

Editorial on forgiveness wins mention in national association

"But, I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you." — Matthew 6:44.

In church, we pray for those we love, those who are sick, our leaders, our families and ourselves.

Why don't we ever pray for people who hate us, or people we dislike?

There's nothing wrong with praying for your aunt who has cancer or for our parents and grandparents who have died.

It's not a bad thing to pray for the president, governor and mayor. They need all the help they can get. The same goes for ministers, priests and other clergy.

Petitions for health and prosperity for ourselves may be a little self-seeking, but we were told to ask.

And there's certainly nothing wrong with asking for help when we have a big test, when our marriage is in trouble, when we have a problem we don't know how to solve or when we're sick or lonely or desperate.

These are all good things.

But why don't we pray for Osama bin Laden? Now there's a guy who needs more help than you, me or the entire U.S. Army can provide.

The same goes for Kim Chong-il, the leader of North Korea. He has an inferiority complex that would scare anyone. He needs lots of help, and a little divine guidance wouldn't hurt.

These are the "bad guys." We don't like them because they have hurt and killed people. They hate us just because we exist. They're not "nice folks" and no one would want them to live in the neighborhood.

But that's not the point. We don't have to like them or what they do. Maybe we need to pray that they will change. We need to pray that they will stop hating and hurting both themselves and others.

The same thing goes for the little hurts, discomforts, annoyances and pains in life, too.

Next time you step on a piece of gum on the sidewalk, pray for the kid who spit it out.

Think nice thoughts, even if it kills you, about the people who mow their lawn at 6 a.m., allow their dog to do its job on your grass or steal your lawn ornaments.

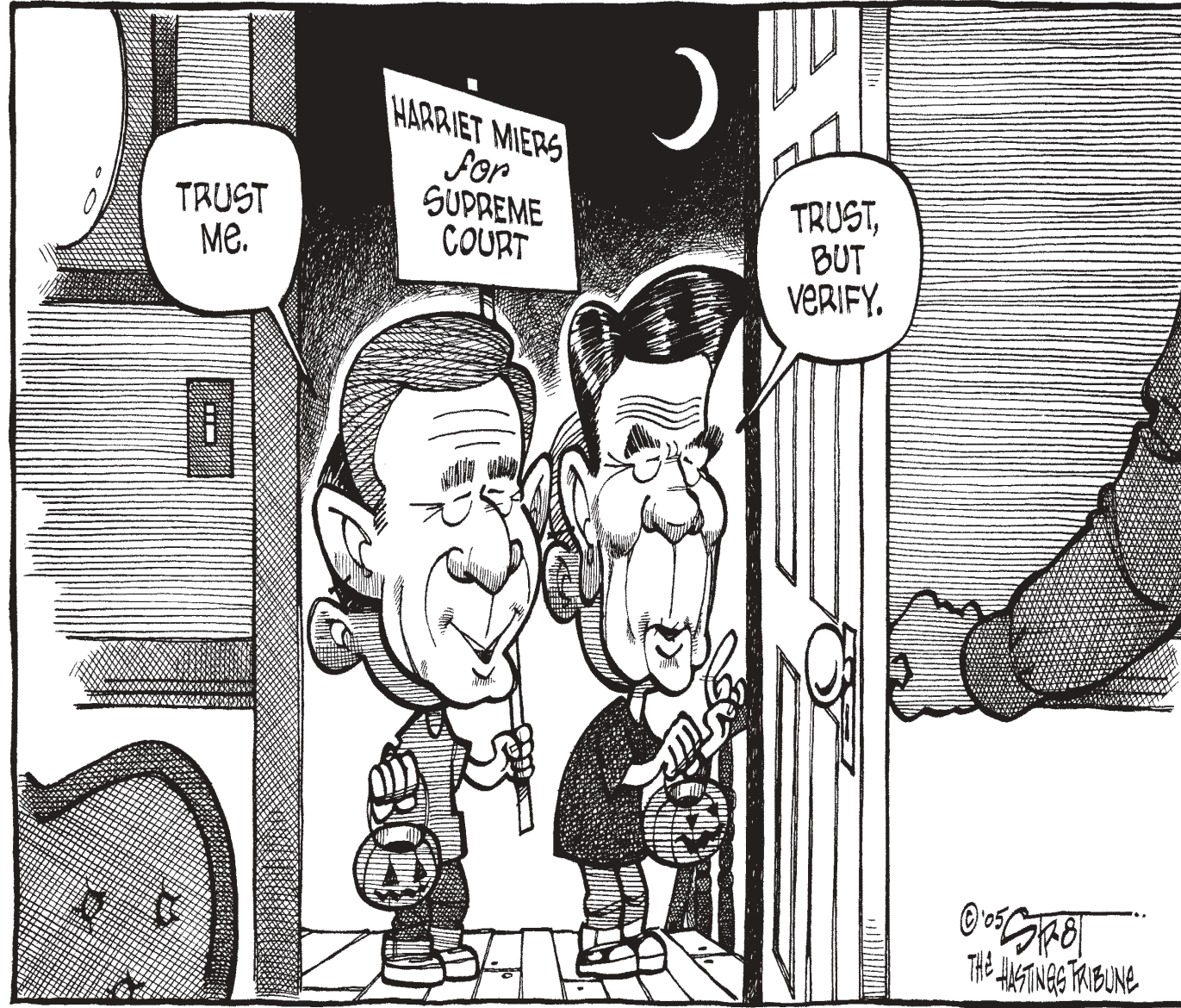
Anger, hurt, resentment and hate don't seem to hurt anyone but the one who is angry, hurt, resentful or hateful.

