

from our viewpoint...

## Something missing in rally rhetoric

There is something sadly missing at the many rallies around the country featuring Sarah Palin and others associated with the Tea Party movement. Maybe *missing* isn't the proper word, maybe it should be *ignored*.

But even in the recent presidential campaign this problem existed.

Organizers continue to dig up President Ronald Reagan from his grave. Mr. Reagan was a great president, make no mistake about that, but he — like all other presidents — had faults.

That said, it's hard to understand why the two living Republican presidents are treated as though they never existed.

President George Herbert Walker Bush was an honorable one-term White House occupant, while son George W. Bush served two terms. They each achieved despite some very trying times. But history isn't going to dump them as irrelevant like some of their beloved Republicans seems to be doing.

Maybe a little "Bush Mix" in the most recent presidential campaign might have helped Sen. John McCain to win out over President Barack Obama. Who would have ever thought the "skinny black guy with a funny name," as he used to describe himself, would become president. The Bush ingredients were there for the Republicans to use, but they stubbornly declined, denying a true American military hero access to the White House.

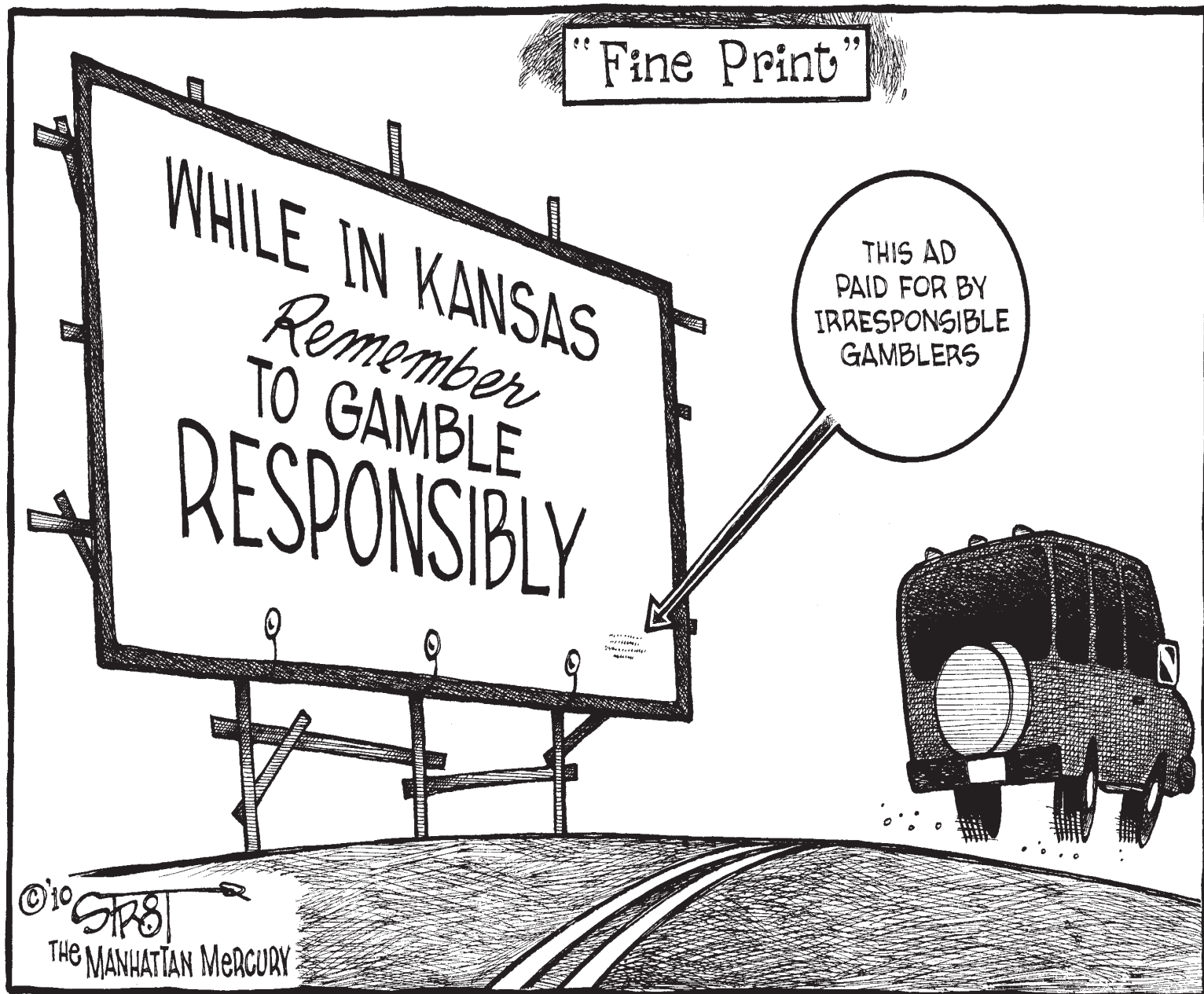
Odd as it may seem, Sen. McCain has decided to take the flawed route again — Palin Avenue — in his attempt to win re-election to another term from his native Arizona. He is in a tough primary fight with J.D. Hayworth, former Arizona congressman, and polls aren't giving the senator much breathing room. Sarah Palin was unable to garner enough support to put McCain over the top in the presidential run, so why is he using her again? While she drew huge crowds in the presidential campaign, those didn't translate into votes. Obama drew huge crowds, also, and those did translate into votes.

