

Now we're looking at the eyes...

**G**ive me a break! Why? Because I was told to look at Sen. Barack Obama's face closely and I will see someone who doesn't have "American eyes." Can you believe that? *American eyes?* When you get down to it — if we want to be so critical — most of us lack "American eyes" because our ancestors came from other countries. Mine came from the Volga region of European Russia. And the last time I looked at my eyes, they didn't tell me anything I didn't already know about myself. There are some people out there who need to badly get a life.

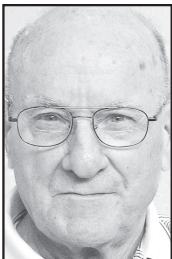
After the election is over — and how I wish that was an event of today — we'll all go back to our regular routines, not having to hear any more about lipstick on a pig, or a gray old man, or a black candidate, which has nothing to do with the issues at hand. As far as the old dude goes, or the black man is concerned, one of them will sit in the oval office effective January 20, 2009. And whoever that happens to be, remember he will be **our** president, **our** commander-in-chief.

President Bush is **our** president, like him or not. Bill Clinton, before him, was **our** president, like him or not. Ditto George Herbert Walker Bush and Ronald Reagan.

When the votes are counted, the smoke clears and the mud is washed away, we then must go forward in a spirit of cooperation.

Yep, I'm old and old fashioned. But that doesn't excuse me from dreaming.

Good Evening Norton  
Tom Dreiling



**Well, well, well!** *They* are on our turf tonight. *They* are, and have been for some years, the top dog in their classification in high school football. *They* are the Smith Center Redmen. I don't know how many successive games they've won (my calculator is sort of old fashioned and only goes so high). But our Norton Blue Jays are posed to knock them off that lofty perch. A good game awaits at Travis Field. The stage is set, the principal players are ready, and so are the fans.

Go Blue Jays!

**Our presidential poll** continues and interest among our readers is high. If you haven't yet "voted" please do so. When this was being written Thursday morning, we were closing in on 120 people participating. It's not a scientific poll, it gets to the meat of the matter: McCain? Obama? We don't want to know anything else about you, only how you would vote at the time you call in or e-mail your choice. The numbers are: business hours, (785) 877-3361 or 877-6908; after hours at my home (785) 874-4394; or e-mail tom.d@nwkan-sas.com, or nortontelegram@nwkanas.com. We're going to run this thing for quite a while yet,

**Quote of the week:** "We're a nut crowd waiting to crack." Responded to our presidential poll.

**The coolness** of last week, which some called cold, has make an about face and this week's temperatures are more the norm. And it felt kind of nice to not have to wear a sweater. I even took one layer of blankets off the bed. Of course I know and you know each day brings us closer to the first frost, the first taste of real fall and eventually the onslaught of winter. So sit back, relax and enjoy what we have.

**Long ago** when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft. Today, it's simply called golf

**From the mouths...** After the christening of his baby brother in church, 4-year-old Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. Finally his father asked him what was wrong. The boy replied, "The preacher said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I wanted to stay with you guys."

Ouch!!

**Have a good evening!** And with the weekend upon us, demonstrate to your kids that they are being brought up in a Christian home by attending the house of worship of your choice.

Obama?  
McCain?

