

# Opinion



## Free Press Viewpoint

### There's a better way to handle situations

You have to wonder about the Bush administration when two key people on their team have come out with reports that raise all sort of questions. Serious questions.

And President Bush's national security adviser, Condoleeza Rice, was somewhat successful this morning on "Good Morning America" to brush at least one report aside as though it was folly, thanks to Diane Sawyer's inability to cut her off at the pass and get an answer to the question asked.

David Kay, President Bush's self-picked Iraqi snoop, is shocking Capitol Hill with reports that simply say, in effect, "No weapons of mass destruction exist, nor does any evidence of such weapons." Kay has stepped down and the administration has a new man over there to re-snoop in hopes he can find what Kay didn't.

Paul McNeil, former treasury secretary, spilled a lot of beans in his book and the reports of the president's inattentiveness at cabinet meetings was shocking. Of course the White House brushed those tales aside as "sour grapes."

And the State of the Union address of a week ago was more of a re-election campaign kick off than it was the state of the union. Only things missing were music and balloons.

Most Americans, it would be correct to surmise, figured early on in President Bush's term that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein would be removed to finish what his father — President George H.W. Bush — failed to do in Gulf War I. When and the basis for removal were the wrinkles to be ironed out before an attack could be carried out.

The basis was, as David Kay is telling congressional committees this week, the existence of weapons of mass destruction.

Saddam's rotting in a jail cell, as he should be. A trial will take place in the not too distant future and he could, and should, pay the ultimate price for the acts of murder and torture inflicted upon his own people.

The world is better off without Saddam Hussein. And the administration should have just told the American people at the get-go that the reason for a planned ouster of Saddam was to finish what the elder Bush didn't finish when he was occupant of the White House. Americans would have rallied around the current President Bush because for most part we all felt he had to go. One way or the other.

It's when we disguise reasons that we get into trouble. And David Kay's testimony — and remember he was President George W. Bush's appointee — sets the stage for a troubled run for re-election.

Of course the self-destructing Democrats might be so ripped up and torn apart by the time Nov. 2 rolls around that Mr. Bush's troubles won't be a factor.

We'll see.

Tom A. Dreiling, publisher

### Join in the conversation

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## Learning English not easy

Each month a group of us in the journalism profession get together and brainstorm on ideas or share unique scenarios we are experiencing in the field.

This month's meeting was Wednesday and someone brought a handout on "Reasons Why the English Language is so Hard to Learn."

I thought it was very clever and decided it would be fun to take the list home and test it on the rest of my family.

For the most part, our two sons did well — except for a few sentences that really tripped them up. Then the more I thought about the list, I figured it would be something to pass along so others could enjoy it too.

So here goes, at least 21 reasons why our language is so hard to learn:

- 1) The bandage was wound around the wound.
- 2) The farm was used to produce produce.
- 3) The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
- 4) We must polish the Polish furniture.
- 5) He could lead if he would get the lead out.
- 6) The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
- 7) Sine there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.
- 8) A bass was painted on the head of a bass drum.
- 9) When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
- 10) I did not object the object.
- 11) The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
- 12) They were too close to the door to close it.
- 13) There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row.
- 14) The buck does funny things when the does are present.
- 15) A seamstress and a sewer fell down into a sewer line.
- 16) To help with planting, the farmer taught his sow to sow.



### Patty Decker

#### ● Deep Thoughts

- 17) The wind was too strong to wind the sail.
  - 18) After a number of injections my jaw got number.
  - 19) Upon seeing the tear in the painting, I shed a tear.
  - 20) I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.
  - 21) How can I intimate this to my most intimate friend.
  - 22) I want it to be on the record that I will record my record.
- and...
- Here are some other tidbits about the language that were worth thinking about:
- There is no egg in eggplant nor pine in pineapple.
- English muffins weren't invented in England or French fries in France.
- Sweetmeats are candies while sweetbreads, which aren't sweet, are meat.
- Quicksand works slowly, boxing rings are square and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.

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On a somewhat different note, recently a friend sent me this on the subject of "What Does Love Mean?," as seen through the eyes of 4 to 8 year-olds. Sometimes children come up with some very deep meanings for love. What do you think?

Here's a few from that list:

## Defending their livelihood

Cattlemen have always been an independent bunch. They believe in what they say and stand up for what they believe. That said, it didn't take the farmers and ranchers in Kingman County long to come to the aid of their beleaguered beef industry.

Beef was taking a beating. Newspapers, television, radio and magazines all featured stories with concerns about the safety of this nation's beef supply.

This thundering media barrage occurred after an isolated case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in Washington state.

Having heard more bad news about beef than they ever cared to, Kingman County Farm Bureau cattlemen decided to hold a rally to boost consumer confidence in beef.

Beef was on their minds and on the menu shortly thereafter. The farmers and ranchers decided on a community barbecue featuring American-raised beef. It was held Jan. 16 at the Kingman community center and the show of support for beef was beyond anything the cattle producers could have hoped for.

"We're proud of our profession and confident in the quality and safety of our products," John Kuszmaul said. He helped organize the barbecue and serves as Kingman County Farm Bureau president.

Once the county Farm Bureau decided on the barbecue, members acted quickly. They in-

### John Schlageck

#### ● Insight

formed the media, invited neighbors and friends and prepared for the event.

The reaction from the community and others who heard about the event was tremendous. Throughout the community people said, "I'll be there." And they were.

That Friday, more than 700 Kansans enjoyed a juicy burger in the south-central Kansas community and demonstrated their confidence in the safety of this country's beef supply. While the county Farm Bureau had purchased 250 pounds of beef, the supply quickly ran out and helpers bought more ground beef and charcoal and found another grill.

This "Beef Rally" to bolster consumer confidence demonstrates that farmers and ranchers in Kansas are believers in their profession. They also believe in the product they raise. Their families and other families in the communities buy and eat the beef they've raised for generations.

These same producers also believe in the effectiveness of the systems put in place by the U.S. government. They are confident this system will protect animal and consumer health.

• "When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love." — Rebecca - age 8

• "When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You know that your name is safe in their mouth." — Billy - age 4

• "Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other." — Karl - age 5

• "Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your French fries without making them give you any of theirs." — Chrissy - age 6

• "Love is what makes you smile when you're tired." — Terri - age 4

• "If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate," — Nikka - age 6

• "During my piano recital, I was on a stage and I was scared. I looked at all the people watching me and saw my daddy waving and smiling. He was the only one doing that. I wasn't scared anymore," — Cindy - age 8 >

• And the final one — Author and lecturer Leo Buscaglia once talked about a contest he was asked to judge. The purpose of the contest was to find the most caring child.

The winner was a four year old child whose next door neighbor was an elderly gentleman who had recently lost his wife. Upon seeing the man cry, the little boy went into the old gentleman's yard, climbed onto his lap, and just sat there. When his Mother asked him what he had said to the neighbor, the little boy said, "Nothing, I just helped him cry."

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### Doonesbury

#### ● Gary Trudeau

