

Let's exercise restraint before mouthing off

We witnessed an event that should never have taken place while on a short trip several weeks ago.

We pulled up next to a gas pump at a convenience store in a city not too far distant and, after topping off the tank, went inside to pay the young woman behind the counter.

Just as we were finishing our transaction, in came an irate gentleman, yelling and using some words best left in the gutter, all the while scolding the young lady "because your gas is too (expletive) high." She was, needless to say, speechless. He, the irate customer, gave her no time to respond.

Another man sitting in the convenience store enjoying a cup of coffee, rushed over to aid the young clerk. He turned out to be the store's manager. He, too, got a mouthful from the guy who just filled up his vehicle.

What seemed like an eternity, when you are caught up in this kind of situation, concluded with the man stomping out the door, dragging his profanity with him, slamming his car's door and burning rubber as he took off.

While driving down the road we got to wondering why anybody would take the price of gasoline out on someone who absolutely has nothing to do with that issue. The young lady was working there to make some money for whatever her needs might be. The same is to be said for the manager.

Sure, we might be irritated at what it costs to keep our vehicle operating, but at the same time our irritation should never be aimed at those who just happen to be working at a place where gasoline is sold. Those are just cheap shots when people do that.

We had an email from an acquaintance this week suggesting we all just not buy any gas for a day or two. He reasoned that the absence of vehicles at the gas pumps for 48 hours will bring the oil industry to its knees and maybe even force some of them to close up their, what he called, "ripoff joints." How senseless. If that were to happen, how many young people, and some not so young, would be forced to join the lines of the unemployed. And for what? Using them as scapegoats?

But let's be reasonable about this thing. If you want to point fingers, how about looking at that place called Washington, D.C., home away from home of those we elect to look after our best interests.

—Tom Dreiling

From the Mailbox:

Congressman Moran reminds seniors of the May 15 Part D sign-up deadline

To the Editor,
The May 15 deadline for seniors to enroll in the Medicare Prescription Drug benefit is quickly approaching. Despite my efforts to push back this deadline, it unfortunately does not appear this will happen.

Those who miss this deadline will not be able to sign up again until November and will then face higher premiums as a penalty for late enrollment.

I encourage seniors to consult with their local pharmacist about the variety of available plans. Though some seniors question the need for this program because of their good health, it may be needed at a later stage in life. Unfortunately, they will be burdened with a permanent penalty fee.

In addition to the efforts of local pharmacists and volunteers, there are other

resources available to assist families in making this important decision:

- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
- 1-800-MEDICARE
- www.Medicare.gov>www.Medicare.gov
- Senior Health Insurance Counseling for Kansas (SHICK)
- 1-800-860-5260
- www.agingkansas.org/shick

Thanks to our Kansas pharmacists, CMS staff, and other local outreach volunteers for their tireless efforts in educating people about this program.

As we near the May 15 deadline, I encourage seniors to seek answers to their questions and determine if enrollment is in their best interests.

Very truly yours,

Jerry Moran
Congressman, First District

Next 'Thumbs Up' is Friday, so let tom hear from you.

