

Candidate could use some new advisors

Sen. John Kerry has probably the most inept council of advisors any presidential candidate has ever had.

They have him constantly refighting and reconstructing the Vietnam War — a war that in reality is something that many of the younger voters have never heard of. They wonder what his beef is all about, as well as the beef of those tossing rocks in his pathway to the White House.

John Kerry, the Democratic presidential candidate, tells us he has a plan. Whatever the issue he has a plan. But as of this date he has never detailed any of his plans, causing us to wonder if he, in fact, has any vision for the future.

He knows what he has done in the past 30 or 40 years as it relates to Vietnam, and how he voted on crucial issues that are coming back now to haunt him. But he just doesn't get it. He fails to attack the issues and prescribe treatment.

Health care. Does he care?
Jobs. What about them?
Social Security. How secure?
Prescription drugs for the elderly. No cure?
The list could fill the paper. Add your own.

Polls — and yes everybody pays attention to polls, even those politicians who say they don't — show that Kerry is losing ground. The polls further show that he is ignoring the issues that touch the hearts of most Americans.

It may be a bit too late, but John Kerry would best be served by kicking out whoever is guiding his ship and get a new captain and crew. And if they continue to think the mere performance at the debates will save the day, there will be a lot of disappointed Democrats come Nov. 2.

Democrats on Capitol Hill are worried. They spin it well, but behind the spin are frowns and frustration. They know the Democrat has fallen behind substantially and it will be a game of catch-up from here to election day.

Bush wins if we vote today. Or tomorrow. Or Nov. 2. And he wins because Sen. Kerry got bogged down in a fight that took place before a lot of voters were even born.

What is there not to understand? — Tom A. Dreiling



A mother's love is like no other

My mother was born on Sept. 21, 1904, one hundred years ago, over 36,500 days, an equal number of sunrises and sunsets. With each day came a little joy and a little sorrow; some days exhibiting more of one than the other, and she survives.

Some would ask, what has contributed to her longevity. I tell her it is the late in life baby (me) who has increased her life span; something I'm sure at times she questions.

Recent studies say a glass of wine each night may strengthen your heart and lengthen your life. Mother has never tasted wine so I'm not sure what that implies. They also say aspirin may increase your life expectancy. Over her lifetime she has probably taken an average of a bottle a month, so there may be some truth to that one.

Walking is known to be beneficial and she began before it was the "in" thing. I can remember as a child she would walk from the house to the windmill and back. I'm sure when you were cooking for umpteen hired hands or teaching, being a farmer's wife and a mother one might need something for stress management and that was hers and she survives.

We hear a lot about burnout these days. I'm not sure when the term entered our vocabulary, but something tells me it was after the birth of the industrial age. And if people ever had a reason to feel burnout the Great Depression and Dust Bowl Days

Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



were it. And to be sure some people gave up in one way or another, but she survives.

Not a lot was said about insomnia before then either. No one paid much attention to how much sleep you should get. You went to bed when there was no more light or when you were tired and got up when the cows needed to be milked. I imagine after all the work one didn't have too much trouble sleeping.

At same time though, people's level of coping was tested many times. Many families lost infants and children and new mothers; many areas were almost eliminated by the flu epidemic and she survives.

If I was to isolate one quality of my mother's that I think has contributed to her life, it is her attitude. I can only remember one or two times when my mother was truly angry or least times when she displayed it. Her attitude was and is, get it together, get the job done and move on. A prime example of this was when my aunt, her sister died. They were not just sisters but best friends. For all but seven

years they lived in the same town and talked to each other almost everyday. When I had to tell her my aunt had died. She stood quietly for a moment, then turned and said, "Well, we have work to be done. We'd better get home and get started calling people."

She responded to my father's unexpected death in the same way. All of her children were living far away, she was in Kansas City, but she knew what had to be done because, typical of her nature, she had read in a magazine what to do when a loved one dies away from home. And she survives.

Over the years she has touched not just family member's lives, but those of countless children who have been the recipients of her love of teaching. She has received cards from all over from former students and fellow teachers. All but one of her nieces and nephews attended her party, coming from distances of California and Michigan, and many of them are in their eighties themselves.

