

Opinion

It all boils down to v-o-t-i-n-g

Kudos to Bill Johnson for taking his government classes to events like Jerry Moran's recent speech in Norton and to candidates' forums. Giving students opportunities such as these helps define their belief systems and aides us all by developing an informed electorate.

Back Home
Nancy Hagman



Many high school seniors are old enough to vote. Daughter Kate, a government teacher also, gives her eligible students extra credit if they go to the polls. (In fairness, she has something worked out for students who aren't old enough.)

ture was a list of his beliefs. There were five things listed and each one began with the word: Opposes.

If I were trying to make a point about what my positive positions I would make a list that began with a favorable word like: Favors or Believes. But never mind.

The last time Kate was home she brought some exercises she does with her classes to help the kids get a sense of their place in the political spectrum. She seemed to be very interested in how I would score. I guess this is because although I think I am conservative, or at least a moderate, but there appears to be evidence to the contrary.

On the first test I got a 23. The scale put me into the liberal category but at least I am not an ultra-liberal. (That was 25 or above). Kate was very proud that she got a 24, making her more liberal than I. I was relieved. Poor misguided child, she is a Democrat! I might be a lot of things but I'm never going to be a Democrat! (Unless the Republicans continue to irritate me!)

The other test consisted of a list of 25 or so statements. You were to check agree or disagree. There was no middle ground. I only

checked about six things either way. This little test proved to be inconclusive according to teacher Kate. She said something like "You sure don't agree with much, Mom." I feel vaguely insulted, is she saying I am disagreeable?

I think it proved my point. I am a moderate. As I looked at those statements I thought how can anyone see the world in such black and white terms? Maybe if I weren't so fundamentally confused about the little things like do I live in Kansas or Nebraska I would be clearer on the "big" issues!

Much is being made of the use of electronic voting and the security of the vote this year. Honestly, it seems silly to me. This is the reason I hate that I somehow have gotten a "Liberal" label. The pessimism of liberals drives me crazy. I still think we have a great county. I don't believe in "vast right wing conspiracies".

If you are worried about having your vote counted, the advice is "Vote in advance." Advance ballots are hand-counted and leave a paper trail. In the county I live in all voters vote on paper anyway. The ballots are merely counted electronically.

So if it is convenient: vote in advance! Just vote! Think of your high school government teacher. He or she tried so hard to get this across to you. Whether you are Liberal, Conservative, Moderate, or just confused (as long as you are not too confused). The reason this country works is because we all have a voice and the only way your voice heard is in the VOTING BOOTH!

You can find it all at the show...



Collectors of guns, knives and other odds and ends found what they were looking for at the annual Norton Gun Show last weekend. — Telegram photo by Veronica Monier

Bomb threats give school a scare

(Continued from Page 1) tion of the students and how parents and guardians were to go about getting their students released, he said.

The building was locked once everyone was evacuated and the street next to the building and the driveways into the parking lots were barricaded by the city crews. The Norton Fire Department was also on hand with emergency equipment and men.

The highway patrol's bomb dogs were once again flown into Norton from Salina and started the search over again at about 4 p.m. When the search turned up empty,

teachers and students were allowed to return to the school to collect their bags, books and cars. Mr. Mann said the investigation is continuing as to who wrote the threats and couldn't comment on whether it was more than one person who was responsible. But, he said, they working off of "strong leads".

Mr. Mann said the students will be making up the missed time caused by the evacuation, but couldn't say when. It is something that will be discussed at the next school board meeting on Monday.

He said everyone involved did a great job of handling a very

stressful situation. "We appreciate all the help," he said. "The city, highway patrol, police department, fire department and parents were all very supportive."

"The staff did a wonderful job handling the evacuation and really stepped up with problem solving solutions to make things going more smoothly."

"Everyone did a really good job." Mr. Mann asks anyone who has any further information as to the identity of the person responsible to please contact a principal, himself or the Norton Police Department.

Hospice: know the 8 key points

Hospice Services, Inc.

More than 1.2 million people were served by the nation's hospice programs last year. Hospice Services in our area provided care for 113 families last year — the largest number in one year. Yet for every person that received hospice care, it is estimated that another individual would have benefited from the services of hospice but didn't get this compassionate care at the end of their lives.

tient services are available if symptoms cannot be properly attended to at home.

3. Hospice costs are covered by Medicare, Medicaid in most states (including Kansas), and by most insurance programs and HMOs.

4. The expenses of all medicines related to the life-limiting illness are covered under the Medicare Hospice Benefit for those eligible for Medicare who elect Hospice.

5. Hospice is not about "giving up" but instead focuses on quality of life making the wishes of the patient and family caregivers a priority.

6. Hospice provides support and caregiving training to family members and loved ones in the home.

7. Bereavement support is available to families for a year after the death of their loved one.

8. The most common statement made by families who chose hospice for their loved one is, "we wish we had known about hospice sooner."

If a person isn't facing decisions about care at the end of life for themselves or a family member, it's likely that a close friend, neighbor or coworker is struggling with these difficult issues.

The vision of Hospice Services is a world where individuals and families facing serious illness, death, and grief will experience the best that humankind can offer.

November is National Hospice Month. If either individuals or organizations might want additional information or a program about hospice, please contact the following: Hospice Services at 800-315-5122, or in Phillipsburg 785-543-2900.

Schools doing what they can with security

(Continued from Page 1) in mind, as well.

