

## Gratitude shown at 50th reunion

My husband and I attended a class reunion. This was the 50th anniversary of my nursing school class. I received an e-mail in June announcing this reunion and was surprised to be told we had graduated 50 years ago. How was that possible? It seemed such a short time ago we were celebrating one another's marriages and then children. . . and then grandchildren! One of my classmates became a great grandmother a few days after the reunion.

**Life is Good**  
Rita Speer

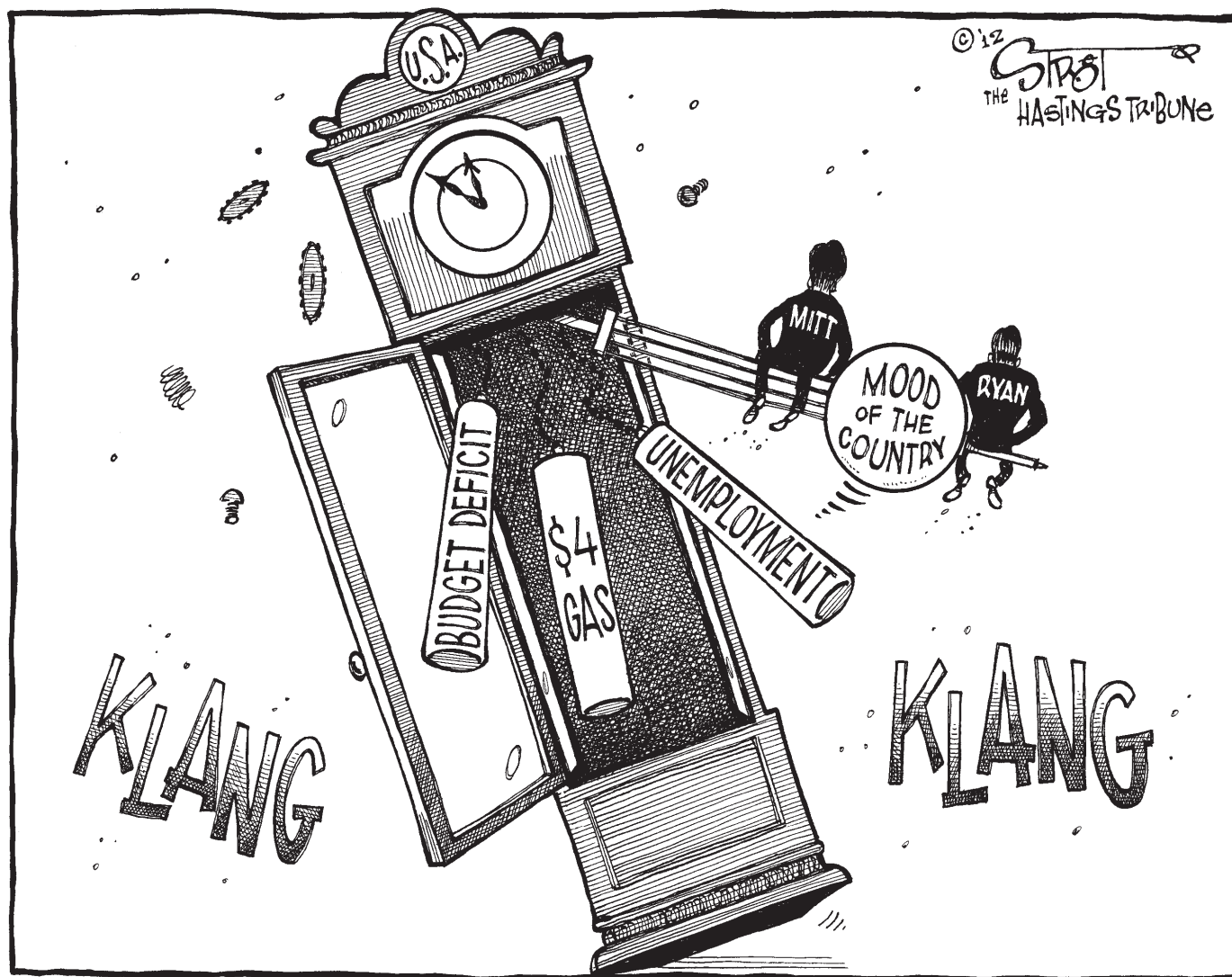


I reflected on a number of things. I thought about the changes in the hospital where we had most of our clinical experiences and the quality of those experiences. One classmate boasted to an employee that we all had three months' experience in all our specialty areas; the employee said she had had one day of experience in surgery. This hospital, which sits on the site of the facility with which we were so familiar, is like other hospitals of similar size with lots of electronic monitoring devices, high-tech equipment throughout the hospital. But it is still dependent on the human element to put everything together.

I don't remember our instructors emphasizing the importance of caring and compassion, but we all learned that lesson well. We truly cared for and about the people for whom we were responsible. We listened to the patients and were able to address at least some of their concerns and fears. We learned a work ethic that is second to none. One classmate said she wrote on a resume when she sought a job in California that she had a "Midwest work ethic." When the interviewer asked what she meant, she explained she would be present, be on time and be responsible. She was hired! We only had to be told once what time we were expected to be on the unit and how we were to be dressed.

We laughed about some of the funny things we did as students and were somber when we remembered the classmates who had died. We had many, many years of nursing experience, and our fields varied from infection prevention to surgery to anesthesia to psych to "everything" in a small town hospital. Everyone present communicated a good feeling about our choices to become nurses and what we had done in our careers. That was perhaps one of the most important things I heard: we were all proud of our education and how it had prepared us to enter the profession and that we had learned so much more after we graduated than during our brief time as students.

