

When all's said and done, McCain-Obama

Waiting in the Democratic Party wings are the so-called "super delegates." They are current and past office holders, like senators, congresspeople, governors, state legislators, influential members of the party, and just a whole host of others who could override the vote of the people at the primaries and caucuses and install whomever they think would best serve the interests of the party — should a deadlock occur.

In other words, they could take on the role of super dooper pooper scooper! If — IF — the party's fight for the nomination spills over onto the national convention stage in Denver in August, and neither Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton nor Sen. Barack Obama have accumulated the needed delegates to seal the deal, they then could make the decision. At this point in time, if such a scenario were to occur, we would suppose the decision would go to the Clintons (and we use plural because this will be a co-presidency). The Clintons have been on the national scene far longer than Sen. Obama and they have an inside track to this group.

As close as the race is now, with Sen. Obama a few delegates ahead of Sen. Clinton, and certainly the lead will bounce back and forth some more, we think one of the two will wrap up the nomination in advance of the convention.

Let's hope so, anyway. It would be a sad day if all those millions of voters who braved the elements to take part in caucuses and primaries would see their choice go up in smoke and look on as several hundred super spoilers made the decision.

What kind of democracy is that? And on the Republican side, there are also problems. The front runner, and by a large number of delegates, is Sen. John McCain, not a beloved figure in the conservative wing of the party. Even in Kansas on Saturday, former Gov. Mike Huckabee ran away with the caucus statewide. And the former chief executive of the state of Arkansas admitted he was never good at math (reference to delegate numbers) but he always believed in miracles.

Who's to say that can't happen? Ann Coulter and Rush Limbaugh, and other like-thinking talk show hosts, have been relentlessly attacking McCain. Their theme is simple: McCain is not a conservative. Even President Bush said on television this weekend when asked if McCain was a true conservative, that he still has some work to do to convince those opposed to his nomination.

This is really a unique presidential election year. The Republicans are on their way to nominating someone not liked by an influential wing of the party, and the Democrats are unsure whether to nominate a woman or an African-American.

If we were better, and we are not, we'd say McCain and Obama will duke it out for the House on 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

—Tom Dreiling

Your turn

Please take care of your dogs

To the Editor, It was very good to see the recent (Telegram) article on how to care for your dog. I'm very concerned about how dogs are treated. Too many people seem to think they want a dog, but don't know all the sacrifices it takes to take care of them.

Look around town and you see dogs being chained up or put in small pens and forgotten.

Dogs need attention, exercise (walk them, play with them) and clean up after them. I have seen pens that have not been cleaned for a long time, if ever. Dogs are sort of put in jail and neglected, and when they do get loose there is more of a chance they might bite someone.

If dogs were treated decently, the owners would soon learn the meaning, "Dogs are man's best friend."

Take care of your dogs. Please!

