

President's speech recalled by quotes

We said in Tuesday's editorial that President Bush's speech writers would pepper his State of the Union address with a number of sound bites that would be remembered long after the speech itself had been forgotten. Or something like that.

Among the quotes that'll be repeated often by supporters and critics are:

- "The terrorists have chosen the weapon of fear."
- "I urge members of Congress to serve the interests of America by showing the compassion of America."
- "I have authorized a terrorist surveillance program to aggressively pursue the international communications of suspected al Qaeda operatives and affiliates to and from America."
- "There is no peace in retreat. And there is no honor in retreat."
- "Hindsight alone is not wisdom. And second-guessing is not a strategy."
- "As we make progress on the ground, and Iraqi forces increasingly take the lead, we should be able to further decrease our troop levels...but those decisions will be made by our military commanders, not by politicians in Washington, D.C."
- "We need to encourage children to take more math and science, and make sure those courses are rigorous enough to compete with other nations."
- "Human life is a gift from our creator...and that gift should never be discarded, devalued, or put up for sale."
- "Today, having come far in our own historical journey, we must decide: Will we turn back, or finish well?"

State of the Union speeches are probably the most picked over item on the plate. Kind of like picking at the leftover turkey from the Thanksgiving meal. Those quotes are ammo for those who disagree with the president, as well as things to emphasize by those in his support.

Not everyone heard what he or she thought important. But President Bush did turn a lot of soil as he laid forth his plan of action — both at home and abroad.

Millions watched. Millions didn't. Did you? —Tom Dreiling, publisher

Issue deeper than snooping

A recent editorial reminded me of a favorite saying of one of my children. Whenever I am worrying about something or wonder why something is being done, he tells me, "It isn't always about you, Mom."

The editorial about Bush's (I refuse to say the government's) use of domestic wiretaps on "suspected" Al Qaeda brought those words back to me. Tom Dreiling pointed out he speaks to his son overseas and isn't worried about being "spied" upon. I, too, have a son overseas, although not in the military. We talk often and often talk of politics, Bush and how our news is portrayed in his country, Japan. And I, along with Mr. Dreiling, am not worried about something in my phone conversations.

The issue, however, is not about this use of wiretaps without warrants, but it is the precedent it sets. Do we, when we elect a president, elevate him or her to the same status the Catholic Church does for the Pope i.e. infallibility? Or do we recognize the difference in Church and State? God knows we are having great difficulty differentiating the two recently, but that's another story.

Who makes the distinction of suspected? Some in this country and, unfortunately some in high places would use color of skin to make one suspect. We

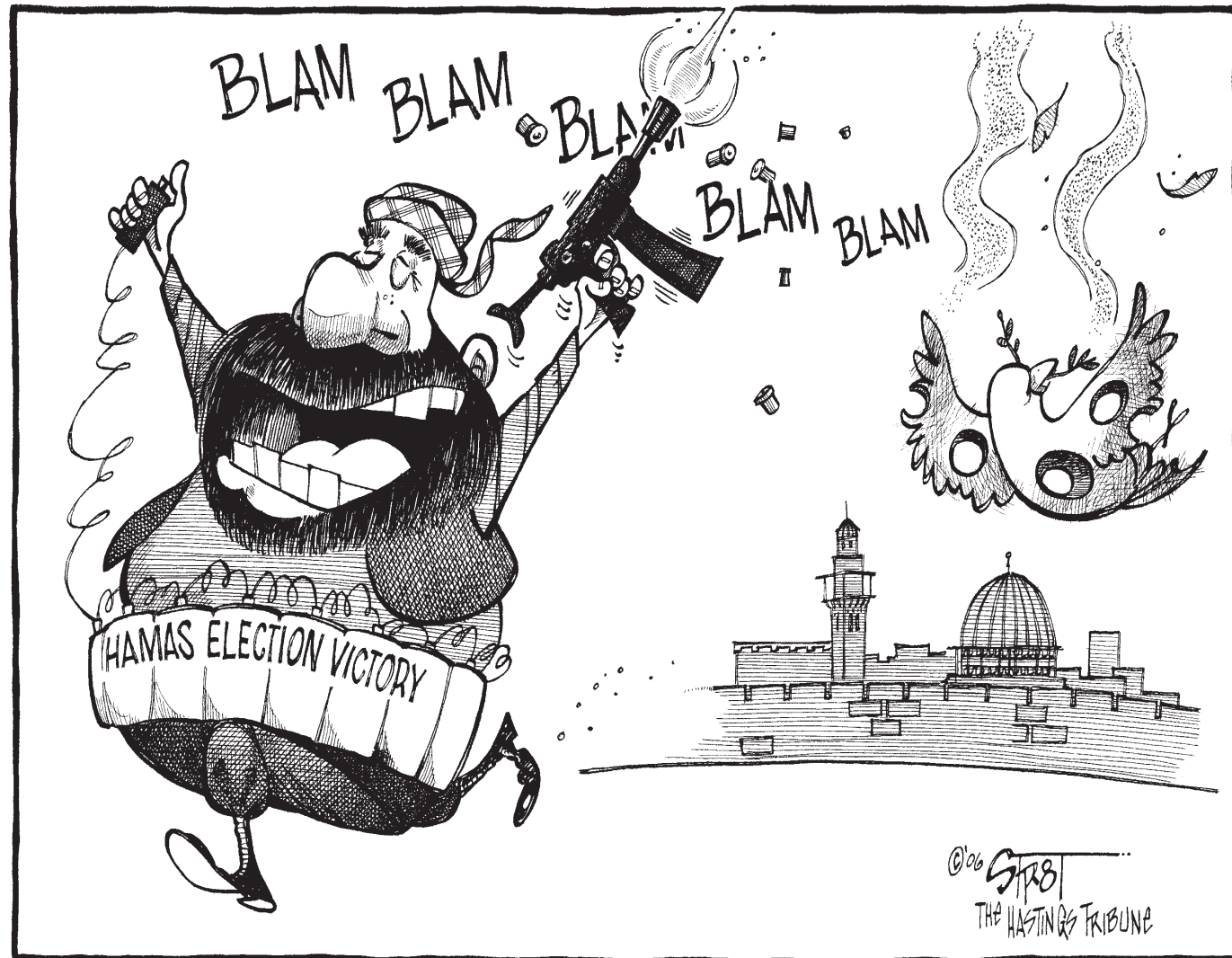
Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



