

Theater meeting was a big plus

Interest in The Norton Theatre is alive and well. That was apparent at last Thursday's town hall meeting when an estimated 100 people came out to dialogue about the theater's future.

No one sitting in those seats or standing in the aisles want to see the theater become a thing of the past. It's one of the most attractive movie houses in the area and one of only few that features two screens in a town this size.

What the meeting's organizers (the Norton Theatre Association Inc, hosted by president Alberta Slaby), seemed to want from the gathering was a commitment to attend movies more often. That seemed agreeable. A suggestion was also made to perhaps increase the ticket prices by \$1. That seemed agreeable. It's been a few years since the price was hiked and the costs associated with the theater have increased during that time.

And probably one of the most important aspects of the Norton theater — and something not stressed nearly enough — is that it is able to operate six days a week only because of its volunteer force. Volunteers, folks, volunteers — those unsung heroes who are always behind anything successful. The only paid position is that of manager, and like most cases in this category the pay always falls short of the responsibility. But we are fortunate to have a person, Kim Wicker, in that capacity able to deal with that issue.

This newspaper feels strongly about keeping the theater operating, and therefore is committed, kind of like the volunteers are committed, to make sure this nonprofit, volunteer-driven facility is duly noted in its issues. The first such effort appears on page 2, using the theme, "Let's go to the movie."

As community's continue keeping an eye open for growth, they must remember that those potential residents, or businesses, take note of what a town has to offer. They drive around, jotting down the +'s and -'s. A few years back we can recall reading in a magazine an article called, "Recruiting for your town" Among the things newcomers looked for, according to the article, were theaters. A town without, generally ended up being a town ignored. One wouldn't think, and we were of that school of thought, that movie houses would even be on the list.

The vibrancy of Norton, the upbeat attitude that generally prevails, would dictate that its twin theaters will be around for a long, long time. You will make it happen.

— Tom Dreiling

Thumbs Up to...

✓ **Naomi Streck, Mathew Sheperd, Stanton Nelson**, on your exceptional ratings at the recent State Piano Contest.

✓ **"Charlie" Eastin**, on brother Cornell's selection as a finalist for "Musician of the Year" in Texas.

✓ **The enthusiastic** and positive crowd that attended The Norton Theatre meeting and offered help of many kinds to keep it operating. Norton comes through again! (e-mail)

✓ **The New Almelo** community for all the volunteer hours spent helping make "The Haven" a wonderful, safe place for the visitors who have family at the Corrections Facility. (e-mail)

