

Republicans tossing Hispanic vote aside?

You have to wonder whether the Republican party plans to marginalize itself or it just works out that way. Despite six years of hard work by President George Bush and years before that in Texas and across the country, the Republicans are ready to write off the Hispanic vote forever. The party is giving in to a wave of xenophobic anti-immigration fears, locking itself into positions that will brand it as anti-Hispanic and anti-immigrant for decades to come. The Democrats are only too happy to sweep up those votes, clutching Mexican-American voters and other Hispanics to their bosom as they did the black vote in the 1960s. We all know how that went. Even today, more than four decades later, the Republicans still get only a handful of African-American votes.

The pity of it is, Mr. Bush, Karl Rove and their crew had this pretty well figured out. The president, as governor of Texas, knew how to talk to Hispanic voters. He speaks Spanish well enough to get his point across on the stump.

In Texas, you don't ignore the Hispanic vote. Increasingly, that's true across the country. It's just good politics to include Hispanics. And it's the right thing to do.

The immigration "crisis" is phony anyway. We're not being inundated by more workers than the economy can handle, no one comes here just to get on welfare, and no, there are not hundreds of terrorists streaming across the border, no matter what the scare-mongers claim.

The Republicans are shifting over to the thoughts of immigration nut cases like Congressman Tom Tancredo of Denver, who's talked about nothing else for years.

Even if we could build a wall clear across the continent, it wouldn't solve much.

Our economy would still need more workers. People in Mexico would still want to come here to make a living.

"But it's illegal to sneak across the border," someone will scream. "They're breaking the law."

They do that because there is no legal way for a Mexican worker to come to this country. The waiting list stretches for years. It's impossible.

All the rhetoric does is push Hispanics to the Democrats. Some of them have been in this country since the 1600s, longer than most Anglo families. Others came decades ago to work for railroads, mines and farms. Still more have come in recent years.

Those who stay — and many do go home — want to be Americans. They will vote. They will remember.

And make no mistake. They are not going to be voting Republican any time soon if this keeps up.

Still, the party seems ready to line up lemming-like and jump off the nearest political cliff.

It's stupid, foolish and wrong, but there you have it. A watershed in politics the likes of which comes along once or twice a century, a lost opportunity of immense proportions, a wrong that begs to be righted.

And probably won't.

—Steve Haynes

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"MY ONE VOTE WON'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE."
(APATHETIC LOBE)

"IF I VOTE I'D HAVE TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON."
(BLISSFUL IGNORANCE CORTEX)

"I'VE GOT BETTER THINGS TO DO WITH MY TIME."
(ELITIST SYNAPSE)

"IT'S A FREE COUNTRY AND I DON'T HAVE TO VOTE."
(CONFUSED INDEPENDENCE CEREBRUM)

CITIZEN RESPONSIBILITY
(SEVERELY SHRIVELED)

KANSAS NON-VOTER BRAIN SCAN

Our latest additions remind me of politicians

Visitors to *The Telegram* office are now greeted by three political birds. One is a Democrat and the other two are Republicans. The Democrat is a parrot, always running at the mouth. Last Friday he was heard saying "pretty boy," of course he was looking in a mirror. Word has it that he can also whistle the Andy Griffith theme. That's a step up for the Dems!

Tuesday he escaped from the cage right outside the door to the office. He briefly enjoyed freedom until Veronica the vicious put on the gloves and out maneuvered the thing. Its behavior once back in the cage told this tale: "Whew! Glad I'm back in here and not out there with her."

The other two (both parakeets) are pretty quiet. The one we think is a moderate Republican. It chirps a little, looks lost at times, tries to join in with the parrot. The other — the conservative — is quiet, reserved, living in the past, trying to get the moderate to move in his direction.

How did we end up with the birds? It's a long story but in brief one of our trusted employees Sherry (Hickman) became foster parent of the trio, and then parent. And eventually the birds took up residency in our foyer.

Next time you are in the neighborhood, stop by and visit with the birds. You might even hear the parrot say something, like who to vote for in November. You might even hear the other two chuckle at that suggestion. Yep, *The Telegram* has gone to the birds!

Good Evening Norton Tom Dreiling



If memory serves me correctly, years ago the telephone book (we called it book, not directory), advised those making telephone calls to allow for 10 rings before hanging up. It was the thinking then that 10 rings would be ample time for anyone to reach a ringing telephone.

I can't recall seeing that advisory in today's phone directories. If it isn't it should be. I don't know how often I will get calls on my home phone and after four rings, sometimes only three, whoever the caller is hangs up. It sometimes takes me four to five rings to answer my phone, depending on where in the house I am.

Maybe in today's society telephone companies feel that EVERYONE is armed with a phone, cordless or cell, on herself or himself 24/7, and has immediate access when the phone rings, sings, plays a concert, or whatever. Not necessarily so.

