

# commentary

from other pens...

## School Indian mascots not all created equal

**The (Topeka) Capital-Journal on American Indian mascots:**  
The Kansas State Board of Education need not inject itself ... into the debate over Indian mascots in order to influence its outcome.  
It already has done that.  
At the behest of the state board, the state Education Department's Equity Advisory Council has prepared a proposed recommendation to eliminate Indian mascots in Kansas. There are some 34 high schools and 100 elementary and middle schools in the state that use Indian names and mascots and logos as school nicknames.  
It must be said that it's dubious to propose a statewide, one-size-fits-all policy on this matter. Not all Indian mascots are created equal; some are more respectful than others. Moreover, it should be up to each individual school district or community to debate and decide the issue. The goal, after all, is the elimination of harmful stereotypes — not the wiping out of any mention of the region's Indian ancestry.  
Still, a co-author of the state report predicts state board action won't be necessary anyway to hasten the end of Indian nicknames — that the council's well-reasoned report will make the rounds, certainly in educational circles, and should have an effect.  
If so, great. But this movement must be allowed to bubble up from local communities. Such dictates of conscience can't be dictated from on high.

**The (Pittsburg) Morning Sun on a lack of state leadership:**  
As the 2003 Legislative session drew to a close, many Kansas residents and lawmakers alike were disheartened. Report after report from Topeka indicated some of our leaders did more that their share of political wrangling and bipartisan shuffling this year over issues such as the state budget and tax increases, leading to unresolved funding issues and a session that was too long.  
It's a frustrating situation, but, as local lawmakers noted recently, voters soon will have the opportunity to change everything.  
Later this year, Kansas residents will go to the polls for gubernatorial and legislative elections, and when they do they'll have to make some choices.  
... Members of our local legislative delegation pointed out that the 2002 elections could well be a bumper year for turnover. Many incumbents may see their runs in the legislature end and newcomers will get to see if they can do the citizens one better.  
No matter what comes, Kansas will have a new governor in 2003. When his term ends, Gov. Graves will be gone, headed for a job as director of a national trucking organization.  
... It remains to be seen whether an anti-incumbent sentiment will charge the primary and general elections. ...  
When citizens vote in the fall they need to take a good look at what has been good and bad during the 2002 session, and ... vote for leadership that will bring our state out of its current quagmire.


### where to write

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## The Goodland Daily News

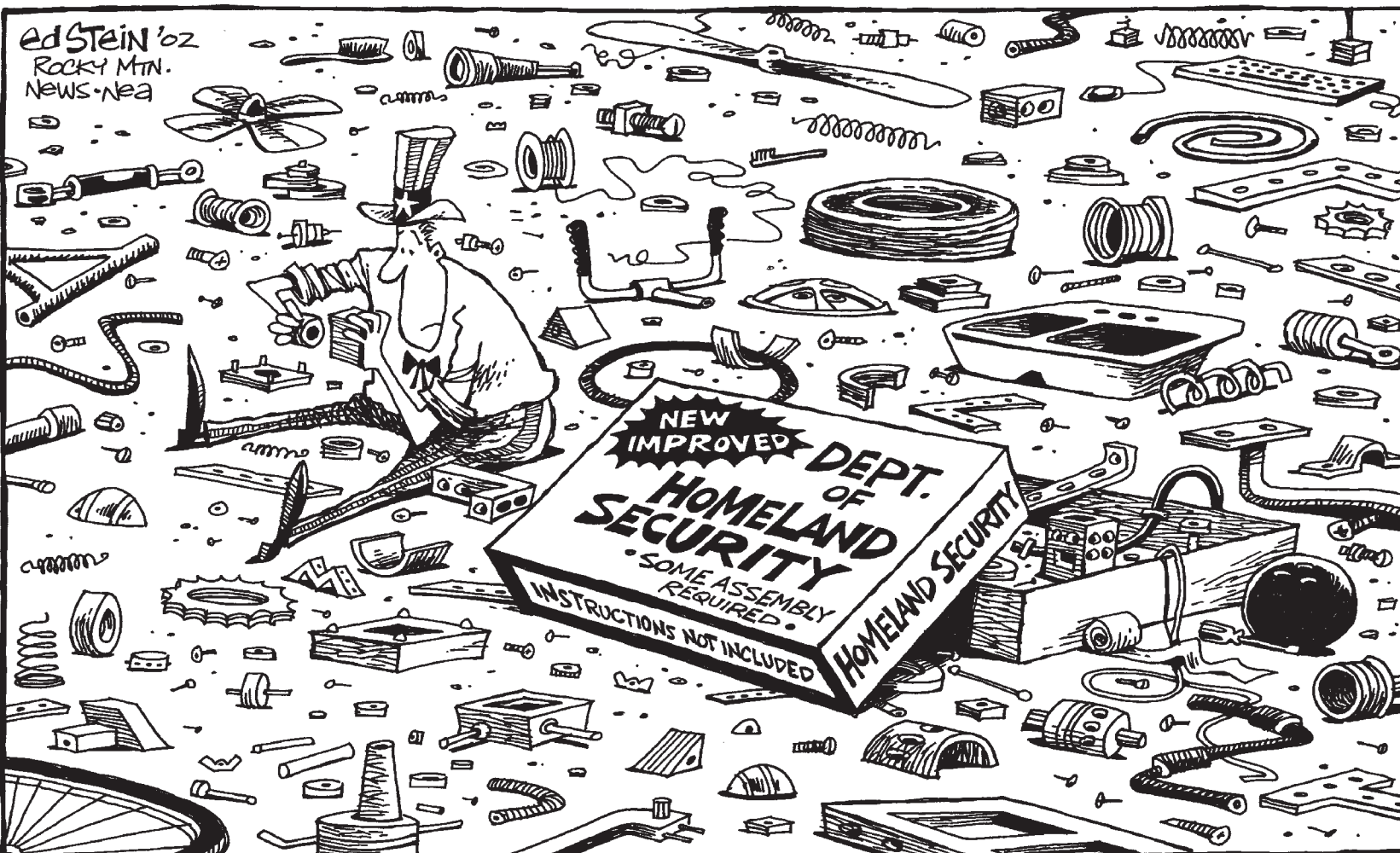
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## Nixon's Kennedy obesssion led to Watergate

