

## Paper needs more of me, less of Steve and Tom

For the benefit of David Browne II, whose letter to the editor was published on Nov. 25, Artie Shelton did NOT stop writing — The Telegram stopped printing his letters.

As I understand the problem, a letter from Mr. Shelton is more interesting, widely read, enjoyed and discussed than those b.s. editorials from Steve Haynes, Tom Dreiling and the rest of the Little Rascals Gang.

Editor Tom got his nose out of joint. I hereby challenge 500 people in Norton to sign a petition asking The Telegram to publish a series of 15 letters from Mr. Shelton.

Each letter will explain in science and physics each of the items listed:

- 1) How the universe is made
- 2) The Holy God Trinity

### Sound off!

- 3 through 8) Each day of the 6 day creation
- 9) How and why Adam and Eve were created
- 10) Who and what was the serpent.
- 11) How you are able to think
- 12) How your spirit can leave your body and go to Heaven
- 13) Why the Earth was flooded
- 14) The Immaculate Conception
- 15) A planet called Home located within the Kingdom of Heaven

Remember, these letters will be science and I will say NOTHING about religion.

Arthur Loyd Shelton  
Norton

## Auto bailout mixed bag

There aren't many things I don't have an opinion on, in case you hadn't noticed, but the auto "loan/bailout" falls into that category. I am not an economics major or business either and so most of it doesn't make much sense to me.

What I do know is either way is fraught with concerns. The thought of providing huge funds to groups who have already shown their disinterest in reinventing their product and are or at least have been unwilling to change their structure is incomprehensible to me.

When CEO's can receive huge bonuses because their companies are failing, I realize I am in the wrong business.

But I also have grave concerns about allowing the companies to go under, although my gut instinct is we (the government) cannot provide enough money for these companies to make the changes and sell the product in enough time to become a profitable enterprise again.

If there isn't a bailout/loan then what happens to our economy? How do we manage the huge influx of unemployment claims, health needs, etc? If these jobs could be redirected to other areas, such as environmental cleanup, infrastructure repair, a revitalized space program, then perhaps we could make the necessary changes to the automotive industry and along the way improve our economy. If we take the money monthly from the war in Iraq we could assist in funding many things.

### Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



To be sure the unions are part of the problem. It is definitely the swing of the 'pendulum'. The unions came into existence because of the greed of employers; the unions will dissolve because of the greed of the employees. I blame both groups.

Although the union workers do not make \$78/hour, as one poorly informed statistics student tried to claim. Members have negotiated for benefits which far exceed the majority of people's benefits, when the companies were skyrocketing it was understandable, but when the companies are failing it is time to renegotiate. To be sure they have done some, but probably more will be demanded.

As I said, I don't know the answers and I'm not sure anyone does. All I do know is the automotive industry is merely a symptom of our economic woes.

The selfish demands of CEOs, the stubborn stance of workers and the current nature of the American public has contributed to this problem.

I wish I had more faith in Congress.  
(mkwoodyard@ruraltel.net)

## Your political connection

★ **Governor Kathleen Sebelius**, 300 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785) 296-3232

★ **U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts**, 109 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 224-4774; fax (202) 224-3514

★ **U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback**, 303 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 224-6521

★ **U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran**, 2443 Rayburn HOB, Washington, D.C. 20515. (202) 225-2715; fax (202) 225-5124

★ **State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer**, State Capitol Building, Room 262-E, Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785) 296-7399

★ **State Rep. John Faber**, 181 W. Capitol Building, Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785) 296-7500

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## Too early to worry about frozen pipes

I know it's winter because our cold water faucet in the kitchen froze up Sunday night. It's the only plumbing on the north side of the house and couldn't take the sub-zero temperature. A little portable heater thawed the pipe with no problem, but it's too early in the season to have to worry about frozen pipes every night.

-ob-

We picked up a Christmas present for the chickens over the weekend. Actually, I'm the one who will benefit from it. I saw a heated water bowl and decided that was what we needed instead of me hauling water every day or breaking ice for the old biddies. I can say, "Old biddies," because they aren't laying right now. Molting season, plus it's just too blamed cold.

When I go out to feed them I remember the words of an old business executive I used to know. He would say, "If you ain't makin' me money, you're costin' me money." Right now, with the feed they're

### Out Back

Carolyn Plotts



eating, it's all input and no output. Come spring, they're gonna owe me.

