



# Opinion

THE NORTON  
TELEGRAM

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## Voters are much smarter than that

Something stupid is going on in our presidential campaign. And it doesn't make any sense. The co-presidency Clintons, for reasons obvious, are beginning to drag Sen. Barack Obama's name into the picture as their vice presidential running mate.

Of course we all know the Clintons are using that tactic to ease the fears and concerns of the Obama backers who might feel he could end up being left out in the cold if she is nominated. She is assuming the nomination is hers. It isn't.

What is blurring the picture is Clinton's continued attacks on Obama's inexperience to be commander-in-chief, to be president, to be anything. She brings 35 years of experience to the office, she keeps reminding us, then sarcastically adds, "Sen. Obama brings a speech."

The question begs: If Sen. Obama knows nothing about anything, why in the world would she want him to be vice president? We all know if something happens to the president, the vice president then assumes that office.

The so-called "Dream Ticket" — Clinton-Obama, or Obama-Clinton — isn't going to materialize. Sen. Obama said he is running for the presidency, not for vice president. Thus the Clintons would be best served by eliminating this political lure from their tackle box.

The voters are smarter than that.

—Tom Dreiling

## Your turn

### Paper shortchanges its readers

To the Editor,

Half the people in Norton read *The Telegram* because they want to see pictures of their children and grandchildren who play high school sports. The other half read *The Salina Journal* because they want to be informed of local news events in Norton.

Why is that a controversy? Because the same people who enjoy you and I reading how well their child did in sports, do not want us to read that their child was arrested for smoking dope.

Several persons have written to the editor to ask that *The Telegram* not print a rumor as a news story. Considering the fact that *The Telegram* will never print anything more controversial than the weather report, I fail to find any reason for concern.

This is my criticism of *The Telegram*: If Mr. Wright and Wrong write to the editor and state, "We should send all Mexicans back to Mexico," *The Telegram* will print the letter. But if I rebuttal and state, "Keep the Mexicans and send Mr. Wright and Wrong to Mexico," *The Telegram* will not print the letter because it is a personal attack on a bipedal hominid.

My reply to *The Telegram*'s policy: If you will not print the second letter, why did you print the first letter? And, why did you make an exception to your policy in the case of Robin Somers?

Arthur Loyd Shelton  
Oberlin

*Editor's Note: The other half reading that other newspaper "because they want to be informed of local news events in Norton," are being short changed. I often look over the newspaper mentioned and rarely find anything other than obituaries relating to Norton. I never see city council, county commission, school board, hospital board, airport board, the courts, people features, happenings in our rural area (country correspondence), weddings, engagements, births, senior menus, school menus, the community calendar, churches and their activities and the list goes on. Those are the reasons people read The Telegram. And high schoolers smoking pot? I think there is a juvenile issue involved in that kind of reporting. There was no exception made in our Letters to the Editor policy. I suggest, sir, maybe a reread of The Telegram is in order. Thanks for your letter. -td*

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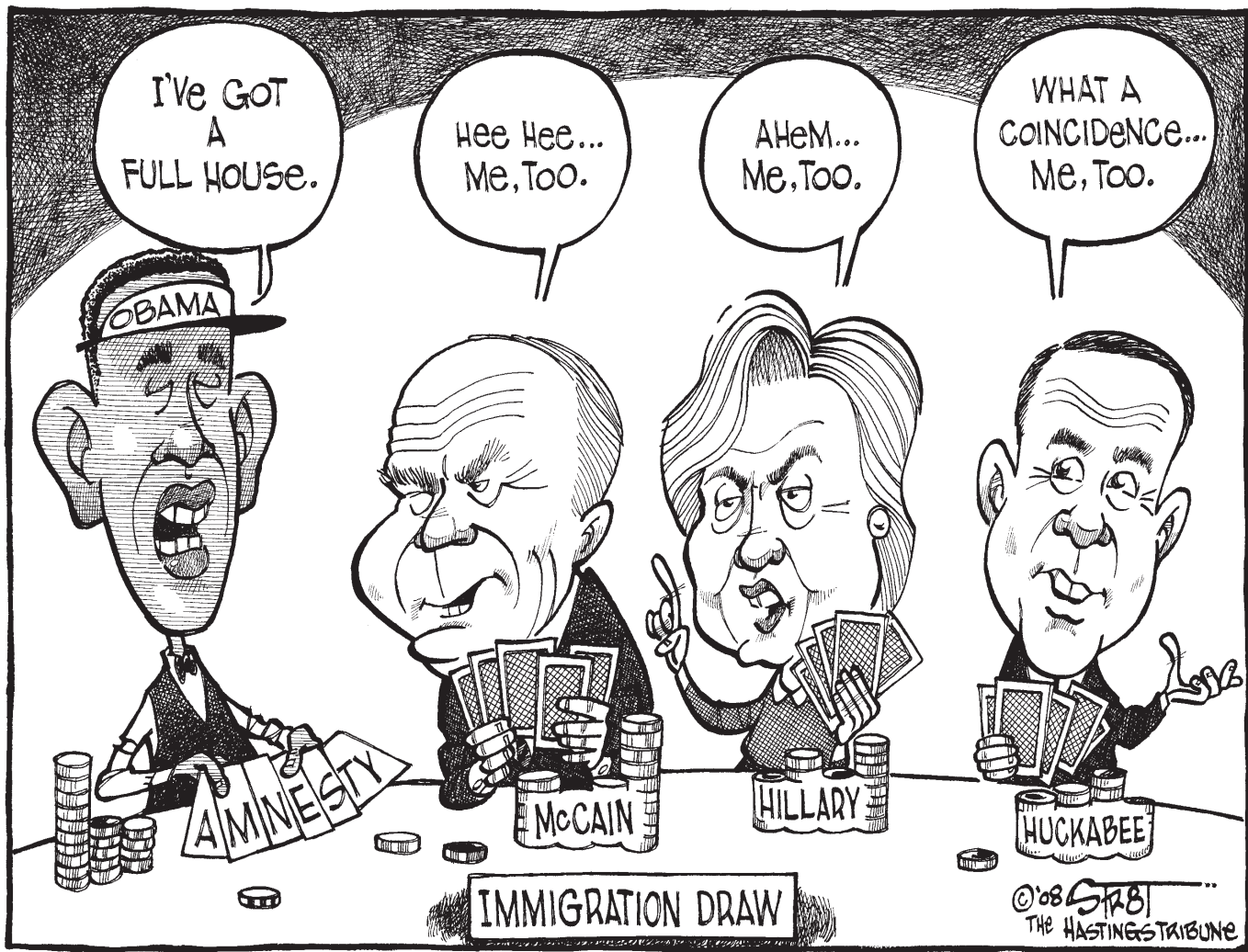
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## Fun entertaining young man from city

