

Latest bowl picks, just same old story

Well, there are lots of boooooos after Sunday's BCS picks. The end result shouldn't have come as a surprise. It's usually greeted with moans and groans and continuing calls for a football playoff system, much like the playoffs used to determine the basketball path to the championship. Maybe what's needed is for the colleges and universities to disassociate themselves with the BCS. Boycott. Why not simply give a thumbs down to something that just isn't working, instead of continuing to play their silly little game. Or is the money going to the schools involved much too good to overlook? Probably!

A team with two losses getting into the championship is a disgrace, an insult to those other institutions who had perfect or near perfect records. Hawaii and Kansas come to mind. Hawaii was 12-0 and K.U. was 11-1. Not good enough to fit in at the top, their schedules were too soft, you know how the litany goes. Remember when going to a bowl was a mark of distinction for one's football program? Bowls were few in number back then. Today, if we counted correctly, there are 32 bowl games. That's right — 32! What kind of distinction does that merit?

Oh well, we were booing last year just as we are this year. And we'll continue until those who wield the power persuade those who need to be courted that a football playoff must emerge. But we won't hold our breath.

—Tom Dreiling

Two more items needed for your kit

This is the second in a four-part mini-series on preparing a Winter Weather Car Survival Kit. The first part appeared in the Friday, Nov. 30 *Telegram*.

- Today (Dec. 4) brings these suggestions from David Floyd, Warning Coordination Meteorologist at the Goodland National Weather Service office:
 - A flash light, and don't forget one or two extra sets of fresh batteries. If you have ever tried to change a tire after dark, you'll know how valuable this item is. Also, a flashlight will come in handy if you need to signal someone for help. For a few extra dollars, you might want to consider purchasing a flashlight that does not require batteries, one that you shake for 30 seconds to get light.
 - A bright red or orange cloth to use as a distress flag. This can be an old red T-shirt, a used shop rag, or some fabric you have in storage. During a winter storm when visibility is poor, a bright red shirt or rag tied to your car's antenna will alert law enforcement that you need assistance. If you want to get more elaborate, you could purchase a package of those glow sticks that give off a fluorescent light after being shaken.
- If you've forgotten what the first items in the kit were, refer to your Nov. 30 *Norton Telegram*. The remaining two parts of this series will appear Dec. 7 and Dec. 11.

—Tom Dreiling

Thumbs Up...

- To... **Roberta Martin**, for sharing your 35-year Christmas tradition.
- To... **United Methodist Church**, Norton, on your Living Nativity, to come alive at 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 16.
- To... **Northern Valley School District**, on your creative idea for collecting canned goods for Norton and Phillipsburg food banks.
- To... **Blaine and Lana Dake**, on your 50th wedding anniversary.
- To... **Santa**, for using his sleigh to give young and old a taste of what it's like to see the town the way he sees it.

(To submit a name or names, please e-mail tomd@nwkansas.com, call 877-3361, mail to 215 S. Kansas Ave., drop by the office or fax 877-3732. Thanks for your continuing input. —td)

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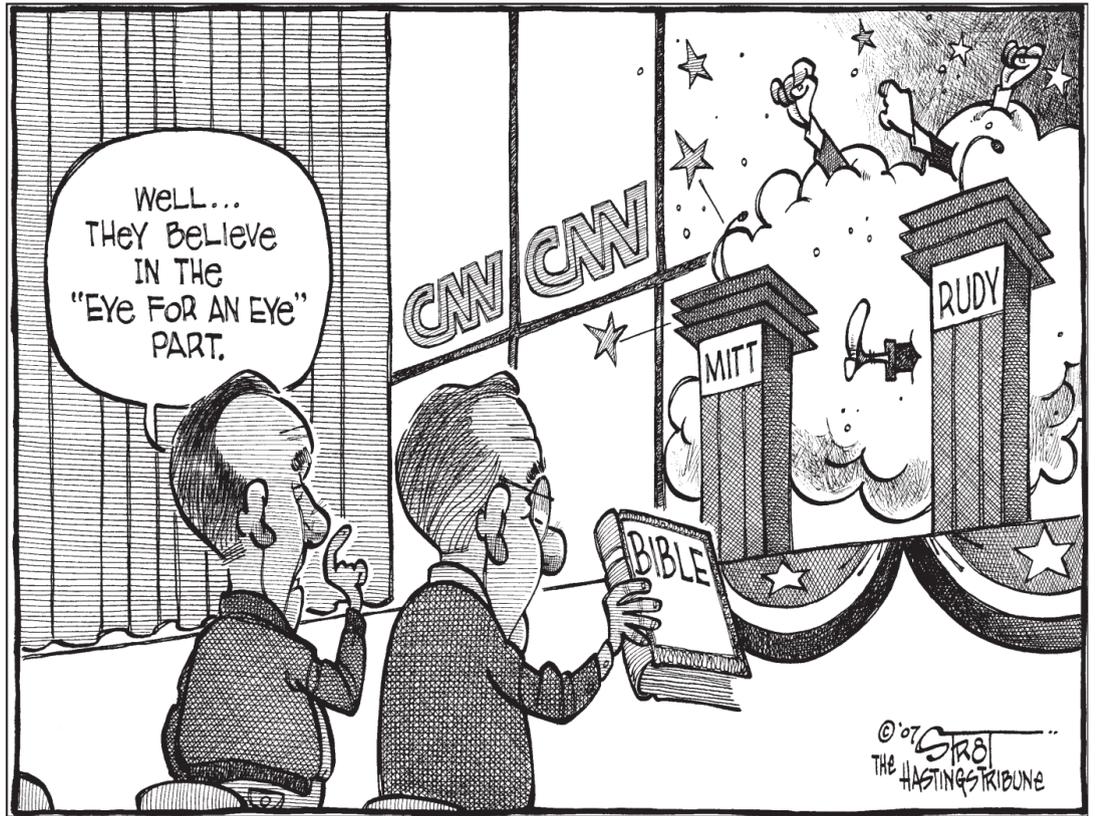
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Would be nice to have family closer

During the past two weeks I've reconnected with my cousin, Barbara. She and her husband, Art, are about Jim's and my — early retirement. Barb and I always got along as kids. She was my sophisticated city cousin, having grown up in Denver.

