

Condi vs. Hillary, or Mitt vs. Mark

Granted, we are still a couple of years away from the next presidential election, but that hasn't stopped the betting game in political circles.

And as the bets are placed over coffee cups all over the country, two names seem to emerge more than any other: Republican Secretary of State Condi Rice and New York's U.S. Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Secretary Rice is the most visible Republican on the landscape — not just here at home but all over the globe, and Sen. Clinton is appearing all over the place as she continues her move toward the center of the political stage.

But this is 2006 which is, in case you've forgotten, mid-term election year and within the next few months we will see the battle beginning to take shape for control of the U. S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. All seats in the House are up for grabs and half of the Senate.

The Iraqi war will play a major role in the mid-term election. We're not as sure as are political mouth runners that the scandals moving toward the spotlight — primarily involving Republicans, but some Democrats will also feel the bite — will carry all that much weight. Former House dictator Tom DeLay's legal problems just aren't going to cause many Kansans to lose any sleep. But Social Security, health care, the economy, gas prices, and name your pet concern, will play major roles in our behavior at the polls.

But back to the two ladies — Rice and Clinton. We think — and more times than not we think wrong — that neither of the two will head their ticket in 2008. We do think, however, our thinking could change dramatically if Vice President Dick Cheney steps aside due to health concerns, and that rumor continues to persist. If that happens, it's a sure bet that President Bush will appoint Secretary Rice to fill that vacancy. Then the fight with a woman in each corner begins.

Today, if we were heading to the polls, the two nominees would be Republican Gov. Mitt Romney of Massachusetts and Democrat Gov. Mark Warner of West Virginia. New faces for new times and challenges.

Now you can begin placing your bets. But our advice would simply be not to use anything in this editorial as the basis for your bet. —Tom Dreiling, publisher

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Safe sex, safe abortions don't exist

To the Editor,
Safe sex and safe and rare abortions are neither safe nor rare. Safe sex teachings by such organizations as Planned Parenthood, NOW and NARAL have failed. Studies show that one in four sexually active young people between the ages of 17 and 25 are infected with a sexually transmitted disease (STD). Considering that there are approximately 32 million teens in the U.S., simple math reveals that 10,000 young people a day acquire a new sexually transmitted infection. "Safe sex" is not and has not been effective.

The safe abortion theory is also flawed. Abortion is certainly not safe for the child, as the child dies during the abortion procedure and the mother's life can also be in danger. Abortion leaves the woman with physical and emotional trauma. An on-line survey conducted by afterabortion.com indicated the following statistics: 80 percent of women experienced guilt, 83 percent regret, 79 percent loss, 62 percent anger and 70 percent de-