Don Skipton
Norton

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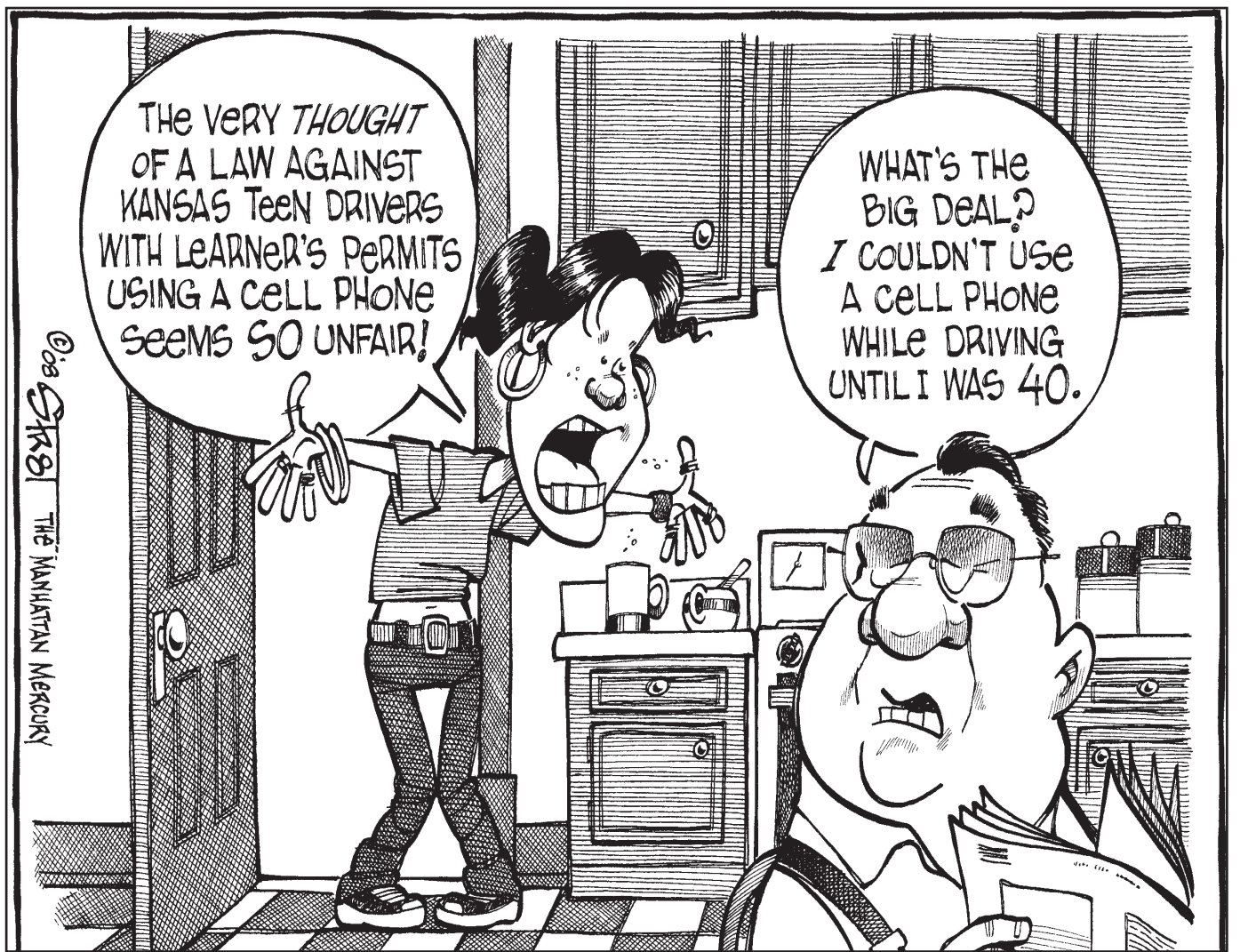
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What happened to the steering wheel?

Jim "fessed up." After last week's column he told me of his own vehicle faux pas. Makes my getting in the wrong vehicle look like kindergarten. Years ago, when his children were young, he bought a long-body, multi-passenger vehicle. Can I say Suburban? He hadn't owned it very long when he made a quick trip to the store.

He got in to drive away and felt like something was amiss. "Wait a minute!" he thought. "What's wrong? Somebody stole the steering wheel!"

He said he felt pretty sheepish when he realized he had crawled into the back seat.

Now, we're even.

-ob-

I finally gave in to temptation. I went to an auction Saturday. And, guess what I came home with? Four pint jars of buttons. Anyone who knew my mother knows she was crazy about buttons. In fact, she had an entire room dedicated to her button collection.

When we sold her buttons at auction, a dealer said to me, "I've been to auc-

Out Back

Carolyn Plotts



tions where there might have been better buttons, but I've never been to one with more."

Getting ready for the sale, I got a crash course in buttons and came to appreciate some of the different kinds. So, when I spotted those jars I had to turn them over and over, inspecting the contents. Sure enough, I spotted some very collectible pieces. There were a few "realistics."

Those are buttons that actually look like a thing. Like a lady's face, a hat, a kitten, a piece of wood. Mom used to call them "goofy buttons."

Another turn of the jar and I spotted a "paperweight." My heart beat a little faster because I love paperweights.

These are buttons that look like mini-

paperweights. They are round and have a depth to them. Usually made in two pieces they have a design that looks three-dimensional.

There were also some "diminutives." Which are exactly what they sound like — very small buttons. These were used on children's clothes or undergarments.

I'll never have the collection my mother did — don't even want one.

But, the hunt for interesting pieces is what makes a collection fun.

-ob-

Our two cats still can't decide if they are friend or foe.

