

# commentary

from other pens...

## Election to measure success with Hispanics

Midterm elections Tuesday will give the major political parties a chance to measure the results of millions of dollars spent on advertising, countless hours in strategy sessions and extensive grass-roots efforts to win over Hispanics, the nation's fastest growing demographic group.

Both Democrats and Republicans acknowledge President Bush has made an effective personal appeal over the past couple of years to Hispanic voters. Democratic polling done in the spring showed that two-thirds of Hispanics approved of the job Bush was doing and Bush's personal popularity has shown up in other polling of Hispanics since then.

Republicans hope that popularity will spill over to various races for the Senate and House and for governors, but Democrats and some analysts say the polls don't indicate it will.

"Do Bush's coattails extend to the congressional level?" said Harry Pachon, president of the Thomas Rivera Policy Institute in Claremont, Calif. "Right now, it doesn't seem like they extend that far."

Bush made a decision early in his 2000 presidential campaign to appeal to Hispanic voters and have continued those efforts. Democrats argue their own record on domestic issues will keep Hispanics on their side. Polls suggest Hispanic support for Democrats is broad but shallow.

"Republicans like to point to all these polls" showing Bush is popular with Hispanics, said Democratic pollster Sergio Bendixen. "But that doesn't tell you at all where Hispanics are with the Republican Party."

Democrat Al Gore got 62 percent of the Hispanic vote in 2000, according to exit polls, while Bush got 35 percent.

The number of U.S. Hispanics rose by 58 percent during the past decade to 35.3 million, Census Bureau statistics show. The new total puts Hispanics close to parity with the 35.4 million black Americans as the nation's largest minority.

That rapid growth caught the attention of both parties, with Republicans acknowledging they have to increase their support among Hispanics to remain healthy politically in the long term. Blacks are a reliably Democratic voting group for now.

"If we can increase the numbers of Latinos who are voting Republican across the country, that's one way we will measure our success," said Sharon Castillo, who is helping with the Republican National Committee's Hispanic outreach.

Florida Republican Chairman Al Cardenas says successful Republican Hispanic candidates "serve as a bridge between the Hispanic community and a government bureaucracy they perceive as distant from them."

Political analysts are watching races closely to see how Hispanics vote. They're looking at governors' races in California, Florida, New Mexico, New York and Texas as well as competitive Senate races in Colorado and Texas. And they'll be monitoring House races in Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada and Texas. More than \$9 million has been spent on Spanish-language political TV ads so far this year, according to research by Adam Segal of Johns Hopkins University.

—In Colorado, the close Senate race between Democrat Tom Strickland and Republican Sen. Wayne Allard could be influenced by Hispanic voters, who made up 14 percent of the 2000 vote.

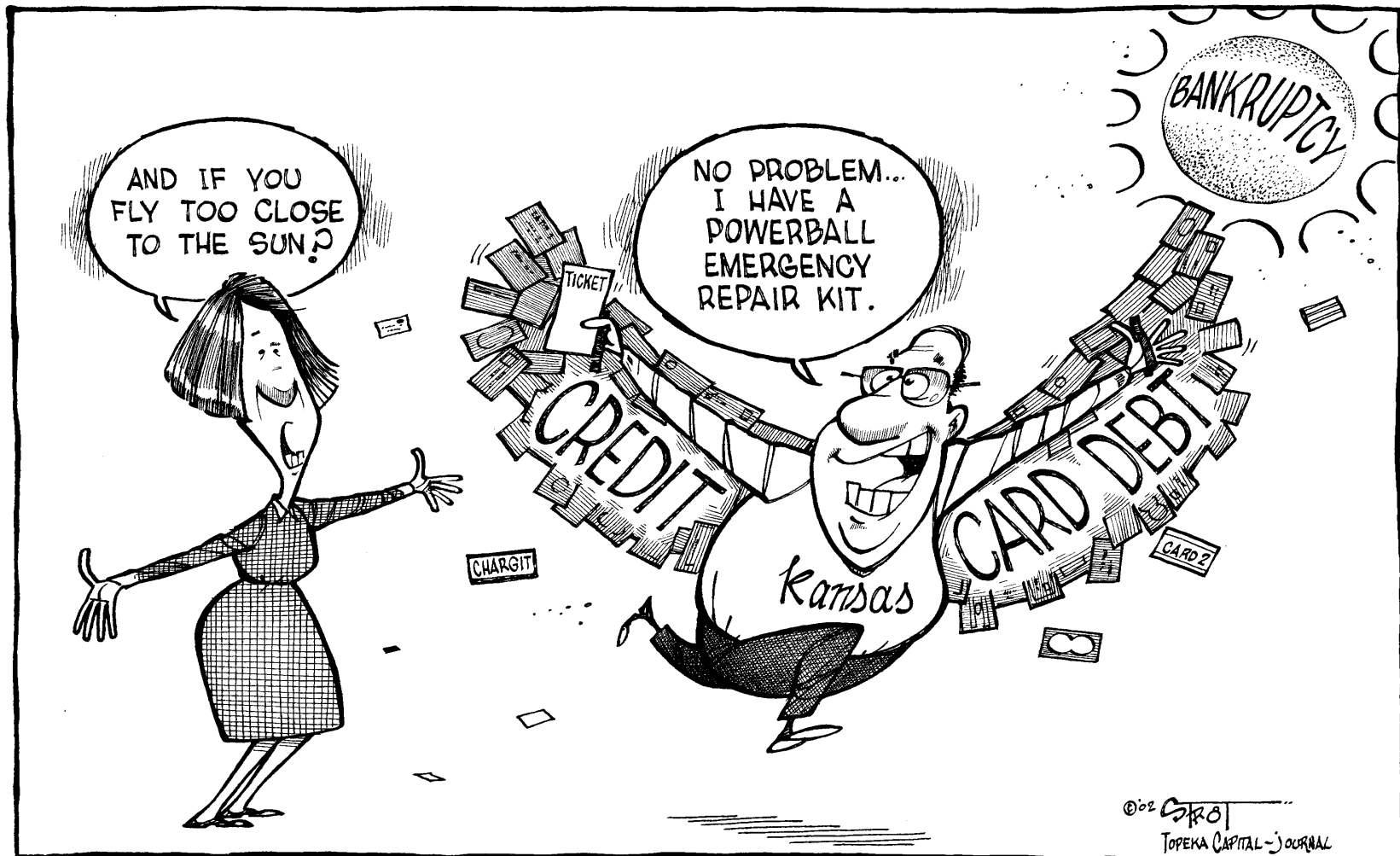
—In Florida, Republican Gov. Jeb Bush is almost certain to do well among the GOP-leaning Cuban-American community. But Florida's Hispanic population is increasingly from outside Cuba and it split evenly between Gore and Bush in 2000.

