

Feeling a little sick? You aren't alone

If you feel like you are sick, even though you got your flu shot, you have a lot of company throughout the country. Health officials point the finger, in part, to this season's flu vaccine which they say doesn't provide protection against most of the spreading flu bugs. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, said the flu shot addresses only somewhere around 40 percent of this year's viruses vs. 70 to 90 percent in good years. Forty-four states are reporting expanded flu illness. Health experts say the surprise this flu season is how poorly the vaccine is performing. What to do? Check with your doctor or health care provider. Do as they instruct. In time you should feel fine.

Good Evening Norton
Tom Dreiling



-td-

Two elderly ladies were exchanging stories on an airplane flight. They delighted in reminiscing about the years gone by. As they chatted, one of them recalled a story that she said would remain with her for the rest of her life. Her anxious friend, as well as a couple of eavesdroppers, heard this:

"One day my mother was out and my dad was in charge of me and my brother who is four years older than I am. I was maybe 1 1/2 years old and had just recovered from an accident in which my arm had been broken — among other injuries.

"Someone had given me a little 'tea set' as a get-well gift and it was one of my favorite toys. Daddy was in the living room engrossed in the evening news and my brother was playing nearby in the living room when I brought Daddy a little cup of 'tea', which was just water. After several cups of tea and lots of praise for such yummy tea, my Mom came home. My Dad made her wait in the living room to watch me bring him a cup of tea, because it was 'just the cutest thing'!

"My Mom waited, and sure enough, here I came down the hallway with a cup of tea for Daddy and she watched him drink it.

"Then Mom looked at Daddy and said, 'Did it ever occur to you that the only place this baby can reach to get water is the toilet?'"

-td-

In the Feb. 25 issue of TIME magazine, on page 51, is a story carrying this headline:

Little Athletes, Big Injuries

Kids suffer when coaches and parents pile on too much training. What to watch for

It consumes no more than one page with accompanying photos. I can't detail any of the copy because of copyright infringement, etc. But if you don't subscribe to TIME but know of someone who does, get a copy and read it. The information is worth its weight in gold. I would suspect that perhaps the library might have a copy. I also have one if you wish to borrow it. Interesting.

-td-

We now know Sen. Barack Obama is for real. Not only is Sen. Hillary Clinton on the attack, but so is husband Bill, and even Sen. John McCain. Remember when people were saying, with a chuckle in their voice, "Who?" It seems like Barack Obama just came out of nowhere. If he keeps on the present track, he'll win the Democratic Party's nomination for president.

If that were to happen, wouldn't it be something because we were told by experts a year ago Rudy Giuliani and Hillary Clinton, both New Yorkers, would battle it out for the presidency. Rudy's a no-show and Hillary's close to being a no-show. And McCain, given up for dead months ago, is just a couple of hundred delegates shy of getting the Republican nomination.

If it turns out to be a McCain-Obama race, it surely will be an interesting event to watch — a guy in his 40s vs. a guy in his 70s.

-td-

Here's an early reminder to circle Sunday, March 9 on your calendar.

-td-

We have a pretty good sized delegation representing our community in the Class 3-2-1A State Wrestling Championships today and Saturday at Gross Memorial Coliseum on the campus of Fort Hays State University. Blue Jay wrestling coach Bill Johnson had 11 wrestlers qualify for state. Norton won the Class 3-2-1A Regional at WaKeeney last weekend, the fourth consecutive year for that feat. If the town looks a bit empty this weekend, you'll know why, as hundreds of Norton fans will be helping Hays increase its population.

Our man on the scene, Dick Boyd, will give you all the lowdown as only he can tell it.

Go, 'Jays!

-td-

I asked that you circle Sunday, March 9 on your calendar to remind you to turn your clocks up one hour as we begin Daylight Saving Time. You'll probably do that on Saturday, March 8 before bedding down. The time change is earlier this year.

-td-

When my oldest son was 8 years old, he invited a new neighborhood friend to spend a night, Friday in this case. As they laid on the floor watching television and engaging in 8-year-old conversation, Lance asked his new friend what his daddy did for a living. "Oh, my Dad's a teacher," the boy said. He then said to Lance, "What does your Dad do?" Lance said, "My Dad is a newspaper editor." His friend exclaimed, "Honest?!" to which Lance replied, "No, just the regular kind."

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Have a good evening. And remember to attend the church of your choice this weekend where the truth prevails.



Let's talk just a little bit about fences

The most famous line in Robert Frost's poem, *Mending Wall* is: "Good fences make good neighbors." In an agricultural community, these words just make sense. We build fences to keep our critters in so they do not cause harm to our neighbors. We take responsibility; we do not expect our neighbors to fence their property to keep our animals out. We do not blame them if we fail to control our herd.

