



# Opinion

THE UNIVERSITY DAILY KANSAN

## At last, long-awaited hope for performing arts patrons

Bravo! The University of Kansas finally will be getting a new performing arts center. After more than a half-century of complaints from students, faculty and performers who reject Hoch Auditorium as a substitute for the real thing, the outcry will be hushed.

So bravo for Campaign Kansas, the largest fund-raising drive for private donations in the University's history. The drive had an initial goal of \$100 million, but that was raised to \$150 million because of the campaign's success. In only four months Campaign Kansas has netted \$81 million, and the drive still has more than four years to go.

Most of all, bravo to the Lied Foundation of Omaha, Neb., which donated \$10 million needed to help finance the center. Thanks to this donation, future KU students will have more of an opportunity to see top performers, concerts and plays. The University finally will be able to attract artists who have refused to perform here because of Hoch's bad acoustics and other inadequacies.

But most of the praise will come from the audiences who have attended performances at Hoch throughout the years despite its faults. Finally, they will be able not only to enjoy better performers but also, presumably, high-quality acoustics that Hoch never could provide.

Although the Lied Center is not scheduled to be completed until 1992, a four-year wait will not seem long when the University already has been waiting more than 50 years for the real solution to a bad performing arts center.

Julia Adam for the editorial board

## Charging for churches

Hardly hath the dust settled from stories about the greed of Oral Roberts, the indiscretions of Jimmy Swaggart and the excesses of Jim and Tammy Faye when the story of a Nebraska church comes across the wire.

It would seem that the church elders at St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Lincoln came upon a new and convenient way to increase contributions.

Credit cards for Christ. The congregation has installed several machines behind the back pews to allow card-carrying members to whip out their plastic and give to the church.

So far the idea has been a success. Lagging contributions are up. On the surface, tithing on Master Card seems a little sacrilegious.

Imagine the fun Madison Avenue advertising executives could have thinking of religious jingles to accompany campaigns to get church goers to use their credit cards. Official sponsor of the Papal visit might be one. Don't go to church without it, another.

Still, here in the largest debtor nation in the world, convenience and credit seem almost as natural as God and the Bible. So why not credit cards and the collection plate? If this catches on, it might even get people to pay off their credit card bills on time.

Who would be daring enough to refuse to pay Visa if God were on the tab?

Michael Horak for the editorial board

## Other Voices

### Looking for parking solutions

The start of classes Wednesday has brought out one of the many eternal problems at the University of Oklahoma — lack of parking.

The cost of parking permits for housing and students has gone up to \$40. For the extra money, they're getting it is a hunting license. Students have to walk for as much as 15 minutes to get to class, or else they drive around and around, waiting for someone to leave.

Perhaps extra money could be found to build a multi-level parking garage to ease the parking problems students are facing. This proposal would mean another increase in parking fees. But paying \$50 to park is a far sight better than paying \$40 to hunt.

The Oklahoma Daily University of Oklahoma

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## Christmas, 1988: Why Santa failed

When schedules don't follow tradition, neither does St. Nick

Six-year-old Patty Proffick had a dream. She wanted to see Santa Claus. On Christmas Eve 1988, her dream came true. While most U.S. youngsters entertained themselves with visionary sugar plums, Patty snacked downstairs on a quest for St. Nick.

What she found amazed her. Sitting on the living room hearth beside a roaring flame sat the jolly old fat man wearing red and sporting a white beard. He held a stack of final exams, but no toys.

"Santa," cried Patty. "Why are you grading papers like my daddy does?" The man in red squirmed.

"That's a mighty long story for such a little girl," he finally replied. "Please, Santa, tell me. Please."

"Very well," mused the jolly one, a spark in his eyes. "There's been turmoil in the Arctic this year. The North Pole is not a simple place; it's full of conflicting factions. The elves are terribly demanding, some wanting pay raises, others tenure. Dasher and Dancer are always leading the liberal reindeer in demonstrations for animal rights, while Rudolph must constantly defend himself against charges that he's a Red. And this year — get this — Mrs. Claus gave me a speech about sexual equality and demanded that I let her ride in the sleigh tonight."

In order to accommodate all these conflicting

**Derek Schmidt**

Staff columnist

interests while maintaining peace and harmony within our community, we North Poles have developed a rather complicated system of self-government.

"One part of this bureaucracy is called the Polar Calendar Committee. It sets the elves' work schedule — so many Cabbage Patch Dolls completed by July 1, a day's vacation for Labor Day during the Hambo/commando toys season, etc."

"What's this have to do with my toys, Santa?" "Dear child, this is where it gets complicated. We couldn't satisfy both, because the law says that all toy manufacturing companies must operate for 80 days each fall."

"The Polar Calendar Committee was caught in the middle of a crisis. They compromised by shifting the fall schedule back a week. This was terrible for morale, because while workers from other toy factories were enjoying their Christmas vacations, the North Pole elves still were studying for their semi-annual Laborer and Trained Elves (LATE) exams. Some elves didn't finish testing until Dec. 23, too late to make it to relatives' houses

for Christmas."

"But what about my toys, Santa?" "Yes dear, of course. You see, as the chief educator at the North Pole, it is my job to correct all of the elves' exams. I'm so busy doing that that I haven't had time to deliver toys this year. I just picked a nice-looking house, parked the sleigh and dropped in for a relaxing evening of paper-grading. Curiously, the scores haven't been as good as in years past. Now run along, child. I have work to do."

"But Santa, it's Christmas."

"True, but education must come first. I have my priorities."

"Please, little girl. Let me work, or I'll miss New Year's, too. If you must stay around, can you get me some milk and cookies?" Patty left for the kitchen and returned after a few minutes with a glass and platter. The man in red lazily was snarking up the papers to match his outfit.

"Santa," whispered the little girl, "could you at least give me a 'Ho-ho-ho'?"

The jolly one looked up and smiled wryly. "I'd like to, but I can't find anything about this to laugh about."

Derek Schmidt is an independence junior majoring in journalism.

## Quayle took the right sidestep after all

Hundreds of readers demanded to know why I had not written about how Sen. Lloyd Bentsen's son got in the National Guard.

Others have asked why I haven't mentioned that Sen. Bill Bradley, the former basketball player, also was a guardsman.

And many have said that I have shirked my journalistic responsibility by failing to mention that Gov. Michael Dukakis was in college during the Korean War and didn't go into the army until that war had ended.

They raise a valid point, and I'm going to answer them.

I haven't written about these other noncombatants because I now realize that I was wrong to criticize Sen. Dan Quayle for using family influence to join the Indiana National Guard and avoid combat duty in Vietnam.

Yes, I was wrong and I publicly admit it. I've listened to Vice President George Bush defend Quayle.

I've listened to Pat Buchanan and other prominent conservative journalists defend him. I've heard from thousands of rank-and-file Republicans, all of whom praised him.

And I'm not ashamed to confess that they have persuaded me that I was mistaken about Quayle. In other words, I now believe that what Quayle did was right. Not only right, but honorable and brave and manly and heroic.

So it stands to reason that if what Quayle did was right, the same holds true for Bentsen's son, Sen. Bradley, Gov. Dukakis and every other U.S. citizen who, for one reason or another, did not take an active part in the war.

Therefore, it would be wrong of me to criticize Bentsen's son and the others for doing something I

**Mike Royko**

Syndicated columnist

now believe was right. Sen. Bentsen insists that he didn't help his son get around the draft. If he didn't help, I ask: "Why not?" What kind of father is he if he wouldn't put in a little fix for his own flesh and blood? But if he did use his clout to protect his lad, I say more power to him. He only did what any decent father would have done.

As countless readers have pointed out, staying out of Vietnam was the intelligent thing for a young man to do. So by doing it, Quayle has demonstrated his intelligence. And since we want our leaders to be intelligent, he has increased his credibility as a candidate.

Before recognizing the errors in my thinking, I was also critical of Quayle's family for interceding in his behalf with National Guard contacts. As Quayle himself said, "Phone calls were made."

But after rethinking that issue, I realize how brave and manly and heroic he is. The most important unit in U.S. military is the family. And if a family won't help one of their own avoid going into the Army, who will — the neighborhood gas station attendant?

And if we are to survive as a great nation, we must be pragmatic, not giddy and silly. And if we are going to be pragmatic — as many readers have urged me to be — we must face facts.

And the fact is, young men such as Quayle,

Bentsen's son and Sen. Bradley have fine family backgrounds and have been exposed to excellent educations. They are a national resource — the sort of young men who have the potential to rise to positions of national leadership.

So does it make sense to let them go some far-off land to fight in a war and risk dying? Do we want to squander our finest resources that way? Obviously, the answer is no.

If wars are to be fought, then it is far more practical to allow those who are expendable to fight them.

I'm not being cold-hearted. But if anybody is going to get blown away in a war, doesn't it make more sense that it be someone with a ninth-grade education and few prospects for the future?

I mean, face reality: Does your average, uneducated ditch-digger have even the faintest chance of becoming vice president?

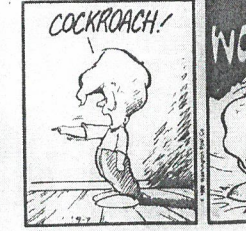
We must have priorities.

So I now agree that it is ethically and morally possible to be a hawk while at the same time remaining out of harm's way. It is not only possible, it is a responsibility. Sure, we must confront the communists when the chips are down. But we should not squander our future leaders when there are more than enough future leaders to do the job.

As Nathan Hale might have said, if he had given it a bit more thought: "I regret that I don't have 30 days to give for my country. Then I could give nine of them and still stick around."

Mike Royko is a syndicated columnist who writes for the Chicago Tribune.

## BLOOM COUNTY



## by Berke Breathed



# Opinion

## THE UNIVERSITY DAILY KANSAN Depiction of Hadl as hero reminder of darker days

Make no mistake about it: KU football is on the way back, in a big way.

45,000 excited fans and the bruised-but-lucky Baylor Bears will tell you that.

KU is going from being "a joke," as Sports Illustrated put it two years ago, to being another KU representative we can be proud of.

But the football program also recently took a step back, with its release last Friday of the "Goin' for the Glory Days" poster-schedule.

The players from KU's football past depicted on the top of the poster took the football program to some of its brightest moments with their excellence on the field.

But one of the players, John Hadl, also had a hand in taking the program to some of its darkest days while he was an assistant coach from 1978-81.

Hadl left the University after being linked to recruiting violations in an NCAA investigation. The football program was placed on a two-year probation, with an NCAA specification that an unnamed KU assistant coach was to have no contact with the program for three years.

NCAA enforcement director David Berts later confirmed that the assistant coach was Hadl.

Hadl went on to coaching positions in the National Football League and the now-defunct United States Football League.

Eyebrows first were raised last winter when Hadl's name came up during the search for a replacement for former head coach Bob Valesente. Hadl was passed over for that position but then was hired as an assistant under Glen Mason.

The decision to put Hadl on a poster promoting the greatest days of KU football is a surprising and irresponsible move.

Hadl has not yet proven that he has what it takes to coach at KU while not getting the program into further trouble.

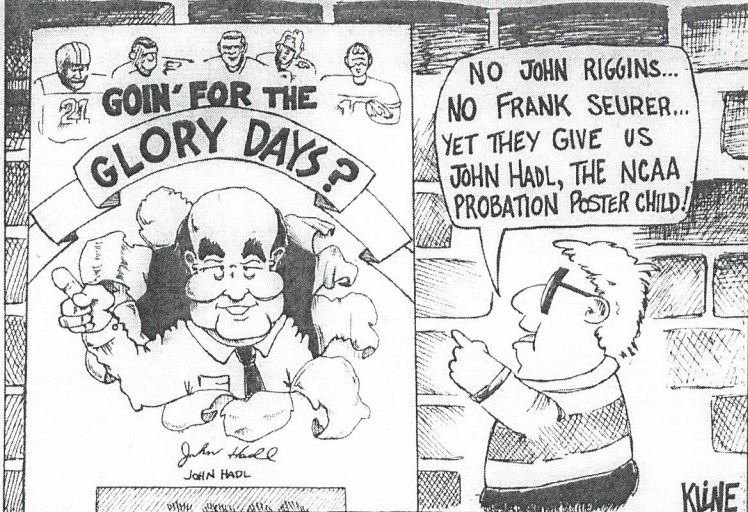
And in a time when fair recruiting is drowning in a sea of illegalities, it seems wrong to promote Hadl to students and prospective recruits as a KU football hero.

The other players depicted on the poster truly are KU heroes, not only because of their accomplishments in college and professional football, but in the way they have conducted themselves off the field during their playing days and beyond.

Maybe before we apply glorifying labels, we should ask that athletes prove themselves worthy of praise by conducting themselves honorably in life outside of sports.

After all, it's the least we ask of our champions... shouldn't it be the least we ask of our heroes?

Mark Tolford for the editorial board



## Make your voice heard, Kansas Apathy ruling campus as candidates come and go silently

"For Sale: Liberty and Justice for all, latest edition," proclaimed the street vendor's sign. I investigated.

"What have you, my good man?"

"The prerequisites for a free society according to the rules and events of Campaign '88," replied the haggard vendor, who sported a red, white and blue outfit. "Volume one costs \$5.95, four books more for volume two."

"Being cheap, I purchased the former. Its subtitle, 'Criteria for Culling the Candidates,' piqued my interest, and I glanced at the table of contents.

I returned to the vendor, "I wanted the issues that were debated, not just the rhetoric." He sold me the second volume.

Subtitled "Substantive Public Debate," this book offered more promise. But it was a book of blank pages.

To Sam's surprise, I complained again.

"You're a pretty sharp kid," said the vendor, a sparkle of hope returning to his eye. "I've sold



**Derek Schmidt**  
Staff columnist

copies of that junk to students across the nation. Most people buy the stuff and never bother to look inside. What makes you different?"

My reply: "I hate being ripped off."

Election '88 is an empty-book scam without provocative debate.

A few bumper stickers, scattered posters and flyers, casual political conversation of parties eyes, it's done on occasion or a political cartoon clipped and stuck on the refrigerator. This is neither apathy, the University must be steeped in zeal.

But secondhand information does not breed zealots.

