

Maybe that was a flicker of hope

Apparently it makes no difference where you are. The political mess is there.

In Washington, the Democrats control both the House and the Senate and thus are the target of an angry public. And rightfully so.

In Topeka, the Republicans control both the House and the Senate, and thus are the target of an angry public. Or they should be.

How in the world did we ever get ourselves in such a condition?

Most of us would point the finger at Topeka and Washington. And that's probably fair.

But we the people are not without blame.

Aren't we the people responsible for those who serve us in Topeka and Washington?

Darn right we are.

Do we individually challenge our elected officials?

Rarely.

"Hey, they're one of us. They're good old boys."

Therein lies the problem.

Apathy.

Easily satisfied.

Don't make waves.

If you're a Republican in a Republican state, dare you vote for a Democrat.

If you're a Democrat in a Democrat state, dare you vote for a Republican.

And so it goes, like a merry-go-round.

The end result is record breaking debt.

Harsh words.

Jobs in the millions lost.

Budgets cut to the bone.

Fingers pointing all over the place.

We've gotten so far away from accountability of those we elect to represent us, that the wound causing the bleeding is in fact self inflicted.

Is it going to change?

Don't think so.

The only time we seem to show any interest at all in what's going on is during an election year.

What about those years in between?

Don't they count?

When you hear people talking over a cup of coffee about "Kicking the bums out" whose bums are they talking about?

Certainly not theirs.

So collectively, the bums are safe.

But it doesn't look like we are.

Nothing's going to change.

Stay the course.

But isn't that the way it was intended to be all along?

Whoa. Not so fast, there. Didn't the most Democratic state in the nation just elect a Republican to the United States Senate, to fill a vacancy left by the death of probably the most prominent Democratic figure in the country? Massachusetts now has Sen. Brown sitting in the chair occupied by Sen. Ted Kennedy for more years than a lot of people can count.

Maybe that was a flicker of hope.



Wrestlers bring home another title

To the Norton Community: The wrestling season is now over; and we were fortunate enough to bring home another State Title to Norton Community High School (10th Wrestling Title over-all). I was so proud of our team, especially for winning by such a large margin (94 points to be exact). But why were we able to truly "Lap the field"? Why is Norton always near the top. What makes Norton a special place for Wrestling?

I do not have the exact answers to those questions, but what I have learned over the past 19 years since coming to Norton is that I'm only one small "spoke in the wheel" that makes Norton Wrestling special. Our Wrestling team is not just special in 3-2-1A, but it has grown to be recognized state-wide among all classifications of schools.

I do know however, that it starts with the TEAM. They must do their best and give the fans something to cheer about. I make sure our kids understand that if they do their best and give 100 percent effort, they are winners, regardless of the outcome of the match. I also know they will be applauded by our knowledgeable fans for their excellent effort. This past weekend, all of these were more than evident at the State Wrestling Tournament.

This team accomplished an amazing feat. I'm so proud of their efforts; not just for winning but with overcoming their fears of failure to just go out and do their best. And boy, did they ever do their best!

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported us throughout the season. Your cheering and support have helped this Norton Wrestling Team reach their goals and given us memories that will last a lifetime.

-TD



While driving home from Hays Saturday night, my mind kept recalling all the things that make Norton a great place for our young men to wrestle. Listed below are just a few of those:

- Administration/School Board that is very supportive and understands the importance of having a sport in which the 103 pound kid or the 285 pound kid can both have equal success.
- A community that understands wrestling and knows the dedication that it takes to succeed in a very competitive sport. A community that can run the BEST Tournaments in the state. (JR. Durham and 3-2-1A Regionals)
- A group of fans that support wrestling and travel all over the state to encourage our young men.
- A feeder program, The Norton Wrestling Club, that teaches future state champions the basics of our sport.
- Supportive parents that understand the Norton Wrestling system, a system in which they know their son will compete against the best from several states. Also, parents who understand that being undefeated is not nearly as important as being battle-tested and ready for the State Tournament series.
- Award winning media coverage for every tournament: Norton Telegram (Dick Boyd-Sports Reporter), KQNK Radio (Fig Millan-announcer).

