

## The little lady didn't see the humor

Marriage is a relationship in which one person is always right, and the other is usually the husband. When the neighbor man's lawn mower broke and wouldn't run, his wife kept hinting to him that he should get it fixed.

But somehow he always had something else to take care of first: the truck, the car, e-mail, fishing, always something more important to him.

Finally, his wife thought of a clever way to make her point. When he arrived home the following day from work, he found her seated in the tall grass, busily snipping away with a tiny pair of sewing scissors.

He silently watched her for a short time and then went into the house. He was gone only a few minutes. When he came out again he handed her a toothbrush, accompanied by this comment: "When you finish cutting the grass, you might as well sweep the driveway."

The doctors told him he will walk again, but will probably always have a limp.

The downtown park becomes more exciting with each passing day, so it seems. What was not at the site on one day, pops up the next. And next. And next. When complete, it will be, without doubt, the pride of the area. Of course we must not forget that the wonders occurring at the park's location at the intersection of South State St. and E. Washington, came as the result of a tragic fire a couple of years ago that left the LeRoy Hanes family without its means of survival. Their business at that intersection burned to the ground, as did an adjoining building that housed the local archery club. An arrangement between the city and the Hanes family brought about what we now see taking place at that location. It was not certain how the vacant lot in the downtown area would eventually be utilized, but whoever came up with the park idea certainly deserves a pat on the back.

You gotta' be kidding me! Tonight? Ah, come on, not yet?! Yep, it's that time of year, time for the high school football season to begin. Here in Norton it unfolds at 7 p.m. as the Blue Jays take on the Phillipsburg Panthers at Travis Field. Go, Melvinmen!

Thanks to those taking part in The Telegram's presidential poll. It's simple to participate, just call one of these three numbers — 877-3361, 877-6908 (office,

Good Evening Norton  
Tom Dreiling



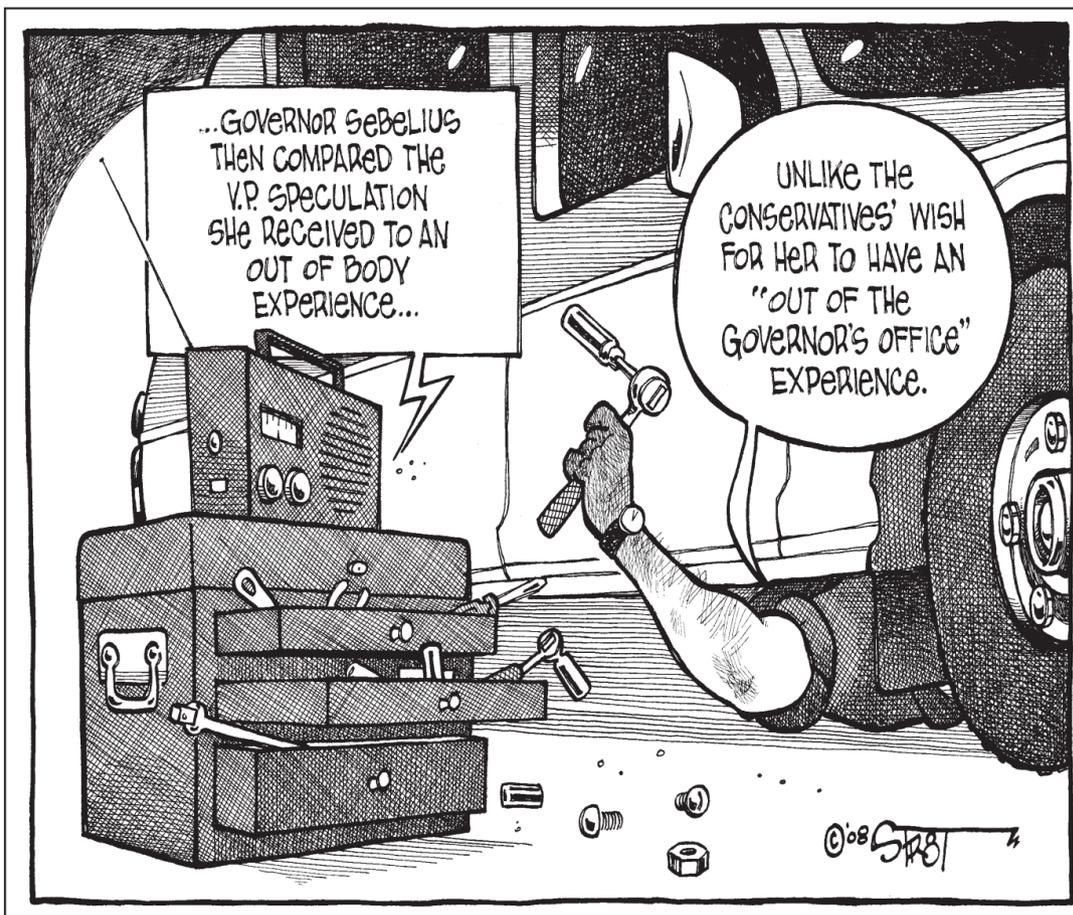
8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday), or 874-4394 evenings. Or e-mail tom.d@nwkansas.com. You need not identify yourself. In the few days we have been doing this we have had 38 respondents (as of noon Thursday. This figure may not be the same as is reported on page one as the deadline for this column was noon Thursday. The front page deadline is later in the day.) Please let us hear from you. Thanks!

The elephant is back! And in a big way. The elephant in this case is the Republican Party. I can't ever recall ever watching a Republican National Convention where a speaker for vice president held the thousands in attendance in the palm of her hands. Yes, HER hands! Gov. Sarah Palin of Alaska, did just that in accepting the party's nomination for vice president Wednesday night. She has a delivery that draws you to her. Articulate. No hesitation. Like clock work. Other than rival Sen. Barack Obama, Gov. Palin was, without question, the next best speaker at either party's convention. The Republican Party is hers, no matter how the Nov. 4 election turns out. She has brought a new, youthful look to a party badly in need of such a look for a long time.

