

# commentary

from other pens...

## GOP points to security; Dems to domestic issues

Republicans say the emphasis on the war on terrorism will boost their chances in this year's congressional elections by drowning out debate on traditional Democratic issues like Social Security, health care and prescription drug costs.

The GOP has been emphasizing that theme across the country — from Georgia, where a GOP Senate challenger says he's best suited to work with the president in the war against terror; to Kentucky, where a Republican House challenger campaigns on his military background; to South Dakota, where Republicans questioned a Democratic senator's record on defense spending.

Congress is looking at pre-Sept. 11 intelligence failures and debating the formation of a Department of Homeland Security. At the same time, the Bush administration is issuing stepped up terror warnings.

White House advisers are urging Republican candidates to campaign with messages highlighting the war on terrorism and the economy.

"Bread and butter trumps terrorism in the absence of another terrorist attack," said Kathleen Hall Jamieson, dean of the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania. "And another attack doesn't necessarily help Republicans."

"Several weeks ago, Democrats were talking about their ability to focus the electorate on their set of issues," said Steve Schmidt, a spokesman for the National Republican Congressional Committee. "Congress is going to spend the next five months talking about how to organize the Department of Homeland Security."

Democrats claim other issues will be heard over the din of the defense debate, but acknowledge the homeland security issue predominates for now. So when House Democrats put forth a Medicare prescription drug plan this week, their campaign committee stepped up efforts to make sure local newspapers got the word.

Democratic candidates also are very aware of the president's popularity — job approval in the low to mid-70s — so much so that some Democratic candidates in competitive races in the upper Midwest mention the popular president in campaign ads.

"The administration has the ability to set the policy agenda," said Jim Jordan, executive director of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee. "They are quite eager to make this election year a referendum on national security."

Jordan said, however, "I've seen no evidence that the voting agenda has changed over the last year and a half."

Polls that ask whether voters would back a Democratic or Republican candidate for Congress suggest the race is relatively even. And forecasting this year's elections is tougher than ever, analysts suggest.

"We've never had an election in our modern history where the country felt under direct threat and that makes for a very different climate of opinion," said Andrew Kohut, director of the Pew Research Center.

Most candidates around the country have been emphasizing national defense in their campaigns — and will likely do more.

—In Georgia, the GOP has a new ad this week for Rep. Saxby Chambliss, favored to win the GOP primary and face Democratic incumbent Sen. Max Cleland, who lost both legs and one arm serving in Vietnam. GOP strategists say the ad emphasizes how Chambliss "is working with President Bush to ensure our country is safe and secure."

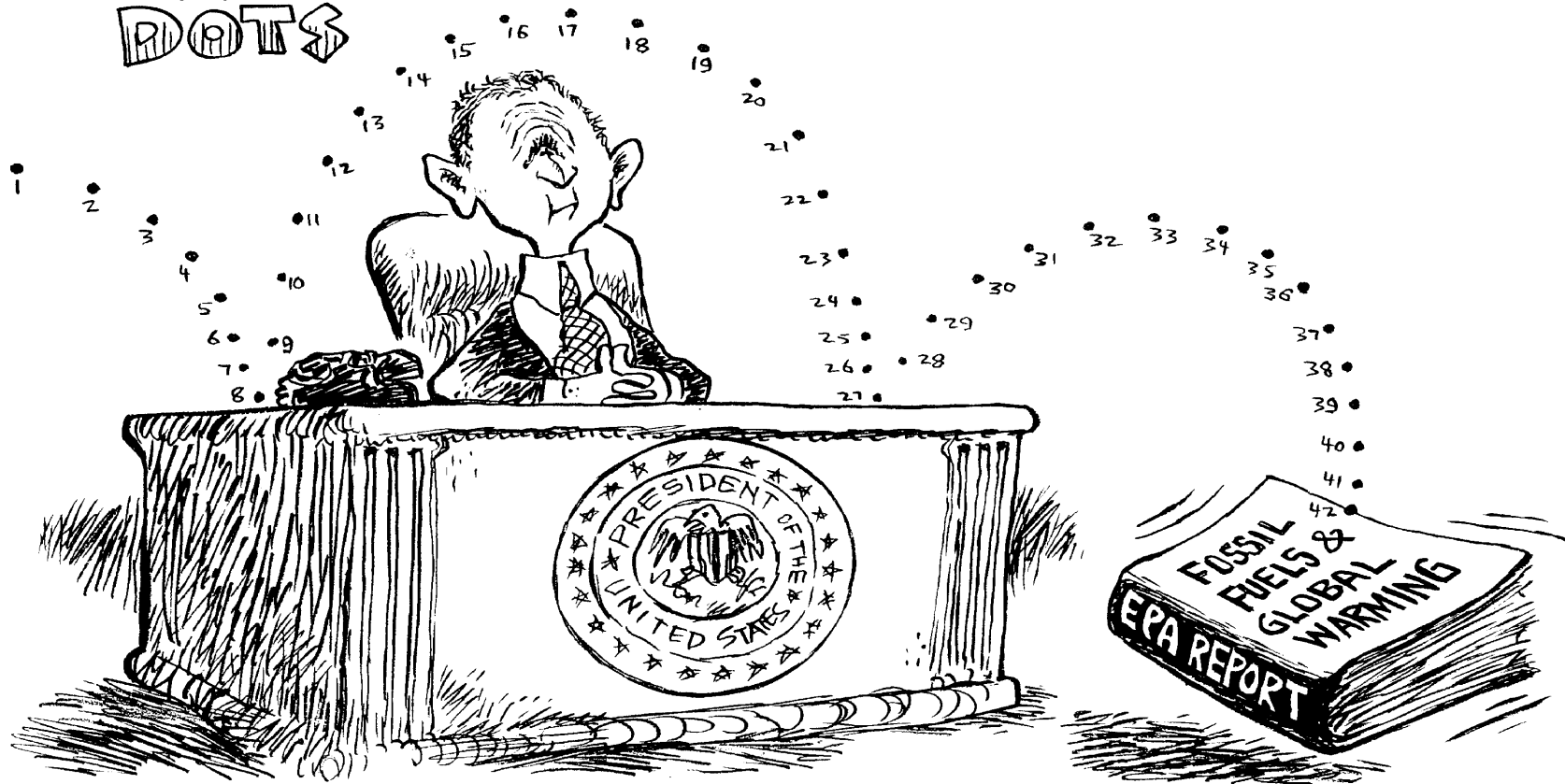
—In a House race in Kentucky, GOP challenger Jeff Davis emphasizes his military service in the Middle East when campaigning against Democratic Rep. Ken Lucas. Aides to Lucas say Davis' campaign talk "rings hollow" because Lucas flew fighter jets in the military and advised the president on winning support for anti-terror measures.

