

# commentary

from other pens...

## Governor's races are different as blue, red

By Will Lester *Associated Press Writer*

WASHINGTON — New Jersey and Virginia are the states with governors' elections this year and Republicans have cause to be nervous. Each state has a Republican governor who is not running for re-election. And in both states the Democratic candidates are leading in the polls by double digits heading into the Labor Day weekend.

The two races couldn't be more different than blue and red. Democrat Al Gore won New Jersey by 16 percentage points in last year's presidential election and the state was marked blue on many post-election maps to signify the Democratic win. Republican George W. Bush carried Virginia by nine points and it was marked red.

"New Jersey and Virginia are fundamentally different," said Larry Sabato, a political analyst at the University of Virginia. "New Jersey has a large Democratic voter base and Virginia is the mirror opposite."

In New Jersey, Democrat Jim McGreevey had a 19-point lead over Republican Bret Schundler in two recent polls. In Virginia, Democrat Mark Warner had a lead of 14 points over Republican Mark Earley.

"A lead of 14 points for a Democrat in Virginia can easily melt away by November," Sabato said.

Schundler aides say there is time for him to broaden his appeal by contrasting his mayoral record with McGreevey's and talking about issues like his opposition to highway tolls.

McGreevey, the mayor of Woodbridge, N.J., expects to campaign with Gore in September, and Schundler's aides say they hope President Bush will be coming to the state for the GOP mayor of Jersey City.

Virginia will offer no such echoes of the 2000 presidential campaign, even though the president will appear there for Earley next month.

Democrats believe Warner has a financial advantage over Earley of 2-to-1 or 3-to-1 now after Warner raised as much as \$9 million from 12,000 donors. The Warner campaign has been advertising throughout the summer. His aides expect the GOP will pour resources into the state.

"I don't have any plans to bring in lots of outsiders," said Warner, a 46-year-old, self-made multimillionaire. "This is going to be a campaign on Virginia values ... and we'll let the chips fall where they may."

Warner has visited all parts of the state repeatedly, has laid out issue positions on issues from education to early childhood care to rural development. His campaign has its own bluegrass tune and he has courted everyone from NASCAR fans to hunters to high-tech businessmen. He talks about a need to clean up the fiscal mess in Richmond.

Earley, a 47-year-old former state lawmaker and attorney general, has been promoting his support for tax cuts, improvements in education and his accomplishments during his service in Virginia government.

Earley, who appeared in northern Virginia with Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge this week, says he's not worried about the polls. Ridge emphasized Earley would continue a tradition of GOP leadership.

"We feel real good about where we are," Earley said. "We wanted to wait until September and October when people were paying attention (to buy television time). We'll draw a contrast between our experience and our opponents' lack of experience."

National Democrats are optimistic.

"Heading into Labor Day, we could not ask to be in a better position," said California Gov. Gray Davis, chairman of the Democratic Governors' Association. "We know these races will be tough, but we feel very good about our prospects in New Jersey and Virginia."

Virginia Gov. Jim Gilmore, chairman of the Republican National Committee, says he likes Republicans' chances in both states and says the GOP will help in both races. Schundler's appeal in New Jersey will grow as he becomes better known, Gilmore said. The governor was especially critical of Warner for his sometimes folksy approach to campaigning in areas like southwest Virginia.

*EDITOR'S NOTE — Will Lester covers politics and polling for The Associated Press.*



## Things my Mom taught me about life

I don't know about you, but I'm hoping you have enjoyed some of the quotations I've shared with you this month.

This is my way of sharing with you when I am borderline "brain dead." Other people seem able to succinctly state great truths which I have considered but never had the right words to express.

And almost anyone can write humor better than I, so that gives you the chance for a chuckle or two.

Consider this one entitled "Things My Mother Taught Me":

- "My mother taught me TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE: 'If you're going to kill each other, do it outside—I just finished cleaning!'"
- "My mother taught me RELIGION: 'You'd better pray that will come out of the carpet.'"
- "My mother taught me about TIME TRAVEL: 'If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week!'"
- "My mother taught me about LOGIC: 'Because I said so, that's why.'"



**lorna g. t.**

• commentary

- "My mother taught me FORESIGHT: 'Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you're in an accident.'"
- "My mother taught me about the science of OSMOSIS: 'Shut your mouth and eat your supper!'"
- "My mother taught me about CONTORTIONISM: 'Will you look at the dirt on the back of your neck!'"
- "My mother taught me about STAMINA: 'You'll sit there 'til all that spinach is finished.'"
- "My mother taught me about WEATHER: 'It looks as if a tornado swept through your room.'"
- "My mother taught me about HYPOCRISY: 'If I've told you once, I've told you a million times—"

don't exaggerate!!!!"

"My mother taught me THE CIRCLE OF LIFE: 'I brought you into this world, and I can take you out.'"

