## Opinion



## Other Viewpoints

# Sebelius shined on Democrats state

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius will not be the Democratic nominee for vice president, but the national attention she has received in recent weeks is a compliment both to the governor and the state that elected her.

In the countdown to Saturday's announcement that Sen. Barack Obama had chosen Sen. Joe Biden as his running mate, most attention was focused on four people who reportedly were on Obama's short list. The governor was one of those....

If Obama had been far ahead in the polls, it's entirely possible he would have chosen Sebelius. As it was, he saw the need to add something more to his ticket. Biden brings blue-collar credibility to the campaign as well as foreign policy experience. Because he has a long history with Sen. John McCain, he will be more effective than Sebelius probably could have been in attacking McCain's positions on the campaign trail.

Although her name didn't end up on the ticket, Sebelius is hardly slipping into the background.

Sebelius has presented a positive image of herself and Kansas in recent months. In interviews and public appearances, she has been an articulate and intelligent representative of the state. ...

If Obama is elected president, it's possible Sebelius would be asked to play a role in his administration. Whether she goes to Washington or stays in Topeka, she has helped give Kansas a spot — and perhaps some influence — on the national stage.

Many national observers have been interested in the fact that Republican Kansas would twice elect a Democratic governor — although it's not the first time that has happened. Obviously, not everyone in Kansas is a Democrat or a Sebelius supporter, but her current prominence on the national political scene still should be a source of some pride for the state.

- The Lawrence Journal-World, via The Associated Press

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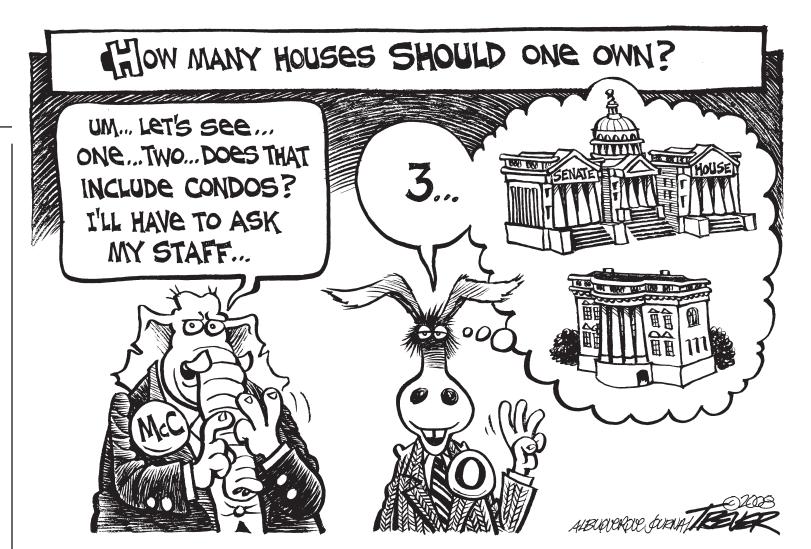
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## Can a country girl go city?

I've had many people tell me that I easily adapt to my surroundings. I owe it to one of my teachers at Heartland Christian School, who directed a drama team that toured churches in the surrounding area.

At every rehearsal and before each concert, he pounded the "adapt" concept into our heads. He told us that we had to be prepared to make adjustments to our performance, since every stage would be different.

So I have to agree with those who say I adapt

easily to new territory.

But how does a small town girl make adjustments to a life in the city?

Earlier this year, I was spending my spring break with a friend from Portland, Ore., when she looked at me and said, "You look like you belong here." I smiled, as I took it as a compliment. We then started imagining what it would be like if I really did move to Portland. It was more of a fantasy sort of discussion. Who knew it would be a reality?

It became a reality after my friend mentioned Multnomah Bible College to me. I had never heard of the college before, but she said that many people she respected and who had influenced her life went to Multnomah. Out of curiosity, I started looking into the college and was impressed. After further research, prayer and counsel from family and friends, I decided to transfer.

relax and mentally week of classes. I mestled in a few tree and pulled out my first chapter when it to me. I had recognized to me. I had never heard of the college and and pulled out my first chapter when it to me. I had recognized to me. I had never heard of the college and and pulled out my first chapter when it to me. I had recognized to me. I had never heard of the college and that many people she respected and who had influenced her life went to Multnomah. Out of curiosity, I started looking into the college and was impressed. After further research, prayer and counsel from family and friends, I decided to the college and was impressed. After further research, prayer and counsel from family and friends, I decided to the college and was impressed. After further research, prayer and counsel from family and friends, I decided to the college and was impressed. After further research, prayer and counsel from family and friends, I decided to the college and was impressed. After further research, prayer and counsel from family and friends, I decided to the college and to the college and to me. I had recognized to the college and the college



#### Michelle Myers

• A Moment with Michelle

While that hasn't been an entirely smooth process, I will say that God and my friends here have been taking care of me. Each sunny day, every authentic smile in my direction and numerous trips to the café for fellowship have all been little blessings in my transition.

One of my favorites was the time I went to a pond, which lay near several restaurants, outlined by a sidewalk and several benches. Even though it was next to a major highway, it almost seemed magical at how peaceful and quiet the area was.

