

The argument goes back and forth on Social Security

Do we really need to do something with Social Security? The answer to that question depends on who you are talking to. The aging bunch says, "No! No! No!" Those just beginning to climb life's business ladder and looking beyond tomorrow say, "Makes sense that we do." The aging bunch, those just a hop, skip and jump away from reaching out for their Social Security benefits are uncomfortable with plans being tossed around. They have seen Social Security do its job. They fear any tinkering, or adjusting, will certainly spell trouble. They aren't about to become some part of an *experiment*.

Those who are now on Social Security need not worry. They have been assured anything coming down the pike in the way of change won't affect them.

The younger crowd, with a lifetime ahead, are much like we were in our younger years — not overly concerned with retirement. And because they are used to seeing change — and what change they have seen in such a short time — they are more willing to gamble a portion of their Social Security earnings on investments shepherded by the government.

We all have our own reasons for supporting or rejecting whatever course those in charge vote to adopt.

So, it's out of our hands? Certainly not.

Maybe, just maybe, you should keep updated on the debate soon to fill the Chamber of the United States Senate and the House of Representatives. And then, if you approve or dislike what is being said, get involved. Write, call, fax, email your representative, your senators. They listen.

You can get a jump by voicing your opinion now as to whether you want them to revamp the system or keep their hands off.

Here's how:

U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran, 1st District, 1519 Longworth Office Building, Washington, DC 20515; phone (202) 225-2715; or email him at jerry.moran@mail.house.gov.

U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts, 109 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510. Phone (202) 224-4774. Email pat_roberts@roberts.senate.gov.

U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback, 303 Hart Office Building, Washington, DC 20510. Phone (202) 224-6521. www.senate.gov/~brownback/ email.html.

Or if you want to go to the top, email President Bush at president@whitehouse.gov, and Vice President Dick Cheney at vice.president@whitehouse.gov.

Regular mail to: President George W. Bush, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, DC 20500, phone (202) 456-1414, fax (202) 456-2461.

None of them will know how you feel...unless you tell them.

So, tell them!

— Tom Dreiling

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: Mail causes newspapers to be slow

To the Editor: Thank you for sending some of the copies which we had not received.

I spoke with Mrs. Montgomery and asked for a copy from legal items for settling estate of Wanda Mae Vinson. Perhaps it will be coming under separate cover.

My check enclosed for one-year sub-

scription.

It seems to be impossible to receive issues in a timely manner. Perhaps one today and four or five in about ten days. It is very discouraging.

Wanda Kent
1137 E. Glencove St.
Mesa, Ariz. 85203

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.

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.

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, 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

Office hours:

8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.

