

## Foley factor airing made drive interesting

While driving back from North Platte earlier in the week, we ran across a radio talk show and among topics were congressional pages. Many of the people calling in expressed surprise that the pages were 16 year-olds. Most thought they were older, a minimum of 18 at least.

"Why would we invite 16 year-olds to do this job?" was a question that surfaced several times.

Also, most were surprised to learn that pages, who generally serve for one semester, earn \$20,000. They are also afforded housing.

If it were not for the Mark Foley (former congressman of Florida) situation, few of us probably would ever have known much about pages.

As it was pointed out in the radio show, parents just generally assumed that sending their youngsters off to Washington to be pages would be as safe a situation as there is, thanks to their involvement with people elected to serve the people of the country.

It was interesting, as the program unfolded, how many of the callers said they would not allow their child to go to Washington as pages. Of course tossing all the congressional troops into one basket isn't a fair assessment, either.

There is good and there is bad in anything. The page program is not the exception. It took the resignation of a congressman to open our eyes to what can, and unfortunately, has happened. It is interesting that, of all the pages who have gone through the program over these many years, there has never been mention of misbehavior by an elected official — that we are aware of.

Maybe there has been questionable approachment in the past. Maybe it was just one of those things that wasn't discussed outside the page ranks. It just seems odd that now a couple of pages have come forth to begin spilling the beans. Some will say it's not politically-motivated. Others will quickly disagree. After all we are closing in on the final weeks of a really testy and anxious mid-term election campaign. The balance of power in both the United States Senate and the House of Representatives is at stake.

Will the Foley factor figure in on election day Nov. 7? That's a question only YOU can answer when you mark your ballot.

— Tom Dreiling

## Thumbs Up to . . .

- √ **Ward Foley**, good luck with your book, "Thank My Lucky Scars." (e-mail)
- √ **The Jay Singers and Ms. Lee** for their Java Jive production! (called in).
- √ **Doug Daniels**, for the coffee cake "to spoil *The Telegram* staff."
- √ **Don Mordecai** and the **Norton Junior High band**, for their terrific half-time show last Thursday night at the junior high football game. (e-mail)
- √ **The Norton Junior High** coaches and varsity football players on their awesome 20-0 win over Smith Center. (e-mail)
- √ **Chase Miller and Alysia Shearer**, Northern Valley's 2006 Homecoming King and Queen. (e-mail)
- √ **Bowlers Dana Miller and Sherri Hachmeister**, on your achievements at nationals. (called in).

(To recognize someone in this column, e-mail [tomd@nwkansas.com](mailto:tomd@nwkansas.com), call 877-3361 or 877-6908, fax 877-3732, mail to 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton 67654 or drop by the office. Thanks for you help.)

## ELECTED OFFICIALS:

- ★ **U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran**, 2443 Rayburn HOB, Washington, D.C. 20515. (202) 225-2715; fax (202) 225-5124
- ★ **Governor Kathleen Sebelius**, 300 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785) 296-3232

