

commentary

from other pens...

Bush juggles to chart a U.S. Mideast role

President Bush is engaged in a careful balancing act as he seeks a U.S. role in the Mideast that does not alienate conservative activists in his party or the moderate Arab states he is courting for his war on terror.

Thus far, Bush seems to be accomplishing it, sort of, despite Secretary of State Colin Powell's failure to win a truce during his 10-day mission. Or perhaps because of that rebuff, some analysts suggest.

Pro-Israel conservatives, troubled by Powell's dealings with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, have few qualms about letting Israel complete its military offensive.

Arab nations, while displeased with Powell's inability to persuade Israel to end that drive, welcomed the Bush administration's increased involvement.

Arab leaders who met with Vice President Dick Cheney last month, in fact, had demanded a more active American role as a condition for their continued support for the U.S.-led war on terrorism.

"A lot of conservatives think the last month hasn't been Bush's strongest since Sept. 11. On the other hand, there's nothing that Bush can't recoup by refocusing on the war on terrorism," said William Kristol, editor of the conservative Weekly Standard magazine.

Such a shift clearly was evident last week. Bush proposed an ambitious U.S.-led rebuilding plan for Afghanistan in a speech at the Virginia Military Institute, and later told reporters at the White House the fight against terrorism was "the calling of our time."

He said Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was a "man of peace" and declined to criticize the pace of Israeli withdrawal.

Bush's kind words for Sharon came after conservatives let the president know they were increasingly troubled by his administration's overtures to Arafat.

"A firestorm is starting to build, a firestorm of criticism," leading conservative William Bennett said.

Even Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz — staunchly pro-Israel and the administration's leading foreign policy hawk — was booed at a pro-Israel rally when he cited international support for a Palestinian state and noted that Palestinian civilians were themselves victims of the war.

The rebuke showed "the deep passions that run on all sides of this issue," said White House spokesman Ari Fleischer. Wolfowitz was only "delivering the president's message," Fleischer said.

Criticism of dealing with Arafat has nurtured an unusual coalition in Congress: Democrats with large Jewish constituencies, traditionally among the most outspoken Israel boosters, joining with Republican conservatives and the Christian religious right.

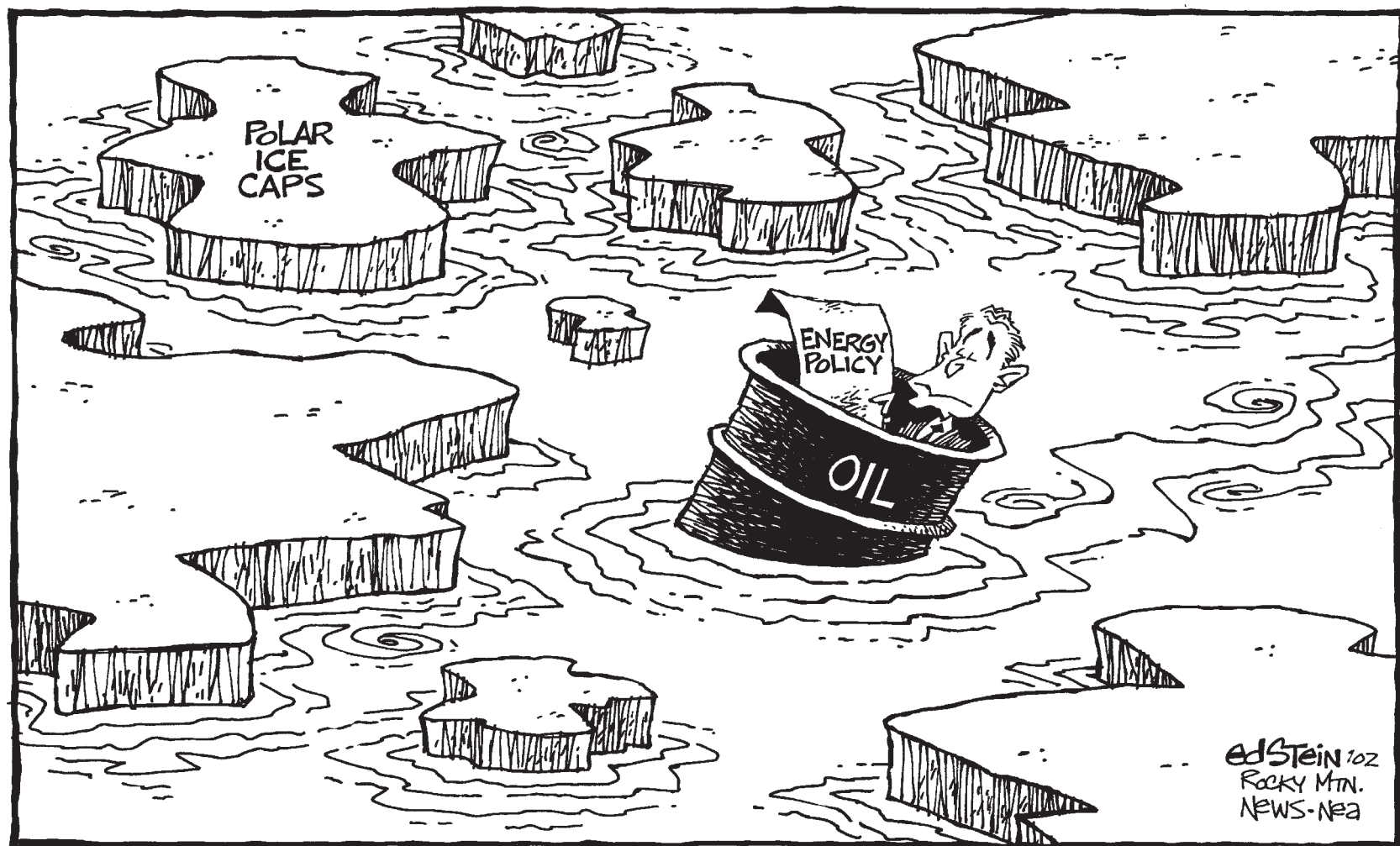
"I am sensing in the community I serve people who are very concerned about his call for a Palestinian state," religious broadcaster Pat Robertson told CNN. "That has set the teeth on edge of a number of Evangelicals who are his (Bush's) strong friends and supporters."

