

from other pens...

# Hillary's success tied to Speaker Pelosi

Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton's success in the presidential arena could easily hinge on the performance of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Huh? Pelosi holds one of the most powerful positions in the country. And she is the first female to do so. When you look at the way the blocks are stacked, first comes the President of the United States, followed by the Vice President, followed by the Speaker of the House.

That's how powerful a position the California woman holds. If Speaker Pelosi performs with purpose and strength, that could bode well for Sen. Clinton's bid to succeed President George W. Bush.

But if she is seen as weak and indecisive, that could spell trouble for the New York senator.

Is "America the Beautiful" ready for a woman to occupy the oval office? That question rises each day with the sun. Prior to the Democrats seizing control of both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives at the election in November, the question seemed to be, "Is the country ready for a speaker who will turn the House upside down — literally and liberally?"

Mrs. Pelosi was painted by her opposition as someone we should fear, not embrace. To date, those avenues of caution haven't quite materialized. But she is early in her tenure.

Maybe we are way off base with our Pelosi-Clinton link. But never before have we had a female speaker, nor have we had a female at the top of the presidential ticket, and both from the same party. Of course, Sen. Clinton might not get the nod. That remains to be seen.

Just maybe the Pelosi elevation, while hailed at the time, might end up being a political curse for the other lady trying to make political history, too.

Then there's this guy Obama — Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois — who just might be Sen. Clinton's worst thorn in the side. Stay tuned.

—Tom Dreiling

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## The Goodland Star-News

(USPS No. 222-460. ISSN 0893-0562)

Member: Kansas Press Association

Inland Press Association Colorado Press Association

National Newspaper Association

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Published every Tuesday and Friday except the days observed for New Year's Day and Christmas Day, at 1205 Main Ave., Goodland, Kan. 67735.

Periodicals postage paid at Goodland, Kan. 67735; entered at the Goodland, Kan., Post Office under the Act of Congress of March 8, 1878.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Goodland Star-News, 1205 Main Ave., Goodland, Kan. 67735.

TELEPHONE: (785) 899-2338. Editorial e-mail: [star-news@nwkanssas.com](mailto:star-news@nwkanssas.com). Advertising questions can be sent to: [goodlandads@nwkanssas.com](mailto:goodlandads@nwkanssas.com)

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SUBSCRIPTIONS: In Sherman County and adjacent counties: three months, \$29; six months, \$46; 12 months, \$81. Out of area, weekly mailing of two issues: three months, \$39; six months, \$54; 12 months, \$89 (All tax included). Mailed individually each day: (call for a price).

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1935-1989

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Founded by Eric and Roxie Yonkey

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# What's wrong with keeping a few chickens?

Let there be chickens? I don't think I care much — as long as they are hens.

I like fresh eggs. A few chickens in someone's yard, well, who cares?

Not me. And who would mind if their neighbor had a cute little horse so small and so smart it could be housebroken?

It seems to me that the City Council has taken a pretty hard stance here

"Let-them-get-a-foot-in-the-door-and-they'll-have-hogs-next," seems to be the cry.

There's a story about pot-bellied pigs getting loose and causing havoc. Maybe it's true.

A few years ago, the police had to remove a few pets from a man's house. Rattlesnakes. The chief keeps their pictures on his computer.

The city probably is right to ban poisonous snakes, along with "crocodilians" and other exotic species.

Barnyard animals, cows, pigs, horses, sheep and goats?

It's pretty reasonable to require people to have at least an acre of land to keep those.

There must be a reason, though, why most



steve haynes

• along the sappa

towns ban farm animals these days. A century ago, reading the old papers, you'd find that pigs and chickens occupied city council agendas, not dogs.

People wanted them out of town, and it's hard to tell if it was the smell, the noise or just a drive for progress that fueled the drive. Maybe a little of each.

In this day of zoning codes, nearly every city bans or limits these animals. Before we change our rules it might be a wise idea to do some research and find out why.

There should be some limits. The scary thing is, if the ballot issue changing the animal ordinance passes, the council won't be able to address the issue for 10 years. We may be stuck with animals we don't want, requiring another election.

That seems an awkward way to govern.

