

Boy, we have a movie in the making

Hold on, there, Hillary is mad! Like the flip-flopping weather, she has moved from "proudly sitting here next to Sen. Barack Obama" (at last week's debate in Austin, Texas), to now shouting. "Shame on you, Barack Obama!" And that shout was emphasized with a mean, twisted face, much as you would describe a pretzel.

Obama's last two mailings to voters of Ohio, according to Clinton (Mrs., the Senator, not the hubby), were dishonest. The mailings dealt with NAFTA and Sen. Clinton's health care program. And if you didn't witness her reaction on television, be sure to catch the next rerun and you will see a truly different Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton. No more warm and fuzzy. It's all out war now.

Someone said, not too long ago, if the Clintons crank up their machinery, hold on, it's going to get nasty. If the senator's most recent attack on Obama was an example, that might be an understatement.

Of course Mrs. Clinton has no other options but to get down and dirty. She trails in the popular vote and in the delegate count, and each day it seems super delegates are jumping her ship to swim over to the Obama vessel. Time is running out.

Her outburst at Obama has to be nothing but good news for a troubled Republican Party. If her anger continues, her support for Obama — if he's the Democratic Party's nominee — will be only luke warm, at best.

The GOP's apparent nominee, Sen. John McCain, has some fences — let's face it, a lot of fences — to mend. There are those within the Republican ranks who view him more as a Democrat than Republican. And it doesn't help to have the likes of Sen. Joe Lieberman, an Independent-Democrat, traveling with him to many rallies. Sen. McCain has voted against President Bush a number of times on key issues and this has disturbed the party's base.

And it does little good for former Arkansas Republican Gov. Mike Huckabee to continue with his campaign, knowing nothing short of a miracle will earn him the nomination. But he gets an 'A' for sticking in there despite the odds.

And now there is another hitch for the Democrats. Does the name Ralph Nader ring a bell? He jumped into the presidential race as an Independent candidate over the weekend. Boy, that sure didn't make many Democrats happy. They still blame him for taking away some of the Al Gore vote in the 2000 election.

A Woman, an African-American, an aging Senator, a determined former Governor, and a never-say-die Independent — all the ingredients for one whale of an Oscar winning movie.

—Tom Dreiling

Our country's money debates most certainly will continue

One of the most interesting days of my life occurred on Oct. 21, 1968. I was on duty as the bakery officer for our forces in Chu Lai, South Vietnam. Every post in the country was under tight security for something called C day. The C stood for conversion. We were converting all U.S. personnels' money from one type of military currency to a new currency.

I had drawn the new currency that morning and all of my men had to turn in their old currency to draw the new. One reason for this exchange was to destroy the value of currency held by black-market Vietnamese. They had no way of exchanging their money and after C day it was worthless. I'll never forget the sight of men and women Vietnamese holding fistfuls of money and trying desperately to get someone to exchange it at any rate.

It was hard to believe that on one day all these pieces of paper were at face value with hundreds of thousands of dollars, and the next day it was just worthless paper. When soldiers arrived in the country, they had to exchange all of their U.S. currency for military currency — all except pennies.

Ever since President Nixon took us off the gold standard, that is having our currency backed by gold, our money has basically been backed by public confidence. A dollar is worth a dollar because other people accept it at face value.