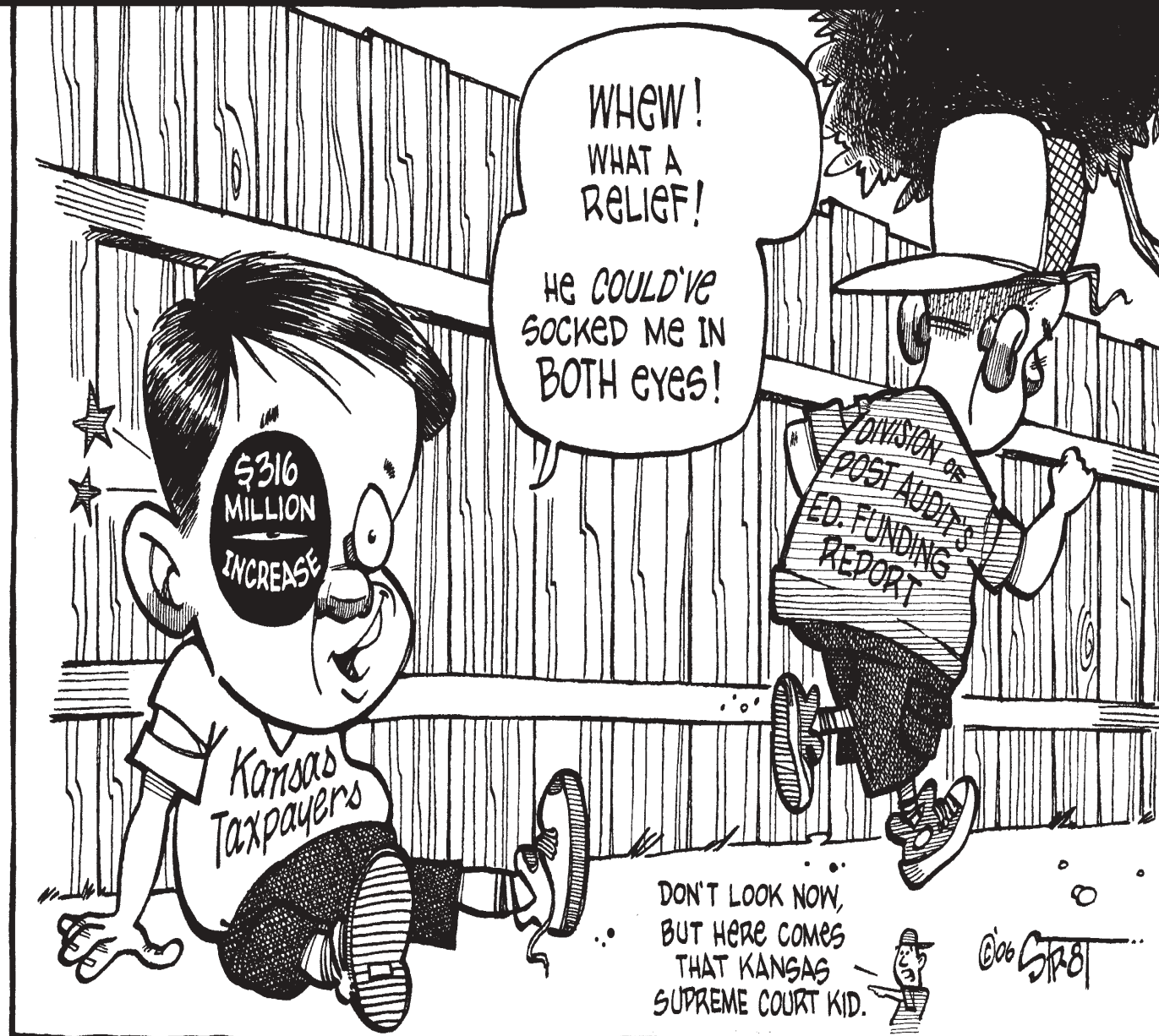
pression.
Abortion rare? According to L.B. Finer and Stanley K. Henshaw in "Abortion Incidence and Services in the U.S. in 2000," there are 1.31 million induced abortions per year in the U.S. or 3,500 per day or approximately 25 percent of all pregnancies ending in abortion; this is not a rare occurrence.

An Alan Guttmacher Institute survey states the main reason for abortion (93 percent) is for birth control, 3 percent because of fetal abnormalities and/or health problems of the mother. Only 1 percent of abortions was related to rape or incest.

Fact: From the National Committee for Adoption 2003, the average abortion procedure takes 5 to 10 minutes. The average wait for adoption is 5 years.

Should abortion remain legal as it is today?
Our governor will not sign a bill to ban partial birth abortion. Why?

Gilbert and Carol Otter Norton



The new guy asked for it, so here goes

Okay, I'll bite. The Telegram has a new editor and in the first two issues we learned No. 1 he snooped when he was in the Air Force and No. 2 he wonders where we stand on the issue of the government snooping.

So here it is: Its number 999 on my list of a thousand things to worry about.

It's not that I don't care. I do. I'm a liberal now so I have to care. Actually I'm an L-R. That's a Liberal Republican or Lapsed Republican. I want to be a Republican. But I can't stomach it anymore. Maybe I'm a Left-Right, a condition similar to being bi-polar.

I'm not depressed enough to be a Democrat but I can't stay optimistic long enough to be a Republican. Is there medication for this?

Somewhere, someone might have a dossier on me. My party affiliation might be of interest to them. That is about the only thing of interest, I imagine. Much as I like to think I'm an interesting person some days I look at my life and realize anyone watching would probably go into a coma.

I haven't done anything that could be considered subversive. Still as a liberal I recognize that terrible injustices have been done to innocent people. Injustice is high on my list of things to worry about. (I hate being a liberal.)

It is amusing to watch people wring their hand on the issue of privacy. I have a Dillons card. I can't tell you when the last time was I shopped at Dillons. But Dillons knows and they know what I bought. That is why I have the card. Sure it saves me money but Dillons isn't saving me money out of the goodness of their

Back Home Nancy Hagman



heart. They are tracking buying habits. (Sob — I feel so used!)

We want GPS on our cars and GPS technology on our cell phones in case we need to call 911. These things can save lives. But we don't want to think about other uses of GPS.

There is talk about how micro chips could be installed in each little baby as it leaves the test tube, er, womb. I have thought about developing a similar system and marketing it to parents of teenagers.

Our society has to decide how much we are willing to risk to learn what we need to know. We want to prevent another 9-11. Maybe we have; there is no way of knowing.