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

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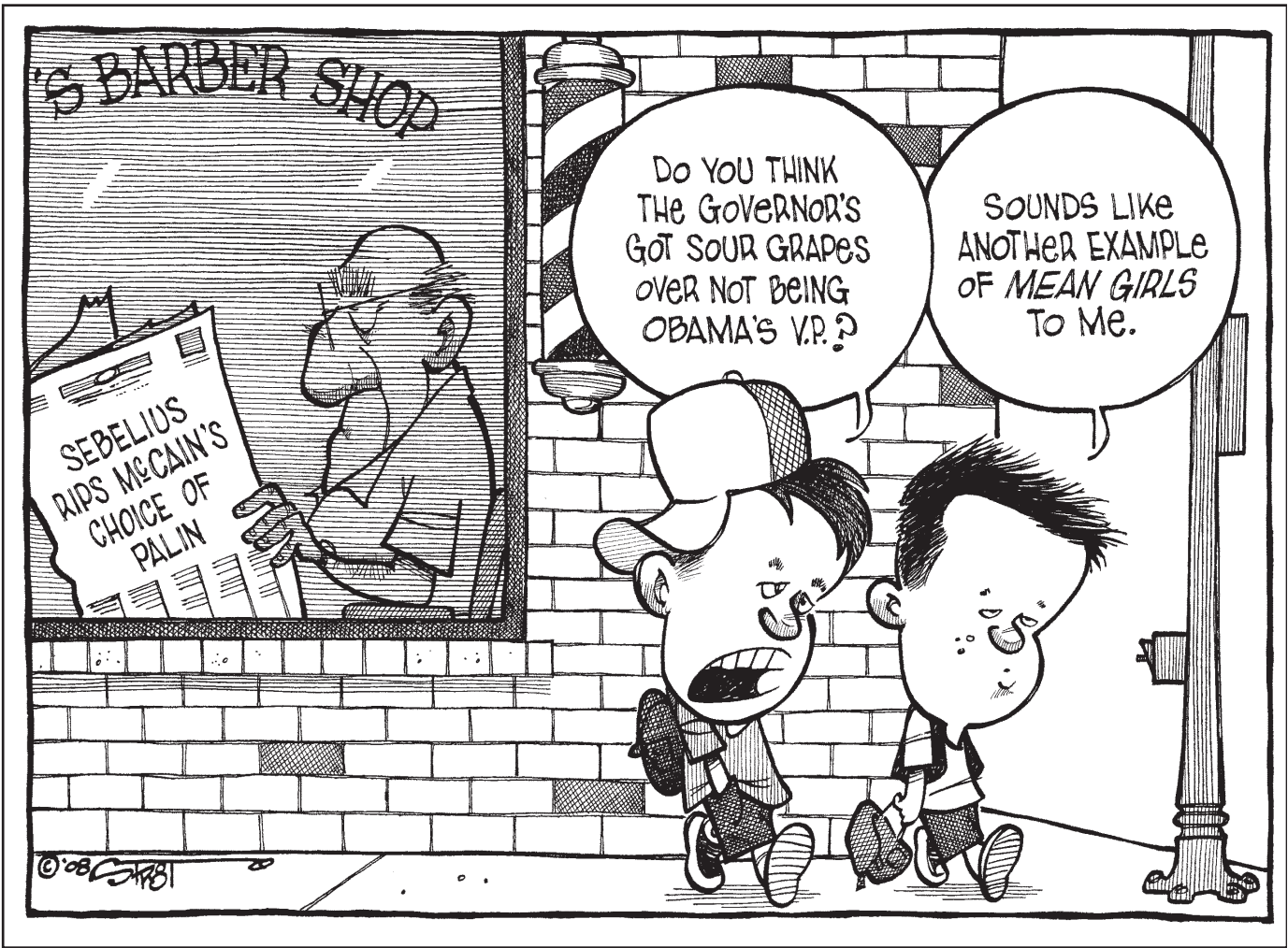
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Congress ignoring will of the people

*To the Editor;*  
Fellow Americans, we and our country are in deep trouble.

We have deteriorated to third world status whereby the ruling class, which in our case is the elected Congress, does whatever it wants without regard for the will of the people.

Now, we have two people running for President. One of them is not qualified, and neither is deserving or worthy of the office. A tip off is that they are both members of the United States Senate, which, with the exception of the United Nations,

**Your Turn**

is the most self-serving, inefficient, out of touch organization in existence.

Both are willing to surrender our country to illegal Mexicans and the gangs they foster; both have caved in to environmental and global warming radicals and want to tax us accordingly, and neither is willing to drill for oil enough to make us energy independent from our enemies.

The Democrats that control Congress have only one goal and agenda. That is

to destroy the Bush Administration, and they are willing to sacrifice the safety, security, and sovereignty of our country to accomplish it.

There are two things we can do to start improving our situation. In the coming election we can vote out all incumbents. After that, we can insist on term limits so we can rid ourselves of those politicians that stay in office so long that they represent the government, not the people.

Thank you.

R. W. Yeager  
Norton


Is this really the way we live today?

**I**wonder if current day movies/tv/books reflect our lives or vice versa. Regardless, they do cause us to consider our lives and events within those scenes. A few years ago I attended the movie The Horse Whisperer with a group of women much younger than myself. After the movie we discussed the theme and the outcome of the character's actions/decisions. It brought to the forefront our very differing views.

