

Opinion



Viewpoint

Dan to Stan to Dan

Here is installment #2
Dan says:
Dear Senator Clark,
Congratulations on your tenth year as a Senator and thank you for the more than 1000 days of your service to this district. I am sure that both of us wish the last session could have been more productive for the schools and communities of Northwest Kansas.

I must say that I appreciate the sacrifice you and your family have made to move to Topeka, but I feel that the views and opinions of Northwest Kansas have not always been with you on the Senate floor. I would like to discuss education with you before the final sine die of the 2004 session.

This would be a good opportunity for the citizens of this district to hear both of our views on public education and what we think can be done to remedy some of the problems facing it.

I am proposing that the first of such an event take place in Colby, with questions coming from local media. I, like the people of the 40th district, anxiously await your reply. I will wait for your answer so we can set a date, time, and location for the near future.

Dan Rasure
Dan Rasure for State Senate

What say you, Stan?

Stan says:
Dear Mr. Rasure,
Thank you for the invitation to be a part of a media event to discuss public education. I was a participant in a panel discussion yesterday (Wednesday) with a number of area legislators that was taped for broadcast in the near future (that will be tonight at 9 p.m., SHPTV). The discussion was lively, informative and a diversity of opinions were expressed.

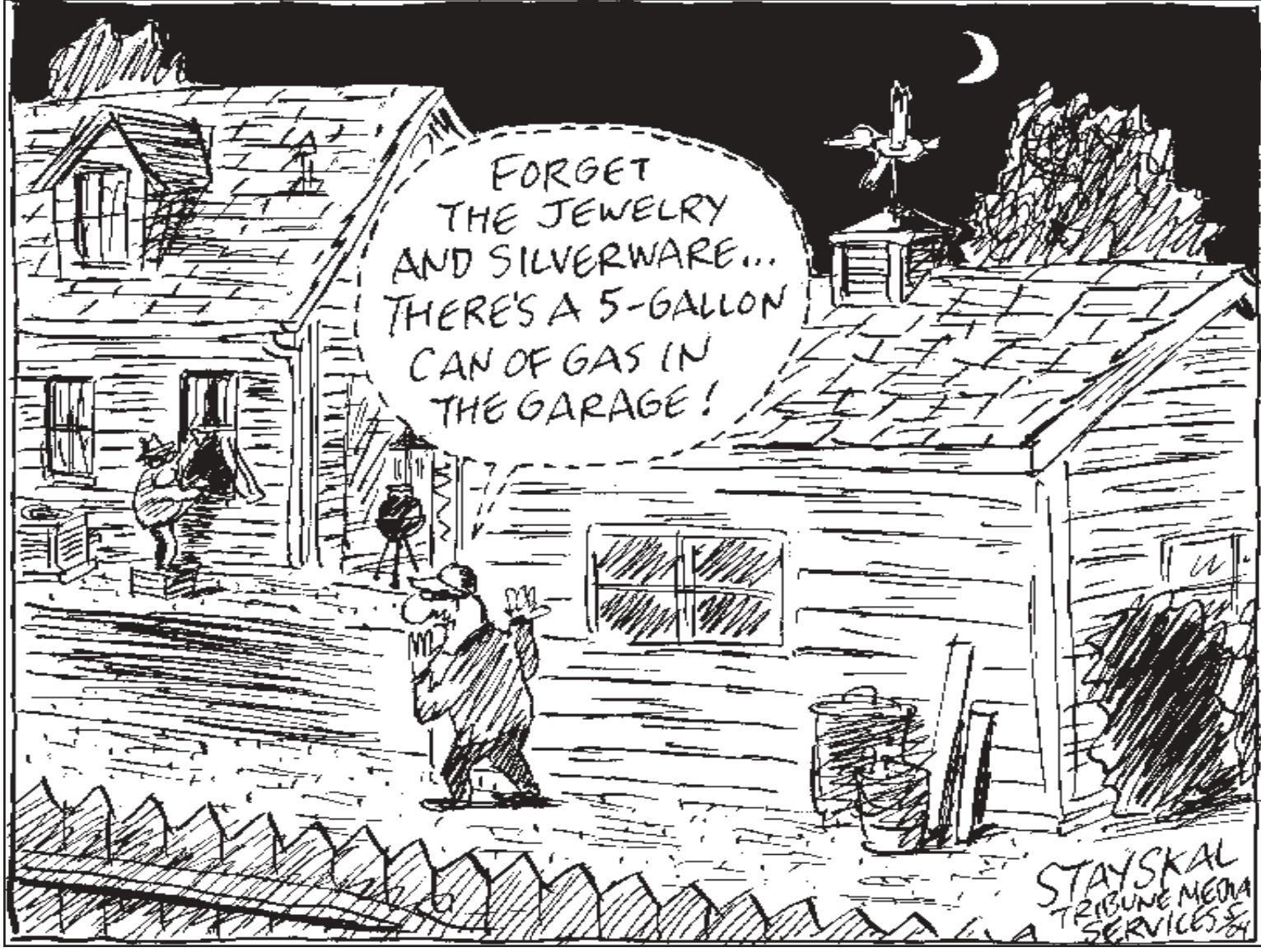
I am in daily contact with a number of legislators, and school finance, the Montoy v State of Kansas case, and yesterday's (Wednesday's) Supreme Court stay on the case, are important parts of the discussion and correspondence.

