

commentary

from our viewpoint...

Don't count him out; Bush deserves respect

Report from Washington:
Anyone who thinks the new president isn't capable of selling his program is underestimating the man. After listening to him define his position last week in Washington, we came away with a growing respect for the new administration.

It's common to underestimate George W. Bush. He likes to tell about his first race for Congress, when he "came in second in a two-man race." He's come a ways since the 1970s, when he was pounding the pavement in dusty west Texas towns.

In Washington, he intends to see his programs in place and his people running the government.

The columnists and cartoonists make much of Bush's way of speaking, but in person (and talking from notes), he comes across as pretty effective.

Speaking to publishers at a National Newspaper Association meeting last week, the president talked about his first race and then went on with what might be a typical Bushism: He's working closely friends in Congress, he said, "to try to get some legislation through the legislative process."

Then he came straight to the point, defining the debate on Capitol Hill: He wants to limit the expansion of federal spending, which jumped from around 4 percent in recent years to 8 percent last year. And he wants to give a lot of the tax money rolling into Washington back to taxpayers before someone spends it.

Republican and Democratic spokesmen had defined the battleground earlier in the day: The Republicans are proposing to increase federal spending by about \$200 billion over the next 10 years and cut taxes by \$1.6 trillion. Democrats want to see \$900 billion in tax cuts and \$900 billion in new spending.

"All the talk about the surplus as the government's money misses the point," the president said. "Those who say the surplus is the government's money forget where it comes from. And one of the things I'm not going to forget is where it comes from."

It comes down to, "who do you trust to spend the money," Mr. Bush says, the people or the government?

"We've got pretty good cash flow coming into the treasury," he said. "In spite of the economy slowing down in the first four months of the year, the cash flow was \$40 billion more than anticipated — \$40 billion. It sounds like to me, somebody is getting overcharged. And I'm asking Congress for the refund for the people."

"And that's what the debate is."

We couldn't have said it any better. — *Steve Haynes*

where to write

U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts, 302 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. 20510. (202) 224-4774

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

U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran, 1217 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 225-2715

State Rep. Jim Morrison, State Capitol Building Rm. 174-W, Topeka, KS 66612. (785) 296-7676

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Ha Ha Ha! Snow White's sinister side

I dislike virus alerts because I find many times they draw more attention than the real item. However, with the latest round of the "Snow White" virus freshly dumped out of my computer, I am on a war path.

It seems there is a virus generator in our world which keeps bringing this particular virus around on a seemingly clockwork basis.

If you haven't seen the Ha Ha Ha message in your e-mail in the past eight months count yourself very lucky. With the appearance of one Monday evening in my In box, and a second about five hours later, I believe I have seen it over a dozen times in the past few months.

What is sinister about this seemingly naughty joke about Snow White is that the attachment which is the bait to get you to open to learn the adult version of what happened between Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs actually activates a worm type virus which then slowly removes many of your files. The attachment has two varieties, and the ones received Monday each had a different attachment. The first was called "midgets.scr" and upon being opened would begin a program to infect most any computer. Another version comes with a "dwarf4you.exe" attachment, and a third one I received Tuesday had a "joke.exe" attachment. Another computer in our office received one Tuesday with "sexy virgin.scr" as the attachment. The ".exe" extension denotes it is an executable program which is specifically designed to work on "Windows" operating systems and other personal computers with similar DOS-based operating systems.



tom betz

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The messages are all the same and have the same spelling mistakes in "Snowwhite," "mornign," "promissed" and "Suddenly." Also the messages all say they came from hahaha@sexyfun.net.

The upsetting thing about receiving the virus is that from the Internet Service Provider point of view we are having a dickens of a time finding a way to block the transmission of this and other spurious messages through our e-mail server.

Every time we see these messages come in or are alerted by one of our customers we attempt to identify the originating address and trace it back to the author. In most cases it has been a dead end, and we are left without any satisfactory answers.

The information on this particular virus indicates it attaches itself to the e-mail program in the infected computer and sends out copies each time the computer attempts to send out e-mail. Unlike some of the spam generated messages and viruses, this virus uses the legitimate addresses in the file of the e-mail program on the computer it has infected. Having said that the fact I am getting frequent copies of this virus may indicate that someone who knows me has an infected computer, and may not know it.

We know many of our customers are receiving similar e-mails with virus attachments, and unfor-

tunately know some have opened these with disastrous consequences. It seems the number of unscrupulous people who think destroying others' computers is fun also seems to be on the rise.

