

## These two know what they're doing

A special commentary

The hackmasters are at it again. And how brutally wrong they are. This is in defense of former Sen. John Edwards' decision to carry on with his presidential ambitions since learning that wife Elizabeth's cancer has returned. He should not withdraw, despite the call by those who apparently haven't faced such a personal battle.

First of all, I am not a fan of Sen. Edwards. Second, I think I know a little bit about why he is carrying on with his campaign, at her encouragement.

I lost my wife to cancer, leukemia. From diagnosis to death it was a brief, nine-month period. But through it all, I remained at my job, and she continued doing the things she loved to do, such as maintain an active role in the two music clubs in the community of Goodland (our home at the time), continue her role as organist, vocalist and lector in our church, and teach CCD (religion) classes to youngsters in Our Lady of Perpetual Help parish. And watch over three children. The only time those duties were put on hold was when a stay in the hospital was warranted. Otherwise it was full steam (as available) ahead.

Upon learning of the diagnosis of leukemia, we didn't go home, shut the door, close the drapes, turn off the lights and sit and wait... 'til death do us part. She would have no part of that. And she wouldn't allow me any part of that, either.

The burden was great. But faith was greater. Former Senator and Mrs. Edwards know what they are doing. They are not denying their children, denying themselves. He is seeking the world's toughest office and his focus is being challenged, but it takes a special person to be able to control the balance. Somewhere in that mix I see faith peeking through. Good luck to them. — Tom Dreiling, editor/publisher

## Bills put teeth into the law

I would like to comment on a couple of Wild Life and Parks bills. Senate Bill 267 would create a new crime of "failure to comply with a Wildlife and Parks citation." This would be the failure to appear before district court in response to a citation issued by a Wildlife and Parks official, failure to fully pay or satisfy all fines levied, or failure to comply with a Wildlife and Parks citation as provided in law.

Failure to comply would be a Class C Misdemeanor charge, regardless of the disposition of the original charge. After the court notifies the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks of the failure to comply, it will assess a re-installment fee of \$50 for each charge or sentence not satisfied. This bill was requested by a constituent of my district and had no opposition. We hope this policy will put some teeth into the law and not have violators thumb their noses at the courts.

Senate Bill 189 would permit a minor age 16 or older to obtain a one-time deferral of the completion of hunter education before hunting in Kansas. This bill would allow the purchase of an apprentice hunting license, requiring the minor holding this license to hunt under direct supervision of a licensed adult who is 18 or more years of age.

Similarly, this bill would also allow Secretary of Wildlife and Parks to issue a big game permit using a bow to minors age 14 and older without presenting evi-

