

Snooping issue more of a political pimple

A thought crossed our mind as we pondered this snooping issue that continues to dog President Bush, especially as it relates to conversations between people here and abroad.

While watching C-Span Wednesday morning early, callers were pretty much split on their views of the government's listening in on private telephone conversations. We haven't really given much thought to the issue because we cared little about who was listening in on our telephone connects. Nothing there to spark interest.

But then the light flashed!

The publisher's son, who is in his 15th year in the United States Air Force, is stationed in Kurdistan, in the region where terrorism, unfortunately, is a way of life. Fortunately, he is tucked away in an area one hears little about. He feels secure, although they need protection when they venture off base to carry out some of their mission.

So, conversations he has with his family at Spokane, Wash., or any conversations with his father, the publisher of *The Telegram*, might warrant an occasional intercept to find out what information is being passed along. Believe me when I say weather, health and family news would be of little interest to the snoopers. He says nothing about his mission. And that's something we don't expect to hear about.

This snooping business is not — and we repeat NOT — anything new. The debate seems fuzzy. Are we sacrificing rights under the U.S. Constitution? Or is this just another political pimple being squeezed for all its worth?

We are engaged in a war like we've never seen before. Terrorists and their methods are likened to a cancer. They attack unconventionally. Without notice. And kill far too many people with the cure still years away.

We aren't getting all knotted up over the issue. Chances are good it will quietly go away after the votes are counted in the mid-term election in November. But for right now it sure is making political hay. — *Tom Dreiling, publisher*

My parents left a great gift

My parents gave me a great gift and I don't think I ever said thank you. I was made aware of the gift when I watched a friend of mine, an only child, struggle with decisions about end-of-life care for her mother. There is much to be said about comfort in numbers. And, now with my parents both gone, I find comfort in knowing I'm not alone. Having a brother and sister makes life more fun.

Now to be sure, I didn't always feel that way. For instance when I had to share a room with my sister, JoAnne, or when my brother, Duaine (fourteen years my senior) took on the parent role, but things are different now.

We share stories. The main characters, our parents, often look very different through each of our eyes. My brother was born during the depression and he and my sister both felt the impact of World War II. I am one of the first of the baby boomers. My parents had weathered their early years and both life and living were more abundant by the time I came along.

When people say we all grew up in the same family, we really didn't. As my mother said we were each like only children.

But, thank heaven, we aren't alone. We

Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



don't always agree, but we usually can agree to disagree. We belong to three different churches, but our faith is pretty similar. We each pretty much agree to be Democrats, something my father firmly ingrained in us and yet we each have worked on Republican campaigns as well.

We grew up in the same family, but not in the same environment and that's okay. It is our differences which makes each of us unique and it is the values and stories we treasure.

Recently I heard a woman say she wouldn't go some place because her husband's brother and family would be there.

I couldn't help but think how much her husband, particularly was missing. But, then I also thought with God's sense of humor, the afterlife may find them at the same party.

