

Your Turn

Many reasons not to elect McCain; I fought in the trenches in WW II

To the Editor;
Here are reasons not to vote for (Se. John) McCain:

- Party elders would not let McCain pick his first two choices, (Sen. Joe) Lieberman and former Gov. Tom) Ridge. That means he is still going to listen to the Republican elders.
- Against the recently passed increased funding for Medicare.
- Against the new G.I. Bill of Rights.
- Against increased funding for veterans.
- Against farm subsidies; he doesn't know that a combine costs \$300,000 to \$400,000.
- His pick for vice-president doesn't show the best judgment.
- Been in D.C. for 30 years and still votes 90 percent of the time with (President George W.) Bush, (Vice President Dick) Cheney.
- Against any government help for home owners or other bailouts. I wonder if he remembers the KEATING FIVE?
- His pick for vice-president wants to fire everyone she doesn't like, which she tried to do with the Trans. Chief for Alaska. The trooper still has his job, thank heavens for that.
- If in office and doesn't like the president of Russia or Iran, will she try diplomacy or threaten them with all options on the table — WAR?
- Against Roe v Wade, even in the event of rape, incest or saving the life of a mother.

(Sen. Barack) Obama is against abortion, except for rape, incest and saving the life of a mother. Let her decide. That's why he and millions of women are for keeping Roe v Wade.

Are you tired of hearing McCain talk about his experience with war? He should watch *The Longest Winter* and how the weather changed history.

He would know what war was all about, if he would have been at Omaha Beach, Battle of the Bulge, St. Lo, Mortain and Bastogne.

We lost thousands of GI's at Omaha Beach in 10 hours. Thousands of GI's died in WW II and thousands were wounded and captured.

Being in the infantry in WW II at Mortain, Battle of the Bulge and Bastogne, showed me that if our leaders are ready to go to war without diplomacy, they should show us how to fight a war and should be the first ones to charge up the hill.

Our company had 13 GI's left out of 212 when the Battle of the Bulge ended. We turned over seven times from St. Lo to the Elbe River where we met the Russians.

In the Battle of the Bulge, if we were lucky, we got to sleep sitting up in a German foxhole. The rest was on the snow. We didn't change clothes, boots or whatever for 30 days. No medicine for our wounded, no food some days, but when we ran out of Camel cigarettes that was the end of the world.

McCain did not win the war in Vietnam by himself. The heroes of Vietnam, WW I, WW II and Korea were the young GI's that gave their lives so we could all enjoy living in the United States of America.

All of us who came home were in no way heroes, we just done what we were told to do.

H.J. "Hank" Austerman
Norton
Infantry WW II and
proud to have served
Vote Obama-Biden

Get to know the candidates

To the Editor;
I agree with Mary Kay Woodyard's column in Friday's Telegram. It is the responsibility of the voter to look at the candidates and find out as much as possible about these people who are running for office. Race, gender or even whether they are a republican or democrat should take a back seat to the more important issues.

What we as citizens should not forget is that these people represent us, you and I. They are what we are. Their decisions in office are, presumably, the decisions we put them in office to make as our decisions. Their morals are our morals. Their thoughts and actions on war, immigration, economics and etc. are ours. We must do our homework and get to know these people in as much detail as possible. The same goes for their party's agenda. We have to know for sure which team will more closely represent what we want for our country and our citizens.

Of course, the most important thing we as citizens can do after all our research, is to get out and VOTE! If you don't vote, you have no right to complain or criticize, when things don't go the way you think they should.

June Prout
Norton

Obama?
McCain?

Simply call us at any of the following numbers: 877-6908, 877-3361; or 874-4394 (after hours). Email tom.d@nwkans.com