The national defense debate may not displace pocketbook issues, said Rutgers University political scientist Ross Baker.

"I doubt whether many voters are able to translate a policy debate over administration reorganization for homeland defense," Baker said, "to a vote for a member of Congress where the issues are mostly local."

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

## CONNECT THE DOTS



## Fathers are special people

I don't know about you, but I think fathers are special people.

Here are some quotes I've collected about them.

- 1) "To an old father, nothing is more sweet than a daughter. Boys are more spirited, but their ways are not so tender." — Euripides.
- 2) "My father was frightened of his father, I was frightened of my father, and I am (darned) well going to see to it that my children are frightened of me." — King George V of England. [How sad.]
- 3) "Children suck the mother when they are young, and the father when they are old." — English proverb.
- 4) "A father is a banker provided by nature." — French proverb.
- 5) "Fathers are large people, who frequently declare that 'other children' eat their meals and sit straight in a chair. 'Other children' wash their hands according to my father. They never yell, or lose their hats, or fight, or be a bother. 'Other children,' Father says, speak when they are spoken to.



**lorna g. t.**

• commentary

They answer 'please' and 'thank you' the way I'm supposed to do. I'm sorry for my father, just as sorry as can be. He knows such lovely children, and then got stuck with me." — Zoia

A father is important to a child. Mine loved his children, worked hard to provide for them, teased them, hugged them once in awhile, smiled at them a lot and lamented that his work kept him away from them too much. But we knew we were loved — even though he couldn't be at every one of our school activities. I have many happy memories of picnics and camping vacations where dad was usually the quiet one, preferring to just enjoy the noise and laughter around him. He wasn't able to complete high school; he had to get a job. Yet he never

shirked the responsibility to his family. I thank God for a good father.

Here is some advice for fathers who are still struggling to find their way. It's called 'Beatitudes for Fathers' by Mary Horner: "Blessed is the father who is strong — but bendable. Blessed is the father whose authority is dependable. Blessed is the father who is patient and kind.

Blessed is the father who respects a child's mind. Blessed is the father who can push — but never shove. Blessed is the father who can give, and accept, love. Blessed is the father whose discipline is ample. Blessed is the father who teaches by example. Blessed is the father who chooses his words carefully. Blessed is the father who makes decisions prayerfully. Blessed is the father who recognizes fear. Blessed is the father who is tolerant of tears. Blessed is the father whose kindness is not for show. Blessed is the father who knows when to let go."

Happy Father's Day to all, but especially to the single parents who are working hard to be both mother and father. It isn't easy. I know.

## Pet supply takes big dip as kittens find homes

From a high of 10 cats, a gerbil and a dog last weekend, we are down to an almost petless dog, three cats and a kitten.

It was a bit of a surprise to count cats after the kittens were born and realize that with Mollie Monster, Kubla Khan, April Alice and her five kittens we had eight cats in the house. Add Annie, the dog, and we had more pets than we knew what to do with.

However, we knew that the kittens, May, June, July, August and Autumn, were all destined for good homes. We just had to give them away.

