

Tuesday's Snippets

Handshake with Chavez: "Personally, I like the attitude of the new administration. Perhaps a handshake here and there will start a conversation instead of a bombing run."

• TEA parties: "Unless you think that TEA parties spontaneously sprouted in communities

across the country due to a coincidental simultaneous eruption of grassroots sentiment, you are entitled to ask 'who orchestrated this, and what is their real agenda?' Note that the recent "stimulus package" contained the largest tax cut in history."

• Handshake with Chavez: "Big deal, and a good thing. Keep your friends close, and your enemies closer. We badly need to remodel the Arrogant American image in Latin America. Obama's just letting regional leaders know that he will give them a fair chance to earn his respect, rather than disdaining them all as inferior beings from the get-go. A handshake does not commit us to accept actions against our interests, but the appearance of mutual respect can progress to identifying common goals and interests that reduce tensions and save money."

• Airline seats: "They should reserve some extra-wide seats and charge large customers the same price as the rest of us pay. We require other businesses to incur expense in order to accommodate the handicapped — ramps, wide toilet stalls, etc. Airlines shouldn't be exempt."

• "Why can't the government bail out those of us who lost our jobs?"

• "I've heard that 6 of the 9 U.S. Supreme Court justices are Catholic. Is that legal?"

• "As a lifelong Republican conservative — don't throw me in with those moderates — I think the president's grade is "F" for his handling of anything and everything to this point."

• "The only thing I can say about President Obama's first 100 days in office is that it did nothing but consume 100 days."

• "Did I see someone changing the locks on the governor's mansion? Did she get confirmed and I missed the announcement?"

(Editor's note: We are cutting off the cheerleading comments after today's column. We received far more than we could ever have imagined — even a couple of letters. We thank you all for your comments, even if they didn't make today's cut. You are great readers!)

• "No cheerleaders, no sports. As the old song goes, 'You can't have one without the other.'"

• "In respect to cheerleading, I thought we were a better community than that."

• "12 cheerleaders, is that school policy, or a number we use to make us sound bigger than we are?"

• "Solution to the cheerleading mess — let 6 guys do what apparently 12 gals can't. Bring them on!!"

• "The writer who suggested making cheerleading skirts longer would remove one of the most important parts of the uniform. Grrrr!"

(To join the conversation, simply e-mail tom.d@nwkans.com, fax 877-3732, mail to 215 S. Kansas Ave. 67654 or drop by the office. No signature necessary. -td)

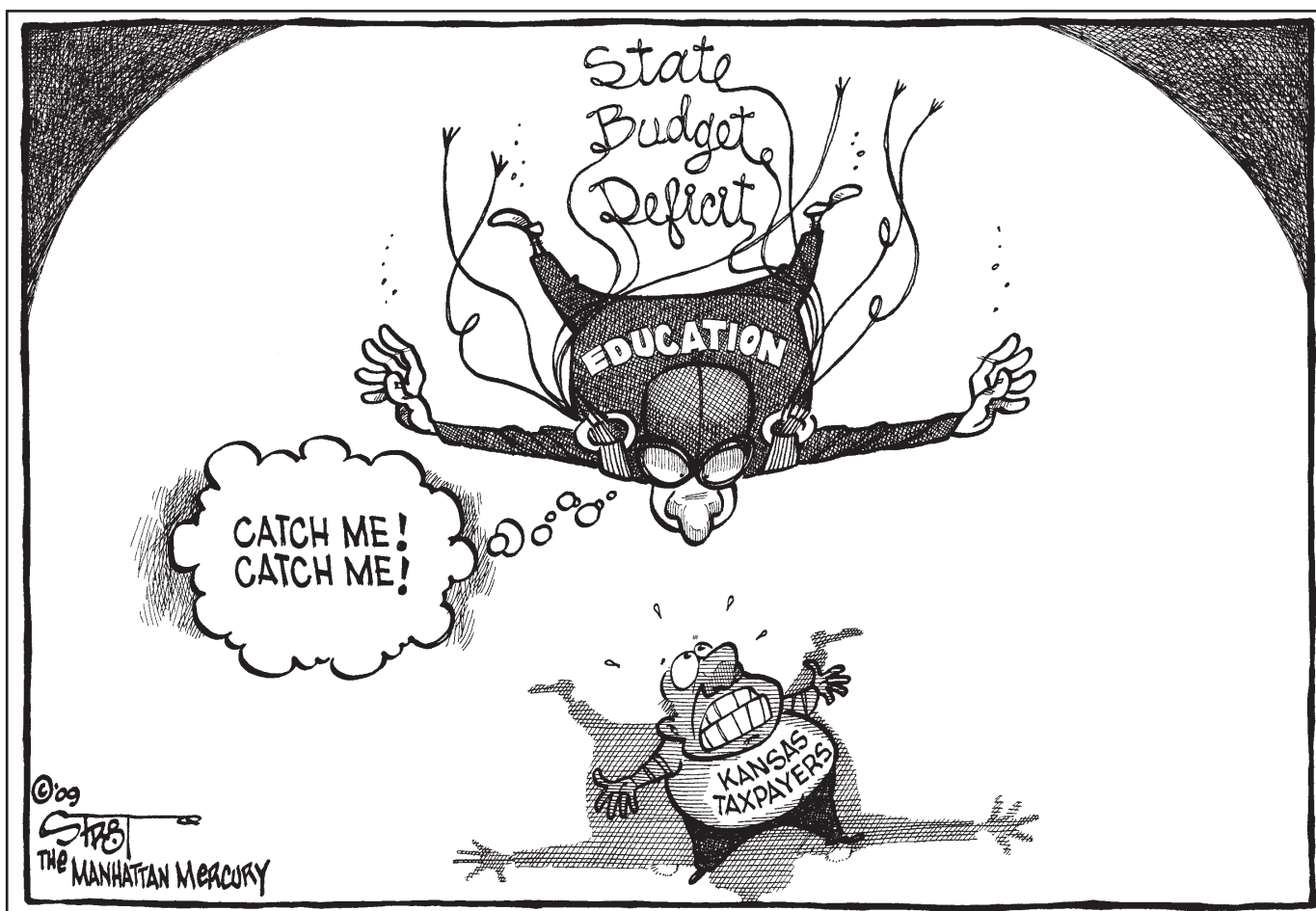
Today's chuckle

FOR SALE BY OWNER:

Complete set of Encyclopedia Britannicas.
45 volumes.
Excellent condition.
\$1,000 or best offer.
No longer needed.
Got married last month.
Don't need them; husband knows everything.

