



Free Press Viewpoint

Those behind run to negative ads

The campaign for the U.S. Senate in Kansas has turned ugly, with U.S. Rep. Todd Tiahrt slinging much of the filth. That’s what you do in American politics when the polls show you’re gonna lose: go negative. And Mr. Tiahrt has gone way negative. Check his website; it’s pretty much all negative these days.

Maybe it’s working. A poll by a Wichita television station Sunday showed Mr. Moran leading 50 percent to 36, with 9 percent still undecided, but was a shift of 6 points from Moran to Tiahrt in the last month.

Still, 50-36 is way beyond the 3.5 percent margin of error claimed by the statewide poll using random telephone calls. (our Oberlin editor was among the respondents, whatever that says about the poll.) Even if all the undecided jump on the Tiahrt bandwagon, Mr. Moran is the likely winner.

Add to that the fact that the Moran campaign has a \$1 million edge in its bank account, with more than \$2.4 million left to spend in the next few weeks, and you begin to see why the Wichita congressman is so suddenly attracted to mud.

Mr. Tiahrt’s campaign statements and his website have been full of attacks. He trumpets an endorsement from anti-immigration poster boy Tom Tancredo, the former Congressman from Colorado whose campaign for president got exactly nowhere two years ago. Former Gov. Sarah Palin is another conservative hero backing Tiahrt.

Campaign spokesman Michelle Schroeder accuses the Moran team of putting out false figures from an internal poll, which she claims is a “push” poll biased for one candidate. The figures weren’t that far from the KWCH television poll, though.

A television ad features former Bush political strategist Karl Rove endorsing Mr. Tiahrt and attacking Rep. Moran. Nearly every entry on the main page, in fact, is an attack.

Mr. Moran must be doing something right, we think.

Meantime, his website and his releases focus mostly on the candidate and his record. The Moran campaign spends some time trying to defend the candidate from Tiahrt attacks last month, but today, it’s mostly positive stuff on his page. The latest ad features Mr. Moran talking about his record, what he’s stood for and his steadfast opposition to President Obama’s liberal agenda.

That’s another theme of the campaign, who’s the real conservative. The Tiahrt campaign attacks Mr. Moran’s record at every turn, claiming he’s not that conservative.

We think Mr. Moran has chosen the wise course here, pushing his positives and spending his cash to get his record out.

Kansas voters will make the final decision, and we think they’ll base it on the candidate’s records, how they behave and not how much mud they can sling. Kansans are smarter than that.

Mr. Tiahrt should get back to talking about himself, unless he’s just out of positive things to say. — *Steve Haynes*

Write us

The Colby Free Press encourages Letters to the Editor on any topic of general interest. Letters should be brief, clear and to the point. They must be signed and carry the address and phone number of the author.

We do not publish anonymous letters. We sign our opinions and expect readers to do likewise. Nor do we run form letters.

