THE NORTON

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2008 PAGE 4

OH, LOOK...

A FALLING POLITICAL STAR.

Where are we going to put all of those prisoners?

The new president will have to decide what happens to the hundreds of alleged terrorist prisoners being held at the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The U.S. government can't keep the prisoners on the base, which is Cuban territory under a long-term lease to the U.S. that dates back to the Spanish American War.

Guantanamo survives as a capitalist enclave in communist Cuba because we simply refused to leave when Fidel Castro took over more than 50 years ago. Its nearly total isolation — there are no gates that allow commerce with Cuba and only sea approaches to the heavily guarded base — made it a perfect site to hold terrorists.

Or so it seemed.

The Bush Administration wanted the prisoners outside the U.S. court system, where lawyers could have tied the cases up for years. The foreign site kept the prisoners more out of the courts and out of the public eye at first.

However, scandals involving treatment and alleged religious abuse managed to leak out. Lawyers began to file court cases on the U.S. mainland. And many around the world objected to the extralegal way they were being treated.

The true radicals among the crowd refuse to bow at all to U.S. authority. A former chief of public relations for Al-Qaida, Ali Hamza al-Bahlul, was found guilty of 35 counts of conspiracy, solicitation to commit murder and providing material support to terrorism last week.

He ordered his lawyers to stand silent, making no plea or case, and vowed to continue the fight against America. It's hard to see how we can release someone like that, especially after he was convicted of masterminding videos and Internet sites for Osama bin Laden.

Others, such as a group of Chinese muslims captured in Afghanistan, have no place to go. The U.S. no longer sees them as a threat, but cannot send them home to China, where the government would arrest them. The Bush Administration, for many reasons, does not want them here, either.

Still, that leaves al-Aahlul and others like him, real terrorists.

But where to put them, and others convicted in special military courts on the Navy base?

No state wants them. Kansas' senators, usually eager to grab any jobs offered by the government, both wrote to reject the idea of building cells at a military prison in Leavenworth.

Wherever they might be held, these political prisoners — we call them war criminals, but their own people do not — would be a target for escape and

retribution. Released, they would only return to their crimes. Keeping them forever in Cuba is not much of an option. New Democratic president-elect Barack Obama, already has vowed to close the prison there. A

Republican president eventually would have had to do the same. Nor does it seem likely that another location could be found on foreign soil that would not draw world protests, possible terrorists raids and other prob-

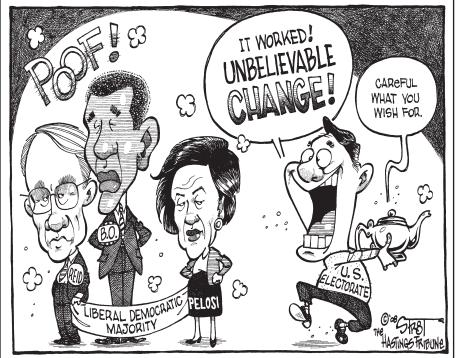
The only real alternative would be to build a special camp somewhere in the

U.S., but in an open society, that would be hard to hide. Opposition would be strong. It is a dilemma. No one wants to see the prisoners released, the terrorists at least, and no one wants to have them near. It's no wonder Guantanamo looked

Perhaps, in hindsight, taking these people into the regular courts and regular federal prisons would have been the smart thing to do, but it may be too late for

There is no easy solution here, just tough questions.

Steve Haynes



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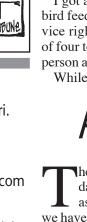
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he election is over, and a new day is dawning on America and the world as we digest what historic events More than five years ago my wife, Ava,

Internet. The couple, Liz and John, have visited with us and we traveled together for several days down to Santa Fe, Houston and New Orleans (before Katrina).

very interested in the election this year.

day morning:

expected, common sense. Crossing this very much, for the better.

Out Back Carolyn Plotts

Daughter and I agree on most things

and fry 'em. Medium, Pollution: I think we agree in that we are please.' both against it. I still remember watching

is really no excuse.

Donating blood: Agree. But, I am bad at it and throw up whenever I do it. I think you have a freakish gene neither Kara (her younger sister) nor I got. If someone I knew (and liked) needed it, I would do it again.

Smoking: I guess I'll agree. I don't really care.

Parents who don't discipline their children: I HATE this. I think there are three simple solutions to this: For one week either give them to you, Kara, or the state. Either way both parties' attitudes would change.

Children who don't mind their parents: See above. Agree.

Volunteering: Important. I'll even add donating money. Agree.

it is part of a larger conspiracy. Agree.

The economy: Frightening right now. about what I wanted them to know. Prejudice: We agree. If the election Probably have different ideas on how to goes for Obama you will have a lot more opportunities to share with people how Cruelty to animals: Agree, unless it is citizens at the core of the solution. I'm and spent more time baking cookies; and time for a BBQ. Then, I say, "Kill 'em going to agree.

Terrorism: I hope it is safe to say we are both against it. We might disagree on the definition, but overall, we agree

Vulgar language: Hmmm. Tough, because sometimes only vulgar language can explain vulgar acts and situations. But, I can work on this more.

