

Misunderstanding just a part of life

We are in receipt of a letter from a disappointed reader as it relates to the recent observance of the Week of the Young Child. I place the letter in the category of 'total misunderstanding.' I will run the letter and then follow that up with clarifications. There is a difference between PAID advertising and FREE news stories. -td

To the Editor,

I have lived in Norton since 1973 and this is the first time I have been so disappointed in *The Norton Telegram*. This week (last week) we are celebrating the Week of the Young Child. All of us daycare providers worked really hard in getting our ad together to have it put in the newspaper.

We all handed our ads into Holly Puga all on time. Holly had all our ads written up and our pictures taken and told the newspaper exactly how we wanted our ad to be. She did everything but print the paper.

When the newspaper ad came out, we were so disappointed because that was not the ad Holly had put in the paper.

When Holly confronted *The Telegram*, they more or less said, 'Oh well, we are short handed.'

Well you know what? Hire more people! We pay enough for the paper.

Also, Holly asked how come the daycare providers and teachers were not in the Working Women's insert in the paper. They said 'we did not think of you.' Well, we are working women, too!

And what about the women that work at Corrections?

Well, *Norton Telegram* people, you better get your stuff together and hire more people if you want to have an effective newspaper.

Good Evening Norton
Tom Dreiling



Little People Daycare
Mona Coffey Provider

CLARIFICATIONS

The misunderstanding appearing in the above letter is easy to straighten out. And it provides me an opportunity to explain the difference between advertising and stories to our readership.

The ad Holly brought to the newspaper appeared in the April 11 issue, on Page 5, as it was submitted. She had every right to expect it to appear that way. It did. This was PAID advertising.

On the front page of the April 11 issue, we carried the story of the Week of the Young Child. It was long enough to jump to Page 5, where the story continued, along with a photograph. This was all FREE.

On Page 3 of the April 15 issue, we carried an overall story on who the daycare providers are, along with 13 photos of the providers. This was all FREE.

On Page 3 of the April 18 issue, we carried a photo of the balloon launch for the observance of the Week of the Young Child. This was FREE.

So, obviously, the above letter writer was referring to only one ad that did appear as submitted. No other PAID advertising was submitted.

As for the Working Women's section, we did feature one of the employees at Corrections two years ago, and she also happened to be the cover page.

Each year we try to come up with a mix of women to feature in the Working Women's section. While we can't include every working woman every year, we attempt to be fair in our selections each year.

Most importantly, when dealing with the employees of this newspaper and a situation arises that you feel needs clarification, correction, or whatever, please consult with the person who oversees this operation. If you look in the lower left hand side of this page you will see what we call the masthead in which the principal players of the newspaper are identified. In the case of *The Telegram*, the first name on the list is that of Tom Dreiling, editor and publisher — boss in a single word.

I hope the above detailed explanation in response to the letter, clarifies our stand on this particular issue.

We thank the letter writer for her concerns. And we also thank those who said they appreciated the information as presented.

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; fax (202) 224-3514
- ★ **U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback**, 303 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 224-6521

- ★ **U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran**, 2443 Rayburn HOB, Washington, D.C. 20515. (202) 225-2715; fax (202) 225-5124
- ★ **State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer**, State Capitol Building, Room 262-E, Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785) 296-7399
- ★ **State Rep. John Faber**, 181 W. Capitol Building, Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785) 296-7500

