

Opinion



A Kansas Viewpoint

Help from home

From The Salina Journal

The phrase "home for the holidays" has special meaning for soldiers, who all too often are denied that opportunity. In the military, duty trumps self.

But 430 soldiers of the Kansas National Guard have found a charmed path as they prepare to deploy to Iraq.

They spent several weeks in Salina this fall as the first to benefit from a new policy requiring that Guard soldiers be trained close to home. That meant they were within driving distance of Thanksgiving dinners served by their families, many of them in south-central Kansas.

And even though they're in Texas now for final preparations, they'll be home for Christmas, too, thanks to the generosity of Kansans.

In less than a week, Kansans donated some \$146,000 to pay the cost of chartering buses to bring the soldiers of the 161st Field Artillery home from Fort Bliss, near El Paso, on Dec. 23. They'll return to Texas Jan. 2.

The opportunity to spend the holidays with family is especially heart-tugging because these soldiers have given much in the past year.

Many had been home from Iraq for only 60 days when they were assigned to return — even though Pentagon guidelines say units are to have at least one year's notice.

Others in the unit spent time in the past year helping Greensburg recover from tornado damage and Coffeyville residents deal with flooding.

There was some comfort when they became the first Guard troops to test the military's new 12 Plus 1 program, which requires them to receive part of their training for deployment in their home state. ...

They would have spent Christmas in Texas had not it been for the Kansas fundraiser. Federal rules bar the Kansas National Guard from using its money to bring the soldiers home for the holiday because they are on active federal duty.

A plea went out for donations to pay transportation costs of about \$50,000. ...

Among the contributors were big corporations and families who could put \$10 in an envelope only with some sacrifice.

Such generosity means Christmas will be special for our soldiers.

And we can share in their joy by knowing that the spirit of Christmas is in good hands in Kansas.

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U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback, 303 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. 202/224-6521

U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran, 2202 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. 202/225-2715 or Fax 202/225-5124

State Rep. Jim Morrison, State Capitol Building, 300 SW 10th St. Rm. 143-N, Topeka, Kan. 66612. 785/296-7676 e-mail: jmorriso@ink.org web: www.morrisonfamily.com

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Sweet dreams

I was reading the Farmer's Almanac and ran across an article featuring advertisements from past publications.

The information dated back more than 100 years and supposedly all the ads were true. I enjoy reading about how much items cost way back when or what remedies were out there for just about everything.

For example, in 1889 the proper way to make butter was by wrapping cream in a napkin or clean cloth and burying it a foot or so deep in the earth for 12 to 24 hours.

Another good one was published in 1964. It was about a Chrysler Bell Victory Siren, which had noise equal to 4,000 million ordinary men.

What's funny about the siren ad is the "ordinary men," but I would also like to know how they came up with the 4,000 million.

Of course, one thing led to another and soon I was reading about dream interpretations.

It's amazing to me the kinds of things people dream about. I must not be "normal" when it comes to that.

For instance, in this one publication, it said if I dream about acorns then pleasant things will happen. Maybe if I were a squirrel, that would be a good dream.

Another nut mentioned was almonds and if I dreamt about them I would have temporary sorrow. I wonder what the difference is between almonds and acorns?

Candles were also mentioned, but the detail is what got me to thinking I must not recall my dreams as much as I thought.

It seems if someone dreams about candles burning with a clear and steady flame, it denotes the constancy of those around you and a well-ground fortune.

Cats were also among the dream animals and being that I have two kitties at home I was interested in how my little furry buddies would



Patty Decker

• Deep Thoughts

be interpreted.

When dreaming of cats, an unknown author wrote, it's generally an unfortunate omen and shows treachery as well as a run of bad luck.

If people dream of cats attacking them, it represents our enemies — but — if in the dream we succeed in banishing them, we will overcome great obstacles and rise in fortune and fame.

Good grief — thank goodness I just have cats and don't dream about them.

As I read through the items on the dream interpretation list, I started thinking about what dreams I have had recently.

The only one that came to mind dealt with being unable to move and hearing noises in the house. When I looked for an interpretation, I couldn't find anything that fit close enough to that experience. I think the reason I dreamt about not being able to move was because I was in a mechanical traction machine not too long ago, and it must have been more traumatic than I thought.

Fortunately, my physical therapist felt sorry for me and hasn't put me in one since then.

It continues to baffle me, though, as I read about specific items in dreams.

