

Opinion



Guest Viewpoint

Don't mention global warming around Bush

George W is a global kind of guy — he's a big promoter of corporate globalization, and, of course, he's launched his unlimited global war on terrorism. But mention global warming to him, and he turns into a flat-earth parochialist, flailing his arms, getting all red-faced, and sputtering and spewing that global warming is a trick, not really happening, and if it is happening it's not the fault of big industry, and if it is their fault there's nothing we're gonna do about it, so go fly a kite, you environmental weenies!

Never mind that the vast majority of scientists agree that global warming is all too real of a threat, and that 72 percent of Americans think we need to take immediate steps to deal with this threat. That's a lot of weenies, George.

What counts for Bush, however, are not the millions of concerned Americans, but the millions of campaign dollars put in his pockets by the corporate polluters causing the warming — oil companies, electric utilities, automakers, and others.

In the last election, he was the number one recipient of their campaign cash and, in turn, he has put dozens of energy executives, lobbyists, and consultants in key positions to oversee energy policy.

How embarrassing, then, that the scientists in George's own Environmental Protection Agency issued a report concluding that (1) global warming is happening, (2) it's mostly caused by fossil fuel pollution, and (3) it will have disastrous global consequences if we don't act promptly to stop it. But rather than act — or even act embarrassed — Bush dismissed the scientific report with a wave of his hand, saying scornfully: "I read the report put out by the bureaucracy."

But, guess what? He never actually read it. His media flack later admitted this, curtly informing the media that, "Whenever presidents say they read it, you can read that to be he was briefed."

Oh, thank you. But in George's case, we know that we can read that to be that he was bought — no briefing necessary. — *by Jim Hightower, author and former agricultural commissioner for the state of Texas. He is also a talk-show host.*

About those letters . . .

The *Free Press* encourages and welcomes letters from readers. Letters should be typewritten, if at all possible, and should include a telephone number and an address. Most importantly, all letters must include a signature. Unsigned letters cannot be published. We reserve the right to edit for clarity and length, and, likewise, reserve the right to reject letters deemed to be of no public interest or considered offensive or libelous.

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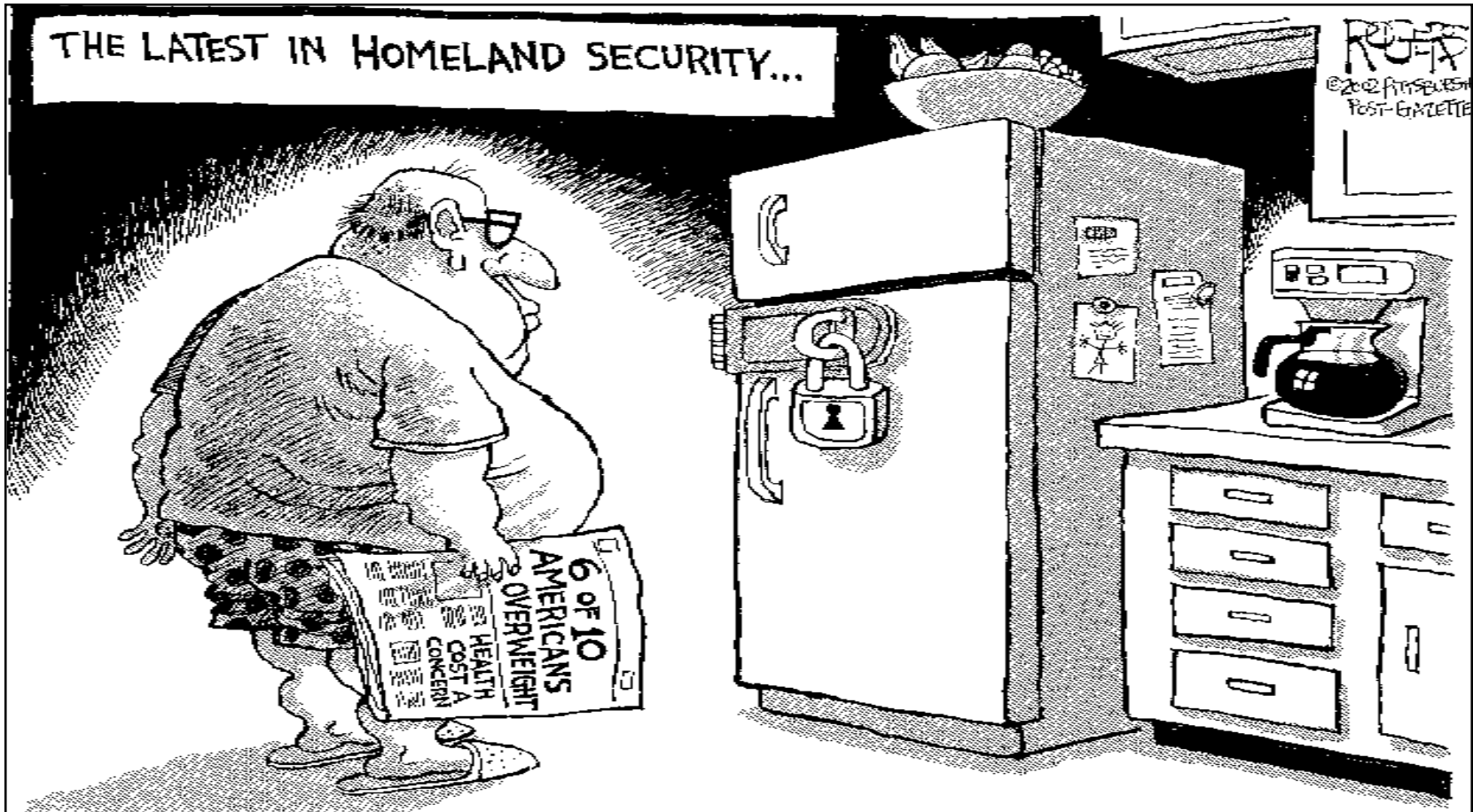
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October 21 is an important date