I went there one Sunday afternoon to read, relax and mentally prepare myself for my first week of classes. I found a wooden park bench nestled in a few trees on the winding sidewalk and pulled out my book. I had dived into the first chapter when a little boy came running up to me. I had recognized him from a lemonade stand set up on a hill above the pond, so I knew what was coming.

"Do you want some lemonade?" he excit

edly asked me. I guessed he was 6 or 7, with blonde hair and blue eyes.

"Sure! How much is it?" I asked reaching for my purse. He tilted his head and placed a finger to his chin in deep contemplation.

"I'm not sure. Let me go ask!" He began to

rush back to his stand, when a slightly older boy, perhaps his brother, came to his rescue. He told me the lemonade was 25 cents. I gave him the quarter and a few moments later, he delivered the lemonade to me.

I couldn't help but smile as I returned to

I couldn't help but smile as I returned to my book. Every now and then, I would hear the little boy's voice yell, "Do you want some lemonade?!" to everyone who walked by.

As I was crossing the river while driving back to campus, I glanced at the landscape of skyscrapers, with their countless lights, creating a soft glow in the sky. The stars didn't sparkle like they do in Kansas; it was a different kind of beautiful.

I didn't think I would ever swap the small town life for what was before my eyes at that moment, but then I thought, "Who knows what opportunities are waiting for me in Portland?"

I'll let you know what happens.

Michelle Myers, a Colby native, is a student at Multnomah University in Portland, Ore., majoring in Bible and journalism. She enjoys the 32 Starbucks found within five miles of her campus.

### Navy hat draws slew of compliments

The sun was hot the last week of August, and I decided to wear the U.S. Navy Veteran hat I brought to Denver for the Democratic National Convention. It turned out to be a great decision.

As I walked up to the security checkpoint outside the Pepsi Center on Monday morning, one of the security guys said "I like the hat." I thanked him as I went inside.

Later that day, as I was walking from the press tent to the Pepsi Center, two men walking the same way asked about the hat and one said, "Thank you for your service."

I had never had anyone say that to me, and I was surprised. It was good to hear that, having served during the Vietnam War, when "service" was not as popular.

I was looking for a bottle of water Monday afternoon, and asked a girl at the Quest booth in the press tent if she knew where I could find some. She said gave me a bottle. I thanked her, and found out later water was selling for \$3.25. Wednesday, one of the girls from the press information center told me about a place

to refill a water bottle to save a little money.

As I headed up to the press seating Monday evening, another guy said "Go Navy."

Tuesday when I was trying to get a floor pass, I was wearing the hat, and the guy handing out the passes said he remembered me, and OK'd giving me a pass even though I had left my driver's license in my car. I was thankful I did not have to go all the way back out to the parking lot.

I spent Wednesday writing, and with the water located, I was well fixed.

Thursday morning, as my wife Ava and I were trying to get to the Presidential Experience exhibit, a man stopped to ask about the headed off to find her seat.



#### Tom Betz

• Mountain Time

hat. He said he had retired from the Navy after 32 years, and we talked a bit about where we had served. He said he had been a reserve officer who was called back to active duty for Iraq, and then promoted to rear admiral before he retired. We both had time on destroyers, and he had served with a fleet readiness group.

Heading to Invesco Field on Thursday, we met up with a police officer and driver of a handicapped lift-equipped bus who got us to the stadium

As we headed into the checkpoint tent, another security man said he liked my hat.

Inside the stadium, when we got to the press level, yet another security person complimented my hat, and when I got to the press section, the people who had helped at the press tent at Pepsi Center recognized me by my hat.

I left Ava and the computer in the press seating and, armed with the floor pass, headed out to find my sister Lynn and Etta Walker, the Clinton delegate from Sharon Springs.

I found my sister and as we were walking around looking at the Obama shirts and buttons, I said I was looking for Etta Walker.

I turned around, and there Etta was talking to her daughter Catherine on the phone. I told her I would see her later on the floor and she headed off to find her seat.

Then one of the many young bloggers at the convention asked me a question because of the Navy hat: He wanted my opinion about the fact that Obama had not served in the military. I told him it was a different time from when I served. I said more than 35 years ago, we were facing a draft. I had failed to keep my college grades up and lost my school deferment.

I said after I got out of the Navy, the country decided to go with a professional military and do away with the draft. Without the draft, I said, Obama did not face the same pressure, and I did not feel it made any difference that he did not serve.

The young man asked if I had talked to other guys who served with me, and I said I had not really talked to many about that specific issue.

Later as I walked around the floor of the

stadium taking photos and talking to people, I woman came up and shook my hand and said, "Thank you for your service."

Back in the elevator, a guy from the opposite corner said "Go Navy."

Late that night, one of the people trying to help get us back to the parking garage mentioned the hat.

This was the most I have ever had people mention my Navy hat, and the first time I had ever been thanked for serving. It was a good feeling. I think in many ways, the hat made me more memorable, and it was the only one that I saw in those four days.

Tom Betz is editor of The Goodland Star-News and a longtime observer of Colorado politics. He formerly was editor and publisher of the old Lamar Daily News in Colorado, which was run by his family for many years.

#### Mallard Fillmore

BruceTinsley



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