Here's just a couple others. Gloves. If we dream about gloves it means a lawsuit or business troubles, but that it will be settled in a manner that is satisfactory.

Should someone find a pair of gloves in their

dreams, it means a marriage or new love affair is in a person's future.

Dreaming about your hairdresser. That's another weird interpretation. Apparently, if I dream about the person who cuts my hair, it means she will soon be entangled in some family scandal concerning the morals of a member of her family.

I will try to avoid dreaming about any hairdressers. In that general subject matter, dreaming about hair means the dreamer is careless in their personal affairs and will lose advancement by neglecting mental application. Not even sure how to comprehend that interpretation.

Maybe I need to end this dream stuff on a positive note, which means I don't want to dream about raccoons, snakes, or tattoos (those are all bad luck of some kind).

When I was a young girl, maybe around 5 years old, I had lots of dreams about spiders. It seemed like every time I went to sleep, I would wake up scared because I thought there were all these spiders looking at me.

My mother told me it was because the wallpaper had small starburst-type designs — but as a little kid — I was sure those star bursts turned into spiders at night.

Anyway, turns out, dreaming about spiders (except tarantulas) are omens of good luck. The larger the spider, the bigger the rewards. Most of my spiders were little.

Staying with spiders, if you dream of a spider climbing the wall, you will have your dearest wish come true and if you see spiders spinning a web, there will be an increase in salary due to hard work. Bring those spiders back into my dreams now — the bigger the better.

Sweet dreams. ***

Patty Decker is editor of the Free Press. Her column appears on Mondays.

What about Mike?



Jay Kelley

• Speaking MyMind

no trust; and without trust there is no competent policy.

However, unless one understands that not everyone thinks like that and that there are people in this world whose greatest desire is the failure of America economically, militarily and socially and that some of those people are elected officials living in Washington, D.C. one is doomed to failure.

It may be that those in Washington are the worst. One friend who worked as a lobbyist for some time told me that if you wanted a friend in Washington, "you should buy a dog."

Governors have historically struggled with this truth. They are used to dealing with state legislatures where everyone may not be friends, but they are at least fellow citizens with a shared desire for the success of their state.

Of course, there are some in state government who are equally ruthless. The level of cutthroat behavior depends on the size of the state, but excepting a few larger states, it just isn't the

Many of the liberal media seem to be having trouble understanding Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee's stand on Christianity and morality. They seem to think his evangelical stand will cost him the polls.

Indeed, should he lose the Republican nomination or perhaps the general election many of them will no doubt declare with the wisdom of the ignorant that he was just too far to the right religiously for mainstream America.

Huckabee's beliefs may cost him the nomination; that remains to be seen. If they do, however, it will be at least in part due to the ignorance of the mainstream media who cannot seem to ask the governor a decent foreign policy question.

Huckabee seems to be consistent in his beliefs with whatever changes there are giving the impression of the evolution of thought considered in any thinking student of scripture. Of course, that may be part of the problem.

Most reporters have had a liberal arts degree inflicted on them, which is to say they wouldn't recognize the Bible two out of three times.

The real questions for Huckabee have to do with foreign and national policy. It won't be his religious beliefs that get him in trouble ^ it will be his competence.

Don't get me wrong, we need people of integrity and Christian principles in positions of leadership. In fact, without Christian principles, there is no integrity; without integrity there is

same.

Jimmy Carter trusted the Russians (remember, two of our biggest spy scandals happened on his watch); Bill Clinton trusted Yasser Arafat, who played him for a fool at Camp David; and George Bush trusted Congress to stick with him when times got tough.

The last governor to actually understand how things worked in Washington and in the world was Ronald Reagan and I fear we won't see another like him for some time.

He had the integrity with the intelligence and the ability to seem more harmless than he really was. Come to think of it, we had to learn that about him after he was in office. The press was too enamored with his age and affability to concern themselves with real questions and Carter was certainly no match for him in the debates.

In Huckabee's case, there are other men with proven integrity and the experience to lead the nation in such a time as this in the race. I continue to support John McCain, but he can't seem to buy a break from the press.

Oh, they called him a maverick when he said things with which they agreed, but once he differed, they fell of the bandwagon pretty quick.

Integrity is important. Huckabee has that. ***

Jay Kelley is a former Colby resident and a conservative who speaks his mind from time to time. His e-mail is jaykelley5@yahoo.com.

Mallard Fillmore

• Bruce Tinsley

