

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 is 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*

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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-



cynthia haynes

• open season

times so enthusiastically that you sweep it right out of the box.

8. You’re the only one in the house that can lick yourself all over.

9. You can jump on to and walk along very narrow ledges but you really don’t care if you knock stuff off.

10. Your greatest fun and challenge is predicting where your human is going to walk and staying three inches in front of him.

11. Open cupboards are an irresistible invitation to explore.

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

13. You stop any small object that moves and move those that are stopped.

Privacy? What privacy?



tom purcell

• 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 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 computers and shared with goodness only knows who.”

“Without my permission?”

“Of course. And did you know that your Social Security number has more than 40 congressionally approved uses? You can’t drive, vote, apply for a job or open a bank account without revealing that number. That’s a god-send to people like us.”

“But this is immoral!”

“A typical statement from a 44-year-old, 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 protect us.”

“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 to the reason I called. I have some products to help you upgrade your computer.”

“There are only two things I want from you: your name and phone number.”

“Sorry, but I can’t give you that information. That information is private.”

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



TODAY’S EPISODE OF “AS THE WORLD TURNS”