

Draft or no draft, that is the question

The phony issue of the 2004 election? The draft. John Kerry keeps trying to hang the specter of a draft to provide troops for Iraq on George Bush.

The president has promised, flatly, that he has no plans to begin a draft, but that doesn't stop Sen. Kerry from his attacks. It won't wash.

First of all, Congress isn't going to institute a draft for Iraq or any foreseeable war.

There's no support for a draft. Too many Americans remember Vietnam.

We hated the draft then. We don't like it now. We won't vote for it.

Neither will Congress, where memories are long and the desire to be re-elected is strong.

Mr. Bush is criticized for a lot of things that aren't his fault: An economy that started south on Bill Clinton's watch, a supposed quagmire in Iraq that many who've been there say isn't nearly that bad, the list goes on.

That's politics.

But of all the phony issues, the draft is the worst. The president has never advocated the draft, and there's no evidence he's planning to ask for one.

The Army is keeping up with its enlistment requirements, and Mr. Bush says he will work to see that it stays that way.

The only statements the president has made are simply that there will be no draft next year.

Make no mistake: No president could promise that he would never ask for a draft. The country needed a draft to fight two world wars, and that could happen again.

But that time has not come. And we see no reason not to believe the president.

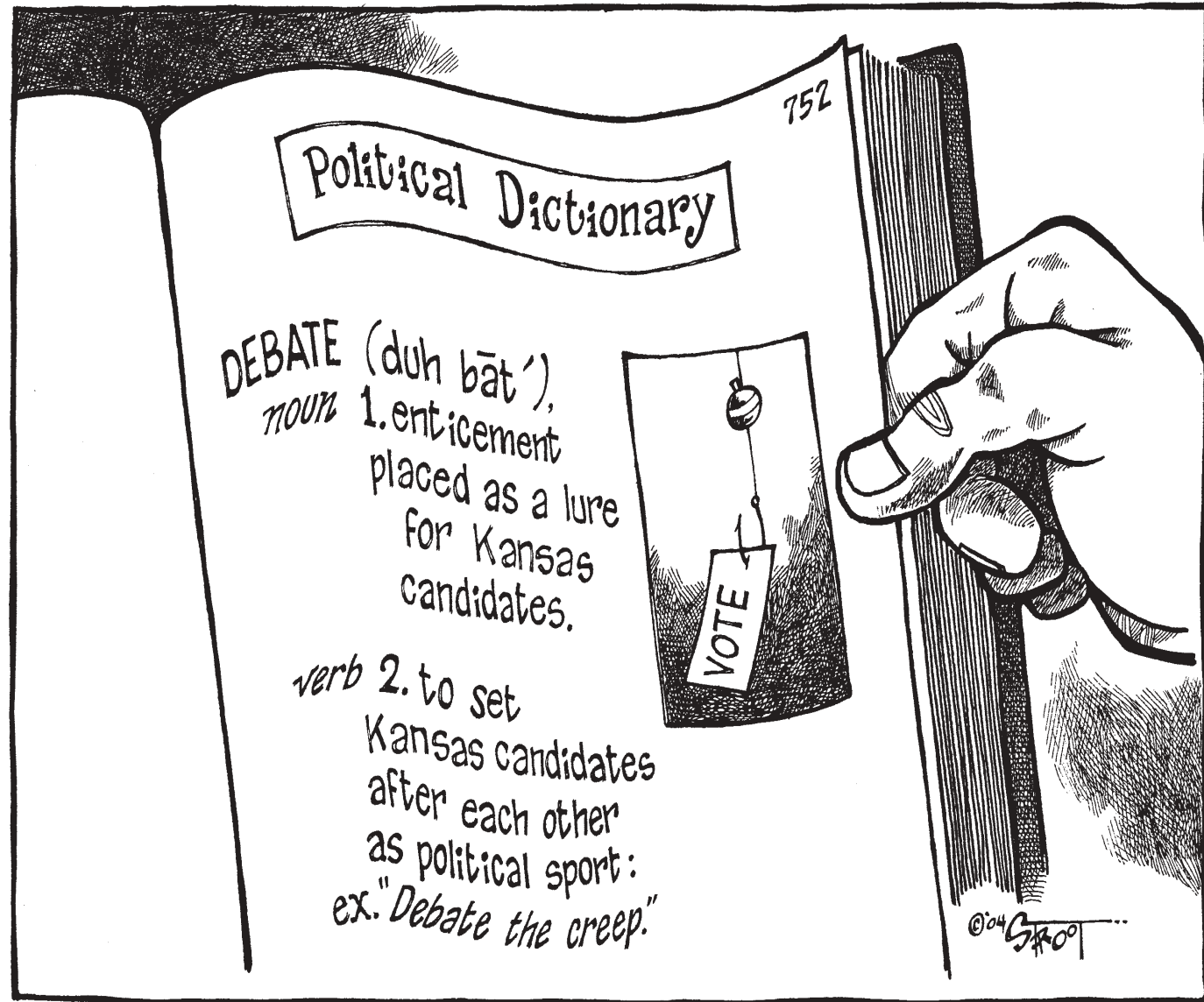
Even if he wanted a draft, it is unlikely Congress would give him one.

By bringing up this issue, Sen. Kerry is pandering to the fears of younger Americans. It's dishonest politics, though, and it could backfire on him.

There are plenty of issues on which he and Mr. Bush disagree — taxes, health care policy, how to fight terrorism, to name a few.

The senator ought to stick to those honest disagreements and get off this phony issue now.

— Steve Haynes



Trivia can be just a wee bit humbling

Thank you. Yes, please. I'll have another piece of that pie." Humble pie, that is.

Just when you start thinking you are so smart, that's when you get knocked down a peg or two.