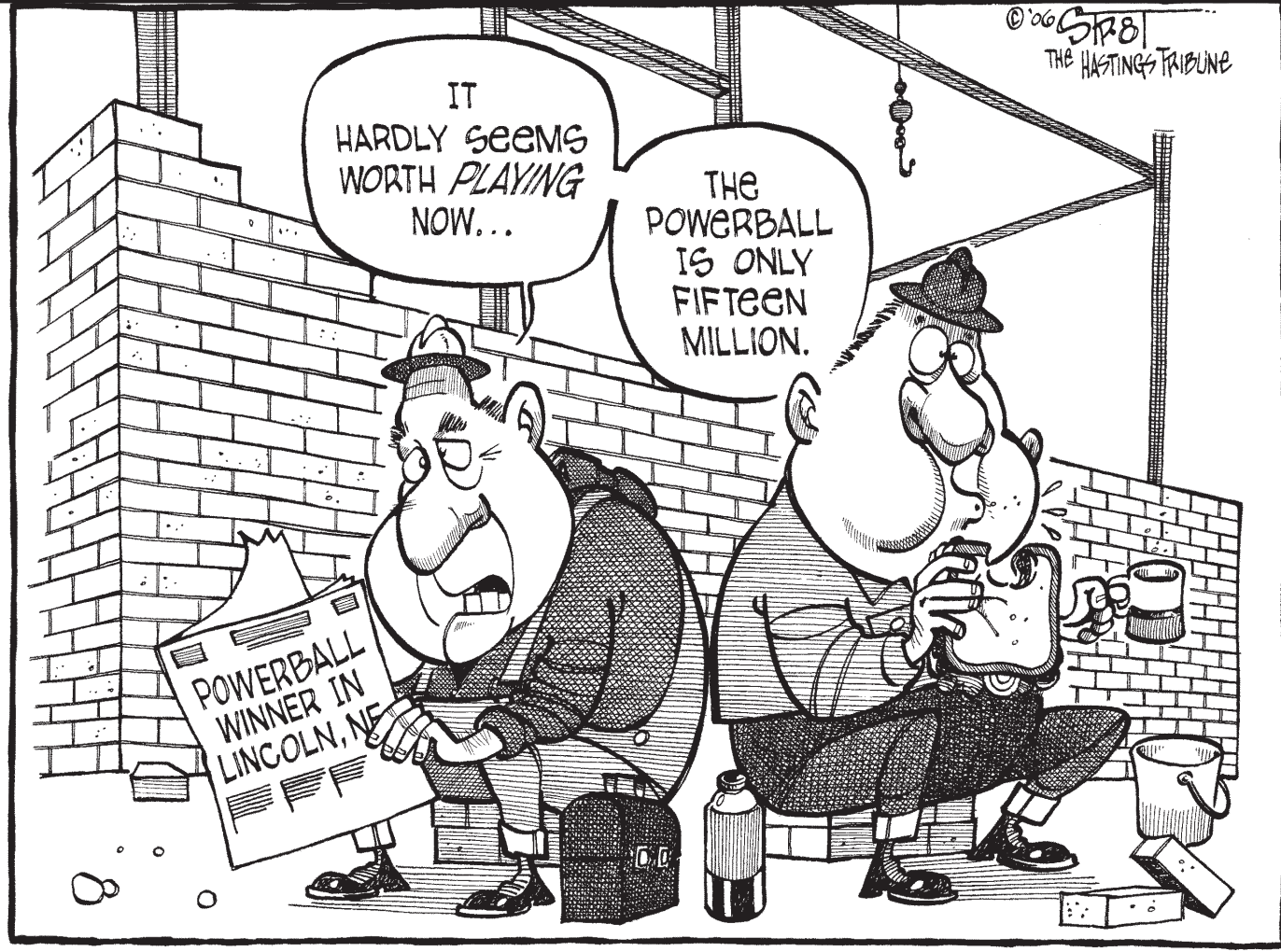
✓ **The Norton Telegram** for its support of The Norton Theatre. (called in)

✓ **The Good Samaritan** who picked up trash containers tossed into the street by the wind on West Waverly. (called in)

✓ **The Royal Neighbors of America** on your scheduled March 18 benefit to help with medical expenses for Norcatur resident Jim Arnold, who is undergoing leukemia treatment at the University of Colorado Hospital, Denver. The benefit will be held in the cafeteria at the Norcatur school.

✓ **Ann Davis** of Winfield for the kind words. We enjoy putting out that newspaper you all enjoy reading.

(Become a part of this column. Simply e-mail your submission(s) to tomd@nwkansas.com, call 877-6908, fax 877-3732 or drop by the office at 215 S. Kansas Ave. Birthdays must salute those 70 or older, and wedding anniversaries 50 years or more. Thanks for your help. - tom)



Pending trip is making me nervous

Now, I'm getting nervous. We leave for Mexico soon, and I have begun to realize I know just enough Spanish to be dangerous.

I'm afraid I am going to call someone's kitchen a little pig or say their baby is ugly. When I just knew a few words, I limped by with them. Now, I have this "vast" vocabulary of at least a hundred words and I'm worried I'll pull out the wrong one.

If all else fails, I'll resort to my Spanish/English dictionary.

The question is, "How do you say, 'I have a terrible head cold' in Spanish?"

It looks like I might be crossing the border with a cold, instead of getting one when I get back.

I started getting sick Friday, it got worse Saturday, and by Sunday all I wanted to do was sleep. I stayed home from church because I didn't want to give it to anyone there or chapel services.

Watching TV was my only option for entertainment, and I discovered Sunday morning broadcasting is rather limited. But, it did teach me a lesson. After watch-

Out Back

Carolyn Plotts



ing a couple of television evangelists, it sure made me appreciate our own minister. Some of these guys reminded me of sleazy, vinyl siding salesmen.