"My mother taught me about ENVY: 'There are millions of less fortunate children in this world who don't have wonderful parents like you do!'"

These examples don't sound a bit like my mother, (and of course I never said any of them to my children), but I thought they were funny and might bring back some memories for some of you.

I'll end today's column with a word to the wise. Whenever you think you haven't accomplished all your dreams and that possibly you'll never make your mark on the world, remember this Latin proverb: "Greatness is but many small littles."

Do a small act or two of kindness today, and you'll be surprised how fast your efforts will multiply into something great.

To send a comment or an idea to Lorna use her email address <lornagt@nwkans.com>

## Sunday drive results in grave examination

We got to church Sunday and found no one there. Guess we missed a schedule change. That left us all dressed up with no place to go, so we cruised town.



**steve haynes**

• along the sappa

We drive around every day, rushing from home to work to appointments, but seldom have time to look at the flowers. It's amazing how many truly nice gardens and yards there are around town, though.

Driving more or less at random, we wound up at the cemetery, where a fancy new tombstone caught our eye. The interesting thing was that, for all the slogans, art work and information that it carried, it had no one buried by it. Just a family that's prepared.

are, some are unmarked today. One is guarded only by a whitewashed board. Others have old marble monuments that have weathered away with age.

Graves of those killed in the last Indian raid in 1878, the year before the first issue of this newspaper came out, were remarked with granite stones years later. Some of the originals, carved from native stone, are on display.

All through the cemetery, brass markers of the American Legion and, before that era, the Grand Army of the Republic, denote those who served.

You could spend days out there, but eventually we had to go to lunch.

way across the state.

That was no surprise. The "design-build" idea is so new that you couldn't expect the state to say yes right way. But backers of other highways want to steal the idea and the commission members admitted that the idea is intriguing.

Whatever happens, it's only a matter of time before Missouri does close the gap between I-72 in Illinois and the U.S. 36 expressway, just 54 miles of two-lane road. When that happens, Kansas needs to be ready. At the U.S. 36 Association, we figure at least a decade, maybe more.

But that's not long in terms of getting highways built. Wichita and Great Bend interests have been pushing their "Northwest Passage" to I-70 at Hays for longer than that, and the road is not yet past Hutchinson.

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### Incorporating:

**The Sherman County Herald**  
Founded by Thomas McCants  
1935-1989

**THE SHERMAN COUNTY STAR**  
Founded by Eric and Roxie Yonkey  
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**Nor'West Newspapers**  
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## Remembering a great Ranger

WASHINGTON — I once figured out how to speak "Tonto," the language used by the Lone Ranger's trusty Indian companion.

Of all the languages I've ever tried, it's the easiest. Just drop all articles, definite or indefinite. Forget those "a's" and "the's." Next, drop all use of the verb to be: am, is, are, etc. Switch the objective pronoun for the subjective, and always call your pal "kemo sabe."



**chris matthews**

• commentary

"Get dark soon, kemo sabe," we hear Tonto declare as the sun sets behind the rocky hill. "Me start fire."

"Him strange man, kemo sabe," we hear our shrewd scout surmise later over coffee.

A friend of mine from the Carter White House, those other "days of yesteryear," once told me the wonderful story of how these trail buddies, Clayton Moore and Jay Silverheels, got together. It's the secret of how Moore got to spend the rest of his life in that skin-tight, two-piece Lone Ranger costume, complete with black mask, gloves and matching neck scarf.

The Lone Ranger began on radio in 1941 and continued there through 1954. It came on at 7:30 p.m. I remember the time because my parents' rule was that my brothers and I had to be in our pajamas and under the covers before we could turn it on.

In 1949, they began looking for an actor to play the Lone Ranger on television. They wanted someone with a deep voice like the guy who played him on radio.

The way I heard the story, Clayton Moore was reminded of how difficult it would be playing the role. After all, he would be wearing a mask all the

time. With his eyes and much of his face covered, he would be unable to show any emotions or facial expressions.

"So how can you play The Lone Ranger?" came the climactic question of the interview. Then came the deep, sonorous, authoritative voice none of us, boomer or not, will ever forget.

"I AM the Lone Ranger."

Clayton Moore, determined to win the part, had been practicing singing scales, listening and checking himself again and again against the recorded voice of Brace Beemer, the actor who played the masked man on radio.

And that's how he got it!

I've always liked this story. It's not about sweating the little details of life. It's about getting the one big detail right.

Moore loved being the Lone Ranger. After 169 episodes, he continued being The Lone Ranger at shopping mall shows and on TV commercials, including some for the Texas Rangers baseball team, right up until his death on Tuesday, Dec. 28, 1999 at 85.

Chris Matthews, a nationally syndicated columnist for the San Francisco Chronicle, is host of "Hardball" on CNBC and MSNBC cable chan-

nels. The 1999 edition of "Hardball" was published by Touchstone Books.

### berry's world

