

Sen. Biden wounds self at starting gate

Not many presidential hopefuls shoot themselves in the foot coming out of the gate. But one veteran United States Senator did just that Wednesday when he announced his candidacy for the presidency.

Democrat Sen. Joe Biden used poorly chosen words to describe a rival in the race, Sen. Barack Obama. Many people considered the words offensive. Consequently, Biden spent a lot of hours Wednesday afternoon trying to mend fences. That was a losing cause.

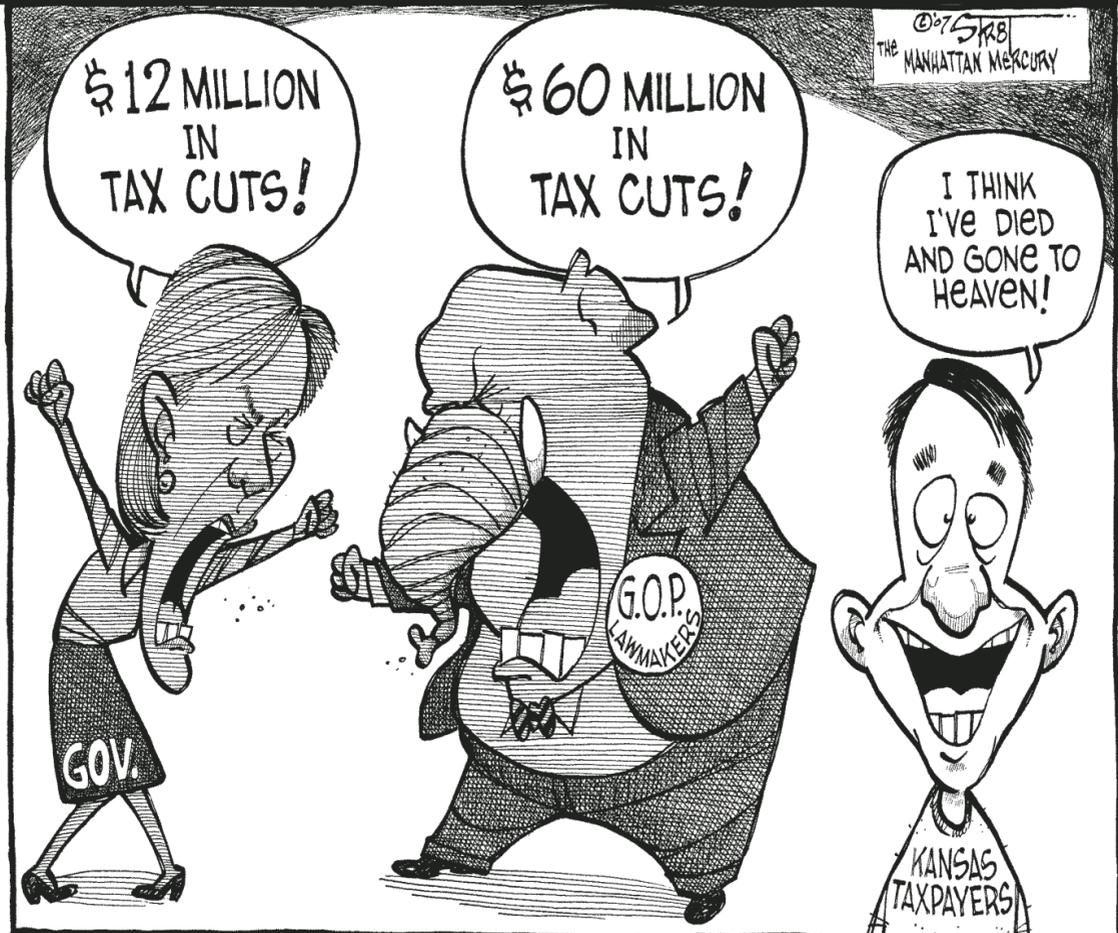
Biden is known for shooting from the hip. He's got a mouth that runs constantly. He is, or has been, considered a brilliant leader of the Democratic Party. On that point we separate.

