

Clinton victory no big deal

The pundits knew how New Hampshire was going to vote. Obama! The pollsters knew how New Hampshire was going to vote. Obama! Exit polling knew how New Hampshire was voting. Obama! Just about everybody in the country knew how New Hampshire was going to vote. Obama!

As it turned out, none of the above knew anything. No, it wasn't Obama, it was Clinton — Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, who won in what some experts are calling "a stunning development." That's a real stretch because New Hampshire is filled with liberal Democrats and Hillary's win shouldn't have been called "a stunning development," but rather an expected victory, albeit slim at that.

And her victory, we think, isn't as pronounced as we are being told. A win is a win, yes, but when you consider she was betting her 35 years of experience against someone she thinks hasn't got enough experience to mow a lawn, it wasn't that pronounced.

Sen. John Edwards came in third again, a really poor third, but insists he's in this thing to win and has no plans to drop out. But we've heard that song before.

Sen. John McCain won New Hampshire with Mitt Romney coming in second. While Romney has finished second in Iowa and now New Hampshire, he is leading the pack in delegate votes, the most important category. And remember he won the Wyoming caucus last weekend.

In McCain's defense, we must say that he was written off as dead in the water just a few months ago. Too old. No money. He needs to get out of the way. But here he is, the winner at 70+ years of age, still full of energy. But, will his energy continue to hold?

Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee is still the guy to watch. His down to earth style continues to catch fire. He talks like a lot of us talk. He keeps hanging around in the polls. He's running even with some of the bigger names at this point in time.

There's a long road ahead before the party nominating conventions this summer. However, many are pointing to the Feb. 5 super Tuesday elections in which 26 states will be voting or caucusing. The experts think this could determine the nominees of both parties. But then again, it may not decide anything.

Hang on for what could be the ride of your life.

—Tom Dreiling

Your turn

Solution: Coal, oil, nuclear plants

To the Editor,
Our nation has been blessed with an abundant supply of coal. We need to utilize this coal to safely maintain our energy supply in spite of the unfounded scare tactics from environmental and global warming radicals. We also need to drill in ANWR, on both coasts, and anywhere else we have reserves, and build nuclear plants.

Telling Americans to use less energy is like a mother telling her child to use less milk because she is running out, when the store on the corner has shelves full of it.

All the conservation, fuel standards, and wind farms you can dream up will not provide us with energy we need, but coal, oil, and nuclear plants will.

R.W. Yeager
Norton

United Congress badly needed

To the Editor,
As I look ahead in this new year, I see many opportunities to do good things for Kansans.

My hope for 2008 is to see a Congress and President that work together in an environment less about Republicans and Democrats and more about the American people.

2008 brings opportunities for the right policies in Iraq so our troops can come home, a farm bill that creates a better chance for prosperity in rural America, an energy policy that makes our country more independent from foreign oil,

reform of the No Child Left Behind law so teachers can spend more of their time teaching and a greater focus on the need for affordable health care.

My continued goal is to work hard and see that good things happen for Kansans this year. I would like to know what you think the top priority should be in 2008.

I invite you to visit me at www.jerry-moran.house.gov to vote in a poll posted on my home page.

Any time you have suggestions on ways I can do my job better, please let me know.

Congressman Jerry Moran

Thumbs Up...

To... Mrs. Sebelius and the Norton High School Scholars Team, for winning the MCL.

