

# Opinion



## Free Press Viewpoint

### Prison ordeal just might be the straw

The horrific treatment of Iraqi prisoners of war by American military personnel goes beyond troubling. It's sick. And the photos showing smiling Americans as though these are acts proudly proclaimed leave little wiggle room when it comes to applying whatever punishment is handed out.

We only hope it isn't some non-commissioned officer that eventually becomes the scapegoat. This goes up much higher on the chain of command.

There is much finger pointing going on, especially among those with commissioned status. And the general in charge of the 16 prisons failed to make a compelling case when she allowed herself to be interviewed on television this week.

We guess if heads are to roll, they have to start with those wearing stars on their shoulders. After all those are the class of military people who come in for all the praise and glory when success is proclaimed. Now, with this utterly disgusting turn of events, they must share the burden, the shame.

Donald Rumsfeld, secretary of defense, is appearing before a bunch of unhappy campers — senators and representatives — as this is being written this morning. It won't be a cordial stage on which he will perform. A grilling of unheard magnitude is promised.

Should he resign? Democrats on Capitol Hill are generally in agreement that he should. Republicans on Capitol Hill are silent. This is an election year and the path to the White House is being riddled by several weighty issues. Prison torture is just the latest. Unfortunately, this ordeal will become a campaign issue, instead of a matter of justice being rendered in an unjust circumstance.

Perhaps this case won't be decided until Nov. 2, when the voters go to the polls. They will be the judge and the jury — and who would have ever guessed that mistreatment of war prisoners by American military people would be the deciding straw in the battle for the White House.

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## Nor'West Newspapers

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## That parking lot cracks me up

I WAS glad to read where the local school board is looking into the deteriorating condition of the parking lot at the high school. One would generally assume that most of the district's patrons — I don't like that word *patrons*, but that's what they are called — wouldn't know there was a problem if they hadn't been reading the newspaper, in this case this newspaper.

I use the parking lot as my place to walk. Mornings and evenings. I've been walking for a lot of years and when I moved here I looked around for what I figured to be a safe walking area. What better place than a good size parking lot well lighted?

I've been watching those cracks grow from little things into adulthood. It was puzzling. I am not a parking lot expert, other than using them to park in and in the case of the one at the high school, to walk around. I would notice temporary repairs taking place at various times wondering what the result would be. Not much to write home about. The parking lot isn't old and I don't know what kind of life one would expect out of a parking lot that is used nine months out of the year. But this one is getting ugly. From the street it doesn't look bad, but when you get a close up look, it's bad. I'm sure this isn't the only publicly owned parking lot to show wear and tear just a few years into existence.

It'll probably cost a tidy sum of money to get it done right, but the question arises, "What's right?" Stan Molstad, the president of our local school board is right on target with his comment at the board meeting that they (the board) should at least get someone with expertise to look at it and then get an idea of how much the work would actually cost. I'd hate to see us put giant Band-Aids all over the parking lot to simply hold it together until something more substantial could be bankrolled.

But regardless, I still like my private walking lot.

FOR those of you so fortunate to have a Mother, please remember her on her special day



### Tom Dreiling

#### ● My Turn

Sunday. Treat her like the Queen she is. Take her out to dine, and if that's not possible spend the day with her, bring dinner in. Make it a memorable Mother's Day. We who do not enjoy the love and company of a Mother, know so well that Mothers don't last forever, but, oh!, how we wish they did. Pamper her. She's not just Queen for a Day, but Queen Forever. Happy Mother's Day!

ANOTHER sort of goofy commercial on the tube is the one pushing a new kind of shaver for removing leg hair. It shows this gal effortlessly shaving her leg as the hand held contraption buzzes off the hair. The voice over says it's perfect for use in the privacy of your home. Now, folks, are we to assume from that comment that most women shave their legs in the town square? Duh?!

IF you are a dog lover you will love this:

The reason a dog has so many friends is that he wags his tail instead of his tongue. -Anonymous

Don't accept your dog's admiration as conclusive evidence that you are wonderful. -Ann Landers

If there are no dogs in Heaven, then when I die I want to go where they went. -Will Rogers

There is no psychiatrist in the world like a puppy licking your face. -Ben Williams

A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than he loves himself. -Josh Billings

The average dog is a nicer person than the

average person. -Andy Rooney

We give dogs time we can spare, space we can spare and love we can spare. And in return, dogs give us their all. It's the best deal man has ever made. -M. Acklam

Dogs love their friends and bite their enemies, quite unlike people, who are incapable of pure love and always have to mix love and hate. -Sigmund Freud

I wonder if other dogs think poodles are members of a weird religious cult. -Rita Rudner

Dogs need to sniff the ground; it's how they keep abreast of current events. The ground is a giant dog newspaper, containing all kinds of late-breaking dog news items, which, if they are especially urgent, are often continued in the next yard. -Dave Barry

If I have any beliefs about immortality, it is that certain dogs I have known will go to heaven, and very, very few persons. -James Thurber

If your dog is fat, you aren't getting enough exercise. -Unknown

Women and cats will do as they please, and men and dogs should relax and get used to the idea. -Robert A. Heinlein

Speak softly and own a big, mean Doberman. -Dave Miliman

Dogs are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole. -Roger Caras

If you think dogs can't count, try putting three dog biscuits in your pocket and then giving Fido only two of them. -Phil Pastoret

GUY across the street signed up for an exercise class and was told to wear loose-fitting clothing. He said, "If I had any loose-fitting clothing, I wouldn't have signed up for this class!"