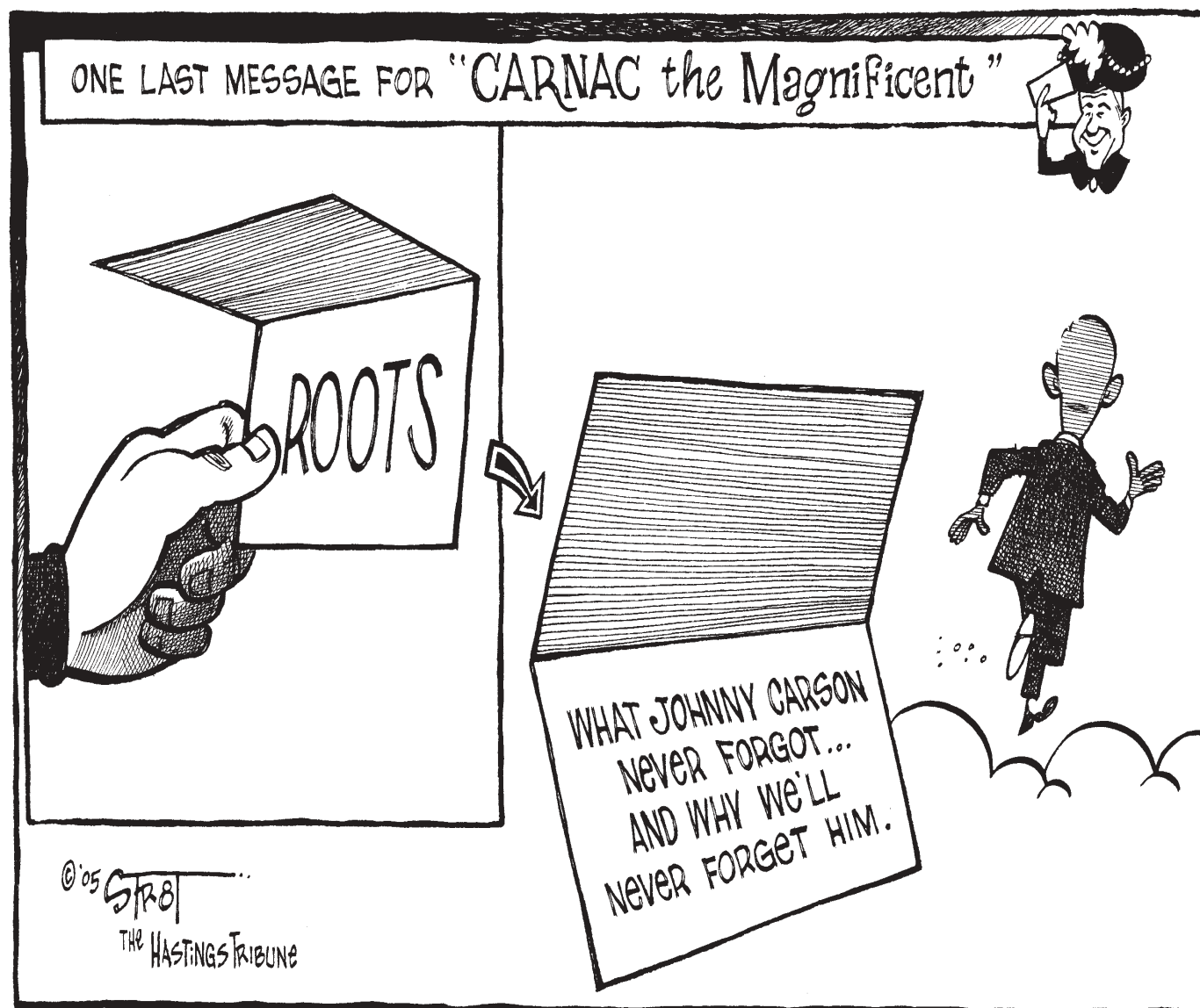
Phone: (785) 877-3361

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.
Eric Weeden advertising rep.
Vicki Henderson computer production
Susie Marble computer production
Sonya Montgomery bookkeeping



Politicians could learn from friends

I have an "old" friend, a very dear friend. We started school together. She was a bridesmaid at our wedding. She lives far away and twice a year when she returns for a visit we have long wonderful lunches together.

Cindy graciously allows us three to four hours in a booth as we have lunch and fight over the last piece of coconut cream pie. Our love of this particular piece of pie is probably the last thing we agree upon. On almost every thing else we are 180 degrees apart.

Some people would say, well you can't be that good of friends if you don't agree on anything. Right? Wrong! That is exactly what makes our friendship so valuable. We agree to disagree and we respect each other's right to have an opinion.

It is fear and uncertainty that forbids people from engaging in discussions without becoming angry. This woman and I discuss all topics without resorting

Phase II

Mary Kay
Woodyard



to personal attacks. We each know we probably won't change the other's mind, but we do know we will be challenged to rethink our own stand and it will be strengthened by good healthy analysis. We don't have to agree we just have to respect each other's right to have an opposite opinion.

As the country prepares for another session of Congress, I wish our politicians could adopt some of these "skills" on their way to office. Years ago we called them Statesmen. The party lines could blend a

bit for the betterment of our people. We didn't have to play the "I'll take my marbles and go home if you don't play the game my way." Now we have politicians focused on the betterment of the party, and it doesn't matter which party, both are equally guilty. We don't expect them to be our role model; we expect them to do their job, just like we expect our lawyer, grocer or plumber to do theirs. Basically, can you do the job I have elected you to do?

Can you have good healthy analysis of the many problems facing this country without being disrespectful of another opinion? Can you agree to disagree and do it with grace and eloquence?

My friend and I could teach our politicians the road to becoming a statesman and a great deal about good healthy discussion. I bet Cindy would even throw in an extra piece of coconut cream pie for the asking.

