# Opinion



### Other **Viewpoints**

## University study raises questions

The plan to initiate a thorough study of how to improve efficiency and effectiveness in Kansas University's effort to provide a superior academic research experience for its students, and for the benefit of the state, is a worthy and timely project.

KU officials recently announced they have signed a \$2 million-plus contract with Huron Consulting Group to conduct a study to bring about "resource optimization and organizational transformation in higher education" ... how to save money, take advantage of current facilities, eliminate or change inefficient operations, how to generate more revenue and making those changes, which will result in a better, more efficient in-

Apparently no facet of the university will be off base for the consultant's investigators. Every part of the school's operation will be examined, whether relative to potential revenue improvements, to cost cutting possibilities, maintenance techniques, student services, the operation of the athletics program, dining services, campus police expenses, the alumni and endowment associations, and even the possibility of selling prime real estate.

According to a Huron promotion piece, "each \$1 million in cost reduction or revenue enhancement is equivalent to a \$20 million endowment."

It sounds as if this is a good decision by senior university officials; however, many faculty and alumni question whether it was necessary to hire an outside firm to conduct the study. Are there faculty members at KU who could have put together a plan to initiate a similar investigation? When faculty salaries have been reduced, could the \$2 million-plus have been spent to pay for a comprehensive study by KU faculty and graduate students?

Some will say it is better to have an outside company experienced in studies such as this to make sure it is free from any bias while others will say KU has faculty and courses that teach individuals how to conduct such a study and why not pay them rather than hire an outside company.

Wouldn't KU faculty have a better firsthand knowledge of how the school is run and who has the power to make needed changes, or will, as others say, using KU faculty allow bias to enter the picture?

Hopefully the decision to initiate a thorough study of KU's operation will prove to be a good move. The sales pitch of spending \$1 million to save the school \$20 million makes good sense, and cents.

- The Lawrence Journal-World, via The Associated Press

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2 opinion CFP 5-16-11.indd 1



# Yesteryear revisited in Art Walk

I really enjoyed the Art Walk put on by the Colby Community College Art Club on Friday evening, April 22. It was so good to see cars parked all along Franklin Avenue that evening, and also to see so many people walking up and down the sidewalks in downtown Colby.

For me, it was a deja vu experience, just as if I was back in Colby of the 1940s and 1950s. In those days, most of the stores downtown stayed open until 8 or 9 p.m. on Thursday and Saturday nights.

On Thursdays, all of the farmers came into town for the sale at the sale barn. The men would attend the sale and the women would go to buy groceries for the coming week, and then they would spend the evening shopping and visiting in downtown Colby.

On Saturday night people came to town for an evening out. After the groceries and other purchases were safely stashed in the trunk of the car, many of the families headed for Murphy's Café, around the corner to the west from Franklin on Fourth Street, just east of where Someplace Special is now and right by the alley. Or they might go around the corner the other direction to the east of Franklin and walk a couple of blocks to Mary Swanson's Cozy Café on East Fourth Street.



#### Marj Brown

• Marj's Snippets

After dinner, the children might be sent to the picture show at the Lyric or Colby theaters and the parents would sit in their cars on Franklin and watch people walk by or visit with other parents also waiting for their younguns. It wasn't unusual to see a group of two or three men standing around visiting while their wives shopped in the stores.

High school kids in those days would ride up and down Franklin or Fourth honking their horns at each other after they got out of the movies. We burned up a lot of gasoline, but at that time a gallon of gas was 25 cents. In fact, way back, and I do mean way, way back when I was in about the fourth grade, I received 25 cents a week for an allowance. For that 25 cents, I could get into the movies and buy a sack of popcorn and a small cola. My, how things have changed. Nowadays, if you have

a large family, you almost have to take out a bank loan in order to take the whole family to the movies and buy treats.

Well, back to the Art Walk: it was great. They had art work at the college, the high school, the library, two downtown banks, Uptown Style, and many downtown businesses. Artists displayed their work and there was even a small musical group from the college performing on the street.

