

from our viewpoint...

People rest easier with Bin Laden dead

Cheering crowds gathered around the nation and many Americans collectively breathed a sigh of relief when President Barack Obama announced last Sunday night the U.S. Navy Seals had killed Al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden in a pre-dawn firefight in Pakistan.

Bin Laden had been the subject of a more than decade-long manhunt going back to when he was indicted for the first attack on the Twin Towers in New York City under President Bill Clinton. Bin Laden became a marked man after the attacks in New York and Washington on Sept. 11, 2001 that killed nearly 3,000 people.

President George Bush said after President Obama had called him with the news "Justice was done."

The White House situation room was tense that Sunday as the President and his top advisers listened to reports from the Central Intelligence Agency about how the attack was going. Obama's main worry was the safety of the Navy Seals, and all were relieved when the troops were able to make their escape without any American casualties.

The relief in the room must have been wonderful when the word came through the troops had found and had the body of Osama bin Laden.

This mission went off in excellent precision even though one of the helicopters was lost. This was a tremendous success, and the Special Joint Operations Force deserves great credit for planning and carrying out this highly secret mission.

"As commander-in-chief, I could not be prouder," Obama said at a previously scheduled Medal of Honor ceremony held last Monday.

Shortly after the world learned of the death of Osama bin Laden, U.S. officials said his body was buried at sea.

For ordinary Muslims, the body is washed and wrapped in a plain white shroud for burial. For martyrs, however, the body is not washed and is buried in the clothes the martyr was wearing when he died.

In Islamic teaching, once ordinary people are buried they must wait for the resurrection at the end of time before they can be judged worthy of Paradise or deserving of hellfire. Martyrs, by contrast, go directly to Paradise.

In his speech last Sunday, President Obama said Bin Laden was "not a Muslim leader" but a "mass murderer of Muslims."

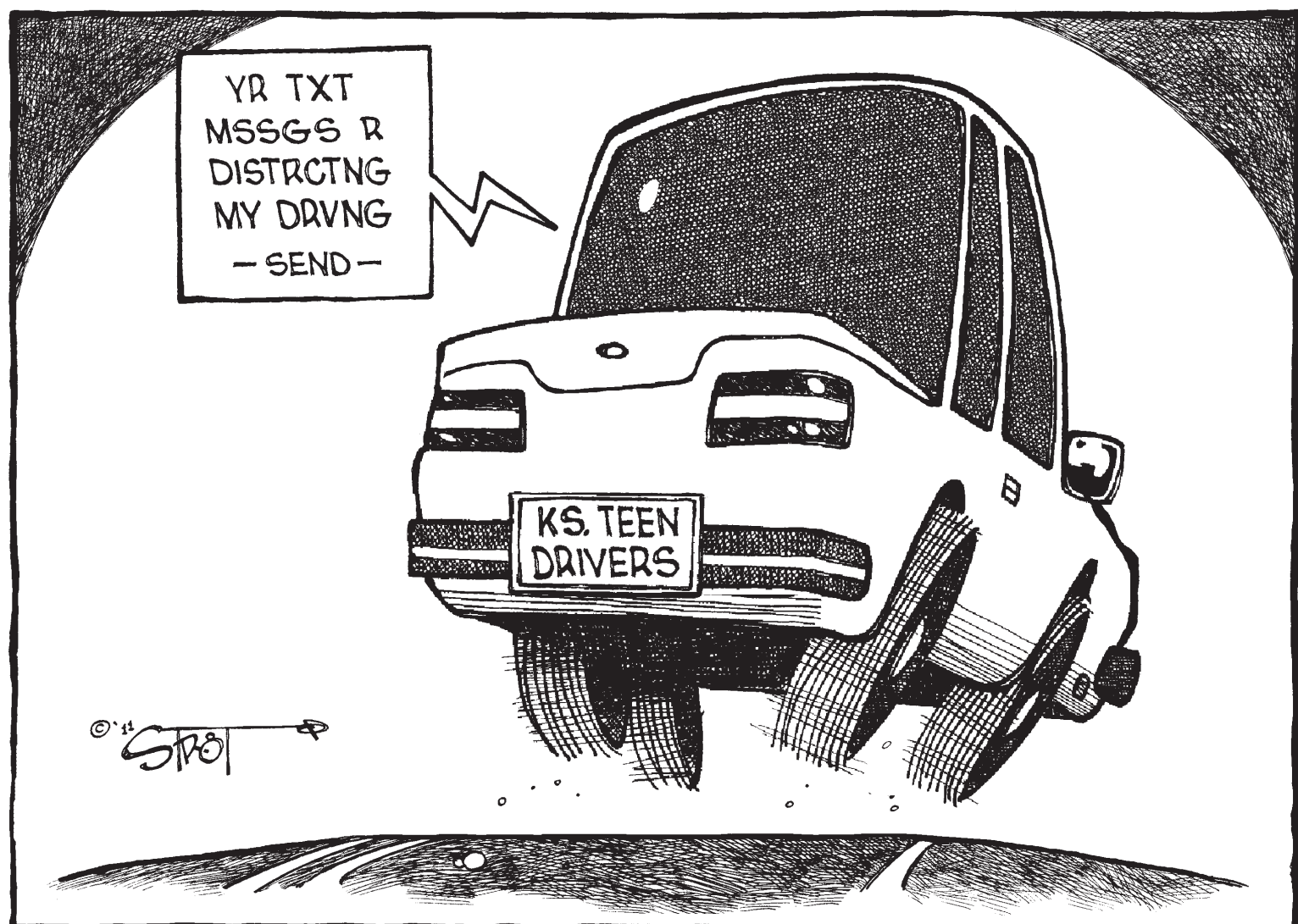
Burial on land is the Islamic custom, and cremation is forbidden. But sea burial is allowed in extraordinary circumstances. In this case, the United States maintains it could not find a country willing to take Bin Laden's body inside the narrow time frame dictated by Islamic custom so he was buried at sea.

