

What about our own people?

We continue to receive a letter (circulating on the Internet) supposedly written by a member of the military extolling the achievements racked up in Iraq since our invasion of that country a year ago.

It reads more like propaganda than it does reality.

If in fact all of this is taking place, we would suspect the Department of Defense would be releasing the information instead of some obscure Internet author.

Which brings up a bothersome issue with us: The money being spent in Iraq.

Billions upon billions.

We are supposedly making life better for the people of that country who, we might add, are still dodging bullets as this is being written. What kind of betterment is that?

And we are also concerned about those billions of dollars going over THERE while right HERE we have people going to bed hungry, people who can't afford to buy prescription drugs, people living on the streets, an educational system that seems to be sinking because there isn't enough money to keep it afloat, people who can't afford hospital stays, people without health insurance, rat-infested rundown neighborhoods, under nourished youngsters — and the list could easily fill this newspaper.

Maybe after we have rebuilt Iraq into a war-to-prosperity model, they can come over here and take care of all those people in this great land that aren't being taken care of by their very own government.

Charity starts at home. And although we feel for those in other lands who are deprived, we must also recognize the fact that we, too, have those who are deprived.

We can find the funds to rebuild and enhance the lives of those in places far removed from where we live, but we just can't quite seem to find the funds to do what needs to be done to enhance the lives of our very own.

The letter extolling the great strides being made in Iraq since our invasion is more of a slap in the face than it is of proud acclaim.

Tom Dreiling

It's not what we say, but how we say it

It's not what you say, it's how you say it." Sound familiar? Frequently, when I was a child my mother would say this to me and I found it a recurring phrase when I was raising my own children.

One of the few times I remember my father actually being angry with me involved an "attitude" I exhibited towards my mother.

He made it very clear I was not to speak to her in that "tone".

I knew better than to use that "tone" with any adult, actually with anyone regardless of age.

Some would have us believe we were mistreated because of this requirement, but it wasn't a matter of force or control, it came down to simple respect; the respect of an individual and a child of God. Parents have an obligation to instill respect in their children and to respect their children.

Parents teach children the art of conversation.

Children learn by experience and example how to discuss topics of concern.

We won't always agree and sometimes we have to agree to disagree but it does mean we converse with a sense of respect for each other's beliefs.

No one is saying it is always easy or prudent to try to see things through your

Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



teen-ager's eyes, but allowing them the ability to discuss things and neither resorting to the "tone" is important.

Unfortunately, children do not have great role models outside of their immediate families from which to learn these lessons.

Recently while watching a "talk" show on a 24-hour news channel, I watched in disbelief at what we now identify as debate.