Why can't KU snare active members from each presidential campaign? Mike Dukakis stopped unannounced for 45 minutes at Topeka's Forbes Field on Aug. 31. Instead of offering a speech or press conference, he played catch and touch football.

"You're kidding," said Dukakis's honorary Kansas co-chairman Jill Docking when told of the futile, unproductive stop.

Dan Quayle also avoided KU on his campaign tour through Kansas.

KU students will all vote absentee this year — the candidates, not the voters, are the absentee.

Most campaign junk food has made students sluggish, but they can still balance their diets.

Issues must live on this campus. Surely people still care whether apartheid continues or impoverished Americans have adequate food and shelter.

Doesn't it matter that the U.S. is \$1.2 trillion in debt, the environment is dying, millions are homeless from floods in the Sudan and Bangladesh, and this may still be "A Nation At Risk"?

There are more important issues than the Pledge of Allegiance and school prayer. This is neither as dull nor as perfect as Campaign '88 seems.

"Only the Students," said the March 1987 Uni-versity Review, "who would add a perpetual element of dynamism to the university community, can call attention to the fact that this is not the best of all possible worlds."

Don't just suffer through suffrage again. Campaign, Kansas.

Derek Schmidt is an independence junior majoring in journalism.

## Other Voices Patience for foreign-born teachers

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln has become a nationwide leader in developing a program to help foreign-born graduate teaching assistants and instructors.

A three-week seminar, which started Aug. 1, is part of a program designed to help foreign teaching assistants better communicate with students. The seminar stresses language capabilities, teaching skills and cultural differences between the United States and other countries.

The language barrier between students and foreign teachers has been a problem for some time. Many students drop classes after the first day because they are unable to understand their instructors. This, in turn, frustrates the instructors.

It's a merry-go-round of miscommunication. Students say they're paying good money to attend classes and that they deserve instructors they can understand. Instructors ask students to give them a chance.

That's why students and teachers must look to each other to break those barriers. Why not give that instructor a few weeks to get settled in?

Learning is a two-way street. These instructors have a lot to offer. The potential will never be tapped if students just shut them out.

And that's what disturbs us about comments made by the first vice president of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska. "If a professor can't speak English (he or she) has no business being here," he said. "This is a Midwestern school where the majority of students are English-speaking people. We shouldn't cater to just foreign students. We're trying to get people to teach courses who are good English-speaking teachers."

Granted, Nebraska is a long way from China or Taiwan. But universities are supposed to be bastions of liberal thinking and communication. Sometimes, that means making a compromise.

An isolationist approach isn't the answer.

The Daily Nebraskan  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Paul Greenberg is a syndicated columnist who writes for the Pine Bluff, Ark., Gazette. Copyright 1988, Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

## Russian history: worth another look

It came like a bolt out of the glasnost. Pravda published an article the other day explaining that the United States started the Cold War. That sort of "history" wasn't unusual in Stalin's Russia or even Brezhnev's. But this is Mikhail Gorbachev's. All is supposed to be changing. The learned Kremlinologists scratched their heads and reached for explanations. Just what was going on here?

It's simple. This isn't Mikhail Gorbachev's Russia. Not yet. Not wholly. He is part of a collective leadership, even if the most prominent part. The old guard and the new still are struggling for ideological control. For every step forward Comrade Gorbachev takes, his ideological rival Yegor Ligachev takes one backward, maybe two.

This Pravda article represents the response to one that appeared last spring and depicted the Cold War as a misunderstanding rather than a U.S. plot. According to that discreetly worded version, the West had confused the Soviet Union's "role of military guarantor of socialism's expansion in the world" with a conspiracy aimed at world domination. That might be a distinction without any real difference. Still, it was a decided step back from orthodox Soviet history, which might be summed up as: Capitalists Evil, Communists Good.

It was too much to expect that the new line would go unchallenged by the old ideologues. This latest article is their response. Nothing changes faster than history in the Soviet Union. "Sovhistory" might not say anything very reliable about the past, but it speaks volumes about what's happening at present: An unresolved power struggle.



**Paul Greenberg**  
Syndicated columnist

The battle of the historians has little to do with the past, it has everything to do with the present. To quote George Orwell in "1984," he who controls the present can control the past. In the Soviet Union, not just every age creates its own history but every presentism. This one's version of the past hasn't quite jelled yet. When it does, it will tell us who controls the Soviet present and so will shape the Soviet future.

A similar struggle is being waged over the Nazi-Soviet Pact. Once unmentionable, the pact is being dragged out of the chest as a weapon against the Stalinists and crypto-Stalinists. Soviet history not only has its nonpersons but its non-events, and the alliance between Stalin and Hitler was once chief among them. According to the old orthodoxy, the pact must never be called an alliance. Comrade Stalin simply made a treaty of non-aggression with Hitler to play for time and prepare his army for the war he knew was coming.

As ideology, that's not bad. As history, it leaves some gaps: If the object was simply to stall Hitler,

why was this treaty of non-aggression soon followed by one of friendship and cooperation between Soviet Russia and Nazi Germany? Why did Stalin argue his best generals if he was preparing his army for war? Why was the Soviet propaganda machine set to glorifying Hitler and Nazism? Why the outburst of anti-Semitic propaganda in the Soviet press?

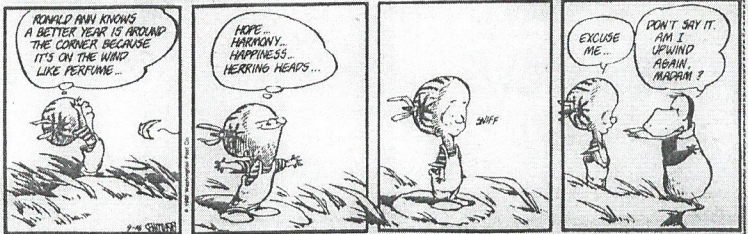
The attempt to bring the Nazi-Soviet Pact back into history is scarcely confined to Russia. On the anniversary of the pact this year, tens of thousands demonstrated in the capitals of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia against the secret protocol that accompanied the Nazi-Soviet Pact and turned their countries over to Soviet control. Demands for freedom were widely heard at the rallies, and the fiction that these captive nations had freely joined the Soviet Union was exposed.

The new but still not dominant Soviet leader has taken a great risk in allowing such demonstrations.

If Lenin's old "nationalities question" erupts and if the Soviet economy fails to take off despite perestroika, Mikhail Gorbachev's brave new Russia might prove only a repeat of Nikita Khrushchev's — complete with sudden end. For clues to the future, watch who controls the past.

Paul Greenberg is a syndicated columnist who writes for the Pine Bluff, Ark., Gazette. Copyright 1988, Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

## BLOOM COUNTY



by Berke Breathed



# Opinion

## New pill threatens to cause casual air about abortions

French officials last week authorized the sale of a prescription drug that would abort unborn fetuses.

The drug, RU 486, is an anti-hormone chemical that interrupts pregnancy by blocking the implantation of the fertilized egg on the uterine wall. It is in the form of a pill. It is effective 95 percent of the time.

Easy access to this pill brings the issue of abortion as a form of contraception to its pinnacle. With this drug on the market, having an abortion could become as quick and easy as curing a headache. An instant solution leaves no time for thought about the ramifications of such a decision.

That is reason for concern.

Having an abortion is a monumental decision. It requires a woman to decide whether to take the life of a fetus. Intertwined with that decision are numerous other questions she must reconcile. Will she, as a mother, be able to properly care for this child if the pregnancy is continued? Is adoption a viable alternative? What other options does she have?

Answering these questions cannot be a traumatic experience. They take more time to answer than the few seconds it takes to swallow a pill. If a woman decides that abortion is the best solution, it's her choice. That is current U.S. law.

Easy access to such a pill increases the chance that the drug would be used as a convenient form of birth control. That is wrong.

When the time comes for our government to consider the sale of RU 486, it should take the steps that the French government took to limit access. Abortion by means of a pill should be under the supervision of medical specialists and in hospitals designated by the government.

To require any less would be to treat an important decision much too casually.

Michael Horak for the editorial board

## Shine on the gold fades

The Olympics are a spectacle of athletic prowess and a tribute to the purity of sport, but unfortunately, the games are more than that.

They are also about fallen idols, steroids, sad mistakes, politics and bad sportsmanship.

The glory of the 24th Olympiad has been diminished a bit by these things. Every day another controversy surfaces that grinds away a little more at the honor and reverence that is reserved for the Olympic Games.

From the beginning, it was evident that these Games would not escape controversy. One of the first mishaps involved a U.S. boxer who missed his bout and was disqualified from competition. His coaches blamed everyone but themselves and used excuses, but the end result was the crushed dream of the boxer.

Politics entered the scene when an East German official pointed out that the U.S. women's gymnastic team violated a rarely enforced rule. As a result of the penalty, the East German team inched out the United States for the bronze medal.

Things turned ugly when Korean boxing coaches roughed up a referee after a Korean boxer was defeated. The United States, which already had an image problem in Korea, was embarrassed when two medal-winning U.S. swimmers celebrated their achievements by going on a drinking binge in Seoul.

The most devastating incident was Canadian Ben Johnson being stripped of his gold medal and world record in the 100-meter sprint after failing his drug test. He was banned from the Canadian team for life, banned from international competition for two years, and he lost several lucrative commercial endorsements. But more importantly, Johnson lost the respect of countless fans and put another ugly mark on these Olympics.

But we can't forget there are many heroes in Seoul. One hero is Greg Louganis, who showed great bravery while repeating as the 3-meter and platform diving gold medalist after he gashed his scalp on the board during the 3-meter competition. Another is Jackie Joyner-Kersey, who beat her own world record in the heptathlon despite an injured knee.

Although the Olympics may seem cheapened somewhat, the great performances still outweigh the scandals.

Julie McMahon for the editorial board

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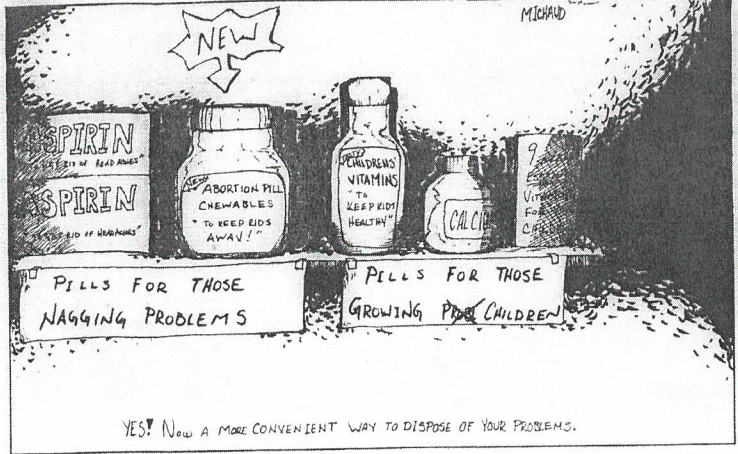
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## '88 Toilet Bowl lived up to name

But commentators' analyses almost kept Americans awake

It was the 1987 KU/R-State football game all over again. Determined competitors trained for weeks preparing for this, their big opportunity. The pre-game hype elevated expectations to unjustifiable levels. Hoards of fans turned out, hoping to be present when their side finally won a game.

Although it was disappointing, the resultant stalemate provided commentators ample working material. Each side claimed victory. But for most spectators, nothing had been decided.

When the mud finally settled from Sunday's presidential debate, it was clear that the Toilet Bowl had moved to North Carolina.

Then came the pundits.

Don Rafter began the melee with a pitiful pun to introduce the competitors.

"For the first time," said the CBS anchor, "Americans will have the opportunity to measure George Bush and Michael Dukakis side by side."

After days of endless CNN graphics illustrating the seven-inch height differential between the candidates' podiums, Rafter's punning could hardly have been accidental.

Following a 90-minute lull during which the candidates debated, the real substance of the affair began to flow.

Post-debate commentary is the most important element of the political process, because this is when learned people like Joe Citizen what he just saw.

Luke leftwinger post-debate analysis never has the full flavor of the original. Therefore, media gnomes have to add that special ingredient to live it up.

**Derek Schmidt**  
Staff columnist

CNN broadcast a post-debate forum from Los Angeles in which Frank Sesno moderated a panel of six common people trying to set intelligence for a national audience. The two Republicans on the panel thought George Bush won. Three of the four Democrats thought Michael Dukakis won. The final woman was undecided. Shocking results.

CBS offered more traditional professional analysis. Three obscure experts in ill-fitting suits debated the debate for several minutes, ultimately concluding that Bush and Dukakis each had high and low points in the showdown. Fortunately, America has such experts.

The analysis followed similar patterns across the country. Pat Buchanan declared Bush the winner. Tom Braden supported Dukakis. Local Democratic groups gave the boot to Dukakis, while Republicans saw Bush with the edge.

One Kansas City television station entitled an academic debate coach to determine that there was extensive stalling and only superficial specificity about issues.

Monday's Kansas City Star made six people, ranging in prominence from a U.S. Congressman to a taxi cab driver, evaluators for a day. The six,

who got their pictures on page one, gave the candidates letter grades for their overall performances. Quick arithmetic (using the plus/minus grading system, of course) shows that Dukakis finished with an overall GPA of 3.22, while Bush missed the honor roll with a 2.0. This would have been helpful if presidents were on a scholarship.

Of all post-debate critics nationwide, NBC missed the biggest opportunity. In keeping with its Olympic coverage, it should have hired Mary Lou Retton and Bart Conner to critique the candidates' performances.

"I'll have to give Mr. Bush about a 7.5 on that performance, Mary Lou. His degree of difficulty compulsory documentation so crucial to a good performance. Nonetheless, with a few minor exceptions such as his forgetting what he was talking about after being interrupted, George's overall artistic impression was good."

"Well, I think you're too generous, Bart. Dukakis scored points with the Joe Louis line, but problems plagued both men. The judges must not have noticed the subliminal outflitting these two employed. Of course, only a trained observer like me would have noticed that the candidates' (as represented their positions on the political spectrum, Dukakis was crooked to the left; Bush's was crooked to the right).

"Overall, Bart, this is not the American's strongest event."

