

Huckabee a step ahead of the pack

Presidential candidate Mike Huckabee, former Arkansas governor, is running a television commercial in Iowa wishing everyone a Merry Christmas. We thought it was a classy advertisement. With soft Christmas music in the background, and wearing a bright red sweater, he thought it might be refreshing to halt the political infighting and take time to recall the reason for the season — Christ's birth.

We are a product of that school of thought and we still use the words *Merry Christmas* when we greet someone, and when we send out our cards. We have friends who don't feel as we do about this particular holiday, but we respect the nod they give. This has never been a problem.

Mr. Huckabee's seasonal greeting is under attack by some of the other candidates, and even Rudy Giuliani did an exceptionally poor job of putting together his Christmas message. It flopped, much like he is doing in the polls. And Sen. Hillary Clinton belittled all of us with her holiday message, which shows all kinds of wrapped packages with the contents noted — like health care, which she is going to give to all of us as her gift if we put her in the White House. Clinton's focus is blurred, she works for us, not the other way around.

To Huckabee's credit, he beat the others to the punch with a commercial that really resonated. The other candidates, with their Johnny-come-lately attitude, are beginning to look like a bunch of schmucks. Perhaps Mr. Huckabee's folksy approach is the reason he is surging in the polls.

Christmas has not been an issue in the past, but with the Iowa caucuses coming up on Jan. 3 — the earliest date ever — the candidates are being forced to acknowledge the reason for the season, in their very own way. Their seriousness is easily determined by the kind of commercial they are feeding the caucus goers in Iowa.

Right now it looks like Huckabee's Christmas commercial caught the attention of the good people in Iowa.

—Tom Dreiling

Let's focus today on torture

Yay for Senator Chuck Hagel! A voice of reason in this whole fiasco of torture and the subsequent destroying of such tapes. In an appearance on CBS-TV's Face the Nation he voiced the following:

- Torture doesn't work.
- We were leaders in the Geneva Convention to limit this practice.
- The world expects more of us.

Something that troubles me is this. We live in an era where we have spent millions of dollars on research into people's minds and actions. Because of this research we know children respond better to positive than negative.

Many places have used this research to incorporate new techniques for management to gain greater employee satisfaction, which in turn generates greater productivity and loyalty. The bottom line is to get cooperation and the positive works better.

The practice particularly in question is called "water boarding." I know little of the technique, but we're told it gives the sensation of drowning. One might confess to something, but it may have little to do with the truth and when all is said and done nothing has been gained except perhaps for a control hungry individual to feel all powerful.

We are told if kidnapped to engage our captors and gain their trust and sympathy.

Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



thy. This may include asking about their families, talking about yours, etc. It takes longer than torture and doesn't provide a target for people's misplaced anger, but it works.

Various forms of "war rules" have been around since practically the beginning of time. The first Geneva Convention, held in 1864, focused on those who were sick or had been wounded in war. Much of the Geneva Convention was inspired by the founder of the Red Cross, Henri Dunant. For this reason the Red Cross has been instrumental in enforcing the rules of the Geneva Convention.

Since that first Geneva Convention various forms have been written which include the treatment of prisoners of war and civilians. Even if there weren't rules to protect prisoners of war, we should be above that kind of treatment.

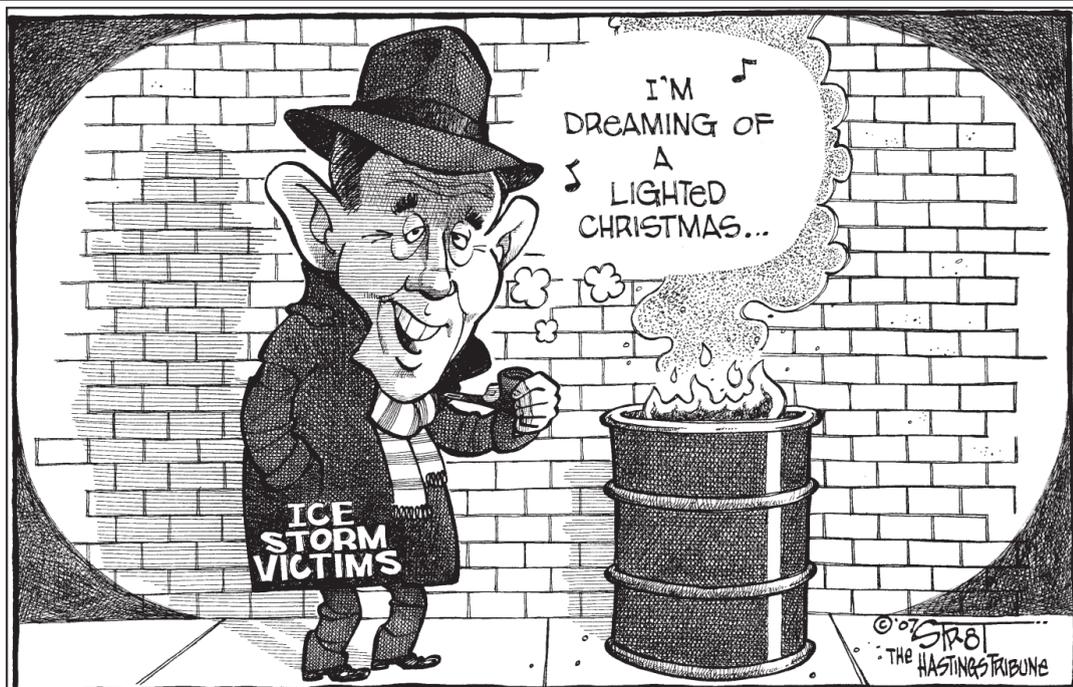
We don't want the world to look at us out of fear, that's the bully method. God calls us to be above that and we have to hold ourselves accountable.

