

## Tuesday's Snippets

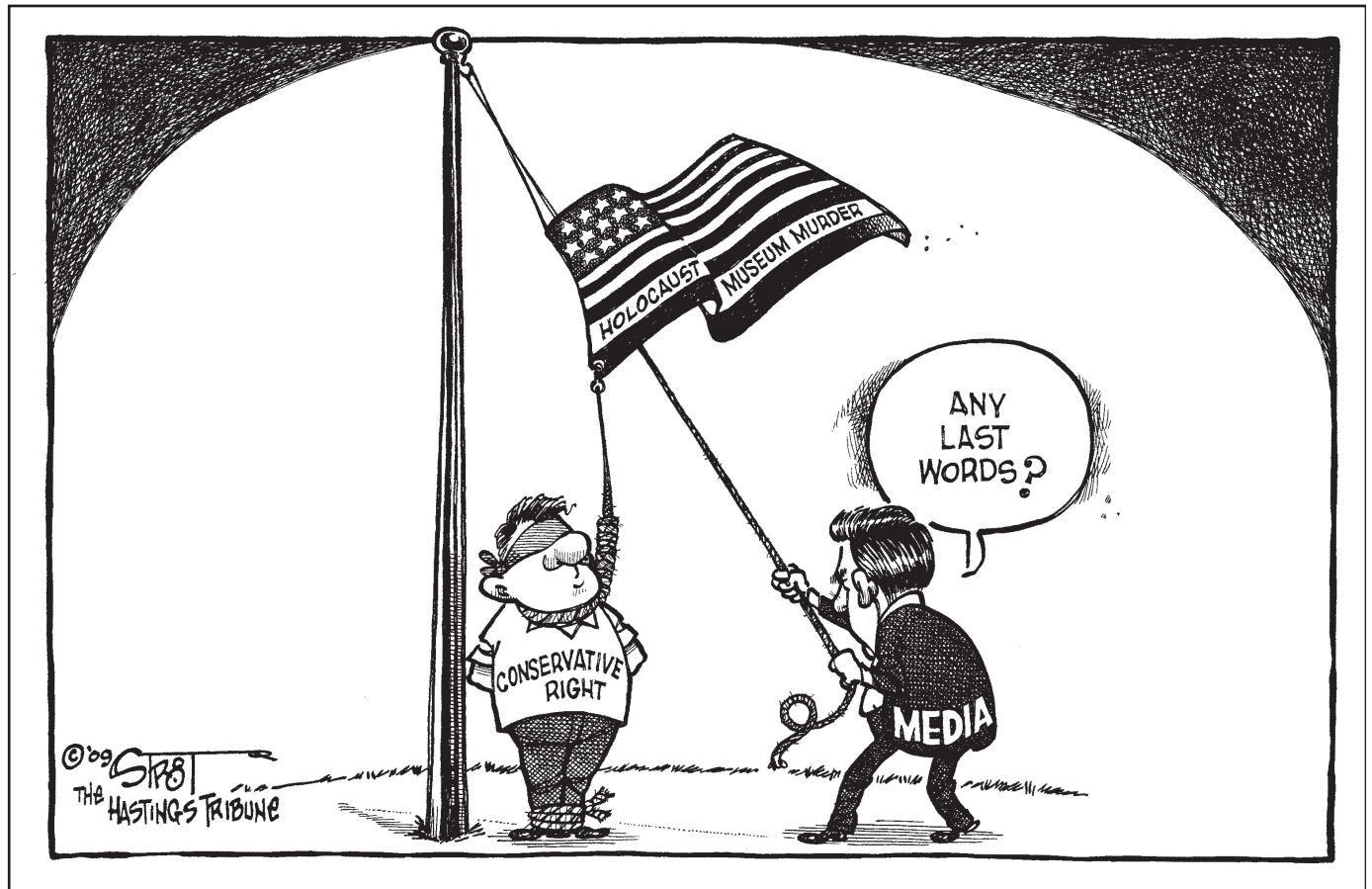
The Norton Public Library's 100th birthday celebration is part of today's conversation, as are gas prices, the Iranian election, and swimmer Phelps and NBA'er Kobe Bryant. And a few other things.