The person who mows his lawn early just wants his grass to look nice, and he's an early bird. The kid with the gum and the dog owner are thoughtless, not malicious. And maybe the person who stole those lawn ornaments has a really ugly place they need to brighten up.

Just let go. Say, "I wish they hadn't done that, but that's OK, ." and get on with your life.

As for bin Laden and Kim Chong-il, give them a good, long prayer.

Boy, do they need it!
— Cynthia Haynes
(This editorial, which won an honorable mention in the National Newspaper Association Better Newspaper Contest ran in The Norton Telegram on April 30, 2004. We think it bears repeating.)



It's really the band, not the football...

I am trying to find a reason to get excited about football. There have been a few moments this fall but they have been difficult to sustain.

It looks like the Blue Jays are having a successful season on most levels. We attended the Smith Center varsity game.

Daughter Elizabeth was playing in the pep band for Smith Center. Norton might not have had the best team on the field that night but let's talk bands.

I listened to the Norton homecoming game. At half time, in the background, I could hear the band. They sounded great (as always.) The day another Mid-Continent League school fields such a band I might consider changing my alliances.

Much of what we like about our favorite team doesn't have anything to do with their win/loss record.

So, I just as well get over the fact that the Chiefs lost to Denver. I cheer for Denver most of the time (except when they play the Chiefs). The Patriots have had some less than stellar performances but the season is young.

There was a barnburner of a game Monday night. San Diego and Pittsburg. I find it exciting to see former K-State players on pro rosters.

Ben Leiber and Darren Sproles play for San Diego. Late in the game Quincy Morgan had a good kick return for Pittsburg.

Back Home Nancy Hagman



We had lost track of him, thought he was at Dallas or Cleveland. The announcers referred to him as the "much-traveled" Quincy Morgan. Sproles had an excellent kick return right before the half. The commentators talked him up pretty good. The game was exciting right to the end.

As to my favorite college team, the Kansas State Wildcats, things could be better. But, I have found some things to like, many of them, things that have nothing to do with how they play.

It is exciting to see how many players we know or saw play in high school. A lot of these players are walking on. A sign of a great program is when kids grow up with stars in their eyes, dreaming of playing at a school.

Jordy Nelson from Riley County, Logan Robinson from Agra, Jordan Bedore and Donald Raymer of Goodland. We see players from Jetmore, Weskan, Lakin.

And, of course, there is Norton's own

Terry Petrie. How exciting to see him play.

Other things that look good are the defense (except for the penalties), the tailgate parties and the band.

I'm going to try to stay positive here so I won't mention the offensive line, the missing punter, the quarterbacks, incidents with the parking police, the Oklahoma game, the Kansas game and a whole lot of other stuff.

Yeah, we beat the University of Kansas but the game was a dud. It was boring.

Remember when they called it the "Toilet Bowl"?

After the game I overheard some Kansas U. fans grouching about the game.

"Excuse me," I said, "which team are you talking about?"

Both teams seem to have a similar set of problems. These people did want to trade all of their quarterbacks for Evridge. At least Kansas U. has an offensive line to protect a quarterback.

Oops, I am trying to stay positive here. The offensive line has a lot of injuries (Logan Robinson is one). So here is a big old "Get Well Soon" wish to all of the players.

I'm remaining loyal to the "Cats". No matter what, they have the best band.

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.

To the Editor:

Because I do not live in Norton and do not subscribe to *The Telegram* I always miss the Oronoque/Dellvale reunion.

For both the ones who attended and the ones who did not, I made a brief history of one of the families who lived at Oronoque since 1865. People are amazed to learn who their cousins are.

This history stops at 1950. There are four additional generations to each family.

W.E. Pack and his brother George married sisters Betty and Mary Campbell. Before her marriage, Mary had a son, John Hendricks of Lenora. George and Mary had a son, Jerome who died, and six daughters: Olive Johnson, Anna Kimbrell, Sarah Stewart, Elizabeth Rowley, Ella Hoskin and Mollie King. They had another son, George Adam "Add" Pack. A Muirhead married a King.

Mary later married Thomas Harper Paxton who had two daughters, Nellie Stringham and Ella Witt. They had another daughter, Mary who married Austin David Shelton. Another Witt married a Holt.

Mary Thompson, the aunt of Margaret Thompson Shelton, married William Stringham. Her sister Nellie Grace married William's first cousin Robert Stringham. Nellie Paxton, the aunt of George Shelton, married Robert's brother Alfred Stringham. Another Stringham married a Heath. A Davis and an

Eagleburger each married a Stringham sister. Mary later married Jim Reed of Jennings. Their daughter Jesse married Norman Davis. The sister of Jim Reed married a Foster. Davis, Foster, Mizell and Row are related.

James Campbell married Julie Davis. Their daughter, Roslette married a Davis as well. James later married Rachell Pack, the sister of W.E. and George Pack. Another Pack sister married a Beamgrad.

Samual Campbell married the daughter of Robert Ellis.

Charlie Campbell and Bill Simley married sisters.

Jesse Shelton, the uncle of George, married Martha Antrim. Their daughter Mae, first cousin to George, married Ralph Thompson the uncle to Margaret Thompson Shelton.

George Shelton and his brother James married sisters, Margaret and Rita Thompson. George and Margaret had two children Alice and Arthur. Alice married Bill Dickson.

Ralph Shelton, the brother to George married Betty Riley. A Riley and Penny married sisters.

Arthur Shelton Oberlin, Kan.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Man gives brief history of family from Oronoque reunion

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