

Clinton has runners on first, second, third

We hear all this complaining by the Hillary for President campaign that the media favor Sen. Barack Obama. That's all folly. Anyone keeping up with the campaigns of Sen. Clinton and Obama know otherwise. In fact, the networks favor the Clinton machine.

How often are we exposed to not just Hillary, but William Jefferson Clinton and now Chelsea Clinton. If anything, the Obama organization is battling on three fronts. When was the last time you saw Michelle Obama on camera?

What the networks need to do is forget Bill and daughter Chelsea. They are not the candidates, wife and mom are. So they were in the White House for eight years, that does not in anyway put them on the same level as Sen. Clinton. But how do you explain that simple fact to the networks? You don't. FOX, MSNBC and CNN at times look like nothing more than an electronic version of supermarket tabs.

There is a lot of talk now about the overall damage the Clinton-Obama battle is having on the Democratic Party. Whoa! The Democrats are fightin' and feudin' party and they have always been. This is nothing more than just another chapter.

There is talk that Clinton should drop out in favor of Obama so the Democrats can converge on Denver in August as a unified bunch ready to attack Sen. John McCain in his bid to occupy the Oval Office. Not so fast, there! We have been under the impression for many years that the purpose of conventions was to pick a candidate for president. If we shut the process down now, why convene?

Back to the 3-on-1 scramble. Bill Clinton has been somewhat of negative for Hillary, while Chelsea is proving to be a positive among potential young voters. But no matter how you assess the picture, the Clintons will always have runners on first, second and third. And when Obama goes to the plate there's nobody on base.

-Tom Dreiling

Focus should be on the students

I have had the privilege of serving the State of Kansas for almost 8 years; 4 years as 118th District Representative and nearly 4 years as 40th District Senator. One issue has always been held a priority: K-12 Education Funding. This week the Kansas Senate amended HB-2734, concerning school districts and school finance, to increase a newly consolidated school district's ability to receive the combined general fund budget from 3 years to 5 years.

This bill will allow small consolidating schools the opportunity to capitalize on this extra funding for an additional 2 years. We continue to see declining enrollments in our rural schools. As schools consolidate and districts become larger, the legislature is constantly trying to ease the transition of consolidation while at the same time ensuring that we offer students the most complete education possible.

We have potential school consolidations in the 40th District. In one example that I know of, based upon full-time equivalent student population estimates combined with a small increase in funding each year, these 2 districts could

Senate Doings Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer



capture an additional \$1,100,000 over the next 5 years by consolidating, as compared to the funding they would receive if they remain separate.

This is huge for any rural area in the state that could benefit from this increased funding. I would encourage any and all school districts that are considering consolidation to do your research and see how this applies to you.

None of us has the ability to predict the future, but the opportunity that this presents for small schools suffering from decreased enrollment is worth looking into. Change is hard, but we must remain focused on what is best for the students in every situation.

Ralph Ostmeyer, Senator, 40th District

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Sure sign of spring? Going through trash

You know how I know it's Spring? Oh, sure, there's the usual robin sightings; daffodils blooming; and trees budding. But, the one sure-fire clue that tells me it's spring is the city-wide spring clean-ups hosted by several surrounding towns. Policy requires homeowners to place unwanted items by the front curb for easy pick-up by city crews.

The unwritten policy says if it's by the curb it is "up for grabs" and help yourself. To two scrounge hounds like Jim and me it's like a smorgasbord.

We drove the streets of a local town looking for the "good stuff." We were not disappointed. We found some good doors, a nice carpet remnant and an office

Out Back Carolyn Plotts



chair with a base that looks like it is interchangeable with a broken one we have.

After our first "find," Jim said, "Well, now that we've totally embarrassed ourselves, I guess we might as well make a haul of it."

"You load and I'll drive," I said. We cruised up one street and down another, eyes peeled for anything usable.

Of course, what we consider usable, someone else has deemed as trash.

