

This week's rain pales when you think back a year

We received some beneficial rains earlier this week, measuring upwards of 3 to 5 inches, causing many of us to say, "Boy, it's been a long time since we've had rains like that!" Our memories are short, aren't they.

The Telegram's rainfall recorder, Karolyn Kingham northwest of town, received a total 4.75 inches of rain on Monday and Tuesday, May 25-26. Some others areas in the county and city had measurements around 5 inches and some even more.

However, gang, in 2008, on May 23 and 24 — Norton and Norton County were in the midsts of a terrible rain, wind and hail storm — Karolyn's gauge showed a total of 6.20 inches, while some other parts of the county recorded nearly 10 inches.

The leading front page headline in the paper screamed:

Strong winds, heavy rains a local pain
5-10 inches
close roadways,
inflict damage

The featured picture showed a camper submerged in the waters at Sebelius Lake, thanks to the heavy rainfall. It is our understanding that the camper to this day remains in the lake's bottom. We can, however, be thankful for the behavior of this week's rainfall. Nothing threatening, just a badly needed drink for all those growing things.

Let's Chat
Tom Dreiling



A husband and wife are shopping. The husband picks up a case of beer and puts it in the cart.

"What do you think you're doing?" asks the wife.

"They're on sale, only \$10 for 24 cans," he replies.

"Put them back, we can't afford them," demands the wife, and so they carry on shopping.

A few aisles further, the woman picks up a \$20 jar of face cream and puts it in the basket.

"What do you think you're doing?" asks the husband.

"Its my face cream. It makes me look beautiful," she replies.

Her husband retorts: "So does 24 cans of beer and its half the price."

The hospital reports his recovery is slow, but he'll live.

It's been somewhat on the cool side this week, but the weather folks promise swimming weather is closing in. Seems each year about the time the swimming pool is set to open, Mother Nature has other plans, and this year was no exception. So, all you splish-splashers, jump into your swimming gear and have at it!

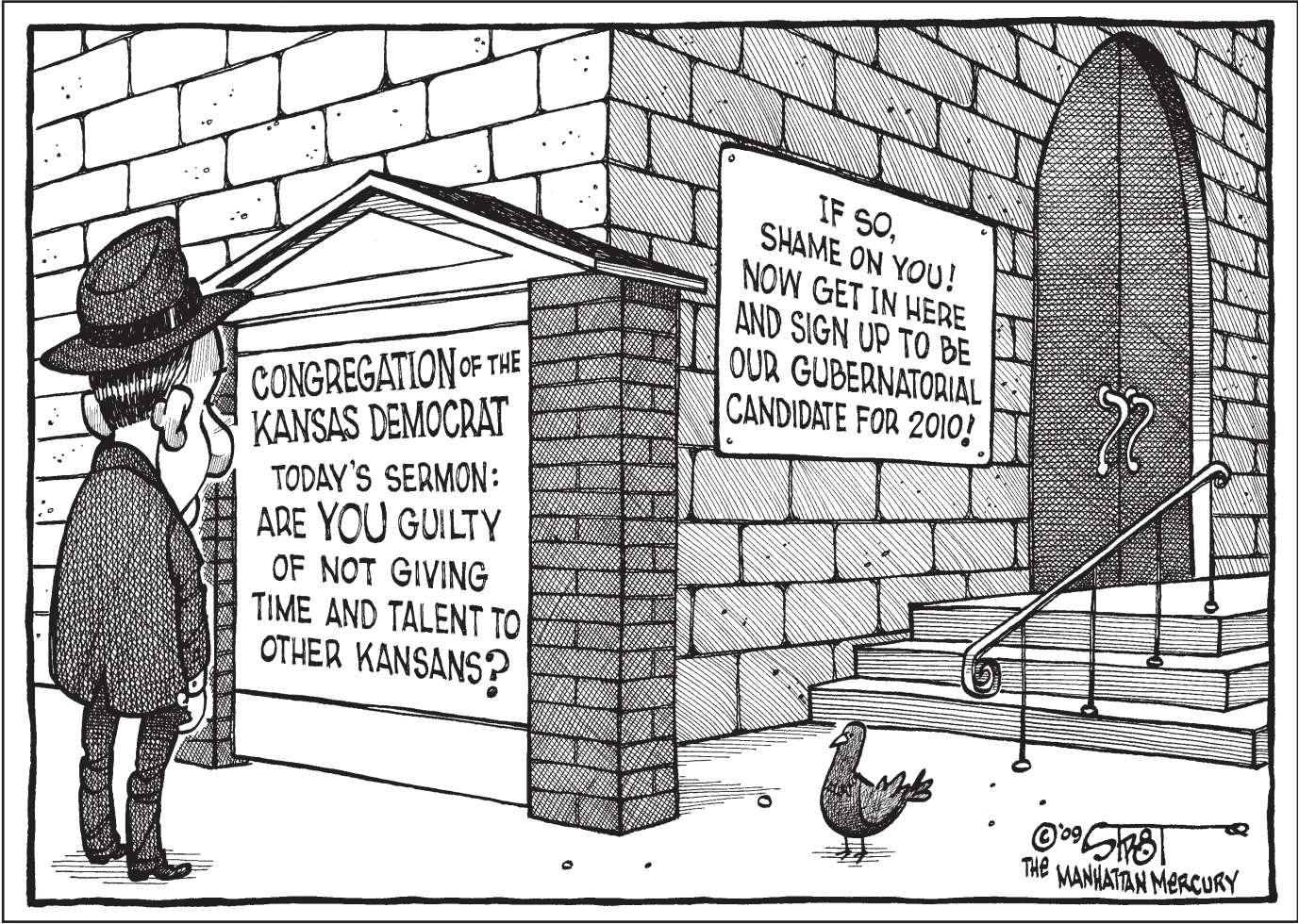
I see where a new law will be going into effect to correct a misconception as to the use of the left lane — passing lane — on our state's 4-lane highways. The left lane is for PASSING only; some people use it as though they have taken out a lease on it. How often have you seen drivers nesting in the left lane, many times driving at a reduced speed and forcing you to pass them on the right, and you hope they don't suddenly get the urge to try out the driving lane? Far too often. Well, I think it's July 1, patrolmen will be pulling you over and giving you a ticket if you decide to make the passing lane your own private drive.

