

Here's what graduate of 1947 was thinking

This editorial was written by Patsy Ward, Class of 1947, and appeared in the May issue of *The Nugget*, Norton Community High School's school paper. With the Class of 2007 getting ready to graduate this weekend, we felt these words appropriate to share. Patsy Ward Lucas lives in Louisville, Colo., and is the sister of Jack Ward of Norton. -td

Who is me! Tonight my graduation officially spells doom to my happy, carefree, irresponsible self as a high school student. Sorrow! Sorrow! Now, I must be a woman of the world. A glance through the past years reveals me as a youth full of the importance of me. Ah! The good old days! Football games, banquets, class elections, club meetings, parties, dances, current heartthrobs — these are the things to remember! But wait! Mustn't forget those scholarship letters, that good old feeling of making the honor roll, the friendships with teachers and fellow students, the discipline one must submit to. Those are the things that have shaped our characters. All these things have become landmarks along the road of memories, ready to be reminisced occasionally, s-o-o-b!

Dope! Why sit here and shed tears over leaving! You're grown up now. Satisfaction, happiness, honor, fame are lying in wait, ready to be sought out! Don't mope! Your real life is just beginning. — P.W.

LETTER

It's time to once again think: 'Relay for Life of Norton County'

To the Editor,
The American Cancer Society "Relay for Life of Norton County," is just around the corner. This event provides us with money to do cutting-edge research, educate students, health care professionals and the public on the prevention and early detection of cancer; advocate for public policies that further the fight against cancer; and provide services for patients' rights here in our community. Already this year, the American Cancer Society has provided programs and services to 20 individuals from Norton County.

This year's event is scheduled for June 22 at the Norton Community High School track. Now is the time for individuals, corporations, small businesses and community groups to commit their team participation. The "Relay for Life" is the perfect site for a company picnic or family gathering, all while supporting a great cause.

This year in Kansas, more than 12,700 residents will learn from their physician that they have cancer — and nearly 5,300 Kansas residents will die of the disease. It's a pattern that continues month after month, year after year. We plan to change that pattern.

To learn how to form a team, call 202-0777. Anyone who has spent a night participating in the "Relay for Life of Norton County," knows how fun and fulfilling the event can be. You get about 15-20 of your friends and/or coworkers together on a Friday night. You raise money or take donations from people ahead of time. Then you walk — for 12 hours straight. At least one person from each team agrees to walk at all times.

The event always begins with the Survivor Lap for cancer patients and survivors. Then everyone else joins in! Groups camp out near the walking area and spend the hours talking, playing games, listening to music and taking turns walking. The festivities grow a little subdued with the Luminaria Ceremony after dark, when candles lining the walking area are lit in honor of cancer survivors and victims. The lights are dimmed, and names of those honored with the candles are read.

Sometime after dawn, the tents are taken down, the candles are blown out, and everyone goes their separate ways knowing they spent the night raising money for a great cause.

More than 150 people participated in the Norton Relay last summer. Even more impressive was the amount of money raised — \$9,600!

When it comes to giving to worthwhile causes, there seems to be few limits in Norton County. Sadly, at some level or at some point in everyone's life, we all have or will deal with cancer. If we are not individually diagnosed with the illness, we all can name a coworker, friend, sibling, an aunt or uncle, or even a parent who had cancer. Cancer knows no race, economic background or geography. It can affect us all.

Many of the volunteers and participants at the Relay are there for someone else, either in their memory or to personally support someone's fight with the disease. Few events combine laughter and fun so closely with pain and tears.

We hope Norton County will join us as we walk through the night to celebrate cancer survivors and provide hope for those who will be diagnosed in the future.

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Gentlemen...start your tie removal!

Gentlemen, it's time to get rid of your ties! For many, many years, I've been declaring May 15-through Labor Day as a tie-free period. No more slipping the noose around your necks each workday. Dress casually. Relax. They say the absence of a tie helps to ease stress. And I believe that. I find my temperament is more favorable on days I arrive at my office casually attired. If you don't observe the May 15-Labor Day as a tieless period, try it. You'll be glad you did.

The *Telegram* will once again be giving you a free U.S. Flag to post in your window in observance of Flag Day on June 14, and for the 4th of July. Really, we encourage you to leave it up year around. The flag is courtesy of this newspaper and supporting sponsors, whose names appear on the flag's backside so you will know who to thank. If you want to be among those sponsoring the flag distribution — it will be inserted in the paper on June 12 — please call Christie here at the paper. She has the details. Thanks in advance.