WASHINGTON — Tapes stored at the National Archives show the role Richard Nixon's obsession with the Kennedy family played in his demise.

A tape dated July 2, 1971 has President Nixon ordering Chief of Staff H.R. Haldeman to double the money from what he calls the "Nixon discretionary money" to snoop on Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA), whose brother defeated him for the presidency in 1960, and who Nixon feared would challenge him in 1972.

The tape re-enforces other evidence of Nixon's two-front war with the Kennedys: his desire for revenge for previous defeats and his fear that the Kennedy team might rob him of re-election to a second presidential term in 1972.

In January 1971, Richard Nixon was flying to give a speech at the University of Nebraska. Noticing a newspaper report about billionaire recluse Howard Hughes, he recalled how Jack and Robert Kennedy had politically exploited a \$205,000 Hughes loan to Nixon's brother, Donald. He painfully recalled how that scandal hurt him in his races for president in 1960 and California governor in 1962.

"It would seem that the time is approaching when Larry O'Brien is held accountable for his retainer with Hughes for 'services rendered' in the past," the president scribbled in a memo to Haldeman. "Perhaps Colson should make a check on this."

Nixon wanted his chief political operative and henchman Chuck Colson to find out how much money the Democratic Chairman and long-time Kennedy campaign strategist, Lawrence O'Brien, was getting from Hughes and what he was doing for the money. He wanted to taint the Kennedy associate the way they had tainted him.

"Nixon knew that O'Brien was on Howard Hughes's payroll," Haldeman told me just weeks



chris matthews

● commentary

before his death in 1993, "and Nixon had that Howard Hughes thing that had been pounded into him for years.

"It was, 'How can they nail me because Howard Hughes loans my brother and they don't pay attention that Howard Hughes is financing Larry O'Brien, who is the only effective spokesman the Democrats got.' He wanted to nail him."

On Jan. 24, 1972, Nixon was reminded again of the Kennedy team's hand in his political suffering. The New York Times uncovered a secret backdoor investigation ordered a decade before by the U.S. Justice Department of the \$205,000 loan from Hughes to the Nixon family. The man who ordered it: Attorney General Robert Kennedy, whom Nixon liked to call "that dirty little bastard."

Nixon had other reason to "nail" Larry O'Brien, a highly respected member of the team then known as the "Kennedy mafia."

Self-defense.  
"The presence of Larry O'Brien as chairman of the Democratic National Committee unquestionably suggested that the Democratic nominee will have a strong, covert intelligence effort mounted against us," Nixon operative Jack Caulfield warned the Nixon White House. "Should this Kennedy mafia dominated intelligence gun-for-hire be turned against us in 1972, we would, indeed, have a dangerous and formidable foe."

Nixon's worst fear was that Sen. Edward M.

Kennedy would make a last-minute entry into the 1972 campaign.

"Somebody should be attacking Kennedy ... personally," he memoeed Colson that April. Even with South Dakota's George McGovern moving swiftly toward the Democratic presidential nomination that spring, Nixon feared the last Kennedy brother would jump into the race.

"The president asked me to remind you that he feels strongly about someone taking Teddy on," Nixon secretary Rose Mary Woods wrote Haldeman.

In the early morning hours of June 17, 1972, G. Gordon Liddy and his team of burglars broke into the Democratic National Committee headquarters at the Watergate complex.

But the break-in of Larry O'Brien's offices didn't end the Nixon obsession.

A newly released White House tape, dated Sept. 7, 1972, shows Nixon ordering Secret Service protection for Kennedy. He told Haldeman that he wanted "total coverage." "That son of a bitch, I want to make sure he is followed."

"Have you covered the business on the Kennedy coverage?" he asks Haldeman. "Have you assigned a man to him?"

Nixon insisted on an agent he could trust to dig up dirt on Kennedy, dirt that would take him out of the 1976 race for president.

"Just might get lucky," Nixon can be heard speculating, "and catch this son of a bitch and grill him for 1976."

