

# Opinion

## Kansas Viewpoint



### Iraq's reconstruction is more bad news

**By Jim Hightower**  
President George W. Bush keeps whining about it. "Buckshot" Cheney keeps growling about it. The "it" is the dastardly media's scurrilous failure to report what these war protagonists see as their glorious "successes" in Iraq. Yes, there's violence, they say, but what about all the good we're doing by building hospitals, schools, and such?

This "Good News" viewpoint was recently expressed by the brigadier general in charge of the Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq: "What you don't see (in the news coverage)," he barked, "are the successes in the reconstruction program... making a difference in the lives of everyday Iraqi people." He implored the media to look beyond the bombings and cover these successes.

Unfortunately, for him, he got his wish. A new report by a federal oversight agency - the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction - examined eight projects that the United States has officially declared successful. The agency found that seven of them no longer function properly, due to such factors as poor initial construction, lack of any maintenance, and simple neglect.

One of the projects - building an expensive incinerator for medical waste in a Northern Iraq maternity hospital - had been the subject of a gushing news release by the Army Corps just last year. "This incinerator will "keep medical waste from entering into the... water systems," the release enthused.

Great! But when the inspectors went to witness this achievement, the incinerator was padlocked and no one could even find the key. Apparently, no one had bothered to train the medical personnel on how to use the machine. The inspectors also found that medical waste was clogging the sewage system and likely was contaminating the area's water supply. At a time when American hospitals, schools, and other facilities desperately need repairs and upgrades, it's a crime that our officials are wasting billions of dollars on bungled Iraq reconstruction projects.

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*Jim Hightower is an award winning journalist and author. He can be reached at: www.jimhightower.com His editorials are distributed by MinutemanMedia - E-mail address: www.minutemanmedia.org*

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**John Van Nostrand - Publisher**

[jvannostrand@nwkans.com](mailto:jvannostrand@nwkans.com)

#### NEWS

**Patty Decker - Editor**

[pdecker@nwkans.com](mailto:pdecker@nwkans.com)

**Tisha Cox - General Assignment**

[tcoc@nwkans.com](mailto:tcoc@nwkans.com)

**Jan Katz Ackerman, Area Reporter**

[ackermanjk@ruraltel.net](mailto:ackermanjk@ruraltel.net)

#### ADVERTISING

**Crystal Rucker - Advertising Sales/Director**

[crystalr@nwkans.com](mailto:crystalr@nwkans.com)

**Kristi Powell - Advertising Sales**

[kpowell@nwkans.com](mailto:kpowell@nwkans.com)

**Emily Wederski - Advertising Sales**

[ewederski@nwkans.com](mailto:ewederski@nwkans.com)

#### BUSINESS OFFICE

**Jeanette Applegate - Bookkeeping, Ad Building**

[japplegate@nwkans.com](mailto:japplegate@nwkans.com)

**Everett Robert - Circulation, Classifieds**

[erobert@nwkans.com](mailto:erobert@nwkans.com)

**Evan Barnum - Systems Administrator**

[support@nwkans.com](mailto:support@nwkans.com)

#### NOR'WEST PRESS

**Jim Bowker - General Manager**

Richard Westfahl, Lana Westfahl, Judy McKnight, Jim Jackson, DeLisa Allen, David Erickson, Betty Morris, and Dana Huthansel

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## Do you know what orthography means?

Most area schools have already dismissed students for summer vacation or will be today and I'll bet that probably the last thing on their mind is taking another test before next fall.

Still, I can't resist contributing something that was specific to eighth graders back in 1895 and challenge students entering high school and the rest of us to see how well we can do answering the following questions.

The first time I saw this particular test was when Joan Albers, now retired from teaching, showed it to me many years ago. Then last week, the test resurfaced.

According to sources, this final exam was given to Salina students and later reprinted in the Salina Journal.

Most of us believe we could probably hold our own on a test that was geared to middle school students more than 100 years ago — so let's give it a try. By the way, calculators were not available in 1895.

#### Grammar

The first section was on grammar and students were given one hour to complete the test.

1. Give nine rules for the use of capital letters.
2. Name the parts of speech and define those that have no modifications.
3. Define verse, stanza and paragraph
4. What are the principal parts of a verb? Give principal parts of "lie," "play," and "run."
5. Define case; Illustrate each case.
6. What is punctuation? Give rules for principal marks of punctuation.
- 7-10. Write a composition of about 150 words and show therein that you understand the practical use of the rules of grammar.

#### Arithmetic

The next portion was in arithmetic and students had one hour and 25 minutes to complete their answers.

1. Name and define the Fundamental Rules of Arithmetic.
2. A wagon box is 2 feet deep, 10 feet long, and 3 feet wide. How many bushels of wheat will it hold?
3. If a load of wheat weighs 3942 lbs., what is it worth at 50¢ per bushel, deducting 1050 lbs. for tare?
4. District No 33 has a valuation of \$35,000. What is the necessary levy to carry on a school seven months at \$50 per month, and have \$104 for incidentals?
5. Find the cost of 6720 lbs. coal at \$6 per ton.
6. Find the interest of \$512.60 for eight months and 18 days at 7 percent.
7. What is the cost of 40 boards 12 inches wide and 16 feet. long at \$20 per meter?



**Patty Decker**

#### • Deep Thoughts

8. Find bank discount on \$300 for 90 days (no grace) at 10 percent.
9. What is the cost of a square farm at \$15 per acre, the distance of which is 640 rods?
10. Write a bank check, a promissory note, and a receipt.

