

from our viewpoint...

Tea party and you, alike in many ways

They are probably saying things most of us are saying. But *they* are upfront with their opinions, while the rest of us keep our opinions to ourselves. Isn't that a signal to the members of Congress, and to the Obama administration we are in accord with what they are doing? Or not doing? Silence should never be the prevailing reaction to anything. What we need is more of the *they* bunch, and less of the silent crowd. They, you have probably figured out, are members of the tea party. While the tea party rhetoric at times is tough to listen to, they have the First Amendment behind what they say and how they say it. That's the greatness of this great country. Here in Goodland, the tea party gathered at Gulick Park to rally on April 15, the filing deadline for our federal income taxes, one of the targets of the tea party. The Goodland rally was organized by Ken Klemm of the High Plains Constitutional Society. It was a spirited gathering and included all the bells and whistles you see at much larger rallies on television. And a hundred-plus people showing up in a town the size of Goodland is nothing to dismiss. There were probably at least that many more who would have liked to have been there but feared ridicule. Ridicule for standing up for your country? Come on! The Obama administration and Democrats in general are targets of such rallies. The word *Obamacare*, and names *Pelosi* and *Reid* are all that are needed to set off the fire works! While the tea party laundry list of political sins is nearly endless, it is pretty much the same list you will hear mornings at coffee cup conversations. It was a foregone conclusion that eventually the Democrats' health care reform plan would become the law of the land. And when the final vote showed approval by a thin margin, but enough to be advanced to the desk of President Obama for his signature, there were 34 Democrats who joined the Republicans to defeat it. Of those 34, 18 were from southern states. You don't have to be a tea party member to be discouraged, or angered, with the behavior of Congress and The White House. With the national debt into the trillions of dollars, there just doesn't seem to be — if common sense is applied — any more room for red ink spending in the ledger. You know, "It doesn't take a rocket scientist..." With many of us at work on the day of the local rally, although it was held during the noon hour, those in attendance were speaking for many of us who elected to stay at arm's length. The work of the tea party goes on. So does the work of those who elect not to operate in the spotlight. But it all boils down to one thing: the all-important makeup of the next Congress. — TD

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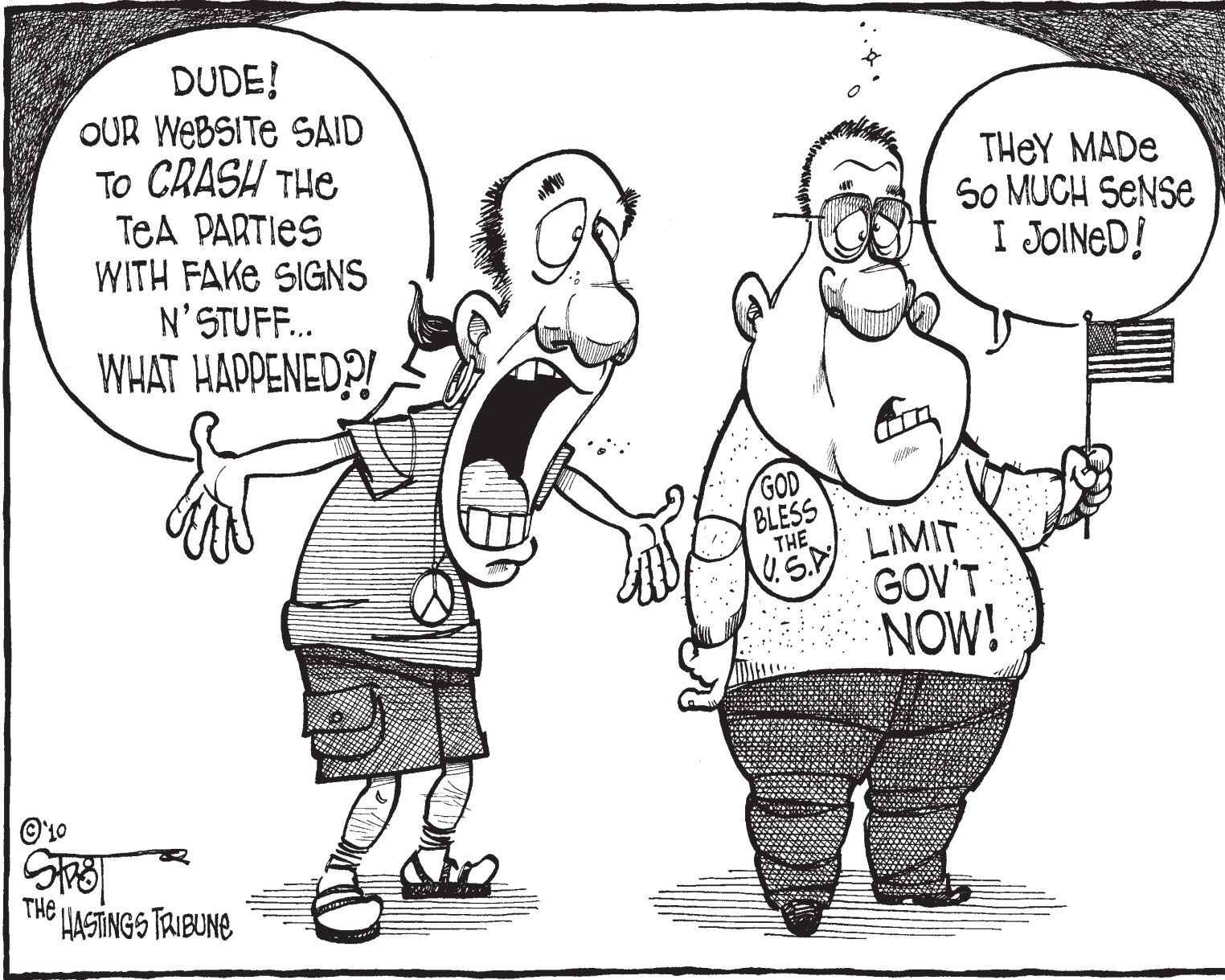
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‘Oh what a beautiful morning....’