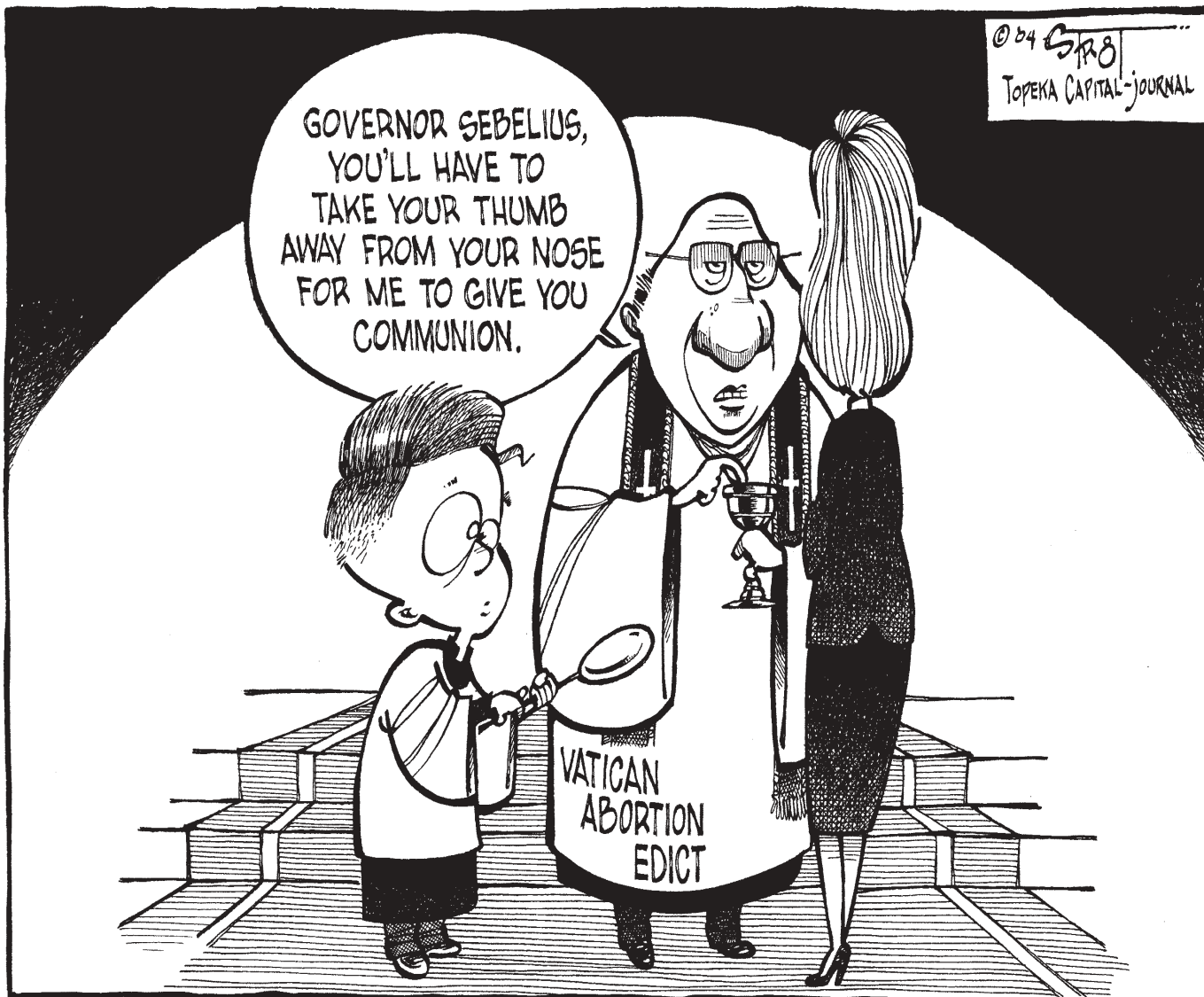
My high school debate teacher would have been horrified. The high school English teacher would have sent these "contributors" to the office.

Whatever happened to conversation? You know that give and take of sharing ideas.

These "educated" experts were so busy interrupting and phrasing their replies with that "tone" that little information of any substance arose.

Debate is healthy, sarcasm isn't.

It's not what we say, but how we say it.



Camp horrors aren't so bad anymore

Last Friday, I remembered why I hated going to camp when I was a kid — creepy bathrooms, ticks and freezing nights. But then, by Saturday morning, life wasn't so bad.

I woke up early, really, really early.

We're talking 6 a.m. here, people. Now that may not seem early to some people, but to me, it's horrid. We ate breakfast at 7 a.m. (who eats at 7 a.m.?) and then killed time until the welcome thingy started.

Oh, I suppose I should tell you what I'm talking about. Well, my Mom and I went to a "Women in the Outdoors" weekend at Rock Springs near Junction City last weekend.

I was truly amazed. There was turkey hunting (poor women had to get up at 3:30 a.m. Sunday); ATV riding; hand gun, rifle and shot gun clinics; archery; and several different types of fishing, among other things.

I opted for botany and canoeing.

Botany was a lot of fun. We walked up and down and all around, while our instructor, Spencer Tomb, told us what stuff was. We tried wild celery (which wasn't too bad if kind of strong. The leaves tasted better than the stem), echinacea root and some other stuff, all pulled right from the ground.

We met some horses, saw a couple of water snakes and learned about the different flora and fauna of the plains.

We also got to try "bounce", which is vodka, cherries and sugar.

Night Noise Veronica Monier



It makes a good cough syrup, Spencer said. It also warms the stomach and makes you feel good, but what else would you expect from sugar and vodka?

My canoeing class was a mixed experience. At first I was kind-of worried about tipping the boat when I was getting in. I canoed a lot when I was a kid, but this instructor had us get in a different (and somewhat more complicated) way.

We had to step into the middle of the boat and then climb, either backward or forward, over the bars to get to our chosen seat.

Okay, fine. With a little bit of wobbling and a lot of shaking, I managed this amazing feat. Unfortunately, I didn't let go of the dock when the canoe started to drift and so was stretched out over the little lake.

My instructor (Kathleen) said to let go. I said no, waited for a minute and did what she asked.

It was the wrong thing to do as I found myself up to my chest in very cold water. It was a bit of a shock as I'm sure anyone

could see by the expression on my face.

