

# commentary

from other pens...

## Churches find money in purple madness

**The Topeka Capital-Journal on football parking:**

Some churches and other nonprofit facilities in Manhattan are learning the truth in that real estate mantra about location, location, location.

Those close enough to be within walking distance of KSU Stadium are finding there's plenty of green to be made from all of the purple madness surrounding Kansas State football. They let fans park in their parking lots — for a fee.

The College Avenue United Methodist Church youth group charges \$8 a car, and it can squeeze about 225 cars in the lot. That's about \$1,800 per game. The kids make enough during football season to fund their mission trips and other activities throughout the year and even are able to share some of the money with other groups.

Boy Scout Troop 75 parks cars at Trinity Presbyterian Church, then uses the bus from First United Methodist Church, which sponsors the troop, to shuttle people to the stadium. The Scouts can earn \$15 to \$50 for each three-hour stint they work at the lot. The money helps pay for trips to summer Scout camp.

St. Thomas More Catholic Church is farther from the action, so its parking spaces go for just \$4. Even so, the youth group collects about \$100 per game, enough to make its activities affordable.

And for those churches and other places too far away from the stadium? Well, there are still bake sales, car washes and the like for raising funds.

**The Manhattan Mercury on DARE program:**

Efforts to improve the national DARE program are to be commended, not just because of disputed findings that the program may have been ineffective but because of the role such programs can play in teaching young people about the dangers of drugs.

DARE — Drug Abuse Resistance Education — has been a staple in late elementary school in the Manhattan-Ogden School District and in most other districts nationwide. ...

It's probably wise, as is being studied, for the program to include more follow-up, involving seventh-graders and ninth-graders as well as fifth- or sixth-graders. ...

Preliminary studies have found that seventh-graders who participated in DARE were more likely than participants in a control group to consider drugs inappropriate and to refuse to use them. ...

DARE, unfortunately, doesn't come with guarantees. At some point, children make their own decisions. But DARE's prospects for success increase if its curriculum is reinforced by peers, parents and other adults. ...

It seems that the least DARE programs do is teach or remind youth that police officers are on their side. There are, of course, other ways for that worthwhile message to be sent, including some ways that are less expensive than DARE programs.

But drug abuse resistance education is, for better or for worse, education that young students will need to cope with some of the situations they'll find themselves in. That's reason enough to strengthen DARE programs.

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ELECTION RESULTS EXPLAINED

## Holidays mean the cats are coming to visit

The cats are coming! The cats are coming!

With Thanksgiving just around the corner, my children will be returning to the family nest with their pets.

If all my children came home, the count could be catastrophic. Sorry, I couldn't help myself there.

We start out with our household cats — Kubla Khan, Miss Molly and April Alice. We add Felicia's Marcell, Sabine and Louis; Lindsay's Rupert and Jezebel and Lacy's Frank and Jules. That adds up to 10 cats, or one cat fight per 10 minutes.

Luckily, they won't all be here.

Felicia and Nik are heading off on a delayed honeymoon to Italy. The delay was so they could get a better rate on overseas airfare. The best rate was during Thanksgiving, when Americans want to stay home and visit relatives. The kids figured they would kill two turkeys with one flight — cheaper airfare and they wouldn't have to figure out which set of in-laws to visit for the holidays.

School is out, though, and teacher, Lindsay, will be heading home, but her felines will stay in Lawrence. They don't like to travel, and if she's only going to be gone a few days, she puts out food and water and asks a neighbor to check on them.



**cynthia haynes**

• open season

Lacy's kittens will be making the journey, however. They have no choice. They have a vet appointment.

The kittens, a pair from April Alice's litter early this year, are now five months old and it's time for their front and rear-end realignments — a spay for Jules, a snip for Frank and front declawing for both.

The cats always seem to show up at our house when it's time for visits to the vet, and the bill always comes here after the children have gone on their merry way.

Ah well. I pulled that one on my parents, so fair is fair.

Somebody mentioned the other day that I hadn't written anything about the cats recently.

The reason for that is it's been quiet on the cat front. April and Molly still don't get along, and we have the occasional hissy fit, but that's about the same as when the kids lived here and we had the

occasional sibling fight — but with less growling and hissing.

Lindsay did report that she had an extra cat the other day.

She opened her door and two gray blurs ran past. She closed the door and went on about her business. About five minutes later, she heard plaintive meows and looked to see Jezebel still outside. An extra cat was lounging on her sofa.

Since it was obviously well fed and cared for, she isn't adopting it.

It just comes in to visit now and then, she said. She figures it likes her brand of cat food as a change of pace.

We used to have a yellow cat in Colorado that would come visit us. Sunshine belonged three doors down, but would show up a couple of times a week to munch cat food, get a pet and lounge on our furniture.

One night, we found him sleeping in the bathroom sink. Filling the bathroom sink. He was a big, furry, longhair.

I remember missing him when his family moved away. Maybe Lindsay's visitor will be the same.

My only suggestion to her is to keep the bathroom door closed — a sinkful of cat is a real shock in the morning, especially when it's not even your cat.

## Congress leaves U.S. unprepared for terrorism

When the United States attacks Iraq, suppose Saddam Hussein sends secret teams armed with anthrax to spread death and panic in U.S. cities.

This possibility, raised in a war game conducted last week at the Brookings Institution, adds to the urgency expressed in a new study by the Council on Foreign Relations warning that the nation is still woefully unprepared for attacks using weapons of mass destruction.

