## from our viewpoint...

# People miss point on immigration

The people raising a hue and cry in Topeka for bills to hamper illegal immigration don't understand a lot of things.

First of all, they don't understand that whatever they do, it won't happen.

People come here to work because we have jobs and no one to fill them. They come illegally because we have no way to let them come work legally. A Mexican citizen trying to get here to work might have to wait 10 years for legal permission. These people want jobs now.

The state has no authority over immigration anyway. It's not against state law to be here without the proper paperwork and the state has no authority to regulate immigration.

It's a federal problem, but people scared of immigrants are frustrated because Congress hasn't done anything that works.

But if Congress can't do anything, why do they think the state can?

The state used to issue driver's licenses to immigrants, regardless of status. Then we changed the law to deny licenses to illegal immigrants.

Guess what?

People who hike or swim or fly across the border under cover of darkness have no fear of driving without a license. Or insurance. Shot ourselves in the foot with that one, Kansas did.

Another bill would deny state benefits to illegals. There's no reason, in fact, to offer any benefits to illegal immigrants. They come here to work and we shouldn't offer them welfare.

But does anyone believe this bill will slow down the flow of immigration?

Not as long as there are jobs to be had.

Some people want to build a fence along the entire Mexican boarder, but the cost is astronomical, approaching a trillion dollars. Thank the Lord Kansas won't have to pay for any of that out of the state budget. No one knows who would build it anyway.

Others want to declare English as the official state language, claiming that "for the first time in the nation's history," a group of immigrants doesn't want to learn English.

That's not true - most have to learn English to work, and children in schools learn English — but it belies the fact that across Kansas, schools held classes in German, French and other languages less than a century ago, yet those groups did learn English. So will today's immigrants.

Perhaps the biggest thing these people don't understand is that by playing to the rabid anti-immigration crowd, the Republican Party it throwing out all the work President Bush and his crew did to cultivate and incorporate the Hispanic vote into the GOP mainstream.

They will seal the party's fate as a minority for a generation if they keep this up. It's wrong, offensive and foolish.

But they don't understand much. - Steve Haynes

## stor-news pinion



# More cat 'characteristics'

Since I asked for it, Marcy Carroll of Kanorado handed me this week's column on a silver e-mail.

"I loved your cat 'characteristics'!," she wrote.

"Since I have two inside and seven to nine outside (on the farm), I have plenty of observational material. I've thought of a few of my own. Feel free to use any (or not), to rewrite or reword them to suit your purpose. No need to give public credit, I'm just a cat-loving reader.'

OK, here's her list. You might be a cat if:

1. You can cast off hundreds or even thousands of hairs every day without going bald.

2. You'll follow your human, if allowed, when she goes for a walk but scold her every step of the way.

3. You can watch a stream of water in a sink for hours.

4. Nothing gets your attention more quickly than two outside cats fighting.

- 5. The best perches are by windows.
- 6. You throw up easily and often.

7. You always cover your excrement, some- move those that are stopped.



times so enthusiastically that you sweep it right

8. You're the only one in the house that can

9. You can jump on to and walk along very

10. Your greatest fun and challenge is pre-

12. Your rule is to pounce first, check it out

**Privacy? What privacy?** 

dicting where your human is going to walk and

staying three inches in front of him.

narrow ledges but you really don't care if you

14. You either hide from strange people or welcome them as a new lap to lie on.

15. All soft, potential napping spots need to be thoroughly kneaded first.

16. You climb just for the fun of it.

17. A spool of thread or ball of yarn is a great toy, especially if it unravels as it rolls.

18. The motion and position of your tail speaks volumes to those who can "read" it.

19. Your meow becomes more insistent when feeding or watering time is imminent.

20. Most warm places are suitable for napping. Laps and sunny spots vie for first place.

21. You might be trained to stay off the kitchen table or counters when your human is around, but none of that counts when she's absent.

"I'm sending this off so I can get it off my 11. Open cupboards are an irresistible invi- mind," Marcy wrote. "Cats are an endless source of amusement.