**Stop  
Look  
Listen**  
Tom Dreiling



- Enjoy.
- "It's about time the newspaper paid attention to the library. It took a hundred years, but as they say, 'Better late than never.'"
  - "Thanks, Telegram, for the wonderful publicity leading up to the 100th Anniversary celebration of the Norton Public Library."
  - "Wow! You couldn't have bought the publicity you so graciously dished out to the library for their 100th birthday! Super job!"
  - "I'm 84 and have never been inside our library. Your coverage teased me enough to where, as ability permits, I'll start using it."
  - "The Iran election results smell like an outhouse sitting in the hot summer sun."
  - "Election? That thing in Iran could best be described as a political abortion."
  - "Who is running the Republican Party? One of your recent letter writers put it best, 'Larry, Moe and Curly.'"
  - "I see where the Lakers won the NBA championship - again! Every time I hear the name Kobe Bryant, I get sick to my stomach. I need not elaborate."
  - "Hey, I see where 'what's his name' is back swimming. I am about as excited over that as I am over the Iran election returns."
  - "Phelps may be back swimming, but that's not what he'll be remembered for, thanks to his own drug related stupidity."
  - "Did you notice the price of gas at the pump in our own hometown? It'll be back at \$3 in short order. Is greed a sin?"
  - "Well, looks like we'll be driving less this summer too. Like the sun, gas prices are rising."
  - "Did you not expect the oil companies to bump up the price of gas? You are foolish, if you didn't. Unpatriotic snobs they are."
  - "A lot of bad news. But here's some good news: I wake up each day. Can you beat that?!"

(Join in the conversation. Email tom.d@nwkansas.com, call 877-3361 or 877-6908, fax to 877-3732, write to 215 S. Kansas Ave. 67654 or drop by the office.)



## Bert was special and we mourn his loss

We get our Friday Telegram about noon on Saturday. During the week we get our mail earlier but for some reason the Saturday carrier is always late. Even if the paper had arrived on a weekday I would not have known early enough that Bert Baker had died, the funeral was at 11:00.

Bert was special. In our politically correct world we would say he was developmentally delayed. But when I was young we thought of him as simple. I don't remember anyone being cruel to Bert or about his situation. Though I'm sure some were. He was 30 years old when I was born, and it was years before I had an awareness of his "delays." He was always there and we accepted it.

He worked at Van's (later Johnny's) Elevator. Or helped out where he could. He didn't drive. His mother Gussie worked also, she was a fantastic cook. She helped people, too.

When my Mother died, after a six year battle with cancer, I only remember what one person said to me:

Bert. He said, "I'm sorry your Mommy died."

It makes me cry to think about Bert's condolences. When your Mommy dies, no matter your age (I was 33) you are a child. Bert with his childlike view of the world was the only one who could express that in a way my heart could hear.

My Mom's death was a relief, her funeral a celebration. But how can it ever really be for the best? She was my Mommy. Even 24 years later I sometimes think it was so unfair. I wish she was here, she would be 97, a pretty

**Back  
Home**  
Nancy  
Hagman



When he first had to adjust to the Andbe Home it was difficult. He was used to walking everywhere. When he went out the door at the Andbe Home the buzzers went off and someone would come and get him and take him back. In time he felt so at home there he did not want to leave. He was no longer comfortable coming to Lenora.

In some ways Bert's life was limited. He knew all the people in a small town and then he knew all the people in a nursing home.

Those of us without "delays" think we have the capability to think about life and its meaning. Some ponder it more than others. Our understanding of it all has much to do with our personalities and life experience.

I must have been told at some point that in Heaven the imperfect will be made perfect. In some respects I look forward to that and in some respects it strikes me as boring. If Bert is perfect in Heaven, how will we know him?

Perhaps God's idea of perfection is different from ours. I'm certain his idea of fairness is. When I get to thinking about my Mommy's death my rational brain tells my heart instead of searching for the fairness of it, I should be grateful that I mourn. Think how unfair it would be if a mother or any person was not mourned.

If there were no one who cared enough to cry or ask why?