We think our government should know in advance about the atrocities they fail to prevent but we don't want to think about what it takes to prevent them. We hold government responsible if it doesn't know everything there is to know about a potential terrorist but are outraged if someone checks to see what kind of library books we have been reading.

Stalin was responsible for 30-62 million deaths of Russian people from 1924 to 1953, the greatest death toll from genocide in modern history. (Hitler only killed 12 million.) If it was happening today

would we approve of "spying" to find out? How many American lives would we be willing to risk to stop it?

I recently read that the world is actually becoming a more peaceful place. Fewer and fewer people die as a result of war, terrorism, genocide, etc. We have to consider that one reason is because of snooping. Communication advances make the world smaller and smaller. You can't hide what you are doing.

Someone is always watching, your children or other people who look up to you, people enjoy catching others doing something wrong, maybe "big brother" and, as I happen to believe, God. If we haven't done something we would rather no one else knew about we are not human.

But if we are plagued with worry about what the "watchers" are seeing we most likely are having conscience problems.

Perhaps we should stop thinking about our right to privacy and start thinking about how to keep our private lives from being exploited. It is a worry.

For most of us this issue has a very small impact on our daily lives. The immediate things are a much greater cause of concern. I worry about the weather, the price of wheat, and the cost of college tuition. Though truly I don't worry all that much.

I hope there is not a spy cam in my bathroom but I am willing to give my video rental list to anyone. If it helps prevent an attack, another Oklahoma City bombing, or a Columbine or rule of terror like Stalin's, I'm willing.

And if the information is being compiled for evil purposes there is always a chance I'll just bore them to death before they cause any harm.

It looked like a bald cat had moved in

Barb wanted to know where the bald cat was. "Bald cat? We have no bald cat?" I said, somewhat mystified. "We have lots of cats. More than we know what to do with. We have our two; our daughter's two; our son's phantom feline, which may or may not still be here; and several neighbor cats that drop by for a visit and end up eating our cat food and sleeping on our furniture. However, none of them is bald, as far as I know.

"There must be at least one bald cat in this house," she insisted. "The amount of cat hair I found in the upstairs alone proves it."

Barb is more of a friend than a housekeeper. She helps me out most weeks, but she was visiting her children over Christmas and couldn't make it. I was busy ignoring my house and enjoying the holidays, so nobody bothered to dust under the furniture for about two weeks. That can add up to a lot of cat hair during shedding season — which for cats is 51.5 weeks a year.

Having animals around is a great way to stave off empty-nest syndrome. How can you feel lonely and unneeded when there is always a dog to walk and a cat to sit on your lap?

Open Season Cynthia Haynes



And food, the dog is always appreciative and the cats always demanding. You don't want to be around our house when the cat bowl is bare — they get as obnoxious as a bunch of tired and hungry children.

Speaking of which, they fight like brothers and sisters, too. Molly Monster is the top cat. She chases everyone else around and only old Jezebel will stand up (or more accurately hunker down) to her.

Rupert likes the high ground and enjoys sitting on top of the refrigerator, which she gets to by jumping up on the counter in front of the coffee maker and then onto the top of the fridge, where she makes a nest among the brown paper grocery bags.

The other day Molly decided that Rupert was entirely too comfortable up there. So she got on the counter and

jumped up on the top of the fridge.

Soon, fur, paper bags and refrigerator magnets were flying everywhere. When the noise stopped Molly had the high ground, Rupert was under a desk at the other end of the room, the coffee maker was overturned and the floor was littered with debris.

Steve picked up the debris, tossed both cats outside and straightened up the coffee maker. It wasn't until I tried to make coffee that I realized that the cats had broken the grounds basket. It's held on by a stem on the bottom and the top. The bottom stem was broken although the top one was still in place and it still works.

I've been using the broken basket for more than a week now, waiting for the new part to arrive. I might not have ordered it at all, but I found that you can't put the grounds in before the water. I did and I had to clean up three scoops of spilled dry coffee grounds off the counter, sink and floor. I was not happy.

In fact, I was seriously thinking of snatching one or both of the miscreants bald — but I've wanted to do that with the kids sometimes, too. They had some warm fannies now and then, but they never lost any hair over their misdeeds, either.

Comments to tomd@nwkansas.com

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

Office hours:
8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.
Phone: (785) 877-3361
Fax: (785) 877-3732
E-mail: telegram@nwkansas.com

STAFF

- Tom Dreiling editor and publisher
- Veronica Monier staff reporter
- Dick Boyd Blue Jay sports
- Carolyn Plotts society editor
- Sherry Hickman circulation
- Vicki Henderson computer production
- Susie Marble computer production
- Sonya Montgomery bookkeeping

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