

Tuesday's election brings a cleansing

You might say President Obama was taken to the woodshed Tuesday night. The voters were fed up with his administration's decision to ignore them in their quest to collect political gain. So the people did what they do best, they went to the polls and "awarded" him with a minority in the House of Representatives and deeply scaled back his numbers in the United States Senate.

The political landscape on Capitol Hill will take on a much different look when the new Congress moves in. And that new Congress will also include quite a few faces of the Tea Party. The President is going to be forced to play a new game, to perhaps abandon his lofty nest in the White House and "adjust" his direction. If he does he could maybe even experience a second term; if he doesn't he'll end up being a one term commander-in-chief.

The landslide Republican victory in Tuesday's election was no surprise, or shouldn't have been if you were paying attention all along. The so-called "Party of No" was saying no in response to what pleases the people. The Democrats, on the other hand, forgot to remove the cotton from their ears to hear what was going on. And even up to the day of the election, they were confident the majorities would again favor them. They were just fooling themselves.

So, where do we go from here? We go the route of compromise, a dirty word in the White House and on Capitol Hill these past two years. Compromise might have been mentioned on occasion, but only with a whisper so many of us could not hear it. It was probably best we didn't because it wasn't anything being taken seriously. You know how that "p" word works- politics at the expense of the other "p" word - people. With this administration it was for political posture only.

This election was all about the economy, about jobs. And as the majority party continued to pile debt upon debt, a rapidly smothering public's cries were being muffled. And the "Party of No" continued their chant. One would have thought the brilliance of the controlling party would have detected what was going on. But they were too busy serving up the menu that the President chose. In the end the menu handed out by the White House and hoggishly consumed by his party turned out to be the reason for their belly aches today.

Incoming Speaker of the House, Ohio Republican John Boehner will have his work cut out for him, but it will be easier to handle with a heavy majority in his favor. Mr. Boehner has indicated his willingness to work with President Obama to carry out the mandate issued by the people in Tuesday's election. With current Speaker Nancy Pelosi out of the picture the Obama-Boehner attempt might go smoother. And because Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid won by a slim margin over the Tea Party's Sharon Angle and controls a badly weakened majority, he, too, should also wake up and smell the coffee.

A new sun will rise over Capitol Hill in early January when the new Congress convenes. And the people will be closely monitoring its activities. If Congress continues to ignore the wishes of the electorate, then there will be a further cleansing at the 2012 election. Nobody's safe in the current climate. And because Tuesday's election was a referendum on the Obama style of governing, he's got to reach out and hopefully connect with those who opposed his every move these past two years. We can only hope for better times but before we can do that we've got to begin NOW reducing the debt, the size of our government and put PEOPLE first.

Any other avenue taken will end in disaster.

- Tom Dreiling

Your political connection

- ★ **Governor Mark Parkinson**, 300 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785) 296-3232
- ★ **U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts**, 109 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 224-4774; fax (202) 224-3514
- ★ **U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback**, 303 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 224-6521

- ★ **U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran**, 2443 Rayburn HOB, Washington, D.C. 20515. (202) 225-2715; fax (202) 225-5124
- ★ **State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer**, State Capitol Building, Room 262-E, Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785) 296-7399
- ★ **State Rep. John Faber**, 181 W. Capitol Building, Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785) 296-7500

Office hours:

8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.
Phone: (785) 877-3361
Fax: (785) 877-3732
E-mail:

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

STAFF

- Dana Paxton.....general manager
advertising director/
email: dpaxton@nwkansas.com
- Judy Sherard.....managing editor/reporter
email: jsherard@nwkansas.com
- Dick Boyd.....Blue Jay sports
- Harriett Gill.....society editor
email: hgill@nwkansas.com
- Sherry Hickman.....bookkeeping/circulation
- Vicki Henderson.....computer production

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At last, women are catching up to men

There is quite a bit of concern these days about the regression of men's place in society. More women than men are graduating from college, admitted to law and medical schools, and seeking advanced degrees. Married women are likely to bring home more money than men and are probably more educated than their husbands.

I have four theories about this: One is the "Peter Pan" syndrome. Boys don't want to grow up. Back in my day girls married a fellow a couple of years older. Now the advice is men never grow up so unless you are looking for a rich and one foot in the grave type you might as well go for young and good looking!

Then there are sports. From T-ball to the Pros, nothing compares our obsession with "games" and the "boys" who play them. So until a guy graduates from high school or (if he is good enough) runs out eligibility in college, it really doesn't matter if he can read anything but a playbook. And by the time they realize it might have been a good idea to get an education, it's too late to catch up.