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
- Hypatia Day advertising

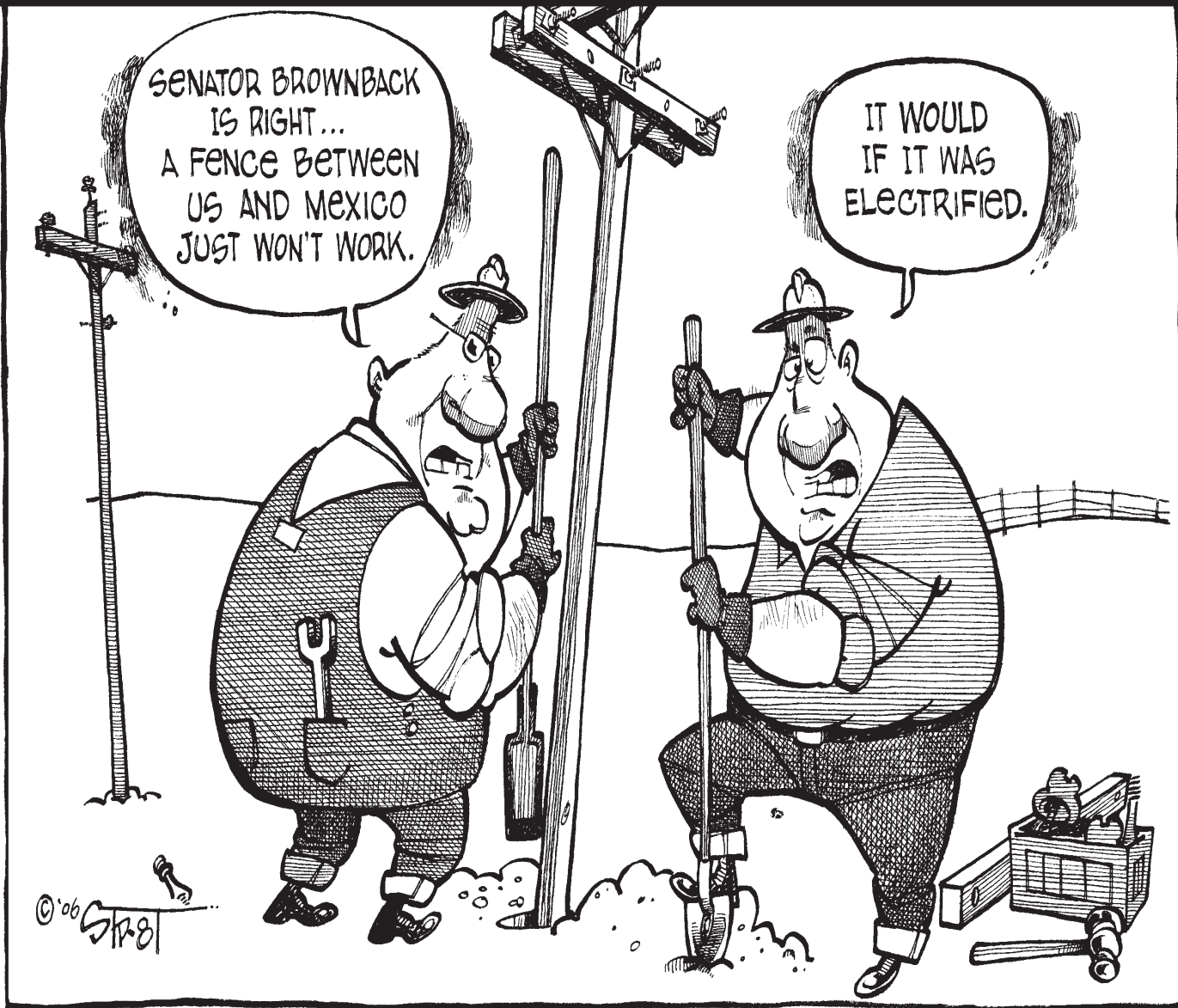
ISSN 1063-701X
215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, KS 67654

Published each Tuesday and Friday by Haynes Publishing Co., 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, Kan. 67654. Periodicals mail postage paid at Norton, Kan. 67654.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Norton Telegram, 215 S. Kansas, Norton, Kan. 67654
Official newspaper of Norton and Norton County. Member of the Kansas Press Association, National Newspaper Association, and the Nebraska Press Association

Nor'West Newspapers

Dick and Mary Beth Boyd
Publishers, 1970-2002
Incorporating the Norton County Champion
Marion R. Krehbiel, editor



Time to bid farewell to my bouquets

It's almost the end of lilac season and I'm enjoying what will be one of my last bouquets. Jim just brought in a lovely cluster of the fragrant beauties and set them beside me on a table. So, as I type, I am inhaling their fragrance.

Which makes me think about my mother. She loved flowers but knew that if she was around them, she would pay dearly with an asthma attack. I think, occasionally, she would weigh the risks against the rewards. "Rewards" would sometimes win out and she would let herself enjoy the beauty and aroma of flowers, knowing full well she would later have a breathing crisis.

I have often thought how lucky I am to not have allergies of any kind. I love to bury my nose in the center of a rose. I love to have a fresh bouquet of anything that blooms in the house.

Usually, I'll take a bouquet of flowers to the office. That's where I seem to spend the most time, so if I'm going to enjoy looking at them, I better put them where I am.

—ob—

Sunday I got to play master of ceremonies at a benefit concert for one of our pet projects. I haven't shared anything in this column about The Haven, because I didn't want to sound like I was bragging. But now I've decided it's time to let you know

Mother's Day is rapidly approaching, so today I will start the column with a couple of little stories that I'll put Mom right where she should be — at the top of the chart!

(Story #1)
One day a housework-challenged husband decided to wash his sweatshirt. Seconds after he stepped into the laundry room, he shouted to his wife, "What setting do I use on the washing machine?"

"It depends. What does it say on your shirt?" the wife asked.
He said, "University of Oklahoma."
And they say blondes are dumb?

