

Mother’s worry over return to Iraq; women and politics

Dear Dr. Brothers: My son, who was serving in Iraq and was near the end of his second term there, was sent home on special leave because of his father’s death. It was a sad time for all of us, especially my son, who idolized him.

Even in my own mourning, I’m frantic because our son is returning to war combat and staying there for a third tour. He’s extremely sensitive, and I know he’s doing this only for his father. He’s already suffered from bouts of post-traumatic stress — how much pressure can he be expected to take? He’s there by now, but what can I do? — K.N.

Dear K.N.: It might help you to know that the military is aware of the dangers of repeat tours and has greatly increased the number of mental-health professionals in both Iraq and Afghanistan. These people are well-trained and first rate at recognizing and coping with stress and the overall mental health of our troops. Not only that, but it’s become more common for troops to get help from psychiatrists there, and much of the former stigma has gone.

If they see serious problems — too serious for them to handle there — they’ll have no hesitation about evacuating service men and women and returning them to the states so they can receive the help they need. They really are concerned about the welfare



Dr. Joyce Brothers

● Ask Dr. Brothers

of the troops. They’ll recognize the fact that your son may need more time for mourning, or he may find his own personal way. This is his right, and it needs to be considered.

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Dear Dr. Brothers: As a teacher in a girls’ school, and as an American interested in politics as well as education, I’m fascinated by the rise of women in strong political positions in so many other countries — not only in South America, but in Europe as well.

I find it interesting that, despite the fact that some of those places have a much poorer history of equal rights for people generally, they seem to have no difficulty accepting females in positions of great power politically, unlike so many places in our own great nation, which seems to be scared to death or disgusted by the idea of female leaders.

What is that all about, or am I wrong in my observations? — D.B.

Dear D.B.: I partially agree with your views, but let’s not for-

get that there are many in our country of both sexes who are certainly ready for a female president. I suspect the fact that we seem to have more people with extremely limited definitions of male and female sex roles — more than exist in many European and even some Latin American countries — is, on a subconscious level, closely tied to our early pioneer history in which “real men” were

defined by a rough, tough style where conflicts were almost inevitably settled by guns, sharpshooters or lynch mobs. At that time, many considered men in our nation’s capitol and in our eastern cities as “sissies” or “girly men” — expressions still used by some current leaders. This automatically resulted in the view that women were either prostitutes or as virtuous as saints, females who must always be protected and kept in the home.

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Dear Dr. Brothers: I’ve always been glad that people think of me as being a very funny chick. In fact, recently I’ve been able to make some money apart from my day job by actually working in comedy

clubs. A couple of weeks ago, I met a guy I fell for; it was something that hadn’t happened before. I think I’m in love, and when we’re alone at his place or mine, we have a great time. He says he loves me — a new thing for him.

But, for some crazy reason, he seems to resent my working as a comic. I keep telling him they’re not laughing AT me, they like me, but he can’t seem to get it straight. What is this? I love my job and him, but do I have to choose? — A.J.

Dear A.J.: You shouldn’t have to, and if you did give up your love for this job and quit, you’d resent it later. Should this happen, it would be destructive to your relationship and would probably eventually destroy it.

His strange reaction might be more complicated, and he might not be aware of the reasons for his attitude himself.

One reason female comics have a harder time than males is because stand-up comedy is really a kind of power play between the audience and the performer. Many men are uncomfortable when women are assertive enough to take charge. This is actually one of the problems many American men have with voting for a woman for president. The more insecure the man, the more threatening he finds a female boss. Talk with your friend about all this. He may appreciate it and be able to change.

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Students tell fellow graduates to strive

From “BREWSTER,” Page 1

Valedictorian Audrey Hoyt and salutatorians Avery Schultz, Sarah Flanders and Megan Allen all spoke.

Hoyt said the day was full of emotions, from happiness to relief that graduation had finally arrived.

“Today is a day of excitement and adventure,” she said.

There was sadness of eventually leaving family, home and community, but also pride and confidence.

“We should be proud of all we accomplished at Brewster High School,” Hoyt said. “And it’s a privilege to be Brewster alumni. Not many people can say they are.”

In her speech, Schultz talked about how her class is like family, and what her life would be like if he had not met her classmates.

They all made an impact, from her best friend Hoyt, and Knox, who was the “object of her make believe

affection.”

Schultz said all of their families and teachers also had an influences.

She also encouraged her classmates to strive for their goals.

“If it is humanly possible, consider it within your reach,” Schultz said.

Flanders talked about how quickly time passed.

She developed strong friendships and memories during her time at Brewster.

Flanders said the community lent its support, and people took an interest in what they did.

Allen dedicated her speech to the differences in her class.

One memory she explained was how the class decided in sixth grade to revolt against the school board for better lunches. However, the revolt did not last very long.

The speeches were followed with a slide presentation on the class, and the presentation of diplomas.

Speaker: Students should find their niche

From “COLLEGE,” Page 1

said. “Happiness is not the size of the paycheck it’s sharing a gift with others, and listening to your heart.”

Holopirek cited examples of those who love animals should become veterinarians or those who love people becoming nurses or doctors.

“I like telling people stories,” she said.

Regardless of what field people decide on, Holopirek urged them not to put too much pressure on themselves in finding their niche.

“Never regret anything that made you smile,” she said.

Three awards presented

Each year, Colby Community College honors a student, a faculty member and an individual for their individual achievements.

The first award, called the Dr. Richard Mosier Award is given to a student excelling in a variety of areas. This year’s recipient was Amy Wilson, who is also Miss Rodeo Kansas. Wilson is from Thomas County.

The Dr. James H. Tangeman

award recognizes a faculty member who has gone above and beyond in their duties with the school. Receiving that award was Carolyn May, now in her 30th year at the college, teaching education classes including Foundations of Modern Education , Observation and Participation.

Don Kready, who recently moved from Colby, received the honorary degree from Kenton Krehbiel, chairman of the college board of trustees.

Kready, a longtime Colby businessman and active supporter of the college, served seven consecutive four-year terms on the board of trustees.

He was president at the time of his resignation.

In his remarks, Krehbiel spoke about Kready’s wit and wisdom and how he always looked for the right and best way to help the college.

Helping to make the event special, the Colby Community College concert choir and band performed “Look to this Day for it is Life,” “CCC Alma Mater,” and “You are the New Day.”

Rexford commencement features video presentation

From “GOLDEN PLAINS,” Page 1

video presentation that showed pictures from childhood, along with future plans.

The student’s goals ranged from the military to college and technical school. Because it was Mother’s Day, the students presented their mothers with the class flower, the stargazer lily.

