

Opinion

Two American officials discuss feelings on war

There are two people we would not have wanted to be 10 days ago: Gen. David Petraeus and Ambassador Ryan Crocker, the top American officials in Iraq.

Both appeared before Congressional committees to discuss the war and where they felt we were, both militarily and politically since the "surge" of a few months ago.

No matter their answer to the many questions — some hard questions, some questionable, others of the nit-picking variety — it had to be a challenge all its own to be sitting there knowing no matter what you say, you weren't saying the right thing.

While watching the drama unfold, we kept telling ourselves most of the people doing the questioning are the very same people who gave President Bush the green light to invade this country in the first place. No one twisted their arms.

But that was then, and this is now.

It does us no good to continue recalling the past while trying to deal with the present and plan for the future. We short-change ourselves when we adopt that posture.

This is war — WAR — not a political football to be kicked around. When that is allowed to happen, we are, in effect, kicking around our troops.

And when Senate and House members acted the way many of them did at the hearings, it smacked of them not fully understanding that the commander-in-chief and the generals plot, plan and carry out the fighting, Congress pays the bill.

We're all in this thing together and it will take all of us to bring it to an acceptable conclusion. And we need to hold our congressmen/women and senators' feet to the fire. This is not a Republican issue, or a Democrat issue. It is, instead, a United States of America issue. United we stand, divided....well,

you know how that goes.

Some folks' reasoning is we should be talking with our enemies, using a diplomatic approach to ease the tensions in that part of the world. While there is some truth to that, we first have to start talking — not shouting — to one another right here on the home front.

The appearance of Gen. Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker on Capitol Hill can't be fully assessed this early, regardless of what the talking heads on radio and television seem to think. But one gets a sense their testimony was an account of how they truly feel.

At one point, when Gen. Petraeus was asked if America is any safer with the plan now being employed in Iraq, he said he didn't know. Talk-show heads had a field day with that answer. Some senators at the hearing shook their heads. That's understandable, because he was telling the truth. And the "I" word isn't much in vogue these days back in Washington.

Politicians calling for a withdrawal of all troops now must be kin to the negative voices that told Orville and Wilbur Wright that the silly thing they invented would never fly.

In a similar way, we "invented" the conditions that today exist in Iraq. Quarterback Bush will, in the months to come, fade back, look at the receivers downfield, and toss the ball. Whoever catches it — Brownback, Giuliani, Huckabee, Hunter, McCain, Paul, Romney, Tancredo, Thompson, Biden, Clinton, Dodd, Edwards, Gravel, Kucinich, Obama, or Richardson — will have to run for the end zone.

We will then see if the recipient of the pass lives up to his/her tough talk. Or if it just turns out to be more political rhetoric.

— Tom Dreiling, *The Norton Telegram*



Casey's Comment

By Casey McCormick



scmcormick@nwkansas.com
About six months ago I was lying in a hospital bed with family members at my side. I had an acute case of pancreatitis and it was uncertain if my time on earth would continue or come to a close.

A half-a-year later it seems clear that the dear Lord was not ready for me. With a second chance at life being given, I'm trying to take time each day to appreciate this opportunity and see the beauty around me.

Last weekend Lezlie and two of our boys, Trey and Joey and I took

a drive into the Rocky Mountains with my younger brother, his girlfriend and their dog.

We drove up I-70 to Idaho Springs and got on Highway 103. The road was a paved, two lane that snaked up toward Mount Evans, passed by Echo Lake, crested at Squaw Pass and zig-zagged down to Bergen Park.

It was not a long drive, but the scenery was magnificent. Rugged outcroppings of gray stone shot up to the crystal blue sky, which was dotted with puffy white clouds.

Majestic pine trees softened the edges of the rocks as brilliant burst of aspen leaves came into view. As the breeze caught them, the gold and yellow shapes shimmered like ripples on water.

In my mind, the changing of the aspen in the mountains is much like a fireworks display held in place. The golden hues hang like explosions of color, if only for a few short days.

Hangin' With Marge

By Margaret Bucholtz



Tooth

This past year I have felt very good, physically, but other parts of my body are falling apart. I have battled with my eyes for quite awhile and now it is my teeth.

I was eating peas, not even frozen peas, the other day and I bit on something hard. I am sure you all know that thought, "What on earth

was canned in the peas."

Almost afraid to look I spit the hard thing out (I didn't want to take the chance of swallowing anything I couldn't recognize) and there it was — my tooth.

Because it was a crown I saved it and then called the dentist. When I got there he took one look and told

me they couldn't save it — it had to be dug out.

I asked if he could put me out and he told me "No, but I will deaden it."

I braced myself as he put the first needle in and then one in the roof of my mouth.

Actually it wasn't bad, but I really thought I would get some sympathy out of my husband. When I saw him coming down the road I laid on the couch thinking he might cook me some soup or at least give me some encouraging words.

