

Your turn

A distressing request

To the Editor,

It was truly distressing to read Robin Somers' latest letter regarding "investigative reporting." If she wants to read that kind of a newspaper, there are many tabloids available at the news stands. A hometown paper has a different standard that is maintained well in *The Norton Telegram*.

A little squib I saw recently expresses my feelings well: "Countless reputations, lives, and futures have been ruined because 'everybody knew something to be true' — something which wasn't." If one has ever been the target of a whispering campaign, that one little sentence will truly hit home.

Perhaps the one thing *The Telegram* could change is its policy on publishing inflammatory letters? No, never! The people in the Norton area are too smart to be deceived by those who love to criticize and judge.

Sincerely,

Liza Deines
a former resident

I did it out of love

To the Editor,

(Re: Abi Delimont)

The greatest commands Jesus gave were to love God and love one-another. Those commands make me my brother's keeper, in this case a concerned citizen of Norton, Kan.

Love understands the selfishness and pain that sin brings about. It does everything within its power to identify and stop people from hurting others. From private families all the way to the federal government, we have laws and penalties in our land to achieve this very purpose, correction.

I love my children enough to discipline bad behavior. I will not tolerate siblings hurting one-another. It will be addressed and corrected, albeit with compassion and wisdom. If I see my neighbor collapse on his front porch, shall I pull my shades? No, I will call 911 or go over and give C.P.R. If I see a crime committed, I believe I am obliged by law to report the crime, am I not? Alcoholics must recognize their problem and then get help. Those who love them will not purposely give them the opportunity to drink. They will do their best to not enable them to continue their habitual problem. Love understands the power of a sinful habit and takes appropriate measures.

No one lives in a box. Our actions do affect one-another, simply because we do care. We also influence one-another, for good or for bad. From the chatter in the break room; to the decisions boards make; from the rantings of a concerned citizen (that's me); to the replies of equally concerned citizens; from the sermons preached (and not preached); to the prayer-chains; from the laws enacted to those not acted upon. Our rhetoric and everyday decisions, especially in a small town, reveal the collective moral integrity of each community. What will ours be?

I don't feel my vote in a national election will matter one iota, though I will vote. But I do believe my voice and my actions matter in a small community. **Everybody's** does. Your voice and concerns and your moral integrity will make a difference in this small town. What you believe and what you live has a great influence towards the moral integrity of our community.

Again, what will the town of Norton be remembered for? When all is said and done, is this a wholesome family community with old-fashioned values or is it on par with the rest of the world's steady decline into immoral oblivion? **You** decide.

And Abi, you will not be "a fly on a wall" (your quote) on that great Judgment Day. You will be there. I will be there. We will all be there. Every act done in secret will be laid before King Jesus. There will be no secrets. Everybody will know. This holy fear of God, as well as his love is what compelled this Norton resident to love this community enough to bring public and private pressure to bear upon the powers that be (whomever they may be) in this matter.

For the love of God and Norton,

Robin Somers
Norton

Thumbs Up . . .

To... **S/Sgt. Kent Lockhart**, who is serving his second tour of duty in Iraq. We're proud of you. (*Telegram staff*)

To... **Carrie C. Clydesdale**, on your 100th birthday. (*called in*)

To... **Don Brooks**, on your 80th birthday. (*email*)

To... **the Norton County Health Fair** organizers and participants, it was excellent. (*called in*)

To... our local **Girl Scouts**, good luck with your cookie sales. (*email*)

(To submit and name or names, email tom.d@nwkansas.com, phone 877-3361 or 877-6908, fax 877-3732, mail to 215 S. Kansas Ave. 67654 or drop by the office. Thanks for your continuing input. -td)

