

### How does your car feel about you?

I never knew my vehicle had feelings. Disappointment, especially. I didn't know this until I picked up on a car rental agency's commercial on television. You've probably seen it — cars in a parking garage or parking lot thinking aloud about being left behind by their owners who boarded planes for distant locations where they would then drive around in some rental much fancier than are they.

I think the commercial is goofy, to say the least, but I can't really condemn it because it is serving the purpose intended: getting attention. And I, for one, pay attention each time it comes on.

Vehicles with feelings? Wow!

Hmm, I wondered how mine felt Wednesday when I used the company's van (newer than my pickup) to attend a dinner/meeting in Oberlin, leaving it behind. I can only wonder.

The next morning as I left my place to drive over to the office and walked around the front of the pickup, I glanced down at the headlights and I saw something unusual. I bent over to take a closer look. The bottom part of the headlight on the driver's side had a drop of moisture on it. It hadn't rained and it wouldn't have made any difference anyway because the pickup is always sheltered.

You don't suppose....

My editorial in Tuesday's paper, dealing with the Obama-Clinton campaigns falling off the tracks, brought the following response: "It's amazing that both Clinton and Obama are so close on the issues that neither can pry themselves from the other...it's like Siamese twins fighting each other with the one fist that each brain controls."

I see where former First Lady Nancy Reagan endorsed Sen. John McCain for president. That endorsement was a given because he's the only Republican standing after a pretty heated campaign that featured seven candidates. One might wonder if McCain was really her pick, or maybe it is a practice of former occupants of the White House to not take sides and wait until the nominee has been chosen before proclaiming support. Mrs. Reagan is a very gracious woman and her endorsement might bring some of the Rush Limbaugh-Sean Hannity conservative hold outs back under the tent. We'll see.

I used to watch MSNBC early mornings getting ready for work and enjoyed Don Imus. Of course Imus turned out to be his own worst enemy and his mouth got him in trouble. So that show was an empty nest of nothing after he was fired. Now we have "Morning Joe" in that time slot hosted by Joe Scarborough. I tried to like the show but Scarborough is so obnoxious, so arrogant. I feel sorry for the two co-hosts, or whatever their purpose is, because Scarborough — the host — seems to down play their importance. That show is all about Joe. I find the Weather Channel more entertaining and educational.

A party was being held for the newly engaged couple. Excitement filled the room. Before the guests prepared to leave, the bride-to-be reminded everyone that "we are registered at each of the town's gas stations."

Remember, Tuesday, April 1, is election day.

"Women blink nearly twice as much as men." I don't know what that has to do with anything, but it was in my e-mail Thursday morning. Apparently there is somebody out there in the world who hasn't a thing to do but watch women blink. I guess.

Have a good evening. And this weekend concentrate on the purpose for being in the church of your choice, instead of sneaking occasional peeks to see how often she blinks.

### Thumbs Up . . .

- To... *Cadet Michael Sprigg*, on your interesting talk about West Point. (e-mail)
  - To... *All volunteers*, for the fine services you provide residents of the *Andbe Home*. (called in)
  - To... *Ambassador Julie Griffin*, you made your old classmates proud. (called in)
  - To... *All 4-H'ers*, good luck at the regional competition. (e-mail)
- (To submit a name or names, please e-mail tom.d@nwkans.com, call 877-3361 or 877-6908, fax 877-3732, mail to 215 S. Kansas Ave. 67654 or drop by the office. Thanks for you continuing input. -td)

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**Good Evening Norton**  
**Tom Dreiling**



### Maybe church would have been best bet

In our family it is always said things always go wrong if you work on Sunday. None the less I sometimes tempt fate. Palm Sunday I decided to clean my bedroom. I mean really clean. Move the bed and get the dust bunnies, dust the books, the shelves, etc. After moving the bed away from the wall, I got the idea to reconfigure the furniture.

I had to work quickly (before the hubby got in from morning chores) because he hates it when I rearrange the furniture. If I can do it without him knowing in advance, I somehow have convinced myself he won't notice!

While I was doing all that I threw a load of laundry into the washer.

Things were going great. So I decided to move the old record storage cabinet to its summer location (it blocks a heat vent so I move it in the winter). Since it is tall, I had to switch a picture that hangs above it with another piece of art. The hook on the wall and the hanger on the picture didn't seem compatible, but I gave it a little tug and it seemed stable enough.

Off to bathroom; I was on a roll! It was getting on to 2:00; if I hurried I'd be in front of the T.V. in time for the KU game. Sure was a good thing I didn't go

**Back Home**  
**Nancy Hagman**



to church, I would never have gotten so much done!

The washer is right outside the bathroom door. I was scrubbing the bathroom floor and looked out in to the hallway. Oh dear, there was a little puddle of water on the floor by the washer.

As I was processing this information, I heard a crash, glass breaking. I didn't even go look. I knew it was the picture.

About this time the phone rang. Mother-in-law! "What are you doing?" she inquired. "Making a mess," I grumbled.