Although some of us had not seen others for the 50 years since graduation, the bond that held us together as students was still present. I came away knowing I had made the correct career choice for myself and saw the group with whom I shared the educational experience felt the same way. I wish our get-together could have lasted much longer, but we all had to return to our individual lives too quickly. Thank you, MLMH Class of 1962.



## Proud to be a woman setting the tone

Sometimes the timing is just wrong and this must have been the case for me this week. I read an article about how life has changed for women over 50. We enjoy new freedoms and new opportunities, but one question in the article made me feel a bit like you do when the vibration fork is tingling too close to a broken bone.

The article said, "You know you are alpha when..." It then continued with "What Would I Like." Therein lies much of the problem in today's world, whether you are talking about Alpha male or Alpha female.

My mother always told me a mother sets the tone for the family. Whether it is a move or day by day life, Mom is the pace setter, and I believe it. If everyone is asking, and God forbid fighting for, what they want, nothing

**Phase II**  
Mary Kay Woodyard



will run smoothly. Perhaps that is why the statement troubled me so, because I do believe we, as women, hold great power whether personally or collectively.

Jack and I have sometimes held to the traditional roles of marriage, but we have always enjoyed the partnership we have created. Neither of us has to be Alpha, but rather we assume the role most appropriate to the situation at hand. If I was working and didn't have leave

to take a child to the doctor, he did it. If he couldn't get time to mow the lawn, I did it. I didn't need him to tell me how to think, and he didn't need me to tell him what to do. It is beyond me, why any woman would adhere to the beliefs of the Paul Ryanites. I am a woman and proud of it. I am not the weaker sex nor the stronger one. I am not entitled and I am not subjugated. What I am is 50 plus percent of the population and a partner in my marriage.

The article states, "You know you are Alpha when you ask yourself, what do I want to do?" If you ask me, the problem with today's world is we, men and women, are asking ourselves that question way too many times. In the real world, in truth, it really is not all about me. Mail to: mkwoodyard@ruraltel.net

### Letter To The Editor:

Nothing lasts forever. The Norton pool is still being used even though it is in bad condition. Water leaking from the pool has caused major problems for the tennis courts located south of the pool. The filtration system is so old that it is no longer effective or healthy. The bathhouse needs to be replaced.