### Senate Doings Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer



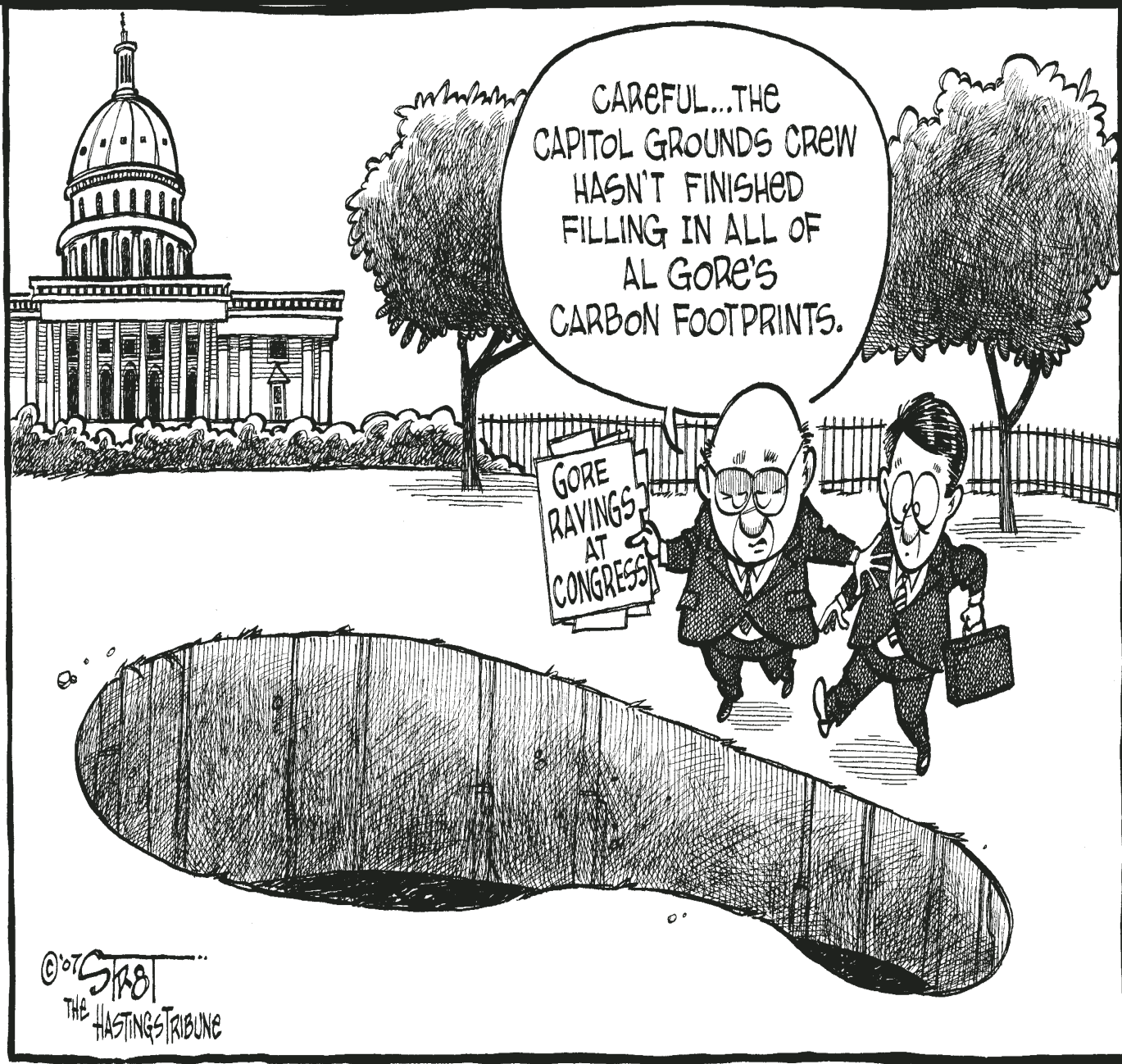
dence of the completion of a bow hunting safety course.

The purpose of this bill is to create more opportunities for the youth to hunt in Kansas under close supervision of a licensed adult. This allows them their first time hunting experience and would require that they follow up with a hunter safety course in order to be licensed in subsequent years.

We are in the seventy-fifth day of the 2007 Kansas Legislative Session, and it is coming to a close quite quickly. Originally we were to have 82 days in the regular session which included 3 days for the veto session.

Leadership has added two days onto the regular session making it 84 days this year. The Veto Session will be the last three days in April. When all is said and done, we will have worked in committee and voted on the floor on around 300 bills this year.

Again I want to thank all of you for your support this year. I appreciate your input and value the time you take to keep in touch with me.



## 'Mess Fairy' overlooked our mess

I just want to run away from home and not come back until the "Mess Fairy" has been there and cleaned up. We finally decided to rent the Sunflower Inn on a full-time basis. That meant we had to remove everything from the house. Everything. Do you know how much pure-dee 'ole junk two people can accumulate in five years?

Trust me, it's a lot. The nicest lady is going to take up residence there on the first of next month. We, of course, have waited until the last minute to empty the remnants of our time there out of the house.

It all came down to the back porch which was our "catch all". And, boy, did it catch it all. It's one thing to pack boxes when you have distinct categories. But, when everything is "miscellaneous" it's hard to know where to go. The back porch was where the dryer sat, so there was always the stray sock issue. It was where Jim stored his sign material and I kept old fabric. I found dishes, snow boots, canning jars, Model T parts, pecans, a box of new glasses, a typewriter and on and on. That "stuff," in and of itself, is not bad.

Problem was, they didn't want to come

### Out Back Carolyn Plotts



But, bringing it all to the new house has put a definite strain on available space. Bags and boxes are stacked everywhere. We don't know whether to store the stuff upstairs or in the basement. We just know it can't stay in the front room.

Our two kitties, Sammy and Petey, have been experiencing the great outdoors. The two came to live with us last fall when both were kittens and we never let them outside. Now, they are seven month-old juveniles and ready to see the world.

Since we were working in and out between the two houses this weekend, we left the doors open and kept an eye on the two while they explored the yard, climbed their first tree and stalked birds.

Problem was, they didn't want to come

in when it was time to settle down for the evening. And, no amount of calling, cajoling or begging would entice them inside.

