

# commentary

from other pens...

## Dem field for 2004 should shape up soon

The 2004 Democratic presidential field looks like it will emerge from more than a half-dozen potential candidates who have an advantage because of their early campaigning or position in the party.

The group is likely to firm up by next year depending on the outcome of November's midterm elections and whether Al Gore decides to run again, Democrats say.

Potential candidates like Sens. John Kerry of Massachusetts and John Edwards of North Carolina insist their decisions will not be based on either Gore's plans or the relative political strength of President Bush. Sen. Joe Lieberman of Connecticut, Gore's running mate in 2000, has pledged not to seek the presidency if Gore does.

Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle of South Dakota and House Democratic Leader Dick Gephardt of Missouri are also talked about as possible candidates. But any decision about running is likely to be affected by the outcome of the congressional elections.

Vermont Gov. Howard Dean has been more forthright than most in stating that he is very likely to run. Civil rights activist Al Sharpton of New York has also said he might run.

The group could grow if Democrats do well in November, says Democratic strategist Paul Begala.

"Bush is popular, but not feared among the Democrats," Begala said. "They understand that Bush's popularity rating is in truth Osama bin Laden's unpopularity rating."

Many veteran Democrats expect to see a governor in the group — possibly Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack, California Gov. Gray Davis or Georgia Gov. Roy Barnes. All are up for re-election in November.

Several other senators — Christopher Dodd of Connecticut, Joe Biden of Delaware and Russ Feingold of Wisconsin — have expressed interest, but have not been as active on the Democratic event circuit.

Gore, the former vice president, takes another big step toward deciding whether to run again when he meets with 60 of his top national donors at a June 28-30 retreat in Memphis, Tenn. While they don't expect Gore to announce whether he will run for president again, they will be mulling the question.

"I don't think the topic will be far from anyone's mind," Democratic fund raiser Mitchell Berger of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., said.

Several senators have been visiting early primary states like Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina, and events around the country.

Lieberman has been a popular draw on the Democratic speaking circuit in the early states, and elsewhere in the country. Edwards and Kerry have actively worked Democratic crowds as they prepare for a possible run.

Edwards this weekend was making his second trip to New Hampshire since the last election, and has visited Iowa four times and South Carolina twice. He has attended more than a dozen top state fund-raising dinners in the last year and is holding his own retreat of 50 to 100 friends and supporters on St. Simons Island, Ga., at the end of the month.

Kerry has been to New Hampshire seven times and is to go to Iowa in a week for the second time. He spoke at a top Democratic event in South Carolina earlier this year, along with events in California, Florida and Wisconsin. In February, Kerry held a ski weekend in Idaho for top donors.

"Unless you're extraordinarily well known, there's a long run-up to a presidential election," said Chicago Democratic strategist David Axelrod. "The guys positioned to do it are already on the field. To come in late you have to either have a tremendous base or fund-raising capacity or great wealth."

Veteran strategist, Al From, of the centrist Democratic Leadership Council, says the Democratic field may take another full year to define itself. "Right now, it's early exploration," From said. "Starting at the beginning of next year, people get really serious. You have to find out how you play when people are paying attention."

**EDITOR'S NOTE** — Will Lester covers politics and polling for The Associated Press.

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N.T. Betz, Director of Internet Services ([nbetz@nwkansas.com](mailto:nbetz@nwkansas.com))  
Evan Barnum, Systems Admin. ([support@nwkansas.com](mailto:support@nwkansas.com))

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## I wonder about the origin of words

I don't know about you, but every once in awhile I wonder about the origin of a word or phrase.

Sometimes we say things that have absolutely no logic in our modern world. (Well, that's true in more cases than just the ones I wonder about.)

For instance, my mother used to say, "If worse came to worse" such and such a thing would happen. Even as a teen, I wondered what that phrase meant.

"If worse came to worse?" It just made no sense to me. Recently I read a book in which a phrase jumped out at me: "If worse comes to worst."

Now that means something. Using the principle of English where conditions can progress, like "bad, worse, worst," the phrase makes sense. Worse becoming even worse would be "worse coming to worst." Mystery solved.

The extremes we go to in preventing hurt feelings is really pretty ludicrous at times, don't you think? I do believe we should be sensitive to other people's feelings, but there are limits.

Always being politically correct in our speech



**lorna  
g. t.**

• commentary

can cause some pretty hilarious situations.

For instance: "They've got a psychobabble disorder named for a bad disposition. It's 'intermittent explosive disorder' — temper tantrums that a person can't control." (From The Deadhouse by Linda Fairstein.)

Can't you just see a modern, politically correct mother trying to decide whether or not to punish her child for an "intermittent explosive disorder" expressed in Wal-Mart?

I've always wondered about a "drawing room." A title which made no sense to me. In another recently-read book, the puzzle was solved. This was a book of Civil War times, the people went to a "withdrawing room" — where you could get

## The Bible is a guidebook on living

For the past three weeks, I have been working my way up my top 10 list of reasons everyone should read the Bible. No. 10 was the Bible's account of earth's creation. No. 9 was the Bible moves hearts, and no. 8 was it is the only guide to religious truth.

This week, I will discuss the no. 7 reason: everyone should read the Bible because it is a guidebook for living and teaches lessons about life. I'll start off with an example of one of the Bible's life lessons.

A mighty king of Israel with riches and numerous wives, who lived in a castle and was a servant of God was walking on his roof one night when he spotted a beautiful woman bathing. This Bible account is familiar to many people; it is the story of King David and Bath-sheba.

When David saw her, did he think about how he was invading her privacy to watch? Did he think about the possibility that she could be married and that he may be tempting himself to commit adultery with her? Probably not. He continued to watch her.

