

Other Viewpoints

Program positive for rural medicine

The University of Kansas' plans to open four-year medical programs in Wichita and Salina have the potential to be a tremendous boost to the state's health.

After receiving a favorable review from the accrediting authority for medical schools, KU announced earlier this month it plans to accept its first class of students in Wichita and Salina next fall. The expansion of the Wichita program will contribute an estimated \$30 million to that city's economy, while the Salina program reflects a cooperative effort that will allow the KU program to be housed primarily in space provided by Salina Regional Health Center. The hope is that the new programs will attract students who are willing to practice in rural areas after graduation.

KU has had a medical school in Wichita for 35 years, but it was just a two-year clinical program that took students who had spent their first two years at the KU Medical Center in Kansas City. The main campus also sent four "rural track" students to Salina each year for clinical training.

Interactive television and web-based systems will link Salina students to lecturers and classmates in Wichita and Kansas City.

Officials are particularly proud of the partnership with Salina, saying it could provide an important model for other states seeking to attract doctors to rural areas.

"The whole mission of the Salina campus," said Dr. William Cathcart-Rake, the oncologist who will direct KU's Salina program, "is to train physicians in non-metropolitan areas of the state and show these young medical students that life can be good and practice can be challenging outside of the big city."

The Salina and Wichita programs not only will be looking for rural converts, but are likely to be an attractive option for students who grew up in smaller towns and already appreciate what they have to offer.

The KU medical school is one of the best examples of higher education serving important needs of the state. University officials say about half of the doctors practicing in Kansas received their education at KU. That a direct contribution to the quality of life and health in Kansas.

It's great to see KU expanding its programs and reach across the state in a way that will benefit every Kansan.

— Lawrence Journal World, via the Associated Press

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Just what did he mean, change?

The president's popularity is at an all-time low. His "approval index" in the polls dropped from plus 28 (78 percent favorable) two years ago to minus 15 (only 35 percent) last week. That probably wasn't what he had in mind when he talked about "change" during the campaign.

The president was in Mumbai, India, the city the British called Bombay last week. He stayed at the hotel attacked by terrorists last year, saying he meant to make a point. The terrorists said that, too.

With all the extra protection costs, some people were complaining it was costing taxpayers \$200 million a day to keep him over there. Others said it was well worth the cost.

The administration refused to say how much it cost to keep the chief on the road. Spokesmen said they couldn't talk about the amount spent because of "national security." Which at the White House is code for "re-election."

So far, no one has asked them what his carbon footprint is for the trip.

Back in Washington, the Republicans were measuring the Speaker's office for carpet. That probably wasn't what he had in mind for "change," either.

You do have to feel sorry for all those Democrats leaving the House, though, what with the unemployment stuck at 10 percent. How



Steve Haynes

• Along the Sappa

will they find jobs?

There's probably a federal program that will help them. With some retraining and an ethics class, they might be qualified to sell used cars.

Many will become lobbyists, of course. So you can forget about the ethics class.

Word is the Republicans are combing the new governors for candidates for the 2012 campaign. Maybe they can find one who travels light.

One benefit of change is that Nancy Pelosi will lose her Air Force jet and have to go back to flying first class.

The office wag asks what the Air Force will do with her jet. Someone else suggested sending it to Afghanistan. With her in it.

George W. Bush started out, like Mr. Obama, with approval ratings up in the plus 30 range. After 9/11, he hit plus 40. Later, after years of war and the recession coming on, he went as

low as minus 40. So the president is catching up.

In fact, things are so bad at the White House, yesterday he got a sympathy card from GW.

Speaking of GW, did you see him throw the first pitch at the World Series in Arlington? He tossed a strike to Nolan Ryan. Most celebrities can't even bounce one off the plate, but Mr. Bush did once own the Rangers.

Of course, someone will say it was just because he had his Dad there to give him advice.

Barbara Bush was in the stands, taking lots of pictures with her little camera. Just like a mom. Let's hope he washed behind his ears.

That was fun. This form is called paragraphing, a series of quick, hopefully humorous comments that often play off of one another. It's little seen today, though columnists of another era, like the *Kansas City Star's* Bill Vaughn, used to crank out two or three a week.

Vaughn used to wander around the office a lot, trying to think up ideas, I suppose. It's a lot harder than it looks. And a lot like writing a monologue for Jay Leno.

Steve Haynes is editor and publisher of The Colby Free Press and president of Nor'West Newspapers. In his spare time, whenever that is, he like to ride and watch trains.

Judging team works hard at competition

As a member of the Colby Community College livestock judging team, I got the pleasure of making the 7 1/2-hour drive to Lubbock to compete in the Texas Tech Southern Stockman on Friday, Nov. 5.

After a trip that seemed to take forever in a fully loaded van, we arrived in Lubbock late Thursday, checked into our motel and ate dinner. Returning to the motel, we had some last-minute practice and a few hours of sleep.

