

## We'll soon see what happens with the war in Iraq

What are we going to do about this war in Iraq? Support for the war, and the president, drops lower by the day. Opponents cry for an end. A liberal, anti-war mother camps outside the president's ranch. She gets more publicity than he does, it seems. What is happening in Iraq, anyway? More than 1,800 American troops have been killed. Thousands more Iraqis have died. Rumors abound that President Bush will start bringing the troops home "next year."

Yet the Army says it's planning for four more, at least. Parts of an airborne division are being mobilized to provide election security. Most disturbing to many, the president's rationale for the war, Saddam's weapons of mass destruction, turned out to be a myth. Whether you believe the government lied — like that never happened before — or our intelligence was so bad they really believed he had them — and that's more than possible — it stinks.

Weapons of mass destruction were never the issue, though. This war is about the balance of power in the Mideast, the future and Israel and America, the global war on terrorism, and yes, freedom for Iraq.

Those who are against the war have been consistent. They predicted it would fail, denounced it as folly and they continue to predict failure.

In fact, they are hoping for failure, praying for failure. It's not the war they hate; it's the administration.

Television cameras and Page 1 headlines focus on bombings and attacks on American troops. You'd think everyone in the Mideast hates us.

Opponents conveniently forget the thousands who line up to cheer American troops advancing Baghdad, the thousands more who cheered when Marines helped pull down Saddam's statue.

They ignore the fact that there's been no major terrorist attack on American soil for nearly four years. They ignore the fact that we've taken and held Afghanistan and Iraq, and given a new era a chance to start in that sorry part of the world.

There are two sides in Iraq. One side wants us there as long as we are needed. The other wants us out so Saddam's corrupt regime can come back.

The anti-war crowd in this country would never admit they want that, but it will happen if we pull out too soon.

The people planting bombs and undermining the nation-building process in Iraq are not good people. They are not, for the most part, patriots or nationalists.

They are people who thought the old regime was good, people with no objection to blowing up innocent civilians, to the torture chair, to terror and death.

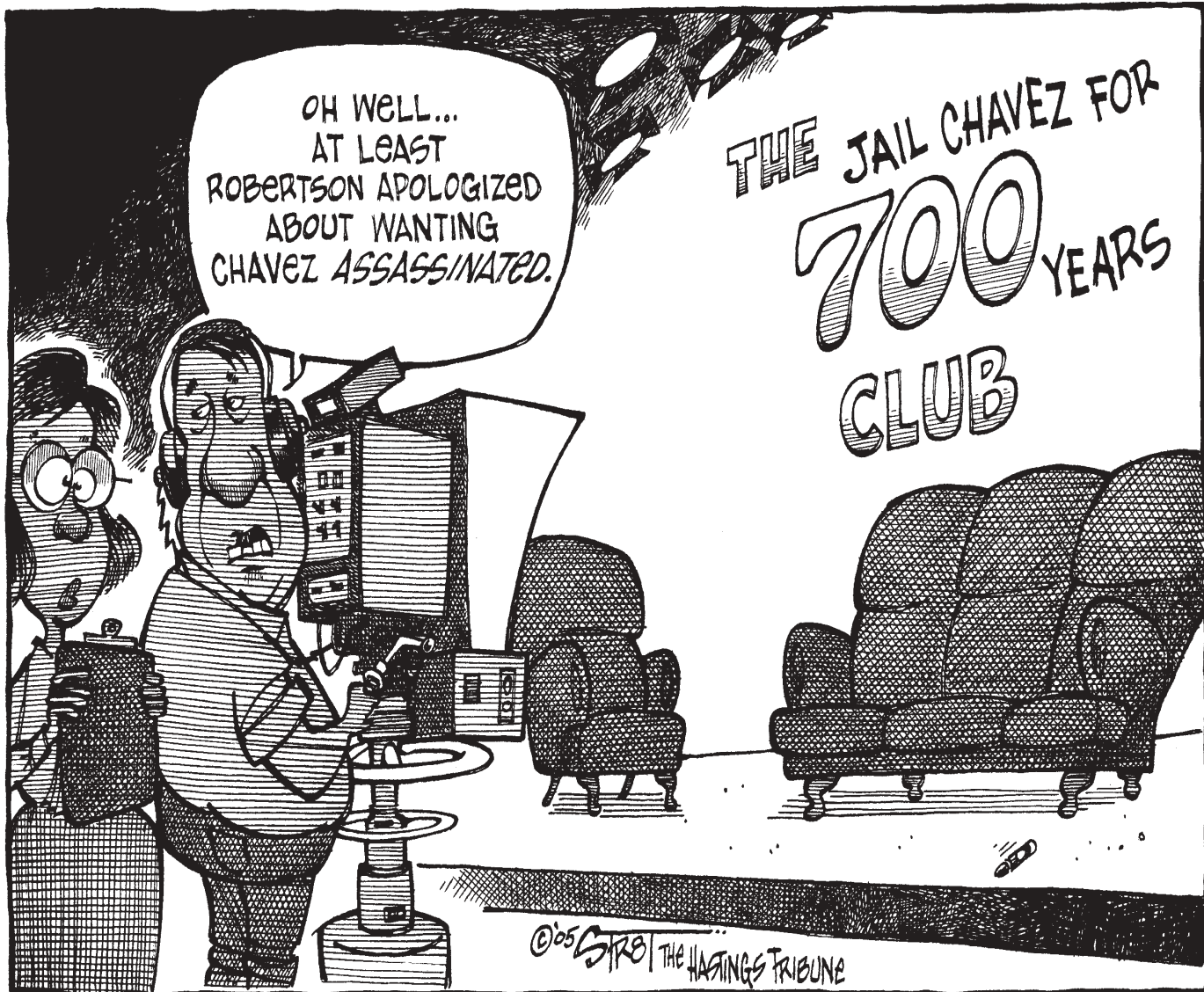
The American people will have to decide what is right.

