

Interesting selection for press secretary

Tony Snow will bring new life to the press room of the White House. Not that Scott McClellan wasn't doing a good job, he was. But it was time for a breath of fresh air.

Snow, a FOX news pundit and conservative columnist, was picked by President George W. Bush to replace McClellan, who has served nearly three years as press secretary, one of the most thankless jobs in Washington.

Tony Snow hasn't always spoken favorably of Mr. Bush. He once called him "something of an embarrassment." Not to mention a leader who "lost control of the federal budget." And the architect of a "listless domestic policy."

The change in press secretary is another step by the president to perhaps rework a faltering engine. President Bush's approval ratings rank right down there with uncomfortable winter temperatures.

Snow is a Washington insider, so it will be interesting to see how he fits in with a White House make up of Texans who brag about being outsiders. He just might be the guy who has the guts to tell it like it is instead of telling it like is really isn't. President Bush will be his boss, but Snow will probably, in his smooth-talking way — his trademark — get across some points others who surround the president haven't been able to do.

Snow knows Washington and he knows the reporters he will be facing each morning in the White House briefing room. The exchange will probably be less confrontational than what we have witnessed under McClellan, who, at times, literally lost it.

But then we are only speculating. It could be a short honeymoon. It could be more confrontational than anything we've seen. As a conservative partisan, Snow just might find that his usual laid-back approach isn't going to cut it with a liberal press. And he might find that his opinions expressed as a columnist and FOX News analyst, count for naught with his new boss. In other words, you better toe-the-line.

Then again, maybe the presidential think tank persuaded Mr. Bush to rein in Mr. Snow. In other words, muzzle another occasional high-profile critic.

We'll see as time goes on.

—Tom Dreiling

Thumbs Up to . . .

✓**The U12 coaches** who allowed their blue team soccer players — Jared B, Mariah F., Andrew O., and Chandler S. — to help out the red team this past Saturday! (Thanks. Blessings, Timm O. Meyer)

✓**Harold Shinn and Kayleigh Norwood**, for your personal donation to *Locks of Love*.

✓**Ryan and Staci Manning**, on the birth of your twin daughters, **Robyn and Ryann**. (e-mail)

✓**Macayla Kent**, grade school student, for picking up trash at the junior high, and **Mrs. Joyce Lofgreen's** first grade class, for cleaning up the Eisenhower playground. Both projects were for Earth Day. (via walk-in)

✓**Cody Lowry and Sarely Salazar**, Northern Valley's prom king and queen.

✓**Vickie and Mike Bailey**, new camp hosts at Prairie Dog State Park.

✓**Michael Ward**, on your super Grand Champion showing at the Goodland Drafting Show April 12. (called in)

✓**Mary Bedyler**, for her Good Samaritan work. (brought in)

✓**City crews**, for a job well done during the three-day clean up.

(If you know of someone or some group that should be saluted please e-mail tom@nwkansas.com, call 877-3361 or 877-6908, fax 877-3732, or mail to the office or drop by at 215 S. Kansas Ave. Thanks for your help.)