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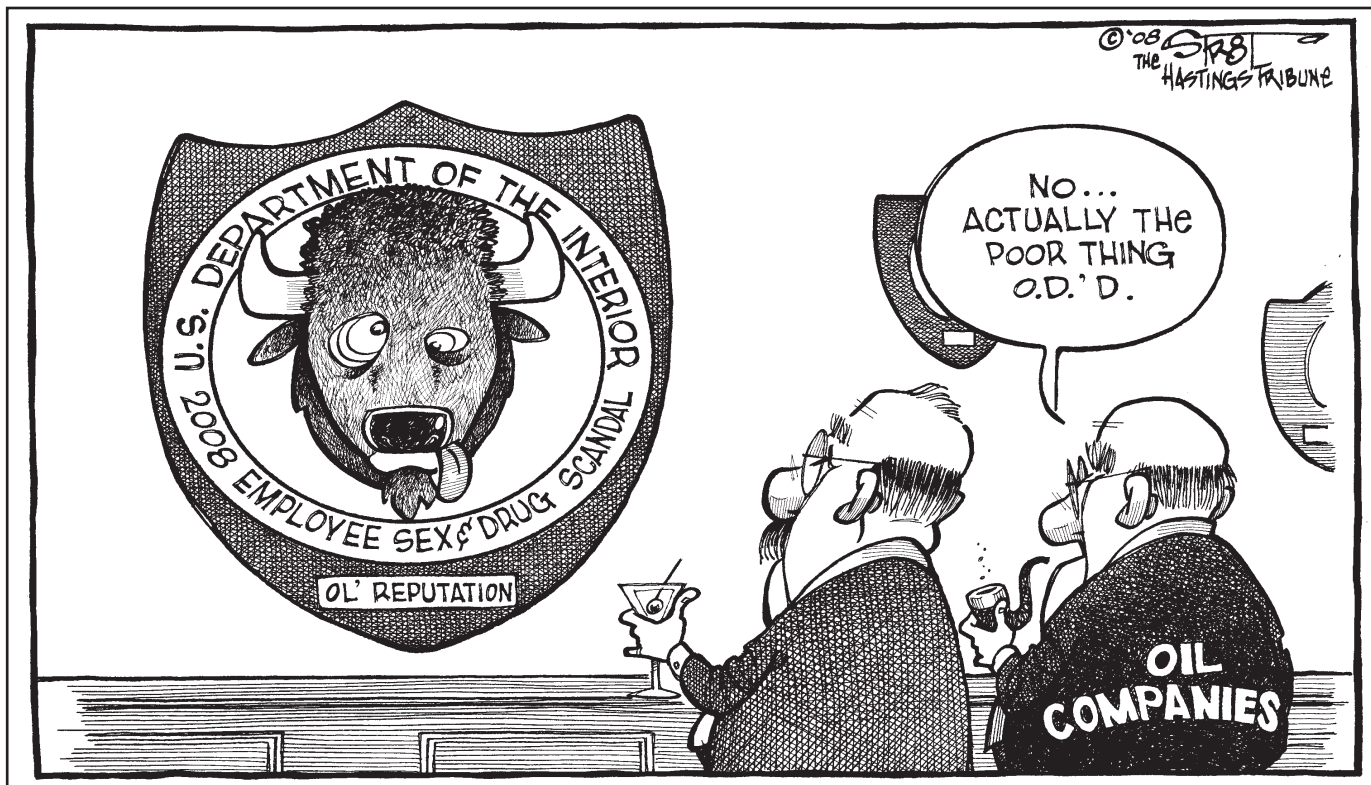
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Just call me the 'Queen of Demo'

Out Back
Carolyn Plotts



If you want something done — do it yourself. That's why, armed with a crowbar and a hammer, I'm heading to the garage Jim moved onto our property a few weeks ago. Some re-enforcing lumber he put in to stabilize the structure during the bumpy transport, has to be removed before he can add extensions to the frame and lower it to the foundation.

Why am I tackling this manly-man kind of job? Because Jim is working full-time on a new house and I want to get started, now, on the last phase of remodeling at our house.

The last three rooms to be re-done have to be entirely torn out. And, right now, the rooms are full of tools, building materials and supplies. Which (if all goes as planned) will be moved to the "new" garage.

As usual, one job has to wait on another before it can be started. I can't help Jim

much with the construction — but I am "Queen of Demo."

We checked in with our Texas kids during Hurricane Ike's sweep across the state. They all reported to still have their heads above water and not being much worse for the wear. Lots of rain, but where they live, at least, no flooding.

I'm lovin' this weather. Brisk, (some say cold) weather makes working outside a real pleasure. There's still lots to

get done before the snow flies. I have a few trees to get planted, sidewalks to get edged and probably grass to be mowed at least once more. I love the change of seasons and fall is probably my favorite.

In less than one month we, along with five other intrepid souls, will be embarking on another mission trip to Juarez, Mexico.

It almost didn't happen. Seven people are not enough to build a house in the time allotted. We were almost ready to scrap the trip when our prayers were answered. A call to the missionary agency we work with in El Paso, Texas, led us to another team that didn't have quite enough for a team, either.

