

Behind in polls, candidate turns negative

An excellent piece this week from the *Hutchinson News* showed clearly how politics in Kansas has degenerated to a new low.

Todd Tiaht's ad campaign against Jerry Moran for Sam Brownback's Senate seat is beyond absurd. The notion that somehow Jerry Moran is in Speaker Nancy Pelosi's camp and is a big-taxing big spender is utterly preposterous. That anyone would believe on the basis of that fantasy, is down right revolting.

Tiaht's contempt for truth in his advertising and for the intelligence of the Kansas voter is stunning. Are Kansas primary voters really this stupid? Can this shameless campaign of misinformation possibly succeed?

Radicals reign in primary campaigns because common folks allow it by not voting. Glenn Cook of the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* describes many primary voters as "toddlers ... like 2-year-olds at the dinner table. They're fickle, their attention span is short, and they absolutely, positively won't eat something they don't want."

These are the voters Tiaht is wooing in the Kansas GOP primary with his bizarre campaign. He must need them, because his advertising doesn't speak to anyone half well informed. And he's behind in the polls.

When their clients are behind in the polls, political consultants recommend ruthless attacks on the opposition.

The theory, universally held by political consultants, is that "the masses are asses," and predicts that negative attacks, truthful or not, will attract the ignorant and the uninformed and motivate them to go to the polls, often in great enough numbers, to turn a loser candidate into a winner.

On such theory rests Tiaht's hopes for a come-from-behind victory. The problem with this contempt for voters is that sometimes it works.

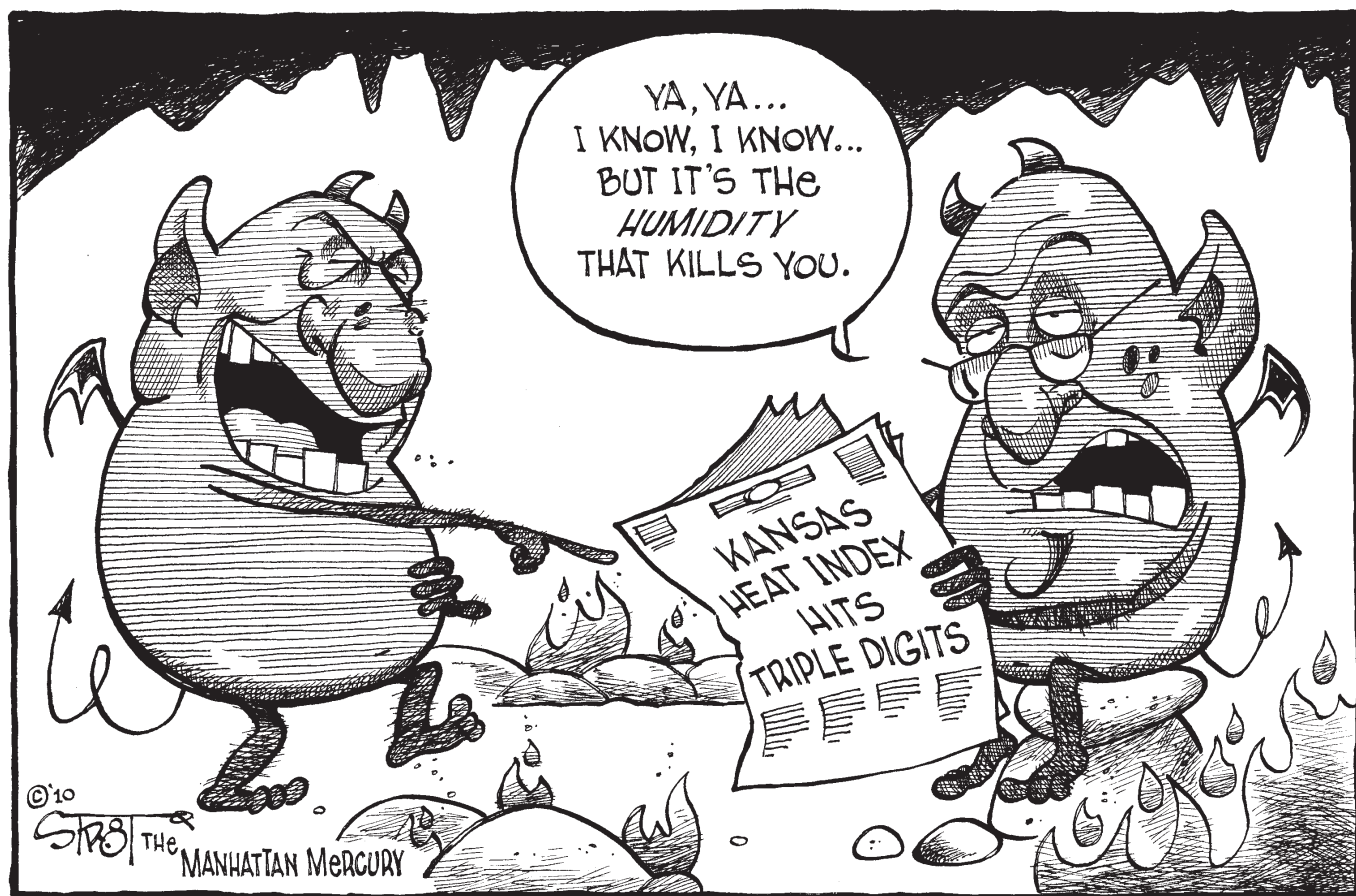
Nothing boosts a campaign like burying your opponent in mud. Not everyone is so easily seduced, but enough people will vote their rage before they vote their mind or conscience that negative advertising can work.