Citizen Duties

Bob Streyve

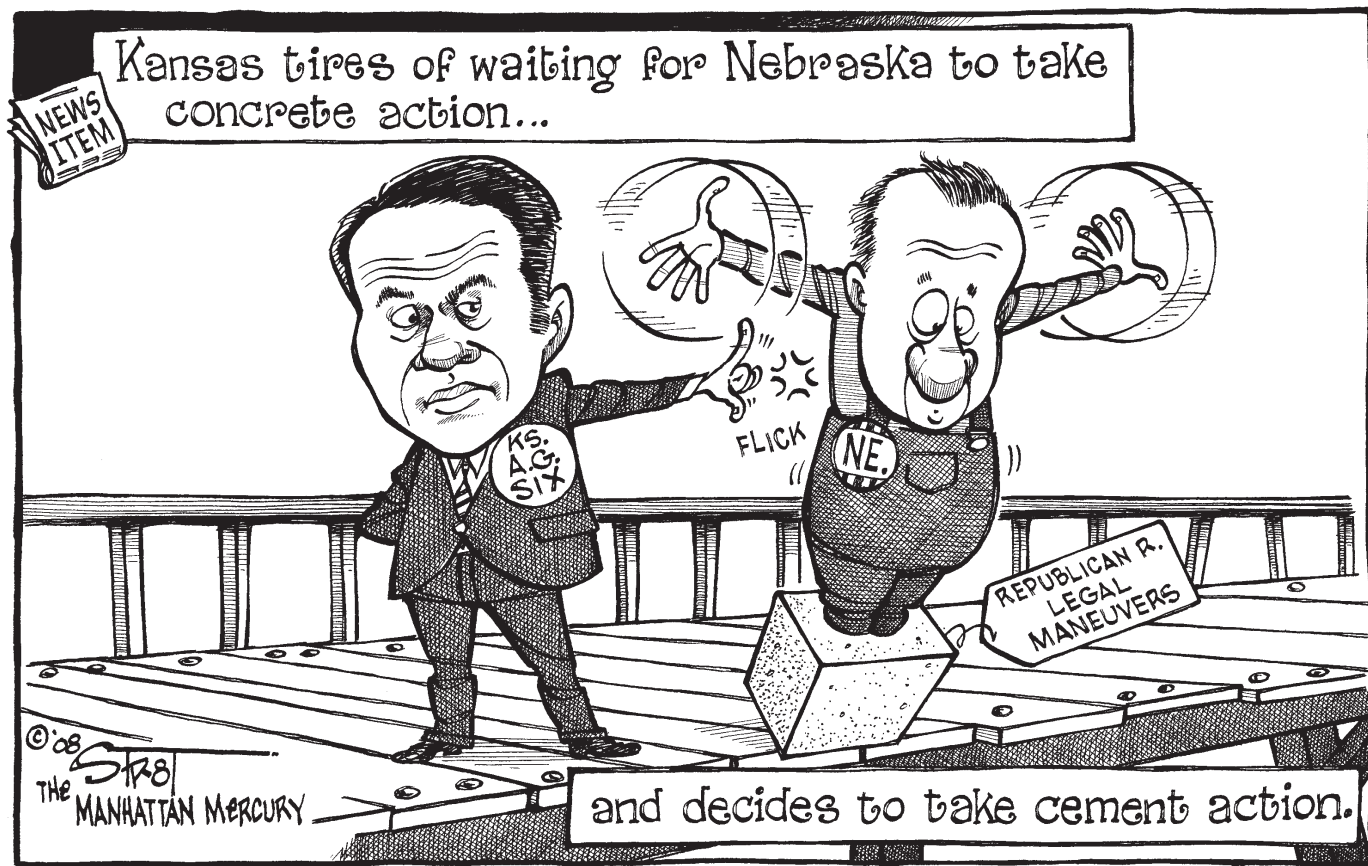


Throughout our history, there have been many debates over our money. Alexander Hamilton restored the value of the continental by having the national government assume responsibility for all the debt. He also created the first Bank of the United States to manage public funds. President Jackson decided the bank was too strong and vetoed its extension.

During the Civil War, President Lincoln authorized the use of greenbacks to fund the war. The Greenback political party tried to keep paper money in circulation, but lost out to those who wanted silver and gold. William Jennings Bryan wanted both silver and gold used, but he lost to those who demanded a gold standard.

As citizens we certainly want to support leaders who will protect the value of our money. Of course the Federal Reserve regulates most of our money and currency is only a small part of the mix. For some reason, I think we have not seen the last of our debates about money.

(Mr. Streyve's email is: bkstreyve@hotmail.com)



If nothing else, we entertain quite well

We almost had a catastrophe at our house Sunday night. Our good friends Dave and Charla had been invited for dinner and, of course, I wanted to serve them a nice meal. Creme brulee was to be the featured dessert. I need to take a little side trip here and tell you one of the good things about living in an unfinished house. (Betcha didn't think there was a good thing, did 'ya?')

The good thing is (in the winter, at least) you have extra cold storage. What will some day be our dining room is, at the moment, Jim's wood shop. There are no heat ducts and it is as cold as a refrigerator.

Now, you know why the tray of desserts was in there chilling. Before our guests arrived, I had given Jim instructions on where the desserts were.

I told him his cue would be, "I think we're ready for dessert." He was to retrieve the desserts with as little fanfare as possible. (It might unnerve some people

Out Back

Carolyn Plotts



burning! Egads! He had put the tray of desserts directly into the oven.

Now, if you've ever made creme brulee, you know it has a brown sugar topping that is either melted with a torch or under the broiler.

Jim had never made creme brulee. He was just trying to be helpful.

When I rescued them, the tops were burnt and bubbling, just moments from igniting. "Everything's fine, no problem," I called out from the kitchen as I carefully, scraped the blackened tops. Brown sugar sprinkled liberally on the desserts hid any charred particles I might have missed.

