

commentary

from other pens...

Are we facing an era of violent conflicts?

By George Gedda

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Osama bin Laden was just a small speck on the international horizon eight years ago when Harvard University professor Samuel P. Huntington wrote that global politics will be dominated by “the clash of civilizations.”

International conflicts will be less likely to be based on ideology and economics, Huntington wrote in Foreign Affairs magazine. A more likely source are differences among civilizations — differences that, he said, “have generated the most prolonged and the most violent conflicts” over the centuries.

It’s too early to say whether the West, in particular the United States, and the radical Islam embodied by bin Laden, are condemned to the type of conflict of which Huntington wrote.

But there is no doubt bin Laden and his allies have the will and even the means to carry out killing on a mass scale — as the events of Sept. 11 at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon made clear.

“The jihad (holy war) is today the duty of every Muslim,” said Sleiman Abou-Gheith, a spokesman for bin Laden’s al-Qaida organization. “America must know that the storm of airplanes will not stop and there are thousands of young people who look forward to death like the Americans look forward to living.”

By Huntington’s count, there are seven or eight major civilizations. Between the West and Islamic cultures, the differences appear to be accelerating, partly because of conflicting world views.

There is little resonance among Islamic countries for Western ideas of individualism, constitutionalism, human rights, equality, liberty, the rule of law, democracy, free markets and the separation of church and state, Huntington noted.

Governments in Islamic countries condemned the Sept. 11 attacks. But there has been tepid support for the U.S. air strikes on targets in Afghanistan that began on Sunday. Western European countries and other U.S. allies have been highly supportive of President Bush’s response.

To the extent that there have been street protests in Muslim countries, virtually all appear to oppose the bombardment of Afghanistan. In Pakistan, thousands of supporters of the ruling Taliban regime in Afghanistan burned buildings and demanded holy war against America.

The administration has warned that it intends to root out terrorism wherever it may exist. Afghanistan is just a beginning.

The secretary-general of the Arab League, Amr Moussa, warned Monday that “any military strike on any Arab country will lead to serious consequences and will be considered an aggression against Arab states.”

Islamic radicals pay no heed to Bush’s insistence that he is waging a war not on Islam but on terrorism. Bush could face an uphill climb in his attempt to forge an anti-terror coalition.

Huntington, writing in 1993, noted the Gulf War coalition against Iraq started disintegrating not long after the Iraqi surrender in February 1991.

Subsequent American attempts to demonize Saddam Hussein were largely ignored by what Huntington called “substantial sections of Arab elites and publics.” As a result, Arab governments opposed or distanced themselves from Western efforts to apply pressure on Iraq, he said.

“The Western-Soviet-Turkish-Arab anti-Iraq coalition of 1990 had by 1993 become almost only the West and Kuwait against Iraq,” he said.

It is one thing to rehabilitate Saddam Hussein; it is quite another to declare war on America. Bin Laden said on a videotape broadcast on Sunday: “America will not live in peace.”

In a tamer time, terrorists used to avoid harming their victims lest they erode popular support. Casualties were rare.

“Terrorists want a lot of people watching, not a lot of people dead,” terrorism expert Brian Jenkins said 15 years ago.

Times have changed.

EDITOR’S NOTE — George Gedda has covered foreign affairs for The Associated Press since 1968.



Things getting back to normal with the cats

The cat no one knew was here isn’t here anymore.

Jezebel, youngest daughter’s scaredy cat, has returned to Lawrence.

We got Jez a little over a year ago when daughter finished her fifth year in college and headed out to Colorado for the summer. Her roommate last year didn’t “do” cats. It wasn’t that she’s allergic or anything like that. She just doesn’t care for animals and didn’t want to share their small apartment with a furball.

So Jez stayed in western Kansas.

Summer came again and then fall, and daughter got a real job and an apartment of her own. Now, we figured, she would take her cat back.

Well, not just yet, she said. There was a little matter of a pet deposit and she wouldn’t have the money until she got a check or two.

Right.



cynthia haynes

- open season

Finally, we got the call. Bring Jez home. Mama wants her back.

Mama didn’t know at that point she would be getting more than she bargained for.

A couple of days before we hit the road with Jez, little brother showed up at her door with his cat. Pomeroy had been busted by the Lawrence cops for the third time. At \$90 a hit, son couldn’t afford to keep his cat, but he couldn’t stand giving it away, and with four roommates, he couldn’t make it stay inside where it belonged.

His solution — have Pomeroy stay with his sis-

ter across town.

By the time we arrived in Lawrence, she was ready to trade cats with us.

Pomeroy, she said, had very poor manners. He bit her toes at 4 a.m. and got on the kitchen counters. The toe biting she could handle by closing her bedroom door, but she couldn’t and wouldn’t abide a cat on the counters.

Her brother explained that while living in a house full of guys with a dog, the cat had had to be fed on the counter to keep the mutt out of the feline food.

Daughter wasn’t buying it, but we talked her into keeping both Pom and Jez for a while to see how things go. When we last heard Pom was chasing Jez all over the house and she was hiding under the sofa.

Since Jez spent most of her life here hiding under some piece of furniture or other after the other cats had chased her around the house, we figured everything was normal.