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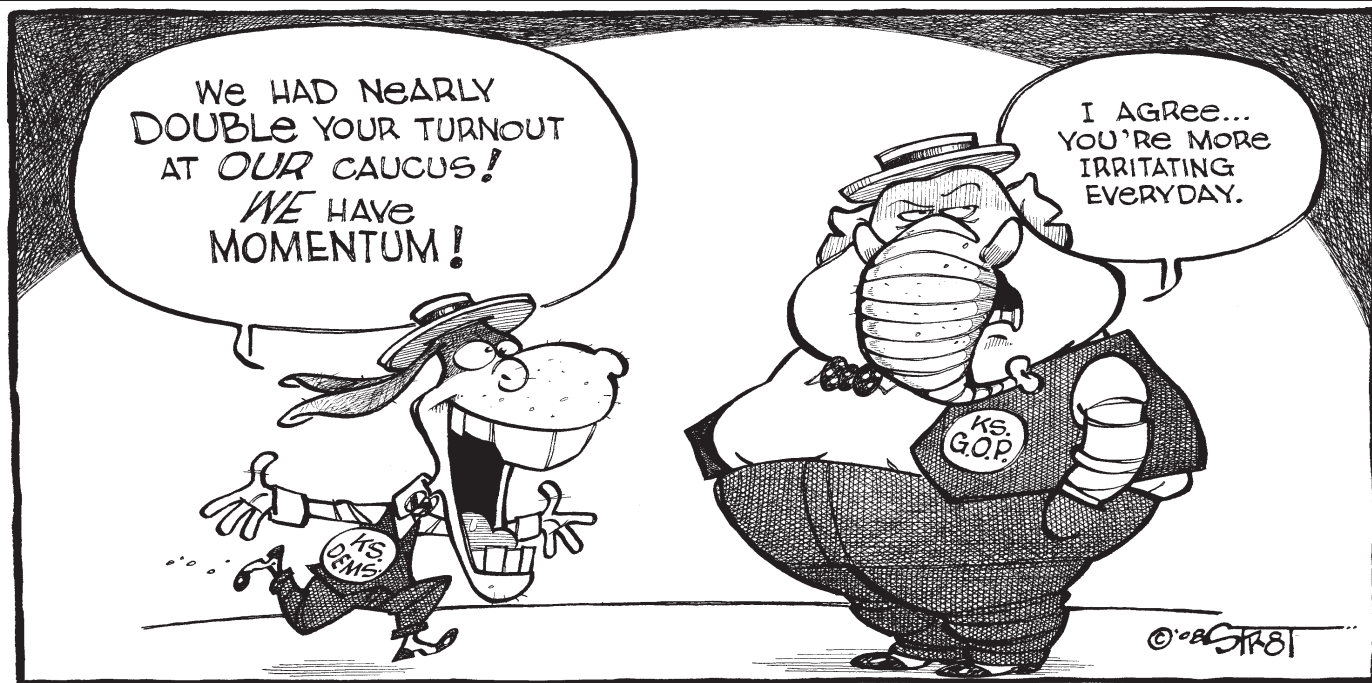


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Calendar, season don't always agree

Each day brings us a day closer to the wonders of the changing seasons. I say "wonders" because I often wonder when they change — why they don't change. Sound confusing? Certainly. In this case winter to spring, which arrives March 20. Of course we all know that instantly spring does not spring on that date, it usually hobbles in many weeks later because winter's grip is a tough thing to deal with.

The temperatures are more tolerable in late March, but snow is not out of the picture. But snow in March, or early April, usually doesn't hang around all that long, thanks to the warming ground temperature. But it's funny how we equate snow with winter even when it happens in spring. If you look out your window, let's say on the morning of April 9 and the ground is covered with snow, what's the first thing you'll say? "Huh. I thought spring was here." Right?

We people who call northwest Kansas home, know that the warmth of spring is sometimes put on hold far into May. This isn't to suggest it's the norm, but it does happen. I can remember sitting in the bleachers at little league games in late May and early June and needed a jacket to keep warm. Those were springs when Mother Nature was losing a tug-o-war with Old Man Winter.

What will this spring bring?

Hopefully, buckets and buckets of moisture!

-td-

Now that we are on the doorstep of March, the only thing certain is that we will move our clocks up one hour on the 9th as Daylight Saving Time begins. You have already noticed how much lighter the evenings are. Well, starting the 9th we will be claiming another hour of lightness. Of course the flip side of the coin is the fact we will be losing an hour's sleep, not to be recovered until Nov. 2 when we move our clocks back one hour to bring in Central Standard Time.

I think the clock has been influenced by politicians — you know, 'flip flop.'

Good Evening Norton

Tom Dreiling



-td-

Speaking of politicians...ahhh, let's not!

-td-

Teacher: "Alyssa, go to the map and find North America."

Alyssa: "Here it is."

Teacher: "Correct. Now, class, who discovered America?"

Caleb in the back row raised his hand.

Teacher: "OK, Caleb, who discovered America?"

Caleb: "Alyssa!"