Powell's inability to deliver an Israeli pullback drew criticism in Arab capitals and a snub from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Bush will have an opportunity to mend fences when he meets Thursday with Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah, author of a plan to offer recognition of Israel in exchange for return of Arab lands seized in the 1967 war.

Thus far, the Mideast crisis has not emerged as a top issue in 2002 races. Polls show Americans support Israel over the Palestinians by roughly a 4-1 margin.

EDITOR'S NOTE — Tom Raum has covered Washington for The Associated Press since 1973, including five presidencies.



Dipping into my cabinet of saved wisdom

I don't know about you, but I'm a collector. I save way too many things. My file cabinet is full of articles, pictures and poems which struck my fancy or piqued my interest at some time or other.

Periodically I sort and clean out, but I can't stop collecting more. Occasionally I get a chance to share some of them.

Here's one by an unknown author called Parenting Isn't for Wimps:

1. Motherhood — if it was going to be easy, it never would have started with something called labor?
2. Shouting to make your children obey is like using the horn to steer your car, and you get about the same results.
3. To be in your children's memories tomorrow,



lorna g. t.

• commentary

you have to be in their lives today.

4. The smartest advice on raising children is to enjoy them while they are still on your side.
5. Avenge yourself — Live long enough to be a problem to your children.
6. The best way to keep kids at home is to make the home a pleasant atmosphere and to let the air out of the tires.
7. The right temperature in a home is maintained by warm hearts, not by hot heads.

8. Raising a teenager is like nailing Jell-O to a tree.
 9. Parents: People who bare infants, born teenagers and board newlyweds.
 10. The joy of motherhood: What a woman experiences when all the children are finally in bed.
 11. Life's golden age is when the kids are too old to need baby-sitters and too young to borrow the family car.
 12. Any child can tell you that the sole purpose of a middle name is so he can tell when he's really in trouble.
 13. Grandparents are similar to a piece of string — handy to have around and easily wrapped around the fingers of grandchildren.
 14. A child outgrows your lap, but never outgrows your heart."
- Tune in again next week for the rest of this list.

Check out the edible flowers and wild things

With the warming of weather my thoughts turn to growing things and flowers.

I have come across references to edible flowers. The one cookbook I found that talks about flowers and edible plants is Kokopelli's Cook Book by James and Carol Cunkle. These two have been directing the excavations and research at Raven Site Ruins, a prehistoric pueblo in east-central Arizona operating under the auspices of the White Mountain Archaeological Center.

James Cunkle has used illustrations in this book from the pottery found at the Raven Site Ruins made by the Mimbres peoples. They grew corn, beans, squash, amaranth and other crops that we no longer grow. Their ceramics are the one striking feature left to us.

The Mimbres were a small group of the greater Mogollon Culture from a small area of the prehistoric Southwest. They produced and buried their ceramics for about 200 years. Those images are some of the best evidence of the rich mythology of the prehistoric Southwest Indians.

