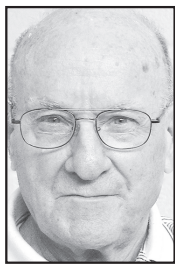


## Election theme fits in with adjusting clock

It's probably not too early to remind you that we move our clocks back one hour on Sunday, Nov. 2. At 2 a.m., we return to Central Standard Time and say good-bye to Daylight Saving Time (until March 2009). Of course you will want to do the time change before going to bed on Nov. 1. I'm not so sure I like this fall change because darkness arrives earlier. But, hey, I guess the time change fits in with the election campaign theme this year, which is change!

Good Evening Norton  
Tom Dreiling



People new to the election process are probably wondering what this is all about. To those of us who have been around for a lot of presidential elections, the current campaign is over the edge. It's not nasty anymore, it's downright dirty. Degrading. Demeaning. The way this campaign is being run — and bear in mind it's for the highest office in the land — makes me **not** very proud of my country.

We, the voters, and non voters alike, are being treated like fools. Do the people heading up the campaigns of Senators John McCain and Barack Obama really think we're buying into the trash they are trying to deposit in our minds? And the so called surrogates who *unofficially* — what a joke — speak for the candidates aren't speaking of their own accord, but with the encouragement of the campaign leadership. If they wanted to silence the *unofficial* hate-spitters, they could do it quickly.

That all said, you and I know who we are going to vote for on Nov. 4. Right? I can hardly believe that there are undecided voters out there. If there are, where have you been these past many months?

I hope when the campaigning ends, the voting stops and the results proclaim one of the two senators as our next president, we can get down to the business at hand and one of the topics I would like to see tackled — not just shrugged off — is campaign reform — **real** reform! Is it necessary to drag this process out as long as this one was? And the amount of money needed to pick someone to guide this country is nothing short of sinful.

Where is the commonsense approach? Of course when a solution falls in the lap of politicians, commonsense goes out the window. But as voters we can and should work our way into that process. Remember, United States Senators and Congressmen who we sometimes place on golden platters, work for you and me — we are their bosses. For some reason, however, we get the feeling we take our orders from them.

It's not uncommon for you and me to clean our house. Lord knows it needs that attention at times. The same holds true with the 'houses' we own in Washington — like the House of Representatives and the Senate Chamber. Those two places also need an occasional house cleaning. We should never give those people the feeling they have a guaranteed job. It was never meant to be that way from the outset.

So... Sen. McCain? Barack Obama? It's in the hands of those of us who are registered to vote Nov. 4 (if you are not registered, why?). And most importantly, remember, your registration is for naught if you don't vote.

Many of us went to bed Wednesday night expecting to wake up Thursday morning to lots of snow. We even expected to perhaps be drifted in. Winds of up to 40-50 miles per hour and snow falls in the range of 6 to 8 to 12 inches were generally forecast. Well, it didn't materialize — thank goodness! But hopefully this may have helped us all to remember to prepare emergency kits. The National Weather Service tells us to have supplies on hand to last at least three days. And they also strongly encourage having emergency supplies in our vehicles. Don't continue to put it off, do it today — please?

