

Opinion



Guest Viewpoint

Vehicle registration enters the fast lane

Over the past few years, the world has seen tremendous growth in electronic services. State government here in Kansas is no exception. With the number of people turning to the Internet for information and services, it makes sense to utilize available technology to offer more convenient and timesaving options.

The newest Kansas service is electronic vehicle registration. People in every region in the state now have the ability to renew their vehicle tags using the Internet (www.kswebtags.org) or by calling the toll-free telephone number (1-800-4KS-TAGS). Both options are completely automated and easy to use.

The program, dubbed "E-tags" by the Kansas Department of Revenue, is available anytime of the day, any day of the week. The only requirements are that the vehicle being renewed must currently be registered in the state of Kansas, the vehicle owner's addresses as printed on the renewal notice must be current and the vehicle must be insured by a participating insurance company.

A list of these participating insurance companies is available on the website. This program offers Kansans an alternative to standing in line at their county treasurer or putting their registration in the mail. This new registration method does not replace the standard means of renewal, it only gives Kansans another convenient option.

The E-tag program is provided through the cooperative efforts of county treasurers, the Division of Motor Vehicles and many insurance companies. Adding electronic vehicle registration to the list of electronic services will have a direct and positive impact on the state's ability to serve the motor vehicle owners.

The Kansas Department of Revenue already offers electronic filing and payment of taxes, on-line change of address for drivers' licenses, and electronic Motor Carrier permits and licensing. E-tags is a great next step in helping government become more efficient, and taking government to where Kansans live and work. — *Gov. Bill Graves*

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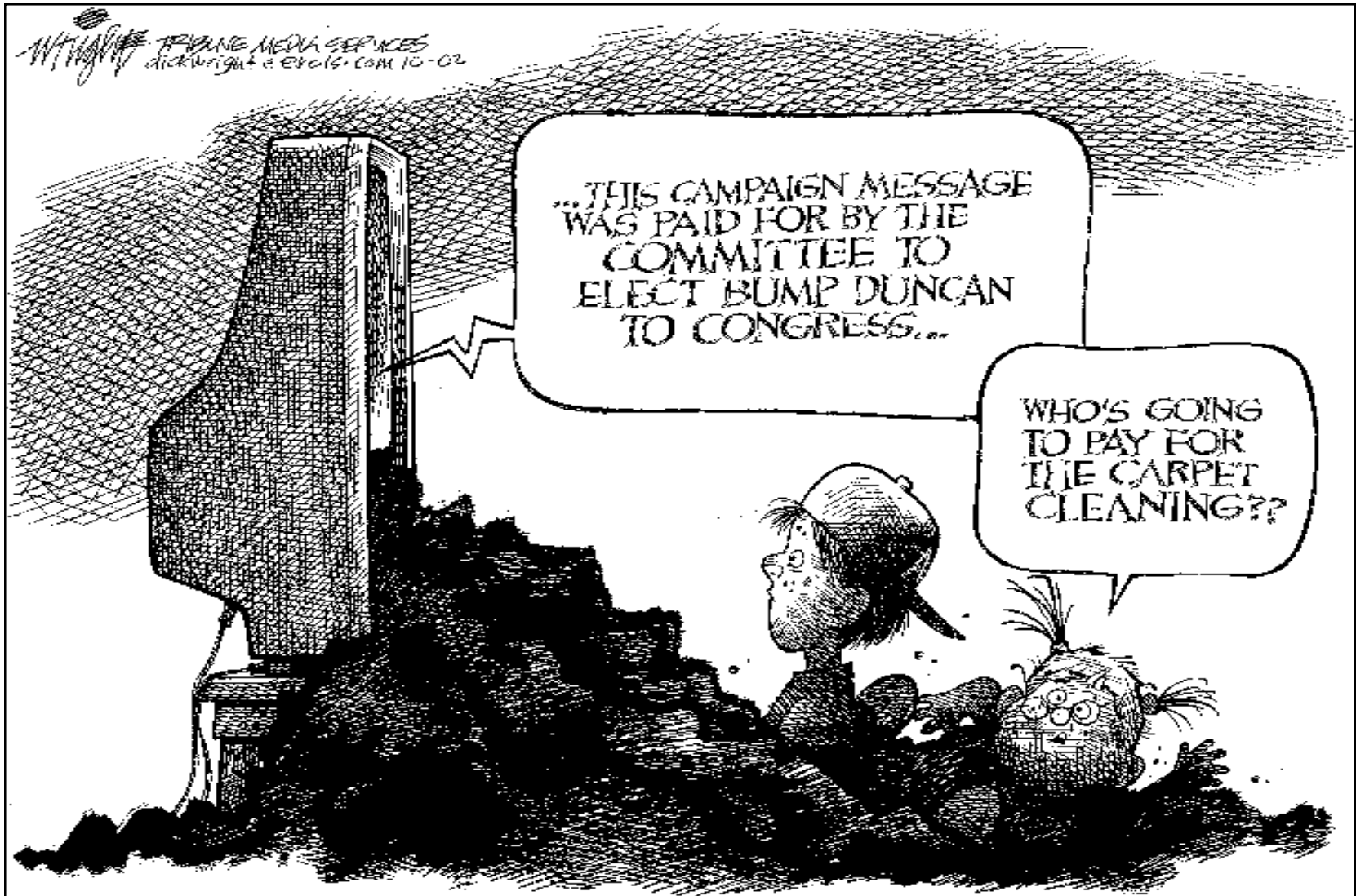
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Living in a world of love