Don't forget to send your 'Thumbus Up' to:
tom.d@nwks.com, or call 877-6908

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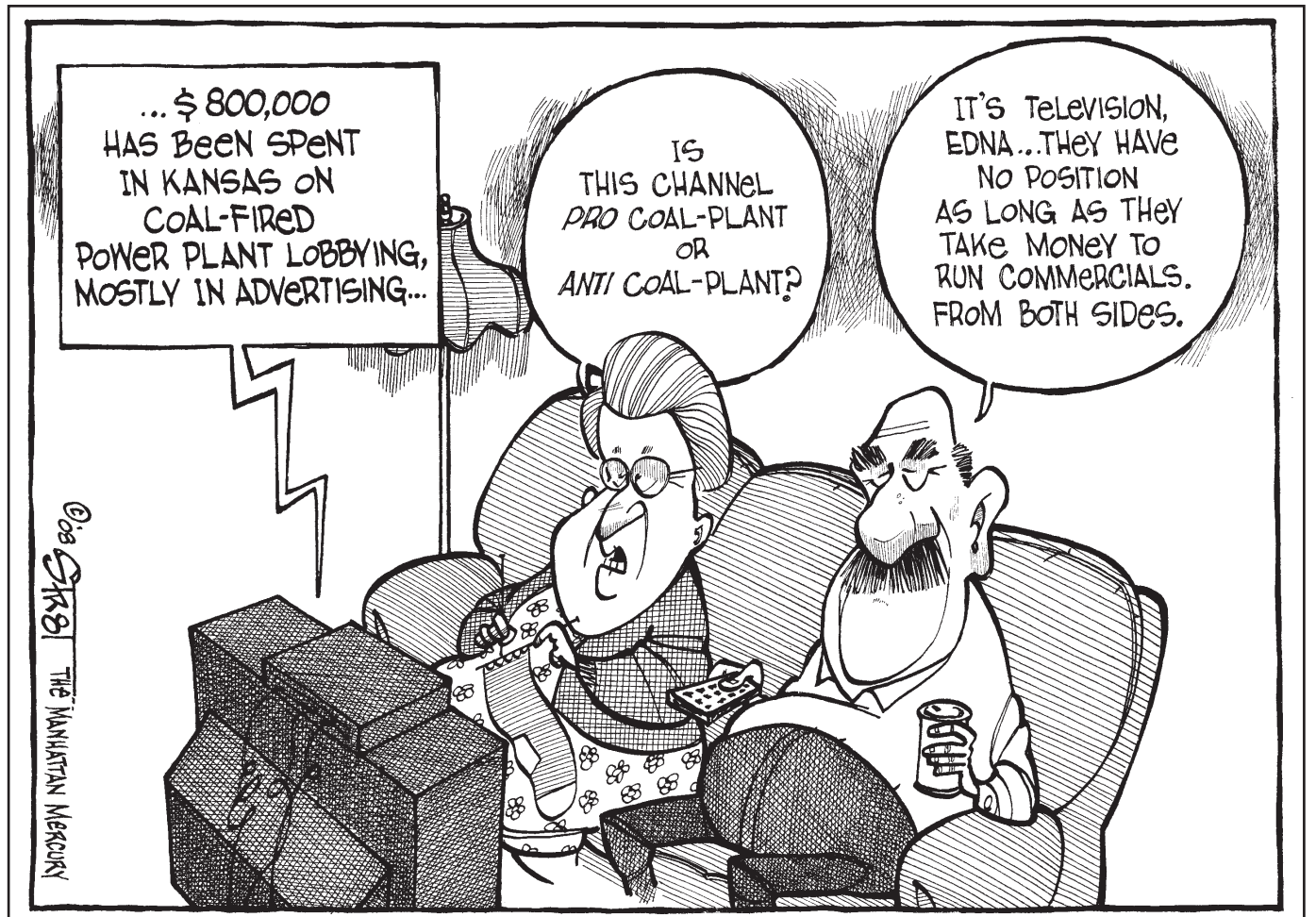
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How do we tackle growth of our prisons?

From the beginning there have been two basic concepts about prisons. One concept is to emphasize punishment so prisoners will not want to repeat their mistakes. The other concept is rehabilitation, which seeks to reform the person so they may successfully return to society.

Both concepts have been part of our prison system with programs going back and forth between these concepts. Recent years have seen a huge increase in our prison population.

As the number of people in our country increases, a corresponding increase in the number of inmates could be expected. Recent incarceration rates have far outpaced population growth.

Why do we have so many people in prison? How can we begin to reverse this trend? Part of the problem is developing respect for our laws. So many leaders of our culture promote a fast lifestyle that leads young people into trouble. There

Citizen Duties
Bob Strey



Guards and other prison workers need to be adequately paid and provided the necessary resources to maintain a safe and secure environment.

Prison workers, like firemen and soldiers, work to protect the rest of us and deserve our respect and support.

We also have a responsibility to the inmate population who are basically wards of the state. During incarceration these individuals should be treated firmly but fairly. Their housing, health care and security must be adequately funded. I believe every inmate should be given a chance to rehabilitate his or her life.

Our educational and vocational programs help individuals recover a sense of self-worth. Proper parole procedures can help individuals' transition back to healthy, productive lives.

All these programs need the support of our citizens to be successful.

