

## Battles have been won, but the war is far from over

Are we winning the war on terror?  
Or are we letting Ossama bin Laden get away?  
Charges and countercharges fly in debates, on the radio, in columns and editorials.  
The truth is harder to come by.  
While no one would argue that the threat of terrorism has gone away, al-Qaida has not mounted any serious attacks on U.S. interests in recent months.  
Even the Democrats agree that President Bush did the right thing when he invaded Afghanistan, drove out the insane Taliban government and liberated its people.  
Afghanistan is no longer a base for terrorism. The camps are gone, the support base that bin Laden depended on now denied him.

Did bin Laden "get away."  
Maybe. We haven't arrested him, and he still sends out the occasional rant on tape.  
Most people believe he's holed up in the lawless fringe of Pakistan, where American troops cannot go without losing one of our most important Muslim allies.  
You know there are a lot of people — from the military to the CIA to many of our allies — looking for him. Some day, if he's alive, he'll be found. The \$25 million reward will prove much too tempting.

Meantime, his effectiveness as leader of al-Qaida is nil. He has abandoned radio and Internet communications, using only couriers with multiple cutouts. It may take weeks for his commands to move a few miles.

And over the last three years, we've killed or captured many of his top lieutenants. Al-Qaida ain't what it used to be.  
The war in Iraq, in a strange sort of way, is helping to win the war on terrorism. If terrorists are "flowing across the border" to fight in Iraq, they're not blowing up embassies in Africa or buildings in New York.

And in Iraq, we're killing these "foreign fighters" by the hundreds.  
We haven't found any weapons of mass destruction — and what that says about not just our intelligence services, but everyone's, is disturbing. But we may well be winning the war by drawing terrorists out in the open where we can shoot them, round them up or keep them too busy to blow things up.

Americans are famous for our impatience. We want results, and we want them now. We tend to think that our government can do whatever we want it to, and do it right away.

That kind of resolution has escaped us so far in the war on terrorism, but that's only to be expected.  
After the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, President Bush warned us that this would be a long, dangerous and difficult fight. He didn't promise a quick victory, because he knew that wasn't possible.

Still, if we haven't won this war, we've certainly won some battles. We've also made some mistakes.  
Only time will tell the rest. — Steve Haynes

## WRITE:

The Norton Telegram encourages Letters to the Editor on any topic of public interest. Letters should be brief, clear and to the point. They must be signed and carry the address and phone number of the author.

We do not publish anonymous letters. We sign our opinions and expect readers to do likewise.

We do not publish form letters or letters about topics which do not pertain to our area. Thank-yous should be submitted to the Want Ad desk.

Letters will not be censored, but will be read and edited for form and style, clarity, length and legality. We will not publish attacks on private individuals or businesses which do not pertain to a public issue.

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## Brisk air, lobby flowers mean fall is here

That "snap" in the air is more than brisk fall air. Winter is on the way.  
This morning, the Weather Channel showed snow falling in Colorado. It's doubtful it will make it this far, but when our westerly neighbors get it, we can't be far behind.

I know it's almost winter because the lobby at my office is filling up with the employee's outdoor potted plants. It's a large, sunny room with the west wall made almost entirely of glass. It makes a perfect greenhouse.

We have some real "green thumbs" in this office. Geraniums spilling over huge pots add a splash of color all winter. The ivy is going wild and my big aloe vera plant is loving its new spot. I just wish I had a way to get my big yard cart with portulaca and baby's breath into the lobby. It would take a small trailer to bring it in, and I don't think I dare ask Jim to do that.

I don't mean to frighten anyone, but Christmas is just 54 days away as of this writing. I thought we just packed away Christmas stuff a few weeks ago. And

### Out Back Carolyn Plotts



here it is again. One columnist wrote about catalogs a few weeks ago. She and I must be on the same mailing lists because I, too, have been inundated with catalogs. I'll know it's officially the holiday season when I receive my Figi's catalog with the "it's your last chance to order" sticker on the front.

