

Eve wants to get in on stimulus package, too

Eve, pointing, "I think with the stimulus package money, we should build a waterfall over in that corner of the garden."

Adam, with a puzzled look, "Just what in this lonesome world are you talking about?"

As I watched the House panel's grilling of the AIG's #1 man on Wednesday, I thought maybe what we next need is a citizens' panel to investigate why the 535 House and Senate members were apparently asleep at the wheel while all this mess was taking place. It just seems odd to me that we have 435 House members and 100 Senators and we end up in the mess we are in. Shame on all of them! They say they are "outraged." Maybe they should just confess that they are instead "embarrassed."

Rounded off, each of those senators and congressmen/women receive \$175,000 annually. That's a hefty payroll for a 'company' of just 535 people. Do the math, it comes out to \$93,625,000. They also have a solid retirement plan, healthcare program, and other perks. Kind of like you and I have. Hah!

Maybe I'm not being reasonable. Maybe they aren't being responsible. Or maybe President Barack Obama is finding it harder to CHANGE Washington because there is still too much old political machinery walking the hallways.

During the televised hearing, the AIG (American International Group) CEO said he was offended by some of the comments coming from the panel. Of course they jumped all over him for saying that. As a television viewer, I was also offended at the behavior of some of the congressmen. Of course they were playing to the television cameras because they knew constituents were watching.

AIG didn't act responsibly in the bonus controversy. Ditto Congress! They only came alive when this nightmare was exposed by the very people they don't mind criticizing — THE MEDIA!

And incidentally, isn't Congress the bunch that determines their own salary, usually late at night while you and I are sleeping?

Strange, isn't it, how we are their bosses, but have no say in what we pay them.

Did I mention term limits?

I also wonder if, in the papers that were being drawn up while our form of government was being debated, a line was included that said a majority of representatives must be lawyers. Ever see two of those in a courtroom setting?

Two guys were talking about exercising and the topic of walking came up.

"Heck, my dad was 60 before he started walking," said the first guy. "Really? How old is he now?" asked the second.

Let's Chat Tom Dreiling



"87," said the first. "Wow! How's his health?" asked the second. "Don't know," said the first, "haven't seen him since he started."

March Madness is underway! Yippee! I live for that season. I don't fill out those long detailed brackets. I pick only the final four and from that quartet, I determine the winner. It's that simple.

And how successful have I been? Well, let's just say I'm the guy standing on the street corner holding out a cup.

The 'early bird in political endorsements award' goes to Kansans for Life PAC, which Wednesday endorsed Republican Tim Huelskamp for First District Congressman, the seat being vacated by longtime Congressman Jerry Moran, who is seeking the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by Sen. Sam Brownback.

PAC chairman Chris Martinez, said in part, "Rarely does Kansans for Life PAC make endorsements this early, but Tim's stellar credentials, solid background, and consistent voting record deserve our immediate support. We are proud of this endorsement, and enthusiastically support Tim Huelskamp for his efforts to bring his conservative Kansas values to the U.S. Congress."

I admit to not knowing at this point in time who has filed for the seat. But I am sure there will be a large field of Republican candidates going after it. The First District, as you know, covers 69 of the state's 105 counties.

And due to Rep. Moran's popularity in our district, and productive output, he has been returned time and again with barely a challenge.

The election takes place in 2010.

A nursery school teacher was taking a car full of kids home one day. She moved the vehicle to the side of the street to allow a fire truck to pass. Sitting in the front seat of the truck was a Dalmatian dog.

The children started discussing the dog's duties.

"They use him to keep crowds back," said one child.

"No," said another, "he's just for good luck."

A third child brought the argument to a close. "They use the dog," he said firmly, "to find the fire hydrant."

Have a good evening! And this weekend, have the youngest child in the family car be responsible for directing you to the church of your choice.



Telegram's letter policy revisited

The Norton Telegram's *Letter to the Editor* policy includes the following:

- All letters hand delivered or sent by regular mail, must have a signature (typed names alone won't work).
- All letters must contain the name of the town of the writer (or if out in the country please use rural Norton, rural Almena, etc., etc.).
- All letters must contain a daytime telephone number (this is necessary for us to verify the letter we received was from the person whose name is attached).

These are all necessary for your protection and ours. On occasion we will receive a letter addressing a local issue

and in our quest to get it verified, will learn the writer used someone else's name.