Don't get mad! I like sports too. Besides there is no reason to get upset until you hear it all: The third reason women are taking over the world is they are smarter. When I was in elementary school I recall the shock of learning girls aren't good at science and math, they aren't as smart as boys. What really got me was I knew it wasn't true; if you knew the boys in my class you'd understand.

Actually, you may know some of those guys but I won't give names. I've already

This Too Shall Pass Nancy Hagman



sacrificed my invite to the next class reunion. Oh, wait, the girls always organize that! It will probably be fine.

BUT if women are so smart why didn't they rule? Let's revisit theory one, once men grow up it will all be as it should be (depending on your perspective).

I'm kidding about all this. I'm glad to see women making strides toward equality, and worried about young men who are seemingly lost. It's great to live in a place where I can ponder this instead of spending my days carrying the wash a mile to a stream where I beat my one garment on a rock to clean it.

Theory four, strangely enough, is related to our church membership. We were approached about formally joining the church we attend. The hubby said, "I think we should, we've been hiding in back pews long enough. It's time to join up and pitch in!"

I was real proud of his comments; I'd even say he's smart!

But the longer I thought about it the more the ramifications of "pitching in" hit me. I'm not sure what he sees himself doing in this picture but I see myself making pies for church dinners and tying blankets for Lutheran World Relief. Tying blankets

might be okay, it's rather like quilting. And I already volunteered to help with funeral dinners, because I see that as a way I can minister.

But I'm selfish. I only want to do what I decide to do and pass the rest off on someone else. I want to be a man!

I know the idea of church dinners came from a man. A friend was recounting her experience with church dinners as a young mother: three kids, a diaper bag and food to get out the door. Her husband would sit in the car and honk the horn. I am very thankful my hubby was never that boorish. But aside from the fellowship I never enjoyed church dinners for similar reasons.

Another friend is annoyed because she was stuck in the kitchen (again) while decisions were being made about the future of the church in the other room.

This is probably not what God had in mind when he established the church. We should make our decisions on church membership based on faith. But we have to live in the real world.

It is not just in church that the division of labor was traditionally determined by one's sex. It's in marriage, education, business and politics. The current trend may not be so much a case of women taking over as women catching up.

Which leads me to the only conclusion I can reasonably draw: Men had it all: the money, the power, and the advanced degrees. When did it change? When women got tired of making coffee!

The United States sees an overhaul in power

Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



District Family Court Judge Tena Callahan was retained even after declaring in 2009, Texas ban on same sex marriage unconstitutional.

Jerry Brown defeated Meg Whitman for the California governor position even though Ms. Whitman invested over \$140 million of her own money in her campaign. Although politicians routinely invest personal funds, this amount was beyond comprehension. Surprisingly the state often seen as the leader of movements and the most liberal revealed its conservative side when it failed, by a wide margin, to legalize small amounts of marijuana for private use. The pendulum swings.

The above examples only show us what a diverse group we are and how the messages we send and the messages received are as varied as the colors of a rainbow. None of us can profess to understand the voter, but what we do understand is how it works. You won, I lost and life goes on. mkwoodyard@ruraltel.net

Nevada, in spite of the highest foreclosure rate in the country, and at times the highest unemployment and bankruptcy rates, the voters of Nevada opted to go with the now five term Senator. Although at times it appeared Sharon Angle would prevail, in the end her tea party agenda did not sit well with Nevadans.

The Iowa Supreme Court judges who supported marriage equality now find themselves out of work. Voters sent a message to their state's justice system... do it our way. The truly unfortunate aspect of this is the loss of three skilled, knowledgeable judges over one issue. However in Dallas County, TX, the State

The tide has turned; the people have spoken; and various other clichés hit the airwaves Tuesday night. Some say it is a backlash of Obamacare; others see it as jobs and still others fear the massive debt and big government. Whatever the reason, the greatest political "overhaul" in decades cannot be ignored. One good thing about the outcome is the responsibility it places squarely on the Republicans' shoulders. The ball now rests with the "just say no" party in the House.

The Tea Party definitely impacted Tuesday night's election. Its presence cost some GOP candidates their jobs, in other states their presence was an opportunity to make a statement. The Tea Party's focus on living by the Tea Partiers interpretation of the Constitution does not address individual freedom, but a determination of how to live according to the Gospel of who? Unfortunately they probably will not be inclined to compromise either.

Harry Reid retained his Senate seat in



Thumbs up to Janette Oswald at Twice Sold Treasures for her enjoyable window displays. Called in.

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Letters to the Editor:
e--mail js herard@nwkansas.com
or to write 215 S. Kansas Ave. 67654