Saturday night, a local charity sponsored a fund-raising trivia contest. You were to organize a team, answer questions and walk home with the prize money. Simple enough, except for that pesky part about the answers being correct. Judges always seem to want the right answers.

I love trivia games and thought this would be fun and a chance to pick up some easy money. Wrong! Evidently, there are a lot of really smart people in this part of the country. Who knew? Unfortunately, they weren't on my team, and they knew enough not to ask me to be on theirs.

Here was my strategy. Jim was to cover religion and geography, Jennifer was in for movies, Brian was the history buff, Ila for music, Bob, Susan and I were general knowledge, and Veronica, the youngest

Out Back Carolyn Plotts



person on the team, was our ace-in-the-hole for questions pertaining to anything that had happened in the last 20 years.

We were close on lots of questions. But, as you know, "close" only counts in horse-shoes and hand grenades. Here's an example: "What amendment to the Constitution abolished slavery?"

Our answer: the 14th amendment. Wrong. It was the 13th amendment. Like I said, we were close.

Bottom line: we didn't even place in the top 10, but we sure had fun. And I will forever remember that the birthplace of Hawkeye Pierce from M.A.S.H. was

Crabapple Cove, Maine.

I didn't know any of the people on the winning team. We, obviously, don't run in the same intellectual circles. Perhaps I should start hanging around some of them, though. I'm already starting to recruit next year's team.

—ob—

We weren't home one day when Jennifer and Alexandria stopped by our house. I had told Jennifer to pick up a cherry pie I had baked for her. Also cooling on the counter were some chocolate, chocolate-chip cookies I had baked while the oven was hot.

They were in their vehicle, ready to leave, when Alex said to her mom, "Do you think it's all right with Grandma if I had a couple of those cookies?"

Jennifer assured her she thought it would be OK.

Confidently, Alexandria replied, "Yeah. She'll forgive me."

Do these kids know their grandma, or what?

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: Man feels commissioners do super job

To the Editor:

Citizens of Norton County: You voted by an overwhelming majority to keep "mega hog corporations" and the problems they cause out of Norton County. Kansas law does not allow counties to exclude mega "family farm" corporations.

Therein lies the problem.

Your commissioners have many, many issues and duties to implement and oversee. One very important duty you elected them for is to monitor and try to do everything in their power to maintain and protect the environment and the health of the citizens of Norton County.

This is exactly what they have been doing; one of the many things you elected them to do. They are not trying to discour-

age agriculture, business opportunity or economic development in our area. Rather, they are actively promoting these areas while keeping a close watch on real and potential pollution problems. These problems are real and they affect all of us.

If some of the things the commissioners do forces some segments of local industry to "clean up their acts", more power to them.

John Miller and Leroy Lang have been doing a super job. They are hardworking, dedicated men working for all the Norton County people, not just a few. I urge you to re-elect them.

This is a very important election. Please get out and vote.

John Arford
Rural Norton

Flu fiasco brings country to its knees

Don't get me wrong, I'm not opposed to gambling. We lived in Nevada for 20 years, but there is something about having my healthcare reduced to a lottery system that angers me.

I certainly don't place the blame on the local level, but I have plenty of angst with the government health services and pharmaceutical companies, plenty with pharmaceutical companies.

One of my friends pointed out how the flu shots used to be designated for those with specific health problems or over 65, but media and pharmaceutical companies and ad agencies have convinced us of the need to have them because the threat is so great.

Now there is a shortage or if you are of the conspiracy theory bent the pharmaceutical companies have created a short-

Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



age to increase their profits.

Someone else pointed out it is very expensive to produce the flu vaccine. However I have never seen the pharmaceutical companies shy away from an expensive drug when they have baby boomers banging on their doors to buy the product, particularly when the government more than likely would pay the cost for its Medicare participants.

On top of this we won't accept any vaccine from Canada as it might be contaminated.

Now I appreciate our government's scrutiny for our protection as much as anyone, but are Canadians immune to this.

They're taking their shots, of course the system doesn't allow the price gouging often seen in the U.S.

I hate to sound cynical, I hate even worse feeling that way, but it saddens me to think of our country brought to its knees by this fiasco.

Maybe we have been so busy fighting terrorists and producing smallpox vaccine and anthrax protection we have forgotten the everyday threats. Is it possible the terrorists have won?

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

★ U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts, 109 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 224-4774; fax (202) 224-3514

★ U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran, 1519 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. (202) 225-2715

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR: Local voter thinks new candidates are needed

To the Editor:

Our commissioner race is looking like the race for the presidency.

The people say the commissioners didn't; the commissioners say they did. The commissioners say they didn't and the people say they did.

What to believe?

A letter to the editor a few days ago makes John Miller sound like he can walk on water. Surely not. For those people who are undecided on their vote, I say to you, Go talk to the county employees, including the bridge crews, hospital staff, ambulance crews, and the court house staff. Also take account of the local, airport and hospital boards. Talk to the city council and see what their view is.

These people can tell you what it is like to try and work with the commissioners.

John Miller says they are not figure-heads. That is a fact.

They have their finger in on every detail in the county. They have even appointed two of themselves to the airport board and they are taking credit for the expansion projects that Ivan Kingham and the airport board already had done.

We need commissioners that will listen and work for the public, not a couple of dictators.

Home rule, what a joke. Do you want

two people deciding every issue in the county regardless of public opinion? Thank goodness we have a democracy and we can vote in new people.

Please vote for Robert Clydesdale and write-in Ivan Kingham as our new county commissioners on Nov. 2. They will listen and work with all of us.

Ward Sumner
Norton

WRITE:

The Norton Telegram encourages Letters to the Editor on any topic of public interest. Letters should be brief, clear and to the point. They must be signed and carry the address and phone number of the author.

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.