There is a lot about fence building in the news these days. A Valentine's Day campus shooting in Illinois brought an immediate reaction from Nancy Grace during her program on HNN. "Why aren't these buildings secure?" she asked again and again.

One person she interviewed tried to explain that the campus was like a small town, over 700 acres. How could every person entering campus be searched? I had similar questions after the Virginia Tech shootings. Have these people ever been on a college campus? Do they think campuses are surrounded by walls or fences? That there are limited points of entry where students could possibly walk through metal detectors?

Grace had something different in mind. Her thought was each building should have metal detectors and guards at the doors. Her guest continued to argue practicality. They said that about airports, Grace countered. Students would learn to build screening time into their schedules.

Great, unless you have a 9:30 class, then a 10:30 class at the other end of a 700-acre campus. By the time you and a couple of thousand others got through screening it would be time for the 11:30.

Consider the size of some of the buildings on a college campus and how many doors they have. Even if all the doors were closed off except two per building and you locked the buildings completely

Back Home
Nancy Hagman



we are going to need a lot of illegals from the south for the labor.

After a shooting or other tragedy it always seems we see all the obvious signs that should have told us it was going to happen. Perhaps intervention at some key point would have made a difference. I believe it is as worthy of study; as worthy of our time, energy and money as building fences and posting guards.

In Frost's poem he says, "Before I built a wall I'd ask to know, What I was walling in or walling out, And to whom I was to give offense."

If we are going to build fences we have to ask ourselves those questions. The conclusions we draw tell us much about what kind of people we are.

As land owners, parents or just citizens, the reason we build fences, define boundaries if you will, is so our neighbors realize that we honor and respect them. By building fences we agree not to cross into their territory and do harm.

A fence line shared with a neighbor is a contract. It has to be maintained by both sides. When our neighbors lack honor and discipline, if they are offended by us, intent on doing harm or desperate to survive, we delude ourselves if we think we are safe. No fence will keep them out.

(Note to Tom, Norton editor:

I just noticed that in the *Back Home* published Feb. 12 "Snopes" was changed to "Snoops." I don't know what you will find if you try to confirm an internet story at Snoops.

The website I was referring to is "Snopes." It was correct in the version of the story on my computer. Perhaps you would like to correct this in the paper in case anyone would want to try to check an internet story.

Also so people won't think I don't know what I'm talking about, not that there aren't people who thought that anyway!) —Nancy)

eight hours per day; think of the expense of just manning the doors with eight-hour shifts of two guards per door. Many office, research and studio buildings and dorms would have to be manned 24/7. All doors not manned would have to be locked from the outside but allowed to open from the inside in case of fire. An alarm system would be set up so that someone inside did not let a gunman in. To be effective each building would probably need a security control room, also manned.

It makes the idea of a fence (think correctional facility) seem almost sensible. Unless you wanted to visit your kid in the dorm. But you could always apply for a pass, which you would receive after a background check. Of course all their belongings would be searched when students moved in, and all their packages every time they shopped and their mail.

Would the perception of safety make it worthwhile? It is true, they did it at airports but everyone I know hates flying in a post 9-11 world. I hear it all the time, "I used to enjoy flying but" airport security has ruined it.

Then there is the issue of border security. I understand the desire to feel safe. The practical aspects escape me however. We can't just build a fence; we're going to need watch towers and guards. Our southern border is 1,969 miles long. Some propose a fence on the Northern border also. It's over 3,000 miles long! I, m only sort of kidding here when I submit we better build the northern fence first because

Reader's glad the paper doesn't canonize rumors

To the Editor,

Just for the record I appreciate your professional approach to reporting. Why in the world Robin Somers wants *The Telegram* to canonize rumors is beyond me. I think we should all be thankful

Your turn

The Telegram staff does not follow the example of the *National Enquirer*, et al. Give yourselves a double Thumbs Up

for "just the facts" and another one for upbeat stories.

While you're at it give Tom Dreiling one for "Good Evening Norton".

Len Coady
Norton

To... all the Blue Jay wrestlers, and good luck at the State Championships at Hays this weekend. (e-mail)

To... Robin Somers, for her well reasoned letter to the editor. (called in)

To... the Good Evening Norton column, for encouraging all of us to say something positive about our town. (e-mail)

To... Mrs. Somers, too bad the paper doesn't have a Thumbs Down column. (e-mail)

To... our newspaper, for not getting into the rumor game. (e-mail)

(To salute a person or persons, or organization, please e-mail tom.d@nwkansas.com, call either 877-3361 or 877-6908, fax 877-3732, write 215 S. Kansas Ave., 67564, or drop by the office. Thanks for your continuing input. -td)

Thumbs
up...

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