Things are coming alive. Lawns, flower beds, , trees, gardens — you name it. It's time for them to climb out of the sack and get with the program. In this case the *program* is Spring! And the showers of recent helped welcome them back to the world of warmer weather and some sunshine.

I love spring! It's not too hot and it's not too cold. The overnight 40s are very tolerable at this time of year. The 60s, and sometimes 70s, are just what the weather doctor ordered. People smile more in the spring then during the long winter. We are beginning to spend more time outdoors, especially in the evenings, thanks to a lingering sun.

More and more people are walking, one of the finest forms of exercise known. And it's free!

“Oh What a Beautiful Morning” are the words to a song that will live forever, thanks to the musical, “Oklahoma!” And in the spring of each year it sounds more like an anthem. And I bet the tune is now roaming around in your head.

Spring is the introduction to summer, or the farewell to winter. Your choice.

-td-

I had a nice visit, by telephone the other day, with a good former Goodland friend who was our family doctor way back when, Dr. Robert McCullough. He's doing very good, actively involved in gardening, and keeping up with the news of the day. We exchanged the usual news about our families and of course about our health. It's always good to talk with “voices” of the past. I thought it very interesting that Dr. McCullough's doctor, down there in eastern Kansas, is Dr. Roger Dreiling.

I remember Roger very well as we lived in the same neighborhood for a spell, while grow-



tom dreiling

- time out with td

ing up. Small world, isn't it?

-td-

No **thumbs up** were received. E-mail me at tad1@st-tel.net, call me at 890-2475, slip your note in the drop slot on the front of The Star-News building, or bring it inside the office. All that simple. Thanks, in advance.

-td-

Family stories are priceless. And my family had lots of them. After all, we numbered 11 (with our parents), and there was a period of time when two cousins moved in with us pushing our total around the table to 13.

My father's name was Rich, many times referred to as R.A. (Richard Anthony), and he served a quarter of a century as organist and choir director at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Hays, until his death at age 52 on June 12, 1953 — two weeks after my graduation from high school. In this capacity his day began early, like 5 a.m., no later than 5:30 to be at the church for the first Mass of the day at 6:00.

But that wasn't the only Mass at which he played. At times he was at church until noon, if there were funerals or weddings to handle. But he loved it. And when he was finished at the church he went to his place of employment.

He had an unusual alarm clock that got him up each morning. It didn't have any face, numbers nor hands. You didn't have to wind it up. It wasn't on the night stand next to the bed. His 'clock' had four legs. It was a cat that picked up on Dad's early morning routine. The cat, named Fluffy, would without fail, appear

at the outside door of our parents' bedroom and would take her paw and put it inside the loosely fit screen door and pull on it and then let it go so it would slam. She continued this until Dad opened the door and let her in. She then stayed in the house to keep Mom company all day and didn't want back outside until they went to bed each night.

The cat's remarkable story was featured in The Hays Daily News and The Kansas City Star back in the 1940s. And good old Fluffy continued waking Dad until we moved from our older home into our newly built home many blocks away.

Fluffy was a big part of our lives. But when we moved and brought her along to the new place, she would have no part of that. She would end up absent and Dad would drive over to the old house to see if she was there. She usually was. He would bring her back to the new place but just like that she would show up missing again. This went on for quite a while until Dad decided to let her stay at the only home she had ever known.

A neighbor lady, who lived across the alley from our old street address, would frequently update Dad on Fluffy.

When he was informed that his beloved cat had died, he took it hard. They had a very special bond that covered nearly 15 years of Dad's 25 years as organist at the church.

When asked if he was going to get another cat, he shook his head no, saying, “No way could I ever replace Fluffy.”

He was so right!

-td-

Have a good evening! And make sure your alarm clock is set and ready to sound off so you can take part in the service at the house of worship of your choice this weekend.

Volunteer week recognizes thousands

To the Editor:

National Volunteer Week — this week — is a time to recognize and celebrate the thousands of people who give selflessly of their time and talents in service to others. Nowhere is this more important than in our nation's hospice and palliative care programs.

At Hospice Services, we have trained volunteers who are dedicated to making sure those in our community have the support and care they need when facing the journey at life's end. This journey can often be a lonely, frightening, and unfamiliar experience. Knowing there is a caring neighbor to give a hand, lend an ear and share his or her heart can make all the difference to patients and families. In fact, nationwide, more than 550,000 volunteers give 25 million hours of service every year.

Volunteers are vital to Hospice Services by fulfilling many different roles. Some assist with special projects while others lead HSI by



from our readers

- to the editor

serving on the Board of Directors. Many of our community members assist with fund raising projects. Some assist with office tasks. Some choose to work with the patients and families we serve. Hospice Services' direct care volunteers provide more than 1,000 hours per year to help patients and families in our community.

Hospice volunteers understand every person they care for is a unique individual with a lifetime of experiences, relationships and gifts to share. Hospice and palliative care bring comfort, dignity and peace to help people live every moment of life to the fullest, leaving loved ones with memories they can treasure.

where to write

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