I think a word of caution is due here. Before eating any flowers or greens I would make sure they have not been sprayed with any chemicals that would be harmful and they are indeed edible. Also check with authorities prior to picking any wild plants you don't violate any federal, state or local laws.

It is recommended that flowers should be harvested in the morning. Gently rinse with cool water and gently pat dry. Just prior to using refresh in ice water and pat dry, and for salads add at the last moment.

Here is one list of edible blossoms and petals:



pat schiefen

• postscript

Almond, Allyssum, Apple, Bee balm, Bergamot, Borage, Calendula, Chive, Chrysanthemum, Day lily, Dianthus, English daisy, English primrose, Forget-me-not, Fuchsia, Geranium, Hollyhock, Indian paintbrush, Lavender, Lilac, Mint, Myrtle, Nasturtium, Pansy, Peach, Plum, Portulaca, Pot marigold, Prickly pear, Rose, rosemary, Squash, Violet, and Yucca.

Ways to prepare flowers are to cook, float, sprinkle, snip, infuse, or to crystallize.

Ancient peoples were hunters and gatherers. This is a list of wild things they would gather to eat: Amaranth, Cactus pads, Chiltepins, Cinchweed, Chokeberries, Currants, Desert verbena, Devil's claw, Gauco, Hohoise, Huckleberries, Juniper berries, Manzanita berries, Mesquite pods, Mormon tea, Mountain spinach, Rose hips, Squaw berries, tender tumbleweed, Tepary beans, Watercress, Wild grapes, Wild mint, Wild sage, Wild spinach, Wild strawberries, Young dandelions and Young sorrell.

If you gather herbs you should remember. Dried herbs are stronger, so use sparingly. Cook's rule of thumb: 1/4 teaspoon of a dried, powdered herb equals 3/4 to 1 teaspoon dried, loosely cut herb, which equals 1 1/2 to 2 teaspoons of fresh chopped herb.

Grilled Elk, Venison or Beef
6 (8-10 ounce) steaks cut 1" thick and mesquite pods.
Prepare Juniper marinade, add steaks, cover and refrigerate for 4 hours, turning once. Reserve remaining marinade.
Add mesquite pods to coals five minutes before grilling. Grill steaks five to ten minutes per side, brushing once with marinade after turning. Serve with Juniper Marinade Sauce on the side. A word of warning always cook wild game through eating it rare is not advised. Also do not overcook as it will get tough.

Juniper Marinade
1 tablespoon juniper berries
1/4 cup vegetable oil
1 cup dry red wine
3/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon pepper
1/2 teaspoon onion powder
1/4 teaspoon hot pepper sauce
1/8 teaspoon liquid smoke
2 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
Place a clean towel over berries and crush with a heavy or mallet. Combine with the rest of the ingredients.

Juniper Marinade Sauce
Place remaining Juniper Marinade in a saucepan and combine with the 1 cup beef broth. Simmer for 15 minutes or until reduced to half. Strain. Yields 2 1/2 cups.
I would place these meats in this order starting with the softest first: deer, elk, beef, and buffalo. If you are a meat hunter, if you sprout horns, it is time to eat some beef.

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e-mail: daily@nwkansan.com



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N.T. Betz, Director of Internet Services (nbetz@nwkansan.com)
Evan Barnum, Systems Admin. (support@nwkansan.com)

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I have faith the town will survive

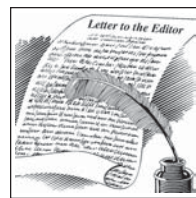
To the Editor:

I find myself compelled to write after reading the article Tuesday by Doug Stephens regarding the Goodland City Commission meeting.

I realize the "trash" problem is like a cherry on top of what is becoming a very long list of problems. Beginning with the closing of all but one entrance in to Goodland during the road repair. But through it all I have had faith we as a town would survive.

Now I really wonder, when city and county government can not seem to work together, I was under the impression you-all were elected to represent the citizens of Goodland and Sherman County.

The townsfolk, and country folk get along better than that. Plus when a city official makes the statement he is tired of dealing with the trash. Well, I thought that was part of the job dealing with all problems that may come up, I do understand that



from our readers

• to the editor

it can be a pain to deal with and not all problems can be "fixed" as quickly as we would like. But it is a problem and it must be dealt with before we can move on to bigger things like how to save this town.

The city has had some big blows as of late with businesses closing. I would like us to start being pro-active instead of reactive. All that would take is the people of Sherman County getting fed-up enough to get involved before the signs on the Interstate read Junction Highway 24 and 27,

Kelsey Thomas
Goodland

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berry's world



Apologies to Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809-1892) © 2002 by NEA, Inc.

"In the spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of SPRING FEVER."