I had just fallen asleep when the alarm started blaring, telling me to get up and get ready. After an hour of prettifying ourselves up for the cattle, I was back in the crowded van as we attempted to find where we were going on Texas Tech's massive campus.

Several sharp turns and smacks of the head on the van's windows later, we arrived at the livestock arena. Cards were distributed, groups created, final instructions given, and finally, it was time to judge some livestock.

Livestock judging has classes of sheep, hogs, cattle, and occasionally, goats. A class has four animals of similar species or breed. You may have a class of angus heifers or, less specifically, market steers — steers being raised for meat, no matter which breed they are. Each animal is marked with a number between one and four. The contest officials rank the animals from best to worst, for example 4-1-2-3, and that is the official placing.

My job as a judge is to examine each class and rank them best to worst, and hope that the officials agreed. My score, with a maximum of 50 points per class, is determined by how close to the official placing I was.

Each class has "cuts" — points lost for be-



Shelby Pulkrabek

• Judging Handicaps

ing wrong. The amount depends on how bad a mistake it was to switch a placing. Two very similar heifers, each with faults, will be a cut of two or three points. If it was a big mistake to switch a pair, cuts will be five or six points. So if the official was 4-1-2-3, and you placed it 1-4-2-3, and the cuts were 2-3-6, your score would be a 48.

Four hog classes, three sheep classes, and five cattle classes later, tensions were mounting as we lined up for lunch. We were getting closer to the dreaded time to have to give reasons for our placings.

A thought swarming around the room was about how unfair the class of market lambs was, since one of the lambs had a severe case of ringworm and nobody in their right mind would touch it to check the meat quality.

For oral reasons, you tell a reasons taker, usually one of the contest officials, why you placed a class the way you did. You get a score up to 50 points. The goal is to be accurate and descriptive, as well as conversational.

Reasons takers look for, first of all, did your placing agree with the one set by the officials. If it didn't, you aren't going to score as high. Second, they look for accuracy. So if you tell them that hog 4 was straight in his blade and

set in his tail head, restricting his movements off both ends, and it's one of the soundest moving hogs of the class and isn't these things, you are going to lose some points.

Even more points will be lost if the hog was a female instead of a male, and you said "his." A way to gain points is by using identification terms, so instead of saying "the four steer," you could say "the black steer," or something else that is obviously different from the others.

And finally, you are judged on being conversational. If your reasons are well organized, easy to follow, and flow well, you will score higher. Points are also gained by showing confidence and using proper voice fluctuations.

Following lunch, we were led to the arena to give our reasons. Six less-than-perfect sets and several thoughts of being sick later, I emerged into the sunlight to meet up with my coach, Jim Latoski, and my teammates.

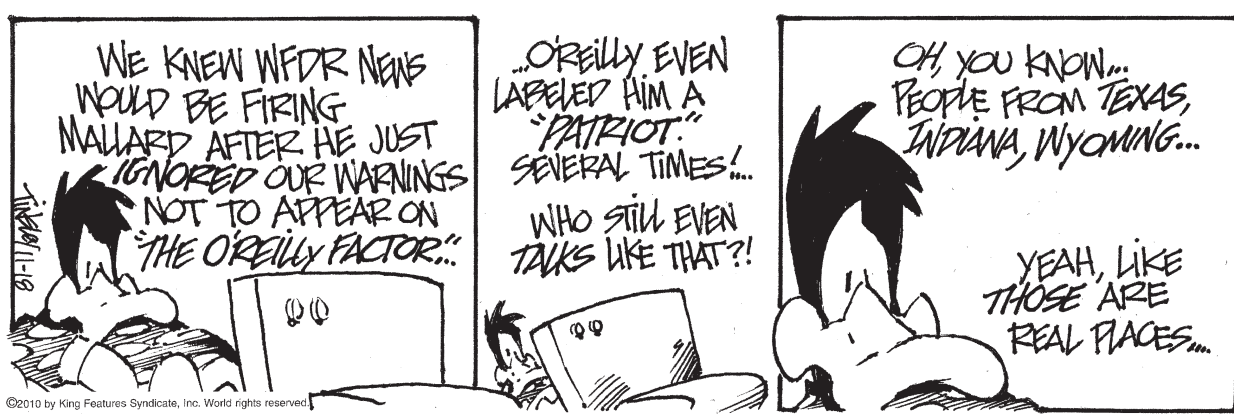
When everybody finished giving reasons, we were hustled back into the arena for the official placing and critiques of each class and the awards. As the contest officials went through the placings, I found this had been my best college contest yet. Fellow freshman Travis Line of Miller, Neb., won the sheep division and was ninth overall. Not a bad day for a group of newcomers to the college judging world.

So after a long day, it was back in the van for the journey back to Colby, or in my case, back to Garden City, where I asked to be dropped off at my grandma's house. Until next trip.

Shelby Pulkrabek of Cimarron is the latest addition to the Colby Free Press newsroom. She is also a student at Colby Community College, majoring in ag communications.

Mallard Fillmore

• Bruce Tinsley



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