I was through with the washer anyway so I left that for Junior. I swept up the glass; one shard of which was stuck straight into the wood floor! I look at it like this: things like half inch deep gouges in wood floor give a house character! (Or at least I have stories to tell!)

Junior decided the hose that emptied the waste water on the washer wasn't tight. He tightened it and said to give it a try. I wasn't pressed to wash anything so I said I'll do it another day.

Tuesday, I decide to wash, I did a pre-wash with bleach. There was a puddle again but it wasn't bad so I told Junior, just let me finish this load and then you can work on it.

The girls were home, we were cleaning out the basement. I told you I was on a roll! On the way up the stairs at lunch I just happened to look around the corner (under where the washer is). The reason there was just a little puddle upstairs was because there was a big old flood on the basement floor.

Had to order a part, couldn't wash all week! Just when I was thinking I might have to go out and buy clean socks, the part came. It was an easy but annoying repair. The washer is only four years old!

I believe in a loving God, I really don't think he was being vengeful because I failed to attend church Palm Sunday. Still this week I'm stealing Tom's line, "Attend the church of your choice." Maybe your day or week won't go better, but in my case it could hardly have gone worse!

### Needs of all should be our top priority

Recent polls reported by CNN suggest if Clinton wins the nomination, 25 percent of Sen. Obama's supporters would defect to Sen. McCain. Likewise, if Obama is the democratic nominee, 30 percent will back the Republican candidate. There is no doubt the democrat antics have done little to endear us to the candidates and I have to admit I have on occasion wondered if I could vote for Sen. Clinton.

Why would I vote for McCain? If it was based on personality, I like the man. Two years ago when he displayed less interest in prolonging the war, I probably could have voted for him. But it is truly a time when we must focus on the issues important to our country. Number one in my mind is the war.

We have lost more than 4,000 soldiers in this military confrontation, no dollar amount can be placed on those lives. It is costing us \$12 billion a month to continue the war and yet McCain announces uni-

**Phase II**  
**Mary Kay Woodyard**



versal health care would cost too much. His priorities are not mine.

The health care issue is an important one to most Americans. The problem is too many candidates, including the three front runners, are fortunate to have a health care plan for life. Those of us with insurance often forget what it is like to ponder if we dare make one more trip to the doctor or hospital to say nothing of the medications prescribed.

Each candidate has a health plan, but McCain's plan is less universal and the financial relief for families will be minimal. The nation's health care system is broken

and there is no easy fix. It will be painful. It will be expensive, but hopefully it will be successful.

As we struggle with increasingly difficult economic issues, where was McCain? He went to Iraq. Keeping our country safe is important to all, but Iraq is only one of our threats and our own generals are concerned about our nation's readiness.

What seems to be lacking is the realization that a healthy country, an educated country are the foundations for a strong country.

Our bully mentality and corporate greed are the greatest threats to our nation now. Businesses more interested in the bottom line than quality and those who believe the end will justify the means will continue to threaten our survival. The issues are clear, the solutions more difficult, but I want a platform based on the needs of all, not dimly viewed by one segment or gender.

### Gas too high? How about horse and buggy

To the Editor,  
We've all heard the three R's of trying to avert ecological disaster: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

A friend and I were visiting on the phone a few days ago and the subject of gasoline prices came up. We got to tossing ideas back and forth as to how a person could avoid (Reduce) using so much gasoline. Of course some of the more familiar suggestions of walking or riding a bike came up, but then we got into alternate forms of transportation.

We thought perhaps we could step back a few generations and reinstate the horse and buggy. We figured the garage could be converted into a comfortable barn for the horse with enough room left over for the buggy and accessories. Of course most of us would have to take lessons on the care, maintenance and driving horses, but we have to do that with cars, so we

### Your turn

could see few problems about that. Fuel for a horse is renewable and can't possibly cost more than gas.

A horse is also not going to be putting out an exhaust that has a lot of air pollution like a car and it is besides, totally biodegradable. Like dog owners, the horse owner should be responsible for the clean up and we thought perhaps something in the line of a giant, economy sized pooper-scooper might work. Or a shovel and bucket, or maybe some genius could come up with a sort of horse diaper. (Perhaps some of you folks who have experience dealing with animal exhaust would have some better ideas.) Of course then the idea came up of not having to deal with such a large deposit

and we started thinking of using ponies, goats or dogs and a cart. At any rate, you could haul the stuff home and spread it on your lawn and gardens saving the cost of commercial fertilizers. Then, when your healthy lawn over grows, you don't have to drag out the mower and use more of that expensive gas; just stake the horse, pony or goats out on the front lawn and let them munch away.

One other area: You take a car and wash it, rinse it, wax it and clean out and vacuum the interior. With a horse, you wash him, rinse him and groom him. You don't have to wax him or worry about water spots. Best of all, you eliminate one big step: you don't have to clean out and vacuum his interior.

Sincerely,

June Prout Norton