To anyone that helped with the 3-2-1A Regional Tournament in Norton:

A special thanks goes out to the many faculty, staff, and community members who helped run an outstanding Regional Tournament this year. It was truly flawless in organization, execution, attendance and in the Norton Cheering section. I also want to recognize Nex-Tech for all of their hard work in order to broadcast the Norton Regional Tournament.

I do not believe any other Regional Tournament has had this much media coverage. Thank you, so much, for your help. I especially want to thank Superintendent Greg Mann, Norton Community High School Principal Rudy Perez, Athletic Director Jeff Wallingford, Dorla Jones and Dale Engelbert who worked for many weeks in advance. Their hard work allows me to concentrate on coaching the team instead of running the tournament. A tournament of this magnitude takes a great deal of work. I can guarantee you that many coaches, wrestlers and fans will never forget the excellent tournament and atmosphere created in the Norton Regional of 2010.

In conclusion, I would like to let the entire community know that I feel very blessed to be the Wrestling Coach in such a great wrestling community. Throughout the past 19 years as Norton Community High School Coach, God has rewarded me with more than I deserve. He continues to bless me with great athletes, supportive administration and many fans. I hope and pray that my athletes will understand how blessed they are to be part of this special place.

Thanks for all your support,
Bill Johnson
Norton Community High School Head Wrestling Coach

American politics is never boring

American politics, in my lifetime, has certainly never been boring and current times are no exception. Sometimes as I listen to the news or read the Internet headlines I wonder if I am actually watching a Saturday Night Live segment.

First we have the former baseball star turned senator, Jim Bunning, who decided to launch a filibuster to block an extension of unemployment benefits to millions. Never mind that many in his own party did not support his current project. He's a lame duck. Those without work consider him a foul ball.

I would be remiss not to acknowledge Sarah Palin's influence on the current political scene. She recently premiered with a monologue on the Jay Leno show. Truthfully I didn't watch her delivery, but the material was okay. She proved to the nation she was a comedienne during the campaign. Some say she is searching for her new career, others that she is making the most money while she can. Her first

Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



book has sold over two million copies, and she has just announced another is in the works. This is further reinforcement that the average American reads and understands at a fifth grade level.

What about the chairman temporarily stepped down, of the ever so powerful Ways and Means Committee, Charlie Rangel? I want to give someone the benefit of the doubt and he is innocent until proven guilty, however the old adage, where there is smoke there is fire, well you decide. This man has numerous counts against him for fraud. He has served 20 terms, nearly 40 years as a public servant??

Have you heard of Rep. Patrick McHenry? Probably not and that may be why he has put forth legislation for Ronald Reagan's face to replace Grant on the 50 dollar bill. Now aside from the cost of making this change why would we do that? I think Ronald Reagan was an okay guy; I liked Death Valley Days and have even purchased 20 Mule Team Borax, but there is a reason for the horrified expressions when we hear the phrases Reagonomics and trickle down. He nearly tripled the national debt during his presidency. His face on currency is like Ollie North's on the NSA letterhead.

I guess it is understandable to think I'm in the middle of an SNL skit. Truth truly is stranger than fiction. When you realize God only has the human race from which to recruit clergy, lawyers and politicians, what can we expect. On the flip side of the coin, Betty White may soon host Saturday Night Live. As the lines of politics and comedy blur I will continue to look for the hidden cameras.



- To....Dick Boyd for all the good sports pictures he takes. (Called in)
- To....new friends who were kind enough to share their ice cream so the apple pies at Pizza Hut were that much better. (Called in)
- To....the Norton Community High School journalism students who qualified for state (Called in)
- To....the student from Norton Community High School who qualified for state band. (Called in)

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