I have spoken with numerous school board members, teachers and a few superintendents in the last two weeks. I have written to the press detailing the school finance debate over the past session with the greatest emphasis on the last two weeks of the session.

In looking at my calendar I have already given my word to attend multiple events each day before sine die. There will be plenty of time to campaign after sine die and I look forward to it.

Stan Clark

We'll keep you posted on any late developments in this debate challenge. Dan tossed out the bait, but Stan had already hooked onto another bite. The two Republicans are seeking the 40th Senatorial District seat. -td



Nothing to write about?

INEVER quite know what I'm going to write about until I sit down in front of my computer. And as I sit here typing the words you are reading I put my thinking cap on (it's a weird looking thing), hoping something will jolt my mind. So far, nothing. So I will keep pounding the keys with my fingers and thinking...thinking of something that will lure you into reading today's effort.

Maybe a little story will help:
If you had purchased \$1,000 of Nortel stock one year ago, it would now be worth \$49.00. With Enron, you would have \$16.50 left of the original \$1,000. With WorldCom, you would have less than \$5 left. But, if you had purchased \$1,000 worth of Budweiser (the beer, not the stock) one year ago, drank all the beer, then turned in the cans for the aluminum recycling price, you would have \$214.00. The advice is simple: drink heavily and recycle. It's called the 401-Keg Plan.

I could talk about politics, a favorite topic of mine. But if I did it would remind me of the story about the kid who turned voting age and went to confession and told the priest he had sinned. When asked what his sin was, the young man said, "I voted Republican." The priest assured him that was no sin, to which the young man said, "In our house dad says you are either Democrat or sinner."

If I had my own bumper sticker business, I'd make the following dual stick-ons: BUSH: No rich child left behind. KERRY: The rich child.

The First Couple — Adam and Eve — were getting ready to attend a political gathering and all those invited were asked to bring their favorite dish. Adam asked Eve what she was taking. Eve said, "Apple pie."



Tom Dreiling

- My Turn

Thursday morning I was watching KAKE-TV while getting myself ready for the workday, and I heard one of the local (Wichita) morning anchors say, "We have breaking news of a shooting...and will bring you more information as we get it." A little later the anchor said that there was no apparent shooting as indicated in the breaking news alert. Could they have called that "unbreaking news?"

That got me to thinking that this "breaking news" on every electronic news outlet is so overplayed that we've become immune to it. Even the big folks on the big networks come into our homes, mornings, with "breaking news," that turns out to be news that broke the night before. How long can breaking news be "breaking?" Maybe they can call it "post-breaking news."

And back in Wichita it looks like the three major television stations there have a "we were first" battle going on. Who cares who got it (the story) first. Many times the station that aired it first really didn't because the other two stations are telling their viewers that "you heard it first right here." In essence, all three are right, or wrong. You can only watch one station at a time and if the station you are watching tells you they got it first, then in your mind they did. Even if

they didn't. So, hang up the gloves, consider your viewers and quit acting like a bunch of spoiled brats. We all know how your game is played...but apparently you don't.

Just because I wore the uniform of the United States Air Force doesn't make me any more patriotic than someone who didn't. The way the two presidential campaigns are going you'd think they have a lock on this patriotic thing. They don't. It's not how tightly you wrap yourself in the flag of the United States of America that counts, but how sincere you are about that wrap. Looks can be deceiving.

As we move closer to Memorial Weekend, more and more people will be out tending to the gravesites of loved ones. Cemeteries take on a beautiful look at this time of year and when the observance of Memorial Day arrives those hallowed places containing the remains of those we endeared seem to miraculously come alive. And the cemeteries in this corner of our state are among the most beautiful.

Strange, but when I started this column I was wondering what I was going to talk about. I guess jotting down the thoughts as they emerge can lead to something. It's not an award winning effort by any stretch of the imagination, but it did again allow me to sit down and chat with you. And that's what I like most about what I do.

HAVE a good evening and a good weekend! And don't forget to make time this weekend to worship in the place of your choice.

Tom Dreiling is publisher of the Free Press. His column appears Wednesdays and Fridays. td@nwkansas.com.

