

## Column preparation sometimes a problem

A couple of days ago I had all sorts of things I wanted to talk about in this column. Now that I am sitting here ready to write, I forgot what all that stuff was. I usually keep a small notepad with me to jot down things as they enter my mind, but I didn't think that was necessary, thanks to all that's happened this week.

So, with some degree of hesitation, here goes.

I thought MSNBC, FOX and CNN, were too much "in your face" this week with their coverage of, and lead up to the inauguration of President Barack Obama. Again, after I tired of listening to all those analysts telling me what I was watching — how stupid do they think I am? — I went back to the old reliable channel, C-Span. They let me watch without interruption, just the television set and me. No Matthews, no Olbermann, no Hannity, no Blitzer, no Wallace, no Greta, no Maddow, etc., etc. Then, when appropriate, C-Span let their viewers chime in with comments, observations, etc. It's almost like watching an event with friends in your home. I haven't been successful yet calling into C-Span, although I've tried several times. And I'll keep trying. Persistence pays off, so they say.

The media, as expected, is having a super stupid time playing up Chief Justice Roberts' confused wording of the oath of office rendered to President Obama. To make it official, Justice Roberts and President Obama re-staged the oath later in the day. How could the chief justice bumble on something like that?

Easy. Stop sometime and recite the words to The Star-Spangled Banner, **blocking out the tune**. Bet you can't, but if you can it'll take quite a while to achieve. Same thing with the oath of office, Justice Roberts knew the words, but hit a snag — probably a split second thought about the next word entered his mind throwing him off. No big deal!

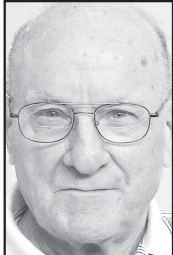
Robo, my friend of many years in the town I grew up in, wanted to know if he would live to be 80. He wasn't much for going to the doctor, been years since his last visit. So, Robo picked a doctor and made an appointment. After two visits and exhaustive lab tests, the doctor told Robo that he was doing "fairly well" for his age. A little concerned about that comment, Robo couldn't resist asking the doctor, "Do you think I'll live to be 80?"



To... the Norton County Arts Council, for the wonderful evening provided the community last Sunday. (e-mail)

To... the Norton County Arts Council, thanks for the program you brought to town last weekend. Very enjoyable! (called in)

### Good Evening Norton Tom Dreiling



The doctor asked Robo a series of questions, such as:

- "Do you smoke tobacco, or drink beer or wine?" Robo said no and added that he doesn't do drugs either.
- "Do you eat rib-eye steaks, t-bone steaks, hamburgers and barbecued ribs?" Robo said no
- "Do you spend a lot of time in the sun, like playing golf, sailing, hiking, or bicycling?" Robo answered no.
- "Do you gamble, drive fast cars, stay out late, and spent a lot of time with the ladies?" Robo said, "Heavens no!"

The doctor looked Robo and said, "Why do you want to live to be 80!"

You never know who is going to walk into the office. Wednesday afternoon, my niece Maria and husband Rod (Goetz) from the Victoria area, surprised me with a visit. They were in Norton on business and took advantage of that opportunity to drop by. Talk about making my day! The visit wasn't all that long, but we covered a lot of ground. It's been a while since I've been down their way and it was comforting to learn that all is going well in their household. Their oldest of their two daughters, Brittany, will graduate from Victoria High in May and she's sort of leaning in the K.U. direction, which I — being a staunch K-State Wildcat fan — can accept with reservations: one being that they move KU onto a reservation and never let them out!

The other daughter, Kayle (and if I misspelled it just consider my age) is a sophomore. Both girls are active in the Victoria Knights' basketball program.

That all said, thanks again, Maria and Rod, for stopping in.

The church bulletin wasn't overly specific, it only said, "Reminder: The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon."

Have a good evening! And as you make your way to the church of your choice this weekend, don't cast off too much clothing, but instead pile on more as the weatherman is calling for a real cold snap!

