

### Is Thompson's attack on FOX News justified?

FOX News is under attack from a presidential candidate who could end up in the White House. And strangely it's not a Democrat, but a conservative Republican who is quietly going about the business at hand. Former United States Senator Fred Thompson accused FOX News on Sunday of being against him. He's upset with their ongoing claim that his campaign is in trouble.

And Thompson's attack on FOX News was made on FOX News' Chris Wallace show. He maintained FOX, at the outset, went negative as far as his campaign was concerned.

Thompson was seen early on as less than energetic, not enthused, lacking the "fire in the belly" candidates need to survive. And it wasn't only FOX who saw it that way, many in the Republican ranks were also concerned. FOX was doing nothing more than echoing what they heard on the campaign trail by likely voters.

Thompson said the network's biased reporting against him is not in concert with what national polling shows. He insists he is running second. And he indicated the same kind of stuff was tossed in his path when he ran for the U.S. Senate, which on election night proved the media wrong.

What bothers the presidential candidate most is the negative tone FOX employs when it comes to him.

If we were advising Thompson, we would first insist that he wear a tie with his suit. C-Span carried one of his campaign stops in Iowa Sunday evening, and there he was in a suit, shirt collar sticking out over part of his lapel. That, to us, doesn't look presidential. But Thompson isn't alone. There are other candidates who look less than presidential in the way they dress. Frankly, they look sloppy.

It's not just FOX News, it's voters who also see Thompson in a negative light. And unless he kicks his campaign into high gear, now, he might end up on the short end of the political stick.

Rudy Giuliani and Mitt Romney are pretty much seen as the front runners. Thompson, in many polls, comes in third but is being threatened by the surprise surge of Mike Huckabee.

With the Iowa caucuses 38 days away (Jan. 3), time's running out. And maybe, just maybe, FOX News was giving Thompson a wake up call. Many experts view Thompson as the only candidate in his party who can beat Hillary Clinton in November 2008, if Sen. Clinton gets that far.

That said, he's got to get the nomination first.

—Tom Dreiling

### Opinion Page topics draw comments

To the Editor,

I would like to comment on two topics from the Opinion Page of Friday's Telegram.

The first comment is on Mr. Fred Phelps.

I would like to know where Mr. Fred Phelps received his religious education. Perhaps he did not go to school at all and got his diploma from a mail order diploma mill. Whichever, his Bible knowledge seems woefully deficient or he has decided to interpret it his own way.

John 3:16 says it all in a nutshell: "For God so loved the world..." He doesn't love only certain ones. He loves the whole world. No exceptions. He 'hates' no one. We need to pray that God will straighten out Mr. Phelps' skewed and very narrow interpretation of a few passages.

I really don't see God sitting there pulling petals off of daisies saying, "I love you, I hate you."

And no, we cannot refuse Mr. Phelps his right to freedom of speech, no matter how disgusting and vicious we find it. If we do, we've taken the first step to destroying that freedom for all of us.

My second comment is on buying from local merchants.

### LETTER

I am a very strong supporter of buying locally, as I have commented in a past letter to The Telegram. In response to that letter, I received a letter from a local merchant who remembered my father who had done business with him. (Get that kind of customer relationship from big, impersonal entities like Wal-Mart.) In this letter, was a partial list of some of the things the local merchants support, donate to and take part in.

I was surprised at the number of things the local businesses do for our community and this was only a partial list.

May I suggest The Telegram publish a complete list like this? I think Telegram readers would be pleasantly surprised and proud of the friends and neighbors who own and work for our local businesses. Let's support them and keep our community healthy and strong.

June Prout Norton

### Your political connection

★ **Governor Kathleen Sebelius**, 300 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785) 296-3232

★ **U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts**, 109 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 224-4774;

#### 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  
Christie Anderson..... advertising  
Veronica Monier..... staff reporter  
Dick Boyd..... Blue Jay sports  
Carolyn Plotts..... society editor  
Sherry Hickman..... bookkeeping/circulation  
Vicki Henderson..... computer production

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### Nor'West Newspapers

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### 'Planned overs' replace 'left overs'

I don't know when to quit. When I start cooking for a holiday meal I go a little crazy. Flipping through my recipe box I keep finding recipes that sound so-o-o good... I can't help myself. Two or three vegetables, two salads, two different desserts, relishes, deviled eggs, four dozen rolls, all in addition to the traditional turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy. We'll have left overs for a week. My friend Tranda calls them "planned overs."

We were thankful for the beautiful day, since it had snowed the day before. We were thankful for my brother, Bob, and his friend, Nadine's company; for Jim's dad being able to spend the day with us; and for dear friends, Lee and Lora, to join us. In the great scope of things, it is our friends and family that are important. Material things may come and go, but the people in our lives are our treasures.

-ob-

The older I get, the more frequent

### Out Back

Carolyn Plotts



"senior moments" become. Recently, I treated myself to a new battery-operated toothbrush. But, I still catch myself vigorously moving the brush up and down.

