

## All eyes and ears on latest financial mess

President Barack Obama and President John McCain (one of the two will have that title in front of his name come Jan. 20, 2009), will do battle this evening in the first of three presidential debates leading up to the Nov. 4 election. While Friday night lights will draw large crowds to high school football fields, those not taking in the action there will, in large numbers, be tuned into the debate.

What is being billed as a foreign policy showdown, will take a back seat to the current financial crisis that has all but shook the socks off Wall Street and much of the country this week. The focus will be on the matter of giving taxpayers' money to Wall Street to the tune of \$700 billion to pick itself up from the muck. Some other brilliant mind will probably say with a straight face, "Oh, let's just round it off to one trillion dollars!"

It's just mind-boggling how the so-called smart money crowd could have stood by and let this happen. Of course it's really not their fault. Heavens, no! Don't even think it. Then who is at fault? If things go as they usually do, we the people will eventually be faulted for the whole mess, that's why they are wanting us to shell out so they can get their financial houses back in order and then resume doing what got us in this garbage pit to begin with.

How often do you hear these words spoken, "We are the wealthiest nation on the face of the earth!" Pardon me for laughing. If we are that wealthy, why then are we choking to death on debt? Explain it, it escapes me.

Congress has been warned by the administration's top guys on economic matters that a bailout is necessary immediately. If not, they say, many of us will go down the tubes, too. There is probably some validity to the warning, but reading the pulse on Capitol Hill, it looks like haste may make more waste and they're wanting some stinging questions answered and some oversight included in Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson's bailout plan.

Someone suggested Wednesday that maybe it should have been called "Investing in America" instead of a bailout. Sounds better, sounds like maybe — just maybe — the taxpayers will also figure in any windfall that might result.

On top of all of this, reports now say the FBI has begun an investigation into Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and Lehman Brothers with the word "fraud" tossed into the mix. Does the name Enron come to mind?

By the time this thing is all over, they might have to add on to prison facilities to house the crooks who almost brought this country to its knees. No, folks, it didn't just happen.

A Norton woman reportedly told friends that her small son swallowed some coins and was taken to the hospital. The hospital decided to keep him overnight for observation. Early the next morning, the boy's father arrived at the hospital to see how he was doing. Greeting her husband as he entered the room, she said, "No change yet."

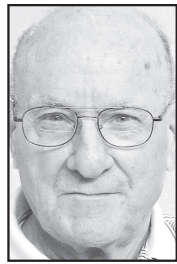
The downtown park looks awfully nice. Despite the heat of late afternoon last Friday and the football Blue Jays preparing to entertain the Smith Center Redmen, a nice sized crowd turned out for the park's official first day. It is called the Washington Street Park, and those who carried the banner for turning the empty space into what we see today are to be commended. The lighted flame atop the water fountain in the center of the park was a classic touch, and it was dedicated to the memory of the late Jay Ryan. Mr. Will's Norton Community High School band played our national anthem to begin the program, which included a ribbon cutting and talks by several people tied to the project. Another plus for Norton! And I might add that the band did an exceptional job in its presentation of The Star Spangled Banner. Terrific!

**Today's question:** Why do we try to keep the house as warm in the winter as it was in the summer when we complained about the heat?

Someone was trying to explain to me that the reason the Denver Broncos are 3-0 in the new season has a lot to do with the fact they are closer to God than any other NFL team. Yes, Invesco Field at Mile High might put them way up there, but that still doesn't explain last season.

Have a good evening! And as you attend the place of worship of your choice this weekend, it'll be OK to remember your team in your prayers.

Good Evening Norton  
Tom Dreiling



## Your turn

### Calls attack on Sen. McCain 'the final straw'

To the Editor,

I read through Mr. Austerman's many reasons not to elect (Sen. John) McCain (Tuesday, Sept. 16 Letter in The Telegram). Most of it is the type of things we hear from each party in their paid ads against the other candidate. Like his reasons blaming Sen. McCain for passing increased funding for Medicare, being against the new GI Bill of Rights, and being against increased funding for veterans. Just who has the majority in Congress? The Democrats. The Democratic Congress can pass whatever bills they want and have the majority to override Presidential vetoes.

