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HULME



# commentary

from other pens...

## GOP have juicy targets, Dems more optimistic

Republicans think they have three juicy targets in the battle for control of the Senate, but Democrats have grown more confident about their overall prospects in the November elections.

For months, the Senate election picture has appeared as evenly matched as the Senate, where the Democrats now have a one-vote lead.

Republicans are determined to shift that balance — and they plan to step up efforts to defeat Democratic incumbents in Iowa and New Jersey, where GOP nominees were selected this week.

Both Democrats and Republicans have identified four states apiece where they think they could defeat an incumbent from the opposition.

Democrats also want to pick off at least one of four open GOP seats, so Republicans are determined to widen their aim.

“There are more Republican seats legitimately in play than Democratic seats,” said Jim Jordan, executive director of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee. “All we have to do is play to a draw to maintain control.”

Sen. Bill Frist of Tennessee, chairman of the National Republican Senatorial Committee and a physician, says Republicans “have more patients” but Democrats “have more in intensive care” — referring to Democratic incumbents in Minnesota, Missouri and South Dakota.

In addition to those three, Republicans are looking at Democratic Sen. Max Cleland in Georgia. Democrats have their eye on Republican incumbents in Arkansas, Colorado, New Hampshire and Oregon.

The battle for control has shifted, with Republicans adjusting their target states and Democrats looking forward to the retirement of four Republican incumbents — in the Carolinas, Tennessee and Texas.

National Republicans helped recruit strong candidates in the states that are crucial to their hopes. “The slice of America that will determine control of the Senate happens to be very strong Bush territory,” said Mitch Bainwol, executive director of the GOP’s campaign committee.

In Tuesday’s primaries:

- Rep. Greg Ganske won the GOP nomination in Iowa to challenge Sen. Tom Harkin.

- Wealthy businessman Doug Forrester won the GOP nomination in New Jersey to challenge Sen. Robert Torricelli.

- State lawmaker Mike Taylor won the GOP nomination in Montana to challenge Sen. Max Baucus.

National Republicans said they will provide Ganske all the help he needs to make a strong challenge to Harkin. Torricelli, they say, is a top target because of campaign finance problems and his lukewarm standing in the polls.

They say they expect to successfully defend their four open seats. “We’re treating them all as if they have the potential to be competitive,” said Ginny Wolfe, a spokeswoman for the GOP committee.

Democrats have the upper hand now in New Jersey because the state is “disproportionately Democratic” and Torricelli has higher name recognition, said analyst Cliff Zukin, head of the Eagleton Institute at Rutgers.

“Forrester starts out as a virtual unknown,” Zukin said. “The only thing he’s got going for him is that he’s not Bob Torricelli.”