Thumbs Up . . .

To... **Tiffany Peters**, for going above and beyond for placing a subscriber's newspaper within the reach of their door so they did not have to go out in the recent ice storm. (hand delivered)

To... **Chris Reynolds and Tracy Riggins**, for working so hard shoveling my walks. (by telephone)

To... **the young man** on the purple 4-wheeler, who removed snow last Saturday for so many of us without asking for anything in return. Bless you! (by telephone)
(To submit a name of names, e-mail tomd@nwkansas.com, call either 877-3361 or 877-6908, fax 877-3732, mail to 215 S. Kansas, Norton 67654 or drop by the office. Thanks for your continuing input. —td)



Maybe I should peek in those boxes

Where has the time gone? Ten more days and we can put 2007 in a box and stack it on top of the other boxes filled with stuff from years gone by. I don't know about you, but my boxes are many. I couldn't tell you what's in them and would probably be surprised at what I would find if I reopened them. As often as I had planned to do just that, I have never quite gotten to the point of getting it done. Too many other things to do.

I'll bet within those boxes are projects I told myself I had to get done, i.e., correspondence I promised myself I would answer, pictures I guaranteed would end up in some kind of album, clips from newspapers and magazines I just knew I couldn't do without, change of addresses that have probably changed more than once since I packed them away, telephone numbers that probably don't even exist any more, invitations to events that required an R.S.V.P., coupons, and on and on it goes.

The more I sit here and write about the possibilities awaiting the rebirth of the contents of these boxes, the more interested I become in wanting to dig back into them! I think I just might tease myself enough to open a box or two just to see what awaits this rediscovery.

Do you ever ask yourself, "What did I do with that?" And a search of the house turns up nothing? I do that often. And I'm beginning to think some of the answers to those questions are within grasp, like in the boxes stored away.

I'll keep you informed.

This year I won't have to put together a list of New Year resolutions. You see, I still have one left from last year. It simply reads, "I vow not to ever again prepare a list of New Year resolutions!" Takes care of that.

—td—

For my older readers (60 years of age and up): What do you mean you didn't have a drug problem when you were growing up? You certainly did, just like I did. I can well remember I was drug to church on Sunday mornings and for weddings and funerals. I was drug to community events. I was drug by my ears when

Good Evening Norton Tom Dreiling



I was disrespectful to adults. I was also drug to the woods when I disobeyed my parents, told a lie, brought home a bad report card, did not speak with respect, spoke ill of the teacher or the preacher, or if I didn't put forth my best effort in everything that was asked of me.

I was drug to the kitchen sink to have my mouth washed out with soap if I uttered a profanity. I was drug out to pull weeds in mom's garden and flower beds and cockleburrs out of dad's fields. I was drug to the homes of family, friends, and neighbors to help out some poor soul who had no one to mow the yard, repair the clothesline, or chop some firewood; and, if my mother had ever known that I took a single dime as a tip for this kindness, she would have drug me back to give the money back. Those drugs are still in my veins and they affect my behavior in everything I do, say, or think. They are stronger than cocaine, crack, or heroin; and, if today's kids had this kind of drug problem, America would be a much better place.

No, I didn't make this thing up, it was sent to me, but I thought it carried a very clear message and one that could probably be used now and then even today.

Anyway, the next time you hear kids talk about drugs, tell 'em about your drug problem (as stated above). Might give 'em something to think about!