I see where President Obama has picked Sonia Sotomayor to fill the vacancy on the United States Supreme Court. I don't know a thing about her, but something tells me I am going to learn more about her than I care to know, once the Senate confirmation hearings get underway, which they seem to think will be in July. These hearings can get really messy, to say the least. The one I recall most involved Justice Clarence Thomas. Boy, that had all the ingredients for a big screen x-rated movie. Hopefully, nominee Sotomayor's hearing won't go that route, but rather be of the caliber hearing conducted when Chief Justice Roberts faced the Senate panel and was confirmed easily. Not all nominees for this highest of judicial positions are confirmed, but something tells me this woman will pass the muster.

North Korea is acting stupid \again. It's hard to tell what they have up their sleeve, but the so-called tests conducted this week with their missiles just further isolates them from the rest of the world. The ailing North Korean dictator, who suffered a stroke earlier, just might be planning a big assault before he cashes in. They say his son will take over and that he's as ruthless and stupid as the old man. We need to surround that country with the biggest and most powerful weapons in our arsenal, and then send up some of our planes that can take care of a given situation at moment's notice, all carrying attached signs that read simply, "Just try it!" Those North Korean knuckleheads certainly know what their playing with. Then again, being as isolated as they are, maybe they don't.

Think! How often do we hear that word? Before we do this or do that we are advised to think! Well, I like this guy's approach. He says, "Every time I start thinking too much about how I look, I just find a Happy Hour and by the time I leave, I look just fine."

Have a good evening! And don't worry about how you look as you prepare to attend the church of your choice. You might be surprised at how many people don't



President's selection deserves applause

Sonia Sotomayor's nomination to the U.S. Supreme Court was a necessary move for President Obama. Not only was it imperative he select a woman, but choosing a Hispanic to fill the vacancy was wise both politically and for the country. More women than men populate the United States so it is a given that the highest court must be more representative of the general population of our country and this includes the representation of minorities.

Some conservative leaders have criticized Judge Sotomayor's nomination based on a statement she made saying a Latina would often "reach a better conclusion than a white male who hasn't lived that life". For this she is criticized? The old Indian proverb says don't criticize me until you have walked in my moccasins. I think it could also be translated as such, you understand better from my perspective than yours.

Are there more qualified individuals

Phase II
Mary Kay Woodyard



who could serve? How do we judge qualified? Is it the one with the highest scores, the most honors, the fewest overturned decisions? It is difficult to decide, but with the need for representation may have to come some give and take. One congressman said she has a "compelling story, but". We are made up of our awards and honors, of our education and our experiences. It is the combination of these factors which makes us qualified for certain positions and cements our opinions of daily life.

Not always does an appointee reflect or uphold the ideas of the president who

appointed them. The retiring Justice David Souter is a prime example. When George H.W. Bush selected him it was expected he would side with conservatives, but in actuality he became a better friend to liberals. Why? I like to think he saw his responsibility to be just what it is supposed to be, a definer/interpreter of the laws of our land, not of his own personal agenda. It is not easy to set aside one's beliefs, which judges across the land must do daily, but the U.S. Supreme Court must go even further. They look at issues from all sides, study our Constitution and try to the best of their abilities to interpret the laws of our country's founders. They uphold the freedoms which are the crux of this country's democracy. Whether Judge Sotomayor is confirmed remains to be seen, but her gender and her race and her accomplishments give reason to applaud her nomination.