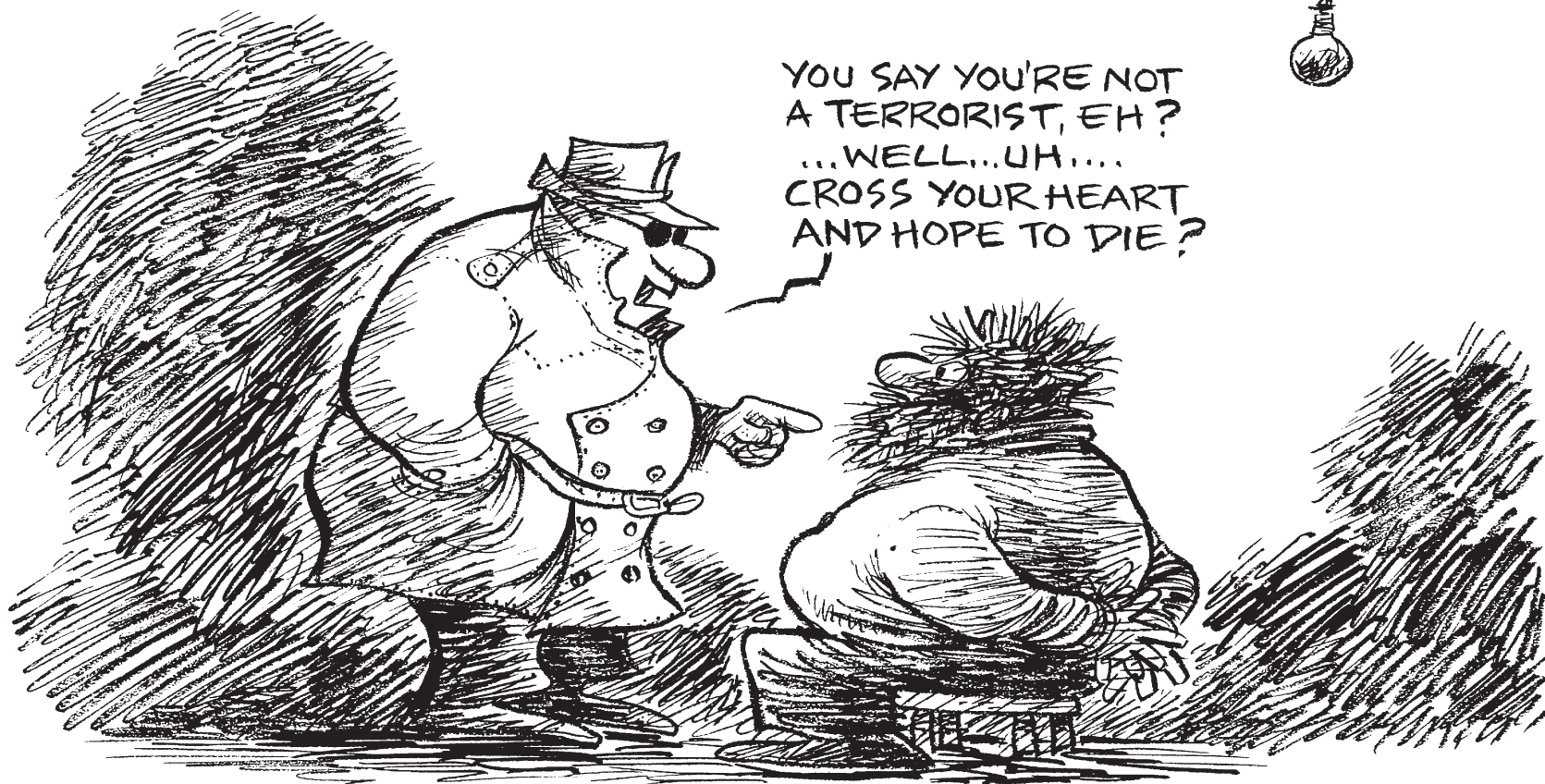
In Iowa, Democrat Harkin currently has a double-digit lead in the polls over Ganske, but Republicans have a good chance to make it competitive, said Drake University political scientist Dennis Goldford.

“Harkin has to be slightly favored, but he has a tough race ahead of him,” Goldford said. “Ganske is not that well known, but Republicans will mobilize for him.”

Democrats feel the issues have tilted in their favor in recent months — especially in areas like prescription drugs, Medicare and retirement security.

Sen. Patty Murray of Washington state, chairwoman of the Democratic campaign committee, said, “I’d rather have my hand of cards right now.”

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



THE FBI GETS TOUGH

## Memorial Day brings haunting sound of Taps

I don’t know about you, but I attended a Memorial Day service last week.

“Taps” was beautifully played by two young men, and, as always, it brought tears to my eyes. I thought you might be interested to read Diane O. Sides’ “The story of ‘Taps.’”

We have all heard the haunting melody, “Taps.” It’s the song that gives us that lump in our throats and usually creates tears in our eyes. But, do you know the story behind the song?

Reportedly, it all began in 1862 during the Civil War, when Union Army Captain Robert Ellicombe was with his men near Harrison’s Landing in Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land.

During the night, Captain Ellicombe heard the moans of a soldier who lay severely wounded on the battlefield. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, the captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention. Crawling on his stomach, the captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him



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• commentary

toward his encampment.

When the captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier, but the soldier was dead. The captain lit a lantern and suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of the soldier. It was his own son. The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, the boy enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full military burial despite his enemy status.

His request was only partially granted. The cap-

tain had asked if he could have a group of army band members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral. The request was turned down since the soldier was a Confederate. But, out of respect for the father, they did say he could have one musician play.

The captain chose a bugler, and he asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he found on a piece of paper in his dead son’s pocket. This wish was granted. The haunting melody we now know as “Taps,” used at military funerals, was born. — Quote from Christian Quotation of the Day in an e-mail.

And someone has written words to the song “Taps.”

Here they are: “Day is done, Gone the sun, From the Lakes, From the hills, From the sky. All is well, safely rest. God is nigh. Fading light, Dims the sight, And a star, Gems the sky, Gleaming bright, From afar, Drawing nigh, Falls the night. Thanks and praise, For our days, Neath the sun, Neath the stars, Neath the sky, As we go, This we know, God is nigh.”

## Bible is guide to religious truth

I started two weeks ago listing the Top 10 reasons everyone should read the Bible. The no. 10 reason was the Bible’s account of creation, and no. 9 was: the Bible moves hearts.

The no. 8 reason is this week’s topic: everyone should read the Bible because it is the only guide to religious truth.

It was estimated over 10 years ago that there were 10 main religions and some 10,000 sects. Of these, 1,200 existed in the United States. No doubt, more groups have formed since then.

