

Here's our solution to closing Guantanamo Bay

What are we to do with Guantanamo Bay? Close it? Keep it? That's the issue facing President Obama, who — during his campaign — was adamant about shutting down the place called Gitmo and bring the several hundred detainees, or terrorists, or prisoners, or whatever, on to our soil.

Fort Leavenworth here in our state has been mentioned as a possibility. Of course that went over like a lead balloon with an extra slab of lead for good measure. The state's delegation in Washington is solid in their opposition to turning Fort Leavenworth into a home for those people.

Too, how many of those guys in Gitmo will eventually walk free once they are in our grasp in our land? Fearfully, one would be too many.

And because those who are planning the transfer from Gitmo keep eyeing prison facilities like Fort Leavenworth, we would offer this solution (sticking to the old rule that you keep your enemy at arm's length): leave them where they are but simply rename the place FORT GITMO!

That's one way to save millions of dollars, which it would probably cost to update and expand the facilities here at home to accommodate that bunch.

What do you think?

—Tom Dreiling

You asked, so here goes

A reader asked me last week why I hadn't addressed the Notre Dame invitation to President Obama to speak at the prestigious university's commencement. I really couldn't give a good answer. For the last couple of months we have listened to anti-abortion activists, including Catholic Church leaders, admonish Notre Dame leaders for asking this particular president to speak in the first place and for not rescinding the offer in the second.

Fortunately for all concerned the invitation was not withdrawn and President Obama did appear.

Why was he chosen? In a mock election held last November on the Notre Dame Campus, then candidate Obama was the choice by over 52 percent of the student body for U. S. President. The university's president said the young United States president was being honored for "breaking a racial barrier and his inspirational leadership — not for his positions on abortion or embryonic stem-cell research".

President Obama did not let me down. He acknowledged the intense passion felt by those on both sides of the abortion issue while insisting on the need for dialogue. This was the sensible approach as well as the civilized one.

Each person is a composite of many views on many subjects and Obama is no exception. There is much to be said about looking at the big picture. Do we judge Jesus only by His friendship with Mary Magdalene and her accompanying reputation? Did Jesus see her with only that in mind or did he see the overall beauty of her soul? Did He wage protests to change her career or did He use love and gentleness to influence her thoughts. I tend to think the latter.

Many of those who were protesting the president's invitation actually had little or no affiliation with the University. Protesters, to my way of thinking, really don't have any desire to change someone's mind; they merely want their own voice heard. What Obama brought to the table was the art of discussion, the exchange of ideas, and the respect of differing views. University of Notre Dame President Father John Jenkins is to be commended for focusing on the sum of one's being, i.e. the big picture and having the courage to stand firm amidst controversy.

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Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



Ah, the sounds of summer



You know summer is near when you hear the music coming from the mini ice cream van, as was the case last Friday afternoon. I didn't hear the music but the ladies up front did and alerted me of that fact. So, as the picture above shows, I bought the ice cream bars. Glen and Connie Ellis of Wolfie's BBQ operate the rolling ice cream machine and waiting on me was Connie. In one word — *deecelicious!* In two words, *come again!*

And then on Wednesday of this week, ice cream bars again showed up in the office, thanks to Sherry. And mornings we seem to always have a box of rolls, thanks to Dana. And Vicki's desk is a virtual candy machine.

Let's see, I'm diabetic, is there anything mentioned above that I shouldn't be eating?!

Let's Chat Tom Dreiling

In my 46 years in this business, I've had my share of comments, both pro and con, about what I write. I often wondered if people in my position actually influence anyone. Well, I need to wonder no more. I received the following note via e-mail from Denise Schmitz of our community. It reads:

"Tom: I have read your writings each week — and almost without fault you make a comment about going to church on the weekend. I have thought about going back many of times but always had an excuse...I was reading several weeks of papers on Saturday and thought, why not...Tom always is encouraging each of us to go. I listened to one of the most uplifting sermons and it touched my heart. I just wanted to let you know that your words gave me the gentle nudge that I needed and the Lord definitely had something to reach my soul. So thank you...oh and two of my friends went with me."

I would never have imagined that reminding my readers — at the end of my Friday column each week — to give church attendance some thought, would have this kind of influence. They say God works in strange ways. And it's comforting to know that He apparently also reads this column.

I was reading something about water safety a few days ago, inasmuch as we are entering that period of time when we are outdoors more than indoors, and one of the many safety tips offered was this: Do not swim if you have diarrhea. Gosh, I wish that would have been one of the posted tips when I was a kid swimming at the north playground pool in Hays.

By week's end, that place looked like the water streaming down Big Creek.

How often do you hear and read weather forecasts that hint of moisture, i. e., "Tonight there is a 20 percent chance for rain."

What that really means is there is an 80 percent chance it isn't going to do that. A 30 percent chance may sound better, but there's still that 70 percent thing.