(Story #2)
Q: What do you call an intelligent, good looking, sensitive man?

A: A rumor
(Story #3)

A man and his wife, now in their 60's, were celebrating their wedding anniversary. On their special day a good fairy came to them and said that because they had been so good that each one of them could have one wish.

The wife wished for a trip around the world with her husband. Whoosh! Immediately she had airline/cruise tickets in her hands.

The man thought for a while, then wished for a female companion 30 years younger. Whoosh! He immediately turned 90!

Gotta love that fairy!
-td-

It's called the Norton Manor. It's over at 213 Horace Greeley Avenue (877-2714). I never knew it existed. When I moved here Dec. 30, 2005 and was looking for housing, that name never figured

Out Back Carolyn Plotts



what's going on.
Jim and I have been involved in a prison ministry for about six years. And, I will share with you that you haven't really worshipped until you've worshipped with inmates.

There is another side to men in prison — and that's the women they leave behind. It might be a wife, girlfriend or mother, but they are doing time right along with their man.

Most women don't stick around. We spend a lot of time counseling men who have received their "Dear John" letter or divorce papers.

A small group of us involved in prison ministry saw the need to try to keep families connected. Travel costs and motel fees prevented these women from visiting very often. An inexpensive, safe place to stay was what they needed.

A few months ago a house came up for sale and this group banded together to buy it. A benefactor stepped forward to carry

Good Evening Norton Tom Dreiling



into anyone's conversation. So I went to take a peek Monday at the Manor. Very nice apartments, very good facility, residents seemed friendly. Not everyone who lives there is a "golden oldie," which is apparently a well circulated myth. There are much younger residents. I am giving some thought to perhaps establishing an apartment there.

Before moving here, I was in a similar place in Hays called Epworth Towers, a large, 6-story, 90-apartment complex. I liked it. Quiet, for the most part. Your apartment was your home. Your family could come and stay while visiting in the community of Hays. Then I moved here anxious to see a similar facility. But I was never directed to 213 Horace Greeley Avenue. Will keep you updated.

I think I know who will be the presidential candidates for the two major parties in 2008. It came to me in a dream. Get this: The Republicans will confirm former New York City Mayor Guiliani, and the Democrats will give the nod to Delaware Sen. Joseph Biden. How about that?!

I noticed in *The Hays Daily News* where, if the election was held today, Gov.

us until we received our non-profit status, which we expect any day now.

That is how The Haven was born. It is a big, old two-story house with enough space for 25-30 people to stay. Every weekend since Christmas we have had guests staying there. Volunteers take their reservations over the phone. Other volunteers greet them when they arrive, show them their room and accept their \$10 per night payment.

Still other volunteers bring in a meal Saturday night and others come to minister to the women or just listen.

Like any house, there is always something that needs to be fixed, repaired or replaced. That's why we held a benefit concert; it all costs money. It's a good deal that everybody on the board has a talent.

Some of us are good plumbers, electricians, painters and carpenters, and some of us are good at promotions and public relations. Can you guess which category I fall into? Now that you know, you won't be surprised when I ask for your help some time.

—ob—

Jim is telling everyone he began a new chapter in his life this week. He filed for Social Security. This is where you're supposed to say, "Oh, Jim. You couldn't possibly be that old." And that's where he says, "Oh, yes I am."

Little ribbing on behalf of all Moms

Kathleen Sebelius would lose by a wide margin. Each weekend The News gives the readers a question to vote on. Last week it was on Gov. Sebelius with the results in this past Sunday's paper. I'll have to dream that one just to make sure.

-td-

Won't be long and our schools will be out for the summer. Wow! Where did this year go, huh? Probably couldn't get here soon enough for the kids...and too soon for the moms and dads who will have to sort of retool things with the kids around the house all day while they are, for the most part, at work. But it's only for three months.

-td-

I have an interesting lawn mower kid. Jacob VanSlike. He knows how to get'er done! And when he's done he likes to chat. They always say if you don't learn something new every day, your day's wasted. I always pick up on something new when Jacob gives my lawn a haircut.

-td-

I heard a gentleman on C-Span the other day say, when talking about the terrorist strike on this country on Sept. 11, 2001, that the loss of life in the Twin Towers — which was in excess of 3,000 — included people from 60 other nations. If in fact he was correct, then not all of those 3,000 victims were American citizens, as I have always believed them to be. That isn't intended to diminish the terrible loss of life on that September morning. It's just that I had never given thought to that revelation.

-td-

Gotta get this column in the paper, so...

-td-

Have a good evening!