

Reporters were really pushing envelope

While watching the presidential press secretary's Monday briefing, and if you didn't know the circumstances surrounding a major part of that briefing, you would have thought Vice President Dick Cheney committed some kind of criminal act.

By now, everybody knows Mr. Cheney shot a fellow hunter on a ranch near Corpus Christi, Texas over the weekend while hunting quail. The victim, campaign contributor Harry Whittington, 78, took "quite a bit of spray" in the face, neck and upper torso, CNN reported. He was taken to a hospital in Corpus Christi.

As of this writing Monday afternoon, the victim was in pretty good condition and was expected to go home in another day.

Press Secretary Scott McClelland's briefing was nothing short of chaotic. The questions asked were absolutely nutty, in most instances.

"Will Cheney be submitting his resignation?"
"Was he licensed to hunt?"
"Why did it take almost 24 hours for this news to hit the press?"
"Should the vice president even be hunting?"
"Had he taken a hunter safety course?"

And it got sillier. Reports from CNN are that Vice President Cheney, an avid hunter, was shooting at a covey of quail at the Armstrong Ranch near Kingsville, Texas, some 30 miles southwest of Corpus Christi. The ranch owner, Katharine Armstrong, said Whittington was about 30 yards from Mr. Cheney when the vice president fired. Mr. Whittington had just shot a quail and dropped back to retrieve it when he was hit upon rejoining the group and "apparently came up unannounced," as Mr. Cheney prepared to fire.

Mrs. Armstrong said Whittington was a guest of hers, not someone Cheney invited and she didn't know if Cheney and Whittington had met before.

Reports are that Mr. Cheney was firing a 28-gauge shotgun, a small-bore weapon commonly used for hunting birds.

Once the reporters get their breath, we will probably get a clearer picture of just what happened on the Armstrong Ranch. And bets are good that it will turn out just about the way it was described by Mrs. Armstrong. —Tom Dreiling, publisher

Thumbs Up to...

✓ **Norton Chamber** on bringing K-State Wildcat football coach Ron Prince to town to speak at the annual banquet March 6.

✓ **To everyone** involved in the hard work and planning for the Norton Community High School post-prom bash. (called in)

✓ **To all** who attended the Mexican dinner benefit for Ray Rojas at the Town & Country Kitchen Sunday. (called in)

✓ **Coach Nancy Sebelius** and your Norton Community High School Scholars Bowl Team on an exceptional season, capped off by qualifying for and participating in the state competition held this past weekend. You may not have placed, but that didn't detract from the kind of season you had.

✓ **Band Director David Will** of Norton Community High School on your organization's excellent performance Sunday afternoon (e-mail)

✓ **Youth and adults** from St. Joseph's Church, New Almelo, for your help at The Haven.

(You can submit a name, names or group for consideration in this column. Simply e-mail tom@nwkansas.com, mail to 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton 67654, drop by the office, give us a call at 877-3361 or 877-6908, or fax us at 877-3732. Birthdays (70 or over) and anniversaries (50 or more) are accepted. Thanks in advance for helping make this column possible. — tom)

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

- U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran, 2443 128-S, Topeka, Kan. 66612. Rayburn HOB, Washington, D.C. (785) 296-7399 20515. (202) 225-2715; fax (202) 225-5124
- State Rep. John Faber, 181 W. Capitol Building, Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785) 296-7500
- State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer, W. Capitol Building, Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785) 296-7500

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

ISSN 1063-701X
215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, KS 67654
Published each Tuesday and Friday by Haynes Publishing Co., 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, Kan. 67654. Periodicals mail postage paid at Norton, Kan. 67654.
Postmaster: Send address changes to Norton Telegram, 215 S. Kansas, Norton, Kan. 67654
Official newspaper of Norton and Norton County. Member of the Kansas Press Association, National Newspaper Association, and the Nebraska Press Association

STAFF
Tom Dreiling editor and publisher
Veronica Monier staff reporter
Dick Boyd Blue Jay sports editor
Carolyn Plotts society editor
Sherry Hickman circulation manager
Vicki Henderson computer production
Susie Marble computer production
Sonya Montgomery bookkeeping
Hypatia Day advertising

Nor'West Newspapers
Dick and Mary Beth Boyd
Publishers, 1970-2002
Incorporating the Norton County Champion
Marion R. Krehbiel, editor



No rush to be petted down again

Old habits die hard. Our cat, Max, has been dead a week now. But, just this morning I started to ask Jim if he had given the cat his shot. It was a ritual we went through every day. Me asking Jim. Jim saying he had.

Jim said last night, he awoke thinking Max had jumped onto his lap. We sure miss the old boy.