Speaking of television commercials... Well, I wasn't talking at all about television commercials but I had to find a way to lead into the following topic.

A television commercial that always attracts me to the small screen, shows this mom, who is also a grandmother (I think she's 40 or a year or two older), posing in her almost invisible bathing suit, boasting how her husband refers to her as being "hot," and calls her his "trophy wife." She's on some kind of diet, and the before and after pictures show that she did shed some pounds. She's prancing around in the commercial like a seasoned model — which she may well be. But as she is trying to convince her audience that the diet really works and how proud her hus-

Good Evening Norton Tom Dreiling



band is of her for her efforts, questions come to my mind; such as if you are doing all this to turn yourself into a hot piece of property and a trophy girl for him, what in the world is he doing to improve his lot for you? Probably sprawled out on the couch, drinking beer, loading up on chip and dip, getting heavier with each mouthful, burping every now and then, watching sports?

We guys have to be threatened to do anything that might alter the routine. We're just that way. We're animals. Lovable, for the most part, but really finicky, perhaps dainty or even fussy, when it comes to improving our physical image.

Like anything else, it works best when both are involved in the same purpose. If you could stand to lose a few pounds, and the Mrs. is engaged in a program that seems to serve that purpose, join her. If she's your trophy, well, why can't you at least be...her trophy stand.

The Republican presidential debate earlier this week in South Carolina brought a memorable comment by former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee. When addressing a question about the runaway spending in Washington, he said, in effect, that "Congress spends money like John Edwards does at a beauty shop." He was making reference to Edwards, a former senator and Democratic presidential candidate, spending \$400 on a haircut while campaigning recently in Nevada.

I tried to visualize a \$400 haircut. Of

course I have no hair to cut, so visualizing that was an experience in itself. What in the world would a barber or barberette do to one's hair that would result in a \$400 tab?

But then again, maybe a \$400 haircut isn't out of the ordinary — for that class of people. Wasn't it former President Bill Clinton who, after he took office, delayed Air Force One from taking off from a California airport to allow a hair dresser to come aboard and make sure his top was ready for his next stop?

I'm still sticking with the prediction I made many months ago: November Election 2008 — for President, (D) Hillary Rodham Clinton, (R) Mitt Romney. If these two are the nominees, I don't anticipate either will pick someone currently in the race as their running mate.

Brag to someone that you know the capitals of every state. If they question you, challenge them to pick out a state, and you'll give them the capital. So, for example, a friend says, "Montana." You reply, "Capital M."

What do the following five words have in common?

- Banana
- Dresser
- Grammar
- Potato
- Revive
- Uneven

If you take the first letter of each word and place it at the end of the word, and then spell the word backwards, it spells the same. Try it.

Have a good evening and a good weekend. And remember, there's only one way to spell "church," and that's "attend." You'll be there this weekend, right?

Norton's educational advantage

The past two weeks our grandchildren, Harrison (2nd grade) and Emily (Kindergarten) have been counting the days until their field trips. Harrison is going to the Sternberg Museum in Hays and Emily is going to visit a farm.

All of this sparked conversation about the field trips we remember as kids. I remember going to the Coca Cola bottling factory, the bakery and other local places. In Junior High, we went to Pioneer Village in Minden.

But my real favorite was a field trip from a single class, Miss Ballard's journalism/Nugget staff class. Miss Ballard taught many years at NCHS and her Master's thesis was based on Willa Cather. Our trip to Red Cloud, NE was a highlight of my high school years and initiated a life long love of Willa Cather's

Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



writings, My Antonia and O Pioneers are two of my favorites.

Norton's educational system has always provided a broad base for its children and they realize the value of children seeing and experiencing outside the classroom as well as in the school setting. Although many families have taken their children to the Sternberg, there are many who have never been there or even to Hays

for that manner. These things help children to learn to live "beyond", to realize that the world is not Norton, but rather an important molecule in a much larger atmosphere.

I think the end of the year is a great time to acknowledge the work teachers do all year long. My mother taught and I always chuckle when people say teachers don't need as much pay because they get three months off in the summer. Although my mother's contract was nine months her commitment was twelve. All year long she looked for ideas to expand a child's knowledge and inspire a life long love of learning.

So, join me and say thank you to all teachers, administrators, school board members and to a community who believes in placing our faith in our youth. Trite as it sounds, "They are our future."

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Thumbs Up to... Our 2007 local and area graduates!