

## Bold, but good move by Sen. McCain

Republican presidential candidate Sen. John McCain set the record straight over the weekend and in so doing probably enhanced his standing with some independent voters. He pretty much has his base locked up but needs infusion from Reagan Democrats and Independents.

What Sen. McCain did was to correct a misinformed supporter at one of his town hall meetings. A lady in the audience told Sen. McCain she didn't like Sen. Barack Obama and concluded by saying he is an "Arab."

It didn't take Sen. McCain but seconds to grab the microphone from her and say, "Sen. Obama is a decent family man. You don't have to be scared of him." The senator then explained that he just happens to have disagreements with Sen. Obama over issues in their campaigns for the presidency.

That, in itself, was a bold move on Sen. McCain's part. There was booing in the audience, but he handled that reaction very well.

We all know from watching presidential campaigns over many years, that the role of the vice-presidential nominee is that of "attack dog." And Gov. Sarah Palin is carrying that out as viciously as we have seen in years. Poll numbers would seem to indicate, however, that she is wearing thin with the voters. Perhaps Sen. McCain needs to take her to the side and have a chat.

When the governor came on board she was something new to Republican politics. She came in like a tidal wave. And to her credit, she woke up what had been a sleeping giant.

We don't know if Sen. McCain will continue his support of his rival as it relates to personal attacks or not, but it was a generous act, indeed. And Sen. Obama did call to thank him. And we would hope that Sen. Obama tones down his party's attacks on his rival. We'd all be the better for it, if he did.

Don't forget the third and final presidential debate will be Wednesday at 8 p.m. (our time).

— Tom Dreiling

## Treatment is best avenue to take

We are almost done with our review of the definition of alcoholism. Last week we looked at the factors which influence its development. This week we continue our review. You will find the full definition below:

"Alcoholism is a primary, chronic disease with genetic, psychosocial, and environmental factors influencing its development and manifestations. The disease is often progressive and fatal. It is characterized by continuous or periodic: impaired control over drinking, preoccupation with the drug alcohol, use of alcohol despite adverse consequences, and distortions in thinking, most notably denial."

When we are talking about alcoholism (or addiction) we are talking about a disease which is progressive. In other words, if left untreated, it will continue to get worse — not better.

Most people begin drinking for the social aspect or to relieve tension. As the disease grows in people who are susceptible, the need to drink more often regardless of consequences becomes stronger. People begin to sneak drinks, drink before going out to drink, lie about small things (including how much they have had to drink), experience blackouts (not the same as passing out) and physical complaints. If left untreated, alcoholics can drink or drug themselves to death. It's often a long, drawn out process which affects the family and people who love the alcoholic, in painful ways.