—ob—
However, make no mistake. We are NOT seeking a new pet. Please, don't anyone think they would be doing us a favor by bringing us a new kitty/puppy/parakeet/hamster and/or goldfish. We are out of the pet business. At least for awhile.

I cannot tell you how many pets I have had in my lifetime. Dogs, cats, horses, gerbils and exotic fish. Jim is the same. He even had a pet prairie dog once, and a pet raccoon. But, we have agreed — no more pets.

At least not until our lives settle down. We go so much that it wouldn't be right

Out Back Carolyn Plotts



to get an animal, then not have any time for it. Whenever we went to Mexico or traveled to see our kids, we had to have someone care for Max. Our friend, Barbara, loved Max as much as we did, but caring for him meant two trips a day to our house for his shots and that's asking a lot from anyone.

At our age (I hate that phrase) we figure we have about 15 to 20 more years to be effective in Mexico. Then, when we can't go any longer, we'll get a pet and stay home.

We already know what kind of a pet it will be, too. Our daughter, Kara, has a

little dog named Winston that Jim and I both love. He is a Lhasa Apso, and looks like a dust mop with a tail on one end and a little pink tongue on the other. But, what a personality dog. He never tires of playing fetch, he doesn't bark, he doesn't shed, and he loves to sleep on your lap. The perfect pet for our old age.

—ob—
My sister, Kathryn, still lives in New York City. She called this morning to say they were snowed in. More than two feet of snow fell on the city over the weekend. She said commuter trains were still stuck with thousands of people on board.

Wish we had a little bit of their snow here. I imagine they wish we did, too.

—ob—
Income tax time is approaching. Someone sent me an e-mail with a new "EZ Tax Form." It only has two lines to fill in. The top line asks, "How much money did you make last year?"
The bottom line says, "Send it in."

Here's an idea for Super Bowl ads

There ought to be some kind of formal competition for those ads on the Super Bowl, shouldn't there?

The greatest minds in television advertising work all year to produce those spots. Millions of Americans see them, rate them, debate them, talk about them over coffee for weeks.

Only a couple of questionable calls by the zebras will linger longer in the mind.

At \$2.5 million for a 30-second spot, they're some of the most expensive advertising of the year, but then, experts say 91 million of us were watching.

But there's no award, no trophy, no medal for the best ad, the best director, the most original script.

And that seems a shame. Maybe they could make a replica of the Lombardi trophy with a television on top, instead of a football?

After the game, we'd all vote online, and the winners would gather in Hollywood or the parking lot at the stadium and get their prizes.

Until then, our informal selections will have to suffice. It's hard to compete with Budweiser ads, and there were a bunch of them. Anheuser-Busch spends a lot of money in February. But my vote goes to a Pepsi brand, Sierra Mist.

The routine where the college boy is

On the Prairie Dog Steve Haynes



frisked for his soda at the airport is just hilarious. The gate agent makes beeping noises whenever her wand gets near the pop. She says he has to leave it with her.

"But you're just making those noises," he protests.

"Looks like we've got a troublemaker here, boss," she replies.

"Just say the word, Wendy," he says, snapping his rubber gloves.

"I'm good," the kid says, giving her the pop.

Loved it. No. 2: Bud Light for the revolving wall. In a series buildup, a guy installs a secret revolving wall to hide his 'fridge — and the beer — when moochers show up. Only the wall puts the 'fridge in the next apartment, where scruffy college boys dive into the "magic 'fridge" every time it appears.

The single FedEx effort drew praise

from the experts, and I liked it. A hapless cave-man courier ties his package to a pterodactyl's leg, only to see the flying dinosaur grabbed and eaten by a raptor.

"Package didn't make it," he tells his boss.

It was artistic, inventive, highly technical and good, but not as funny as No. 1 or No. 2. I grinned; I didn't split my sides.

Also worth mention was a Diet Pepsi series where an agent gets the soft drink a recording contract and a movie deal. The rap sequence is good, but using Diet Coke for a stunt double was a cheap shot.

Funny, but why advertise the competition?

Worst ad? Got to be the Bud Light spot where a young office worker assures the boss he's worked all weekend hiding beer all over the office to boost moral. When they stop off the elevator, the place is a wreck.

"Is that the image you want to present of your product?" my picky partner asks.

No. Babes in bikinis work better. Bud spent a lot of dough, though, and some of the others, including the baby Clydesdale sequence, were fine.

That's my take. Maybe next year, they'll hire me to organize the voting and awards.

It might be the only way I'll ever get to a Super Bowl.

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-yous should be submit-

ted 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.