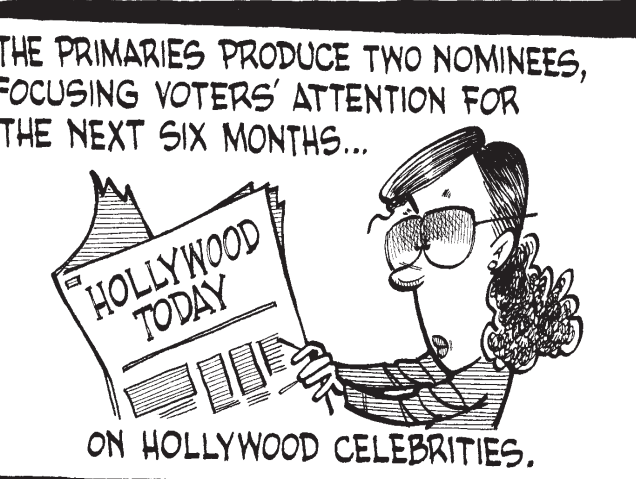
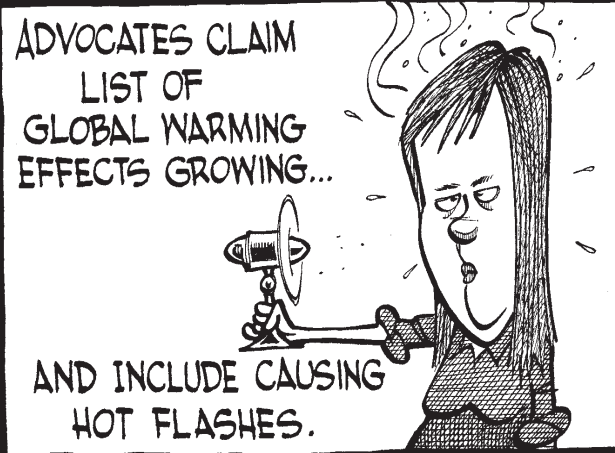
To... Tiffany Peters, for going above and beyond, by placing a subscriber's newspaper within the reach of their door so they did not have to go out in the recent ice storm.

To... the young man who helped this aging lady, start her car when it refused to come alive on a cold, frosty morning last week.

To... our community, for reaching out to help the Nick and Jolene Nichols family. Norton cares.

(To salute someone or group, e-mail tom.d@nwkansas.com, call 877-6908, fax 877-3732, or mail to or visit the office at 215 S. Kansas Ave. Thanks for your help. —td)

A Farsighted Look at 2008



No matter the title, it's still food

When you have dinner, when do you eat it? Supper, where does that fit into your daily plans? How about lunch? And don't forget brunch. And then of course there's breakfast and 'brinner!'

At times I find myself debating myself as to when these events occur during the day. As a youngster, I recall the family sitting down to breakfast before we went to school and Dad went to work. That included nine kids and the parents... you can do the math as to how many were around the table. At noon we all can home to enjoy dinner. And we sat down again as a family around 6 p.m. for supper.

Breakfast, dinner and supper. Simple. Nowadays, what once was dinner is lunch, and what once was supper is dinner. The older generation, however, pretty much sticks to: BDS — breakfast, dinner, supper.

So I went to the book that knows everything to shed some light on the topic. And this is what I found:

Supper — an evening meal; specif., dinner when eaten in the evening.

Dinner — the chief meal of the day, whether eaten in the evening or about noon.

Lunch — any light meal; esp., the regular midday meal between breakfast and dinner

Brunch — a late first meal of the day that takes the place of both breakfast and lunch, thus Br(eakfast) + L(unch).

Breakfast — the first meal of the day. I concluded that my research didn't shed much light on anything, except they haven't found a way to foul up breakfast.

Good Evening Norton Tom Dreiling



And then there's 'brinner.' It's not in the dictionary, it's my own word. It simply means I'm on my way home to eat, allowing me to use whatever meal tag I please. No details. The people in the office have gotten used to it.

The Last Supper took place after sunset. Supper. —td—

I heard a guy from New Hampshire Wednesday morning on radio tell an interviewer that he was glad their primary was over so "we can get back to normal." Those folks shouldn't complain, at least they all got to rub elbows with the next President of the United States. We don't get that opportunity in Kansas. Seems the candidates fly in and out of Wichita, and that pretty much makes their official visit to the state, well, official! At times we don't even know they're coming. How many of you have shook hands with a presidential candidate in your lifetime? I'm still at 0!

And don't for a moment think the best informed and smartest voters live in New Hampshire, as some of the pundits did like us to believe. I don't know how often they used those words to describe that state's ballot brigade. I think the best informed and smartest voters live in Kansas. But the pundits will never know

that because we're not even on their radar screen.