■ Schmidt is an independent junior majoring in journalism

## KANSAN MAILBOX

### Good work, Dan

That was a great article you wrote on skinheads, Dan Houston. I really like to see somebody go out on a limb like that. I can tell you must have done some underground research, otherwise you wouldn't have known that they all began their sentences with " dude." I can see it now — you pull on your skinhead cap that you got at the Halloween store, kiss your autographed 8-by-10 glossy of Gerardo and head out to the Out House with your trusty pen and pad.

You said in your column that your opinion of the skinheads had been "live and let live" until you discovered that they were neo-fascists. Well, if that's what bothers you, then maybe on your way out to the Out House you should have turned your car around and gone back to your fraternity. When you got back there, you could have taken a poll to see how many blacks, Hispanics and Asians are in your house. Then you could have called up all the other fraternities and sororities to see how many they have. Excluding the black fraternities and sororities (why don't we say white fraternities and sororities?) you'd have found maybe five.

"Coincidence?" Maybe. But your journalistic sense wouldn't have let you stop there. You'd have called up those two or three big-money alumni. You know the ones, when they say "Jump," your treasurer says "How high."

you could have said to Mr. Big, "Say, we've got a couple of black guys we think are real swell. What do you think about pledging them?" And then, Dan, after you got your response, you could have sat down and written a column about something you know about.

Wasn't it you, Dan, who said "The children of the '80s will look back in embarrassment and be forced to claim deliberate ignorance?"

### Toughness OK

This letter is directed to all of those people who feel that Coach Glen Mason is being too rough on his players. I think it's time that you come back from Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood and see college football for what it really is — a rough sport.

Gosh, it just makes me shudder when I hear the atrocities committed by Mason. Verbal abuse, hitting people on the helmet — I haven't heard of anything that barbaric since high school football. Someone get a rope.

Maybe the KU football team would be more successful if Mason was more of a softie like Bear Bryant. No, that's no good — how about Bo Schembechler? That doesn't work either. I know, Barry Switzer — nope. Isn't it ironic that when you look at some of the most successful coaches, it turns out that they too are or were somewhat less than docile?

By making practices rough, Mason is not only making the team stronger, he is "getting the tough out of the team." This makes it so he can concentrate on those who want to play. For those bleeding hearts who are afraid to see KU

football be successful and long for a timid coach, maybe we should get one for them so we can return to the "Glorious Days" — or should I say "Glorious Daze" — of Bob Valsente.

Monte White  
Humboldt sophomore

### Golden Brown

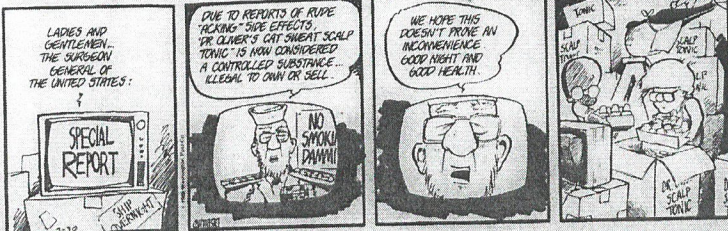
What a disappointment it was to watch the men's U.S. Olympic basketball team. With the amount of talent the U.S. assembled, it's a shame the U.S. Olympic Committee couldn't have found a better coach. Unfortunately, John Thompson was chosen nearly four years ago.

The USOC could have turned to Lawrence to find a better coach. Larry Brown, who coached the high-scoring Oklahoma Sooners to 29 points in the second half of the 1986 NCAA finals. Furthermore, Thompson's Olympic team had little offense, other than points scored off the press. Brown's 1988 squad beat OU with 50 first-half points and a superior half-court offense in the second half.

The U.S. team was chosen in June. Why not choose the Olympic coach in May? Maybe then we could have seen a talented U.S. team coached by the best coach in the game: Larry Brown!

Alan Mills  
Silver Lake senior

## BLOOM COUNTY



## by Berke Breathed

# Opinion

## Bentsen outshone Quayle, and voters will remember

After a disappointing presidential debate, Wednesday's vice presidential debate offered voters two things they have hungered for: a genuine look at two candidates, and a clear winner.

Quayle and Bentsen both are experienced debaters, and it showed. Unlike the Bush-Dukakis debate, viewers actually were able to learn something about the candidates.

Bentsen came across as a smooth, experienced, knowledgeable politician. Quayle, on the other hand, seemed cool and over-controlled. His presentation was stiff... and... full of pauses, not to mention repetition.

To some, it looked as if the moderators were picking on Quayle while allowing Bentsen to side-step the same questions. But there's nothing unfair about asking a vice presidential candidate what he would do if he became president. Quayle couldn't even manage a decent pre-scripted answer, only mumbblings about his years in Congress.

In contrast, Bentsen was straightforward when asked about his plans to hold a \$10,000-a-plate breakfast. He frankly admitted it was a mistake. And although he never did answer questions on his sharp differences with Dukakis, and his response to Quayle's comparing himself to Jack Kennedy was too vicious for some, overall, Bentsen showed himself to be more clear, more in control and more capable of being a leader.

That's what's ironic about the entire debate: The issue of who stands second in line to the presidency should not be the one that dominates the race. It is the presidential candidates' opinions and capabilities that count.

But in such a close campaign, the No. 2 men could be what helps many people make up their minds. People who use vice presidents as a way to pick their presidents are going to pick Lloyd Bentsen.

The editorial board

## Right direction, bad way

Good intentions don't count. Good intentions with ulterior motives are even worse.

The Associated Students of Kansas proposal to start a program called "Kansas Cobles Savings Program" is thinly veiled as a practical way for families to pay for their children's education. At first glance the plan sounds perfect. Families could put money into special savings accounts set up by the state. The money would be pooled into a fund and invested in order to gain interest. Families would then be able to use that money for their children's educations.

Because middle-class students usually don't qualify for federal grants and their families often can't afford a college education, the plan would help middle-class students the most, ASK says.

Or would the Board of Regents be helped the most? That's the catch to this plan. Students would have to attend a Regents university in order to take part.

Students shouldn't have to be trapped into attending a Regents university through this proposal simply because they couldn't afford a college education without it.

The state would pay for the original costs in setting up the fund, but those costs would be recovered when families' money ends up at a state school. The state seems to get what it wants, but what about the students?

The Regents system would get more than it originally paid for when the student funds a Regents college. Students would pump in even more money by paying for books, supplies, and residence hall fees, etc.

Although the Regents system would get what it wanted and more, students get what they wouldn't want and less by being forced to stay at a Regents school.

ASK has the right idea in wanting to help students attend college with state-sponsored finances, but the focus should remain on helping the students, not helping the Regents.

Christine Martin for the editorial board

The editorials in this column are the opinion of the editorial board.

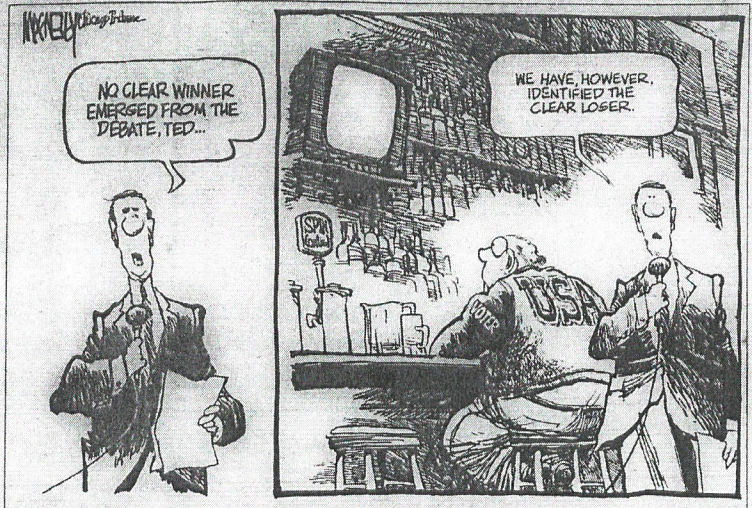
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## Reagan 'audition' a bad precedent

Besides, we really wouldn't ask him to work for minimum wage, now would we?

"Ladies and gentlemen, the President of the United States..."

The crowd in the room stopped what it was doing and turned to watch the entrance of the nation's chief executive. Reagan strode through the group, shaking a few hands, smiling and nodding in acknowledgment of some scattered compliments. Then he sat down at a desk and began to work.

But something was wrong with this picture of presidential performance. Reagan was wearing a Chicago Cubs jacket and sitting in front of a microphone in the Wrigley Field press box.

"And there are still men on first and third," said the man who has appeared on the cover of "Time" magazine more than any other president. "And there goes a ball over second base, and it's a hit out into center field."

"One run in. Men on first and third."

When told that Reagan had spent an afternoon last week announcing a baseball game, millions of Americans wondered one thing: why?

My political acumen suggests three possible reasons.

First reason: campaign hangover. All politicians try to swing the baseball vote: it's the core of the American policy. As a veteran politico, Reagan just couldn't miss the chance for a good photo. Maybe old habits really do die hard.

If so, danger awaits. Picture this: it's 1992, and George Bush is preparing to step aside after four long, long years

admireable. We could follow the president's lead here at KU.  
Chancellor Gene A. Bading used to work as a bat boy with the McCook Cats, a semi-professional Nebraska baseball team. Bading could start bat-baiting for the baseball Jayhawks.

I suppose there are problems with that idea. To fetch bats, one must wear the proper attire and speak in the vernacular. Admittedly, I don't know the Chancellor well, but it is difficult to picture him forsaking his suit for baseball pants or, worse yet, knickerbockers, and yelling, "Golly guys, this is real fun!"

Third reason: job security. This is the reason Reagan gave for his appearance.

"You know," he said, "in a few months I'm going to be out of work, and I thought I might as well audition."

That's possible. After all, in today's job market, a fellow needs to start looking early. But Reagan's chances for being hired are slim. History shows that no person who lists "President of the United States" on his resume has ever been hired as a sports announcer in Chicago.

And the Cubs eventually lost the game Reagan announced. Nobody wants to hire a jinx.

Besides, entry-level sports announcers sometimes start out at minimum wage. I'll bet he wouldn't get for \$3.35 an hour.

■ Derek Schmidt is an independence junior majoring in journalism.

Derek Schmidt  
Staff columnist

at the nation's helm. Out of habit, he appears at a meeting in his shirt sleeves, carrying an American flag and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Unfortunately, he has forgotten to check his calendar.

It could be worse. It's 1992, and Michael Dukakis is preparing to retire (optimistic, aren't I?) after his first term. Appearing in West Germany during NATO exercises, the Duke habitually slips into an American tank. Although his helmet fits this time his head surely would have swelled during four years as a president, he realizes that he has no clue how to operate a tank.

The U.N. earns another Nobel-prize keeping the peace after President Mike crashes Checkpoint Charlie in an M-1.

Reagan used to broadcast re-creations of Cubs games in the late 1950s over stations in Danversport and Des Moines, Iowa. Maybe he just missed the good 'ol days.

Such sentiment is both understandable and

## KANSAS MAILBOX

### Plus/minus alternative

Grades are a system of classification. Given a pool of students, an instructor must classify each student into one of five categories: A, B, C, D or F. Quantitative indicators such as test scores, homework scores and final project/paper scores as well as subjective evaluation of class participation and improvement serve to assist instructors in choosing categories for each student. The problem is that some students fail to fit clearly into one of the categories.

With the former grading system, instructors felt straitjacketed. They wanted to be able to say a student was a "high" or "low" example of a category. Plus/minus will allow them to do this. Unfortunately, this creates as many new problems as it does categories. Instead of four "borderline" conditions to deal with, the plus/minus system has twelve. Instructors will have three lines as many tough decisions to make, and their ability to do so accurately will be taxed because of the even smaller difference between an A and a B.

A more accurate and just system would give the instructor more flexibility in evaluation; clarity reflect the effort and performance of the student; and reflect the inherent inaccuracy and uncertainty of the system.

The way to accomplish all these goals is to "tell it like it is." Either a student clearly fits into one of the five categories or is "borderline" between the categories. A system where A1.0, A/B3.5, B3.0, B/C2.5, C2.0, etc., allows for such distinctions.

In order to keep the "borderline" conditions from becoming their own categories, there could be a restriction placed on instructors that any "borderline" condition must have less than half of the average of the two categories it straddles. This is simpler than it sounds. For example, in a class of 40 students, eight are awarded A's and 12 are awarded B's. Only 5/11 (45%) or five or fewer students, could be awarded A/C.

This system accomplishes instructors' and students' aims. It allows instructors more flexibility, students more accuracy and both a pragmatic system within which to work.

The voting members of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences assembly should carry the motion to rescind the plus/minus grading system, which is being considered by mail ballot. The system I have proposed should be considered by a special committee so that its impact can be assessed before it is implemented. Even though considerable effort has been expended both by proponents and opponents of the plus/minus system, our desire to resolve this issue and get on with the business at hand should not force a premature decision when all reasonable options have not been explored. Let's go back to the former system until we are sure that we've come up with something better.

Hugh Lester  
Lawrence Junior

### Vote for a future

A long time ago, a wise man warned us that the Tao is like a pendulum. The higher you push it, the harder it inevitably falls back. And oh, how high we've pushed our pendulum. The glory of man has risen to previously unimaginable heights as a result of our quest for a better life. But now time has run out, and the pendulum is reverting.

We've got a hole in the ozone layer over each pole, and the incidence of skin cancer is skyrocketing. We've overused our water table with pollutants, and the people of Love Canal have chromosomal damage they can never forget, no matter how hard they try. God only knows what Chernobyl is doing to the Russians. Oh, and don't forget the greenhouse effect.

Decades ago, scientists warned our parents to shape up. Congress even passed the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts. People were encouraged to clean up the world "for their children's sake." But all this was largely ignored, and it's our nightmare. Just think: we are the first generation who can say that we'll probably be around as long as the world is!

So, when election time comes back around this fall, please take the time to vote for candidates who are willing to do what it takes to clean up our environment. Admittedly, this is only a start, but we really are voting for our lives this time.

Oh, by the way Mr. Bush, low interest rates aren't going to do a bunch of dead people much good, are they?

John Arant  
Clatskanie, Mo., senior

## BLOOM COUNTY by Berke Breathed



# Opinion

## Minority task force report key to future improvement

Last week's news regarding minority enrollment wasn't great, but we'll take what we can get. For now.