Driving other states makes you appreciate Kansas

Driving in neighboring states really makes you appreciate Kansas highways.

Our roads are now among the best in the nation. They have come a long ways since the dark days of the early 1980s.

I can remember, after living in Colorado for a few years, coming home and being shocked by the condition of Kansas highways: broken pavement, narrow bridges, rough surface, rusted signs.

That sorry state of affairs prompted Gov. Mike Hayden’s first state transportation plan. While we now are without Mr. Hayden, who lost his bid for re-election and moved to Washington, we have great roads.

If you don’t believe me, try driving east or west. Colorado is trying to rebuild its highway system, but it’s a struggle. The state hasn’t been able to catch up on maintenance, especially on those long stretches across the eastern prairies.

Lucky for us, U.S.36 actually has received more money than most plains highways, with another 10 miles being rebuilt this year, but that still leaves 35 miles of bumps and ruts west of Last Chance. U.S. 40, U.S. 34 and Colorado 96 all are in much worse condition.



steve haynes

- along the sappa

Colorado still has a long ways to go, and faces expensive demands for roads around Denver as the metro population grows.

Driving in Missouri this weekend, we found a state with a well-built, well-designed road system and miles and miles of rough pavement.

Missouri highway officials say that they have little money for new construction, making it unlikely that they will continue adding miles to the state’s extensive four-lane expressway system. Instead, Missouri has focused its efforts on maintaining what it has.

They are not winning the battle. Missouri roads are in poor condition; there are many miles of winding, outdated highways; and I-70 is running at or beyond capacity from St. Louis to Kansas City. Yet the state has no money to complete the

last 50-some miles of four-lane expressway across U.S.36, which could take some of the traffic off the freeway.

Transportation officials say the state’s gasoline tax is too low, compared to other surrounding states, and bond payments are eating into its budget.

Kansas is fortunate to have the road program it has. Maintenance work — repaving, bridge repairs, rebuilding outdated sections — is not caught up. It likely never will be. But the primary routes are all in good shape and the repair program seems to be keeping up with needs.

Kansas cannot afford to be complacent, though. The continuing budget crunch in Topeka already has cut into highway funds. The current 10-year highway program will be threatened if the state does not find more money, and demand from other programs, especially schools, is heavy at the same time.

In the next few years, as the state budget squeeze continues, bond repayments may cut into the Kansas road program as well.

But for today, we have a road system to be proud of. Hats off to the state, the Legislature and especially the Department of Transportation for making it that way.

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To the Editor:

I am writing to clarify information printed in *The Goodland Daily News* last week about the new mammography machine at Goodland Regional Medical Center.

The machine is installed, surveyed, and approved for use. It has been available and in service for patient use since Sept. 11, when we resumed scheduling mammography procedures in-house.

When we took the old machine out of service in May, we arranged to have a mobile service come in to perform the procedures. The new equipment went through a series of quality tests and a survey by a team from the American College of Radiology to ensure it is working properly.

Additional monitoring will take place over the next few weeks to ensure that the equipment and operating procedures are working as intended. This is a routine process with the purpose of ensuring high quality examinations, and it is followed up by ongoing daily quality control procedures and annual licensure and certification surveys.

The service is licensed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and accredited by the College of Radiology, and all mammography services have to meet the quality control and survey requirements of these two organizations.

Goodland Regional Medical Center is proud to offer state-of-the-art mammography equipment to the citizens of this area. Patients wishing to schedule an appointment are invited to contact the Diagnostic Imaging Department at 785-899-6076. We look forward to serving you.

Jay Jolly, chief executive officer

To the Editor:

My husband and I have attended the Early Iron Car Show in Goodland for a number of years.

We have watched the Early Iron Car Club ma-



from our readers

- to the editor

ture and grow in their ability to put on one of the finest shows in Kansas. It has done nothing but become bigger each year and more fun to attend because it attracts many car enthusiasts from the Tri-State area. It’s always great to see what all these guys and gals are doing and to make acquaintances with them.

The Early Iron Show is a definite drawing card for your fall festival each year. With this year’s number of 292 cars, your population grew by approximately 584 people for the weekend. I’m sure this had an impact on several different businesses.

The Friday, Sept. 28, edition of *The Goodland Daily News* had a very good article covering the Rod Run and fall festival. But where were the people from your paper to take pictures and visit with not only the car participants, but the motorcycle participants as well? Without these guys and their vehicles, your fall festival wouldn’t be the success that it is. Get behind the Early Iron Club and show them what they truly mean to your community. You’re blessed to have them.

Karen Livingston
Garden City

Editor’s Note: The *Daily News* staff, both reporters, worked through the weekend covering all aspects of Flatlanders. They talked with people in the rod and cycle shows and took pictures of both. Stories in the Monday paper Oct. 1 took up the bulk of Page 1. A photo page inside included most major parts of the weekend, including rod and bike

photos. Because we think the Rod Run is important, we featured it on Page 1 Friday. But with a small staff and a small paper, it is not possible to feature every part of such a complex event on Page 1 every day. — Steve Haynes

berry’s world

