

## Bold, risky move awaits the Democrats

The presidential picture is becoming clearer. And clearer. And unless the sky falls between now and election day in November 2008, the Democrats will have a team unmatched in the history of this great land.

Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton will be the first woman selected by a major party to vie for the presidency, and her chosen running mate, Sen. Barack Obama, will be the first black candidate for the nation's No. 2 post. It will be one of the boldest political moves ever.

Is the country ready for a woman president? Is it ready for a black man to be a heart-beat away from the most powerful office on the planet?

Those are the two questions that will be finally answered in 2008, questions that have lingered for many years.

We might be jumping the gun on this one, but we firmly believe the Democratic Party, in order to move into the White House, must take risks. The only other time the Democrats had someone other than men on their ticket, was the unsuccessful presidential bid in 1984 of Sen. Walter Mondale of Minnesota and his running mate Congresswoman Geraldine Anne Ferraro of New York. That was risky, and having a female on the ballot didn't sway the female vote as Democratic leadership at that time thought it would.

Although we are early into the 2008 presidential derby, there seems to be a sense that Sen. Obama would welcome a spot on the Hillary Rodham Clinton ticket — if asked, should he not be successful in winning his party's nomination. Maybe it's just us, but these early debates seem to almost point to a Clinton-Obama ticket in 2008. There are some openings in the debates that would have allowed Sen. Obama to strongly press the New York Senator, but he seemed to back off at those opportunities.

They say Sen. Obama doesn't have enough experience to sit in the oval office. But if chosen by Sen. Clinton, and should she be successful, he would gain in the experience game.

If a Clinton-Obama ticket emerges, this will be without question, the most clear-cut choice ever for President of the United States: a female candidate/black candidate ticket vs. two white guys.

That may be a stark description, but if it turns out as we see it this far in advance of the election, you can bet your fender skirts there will be one whale of a lot of reposturing on both sides of the political landscape.

—Tom Dreiling

## 'Stay the course' shallow thinking

The young woman, black and white dress resting lightly on the grass, lies embracing the grave of her fiancé. Her soul ravaged by grief. The moment was captured on film and now her grief is universal. Each young soldier has a story and we are privy to only a handful of these, but nevertheless they leave an imprint on our mind.

In this case he was a graduate of Duke University, number one in his Ranger class, and a dedicated soldier. They were to be married when he returned. Now she holds her memories close to her in an attempt to remember his voice, his smile, his essence.

There are more than 3,452 stories.\* This is only a part of the picture as we also struggle to meet the needs of the countless injured individuals. Stories with endings so varied we cannot imagine.

The phrases emphasizing we must "stay the course" and not let these young people "die in vain" only show a shallowness of thought and no sense of future for our young. To believe we must continue in an effort which according to non-partisan groups is disintegrating at an alarming rate is arrogant and thoughtless.

"Dying in vain" comes not from changing course, but rather from not reviewing

## Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



our actions and acknowledging our limitations. It reminds me of the phrase we are discouraged from saying to our children, "because I said so".

President Bush's current troop surge is predicted to have a projected troop loss of 1,000 plus during the summer of 2007. According to an analyst from the Brookings Institute appearing on CNN, the plan for compromise is unlikely to be successful. He is only one of many non-partisan experts who share this analysis.

These young people who have lost their lives or whose lives have been dramatically altered will always be heroes. They do not need others to die to make their sacrifice meaningful. They are meaningful because of who they are not because of what they have done.

\*www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/2003/iraq/forces/casualties.



## This surprise came at a Denver toll booth

You never know what form a surprise might take. I found that out as I was leaving Denver Sunday afternoon for my return to Norton from my vacation in Spokane, Wash., and the Denver region.

I was on E-470, a recently completed freeway designed to alleviate some of the traffic problems the ever-expanding metro area experiences.

Traveling east on E-470 to the I-70 Junction, you encounter a toll plaza. If you don't have one of those electronic devices on your windshield that allows you to continue past the toll plaza, you need to stop and pay. As I pulled up I noticed I was the 5th car in the line. I paid little attention to the car in front of me, only to note it was silver in color. So be it. When I pulled up to the window to pay the guy manning the toll booth, he said, "You won't need to pay." Surprised, I said, "Why?" He told me the driver of the car in front of me said, "Here, I'm paying for myself and the guy in the pickup behind me." Needless to say I was speechless.

I was unable to catch up with the Good Samaritan because the "windshield warriors" (who don't have to stop and pay a toll) had the freeway pretty well crowded and it would have been a losing battle even if I had tried.

Anyway, "thanks" to whoever paid the toll.

-td-

The vacation went very well. Matter of fact, this vacation was probably one of the best I've had. Because I get to see the kids/grandkids in Centennial, Colo., more often than the kids/grandkids in Spokane, most of my time was in Spokane at Fairchild Air Force Base. Son Lance (37) began his 18th year wearing Air Force blue.

There were lots of things to see on base and a lot more off base. We were on the go constantly, and always ready for bed

## Good Evening Norton Tom Dreiling



when that time arrived.

It is beautiful country up there. And Spokane itself is probably as clean a city (population I would guess is somewhere around 200,000) as you'll find. Sure, there are some areas of the city that could use some attention, but for the most part it is beautifully flowered and treed. Nice, very nice.