Speaking of entertainment. Has anyone even seen the movies nominated for Academy Awards this year? "Cinderella Man" is on DVD now, so I did see it. "Munich" is one I want to see, because I watched the real event happen during the 1972 Olympics. "Capote" is another one I would like to see, because, again, I remember the events.

I was a teenager when the Clutter family was killed. It was a crime that rocked this nation. When Truman Capote wrote the book, "In Cold Blood" about the mur-

der, I couldn't wait to read it. It was so chilling, once I started reading, I couldn't stop. It was probably two or three in the morning when I finished the book. The rest of the night, I was sure I saw the door-knob turning to my room and heard the floor boards squeaking.

So, yes, I would like to see the story behind the story.

We did rent "The Constant Gardener," but we went to sleep during it. I know it was supposed to be one of those "social impact" movies, but I didn't get it.

As for the rest of the films and actors up for awards, I have to admit, I just don't care that much.

Please, it's not rocket science. They are not discovering the cure for cancer. They are grown men and women playing pretend and getting paid exorbitant amounts of money for it.

As long as they (and the public) remember they are celebrities and not political geniuses, we'll get along fine. Their opinion is no more important than yours or mine.

Even a quarter isn't quite the same

I'm not nostalgic for the "Good Old Days." I'm not sure when they were. However, I do find myself wondering why they don't make things like they used to.

They have improved cars. One hundred thousand miles is nothing anymore. Of course, we didn't used to put so many miles on our cars. At our house we probably have that many miles in three or four years. I doubt a 10-year old car would have had that many miles 40 years ago.

Yes, we are busy and we go lots of places but are we any happier? (Maybe I am a little nostalgic for the good old days.)

Computers have improved. They improve so fast you need a new one every other week just to keep up!

Recently, I discovered how much a quarter has changed, and maybe not for the better.

I like the whole state quarter thing. Personally, I think the Kansas quarters are the nicest yet. I was collecting the state quarters until we moved then I lost the little cardboard folder I had to put them in. But, in case I find it, I try to save quarters I think I don't have.

When I need change I check through my collection and use the duplicates.

The other day the hubby sent me on a pop run. He didn't have any quarters so I checked my stash. When I got to the vending machine it spit my offering out.

Back Home

Nancy Hagman



I tried again. Same deal. I put a different coin in. It seemed to like that. I tried the first one, spit it out. Hmmm. I put all the coins in. It spit the one out. The price of a pop seems to have gone up a quarter so between the fact that the machine ate one quarter and would not take another, I was now short 75 cents!

I went back to the car and rummaged around until I found some more. I finally got the pop. I studied the quarter the vending machine rejected. It seemed a little odd. It was maybe a little heavier and a little thicker than the others. It had a beautiful silver patina.

I looked at the date — 1957. Ah, ha. I knew they quit making silver half dollars in the sixties. What did they do to the quarters?

Another little annoyance, my tape dispenser lost its ballast. It is plastic and it was filled with something to give it weight. I never thought about what might

be inside it, until it sprang a leak. It was sand — very fine sand.

Really, what genius in product design thought that was a good idea? At the very least they could have made the fill holes on the top so when you picked it up it did not empty itself all over the desk, the open desk drawer, and the floor. It wouldn't have been so bad if my reaction time had been faster but it took me a minute to figure out what was happening.

I wonder why they don't make tape dispensers out of something heavy to start with. (Maybe because we have sold all our scrap metal to China?)

I find myself having nightmares. I am in a desert surrounded by nothing but sand. It is pouring down on me (like rain, if I remember correctly that is what rain is like!) Finally, in the distance, I see something. It is a vending machine.

I am overjoyed because I realize how thirsty I am. It is possible I may die soon if I don't have a drink.

I get to the vending machine and pull out my quarters. Their silver patina reflects the sun. The vending machine spits them out one after the other. The noise they make is a rhythm "Nineteen fifty-seven, nineteen fifty-seven, nineteen fifty-seven, nineteen fifty-seven....."

I wake up; at least it was just a dream. But trust me on this: they don't make things like they used to!

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