

Republican ladies eye housecleaning

The 'new look GOP' features not aging, gray-haired gentlemen, but, instead, young, energetic women clothed in conservatism like the Grand Old Party once flouted.

The 'party of tomorrow' won't be a splintered mess as is the case today. There are just too many fingers in the political cookie jar trying their best to capture the heart and soul of what once was truly a Grand Old Party.

And who are these 'leaders of tomorrow'? How about Liz Cheney, daughter of former Vice President Dick Cheney, and Sarah Palin, former Governor of Alaska and 2008 vice presidential candidate. There are other women quietly studying the political landscape.

The thing that has sparked this turn of events, probably, was the victory scored by the Democrats in last year's presidential election. The showdown between candidates Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton, despite being vicious, ended up uniting the Donkeycrats and America installing its first African-American president.

The pre-election chatter by those who, it turned out, knew least about the situation, had Democrat women turning against their party for nominating Barack Obama, assuring Republican presidential candidate Senator John McCain and running mate, then Gov. Palin, a clear victory to the White House.

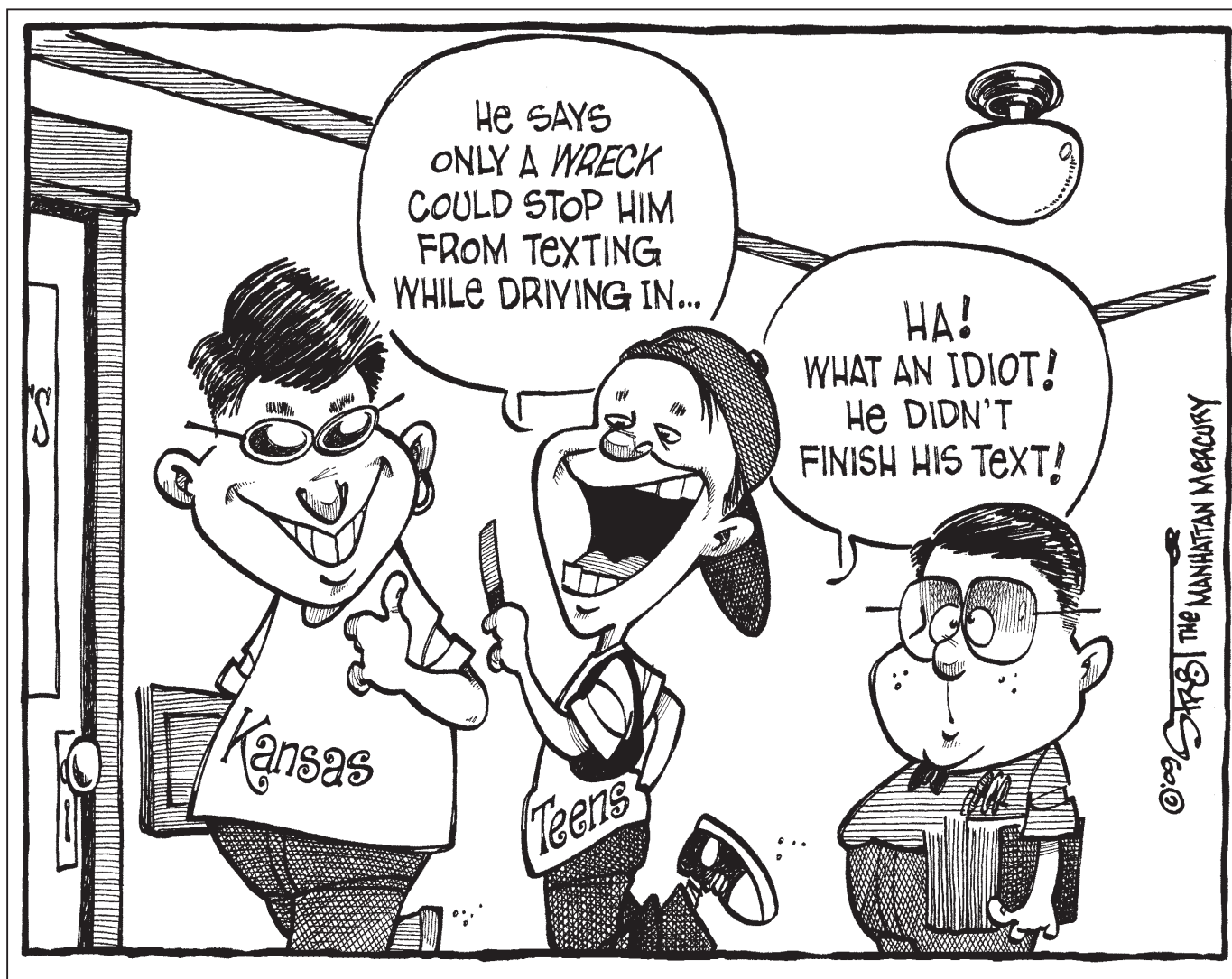
As it turned out, those angry Democrat women weren't angry enough to dump their party. Of course they hoped Mr. Obama would pick Mrs. Clinton as his running mate. That didn't happen, but she did end up with the most influential post in President Obama's Cabinet, Secretary of State.

