

The answers are: No! No! No!

Caroline Kennedy? Jeb Bush? Chelsea Clinton? What does that smack of? We'd look on it as a dynasty type nightmare. But it could come to realization.

Caroline Kennedy (by the way, does she have a married last name?), is trying hard to get the nod from New York's governor to replace Sen. Hillary Clinton, who President-elect Barack Obama tapped as his Secretary of State. Should Mrs. or Ms. Kennedy move into the United States Senate, she will join her uncle, Ted Kennedy in that chamber, and her cousin, Patrick Kennedy, Ted's son, who is in the House of Representatives. And, looking down the road, Caroline would eventually seek the office held by her late father, President John F. Kennedy.

Jeb Bush is one of the most popular people in the state of Florida, where he so capably served as governor. He was, according to reports at the time, the family's choice to run for president at some time in the future. Jeb, who will seek the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by Sen. Martinez in 2010, should win without question. That would "at some time in the future" put him in the running for president. Well, it should, but brother George spoiled those plans and the nation might question another Bush in the White House.

Chelsea Clinton can't be counted out, either. Coming from a household of two of the most influential Democratic politicians ever, she will be prepped to go when Mom and Dad say so. Maybe Chelsea, in time, will be able to do what Mom couldn't.

Lets see now:

- The Kennedy name. We can't come up with a number, just too many of them. But any addition strengthens the dynasty factor.
- The Bush name. George Herbert Walker Bush served 4 years and George W. served 8. Sorry, Jeb.
- The Clinton name. William Jefferson Clinton served 8 years.

The Bush and the Clinton families combined lived in the White House 20 years.

Enough enough?!

—Tom Dreiling

Only two know the road map

I had a conversation with a friend in Nebraska a couple of weeks ago. Her father is very ill and she is "concerned for his soul". As tears welled up in her eyes she told me she didn't know if he would go to heaven. She didn't know if he was at "peace with the Lord".

I have thought a great deal about her these past weeks and about her father. She sees her father in one light and I, the outsider, see him in another. She remembers the times he perhaps reacted in an ungodly manner. I, on the other hand, see a man who fought a serious cancer at a young age to keep his family going, a man who with his wife raised three great kids.

Children really know such a limited amount about their parents. A child often thinks their parents only began life when he/she, the child, was born. They don't see their parent as a baby, toddler, high school student or as a spouse, employer/employee, rather only as a parent.

It's a bit that way in general, we see the narrow picture and God sees the big picture. We see how someone's actions impact us, but God can see how those actions impact the greater cause. This is both comforting and disturbing.

Have you ever had someone do something to you, which seemed totally wrong

Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



at the time, not a sin, but nevertheless wrong? Then as time moved forward you could see how the action was at the base of a greater good. As one of my children loves to say, "It isn't always about us".

The bottom line is, no matter how close we are to someone we cannot nor dare not believe we have an understanding of their walk with their God. What I do know and what I told this woman is this: God is a loving father and as with any loving father He provides the path.

For some it is a rocky road, for others a mapped out highway, and for others, probably most, it is a winding path with rocks and stones peppered along the way. Fortunately it comes with road signs, for some the destination is not visible until the end; for others it seems clear from the beginning, but only the traveler and God know the map.

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Thumbs Up...

To... the boys' fifth grade basketball team, on winning the league tournament and finishing the season 7-0! (called in)

To... the noxious weed department, for clearing off the courthouse walkways. (called in)

To... The Telegram's many readers, MERRY CHRISTMAS!

(To place a name or names, e-mail tom.d@nwkansas.com, phone 877-3361 or 877-6908, fax 877-3732, mail to 215 S. Kansas Ave. 67654 or drop by the office.)