Will 1,800 of our soldiers have died in vain?

Was this fight worth picking?

We shall see.

— Steve Haynes



## Staying cool can get complicated

I read an interesting thing about fans the other day. They don't cool the air, they just cool people. It is just like wind chill, the expert contended.

I suppose that is true. The article gave this advice: Turn off the fan if you are not in the room. I suppose that is indeed the right thing to do.

I hate to think about all the electricity we have wasted on fans when no one was in the room.

Have you notice how cheap fans are these days? I don't mean inexpensive, I mean cheap.

A few years ago I bought a remote control fan. The hubby thought that was silly but it worked and it still does. I have, however, lost the remote in the move. Still you can push the buttons on it and it works.

Most of the other fans we have bought of late do not. That is because they are plastic. The knobs break and we have one that only has one speed — you can't change it. We have another one that you have to plug in to turn on and unplug to turn off, you can't change the speed on it either. All the new fans seem to have issues.

Considering all this, it probably is a good idea to turn the fans off when we leave a room.

Who knows, they might just spontaneously combust or something.

The ceiling fan in our bedroom doesn't work very well at all. Of course that might be because it has not been actually in-

Back Home  
Nancy Hagman



stalled.

Kate has 10-foot ceilings in her apartment and beautiful ceiling fans in every room. They all have remote controls. There is another apartment in the front of her building which also has remote control ceiling fans.

The remotes sometimes work on the fans in other apartments. That sort of worried her until she figured it out. She would be sitting there and her fan would come on or change speeds or whatever.

Hmmm. Kate had an old metal table fan we picked up at an auction.

She brought it home because she did not need it. We put it in her room here. I know they are dangerous for little kids but it looks so cute. Her room is very retro. It fits perfect with the décor. And it works.

We were cleaning the basement last weekend. There was an old box fan down there. I decided it needed to be moved. It was heavy. The box was metal, the blades were metal. It is old, it is noisy, it is very dirty, but it works.

I should probably clean it up and move it upstairs. But like most of our society I have a Wal-Mart mentality. There are thousands of clean plastic fans in stores. They are cheap. Let's go get a new one.

Our house does not have central air. But, we can keep the downstairs cool with a window unit and strategically placed fans.

This is why I'm skeptical about the above mentioned expert's advice on fans. I think if you are drawing cooler air into a room you do lower the temperature and it is worthwhile to do so.

If you should turn your fan off every time you leave a room because there is not one to feel it why not turn the heat or air conditioning off every time you leave the house. After all if no one is there to feel it, what difference does it make?

If a tree falls in the woods and no one is there to hear it does it make a noise?

Another fact about fans not mentioned in the article is they retard the growth of mold because they keep the air moving. So I'm confused.

Do I leave my fans on?

Do I turn them off?

Should I get central air and quit worrying about it?

Should I nag the hubby some more about putting the ceiling fan up in our bedroom? (He says no.)

You are going to have to figure this out for yourselves folks but remember whatever you do — BE COOL.

## 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.

Advance Care Planning is a process rather than a document. Planning in advance, free of crisis and pressure, is the best way to make sure that you receive the health care you want at the end-of-life. The decisions and thinking that you participate in and share with others while you are healthy will likely be better than decisions that others make for you if you are seriously ill.

Hospice Services, Inc. has provided quality end-of-life care in northwest and northcentral Kansas for more than 23 years and has been involved with The Kansas LIFE Project since its inception. The LIFE Project works to help Kansans with advanced chronic and terminal illnesses live with dignity, comfort, and peace at the end-of-life. There are more than 100 organizations, agencies and associations working together as LIFE Project Partners. The LIFE Project is focused on issues related to public policy excellence, healthcare professional expertise and citizen engagement and empowerment. The LIFE Project has targeted the areas of Advance Care Planning and Pain Management.

The LIFE Project's Campaign on Advance Care Planning is "Do It for Those You Love". This campaign encourages Kansans to:

THINK — about the kind of care you would want to receive if you should ever become unable to speak for yourself.

TALK — with those you love about your values, choices, and wished in care.

## Hospices Services, Inc.

end-of-life. The decisions and thinking that you participate in and share with others while you are healthy will likely be better than decisions that others make for you if you are seriously ill.

Kansans have told The LIFE Project, in focus groups across the state, that we think it is important to plan for the kind of care we want at the end-of-life or if we should ever become unable to speak for ourselves. But few of us take the time to do this thinking, sharing, and planning. And, even those who do plan often fail to talk about their wishes with those they love. It is important that both this talking and planning happen.

Americans are living longer and dying differently than in the past. For the first time in human history there are many choices about when, where, and how a person will die. These choices are the result of dramatic changes in medical science and technology.

It is difficult to face the reality that someone you love is dying and unable to speak for himself or herself. Much of the stress is unavoidable. Families who have talked about their wishes for care most often have less stress and guilt through such a crisis than those who have not.



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