**THE NORTON TELEGRAM**

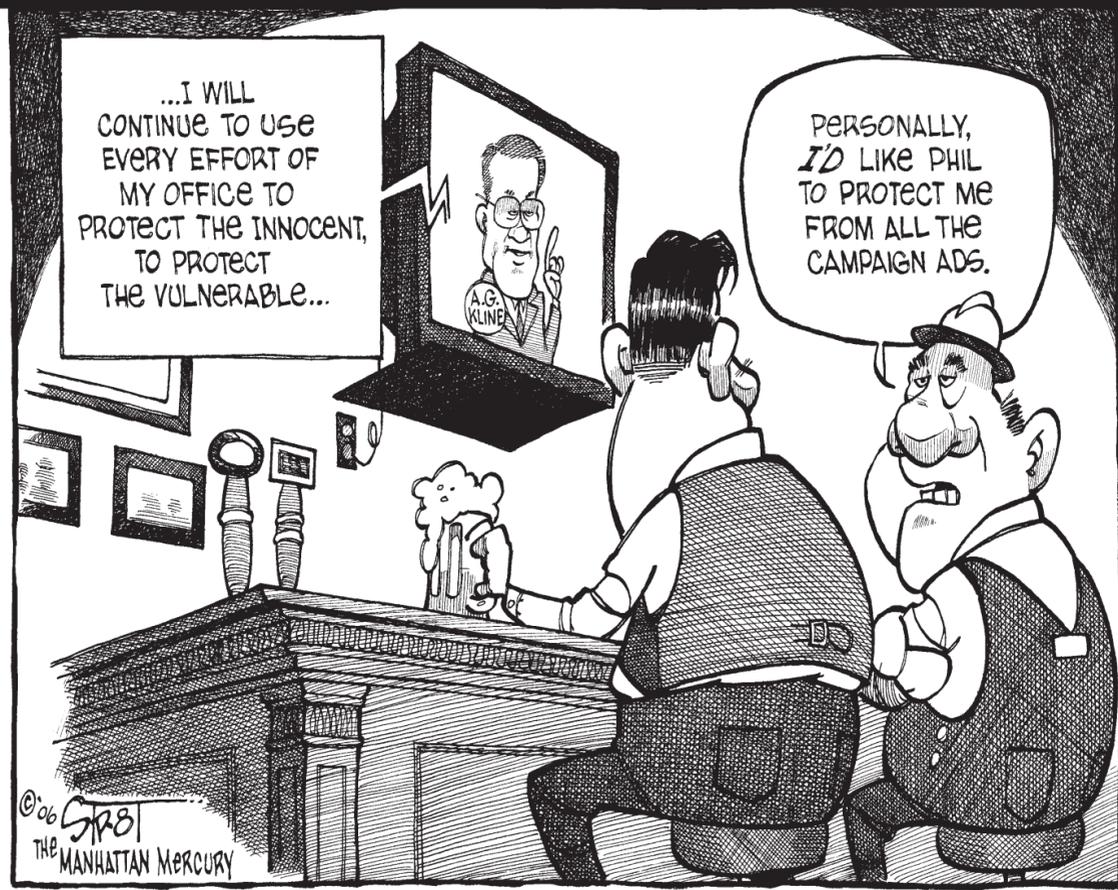
Office hours:  
8 a.m.- 5:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.  
Phone: (785) 877-3361  
Fax: (785) 877-3732  
E-mail: [telegram@nwkansas.com](mailto:telegram@nwkansas.com)

### STAFF

- Tom Dreiling ..... editor and publisher
- Veronica Monier ..... staff reporter
- Dick Boyd ..... Blue Jay sports
- Carolyn Plotts ..... society editor
- Sherry Hickman ..... bookkeeping/circulation
- Vicki Henderson ..... computer production

### Nor'West Newspapers

**Dick and Mary Beth Boyd**  
Publishers, 1970-2002  
Incorporating the Norton County Champion  
Marion R. Krehbiel, editor



## Here's a petition you cannot ignore

A petition that deserves your attention is being made available in several places in Norton, including *The Telegram* office. The other places are the End Zone, 102 S. Second, and the Norton County Treasurer's office/court-house. The petition, in brief, seeks your signature as a signal to state and federal officials that you want the driver's license office to remain in the county treasurer's office and not be moved to some regional center, the location of which is unknown at this time.

If you are near or in any of the above mentioned places, take time to sign the petition. A more comprehensive explanation of the petition's purpose appears with the petitions.

Cindy Linner, county treasurer, said the petition is expected to appear at several other places, and asks any organization, or group who wishes to be a part of the petition drive, to call her at 877-5795.

Currently, 82 county treasurers provide driver's license renewal services.

If this service is discontinued here, for example, Lord only knows where we'll have to drive to renew our driver's licenses. It is hard for me to understand how our government, which wants to convince us that everything they do is done with us in mind, would take still another step to impose a hardship.

Enough said?

-td-

I don't know how many of you have been watching the key campaign debates on C-Span, but I have spent countless hours watching the drama unfold. Most of the debates were testy, and rightfully so. No matter how hard they tried to re-

## Good Evening Norton

Tom Dreiling



spect one another's opinions, it just was a test most of the candidates failed.

The one that struck me most was between Virginia's Republican Sen. George Allen and his Democrat opponent, Jim Webb. That was really testy! Of course the incumbent senator had some explaining to do because not very long ago he held a 15-point lead over Webb and today the race is too close to call.

As I watched those two carve each other up, I concluded that the senator's worst enemy was the senator himself. He came across as arrogant and just too smart for his own good. There's a way to present yourself and then there's a way not to. Sen. Allen chose the "not to" route. It was understandable as the debate unfolded why his lead evaporated.