When we introduced Missy to Sammy a few months ago, we hoped it would be love-at-first-sight. Instead, it was instant animosity.

They've come a long way and are now tolerant of each other. At times, we think they're actually playing together. But, then one will get too personal and it's back to "pff-s-s-s-t-ing."

Maybe they're like a brother and sister — can't seem to get along, but would miss each other if one was gone.

Here's what will happen this election

Back

Home
Nancy
Hagman



I'm not too excited about the impending presidential election just yet. It's a long time til November! I like a lot about many of the present and former candidates. I think it has been and will continue to be an interesting race. The accelerated timeline with which the process has moved along bothers me. I am already sick of the hype; the experts trying to predict what will happen and why.

What I wouldn't mind seeing is a little introspection after a primary or caucus is over. It's almost like what really happens is not nearly as important as the conventional wisdom of the previous week. As soon as a vote is over the press goes running off after the next thing.

Adrenaline pumping, everyone wants to be the first to report "IT." We don't seem to really care if "IT" is right or true. We just want a great story.

We see this everywhere. One of my current pet peeves is the "news" internet forwards. I enjoy getting forwards from my friends letting me know I am in their thoughts. But as my cousin wrote at the beginning of the year: "All those forwards promising good luck and prosperity I received last year did not work so this year just send me flowers, candy or cash!"

At least we know those things are not going to work. We might send them on if we think the message is cute but we know they don't work, right?

Internet "news" alerts are more troubling. They often start by saying, "This is true!" Sometimes they even say, "I checked this out on Snoops."

Snoops is a website dedicated to urban legends. Guess what? Everything I have checked on Snoops, (even the things that

said they had been checked), turned out to be untrue! Except for the theory that putting Vicks on your feet would stop coughing, it has neither been proved nor disproved. Since it won't hurt you; go ahead.

I get a little tired of being the truth squad. Sometimes I inform the sender that what they have sent is untrue. But really what good does that do? They probably forwarded it to 5 or 10 people who have sent it to 5 or 10 people. You can't ever get it back!

This does not just happen on the internet. Newsweek recently retracted a blurb they had done about one of the Bush twins. One of the girls attended Texas University and had been photographed flashing the famous "Hook 'em Horns" signal seen at all Texas sporting events. Newsweek reported she was flashing a sign for the devil popularized by a rock group! They regret the error!

I guess that's about all you can do after perpetrating a lie: feel regret!

I'm going to admit a guilty pleasure. The hubby and I sometimes listen to Rush Limbaugh. It's fun to hear him rant as he did recently about how he had been misquoted and misunderstood. Right after his rant, a caller interpreted a speech he

had heard Barack Obama give. Rush did ask for clarification as to what exactly Obama said. The caller and Rush both then agreed that it did not matter what he actually said because we all know what liberals really mean!

Whoa Rush, why is it okay for you to read all kinds of things into what a liberal says? Why aren't you held to the same standard you expect from others?

I was listening to Imus the morning after the Super Bowl. (If any of my faithful readers have been concerned, I am coping as well as possible with New England's loss, time will probably heal!)

Anyway, one member of Imus' panel said he went to bed rather than watch the end of the game, as he has to be up very early to go to work. He said, "The score was going to be the same if I heard it at 10 p.m. or 5 a.m."

Golly, then what was that four hour pre-game show about? Why did we waste all the paper and ink on this for two weeks? Or for that matter since August speculating about whether the Patriots would have a perfect season?

A lot of you may be way more political than I am, it may be as important to you that your candidate wins as it was to me that the New England Patriots win the Super Bowl (although I doubt it). Work hard for your candidate! Please everyone — VOTE!

But don't waste too much energy worrying. Because I am going to go out on a limb here and tell you what is going to happen: the morning after the election the sun will come up.

Life will go on.
I's a long time til November!

Thumbs up to...

To... the Norton KAYS for bringing hot chocolate and cookies to the school crosswalk guards on those cold mornings. (called in)

To... All those people who clean snow and ice off their sidewalks to benefit mail carriers, newspaper carriers and others who find it necessary to walk on sidewalks other than streets. (e-mail)

To... Steve Berry, Norton County Republican Party chairman, and his volunteers, for all their hard work to organize the caucus held in Norton on Saturday. It gave us a voice in the 2008 presidential election. (called in)