YOU know what happens at 5 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 21? Come on, put your thinker to thinking. Oct. 21.... 5 p.m.... Hmmm. It has something to do with Tuesday, Nov. 5. Does that help? Hmmm. Give up? At 5 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 21 the books will close for those needing to register to vote on Nov. 5. The registration books are at the office of Tracey Perkins, county clerk/election officer. By law, the books must close 14 days before an election and remain closed until the day after. When a voter has registered according to law, their registration continues to be valid until one of the following occurs:

- The voter changes name by marriage, divorce or legal proceedings.
- The voter changes residence.
- The voter's name has been purged according to law.

In order to vote you must be at least 18 years of age, or will have attained the age of 18 at the next election, and a citizen of the United States.

And of course you need to be registered.

If you have any questions, call the gang at the county clerk's office — 462-4500

Remember — the Sacred Heart Parish annual auction is Saturday at the Colby Community Building starting at 6 p.m. Tickets must be purchased in advance at the parish rectory or you can call 462-2179.

THOSE shootings in the Washington, D. C. area are scary, to say the least. I don't know if I'm buying into the theory of a single sniper. This is too organized to be the work of just one person. I just think, for some reason, that it smacks of a terrorist attack. If you recall, from the President on down, we've been warned that terrorism takes many forms. This sniper thing is one of those forms.

Investigators are distancing themselves from the terrorist theory, at least publicly. But it certainly must figure into the overall picture. It has all of us on the edge, much like the anthrax scare. And if you saw the hundreds upon hundreds of law enforcement people reacting to the latest fatal shooting in Falls Church, Va. Monday night, you know something is up.

Maybe this sniper thing is what the recent escalated warning was all about. I think our days of comfort are all over. We're engaged in war on our own soil by a thug or thugs we can't seem to find. And with the addition of Pentagon equipment — unusual in a manhunt for a sniper — this thing was taken on an even more urgent status. With reports now com-



Tom Dreiling

• My Turn

ing out of that area of the country of a decline of up to 60 percent in business, we are getting hit right in the old pocket book. And wasn't financial ruin the goal of the Sept. 11 attacks when the twin towers fell in the heart of the nation's financial community? Think!

Remember — the annual Hospice Auction is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 26 at the Comfort Inn Convention Center. Donations to the auction, as well as purchase of tickets, can be handled by calling 462-6710 or 1-800-315-5122.

IT WON'T be long, and...we'll be turning our clocks back ONE HOUR. Yep, we fall back to Central Standard Time from Central Daylight Savings Time on Sunday, Oct. 27 at 2 a.m. But for most of us that'll be something we'll take care of before going to bed on the night of Oct. 26.

This serves as a *timely* reminder.

I'VE been watching quite a few of the debates being telecast on C-Span. I'm kind of a nut when it comes to that kind of thing. Last night I watched the debate between the two Ohio gubernatorial candidates, followed by the New Mexico governor wannabes. The continuing lineup showed the Kansas gubernatorial debate would air a bit later on — like 2:05 this morning. No, I didn't stay up. And I don't know if there will be reruns.

But I seriously doubt there will be as C-Span said it is covering nearly 100 debates.

I WONDERED on Monday if maybe we missed something in our studies of the discovery of this country. Maybe Columbus really did only discover post offices and banks.

Be sure you have Nov. 5 highlighted on your calendar. That's election day. You'll want to participate.

HAPPY Birthday to...

Oct. 16 — John Galli, Wilma Pabst, Rachelle Smith, Kaylee Fast, Elizabeth Koel

Look again before voting for Sebelius

To the Free Press:

Oakley High School was the setting for an Oct. 7 presentation by the Nebraska Theater Caravan entitled, "And Then They Came for Me: Remembering the World of Anne Frank." This poignant play dramatized the Holocaust and the experiences of two survivors and a friend who did not survive, Anne Frank. The performance was riveting.

Equally riveting was the first (Dr.) Max Pickerill Lecture Series held Oct. 6, 2002 at Colby Community College. This event, sponsored by the Kansas League of Women Voters, hosted the four candidates for governor of Kansas. A debate format was selected to address questions from the audience. For the purpose of brevity, I will comment only on my impressions of the Republican and Democratic candidates.