Share your thoughts with a Letter to *The Telegram* Editor

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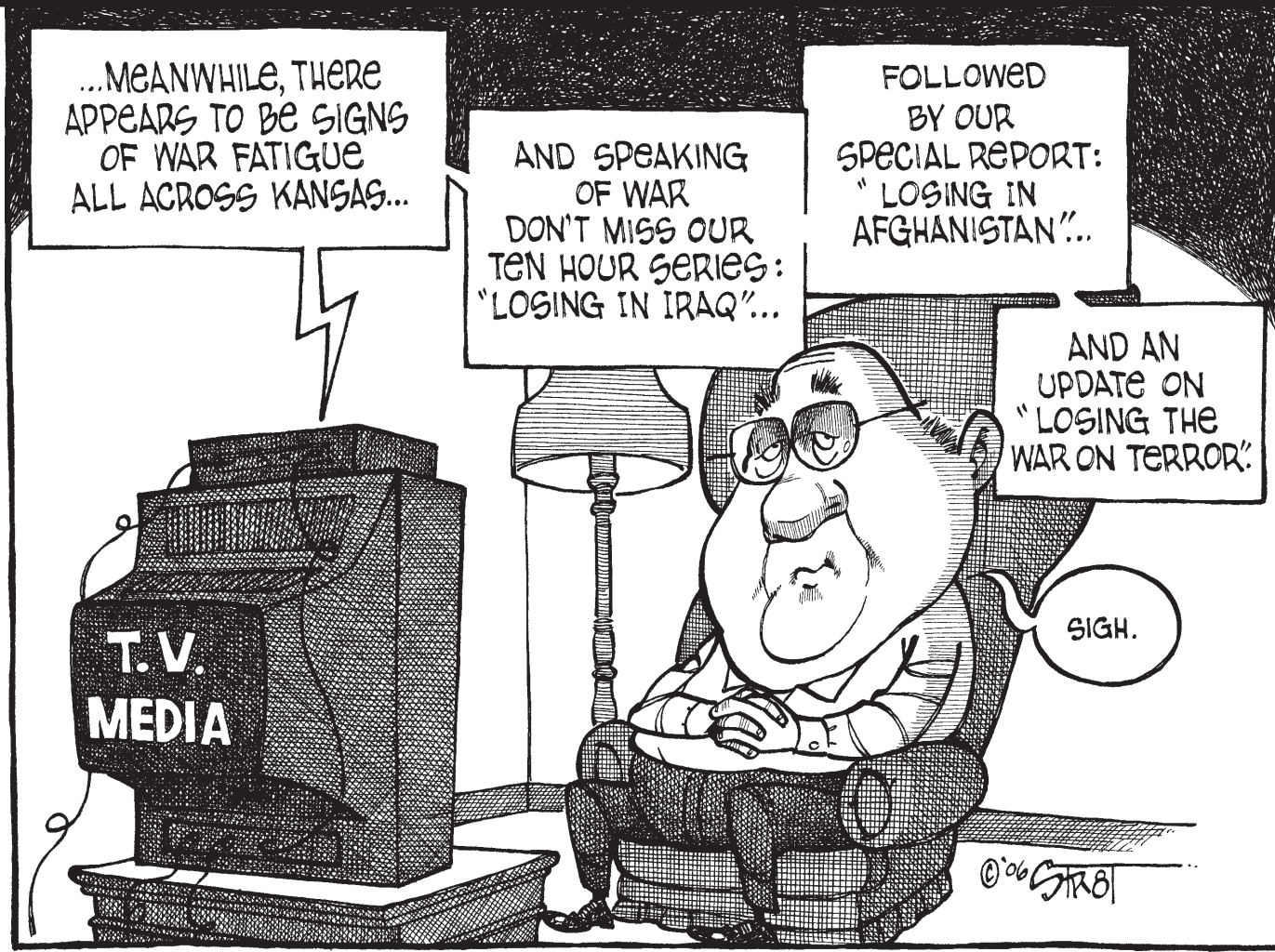
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Time out for a little bit of sports talk

The Bible tells us to everything there is a season. Is that why we don't have football all year long?

Everyone has their favorite sport. Personally, I don't care much for baseball unless the Royals are winning. So I'm sure not enjoying baseball that much these days.

I get excited about how some schools are doing no matter what the season. The Norton Track teams are off to such a great start. Go Blue Jays!

We really enjoyed the NCAA Men's Basketball tournament this year. There were so many great games! (Until the Final Four). It helped that we have a Wichita State Alum in the family.

I did not jump on the George Mason Bandwagon after they beat WSU. I am proud to say Florida was my team. Sort of odd because I am usually for an underdog like George Mason.

Yeah, basketball season was exciting, especially with the Kansas State Women winning the NIT.

But just because the Bible says there is a season for everything do we really have to do that with sports?

Think about wrestling — wrestling sea-

Back Home Nancy Hagman



son is short. Why not just wrestle all year long? (Of course it is easy to enjoy something when you are as successful as Norton has been the past few years!)

I can't wait till football season! Only four months away now!

We attended the purple/ white spring game at the Bill Snyder Family Stadium April 22. Good Times!

We were really excited to see some players we know do well in the game, including Norton's own Terry Petrie. He had a great run in the first half. I thought it was a touchdown. When the announcer said, "Good for a Wildcat _____ (I yelled as loud as I could) TOUCHDOWN!"

The hubby poked me and said "First Down."

Shoot, I guess the replay proved he and

the rest of the stadium were right. But it was close!

