

White House wannabes should watch what they say

The figure at Sen. John Kerry's side — wife Teresa Heinz Kerry — took the spotlight even before the Democratic National Convention opened in Boston earlier this week.

She had an exchange the other evening with a reporter, and it ended in a remark that caught national attention. Simply put, she said, "Shove it."

Not very lady like, especially when you're out in the public where other ears can pick up on conversation. But Mrs. Kerry is Mrs. Kerry and warmth doesn't quite seem to be her strong point. There's not that fuzzy-warm smile and other things that would make you want to run up and hug her. We could be totally wrong but the only way we can gauge her is by what we observe on television.

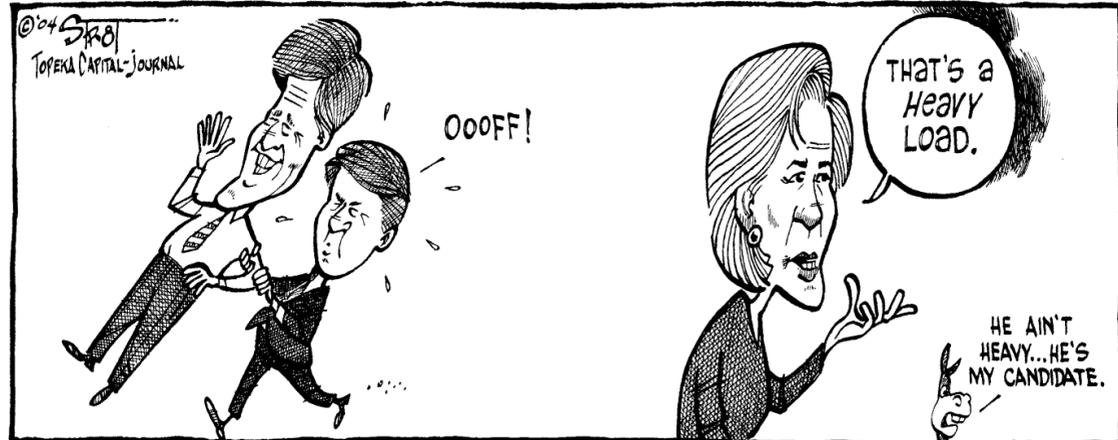
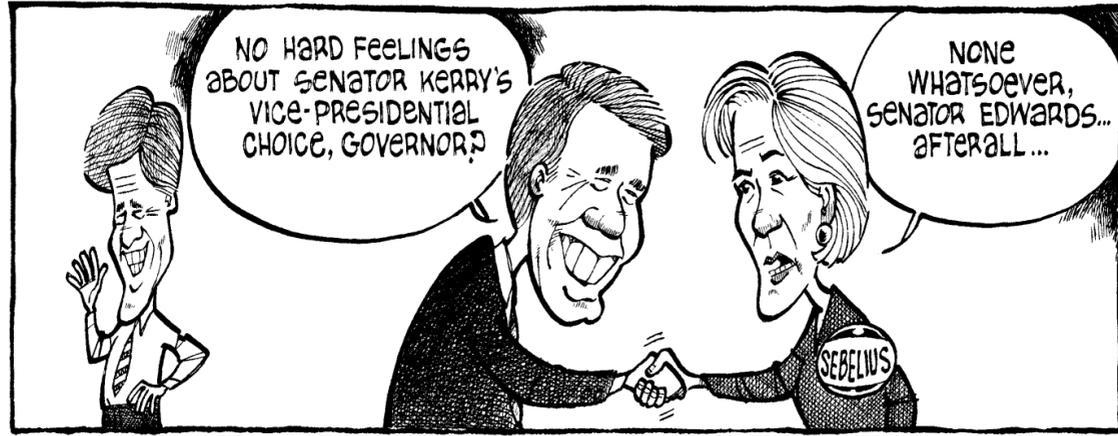
Mrs. Kerry's comment of course was of no match to the comment made by Vice President Dick Cheney in the Senate chamber. We can't and won't play it out, although it, too, consisted of two words. The first word began with the sixth letter in the alphabet.

Now, you would think people in such high places would weigh their comments before making them. Cool heads must prevail. After all Mr. Cheney is a heart beat away from the presidency, and Mrs. Kerry could be the first lady after the votes are counted in 49 states and Florida on Nov. 2.