There are all kinds of gadgets you can invest in that will tell you who is calling, when that person called, from where he or she called, and how to return his or her call. But of course those services aren't free.

I would encourage the phone companies to return to the 10-ring advisory in their directories. Sort of a customer service courtesy. Thanks.

-td-

Here is a story that I just can't let the day slip away without sharing:

A thief in Paris planned to steal some paintings from the Louvre.

After carefully planning, he got past security, stole the paintings and made it safely to his van.

However, he was captured only two blocks away when his van ran out of fuel.

When asked how he could mastermind such a crime and then make such an obvious error, he replied:

"Monsieur, I had no Monet to buy De-gas to make the Van Gogh."

(And you thought I lacked De Gaulle to send you a story like this.)

-td-

A thirtysomething girl was visiting with one of her high school friends at a class reunion, who was boasting about her two new dogs.

Asked what their names were, the classmate, known for off-the-wall comments, said that one is named Rolex and one is named Timex.

Her friend said, "Whoever heard of someone naming dogs like that?"

"Hellooooooo....." responded the classmate, "They're watch dogs!"

-td-

Have a good weekend. And be sure to point the family in the direction of your church.

Please eliminate 'cute,' insert 'beautiful'

I stand corrected. Our newest grandchild is not "cute" — she is "beautiful." Our daughter Jennifer's best friend, Debra, has been by Jennifer's side ever since she moved back to San Antonio. Debra, who has a nursing background, has been invaluable, offering her advice and practical help.

She is the one who informed us that the baby is more than just cute.

Little Aniston Paige was born last Thursday, three days after my birthday. They brought her home the next day. Gone are the days of a three- to four-day hospital stay.

When my mother was having babies, she said, new mothers were kept in bed for 10 days. By the time I was in the baby business, that had been reduced to three days. Now, our kids are in for 24 hours. By the time our grandchildren are having babies, they'll probably have a drive-through lane.

Excitement over a new baby stays the same, though. Every gas station attendant, every waitress, and every clerk at every stop we made on the trip down knows we have a new granddaughter, her name, her birthday and weight.

Out Back Carolyn Plotts



Babies are like a clean piece of paper. It's up to us what gets written on the page.

-ob-

Our trip south included an overnight stop in Dallas with Taylor and her parents. They have a pool in the back yard and Taylor asked her dad to go swimming with her that night. He is a volunteer firefighter and had just finished a lengthy training session. He begged off, so I piped up, "Taylor, G'ma will take you swimming. I brought my swimsuit."

She was excited to hear that and went back to her father for one last attempt. "Dad, G'ma is going to go swimming with me. Will you come with us?"

Again, he said, "Taylor, not right now." Her reply came right back: "What? You

don't want to be seen with a 59-year-old woman?"

-ob-

Jim has taken Aniston's big sister, Alexandria, out shopping. They were to make a short trip to a grocery store first for eggs, lemons and whipping cream. I have been making a new dessert called "angel pie" and I promised it for dinner this evening.

The recipe says it should "sit" for 12 hours. So far, it has never lasted more than one or two. Jim absolutely loves it. It's easy enough, but a little time consuming. When I make it for us, I don't even bother giving him one piece. I just load his plate with three. It saves me time on the return trips.

You have to like lemon, though. I made it for Adam and Kara and she said it made her jaws hurt, it was so "lemony."

-ob-

I feel guilty taking a whole week off from work. We are short-handed and one person's absence really makes a hardship on the others. One thing is for sure, though.

My co-workers will get even with me when they take a week off.

Thumbs Up to . . .

✓**Rev. Jeffrey Van Der Weele** ("Pastor Jeff"), on your quarter century service as an ordained minister. (e-mail)

✓**The City of Lenora**, on your community building and library, rapidly taking shape. It'll be a big +! (*Telegram*)

✓**Jered Sloan, Valerie Jackson and Joshua Davis**, on your achievements as student athletes. Good show. (four e-mails)

✓**The 591 Norton County voters** who fit time into their schedules to cast ballots in the primary. (*Telegram*)

✓**Jackson the dog**, for saving his family. Heroes also come with four legs. (e-mail from friends of John and Pat Van Diest)

✓**Everyone** who has helped **Jim Rowh** (and continues to do so) get his business back in operation following the July 24 fire. (*Telegram*)

✓**Terry Crow and Steve Streck**, on your showing at the Alma Road Race. (e-mail)

✓**The ladies** at the library for helping **Cliff Spratlen** (84 years old), look on the computer so he can see his new grandchildren's pictures that are e-mailed. (By telephone)

(You can salute someone by simply doing one of the following: e-mail tom@nwkansan.com, fax 877-3732, call 877-6908, or mail to 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton 67654.)

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

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