Michelle L. Hawkins

• Pursuit of a Richer Life

Have you ever sat down and thought about love? Chances are we all have at point or another. After talking with a friend a while back, we were discussing the components of true love. Is it possible to love many people in a lifetime, or are we only allotted one person to make us happy? I am under the belief that throughout our lives, there will be many people that we will love, and even several that we have the potential of being in love with. I say that last statement because I feel there is a difference in loving someone and being in love with them.

When asked "what is love?", how do you answer? That is such a deep question because love is a human emotion. Emotions are peculiar and differ with each individual.

Love is especially unique because there are so many different types of love. There is brotherly love, love in your friendships, and unconditional love. From this perspective, it is definitely possible to love many people in a lifetime. I truly believe that love is putting your own needs and motives aside and caring for another individual — selflessly.

I almost believe that the word love is used too casually. I have so many friends that I love, and I make sure to tell them frequently, but so many use "love" for their own personal gain. If that is what they believe love to be, then that tells me that love is selfish, which I know is not true. Can you love someone for a period of time and then dismiss that because your personal needs and motives are stronger than your concern for that individual? If you can, then the love that you proclaim is not a true or pure love.

When you love, you entrust your faults to another human. It is like with your family, they love you, but they know the worst things about you. You drop down your guard and let your faults come to the surface. There are things about me, that at times are not

too pretty. I know it may surprise some of my readers to find out, but I am moody, picky, cranky, and downright disagreeable at times. Those who are close to me know my faults and accept me, faults and all. I have entrusted those things to these people and trust that they will still accept me and love me despite all my weaknesses.

Love compels us to do things that are above ourselves. There are times when we do things for others that we don't particularly care to do — that is love. When I was little and would get sick, my mother would clean up after me. Not because that was her joy and reason for living, but because she loved me. If anybody has wondered how parents do some of the things they do for their children, it is out of love, the agape unconditional love. How else can you explain diapers? Never once did I hear my parents say, "We will take care of you, but your are going to have to compensate for it in some manner...how good are you at digging ditches?" As a parent, you do things for your children because you love them.

Love is probably the most complex of the human emotions, but yet it is the one that we can't do without. It is proven that we all need love and human affection for proper development. Children that don't receive love and aren't cared for when they are small, have problems as they grow, physically, emotionally,

and mentally. Love is a wonderful gift that completes us.

Another very important factor in love that was brought to my attention is commitment. As I was pondering over the subject of love, it wasn't the first things to come to my mind, but it is so valuable and important. There are times when we don't have all the "feelings" that we think we should. You know...the warm fuzzies. Love goes deeper than just feelings. If you live long enough, people will hurt you and let you down at times, but love goes beyond all of that. Commitment is the glue of love. It keeps us together and allows us to love even when we don't feel like it. It keeps us from walking out the door when things get a little tough or rocky.