Can't say we don't know how to show company a good time. A young man from Wichita spent the weekend with us. Jim played tour guide while I finished preparing tacos for lunch. We need to butcher about a dozen young roosters, before we leave for another mission trip to Mexico and Jim had already killed one before Andrew got to our house.

He finished dressing the chicken and brought it in while Andrew carried in half a dozen eggs.

Andrew looked a little dazed — like what kind of hillbillies have I got myself hooked up with. He's a city boy, but assured me he had done his share of egg gatherin' and chicken killin'.

After lunch we took Andrew on a drive in the country, ending up out at the Kelley farm. Standing on the front porch, looking westward, he said, "Man, I bet you get some awesome sunsets out here."

That night we treated Andrew to a

## Out Back

Carolyn Plotts



country-style shindig by taking him to a local church's pancake and sausage supper. Another first for Andrew.

After supper we gathered around the piano and sang some gospel songs — taking requests from the kitchen clean-up crew. Good times.

Before Andrew made the trip I asked him, "What kind of pie do you like?"

"Pies?" he asked.

"Yeah, you know — fruit pies, cream pies. What kind of pie do you like?" I asked again.

"Well, I like apple pie and peach pie," he answered.

## What's Daylight Saving Time all about?

Thank you, Tom, for giving us a heads up about Daylight Saving Time a few weeks ago. I'm not happy about the early time change but I have been the only person with this knowledge almost everywhere I have been. So while I am disgruntled I have also appeared to be the smartest person in the room on several occasions, because everyone else seemed to be blissfully unaware that Daylight Saving Time was beginning early this year.

Of course, I freely admit that I'm not all that smart because I don't have the first clue why it is beginning early. I was even baffled when someone asked, "Why is it going to be darker in the morning. If we are springing forward how come it's not lighter?" Six people in the room and the conversation just stopped.

If you can't even understand how it works how do you understand the why of it? Number five on Columnist Dave Barry's list of "16 Things That It Took Me over 50 Years to Learn" is, "You will never find anybody who can give you a clear and compelling reason why we observe Daylight Saving Time."

## Back Home

Nancy Hagman



All I know for sure is for two days I drove to work without headlights. Then it was back to the darkness. I spend enough time in the dark (literally and figuratively). I don't need more forced upon me.

If we want to fiddle with the time why not let us have the extra hour of daylight in the winter time. I know lots of people who would love to get home at 5 p.m. and have a little daylight yet to walk the dog or whatever.

Some of us remember back in the seventies when we observed DST all year long. It was the pits not seeing the sun until 9 a.m. or so. But if the rationale is that people like to have daylight when they get off work, Mother Nature will take care of that for us in summer anyway, we need

some help in the winter!

One of the daughters is glad DST is going into effect. It seems she takes the trash to the curb in her pajamas. She was concerned about what the neighbors might see. It's been plenty cold so I hope she is also wearing a coat. I didn't ask but why doesn't she just get dressed? Or do it when she leaves for work? Do you suppose that is why we have DST? Someone, somewhere, in power likes to take the garbage to the curb in the dark in his or her p.j.s?

It seems as plausible as any other explanation I have ever heard. The reason we had DST all year long back in the seventies was to save energy. Some brilliant mind decided we would use less energy if we had more daylight in the afternoon.

If that theory holds up, it might make more sense to shorten the work day so that people only worked six or seven hours in the winter and nine or ten in the summer. Or maybe we should just hibernate.

I'm working on the details of a proposal for Congress. My report will probably be every bit as "clear and compelling" as the reasoning behind DST!

## Thumbs Up . . .

To... **Brittany, Ashley** and the girls basketball team for the birthday serenade to **Don Brooks** on his birthday at Adventures. (e-mail)

To... **Norton County residents** for showing their support of *Daffodil Days* through the American Cancer Society. (brought in)

To... **Austin Brown**, for returning a lost credit card. (e-mail)

To... **Lt. Michelle Bohl**, good for you and the best of luck. (called in)

To... **Northern Valley** grade schoolers, for raising more than \$1,800 during your *Jump Rope for Heart* fund raiser. (e-mail)

To... **Wayne and Sharon Archer**, on your approaching 45th wedding anniversary. (called in)

To... **Mike Barrett**, for sharing that wonderful story in Friday's *Telegram*. (e-mail)

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