I'm getting to be like the guy who was asked if he ever thought about the "hereafter."

"Sure do," he said. "Every time I go into a room, I wonder, 'What am I here after.'"

-ob-

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas. Houses all over town are already decked out. Jim has been in the basement hauling up the boxes of lights and

checking them over. Most men don't like to hang Christmas lights. Jim is the exception — he loves to put up lights. It's an art-form to him. He gets so creative. One year he created a truck and an auger out of lights; one year it was a tri-plane and airport; another year a train; he's made a house; and a helicopter. All three-dimensional out of lights.

His motto is: "I put up lights until one of two things happens. I run out of lights or it's Christmas Day." Since he buys all the discounted lights in the days following Christmas, we'll never run out of lights. And, I have seen him putting up lights Christmas Eve. I think if it stands still, he'll put lights on it.

-ob-

My daughter, Kara, called Thanksgiving Day. She told me that Taylor's school wants to test her for advanced classes in math and reading. "Well, it's about time," I said. "Now, they'll know she's as smart as I've always said she is."

### A word of advice for the Democrats

### Phase II

Mary Kay Woodyard



I wish the Democratic National Committee would hire me as their consultant or at the very least their psychoanalyst. I have a lot I could tell them. For example, take the current candidates for the 2008 campaign. We have a woman senator, a black senator, an Hispanic governor and a former VP candidate and senator from North Carolina..

What is wrong with this picture? Nothing, if you are a product of the sixties. It is the ideal. But is it workable? As Democrats we dream of the perfect world with equality and justice for all. We are the soul and the conscience of modern man.

One might ask, so, what's wrong with that? Well, there is nothing wrong with it. It is admirable and defeating. For instance, have the Republicans ever had a female candidate for president or vice president? No, of course not. And why? Thus far it has not been reflective of the desire of our culture and therefore not a

winning ticket. The Republicans see this and understand it. They may not like it, but nevertheless they understand it and generally implement it as well.

As Democrats head into the next presidential campaign with their rainbow slate, they have to be careful that the very idealism that produces so much pride in the party is not the thing to bring the party down. Having a woman president, the first woman president at that, is something both parties would hail as a major victory, but because we want it doesn't mean it will happen. Even though the country might

finally be ready for a female president, is the country ready for Hillary Clinton? I rather doubt it. What is considered gutsy for a male, is still considered brash for a female, right or wrong.

Obama's moderation may be a factor in the possibility of the first black president. What I would caution the Democratic Committee about however is, once again, in your idealism to make the world more balanced don't nominate Obama to wave your idealism flag. Search for a candidate who is capable of winning. I'm not saying he isn't, I'm just saying make sure he can win.

So my advice to the Democrats is this, nominate a candidate who brings balance and a belief in the party's idealism but one who is grounded in reality, a candidate who is capable of winning. Cling to your ideals, but not to idealistic candidates. This is a time for dealing with what is, not what we wish it was.

### Government needs to know when to help

### Citizen Duties

Bob Strevey



On May 12, 1933, Congress, at the request of Franklin D. Roosevelt, passed the Agricultural Adjustment Act. This measure was designed to give relief to farmers suffering from the Great Depression. By making payments to reduce their production, and by use of commodity loans, purchase of surplus commodities and subsidized exports, output of major crops was reduced and prices improved.

In 1932, the U.S. produced 548.5 million bushels of wheat, which averaged 38.2 cents a bushel. By 1934, production was down to 360.1 million bushels at a price of 84.8 cents a bushel. The drought of 1934 was also a factor in reducing production.

As we look around this bountiful, prosperous country, it's hard to conceive of a time of severe shortage. But in 1934, conditions in western Kansas were quite harsh. The continuing drought had badly

damaged our pastures. Feed was in short supply and Gov. Landon struggled to get railroads to reduce shipping rates to ship in feed. Many farmers lost their farms through foreclosure. Some banks refused to take over farms in an effort to keep farmers on the land.

Dry conditions created a dust bowl that saw tons of topsoil swept away by the wind. People fled the intense heat and the harsh conditions. As water supplies gave out, some people had no choice but to leave.

Thousands of other farmers, my grand-

father among them, managed to hang on with the help of government programs.

In June of 1934, Congress approved the Farm Mortgage Foreclosure Act, which enabled farmers to borrow money to prevent foreclosure. The U.S. Supreme Court found most of these acts unconstitutional in 1936, which stopped government support for a time.

After a number of Supreme Court Justices retired or died, a new court majority approved the Agricultural Act of 1938. The 1938 act stressed conservation and set up quotas to restrict production.

When economic conditions overwhelm people and private relief is unable to meet people's needs, government needs to help people transition to a new situation. We, as citizens, need to recognize that severe conditions may create special circumstances that require a governmental response. Governments must find a way to preserve and protect our society.