To.... Alta May Van Gundy, on your upcoming 104th birthday; your picture on the front page of the newspaper was very pretty. God bless you! (e-mail)

To.... Mrs. Van Gundy, 104 years! How great, how blessed. (regular mail)

To... the Norton County Arts Council Board, for providing us with entertainment that we don't need to leave town to see and hear. (e-mail)

(To salute someone, e-mail tom.d@nw-kansas.com, call 877-3361 or 877-6908, mail to 215 S. Kansas Ave. 67654 or drop by the office. No charge. And thanks for your continuing support. - td)

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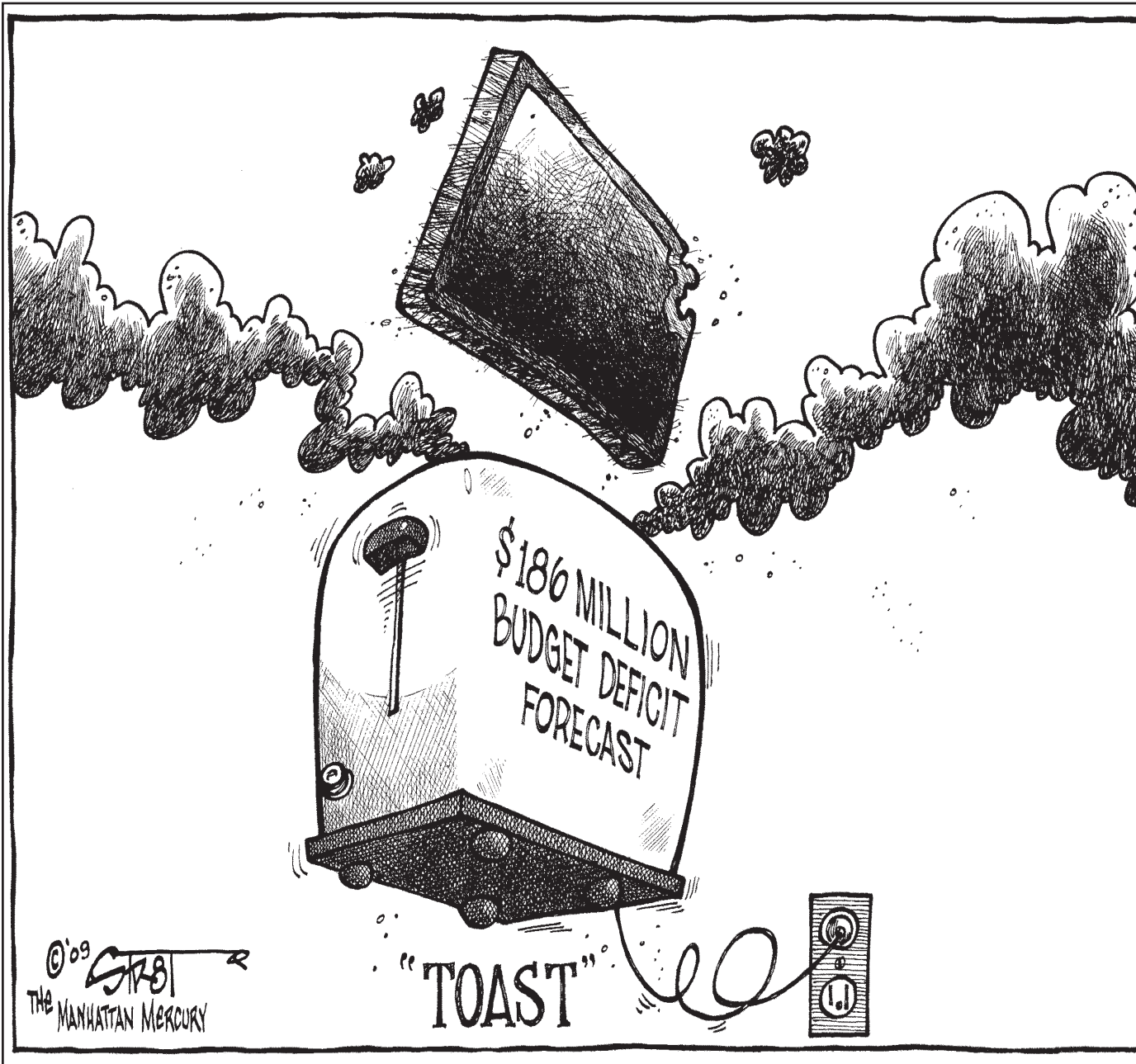
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## Sound Off!