have a good friend who at one time held a high law enforcement position in a large city. He once told us he could make a case against anyone at anytime and make up enough to hold them several days. Once again, who is making the call of the "suspected"?

When we open the door for one to go through it opens it a little wider for the next one. One only needs to review the records of J. Edgar Hoover to realize the dangers this could open. According to Hoover, Albert Einstein was an undesirable alien and that was just one of many.

You are right, Tom, this isn't new, but just because the battle keeps returning doesn't mean it isn't worth fighting. Political pimple? I pray not, for it is the constant balancing which keeps democracy going. We do not have and do not want a kingship way of government. Media and arguments for individual rights will continue and thank God they will.



Pizza Hut employee merits an A+

I love pizza but, unfortunately, pizza doesn't always love me. That said, there are times, however, that I dine on pizza. What follows here has nothing to do with the Norton Pizza Hut's pizza. It has everything to do with a young lady who answered the phone when I called in my delivery order. Very polite. If first impressions mean anything, she got an A+. While placing my order and she was checking her computer to verify my information, I told her that I wouldn't be in their system because I was relatively new to town. Which she asked, very politely, "How do you like Norton?" I gave her a sound bite answer, which seemed to please her. Then I got to thinking how nice it was that someone taking my order would also be interested in my impression of my new town. That isn't all that common. But from this corner it was really appreciated. I wish I had asked her name. But I didn't. In any event, she gets today's "Thumbs Up!"

-td-

Speaking of "Thumbs Up!" I plan to incorporate such a column in *The Telegram* if response supports such a move. It would involve names of people who have done something nice...for no other reason than to be doing something nice. Unsung heroes. The list is endless. Simply e-mail me at tomd@nwkansas.com, call me at 877-6908, drop me a line, deliver me a note, whatever means of communication you choose. You can include birthdays, if the honoree is 70 or older and wedding anniversaries, if the couple is married 50 years or more. And include the birthday/anniversary date. "Thumbs Up!" has been a popular column in other newspapers I have served and I know it will catch on here, too. Your name need not be mentioned. So you get an idea of what appears in the column, here are samples (made up names and my apologies if there are actually people by those

Good Evening Norton Tom Dreiling



names in our reading area):

- Thumbs Up! to...
- ...Wally Wiggensbottomside, for helping me put my walker back in the trunk of my car.
- ...Bonnie Blueberrytree, for your many years driving a school bus.
- ...Tom Tooclumsy, for retrieving my wind-driven trash containers.
- ...Jack and Joann Nicecouple, on your 60th wedding anniversary, Feb. 11. You get the drift. Ready. Set. Let's get'er done! Thanks, in advance!