She has seen world wars and conflicts, she has seen times of greater affluence and less, she has seen personal joys and private sorrows and she survives. What does this say to those of us who are younger? It says life is what we make of it. We cannot always change our circumstances. We cannot always make life better, but through everything we can remain hopeful and persevere just as she has, and she survives.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: Election candidates need a closer look

Letter to the Editor:

I have always been someone who voted in elections.

Lately, the whole mumbo-jumbo turns me off. Information released by one candidate on another too late to refute the claims may have cost an election.

It would be interesting to know who was so careful with the timing that the Christian Coalition surveys were put out so close to election.

Do the surveys allow a chance for anyone to think about responses and to answer completely on their stand on important issues? Do they require such black and white answers that they are deceiving?

When some newcomers were running for commissioner positions, I thought it was good that more people were interested in our county situation. Now, I am not so sure that was the intent.

I, for one, have been proud of our county attorney and county commissioners for taking on the "big dogs" over our quality of life in Norton County.

I would ask anyone who votes to take a careful look at the issues, both long term

and immediate. If you are thinking about voting for someone to represent you, ask them who is providing money for the campaign, and what they are going to be asked to support.

Is the money provider someone with special interests? Are they concerned with the long-range water situation? Will our county be a place where our kids will want to come back to, and if they want to come back will the water support future agriculture?

Do the candidates realize they are to represent the majority of their constituents rather than a few? Is one of the primary planners not even a Norton County resident?

I can appreciate the right of anyone to make a living and I don't know how the line can be drawn between self-interest and the good of the average citizens and their rights to have breathable air and drinkable water.

These are just a few thoughts I throw out for consideration.

Sincerely,
Laura L. Craig
Almena

People have different ways to applaud

I watched the Republican Convention when I was able to and I have enjoyed the speeches, but that's not what this column is about, although I did think about writing about that.

One thing I noticed during the convention was the applause which made me think about the different ways people use their hands and arms in applauding others.

When we go to sports events, we wave and holler. It seems to go together. We use our arms, usually outstretched, and it seems our entire body; sometimes we even have to hit the person next to us with our hands because we are so excited when our team scores or even when they make

Memories Sonya Montgomery



an excellent play.

When we sing, sometimes we keep beat with our hands. I might embarrass some around me at that time because I think you should clap on the off beat and most people clap on the beat.

I have observed enthusiastic out-

stretched hands that are applauding. Then, sometimes, there are people who look a little bored or tired and probably make no sound with their hands, but they appear to be applauding. It makes me think they are not enjoying life very much.

Then there is the dainty lady with small hands with little short claps.

Some people move both hands when they applaud, while some move only one hand and bring it to the other hand. Some heads keep time with the hands in an affirmative motion.

However you applaud, do it often when you agree with people or appreciate their performances. To me, it is one of our most precious emotions.

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

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

ISSN 1063-701X
215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, KS 67654
Published each Wednesday 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, Norton, Kan. 67654
Official newspaper of Norton and Norton County. Member of the Kansas Press Association, National Newspaper Association, and the Nebraska Press Association

STAFF
Cynthia Haynes editor and publisher
Veronica Monier staff reporter
Dick Boyd Blue Jay sports
Carolyn Plotts society editor
Kristen Brands reporter
Carol Erlenbusch advertising rep.
Bill Eckhart advertising rep.
Vicki Henderson computer production
Susie Marble computer production
Sonya Montgomery bookkeeping

Nor'West Newspapers
Dick and Mary Beth Boyd
Publishers, 1970-2002
Incorporating the Norton County Champion
Marion R. Krehbiel, editor



LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Norton makes racers welcome with hard work, support

Letter to the Editor:
The Colorado Vintage Oval Racers (CVOR) wish to thank the town of Norton, Kansas for your friendship and support of the vintage racing weekend hosted by your wonderful community Saturday and Sunday Sept. 4 and 5.

The program, spearheaded by local Norton race fans Jerry Bantam and Don McMullen is quickly becoming one of the

premiere vintage racing events in the country.

Because of the tremendous support of Norton business owners, the two-day program showcases the town of Norton, Kansas as a wonderful community with the friendliest and most helpful people we've ever encountered.

Vintage racing enthusiast appreciates traveling to a community that supports

our sport.

The town of Norton shines because of the hard work of Don McMullen, Jerry Bantam and the citizens and business community of Norton, Kansas. If we are invited back in 2005, it will be our pleasure to visit you once again.

Sincerely,
Skip Roberts President,
Colorado Vintage Oval Racers