#### U.S. History

Students had 45 minutes to complete the U.S. History section of the test.

1. Give the epochs into which U.S. History is divided.
2. Give an account of the discovery of America by Columbus.
3. Relate the causes and results of the Revolutionary War.
4. Show the territorial growth of the United States.
5. Tell what you can of the history of Kansas.
6. Describe three of the most prominent battles of the Rebellion.
7. Who were the following: Morse, Whitney, Fulton, Bell, Lincoln, Penn, and Howe?
8. Name events connected with the following dates: 1607, 1620, 1800, 1849, 1865.

#### Orthography

I love this one. Students had one hour to answer orthography questions. For those who have to look it up, let me save you the trouble since I did. Orthography deals with the styles and methods of spelling.

1. What is meant by the following: Alphabet, phonetic, orthography, etymology, syllabication?
2. What are elementary sounds? How are they classified?
3. What are the following, and give examples of each: Trigraph, subvocals, diphthong, cognate letters, linguals
4. Give four substitutes for caret 'u.'
5. Give two rules for spelling words with final 'e.' Name two exceptions under each rule.
6. Give two uses of silent letters in spelling. Illustrate each.
7. Define the following prefixes and use in connection with a word: bi, dis, mis, pre, semi, post, non, inter, mono, sup.
8. Mark diacritically and divide into syllables

the following, and name the sign that indicates the sound: card, ball, mercy, sir, odd, cell, rise, blood, fare, last.

9. Use the following correctly in sentences: cite, site, sight, fane, fain, feign, vane, vain, vein, raze, raise, rays.

10. Write 10 words frequently mispronounced and indicate pronunciation by use of diacritical marks and by syllabication.

#### Geography

Students had one hour to complete the final section of this five-hour test.

1. What is climate? Upon what does climate depend?
2. How do you account for the extremes of climate in Kansas?
3. Of what use are rivers? Of what use is the ocean?
4. Describe the mountains of North America.
5. Name and describe the following: Monrovia, Odessa, Denver, Manitoba, Hecla, Yukon, St. Helena, Juan Fernandez, Aspinwall and Orinoco.
6. Name and locate the principal trade centers of the U.S.
7. Name all the republics of Europe and give the capital of each.
8. Why is the Atlantic Coast colder than the Pacific in the same latitude?
9. Describe the process by which the water of the ocean returns to the sources of rivers.
10. Describe the movements of the earth. Give the inclination of the earth.

So how did you do? What I found curious about the overall test was how much a student was expected to know about the adult world. For example, writing a promissory note or a check, the questions directed to future farmers of the time, the importance of grammar, etc.

Maybe I am looking to deeply into this test, but I am a firm believer that history does repeat itself and reviewing the past is an excellent way to help ourselves avoid future mistakes.

George Santayana, an American author of the late 19th and early 20th centuries wrote: Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.

The next time you get a chance, pick up an old history book and read it. It's amazing how so many facts can be applied to today's circumstances.

To all our young people, have a great summer vacation and while having a fun time relaxing, consider enjoying a few good books as well.

*Decker is editor of the Free Press. Her column appears on Fridays.*

## Your turn

### When will the hatred stop?

**Cheryl Cox Colby**

When will it quit?

This town is tired of a select few attempting to dictate to the rest of us which healthcare provider we use. How many times do we have to repeat this? Once again, Dr. Hildyard and we, his patients, are paying the price for their vindictiveness.

Blue Cross-Blue Shield of Kansas has informed Dr. Hildyard that he is now a non-contracting provider, after over 30 years of being a contracting provider.

What does this mean for his Blue Cross-Blue Shield patients? Colby Medical and Surgical Center will file the necessary insurance paper work for Dr. Hildyard's Blue Cross-Blue Shield patients. The patients will receive the insurance money and an explanation of benefits from Blue

Cross-Blue Shield, and will then have to take a check and the explanation of benefits to CMSC so that the appropriate write off can be made to the patient's bill in order for the patient to not be charged for amounts in excess of the insurance coverage.

More time and effort for the patient, more time and effort for CMSC, longer turn around time for receivables for CMSC. Patients will not be allowed by Blue Cross-Blue Shield to even request that their payments be sent directly to their provider.

I challenge the community to call Blue Cross-Blue Shield and ask why we are being denied a service for which we pay dearly.

Contact one or all of the following:

- Fred Boston, Director of Professional Relations at 1-800-432-0216
- Blue Cross-Blue Shield at 1-800-432-3990

- Blue Cross-Blue Shield at 1-800-430-1270 (Hearing Impaired)

- S. Graham Bailey, vice president, Corporate Communications and Public Relations at 785-291-8846, 785-841-1576

- Mary Beth Chambers, Manager, Corporate Communications at 785-291-8869, 785-354-1722

- Sandy Praeger, Insurance Commissioner at 1-800-432-2484, e-mail: [commissioner@ksinsurance.org](mailto:commissioner@ksinsurance.org)

I would really like an explanation of why, after 30 years, Blue Cross-Blue Shield is denying contract provider status to Dr. Hildyard. So who has been working behind the scenes to convince Blue Cross to change their coverage? The Kansas State Board of Healing Arts has changed their minds, what will it take to get Blue Cross on track again?

### Mallard Fillmore

• Bruce Tinsley