U.S. vulnerability was demonstrated in reality by the Washington sniper trauma as men armed with just a rifle spread terror throughout the metropolitan area and tied down its police forces for weeks.

All of this should shout a message to Congress: Quit playing politics with homeland security. Democrats are doing so in the Senate, Republicans in the House.

And the White House is abetting the process, refusing to compromise with Senate Democrats in creating a new Department of Homeland Security and allowing Republicans to sit on \$40 billion in vital homeland security upgrades in appropriations bills.

The Brookings war game focused primarily on the Iraq war, not on homeland security. An anthrax attack on Chicago, killing 40 people, and the arrest of Iraqi intelligence agents heading toward other cities were details in the game — but important ones, pushing U.S. political leaders to speed up a final assault on Baghdad.

In the game, the United States and its allies — including France — won the war and ousted Hussein, but sustained 1,000 casualties, including several dozen from a chemical weapons attack on a U.S. field hospital.

Other complications included war between Turkey and Iraqi Kurds, insurrection and martial law in Jordan, missile and terrorist attacks on Israel, killing 100, and Israeli retaliation against Hussein's hometown of Tikrit.

The all-day game featured actual U.S. military officers playing the roles of Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Gen. Tommy Franks, the top war commander, and former U.S. officials playing Secretary of State Colin Powell, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice and their deputies.

Participants I talked to about the game discussed it on condition that the identities of those playing the various roles not be divulged.

Key lessons emerging from the game included the need for a large allied ground force — the 250,000 troops posited by the game were barely adequate — and for advance thinking about what kind of regime should be set up after Hussein's defeat.

Those playing U.S. leaders split over whether to attack Baghdad immediately — it was defended by thousands of hard-core Republican Guard



**morton kondracke**

• commentary

troops — or wait and lay siege to the city.

They also split over whether to support an Iraqi general willing to kill Hussein, to install an Iraqi civilian government or to assume direct U.S. military control.

According to a report on the game prepared by Martin Indyk and Kenneth Pollack of Brookings, anthrax attacks on U.S. cities assumed "a very aggressive Iraqi terrorism strategy and granted these operations a sophistication and destructive capability that Iraq is not known to possess."

But anyone reading the Council on Foreign Relations report — and Hussein and leaders of Al Qaeda, too — would know that this country remains highly vulnerable to terrorist attack.

Chaired by former Sens. Warren Rudman (R-N.H.) and Gary Hart (D-Colo.), the report said that the United States is still "dangerously unprepared to prevent and respond to a catastrophic terrorist attack on U.S. soil."

"In all likelihood the next attack will result in even greater casualties and widespread disruption to American lives and the economy."

"The need for immediate action is made more urgent by the prospect of the United States going to war with Iraq and the possibility that Saddam Hussein might threaten the use of weapons of mass destruction in America," the report says.

Specifically, the panel reported, while a fortune is being spent to protect U.S. airports, more likely targets — seaports, oil and gas pipelines, food and water supplies, and key financial centers — remain virtually naked to terrorist attack.

"Only the tiniest percentage of containers, ships, trucks and trains that enter the United States each day are subject to examination," the report said,

### Letter Policy

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"and a weapon of mass destruction could well be hidden among this cargo."

Local and state police operate in "a virtual intelligence vacuum, without access to terrorist watch lists" prepared by the federal government.

The proof of this is that sniper suspects John Lee Malvo, an illegal immigrant, and John Allen Muhammad, identified by neighbors as a potential terrorist, repeatedly slipped through both federal and local police networks.

Also, according to the Rudman-Hart report, "first responders — police, fire, emergency medical technicians — are not prepared for a chemical or biological attack."

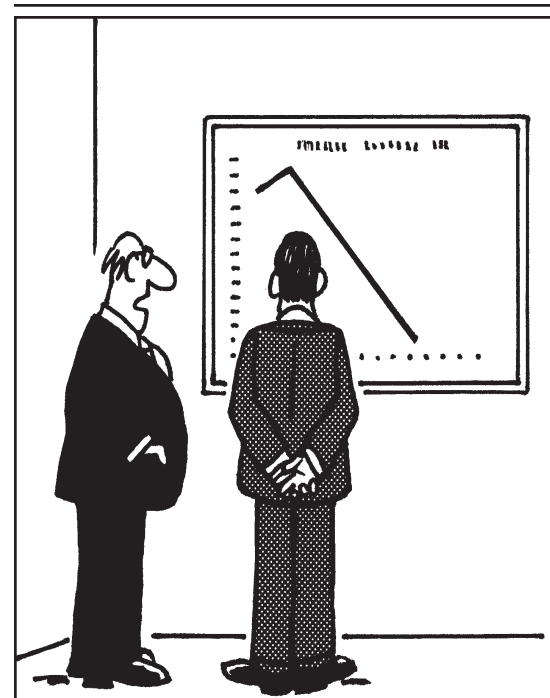
"Radios cannot communicate with one another and they lack the training and protective gear to protect themselves and the public in an emergency." Moreover, they aren't immunized against diseases they might encounter.

At a press conference and on ABC's "This Week," Rudman and Hart expressed outrage that Washington, though ostensibly "at war" with terrorism, hasn't passed homeland security legislation or appropriated money for it.

If a major new terrorist attack does take place, we can be sure that the first thing Republicans and Democrats will do is blame each other. It's disgusting.

Morton Kondracke is executive editor of Roll Call, the newspaper of Capitol Hill.

### berry's world



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