Then youngest daughter, Lindsay, came to town with her female cats, Rupert and Jezebel, in tow. She also had Snow White, a gerbil of unkind sex, left over from her junior high biology class. She had sworn that all those baby gerbils — someone's science project was pregnant — would go home with students.

So one day before our kittens were six weeks old, the menagerie increased.

Daughter was only visiting on her way to Colorado for the summer. But from Tuesday through Thursday, we were definitely overcatted. Then Rupert, Jez and Snow White took off for cooler



**cynthia haynes**

• open season

climates.

But, not before Rupert tried to either eat or mother Snow White, we're not sure which. While Lindsay was cage cleaning on Thursday before taking off, Rupert walked up and picked up the gerbil by the scruff of its neck and headed off. Lindsay reacted quickly and Snow White was saved — we're just not sure from what. Something that looks like a mouse might have been too much for the cat or maybe all those kittens just kicked in her maternal instincts. Lindsay didn't want to wait to see which.

After the Colorado-bound crowd left, we were ready to get serious about giving away kittens.

Son Lacy had already chosen his. He took the biggest male. We had named him Autumn. Lacy renamed him Frank. When I take him to the vet he will become Franklin Autumn — but don't tell Lacy.

Steve took the other male — August — to Goodland for Pat, who works at the *Daily News*. Pat had purchased a carrier, dish and litter box on Wednesday. She was cat ready.

The Whitmores from St. Francis came by Friday morning and picked up July, the beautifully big-spotted calico. The three children Sarah, Logan and Matthew were busy arguing over her new name as they got in the car. Seems she will be either Calico or Colors.

"Dad'll call it Hairball," one of the boys confided. "That's what he calls all our cats."

Friday evening, May went home with Ky'Lee and Shane Kolar. They said that they might keep May for her name or change it to Meow. Well, that's a good cat name.

July should be leaving soon. She has a home; we're just waiting for her new owners to pick her up.

If you've noticed a strange sameness in the kittens' names, it's my fault. I called April's five kittens May, June, July, August and Autumn. Hey, it was easy to remember and I figured their new owners will give them new names anyway.

And I was right, more or less.

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## Parking regulations may hurt Goodland

To the Editor:

The Family Motor Coach Association has received a complaint from one of our members (Roger W. Summer of Elizabeth, Colo.) regarding the strict on-street parking regulations imposed on commercial and recreational motor vehicles by an ordinance passed by the Goodland City council on November 5, 2001. I also received a copy of the letter this person sent to your newspaper and which you published recently (Page 2, May 23).

I obtained more information about Goodland, how there have been about 12 places of business closing in the past year, how public funding revenues are on the decline, and how your government is attempting to attract a tourist trade by means of a focal on the highway leading past the city. There may be other efforts at a resurrection of the city, but evidently they are slow in producing results.

How, then, can the city fathers possibly believe that they can attract a very large segment of the motoring public into your city by creating an im-



from our readers

• to the editor

position to their coming in off the highways? Allowing two-hour parking in the town hardly gives one time to visit friends or relatives, which may lead to a meal out, finding a certain shop, etc. It's hardly possible!

The Family Motor Coach Association is an organization of over 250,000 motorhome owners. We cooperate with many other recreational vehicle organizations, independent truckers and commercial carriers. We meet from time to time in conventions; in fact, one will be held in Hutchinson on October 1, 2 and 3 of this year and it's expected that this meeting will be attended by upwards of 10,000 motorhome owners bringing into the state about 30

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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

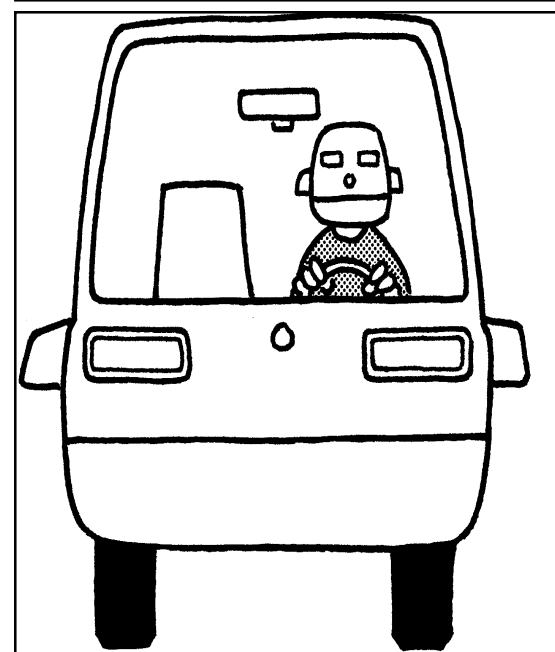
State Sen. Stan Clark, State Capitol Building Rm. 128-S, Topeka, KS 66612. (785) 296-7399

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million dollars in new revenue. Goodland can benefit by the purchasing power of our members and their affiliates, but only if your city is made attractive to our visits.

Max Durbin, Chairman  
Government and Legislative Affairs Committee

### berry's world



Jim Berry  
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