



## QUOTE OF THE DAY

*"When I was a boy I was told that anybody could become President. Now I'm beginning to believe it."*

CLARENCE DARROW (1857 - 1938)

# We told you what Trump would do

Yes, I'm against our attack on Iran.

To explain why would require a fairly lengthy book report, but I can tell you roughly it is for the same reasons that lead me to the conclusion that we should not attack each time it came up over the years, most of my adult life, as it did for every president during most of my adult life before Trump, even though they, too, have heard the rhetoric from Bibi Netanyahu since 1992.

"In a very short time," "in a matter of weeks," "within months." Now, some of you will tell me that all of a sudden we have a president who is smarter than all of them and their advisors. Even though Iran's nuclear capabilities were "completely and totally obliterated (Trump's words)," back in June.

Admittedly, I have some skin in the game. Two of my kids now serve in the military. But if not for that, then I would be against this war on behalf of your kids.

And before you tell me, "They knew what they signed up for," I would argue that they had the reasonable expectation of there being adults in the room when they signed up for this, not some severely unqualified Secretary of Defense who thought it so all-fired important to change his title to "Secretary of War" (that should have told us something), who loves to use phrases like "without mercy." His incompetence came shining through in a leaked text that exposed top secret information to a journalist.



## GETTING IN TOUCH

**Liberal City Commission:** City Hall; 324 N. Kansas Ave.; 626-2202.

**Seward County Commission:** County Administration Building 515 N. Washington 626-3300.

**Kansas Senator Ron Ryckman:** E-mail: ron.ryckman@senate.ks.gov.

**Kansas Representative Shannon Francis:** Topeka office at 167-W, phone number is 785-296-7655 and email is shannon.francis@house.ks.gov.

**U.S. Representative Tracey Mann:** 522 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515  
Phone: (202) 225-2715

**U.S. Senator Jerry Moran:** 4 Russell Courtyard (Temp), District of Columbia 20510-1604 Phone: (202) 224-6521. Fax: (202) 228-6966; E-mail:

<http://www.moran.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/e-mail-jerry>

**U.S. Senator Roger Marshall:** Russell Senate Office Building, Suite B33, Washington, DC 20510  
Phone: (202)224-4774

Tips on contacting elected officials:

- Identify who you are and where you live — make it clear you are a constituent. Include phone and address so your official can contact you.

- Keep to one topic per letter or call. If appropriate, refer to the specific ordinance, bill or date pertaining to the subject.

- Be clear about what you hope your elected official will do.
- Remain polite, even when disagreeing.



## LETTERS POLICY

The Leader & Times provides a regular forum for readers' ideas and opinions.

Letters should be sent to the Leader & Times, 16 S. Kansas, Liberal, Kansas 67901. They may also use our e-mail address: news@liberalfirst.com

Letters may endorse individual candidates if the writer is an area resident but must stay within the bounds of good taste. Candidates cannot use the Op-Ed Page to

promote their campaign.

Letters may address any topic or area of interest, but cannot be libelous or contain specific consumer complaints against a private business.

No more than one letter from the same individual will be published within 7 days of a previous letter on the same topic — unless it is a response to a rebuttal from another writer.

I MISS!  
OH HOW I MISS  
FIVE BUCKS A GALLON  
AT THE PUMP UNDER BIDEN  
OH I PINE FOR SUCH BLISS



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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sheryl Hall  
Liberal

And now even worse, the killing of a bunch of school girls. Argue that all you want, but yes, we did that.

Which adds to the growing number of reasons for the U.S. to be less respected than we've ever been in our history.

We are becoming the bad guys. We blow up little boats showing the footage of it over and over like a fun video game. Our nation has decided that the punishment for drug smuggling (or rather "might be," "suspected of," "connected to," "drug smuggling), is death without a trial to determine actual guilt.

And unless you live in a right-wing news cycle bubble, you've seen the dozen or so per week stories of our immigrant community, even those with documentation, being snatched up (some even at the court house where they are "doing it the right way"), to be hauled off to a place that is little more than a concentration camp. Some are there for months. Sometimes entire families. Sometimes just the main breadwinner leaving a wife with kids in tow and not enough income to pay rent. Many are U.S. citizens. Even the undocumented rarely have criminal charges, pending or in their history.

And now your "smart businessman" wants to spend \$38-\$45 billion on more detention centers. If you voted for DJT, this IS what you voted for. If you didn't know it, that's probably because you were too busy "owning the libs" with your cute little hateful remarks and names instead of just listening to half the nation of your fellow countrymen.

# More tools for taxpayers and special ed funding priorities

## GUEST COLUMN



Shannon Francis  
125th District Representative

Doug Knudsen, Government Instructor at the Fellowship Baptist Academy, brought 6 students to the capitol this week to page. They did a great job, and I enjoyed visiting with them about Kansas and the Legislature. Thanks so much for coming. They are amazing members of our community.

The Page program is designed for students in middle school, junior high or the first years of high school. Working as a page in the Kansas Legislature is an excellent way to learn more about the legislative process. If you or someone you know is interested in serving as a page, please contact my office for more information.

Katie Hoyma and two of her classmates stopped by to talk about issues facing the occupational therapists in our state. It's always great to visit with someone from home.

## John Resman

This Week Representative John Resman unexpectedly passed away. John served as my vice chair for four years on the Transportation and Public Safety Committee. We became very close and because of his career in the military, corrections and law enforcement he was an invaluable source of knowledge, experience and wisdom on the committee. He was a good friend and a good man. I will miss his calm demeanor and the experience and wisdom he brought to policy issues in the legislature.