Jim and I and our great-grandson, Braiden, finished off the evening sitting in Smoffies, listening to Brock Wagoner playing the piano and singing while we admired Sarah and Doyle Saddler's artwork and photography. If you missed out on this treat this year, don't worry, because college art instructor Rebel Jay promises to do it again next year.

I think I can rightly say that a good time was had by all, as downtown Colby woke up that night and took a step back into the past.

Marj Brown has lived in Colby for 62 years and has spent a good deal of that time writing about people and places here. She says it's one of her favorite things to do.

### Water works to counter the heat

If the last few days of mid-May are any indication, this summer could be a real scorcher. While some don't venture outdoors much except on weekends, for many outdoor work continues as usual.

Working outside in 95 to 100-degree heat can result in dehydration. Farmers, ranchers, construction workers and other folks who toil in the sun can forget to drink enough fluids.

You rarely hear of a farmer who lets his livestock overheat. Most people with pets see that they have cool, clean water during the dog days of summer. But sometimes these same people forget to take care of themselves.

Every year, emergency rooms and healthcare facilities across Kansas treat cases of heat exhaustion. For those afflicted, this is not a minor problem. Often it takes two to three days to recover from severe heat exhaustion.

Anyone working outdoors during the summer months should always have plenty of fluid within easy reach. Drink small amounts, up to a pint, and drink often.

While experts disagree, water still seems to be one of the best fluid replacements for those who work in the summer sun. Sports drinks are also recommended, especially those that contain no more than eight percent carbohydrates. into the shade immediately and loosen any

Mallard

**Fillmore** 

Tinsley

Bruce



#### John Schlageck

 Insights Kansas Farm Bureau

of water is another excellent drink to replace lost fluids.

Avoid beer and other alcoholic beverages that only lead to greater dehydration. Carbonated beverages and drinks high in caffeine should also be avoided.

Don't rely on how thirsty you are to gauge when to replenish your liquids while working or playing in the sun. Your thirst mechanism isn't always reliable.

In classic cases of dehydration people feel unusually tired. The victim may have a headache and is usually nauseous. In severe cases, people perspire profusely, are extremely weak and their skin is usually pale and clammy. The temperature of the person is usually normal and unconsciousness is rare.

If these symptoms occur, move the victim Pure fruit juice mixed with an equal amount tight fitting clothing. Offer the person cool

fluids, but applying ice to the body or drinking extremely cold liquids can make the symptoms worse.

In extreme conditions, such as heat stroke where the person has hot, dry skin, take the victim to a medical facility immediately to receive necessary evaluation and care.

The key to avoiding heat exhaustion is drinking plenty of cool water daily. Many activities associated with farming, ranching and construction work may cause this situation to

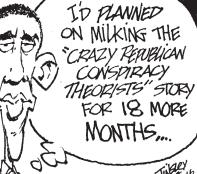
If you're working in a sweltering hot hayloft - bucking bales where ventilation is likely to be poor - take shorter shifts. If signs of heat exhaustion show up while you're operating any type of equipment, stop immediately before an accident occurs.

Remember, anything that heats the body, such as exercise or strenuous work, puts an extra load on the system. Fortunately, these conditions can almost always be prevented with sensible hot-weather care.

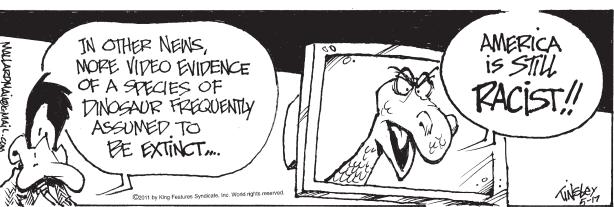
John Schlageck of the Kansas Farm Bureau is a leading commentator on agriculture and rural Kansas. He grew up on a diversified farm near Seguin, and his writing reflects a lifetime of experience, knowledge and passion.

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