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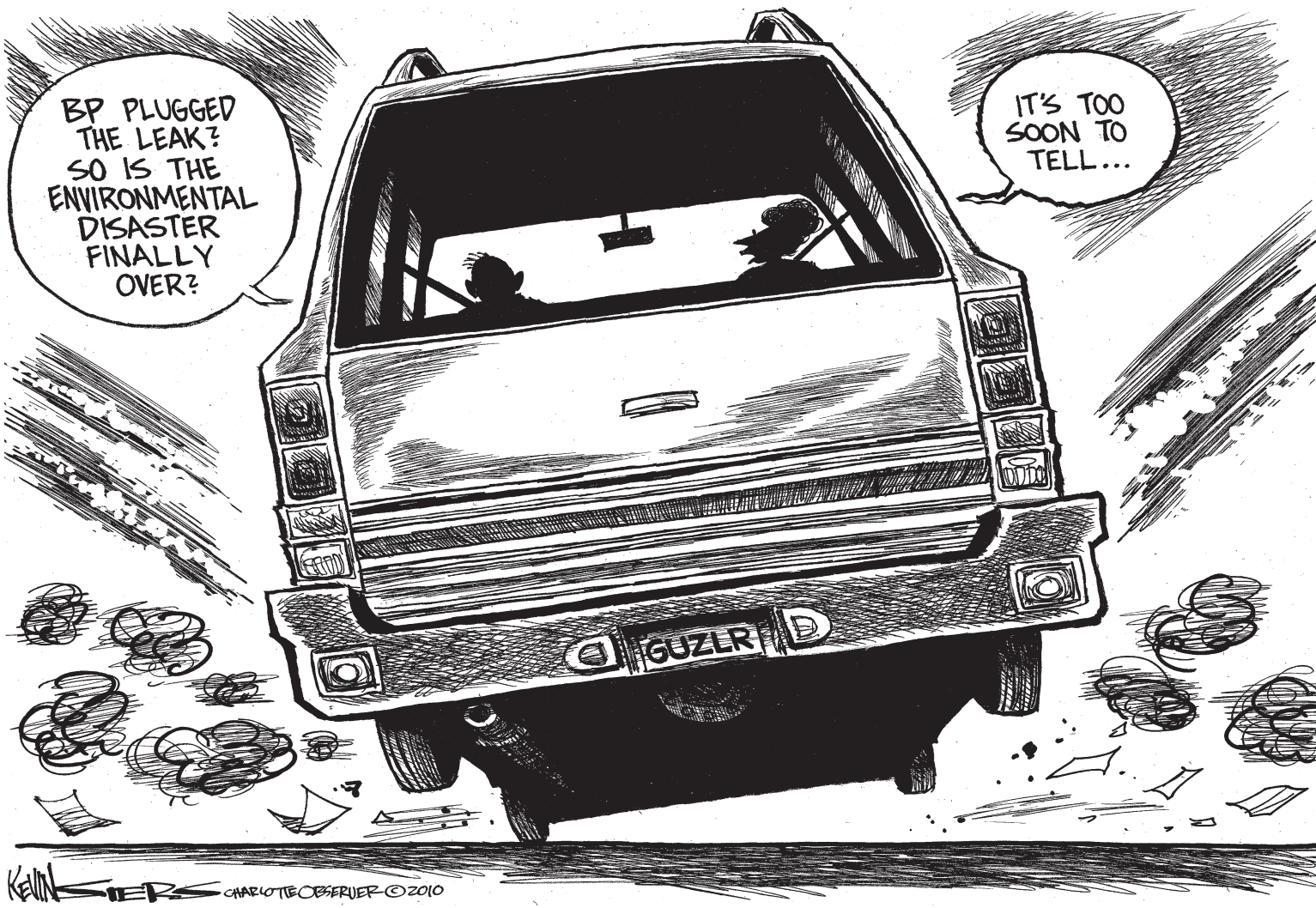
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Giving shots not so bad after all

I became a pharmacist, lo those long years ago, because I didn’t want to spend the many years in school required to be a doctor, nor did I want to carry bedpans and give shots like a nurse.

So what was I doing last week at an injection class?

I normally work two days a month or so at the Dillons Pharmacy in Colby. Mr. Dillon pays well, and I enjoy the people I work with.

Then several months ago I was told that I needed to learn how to give injections. Mr. Dillon had decided that all Kroger stores nationwide (Dillons is a Kroger affiliate) should offer immunizations.

My first inclination was to tell them to shove it. I didn’t need the job that badly, and although I enjoyed the work. I wasn’t going to give shots. No way. No how.

Two things changed my mind.

I would get 20 hours of continuing education credit. I need 30 hours every two years, and that would put me two-thirds of the way to what I needed for the next time it was license renewal time.

And Dillons would pay not only for the class, but also for my time to take the class. And to read the book. Plus expenses.

Well, why not learn to give shots? You need to learn something new every day. You see, I’m really good at talking myself into things if you dangle enough carrots in front of me.

The first part was a scary 100-page book entitled, “Pharmacy-Based Immunization Delivery, a National Certificate Program for Phar-



Cynthia Haynes

- Open Season

macists.”

Reading this and taking a self-test at the end was to take the first 12 hours I’d get paid for.

I’m not sure how many hours it actually took, but I became more and more aware that I’m not a very good student any more.

I read and reread the parts about live and inactive vaccines, intramuscular versus subcutaneous injections and who should get which, when and for how many shots of each vaccine.

If I couldn’t even remember what ages and which kind of the four different types of tetanus and diphtheria shots you’re supposed to get, how could I ever pass the live section of the class?

Finally, I finished the book work and headed for Salina to take the eight-hour live class.

The morning and early afternoon was mostly review of the book, and I remembered an amazing amount of what I had been trying to cram into my head for the last week or so.

In mid-afternoon, we started the real scary part of the course — giving shots.

We were each given a vial of normal saline solution (salt water), three syringes and nee-

dles, three Snoopy Band-Aids, three cotton balls and some alcohol wipes.