According to statistics released by the University, Hispanic, Asian and American Indian enrollment was up; black enrollment was down.

The overall increase in minority enrollment is welcome news. The slightest indication that the University of Kansas is becoming even a little less monochrome is as welcome as rain during a drought.

Although the increase in three categories is at least a sign of some improvement, KU still isn't anything close to a model school in dealing with problems in recruiting, retaining and being responsive to minority concerns on campus. The tensions that exploded out of the Ku Klux Klan controversy in the spring point out all too painfully that something is wrong.

If there is good to be found in the aftermath of the Klan debate, it is that it at least made the University realize just how much needed to be done. The report on just that is due soon from the Minority Issues Task Force, headed by Executive Vice Chancellor Judith Hamaley.

That report is an excellent opportunity for University leaders to explain how KU is going to make itself more inviting to minorities.

Plans to deal with minority issues need to be well-developed and aggressive. The report should include specific ways to develop active minority recruitment programs, such as a statewide symposium last October, sponsored by the Hispanic American Leadership Organization, that brought Hispanics to the KU campus and seems to have done an excellent job attracting Hispanic students.

The report also should include plans to work more closely with the rest of Lawrence because any changes that need to be made need to involve all of Lawrence, not just people on Mt. Oread.

Finally, the report needs to charge somebody with making certain plans are implemented.

The little progress that was seen in some areas won't satisfy people at this University. Unless all the problems brought to light in the past year are to have been for naught and the writers of the task force report want to see racial problems continue to grow, the task force plan for action needs to be one that is as bold, direct and thorough as can be.

Michael Merschel for the editorial board

## Democracy 1, Pinochet 0

Not often does a ruthless, bloodthirsty dictator get voted out of office, but it happened last week in Chile.

Chilean president Augusto Pinochet is a cruel dictator with a long history of human rights abuses that include the torture, disappearances and deaths of thousands of Chileans.

Since Pinochet violently overthrew Marxist president Salvador Allende in a violent military coup in 1973, Pinochet has led Chile with an iron fist and has never allowed presidential elections.

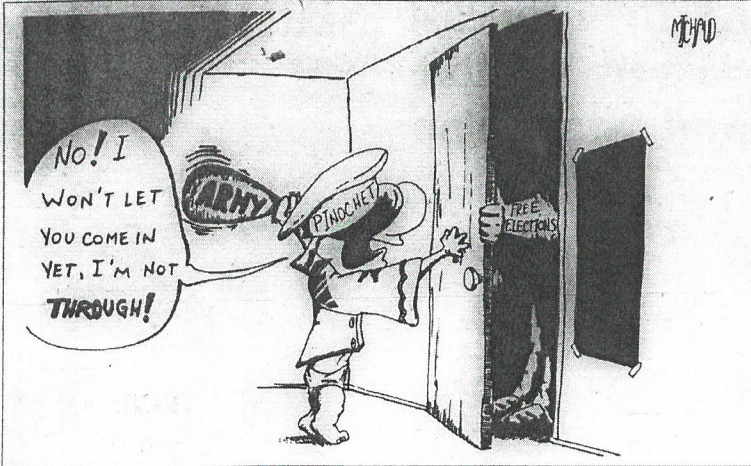
The vote that brought him down was carried out under a constitution that he imposed on Chile in 1980. If Pinochet had won the vote, he would have extended his term, unopposed, until 1997. Perhaps he miscalculated his support when he agreed to the referendum because many believe that he wouldn't have risked loss of power unless he was sure that he would win.

But he did lose, and now the big question is whether Pinochet will step aside by March 11, 1990, as the constitution demands, or devise a reason to stay in power. He conceded defeat after the results of the vote were released; but as he spoke, his troops fired tear gas at crowds celebrating his loss. Two people were also shot to death, and dozens were injured and arrested.

The opposition wants Pinochet to resign now and move up the date of presidential elections, but he refuses to give up power until March 11, 1990. Many observers think he'll try to retain power by creating an excuse to extend his reign or by running for president again in the 1989 election.

Before Pinochet came to power, Chile had the longest tradition of democracy in Latin America. Last week, after 15 years of dictatorship, nearly 7 million Chileans went to the polls and renewed democracy. Let's hope that Gen. Augusto Pinochet listens to his people and steps down peacefully without the loss of more lives.

Julie McMahon for the editorial board



## Some speeches instantly great

But don't be surprised by ones that start less glamorously

It is said that journalists write the first draft of history. As time passes, historians interpret, reorganize, and further investigate newsmen's scoops. With almost godly power, historians structure events of the past: events originally reported by journalists.

Come to think of it, historians and editors are a lot alike.

These experts generally do a laudable job. But there are exceptions based on exhaustive research of documents never before examined. This Kansas exclusive sets the record straight on a 125-year-old historical misconception.

History books have omitted important details about Nov. 19, 1863. Stillness enshrouded the crowd gathered at a small cemetery in Pennsylvania.

"Four score and seven years ago, our fathers brought forth upon this continent a new nation," began Abraham Lincoln in his thin, high voice, "conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."

"Hold on, Mr. President," barked Salmon Doubleday, a little-known reporter whose descendant would someday achieve fame. The journalist's eyebrows made him resemble a Roman from the television series "Star Trek" although nobody knew that at the time. "Unofficial reports indicate that your administration is considering replacing General Meade with General Grant. Any comment?"

Lincoln ignored the question, but the press corps freight train had begun to roll.



Derek Schmidt Staff columnist

"What about your failed businesses, Mr. President," queried Franklin Sesno. "Don't they raise serious questions about your fiscal competence?"

"Mr. President," interrupted correspondent Helena Thomas, "several acclaimed experts have revealed that you suffer from chronic depression. Are you fit to hold office?"

Lincoln nodded sadly, then tried to continue. "Now we are engaged in a great civil war..."

"About the war, Mr. President," interrupted Dane Rafter. "Fifty-one thousand Americans died on this battlefield four months ago. Yet only today do you arrive to consecrate the ground. Why the delay?"

"My hat was at the cleaners," Lincoln quipped. The one-liner ended the interruption, and Lincoln completed the speech.

Two journalists' conversation was later overheard.

Tim Brokaw: How do we report on this one, Brett? Abe was dull today, but it's hard to catch that in print. I sometimes dream about a medium that would capture events as they happen and send

their image into every American home. Someday, it'll happen.

Brett Hume: Dream on, Tim. These politicians would never let themselves be seen in raw form, that from our standpoint, that's a great idea. I'd like the people to see me one-on-one with that Hannibal Hamlin. "Mr. Vice President, I'd say, 'since you're just a heartbeat away from the presidency, why don't you tell the people what you'd do if something happened to Mr. Lincoln?' That'd get him.

The Gettysburg address fared poorly on editorial pages.

"The ceremony was rendered ludicrous by some of the sallies of that poor President Lincoln," wrote the London Times. "Anything more dull and commonplace wouldn't be easy to produce."

An American paper was more judgmental. "We pass over the silly remarks of the President. For the credit of the nation, we are willing that the rest of oblivion should be dropped over them, and that they shall no more be repeated, nor thought of."

Somewhat, history has been rewritten since that November day 125 years ago. Now, the Gettysburg Address is an American masterpiece.

That's frightening.

How will our posterity remember the Benetsen/Quayle debate in 2113?

■ Derek Schmidt is an independence junior majoring in journalism.

## KANSAN MAILBOX

### Quayle feared

Pluff. Hollow nationalism. Plane ticket to an open fascist regime.

These are but a few of my recurrent nightmare images after the debate between Benetsen and Quayle. I thought I'd see a comic farce: Quayle juggling civil rights issues, Quayle dodging queries of the horridous debut, Quayle eating the fire of the Iran-contra scam. But as every rational human saw, the debate was far from humorous.

When Lloyd Benson of Texas shook Quayle's hand, he had to wipe the fluff from his hand. Danny came across as the Yanna White of politics. When Bush or the speech writers say the word fluff, Quayle responds to the secret earphone in his brain (and I use the term "brain" loosely). When asked what he'd do if catapulted into the presidency by an unfortunate accident, Quayle actually had to think: "uh, ah... I'd pray." Even we atheists would pray!

Quayle says that the United States is the "envy of the world." They probably envy our \$1 trillion debt, our record of civil rights and fast food service record. Only 30 million below the poverty line! Wow!

Before the many thousands of KU students and dozens of KU teachers, I, Forest Lee Bloodgood, do irreverently promise to leave the United States of America if, voters help us, J. Danforth Quayle III is sworn to the presidency.

of this nation. I just poked my middle finger drawing the blood of virtue ancestors.

I thought this was a democracy. I thought Americans were supposed to have a choice. Theoretically we do, it is between the constitutional substance of Dukakis and the fascist hollow fluff of Bush and his Frankenstein.

### Controls work

Gina Sibley, in her Sept. 29 letter to the Kansan, criticizes Julie McMahon's statistics on handgun control but then proceeds to provide some dubious statistics of her own. For instance, Sibley states, "The overwhelming majority of gun owners, 96 percent, have never accidentally shot someone else, and never commit crimes with a gun." Where did this statistic come from? The National Rifle Association? And, as I recall, the issue being addressed was a seven-day waiting period for handguns.

Handgun control laws have proven effective. Studies by the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the Justice Department show that after a 1977 law that froze the number of handguns in Washington, D.C., took effect, handgun deaths in the District of Columbia fell 30 percent. According to the Chicago Police Department, that city's 1981 handgun control law has contributed to a 24 percent decline in handgun homicides. Unfortunately, unless a uniform federal law is enacted, such local measures can only go so far toward preventing handgun violence. In New York, for example, more than 80 percent of the handguns used in crime come from states with weaker handgun laws.

What Sibley fails to address in her letter --

and I have yet to hear a rational response from an avid shooter" on this issue -- is why she insists upon the unconditional right to buy a handgun instantly, no questions asked. Why should a seven-day check for a criminal record so offend the true "gun enthusiast"?

### Team never quits

83-10. It was another typical Kansas-Nebbraska football game Saturday afternoon. One thing is certain. The Jayhawks were heavily outmanned by the "Big Red Machine" in this contest. Another thing also is certain. Although the score was lopsided in favor of the Cornhuskers, our team never quit until the final gun sounded.

I believe that this football team is committed to winning. The coaches and players work hard every day to compete on Saturday. I was disgusted with the behavior and attitude of some of our students in the stands during the game. They made jokes about our team and criticized our players and coaches. Our team needs support and encouragement, not derogatory remarks from its fans. There is enthusiasm and hard work on the field, and this eventually will lead to victories. We have an excellent coaching staff and talented players who want to win.

I've attended KU football games since I was 8 years old, and I've sat through good times and bad. I remember the 84 team of 1981, and I also remember a one-victory season. Regardless, I am "true blue." Unfortunately, some are only true blue during the basketball season.

Drew Suleher Lyons sophomore

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## BLOOM COUNTY



## by Berke Breathed

# Opinion

## THE UNIVERSITY DAILY KANSAN

### Residence hall residents pay too much for simple mistake

Part of being human is making mistakes, innocent mistakes where people fall victim to their own forgetfulness. Being locked out of a room falls under this category.

There is always some price to pay when small mistakes happen. Being angry and inconvenienced is normally the price one would expect.

But there's more than that to pay in KU residence halls. Residents have been given a new, strict lockout key policy that is designed to deter their forgetfulness. The policy allows each resident to be locked out only once a semester. In other words, each resident is allowed to use their lockout key twice at no charge, then a \$5 fee is assessed every time thereafter.

Not only is this an unpopular policy with many residents, but it is an unfair policy that needs to be amended quickly.

The Association of University Residence Halls is proposing a better, more reasonable policy.

The AURH plan allows five free lockouts for each student. Five additional lockouts would cost \$2. If lockouts continued, the student would be charged \$4 for five subsequent lockouts. After that, \$10 would be the set fee for the rest of the semester. At that point, AURH proposes, the student could be reprimanded by the assistant residence hall director.

The objective of the housing system's policy is to deter residents from abusing their free lockout privileges. The AURH plan accomplishes that.

The Office of Residential Programs needs to listen more clearly to its residents' complaints. In the case of the lockout policy, that means adopting the AURH proposal.

Tony Balandran for the editorial board

### Recycling plan makes sense

Lawrence could become the first city in Kansas to sort its trash before throwing it away.

Thanks to members of a group called Separate Our Recyclables from Trash (SORT), curbside recycling is a step closer in becoming a reality in Lawrence.

The City Commission last Tuesday discussed establishing a task force that would look into the feasibility of curbside recycling.

Materials such as newspapers, aluminum cans and clear glass would be sorted from other trash by residents. The recyclable materials would be picked up weekly and sold to a recycling center instead of being dumped in the landfill. The plan could save the city money by disposing of solid waste more effectively.

Six neighborhoods in Kansas City, Mo., have implemented successful curbside recycling programs. Other cities, such as Indianapolis and Seattle, have similar neighborhood programs.

Curbside recycling is a responsible and sensible approach in dealing with an increasing garbage problem. SORT estimates that up to 25 percent of the trash dumped at a landfill is recyclable. Curbside recycling won't make landfills obsolete, but it could reduce the amount of waste dumped there.

The task force on recycling should move quickly to develop a practical plan that would include the University as a source of recyclable materials. Economically and environmentally speaking, there is no reason that the plan should not go forward.

Lawrence residents, by and large, are responsible and involved in their community. The city's response to curbside recycling would more than likely be favorable. The only thing that could hamper SORT's effort to start a recycling program would be red tape encountered at City Hall. The City Commission should work with the task force to establish a workable curbside recycling plan.