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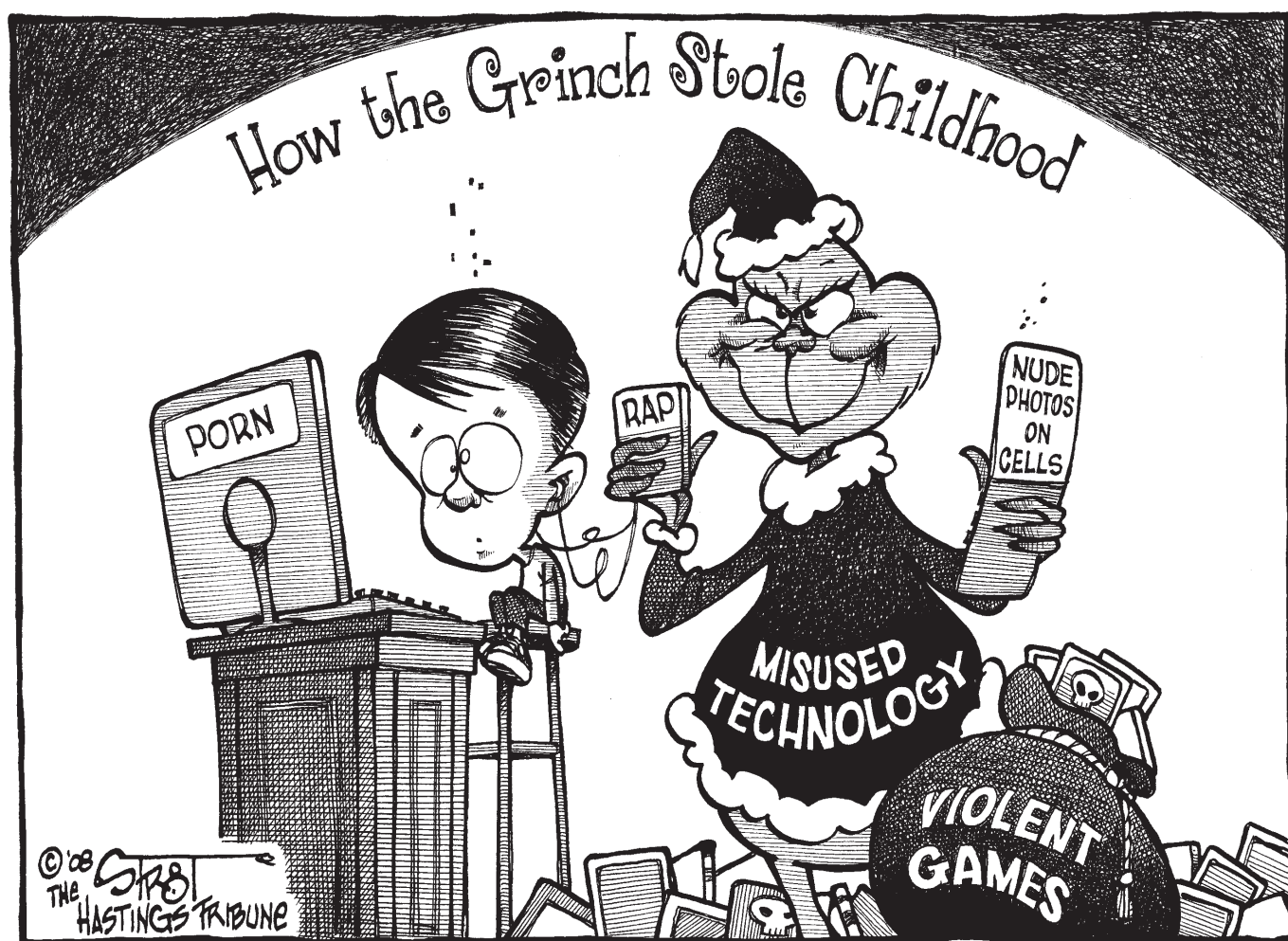
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Don't make the same mistake I did

Put down the green cookie. Step away and no one will get hurt. If this notice has failed to reach you in time...I, I, I'm sorry. I'm afraid I can't pay your dental bills but, I didn't know. No one told me you can't use old mini-marshmallows to make green wreath Christmas cookies.

You know the ones I'm talking about. They're just like Rice Krispie cookies except you use corn flakes instead of the rice cereal and you add green food coloring. The sticky treats are dropped by spoonfuls onto waxed paper where three red hot candies are added to simulate holly berries.

I thought everything was ready to go. The cereal was measured into a bowl; the butter was melted in a pan on the stove; and, the red hots were waiting. Where were the marshmallows? Nowhere to be found. Out of all the grocery items I purchased for holiday baking, I had neglected to pick up a bag of marshmallows.

"Oh, well," I thought, "this bag in the cupboard will do. So what if the expiration date is December 2007. If they melt, they'll be fine." Folks, I'm here to tell 'ya it won't be fine. Oh, they look good. But, don't be deceived.

I finished making the cookies and had

Out Back Carolyn Plotts



they can't, they mustn't eat the green wreath cookies that were on the sampler plate I sent them?

Jim had taken a plate of treats to the job with him. When I called to tell him of the hazard, he promptly confiscated the "green offenders" and gave them a heave-ho over the fence. Next spring we'll probably find the moldering carcass of a coyote or a Jack rabbit out in that field. They will have had the misfortune of stumbling across the "green menace." Thinking they had found a free meal, they will attempt to eat it and become hopelessly locked in place.

So, if I gave you a plate of Christmas cookies/candies that includes a really cute green wreath cookie — **don't touch it.** It could be hazardous to your health. I don't think my homeowner's insurance covers me if I inadvertently cause someone to lose a tooth.

