

## Bush politics fighting al Qaida

Bush or bin Laden?  
That's one of the choices Americans will have to make when they vote this fall.  
There's no doubt if President Bush is turned out, it will be a victory of sorts for Osama bin Laden and his like.  
The Bush administration has pursued Osama into the hill on the Afghan border. He's hemmed in, far from his one-time military bases and training camps. The effectiveness of al Qaida is greatly reduced from four years ago.  
If voters repudiate Bush, are they repudiating his policies? Democrats won't like the answer, but it's yes.  
Four years ago, the Clinton administration was doing little, if anything, to track down bin Laden and his tribe. Clinton handled al Qaida and terrorism as a "law enforcement problem." The administration put barriers in the way of tracking down terrorists, including the infamous "wall" separating the FBI from foreign intelligence services.  
It's easy to argue with Bush's motives.  
Detractors say he was fixated on Iraq, that he wanted only to finish his daddy's war. But he struck first at the terrorist hideouts in Afghanistan, and he continues to pursue al Qaida there.  
In fact, the liberation of Afghanistan ought to be listed among the administration's finest accomplishments.  
Iraq is much more difficult to deal with. It's a complex society where we face trained and dedicated opposition from many forces lined up against the United States. And the whole world would like to know where the weapons of mass destruction went to.

While American troops were welcomed as liberators as Saddam Hussein fell, there are plenty of people who would like to see us leave Iraq. Bin Laden surely is among those, but so are Saddam's supporters and a host of others.

Terrorists are not dumb. They know we can't stand the sight of Americans being killed, maimed and mutilated.

They are likely to kill as many as they can between now and election day, hoping that a new administration will change American policy and pull out of Iraq.

It worked in Spain. It just might work against the United States. Is that what we want? If we do not stand against international terrorism, who will?

There are other issues in this election: The economy, jobs, big government, schools, you name it. Republicans and Democrats can disagree over those.

On foreign policy, we need to be united against terrorists and terrorist states. Pulling out of Iraq and leaving the people there in the hands of those who set bombs and kill both troops and children is not the answer.

Changing presidents is not going to help us win this war, either in Iraq or around the world.

You can vote for Bush. Or vote, in effect, for bin Laden.

— Steve Haynes

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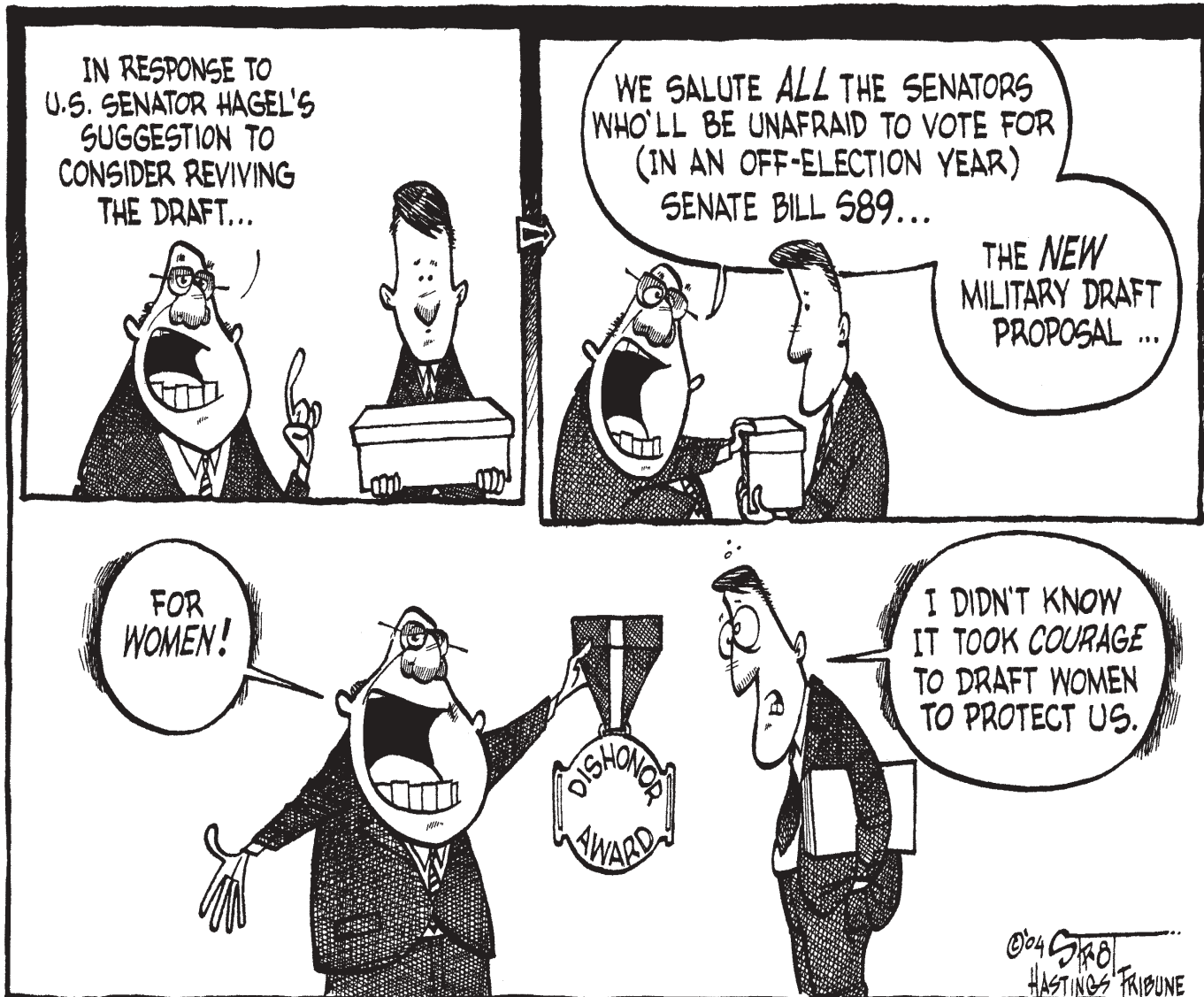
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### Nor'West Newspapers

Dick and Mary Beth Boyd  
Publishers, 1970-2002  
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## One man's language is another's noise

It just goes to show, if you keep doing something wrong long enough, it will begin to seem right. Or, "just shows to go ya," as Jim and I might say with our dyslexic lingo.