Christine Martin for the editorial board

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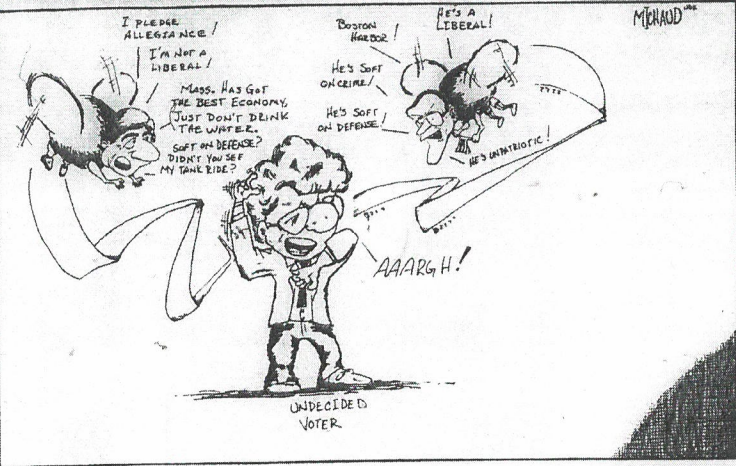
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## Labels, sound bites have a place

### One-liners aren't always negative, just in this campaign

This label thing has me confused.

Perhaps the greatest legacy of the 1960s was an understanding that to stereotype people by race, creed or ideology was the brainchild of a hollow head. Far better to describe people using individual characteristics.

But other labels are desirable. Imagine life if we stopped labeling people who teach as teachers or people who grow food as farmers.

Q: Where are you going today?  
A: After the one whose job it is to imbue knowledge allows me to leave school, I am going by the office of the person with the knowledge of how to kill the virus that I have, and then I'm headed out to bale hay with a person whose practice it is to produce agricultural products.

That's silly.

Obviously, one extreme should preclude the use of labels, while the other should demand it. It's that nasty middle ground that's tough.

Enter George and the Duke. In the last presidential debate, the profundity of the label controversy rose to view.

"Mr. Public," wailed a distraught Dukakis, "George's cullin' me names again. He did it two, three, maybe a dozen times."

It was the dreaded liberal label.

"An not, an not," pouted Bush. "Mikey started it."

Maybe that whole exchange was part of a plot by



Derek Schmidt  
Staff columnist

grade school teachers who wanted us to know how they sounded as second-graders in trouble for talking and trying to dump the blame on somebody else. Or maybe the issue of a liberal/conservative ideology really is important. In either case, the label stuck.

And nothing makes a better sound bite than a clever label. Studs Terkel compared news-gathering to an old burlesque skit in which a Dutch comic in baggy pants demanded of his partner, "Yink, vat's your philosophy of life in life seconds?"

But that short, punchy approach may not be so bad. Goethe said that when ideas fall, words come in handy. Maybe that explains our national eloquence.

Or perhaps the truly profound is best expressed in brief. Consider these sound bites of ages past:

- "Woman was God's second mistake." — Nietzsche
- "Nietzsche was stupid and abnormal." — Tolstoy
- "Never mistake motion for action." — Hemingway

way

- "Glory is fleeting, but obscurity is forever." — Napoleon
- "Never eat more than you can lift" — Miss Piggy

With a brief mentality (take that as you will), anybody can philosophize. Some of the best admonitions come from unknown sources:

- "Pins spread disease — keep yours zipped."
- "Only dead fish swim with the stream."
- "Talk is cheap because supply exceeds demand."

Maybe slugging through these political one-liners isn't so bad after all. They just might deliver an important message.

Unless we go to extremes, crying, "Please, candidates, say less to tell us more," remember that the power of the condensed label can be abused.

The one-line philosophies in Campaign '88 should not be anathema of itself. It's how well these candidates misuse them that keeps contemporary comics working.

At least the campaign's best one-liner is only 19 days away.

"The end."

■ Derek Schmidt is an Independence junior majoring in journalism.

## KANSAN MAILBOX

### Key complaints

In the Oct. 12 Kansan, there was an article headlined, "Housing officials say dorm policy on lockout works." To justify the \$5 fine for being locked out of one's room, Fred McElhenie, director of the office of residential programs, said that a "few" students abused free lockout privileges last year.

Well, it looks as if Fred and other University of Kansas officials have found yet another way of bleeding a few bucks from the residents. I'm waiting to see what fines they come up with next year to compensate for the cost of rotating all the locks, because a number of students already have duplicated their keys, which can be done at any hardware store for less than a dollar.

Lath Nayam  
Bartlesville, Okla., sophomore

### Problems explained

As coordinator of the Roberts Lecture Series, I would like to offer some explanation to those who were unable to attend Elie Wiesel's lecture Monday evening.

First of all, I apologize to all those people who were unable to find seats. I understand your disappointment. I wish it had been possible to accommodate everyone who wanted to attend.

It was not possible.

Mr. Wiesel's contract stipulated that he personally approve any auditorium seating more than 1,000 people. He approved Crafter-Freyer Theatre, which seats 1,200. More than a month ago we asked that he agree to speak in Hoch Auditorium, explaining the potential crowd and the interest not only on campus but in Kansas elsewhere in Murphy Hall. Even where there was a sound system allowing this, no spaces were available unless we canceled classes or rehearsals. That was out of the question.

I want to thank those who made the appearance a success: the computer science department, which agreed to move an exam for 800 students if Mr. Wiesel agreed to speak there; the theatre department, which moved a rehearsal to accommodate the lecture; to Student Senate for providing the additional funding needed; and to Hillis, for persuading Mr. Wiesel to accept our invitation.

I was very sorry that so many were turned away.

James Scally  
Assistant to the Chancellor

### Offensive graffiti

Suicide. It is an ugly word. Recently, the University of Kansas was shocked to learn of

one confirmed and another possible suicide involving KU students. The suicide near the Delta Tau Delta fraternity house caused people to react in different ways. I stopped and wondered how many people I might know who feel alone, unloved and unwanted. It caused another person to write an offensive piece of graffiti on the wall in one of the restrooms in Watson Library.

I am not one of the best supporters of the Greek system, but I feel that acts such as this are malicious, cruel-hearted, and totally uncalculated. It makes me wonder what the person who wrote that could possibly have been thinking. Perhaps it was an extremely poor attempt at humor. Maybe it was an act of malice at the Greek system or at Delta Tau Delta. I do not know. I just wish for a recovery from the shock and grief that now plague the University.

Eric Moore  
Great Bend sophomore

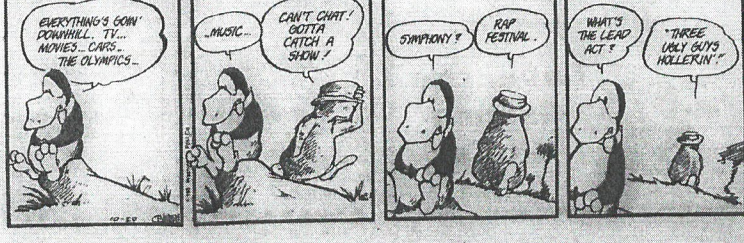
### Holocaust lessons

Elie Wiesel's major point about the Holocaust for a university community was his reminder that it emanated from a European country with arguably the best higher education in the world and that it made first-class murderers out of the highly cultured people with doctorates in the humanities.

Because we are a university, I think KANU or the Kansan stories ought to have mentioned this part of Wiesel's message. Its import for us and for this century is obvious.

Kenneth Miner  
Professor of Linguistics

## BLOOM COUNTY by Berke Breathed



# Opinion

## THE UNIVERSITY DAILY KANSAN U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Jim Slattery

Although both Jim Slattery and Phil Meinhardt care about the state they want to serve, there is a key difference between the two: a record of service to the state.

In his three two-year terms, Slattery has built an impressive record of service to the Second Congressional District, especially to the rural areas in northeast Kansas.

Slattery, who serves on the prestigious Budget Committee, last year helped to form the Rural Health Care Coalition to promote rural health care and to lead the fight against the closing of rural hospitals nationwide.

He has also stressed innovative options for the state, such as fiber optic telecommunications technology, so that Kansas can compete more effectively as a business state.

Slattery has worked tirelessly to keep Lawrence's Haskell Indian Junior College open and affordable for Native Americans.

His opponent, Phil Meinhardt, has just completed a 30-year career in the Air Force. However, Meinhardt built his career in almost every corner of the globe except Kansas. He returned to the state only after the Kansas Republican Party asked him to run against Slattery.

Judging from recent campaign actions, Meinhardt appears to be walking close to the fringe. Among other antics, Meinhardt has charged that Slattery was soft on communism for helping to reunite a Cuban defector and the family he left behind. He pulled a cheap campaign stunt in Topeka when he confronted Slattery and demanded that he sign a placard against raising taxes.

His methods indicate that he is out of touch with the way most Kansans feel.

Slattery has proven to be an independent thinker. Although he isn't always responsive to his party, he is responsive to his constituents.

Slattery has proven his responsibility, his commitment and his perception of the future for northeast Kansas. He deserves two more years in office.

The editorial board

## STATE SENATE Wint Winter, Jr.

State Senator Wint Winter's commitment to the University of Kansas probably started soon after his graduation from the University. His focus on, and support for, educational issues in his first term as senator has earned him a reputation as a good friend of the University.

Winter, a Republican, is running for a second term. He is challenged by Mike DuPree, a Democrat. DuPree has 10 years of business experience and political involvement, mainly in environmental issues. DuPree seems to be a dynamic and goal-oriented person, and he has compiled a forward-thinking agenda, including support for wind generators, recycling and biodegradable packaging. However, these items do not top the state's list of priorities at this time.

Winter's platform, on the other hand, gives more attention to KU's most pressing needs. He is determined to finance the next two years of the Margin of Excellence. KU needs \$10 million in education opportunities for all Kansas children. The University is poised for a major expansion plan in the next 10 years. Success in that expansion program is, to a large extent, dependent on the Margin of Excellence. KU needs Winter's experience and leadership in the Legislature.

Winter also believes that general fund sales tax revenue should be reserved for education, property tax relief, reclassification of state employees and programs for elderly and disabled people, and not for highway and prison improvements. In the imminent fight over the use of general fund and sales tax revenue, Winter will present a strong case to secure funds for the Margin of Excellence.

That plan is only one of the educational programs that he promises to protect. Education is an important state priority, and Winter should be given the opportunity to finish what he started.

The editorial board

Editor's notes: Throughout this week the Kansan editorial board will be announcing its endorsements for the Nov. 8 general election. The endorsements represent the viewpoint of the editorial board.

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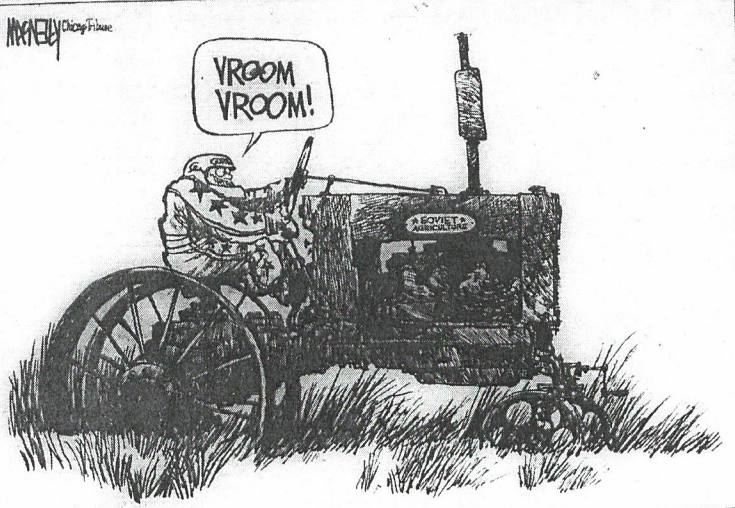
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## A copying miracle at the library? Well, maybe it was just a malfunction, but who's complaining?

Miracles still happen. Remember how Jesus fed the multitudes with only a few loaves and fish? Something came from nothing.

A similar thing happened last week at Watson Library, but on a smaller scale.

I got 1,341 photocopies for 46 cents. It started as a lousy day. My word processor had broken down, and I had to type the two papers due that morning. I felt so primitive.

Ever since a first grade teacher misplaced his coloring assignment, I've been leery of surrendering an only copy to authorities. So, being unable to print extra copies of my papers on the computer, en route to class I dropped by copy services at Watson.

There the saga began.

The copier's tiny green indicator said "READY." It lied.

Inserting my Ventamast card, I waited for the machine to recognize the \$6 cents I knew it held. But instead, the indicator said, "BAD CARD."

Always the optimist, I tried another machine.

"BAD CARD."

I resigned to losing 46 cents and tried to buy a new card.

But I had the wrong money.

My wallet held \$61 (not a result of my columnist's paycheck)—three twenties and a one.



**Derek Schmidt**  
Staff columnist

I could have bought a new card for \$1, but it would have held no value, making it about as useful as Confederate currency. I had no time to get change.

Frustrated, irritated and doubting all high-tech gadgets, I left, swearing never to patronize those copiers again.

But that evening, I returned to the library. I was armed with more papers to copy.

This time, I was armed with small change. Charlie Brown always figured that if he tried to kick the football just one more time, maybe Lucy wouldn't pull it away. I admire Charlie Brown, so I shoved the Ventamast card in one more time.

"BAD CARD."

I didn't see the lightning bolt that struck next, but I know it was there. Lightning bolts always accompany miracles.

The copier's indicator went blank. Then it spattered some garbled figures. When it calmed down, my card had value again: \$30.56.

That's enough for 1,341 copies. So if anybody needs to duplicate anything...

I faced a dilemma. If I told my story, secret copying services police might rap on my door late one night and demand that I surrender my card, or else.

But as a journalist, I knew the public had the right to know.

After sleepless nights, I decided that if this really had been a miracle, I had to tell the world. So was it really a miracle?

Maybe there was an earthly explanation for the whole thing. What if some high tech development had enabled the copier to be part of a covert plot to give more money to good students?

Maybe the copier somehow scanned the papers it copied, and, if one clearly had been a work of brilliance, awarded a sort of copying-services grant in an amount proportional to the quality of the work.

That bashed my ego. I only got 80 bucks.

Nevertheless, reason prevailed, and I am able to explain the incident in worldly terms. It was just an attempt to give more merit-based scholarships at the KU.

But wait. That wouldn't matter.

That would be a miracle, too.

■ Derek Schmidt is an independence junior majoring in journalism.

## Democrats aren't fighting dirty enough

Sen. Lloyd Bentsen says he's fed up with nasty Republican mudslinging and negative campaigning.

In an angry outburst, Bentsen said, "What has happened, almost without notice, is an utterly vicious onslaught and character assassination. They don't seem to mind if what they say is untrue. They don't seem to worry if it's misleading."