President George H.W. Bush served one term, losing his re-election bid to youthful William Jefferson Clinton, who went on to serve eight years. President George W. Bush served eight years, beating former Vice President Al Gore and then Sen. John Kerry, respectively. He certainly had something going for him to win the White House twice.

So why are the two Bush presidents kept at arm's length?

Pundits, for what they are worth, point to a somewhat wrinkled GOP spread that might unravel in 2012 if the short-term Alaskan governor is given the nod to take on President Obama. We can see youthful Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty winning the GOP nomination and perhaps turning President Obama into a one-term commander-in-chief. We can't see that happening with Palin heading the ticket. Of course the Democrats have their fingers crossed that Palin gets the nod.

The stage is being set. And if the Republicans want to include everybody in their tent — everybody — they better reach out and usher in their two living presidents. -TD



## Retiring district couple snags thumbs up

### THUMBS UP to...

"Don and Bonnie Smith, on your many years of quality service to our school district. Enjoy your retirement." -(e-mail); "the Smiths, on your upcoming retirement. You were role models for a lot of us youngsters." -(e-mail); "Bonnie and Don Smith. It will be strange not seeing you two in the old familiar school settings. Retire in the true spirit of the word." -(telephone); "Don and Bonnie, are you sure you want to do this?" -(e-mail); "the Easter Bunny's helpers, for a wonderful egg hunt. My 3 children really loved it!" -(e-mail); "Doug Duell, on being named *The Denver Post's* Wrestling Coach of the Year in all classifications. You made our Class of 1975 here in Goodland very proud!" -(e-mail). "Doug, the honors just keep coming...and they should. Congrats!" -(e-mail). "to the unknown motorist, who slammed on his or her brakes to avoid hitting our precious little kitty that wandered onto the street Monday evening. You are our hero!" -(telephone) (*To render a thumbs up, simply e-mail tad1@st-tel.net, call 785-890-2475 or send it to The Star-News, 1205 Main, Goodland 67735. No charge, and thanks in advance for your participation.*)

Didn't it feel good to have temperatures in the 80s? Those were teasers of things to come. Just think, we're just a few months away from the wheat harvest! Bet you hadn't given that any thought. And we are just a month and a half away from graduation. And then vacations



### tom dreiling

- time out with td

enter the picture...and on it goes. Bring it on!

I noticed at Kabredlos the other morning where a **pack** of Camel's costs \$4.25. I can remember when they were 15 cents. Back then if you had \$4.25 you could buy a camel shipped in from Egypt.