"Heck, that could have been No. 22."

Thanks, Marcy. I needed a column after be-13. You stop any small object that moves and ing gone all week.

Ring. Ring. "Hello, this is Tom."



out of the box.

knock stuff off.

tation to explore.

later.

lick yourself all over.

"But this is immoral!"

"A typical statement from a 44-year-old,

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1932-2003

### The Sherman County Herald

Founded by Thomas McCants 1935-1989



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"Happy birthday to you, Tom!

"Who is this? How did you know it was my birthday?'

'Your birth date is public information — it's listed on your voter registration card. But that's not important. What is important is that I'm here to help you."

"Help me?"

"We feel it's time for you to upgrade your computer, Tom. It's taking you forever to surf through the Web sites you visit."

"You know which Web sites I visit?"

"Of course. Not long ago, America Online got into trouble for releasing such information. We had a good laugh when we learned your favorite search terms are: "Madonna, bikini, before she turned 40."

'This, sir, is an outrage."

"We're just trying to help. Incidentally, that 27-year-old flight attendant you met in the online chat room?'

'What of her?"

"She's 64 and married."

"You have no right to -'

"Don't get excited, Tom. According to the free blood pressure clinic you visited – you remember filling out that card, don't you? your blood pressure is awfully high."

"You know my blood pressure?"

"Of course. There are lots of ways to get that information now. Didn't you know that security cameras and other devices mounted in public places are now able to check vital signs?"

"My vital signs!"

"Absolutely. Some surveillance systems can identify you by how you walk. And special programs can track your eye movements. Retailers use them to get a better idea of what shoppers are looking for."

"You can't be serious."

### Letter Policy

The Goodland Star-News encourages and welcomes letters from readers. Letters should be typewritten, and must include a telephone number and a signature. Unsigned letters will not be published. Form letters will be rejected, as will letters deemed to be of no public interest or considered offensive. We reserve the right to edit letters for length and good taste. We encourage letters, with address and phone numbers, by e-mail to: <star-news@nwkansas.com>.



### purcel

#### commentary

"As serious as a heart attack, Tom. Which is why you ought to cut back on the corn chips. Do you really need to eat three bags a week?"

"You track my corn chip purchases?"

"That discount card the grocery store gave you is quite revealing. Incidentally, you forgot to redeem your coupon on the free devil's food cake. I'll send another if you'd like."

'What you're doing is surely against the tect us." law!"

"Law? There are no laws to prevent us from knowing about you. Everything you buy with your credit or debit card is incredibly easy for us to track – and most of the things we do to track you are legal."

"They are?"

"Yes, and every time you fill out any form, your personal information is stored in computwho."

'Without my permission?"

"Of course. And did you know that your your name and phone number." Social Security number has more than 40 congressionally approved uses? You can't drive, That information is private." vote, apply for a job or open a bank account without revealing that number. That's a godsend to people like us."

single, middle-class Catholic conservative who voted for Reagan, Bush, Dole and Bush."

"Have you no shame, sir?"

"I'm not the one who is 12 months overdue at the library on 'How to Win Over Women and Influence Courtship.'

"I'll report you to the press."

"That's a good one, Tom. The press is eager to criticize the Bush administration for monitoring phone calls and wire transfers, when there are hundreds of other threats to privacy that the press hardly ever talks about.'

"Then Congress must write new laws to pro-

"That's an even better one, Tom. In the electronic global village in which we all now exist, technology is moving so rapidly that no law can keep up with it. The only way you can protect your privacy is to stop giving out ID numbers, stop using computers and stop using your credit cards."

"I can't afford that kind of inconvenience."

"Neither can I, Tom. Which brings us back ers and shared with goodness only knows to the reason I called. I have some products to help you upgrade your computer."

"There are only two things I want from you:

'Sorry, but I can't give you that information.

Tom Purcell is a nationally syndicated humor columnist. For comments to Tom, please email him at Purcell@caglecartoons.com