-td-

Bill O'Reilly. Keith Olbermann. Sean Hannity. Chris Matthews. These are the four people, in cable TV-land, I spend a lot of time with. I'll tell you, hot air balloons have nothing on these guys. I think it would be quite an experience to have these four appear together to debate the issues of the day. Because each of them jockeys for position when challenging their guests, can you imagine Keith taking on Bill, or Sean testing Chris? All four are stubbornly arrogant. And it would be quite a sight to see how bold they really are when facing one another on the same stage. It would probably be a disappointment. I can see them turning into warm, fuzzy puppies.

-td-

The teacher asked Grayson what the chemical formula for water is?

Grayson said, "H I J K L M N O."

The teacher's face looked like a question mark. "What are you talking about?" she asked.

Grayson replied, "Yesterday you said it's H to O."

-td-

Tuesday, March 4, could be the end of

the line for presidential hopeful Hillary Rodham Clinton. As I said, "Could be." A once comfortable lead in Ohio and Texas has dwindled and Sen. Barack Obama is running slightly ahead in Texas and just a couple of points behind in Ohio, where Clinton, at one time, enjoyed a very healthy lead.

They say never underestimate Sen. Clinton, especially when she shifts gears on the Clinton machine. Reports today say the Clinton organization spent in excess of \$150 million so far on the campaign, while expecting to claim the nomination right after the Super Tuesday votes were in. This thing has to be a nightmare for Hillary. But sit tight, and let's see what Tuesday brings.

-td-

Teacher: "Samantha, why are you doing your math multiplication on the floor?"

Samantha: "Because you told me to do it without using tables."

-td-

The Oscars and government spending. I was watching the Oscars Sunday night and as usual came away not very impressed. Interesting again at the parade of stars on the red carpet prior to the show, was the lack of decency in dressing.

But you know what, if our government was half as transparent with its spending habits as some of the women were with their gowns, we would probably all stand and cheer!

-td-

I forgot to mention this a while back, but while watching the returns on television when our state held its Democratic caucus on Super Tuesday, the cable TV reporter said, in effect, "Results from Kansas, another southern state, went big for Sen. Barack Obama..."

Southern state? I bet he flunked geography.

-td-

Have a good evening! And remember attending the church of your choice this Sunday will assure you of a passing grade.

Council's actions spark questions

I decided I would do my own "Thumbs Up" section this time. I want to commend Elaine Mann and Donna Foley for voting "no" on the issue of the city council salary increase. Although the city council works hard and the pay is very minimal, more than doubling your salary is unheard of — even for the U.S. Congress.

No one wants to minimize the work done by these dedicated citizens, but a critical issue is the spontaneity of the action. I'm sure some planning went into this, but the initial request to double the monthly pay was superceded by another motion to raise it to \$500 a month. The legal counsel for the city pointed out the absence of this item in the budget.

Another issue voted on was the New Year's two day holiday for city employees. The intent, when voted on in 2005, was to give city employees two days off for both Christmas and New Year's. My question would be, why wasn't this attended to during budget time? Once again the legal counsel pointed out, all necessary staff will have to be paid time and a half and this has not been budgeted.

Some things we have no control over, but neither of these fall into that category. It is a challenge running the city and we are grateful for the service they give. However, these issues deserved prior attention and planning

Elaine Mann has served on various boards and councils with the best interest of the city at heart. I may not always agree with her, but I never doubt her reasons for voting as she does. Her support and belief

Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



doesn't depend on what the person has done.

Certainly it is easier to love an innocent baby than a convicted killer. I can not imagine the desperation that must accompany the family of a murder victim, but applauding and cheering at an execution has to be the ultimate in self-degradation.

For many pro-life advocates if a woman is raped or a victim of incest, her baby can be aborted. Why is that baby any less of a human being? Is this about the baby or about controlling the woman. The baby didn't conceive the act, only conceived by it. And although one parent may have been a monster in our eyes, the pregnancy will result in a baby.

Then there is the issue of our methods of torture, i.e. waterboarding on alleged terrorists. The Bush administration has claimed these individuals do not fall into a category of protection offered by the Geneva Convention, but even if they didn't, this specific method of torture is explicitly prohibited in the U.S. Army Field Manual.

The Supreme Court declared in 2005 that Al Qaeda prisoners are entitled to Geneva Protection. The Military Commissions Act of 2006 states evidence gained through torture cannot be used in court.

Yet the Bush administration will not rule out the possibility of using the method again, based on their definition of "need." The old adage "the end justifies the means" seems to be the cowboy's rule.