This season's American Idol is short of talent, in my opinion. There doesn't seem to be a standout among the lot. Some of them are good, but none exceptional. It just seems like this year's show is probably the weakest. Many times the four judges seem frustrated when improvement from one week to the next fails to materialize. It seems the contestants for most part disregard what the judges are telling them. It seems to go over their heads. I think the reason I continue watching is to see if anybody really wins. Right now I couldn't pick a winner.

### ON THE LIGHTER SIDE...

An elderly nun lived in a convent next to a construction site and she noticed the coarse language of the workers, and de-

cided to spend some time with them to correct their ways. So she decided to take her lunch and sit with them and talk. She put her sandwich in a brown bag and walked over to the spot where the men were eating. As she walked up with a big smile on her face, she said, "And do you men know Jesus Christ?" They shook their heads and looked at one another very confused. One of the workers looked up into the steelworks and yelled out, "Anybody up there know Jesus Christ?" One of the steelworkers yelled down, "Why?" The worker yelled back, "Cos his wife's here with his lunch!"

(Because I'm a product of 8 years of nuns in the classroom, I laughed out loud when I read this, thus I am sharing it with you.)

And here it is, Easter Sunday. It just seems like yesterday we were beginning the season of Lent. If you recall, I told you I was going to lose 5 pounds during Lent as my sacrifice. I also challenged others to do likewise. Well, I didn't quite make the 5 pounds, but came close, 4 pounds. And I will build on that to try losing a few more in the next few months. Once you get into the swing, it's not all that bad. Fewer snacks was one of my keys.

Have a good Easter weekend! And as you plan your events, join the crowd at the house of worship of your choice in declaring, "He has risen!"

## We can't wish away child abuse, neglect

When peeling back the layers of our community, child abuse and neglect is an underlying presence that most wish gone.

Unfortunately, wishing away child abuse and neglect is not a realistic solution.

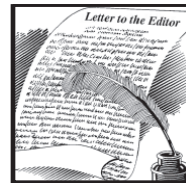
Instead, it will take community-wide efforts to radically lower child abuse and neglect. If each adult took the responsibility to report child abuse and neglect and get involved in a child's life, our children would live in much safer homes and communities.

This April please take on the responsibility to make children safer in your neighborhood and community.

Be a voice in your community. Advocate for healthy children and help reduce child abuse and neglect.

Take a stand for prevention of child abuse and neglect in your community. Practice Prevent Child Abuse America's Five "R"s. With the guidance of the Five "R"s, community members will be advocating for children to live in safe and healthy environments. You can be part of reducing child abuse and neglect in your community.

REMEMBER children are the future (Early years have an enormous impact on their future



### from our readers

- to the editor

health and success.)

RECOGNIZE prevention is a shared responsibility (We are responsible for ensuring parents and families have access to support, information, and services.)

RAISE the issue of prevention (Call or write elected officials, talk with others, encourage schools and faith communities to support programs for parents.)

REACH OUT to kids and parents (Be a good neighbor, baby-sit, donate, be supportive and kind.)

RECOMMEND ideas your community can use (Facilitate friendships and support, strengthen parenting, respond to family crisis, link families to opportunities.)

As an outward sign of your support, I urge you to wear a blue ribbon, the symbol of child abuse prevention efforts. If you do not have one, you can get one by contacting: Prevention

of Child Abuse and Neglect, 140 West 4th, Colby, (785) 460- 8177.

Paige Campbell  
Program director

I heard on radio...\$1...today would be worth 2 cents in 1933. I remember five hamburgers for \$1... 10 cents for a loaf of bread, 25 cents even nickel bids at auctions...

At Lena Scrivner auction (no one bid on bunch of stuff.) I said I'll give "U" a dollar for dictionary (was declined). Other stuff added sold for \$2.50. I bot dictionary, for dollar from buyer! (were Lena Scrivner heirs...entitled to the dollar.)

I suggest "when yamering: (Oops, did I invent a word?) the time when the auctioneer is chanting; no bids are made! If anyone hollars a \$1...display item... Yamer once! Sell quick!

"Not slothful in business, fervent in spirit serving the Lord" Romans 12:11

Frank Sowers  
Benkelman, Neb.

P.S. Health care reform is boolony! They want to pile more taxes on U\$. How much interest on debt?

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