



Other Viewpoints

# Chancellor has led KU with vision

Robert Hemenway likes to tell people he's "just an English professor."

But he'll be remembered as the chancellor whose leadership brought prestige to the University of Kansas and its medical school. Hemenway, who has announced he'll retire on June 30 after 14 years as chancellor, stepped into the job with an expansive vision.

He wanted KU to be Kansas' university. So he traveled the state, recruiting top students and promoting his school to anyone who would listen.

Hemenway also wanted KU to extend its reach in the Kansas City area. He sought out civic leaders, accepted seats on community boards and created opportunities for area students.

His impact in the Kansas City area is reflected in the turnaround he helped achieve for KU's once-struggling medical school and affiliated hospital.

In 1998, Hemenway negotiated a mostly friendly divorce of the University of Kansas Medical Center from the hospital.

The split freed the hospital from the burdens of operating as a state entity. And it sharpened the medical school's focus on teaching and research.

KU Hospital today is recognized as one of the region's best health-care facilities.

The medical school brings millions of dollars in research grants into the area and has been invited to seek the National Cancer Institute's designation as a comprehensive cancer center.

Hemenway, when he leaves KU's top post, will have raised the university's admission standards, overseen \$310 million worth of construction projects and watched research dollars double to more than \$300 million a year.

A well-known scholar of African-American literature, Hemenway will remain on the Lawrence campus as, yes, an English professor.

But he is far more. Under his leadership, KU has greatly enhanced its role as one of Kansas' foremost assets.

- The Kansas City Star, via The Associated Press

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## No one should belong to just one group

Human beings are constantly trying to find where they fit in the world. We travel from group to group, looking for an environment we feel comfortable in. Some of us never find a clique or group that we can wholeheartedly support and follow. I know I haven't.

But like marriage, most people eventually settle down with a group that represents their worldview, or shares religious beliefs, or is the same color, tribe, or nationality as themselves. The group provides them with comfort and security, and helps shape personal identity.

Being a member of an official or unofficial group, religion, tribe or race can provide people with a sense of pride and self-worth. It can also foster strong friendships with other members of your community, country or religion, which leads people to go out of their way to help out fellow members facing hard times.

But defining yourself based on affiliation with one group can be dangerous. In his book "Identity and Violence - The Illusion of Destiny," Noble-Prize-winning economist Amartya Sen argues that most violence in the world is the result of people believing they have one all-engulfing identity that results in the obliteration of human traits like mercy and kindness.

"Indeed, many of the conflicts and barbarities in the world are sustained through the illusion of a unique and choiceless identity," said Sen. "The art of constructing hatred takes the East who have negative views toward Jews hands of the people we're fighting. form of invoking the magical power of some and Christians are victims of cultural incarother affiliations, and ... can also overpower any human sympathy or natural kindness that we may normally have."



is all too easy for people to conclude that all Muslims are extremists hell-bent on converting the rest of the world to Islam.

It's a tempting idea, especially in western Kansas, where there is no significant Muslim population. But if America and the rest of the western world adopts this point of view, we risk becoming as militant as the fundamentalist mullahs our soldiers are fighting against.

One of the major problems in the Middle East is the culture of hatred being espoused to young Muslim children via schools, mosques and the media. Too many Muslim children and teenagers living in Middle Eastern and Muslim-dominated African countries, or living in predominantly Muslim communities elsewhere, are being indoctrinated with a thought control system that puts harsh constraints on their freedom to think and promotes hatred against those unlike them.

Many of the young people in the Middle

the so-called War on Terror be conducted exclusively through the use of military force? Should the western world continue to solely focus on defining the "real" peaceful religion of Islam as a counterpunch to the "phony' hate-filled version of Islam promoted by Islamic fundamentalists?

I would argue that none of these solutions are conducive to dealing with the violence being instigated by certain extremist elements within Muslim society. Like any other religion, Islam is interpreted differently by different people.

"But within the broad requirements of these religious beliefs and performances, different Muslims can choose different views on secular subjects and decide how to conduct their lives," Sen said.

By solely focusing on the Muslim religion, the west is unknowingly promoting the same rigid categorization espoused by the Islamists. Both viewpoints treat Muslims as one-dimensional individuals solely defined by their religion. This neglects the fact that the majority of Muslims have several different identities based on affiliation with multiple groups.

A Muslim man can also be a farmer, an Egyptian, a father, a pro-democracy activist and a basketball fan without betraying his religion. By ignoring the multiple identities of most Muslims, we are playing right into the

America should treat Muslims in

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Recognizing the danger of adopting a rigid identity based on a affiliation with a group has never been more important than it is today. As

allegedly predominant identity that drowns out ceration. We are all somewhat shaped by our Eastern countries as individuals with multiple environment, and if a young Muslim lives in a community where Islamic fundamentalism is the norm, and tolerance is seen as an aberration, then they will probably grow up to be militants themselves.

So how should the world, more specifically Islamic extremism has permeated the world, it the United States, tackle this problem? Should is sports reporter for the Colby Free Press.

personalities and affiliations in order to combat Islamists efforts to convince Muslims that their whole personality must be defined by their religion.

Andy Heintz, a K-State journalism graduate,

### Budget crunch curtails in-home services

#### To the Editor:

The state of Kansas is facing a serious budget shortfall of \$1 billion, which has resulted in a stoppage of home and community services for low-income folks age 16 to 64.

As a result of this "freeze" for in-home services, a person's only choice now will be nursing facility care. This decision is a very short sighted and not financially sound, considering nursing facility care costs two to three times more than in-home services.

Many people do not want to go to a nursing facility. They need some basic assistance so they can get on with their lives; being productive citizens as students, parents and employees. It is hard to understand why the state is making such cruel and inhumane decisions.

For the last 25 years, the state has been moving in a positive and humane manner to ensure Home and Community Based Services for eligible Kansans. Persons with physical disabilities, families and advocates have been pleased with the way Kansas has moved to provide services so people can stay in their own home and community and as a result can be employed and become tax producers.

Now, all of this good effort of the last 25 years has fallen by the wayside, with the announcement by the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services that effective immediately, there is a hard freeze on new people coming onto the program. The department's

Mallard

Bruce

Tinsley



financial goal is to spend no more than in November 2005, meaning a reduction of 1,816 people receiving Home and Community Based Services.

The department said it wanted the program to cut back to 5,500 participants from the 7,316 currently in the program, and they want this done by July 1. To get to that level will require people being dropped from the program and very slow intake after July 1, if any at all.'

Those 1,816 people, oar 25 percent reduction in Home and Community Support Service, can still go to a nursing home, where their care will be two to three times more than at home. Many facilities are understaffed and patients receive minimal care, accord to statistics found at www.medicare.gov.

Those of us who advocate for persons with disabilities recognize that the Home and Community Based Services program is an optional program and not an entitlement. Nursing homes are an entitlement program, but cost two to three times as much to serve a person compared to home services.

All Home and Community Based Services applicants are already eligible for governmentpaid nursing-home care, Most can live on their own with some help in daily routines, such as bathing or cooking meals. With adapted technology, many are capable of working and contributing to the state's tax base, but it seems people's only choice will be a nursing home.

It is against federal law to force people to only be able to receive services in an institutional setting when other options exist.

Troy A. Horton, executive director Center for Independent Living Southwest Kansas

Garden City

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