—td—

News reports this week indicate many folks in Oklahoma, Missouri and parts of Kansas are still without power due to the ice storms of last week. And, those dealing with restoration of power, are of the opinion that some homes might still be cold and dark come Christmas. Wow! Can you even imagine that. Despite the icing we received, we were able to withstand the challenge and only an occasional flicker of the lights was our

impact. Our icing wasn't near what other areas received, and for that we should be thankful, but all the while offer up silent support for those who wait each day for the lights and the heat to come back on.

My brother Gene and sister-in-law Flo, (retired) longtime residents of Tulsa, took up shelter with their son and his family, also of Tulsa, who were fortunate enough to have an emergency generator keeping the lights and heat on. And thankful for that, because Flo is in the process of recovering from hip replacement surgery and the cold experienced in their home at the outset of the outage, wasn't helping her recovery one bit.

Hopefully, they can get back to their comfortable home soon, if they are not already there.

—td—

I had my first visit to The Shepherd's Staff at Rexford Wednesday evening. How impressed I was with the structures that make up the complex, and the people we were involved with. I had no idea we had such a place in our neighborhood and I will do something a little more detailed in the coming weeks. Called "A Spiritual Oasis on the Plains," The Shepherd's Staff Conference/Retreat Center can accommodate just about any size gathering. Our little group numbered nine, and we were treated like royalty.

The complex has five structures and an RV site. Jan Katz Ackerman, best known as a journalist throughout this area, is the new administrative assistant.

—td—

Politically speaking, someone has to tell Bill Clinton he's not the candidate. When he shows up on the campaign trail, forget Hillary, he gets all the attention, or he makes sure he gets all the attention. Can't you imagine what kind of circus that's going to be if she's elected president? That could lead to the divorce many of us thought was going to take place when the Monica affair exploded.

—td—

Have a good evening and weekend. And, because I won't be visiting with you until next Friday, have a Merry and Blessed Christmas. And don't forget to raise your voices in song and praise this weekend in the church of your choice.

What constitutes a role model?

Call it a crisis of immoral leadership. It seems like the "heroes" of a big chunk of today's youth are not much worth worshipping.

That doesn't stop a lot of kids, who play gangsta rap, watch pro basketball and football, read about Paris and Brittany, watch these losers on television and try to act just like them.

We have rap "artists" shooting each other and pro athletes who want to live the same lifestyle, hang out at the same clubs. Then, everyone is surprised when a football or basketball player is shot after an altercation at some dive.

Part of the problem may be having young men with immense wealth and little education. Some come from backgrounds that just don't prepare them to be instant millionaires, but our kids still look up to them.

This is not a new problem, and it's not a problem with roots in race or cultural heritage. Hollywood has long been a hotbed of immorality, back to the earliest days. There may be plenty of entertainers who are perfectly normal, but there have always been a certain number who are not exactly good role models.

On the Prairie Dog Steve Haynes



As today's "artists" identify with modern gangsters, Frank Sinatra notoriously hung out with mob buddies and treated women poorly. Still, a lot of people worship him for his voice.

Babe Ruth and Ty Cobb were not angels, historians tell us, but the press of their time didn't trumpet their lifestyle to the nation's kids.

Today, television, magazines, tabloids and newspapers show us the stars' latest exploits day by day and week by week.

Sports stars today don't even have to pretend to go to college, with the basketball league drafting freshmen and even high school grads. There's no longer a pretense that many of these kids are going to get an education. And why should they, some argue, when they can go straight to the big league, then make millions with

their sport talent? Because they would set an example for every kid who adores them?

I don't think most of them ever take time to think about that. Parents, agents, the press, the public just accept the idea that they'll leave school when the pros call.

Are teams responsible? Is the press? Or are we all contributing to the delinquency of our minors, every time we buy a ticket to see a drug user hit a home run and or a dropout play basketball?

Is Michael Vick a hero for his football skills, and a pioneer for his race as a prominent black quarterback? Or a disgrace for his adoption of a cruel sport as a hobby?

I personally don't think the football world misses him. He could make a comeback, if he admits his mistakes, and I'd support that. But not if, like so many athletes and entertainers, he's unrepentant.

I'm no prude. I know a lot of this is just human nature. But if we want a better world, shouldn't we be at least a little concerned about the quality of our kids' role models?

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

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

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



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
Christie Anderson advertising
Veronica Monier staff reporter
Dick Boyd Blue Jay sports
Carolyn Plotts society editor
Sherry Hickman bookkeeping/circulation
Vicki Henderson computer production