Taking a page out of the Dems' Handbook for Success, the likes of Liz Cheney and Sarah Palin are beginning to fire up their grills for what promises to be an unheard of assault on the straying Republican Party of today. If they can rally their women to their cause, the likes of GOP national chairman Michael Steele and radio talk show host Rush Limbaugh will be somewhat diminished. Ditto several others who feel they have the elephant farm to themselves.

Paraphrasing just a bit, "Oh what fun it ain't to ride in an elephant crashing sleigh."

Go get-'em, ladies!

-Tom Dreiling



Life is full of disappointment

Life is full of disappointments.

My 10-year old granddaughter, Taylor, just experienced her first real one. She was not elected president of her school's student body.

Her mother called to let me know the news. I asked if I should talk to Taylor. "Maybe not right now," said Kara.

So, I waited until Sunday afternoon to make the call. Taylor answered and I told her I was sorry to hear she didn't win the election.

"Oh Grandma," she said, "It wouldn't be so bad if the boy who won even had a clue what he was doing. He won because he told a couple of jokes."

Yes, Taylor. Welcome to the wonderful world of politics.

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Love is always a good topic for discussion. I told an elderly widow friend that I was trying to play matchmaker between two divorced people we both know.

"Don't even bother," she advised me. "He's like me... still in love with the person he married."

Out Back Carolyn Plotts



"That's too bad," I said. "It must be hard to still love someone who doesn't love you anymore. At least when your spouse dies, it's over."

Then I thought back to my own divorce. At the time, I wished he would have just died. At least I would have gotten some respect and the insurance. A divorce is the death of a marriage — there's just no burial.

And, you still have to deal with each other whether you want to or not.

Wow! That was a quick trip from love to hate. Unfortunately, it's a fine line between the two. Another sad truth is that there is no hate like the hate between two people who used to love each other.

I know it must be getting close to the time we leave for Mexico because orders for Mexican vanilla and sombreros are coming in. It's time to shake the sand out of our sleeping bags and locate the sunblock. Even though this is the cool time of year in Juarez, the sun can still scorch your skin. And, I plan to come back as lily-white as I went down.

The family we've been assigned to includes a father and his three children; two daughters and a son. He earns about \$65 a week and they live in a one-room house made of cinder block.

He and his family are just now starting to believe they might really get a new home. It won't be real to them until our team unloads at the new homesite to begin building.

Our team is small this year, so it might take us four days instead of the normal three to finish the house. But, the family will have a warm, safe home to call their own before we leave. That's a promise.



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• Most reasons for thumbs up include recognition to someone for an act of kindness, a group for something special they have undertaken, Grandma's or Grandpa's birthday, wedding anniversaries, happy birthdays in general. And you can probably think of some other reasons not listed here.

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Smart shopping can save you money

How do shoppers in your family react when they go to the supermarket?

Many shoppers today report they are upset and frustrated. Most have already heard food in this country is a bargain, but when they finish paying the bill they're not so certain. These shoppers believe their food dollars are being gobbled up by a marketing system where they have no say.

Shoppers can really save and many do. Alert, well-informed shoppers can save up to 15 percent. For the average family food bill this could mean a savings of nearly \$1,000 a year.

Almost every shopper has compiled a list of cost cutting ideas of his or her own. The following list is by no means complete, but contains effective ways to save at your local supermarket.

First, shoppers should know what they are buying. With thousands of items in the modern supermarket, product information is essential in selecting the best buy.

Like all education, this requires some reading, listening and studying. For ex-

Insight

John Schlageck

ample, the product label on a gallon of milk is a source of information on nutrition, menu use, quantity and quality of the food item.

Secondly, cost-conscious shoppers must buy when and where the price is right. There are many times to buy on special, buy store or generic brands or to buy in quantity — if shoppers keep abreast of the price practices of our highly competitive supermarkets.

Shopping regularly at two different stores is an informative practice. Doing so can lead to savings because different stores usually specialize in different food items.

Accurate record keeping has become an important part of a smart shopping routine. Money saving ideas take time but result in time well spent. One-half hour of planning before each weekly shopping trip can result in savings.

Big game hunters eye signs

At Home
With June
June Prout

I have a hard time trying to fathom why anyone would shoot a street or traffic sign. Did the sign jump out at them and threaten to attack them so they had to defend themselves? You can't really call it target practice, as anyone can hit a stationary target that big without even taking aim. These people must not mind paying higher taxes to cover the cost of such a wasteful activity. Of course, maybe they don't work for a living, so don't pay taxes.

Did these big game sign hunters think about how many people could have been hit through their irresponsible action?

(O-o-ops, sorry, people that do this kind of thing don't think.) I won't even call this action infantile, as even young children taught guns would know better. I know, because my dad started me on guns when I was five years old, and Heaven help me

if I ever tried to shoot at anything besides the targets he set up for me.

I sincerely hope the Sheriff does catch these people, confiscates their guns, makes them pay for the destruction of the signs and slaps them with the maximum penalty. Also, they should be branded across their forehead with a message like: "IRRESPONSIBLE WITH GUNS" or something of that nature.

Oh. Is branding too harsh? Dear me. Okay, tattoos are popular, tattoo it on them. At least the rest of us will have some warning.

June Prout is a resident of Norton