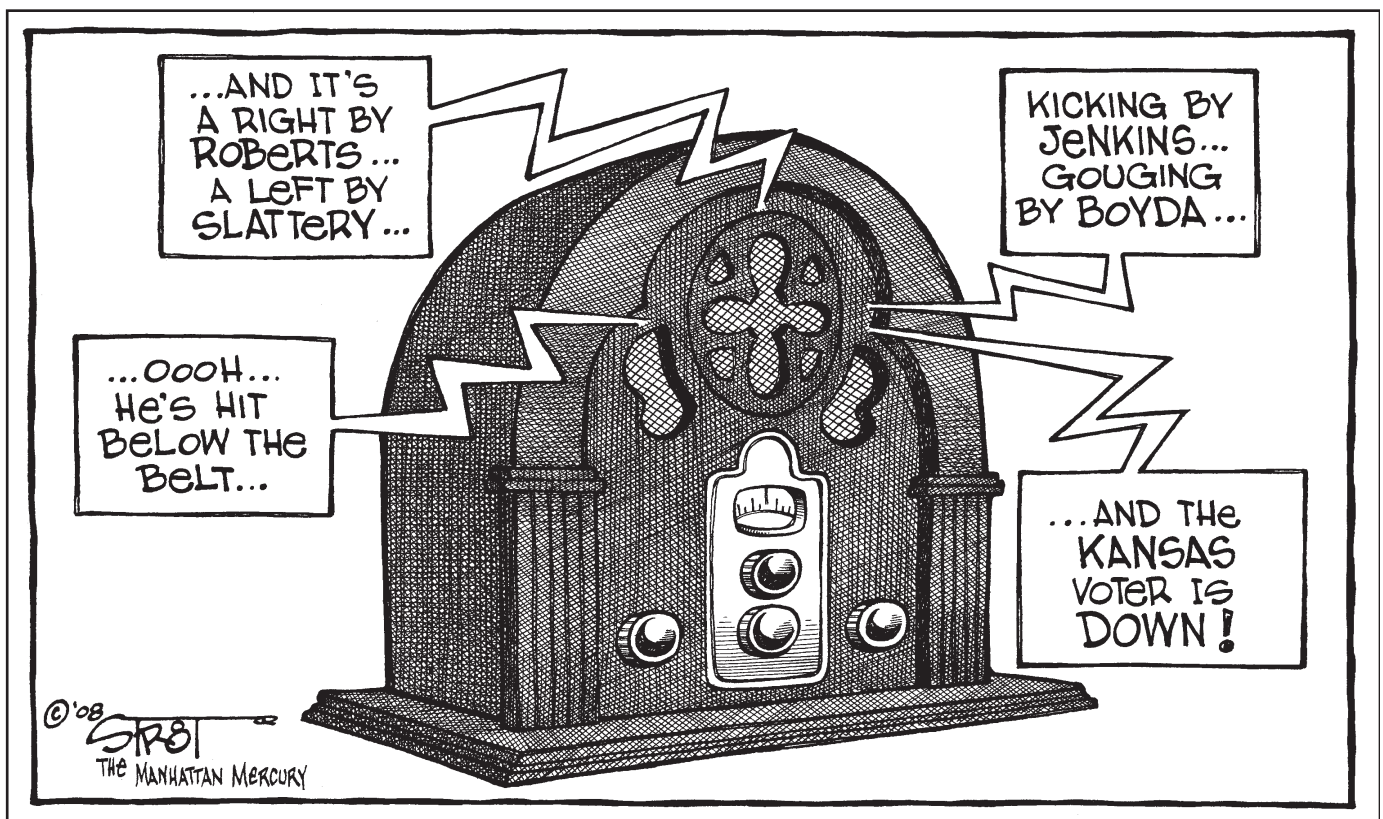
You know that hospital regulations require a wheel chair for patients being discharged. Well, a student nurse tells this story: I found one elderly gentleman already dressed and sitting on the bed with a suitcase at his feet, who insisted he didn't need my help to leave the hospital. After a chat about rules being rules, he reluctantly let me wheel him to the elevator. On the way down I asked him if his wife was meeting him. "I don't know," he said, "she's still upstairs in the bathroom changing out of her hospital gown."

I would like to personally welcome to the community Fr. Mike Scully, who will conduct a three-day mission at St. Francis of Assisi parish Sunday-Tuesday.

If it took the Republican National Committee \$150,000 to properly clothe Gov. Sarah Palin for her campaign to become vice-president, what did she look like before?

Maybe Sen. Hillary Clinton's result would have been different if the Democratic organization would have done the same for her.

Have a good evening! And as you prepare to attend the worship center of your choice this weekend, keep in mind that it's not the clothes, but who's wearing those clothes that impresses our creator.



## Community and family go hand in hand

Just imagine the federal government is a family. I truly believe if we handled our government the way we raise our children we would have a stronger country, both economically and socially and better behaved as well.

Most of us tell our children to walk away when threatened. We also tell them brains will override brawn in the end and we all have stories of how our youngsters outsmarted the bully.

Each night at the Woodyard dinner table each of us has to tell the happiest thing of the day and what we learned, even mom and dad. This allows even the quietest of the family to share an experience. We find this encourages each of us to look to the positive aspects of our daily lives and to realize learning is an ongoing pursuit. As parents, we encourage our children to keep their bodies and minds strong. A good diet, exercise, time for spiritual growth all combine for a good defense, be it the family or the nation. When we feel strong, we are strong.

Parents tell their children to be careful who they choose as friends. When we "get into bed" with countries like China it is only a matter of time until we catch something, hence lead poisoning to say nothing of the monetary mess. If it is true that the U.S. is known as the largest debtor nation and China as the largest credit nation, trouble looms. Many parents feel if a child wants something, it is the parents' responsibility to deliver. Hence we have children with too much stuff.

Often when children want something we should encourage them to do special jobs around the house to earn extra money. Not all the jobs are fulfilling but they accomplish the purpose of having the money in their hand before (novel idea) they purchase the "can't live without" item. We want children to try new things, push to new heights, knowing as my mother would say, "nothing breeds success like success itself". Isn't this true of our nation as well?

Parents want their children to be generous and giving. We encourage them to help the fellow student or younger

Phase II  
Mary Kay Woodyard



writes. Barack Obama's 2006 biography entitled, *Dreams of My Father*, answers most of these questions. This pilot definitely has chosen a lofty career. He obviously chose his own parents, chose his schools as a child and oh, yes, probably didn't choose Kansas.