Congressman tries to slow beef imports

President Bush Inaugurated in Washington, D.C.

On Jan. 20, President George W. Bush was inaugurated to his second term as our country's 43rd president. With the president's second term under way, I hope that Congress and our country are able to put aside the partisan differences that were prevalent throughout the past election year.

I look forward to working with the president in his second term on the issues that are important to states like Kansas, which helped him to be re-elected.

Canadian Beef Imports

This week, I called on the U.S. Department of Agriculture to postpone allowing Canadian beef imports until a better understanding of the risks to America beef producers can be reached. Over the past few weeks, Canada has announced three separate, confirmed cases of BSE.

The department will be sending a team to Canada to investigate that country's compliance with a 1997 ban on the use of feed containing materials from cattle at risk of having BSE. While the U.S. and Canada have similar feed ban regulations, recent reports indicate that the feed ban may have been violated, expanding the risk of BSE in Canadian cattle. It is important that the department fully investigate the effectiveness of the feed ban in Canada before opening these markets. The health of the American beef industry, and the ability to regain export markets, cannot be put at risk.

The department has done a tremendous job of keeping the industry safe from BSE, but before we reopen the borders, an investigation should be completed to ensure that this level of safety will continue.

I also encouraged the department to continue efforts to reopen beef exports to Japan. The Japanese export market accounted for over \$1.39 billion in American exports in 2003.

Remembering Greenwood County Sheriff Matthew H. Samuels

On Sunday, I joined friends and family of Sheriff Matthew "Matt" Samuels at his

Capitol Views

Rep. Jerry Moran



funeral in Eureka. Sheriff Samuels was a lifelong public servant whose life was tragically cut short. On Wednesday, Jan. 19, Sheriff Samuels was serving a warrant at a home north of Virgil when he was shot.

My family and I offer our deepest sympathy to the Samuels family for their loss. Words cannot express the sadness that comes with losing a loved one, especially under these circumstances. People in Greenwood County lost more than just a community leader, role model and hero. However, Sheriff Samuels' death is not in vain and is a stark reminder of the need to redouble our efforts to combat the rising meth problem that faces our rural communities. This is an issue that I have been especially concerned about, and I will continue working to ensure that our law enforcement officers have all the tools necessary to combat the rise of meth use in Kansas.

However, today, the rest of Kansas joins Greenwood County in mourning the loss of Sheriff Samuels.

Learning About Pratt Community College

This week, I joined President William Wojciechowski of the Pratt Community College, for a meeting to learn more about the advancements being made to offer courses and education to people in central Kansas. During the hour-long meeting, we discussed the college's automotive technology, ag power technology and nursing education departments.

I also had the opportunity to meet with students in the American Government class and discussed my role as a Member of Congress. We talked about the future of Kansas, the current state of the nation,

as well as issues that Congress will be considering in 2005.

Also while in Pratt, I joined Ken Brown and Susan Page of the Pratt County Medical Center for the Pratt Rotary Club Meeting.

Meeting with Officials at the Cloud County Community College

Education issues were also the topic of conversation during my meeting on Friday with President George Knox, of Cloud County Community College in Concordia. We discussed what can be done for President Knox to advance the college's Title III funding application. The college would like to use the funding to enhance academic programs relating to their nursing education, criminal justice and journalism programs. Additionally, we discussed the important issues surrounding the Perkins and Pell grant programs.

Following my meeting with President Knox, I joined students, faculty and community leaders for a tour of the campus and facilities.

Fort Hays State University to Expand Distance Learning in Salina

Also on Friday, I joined the President of Fort Hays State University, Dr. Ed Hammond, to announce a new partnership between the university and the Smoky Hills/Central Kansas Education Development Center to give central Kansas residents greater access to higher education.

The interactive television system was launched three years ago, linking classrooms at six community colleges to the university. The Salina location will be the newest site. This partnership is possible through funding I helped to obtain through the Department of Education. The course offerings will be both undergraduate and graduate level courses in everything from education to nursing.

Executive Director of the Central Kansas Education Development Center Rita Cook joined us for the event along with Dennis King, director of the university's Virtual College and Learning Technologies.