Of course, it's not just the hothead toddlers showing up at the polls that changes the outcome—there just aren't enough of them. It's the low voter turnout due to grownups failing to show up that makes the madness work.

Not all primary voters are toddlers. But far too many grownups may fail to show up in the primary this August, just because of the misinformation and stench of it all.

And that would not bode well for the choices voters will be left with come November.

—The Clay Center Dispatch



Protect your pets against ticks and fleas

Most of us are alarmed when we find a flea or tick, and we should be! Ticks are more than just a nuisance; they can be dangerous to both you and your pet! Some ticks can carry dangerous diseases such as Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, and Ehrlichiosis. Lyme disease causes lameness, fever, loss of appetite, fatigue, and enlarged lymph nodes in both infected dogs and people. Ehrlichiosis causes fever, depression, lameness and loss of appetite. Rocky Mountain spotted fever causes fever, loss of appetite, coughing, bruising, lameness, depression, vomiting and diarrhea in infected dogs and people. Ticks can transmit diseases that threaten your pet's life and family member's lives.

Ticks are some of the most efficient carriers of disease in all of nature. Since ticks can only crawl and climb, they are considered ambush predators. Ticks, like fleas, are always in search of a blood meal. A tick will climb up to the top of a plant where it waits patiently for an unsuspecting passerby. When a warm-blooded mammal, like a person or a pet comes near, its body heat and movement, as well as the carbon dioxide exhaled in its breath, signal the tick of its approach. The tick respond by waving its front-most pair of legs in the air, letting go of the plant and climbing onto its new host. A tick can crawl around on its new host for hours looking for a suitable attachment site. When it does, it burrows into the

Vet tips Dr. Sara White



host's skin with its mouth-parts. Ticks have spiny mouth-parts that secure itself in place. Ticks can also produce their own "cement" to glue itself firmly to the skin. A tick will feed slowly, sometimes for days, while engorging on blood. When the tick is several times its original size (it can grow up to 100 times their original weight), it drops off.

In order for an adult female to reproduce, it must have a blood meal. After dropping off, the female lays up to tens of thousands of eggs before dying. Ticks are not insects, but actually arachnids, like spiders, mites and scorpions. It takes approximately two weeks for eggs to hatch. Ticks develop through three distinct life stages after hatching from the egg: the larva, the nymph, and the adult. Each stage only takes one blood meal.

There are steps you can take to protect your family from fleas. Keep your lawns mowed and yards free of weeds and undergrowth. Leash walk your dog and be sure to stay in the center of paths and trails. Examine your pets frequently for ticks and always look for ticks after your pet

has been outdoors. When checking your pet for ticks, separate hair coat and inspect the skin especially the neck, throat, legs and underbelly. It is important to remove all ticks immediately whether attached or unattached. Follow these instructions: Always remove an attached tick very carefully without touching it. Use tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the surface of the skin as possible, and pull it straight out. Do not yank, twist or squeeze the tick. If tweezers are unavailable, use a cloth or paper as a barrier between you fingers and the tick. Dispose of an unattached tick with tape, by placing it in alcohol or soapy water, or by flushing it down the toilet. If you are worried about the tick and your pet, store the tick folded in tape and in a ziploc baggy in the freezer. If you or your pet becomes sick, this allows the tick to be tested if need be. Gently clean the wound site. Immediately wash your hands with soap and water. Do not try to burn an attached tick with matches or suffocate it with petroleum jelly or nail polish. These methods are ineffective and may be harmful to the host.