Back into the oven, this time under my watchful eye. Two minutes later, they were done and no worse for the wear. Everyone thought, or at least said, the desserts were fine.

One thing about dinner at our house, it might not be appetizing, but it will always be entertaining.

to see their dessert emerge from a wood shop), and I would take it from there.

We had finished our meal complimented by bright, witty conversation and I said, "I think we're ready for dessert."

As scripted, Jim excused himself from the table. As he left the room he said, "What do you want the oven set on?"

"How thoughtful" I said to myself.

I told him to turn it to "broil" as I kept up my end of the conversation.

It didn't register at first, but soon a smell permeated the room. A smell I couldn't place. Then it hit me — something was

Newspapers have quite a responsibility

Last week *The New York Times* published a story regarding John McCain and his association with a female lobbyist back in the 2000 campaign. The article implied a romantic connection. Actually a more predominant theme of the article was the Senator's judgment involving associations which might harbor a conflict of interest. Television and radio focused on the possible intimate relationship.

As most of you can imagine, I am not a great fan of John McCain's politics; however, having said that, I would be appalled if any newspaper would print something without substantiating the information. No reputable newspaper would, only publications such as the *National Enquirer* who have made a fortune catering to individuals who delight in frequent false accusations or exaggerations. A newspaper, whether in New York City or Norton, Kansas, has an obligation and a responsibility not only to the accused but to the residents as well. At some time

Phase II

Mary Kay Woodyard



politician who has been or is unfaithful are probably more fearful of their own temptations than they are the actions of others. We elect a president as a leader, not as Jesus Christ. Are we more concerned about his actions with another individual or his actions with the nation as a whole? He's not my husband, let his wife handle this one. I want a president who seeks building our own country through health-care, education and jobs. I fear one who spends millions of dollars each month strengthening another nation... Talk about sleeping with enemy.

Remember what things we need in a president. We are not a church state, nor are we electing a pope or a religious leader. I want someone who wants to strengthen our country from the inside with healthy, bright children capable of leadership and decision making. Creating an atmosphere of opportunity is what will strengthen our country. Do I approve if he had an affair? No, but my interest in him is as a leader, nothing more.

in all our lives we have been the focus of rumors, true or not. And if you don't believe me, ask an honest friend to tell you what has been said about you. I told my family as we all moved to Norton that when you quit hearing gossip then you are at the center of the gossip mill.

Now back to McCain. If he tried to influence a decision then this becomes a legal issue and should be dealt with as such. As for veiled threats of a relationship, who cares? I'm not married to him. Some things are not going to affect his leadership and this is one of them. Those people so adamantly opposed to a

Letter writer submits corrections and clarification

To the Editor;
Clarification and corrections:
I wish to publicly clarify and correct my letter in the Tuesday (Feb. 19) paper (*The Norton Telegram*) as I obviously have been grossly misunderstood.

It was my mistake to ask the paper to investigate rumored illegal activities.

I do not wish to 'canonize rumors' or encourage gossip. **QUITE THE CONTRARY.** As a tax paying Christian citizen in this community I wish to see people's names and reputations cleared that have no basis in fact, and that due process of

Your turn

law to take place upon those persons who are found guilty of breaking Kansas State Law. IF they indeed are guilty.

When those persons within a community have a leadership capacity, especially towards our children, as well as hold a public trust as being employed by the state, those entities that have oversight should disclose to this community and to the proper authorities unethical and immoral behavior that is against the law

of the state of Kansas.
It is to the betterment of this community to put at rest rumors at large and of mounting proportions that mar the credibility and reputations of individuals and their families that have no basis in fact.

It is also to the betterment of this community that it be assured that this matter is being investigated and is under proper legal jurisdiction.

Thank-you,

Robin Somers
Norton

Thumbs
Up...

- To... Marie Delimont, on your 90th birthday. (telephone)
 - To... the Norton community, for harboring more meadowlarks than 'Robins.' (telephone)
 - To... Abi Delimont, for a very good response to Mrs. Robin Somers' letter. (email)
 - To... Robin Somers, for having the courage to say what so many others are asking. (email)
 - To... the Blue Jay wrestlers, for a great showing at state in Hays over the weekend! (telephone)
 - To... Curtis and Deb Eveleigh, on your 30 exciting years in business! (e-mail)
 - To... Garrett Beydler and his FFA Chapter at Norton Community High School, for their accomplishments and the recognition given during National FFA Week. (telephone)
- (To submit a name of names, please email tom.d@nwkansas.com, phone 877-3361 or 877-6908, fax 877-3732, write 215 S. Kansas Ave. 67654 or drop by the office. Thanks for your continuing input - td)

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