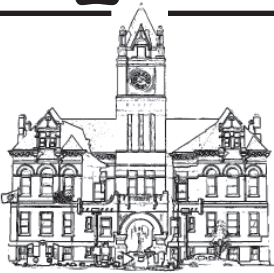


Opinion



Free Press Viewpoint

One-two punch

By John Van Nostrand

After further review, maybe an Obama-Sebelius ticket in November wouldn't be so bad after all.

They have a few things in common, mainly saying things that shouldn't have been said.

Earlier this week, Obama made a mess of himself explaining how the Christian religion should influence politics. In what appears to be a horrendous attempt to attract the attention of Evangelical Christians, which supposedly help Bush win in 2004, Obama asked if America should be ruled under someone who believes in Old Testament or New Testament.

True Christians, especially evangelical ones, use the Old Testament as the history of their faith, but really know it is the New Testament that drives them. Obama's references to the laws in Leviticus, which include diet restrictions, doesn't matter anymore.

Obama's faith references complements his earlier statements on how rural Americans only care about their religion and their guns.

Great way to attract voters, huh?

Obama's actions are reminiscent of Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius and her occasional blundering comments and actions.

Remember, it was Sebelius who told people in Washington state that Kansas-made wine is horrible. Even if you don't like it, don't publicly admit it.

Her son designed a disturbing board game, similar to Monopoly, but set in a prison. The innuendos in the game are more appropriate for a porn magazine, not a newspaper. Sebelius said she was proud of her son's creativity. At one time, orders for the game could be sent to the governor's residence at Cedar Crest.

Like Obama, Sebelius, appears to have an allergic reaction to rural. She is governor of one the smallest states in the Union as her borders of Kansas stretch from Topeka to Kansas City. She appears to only go west of Topeka the day after a damaging storm hits a town or is invited to some social event where it looks good on front pages and on TV.

Debates in 2006 with governor candidate Jim Barnett were not held west of Hutchinson.

Great way to attract voters, huh?

Go ahead Obama, ask Sebelius to be your running mate.

— John Van Nostrand is publisher of the Colby Free Press.

Where to write, call

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

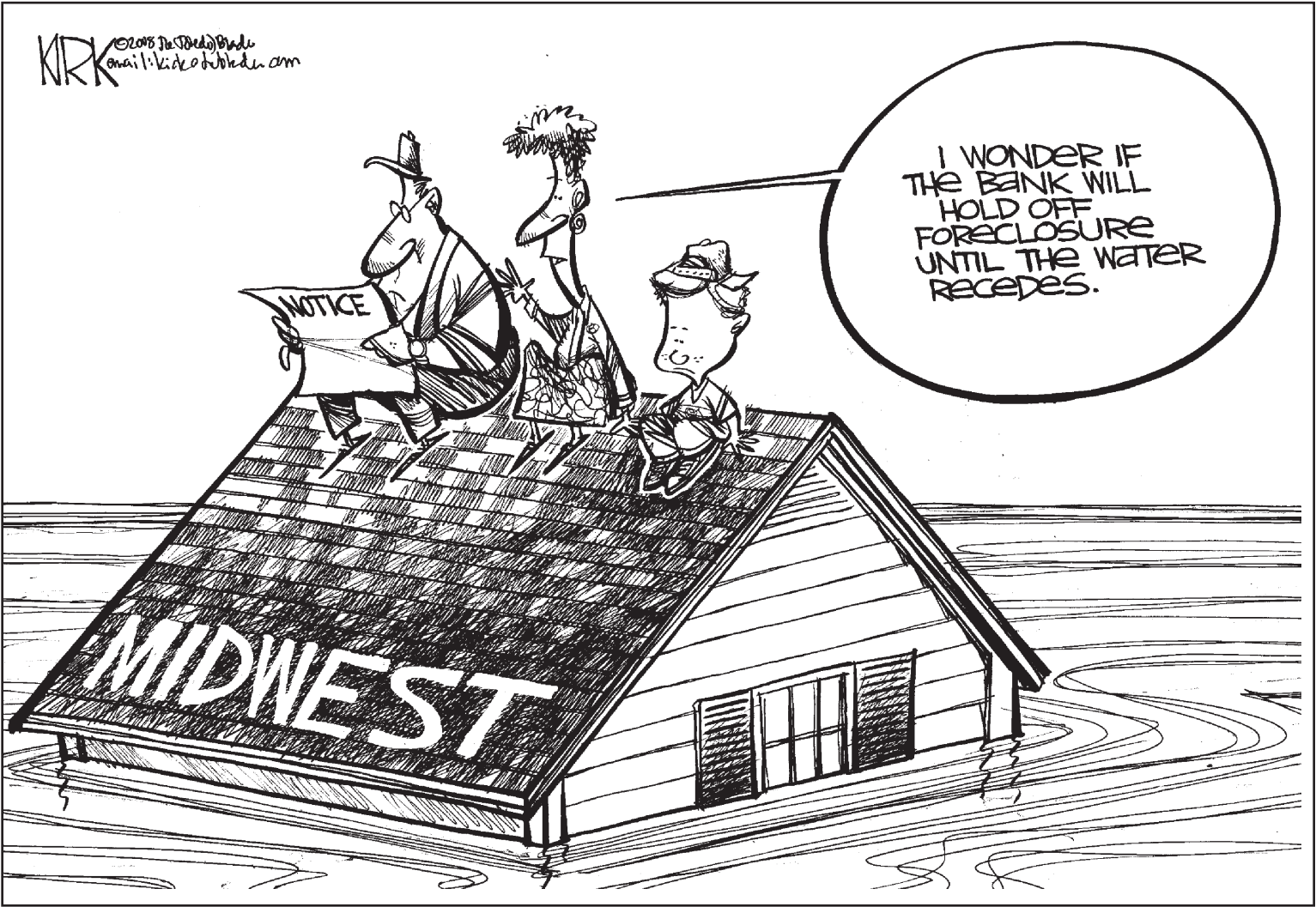
U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback, 303 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. 202/224-6521