One of my mom's favorite sayings was, "One man's trash is another man's treasure." Perhaps a mentality that came about because she lived through The Great Depression.

It's true. It's only when you need something that you can see the value of it. It need not be brand-new to be usable. I just find it hard to believe what some people throw away.

Which is a fair warning to anyone thinking they might find something usable in our trash. By the time we're done with something, it is completely used up or worn out.

It really is trash.

Sustainable energy must be considered

President Theodore Roosevelt was an early champion of the conservation of natural resources. Under his leadership, 150 million acres of federal land was placed in a protected status. Gifford Pinchot was appointed Chief of the Forest Service and many measures were adopted to protect public lands. Roosevelt called a conservation conference to Washington and supported the resulting declaration of conservation principles.

During the Great Depression of the 1930's, President Franklin D. Roosevelt established the Civilian Conservation Corps to provide jobs for the unemployed. They planted trees, fought forest fires, built roads for the national forests and parks and built dams to control floods. In 1935, President Roosevelt established the Soil Conservation Service to promote soil conservation practices.

During the presidency of Richard

Citizen Duties Bob Strevey



Nixon, the Environmental Protection Agency was set up to enforce pollution rules. Congress also passed the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to protect endangered wildlife.

During both Republican and Democratic administrations, caring for our environment has been a priority.

With recent studies showing the impact of global warming, the call for greater protections for our environment is growing. Our society's wasteful use of huge quantities of our natural resources is placing a huge strain on our climate.

Responsible leaders, including the President, are calling for a reduction in our dependence on foreign oil. New efforts to conserve our resources and reduce domestic consumption are needed. Sustainable energy, especially wind, solar and nuclear, is gaining greater support.

Responsible citizens will want to encourage efforts to protect our natural resources for use by future generations. Government has a role to play in setting standards, providing tax incentives and promoting greater conservation efforts.

We must find the will to curb our excessive use of natural resources. If the rest of the world were to follow our example, the millions of additional cars in Asia alone would soon run the world out of oil.

Cutting back and changing to more sustainable resources may not be convenient, but it is a necessity we will all face sooner or later.

(bkstrevey@hotmail.com)

Reader shares her solution for immigration woes

This is a copy of a letter to Rep. Jerry Moran from a Norton resident, who approved publishing it in The Telegram.

Norton, Kan.
March 23, 2008
U.S. Representative Jerry Moran
2443 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515
Rep. Moran:

First, I want to thank you and the other Kansas Representatives who are looking into the gross empty-headedness of the military "geniuses" who awarded the tanker contract to a European manufacturer. Methinks we need to do some house cleaning in the military. Keep up the good work on that and put pressure on them until they do what is right.

Please join me in a dream.

Take the National Guard and use them to round up those 13 million illegal, anti-American freeloaders. Along with them,

Your turn

round up their buddies: Nancy Pelosi, Hillary and Bill Clinton, Obama, John McCain, and the Senate and Congress members who voted for them to have a good chunk of our hard earned money. Truck the whole lot to the Eastern seaboard where there will be ships with the same accommodations as the old slave ships, waiting for them. Pack them onto these (just like they did the slaves in the old days) and haul them over to Iraq and let them replace the REAL Americans who have been over there fighting and dying for America.

Then you bring these real American heroes back on top luxury cruise ships and give them a nice luxurious trip back to America. When they get here, outfit them with the best in weaponry and uni-

forms and station them along the southern border with orders to shoot anything with two legs that tries to cross the border illegally.

How do we finance such a project? Stop all payments to the 13 million illegals, garnishee wages, retirement funds, perks and other money of the afore mentioned government people and tax the Clintons on all property going back at least five years. (I doubt they paid their fair share while in office.) This should give you plenty of money to carry out the program.

I do think this program would solve a few problems and we just might get some fairly decent presidential candidate replacements. Ah well, thanks for listening.

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