Long story short, we are hooked up with a team of Southern Baptists from Silver City, New Mexico. Found out we were the answer to their prayers, too.

Our election issue is state of our roads

Back Home
Nancy Hagman



All politics is local, or so they say. We are concerned about the state of our roads so the history making presidential election we are currently seeing is taking a back seat to the county commission race in the Hagman House! (Which for the record is in Smith County!)

We went to a little meeting the other night. I say little because no matter how upset people say they are when there is an actual meeting where candidates are present and where opinions can be voiced to a person who could potentially do something, attendance ends up being very small. They say "People get the government they deserve."

One problem with our road maintenance is we don't have enough grader operators. Someone asked about hiring from the ranks of people recently laid off from a local industry. The present commissioner said, "You wouldn't want them."

His attitude and that of most of those present (farmers) bothered me. They are used to doing things their own way. Unless they have a hired hand they don't have to figure out how to work with others. They tend to dismiss the blade operators as "dumb". They complain and have sometimes been answered very rudely, which escalates the situation.

I remember an issue with a road in Norton County once. I called a commissioner and was told, "These grader operators aren't rocket scientists." That bothered me a lot also.

The day after the meeting I got my swather time in! The radio doesn't work so I had a lot of time to think. Too bad I can't operate the computer at the same

time. Some of my most brilliant thoughts come to me in the hay field. Lost forever because I can't remember them long enough to write them down!

In this case I needed all my wits about me because it was a little damp and the field is full of gopher mounds. In the best of circumstances dirt doesn't feed through the swather but if it is wet it is a constant battle to keep the thing from clogging up. I got off to a stellar start.

The first trip down the field and it clogged up big time. I tried to dig it out, but finally went back to the pickup because I knew the hubby was coming along to check on me. The mosquitoes were out in force, so I eventually headed back to the house. Of course, I met the hubby en route. We went to the Kirwin to the L&E for lunch.

All during lunch I worried. I'd probably broken it! I'm not that skilled a swather operator. I'm not that smart about machinery. But I work cheap! Here's something else they say, "You get what you pay for!"

Our swather does not operate in reverse. Some do, and they are easy to unplug. The girls have told me before that it is not that hard for Dad to get the swather unplugged. So I watched him. On the side of the swather he has built a holder for

a sort of a homemade giant wrench. He opened up the gear box on the side of the swather, and used the wrench to turn the cylinder in reverse. Amazing. I'm married to the smartest man in the world.

"Just take it easy," he said. "As soon as the hay starts piling up, back up and let it feed through."

I did better for a couple of rows. My rows weren't very straight, because if you have to watch for gopher mounds and the cylinder and behind you to see if you are leaving ragged stuff, you are one set of eyes short for watching the horizon.

Then I got it clogged but good! The hubby never suggested I use his handy homemade wrench, but I decided if he can do it I can do it. I had to clean some mud off the platform also but I was back in business in no time.

That's when I figured out. Neither grader operators nor swather operators have to be rocket scientists. I bet 9 out of 10 farmers would look at me and say they wouldn't want me running their equipment. But I do alright; when I've been shown what to do. When I know the boss will be patient and help me succeed. A great thought I remembered long enough to write down!

As to our county road crew, they may be C students. They say, "The world is run by C students!" They may be surly (probably because they realize the complainers don't respect them or their work). Before they are even hired we expect them to fail. They are poorly paid. The blame goes on and on!

Why are we surprised when it doesn't work out well? We have gotten exactly what we deserve!

Thumbs Up

To... David Will, Norton Community High School band director, who joined the football boys and coaches in finishing up with their recent painting project. What fantastic support of our student athletes! (brought in)

To... Joan Bolt, you literally go above and beyond in carrying out your duties. Good show! (e-mail)

To... Willie Daniels, on a much deserved retirement. 45 years? Wow! (e-mail)

To... Norton Junior High volleyball girls, on your awesome team spirit and enthusiasm at the tournament in Goodland. (e-mail)

To... the 8th grade varsity volleyball team, for winning the tournament in Goodland, defeating Wray Colo., Colby and Goodland. (e-mail)

To... head junior high volleyball coach Kristen Fahrenbruch, and assistant coaches Melissa McClain, and Don Mordecai for doing a GREAT job with our girls! (e-mail)

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