He also used other than flattery in his attack on Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton and former Sen. John Edwards. It appears to us he's trying to mow everyone down until he's the only one standing.

Hopeful Joe Biden might find himself on the outside looking in. His entry into the field of presidential candidates was nothing short of a disaster.

Hey, Joe, hang it up. Your mouth got you in trouble. We saw Wednesday the REAL Joe Biden. And frankly, we don't like him.

—Tom Dreiling



Ogallala water restrictions needed

To The Telegram Editor,
A few short life span years have left me searching for ways to have our estimated 300,000 grandchildren able to cope with a rapidly depleting Ogallala Aquifer.

Nebraska has already bought out some irrigation wells in part of that aquifer to slow depletion. A Sharon Springs farmer shut down his wells almost out of water (36' left).

Our "far seeing leaders" continue to encourage three water guzzling coal fired generator plants to be developed in the Garden City area. These plants may produce non-controlled toxic fumes. One practicing physician saw 1,500 asthma cases plus 300 deaths in a Massachusetts area where he practiced which had one electric plant.

Only extreme conservation measures by state officials will limit water usage. Livestock production, slaughter houses, irrigation and industrial use will, no

doubt, be limited or stopped. Lawns, gardens and many other water uses are a problem. EtheNo plants!

Limited tillage, dry land farms, dams will be built as conservation measures.

Will 1920-30 "outhouses" be in vogue by 2050? Flush toilets could go dry by then?

A stated 10 percent recharge the next 100 years will not solve the problem. Peter H. Bleich, 1993 says, "Ogallala waters being depleted 20 times faster than recharged."

Ogallala area needs water restrictions!

Frank W. Howard Jr.
Oakley

LETTER

Thumbs Up to . . .

✓The residents on North First Street, for providing all the city employees with pizza and breadsticks on Tuesday for the great job they've been doing lately with everything. (Norton city employees)

✓Robert Daniels and Trent Richmond, and the policeman, for helping me dig/pull out my car when I was stuck. (e-mail)

✓All of you who bring us the news each week, give readers food for thought; you do a great job. (e-mail); also, to The Telegram staff for the good job they've been doing. They have a nice paper. Keep it up! (called in)

✓The young man at the movie theater, who was so thoughtful and kind when I dropped my popcorn. (called in)

✓Norton's winter sports coaches, for giving us a lot to cheer about! (e-mail)

✓The high school girls who modeled the prom dresses. You were all beautiful! (e-mail)

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Time change moves up a month

I just looked at the calendar and saw where it's February. What happened to January? Won't be long and March will slip right in. I mention March because that's the month this year when we change our time from Standard to Daylight Saving. That used to occur the first Sunday in April, but it now takes effect the second Sunday of March, so says my calendar. And the change in the fall will no longer be the last Sunday of October, this year it will be the first Sunday in November. It kind of looks to me like the nation's timekeeper is positioning us to accept one time year around — Daylight Saving. I could be very wrong, but I just have that feeling in my bones.

-td-

Our bird population in the office has been reduced to 2. One of the parakeets went quietly to wherever it is parakeets go when their service to the planet ends. That leaves one parakeet and one parrot. They make enough noise for three. Do they miss the other one? I think so. The parakeets did a pretty good job of ganging up on the parrot every now and then. With the parakeet now in the cage all alone with the bigger parrot, she's trying to make amends. I think I saw her trying to bribe big bird with some candy. It looked like tiny chocolates. When you're in the office, stop and have a chat with the birds.

-td-

The clean up of the ruins from the fire that destroyed two buildings in downtown Norton last year is underway. I stopped to watch those big pieces of machinery do their thing. It won't be long and that site will only be a memory. We anxiously await what follows at that location. Got any ideas? Share them. It would be interesting to know what you would do.

-td-

Barbaro was apparently in worse shape than I noted in my last column. As you know the Kentucky Derby winner was put down earlier this week. The injury sustained in the Preakness was too much for

Good Evening Norton

Tom Dreiling



the famed horse to overcome, despite given the best medical care available. His owners decided it was time to end the pain. They did the right thing. His accomplishments will stay with us forever.