One thing about this pilot I can say, I am really glad I am not his mother or his child. The pilot wrote, **He is proud of his 'African Heritage' (A father who got a white girl pregnant and deserted her)**. Imagine being proud of your family, what a left wing, liberal attitude and non-judgmental as well.

He went on to say, **Where is the pride in his 'white heritage'? (A mother who flaunted convention and did not believe in God)**. I'm not sure what the pilot's point was here, pompous I mean Pontius.

But definitely he got my attention with the following, **"He 'worked' as a civil rights activist in Chicago. He has never held a productive job in the private sector or received a pay check that was not government funded and/or taxpayer supported."** First off, if Mr. Pilot is a commercial pilot, he also is working for a government funded operation. Thank heaven Mr. Pilot isn't involved with volunteer organizations. With his attitude about activists it could be difficult to recruit others to become involved in community projects. Senator Obama and Senator McCain both receive their paychecks from the government however Obama refused to accept public campaign financing and has conducted a campaign funded by concerned individuals actually tax payers, not quite like Joe.

So is there a purpose for these types of emails? Do they change any minds? These kinds of emails are designed to generate fear and the individuals who are influenced by them are probably already scared. The tragic thing is when fear is seen as more important than finding the truth or focusing on the real issues facing this country, their real purpose may be to insert humor in a campaign, so my response, bring it on Tina.

sibling who doesn't understand math. We take them with us to shop for food for God's Pantry, or make deliveries to the Thrift Store. Benefits for community members in need from a fire, or serious illness all heighten a child's awareness of the surroundings. What is good for the community is good for the family.

As my husband asked, "When we write, 'one nation, under God' doesn't that mean we are all one family?"

It becomes clear as we near THE-Day of the many fears and concerns of the party lagging behind in the polls. My email has been inundated with anti-Obama literature. The sad thing is, it is all composed of information which has been brought up, answered and now once again is being brought up again. Why? Fear. If you can't attack the issues of one party, then attack the personal items.

For instance, one I received was entitled "A Pilot's Perspective on Obama." It then proceeds to ask, **Do I have this straight? His father was a black African Muslim from Kenya. We have seen pictures of his African family.**

Now that is a crime, pictures of his African family. And then it proceeds to say **his mother was an atheist from, God forbid of all places, Kansas.** And then asks **where the pictures of this family are?**

It continues with questions about his father **"deserting his mother"** and **going to Harvard and was his father wealthy** and then about **his mother marrying an Indonesian Muslim and being enrolled in a Muslim school.**

One would think if this "pilot" spent the time writing his email he would want to show his intelligence by reading before he

## Funny thing happened on way to church

It's on a state highway, so you shouldn't have any trouble, my husband said. Boy, talk about your famous last words. You'd think that after 40 years my husband would know me better.

It seemed like a good idea to go to the church social, pick up some supper to take home and maybe get a couple of pictures for the paper.

But, the church was in a small town, which can be reached by going down a nice paved state highway. Or, you can turn too soon and take the dirt shortcut.

I wasn't trying to take a shortcut. I just thought that was my turn. In my defense, it was paved for the first 100 yards or so. After that it was a dirt track that had had just enough rain on it to have a two-inch deep layer of slick, sticky mud.

Of course, I noticed that the pavement ended, but I was moving along real well. I figured it wasn't probably one of my best ideas of the year and I'd probably have to wash my car when I got home.

Yeah, that was a good thought. Not smart, but comforting.

Which is how I got about a mile and a half down the road before I got stuck. The car just started to go slower and slower and finally, it wouldn't go forward any more.

I tried rocking it — putting it in reverse then drive quickly. But it did no good. I

Open Season  
Cynthia Haynes



bay closed and one bay busy. While I was waiting, I checked my purse for quarters. I had two, plus three dollar bills.

The clean car rolled away and I discovered the coin changer was broken. The wash took five quarters for each round.

I called Steve again. He had two quarters and two ones. He suggested I go to the office and trade my bills in for quarters from the pop fund.

The pop fund had three quarters and the cash drawer another dozen. I bought them all.

Back at the car wash, I washed twice and rinsed once, using all the quarters I had scrounged at the office. The four left weren't enough for another go around, so I drove home.

When I got out on the highway, though, the front end wobbled like crazy. Steve said I probably had mud stuck to the wheels, unbalancing the tires.

I ended up taking the car to the shop to beg the guy who does my service work to de-mud the underside so I could drive at more than 45 miles an hour without shimmying all over the road.

My children say they are getting me a global positioning system for Christmas. But then, they've only known me for 30 years.

Steve's getting me about 10 rolls of quarters.

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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