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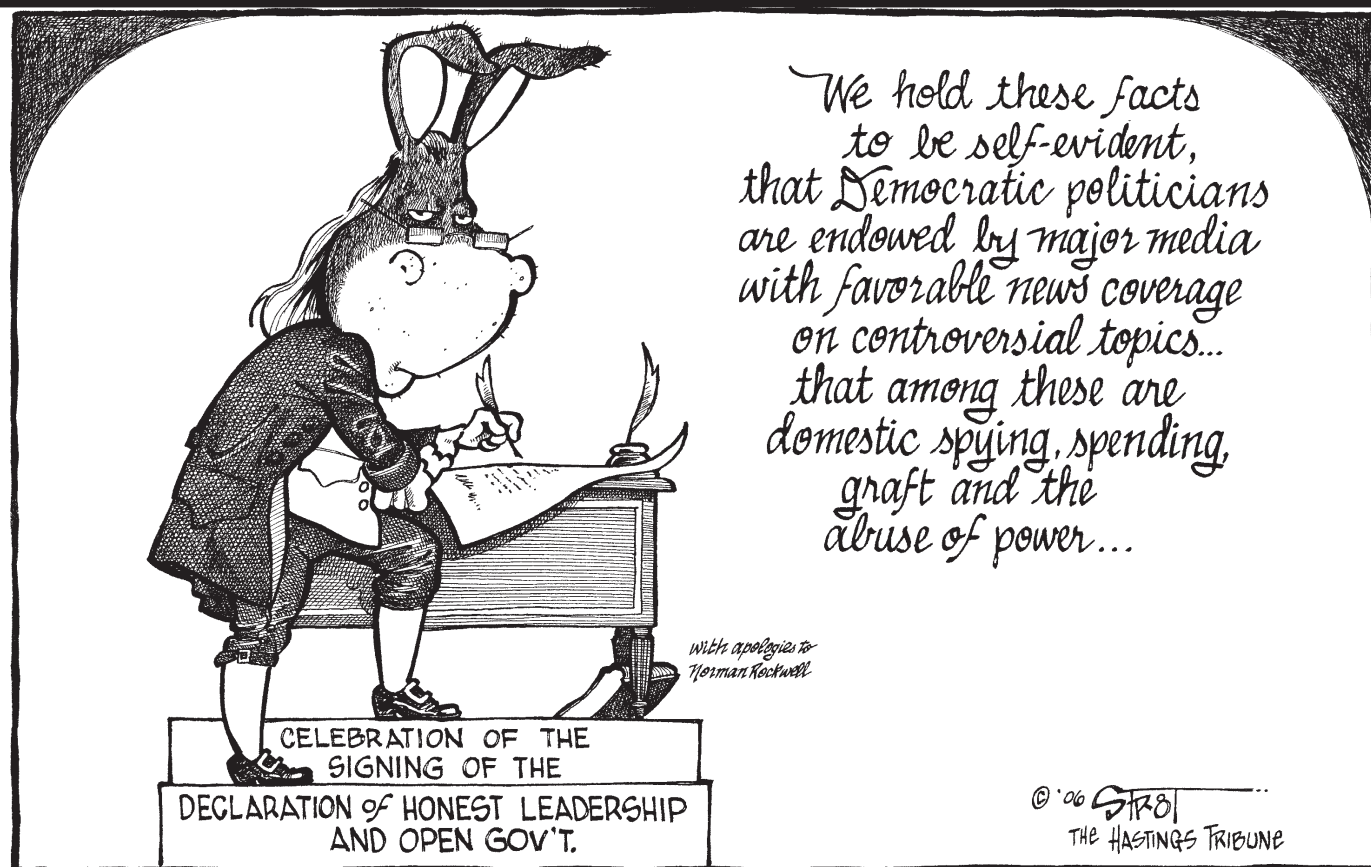
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We hold these facts to be self-evident, that Democratic politicians are endowed by major media with favorable news coverage on controversial topics... that among these are domestic spying, spending, graft and the abuse of power...

With apologies to Norman Rockwell

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Column undergoes name change

They say one of the best ways to keep the name of your community going is to use it as often as possible wherever you go.

That said, I have finally settled on a name for this column. I have been using "My 2¢ Worth." If truth be known I wasn't overly fond of it. It was one of those instances when I needed a name and had little time to consider options.

So, starting today, and as my way of promoting Norton, my column will be called "Good Evening Norton." I must confess that I was nudged into this change the other morning while watching "Good Morning America" on ABC-TV. "Hmm," I thought, "why not 'Good Evening Norton.' The more I thought about it the more I liked it.

That's the story behind the name change.

-td-

You will also notice that next to this page are a couple of other columns. Since I joined *The Telegram* and want to talk with my readers as often as I can, some columnists you have become accustomed to reading aren't in the paper as frequently as in the past. And I thought that wasn't fair on my part. So today I am using some of those columns and will do it as often as possible with the carry over onto page 5. Other writers have things to say and I must allow them the space to say it.

-td-

You probably read the story in Tuesday's *Telegram* about the uncertain fate of state parks in Kansas as related by Doug Sebelius, commissioner on the Kansas Wildlife & Parks Commission.

I asked her why and she said, "He's our President. How many chances do you get to see the President?"

My sister-in-law was excited because her son, also a KSU student, would get to see the President. (I thought she was a life-long Democrat.)

My sister's daughter, who is an usher at Bramlage where the speech would be given, was terribly disappointed because she could not work the event! "They get to work with the Secret Service," she lamented.

I guess just because I am disenchanted with the direction our country seems to be going I have projected it onto everyone else. I have assumed I know how other people feel about things without asking them.

During my college days another troubled president, Richard Nixon, came to KSU to speak. I went to that speech but I don't remember a thing he said.

I remember the controversy though. The crowd was if not enthusiastic, re-

Good Evening Norton Tom Dreiling



He laid out the situation clearly and I think the Wildlife & Parks Commission's proposal made last year makes sense this year. Known as SB87, it removes the need for a Kansas resident to have a park permit, and makes entry to the parks free for anyone who drives a vehicle registered in Kansas. Kansans would pay a fee of \$4 each year when they register a vehicle, saving a bundle of money vs. the present law.

