

The 2006 campaign: sound bites and lies

One week from today the national disgrace will come to a halt. Thank goodness!

The national disgrace is the 2006 campaign — nasty, dirty, packed full of lies, deceptions, and best suited for a barf bag rather than the television screens in millions of American households.

Who is telling the truth? Truth be known, nobody. Sound bites are running amuck. "Stay the course." "Cut and run." There's more behind those sound bites than the brush of simplicity being used. But it's easier to feed crumbs than prepare a full meal.

The office holders should hang their heads in disgrace. We — everyone of you reading this — shell out to pay the salaries that are way too much (\$165,000) for work performed, or not performed. And this is not to mention the fewer days on the job. Reports now are that this Congress will have spent less than 100 days working, or toying around with issues that impact our daily lives.

And the gall of these people, running all over the place asking us to send them back to continue doing nothing. And those who might be the exception need to be also paddled for not being able to bring things under control. The "Political Express" has no schedule, no accountability.

So, what to do? Sadly, the solution is in the lap of the very people we are today criticizing. What they need to do — and hell will freeze over before they ever do that — is set boundary limitations on campaign spending. And how best to do that? You can only raise money from within the state you represent. Example: our two senators could only pick the pockets of Kansans, no one else. House of Representative members could only raid the coffers of those within their district. Period. Nothing from any other source.

The funds would be fewer, but accountability and monitoring the sources would be a lot easier. And any hint of revenue flowing in by disguise from the outside would be grounds for an immediate toss of the penalty flag and whatever consequences that follow.

This type of campaign spending would put the races back in the hands of the people, where they belong. And it would also be a message to office holders and seekers that their first priority is the folks back home, not the deep pockets elsewhere which, unfortunately, happens more than we know.

And we haven't even touched on "truth in advertising."

One week from today the political disgrace of 2006 will be all over. The many millions — perhaps billions — of dollars that could have been put to much better use for the advancement of good, will have been wasted.

We have to be better than that!

—Tom Dreiling

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

★ **Governor Kathleen Sebelius**, 300 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785) 296-3232

★ **U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts**, 109 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 224-4774; fax (202) 224-3514

★ **U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback**, 303 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 224-6521

★ **U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran**, 2443 Rayburn HOB, Washington, D.C. 20515. (202) 225-2715; fax (202) 225-5124

★ **State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer**, State Capitol Building, Room 262-E, Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785) 296-7399

★ **State Rep. John Faber**, 181 W. Capitol Building, Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785) 296-7500



Got to make room for hunters after all

My momma said, "Always expect the unexpected." That's why I shouldn't have been surprised when we got a phone call from another set of pheasant hunters, these from Colorado, looking for a place to stay on opening weekend. I explained our circumstances and said it would be up to Jim to decide if we could be ready for them.

Remember, last week I wrote that our initial bunch of hunters had to cancel and we kind of eased off our push to get the house ready. Now, we had to decide if we could kick it back into high gear again and meet the deadline. Jim said we could. So now, we are painting and packing, all at the same time.

Every trip from The Inn, across the yard, to the new house sees us carrying a load of personal items. Where does all this stuff come from? I swear, I am not moving again until the kids have to put me in a nursing home.

The good news is all the plumbing is done, the gas is hooked up so we have heat and the electrical is all done. I'm painting trim and closet built-ins, sweeping floors and washing windows. It won't be done, but we're moving in, anyway.

Last night we "christened" the new

Out Back Carolyn Plotts



Jacuzzi bathtub. It was wonderful. I felt like a wet noodle when I finally turned off the power jets. Perhaps, it could become a new revenue center. I could rent it out to the neighbors on an hourly basis.

—ob—

Two years ago we got rid of our last old hen. And, I have missed them ever since. I didn't miss the chore of gathering eggs every day plus feeding and watering. But, I did miss those delicious eggs. Home-grown eggs just "stand up" in the pan better. They taste better, too.

Recently, I've been getting my eggs from a farmer who delivers to my office. They have been exceptionally good eggs for a good price.

But, when a friend offered us 10 laying hens, we jumped at the chance. Perhaps not the best timing in the midst of our move and all. But, I can almost taste those

big, yellow-yoked eggs now.