A few years ago I saw a picture in a national magazine of runners made of steel installed in the Spokane city park downtown. What a sight to actually see these marvelous pieces of sculpture up close. David Goudare, sculptor, created the display in 1984 to celebrate Spokane's Bloomsday, the largest timed road running race in the world.

The park also contains a number of thrill rides, and something I particularly enjoyed was watching the thousands of Canadian geese come and go and practically beg food from the people lining the shore of the river that flows through the downtown area. The part of the park used for the various thrill rides becomes a giant ice skating rink during the winter.

Medically, I was in awe at the gigantic size of the Sacred Heart Medical Complex. Huge! A large part of it is for care and treatment of children.

Religiously, there are numerous church buildings, some towering close to the heavens. Some are modern in design, while a lot of them are of the older style. So inviting, each and every one. Gonzaga University is an attractive place. Of

course out here we know Gonzaga for its basketball program.

A surprise of sorts happened last Thursday when we spent part of the afternoon at the base's bowling alley. Just down from us were three nuns punishing the pins. They were either really good or they had some "divine" coaching. Whatever, they could be on my team — anytime!

Fairchild AFB has really fine housing. Fashionable. It doesn't look like what you would expect to see on a military installation. My son's place is 3 bedrooms, two full baths, attached garage, full basement and fenced back yard. The houses were built in the late 1980s when the base underwent a major face lift.

A point of interest on base is its display of aircraft, from small jets to a lumbering, huge tanker used to refuel planes in flight. Those things always amaze me.

A mountain range, flatlands, breathtaking scenery, the Spokane region is worth the trip. It's 856 air miles from Denver International Airport and it takes just under two hours, so we were clocking around 425 miles per hour. The jet (round-trip) was property of Frontier Airlines and carried 72 passengers and a crew of five.

I look forward to another trip in that direction, with stopover visits in the Denver metro area.

-td-

I would be remiss if I didn't tell you that the security screening at the airports is nothing to lose sleep over. Conditions at DIA (Denver) were a bit crowded but not so at Spokane. Kick off your shoes, put them and everything in your pockets in a tray, and as it is running through a screener walk through a doorway that picks up on things that might be questionable. I cleared both checks. Just no big deal.

-td-

Have a good weekend. And if you are looking for something the family can do together, look no further than your church.

## Food Security Act, while necessary, needs tinkering

To the Editor,

As Secretary/Treasurer of the National Association of Wheat Growers and a Kansas wheat farmer, I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone, especially consumers, how the 2007 Food Security Act, currently being debated in Congress, will benefit them.

As Americans, we enjoy the safest, most abundant, and most affordable food and fiber supply in the world. For less than one-third of one percent of the federal budget, federal farm policy plays a large role in this bounty by providing a safety net for American growers and their communities.

## LETTER

While the National Association of Wheat Growers and its members are advocating for minor changes to make the current safety net more equitable, there is no denying this legislation has been beneficial — saving taxpayers money and helping to keep farmers on the land. These farmers, in addition to providing a safe, reliable domestic food source, contribute to energy independence through renewable fuels as well as being true stewards

of a large portion of our nation's soil and water.

It's important for all Americans to understand that our nation's food security is not free. We must support an adequate safety net for those who provide for the most basic of our needs, our food.

Sincerely,

Jerry McReynolds  
Wheat Producer  
Secretary/Treasurer,  
National Association of Wheat  
Growers  
1757 31 Road  
Woodston, Kan. 67675  
785-994-6261

✓John and Wanda Fox, on your 50th wedding anniversary. (e-mail)

✓Norton Correctional Facility, for your efforts in the Bicycle for Youngsters program. (e-mail)

✓Tim McElroy, of Logan High School,

good luck in Saturday's 8-Man All-Star Football Game at Beloit. (called in)

✓Everyone involved in the open-air market effort. (e-mail)

✓Curt Walter and everyone else who donated at the "14 and Under" ASA soft-

ball teams' car wash! Thanks so much! (brought in)

(To submit a name or names, please e-mail tom@nwkansas.com, call either 877-6908 or 877-3361, drop by the office or mail to 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton 67654.)

OpinionLine: (785) 877-6908

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

Office hours:

8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.

Phone: (785) 877-3361

Fax: (785) 877-3732

E-mail: telegram@nwkansas.com

STAFF

Tom Dreiling ..... editor and publisher  
Christie Anderson ..... advertising  
Veronica Monier ..... staff reporter  
Dick Boyd ..... Blue Jay sports  
Carolyn Plotts ..... society editor  
Sherry Hickman ..... bookkeeping/circulation  
Vicki Henderson ..... computer production

ISSN 1063-701X  
215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, KS 67654  
Published each Tuesday and Friday by Haynes Publishing Co., 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, Kan. 67654. Periodicals mail postage paid at Norton, Kan. 67654.  
Postmaster: Send address changes to Norton Telegram, 215 S. Kansas, Norton, Kan. 67654  
Official newspaper of Norton and Norton County. Member of the Kansas Press Association, National Newspaper Association, and the Nebraska Press Association

Nor'West Newspapers

Dick and Mary Beth Boyd  
Publishers, 1970-2002

Incorporating the Norton County Champion  
Marion R. Krehbiel, editor