"They don't seem to care that what they do do, downright mean. It sounds good, say it. If it sells, it's fine. It looks good, nominate it."

"We've been a little too flabbergasted sometimes to make a proper response. But I don't think we ever imagined that George Bush and the Republicans would be so willing to debate that precious currency of our Democracy."

Bentsen is correct. The Republicans have, at times, been showing sharp fangs.

For example, I have a slick pamphlet on my desk that is being mass-mailed to voters in Illinois by the Illinois Republican State Central Committee.

In big black type, it says, "ALL THE MURDERERS AND RAPISTS AND DRUG PUSHERS IN MASSACHUSETTS VOTE FOR MICHAEL DUKAKIS."

The pamphlet says that if mass-murderer John Gacy, a Chicagoan, were in Boston, Dukakis probably would let him roam the streets on weekends.

It referred to the now-famous case of Willie Horton, a convicted killer who committed rape on a weekend furlough in Massachusetts.

Thanks to the Republicans in Massachusetts, this has become one of the most notorious rapes in history. Before this campaign is over, many Americans will believe



**Mike Royko**  
Syndicated columnist

that Dukakis himself did the dirty deed.

And, I'm sure, this is what Bentsen is talking about. We're well into the nuclear age, global chaos makes us dizzy, domestic problems are piling up.

But the Republicans are hammering Dukakis because a creep named Willie Horton committed a rape while on a weekend furlough.

What probably bothers Bentsen most, though, is that it's working. It's effective. Illinois Republicans have a sense of what grabs votes.

And Willie Horton, the rapist, is probably good for a 1 or 2 percent of the lead that Bush has over Dukakis in the polls.

The silly flaps about the Pledge of Allegiance and the ACLU, which also are mentioned, are good for another point or two.

It might make Bentsen feel good to be indignant. But right or wrong, the Republicans know which emotional buttons to push. And they've been pushing them.

They know that just the mention of a Willie Horton (Ah, such a convenient black-sounding name) is enough to set white urban-dwellers a-trembling.

Sure, the pamphlet is misleading. How do Illinois Republicans know how "murderers and rapists and drug pushers and child molesters in Massachusetts" vote? Do they hang around dark alleys

with them?

But the pitch works. Every presidential election begins with 40 percent on this side, 40 percent on that side, and the fight is for the 20 percent in the middle.

The Republicans know Bush will get a bigger share of that 20 percent by saying, "Good! Dukakis will let big, black Willie Horton crawl through your window," then Dukakis will get by drooping on about how his ma and pa came here from the Old Country in a leaky boat.

Bentsen's problem is that the Republicans are kicking them in the shins. It's that the Democrats don't know how to respond with a knee in the groin.

While Republicans have been gouging their eyes, Democrats have been thumbing through the Marquis of Queensberry rules.

When the Republicans mentioned Willie Horton, the Democrats should have jogged Bush's membership. Hey, George! You didn't help found and sponsor a Texas halfway house? And didn't one of your halfway lads celebrate his freedom by raping and murdering a minister's wife?

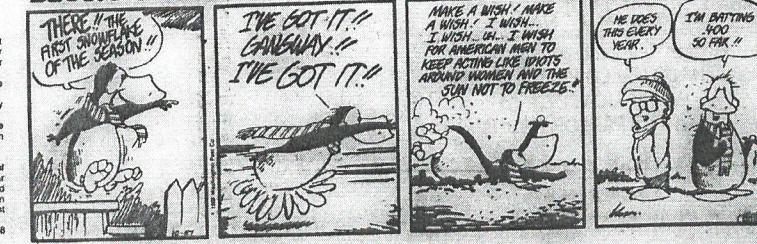
Is that fair to Bush and Reagan? Of course not. Almost every state has a furlough program and halfway houses. Most work well, but all have failures. But if you are going to knee groin, you don't think fair. Bush doesn't. Illinois Republicans don't. Why should Dukakis and Bentsen?

Despite Bentsen's beatings, if the Republicans win, they deserve it.

They found the Dark Side of America. And although they may be preppies, Bush and Quayle weren't afraid of the dark.

■ Mike Royko is a syndicated columnist who writes for the Chicago Tribune.

## BLOOM COUNTY by Berke Breathed



# Opinion

## Students, administration can't ignore threat of AIDS

College students who are not worried about AIDS need a wake-up call.

That call comes from new evidence that shows AIDS is more widespread among college students than previously believed. The Centers for Disease Control recently released preliminary results from a study of blood samples drawn from students who came to campus health centers for diagnosis and treatment of any ailment requiring a blood test. The study shows the AIDS virus present at the rate of three out of 1,000 students. This figure is almost as high as the rate among convicts, which is four out of 1,000. Convicts are considered a high-risk group.

Three in 1,000 may not seem like much, but figure that if the University of Kansas has an enrollment of about 27,000, there would be about 80 students with the AIDS virus at KU, according to the study.

College students must snap out of their complacent attitudes about AIDS. To stop the spread of the disease, students must follow guidelines set by health experts such as avoiding casual sex with strangers, using condoms and being tested. Students also need to disregard myths and take time to educate themselves about AIDS.

The University must do its part by doing more than just handing out pamphlets. Programs that educate about AIDS must be stressed. And KU could become one of the many universities, including Kansas State, that allow condom machines in its residence halls as an effort to slow the spread of AIDS. So far, several different requests by residence halls to have condom machines installed have not been granted.

The study suggests the AIDS virus is not limited to homosexuals and drug users. The disease is spreading to the heterosexual community, and college students are not any more immune to it than other groups. Students and University officials must pull together to help stop the spread of AIDS.

Julie McMahon for the editorial board

## Stephan's legal problems

Kansas Attorney General Robert Stephan found himself in trouble again last week when he lost a judgment in a breach of contract suit.

The suit came about after Stephan disclosed in 1985 the facts of an out-of-court settlement between himself and Marcia Tomson Stingley, a former file clerk in his office. Stephan paid \$24,000 in 1982 to settle a sexual harassment suit she brought against him.

The jury ordered Stephan to pay \$200,000 in damages. Stephan said he would continue in office and would fight the judgment against him.

Stephan hasn't just suffered financially because of the case. The scandal ruined his chances for governing in 1986 when he was considered an early favorite, and his political opponents were sure to use the lawsuit as ammunition against him now and during his next campaign, just as they did last time.

But the loss of the breach-of-contract suit and surrounding controversy shouldn't force him from office now. Stephan, who was elected attorney general in 1978 and won re-elections in 1982 and 1986, has had a long record of service in office, and anti-drunken driving causes as press and consumer rights and anti-drunken driving measures.

There may be reasons to oppose Stephan, but unproven rumors shouldn't be one of them.

There was nothing illegal in settling the sexual harassment suit out of court. It would be wrong to innuinate that he was guilty of sexual harassment. Question Stephan for breaking his agreement. Question how the state's chief attorney did not know the terms of a settlement. And question how he could originally suggest that the state would have to pay for his defense. But don't judge him for an alleged crime when his guilt has not been proven.

The cloud from this episode will linger over Stephan's strong service record for some time. Maybe that's the most unjust part of this case. Because the harassment charges never went to trial, we may never know whether he's truly guilty of wrongdoing or just being hounded. But unless different facts come to light, Stephan should be allowed to put it behind him and get on with the affairs of the state.

Christine Martin for the editorial board

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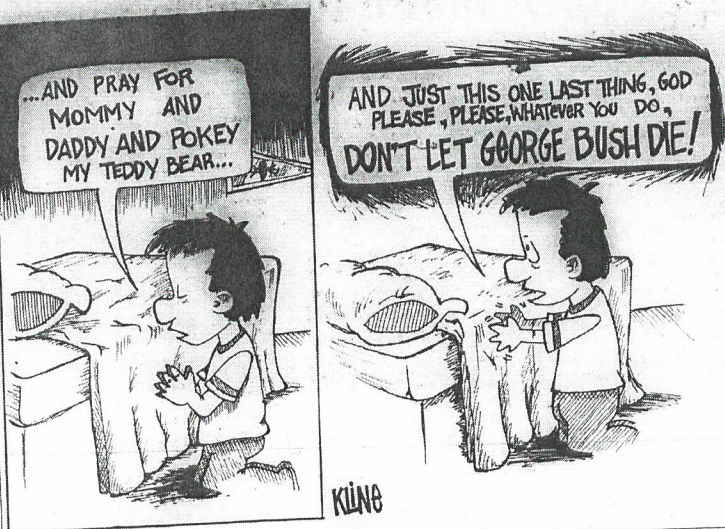
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## Crossing fine line between the 'Big L's'

It's okay to be liberal, but is everyone who wants cleaner air and water a loonier?

It's not every day that somebody walks into the governor's office and handcuffs herself to a chair. Especially in Kansas.

But it happened last week when Lauri Maddy chained herself to Mike Hayden's chair to protest what she said was the state's inaction in dealing with hazardous wastes from chemical plants.

"I have locked myself into your environment as you have locked me into mine," Maddy said in a written statement. "Consider me a hazardous chemical... I am ever present in your environment. You can haul me away, but where will you send me? You can't get rid of a hazardous waste."

No wonder people are talking.

"Lauri Maddy is a loony coming who opposes peace, justice and the American way," said U.B. Orderly, intellectual sparring partner, U.B. Orderly.

Could you be a little more specific?

"She's a liberal, big L, who wants to spend, spend, regulate, regulate, regulate, and for what? To keep a few chemicals out of her body."

But she does have a point. I mean, if living near the Vulcan Chemical plant in Wichita really did cause her to develop a lung disease, doesn't she deserve to be upset?

"Of course, but there's a difference between being upset and being loony. I get upset when the neighbor's dog doo-dooes on my lawn, but I don't handcuff myself to the neighbor's chair. I go and tell him to take care of his dog."



Derek Schmidt  
Staff columnist

Does the dog do it again?  
"Yep. Neighbor never did listen to me."  
I rest my case.  
"Don't confuse the issue. This Maddy woman could have worked within the system. She could have written letters, called her representatives, lobbied."  
"But the system is slow. What about the other lobby?"  
"Lauri Maddy would be hurt in the meantime?"  
"You can't just decide to work outside the established rules. That's anarchy."  
So maybe she was part of the system. Maybe the system doesn't stop at the capital doors. A man in a jail cell in Birmingham faced that same problem 25 years ago. Dr. King wrote: "You deplore the demonstrations taking place in Birmingham, but you state, I am sorry to say, fails to express a similar concern for the conditions that brought about the demonstrations... Direct action tends so to dramatize the issue that it can no longer be ignored."

"So what you're saying is that if I want the state to buy me an airplane for my personal use, it's okay to shackles myself to the governor's toilet until he gives in."  
You could try, but you'd look silly.  
"Why would I look silly, and Maddy didn't?"  
Because Maddy was fighting for a just law. Remember what St. Augustine said: "An unjust law is no law at all." You could stay in manacles for 1,000 flushes, and there would never be justice in buying you an airplane.  
"So you think there is justice in state buying you an airplane and money just to guarantee that all Kansans have pollutant-free water and air and food and land?"  
Exactly.  
"You belong to the ACLU, don't you?"  
No, but I joined the KU Ambassador Program. Is that close enough?  
"Look, what you say makes a lot of sense. But I still think she went too far. After Maddy met with Governor Hayden, he issued a prepared statement: 'As the nation's only environmentally trained governor, I am extremely concerned about protecting our state's environment and natural resources.' What do you think Maddy would say to that?"  
God help the other 49.  
Derek Schmidt is an independence junior majoring in journalism.

## KANSAS MAILBOX

### Shaky faith

In a day of right-wing extremes, why should I be surprised when a "Christian" (and I use that term loosely) such as Eric Schmidt blindly misinterprets the Bible for the purpose of promoting (insultingly) his own beliefs? Why should it surprise me when he would rather "hang a millstone" around a minister's neck and kill him, rather than become aware of the views of others?

In my opinion, he has misunderstood the meanings of the words "promise," "sponsor" and "Christian."

In his letter (Nov. 6), he warns of the wrongdoings of Jack Bremner, KU campus minister, because he sponsored a presentation of the Wicca religion Oct. 29. The word "sponsor" indicates support, be it financial or moral. Allowing Sue Westwind to speak is not in honor of the Wicca religion. Bremner is a reverend of the Methodist church, not the Wicca religion. He sponsors both financially and morally the Christian church, not Satan.

The word "promise" also was misused. The Ecumenical Christian Ministries did host a

forum in which a non-Christian faith was discussed. The purpose of the forum was to become aware, not to convert.

Lastly, the basis of his letter was motivated by his "Christian" ethic. I am deeply offended by his advocacy of Bremner's death, as a friend of Bremner and as a Christian. I have tried to eliminate the feelings of hatred and wickedness that were present in Schmidt's letter. Obviously, his Christian faith is on unstable ground.

Timothy Parls  
Theology senior  
Kansas State University

### Give voters due

Suppose Roy Laird, the political science professor quoted as an expert in the Nov. 9 Kansan had said, "Women vote their feelings" or "Blacks vote for the darker candidate," I suspect most readers would react with outrage. These are incredibly sexist and racist remarks. Should we not react with similar protest to what he did say, namely that "The American people vote by their pocket books"? Or that Bush won because "the economy is doing well"?

These remarks assume that the voter is a self-centered slub, governed by his or her stomach, unable to think or reason about any issue beyond creature comfort. Such a view is

classist, snobbish, elitist paternalism with which no American should put up.

The same attitude infects some of the comment concerning the Reagan presidency. Arthur L. Thomas, Arthur Young distinguished professor of business, comments, distinguishing himself for condescension by describing Reagan as "lazy, uxorious and popular." Dare we ask how someone so lacking in humanity, to say nothing of leadership quality, could be elected by two enormous landmasses and maintain unequal popularity ratings for eight years? Thomas just assumes the American people can't evaluate their leaders. He implicitly subscribes to the notion that the noxious Reagan fooled all the people all the time, except himself and perhaps a few slyite others.

Ditto for the silly diatribes such as "plastic," "pathetic," and "style over substance presidency." The authors reek of a far-seniority, than-thou attitude toward the public. Such posturing is itself ignorant and pathetic. One may criticize Reagan's policies and actions without insulting his person or the American voter's intelligence.