I missed Bert's funeral, I did not even read about it till it was over. All I can do is tell those who were not privileged enough to know him; he was special and those who knew him mourn.  
(gneph@yahoo.com)

## Be careful what you say

The phrases exit our mouths so easily: "They should all be killed. They don't deserve to live. They deserve whatever happens to them. They're killers and on and on". It is no wonder that someone who has trouble discerning right from wrong pulls out a gun and kills someone they don't know, in what is considered a safe place because they don't agree with them.

Once again hate has reared its ugly head and taken another human life. If we truly value life, it matters not whose life it is or the justification for killing. Whether it is an execution of a convicted criminal or the murder of an abortion doctor or the soldier on the field, a life is a life is a life.

If anything is to be learned from Dr. George Tiller's death it is that we need, each of us, to monitor our words. They carry tremendous power and ultimately can produce life and death situations. We often speak of the power of presidents and leaders of the world and yet we in our everyday life have incredible power.

As parents we influence our children in a variety of ways. I remember well the young man who shot several people in an abortion clinic. He believed he was carrying out his parents' wishes. They were anti-abortion but never wanted or even encouraged his actions. He merely heard his parents' phrases such as, "they should all be shot" and took matters into his own hands so to speak.

No one was more surprised or horrified than his parents. While trying to convey their belief on the abortion issue, they inadvertently promoted a belief in violence, one they truly did not uphold. In the youth's desire to please his parents he committed an unthinkable act.

I do not know the circumstances behind Scott Roeder's actions, but one can only feel sorrow and sympathy for someone who supposedly is pro-life, but just committed murder. May we all see our role in the violence which permeates much of our society and pray for the forgiveness of others actions while sorrowfully asking for forgiveness of our own actions as well.

May God grant us all peace.  
(mkwoodyard@ruraltel.net)

**Phase II**  
Mary Kay  
Woodyard



## Maybe city council can reconsider request

An open letter to the city council of Norton,

Council notes a few weeks back showed that Immanuel Lutheran Church asked for labor help to run a city waterline to their new church site and were refused. Reason given was city employees have too much to do — perhaps they do. As a former member of this congregation, however, I felt that it was a shame to deny support to a badly needed new project that will certainly improve the western approach to the city of Norton.

Had it been a business I am sure they could have worked it in. True, we are just a small congregation but we live and shop in Norton and participate fully in community events.

The Thrivent for Lutherans association has done a lot of fund raisers for Norton citizens, church connected or not. We



are one of the churches that finds time to do Meals on Wheels regularly and we firmly support Kansans for Life. Maybe there just aren't enough of us to make an impact?

We are not a fly-by-night organization. Immanuel Lutheran has been established in Norton County for many years, fifty of them within the city of Norton. Our congregation includes farmers, a number of

Norton businessmen who are continuing to do business in Norton in spite of hard times, volunteer firemen, many musicians and teachers who have and still do work in our schools.

My husband served Norton for years as mayor and council member. He would certainly be disappointed, to say the least, at the council's action on this issue. Such assistance has been freely granted in the past to almost all requests.

How sad it is that the city council seemed to forget our multiple contributions to the community when we asked for such minimal help. Won't you please reconsider the stance taken on this request?

Liza Deines  
Columnist and former  
longtime resident

## It's jubilee time once again at Lenora

It's hard to believe it's almost time for another Jubilee here in Lenora. You anticipate it all year long, and suddenly it's here, before you even realize it.

This year, we have concerts on the evening of Friday, June 19, and family activities all day on Saturday, June 20, ending with another concert.

On top of the excitement of having so many activities in town, a very exciting part of the Jubilee for me is that my fam-

ily comes to visit! In fact, everyone has visitors all over town. We are all so proud of the Jubilee and love to show it off to new people.

Sometimes we just walk the parking lot and take note of how many cars are from other counties and even other states! The concert will attract fans from far and wide.

We are so fortunate to have such quality entertainers year after year. This year,

our Friday concert features Danielle Peck and Gloriana, with performances by The Three Jacks and Colfax Cowboys. Blaine Younger and Riverbilly play on Saturday.

I'd love to welcome everyone to Lenora for the Jubilee.

Hope to see you there!

Deborah Anderson  
Lenora City Council

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