## Where There's Hope

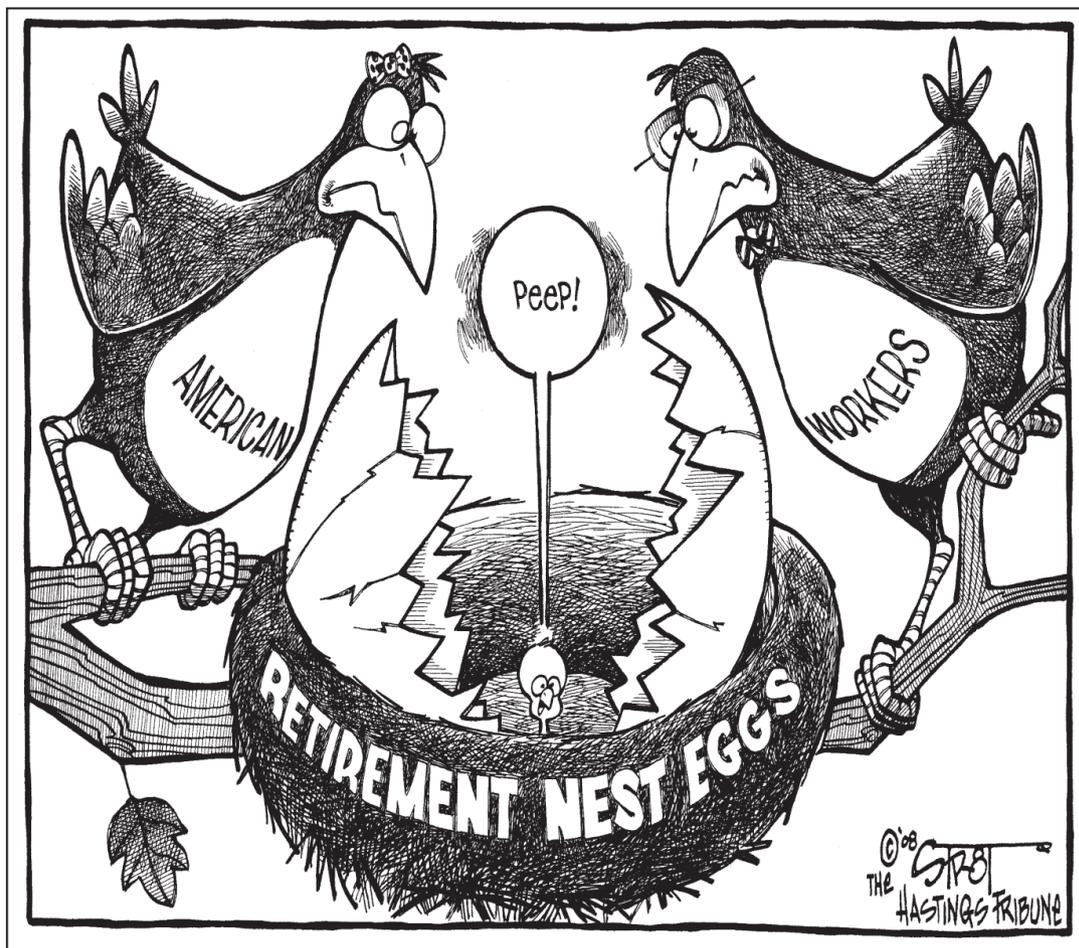
Carla Moore

Addiction can be continuous or happen in binges (periodic). Someone who is a continuous user or drinker will use on a daily basis. This can grow to around the clock. This usually doesn't happen at the beginning of the use but escalates over time. Also the amount that is used increases over time as well and is called tolerance. This means it takes more of the drug-of-choice to get the desired result.

Another pattern of use is called periodic, or binge, drinking/using. People with this drinking style can go for extended periods of time between drinking events. This can be a matter of days to months but when they do begin drinking, they cannot control the amounts they drink or the length of the binge. Some people drink for a weekend, others for weeks. People with this type of drinking/using style are often the most difficult to treat because they view their ability to NOT drink for lengths of time as control over their drinking. What they forget is that once their use begins, they lose the illusion of control.

We will complete our discussion of the definition of alcoholism next time.

(If you have any questions or comments, you can contact me at [cmoore@valleyhope.com](mailto:cmoore@valleyhope.com). —Carla Moore)



## Ready, set, GO! . . . to Mexico!

Socks: check. T-shirts: check. Work pants: check. Toothbrush: check. Toothpaste: check. Hammer: check. Sunscreen: check. I know I must be forgetting something. It's almost midnight (we're leaving at 6:30 in the morning) and I'm still packing for our Fall mission trip to Juarez.

Remember now. Vanilla orders: check, check and double-check. We're planning to bring back at least four cases. But, at the rate people use it, I hope that will be enough.

It's another interesting crew we've assembled. An electrician; a retired school teacher; a government employee; two domestic engineers; and Jim, our carpenter. Now, that's only six. But, here's the interesting part. In El Paso, we're meeting another small team from Silver City, N. M. and, together, we're going to build a house in Mexico. We know nothing about them, except they are Baptists. And, that they have servant's hearts. I know we're

## Out Back

Carolyn Plotts



going to get along just fine.

Meeting new people is probably my favorite thing to do. People are so fascinating. And, everyone has a story.

We know very little about the family we're building for. The husband, Efren, is 21, his wife, Maria, is 18 and they have two little boys, ages 4 and 2. Efren works in a factory and brings home about \$57 a week. They live in a pallet and tarpaper house and go to church. The one thing we're sure of, is they have a need.