A good reason for the sea burial was to avoid the spectacle of a shrine to global terrorism. The only thing more hazardous to American national security interests than a living Bin Laden would be a dead Bin Laden, enshrined at some newly sacred place as a martyr to Islamic extremism.

The decision on Wednesday not to release Bin Laden death photos fits in the same thought process as it removes any image Al Qaeda could use to try to claim Bin Laden was a martyr. A majority of people agree with President Obama not to release the photos.

Kudos to the Navy Seals, the supporting military that made it possible, and President Obama for making the call to carry out the attack.

The War on Terror is not over, but this helps. — Tom Betz



I thought I was sitting on a bar stool

For a while the other evening, I thought I was sitting on a bar stool here in Aurora (Colo.) enjoying a cold one, but unfortunately listening to some loud mouth talking about everything that's wrong with our country. He peppered his shallow vocabulary with a word or two or three or four or five or six that wouldn't be appreciated in any setting.

What I was actually doing the other evening was watching a replay on television of Donald Trump, the non-candidate candidate for President of the United States of America, address a crowd in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Carried by C-SPAN, they felt a need to tack a caution on the screen that some of the language you hear might offend. They hit the nail on the head! How Mr. Trump figures he can get away with this kind of language as he tries to convince us he is presidential material, escapes all sense of reason.

I just shook my head in disbelief. This guy wants to be our president? He needs a complete make-over from head to toe and then take advice from those who know what to say and what not to say. That's a tall order for a man who apparently feels his wealth allows him to use as much foul language as he wishes. You know, the First Amendment on which we hang stuff that it wasn't intended to hold.

This Man of the Plains would probably flunk Mr. Trump in delivery, in content, in thought and in behavior before two audiences — those who came out to hear him, and those watching on television. He's got a long way to go to convince me and I'm sure countless other Americans, including many Republicans, that he's the guy to put in the White House.

And despite your degrading assessment, Mr. Trump, this is still a GREAT country. Mr. Trump, "You're fired!"

If you are a high school graduate, chances are good your school probably has the same name going back as far as you can remember. Right?

I can't say that, however. My high school has changed names at least four times I can remember in my lifetime. It went from St. Joseph's College and Military Academy, to St. Joseph's Military Academy, to Thomas More Prep, and to its current name Thomas More Prep-Marian High School (TMP-Marian).

I got to thinking a few weeks ago how these changes might have affected the school's fight song so proudly hailed at the outset of football and basketball games, in particular, and at other



tom dreiling

• man of the plains

functions.

I still have my guide to becoming a good cadet while attending the military academy. The guide, in booklet form, is called "The Baton." The four-year pathway to graduation was strict, but attainable if you call on common sense to partner with you.

But I wondered since it hasn't been a military academy since the late 1960s or very early 1970s, how the words to the school's fight song — "The Victory Song" — fared during that change. When I was a student there, we were known far and wide as the Cadets, but the school now is known as the Monarchs. So I contacted Gail Staab and Mary Lang, two really good sources of information at the school, and they sent me the words of the current song. The changes are almost nothing.

Simply put, change the word "Cadets" to "Monarchs." Duh?! Where was my thinking cap. I will give you just two stanzas with the changes in bold face and you will clearly see what I mean when I say 'duh?!'. Here goes:

Oh! Let your song ring out,
Fearless (Cadets) **Monarchs** stout and strong!