(mkwoodyard@ruraltel.net)

Let's compare television now, television then

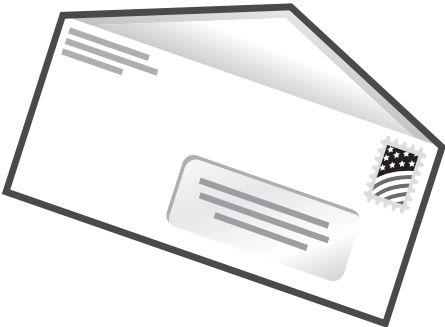
As I was yawning through another stack of mindless commercials, I got to thinking how our TV experience today compares with what we had when TV first became widespread.

Here's what I came up with.

Remember when TV first became popular and more easily accessible to the average person? The nineteen fifties were when it really became a factor in people's lives. The programs didn't have ratings; they were all safe for everyone to view. Parents didn't have to worry about their kids seeing something they shouldn't and programs were more fun then, i.e. really entertaining and not so horribly dark in their stories.

Most of them were only a half hour long. They were broadcast through the air and brought into the set through an antenna that each household had on the roof. And you didn't have to pay for them!

Commercials were only one minute long and came on about every fifteen minutes. Usually, they were only one product. Also, they weren't totally brainless. Does anyone remember the Old Home Bread commercials? Viewers actually waited



for these commercials to come on to get the next segment of the story they were telling. During a commercial, you could manage a trip to the bathroom or if you were fast enough, grab a quick snack and run to get back to the couch before the program came back on.

Of course the commercials always come on at a higher volume than the program, making you run for the volume knob on the TV (no remotes).

Now we have more channels than we know what to do with and we have to pay for them whether we want all of them or not. The programs have to be rated because their content is unsuitable for certain ages and even those that are rated OK

for adults are questionable viewing for anyone regardless of age. Most programs today lack healthy, fun and quality for the most part. What is considered "fun" in many cases is just a bunch of smart, silly one-liners that aren't always that great or (what is increasing and disturbing) seeing someone humiliated or physically hurt in some way to get a laugh.

They play the same commercials over and over and over and over and do it for month after month. Commercial time has increased a great deal in relation to program time.

Now, when the commercials come on, you not only have time for a trip to the bathroom, but you can put a load of clothes into the dryer, another into the washer, load the dishes into the dishwasher, make yourself a gourmet sandwich, and saunter into the living room in time for the program.

The only thing commercials today have in common with those of yesterday is that they still come on loud. Thank goodness for the mute button on the remote.

June Prout
(prout@ruraltel.net)

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Office hours:
8 a.m.- 5:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.
Phone: (785) 877-3361
Fax: (785) 877-3732
E-mail:
nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

STAFF

Tom Dreiling..... editor and publisher
Dana Paxton..... advertising director
Dick Boyd..... Blue Jay sports
Erica Bradley..... reporter
Sherry Hickman..... bookkeeping/circulation
Vicki Henderson..... computer production



Here's a way to get our country back on track

I have a fool proof plan that will get our country back on track by the end of the year, and from there, go on to be the great country we once were: recess Congress for the balance of this session, and maybe the next.

That way, the people that made our country great, not the government, could go about their business without interfer-

ence and meddling from the self-serving clowns and crooks in Washington that think they know everything, but actually know nothing except how to feather their own nests. If we have a terrorist attack, the military leaders can handle it better by themselves.

It would also be a big help if Obama and his LMC administration, (that's

Larry, Moe and Curly) would take a long vacation.

In the words of Ronald Reagan, an actual president, government is not the solution, it's the problem. Thank you.

R.W. Yeager
Norton
retired contractor

Residents give letter carriers 400 pounds of food

A big thank you to all who generously donated food items for our annual *Stamp Out Hunger* food drive. All items collected will be given to the local food pantry (God's Pantry) for distribution.

This year was the first, at least in recent history, that the Norton city letter carriers became involved with this project.

The local food bank, as well as those of surrounding counties, serve an ever increasing need. Changes in the economy can and do impact people and families, sometimes in a devastating way. Even the smallest contributions can go a long way in ensuring that no one has to go to bed hungry.

A total of 400 pounds of food items were collected on May 9.

We would like to also thank Elaine Mann from the pantry, and thanks again from your city letters carriers:

Connie Glenn
Mary Ellen Possom
Chris Noel