Without the help of snooty experts, voters told their own story through the exit polls. Thirty-six percent based their choice on foreign policy issues. Twenty-four percent selected anti-abortion as their prime motivator. One may argue about these values, but one may not smirk, jeer, and foam at the mouth as if those who hold them are despicable.

Gary Hardaway  
Hillaboro graduate student

## BLOOM COUNTY



# Opinion

## Students deserve a break earlier than Thanksgiving

It's not likely that it will ever happen. In fact, it's practically impossible.

Still, it would be nice. Really nice.

It would be a "Fall Break." A stress-free week during the beginning of November would be a welcome addition to the calendar.

After all, in the spring semester, KU students attend classes for eight weeks before "Spring Break."

Spring Break is a needed chance to be relieved of responsibility and pressure caused by classes, tests, job hunting, etc., for just a week.

This fall, KU students leave Wednesday for a brief and very welcome Thanksgiving vacation after completing 11 consecutive weeks of class.

It has been a long stretch of classes. And it is followed by a brief, family-oriented holiday. For some, it is a relaxing holiday. For others it is mainly a chance to catch up on homework.

Thanksgiving vacation is a welcome break from school. But wouldn't it be nice if it had come about three weeks earlier?

Considering all the pressures on students today, a break from class would give students a chance to recharge the batteries. Professors also could use a break.

But this probably will remain a pipe dream because the fall academic calendar is scheduled tightly. Classes already start before Labor Day and end only two days before Christmas. Adding a week for vacation would mean starting classes around Aug. 15.

An easier solution — except that it would require national legislation — would be to move Thanksgiving to October. After all, that would be close to the end of harvest. And it would be farther away from the Christmas holiday. And it would be about eight weeks after the semester starts.

Many students would be more than happy to give thanks for such a break.

Todd Cohen for the editorial board

## NASA can't allow cover-up

The good feelings still remain from the last successful space shuttle launch. Americans sprit get a much-needed boost from the Discovery launch in October after the Challenger disaster in 1986. On the surface, it appears that NASA successfully has restructured its management system and is on its way back.

But there are insinuations that NASA hasn't come forward with all the details of the Challenger disaster and that the administration is covering up flaws in the system that some think will lead to another shuttle tragedy in the next two to three missions.

Robert Hutz, a member of the presidential commission that issued a report on the disaster, said recently that NASA was so smug about never having had an accident that it had no plans or organization capable of handling one.

Because NASA was not prepared, many say, it decided to cover up most of the facts about the tragedy.

For example, NASA told the media that the Challenger crew cabin was vaporized at the time of the explosion. But recent reports have mentioned evidence that the astronauts were alive for up to 2½ minutes after the explosion and didn't die until the cabin struck the ocean.

But NASA managed to convince the nation that the astronauts were killed instantly.

As one newspaper report said, the image of the shuttle crew, conscious, aware of their fate, plunging for 2½ minutes toward the ocean at 200 mph was the last thing NASA needed.

Some people believe that not only did NASA hang tough in not revealing all the information from the Challenger disaster to the presidential commission, but that any future mistakes will be covered up, too, until another disaster forces another investigation.

"We have the feeling that nothing much has changed," Hutz said. "The problem is not that they'll get one (shuttle) off. They'll get one off and maybe two or three, but they're heading for trouble down the road."

That trouble could take the form of anything from launch delays to another disaster involving loss of life, something that surely would ground the shuttle for an indefinite amount of time, maybe permanently. And that is the last thing NASA or the United States needs.

Mark Tiftford for the editorial board

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## "They sure looked like SANDINISTAS To Me."



## Modern warriors' battle cry: Charge it!

Remember "The Day After"?

Filmed in Lawrence, the movie employed a realism unequalled until "Hogor Rabbit" to show the effects of a nuclear attack on the United States. Remember "America"?

In this 1967 movie, Kris Kristofferson fought almost single-handedly against oppression by a stamtrooper-like United Nations force that, under Soviet control, occupied the United States. Remember "Red Dawn"?



Derek Schmidt  
Staff columnist

After Soviet and Cuban paratroopers invaded North America, a band of teenage guerrillas calling themselves "the Wolverines" attacked the enemy from a stronghold in the Rockies. In the end, the United States repelled the invasion and erected a monument to the young heroes.

Hollywood is particularly good at holding up an object — they say it's a mirror, but it's really a surrealist sketch — and showing how we are doomed to destroy ourselves.

We're still alive and intact as a nation. And the cinema prophets of cataclysm have slipped from favor with Siskel & Ebert. Themes of invasion and destruction, real or not, are hackneyed and dull.

But more salient warnings brought by these doomsday productions still linger. The three movies shared another common element: destruction of automobiles.

Concern is high about the risk war poses to cars. Just ask sheep holders of Citibank Preferred Visa cards.

A pamphlet recently sent to some cardholders told them that they had earned auto rental insurance as a bonus for their membership. But the policy was somewhat limited.

"This plan does not cover losses caused or contributed to by: operation of the vehicle contrary to terms of the rental agreement; wear and tear; gradual deterioration; insects or vermin; inherent vice or damage; hostile or wartime action in time of peace or war; any weapon of war; employing atomic fission or a radioactive force; insurrection, rebellion; revolution, civil war; public authority by order of any government or defending against such an occurrence; seizure or destruction under quarantine or custom regulations; confiscation by order of any government or illegal trade; nuclear reaction, nuclear radiation or radioactive contamination.

So the Defense Department should not rent a fleet of Ryders and drive them into battle.

And if you rent a Pinto from Hertz and take it on vacation in Beirut, you do so at your own risk. Don't park it near Chernobyl. And don't expect insurance to pay if you get caught smuggling drugs from Mexico in the hatchback.

I suppose that such a contract should be reexamined. At least the company is concerned about having claims to settle in the aftermath of a nuclear exchange. But insurance that explicitly

refuses to pay in case of military disaster must be at least uncommon, perhaps unprecedented.

Romans' chariot insurance probably would not have invalidated itself in case of barbarian attack. And few historians believe that William the Conqueror had to study the fine print of his insurance policy before launching his invasion north from Normandy.

When President Eisenhower warned about the military-industrial complex, the insurance industry probably was not the cause of his concern. And few opponents of increased defense spending have argued that it would have a negative impact on automobile rentals.

It took the Citibank Preferred Visa pamphlet to suggest the military-auto insurance link.

Paul Kennedy's recent bestseller "The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers" documented the historical relationship between military spending and the civilian economy. But even his research did not predict that the historical trend would manifest itself in the form of rental insurance.

Perhaps, then, this is true: Where academics fail, consumers succeed.

This newest form of the evolving relationship between strategy and peacetime finances was forecast in 1963 by Jan Barrett in the comedy trade paper "Just for Laughs": "What Caesar would have said in attacking 20th century America:

"Veni, vidi, Visa." (I came, I saw, I went shopping.)

Derek Schmidt is an Independence junior majoring in journalism.

## KANSAN MAILBOX

### Bugged by article

We, two concerned Miller Hall residents, would like to respond to the article, "Students share space with cockroaches," which appeared in the Nov. 10 Kansan.

When the first glanced at the headline, one of our fellow Millerites said, "Egad! Who has to share space with cockroaches? That's terrible!" Upon reading the article, she, as well as many other Miller residents, were surprised and appalled to discover that the article was referring to Miller Hall.

We were all a bit confounded as to where the figures concerning our "cockroach problem" came from. According to the article, it is common to see three cockroaches an hour in the cafeteria at Miller. First of all, we have no cafeteria. Instead, Miller has seven small, individual kitchens. This is actually an advantage to controlling the cockroach population. We don't have the quantities of food that caterinas have to attract cockroaches.

Second, unless the observer of cockroaches in our "cafeteria" lagged each one, how can she claim that she saw three different cockroaches an hour? Third, we'd like to know who had the

time or desire to sit down and count cockroaches as a nightly extra-curricular activity. Even if there were three different cockroaches, unless she were observing them every night, such observations cannot possibly be consistent.

We admit that we spotted cockroaches at the beginning of the year. However, the problem was greatly minimized because of daily cleaning and weekly spraying of the kitchen. Ken Sleser, director of student housing, said in the article that some cockroaches always survive extermination attempts. The goal, he said, is to control and minimize the pests. And we feel that this has been accomplished. We resent the negative implications about Miller Hall, which probably have had a significant impact on students who are considering applying for residence here, especially since the "problem" is virtually non-existent.

Yvonne Guzman  
Augusta sophomore

Megan Crawford  
Wichita sophomore

### "Pud"? Hardly

I would like to respond to several comments made in the recent article on "pud" classes.

First, having taught several undergraduate human development and family life classes and having some knowledge of a number of others, I can safely say that I don't know of any that

qualify for "pud" status. This includes the self-paced courses which, semester after semester, continue to be an unwelcome surprise to students who enroll in them thinking that little work will be required for a good grade.

Second, having bachelor's and master's degrees in engineering from the Illinois Institute of Technology and Brown University, respectively, and now being a doctoral candidate in HDPL, I also can safely say that psychology has as much substance as any other discipline, and that psychology classes can take as much time as extermination classes.

Yes, the average engineering class is "harder" than the average psychology class, on both the undergraduate and graduate levels. But I have used my calculus from engineering in my studies as a basic researcher in animal learning, and have found the accompanying theory, meta-theory and philosophy of science as challenging in their own way as the theories of strength of materials and fluid mechanics.

Let me end this letter with a plea to those of you who have sneered away from psychology because of its image as one of the weaker sisters of science. If qualified and dedicated individuals do not work to advance the understanding of human behavior, what good will all our knowledge in other areas do? We will have possessed the natural environment beyond the capability for a technological fix and/or blown ourselves up in the meantime.

Susan Schneider  
Lawrence graduate student

## BLOOM COUNTY



## by Berke Breathed

THE UNIVERSITY DAILY KANSAN

### PLO's recognition of Israel isn't perfect, but it's a start

The Palestine Liberation Organization recently took an encouraging step toward peace in the Middle East, even though peace wasn't its only motive.

On Nov. 15 the PLO accepted United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 which implicitly recognizes Israel's right to exist. This is important because the PLO's refusal to recognize Israel has been a barrier to negotiations for a Palestinian homeland for decades. The resolution, which originally would have helped to provide both Israel and Palestine with a state, was rejected by Palestinians in 1968.

However, the PLO released another statement on Nov. 15 that cheapened the sincerity of the acceptance of the resolution. It declared Palestinian independence and claimed the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as a Palestinian state.

The Israeli and U.S. governments stated that the PLO was too vague about Israeli recognition and that the PLO has not rejected and separated itself fully from terrorism. In fact, the U.S. government denied PLO leader Yasser Arafat a visa request because of his organization's links to terrorism against U.S. citizens.

The United States and Israel have rejected the recognition of Israel and the declaration of independence because they saw the moves as attempts to put Israel on the defensive and to gain international support without actually conceding anything to Israel. They say the PLO recognized Israel only to soften opposition to the declaration of independence, not as a true move toward peace.

But despite its motives, the PLO recognition of Israel is a move that shouldn't be ignored. Violence and bloodshed have continued too long. The Palestinian uprisings during the past year have shown that the homeland problem must be dealt with soon. The PLO at least has begun to move toward negotiations.

Julie McMahon for the editorial board

### Pakistan and the bomb

Signing a treaty to reduce nuclear weapons in the United States and Soviet Union was a step in the right direction for the leaders of those two countries.

But recently published reports saying Pakistan now has the capability to produce nuclear weapons takes the whole world a step back.

The arms race that the United States and the Soviet Union started years ago set the example, and other countries have followed. Three other countries — China, France and Great Britain — admit they can make nuclear weapons. Several others, including Israel and South Africa, are suspected of having that capability. Now that Pakistan apparently has joined the ranks there is even more cause for concern.

India, which also is believed to be able to build nuclear weapons, and Pakistan have fought three wars in the 41 years since they were created by the separation of colonial India from Britain. The unpeaceful history of the two countries creates apprehension about what would happen should they become involved in another war.

The United States has a special interest in the situation because of the aid it sends to the region. U.S. officials are pushing Pakistan not to develop nuclear weapons.

But it is hypocritical for the United States to tell Pakistan to not have nuclear weapons when the United States has a surplus. This is like a parent telling a child to "do as I say, not as I do."

The United States cannot tell Pakistan to do what the United States would not do itself. The treaty signed by Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev is a good start, but both countries have to do more.

If the United States truly expects Pakistan to eliminate their weapons, it should set an example by actions. And other countries should follow that example.

A dramatic decrease in nuclear weapons by the countries that set the example in the first place may cause other countries to do the same. And any decrease in nuclear weapons increases the chances of survival for the whole world.

Julie Adam for the editorial board

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## Opinion



### A spreading crisis for the whole nation

Peanut butter and jelly a dangerous combination — when they share the same jar

I'm worried about my children. Before those who know me start fainting in clusters, let me qualify that statement. I don't have any yet.

And I don't plan to for a while, though procreation is on my list of things to do. I remember writing it on the schedule just last year. It's somewhere after my next political science exam, graduation and — call me old-fashioned — marriage, but before buying the retirement condo in Tampa.

But now I may forget about the whole thing. I've never worried much about the gloom-and-doom predictions put out by some members of our society. Cries that future generations will be living on top of garbage dumps using welfare money to service the national debt and cleaning up after a nuclear holocaust while watching the oceans rise from melting icecaps in their spare time don't move me. I'll worry about those problems enough during my own lifetime.

Besides, who cares if our kids have rotten lives? It's better to have lived and lost than never to have lived at all, right?

I believed that until a few weekends ago. Then I came face-to-face with my children's oppressor, and it scared me down.

It was not a corporation. It was not a disaster, an epidemic or a government gone amok.

It was peanut butter and jelly, mixed.

Needled innocently between the Snucker's and the Peter Pan, its purple label lurked behind the fiend lurking so near. It glared at me from a



Derek Schmidt Staff columnist

supermarket shelf right here in Lawrence. Resembling Aqua-Fresh in a jar, it had alternating swirls of peanut butter and grape jelly. Neat-looking.

I shuddered. If the thing could have spoken, it would have mocked me.