Or fall we in the rout,
Let your song ring out!
And we'll do our part and
Shout! Shout! Shout! Shout!
Brothers **Monarchs** bold and strong,
Let us cheer as we march on.
We are they who'll not falter,
Victory our altar.
Fighting (Cadets) **Monarchs** on and on.

The school went from from military attire to civilian dress early in the 1970s, and later on brought young ladies into the mix. The young ladies were students at Marian High School, Marian was formerly Girls Catholic High School.

Father Cletus Blockinger, who for many years directed the Department of Fr. Cletus' Discipline at the military school, wrote the words to The Victory Song. The music composer is still in question.

Well, thanks to a marriage, we now have a Blackhawk Pilot in our relationship! And how

proud we all are. Warrant Officer Michael Holland received his wings from the U.S. Army on April 21 at Ft. Rucker at Daleville, Alabama. His wife, Mary Kay, pinned the wings. W.O. Holland will be serving in Honduras. Mary Kay is the daughter of Joe and Nancy Zerza. Nancy is the daughter of my sister JoAnn (Dreiling) and the late Joe Jayjack. JoAnn graduated from Girls Catholic High School and Joe from St. Joseph's College and Military Academy. For benefit of her classmates, JoAnn now lives in Florida.

The lady who walked away from the governorship of Alaska, was in our area out here in Colorado a few days ago on a fund raising mission to aid families of veterans. Sarah Palin, in her talk, was high in praise of former President George W. Bush's role in the capture and death of Osama bin Laden. She must have forgotten how to pronounce the current president's name because he was never mentioned. Sarah! Sarah! Sarah! What are we going to do with you!

The Snippets all had to do with the killing of Osama bin Laden. Here's what you said:

"... Better late than never. Hats off to the commander-in-chief and the military personnel directly involved. Again, this is America at its best!"

"His body was tossed into the sea? Are we sure it was really him? No way now to know, right?"

"Three cheers, 10 beers, one for each of the years it took to do him in for good!"

"Our family's prayers were answered. Yes, there is a God!"

"... He may be dead, but I think we are at a risk level higher than we've ever been. ..."

"This capture and killing is another great example of what we can do when we come together as one. Congratulations to President Obama, the troops and all others involved in this 10-year hunt that has finally been concluded!"

Snippets to my e-mail address.

The Man of the Plains wishes you "a great day!"

Tom Dreiling is a retired journalist, now living in Aurora, Colo. He edited and published newspaper in Kansas and Wyoming during his 44-year career. E-mail is milehitom@hotmail.com

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e-mail: star.news@nwkansas.com

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nwkansas.com

N.T. Betz, Director of Internet Services

(nt.betz@nwkansas.com)

Evan Barnum, Systems Admin.(support@nwkansas.com)

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Thanks for wearing blue ribbons

To the Editor:

I want to express great gratitude to community members who contributed to Child Abuse Prevention efforts in April.

Northwest Kansas Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect successfully distributed 9,000 blue ribbons and pinwheels and could

where to write

U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts, 109 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. 20510. (202) 224-4774; E-mail address — <http://roberts.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=EmailPat>

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State Rep. Rick Billinger, Docking State Office Building Rm 724, Topeka, KS 66612. Phone (785) 296-7659, cell (785) 899-4770, home (785) 899-5824. E-mail rick.billinger@house.ks.gov.

State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer, State Capitol Building, Rm. 225-E, 300 SW 10th, Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785-296-7399; e-mail address — ostmeyer@senate.state.ks.us

Kansas Attorney General, 301 S.W. 10th, Lower Level, Topeka, KS 66612-1597 (785) 296-3751 Fax (785) 291-3699 TTY: (785) 291-3767

not have done it without community help.

A huge statement for child abuse prevention was made by all who wore their blue ribbon and displayed pinwheels during the month of April.

Unfortunately, child abuse remains in all communities. But a community member can make an enormous difference in children's lives by giving them a voice.

Children are our future, and as a community, it is our responsibility to keep them safe. If there is a suspicion or it is known a child is being abused or neglected, please report the abuse or neglect by calling the Kansas Protection Report Center at 1-800-922-5330. In an emergency situation, call local law enforcement or 911.

Now that April has passed, please remain committed to keeping children safe in your community. For more information on how you can get involved in child abuse prevention efforts, contact the Northwest Kansas Prevention Center at (785) 460-8177.

Paige Campbell
PCAN Director

Northwest Kansas Regional Prevention Center, 140 West 4th, Colby, Kan. 67701