

## 'We the people' are sick of all the lies

Are you getting as tired of hearing everybody calling everybody a liar as we are?

There is nothing — absolutely nothing — being said politically today that isn't being challenged by someone with the 'liar' argument. Of course, you have to be one to know one.

We don't care how Sen. John Kerry did or did not get his medals, or if he threw them away, or burned them, or if he flip-flops like an unruly pancake, or how he voted a billion years ago on an issue. Or issues.

We don't care if George W. Bush did or did not drink too much when he was younger, or if he served or did not served in the Air National Guard, or if he wears his religious beliefs on his sleeve, or if he is a Bible thumper.

We just don't care. But we do care that figures in both these camps continue that 'liar' drumbeat, and as much as Kerry and Bush try to distance themselves from the "corps of liars." We do care that they just don't come out and in good old-fashioned English and tell their liars to quit lying.

In other words, tell their surrogates to butt out! They — Bush and Kerry — look into the television cameras daily and disavow any knowledge of the creeps that crawl the land telling one lie after another. They can't fool us, and we know they aren't fooling you because in the background, they are smiling every time an apparent 'hit' is scored by their liar.

Those sneaky television commercials that impregnate our homes with lies do little to convince watchers that this is still the greatest of all lands on the planet. If we want to gauge ourselves based on lies told by those who guide or want to guide our fortunes, then hope is shedding itself much like leaves fall from trees at the change of seasons.

This is fast becoming one of the trashiest campaigns in this nation's history. We have a wannabe first lady whose mouth is best saved for talk over a few drinks.

Some people think it's cute. "She's speaking her mind," they say. We don't buy it.

Her use of "shove it" and "hell" are not meant for the public stage and especially by someone who wants badly to be our first lady. If she does become such, the dictionary of "First Lady Lingo" will have to be completely rewritten. No, it's not acceptable language in our opinion.

We have a vice-president who has gone beyond the tainted language and reached into the bottom of the garbage can to express his disdain for a senator's comment on the floor of the U.S. Senate.

There is no place for this vulgarity on our public stage. It's a common word that finds its way into conversation when someone can't think of any other word to use. It'll never find its way in print in this newspaper.

Sen. Edwards can smile all he wants. Looks can be deceiving. And as this fight goes on, I'm sure the smiles will become less obvious. His battle scars from the spring's primaries are nothing next to what he's going to endure in the final months of the campaign.

And Sen. Kerry's awkwardness could be a hint of his discomfort even with himself.

What's wrong with OUR America? It is being ruled and governed by a four-letter word — LIAR.

Bush and Kerry could put an end to it — just like that. But cleaning up politics would be akin to making the landfill suitable for an evening meal. It just isn't going to happen.

We wonder if the ballot allows for a write-in in the presidential box. If it does we will pencil in "God." At least the poll workers will know how we voted.

OUR America deserves better. And it has deteriorated so much that God may even find it almost impossible to repair.

Sad, isn't it, that in OUR America, the choice is the lesser of two evils.

— Tom Dreiling



## Labels shouldn't always be believed

It hasn't been so many years ago when a minister said to me, "You know it has gotten pretty bad when you are a 'man of the cloth', and you hear someone label something or someone as 'Christian' and you just want to crawl under a chair." The phrase "Christian", seems of late, to be used as if it is the Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval.

It is used in music, politics, theater and books. It is self-imposed, church selected or just plain added to a phrase to promote individuals and/or commerce — all in the name of Christ.

It seems sometimes to reflect an individual's belief in their own or their project's infallibility, not Christ's.

Just because someone or something carries the label of "Christian" do we assume its perfection or do we investigate

### Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



the title and consider the source?

These are Christian duties, and careful study to determine the truth versus the anti-Christ is a part of that.

We do our children and ourselves a great disservice when we allow them to believe a label, without question and/or investigation. To trust someone because it carries a label of Christian or believe a book because a "Christian" writer wrote

it, or accept certain music, as Ok because Christian musicians performed it is as frightening as telling a child to trust someone because they are a family friend.