Does a potential first lady have any influence on how one would mark a ballot on election day? We haven't seen any studies — how'd that ever happen? — dealing with that topic, although there are studies that show vice presidential candidates seem to be irrelevant.

Well, as we wing our way in to and out of the conventions this summer and into the fall period of serious campaigning, the Democrats will have their "two-word" wannabe first lady and the Republicans will have their "two word" wannabe re-elected vice president.

We've got two words for those two but we aren't running for anything so we won't waste our breath. — Tom A. Dreiling



Remodeling makes life... interesting

People keep asking how our remodeling project is coming along. The best answer is slow.

I got miffed because — as I perceived it — no one was cooperating with me and we didn't get the things done that needed to be done before the carpet people came.

After I canceled that, everyone got real busy and made a huge mess, which they left for someone else (me) to clean up. I started on it but it was so hot that day I could not bear it.

And since this is the last year Tricia can be in 4-H and the fair was coming up I decided to ignore it. After all, barring some sort of disaster, it's going to be there when I decide I have time.

Meanwhile the weather cooled off and Grandma decided to clean up the big mess.

Everyone else is grouching about this because every time someone cleans (that would be Grandma or me) they claim they can't find anything. It is beyond me how they can remember where they dropped a screwdriver three days ago but find it unhandy to look on a shelf where all the tools have been laid.

I say, "Way to go, Grandma!"

Saturday, before the style revue, it was nice and cool so I decided to go over and finish my little wallpapering project. Wow, was the house clean. Way to go,

Back Home Nancy Hagman



Grandma!

I must confess that when I went to remove a switch plate I couldn't find a screwdriver, but that was a minor irritation compared to the joy of having a clean house.

Kate was getting her stuff together as she was moving the next day but she took time to finish the tiling project she had started in the upstairs bathroom. If this teacher thing doesn't work she can have a career as a tile layer. It is just looking super.

Just one problem, you wouldn't want the homeowners around when she was working. I could hear her and her sister.

Their conversation was punctuated with lots of "Oops!" "Oh-oh," "Sorry," "Is it okay?"

You get the idea. Not what you really want to hear.

However, I have decided if someone is going to do something for me I am not

going to micro-manage it. Especially when the price of labor is right — free.

We have a carpenter, who we pay, but he also doubles as the hired man. He charges less when he swaths hay or runs the combine, so the hubby is not very motivated to keep him in the house.

There is one room in the house that is pretty much done. That is Tricia's.

Did you ever see one of those old movies where you go into a deserted, haunted house and suddenly you open a door and find a furnished room where they are keeping a fair damsel in distress or maybe an insane relative? (No comment on which is closer to the truth.)

That is Tricia's room. And she is pretty bummed that she isn't going to get to live there because she going to school Aug. 8.

And Kate is going Aug. 2. She has been such an enthusiastic helper. What will we do without her?

Elizabeth is already moved but she is still sleeping at our house. She seems to think Aug. 1 or 2 would be a good day to take up her new residence.

So how's our remodeling project going? When are we going to move?

Well, about a year ago Junior said we were going to move as soon as Tricia graduated. I thought he met high school but now I am thinking — college?

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: Hogs don't smell like roses to Norton man

Dear Editor,
As I read the latest sugar-coated drivel from the continuing saga of "Why Pigstys Are Good For You", it was not surprising that Nelson Farms continued to deny any and all problems with the odor and stench generated by their hog operations.

Nelson Farms knows that their only defense supporting the pollution is to completely deny that the problem exists.

Nelson Farms have already applied for a permit to expand the site closest to Alma from the existing 16,000 head to 52,000 head; more than tripling its size.

With the elections so near, the timing of these articles makes it highly suspicious that it is a ploy to promote candidates on the county and state level who are advocates of large hog facilities. If anyone reading this is against unchecked mega-hog corporation expansion, I would suggest you be very, very careful where the candidates in this upcoming election stand on these issues.

Respectfully,
John Arford
Norton

WRITE:

The Norton Telegram encourages Letters to the Editor on any topic of public interest. Letters should be brief, clear and to the point. They must be signed and carry the address and phone number of the author.

We do not publish anonymous letters. We sign our opinions and expect readers to do likewise.

We do not publish form letters or letters about topics which do not pertain to our area. Thank-you should be submitted to the Want Ad desk.