Even the menacing yowls of a battle-hardened old tom cat that roams the town didn't bring them in. Finally, I shut the door and turned out the light and said, "Fine. You want to stay outside, then stay outside you will." I wasn't sure I meant it, but I kept to my resolve not to open the door for at least an hour.

When it was my bedtime I couldn't stand it any longer and went to the door. Petey came in immediately, but Sammy the Siamese was reluctant.

He was perched on top of a rock on the edge of my iris bed. But, he didn't run when I went, barefoot, out to get him. Finally, both "kids" were safely tucked inside.

But, I know, from now on, they are going to want to be outside. It's a scary place, mean tom cats and all.

Here's another of Miss Taylor's proverbs: You can lead a horse to water but — you might not ride back on him.

## Resident takes issue with Norton Telegram columnist

### LETTER

To The Editor,  
This commentary is in response to Mary Kay's article, "On this issue, love takes a back seat"

To Mary Kay, I have greatly enjoyed nearly all of your columns. So this "rebuttal" wasn't sent with undo thought and consideration. Obviously, these are my beliefs. But I think perhaps they may echo a good portion of the Christian folks in this community.

Your first concern is of schisms dividing your church. Unity at the cost of disobeying God's righteous decrees is no unity at all. In fact, it is hypocrisy. How can a "Christian" church, whose foundation is God's Word, teach doctrines/practices which are obviously contrary to that very Word?

As long as there is sin, evil and hate in the world (which resides in the hearts of people), there will be division. Jesus Christ said in Matthew 10:34-36, "do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter in law against her mother in law and a man's enemies will be those of his own household." Why would He say that? Because wherever the Light of Jesus Christ shines, the deeds of darkness are exposed. That brings division.

There is a fundamental truth that I believe you missed, the practical "love the sinner but hate the sin". That was why Jesus Christ came to earth to die...to die for us...in our place...for our sins...to deliver us from those sins because He loves us. In modern terms, that means to stand opposed to the practiced sin but love the very same sinner who commits it. This is

profound love! Don't we not do this as parents? Do we not teach, correct and even discipline our children because we love them and want what is best for them? How much more should our heavenly Father expose those ways that will harm us and dishonor Him?

Life is filled with decisions that continue to make us who we are. I've had my share of separating, both temporarily and permanently from close friends and family relationships that were harmful to myself and my family. Yet I have loved, through tears and prayers and longing, those very same people. I believe this is our heavenly Father's heart also, "Oh Jerusalem, Jerusalem, I would have gathered you together as a hen gathers her chicks, but ye would not". Yes, we can and should deeply love all people...while abhorring sin in them and in us!

The power of the gospel is the grace of God received through faith by individual people to deliver them from all deeds that are selfish, unholy and against God's Sovereign created order. Yes, God accepts us as we are ("while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us"). But He doesn't leave us there! He meets us where we are at to take us where He wants us to go toward that heavenly city.

Born again believers in Jesus Christ are changed from within. They cannot continue in known, habitual, intentional sinful habits/lifestyles...because they know the Truth (Jesus Christ) and have been set free!

That very much includes the realm of human sexuality. God created sex out of His own goodness, wisdom and love, not only for procreation, but for mutual pleasure between a husband and wife. It is His design. But, as with everything that God created, Satan wants and does pervert it. He turns it into something ugly, unsatisfying, and wrong. God hates sin not only because it is against His holiness in His created universe, but because it is against our best happiness.

I agree that homosexuality is the polarized topic of the church/world today. The world says that God is love and anything goes, while much of the church (bible believing) acts as if homosexuals are the scum of the earth. This only serves to prevent people from seeing the WAY and the Truth and the Life of Jesus Christ who came to set men and women free. Professing believers, while always holding up the Truth (which includes sexual purity), MUST EQUALLY seek a heart of genuine, NON-condescending love to all people, including homosexuals. There is too much religion in Christianity and not enough empathy and practical love.

Let's stop over-reacting and swinging wide like a pendulum and instead meet in the middle, at the cross of Jesus Christ.

"Love" does not take a back seat when it strives to uphold in doctrine and practice God's holy and righteous laws by those called by His Name. Rather, it is as we give honor, love and empathy to all, believing in the power of the grace of God to set them free that we become the lowly, compassionate Christ to the world.

Sincerely,  
Robin Somers  
Norton

Remember: Friday is 'Thumbs Up' day

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