My granddaughter Alexandria is sporting a new pair of glasses. Bifocals. Can you believe it? She's only 9. Her mother said she puts them on first thing in the morning and doesn't take them off until she goes to bed at night. The doctor hopes that the prescription plus a regimen of eye exercises will improve her vision to the point that she won't need glasses at all.

Styles are so cute nowadays, though, and kids don't mind wearing them at all.

Which brings to mind my first pair of glasses. The year was 1962. I was a sophomore in high school and I had to have a pair of those horrible black bat-wing, gold-at-the-corner glasses. Whatever possessed us to think they looked good?

But that was the style, for both boys and girls. Well, the boys didn't wear the cat-eye kind of frames, but theirs were just as bad.

I have had the most amazing week. It has been my honor to interview several World War II veterans in preparation for a special edition before Veterans Day on Nov. 11. The recurring themes amongst these men were modesty, commitment and patriotism.

"We did what we had to do," is the phrase I heard over and over.  
Almost 60 years have passed since the end of that war. Dates and names have faded for some but memories of friends, living and lost, are still vivid.

Attention! Gentlemen, I salute you.

## Catalogs could be good for future use

While people living in some parts of the county are being inundated with anonymous mass mailings trying to affect the outcome of the upcoming election, my mailbox is just chock full of catalogs.

I got seven today.  
I like catalogs, but really — how many Chadwick's catalogs does a person need. Elizabeth asked if I still had one she looked at over the weekend.

I had put it in the recycling and could have hunted it out but I told her, "Don't worry I'll have two more by Friday."

Some of these catalogs have really interesting stuff and I like looking at them, but I sometimes wonder how I got on so many mailing lists.

Recently, I got a catalog with a warning: "This will be your last catalog unless you order."

Oh dear! Before I had a chance to place an order I got another catalog from them. It had the same warning so I have decided to live on the edge and call their bluff, find out if they really mean it.

It is a problem to store these many offerings. I try to immediately throw out the ones I know I will never use. But it usually seems like there is one little unique thing I think I just have to have so I store the catalog until later.

Later, I realize the sale is over or if it was something I thought would make a good gift I forgot about it and the occasion is long past.

This is pretty cheap entertainment and less tiring than real shopping so outside of the number of trees they are chopping down for my catalogs I figure no harm done. And I do recycle.

I suppose since the holidays are coming up all these companies are making a big push and that is why I am getting seven a day. I am a little worried that if we ever move, all these companies will loose me. What if I never get another catalog?

### Back Home Nancy Hagman



Lots of people shop on the Internet but I just can't get into that. You have to search for what you want and sometimes you never dreamed you wanted something — until you see it in a catalog.

## For depression, therapy is usually best

Dear Plain Sense: I see so much on television and in magazines about depression, including all kinds of medications that are now available. Is this just another ad campaign, or is it really helpful?  
Confused

Dear Confused:  
The media is used more to increase awareness of both physical and emotional problems, which shows the effort that is being made to reduce the stigma related to mental health problems, and encourage people to seek professional help.

In addition, as a result of research and testing, more and better medications for the treatment of mental illness have become available.

As a result, serious disorders such as schizophrenia, as well as depression, can result in successful treatment for what once were devastating mental disorders.

It's not unusual for people to experience increased sadness or the "blues" with major life events, such as the death of a loved one, job and career changes or health problems. Most people are usually able, within a reasonable length of time, to recover and move on.

## High Plains Mental Health Karen Beery

However, for some, those feelings become something much more intense and long lasting. Clinical depression is more than just the "blues", and often develops with no apparent reason. It is a pervasive condition caused by chemical changes in the brain; something that the person is unable to "just snap out of it".

Depression is a mental illness that can affect a person's overall health, and can even lead to thoughts of suicide.

In addition, family members and friends struggle in trying to be of assistance of the person who is suffering, which can have a negative effect on marriages and relationships.

In most cases of clinical depression, professional counseling and therapy, along with medication, can help everyone involved in understanding the issues and result in a successful outcome.