The younger generation was disappointed the woman did not leave her husband to follow the "love of her life", for me I was reassured in the woman's stability, accountability for her prior actions and her commitment to both the relationship and the children from that relationship.

Call me old fashioned, lacking in romantic dreams or just plain boring, but I still treasure the movie of the 1970's titled

**Phase II**  
**Mary Kay**  
**Woodyard**



The Four Seasons. The movie featuring Alan Alda, Carol Burnett and three other couples all best friends. Their children were leaving for college and each couple was struggling with what is now known as "empty nest syndrome". Not all the couples' marriages endured, but the majority of them did. They fought the fight, discovered new things about each other and continued the work.

Most media does not define marriage as "work". Current day marriage hails 365 days a year of joy, happiness and incred-

ible sex. The theory is great, the reality exhausting. Being that happy or sexually spent is close to impossible.

If one chooses to believe the tabloids or magazine covers glaring at the checkout counter, single parenting is both effortless and financially easy.

The message is one can hire a nanny, get their hair done and have a personal shopper choose the children's school clothes.

The reality is a large percentage of women are forced into near poverty existence when the divorce is final. Even fathers will often not live within the same socio-economic level.

Television shows are no exception. Grey's Anatomy has a higher level of libido than rabbits on estrogen. And I for one have no desire to live on Wisteria Lane. But all kidding aside, is this reflective of our lives in today's United States?

Newspapers own worst enemies?

**I**'m just fed up with the way the newspaper industry is reacting to its current "crisis." First of all, it seems like half the editors and publishers in the country and two-thirds of the journalism deans are ready to write our obituary. Some already have.

And a lot of newspaper people stand around, shoveling dirt into the grave.

Yet the dearly has not yet departed. In fact, community newspapers are quite healthy, and the future is nothing but bright for this growing and vital industry.

Yes, I said the future is nothing but bright for the *community* newspaper, like the ones most rural editors put out. We're not going to tumble to the Internet any more than we rolled over and died for television or radio or cable.

We're better at what we do than any of those "new media," or any that's likely to come along.

We'll still be printing newspapers, still be making money and still be covering our communities like no one else will do way down the road.


I just wish our colleagues would stop shoving that dirt in my hair.

Stop writing that newspapers are about to fade away. It's not true.

Stop claiming that to make money, we have to become "new media" companies. It won't work.

Fortunes will be made in the Internet and other new media, but darned few of them will be made by newspaper compa-

**On the**  
**Prairie Dog**  
**Steve Haynes**



nies. As newspapers did with broadcast, we're going to find that this is a different business.

A lot of newspaper companies will make some money at it, and as in broadcast, a few will make a lot. Don't count on the Internet saving us, though.

That kind of thinking has never worked.

My company knows we need to use the Internet to survive, as any business does. We're growing online revenue sources, but we don't expect them to overtake newspaper income in the foreseeable future.

We expect to make some money, but we expect print advertising to be our bread and butter.

Sometimes newspapers are our own worst enemies. I picked up a city daily the other day and got a shock: The lead story in the lifestyle section was all about how to find coupons online. The story did not say that newspapers still handle 80 percent of all coupons, but made it clear that online was the sexy, fun way to find them.

Why would any newspaper feature

that?

Why not just get a gun, and get it over with?

The same day, I came across an article from the Readership Institute, where Director Mary Nesbitt reported that newspaper reading habits have held up pretty well over the last two years. Even the kids are not deserting us in the numbers we've heard.

Where was that story on the financial pages, among all the bad news? I didn't see it.

If we take advantage of our strong position, community newspapers have a strong future. We're about the only mass medium left, as television, cable, radio, magazines and websites continue to fragment their audience.

Today, only a newspaper can command the attention of an entire market.

That's valuable.

City dailies should pay heed. They will have to become local, community newspapers again to survive, giving up in many cases the pretense of regional power. They started out as community newspapers, and need to return to their roots. Those that do — and stop writing their own obituaries — will share in the bright future of our industry.

I'd invite the journalism schools, the pundits and the naysayers to take another look, too.

This is a good business, and it's going to get better — for those who pay attention to what readers want in the way of news.