Reply to Mr. Strey at bkstrey@hotmail.com.

are so many ways to get into trouble and so little self-restraint. Our prison systems will continue to grow until we have a basic commitment in this country to develop a fair and just society.

So as citizens we have a responsibility to work for a just and fair society. We also need to provide opportunity so people who wish to be law abiding can be successful. We also need to rebuild the moral restraints that help people avoid illegal activity.

Another of our responsibilities is the prison system. We should support those who operate prisons to protect the public.

Your turn...

We really need to give recycling a try in our town

To the Editor,

Much has been in the news this year as earth day has approached about recycling, going green, and global warming. I wonder if we as citizens not only of our city but of our planet earth have truly taken these messages to heart? Shouldn't we be more committed to recycle?

We often can find the excuses that it takes too much time, we don't have the right kind of bag, or it's not worth it. But I would take this opportunity to challenge everyone to give consideration and action to being a better steward of our earth.

We can do this right here in Norton! Earlier this month in anticipation of spring, we had our bi-annual city wide clean up which got everyone into sprucing up our homes and yards. This is great and in words borrowed... "a good

thing." The county landfill had quite an in-gathering of "trash" from this event, but how much of this I wonder could have been recycled?

Out of curiosity over the last year, I have monitored my recyclable trash. It only took a little time to weigh the bag or box before I headed out to the curb. I was amazed that as a household of one I could generate so much trash. The biggest recyclable was paper. I ended the year with 175 pounds consisting of newspapers, unwanted postal mail/magazines, and shredded paper. Next in the paper family was 97 pounds of cardboard, followed by 41 pounds made up of other recyclables — glass, plastic, tin and aluminum. The total for the year is 313 pounds. It amazed me! Just think if all of the county's citizens recycled, how

much we could be saving from our county landfill and thereby reduce the cost of our city refuse bill.

The city council minutes have indicated that there is a plan to purchase trash containers or mini-dumpsters. I would recommend that instead we look at recycle tubs or bins that would promote recycling. This would prevent the problem of bag failure which prompts the crew picking up trash to forgo the recycle bin for the back of the trash truck and would help us to remember throughout the week to recycle.

Our hometown and our planet need our commitment to recycle and reclaim our natural resources. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Reva Benien
Norton

Norton CARES could use some help from you

To the Editor,

In 1997, Enid Roe, recognizing that a significant part of this community was elderly and without family closer by, began looking for a way to put those needing help in contact with someone willing to provide help.

As a result, Norton CARES came into existence. Now, 10 years later, the efforts of the Norton CARES volunteers have enabled many to extend their stay in the comfort of their own homes. At the same time, they have served to enhance the image of Norton as a community that takes care of its own.

Norton CARES is an interfaith, non-

profit organization that offers help to those who need transportation to the doctor, hospital, assistance in grocery shopping, or just a friendly visit. While much of our activity is carried on within the city of Norton, our volunteers have driven their own vehicles well over 150,000 out of town miles taking care receivers for treatments in Hays, Kearney, Colby, McCook and even as far away as Omaha and Wichita. They receive no compensation for the many hours they donate, but we do pay .20 per mile for out of town trips as a gasoline reimbursement.

We can offer this service only with the support from the community. All of our

budget comes from donations. We are asking you to please consider a monetary donation to Norton CARES. We are also inviting you to consider being a part of our team by donating some of your free time as a volunteer. Not all of our time is spent driving out of town. You can call me, Ramona Pabian (785) 877-2131.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our program. We are looking forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Ramona Pabian
Director
Norton CARES
Norton

Bowling, booze and laughter draws this response

To the Editor,

Regarding your editorial of April 22, I was sorry to read of your "gasoline expenses" on your recent trip to Denver.

I find it strange that you personally take issue with three United States Senators — namely "Alley Cat" as in bowling, "Boozer Bell," as in Pennsylvania Bar, and "laughable example" as in Republi-

can nominee — for not having a can't miss plan and action to solve your "gasoline" expenses" prior to sitting in the Oval Office. Speaking of the "OO", I wonder what your personal feelings are regarding the plan and action of the "Little Bush" and the "Big Dick" currently in their eighth year of sitting there.

I think their plan and action is working

as they spent years in the Texas and Wyoming oil patch planning your "gasoline expenses." They might, but I doubt it, wish that their plan didn't need a small war to be successful.

Yours, for a ban on bowling, booze and laughter.

David L. Browne II
Norton