As for Gov. (Sarah) Palin, she has the right to fire people who had political appointments made by the prior governor, no reason necessary. Hank, this is the way it works in every state. But when you made the statement that "thank heavens" the trooper still has his job, what were you thinking of? It is public record that the trooper was suspended for five days

for drinking beer in his patrol car while on duty, illegally shooting a moose and using his taser to discipline his 11-year-old stepson. My objection is that it was only a five-day suspension. He should have been fired. Would you tolerate local law officers getting away with this kind of behavior?

Sen. (Barack) Obama is against abortion? Really, then why did he vote against a bill for doing away with late term abortions, except to save the mother's life? He voted against a bill that would protect the lives of aborted babies who were still alive outside the mother's body, instead of just letting them die. You would think anyone, even the far left liberals, would not approve of killing babies who could live on their own. His actions speak louder than his words.

But your comments on Sen. McCain's war experience were the final straw. He has never inferred that he won the war in Vietnam himself. He said the experience of being a POW for five years changed

his thinking from being all about him to wanting to serve his country and fellow Americans. Veterans who served in wars past and present deserve respect and appreciation from all Americans. You should know better than anyone that war is a hell that we civilians cannot ever really understand. But for you to belittle his or any other soldier's war experience is not right. You weren't there, you didn't walk in his shoes.

Maybe your war experience was worse; maybe his five years being tortured as a POW was worse. Sen. McCain has spoken only with respect about all veterans and your and other soldiers' service to this country. You should be a big enough man not to belittle his service just to make a political point.

Disagree with him on his policies, fine; but don't dishonor his sacrifice and service.

Vesta Hobbs  
Norton

## Sen. Obama viewed as top abortion advocate

To the Editor,

I wish to submit the following "facts" in response to a recent letter published by your paper indicating that (Sen.) Barack Obama is "pro-life." Sad to say, he is definitely NOT "pro-life"; in fact, quite the opposite.

He is one of the most anti-life, pro-abortion members of the (U.S.) Senate. Furthermore, he has opposed time and time again in the Illinois Senate the Born-Alive Infants Protection Act which would protect babies that survive abortion, i.e., protect them for infanticide. Sen. Barack Obama's benefactors would have you think this is not true, but the facts prove otherwise.

Feel free to contact me for further explanation, if you wish, as space is limited here.

The following is a point-by-point presentation of where pro-abortion, anti-life Barack Obama stands, according to his voting record. He is in the pockets of Planned Parenthood and the National Abortion Rights Action League, the strongest abortion advocates in the U.S. and in the world.

And on to the facts:

- Barack Obama opposed upholding the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban (Gonzalez v Carhart 2007). (Partial-birth abortion — used from the fifth month on — involves pulling a baby feet-first out of the womb, except for the head, puncturing the skull and suctioning out the brain. The great majority of partial-birth abortions are performed on healthy babies of healthy mothers.) Sen. Obama said, "I am extremely concerned that

(Gonzalez v Carhart) will embolden state legislatures to enact further measures to restrict a woman's right to choose, and that conservative Supreme Court justices will look for other opportunities to erode "Roe v Wade." ("Roe v Wade" legalized abortion for all reasons for the full nine months of pregnancy.)

- Barack Obama voted against legislation of the Illinois State Senate that prohibited taxpayer dollars from being used to pay for abortion.

- Barack Obama's campaign has stated that he "does not support" the Hyde Amendment, which prohibits taxpayer funding of abortion through the Medicaid program.

- Barack Obama voted to block a bill that would have required an abortionist to notify at least one parent before performing an abortion on a minor girl from another state.

- Barack Obama voted three times against a bill in the Illinois State Senate that would have provided protection for babies who survive abortions equal to protection received by babies who are spontaneously born prematurely.

- Barack Obama supports embryonic stem cell research. He said, "Embryonic stem cells can be obtained from a number of sources including in-vitro fertilization....we should expand and accelerate research using these embryos..." ([Sen.] John McCain said, "I believe that skin cell research has every potential very soon of making that discussion (embryonic stem cell research) academic.")

- Barack Obama co-sponsored a bill (S.1520) in 2005 that would allow the

cloning of human embryos to be used in research, but prohibit them being placed in wombs. (John McCain's campaign states that he "opposes the intentional creation of human embryos for research purposes.") Remember that "embryonic" stem cell research destroys a human being. "Adult" stem cell research does not destroy a human being.

In juxtaposition to Barack Obama, John McCain supports the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban, opposes taxpayer funding of abortion, supports the Parental Notification Law and voted for protection of abortion survivors. John McCain voted to oppose "Roe v Wade", the Supreme Court decision that allows abortion for any reason.