But, I have the pictures to prove that she could "go country" with the best of them. One of my favorites is of Barb and me swimming in the horsetank when we were about nine and 10 years old. We each had on those "dorky" swimming caps girls used to have to wear and were clad in our old-style one piece bathing suits.

The crowning touch, though, was the seat of her suit was hanging in shreds. Not very dignified, but, we sure did have fun.

Barb and Art are at a point in their lives where they want a simpler life. We're

Out Back

Carolyn Plotts



kicking around the idea of them retiring here. There's nothing to hold them in Illinois where they live now and, it would be so nice to have family a little closer. They both want to continue working, just not as hard.

As Barb and I have been catching up with each other we have commented about how time is taking a toll on us. She said she felt like she was aging. I told her a return to youth was just a facial away. Some people try to turn back their

odometers. Not me! I want people to know why I look this way. I've come a long way — and some of the roads weren't paved.

—ob—
The season of Christmas pageants is here. I hope you'll share your pageant "bloopers" with me. Like the mother who said her son played the part of one of the wise men in their church's pageant.

He stepped forward to say his part, wearing an old bathrobe and a paper crown.

Loudly he announced, "We are the three wise men. We come bearing gifts of gold, common sense and fur."

I'm going to try to take some of my own advice this Christmas: take a deep breath, slow down, don't try to do it all, ask for help, and remember the reason for the season.

Yes, God had a hand in this also

Look at all the ways the Lord hath led thee. God's hand is at work in our lives even when we don't expect it. And maybe that is the beauty of His work. Recently, we witnessed this first hand. We were stranded in Denver with a non-working car, a Santa's load of Christmas presents, a mother needing to fly back to Oregon and our daughter-in-law, Bri, with no means of transportation back to Norton (the car wouldn't be fixed for five days).

It had been a great visit for mother and daughter with some extra time in Denver. The two see each other about once a year so time together is precious. With the car in refusal mode, mom missed her flight and Bri was thinking "how do I get back." They spent another night in Denver and then proceeded to plan how each would get home. Fortunately for everyone, Bri's em-

Phase II

Mary Kay Woodyard



ployer went to get a coffee at White Field's.

He relayed the story to Renee and Renee said, Kirk, her husband, was in Denver and leaving within the hour and would give Bri a ride.

Not only did he give Bri a ride, but he also took the time to take her mother to the airport as well.

Bri's mother arrived in Portland and Bri in Norton at about the same time all because of coincidence? No, I don't think

so. Luck? No, I don't buy that either. God's work is always His work, but the gift we receive from incidents like this is the knowledge, He will take care of us.

I always loved the story of the war-damaged statue of Jesus. When the subject was broached about replacing the hands of Jesus it was decided to leave the statue as it was. It is our purpose as Christians to be Jesus' hands to do His work and leaving the statue handless would remind us of our responsibility.

The work of God requires multiple actions, it is the giving and the receiving. All parties have to be willing participants to make it work, but the initial action is necessary and so we thank Lamont for sharing another's need, Renee for ears to hear, Kirk for taking God's action and Bri for receiving God's gift.

Look at the way God has led us.

Correction makes school look ever better

To the Editor,

Thank you very much for the photos and front page story regarding the recent awards for Eisenhower Elementary School. The Board of Education is rightfully proud of our students and hardworking staff. We appreciate that our local newspaper also sees this award as being a major accomplishment. We are also very appreciative that our local newspaper is quick to recognize the accomplishments of our schools in all "A" areas: academics,

activities and athletics.

The superintendent, did provide some incorrect information, however. He stated that EES was one of only 54 elementary schools in the state receiving the Governor's Achievement Award. This is not

LETTERS

correct; actually EES is one of only 44 in the state to be singled out for this award. This is out of 1000+ elementary schools in the state who took the State Assessment Tests in 2006-07.

Again, thank you for recognizing the outstanding accomplishments of our students and staff.

Proud to be a Blue Jay!

Greg Mann
Superintendent of Schools
Norton

Most Salvation Army funds stay right here

To the Editor:

Let me introduce your local contacts for the work of The Salvation Army. My name is Sharon Leiker and I have been in the Army of the Lord for 16 years. Gina Frack, Norton County Health Department, has been facilitating the finances, locally, for a number of years.

Recently, *The Telegram* ran a story about the Salvation Army. I want to remind everyone that 80 percent of the money collected in Norton County stays in Norton County to help local families with heat, groceries, medications, etc.

The red kettle bell ringers are a familiar sight in big cities across the nation. Here, we have a local Christmas appeal for funds as well as the red kettles on the counters at several businesses.

Local churches have been very helpful. Most have agreed to include Salvation Army donation envelopes in their December bulletins. We are praying you will add your name to the growing list of churches supporting this "red kettle" Christmas fundraiser.

If your church hasn't been contacted call me at 874-4778 or Gina Frack at

877-5745. You can also write Mrs. Frack at 801 N. Norton, P.O. Box 403, Norton, Kan. 67654.

Tax deductible donations may be made to the Salvation Army in the form of gifts and memorials. It's a great way to honor anniversaries, birthdays and memories.

Yours in Christ,
Sharon Leiker
(*The Telegram* is happy to have a red kettle on its counter. We would be happy to list the other places where the red kettles are also available, if a list could be provided.)