After a moment of complete inactivity, I climbed out, squelched to my car, drove to my cabin, changed clothes, and went back to the canoes.

It wasn't such a big deal after that. I'd already fallen in so what else could go wrong? Kathleen was my canoeing partner and was pleasantly surprised that I didn't know what I was doing.

She said I was a trooper and that she didn't think if she fell in that she would change clothes and start all over again.

Well, I would have never lived it down if I wouldn't have gotten back in the canoe. Besides, I got a t-shirt for being such a good sport. What more can you ask?

—nn—

I have a cold. It's worse than falling in the lake. It started with a sore throat four days ago, then moved to handkerchief time.

Now, four days later, my nose is stuffed up, my ears are plugged, and my chest feels like someone started my lungs on fire. Oh yeah, my head is also stuffed with something like wool.

Life is great.

—nn—

This weekend we're going to Omaha. I'm taking my mom and my brother to Riverdance, although I really should make him pay for it. Oh well, what are older brothers for if not to bankrupt their younger sisters.

Veterans gather at war memorial

The new National World War II Memorial opened this week. During Memorial Day weekend, thousands of WW II veterans from across the country will gather in the nation's capital to dedicate the new monument on the National Mall.

This week, I also introduced a congressional resolution that recognizes the more than 16 million Americans who served during World War II, the 400,000 who died defending the country and the millions of men and women who supported the effort on the home front. The resolution also celebrates the completion of the memorial.

The resolution, also recognizes the efforts of National Chairman former Sen. Robert J. Dole and National Co-Chairman Frederick W. Smith for their role in raising donations to pay for the construction of the memorial.

In addition, the resolution recognizes the efforts of actor Tom Hanks, the Advertising Council and the History Channel for their role in increasing public awareness of the heroic achievements of American World War II veterans and for raising support for the memorial.

After years of planning, I am pleased that we, as a nation, are finally recognizing the selfless sacrifice and undaunted courage of the World War II generation with a national memorial.

Preventing Tax Increases on Married Couples

I supported House passage of legislation that would prevent tax increases for 30 million married couples. This bill will

Capitol Views

Rep. Jerry Moran



help young couples keep more of the money they earn. Before 2001, a married couple earning similar incomes paid more in taxes than two single taxpayers filing individually.

Tax relief passed by Congress in 2001 phased out these penalties by providing couples with a standard deduction that is twice that of single taxpayers. The legislation would make permanent the benefits of the 2001-passed tax relief and prevent married couples from facing tax increases.

This legislation will now go to the Senate for consideration.

Hosting Kansas Legislature Show on Public Television

I will moderate the "Kansas Legislature Wrap-Up" show live on Smoky Hills Public Television. The show will focus on the legislative activities of the 2004 Kansas Legislature.

Participating in the program will be members of the Kansas House and Senate, including: Senator Stan Clark, (R-Oakley), Senate District 40; Senator Larry Salmans, (R-Hanston), Senate District 37; Representative Deena Horst, (R-Salina), House District 69; Representa-

tive Dennis McKinney, (D-Greensburg), House District 116; Representative Jim Morrison, (R-Colby), House District 121; and Representative Ralph Ostmeier, (R-Grinnell), House District 118.

Uniting for American Soldiers

I gave a speech on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives about the war in Iraq. During the speech, I called on my fellow members of Congress to put partisan politics aside and support our troops. I do not consider it unpatriotic to question government decisions, but what we need today are politicians who put the country above partisanship and our nation ahead of the next election. We need statesmanship.

A full copy of the speech can be found at: www.house.gov/apps/list/speech/ks01_moran/sp042704Iraq.html.

Honoring Senator Roberts at 2004 Eisenhower Institute Awards

On Wednesday, I attended the 2004 Eisenhower Institute Awards Ceremony in Washington. Founded in 1983, the Eisenhower Institute is dedicated to advancing President Dwight Eisenhower's intellectual and leadership legacies in foreign and domestic policy. Annually, the Institute gives an award to those individuals whose accomplishments reflect Eisenhower's legacy of leadership and integrity in the public domain. Senator Roberts was selected for his leadership in Congress as the Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and as a prominent member of the Armed Services and Agriculture Committees.

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Office hours:

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Phone: (785) 877-3361

Fax: (785) 877-3732

E-mail: telegram@nwkansan.com

STAFF

Cynthia Haynes editor and publisher
Veronica Monier staff reporter
Dick Boyd Blue Jay sports
Carolyn Plotts society editor
Kristen Brands reporter
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Bill Eckhart advertising rep.
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