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*.



Another example of a great season

I don't blame the Chicago Bulls for taking Derrick Rose with the #1 pick in the NBA Draft Thursday. They basically had no choice.

Rose is not only a hometown hero, but has shown flashes of being the big, explosive point guard teams in the NBA covet more than ever with the success of Deron Williams, Chris Paul and Chauncey Billups.

Unfortunately, I think the Bulls are going to end up regretting it.

Though I still have my reservations, Rose may end up being great player in the league. I just don't think he'll ever be as productive as former Kansas State Wildcat Michael Beasley, who went to the Miami Heat with the #2 pick.

During the draft pre-game show, ESPN analyst and former NBA head coach Jeff Van Gundy described Beasley as "A hall-of-fame talent."

Quite a bold statement for a 19-year old kid who has never played an NBA game, but when you look at Beasley's production in the Big 12 as a freshman in college it's mind-boggling.

Beasley led the nation in rebounding and finished third in scoring at just over 26 points per game. Mind you, that was with constant double and triple-teams on a nightly basis.

In a game last December against Winstom Salem State, Beasley had 40 points and 15 rebounds. Later in the year against Missouri, Beasley put up 40 again and pulled down 17 rebounds.

If there was ever a case of a man playing amongst boys in college basketball, Beasley was it. In all my years watching college basketball, he and Kevin Durant were the two most explosive scorers I've seen. Beasley had a knack for finishing in traffic inside I don't think I've ever seen before. Oh, by the way, he can also stroke the three like a guard. Can you imagine how scary the Sonics would be if they would have landed Beasley? Oklahoma City would have just hit the jackpot.



Joe Falkoff

• A Sideline View

Nevertheless, Beasley will be the Heat's gain and the Bulls loss.

No matter how much potential Rose has, you can't substitute potential for production.

Rose was unbelievable during the NCAA Tournament, yet at other junctures during the season he was non-existent.

The fact is Rose still has a ways to go to have an NBA-ready game. You've got to be able to make open shots and shoot with range, and he hasn't shown he can do that on a consistent basis.

Beasley is a finished product who is going to be a 20 and 10 guy right away. Eventually, I believe he'll be a guy who averages 30 points and 15 rebounds. Even if Rose fulfills all of his potential, there's no way he'll ever be that good.

Beasley is a once-in-a-lifetime talent who instantly makes the Heat a playoff team and a dangerous one at that. Ironically, feeding him the ball inside for the next few years will be Kansas guard Mario Chalmers. Chalmers was selected by Minnesota in the second round and later traded to Miami. Another excellent decision by the Heat.