And yet, I can't bring myself to worry too much about a few chickens. My dog probably would like to have some.

Roosters, that would be a different matter.

We spent some time at a little hotel in a residential area of Mexico last month. It was charming. We walked to the carniceria, or butcher shop, to buy fresh tamales, and to the bodega for beer.

Everyone kept chickens in the yard. I'd forgotten about roosters.

There's a myth that roosters crow at the crack of dawn. Tain't true.

Roosters crow all day, every day. One friends says they work in shifts so one is always crowing.

Whatever.

Roosters in town would be grounds for suspending the ordinance forbidding hunting in the city limits.

Roosters should be fair game, open season. Blast 'em away, I say.

But I think I could deal with a few chickens, long as they don't mess with the neighbors, and with a miniature horse or two.

# The handwriting of Bush, Reid, Pelosi

It's all in the signature. Just ask Michelle Dresbold.

Dresbold, a handwriting expert — she was among 19 Americans to be accepted into the U.S. Secret Service Advanced Document Training Program — has helped resolve some of America's highest-profile crimes. (See details in her book "Sex, Lies, and Handwriting," available at [michelledresbold.com](http://michelledresbold.com).)

I asked her to analyze the signatures of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and President George Bush.\*

"Pelosi has very rounded handwriting," says Dresbold. "You see this in people who are very maternal. But her writing is also vertical, which shows that her head leads her heart. Her 'y' is a long, straight line, which shows she is driven."

Pelosi is intuitive, too, as determined by the break between "Nan" and "cy." She's also neat.

"Her handwriting is very precise. This shows she's someone whose closet is in perfect order, her hangers are all in the same direction, and her shoes wouldn't dare be out of alignment."

She organizes people that way, too: poor and middle class folks on one side, the Republicans who oppress them on the other.

"And because she dots her 'i' to the left of the vowel, this shows she thinks things through in a logical, unemotional manner."

It's Reid who is emotional.

Sure, his signature is angular and jagged — the sign of someone who wants to get ahead. And his letters are bunched close together, which means he's uptight. (He looks like the kind of fellow who would wear a necktie at the beach.)

But the "e" in "Reid" is a backward "3," a sign of someone who values the finer things. And the "d" in his last name is especially large and round and ends with a whip. That suggests he's emotional and sensitive and does not like criticism.

Probably not a good idea to ask him about his unusually lucrative real-estate deals, then.

That brings us to Bush. Unlike Reid and Pelosi, Bush's signature is unintelligible. It looks like Pablo Picasso threw up.

"He's very difficult to analyze," says Dresbold. "He writes a squiggly line between the 'B' and 'h' in 'Bush', and his 'h' looks like an 'L.' This is the sign of someone who wants to be ambiguous — who doesn't want to be read easily."

No wonder he's so underestimated.

"But the way he connects 'George' to 'W' is



tom purcell

• commentary

a sign of an efficient, intelligent brain. He's more interested in getting things done quickly and showing results than in being perfect."

He differs from Pelosi and Reid in that regard.

"Reid is someone who does his homework so he'll get A's and look good. Pelosi was probably the good girl, the teacher's pet. Bush is the kind of fellow who might get somebody else to do his homework."

Dresbold says that handwriting originates in the brain, not the hand. The brain determines what one's handwriting looks like. Properly analyzed, it reveals who a person is and what he or she is thinking.

So, based on their handwriting, how will Bush, Reid and Pelosi get along?

"Reid will use his emotions in making decisions," says Dresbold. "He'll need to feel im-

portant. Pelosi is far more logical and calculating than she appears, but she is extremely maternal — she'll need to feel she's making everyone happy. Bush is likely to appear congenial, then go and do what he wants anyway."

If the three were to bake a cake together, Reid would want credit for the ingredients and the color of the icing. Pelosi would want to make sure the cake was big enough to feed everybody. And Bush would compliment them on the cake, and then go grill a steak.

So it will be interesting to watch how things pan out for the three — how things pan out for America — as they dance and posture and try to push their agendas through.

One thing is for certain: Bush won't be able to accomplish much unless he can get Reid and Pelosi to sign off first.

As I said, it's all in the signature.

See signature samples at <http://cagle.com/images/Purcell/>

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