Letters will not be censored, but will be read and edited for form and style, clarity, length and legality. We will not publish attacks on private individuals or businesses which do not pertain to a public issue.

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

Office hours:
8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.
Phone: (785) 877-3361
Fax: (785) 877-3732
E-mail: telegram@nwkansas.com

STAFF

Cynthia Haynes editor and publisher
Veronica Monier staff reporter
Dick Boyd Blue Jay sports
Carolyn Plotts society editor
Kristen Brands reporter
Carol Erlenbusch advertising rep.
Bill Eckhart advertising rep.
Vicki Henderson computer production
Susie Marble computer production
Sonya Montgomery bookkeeping

Nor'West Newspapers

Dick and Mary Beth Boyd
Publishers, 1970-2002

Incorporating the Norton County Champion
Marion R. Krehbiel, editor



NNA
NATIONAL NEWSPAPER
ASSOCIATION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: Rasure too young for the Senate? Prairie View man thinks so

To the Editor,
There are a number of interesting primary races coming up.

I would like to address just one. The state senate race between Ralph Ostmeyer and Dan Rasure.

I've known Ralph for years through his involvement with Farm Bureau. I'm sure Dan's a good guy, if he wins the primary I'll support him, but I can't in this election.

I guess you can call me a crotchety old curmudgeon, but the guy is just too young. He's like 22 or 23 or something, just out of college. I mean, I have shoes older than that. Not that that means anything, of course, it's just an observation.

I guess I look at it this way. It would seem to me that being a state senator is a pretty lofty position. I would think of it more as the culmination of a lifetime of public service, rather than one's first

elected office.

I think a young man just starting off should start out down at the grass roots, so to speak. Get on the school board, fair board, church or civic committees. Get an idea of what people are doing and thinking.

There is no way a guy just out of college has any real connection to the voters of northwest Kansas. I don't care how good of a young man he is. Up until this point in his life he has known nothing but school. School isn't life.

Think back to how you felt about life at 22. Have your ideals changed? Maybe not. Has your understanding of your priorities and goals changed? I guarantee they have. I just think that for a young politician, those life-changing experiences should happen at home, not in Topeka.

Dan appears to be running for a job.

Personally, I don't like the idea of career politicians. I think we can do better.

Ralph Ostmeyer is a conservative old farmer. He's been a state representative for four years. He only decided to run for senate after Stan Clark's death. He has 40 years of public service and community involvement behind him. He has a known voting record. He's tight with the purse strings. I have no doubt that I will bang heads with him over school funding. If I were solely interested in a more liberal vote on education spending, I'd vote for Rasure, but there are a number of other issues that came into play, as well.

Ralph Ostmeyer brings a lot of experience and dependability to the table. I think he will represent Northwest Kansas very well.

Gale Hays,
Prairie View

U.S. Senator's Republican opponent was once a Democrat

Dear Editor,
Unsuspecting Republican voters should know that Arch Nanamone (U.S. Senator Sam Brownback's opponent in the upcoming Aug. 3 primary) was until April 19, 2004, a Democrat who became a Republican to create a primary.

The media has not considered that to be noteworthy.

One eastern Kansas newspaper endorsed Nanamone stating, "Sam Brownback has become the leader against stem-cell research, vital to curing diseases and saving lives."

Actually, Senator Sam has been a leader, supporter and promoter of adult

stem-cell research and as committee chairperson, held hearings as recently as July 14 to investigate recent success with adult stem-cell therapy.

The July 15 endorsement did not mention those hearings. That Senator Sam does not support embryonic stem-cell research is a given, since 20 years of such research in mice has not cured a single mouse, let alone any human. In fact, embryonic stem-cell therapy has instead produced tumors! Conversely, adult stem-cell therapy is curing people and Senator Brownback wants taxpayer dollars focused toward success; not failure.

For those who arrogantly or ignorantly

accuse Senator Sam of hating gays because he opposes gay unions, please be informed. If you understood the magnitude of Senator Sam's heart in all he has done to defend hurting people here and abroad, you would acknowledge his stance for what it is and nothing more — the desire to protect traditional family values, which he highly esteems and which are under intense attack on many fronts.

A more conscientious person and Senator you will not find. Thank you.

Respectfully,
Carolyn Simms
Republican