—In the New Mexico governor's race, Democrat Bill Richardson and the Republican John Sanchez, both Hispanics, are competing for Hispanic voters.

Hispanics' rapid rise in U.S. population does not translate directly into Hispanic voters at the polls, Pachon said.

"It's not a question of the Republican Party getting a majority of the Latino vote," Pachon said. "It's a question of increasing its margin of the Latino vote."

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



## Can we see things from other points of view?

I don't know about you, but I am constantly amazed at the arguments and misunderstandings that arise when people fail to see things from any point of view but their own.

We all like to be wise; we all like to have others respect our opinions. However, respect is rarely in evidence whenever anyone insists his or her way is the only way.

Problem-solving or brainstorming is never very successful unless people are willing to at least consider another point of view.

In the book "When All Else Fails, Read the Instructions," James W. Moore tells this story:

"I once heard about a man who set up Donatello's statue of a boy. He wanted to put light on the statue for effect, so he placed some lights on the floor.

But with the lights shining from below, the boy's face looked horrid, grotesque, evil.

The man tried every possible arrangement, to no avail.

The finally, he put the lights over the statue and



**Lorna Gt**

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let them shine down from above.

The man stood back and looked, and he was amazed - the lights shining from above made the boy look beautiful, attractive, valuable, like an angel.

"What a parable! When we look at other people in the light of earth, they may look grotesque, and we may think, 'Well, what difference does it make how I treat them?' But when we look at other people in the light of God's love, they look like angels, and we begin to see them as persons for whom Christ died."

Every person on earth is valuable.

Every person has merit.

I believe God makes every person with great

potential.

Whether we agree with them, or whether they agree with us, is just a difference of opinion, not a difference of worth.

What right does one person have to judge, ridicule, scorn, or make fun of another? Yet we all do it at some time or another, don't we?

We need to realize no human has the mind of God, although that is a worthy goal for each of us. No one can see a person or situation from every angle at once. If, in one light, a person appears "horrid, grotesque, evil," maybe we just need to move the light (and our eyes) upward.

Seeing that person, or opinion, through the eyes of God, through the light of God's wisdom, might make all the difference in the world.

People probably would appear more "beautiful, attractive, and valuable."

Why not try moving the light in some of the situations of your life? Some people might even take on angelic characteristics, don't you think? Maybe even you!

## I'm asking you to write-in 'Sonny Rundell'

To the Editor:  
Sonny Rundell is a write-in candidate for the Kansas State Board of Education. Sonny believes that ALL children in Kansas deserve a quality education. He has served the western third of our state on the Board of Education since 1989 and has proven to be an excellent advocate for public education.

