

Opinion

A Kansas Viewpoint



You give a little, they give a lot

From The Garden City Telegram
 The Kansas Legislature will consider at least one proposal that shouldn't generate much debate.
 In her State of the State address ... Gov. Kathleen Sebelius pitched a voluntary checkoff on state income tax forms for Kansans to donate money to military families.
 The proposed checkoff would be a simple solution for those who want to support Kansas military families, but aren't sure how to do so. The plan should be approved in short order, as Republicans and Democrats alike have expressed interest.
 Such bipartisan support of an idea for financial assistance that won't dip into state coffers is no surprise. The only question is why it wasn't proposed sooner, as comparable military family checkoffs exist in many states ...
 The proposed military family checkoff, while welcome, shouldn't absolve the state of its responsibility to find other ways to help military families. Approval last year of parts of a Kansas Military Bill of Rights that included tuition, insurance and tax breaks for military families was a good start.
 Kansans interested in helping also shouldn't overlook gifts of time: from gestures as simple as mowing the lawn or running errands for families impacted by deployments.
 Offering aid — financial or otherwise — sends a message of appreciation for the sacrifices of troops and their families.
 A real no-brainer, as some would say.

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.

Comments to any opinions expressed on this page are encouraged. Mail them to the Colby Free Press, 155 W. 5th St., Colby, Kan., 67701. Or e-mail jvannostrand@nwkansas.com or pdecker@nwkansas.com.

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 - U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran**, 2443 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. 202/225-2715 or Fax 202/225-5124
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Going by the book

Have you ever said, "If I knew then what I know now?" Well, I've said it way too many times to count and I'm working hard to saying it less.

I'm going way out on a limb this week telling you about a book I recently read. The book addresses an issue some married gals don't want to hear about — being submissive.

Now, before you throw the paper across the room, hear me out.

Don't think I don't love my husband with a passion, but if I knew then what I know now my two children would not be the product of a broken first marriage. Chalk it up to ignorance or immaturity, but when you know better you do better. And Debi Pearl's book "Created to be his Help Meet" gives ladies an opportunity to do better.

While I can not begin to touch the subject in depth in the confines of this column, suffice it to say if you want to know more about the subject read the book. While I don't agree with everything Pearl says, if I knew then (1974) what I know now (2006) I would have applied information outlined in the book to my first marriage.

Pearl says what most of us already know - man was created before woman. No surprise here. But she also says women were created for men — "And the Lord God said, it is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him." Gen. 2:18.

Sadly, the 1960s sexual revolution began a downward spiral that has ruined many marriages, including my first. Having now learned how to be submissive to my husband, I'm enjoying the



Jan Katz Ackerman
 • From Where I stand

shade of the umbrella he provides.

The sexual revolution led women to believe they are equal to men. Sorry gals, God didn't plan it that way. Oh yes, many, if not all women, can do many of the same jobs as men, but that isn't the point. Yes, I'm a working woman, and while I love what I do, circumstances beyond my husband and my control necessitate me working.

But I can speak about this subject firsthand because I'm the product of a home where my mom worked. Had mom not worked, she could have more easily fought the faulty notion to raise daughters who could compete with men. Speaking as a woman in a predominately male career field, I have seen the devastation the mindset causes in the workplace. The trend to compete in the workplace has deteriorated God's plan for women, again, to be helpers to husbands.

Not that all women marry, but those who do often take society's road versus heaven's road. I believe, just as it was intended, that women are to be helpers to their husbands, not equal to or above them.

The sexual revolution has nurtured the faulty idea that it's OK for single women to get pregnant and raise babies on their own. It's caused married men to stray when their wives have looked for sources outside the home to satisfy them. I think the notion of a unisex society is doing grave harm to marriages and families.

After reading Pearl's book, if there is one thing I could teach women I'd teach them exactly what Pearl says — put your husband first and rest under his wings.

"We need to lay aside activities outside the home that push us and the kids to the edge of exhaustion and confusion," Pearl says.