Chalmers won't ever be an all-star, but he reminds me a lot of Derek Fisher. He can make the open shot and play lockdown defense. He's also very smart and very well-coached, so you don't have to worry about him making the right play.

With Jason Williams headed out the door, I see Chalmers starting right away, which should make Miami the new favorite NBA team for Kansans.

There will be plenty of other Kansas college players to root for next year as well.

A total of seven players from the state of Kansas were drafted, which I assume is some sort of record since the draft dropped to just two rounds.

Beasley and Chalmers are no doubt in a good situation together. As for the remaining five, it's tough to tell.

Brandon Rush was initially picked 13th by Portland, but got traded to Indiana. Portland looks like it's going to be a force for years to come. At the same time, they also have a roster crowded with young players and by going to Indiana Brandon gets to play with his brother, Kareem. Plus, he gets to be mentored by Larry Bird. Not a bad guy to learn the game from.

Also going in the first round was Darrell Arthur, who ended up being traded three times before landing with the Memphis Grizzlies early this morning. Because he was first with New Orleans and Houston (two playoff teams), you could easily say he got the short-end of the stick. On the other hand, he can come in and start for Memphis and play alongside O.J. Mayo. I'm sure he's probably ticked right now, but he's got to make the most of it.

Sasha Kaun, Darnell Jackson and Bill Walker were also taken in the second round. Walker ended up with Boston and should help add depth to their roster. Kaun and Jackson will be back-up big men at best.

It was quite the exciting night for both Kansans and Kansas State fans.

Makes you realize how special this college basketball season truly was.

—Joe Falkoff is a reporter for the Colby Free Press.

What's happening in Colby's art world

By Marj Brown

High Plains Art Club

I took a van full of High Plains Art Club ladies including: Marlene Carpenter, Bev Kern, Fritz Ostmeyer, Margaret Denneker, and Shirley Baker to Hays on Tuesday, June 24, to visit several of the art galleries there. We toured the halls of the old Hadley Hospital where we were delighted to find some paintings by artists some of us had met at area workshops.

After lunch at the restaurant at Hadley, we went to the library where we viewed the art display there. In the library basement we saw the fireplace and table built by Justin Herble, son of High Plains Art Club President, Marlene Carpenter. These beautifully crafted pieces were made from the giant oak tree cut down from in front of the library several years ago. Next we went to the courthouse courtroom to view the Judge's stand, defendant's stand, re-

corder's stand and lawyer's stand also built by Herble. All of us were amazed by the beautiful work Justin does.

At 1 p.m. we visited the home of, Kathleen Kucher, a former art instructor at Hays College. There we were treated to a tour of her basement workshop and gallery where she favored us with a demonstration of watercolor monotype printing. Now that Kucher is retired from the college, she travels all over the U.S. teaching the monotype printing procedure. A tour of her beautiful flower garden and fountain concluded our visit with Kucher, and we then headed down town.

On the way to town we stopped at one of the Hays banks to tour the photography display in their gallery.

The first place we stopped down town was the Hay's Arts Council Gallery to view their abstract art display, and later, to visit with Bruce Burkholder at his workshop and gallery

in the new Art Council building. Burkholder was selected as one of the best Kansas Artist in 2007 and is now living in Hays.

Here at home the High Plains Art Club ladies have been working on plans for an oil painting workshop with Hoxie artist, John Scott, as instructor to be held this fall in Colby.

Colby High School Art is now on display at the Prairie Museum. This would be a good place to spend one of these hot afternoons.

Rosanne Dougherty visited with the art club ladies at their June meeting about suggestions for the Sept. 20 Sunflower Days to be held again this fall at the museum. Workshop suggestions were: jewelry making; handcrafted greeting cards; painting gourds and decorating gift boxes.

If anyone has other workshop suggestions they can call Dougherty at Colby's Prairie Museum.

About those letters . . .

The *Free Press* encourages and welcomes letters from readers. Letters should be typewritten, if at all possible, and should include a telephone number and an address. Most importantly, all letters must include a signature. Unsigned letters cannot be published. We reserve the right to edit for clarity and length, and, likewise, reserve the right to reject letters deemed to be of no public interest or considered offensive or libelous.

Mallard Fillmore

- Bruce Tinsley