Please keep letters short and to the point. The longer the letter, the less interest it generates. We will check your letter for typing errors, but will not fool with its content, because doing so we might alter your meaning.

Letters that demean one's character, or use unsubstantiated allegations (rumors), will go directly into 'file 13.' That is where unsigned letters also end up.

E-mail letters are easy and quick to verify, but should also contain name of town and daytime telephone number.

—Tom Dreiling, publisher

Letter deserves some kind of response

Iseldom answer letters to my columns but I decided to answer Denise Meyer. First, Ms. Meyer, thank you for your letter. I always appreciate someone who cares deeply enough to respond to an article they don't agree with, either through the newspaper, email or phone calls. I am grateful.

I do plead guilty on one charge, my reference to "throw the baby out with the bath water" was in poor taste and I apologize.

As for Dante's reference to neutrality, I claim absolute innocence. Our views may differ, but that is different from neutrality. I am anything but neutral.

Am I an avid abortionist? Absolutely not. Do I think abortion is the answer, definitely no.

Some say abortions need to be illegal because without them their handicapped child would have been aborted. Legalized abortion does not mean mandatory abortion. If the law is all that keeps someone from stealing, aborting or murdering, they have more than one problem to address.

On a personal level, I can't imagine any circumstance where I would have an abortion. For me it would be wrong, but I am not everyone. I have not walked in everyone's shoes.

The letter stated 48,589,993 babies have been aborted since the 1973 Roe vs. Wade. Two million children are beaten each year by a family member, this is 72 million since 1973. (Victim Assistance Program) For whatever reason, pregnant women decide to terminate their preg-

Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



Once again I say, let us not determine Governor Sebelius as unqualified for the Secretary of Health and Human Resources because of her stand on abortion. She has stated she personally feels abortion is wrong. We need to remember she was not elected to promote her personal beliefs, she was elected to represent our state.

She won her first term with a 53 percent to 45 percent margin over the closest contender; her second term was 58 percent to 40 percent. Her abortion beliefs were clear during both campaigns. Is our country better served with a candidate whose beliefs are clear or with an anti-abortion secretary who believes in allowing bonuses from failing financial institutions, or mandating personal beliefs from a political office?

Ms. Meyer, you and I agree Governor Sebelius has done much to bring compromise to our state. As for "one of the most challenging presidential administrations", perhaps that was when for the first time in recent history a president lost the popular vote, but won the electoral vote. We survived that administration and I believe, with a 53 percent to 46 percent margin, democracy will continue to rule.

May God bless this country and its many differing but accepting views, colors, religions and beliefs, for this is what will keep us strong, as a nation and as individuals.

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nancy, probably with reasons as varied as the fetuses they carry. In my ideal world there would be no abortions. I believe if we spent more time on education, strengthening families and confidence building, the number of abortions would decline. Trying to infuse a woman with guilt and judgment seems like a poor solution to me. To me the time for anti-abortion protests is before a child is ever conceived.

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), data from reporting areas reveals 62 percent of abortions occur before eight weeks. According to the March of Dimes, 40 percent of all pregnancies will terminate through miscarriage within the first 12 weeks. Only God knows which aborted pregnancies would have ultimately miscarried.

One thing I think needs clarifying and I think I speak for many when I say this. Just because someone is pro-choice does not mean they are pro-abortion. Abortion is never easy, never trivial. Perhaps the lasting damage is the emotional trauma it leaves with the woman. No one comes out a winner with abortion.

Class of 2004 parents)

To... Vickie Bailey and all others, involved in purchasing new playground equipment for Sebelius Lake. (e-mail)

To... all the Jumpin' Kids in our county; thanks for your efforts through the 'Jump Rope for Heart' program. (called in)

To... the young people who yell, "Give me an N, give me an O, give me an R, give me a T, give me an O, give me an N ... we need you to keep cheerleading at

our high school. Sign up in big numbers! (e-mail)

To... the BB gunners, you did OK; there's still a chance to advance. (called in)

(To submit a name or names, e-mail tom.d@nwkansan.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 input. - td)

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To... Joel Griffiths, for being named recipient of the J.L. Weigand Jr. Notre Dame Legal Education Trust Scholarship. Congratulations on your accomplishments and good luck at KU. (from the