Barack Obama co-sponsored the "Freedom of Choice Act" which is a bill that would invalidate virtually all state and federal limitation on abortion, including partial-birth abortion, and he favors "Roe v Wade" completely.

When you vote, please know "the facts," the real facts on the life issues. John McCain is pro-life; Barack Obama is not pro-life.

It would be good if we all factored this into our voting decisions, as we must not forget the value of each and every human life and the unalienable "Right to Life" as proclaimed in the United States' "Declaration of Independence."

Without 'life' no other issue matters. Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Bethune  
Norton

## Obama would terminate life to protect criminal

To the Editor,

In response to Mr. Austerman's Letter to the Editor in the Sept. 16, 2008 issue of The Norton Telegram, Hank's military valor is to be commended as is John McCain's. The differences in their military experiences are that the American people were behind our troops during WWII and not during Viet Nam. Our exception to Mr. Austerman's letter has to do with his take on Sen. Obama's stance on abortion and other life issues.

Sen. Obama says he is against abortion except for incidences of rape, incest or saving the life of the mother? Wrong, Hank. The one responsible for the acts of rape and incest should be the ones punished, not the possible human person who could be the result of such an act.

Obama wants to terminate a life to protect a criminal. To save the life of the mother, very rare, and how many abortionists refer these mothers to a specialist?

At Christ Hospital in southwest Chicago in the 1990's, a child was born alive after an abortion procedure, he was left to die. A nurse, who saw the baby, would not

allow this child to be alone so she had held him for the 45 minutes he lived. Christ Hospital is affiliated with the United Church of Christ, Rev. Jeremiah Wright's church and Sen. Obama's church at this time.

Senator Obama has blocked legislation to protect the lives of these children that are born alive. Illinois Sen. Patrick O'Malley, in 2001 introduced Senate Bill 1095, stating that "a live child born as the result of an abortion shall be fully recognized as a human person and accorded immediate protection under the law," meaning that this same person be given the same protection as a premature birth.

Illinois State Senator Obama spoke out very clearly in 2001 on the Illinois Senate floor against the "Born alive" protection bill, that any recognition of their personhood would create unacceptable consequences. Barack Obama is the most pro-abortion presidential candidate ever.

The argument that abortion doesn't kill a "person" centers on the assertion that a fetus isn't a person until it is born. So

what do you call an abortion procedure in which the fetus is born alive, then is left to die without medical care? Infanticide? Murder?

There have been many studies done in the last 15-20 years indicating the damage done to post-abortion women and men. These studies include foreign as well as domestic. Some examples include depression, alcohol and drug abuse, emotional distress and discomfort union meeting children. Child abuse parallels abortion. The more abortions the more child abuse increases. These statistics have been and can be verified.

Abortion! Safe and rare? Not quite! More than one million a year, every year since 1973 Roe v Wade. The most dangerous place in the United States is not on the streets of Washington, D.C., L.A., Chicago or New York.

The most dangerous place in the U.S. is the human womb.

If we cannot defend the right to life, guaranteed by the Constitution, then we cannot defend any of our rights.

Gil & Carol Otter  
Norton

## Thumbs Up

To... Larry Henderson, for the sound system he provided for the Washington Street Park celebration last Friday. (brought in)

To... The Telegram, for the Presidential Poll featured on the front page. Those numbers are cause for conversation at morning coffees. (e-mail)

To... Nex-Tech, for sponsoring the weekly television listings in our newspaper. (called in)

(To submit a name or names, please e-mail tom.d@nwkansas.com, telephone either 877-3361 or 877-6908, fax 877-3732, mail to 215 S. Kansas Ave. 67654 or drop by the office. Thanks for your input. - td)

**Obama?  
McCain?**  
Simply call us at any of the following numbers:  
877-6908, 877-3361; or 874-4394 (after hours).  
Or Email tom.d@nwkansas.com,  
or nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

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Dick and Mary Beth Boyd  
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Office hours:

8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.

Phone: (785) 877-3361

Fax: (785) 877-3732

E-mail:

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

STAFF

Tom Dreiling ..... editor and publisher

Christie Anderson ..... advertising director

Dana Paxton ..... advertising

Dick Boyd ..... Blue Jay sports

Brandy Leroux ..... reporter

Sherry Hickman ..... bookkeeping/circulation

Vicki Henderson ..... computer production