Again, deadlines won't permit me to give you my take on Sen. McCain's Thursday night acceptance speech, much like I was unable to do with Sen. Obama's acceptance speech last week. But I will eventually compare the two speeches.

There's a bit of fall in the air. The past few mornings have been, what I would describe, *chilly*. Maybe chilly enough for a sweater. After all, the 40s seem cold next to the heat we've had. But I won't give in and put that sweater on yet, although I do believe we will have an earlier fall and a longer winter looking us in the face.

Have a good evening! And remember when you attend the church of your choice this weekend, the temperature inside is always just right.



## Remember: Knowledge is power to live

It is a scene played out in nearly a million homes around the country each year and although it is a trend which is declining it still is a much too frequent occurrence. The mother in me cannot help but feel sad as I think of the 17 year old girl whose mother is now the GOP VP choice. The teen and her hockey playing boyfriend were already facing incredible odds and now they have even more as media descends and scrutiny begins. As Obama and others have said when asked about this situation, "family is off limits, particularly children".

Regardless of how 'liberated' we pretend to be, we still cringe when we hear of yet another young, pregnant teen-age girl and yes, the boy too.

Being in a small town she has been the target of rumors and talk in general. Although the boy is an equal partner, there is no doubt the weight of this falls upon this young girl. We may have made progress, but still she is at fault and the boy 'was caught'.

This young girl is not a political issue, but it does raise political questions. Does anyone fault a parent for a young girl's lapse in judgment? Of course not, anyone with children knows we cannot

Phase II  
Mary Kay  
Woodyard



be our children's keeper anymore than our brother's. But what does come to mind is our responsibility as a parent. In an ideal world, sex education would be taught by the loving family to receptive teenagers (and younger). There would be no need to teach birth control because abstinence would be the route of choice, but in case we haven't noticed this is not an ideal world.

The CDC has reported 24 percent of young women or 1 in 4 by age 18 will have a pregnancy. They also report, "The United States has the highest teen pregnancy rate of any developed country. It is twice as high as England, France & Canada, three times as high as Sweden and four times as high as The Netherlands."\*

So what is their secret? This is the political side of this. Could it be sex education? A recent study has

shown that youth with sex education are less likely to engage in sexual intercourse before age 15. Males were 71 percent less likely and similarly educated females were 59 percent less likely.

"Sex education seems to be working," said study lead author Trisha Mueller, an epidemiologist with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "It seems to be especially effective for populations that are usually at high risk."

Sarah Palin's daughter has incredible support, but one knows even with family unity she and her boyfriend are faced with incredible odds, overwhelming to a girl who has been thrown out of the home because of the pregnancy.

Or forced to quit school because there is no way to take care of her child, go to school and work. This young girl already knows not all babies are born healthy as she helps care for her months old brother with Down's syndrome.

Don't we owe it to all children to give them the necessary tools for a successful life. Knowledge is power to live.

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\* www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2007/12/071220231428.

## A look back at the 2008 Olympics

The Olympics are over and I want to reflect on them. I thought the opening ceremonies were awesome. China had thousands of people doing spectacular things, some of it was so synchronized that it would appear it was created by a machine. All of the athletes seemed so proud to walk in representing their country. I watched several of the events. I especially like the ones such as swimming and running where it is fairly obvious who wins.

I enjoyed the gymnastics; however, I can not imagine how the judges come up with a score, and always objective and not have some leaning towards a certain athlete or country. That aside, they are fun to watch. I cannot imagine what those athletes have given up just to obtain excellence.

The closing ceremonies were nice, I enjoyed the music and some of the show. I am no lover of fireworks, so did not enjoy the closing as much as the opening.

Memories  
Sonya  
Montgomery



I am always amazed at how many events actually take place at the Olympics and the countries who participate, many events that are not shown on television. I watched the young man in the kayak from the country of Togo.

I wish everyone could just appreciate whatever country that hosts the Olympics instead of all the pundits who thought athletes and President Bush should not attend in China.

The athletes don't just decide in January or even one year ahead of the games whether they want to participate. They

train for years and I would like to see politics taken out of the equation.

I felt President Bush was there to support the United States athletes and I was happy he decided to attend. China's government no doubt does not think the way we do, but can't we just overlook that for a week or two.

All of the athletes I watched, no matter their country or their placing, appeared to be courteous and professional in every way.

How about the swimmer that went to the judge to ask for a slight delay so her competitor would have time to finish changing her swim suit when her suit tore; tears came to my eyes over that. She said when the other swimmers are in the water, they are her competitors, but before that, they are her friends.

What a show of how people should act. It lets me say again, and I'm sure someone else was originally responsible for this quote, but "can't we just all get along?"

## Thumbs Up

To... **Jim and Reges Ohlsen**, for being good 'parents' to the birds. (e-mail)

To... **All Blue Jay coaches**, for your time and talent as we start another fall sports season. (e-mail)

To... **The Telegram**, for again letting us guess who will win the Pick-Em contests. (called in)

To... **My Hero**, the young man who always carries this aging lady's groceries to my car. You know who you are. (called in)

(To submit a name or names, simply e-mail tom.d@nwkansas.com, call either 877-3361 or 877-6908, fax 877-3732, mail to 215 S. Kansas Ave. 67654 or drop by the office. Thanks for your input. -td)

Let's do our own poll!  
**Obama?  
McCain?**  
Simply call us at any of the following numbers: 877-6908, 877-3361 (8 a.m.-5:30 p.m.).  
E-mail tom.d@nwkansas.com

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