We learned how to attach the needles to the syringes, what angle to hold the needle to the arm and what to do if our victims (er patient) fainted.

Then we paired off and took turns practicing.

This was the part I dreaded. Though I give blood regularly, I hate needles. I didn’t want to get a shot and I certainly didn’t want to give one.

What if I did it wrong? What if it was really painful for me or the other person?

When it was our turn, I got my shots first — an intramuscular one in each arm and a subcutaneous one on the back of my left arm. My partner did a superb job and my reward was three Snoopy bandages.

Then I did it.

The needles slid in smoothly. The saline went in easily and the patient held the cotton ball while I put Snoopy bandages on her war wounds.

The worst was over. We took another test (I got 98 percent on both of mine) and we were certified to give injections to anyone 18 or over in the state of Kansas.

Now all I need to do is practice. Anyone need a shot?

Cynthia Haynes, co-owner and chief financial officer of Nor’West Newspapers, writes this column weekly. Her pets include cats, toads and a praying mantis. Contact her at c.haynes @ nwkansas.com

Get the Constitution into kids’ hands

To the Editor:

I am working on a project I believe was inspired, but I need the community’s help to make it a reality. It came to me a few weeks ago.

This project started with the idea that copies of the Constitution and the 27 Amendments, including the original Bill of Rights and the Declaration of Independence, need to be in the hands of Colby’s young adults. It has expanded to include all Thomas County high schools.

I would love to get the entire community involved, because the people I have contacted think it’s a wonderful idea. Many have asked, “Will this be a one-time thing or an ongoing project?” With that in mind, I would like to set up a fund that would get copies for each class of seniors in perpetuity.

The reason is simple: Kids are not learning the history and freedoms of this great country. I was speaking to a former history and government teacher who told me things have changed immensely in just the last few years.

The textbooks the kids use have been so cobbled up with editing and political correctness that even the wording of our founding documents does not match the originals. A lot of our American history has been altered or lost and made to fit the politically correct ideal.

America has a unique history; it is a country like no other. There is no other government in the world with which to compare it. Yet, what is taught is just to get kids ready for standardized tests. Kids are not encouraged to think and reason anymore.

They used to be encouraged to engage in classroom debates or to think outside the box. That is what gave us people like Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Lincoln, Reagan — and



Free Press Letter Drop

- Our readers sound off

Thomas Edison’s light bulb, Ford’s car factories, Eli Whitney’s cotton gin. America used to be the envy of the world. The country of dreams and invention, factories, cures for disease and the leaders of the free world.

If you believe in our kids and that America is worth fighting for, I ask for your help. Let’s give the generations that follow us the same ideals of freedom we were given when on the verge of becoming responsible citizens.

The goal is to raise money to buy copies of a 48-page booklet with the Constitution, the amendments including the Bill of Rights, and the Declaration of Independence. Each document has been copied word for word from the original.

Each booklet costs \$1 plus shipping. I was quoted \$20/100 for shipping, but shipping costs might be less for bulk orders. A booklet would be given to each incoming senior in the fall to study in government class or to outgoing seniors at graduation.

This booklet fits into a pocket or billfold. I have carried one since 1987 and refer to it quite often.

I believe our young people need to know exactly what these documents say and what it would mean to them, and America, if they let things continue as they have been. These

young men and women are the future, and they need to know what has been passed on to them for over 200 years. They need to learn exactly how precious their freedom is. Who knows? Maybe the 2040 or 2052 presidential election will have a former Thomas Countian on the ticket!

If you feel this is a worthy project and would like to help, please send contributions to:

Colby Free Press, attn: Constitution Project, 155 W. Fifth St., Colby, Kan., 67701.

Questions or comments? Please call 462-6050.

Jari Skiles, Colby

She’s not certain

To the Editor:

First, I want to state that I have not agreed with Jim Morrison on all that he has done as our legislator. However, he has always been a strong vote for pro-life issues.

Since Brenda McCants has never mentioned pro-life in her radio or paper ads, I called her to ask whether or not she is pro-life. Her answer was that she has two adopted children, so she certainly doesn’t advocate abortion. As I continued to pursue her with questions as to how she would vote on pro-life issues, she skirted the issue for several minutes. My final question was: are you pro-life? Her answer, “Well, I guess I am pro-life.” Not good enough for me.

Her phone number is (785) 890-6171 if you wish to call her. Perhaps you’ll get a more straightforward answer.

Joan Albers, Colby
retired teacher

Mallard Fillmore

- Bruce Tinsley