She continues, "Many husbands and wives are running circles around each other, seldom meeting in the middle. We are so busy driving the kids to this class or that event that we lose sight of being heirs (of heaven) together. Even church activities rob us from God's plan for us as a couple. Get off the phone, lay down romance novels, turn off the TV, stay off the web, reduce outside visits or women's classes, and focus on putting your time into what your husband is doing and what your children need."

Understandably no woman with young children chooses to be a widow and end up raising children alone, but no woman has to put herself in that place.

It all comes down to figuring out how life is planned to work and making it happen. Anyone who is confused about the subject can find the plan in the Good Book or in "Created to be his Help Meet."

Check it out.

More Iraq lies

By Chris Shubert
 One of my favorite Web sites is www.truthorfiction.com. Any time I get an e-mail that tells me of untold riches squirreled away in an African trust fund, or a rebate check from Bill Gates, or an embarrassing or pithy quote from some celebrity, I always go and check it out on Truth or Fiction. This valuable Web site has saved me untold embarrassment, preventing me from forwarding false information to my friends.

I found an article on Truth or Fiction which contains a fascinating list of whoppers told to the American people about the war in Iraq. For example, one high-level politician said, "Without question, we need to disarm Saddam Hussein... the threat of Saddam Hussein with weapons of mass destruction is real..." A second politician said, "We know that he has stored secret supplies of biological and chemical weapons throughout his country..." A third said, "We have known for many years that Saddam Hussein is seeking and developing weapons of mass destruction."

A fourth politician — very high up — made the following remarks: "In the four years since the inspectors left, intelligence reports show that Saddam Hussein has worked to rebuild his chemical and biological weapons stock, his missile delivery capability, and his nuclear program. He has also given aid, comfort, and sanctuary to terrorists, including al Qaeda members. It is clear, however, that if left unchecked, Saddam Hussein will continue to increase his capacity to

wage biological and chemical warfare, and will keep trying to develop nuclear weapons."

Everyone now knows that none of these statements was true. And a sizable number of activists want to remove from office anyone who made statements like these to justify the Iraq war. Indeed, in some quarters, there is a sense of anger and a posture of righteous indignation against those responsible for statements like these: justifications of the Iraq war, now proven to be fiction.

What makes the above statements so interesting to me is that they were all made by high-ranking Democrats in the run-up to the invasion of Iraq. The first politician quoted above is Senator John Kerry, the second is past Vice President Al Gore, the third is Senator Ted Kennedy, and the fourth is Hillary Clinton.

I hope that those who are calling President Bush a "liar" and seeking his ouster because he justified the Iraq war based on false information are also intending to sweep away every Democrat who "lied" similarly.

Perhaps it would be better to take an honesty pill and just accept that we were all wrong about Iraq's military capability. No one could possibly be blamed for believing that Saddam Hussein was heavily armed with illicit weapons. He was, as John Kerry said, "a brutal, murderous dictator". And at one time, he certainly had, and used, weapons of mass destruction: He used chemical weapons in an attempted genocide against the Kurdish people of northern Iraq. So

it would not have surprised anyone to find massive stockpiles of illegal weapons in Iraq after the Fall of Baghdad. The surprise was that they weren't found.

President Bush has been quite candid and forthright about the absence of WMDs in Iraq. He has publicly admitted that none have been found. He has not trumped up a case, and he has not avoided the issue. I wish that other politicians would follow his lead and admit that the reasons they gave for going to war in Iraq have proved not to be valid. That would be a refreshing dose of honesty.

Instead, we have a number of politicians who seem to be gambling on our ignorance or our short memories in order to strike a pose, and to take political advantage of a situation which they helped create.

I also wish that the media faction which is aiding these poseurs would be consistent, and would savage Democrats as thoroughly as they are attempting to savage Republicans over this. Or just shut up about the whole thing.

Most of all, I wish that people would stop playing politics over Iraq and instead throw their energies and efforts into supporting the Iraqi people as they endeavor to build a democratic state on the ruins of an evil dictatorship. Why not pray for Iraq instead of complaining about it? A new day has dawned in Iraq, and whether it is to be a day of hope or of horror rests, in part, on the good will of the American people. Let's not blow it for them by playing politics.

Doonesbury

• Gary Trudeau