Some of the chickens aren't going to make it to spring, though. We have an oversupply of four roosters. That's three more than are needed and, they're making life miserable for the hens. I keep threatening the old boys with the "noodle bath".

-ob-

The Christmas Kitchen at the Plotts house is kicking into full gear. Bananas are ripening on the breakfast bar and Butterfinger Balls are chilling in the fridge. Another batch of fudge, plus caramel corn

will round what I need to finish Christmas boxes to the kids. I really want those boxes in the mail by Wednesday. The U.S. Post Office is good, but why push it?

-ob-

Jim finally felt good enough Saturday night to put up some outdoor lights. He's barely scratched the surface of what he wants to do. However, time and temperatures are working against him. If he doesn't get any more up, it's okay with me. I'm going to sprinkle a few little Christmas knick knacks around and call it good.

-ob-

Did you hear about the hillbilly that installed expensive, thermal-pane windows in his house? The contractor that installed the windows had waited more than 12 months to get paid for the job. Finally, the contractor called and demanded payment. The hillbilly said, "Duh. Your salesman told me the windows would pay for themselves in a year."

## Remember, food safety starts at home

With the holiday season upon us ensuring our families eat the safest, tastiest and most nutritious meals is the most important consideration during this special time together. So, where do the most significant food safety problems occur — on the farm or in the kitchen?

If you guessed the kitchen, you're probably one of those wise consumers who may already be well on your way to a wholesome, healthy eating lifestyle. On the other hand if you guessed the farm, chances are your kitchen may be a place where food is mishandled or poorly prepared.

There is unnecessary anxiety about food safety in our country today that is diverting attention from this nation's leading public health problems including cigarette smoking, alcoholism, drug abuse, AIDS and failure to use life-saving technology such as seatbelts, smoke detectors and screening techniques to detect disease at early, treatable stages.

Today, consumers can be confused about the food they eat. And why shouldn't they be?

Americans are continually bombarded with information about what they should and should not eat. Such mixed messages about our food supply can be frustrating. Many health professionals will tell you

### Insight John Schlageck

too much time, energy and resources are spent worrying about minute or non-existent pesticide residues on foods such as fruits and vegetables. They believe such energy could be better directed at making sure each individual family and the public eats a variety of foods in moderation.

There is little doubt pesticides in significant quantities may be toxic, but the U.S. government has in place a highly efficient system to ensure the levels of residues in foods remain extremely low — if they are there at all. The Environmental Protection Agency sets these tolerances and the Food and Drug Administration evaluates our produce to ensure tolerances are not exceeded.

Minute levels of pesticide residues detected in some U.S. produce have been found to pose no hazard to the health of children or adults, according to nutritionists.

Trace amounts of pesticides are so miniscule it's virtually inconceivable they can have any health affect. There is always that chance some individual may have a sensitivity to any kind of chemical — hair gel, tooth paste, pesticides — but

these are generally isolated cases.

There has never been one documented case of ill health linked with the regulated and approved use of pesticides.

The claims these tiny residues cause cancer is irresponsible and unscientific. The only evidence against these agricultural chemicals is derived from laboratory studies where rodents are exposed to large amounts of these substances and manifest an increased rate of cancer. There is no relevance of this finding for the minute exposure to human beings.

While proponents of organically grown food like to tout their produce as safer because it contains no pesticide residues, today's shopper need only purchase their produce and other foods, wash them thoroughly and cook them properly.

Remember while you are preparing the many meals your family and friends will enjoy this holiday season, that our country enjoys the safest, most wholesome food in the world. The safeguards are in place to ensure our food is protected. Making sure we safely prepare food for our loved ones is our responsibility.

(John Schlageck is a leading commentator on agriculture and rural Kansas. Born and raised on a diversified farm in northwestern Kansas, his writing reflects a lifetime of experience, knowledge and passion.)

## Thumbs Up...

To... Don Mordecai and your junior high band, for an enjoyable concert. (e-mail)

To... those who want baseball and softball as part of Norton's High School's athletic program, keep at it! (regular mail)

To... the Husted family, five generations strong! (called in)

To... the Norton Junior High KAYs, for the delicious home made cookies! We loved them, each and every pound! (Telegram staff)

(To submit a name or names, e-mail tom.d@nwkans.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 continuing interest in this column. -td)