

Don't look here for endorsements

You've heard it a million times over. Let's make it a million and one.

V-O-T-E!

Tuesday is election day. Tuesday is YOUR day to have YOUR say. So say it LOUD and say it CLEAR!

Let's also do our part in getting a record turn out at the polls. Forget the fact we have but one race locally and it only involves voters in County Commission District 1. They will choose between Richard Thompson and Reva L. Benien.

But here is where ALL of us figure in:

√Are you satisfied with the way Gov. Kathleen Sebelius has run the show these past four years? Or should Sen. Jim Barnett move in to take control? Or should you maybe choose Richard Lee Ranzau or Carl Kramer?

√Does Ron Thornburgh win your vote for another term as secretary of state? Or should you maybe give thought to David Haley, Rod Hodgkinson or Joseph L. Martin?

√Do you think Attorney General Phill Kline has done a good enough job to warrant another term? Or should Paul Morrison get a chance to deal with the issues of that office?

√Has Lynn Jenkins served the way you would have wanted her to serve as state treasurer? Or should Larry Wilson be given an opportunity to demonstrate his expertise?

√Does Sandy Praeger deserve another stay in the office of insurance commissioner? Or should you give thought to sending either Bonnie Sharp or Patrick Wilbur to do the job?

√Has John Faber lived up to your expectations as representative of the 120th District? Or should Bob Strevey get a shot at the office?

√Does Sally Cauble fall in line with your thinking as a member of the state board of education from District 5? Or would Tim Cruz best serve your interests in that post?

√Are you of the opinion that Congressman Jerry Moran should be returned to Capitol Hill? Or should perhaps John Doll or Sylvester Cain be given a chance to serve?

These are the contested races awaiting your decision.

And if you are looking for our endorsements, you won't find them. That's not our game. We will enter the polling booth on Tuesday, just as you will, or we may take advantage of advanced voting — either way, we will make our decisions in private.

For your information, there are 2,308 registered Republicans, 641 registered Democrats, 789 Independent and 9 Libertarians in Norton County. That's a total of 3,747 people eligible to mark ballots next Tuesday. Let's see how many we can get out to VOTE!

— Tom Dreiling

Thumbs Up to . . .

√**Dale Schulze**, for your 30+ years of dedicated service as a school bus driver. (by telephone)

√**Melissa Delimont** of Norton, for being such a good person while caring for those of us at the Logan assisted living complex. (by telephone from a Logan friend)

√**Phil and Mildred Hager**, on your 50th wedding anniversary. (e-mail)

√**Stanton Nelson**, on your selection to the 2006 National FFA Band.

√**Richard Thompson and Reva Benien**, for giving the voters a choice.

√**Dr. John Patrick**, for your inspiring talks in your appearances in the Norton community. (e-mail)

√**Brad Killian**, top picker in last week's *Telegram* Pigskin Pick-Em contest.

√**Norton Junior High students**, please keep shooting those "Hoops for Hearts." (e-mail)

(To submit a name or names, please e-mail tomd@nwkansas.com, call either 877-3361 or 877-6908, fax 877-3732, or mail to or drop by the office at 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton. Thanks for your help!)

Say it with a 'Letter to the Telegram Editor'

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Kerry's next stop: ketchup factory

Sen. John Kerry did little to help his party this week. He tried to tell a joke that backfired, badly. It not only made him look foolish, it also made his party, on the verge of perhaps capturing at least one house of our government, look less credible. After all, Kerry is the face of the Democratic Party, something that usually goes to the presidential nominee, which he was last time around. But that won't ever happen again.

I am a veteran and served an eight-year commitment proudly and honorably. Despite Sen. Kerry's Vietnam service and his heroic efforts — efforts that came under fire and hotly debated in the presidential election of 2004 — what he said was offensive to me. I don't believe I was a stupid young man and joined the military because I didn't study and didn't make good grades. I thought I was educated and saw the Air Force as an opportunity to further that education.

Sen. Kerry's claim that he was trying to make a joke which would have involved the commander-in-chief would probably have come across a lot worse and would have offended even more people had it succeeded. Some people can tell jokes and get away with it. Some can't. Kerry can't.

He has since issued an apology. Too little too late, as far as I am concerned. Those who control the party should sit the senator down, tape his mouth shut, strap him to the chair and not let him up until after the election. Maybe that kind of action flies in the face of freedom of speech, but politically that's acceptable when damage to an organization results.

Kerry, the wannabe president, won't ever be president. He might as well pack his bags, leave the political arena and join

the forces at the ketchup plant and begin putting lids on those plastic bottles.