Sonny has strong regional ties and a long history of leadership in education. He has served on the Board of Trustees of Garden City Community College, the local Syracuse school board (11 years), and the High Plains Education Cooperative. Sonny was elected Chairman of the State Board of Education in 2001 and has used his leadership ability to move education forward in Kansas. As a member of the Board of Directors of the Interstate Migrant Education Council, he has been able to advocate for the special challenges faced by migrant children.

Please write in "Sonny Rundell" for the State Board of Education and mark an "x" in the box. Vote on Tuesday, November 5, and remember that Sonny Rundell is the proven educational leader for western Kansas.

Mary M. Porterfield  
Goodland

To the Editor:

Two weeks ago, the Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded the 2002 Nobel Peace Prize to former President Jimmy Carter for his global advocacy of freedom and democratic governance. While honoring Carter, Gunnar Berge, the chairman of the five-member committee, told reporters that it "must also be seen as criticism of the line the current U.S. administration has taken on Iraq." As an American living in Britain, I can testify that the committee's decision is illustrative of broader European opinion. Like Carter, Europeans share our values of ending terror and expanding democracy. However, many Europeans are deeply dis-



**from our readers**

• to the editor

turbed with and sometimes resentful of a Bush administration they believe to be at odds with these values.

As a daily reader of U.S. newspapers, I have noticed that the American media is often guilty of telling only one side of the story when it comes to the perception of Bush overseas. In my experience, most Europeans do not view Bush as an engaging leader who seeks to build international coalitions, but instead perceive Bush as a unilateralist who strong-arms governments. Time and again, Bush has forced European leaders to elevate American interests over global and national priorities. For example, the rejection of the Kyoto treaty (and the failure to offer any substitute plan) displays Bush's unilateralism. Now, Bush's "with us or against us" attitude toward regime change in Iraq is coercing many European leaders to support a military campaign that a majority of their constituents oppose.

While studying in England, I have met countless British citizens who believe that their democratic power is being diminished as decision-making shifts from London to Washington. Witnessing this reaction has helped me appreciate how the supposed successes of Bush's foreign policy may have actually undermined America's long-term security by straining relations with our most important allies. The British leadership, including Prime Minister Tony Blair, are key players in bridging the gap between the European Union and United States policy, but most European Union governments feel undermined by Bush's ultimatum diplomacy, and have increasingly sought to distance themselves from the Bush administration's stance for a preemptive strike on Iraq.

The recent election of Gerhard Schroeder in Germany bears witness to Europeans' increasing preference for leaders willing to take a tough stance against Bush. This growing divide in the Atlantic has already begun to imperil American safety. Bush's advocacy of multilateralism in the immediate aftermath of September 11 led to intelligence sharing and joint military campaigns that helped eradicate some terrorist networks. However, as Bush has moved toward a more isolationist approach in recent months, many of these collective ventures vital to global security have broken down.

To close the distance between the U.S. and our historic European allies and promote world security, we need to pursue a foreign policy of dialogue rather than dominance. Our president should use this historic opportunity and the United States' unparalleled preeminence as a platform to educate, persuade and lead instead of following a go-it-alone strategy. Through such a change in diplomacy, we can restore America's credibility, and ultimately effectiveness, in Europe and the world.

A few weeks ago, more than 150,000 people marched through central London urging the United States and Britain not to invade Iraq. Before coming here, I might have seen this demonstration as a protest against America. I now know better. Our European friends are fighting for the same values we are.

Chris Hansen  
Oxford, England

*Editor's note: Hansen is a graduate student at the University of Oxford and a researcher at the Oxford Institute for Energy Studies. I graduated from Goodland High School in 1993.*

## berry's world



SUPPER FOR PUNDITS WHOSE PREDICTIONS WERE WRONG.



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(USPS No. 222-460. ISSN 0893-0562)  
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The Associated Press

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National Newspaper Association  
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Published daily except Saturday and Sunday and the day observed for New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day, at 1205 Main St., Goodland, Kan. 67735.

Periodicals postage paid at Goodland, Kan. 67735; entered at the Goodland, Kan., Post Office under the Act of Congress of March 8, 1878.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Goodland Daily News, 1205 Main St., Goodland, Kan. 67735.

TELEPHONE: (785) 899-2338. Editorial e-mail: [daily@nwkansas.com](mailto:daily@nwkansas.com). Advertising questions can be sent to: [gdnadv@nwkansas.com](mailto:gdnadv@nwkansas.com)

The Goodland Daily News assumes no liability for mistakes or omissions in advertising or failure to publish beyond the actual cost of the ad.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: In Sherman County and adjacent counties: three months, \$25; six months, \$42; 12 months, \$79. Out of area, weekly mailing of five issues: three months, \$30; six months, \$45; 12 months, \$80. By mail daily in Kansas, Colorado: 12 months, \$115. (All tax included.)

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