-td-

Super Bowl time — for the 41st time. The Colts and the Bears go at it Sunday. It shapes up as a powerful test. Should be a thriller. But we have described previous super bowls in the same terms and not often did they turn out that way. You have probably picked a team to cheer on by now, as have I. I'm going with the Chicago Bears, even though I like the Indianapolis Colts, too. But my inner self keeps telling me the Bears would be my best bet. So I'll bet my bet against your bet. Go, Bears!

-td-

Speaking of Super Bowl XLI, does the color of the two head coaches figure into the reason for the game? I think not, but you rarely hear anything about this super bowl without mention that both coaches are black. Tony Dungy coaches the Colts and Lovie Smith the Bears. Sure, this may be a first, but how often do we hear the comment, "We have to find ways to bring this country together!" Well, duh?! Look how the Sunday super bowl is being promoted and then ask yourself, "Maybe this is one of the reasons we can't."

-td-

I think I'll pick on retirees today. They won't mind, I know that for a fact because I once was one of them. Here are a number of questions and the answers a retiree

would probably give:

1) Question: How many days in a week? Answer: 6 Saturdays, 1 Sunday

2) Question: When is a retiree's bedtime? Answer: Three hours after he falls asleep on the couch.

3) Question: How many retirees does it take to change a light bulb? Answer: Only one, but it might take all day.

4) Question: What's the biggest gripe of retirees? Answer: There is not enough time to get everything done.

5) Question: Why don't retirees mind being called seniors? Answer: The term comes with a 10 percent discount.

6) Question: Among retirees what is considered formal attire? Answer: Tied shoes.

7) Question: Why do retirees count pennies? Answer: They are the only ones who have the time.

8) Question: What is the common term for someone who enjoys work and refuses to retire? Answer: Nuts!

9) Question: Why are retirees so slow to clean out the basement, attic or garage? Answer: They know that as soon as they do, one of their adult kids will want to store stuff there.

10) Question: What do retirees call a 2-hour long lunch? Answer: Normal.

11) Question: What is the best way to describe retirement? Answer: The never ending coffee break.

12) Question: What's the biggest advantage of going back to school as a retiree? Answer: If you cut classes, no one calls your parents.

13) QUESTION: What do you do all week? Answer: Monday to Friday, nothing. Saturday and Sunday, rest!

Is this how you want to cap off life's journey?

-td-

Have a good evening and a good weekend. And if you're looking for a place where you can go to truly relax and be with family and friends this weekend, look no further than the church of your choice.

'Attitude is paint brush of the mind..'

Dear God, I just wanted to take a minute to thank you. I guess I have to start with the snow, cold and icy weather, although it is a stretch for me to feel thankful for those things. However without them I couldn't thank you for the other things.

It is often said you must experience the valleys to enjoy the peaks and I think this is one of those cases. Out of the bad comes the good, such as:

- ✓City workers clearing the streets.
- ✓Highway and road workers for treated and plowed roads.
- ✓A neighbor plowing our driveway
- ✓Utility workers working in the dark and cold to keep our power on or to restore it when necessary.
- ✓Medical personnel to provide treat-

Phase II

Mary Kay Woodyard



ment for broken bones and the flu.

✓Pharmacies staying open until you get there to pick up your prescription.

✓Mail carriers for living up to the motto, "the mail must go through"

✓Friends who come on Christmas Day to pull a loved one out of the ditch.

✓Most of all, I'm thankful for the chil-

dren. They remind me that this is temporary, it will go away. Children remind me that in the course of life's events sic (snow, ice and cold) it really isn't worth the effort of getting upset. Children see the snow as an opportunity: snowfort, snowman, sledding, ice skating (without skates). Kids love to walk where no one has gone before. They are forging new territory and controlling the landscape. It is the chance to wear the stuffed away gloves, to pull a mask over your face and pretend no one knows you. Children and adults with a childlike heart (or stomach) recognize the value of hot chocolate.

As one of Michael's teachers so aptly put it, "Attitude is the paint brush of the mind; it colors everything we do."

Amen

Share your thoughts with a Letter to The Telegram Editor