The rest of my Christmas cooking has been pretty uneventful and I have managed to give away almost everything. Now, I can relax and enjoy this week. I might even bake something just for us.

Here's wishing you and your family a very Merry Christmas. Let's all try to remember the Reason for the Season.
(carolynp38@hotmail.com)

already given away several of the cute confections before I actually sampled one. One bite and my jaws were welded into a semi-permanent closed position. It seems that old marshmallows, when melted and then cooled, become more like sweet tar than the little flavorful puffs we all love in our hot chocolate. If my partial plate had not come loose, I might still be stuck with a festive, green Christmas wreath jutting from my mouth and green saliva "goo" oozing down my chin.

Toy manufacturers do a recall if they discover a defective toy. How do you "recall" a homemade treat? It would be easy enough to warn off our children. I had already packed and mailed their Christmas boxes before the discovery was made. But, how do I tell my Secret Sister and the receptionist at my dentist's office that they shouldn't (let me re-phrase that)

Sound off!

Telegram's board story needs clarification

This letter is being written in response to The Telegram article on Dec. 16, *Debate for high school baseball continues.*

This year the USD 211 Board of Education has had baseball on its agenda twice. In the past four years, baseball has been on the BOE's agenda a total of five times. Therefore, this matter has been discussed and considered by this board five times over the past four years.

Most recently, at the November BOE meeting, the board president asked those who were in attendance in support of baseball who would like to speak to the board. Only Mr. Miller was identified and was given 10 minutes to make his presentation to the board, and Mr. Miller did not use the entire 10 minutes allotted. After Mr. Miller's presentation, the matter was tabled by the board to the December meeting for their (the BOE's) further discussion. There was nothing said at the November meeting that indicated the BOE would discuss this matter with anyone but the board. As the board of education sets its own agenda, the BOE has the authority to decide who can speak, for how long and whether or not it will engage in discussions outside the board table. However, "Comments from the Public" is an agenda item on every agenda for regular meetings of the USD 211 BOE.

The board's focal concern from the beginning of this issue has been the ability to fund, maintain and oversee one (or two) more activities. This is even more of an issue and concern given the current uncertainty of state funding. Just as an example, consider the issue of additional transportation. Gone are the days when students are able to be transported to school activities by private vehicles;

our litigious society ended that practice years ago. To add one (or two) new spring activities and assuming nothing was eliminated, would require the addition of at least one new bus. Further, even if a bus was to be purchased or would be available, who would drive it? We have days now when ALL of our bus drivers (regular and substitutes) are assigned to drive. There are times when a bus driver will deliver students to an activity and then return to Norton so as to be able to drive an after school route and then return to the activity to pick up our students. Additionally, the cost of transportation has risen dramatically. A new 43 passenger diesel bus could cost around \$50,000 in 2002-03; the cost for that same yellow bus has now risen to more than \$70,000. In 2002-03 USD 211's fuel cost per mile was 9 cents; in 2007-08 it had increased to 30 cents per mile with NO increase in the number of miles being driven.

There were several points in The Telegram article that need to be addressed. Mr. Durham points out a new league is being formed in which all members will play baseball (and softball). At this point in time there is no move afoot for Norton to join this or any other league. The ongoing issues in our current league revolve around being able to fill an 11-man football schedule; they have nothing to do with the playing of baseball, softball or any other activities, nor would joining the new league identified by Mr. Durham remedy the football issue.

The new Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA) rule allowing coaches to have more contact with their athletes in the summer, "will kill summer baseball and softball..." It remains to be seen how the Norton coaches

will implement and adapt this new rule. This new rule does NOT ADD ANY NEW summer activities; it only allows football, volleyball and basketball coaches to work directly with their athletes — as wrestling coaches have been allowed to do for the past several years. Our coaches have always been very careful in the amount of summer time they expect from our athletes and they are very aware that most of our athletes are involved in multiple sports (and actively encourage them to do so).

It was noted that not all students are good at or want to play football or basketball. This is true. NCHS has five other sports in which its students can take part, not to mention the available 18 clubs and organizations.

It is true that there are no KSHSAA rules against students taking part in two sports simultaneously. However, as a practical matter this would be difficult at best. Simultaneous practice times, contests of different activities scheduled on the same day, and the additional amount of school time a student could miss all make this a very remote possibility.

There is no member of the USD 211 BOE or administration that dislikes baseball (or softball) and there is no member of the USD 211 BOE or administration that wants to deny students opportunities when and where it is possible to provide them. However, the USD 211 Board of Education will continue to be prudent and responsible in its adoption of non-academic programs that will require the long term commitment of resources, especially in a time of almost unprecedented economic uncertainty.

Mark Keilig, President
USD 211 Board of Education