

## It's time to deal with post election issues

Now that the election is behind us, every talking head and pounding pen will be telling us what it means. No, they already are. Liberal commentators, which is most of them on television and at big newspapers, news magazines and in public broadcasting, know that the nation continues on the road to ruin. The vile Republicans will lead us to financial and foreign disaster, just as they have the last four years. But, hey, their side lost. Conservatives, at newspapers, on talk radio and a few tokens on television, will say the vote was a victory for moral values and tax cutting. They won, but only by 3 percent. This is no mandate. It's going to take more than five votes in the Senate to get much done. Democrats will still try to block President George Bush's judicial appointments, and their votes and cooperation will be needed to get anything passed. GOP leaders can't run the House with the iron fist speakers of yore. Sam Rayburn has been dead for years. Our own Rep. Jerry Moran has defied the leadership more than once, and good for him.

But Republican tax policies are aimed at the two-income, working families that makes up the bulk of the American middle class. These are the people who Democrats write off as "rich" and want to tax.

And, yes, the Republicans favor business, too. As the economy continues to grow, that should pay off in more jobs and robust growth.

Phony charges apparently did not stick to Mr. Bush — the youth vote did not turn out against a make-believe threat of a Republican draft — but the president still has to deal with Iraq and the war on terror.

It's far from clear that he can resolve Iraq by the end of his term. The terrorist threat is likely to outlast the next president, though, and all he can do there is make a good start.

Mr. Bush has had his foreign policy successes as well, and he needs to capitalize on those, as he did with Libya.

On the domestic front, it wasn't his policies that put the country in a recession. That started under Bill Clinton, runnings its course, and turning around, under Mr. Bush. He will need to deal with the growing deficit. That means there can be no expensive new initiatives until the economy is a lot better and the war winds down.

Both sides, the fighting Republicans, and the social-spending-but-deficit-hating Democrats, will have to accept that.

The country will go on, and Congress will remain bogged down, evading decisions on most issues until they become a crisis. The bureaucracy will continue to push for more and more regulations, from the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act to the dishonestly named Patriot Act to No Child Left Behind.

With luck, though, gridlock will slow the growth of government that neither party seems capable of dealing with.

And life will go on.

That's what the election means.

— Steve Haynes

## ELECTED OFFICIALS:

- ★ Governor Kathleen Sebelius, Washington, D.C. 20510. 300 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, Kan. (202) 224-6521 66612. (785) 296-2332
- ★ U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran, 1519 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. (202) 225-2715
- ★ U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts, 109 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 224-4774; fax (202) 224-3514
- ★ U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback, 303 Hart Senate Office Building,

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

### STAFF

- Cynthia Haynes ..... editor and publisher
- Veronica Monier ..... staff reporter
- Dick Boyd ..... Blue Jay sports
- Carolyn Plotts ..... society editor
- Sherry Hickman ..... circulation
- Carol Erlenbusch ..... 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



## Remembrances make eyes a bit misty

Thursday is Veterans Day. For the last two weeks, I have been interviewing World War II veterans and writing brief stories of their remembrances, experiences and opinions. These little slices of their lives will be printed in a special section of the paper this week.

I am too young to remember that war. Vietnam was "my" war. However, I remember my folks talking of sugar and tire rationing, the war effort and War Bonds. My mother was a columnist all during those years, and her perspective of the war was representative of the country's support of their military.

In 1944, my brother Jim was only 4. Mom wrote, "Jimmy has about as good an idea for disposing of Hitler as any. He says, 'If I ever get ahold of Hitler, I know what I'd do. I'd just tell him to smell of my gun barrel, and then when he got his face up close, I'd just pull the trigger.' That simple."

I have five brothers and a sister. Everyone was involved in doing their part. In this column from 1942, it's apparent how much impact it had on the kids. She wrote, "Gee whiz, Bill," said young Dick as he watched his brother sugar his oatmeal. "You put a whole machine-gun shell on there."

Another column from 1942 reflected how men viewed their commitment to the war: "A young lady was feeling sorry for her brother, who had just enlisted, and asked him if he didn't wish he were being sent somewhere else than so close to the

### Out Back

Carolyn Plotts



danger zone. He settled the question quite simply. 'That's not the idea,' he said."