Building a new pool would solve a number of problems and provide a number of features for our children that the old pool does not have.

My wife and I attend water aerobics twice a week at the pool during the summer. This is a great program for adults, providing low impact exercises that help to keep them fit and healthy. We enjoy and look forward to aerobics each week.

Everyone is concerned about the cost, but the time to replace the pool is long overdue.

Jim Green  
Norton, Kansas



## Finding time to set limits that our children need

June 28, 2012, Shine, a Yahoo Internet news service, ran a story, "Why parents spoil their kids."

Sociologists, anthropologists, family therapists and some moms were quoted or consulted for the article.

Lisa Belkin of the Huffington Post says "Our kids don't need to be obedient, they need to get into college." And further, "We all have so little time together, let's enjoy it instead of enforcing discipline."

Lisa is a journalist, she writes about family issues. As near as I can tell she does not have training that necessarily qualifies her as an expert in behavioral science so let's give her the benefit of the doubt. She is overstating her case to get a reaction. I've done it.

Sociologist, Allison Pugh, says, "Americans work more hours than anyone else in the universe. There's a drive for efficiency. It's just more efficient to do chores yourself or outsource them rather than teaching children to contribute. That's a shame, but I don't think it's a children's shame, and it's not just the parents' fault. There are only so many hours in the workday."

The article concluded, "We don't discipline our kids because it takes time, and we often quite literally don't have the time."

Elizabeth Kolbert, a writer for the New Yorker, prompted the Yahoo article. Kolbert, like Belkin, reached

**This Too Shall Pass**  
Nancy Hagman



a conclusion fully substantiated by her own opinions: "...contemporary American kids may represent the most indulged young people in the history of the world."

Almost 20 years ago a speaker I heard at Discovery Days put forth the same premise. I'm certain my parents thought it; as did theirs!

It's a qualitative judgment but it cannot be measured quantitatively.

The children I'm around seem like the ones I raised and the child I was. "When they are good they are very, very good. And when they are bad they are horrid!"

Robert J MacKenzie, creator of the "Setting Limits" program says indulging children "decreases their sensitivity and respect for the rights, feelings, and boundaries of others. That creates a 'me first' generation that believes 'rules are for other people.'"

Conceiving a baby, takes a lot less thought than raising one. I believe if you don't have time for discipline, you should not have children. If parents don't teach children where the

boundaries are, children will decide on their own, based on what they see around them. It may not be something we like!

The article troubles me, not because of how badly kids supposedly behave, but because of the ease with which discipline is dismissed. Sure people are busy. I struggle with allowing, or teaching, someone to help me. I always thought it was because I'm a control freak. I didn't realize it but I was just making things easier for everyone else as Pugh suggests. It's not a character flaw; I'm a saint!

It strikes me that Belkin and Pugh are defensive. I wonder if they have young children and are worried they are over indulging. Everyone (I hope) has doubts about parenting at one time or another.

Melissa Banks in "A Girl's Guide to Hunting and Fishing" sums it up well. Of her son, who is making a mess of his life, she says, "I see him and I think, 'I am the one who taught him to regard himself as a blessing.'"

What greater gift could children have than to think of themselves as a blessing? Confident people accomplish more than those who feel unworthy! Parents walk a fine line!

Parenting is an awesome responsibility which takes time. To paraphrase a quote from a friend: "If you don't have time, you are busier than God intended you to be!"

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ISSN 1063-701X

215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, KS 67654

Published each Tuesday and Friday by Haynes Publishing Co., 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, Kan. 67654. Periodicals mail postage paid at Norton, Kan. 67654.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Norton Telegram, 215 S. Kansas, Norton, Kan. 67654

Official newspaper of Norton and Norton County. Member of the Kansas Press Association, National Newspaper Association, and the Nebraska Press Association

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Publishers, 1970-2002

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