No joke.

—td—

Before I forget it, I do want to thank this time to especially thank those readers who took part in our little gubernatorial straw poll. It will be interesting to see how the straw poll fares with the actual vote in the race for governor next Tuesday. The final poll tally gave the governor a slim win over Republican challenger Jim Barnett (see page 1 today). When Mrs. Sebelius was elected four years ago, she won in Norton County by 215 votes over Tim Shallenburger, 1,131-916. Now that she has a record as governor to defend, it will be interesting to see how the numbers come out this time around in our county. But again, thanks to all of you who took part in the "poll" that really counts — the election on Nov. 7.

—td—

I thought it was interesting to hear a report on the tube Thursday morning early, about the political attack ads appearing on television. The report said that even the attack ads are now generating ads that attack them. What is so badly missing is an airing on issues. It's all about personali-

Good Evening Norton
Tom Dreiling



ties. Many voters will make their selection based on whether they like or dislike a candidate, not what the candidate stands for. And far too often it's what is printed on the forehead of the candidate — the letter "D" or "R" — that defines choice. And the current Congress is an example of what happens when that happens: nothing!

—td—

Oh, boy, the first Baby Boomers are starting to turn 60 years old. In honor of that occasion, a number of popular songs of our era are in the process of being revised to reflect conditions of the present day. Like:

- Herman's Hermits — Mrs. Brown You've Got A Lovely Walker
- The Bee Gees — How Can You Mend A Broken Hip
- Bobby Darin — Splish Splash I Was Having A Flash
- Roberta Flack — The First Time Ever I Forgot Your Face
- Johnny Nash — I Can't See Clearly Now
- The Commodores — Once, Twice, Three Times to the Bathroom
- Marvin Gaye — Heard It Through the Grape Nuts
- Leo Sayer — You Make Me Feel Like Napping
- The Temptations — Poppa's Got a brand new Stone
- Tony Orlando — Knock Three Times on the Ceiling If You Hear Me Fall
- Willie Nelson — On The Commode Again

—td—

Have a good week and a good weekend. And remember to help fill the pews at the church of your choice.

Our sitting governor is my choice

I have come to dread election years. Each year seems to top the last one with what used to be subtle innuendoes now are rampant assaults on character. One has a hard time distinguishing the issues as they are so clouded if not downright obscured by personal attacks. This year, however, one thing stands out for me. Some politicians are choosing the high road. As most of you know, I was raised a Democrat. Through the years I have voted for individuals of both parties and occasionally even an independent. Unfortunately, poor campaigning is a disease of all parties. (John Kerry certainly is the poster child for poor campaigning this week.)

This year I am proud to say I am a Democrat, but Kathleen Sebelius first and foremost makes me proud to be a woman. I realize this is a sexist statement and I probably should apologize for that, but I won't. I am proud to be a Kansan willing to place a candidate in office who has focused on the issues and has brought positive attention to the state. I appreciate ads focusing on the issues she wants to target and the ones she aimed for and solved. Her opponent calls her ads, I believe the words

Phase II
Mary Kay Woodyard



were "slick" and "smooth". Amazing how decency has been overlooked.

Kathleen Sebelius' ads portray us as an intelligent state with both empathy and action. In the past, as a state we have had a poor image throughout the country. We have been the laughing stock of the science community. Many see us as backward, non-thinking, anti-science hicks. The fact that Time Magazine named our governor one of the country's five best governors would be a strong incentive for me to vote for her. They based this distinction on her "eliminating the \$1.1 billion debt she inherited, ferreting out waste in state government, and strongly supporting public education — all without raising taxes." In addition, they noted her

bipartisan approach and her appointment of former Governor Mike Hayden to her cabinet.

Much of why we became the brunt of national jokes and late night TV stemmed from the actions of the State Board of Education. One member who did so much damage to our image only received a miniscule percentage of votes from the registered voters. One realizes it was not a "mandate of the people," but rather apathy which elected her. We must not ever let that happen again...in any election. Apathy is what will kill democracy.

My hope would be that in the upcoming election you would send a message to our government. Re-elect Governor Sebelius to applaud her methods of management and her decency. Write your congressman, share your hopes and dreams, and yes, fears for this country, but most of all do the one thing, which gives you a license to complain about the problems within the government. VOTE!

I won't say I don't care who you vote for, but I care more that you vote.

It is not just a right, it is our responsibility.

• www.ksgovernor.com/timearticle.asp