—ob—

Our granddaughter Taylor is almost eight years old. She has some musical interest so her Aunt Halley, our oldest daughter, bought her a set of digital drums.

They have a headset so only the drummer can hear the noise.

Did I say noise? I meant to say rhythm. Halley was watching Taylor one afternoon while she practiced her drum beats. Taylor said, "I'm going to do this beat three times." Halley said she repeated the beat exactly the same way three times.

Then, Taylor said she would do a different beat two times. Again, she duplicated the beat perfectly, two times.

Then, Taylor announced, "Aunt Halley, I'm going to do this next one, really good."

"Okay," said Halley. "Let's hear it." Halley said Taylor squinted her eyes, crossed her drum sticks over her head and with the aplomb of a hard core rocker shouted, "One, two, three!"

Well, there go my dreams of Taylor becoming a doctor or a physicist. She's destined to become the next drummer for The Rolling Stones.

FROM THE MAILBAG:

Pastors and pharmacists are recognized by Hospice

To the Editor,
Thirty years ago, volunteers across the country started hospices to provide compassionate, comfort care to the dying, their family and friends. The hospice philosophy of patient and family focused care in the last months of life remains the same even as hospice has evolved from a volunteer-led movement to an integral component of the health care system, caring for more than 1 million Americans in 2004.

Hospice's role is to honor individual wishes, faith and cultural traditions and the natural cycle of life. Hospice volunteers and staff across the country help patients and families grapple with difficult decisions and situations every day. It has been said that hospices provide a caring sanctuary, nurturing the dying, supporting the living, and caring for the community.

The vision of hospice care providers is a world where individuals and families

facing serious illness, death, and grief will experience the best that humankind can offer.

Hospice Services extends our heartfelt appreciation to two very special groups who are so important to the care we provide. National Pharmacy Week and National Pastoral Care Week recognize these very special people who reach out to care for our community and who partner with Hospice Services to provide quality end-of-life care in northwest and north central Kansas.

Pharmacists are there to answer questions while dispensing the necessary medications to control pain and manage symptoms. They dedicate themselves to educating the public about prescription and over-the-counter medications.

They help us choose the best antidote for our ailments when a physician's prescription is not warranted. For Hospice Services, these pharmacists go the extra mile many times by coming in late at night

or early in the morning. We extend our thanks and appreciation during this special week and all year!

Pastors provide spiritual guidance and also friendship and companionship at a time when both may be in short supply. They share something more precious than money, they share their time. For individuals being cared for by hospice, the pastoral care providers remain one of the unfailing sources of comfort by continuing to be there when the person needs them the most. For some, the visit may be religious or simply the fact that they were present providing time and caring.

The heart is full of meaning and symbolism. Many hospices utilize the heart as a symbol of compassionate care. We are proud to partner with area pharmacists and pastoral care providers who make up such a vital part of "our heart." For that we say THANK YOU!

Sandy Kuhlman
Hospice Director

Feedback on fire recovery project encouraged, appreciated

To the Editor,
Subject: Downtown Fire Recovery Project.

As many of you are aware, we have been working on the My Hometown Helper Grant to help ease the financial burden of a possible downtown cleanup. This grant opportunity is all online at www.myhometownhelper.com. Our project can be located on the same link under "Find a Project."

With this grant, they provide an opportunity for community feedback regarding the impact of the project. This would be an excellent opportunity for people in the community to help by explaining exactly what the project means to them and/or our community. It would also be beneficial in describing the situation in more detail as we could only enter a 250-word essay.

I would like to thank each and every one of you for leaving any feedback for the

Downtown Fire Recovery Project. Please feel free to share this link with anyone who you feel could benefit from it as well.

Wade M. Carter, Director
Norton County
Economic Development
116 N. First St. Suite 112
Office Ph.: (785) 874-4816
Mobile Ph.: (785) 874-8400
Fax: (785) 874-4817
nortoneda@ruraltel.net

Say it with a 'Letter to the Editor'

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

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

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

Nor'West Newspapers

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



Don't forget Friday is 'Thumbs Up' day