Defending America: TOTALLY

Wearing white shoes after Labor Day: Concrete yard ornaments: Agree. There Totally agree. This is the same as concrete yard ornaments.

The right to bear arms: Agree.

Letting children sleep in your bed: Agree, and I would like to add, pets.

Okay, so here are our results. Of your values reflected (now that I have seen the math, I am wondering if "imposed" is not more appropriate).

84 percent — we agree

12 percent — neutral, but swaying toward agreement on all.

4 percent — disagree.

She closed by saying, "I would say you did a good job. Thanks Mom! Glad you set me up with good values." I think I did a good job, too. But, don't

ever let anyone say, "You're so lucky to have good kids." Luck didn't have a thing to do with it.

Gas prices: Totally wrong. But, I think I put a lot of hard work into raising good kids and a lot of purposeful decisions

If I had it to do over again there would solve it. But, agree that it needs solved in be less television and more game nights; I an ethical way with the best intentions for would have worked outside the home less we would have been in church more.

It's time to bid the garden farewell

snipped the torn pieces of sheet, removed the fence and pulled up the stakes Sunday afternoon. Garden season is over, and it was time to clean up the mess that Mother Nature had left in my little patch.

fter my "soapbox column" of last

week, I received an e-mail reply

from my oldest daughter, Halley.

She said it would be fun to do the math and

see how things turned out — percentage

wise — in terms of how I had passed my

the crying Indian commercial with you.

After you explained it to me, I thought,

"How sad." Before that, I thought it was a

stupid commercial because I hadn't seen

Indians crying in all their original dress

Chewing gum in public: I don't like it

People who don't vote: We totally agree

Little girls wearing make-up: Agree.

Abortion: Disagree. But, we do good

at finding common ground. Get rid of

unwanted pregnancy and you can end

abortion. But, stopping people from hav-

ing sex is not a viable solution...Sorry, I

Girls with hair in their eyes: Not a fan,

but again, lacking your passion on this

deplorable and anti-productive it is.

got carried away.

topic.

Boys wearing baggy pants: Agree.

Bad table manners: Against them.

either but think I lack your passion.

didn't make the connection.

So, with her permission, here is her

views on to her.

First, she gave us lots of sunshine and plenty of rain, and the tomato vines grew. Then there was hail and replanting. Then more sunshine and rain, and it was time to put in the stakes and bind the plants to the wooden slats with strips torn from old white (and blue) bed sheets. Before we knew it, it was time to tie them again, and again and again as they grew, until the vines topped the six-foot stakes and their weight pulled some of the stakes over.

I got a metal pole, planning to put up bird feeders this winter. It went into service right away, standing in the middle of four tomato plants like the only sober person at a party.

While the tomato vines were taking off





in the main garden, the zucchini vines were working their way through the fence on the side yard and snaking across the yard. This required me to hold the vines up each week as Steve mowed. He muttered about the vines killing his grass, but he likes my zucchini bread too much to complain all that much.

Then the weather forecast called for the temperatures to maybe fall into the low 30s. I grabbed all the old sheets I keep for that purpose and covered every tomato vine, pepper plant and squash vine in both gardens. My back yard looked like a conthan others.

vention of colorful ghosts. I did this three nights before just going out and stripping the vines of all their fruit, which I stored in the refrigerator and the basement. Then I let the freeze do its worst, and

one morning the leaves were all black and crumpled and the vines dead. That was more than a week ago. I gave them a while to dry, and then pulled and pushed until the vines were in garbage bags, the stakes and fencing in the garage and the hoses stacked for the winter.

This is always a tough time of the year. It took so much work and was so much fun to raise the crops of lettuce, spinach, peas, beans, tomatoes, green peppers and zucchini. By next month, I'll have forgotten the work and be drooling over seed catalogs for spring. Like all my brethren who work the soil all across this great state, I'm an eternal optimist.

Some of us just work smaller areas

A foreign friend's view of the election

we have seen.

got to know a lady in England through the

Over the years we have talked about politics in both countries, and John was Ireceived this e-mail from him Wednes-

Dear America,

What a clever country you are! And so many of you have shown such, un-

Guest **Commentary** Tom Betz Editor, The Goodland Star-News

particular Rubicon is a small step for a man but a giant leap for mankind, as someone once said. I see it as the glorious and timely emancipation of a race and almost a fulfillment of what Martin Luther King said 45 years ago. Obama's election will change the perception of America throughout the world and that,

defeat gracious. He showed considerable If Obama's election could well be his

Wasn't McCain's speech accepting

legacy, what is W's? Is it 9/11, Iraq, Afghanistan or New Orleans? Has he left anything positive behind that we don't know about over here? Will history treat him kindly?

I'll get off my soapbox and put this ramble out of its misery. It has been a long night.

Why can't you have your elections at a more sensible time.

Tomorrow there will still be a financial crisis but today the world is beautiful. As they say over here,

Gobama

John

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