## Something missing at last week's concerts

Sunday, Jan. 18 was a special day for Norton with two great concerts that COULD have been attended by many. I remember when it was exciting when guest artists came to Norton and we had many with the Arts Council and other groups.

Sunday, the Arts Council presented a male quartet at 3 p.m., and they were excellent; however, only a handful of people attended (several of that number came from Nebraska).

That evening the Norton Christian Church presented Bill Miller in piano concert, again not very many people attended. Those who attended one or both of these concerts were the winners.

The quartet is a seasoned and excellent quality group.

Bill Miller was a music professor at Norfolk Christian College for 41 years

## Attendance at concert embarrassing

The Norton County Arts Council board tries very hard to get programs that the Norton people will enjoy.

They surely did this last Sunday when they brought the 4-Star Quartet from Hays to Norton. It was a very entertaining concert, but there was a very small attendance, which makes it very embarrassing for the board and Norton.

You certainly would pay more than the \$5 that is charged if not a member of the Arts Council, if you were to go anywhere else. Please show your appreciation to the board by attending the concerts.

Georgia Rowh  
Norton

## New president has brought us lots of change

Obama's election has brought us change.

We changed from an administration that believed America was the greatest country in the world, and should be protected at any cost, to an administration that believes America is one of the world's problems, and is soft on terrorists.

I hope we survive.

R. W. Yeager  
Norton

### Memories Sonya Montgomery



and plays with expertise, the likes of which most of us have few opportunity to experience to hear. These performers made the listening enjoyable and entertaining.

One of the sad things I noticed was there were very, very few younger people there. PARENTS — bring your children to these events and expose them to great music, it will enrich your life and theirs. Most parents would not think of feeding their children only one food for them to

be healthy, and yet there are events that will help enrich their lives in the arts that are not attended. A variety of music can be very good.

I feel it makes the Norton area look bad when guest artists arrive for a performance and there are so few there to perform for. This has happened over and over the last few years. We may get, or already have, a reputation with the artists saying, "Don't go to Norton, there will not be people there to listen after you have prepared and driven a distance to perform".

Local people have worked hard to keep the Arts Council alive. Without your help we will not even have that group. I believe when the cultural events wain so does the entire community. We must have some of these events to lure people to come work and live in the Norton area.

## Historic, yes, but there is a concern

As I sit watching President-elect and Mrs. Obama leave the Episcopal Church in Washington, D.C., I am emotionally touched to see the sea of American flags being waved by millions of people and am very aware of how much our country has changed in the past 48 years.

From a time when a black man and a white man could not ride on the same bus, to today when a 'black' man is being inaugurated as President of the United States.

I do have a very serious concern about our new president's stand on 'LIFE.' In a speech to the Planned Parenthood Action Fund on July 27, 2007, then U.S. Senator Obama promised, "The first thing I'd do as president is sign the Freedom of Choice Act. That's the first thing that I'd do." The Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA) is congressional legislation designed to eliminate all federal, state and local curbs on abortion of any kind.

FOCA was crafted and introduced in 1993 at a time when some in Congress feared that Roe vs Wade might collapse from the weight of its own unconstitutionality and re-introduced in 1995. No action was taken until April 2007, after the Supreme Court's decision banning Partial Birth Abortion. Misrepresent-

ing itself as only a codification for Roe, FOCA provided that it would apply "...to every Federal, State and Local statute, ordinance, regulation, administrative order, policy, practice or other action enacted... before, on or after the date of enactment." (Helen Westover; Catholic Family News, Jan. 2008). FOCA will supersede all other laws' meaning, even the pittance of laws that antiabortion movements have been able to implement. It establishes the right to abortion as a "fundamental right" comparable to the right to vote or the right to free speech. FOCA does NOT give the 'baby' the right to life.

Please write our U.S. Representative and Senators and let them know, we as a nation, need them NOT to pass FOCA, which would increase abortions as much as 125,000 per year, destroying an entire society.

On his website, President Obama asks us to share with him our vision for America (www.change.gov/page/s/yourvision).

In a respectful way, tell him that babies should have the right to life. Ask him NOT to support FOCA or not sign the bill if it passes.

Gilbert & Carol Otter  
Norton

**Reminder:**  
**Deadline to file for city  
council, school board is  
noon Tuesday, January 27**