coffee and this meant they could bring more land into production, diversify their farms and grow citrus fruits and avocados, improve the soil quality, protect their precious water, ac-

cess credit and receive technical assistance.

Back to World Fair Trade Day ☐ people from 70 countries worldwide will join together to celebrate and highlight the importance and benefits of Fair Trade. A world record is being attempted for the World's Largest Fair Trade Coffee Break; at 2 p.m. we can join with others to enjoy a cup of Fair Trade coffee and then e-mail sara@fairtradetownusa.org. to have our numbers added to the total. You can buy Fair Trade coffee locally at Dillons, Wal-Mart or Starbucks.

There are 3 more actions you can take in regard to Fair Trade. First, learn more about Fair Trade on the web at sites such as www.ftrn.org, or from me. I am available to give short or long programs about Fair Trade to your church groups, clubs or organizations. Second, purchase Fair Trade products. Equal Exchange offers Fair Trade coffee, tea, chocolate and snacks; their website is www.equalexchange.org. If you are a Catholic, Disciples of Christ, Lutheran, Methodist or Presbyterian, order Fair Trade products through Equal Exchange's Interfaith Program and Equal Exchange will donate to your denomination's mission efforts. Third, tell others about Fair Trade and encourage them to buy Fair Trade products. We can make a difference for small farmers, their families, their communities and our world by supporting Fair Trade.

Mallard Fillmore

- Bruce Tinsley