Then he asked who she was, found out she was married and sent messengers to have her brought to him anyway. The story begins in 2 Samuel 11:1-3.

Verse 4 says, "After that David sent messengers that he might take her. So she came in to him and he lay down with her, while she was sanctifying herself from her uncleanness. Later she returned to her house."

Verses 5-15 say Bath-sheba found out she was pregnant and knew the baby could not be her husband's as he was off at war. She told David. He arranged for her husband to come home hoping that after the two had been together she could say the baby was his.

Her husband, Uriah, refused as he didn't feel he should be enjoying himself while the other men



**sharon  
corcoran**

• use it or lose it

were at war. David then arranged to put Uriah at the front of the battle lines so he would be killed — he murdered him.

What do we learn from this? David started with a small indiscretion — peeping on Bath-sheba and went on to commit adultery and murder. He knew God's laws but did not obey them because he wanted to satisfy his own desires. The lesson does not end there.

2 Samuel 12:1-12 tells us that God sent Nathan, a prophet, to David to talk about his sin. David realized what he had done was wrong and admitted it.

Verses 13 and 14 say, "And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the Lord. And Nathan said unto David, the Lord also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die. Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme; the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die."

God's law to the nation of Israel stated that adultery and murder were sins deserving of the death penalty, yet God forgave David and did not put him to death because he admitted his wrong and repented. But his sins were not without consequence.

As the king of God's nation, he had set a very bad example. He had to live with that, and he was punished for his wrong. Verses 15-19 tell us David and Bath-sheba's child became sick and died. Later, there were jealousies between David's other children that led to sad consequences.

What does this have to do with us? Romans 15:4 says, "For whatsoever things were written

away for comfort and privacy after a meal or to relax at the end of the day." (From Funeral in Blue by Anne Perry.) I guess it's what we now call a 'family room.' Well, maybe not. I've seen some family rooms which, once filled with the family, would not promote privacy OR relaxation at the end of the day. Maybe it's the equivalent of the modern bathroom.

My biggest complaint is the growing acceptance of misspellings and deliberate irreverence for God's name. I still cannot accept "alright" instead of "all right." Nor can I condone some authors' legitimizing profanity by running it all together — as in "godsakes" and, worse yet, "Ohmigod." I

And have you ever heard of or celebrated "Jammy Day"? No, this isn't a joke. It was in the newspaper this year. You were supposed to have observed it on Mar 23-24, 2002. This is where families celebrate together by not taking off their pajamas from sundown on Saturday to sundown on Sunday. I hope Jammy Day doesn't catch on. Either it will be another excuse to skip church, or there will be some interesting fashion statements at worship services.

aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope."

David's example is a warning that there are consequences if we disobey God, and it gives us comfort that we can be forgiven if we do something wrong.

The Bible is full of such examples of God's servants from the past and examples of those who disobeyed him and suffered the penalty.

The Bible is also full of instruction from God on how we should live.

Mark 4:19 says, "The anxieties of this system of things and the deceptive power of riches and the desires for the rest of the things make inroads and choke the word and it becomes unfruitful."

Spending too much time making money and acquiring things can keep us too busy to serve God or even to learn about him from the Bible.

Proverbs 16:18 says, "Pride is before a crash, and a haughty spirit before stumbling."

1 Corinthians 10:10 says, "Neither be murmurers, just as some of them murmured, only to perish by the destroyer."

1 Timothy 5:12, 13 says, "They have disregarded their first expression of faith. At the same time they also learn to be unoccupied, gadding about the houses; yes, not only unoccupied, but also gossipers and meddlers in other people's affairs, talking of things they ought not."

The Bible warns us of many things that can get us into trouble and tells us how we can be better people and happier people.

Isaiah 48: 17, 18 says, "Thus saith the Lord, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel, I am the Lord thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go. O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! Then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea."

## Beer bottle litterbug was cause of accident

To the Editor:

I am writing to report a crime.

The crime was littering. I don't know who was responsible, but if you are that person or persons, you will know who you are. Now you will find out what your actions have caused.

On Friday, June 14, at 9:15 p.m. my son Bobby, 15, and his friend, Tyrell Smith, 13, and I left Smoky Gardens where we has spent part of the day fishing.

A few minutes after we left with Bobby on his new instruction permit license behind the wheel, we saw a beer box by the road, open and apparently empty.

I thought some bad thoughts litterbugs and then saw beer bottles littered on both sides of the road. Then one appeared in the beam of the headlights. Bobby got around it OK. We were doing 45 miles per hour. Then another beer bottle showed in the headlights.

Bobby swerved to avoid hitting it with the tires. We started fish tailing and went off the road a little.



**from our  
readers**

• to the editor

Bobby tried to keep our mini-van under control, but it tipped over and started rolling.

Everything happened so fast, I think we rolled at least two or three times, but it could have been more than that. The van ended up on its side in the road.

We always wear our seat belts, so no body got thrown out, rolled over by the van or killed. This time. We escaped with minor injuries. Tyrell was transported to the hospital and Bobby was checked by them later that same night.

Our van was totaled. We only had liability insurance on it. My injuries are painful, but I knew we couldn't afford a third hospital visit.

So, to the inconsiderate litterbug who caused all

this, I'll probably never get the chance to meet you. Never hear you apologize. Never get paid back for our 86 Dodge Caravan.

I'll never understand why you had to throw your beer bottles all over the road. But if you read this, you'll know who you are. Maybe next time you'll think first

I would like to give my heartfelt thanks to everyone who responded to he scene of our accident.

This town really does have some good people in it.

Roy M Schnug  
Goodland

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