He came in and asked me what happened with the tooth and I told him "Oh, it hurts to talk, but he pulled it." Then I added, "Now on that side of my mouth I have one tooth gone, one tooth in, and then another one gone. It is just every other tooth on that side."

He looked at me and said, "Well we will have to call you 'Marg O'lantern.' It will save us some money for decorations at Halloween."

The next morning I still felt rejected because the tooth fairy didn't visit me either. It's rough getting old.

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GOD SAYS

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

John 14:27

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Reader responds to letter about cops

To the editor:

The law enforcement of St. Francis is obviously doing a fantastic job if they are perceived as too many. There are TWO officers for St. Francis Police Department and the others are deputies for Cheyenne County Sheriff's Office.

With only two officers for the police department, that means only one of them is on duty at any given time. What happens when the one officer is ill and cannot come to work? If anything, we have skeleton coverage in St. Francis. It should be assumed that the county deputies could be anywhere in Cheyenne County and not close to St. Francis to assist. Law enforcement is a job that is never predictable - there are times of quiet (it was referred to by Mr. Befferman as "killing time, getting paid on our taxpayer's money) and there are times of craziness when multiple calls demand attention at once. Law enforcement officers are paid to be available at any time during their shift.

I work closely with the law enforcement in both the Sheriff's

Letter to the Editor

Office and the Police Department. The laws apply to all of us and no one should be exempt. The Police Officers and the Sheriff's Deputies deserve our support and not deri-

sion for doing their jobs. Count me as a grateful citizen that they are here to serve and protect.

Deborah Farland
St. Francis

News From the Past

10 years ago - 1997

When the Cheyenne Theater was renovated, the names of those making initial donations were to be put on a plaque which would be hung in the lobby. There were several projects which were not completed at that time but the committee feels now is the time to finish the plaque project. The funds raised from the musical "Hello Dolly;" will be used to finance the project.

An auction is set for the afternoon of Fall Festival on Sept. 27 and the proceeds will go to the Grandstand Fund.

The veterans have offered the

Vets Hall, located on Main Street, to the city of St. Francis.

Homecoming candidates include Bruce Barnhart, T.J. Burr, Nick Young, Justin McAtee, Kelley Faylor, Kaycee Frewen, Beth Renk, Erin Day, Trista Krieg and LeAnn Schielke. The crowning of the King and Queen has been changed to the afternoon pep assembly to be held at Greene Field.

The St. Francis Board of Education has voted to have three of the roofs on the high school repaired, including the high school gym, the boys basketball dressing room and the cafeteria kitchen.

Church of Christ
332-2380, Pars. 332-3424
502 W. Spencer
Norman Morrow - Minister
Bible Class 11 a.m.
Morning Worship 10 a.m.
Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.

United Methodist
Church Office 332-2292,
Church 332-2254,
512 S. Scott
Pastor Morita Truman
Early Bird Service 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.

Seventh-Day Adventist Church
332-2888 • 3rd & Adams
Pastor Mike Larson
Sabbath School 9:30
Morning Worship 10:45

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
625 S. River • 332-2680
Fr. Roger Meitl
Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m.
Weekday Mass 8 a.m.
Confessions Sat. 4-4:30

Salem Lutheran Church
332-3002
Pastor Chris Farmer
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.

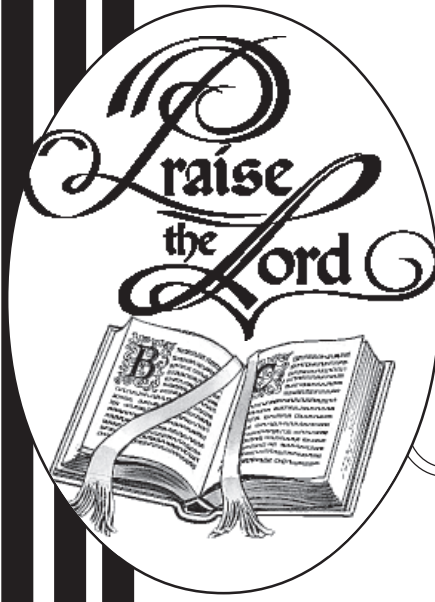
Solid Rock Baptist Church
412 S. Denison
Welcomes You!
Pastor Allen Coon
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30
Prayer Meeting, Wed
7:30 p.m.

First Christian Church
Pastor Jeff Landers
332-2956 • 118 E. Webster
Sunday School 9:20 a.m.
Church Service 10:30 a.m.
Wed. night Bible Study 7 p.m.

First Baptist Church
2nd & Scott • 332-3921
J.W. Glidewell, Pastor
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service 6:30 p.m.,
Wed. AWANA Club 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

St. Francis Community Church
332-3150
204 N. Quincy Street
www.stfccfamily.com
Pastor: David Butler
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Potluck & Communion -
Every 2nd Sunday
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

Peace Lutheran Church,
AFLC
202 N. College
Pastor Ken Hart
332-2928 Pars. 332-2312
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday eve Bible Study 7 p.m.



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