I can recall printing a forecast for a Monday through Friday period, and

each day brought forth the 20 percent chance — 20 percent X 5 = 100 percent. And the week ended as it started, dry as a bone. But at least it holds out some hope. I guess.

Kris Allen was declared the American Idol in the final program this week. Some called it an upset. I didn't. I was pulling for Kris for the final four weeks of the show because I thought he came across as a thoughtful, sincere, down to earth performer.

I was always skeptical about runner up Adam Lambert's stage presence. Also, judges Paula and Simon practically canonized Adam in the weeks running up to the finals, and that might have figured in the public's voting. At one point in the final weeks Simon indicated this thing was all over, following a performance by Lambert. I'm not taking anything away from Adam because he is great. However, he'll have to pick himself up, dust himself off and seek more professional advice. We'll continue hearing from him.

A while back I received this brief note from resident June Prout: "I sure agree with Liza Deines 'Lumps in the Sauce'. Seems to me we have so many lumps that we should dump the whole mess and start over." For readers who might have forgotten, Liza, in her

column, tackled the illegal immigrant mess in our country. And she pulled no punches. It was, to me, one of her best efforts since I'm been reading her for 3 1/2 years. Carry on Liza, keep your mail coming, June.

Who was that man with the mustache and beard? I was watching a television report Thursday morning early about the closing of Guantanamo Bay. One of the people offering a comment said, in essence, "We don't want them (prisoners) in Kansas." The distinguished gentleman was Sen. Pat Roberts. Honestly, I didn't recognize him but I did recognize his voice. I like the new look!

Moses and the Red Sea

Ten-year-old Joey was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday School.

"Well, Mom, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his army build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then he radioed headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved."

"Now, Joey," his mother said, "is that really what your teacher taught you?"

"Well, no, Mom," he answered. "But, if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it."

Monday is Memorial Day. You know what it's all about. Please take time out to remember, to respect and to participate. That's not asking too much. May they all rest in peace.

Also, because this is a holiday weekend — sort of the beginning of summer, although the calendar will disagree — put safety right up there at the top of your list.

Have a good weekend! And when the church bells ring, make sure you hear them from the inside of your church; that'll mean you are on time.



Measure could be big blow to small radio stations

A bill recently passed by the U.S. House Judiciary Committee has the potential to devastate hometown radio stations like ours across America, threatening listeners' access to free music and depriving musicians of an unparalleled promotional platform. The Performance Rights Act, which is supported by the Recording Industry Association of America, would levy a new fee on local radio stations that air music free to listeners.

Radio broadcasters consider this legislation to be a performance tax — a government mandated fee that some estimate would transfer more than two billion dollars annually from local radio stations to big, foreign-owned record label conglomerates.

Local radio airplay is an artist's greatest promotional vehicle. Every week, local radio reaches 235 million Americans, exposure that translates into increased album, concert and merchandise sales. In fact, a recent study found that recording artists and their record labels reap between \$1.5 and \$2.4 billion in annual promotional value through free radio airplay, a conservative figure that actually excludes concert and merchandise revenue.

It is true that record labels are facing difficult economic times. Their business model is challenged, in part because through the advent of iTunes and Amazon.com, consumers can now download a single track for \$1.29 cents, rather than spend \$20 for an entire album of songs, many of which may be unwanted.

Rather than embrace digital technology, the major record labels first alienated a generation of fans by suing college kids who sought access to new music online. Now, the labels have chosen to threaten the viability of their artists' most important promotional tool: Free local radio.

All of the U.S. House members from Kansas signed a resolution opposing this tax. Senator Brownback is even the co-sponsor of the resolution on the Senate side. We applaud these members for taking a stand against the foreign-owned record labels, and supporting local radio stations and the listeners and musicians who benefit from free radio airplay. Staying silent on this issue could result in radio silence forever.

Marvin Matchett
Manager
KQNK AM FM
Norton

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THE NORTON TELEGRAM

ISSN 1063-701X

215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, KS 67654

Published each Tuesday and Friday by Haynes Publishing Co., 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, Kan. 67654. Periodicals mail postage paid at Norton, Kan. 67654.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Norton Telegram, 215 S. Kansas, Norton, Kan. 67654

Official newspaper of Norton and Norton County. Member of the Kansas Press Association, National Newspaper Association, and the Nebraska Press Association

Nor'West Newspapers

Dick and Mary Beth Boyd
Publishers, 1970-2002

Incorporating the Norton County Champion
Marion R. Krehbiel, editor

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8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.
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To... Sharon Leiker, for being named recipient of the Kansas Department of Corrections "Volunteer of the Year" award. (called in)
To... Toby Kuhn, for your continuing dedication and educational pursuits, despite all the work it takes to being a park ranger. (called in)
To... the Andbe Home folks, what a nice time that was! (e-mail)
To... Larry and Gloria, on your 50th wedding anniversary. (e-mail)
To... Northern Valley Elementary School, on your 'Fun Day' and for providing the results to The Telegram. (e-mail)
To... Frank Bouts, 'Happy 80th!' (called in)

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