They have known since February that they were approved to receive a Casas

por Cristo house. I've been thinking about them a lot this week. The building materials have all been delivered by now. It is starting to become a reality to them. They are probably beginning to realize that by this time next week, they will have a real house. A house with a door instead of a blanket tacked over the opening. A house with a concrete floor instead of dirt. A house with windows, insulation and electricity. It will be fabulous. I can only imagine their excitement. What we build is a house. When the family moves in, it becomes a home.

Post Script: Jim's poor finger still hurts but we're confident the danger of infection is past. He had to modify his method of working, but he didn't slow down any.

I will just say, "Hasta la vista y Dios devienda." Translated: "Until I see you again and God bless you."

## Your Turn

### Reader 'agrees to disagree' with columnist Woodyard

To the Editor:  
I have a great deal of respect for Mary Kay (Woodyard) and her compassionate views. Yet I find I must publicly disagree on this most serious of topics — abortion.

Her comments in (her column), "When beliefs and laws clash," (she says), "If you are anti-abortion you have to be anti-death penalty, at least if you believe the repeated theme of the New Testament about judging others." I fundamentally disagree based on proper theological studies, logical analysis and personal conviction.

Jesus' sermon on the mount about 'judging others' was to the individual, not to the governing bodies that make, implement and execute the laws of the land. As a matter of fact, it was the O.T. judicial law that prescribed the death penalty for various crimes. The death penalty is about crime and punishment, which every sound and stable society must have. Abortion is about personal choice to terminate the life of an innocent

child. . . a baby that wasn't given the same privilege of choice that his mother as well as a criminal deserving of death had.

Logically, not every 'ending of life by another' is equal; as apples are to oranges are both fruits but different. If so, then why is the criminal (who murdered another) given the most humane way of ending his life. . . legal injection. . . while an innocent baby is violently ripped from his mother's womb limb by limb? The most hideous barbaric felons of our land are given the most humane 'termination' of life. Yet the most precious, innocent and sweetest lives of our nation's babies are terminated through the most barbaric means possible? Many of us are anti-abortion and for capital punishment, including me. One is murder of the unborn. The other is the logical consequence enacted by a just society.

You only have to read the paper, listen to the news, and sometimes even hear it at the coffee shop. . . to know that people do hideous things to other people. A just

society calls it criminal. . . theft, rape, murder. Human beings are naturally prone to evil. There are only two forces that curb man's evil tendencies. One is a moral set of values within our character. Usually in a religious society that is achievable. But as a society strays from good, moral values it will become increasingly chaotic, ridden with crime and the family will plummet to a non-existent remembrance. Therefore, we will need more outside forces, the rule of law. . . which includes the inducement of punishment for laws broken. Either we police ourselves from within, or we will be restricted with laws upon laws from without.

My convictions as a Christian are to respect God's choice to create each and every individual that He has determined and to honor justice and righteousness by supporting and obeying laws that restrain evil and bring peace to our society.

For the unborn,  
Robin Somers  
Norton

### Reader gives lesson on forgotten use of hand signals

To the Editor:  
A few weeks ago, I started riding my bicycle to work. I did this because I needed the exercise (and that fuel prices were quite high).

As I ride, I have noticed something disturbing; when I use hand signals to show that I am turning, people wave at me. This suggests that they don't know what I am doing when I put out my arm.

When I put my left arm out straight, that means I'm turning left (or moving into the left-hand lane). When I put my left arm out, but up, that means I'm turning right (or moving to the right-hand lane).

Lastly, when I put my left arm down, that means I'm stopping (i.e., stoplight, stop sign, etc.).

Thank you for your time in helping to

keep cyclists safe on the roads.

Sincerely,  
Scott L. Collins  
Norton

### County thanked for its funding

To the Editor,  
Northwest Kansas Domestic and Sexual Violence Services, Inc., received funding from Norton County in the amount of \$500. These funds will be used to provide direct services to victims of domestic and sexual violence in Kansas, and are greatly

appreciated.  
It is a fortunate community indeed whose governmental officials recognize the need of all of its citizens.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Follis, Advocate  
Hays

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