Too often the focus of the media is on highly controversial legislation. If you base your thoughts on what's in the media or on social media, you might think the Kansas House is a deeply divided body of people who can't stand one another, but that couldn't be further from the truth. The House can be a lot like a family. We disagree, sometimes passionately, we do get irritated with one another but at the same time being squeezed together in the peoples' house day after day, year after year, leads to family-like bonds being formed. When we suffer a tragic loss like the loss of Representative Resman, it's something felt by every member of the House. On Monday we took a break from running legislation on the House floor and let members come to the well and honor John. Members of both parties one by one came up to share their memories of John Resman. It was a sobering reminder of what is truly important in life.

## House Bill 2427

House Bill 2427 creates a fiscal integrity officer position in both the House and Senate, for the purposes of identifying waste, fraud, and abuse within the Kansas budget, but just as importantly, providing some oversight for Kansas agencies and making sure their expenditures are consistent with legislative intent.

This improves our current process because it creates a dedicated, continuous auditor

that county partly based on the population and partly based on the total property taxes levied. This means that levying more property taxes resulted in receiving a larger portion of the sales tax revenue, and vice versa, which disincentivizes the lowering of property taxes.

The purpose is that cities and counties that work to lower their property taxes can do so without fear of also losing out on sales tax revenue as a result, clearing the way for much needed tax relief.

Special Education funding is always a hotly debated topic in Kansas, and Republicans understand the importance of investing in the education of the next generation. That's why the Legislature is in full agreement with Governor Kelly when she says that "Kansas students are the future of our state. That's why we've fully funded public schools for seven consecutive years."

During budget debates however, Democrats still assert that Republicans are not fully funding special education. House Republican understand the importance of special education, and spend over \$1.2 billion dollars of federal, state, and local funds annually to ensure that it is properly funded.

Recent increases in state funding:

- State support for special education has grown by over \$100 million in the last five years.

- Appropriations have increased from roughly \$490 million in FY 2019 to more than \$610 million in recent budgets, with additional increases approved in the House version of this year's budget.

- State-funded specialized schools:

- Kansas funds Kansas State School for the Deaf and the Kansas State School for the Blind, providing statewide institutions that serve students with specialized needs.

- These schools receive about \$30 million annually in state funding and provide education and outreach services to students across Kansas.

- Local funding authority (LOB):

- Kansas law allows districts to raise additional revenue through the Local Option Budget (LOB), which authorizes property tax levies partly based on special education enrollment.

- Recent legislation now requires that funds generated under this authority for special education students be spent specifically on special education services.

- Federal funding:
- School districts receive federal support through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, which helps fund required services for students with disabilities.

- Districts also received temporary pandemic relief funds through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 to support special education services and student recovery.



## THE POSTSCRIPT

Carrie Classon  
carrieclasson.com

# Sensible shoes

Yesterday, I saw a woman trip on the pavement. She immediately turned to her husband and started to complain.

I couldn't hear all she was saying, but I was thinking there was really no point in complaining to your husband when you trip on the pavement. It might be your fault, or the fault of the pavement, or the fault of your shoes, but it almost certainly has nothing to do with your husband, and the odds are he is wearing sensible shoes.

San Miguel de Allende, where my husband, Peter, and I spend much of the winter, is a city that requires sensible shoes. The entire town is a World Heritage Site, which means that the things you see outside must look pretty much exactly as they did in the mid-1700s, unless there is some life-threatening reason to change them. Tripping on the pavement does not qualify as life-threatening.

Peter loudly lobbies for hiking poles. He says every person should be using at least one at all times and two if taking a hike of any length. Peter probably has a good point, but he is not going to win this argument with most women, who are going out to dinner and carrying a purse and taking photos with a phone and possibly holding an ice-cream cone or a churro. Adding hiking poles to the ensemble is not going to be an option for most — in spite of Peter's well-intentioned entreaties.

I have noticed that footwear varies greatly by age. Young women will wear chunky, practical sneakers with dresses and pull it off with ease and charm. Slightly older women will wear more fashionable footwear and risk falling on the slippery, uneven, (but historically accurate) pavement. Women who are older yet will revert to chunky sneakers very similar to the ones their young counterparts are wearing. I can see a convincing argument for skipping the fashionable shoe phase and jumping right to the chunky sneaker phase, but I'm not there yet. And neither, apparently, was the woman complaining to her husband.

Perhaps we are in no hurry to reach the "I'm wearing chunky sneakers for the rest of my life" phase. Or perhaps we somehow relish the challenge of navigating the rounded, irregular stones beneath our feet and making a triumphant entry into the restaurant, unscathed. Or perhaps we are slightly jealous of the women who come in from Mexico City who wear not just impractical shoes but shoes with towering narrow heels, and traipse about the city with a small dog under their arm as if there was no skill involved at all.

My suspicion is that there are women in parts of the world trained from a very early age to manage high-altitude heels and, like learning a foreign language, one will never master it effortlessly unless they begin young. This is surely true of women in Paris. My dearest girlfriend used to live in Paris, and I would fret over what to wear when I went to visit her. She told me before a visit in July, "Don't worry about what to wear. The streets are filled with tourists in ugly shoes."

Meanwhile, the men wear pretty much whatever they feel like wearing and manage the cobblestones much better. I agree it makes no sense. I believe my health and safety should come before anything as frivolous as fashion. I can imagine how effortless it would feel to walk after dark on slippery stones with a heavy rubber cushion beneath my feet.

But this does not mean that I'm ready for sensible shoes. Yet.

To see photos, check out CarrieClassonAuthor on Facebook or visit CarrieClasson.com.