-td-

I thought President Bush's State of the Union speech was his best yet — delivery. Of course he's had a lot of practice — this was his fifth. Content was interesting. Things I thought would get most attention got little. But that's from my perspective. Yours may be different. The story behind the story, however, was the decision by Capitol cops to remove Cindy Sheehan, the mother of a soldier killed in Iraq, out of the chamber before President Bush's talk. She was later charged and released. Mrs. Sheehan was wearing a T-shirt with the number of American service personnel killed in the Iraqi war imprinted on it. Apparently that's a no-no.

The constitutional scholars are debating whether the removal of Mrs. Sheehan violated her right to free speech. So the sides have formed and the pros and cons

are being aired. Mrs. Sheehan was a guest of a member of the California delegation.

An honest man was being tailgated by a stressed out woman on a busy boulevard. Suddenly, the light turned yellow, just in front of him. He did the right thing, stopping at the crosswalk, even though he could have beaten the red light by accelerating through the intersection.

The tailgating woman hit the roof, and the horn, screaming in frustration as she missed her chance to get through the intersection. As she was still in mid-rant, she heard a tap on her window and looked up into the face of a very serious police officer.

The officer ordered her to exit her car with her hands up. He took her to the police station where she was searched, finger printed, photographed, and placed in a holding cell. After a couple of hours, a policeman approached the cell and opened the door. She was escorted back to the booking desk where the arresting officer was waiting with her personal effects.

He said, "I'm very sorry for this mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn, making unacceptable gestures to the guy in front of you, and using words unbecoming a lady. I noticed the 'Choose Life' license plate, the 'What Would Jesus Do?' bumper sticker, the 'Follow Me to Sunday-School' bumper sticker, and the chrome-plated Christian fish emblem on the trunk. Naturally, I assumed you had stolen the car."

Sometimes we can wrap ourselves in trouble. Thanks to a reader of this column for the e-mail.

-td-

Have a good evening and weekend. And remember to occupy a church pew in the house of worship of your choice.

All we need is a little signal boost

I like wrestling. I don't understand it enough to go to matches because I have to have someone explain everything to me. So I listen to it on the radio. Or I did. Since we moved we can only get Norton radio on a clear day while holding the radio to the west window in the utility room. Or outside in a vehicle.

Still that's do-able — especially if the tournaments are efficiently run, and get over with early (like the Norton Tournament).

I am sunk when it comes to basketball. I knew you could get the games online but I kept thinking I could not tie up my phone line for so long.

No, we don't have high speed internet. The phone company says we are too far from town. Some people get it from their satellite TV companies but that is also not an option for us.

Then it dawned on me — no one ever calls, anyway. Besides it annoys me if people call me when I'm trying to listen to sports (maybe that is why no one calls me. I'm just in a bad mood anyway!) So I started listening to the wrestling and basketball online.

One problem, we don't have high speed

Back Home Nancy Hagman



internet. So we have this constant little thing happening. It is called "rebuffer." During rebuffering you lose the sound. And it always has to rebuffer at the most exciting moment.

At first I thought I missed out on things during rebuffering, but I finally realized when the sound comes back it is right where it was before.

So, say the Norton wrestler is down 8-3 when he puts his opponent "on his back". The referee is down there counting.

Silence. Rebuffering can take anywhere from one second to minutes — and then there is the fall. It's the waiting that kills me.

I find myself wondering if finals aren't

already over and the team on the bus home before I know who was even in finals because of all the time lost to rebuffering.

I listened to the boy's basketball game with Hill City in the first round of the MCL tournament on line. At the end Norton was up by two and Hill City was shooting free throws. They missed the first one and, of course, it was time to rebuffer. Although I was certain there was no way Hill City could win, I still wanted to hear it. I waited and waited and waited. Finally I thought, "If I shut this off I will be back in real time." So I did. Yes, indeed, in real time the game was over.

The next day I read in the paper that Norton won by three so I made up my own ending to the game. Hill City made the second free throw. They fouled Norton immediately and we made both free throws. I haven't gotten the play by play from the Norton paper yet as this is being written. It's sort of like fantasy sports.

Technology is a great thing but I'd trade this online radio for the old fashioned deal anytime. If they can put it online surely they can boost that signal just a little. FCC probably won't even notice.

Pretty please.

Comments to: tomd@nwkansas.com

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

Office hours:
8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.
Phone: (785) 877-3361
Fax: (785) 877-3732
E-mail: telegram@nwkansas.com

STAFF

- Tom Dreiling editor and publisher
- Veronica Monier staff reporter
- Dick Boyd Blue Jay sports
- Carolyn Plotts society editor
- Sherry Hickman circulation
- Vicki Henderson computer production
- Susie Marble computer production
- Sonya Montgomery bookkeeping
- Hypatia Day Advertising

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