For years our daughter Jennifer has said that we will need therapy in our later years because we have taken this whole "backwards talk" thing to another level. The scary part, she says, is that she is beginning to understand us.

Jim credits/blames me for having started it with my "junkbox jukie" faux pas on the radio. But he has perfected it. Jim can transpose phrases so glibly that, for a moment, they make sense. At a neighborhood bonfire he asks, "Do you want a 'dot hog' or a 'bamhurger'?"

At home he says, "I'm going to take a shower in the 'rathboom,'" or "Honey, did you 'ceed the fat'?"

Jennifer has denounced her father's proclivity for re-inventing the English language. But, she herself fell victim

## Out Back

Carolyn Plotts



when telling her father that Alexandria had fun riding an old lawn tractor Jim keeps just for the kids to "putz around" on. She said, "It's too bad. 'Kity cids' don't get to do these kinds of things."

Immediately, she realized what had happened. She had committed the very "sin" she had chastised her father for. She begged her dad not to tell. Maybe he promised, but I am not bound by any such restrictions.

It proves, once again, if you can't convince 'em, confuse 'em.

—ob—

My daughter Kara and I are trying to coordinate the logistics of getting her 5-year-old, Taylor, to our house for a couple of weeks this summer. She begins kindergarten this year and her school starts Aug. 4. That means she can't be here for the Decatur County Fair, when her mom and dad would plan their vacation to come retrieve her. So, we're shooting for the Norton County Fair, which happens earlier in July.

—ob—

Speaking of Taylor starting school, Kara told me about the day they went to enroll. Taylor was taking it all in, especially watching the second and third graders as they filed by on their way to recess.

Kara asked Taylor if she thought she was ready to go to school. Taylor's only question was, "Am I going to be with those big kids?"

To a little 5-year-old, I suppose 8- and 9-year-olds look like big kids. It's all in your perspective.

## Cars and crises go well together

We are looking for a different car for the youngest child. She drives a white Barretta that both sisters took to college. It served them well. At times it has been the most dependable car on the place.

But it's getting old, so she and her dad have been Internet shopping. I hate Internet shopping. It seems to me it takes forever to download the pages, to go back and forth, and so on.

And every time I am ready to checkout the screen goes blank and I have to start over.

But Internet shopping has been a great father/daughter bonding experience. And it keeps them off the streets.

Actually, buying cars is not much of a problem for this family.

We have a fleet rating on our insurance. The yard looks like a used car dealership (okay, actually more like a junk yard).

Getting rid of the cars proves to be more of a problem.

Most recently I have been driving an old car my dad brought new in 1985.

It's been a pretty good car. Unfortunately, right now it only has two gears; first and reverse. So rather than put any

## Back

Home

Nancy Hagman



more money the husband decided to get my pickup running again.

Here is the deal with the pickup; he was driving it and the radiator water went into the engine. This may mean something to you if you understand motors. All the men I have talked to about this (including my husband) say there is really no way to figure out what this problem is until it is probably too late.

All I know is if I had been driving I never would have heard the end of it.

Don't worry he's never going to hear the end of it either.

The pickup has some grill damage and a dent from a deer accident. I admit I was driving when that happened. Anyway, in the deal for this new engine we are getting the grill and a fender to fix that up too.

I was pretty excited to hear that. So I asked the husband, "Can I have it repainted? I want purple metallic with silver accents."

Seemed like a reasonable request to me, but he informed me that if the paint needed touched up they could do it in brown, just like it already is.

I don't understand how I can have a mid-life crisis in a brown pickup.

You know I am sure to have one with the baby leaving the nest and all.

Be prepared is my motto.

Do you suppose it is possible to have a mid-life crisis without an appropriate set of wheels? Probably not.

I guess I am stuck with a brown pickup and should be thankful it's not gray like my hair.

My older sister has a gray car, but her hair is now red. Not that it looks bad. It looks good. But is it red.

It never used to be red.

Hmmm. I'm starting to get an idea about how to handle this impending empty nest/mid-life thing. Purple hair with silver highlights.

I hope I can have my picture in color for the paper from now on.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

## Soldier's letter gives hope and pride to family at home

To the Editor:

Specialist 4th Class Jason Hahn is stationed in Baghdad, and the following is part of a letter received by his parents, Larry and Sue Hahn of Parma, Idaho, last month. Jason, 22, is a nephew of Dee Magers, Norcatur. These fine young Americans need to know how proud we are of them, and how very much we appreciate their sacrifices.

Dee Magers  
Norcatur

As far as me keeping safe here, I do what I can. If I do put myself in harm's way, it is for a good reason.

I hope you know we are fighting for a reason here. If I do end up getting hurt, it's for all the starving families, and children on the outside of these walls, who have been living under suppressed conditions for their entire lives. I hope to make a difference in the lives to come in the future to this country, even if that means losing mine.

We went to a local school last week to

give Beanie Babies to the kids. These are the wealthy kids, who can actually afford to go to school, and they were skin and bones. The ones on the street corners begging for food as our heavily armed convoy rolls by are far worse off.

Maybe this will make you feel better about me being here. I love you.

Jason

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