Chris Matthews, author of "Now, Let Me Tell You What I Really Think" (Free Press, 2001) and "Hardball" (Touchstone Books, 1999), is a nationally syndicated columnist for the San Francisco Chronicle and the host of "Hardball" on CNBC and MSNBC cable channels.

## Thanks to those who donated to family shelter

To the Editor:  
Northwest Kansas Family Shelter would like to thank all the citizens of Northwest Kansas for their continued support and response to the victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

When the family shelter first sent out our wish list to the church communities, we never imagined the tremendous response we received. We now know why living in Northwest Kansas is so great; the people who live here do care about others and take time to prove it.

To those who give on a continual basis no words can express our gratitude for your generosity. For those who gave for the first time, we are grateful you took time to think of the family shelter. You can rest assured your gifts reach the hearts of many.

We wish you could see the looks on the faces of the mothers who come to the family shelter with nothing. They have to start their lives again, and often with a job that barely pays minimum wage.



from our readers

● to the editor

They try very hard, but can only afford to give the children the bare essentials — food, clothing, housing and childcare.

Tears of job and heartfelt thanks are displayed over and over again when they receive any item that can help them on their way to a violence-free live. "Kudos" to the residents of Northwest Kansas for caring and giving.

Need knows no time or season. If you are interested in donating to the family shelter please call 785-625-3055 for information.

Board of Directors and staff of Northwest Kan-

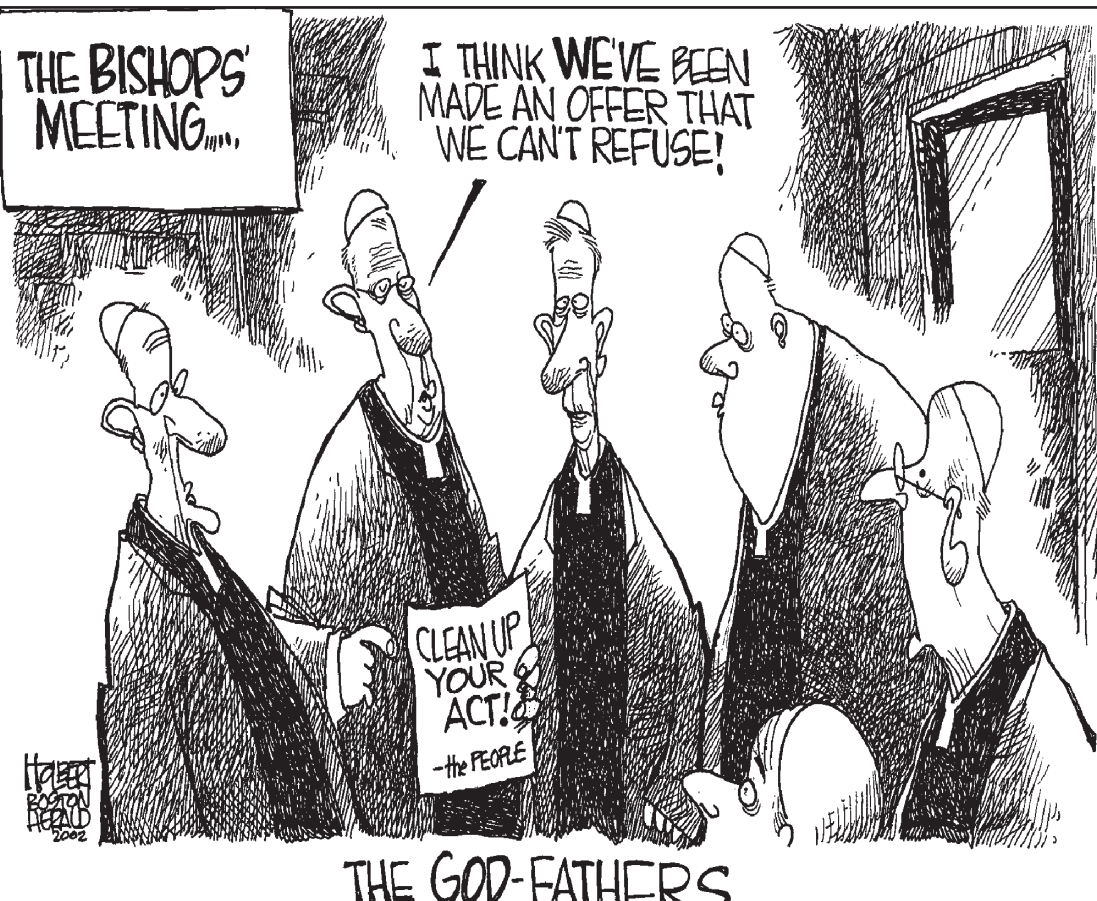
sas Family Shelter  
Charlotte A. Linsner, executive director

To the Editor:  
On Thursday, June 13, The Goodland Daily News ran a story about my resignation as chairman of the board of the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce.

The story said that I would rather not say why I resigned. This is true in the sense that I feel my reasons for resigning need not be discussed in your forum.

If any Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce Member would like me to explain to them my reasons, I would be more than happy to accommodate them.

Rob Tomsic  
Topside Office Products



### berry's world