Kansas? Where's that! —td— I thought you would get a chuckle out of these (supposedly actual telephone calls):

Call to directory assistance
Caller: "I'd like the number of the Argo Fish Bar, please."

Operator: "I'm sorry, there's no listing. Are you sure that the spelling is correct?"

Caller: "Well, it used to be called the Bargo Fish Bar but the 'B' fell off."

Call to a business place
Customer: "I've been calling 700-1000 for two days and can't get through; can you help?"

Operator: "Where did you get that number, sir?"

Customer: "It's on the door of your business."

Operator: "Sir, those are the hours that we are open."

Call to a supply company
Caller: "Can you give me the telephone number for Jack?"

Operator: "I'm sorry, sir, I don't understand who you are talking about."

Caller: "On page 1, section 5, of the user guide it clearly states that I need to unplug the fax machine from the AC wall socket and telephone Jack before cleaning. Now, can you give me the number for Jack?"

Operator: "I think it means the telephone plug on the wall."

Caller: "Oh!" —td—

Have a good evening. And this weekend no call is necessary to attend the church of your choice.

Restless legs problem? Just tap a tune

For our anniversary my sister gave us a memo pad. Pictured on the page is a guy watching football with the caption, "As we get older, we realize it isn't about winning or losing. It's about staying awake during the game."

She knows us well! In our defense, how could anyone stay awake to watch the BCS games? I love college football but for everything there is a season! If we need to have a playoff system so be it! But get it over already! Start the games at 7 p.m., some of us have to get up in the morning!

In the Championship game, LSU clearly had the superior team. But as the announcers pointed out, Ohio State had not played in almost TWO months. It's hard to keep your edge after such a long layoff. As for the fans, we are back to our regular lives after Jan. 1. It almost seems like a chore to watch another game!

At least that game was pretty much decided by half time so we could watch the season premiere of "Medium" and get ready for bed.

I was happy for KU but that game put me over the edge. It started late and went on and on and on. The hype, the commercials, the long half time show — I finally decided to just go to bed. But here's the thing. I have RLS (restless legs syndrome).

There is a drug that is supposed to cure RLS. However, the commercials warn

Back Home Nancy Hagman



of side effects and they seem worse than having restless legs. It may cause you to fall asleep when driving and experience increased urges to gamble! I have no urge to at all to gamble at the present but who knows. Next thing you know I'll fall asleep at the wheel on my way to a casino! No thanks!

The hubby says my RLS doesn't bother him, it stops when I fall asleep. If I know he isn't feeling well or needs to get up early, I try to stay still. It is very, very difficult! Maybe we would both get more rest if I'd just take a pill. (Anyway I would if you consider those extra naps I'd get while driving!)

I know this sounds crazy but here is my restless legs "thing." It's a musical rhythm stuck in my head and I "tap" my toes to it until I fall asleep. Usually it's Queen's "We Will Rock You." One leg is for the quarter notes and one for the half notes. My daughter, the music teacher, says "We Will Rock You" has the most basic rhythm in the universe. It is why the song has such staying power. We don't so much like it;

we just can't get it out of our heads.

After watching the KU game I got their fight song in my head. I couldn't go to sleep. My feet just kept going.

I was thankful it wasn't "Till the Sun Shines Nellie" or "Boomer Sooner." Still it was a very worrisome development!

A friend says her son-in-law has RLS. Perhaps his symptoms are worse than mine or he is more considerate. She says he will get up until he knows he can fall asleep or sleep in another bed rather than disturb his wife. He's a doctor. I imagine he is aware there is a drug you can take. If he's not taking it, I'm not either.

He is also a KU grad so the KU fight song might seem like a lullaby to him. A gal of the purple persuasion (like me) has to not only deal with RLS but has to hum "Fight you K-State Wildcats..." It's hard to get much sleep that way!

Things always look better in the morning. I couldn't recall a note of KU's song. By Jan. 8, I found myself regretting the end of college football. There was nothing to watch but the New Hampshire primaries!

We still have some pro games until the Super Bowl, but this time of year is best suited for high school sports! I listened to the Blue Jay wrestling and basketball all day Saturday and did not fall asleep once!

Go Blue Jays!

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