Republican candidate Tim Shallenburger is a man with a proven legislative record. He answered the questions asked of him succinctly and definitively. His answers were identical to the facts of his legislative voting record. He did not pretend to have all the answers, but he did address the issues and answer them directly.

Likewise, Kathleen Sebelius has a proven record. She however, did not address the issues in the same manner as Mr. Shallenburger. She is an excellent communicator, striking and attractive. She has all the trappings of an excellent politician. Yet, my impression was that the issues were manipulated and not answered. Her liberal voting record needs to be recalled and reexamined.

Furthermore, Kathleen Sebelius has the total endorsement of George Tiller, Kansas' infamous abortionist and champion of "choice" via the American Holocaust. Tiller has committed \$200,000 to Sebelius' campaign through Pro Kan Do and is in the process of raising additional funds for her campaign coffers.

I can not help but reflect on the intrinsic parallels

Letter Drop

• Our Readers Sound Off

which I keep drawing between these two recent events in northwest Kansas. In the "debate," no issues regarding life or abortions were raised, although the issue was on the minds of many in attendance. After the concluding comments were offered, a stranger next to me leaned over and said, "I would like to know what each of them would do to protect the human rights of an unborn baby in its mother's womb." Indeed. That was my question as well.

Ms. Sebelius has been dandled with kid gloves when it comes to tough topics like abortion. She did not have to address the issue at Colby and abortion has not come up in many other places as well. When the issue is ignored, it becomes a non-issue.

Yet, there are many voters like myself who will not fall for Ms. Sebelius' slick packaging. We will not be duped by the Clintonesque rhetoric and the casual references to her father-in-law and mentor, Keith. There are many voters like myself who will identify with the unborn babies in the wombs of their mothers who are being destroyed daily as a result of the American Holocaust. These voters are outraged at the source of much of Sebelius' campaign funding and our outrage will be reflected in our votes on Nov. 5.

The vote I cast will be a vote to support life and to keep a pro-abortion woman from running our state. The people of Germany were scandalized and shocked when they realized the grizzly reality of the Nazi Holocaust. The people of Kansas need to con-

Oct. 17 — Duane Wright, Julie Szoka, Ashley Allen, Justin Sloan, Mary Moore, Becky Werth
HAPPY Belated Birthday to...

Oct. 14 — Lloyd Wilson

HAPPY Anniversary to...

Oct. 16 — Bruce & Leatte Bandy

Oct. 17 — Jack & Berniece Luker

Congratulations!

Call us at 462-3963 or email td@nwkansans.com

to have your special day mentioned. And please keep us informed of any changes in any listing. Thanks for your help!

ARE you the "Weakest Link?" Following are 4 questions. You have to answer them instantly. You can't take your time to ponder. You must answer each of them immediately.

Ready? Let's find out just how clever you really are.

• First Question: You are participating in a race. You overtake the second person. In what position are you?

Answer: If you answer that you are first, then you are absolutely wrong! If you overtake the second person, you take his place, so you are second!

• Second Question: If you overtake the last person, then you are...?

Answer: If you answered that you are second to last, then you are wrong again. How is it possible to overtake the LAST person in any race? Think about it!

(You're not very good at this are you?)

• Third Question: This is a very tricky math question. Note: This must be done in your head only. Do NOT use paper and pencil or a calculator. Ready?

Take 1,000 and add 40 to it. Now add another 1,000. Now add 30. Add another 1,000. Now add 20. Now add another 1,000. Now add 10. What's the total?

Did you get 5,000? The correct answer is actually 4,100.

Don't believe it? Check with your calculator!

Maybe you will get the last question right:

• Mary's father has five daughters: 1. Nana, 2. Nene, 3. Nini, 4. Nono. What is the name of the fifth daughter?

Answer: Nunu? Of course not.. Her name is Mary. Read the question again.

HAVE a good evening!

Dreiling is publisher of the Free Press. His column appears Wednesdays and Fridays.

template the equally grizzly American Holocaust and vote for a candidate who values human life. Vote for Tim Shallenburger.

Yours most sincerely,

Alberta M. Stephens
Grinnell
 (Letter #153)

Governor puts our safety in jeopardy

To the Free Press:

Safety should be a primary focus in our great state of Kansas, especially after Sept. 11, but I feel the governor's last spending cut has put our public safety in serious jeopardy.

This latest budget slash has canceled the Kansas Highway Patrol's most recent recruit class, as well as those scheduled until 2004. This means no new recruits will be ready to rebuild this much needed law enforcement agency any time soon.

The Kansas Highway Patrol is already 100 troopers short of legislative staffing recommendations. I'm troubled by the fact that, during the next three years, the KHP could dwindle to 60 percent of the recommended force as 105 troopers become eligible for retirement. Without building a greater force, who will help protect and serve us in the future?

As a newspaper, I hope you address this issue to keep the public informed as to what is happening with our statewide patrol force. As a citizen, I hope you let the candidates and legislature know that these cuts are not acceptable to the people of Kansas.

Best regards,

Marilyn Goodheart
Hays
 (formerly of Colby)
 (Letter #154)