Later that year she wrote: "Then there is this matter of sacrificing till it hurts... no matter how much money a family has or does not have, if they have a boy in the Army or the Navy or any other branch of the service, they truly are giving till it hurts."

If anybody had a "can do" attitude, it way my mother. In 1943, she wrote, "I heard someone say, a few days ago, 'Maybe this is the last Christmas we'll ever have.' But there are millions of boys, in Ireland, Australia, Alaska, Africa or in training camps from coast to coast, that are seeing to it that we shall (have Christmas again). We hope these boys had all the turkey and fixin's they could eat, that the packages and letters they were hoping for arrived on time, and that with the New Year, they may start a victorious march that will stop only in the streets of Berlin and Tokyo. And let's hear no more of this, 'Maybe there won't be any next year' stuff. What we will to accomplish, we will accomplish."

In May of 1945, right after V-E Day, she wrote about the mostly quiet celebrations. "...people everywhere are figuring up how many points their boys have, and hoping they will be the lucky ones."

When news of the atrocities of Nazi concentration camps began to reach the States, she wrote, "I've been trying to read 'Dachau: Experimental Murder,' a magazine article. It took three different tries... It's hard to read, it's hard to believe. We find it hard to believe things we read in magazines, maybe think they are even exaggerated, but a letter from a boy we know... that we believe unhesitatingly, and we know it must be true. Anyway, after thinking about the horrors of the other world, doesn't a June morning in Kansas look nice and clean and bright?"

Finally, at the end of the war she wrote, "So all's said that can be said, but along with everybody else, we're doggoned glad to see the boys begin to come home. Now we will begin to see how patriotic some people really are. Will they be willing to move over and make room for the serviceman who wants a job, or wants to farm or go into business?"

If I got a little misty while writing those brave men's stories, I'll not apologize. I learned patriotism where I was supposed to, at home, from a good teacher.

And to the men and women of World War II and all subsequent wars, including the present one, I honor you, I salute you and I thank you.

## Email is humorous in an unfunny way

An interesting e-mail was circulated this past week. I often wonder when people send e-mails if they realize what they are saying or if they give it any thought at all.

My brother is great about checking on the validity of e-mails and I know when I get something from him, it is valid. But the one someone passed on this week was not one to check for facts; it wasn't one to help you learn; it was designed as hate mail and even more disconcerting, it was done in the name of Christianity.

Now I realize I have addressed this issue before, but I was so stunned by the content of this e-mail I must say something about it. When reading it one wonders if these people value Christianity or democracy. It said:

"If you don't vote this week you will have sinned. And if you vote for Kerry you will have committed a greater sin."

I, like most people, had a preference for the election, but unlike the originator of

### Phase II

Mary Kay Woodyard



the above e-mail I value deeply democracy and freedom of speech and religion.

I had to chuckle just a bit when the body of the e-mail was followed by quotations from famous or infamous individuals. Two of the quotes were from Constitution writers who didn't even believe in Jesus as a savior, but I'm sure my sender didn't know that.

I'm sure there is a great deal the sender didn't know. I'm sure if they had read their Bible they would know God said all sins are equal in His eyes so that little mark next to Kerry's name probably wouldn't have sent me to hell — unless receiving

emails is the equivalent of cyberhell.

And then we're back to judge and jury. Don't you bet Jesus just cringes when he hears us announce who has sinned.

I still think it was said, "Judge not lest ye be judged", but then perfection I guess is in the fingers of the sender.

And then there is the idea of democracy. You know that old thing where every vote counts and we have the freedom of choice. The two-party system is alive and well and fairly evenly divided.

The wonderful thing is it didn't make me mad; the bad thing is it didn't even make me sad.

I really found it quite humorous that someone would believe fear was their strongest weapon. And that God needed their interpretation and help to determine who was going where and when.

Oh well, when your arsenal of knowledge is so limited what else could you do — try reading the Bible and the Constitution for a start.

## WRITE:

The Norton Telegram encourages Letters to the Editor on any topic of public interest. Letters should be brief, clear and to the point. They must be signed and carry the address and phone number of the author.

We do not publish anonymous letters. We sign our opinions and expect readers to do likewise.

We do not publish form letters or letters about topics which do not pertain to our area. Thank-yous should be submitted to

the Want Ad desk.

Letters will not be censored, but will be read and edited for form and style, clarity, length and legality. We will not publish attacks on private individuals or businesses which do not pertain to a public issue.