Being Christian does not mean being free of sin, unless the namesake is the purported subject.

How many Christian books have been written by mail order ministers?

It is our responsibility to investigate the truth, not believe something because we want it to be true.

I saw a wonderful ad one time in a church paper.

It said, "Remember Jesus died to take away your sins — not your mind."

It is not only our civic duty to investigate statements made, but also it is our Christian, duty.

## Today's politics don't allow for belonging

With all the talk about the split in the Kansas Republican party, I can't figure out where I belong. Maybe that's a good thing. Maybe neither side would want me.

When I look through the readers' comments for the year, I usually find a couple that can't stand "those lousy, liberal editorials," and some who think the worst thing about the paper is the "liberal editor."

I'm against high taxes and big government, so maybe that makes me a conservative.

But I believe the state should provide good schools and good roads and great universities. Maybe that makes me a liberal. I might even tumble to a tax increase or two, but not often. Not often.

I'm all for order and tradition in society, and that's conservative. But I see no reason for a concealed carry bill. I don't think we need to carry heat in Kansas, not the Kansas I know and live in. It scares me.

I get kind of hinky when someone wants to push his idea of religion and morals off on me. "God said so," is not necessarily good government.

### On the Prairie Dog Steve Haynes



And because we can't all agree on what God wants, I think people ought to have to make up their own minds on moral issues. Separation of church and state is a good thing.

Abortion? Bad. I hate it. But I don't think the state can or should do anything about it. Same for gambling, liquor, drugs and sex.

What people do on their off time is between them and their maker. He said he would judge us all, and I believe he will. I have better things to do.

If people want to place a friendly bet, it's OK with me. I'm not much for casino gambling, which liberals keep pushing as a "revenue enhancement." Like the state lottery, it amounts to taking money from

people who often can't afford it to line the pockets of big corporations and the state.

I remember when the state ran the vice squad and the mob ran the numbers racket. Today, they call it Lotto, and the state takes half, but the Mafia gave better odds.

The so-called progressives in the Republican party keep pushing for more social programs, more spending on schools, more money, more taxes. I think our state government is plenty big enough. The tax cuts of the 1990s helped to slim it down, but there's always pressure to grow.

Our schools are topnotch compared to most states. Overall, there's no evidence that they need more money, and certainly not another \$1 billion a year.

Maybe I am a conservative.

But I worry about the Patriot Act, the excesses of Homeland Security, the ever-growing presence of Big Brother in government. I think we are losing our rights to spreading regulations and insidious.

Does that make me a liberal? I'm not sure. I don't think I belong. I'm not sure I want to.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR: Norton makes South Dakota woman's faith in people rise

Letter to the Editor:

A week ago my husband and I were traveling through Norton on our way to Colorado. We stopped at McDonald's for lunch, and I did a very stupid thing — I left my purse and didn't realize it until we reached Castle Rock, Colo.

I called back to McDonald's to see if anyone had turned my purse in.

After talking to Mike, the manager at McDonald's, I guess I shouldn't have been worried at all. He assured me my purse was intact, including cash and credit cards, and that he would mail it to my home.

My faith in people was lifted above my wildest dreams.

I am from Yankton, S.D., town of about 15,000 people, and choose to live here

because of the kind of people that live on the Great Plains. I now know that the people of Norton are my kind of people — honest, trustworthy and kind.

My thanks go out the people of McDonald's and to the people of Norton. You have a great town!

Annette Kohoutek  
Yankton, S.D. 57078

## WRITE:

We do not publish anonymous letters. We sign our opinions and expect readers to do likewise.

We do not publish form letters or letters about topics which do not pertain to our area. Thank-yous should be submitted to

the Want Ad desk.

Letters will not be censored, but will be read and edited for form and style, clarity, length and legality. We will not publish attacks on private individuals or businesses which do not pertain to a public issue.