We were sitting in front of some guys that seemed to have a lot of football knowledge. One of them said of "Petrie, he's got some moves!"

Donald Raymer, a senior walk-on from Goodland, made a touchdown. A calculus classmate of Tricia's got a big tackle.

I don't know if the quarterback situation got any clearer. I know what I would do but inexplicably Ron Prince has not called me for any input. I do think he is on the right track putting Petrie back on the offensive side of the ball!

We attended the Norton Chamber Banquet back in March and were very impressed with Prince. If he is as good a coach as he is after-dinner speaker he will do all right.

The bad thing is we have to wait four months to find out!

Realistically, I know it is too hot to play football in the summer in Kansas but, NCHS track season, like wrestling season, is short. Where am I going to get my sports fix during June, July and August? Come on Royals, let's try to make baseball season interesting!

Who is next in the 'blame' line?

I read with interest how yet another disease is found to have a genetic component. The latest one, Chronic Fatigue Syndrome or CFS, was the focus of a study in Wichita. As we gain more supposed DNA links to malfunctions of our body I can't help but wonder if we are missing the point here. The point being which came first, the chicken or the egg.

Is it possible in our very limited knowledge we have mistaken the cause for the effect, in other words is it possible the mutation came after we contracted the disease and not before? When I mentioned this to my scientist husband he replied, "The latest *Scientific American* has an article about that very subject." Hmm, me just a lowly housewife.

But this goes even further in my mind and that is the whole idea of accountabil-

Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



ity. Somehow it seems easier to say we have a genetic condition, one we have no control over, than to say, "I (me) caught something on my own." I know I find the idea of a fat gene much more comforting than to have to admit to overeating French fries.

We seem to have become a nation which looks to others for the cause of our misfortunes. One only needs to look at the

soaring costs of malpractice insurance to realize this. To be sure neglect or incompetence is one thing, but human mistakes is another. Sometimes bad things happen and they cannot be helped. We cannot curb all things. And not always is there someone to blame. Life just happens.

Perhaps if we were able to admit our "humanness" without fear of reprisal we would be able to function more efficiently. Perhaps we would find fewer cheating episodes in our nation's most honored institutions. Fewer frivolous lawsuits i.e. "I spilled my hot coffee and it is McDonald's fault." Are we a nation determined to blame others rather than to step forward and admit our mistakes?

Not long ago we blamed the computer and now our parents, who will we blame next?

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Youngster truly fulfills meaning of commandment

To the Editor,
I would like to share an Easter story with you.

As a board member of CASA, I was at a farm outside Bloomington, Kan., the day before Easter serving in the lunch stand at a farm auction to raise money for the CASA organization. We were short handed and everyone was involved in preparing the food for the large crowd.

There were three young boys playing nearby, throwing rocks down a small hill. One of the adults discouraged this activity so they came inside, first throwing empty water bottles against the side of the metal building and having a boisterous time.

They soon moved on to scraping chairs across the floor and this too was discouraged. They informed us that they were bored and asked if they could work for us and make some money. We told them that we were volunteers and therefore it was

not our money to give. They accepted this and went back to their chairs.

Not wanting to discourage their entrepreneurship I went over and explained that the money we were making that day would go to help the often abused and neglected children that, through no fault of their own, were in the Court system. I told them that while they have good loving parents, some children were not so lucky.

They listened and said little. I encouraged them to go outside and approach some of the buyers and offer their help in loading their purchases if they wanted some spending money.

It was a hot and windy day with the temperature in the mid-80s. I looked outside and two of the boys were playing while the third one was in the back of a pickup loading some purchases for a gentleman.

He came in later, triumphant with a dollar in his hand. Thinking he wanted to

purchase a drink I asked him what he would like for his dollar. He replied that it was for the CASA kids and he put his money in the donation jar. He ran back outside and soon found more work. At the end of the afternoon as the sale was coming to an end, he returned, grimy and disheveled, with another five dollars and again added it to his first one. He had worked that long hot windy afternoon and gave all he earned to help someone else.

I was reminded of Jesus last words to his disciples after the Last Supper, "A new Commandment I give to you, love one another as I have loved you and care for one another as I have cared for you." This young man truly fulfilled the meaning of that commandment.

I wonder how many of us adults would have done as well. I know I am much richer for knowing that young man.

Elaine Mann
Norton