"Quiver, you old..." it would have shrieked. "I am the future and you cannot stop me."

"No more will Mr. Rogers teach children how to create sandwiches. Neither will Sesame Street. Now I have that power."

"And never again will children struggle to find the right balance between the peanut butter and the jelly because I control all proportions. I think for them, and they'll never know it. I am Big Brother in a spread."

Eighteen ounces of pure evil.

As I pondered the jar's message, I looked around the supermarket. The greens had been already pre-bagged, ready-to-beat breaded fish, individually wrapped Twinkies and ready-to-spread frosting surrounded me.

I wondered how many of us could bake a chocolate cake from scratch. I mean really from

scratch — wheat, eggs straight from the chicken, cocoa beans, milk warm from the udder, butter churned from that milk, unprocessed water and some sugar came for sweetening?

I couldn't.

Of course, processing and distributing such commodities is what society is all about. Wisely, we have learned to simplify most of life's processes.

But mixing our peanut butter and jelly is going too far.

If we don't take a stand, a pre-fab disaster will overtake us. Expect pre-assembled Lego kits or already-completed jigsaw puzzles. Christmas won't have its flavor as toys arrive without assembly required. And the United States will fall behind artificially as young Norman Rockwells start out on pre-colored paint-by-number sets.

Even the kachas is no longer sacred. Soon we'll see pre-mustarded bread, pre-ketchuped french fries and pre-brewed coffee in gallon jugs. Pre-filled cereal can't be far behind.

There is no right more fundamental than the right to build one's own peanut-butter-and-jelly sandwich. Except the right to mess up trying.

Our children deserve no less.

I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me individual ingredients or give me something else to eat.

Derek Schmidt is an independence junior majoring in journalism.

### KANSAN MAILBOX

#### Editorial careless

This letter is in response to Tony Balandran's Nov. 18 editorial concerning Student Senate funding for the KU Space Program. He states that "an attempt as noteworthy as space experimentation is surely as important as the International Association of Students in Economics and Commerce, (IAIESEC)."

By grouping IAIESEC with the University Dance Club and the KU Sailing Club, Balandran gives readers the impression that we are merely a social group, when in fact he lacks any understanding of IAIESEC.

Is Balandran aware that IAIESEC is the world's largest, totally student-run organization? Is he aware that we are open to students in all fields of study, not just economics and business? Does he know that we work closely with business and community leaders when marketing our reciprocal international internship exchange program, and that 6,000 students are exchanged annually through this program? Finally, does he know that IAIESEC was founded after World War II in hopes of averting another world war and that our goal is international

cooperation and understanding? Believe it or not, most people would consider IAIESEC just as noteworthy as space exploration, if not more so.

Although the arguments in favor of the KU Space Program are well taken, the thoughtlessness, abusiveness, flagrant and insulting. In the future I hope the editorial board is more careful when writing editorials that concern student organizations such as IAIESEC.

Denial of funds correct

Tony Balandran assumed an informed position when he wrote his editorial Nov. 18. Unfortunately, his commentary reflected his ignorance of the situation regarding the \$10,330 request by the KU Space Club. As a member of the finance committee who voted against this request, I would like to offer the analysis that substantiates that decision.

I would first like to concur that the three-point analysis offered by Paul Leader, Finance Committee co-chairman, does have some flaws. The Senate's insatiable appetite to appropriate a high percentage of the unallocated account funds in the semester should be faulted. Lack of funds is not the fault of the KU Space Club.

Furthermore, the objection that the group does not represent a broad base of students represents a minor "check" that should be used

to ensure that the broadest range of KU students benefit from the activity fee. Although I do agree that this should be a consideration, I do not believe it can be offered as a substantive reason to reject such a request.

My agreement with the editorial ends at this point. Before it appropriates money to any group, the finance committee, by its very nature, must ensure the fiscal prudence of the Space Club, beyond the shadow of a doubt, showed that it possessed little, if any, fiscal management ability.

When group members were questioned as to why several major capital expenditures, totaling in excess of \$5,000, were not requested during the budget hearings in the spring, their collective response was "I guess we weren't aware that they were necessary."

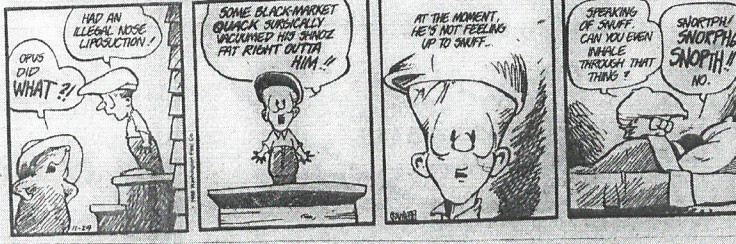
If this project was truly regarded with the importance that the editorial board would have us believe, a much more thorough study of the necessary costs would have been conducted. The finance committee should not be faulted because the Space Club overextended itself.

In attempting to deceive the committee, the group passed out a petition requesting support that proceeded to identify it as a membership list. Such an action is another example of their puerile behavior.

Not only was the committee right in rejecting this request, but it also exercised a responsibility it has to the students at the University of Kansas.

Jamie E. Elmore  
Lorena Jurio

### BLOOM COUNTY



by Berke Breathed

# Opinion

## KU shouldn't wait for crisis to deal with hazardous waste

The University of Kansas has no serious problem with hazardous wastes, and something should be done to keep it that way.

The amount of hazardous wastes stored on and shipped off campus has increased sharply in recent years, according to the office of research health and safety. The wastes, such as paint solvents and photographic chemicals that are produced from dozens of sources across campus, are sorted into barrels and stored in a trailer on West Campus before they are shipped away.

There's nothing wrong with that, so long as the wastes are monitored carefully. But just because there is no immediate crisis screaming for attention does not mean that KU shouldn't worry about the waste it produces.

Across the country, toxic and hazardous materials are a dangerous problem. Each year about 270 million tons of dangerous wastes are produced in the United States, and the difficult problem of figuring out what to do with them is not getting any easier, or any cheaper.

Now is the time for the University to take the steps needed to keep its hazardous wastes from becoming a serious problem. One of the best and safest ways to take care of the waste is to produce less of it. Responsible departments should curb hazardous waste production and use less hazardous substitutes when possible.

And the University needs to support the office of research health and safety and Steve Cater, environmental health and safety officer, as much as possible. The office helps make sure KU is a safe place and has ways to make it safer, such as bringing in processors that will render some wastes from photographic darkrooms non-hazardous. Other projects Cater has in mind could help reduce waste even more.

The University shouldn't wait for a crisis to deal with hazardous waste. The sooner preventive steps are taken, the better.

Michael Merschel for the editorial board

## Tokenism a step backward

Newspapers have some of the worst records in the country for hiring minorities. A study released this fall by the American Newspaper Publishers Association indicated that while racial minorities made up 16 percent of the work force of American newspapers, they composed only 8 percent of the news and editorial staff.

And although many newspapers have implemented programs to try to increase the number of minorities in their newsrooms, the minority percentage still remains too low.

In response to this, the Gannett Company, which operates 88 newspapers across the country, including USA Today, has established a policy requiring every story to contain information from a minority source.

Gannett officials say the policy is a success. Because they are finding it difficult to hire minorities to work in their news columns, they say they must make minorities more visible in their news columns.

By making reporters and photographers file weekly reports listing the minority sources they use, Gannett is making sure this policy is not just another rule that occasionally is followed.

Gannett should be commended for its efforts both in hiring minorities and reporting on minority issues. Minority coverage at most newspapers, including the Kansan, sometimes reflects the fact that much of the staff is white. As a result, minority issues and problems sometimes don't get enough emphasis.

But Gannett's policy adds up to reverse discrimination. Minorities should be included in stories when they are the most knowledgeable about the facts involving a news story or when they have something valuable to add. But with a policy that says a minority should be in every story, Gannett runs the risk of selecting its sources not because of their expertise, but because of their skin color. That is tokenism, which in itself is degrading and does not help minorities.

Other avenues would be more effective. Gannett and the newspaper industry should expand their efforts to encourage minorities to select journalism as a career. They should provide more scholarship opportunities to minorities who are interested in studying journalism in college and should pay competitive wages to keep minority journalists in the newsroom once they get there. They also must cover issues that face minorities in this country.

It is through these measures that minority roles in journalism will increase. A token quote is not the right approach.

Michael Horak for the editorial board

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Todd Cohen.....	Editor
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Michael Merschel.....	Editorial editor
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Letters should be typed, double-spaced and less than 200 words and must include the writer's signature, name, address and telephone number. If the writer is affiliated with the University of Kansas, please include class and hometown or faculty or staff position.

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## You can't teach an old Santa . . .

. . . well, anything; it's one of those learn-by-doing things

You'd better watch out. You'd better not cry. You'd better not pout, I'm telling you why. Santa Claus is a trained professional. At least some Santas are. I know, because I saw it on "USA Today, the Television Show." A company named Western Services trains more than 3,000 jolly, rotund men nationwide for the task of St. Nicking. The company runs a Santa training camp, drilling the red-and-white army in North Pole studios, primarily the names of the nine reindeer. Santas also learn important tips. "You don't want to have a bad experience where a child on you lap says, 'Mommy, this Santa smells,'" trainers tell the Santas, advising them to wear plenty of deodorant in the hot spots. The prospect of professional Santas stunned me. I always thought Santa was an amateur; the ones I go to always eat amateurish. I thought that it took a special person to be Santa, not special training. My high school English teacher worked seasonally as a Santa at a hard ware store. He never studied the art, but he did wear Mickey Mouse socks to class.

**Derek Schmidt**  
Staff columnist

Some say we should just accept this Christmas boot camp, after all, this is the yuppie generation. And training workers for a commercialized holiday seems appropriate. Alex P. Keaton would do it. That might be reasonable, but this training goes too far. Western Services advises its trainers not to "Ho, ho, ho" because it could frighten children. The presidential election frightened a nation, but we didn't stop it. Finals frighten thousands, but we don't stop them. My cooking frightens me, but I eat. Some things are so well-established that to eliminate one part is to ruin the whole. Santa's

vocabulary is one of those things. Besides, these are the same timid children who, on Halloween, decided ghosts and witches were too tame, and so dressed like Freddie Krueger. They're not afraid of a ho, ho, ho. If Santa is to be regulated, it should not be for his speech. Has the FAA issued a sleigh-flying license to the old fellow? Is he a licensed chimney sweep? Most cities prohibit grazing livestock in the city limits, particularly reindeer on roofs. Does he have a warrant to search for milk and cookies? All these Santa issues are silly. There is no standard Kris Kringle. Only the cowboy is more individualistic than Santa. We never trained cowboys. Studying Santahood is like studying parenthood: a nice-as-theory, but you really only learn on the job. Nobody taught Dad to be Dad. Nobody can teach Santa to be Santa. Merry Christmas.

**Derek Schmidt** is an independence junior majoring in journalism.

## KANSAN MAILBOX

### Fooling Bambi is cruel

It's a shame that Tom Wilhelm hasn't found a way to make roasted hyprocrite palatable! Since he seems to have missed a good number of the hypocrites in his pro-hunting/anti-animal rights article, I agree that there is something hypocritical about protesting hunting while munching "some tasty morsel of chicken flesh fried in animal fat," but there is also the point that many people hunt simply for "sport" and not to provide food.

But back to the column that started Mr. Wilhelm on his hypocrite hunt. The deer hunt at Sandpoint Naval station was not protested simply because it was a hunt, but because the animals were tame and in a fenced area. Doesn't it seem hypocritical (not to mention sad) to teach those animals to trust humans and then to repay that trust by shooting them? Perhaps it doesn't bother Mr. Wilhelm, but it bothers me.

You won't find all of us who believe in animal rights at the meat counter, as he assumes. Some of us do "appreciate and understand the sacrifices" that stock our refrigerators. Some of us are vegetarians.

Tamara K.W. Rice  
Lawrence graduate student

### Not all are hypocrites

While I understand Tom Wilhelm's anger over the hypocritical attitude of flesh-eating individuals who are opposed to hunting, I think Wilhelm was wrong in using this example as an opportunity to assume that most people who are opposed to this cowardly, cruel "sport" eat fail to practice what they preach, but these people's hypocrisy is due to the failure in realizing the value of all life, not just those that form for the selfish purpose of pleasing our palates as we are to hunting.

As to the heart-wrenching pains Wilhelm must go to in order to prove his manhood, my suggestion is to take up chess. You'll do a lot less harm to those creatures who share this planet with you and you won't have to physically exert yourself. One word of warning however: if you should happen to embark upon a new pastime, remember that none could be less challenging than hunting. This shouldn't bother a rugged guy like you though and just think, you'll always have us vegetarians there to cheer you on.

Lisa Monaco  
Olathe junior

### Who's the hypocrite?

In reference to Tom Wilhelm's column "Not all Bambi killers carry a gun" (Dec. 1), just who is the hypocrite here? Just because I eat a dead cow or chicken now and again does not mean it is all right for you to go out in a macho frenzy and kill a deer for sport. God gave me incisors, and evolution prepared me to eat meat, OK? If I

thought that you needed the meat from the hunted animal to survive, that would be a different story. But you don't. If you have enough money to invest in a firecoat, a neat orange outfit, and a cook knife to split open and withdraw the guts of an innocent animal, then I suppose you have enough money to go out and buy a pound of hamburger for dinner or lettuce, if you like. And if you had any sense at all, you would realize that eating Chicken McNuggets is a heck of a lot more humane than stalking a dumb animal whose death cannot be justified, no matter how hard you try.

So just stop all this "big man" stuff about having the right to go out and kill things just because it's fun.

Jane Hoyland  
assistant director/academic coordinator  
Supportive Educational Services

### Sanders refreshing

I am glad to see that, for once, Mark Tilford has written an editorial that is neither inflammatory nor misleading. His relation of Barry Sanders' refreshing humility is the face of national recognition is a pleasant change from the doom-saying and condemnation that usually appears in newspapers. Sanders' actions are a pleasant affirmation of the more important fundamentals of life: things that can never be altered by rushing yardage, media coverage, or the Heisman trophy. Barry Sanders is the true definition of a winner, in life as in sport.

Eric Angevine  
Lawrence sophomore

## BLOOM COUNTY