The best way to prevent ticks on your pet is to use a flea and tick control product. You can help reduce the risk of serious tick-borne infections by treating your pet monthly year-around with a product that kills all the life stages of common ticks, Frontline Plus. Please call us at 877-2411 with any questions! To be continued... the last installment of fleas and ticks.

It takes an entire village to build a community

Most are familiar with the term 'it takes a village' in regards to child rearing, but this thinking can also be applied to city growth and sustainment. Many places are plagued with a 'good old boy' network, which, instead of dying off, usually is passed down from generation to generation. Unfortunately it isn't just passed down, it frequently is dumbed down as time goes on. Originally the network was comprised of hard working, business owners interested in community development. They understood the concept of healthy competition and, because of their own success, recognized the importance of such. This isn't to suggest that the network was consistently morally sound, nor always based on fair practice exchanges, but the ultimate goal was to improve the community which in turn would enhance individual businesses. A former business owner told me he had appreciated competition because his experience had been, "competition improves existing businesses." It was truly a network.

All cities have these in one form or another and each city has networks in pursuit of good and those with narrow vision. Both groups generally run outside of the government entities of city council or county commissioners. In some communities they will actually enhance the life of the community, in others the good old boy network is designed to keep control within the hands of a few and to give assurance to those few they will not be replaced. We generally think of this group as monied, particularly old money, however sometimes an, for want of a better word, enterprising individual (a wanna

Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



be) partners with an older, wealthier individual. There is something to be gained for both, the younger one sees himself as powerful, the other has his ego fed.

You may ask, "What types of things do these individuals become involved in?" I would answer, "That depends."

Some believe in the betterment of the community. They often put forth funds, both collectively and individually to bring new things or provide help to organizations attempting to promote the community; case in point, the Norton Theatre and the Norton County Fair. Unfortunately there have also been those projects which failed because of the 'network' or because of fear in general or fear of competition in particular. It is not beyond the realm of possibility for the network to block sales of certain properties or to acquire properties to keep other businesses from opening. Maintaining the status quo in this regard translates into no growth, no competition and ultimately, no town.

As a village we can encourage or we can destroy. We can be the problem or we can be the solution. We can be proactive or reactive. The choice rests with each of us. We can fear the powers or we can take the helm, whatever we choose. I guarantee you our future is truly at stake.

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Committee thanks supporters

Dear Editor:
The Norton Vietnam Moving Wall Committee thanks everyone for supporting the gun raffle fund raiser. Winners were drawn at the Fourth of July celebration at Sebelius Reservoir.

Because of your generosity, we were able to hold two drawings instead of just one. The winners were Todd Boller and Mark LaSage. Congratulations gentlemen.

If you missed out on your chance to buy



still tickets available for the rifle raffle being conducted by the Eagles Club on

behalf of the Moving Wall fund. Tickets are available from John Milnes or other Eagles Club members. There are also "Build a Flag" squares and stars available for sale as well as quilt raffle tickets which can be purchased at First State Bank, Almena State Band or the Chamber.

Again, thank you for your support. The Moving Wall is becoming a reality and will be in Norton, Sept. 23-27.

Sincerely,
Sabrina Richards
Moving Wall Committee



To Lacy Frack, Thanks for the dedicated caring compassionate way you approach your job every day. Your always cheerful and ready to help in any way you can. I feel good about living here because of you. Thanks So Very Very Much Lacy!! Mailed in.
Signed Pam Roeder and Heather Lawson

To the Norton Arts Council for bringing the 312th Army Band to Norton. The performance was fantastic. Called in.

To the Norton Arts Council for honoring Norton County Veterans at the Army Band performance. Called in.

To the Norton County Veterans, Thank you. Called in.

Thumbs up to Don McMullen for letting the Norton Dance Team use the parking lot at McMullen-Wyatt for their car wash. Called in.