Ephesians 4:5 says there is, “one Lord, one faith, one baptism.”

Then why are there so many religions? And how can we know which beliefs are true? Can all religious beliefs be true?

First of all, not all religious beliefs are true. Judges 10:6, 7 says, “The sons of Israel again proceeded to do what was bad in the eyes of God, and they began to serve the Baals and the Ashtoreth images and the gods of Syria and the gods of Sidon and the gods of Moab and the gods of the sons of Ammon and the gods of the Philistines. So they left the true God and did not serve him.”

The nations mentioned worshipped many gods, but they were not the true God. If there was false religion back then, why would there not be false religion now? Who is the true God mentioned?

Romans 1: 20, 21 says, “For his invisible qualities are clearly seen from the world’s creation onward, because they are perceived by the things made, even his eternal power and Godship, so that they are inexcusable; because, although they knew God, they did not glorify him as God nor did they thank him, but they became empty-headed in their reasonings, and their unintelligent heart became darkened.”

This tells us the true God is the one that created the earth and everything on it. His works are so evident that not recognizing him as God is inexcusable.

But many fail to recognize him. Reading the Bible can correct that tremendous oversight and answer questions about the many beliefs that exist.



**sharon  
corcoran**

• use it or lose it

Where do false religious beliefs come from?

The apostle Paul discussed one source of false beliefs in his letter to the Christians in Colosae. Colossians 2:8 says, “Look out: perhaps there may be someone who will carry you off as his prey through the philosophy and empty deception according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary things of the world and not according to Christ.”

People make their own philosophies and beliefs, and often those beliefs become traditions — people pass them down to their children and grandchildren. Those beliefs may be passed on for centuries and even millenniums.

The scripture in Colossians mentions that some may use these beliefs to carry others off as prey — they make up these beliefs to gain followers. Modern examples can be found in some televangelists who preach to gain wealth without having to work and some cult leaders who want people to be under their control.

A past example is Satan. “Satan?” you may ask. Yes, Satan. Genesis 3: 4, 5 says, “At this the serpent said to the woman (Eve): ‘You positively will not die. For God knows in the very day of your eating from it your eyes are bound to be opened and you are bound to be like God, knowing good and bad.’”

Satan told Eve that what God said to her wasn’t true — he lied about God. The Bible calls him the father of the lie.

At John 8:44, Jesus says, “You are from your father the Devil, and you wish to do the desires of your father. That one was a manslayer when he began, and he did not stand fast in the truth, because truth is not in him. When he speaks the lie, he speaks according to his own disposition, because

he is a liar and the father of the lie.”

Not only did Jesus refer to Satan as a liar and the father of the lie, but he also said Satan would have “children.” These children are people who are misled by Satan to do his will and ones who choose to do Satan’s will.

1 Timothy 4:1 says, “in later periods of time some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to misleading inspired utterances and teachings of demons.”

Satan even inspires false teachings. We are warned about this in the Bible so we have a chance to protect ourselves.

How can we protect ourselves? How can we know what is true and what is false?

Acts 17: 11 says of the Bereans, “Now the latter were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with the greatest eagerness of mind, carefully examining the scriptures daily as to whether these things were so.”

When someone tells us what he believes, a good question to ask is, “Can you show me where the Bible says that?”

Another good thing to do is, like the Bereans, look in the Bible yourself to see if those beliefs are found in the scriptures.

1 Timothy 3:16 says, “All scripture is inspired of God and beneficial for teaching, for reproving, for setting things straight, for disciplining in righteousness.”

Since the Bible is inspired of God, it is the authority to consult on religion. The scriptures set things straight as to which religions are true and which ones are false.

## The Goodland Daily News

(USPS No. 222-460. ISSN 0893-0562)

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Published daily except Saturday and Sunday and the day observed for New Year’s Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day, at 1205 Main St., Goodland, Kan. 67735.

Periodicals postage paid at Goodland, Kan. 67735; entered at the Goodland, Kan., Post Office under the Act of Congress of March 8, 1878.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Goodland Daily News, 1205 Main St., Goodland, Kan. 67735.

TELEPHONE: (785) 899-2338. Editorial e-mail: [daily@nwkansas.com](mailto:daily@nwkansas.com). Advertising questions can be sent to: [gdnadv@nwkansas.com](mailto:gdnadv@nwkansas.com)

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SUBSCRIPTIONS: In Sherman County and adjacent counties: three months, \$25; six months, \$42; 12 months, \$79. Out of area, weekly mailing of five issues: three months, \$30; six months, \$45; 12 months, \$80. By mail daily in Kansas, Colorado: 12 months, \$115. (All tax included.)

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