Mr. Mann asked the question, "Do we need all the doors locked? No. Can some be locked? Yes."

He said security plans are based on everyone being where they are supposed to be at all times. That's not real life in a school. You have class movement, substitute teachers who might not be familiar with the school, you have kids going to the bathroom."

He said the schools are planning an exercise to test their procedures.

Lonnie Brungardt, high school principal at Northern Valley, said their main preventive security measure is making sure doors are locked. The only way into the buildings is through the main entrance — one each at the high school and grade school in Almena and one at the middle school in Long Island.

Guests are required to check in with the offices before being allowed into the school.

"We keep an eye on who's in the building," he said. "And the students are only allowed in the hallways with a pass from a teacher."

Mr. Brungardt said Northern Valley has a crisis management plan. Each action depends on what kind of crisis is occurring or has occurred.

Thespians get ready for school play

(Continued from Page 1) "Shoestring Theatre" will be performed twice. The first showing will be at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 11. The second performance will be a matinee at 2:30 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 12. Admission prices are \$4 for adults and \$3 for students.

Cast of Characters

- Sanders — Aaron VanDerwege
- Mrs. Brakes — Tabitha Vincent
- Brutus — Jared Cox
- Jed — Casey Robison
- Ted — Matthew Pollock
- Erving — Josh Gallentine
- Gwen — Ashley Maybon
- Pepper — Jessica Sprigg
- Denise — Cherean Kendall
- Eva — Lisa Jones
- Molly — Lucy Gosselin
- Chrissy — Cydnie Milnes
- Herman — Brett Wyatt
- Aubrey — Valerie Wagoner
- Mary — Stephanie Shepard

- Bonnie — Karlynn Kent
- Capri — Arlene May
- Extras
- Perrell Stanley, Cindel Harrington, Carson Braun, Andrew Black,

- Blake VanEaton, Hannah Mills, Gena Myers, Lacey Roe, Emily Scott, Hannah Fulton
- Director, Joan Hale
- Assistant, Marilyn Donahey

Here is why we do what we do

Let's just call this, "Life explained." On the first day, God created the dog and said:

"Sit all day by the door of your house and bark at anyone who comes in or walks past. For this, I will give you a life span of twenty years."

The dog said: "That's a long time to be barking. How about only ten years and I'll give you back the other ten?"

So God agreed. On the second day, God created the monkey and said: "Entertain people, do tricks, and make them laugh. For this, I'll give you a twenty-year life span."

The monkey said: "Monkey tricks for twenty years? That's a pretty long time to perform. How about I give you back ten like the dog did?"

And God agreed. On the third day, God created the cow and said: "You must go into the field with the farmer all day long and suffer under the sun, have calves and give milk to support the farmer's family. For this, I will give you a life span of sixty years."

The cow said: "That's kind of a tough life you want me to live for sixty years. How about twenty and I'll give back the other forty?"

And God agreed again.

At Week's End

On the fourth day, God created man and said: "Eat, sleep, play, marry and enjoy your life. For this, I'll give you twenty years."

But man said: "Only twenty years? Could you possibly give me my twenty, the forty the cow gave back, the ten the monkey gave back, and the ten the dog gave back; that makes eighty, okay?"

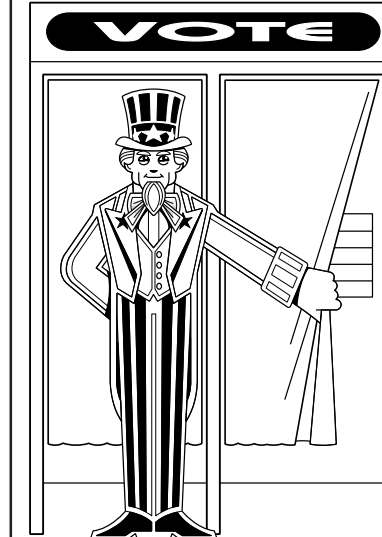
"Okay," said God, "You asked for it."

So, friends, that is why for our first twenty years we eat, sleep, play and enjoy ourselves. For the next forty years we slave in the sun to support our family. For the next ten years we do monkey tricks to entertain the grandchildren. And for the last ten years we sit on the front porch and bark at everyone.

Life has now been explained to you

Now go forth.

(Do you have something to share? Just submit it to tomtd@nwkansan.com, fax 877-3732, mail to 215 S Kansas Ave., Norton 67654, or drop it off at the office. Thanks!)



Please Vote Nov. 7

This ad brought to you by your friends at the THE NORTON TELEGRAM

City of Norton Snow Ordinances

The City of Norton wants to remind the public of our three off snow ordinances. One requires the removal of snow and ice off public sidewalks within 24 hours after the fall of the snow or sleet. The second ordinance relates to removing parked vehicles from emergency snow routes. When the City of Norton publicly announces through the news media that an emergency snow condition exists, it is a violation to have any vehicle or trailer parked on a designated emergency snow route. The third ordinance makes it a violation for any person to pile or dump snow on any cleared street from a private driveway or sidewalk so as to constitute an impediment or hazard to normal traffic on the street. The City of Norton thanks everyone for their efforts in complying with these ordinances.

THANK MY LUCKY SCARS

A Memoir
Ward Foley, Ph.D.
Physically Disabled
Author: In God Didn't Make Me A Woman Because I Had Enough Problems

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