If you are ever in doubt if you love someone, there is always a sure-fire check list that you can use:

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil, but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always preserves. Love never fails. *1 Corinthians 13:4-8*. If you truly love someone, you can never tell them too often that you do.

Hawkins is Family Page and Religion Page editor, and also a general assignment reporter/photographer for the Colby Free Press. Her column appears on Tuesdays.

In Addition: I am STILL working on a special column about "Famous people we are related to." So far, no one has responded with their famous ancestors...I would love to know what historical figure, singer, artist, actor, etc. that you are related to, for my special column. Please call, write, or e-mail me with your response.

U.S. motive in Iraq may be tainted

Donald Kaul

• Another Viewpoint

The White House would have us believe that our new "National Security Strategy," made public last month, is a noble, high-minded document, placing the United States firmly on the side of international freedom, justice and equality.

They have to be kidding.

Actually it is a scary document that reserves for the American president the right to attack anybody, anytime for whatever reason he deems necessary, without saying please or thank-you to anyone.

For those of you who say "Damn betcha" to that, let me point out that it flies in the face of 60 years of a collective security policy that has worked remarkably well for this nation and given it a position of moral authority granted to no other great power. Without that authority we become just another brutish, thug nation that bullies the world because it can. The ash-heap of history is littered with the carcasses of similarly arrogant "superpowers" — ancient Rome, 17th century Spain, 18th century France and 19th century England, to name just a few.

The document — which has been dubbed Bush's First-Strike Manifesto — says: "While the United States will constantly strive to enlist the support of the international community, we will not hesitate to act alone, if necessary, to exercise our right of self-defense by acting against 'terrorists' we must deter and defend against the threat before it is unleashed."

Which sounds fine, but only if you accept the premise that the United States is the only absolutely trustworthy nation in the world, one that would never act out of selfish or base motives.

As Americans, we accept that premise as a matter

of course. The rest of the world laughs at it. As well they might. We talk about being friends of freedom and democracy around the world but we have never hesitated to quash democracy or support repressive regimes when it suited our interests — which is pretty much always.

For example:

• When the democratically elected president of Guatemala, Jacobo Arbenz Guzman, nationalized 200,000 acres of United Fruit Company land to give to peasants in 1952, the CIA launched Operation Success to overthrow him. After U.S.-backed rebels deposed him in 1954, the country fell into a civil war that lasted 36 years and cost hundreds of thousands of lives.

• When a secular revolution knocked off the Shah of Iran in 1953 and the new prime minister, Mohammed Mossadegh, nationalized oil wells controlled by a British company, the CIA went to work again. Its Operation Ajax resulted in a 1954 coup that put a new Shah in place and returned the oil wells to Western control. The Shah's brutal regime eventually produced the revolution that gave us the Ayatollah

Khomeini.

• When Chileans elected a Marxist, Salvador Allende, as president in 1971 and he nationalized the copper mines owned by foreign companies, our Johnny-on-the-spot CIA orchestrated his overthrow by 1973, keeping the country's copper supply safe for American giants like ITT and AT&T. Allende's successor, Gen. Augusto Pinochet, ruled for the next 25 years by torture, terror and death squads. He was our friend too.

• When leftist Patrice Lumumba was elected President of Congo in 1960. 'Oh, never mind.' You get the idea. If we care about freedom and democracy at all, it's our own and — given the shenanigans in Florida and those of our Attorney General — I'm beginning to have my doubts about that.

Our approaching war with Iraq is being justified as necessary to our security (although you have to wonder why his immediate neighbors don't feel the same sense of peril) and as a blow for freedom. I don't believe that last for a minute.

If you're looking for a plausible reason, the following statement seems to be more in line with the facts: "The U.S. administration wants to destroy Iraq in order to control the Middle East oil, and consequently control the politics as well as the oil and economic policies of the whole world." It's a hell of a thing when a dime-store Hitler like Saddam Hussein makes more sense than the president of the United States.

Donald Kaul recently retired as Washington columnist for the Des Moines Register. Local feedback to td@nwkansas.com.

Doonesbury

• Gary Trudeau