He served as governor before being elected senator, so he should be way out in front still. If I was to choose between the two, after listening to the debate, I would struggle, probably end up flipping a coin.

Both parties are watching this race closely as it is key to the GOP's hopes to continue their lock on the Senate.

Another debate worth mentioning is the race for governor of Nevada. It was the

situation BEFORE the debate started that caught viewers' attention, when some guy took the stage and insisted he be a part of the debate. He wouldn't shut up. Finally, the debate's organizers called on security to escort the fellow out of the auditorium.

If you like debating, catch up with C-Span. They have several more on the pad.

-td-

I noticed on television Tuesday morning where there is another exercise thing being promoted that allows you to do everything you need for a complete workout — while sitting on your fanny. And most of the folks in the infomercial are young enough to get up off their bottoms and out the door and do some walking. I find it hard to believe that you can sit, drink coffee, or juice, watch television and talk on the phone while experiencing a complete workout. Something rings strange.

-td-

Adam was wondering out loud: "I see in the very distant future, a future thousands of years away, where people will be writing on a machine with a handboard full of letters from which they will form words."

"What," asked Eve, "will that machine be called, dear?"

"A computer," Adam replied after a long period of silence.

"A computer? Will it have a name?" Eve further inquired.

"Ah, yes," Adam smilingly responded, "it will be called an Apple!"

-td-

Have a great weekend. And help fill the pews in the church of your choice.

## Through all of this emerged an author

It was about noon on Aug. 8, 1961. The large train station loomed ahead and the sounds of the passenger trains coming and going almost drowned out conversation, but I didn't need any conversation to tell me something was wrong. As Mother and I stepped from the California Zephyr in Sacramento, my brother, Duaine and sons, Kirk and Craig, were waiting for us on the platform. In my nearly 15 years of living, I probably had never heard the phrase "body language" but I knew what I was "hearing" and it wasn't good.

My mother knew it also and she and my brother tried to push us kids ahead so they could talk. I am closer in age to my oldest nephew, Kirk, than I am to either of my siblings and Craig is four years younger than Kirk. Their own quietness at ages about eight and four painted an anxious picture as well.

I remember my mother saying, "Is everything okay?" I strained to hear Duaine's reply, but I think the train station sounds, or maybe my own heart beating from fear, masked his answer.

Soon enough I would learn that Joan was alright, but the baby boy she had carried for 9+ months had a rare birth defect and would require many surgeries over the years and a great deal of physical therapy. I don't know if his arrival was an omen or coincidence or as Ward would

## Phase II

Mary Kay Woodyard



say a "God thing" but my introduction to him in those first days set the path for our lifelong friendship.

People often say our friendship is based on our physical similarities; however, my "defect" did not appear until I was 30. He says I developed rheumatoid arthritis and lupus to help him through his teen years; I tell him God could have sent a book and I would have gladly read it.

But even prior to my disease, our relationship had a special quality. I have been blessed with close friendships with my brother's children and my sister JoAnne's three children as well. But Ward is, as my kids say, "Just Ward."

Throughout the years, Ward conquered, achieved and struggled. Once an adult, Ward would suddenly appear at the house. One night as I was taking a shower, our oldest son Chip called in and said, "Mom, Ward's here."

I said, "What do you mean, 'Ward is

here.' I just talked to him last night and he was in Arizona?"

Chip replied, as only a teenager can, "Well, he may have been in Arizona last night, but he's in our living room in Nevada tonight." And so he was.

Even when hundreds, if not a thousand plus miles separated us, we talked on the phone at 10:45 every night. Sometimes we just said, hello/good-bye and other times we had long philosophical talks. Imagine our delight and surprise when we both ended up living in Norton. Who says God doesn't answer our prayers.

Ward has walked a path few of us have known. A doctor once told me the pain from his condition is about the worst pain there is. I cannot imagine. And yet, Ward forever is pushing himself to do more, help others more and walk closer to God. His journey has brought him through many things and to many things.

This Sunday, Oct. 15, it will bring him to the Norton Public Library from 2-5 for a book signing. His book, "Thank My Lucky Scars," describing his walk, his faith and his journey with Hospice, will bring you to tears from laughter and sadness. I am blessed to call him my nephew; I am honored to call him my friend.

One more reason to be proud to live in Norton, the home of one of the newest Kansas authors, Ward Foley.