HAVE a good evening and a good weekend. How about joining your Mother at church this weekend?

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Tom Dreiling is publisher of the Free Press. His column appears Wednesdays and Fridays.

## Mom wouldn't have said that

Mother's Day stuff and a few other items were in this column's e-mail for sharing with you today. Enjoy! -td

### Things Mom Would Never Say

- "How on earth can you see the TV sitting so far back?"
- "Yeah, I used to skip school a lot, too"
- "Just leave all the lights on ... it makes the house look more cheery"
- "Let me smell that shirt — Yeah, it's good for another week"
- "Go ahead and keep that stray dog, honey. I'll be glad to feed and walk him every day"
- "Well, if Timmy's mom says it's OK, that's good enough for me."
- "The curfew is just a general time to shoot for. It's not like I'm running a prison around here."
- "I don't have a tissue with me ... just use your sleeve"
- "Don't bother wearing a jacket — the wind-chill is bound to improve"

### Mother's Day Trivia

• The youngest mother whose history is authenticated is Lina Medina, who delivered a 6-pound boy by cesarean section in Lima, Peru in 1939, at an age of 5 years and 7 months. The child was raised as her brother and only discovered that Lina was his mother when he was 10.

• Bobbie McCaughey is the mother who holds the record for the most surviving children from a single birth. She gave birth to the first set of surviving septuplets — four boys and three girls — on November 19, 1997, at the University Hospital, Iowa. Conceived by in vitro fertilization, the babies were delivered after 31 weeks by caesarean in the space of 16 minutes.

• Jayne Bleackley is the mother who holds the record for the shortest interval between two children born in separate confinements. She gave birth to Joseph Robert on September 3, 1999, and Annie Jessica Joyce on March 30, 2000. The babies were born 208 days apart.

• Elizabeth Ann Buttle is the mother who holds the record for the longest interval between the birth of two children. She gave birth to Belinda on May 19, 1956 and Joseph on November 20, 1997. The babies were born 41 years 185 days apart. The mother was 60 years old when her son Joseph was born.

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#### ● At Week's End

• The highest officially recorded number of children born to one mother is 69, to the first wife of Feodor Vassilyev (1707-1782) of Shuya, Russia. Between 1725 and 1765, in a total of 27 confinements, she gave birth to 16 pairs of twins, seven sets of triplets, and four sets of quadruplets. 67 of them survived infancy.

• The modern world record for giving birth is held by Leontina Albina from San Antonio, Chile. Leontina claims to be the mother of 64 children, of which only 55 of them are documented. She is listed in the 1999 Guinness World Records but dropped from later editions.

And you thought your two kids at home were a challenge.

### Powerful Message

One day, a man went to visit a church. He got there early, parked his car, and got out. Another car pulled up near and the driver got out and said, "I always park there! You took my place!"

The visitor went inside for Sunday School, found an empty seat and sat down. A young lady from the church approached him and stated, "That's my seat! You took my place!"

The visitor was somewhat distressed by this rude welcome, but said nothing. After Sunday School, the visitor went into the sanctuary and sat down. Another member walked up to him and said, "That's where I always sit! You took my place!" The visitor was even more troubled by this treatment, but still He said nothing.

Later as the congregation was praying for Christ to dwell among them, the visitor stood up, and his appearance began to change. Horrible scars became visible on his hands and on his sandaled feet.

Someone from the congregation noticed him and called out, "What happened to you?" The visitor replied, as his hat became a crown of horns, and a tear fell from his eye, "I took your place."

### Fast Thinkers

Here's proof that kids in grade school think fast:

TEACHER: Why are you late?

BOB: Because of the sign.

TEACHER: What sign?

BOB: The one that says, "School Ahead, Go Slow."

TEACHER: Cindy, why are you doing your math multiplication on the floor?

CINDY: You told me to do it without using tables!

TEACHER: John, how do you spell "crocodile?"

JOHN: K-R-O-K-O-D-A-I-L"

TEACHER: No, that's wrong

JOHN: Maybe it's wrong, but you asked me how I spell it!

TEACHER: What is the chemical formula for water?

SARAH: H I J K L M N O!!

TEACHER: What are you talking about?

SARAH: Yesterday you said it's H to O!

TEACHER: Willie, name one important thing we have today that we didn't have ten years ago.

WILLIE: Me!

TEACHER: Tommy, why do you always get so dirty?

TOMMY: Well, I'm a lot closer to the ground than you are.

TEACHER: "George Washington not only chopped down his father's cherry tree, but also admitted doing it. Now do you know why his father didn't punish him?"

JOHNNY: "Because George still had the ax in his hand."

TEACHER: What do you call a person who keeps on talking when people are no longer interested?

PAUL: A teacher.

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Got something to share with our readers "At Week's End?" E-mail it to td@nwkanssas.com, mail it to 155 W. 5th, Colby 67701 or fax 462-7749.