If you agree, it might help to contact our representative and state senator about supporting this proposal.

-td-

President Bush packed 'em in at Kansas State University Monday where he delivered the Landon Lecture Series in Bramlage Coliseum. Interesting speech and equally interesting Q&A following. Reports are that Mr. Bush spent more time at K-State than he has at any other location where he tackles the hot button issues of the day.

Maybe his appearance here, which was telecast nationally, will convince people in other parts of our country that Kansas can easily take its place at the front of the class.

I hope Patricia never forgets this

K-State student and youngest daughter, Patricia, called. She was very excited. After standing in line for five hours she had gotten tickets for the hottest act in town: George W. Bush.

I was surprised for a couple of reasons. First, at the time, I did not know Bush was speaking at Manhattan and second, I did not realize there would be a line to get tickets to a speech he would give anywhere. Last time I knew, his approval rating was about 33 (not percent — 33 people).

Even more surprising: later the oldest daughter told me how much she would like to see him and hear the speech. She is a social studies teacher, a liberal, and a Democrat.

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Back Home Nancy Hagman



spectful, we applauded. A bunch of Kansas farm kids, we thought it was cool the President of the United States came to our campus.

The media (even the campus newspaper) chastised us. We allowed ourselves to be used. It truly probably was the only college campus in the country that Nixon could have shown his face at.

A friend who attended the KSU-KU game at Lawrence Jan. 14 said Governor Sebelius was at the game with her husband aka the "First Dude." Senator Sam Brownback was also in the crowd.

The governor was introduced and pictured on the Jumbotron to cheers and applause. Sen. Brownback was introduced and the crowd booed. The camera cut away quickly — Oops.

I laughed when my friend told me. I don't have any bones to pick here, I'm not a fan of either politician but the incident seemed funny.

Then I got to thinking about Nixon, Bush, college kids and politics and I was kind of ashamed I laughed because I know if I had been at the game I probably would have booed, too.

Which is worse? Naïve kids who cheer because they get to see their President? Or rude, jaded people who boo officials they elected? (Yeah, yeah I know you didn't

Speaking of Kansas...our state has a birthday coming up on Jan. 29 — 145th! Kansas was admitted in 1861. OK, you have from now until Sunday to get your singing voice in shape so you can belt out: "Happy birthday...."

-td-

We are still looking for someone to record each day's Norton temperatures for *The Telegram's* front page weather box. If you might be interested in doing so, please give us a call at 877-3361 for particulars. It's a community service kind of thing and there just might be someone out there who wouldn't mind keeping our readership informed.

-td-

The vote came out as expected when the Senate Judiciary Committee voted to send the nomination of Judge Samuel Alito to the U.S. Senate for confirmation. The 10 Republicans on the committee voted to recommend Judge Alito be confirmed, the 8 Democrats didn't. Now we go into Alito Battle II as the Senators square off in the confirmation debate. That should be a honey! No question that Judge Alito will be confirmed as the next justice of the United States Supreme Court.

-td-

I misspoke the other day when I said the 2006 mid-term elections include all members of the House of Representatives and half the U.S. Senate. There are 33 senators up for reelection, not half of the chamber as I had said earlier. Oops!

-td-

Have a good evening and a good weekend. And don't forget you have a date in the church of your choice this weekend.

vote for him — neither did I — so how did he win so big?)

It probably isn't fair to compare what happened to Brownback at a basketball game to presidential speeches because really, despite the pain the Jayhawks felt when the game was over, it was just a game. Get a grip!

It seems we have reached a point where it's considered shameful students have good manners and funny if they don't.

When did I become the kind of person who would be embarrassed because my alma mater is selected yet again to host a beleaguered Republican President? When did I become scornful of kids who would find such a visit exciting?

I watched President Bush's speech on TV. Sen. Brownback was there — he did not get booed.

Maybe there is hope. This was not ugly like my memories of the Nixon speech. (I'll believe that until I watch the cable news analysis) No matter what they say I am proud to be a Kansan today. The talking heads think what they think is important.

But I am beginning to get an idea that the reason the Republicans stay in power is because they have figured out what college students and their parents in the Heartland think. Right or wrong, here we are still flattered by the attention of a national leader, complimented our campus is chosen for a speech.

We don't like condescending know-it-alls telling us what is wrong with us or what is important. We say please, thank you, and wave.

This afterglow probably will not last long for me. But if it is not too much to ask I hope Patricia will remember the excitement she felt for the rest of her life.