OpinionLine: (785) 877-6908

**Stop
Look
Listen**
Tom Dreiling



Time has come to junk the bottles

Our little dwarf calf must have a Napoleon complex. He's smaller than his two heifer pen mates, so he has to try harder. Bear (aka, Stubbs) is ultra aggressive. If I mix up the bottles at feeding time and give him the nipple that slips off, he will pull it off every time. It just makes me mad but, he gets doused with a bottle-full of milk. Besides being wasteful, he doesn't get a full feeding.

Jim thinks I need to get them off the bottles, anyway. But, I don't mind the feedings. And, I am assured they are all getting their fair share. Except whenever Bear gets a face full of formula.

I received my first bouquet of the season. I can't tell you which of the neighbor's yards Jim stole (borrowed) it from. But, I have a beautiful display of flowering crabapple blossoms perched on my kitchen window sill. Sometimes, he brings me a rose, sometimes it's just

Out Back
Carolyn Plotts



kiss and a smile. Imagine couples across America being extra nice to each other. We could have happiness breaking out all over. And, all because of one little flower. Hey! It could happen.

I checked my fan mail this week. Okay, so it was only one letter. And, it was from a reader I inherited from my mother. Phillene Weets from Rapid City, S.D., wrote a nice letter and included a clipping from columnist Dorothy Rosby. Phillene thought I would appreciate it and I did.

Dorothy wrote about managing time and all the household jobs she is going to finish when she "finds the time." From mending projects, to cleaning closets Dorothy is like me — she never gets "roundtoit."

I've come to the point that I don't care if you write your name in the dust on my furniture — just don't date it.

Don't use your kids for political gain

Sarah Palin has a difficult path. As a mother her desire, albeit need, is to protect her children, but as a political figure the path is very different. I would imagine she seldom confronts the local rival soccer mom, but when the media attacks her children all bets are off. As a mother of five, I can relate to her incredible need to shelter her family, unfortunately public life doesn't allow for that. The more she fights back, the more the media digs for dirt.

Recently, Levi Johnston, her daughter's former boyfriend and her grandson's father, appeared on Tyra Banks to discuss his relationship with Bristol. The governor's response was as violent as any mother bear protecting her cub. It comes across however as protecting her own image when she rails against him for his accusation the governor "knew" they were having sex in her house. This

Phase II
Mary Kay Woodyard



this...you can't have it both ways. You can't parade your children on the stage, on the campaign trail, at political dinners and use them as part of the "aren't we a great family" only to bar them from what makes them just like any other family...family problems.

My suggestion to Gov. Palin is this, your private life is just that, your private life. Don't use your family and don't let the media abuse them. The Clintons and the Bushs made it clear. Their children didn't ask to be in politics so the media could attack them, the President and his wife, all they wanted, but their daughters were off limits. After that, they didn't respond to any of the media accusations, as hard as that must have been. They didn't give the media any fuel to add to the proverbial fire and the heat died down.

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Websites help deal with alcohol abuse

This is National Alcohol Awareness Month. The Web is full of sites which talk about alcohol, its use and abuse. Some that I would encourage you to visit are: <http://ncadi.samhsa.gov/seasonal/aprilalcohol/>. This is a government website which is dedicated to education. Per SAMHSA, "Alcohol abuse and alcoholism cut across gender, race, and nationality. In the United States, 17.6 million people — about 1 in every 12 adults — abuse alcohol or are alcohol dependent. In general, more men than women are alcohol dependent or have alcohol problems. And alcohol problems are highest among young adults ages 18-29 and lowest among adults ages 65 and older. We also know that people who start drinking at an early age — for example, at age 14 or younger — are at much higher risk of developing alcohol problems at some point in their lives compared to someone who starts drink-

Where There's Hope
Carla Moore

ing at age 21 or after." Another website <http://www.AlcoholScreening.org> is a personal, private screening of your drinking habits and if they are within normal limits or you may be drinking too much. Alcoholics and problem drinkers have a skewed idea of what heavy drinking or normal drinking levels are. What is a safe level of drinking? Usually up to two drinks per day for men and one drink for women and older adults will cause few problems. Remember — a drink is equal to a 12-ounce bottle of beer or a wine cooler, or 1.5 ounces of 80-proof liquor or 5 ounces of wine.

Finally, <http://www.jointogether.org> is a wonderful site which keeps people informed of the most recent research, legislation and prevention efforts. Here is an example of research provided on this site: "Report Identifies Lifesaving Alcohol Laws — April 9, 2009 Research Summary. Laws that prevent alcohol purchases and possession by youth are the most effective at preventing drunk-driving fatalities, according to a new report that also praises as effective license suspensions for underage alcohol offenses and zero-tolerance laws for drivers under 21 found with alcohol in their system."

If you are interested in having an educational workshop for a group, Norton Valley Hope is available. We enjoy sharing our experience and passion with the community?

(If you have any questions or comments, you can contact me at cmoore@valleyhope.com. Namaste - Carla)

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