In the end she was the winner

Picking things for today's column wasn't much of a challenge. You'll understand that statement better as you read on. Enjoy. -td

After 17 years of marriage, a man dumped his wife for his young secretary. His new girlfriend demanded that she wanted to live in the couple's multimillion dollar home, and since the man's lawyers were a little better, he prevailed. He gave his now ex-wife just three days to move out.

She spent the first day packing her belongings into boxes, crates and suitcases. On the second day, she had the movers come and collect her things. On the third day, she sat down for the last time at their beautiful dining room table by candlelight, put on some soft background music, and feasted on a pound of shrimp, a jar of caviar, and a bottle of Chardonnay.

When she had finished, she went into each and every room and deposited a few half-eaten shrimp shells, dipped in caviar, into the hollow of the curtain rods. She then cleaned up the kitchen and left.

When the husband returned with his new girlfriend, all was bliss for the first few days. Then slowly, the house began to smell. They tried everything — cleaning and mopping and airing the place out. Vents were checked for dead rodents, and carpets were steam cleaned. Air fresheners were hung everywhere. Exterminators were brought in to set off gas canisters, during which they had to move out for a few days, and in the end they even paid to replace the expensive wool carpeting.

Nothing worked. People stopped coming over to visit. Repairmen refused to work in the house. The maid quit. Finally, they could not take the stench any longer and decided to move. A month later, even though they had cut their price in half, they could not find a buyer for their stinky house. Word got out, and eventually, even the local realtors refused to return their calls.

Finally, they had to borrow a huge sum of money from the bank to purchase a new place. The ex-wife called the man, and asked how things were going. He told her the saga of the rotting house. She listened politely, and said that she missed her old home terribly, and would be

TD

- At Week's End

willing to reduce her divorce settlement in exchange for getting the house back.

Knowing his ex-wife had no idea how bad the smell was, he agreed on a price that was about 1/10th of what the house had been worth, but only if she were to sign the papers that very day. She agreed, and within the hour, his lawyers delivered the paperwork.

A week later, the man and his new girlfriend stood smirking as they watched the moving company pack everything to take to their new home...
...including the curtain rods.

"Let's see if I understand how the world works," said one man to another over a backyard beer.

"If a man cuts his finger off while slicing salami at work, he blames the restaurant.

"If you smoke three packs a day for 40 years and die of lung cancer, your family blames the tobacco company.

"If your neighbor crashes into a tree while driving home drunk, he blames the bartender.

"If your grandchildren are brats without manners, you blame television.

"If your friend is shot by a deranged madman, you blame the gun manufacturer.

"And if a crazed person breaks into the cockpit and tries to kill the pilot at 35,000 feet, and the passengers kill him instead, the mother of the crazed deceased blames the airline.

"I must have lived too long to understand the world as it is anymore.

"So, if I die while my old, wrinkled butt is parked in front of this computer, I want you to blame Bill Gates...okay?"

What a difference 30 Years makes...

1973: Long hair
2003: Longing for hair

1973: The perfect high
2003: The perfect high yield mutual fund

1973: KEG
2003: EKG

1973: Acid rock
2003: Acid reflux

1973: Moving to California because it's cool
2003: Moving to California because it's warm

1973: Growing pot
2003: Growing pot belly

1973: Killer weed
2003: Weed killer

1973: Hoping for a BMW
2003: Hoping for a BM

1973: The Grateful Dead
2003: Dr. Kevorkian

1973: Going to a new, hip joint
2003: Receiving a new hip joint

1973: Rolling Stones
2003: Kidney Stones

1973: Being called into the principal's office
2003: Calling the principal's office

1973: Parents begging you to get your hair cut
2003: Children begging you to get their heads shaved

1973: Passing the drivers' test
2003: Passing the vision test

Do you have something to share for "At Week's End?" If so, e-mail td@nwkansas.com. fax him at 462-7749, phone him at 462-3963.

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155 W. Fifth (USPS 120-920) (785) 462-3963
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freepress@nwkansas.com

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Official newspaper of Thomas County, Colby, Brewster and Rexford.

Tom (TD) Dreiling - Publisher

td@nwkansas.com

NEWS

Patty Decker - Editor

pdecker@nwkansas.com

Tisha Cox - General Assignment

tcx@nwkansas.com

ADVERTISING

Crystal Rucker - Advertising Representative

crystal@nwkansas.com

Nikki Smith - Advertising Representative

nsmith@nwkansas.com

BUSINESS OFFICE

Lea Bandy - Circulation Manager

Jeanette Applegate - Bookkeeping & Ad Building

japplegate@nwkansas.com

Evan Barnum - Systems Administrator

support@nwkansas.com

NOR'WEST PRESS

Jim Bowker - General Manager

Richard Westfahl, Lana Westfahl, Ron VanLoenen, Judy McKnight

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