What we can do is continue to be vigilant and remind those who receive e-mail not to open any message which you do not recognize the author of, or has a suspicious looking heading. And especially do not open attachments with an ".exe" or ".scr" that you receive — unless you specifically know and have arranged to receive a program from someone you trust.

Advice on handling computer viruses can be found at mcafee.com and symantec.com. Both of these sites also offer anti-virus software which detects and cleans up a long list of viruses. The key to using the software is to keep it updated so it can catch the newest varieties.

More than 53,000 virus threats exist today. The McAfee Virus Information Library has information on where viruses come from, how they infect your system, and how to remove them.

In addition to genuine viruses, the Virus Information Library contains useful information on virus hoaxes, those dire email warnings about disk-eating attachments that sometimes land in your inbox. Wobbler and Good Times are two of the best-known hoaxes, but there are many others. Next time you receive a well-meaning virus warning check the hoax pages before you pass the message on to all your friends.

The e-mail watch words for today are "It is better to miss a message from a friend than to end up blaming a friend for passing on a destructive virus."

Response to letter was wonderful, positive

Dear Editor:

When I wrote the letter to the editor concerning the school children not being treated equally, I had no idea the positive response I would receive from the public. I personally want to thank you.

The letter came out in the paper the same night as the band concert. The concert was wonderful and the kids sounded great. After the concert, the kids that came up to Dan and I gave us hugs and handshakes. They felt someone finally cared. Hang in there, kids.

My phone started ringing that Thursday and well into the weekend. The calls were from parents of the band students who felt the students were treated unfairly, to parents who have students that have graduated and seen this happening. From parents that have children in the elementary schools and would like to see changes in the way things are handled before their kids get into the upper grades and from people who don't even have children in the school system. Their main complaint was the unequal treatment of the kids and how it has gone on for too long. It has not only been in the band department.

Another overwhelming fact was the support I received from so many teachers. Many of them came up and talked to me, called me and sent letters home with my kids from school. I even received calls and letters from teachers who are no longer teaching here and I believe they would still be teaching here if they had been treated equally.

Finally as a parent it is hard to understand how our administrators and school board can be so unfair to the different school programs. What kind of examples are they setting for our children?

We are taxpayers and voters and they are working for us. They are spending our money, let's make sure everyone gets their equal share.

Charlene Mangus
Kanorado

To the Editor:

This letter is in reference to the article concerning the school policy dealing with excused absences.

Thought I would relate to Mr. Deines that this policy has been in effect for a good many years. And I mean a good many.

When I was in high school in the late 1940s, I and another girl were dating Brewster boys. We wanted to attend the Brewster Homecoming that year on Friday afternoon. Our mothers wrote us an excuse to the school explaining where we were going so that we could make up our classes ahead



from our readers

• to the editor

of time.

When we presented the excuses to the high school principal, he informed us that he would not give us an excused absence and that if we went we would receive an F for that six weeks in the classes we missed. We did not take him seriously. However, just as good as his word, that is what happened. This didn't affect me as much as the other girl because I was not a straight A student.

We were warned, and we had to take our punishment. To me this was much more severe punishment than what has been imposed on Mr. Deines's daughter, and they should be thankful that all she received was in-school suspension.

Rules are rules and as I said before these rules have been in effect for more years than probably Mr. Deines is old. Too bad these things happen, but that is just another tough lesson in life. Sooner or later, we all have to pay if we want to play.

Joyce Dean
Colby

Dear Editor:

We would like to say a big Thank You to those in the community who participated in our fund raising even on March 17 as part of Mission Aviation

Letter Policy

The Goodland Daily News encourages and welcomes letters from readers. Letters should be typewritten if possible, and should include a telephone number and, most importantly, a signature. Unsigned letters will not be published. Form letters will be rejected, as will letters deemed to be of no public interest or considered offensive. We reserve the right to edit letters for length and good taste. We encourage letters, with phone numbers, by e-mail to: daily@nwkansas.com.

Fellowship's First Coffee Crusade. More than 20 people participated and helped raise \$160 for the Global Ministry Fund.

Our coffee get-together was one of hundreds that took place across the country in a collective effort to raise \$217,000 in support of the organization's global ministry. It's satisfying to know our community played a significant role in helping reach this goal.

The Fellowship is a nonprofit organization that multiplies the effectiveness of some 500 other nonprofit groups around the world by providing expertise in aviation, information technology and logistics. Its fleet of nearly 70 aircraft fly more than 2.2 million miles each year, reaching remote and isolated regions in 21 countries with medical assistance, crisis relief and community development.

Thank you for your help.
Bob Snyder
Pastor of Goodland Grace Fellowship Church

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