

Students earn money with speeches on freedom

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the British. They were vastly inexperienced in warfare and the ideal that they were fighting for had not yet been clearly delineated. Certainly they were upset with the British because of the way the colonies were governed, but were they really fighting for complete liberation?

Against the odds, the newly founded country of America came out on top. A system of democracy was founded, based upon freedom, that has been in place for almost 230 years. Certain inalienable rights emerged from the hard-won freedom — life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The price was high; lives had been lost and then was the challenge of setting up an entirely new government. With the advent of newly-found freedom, colonial America soon found that with freedom comes responsibility.

Responsibility as an obligation of freedom has been tested time and again. The ultimate test of freedom's obligations came with the Civil War in 1961. Our own people fought against each other in the North and South with more than one million casualties. Essentially, we fought to determine what moral responsibility we had towards

one another. Did we have the moral right to indenture other human beings when we referred to ourselves as a free nation? Ultimately, Congress assumed responsibility in the efforts of Reconstruction. By 1870, the 14th Amendment to our Constitution was adopted, granting citizenship for Black Americans born in the United States.

Over many decades the image of freedom has changed, along with a feeling of personal responsibility in our culture for preserving it. Freedom is often erroneously expressed as a right and is taken for granted. It is important to remember that we are privileged to be free to make choices for ourselves, and with that privilege comes responsibility.

Freedom does not mean individualism at the expense of others. Freedom's obligation carries both collective and individual responsibilities. First, it means that freedom must be collectively defended from time to time. Americans have always been willing to pick up arms and protect our country in time of need. However, satisfying freedom's obligation is much more than just strapping on a gun. It involves the individual responsibility that we must assume in our daily lives to make life better for ourselves and others. It

means civic responsibility. It means volunteering in our communities. Freedom's obligation involves basic human rights and a willingness to defend them.

Out of the ashes of Sept. 11, 2001, arose a new and better concept of individual responsibility. In recent generations, our focus has tended to be on individual rights, as opposed to seeing our lives as an integral part of one nation. It has been difficult for some of us to realize that America is not invulnerable. We are not immune to the terror in this world, nor can we ignore the peril around us. In this tragedy, where many lives were lost, we are, once again, recognizing the value of civic responsibility. We are realizing that perhaps we do need each other. As a result of Sept. 11, we are more aware of what is going on around us and of the needs of our fellow citizens.

It has been said that, "In order to know where you are going, you need to know where you have come from." In other words, the obligations that come with freedom have not changed and will not change. Americans must remember our past, remember those who have given their lives for freedom, remember past generations and learn from them.

We must be willing to defend our individual rights as well as make a contribution to the lives of those around us. The responsibilities involved in maintaining a free America have a beginning with no end. President John F. Kennedy said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country." If all Americans took this statement to heart, and applied it as a personal responsibility, our individual and collective obligations toward the pursuit of freedom would be assured.

Third place, Janet VanDonge
Staring out the small airplane window, at the vast, foreign land below, scared and excited, the young soldier waited in anticipation, not knowing what was to come. As he sat in silence next to others on the same boat as he, he wondered if he had made the right choice.

A man, sifting through his mail, could hear his children laughing and playing, carefree in the front yard. He looked down and saw his name neatly printed on the front of a white envelope with government markings. Dread went through his entire body. He knew what it was. How could he tell his family? How could he let them know he had been drafted for war?

The man knew it was his duty to protect the freedom of his family and fellow citizens. Though outwardly brave, inside he was terrified. He broke the news to his devastated family and friends. His children, too young to understand, didn't want their daddy to take the long trip.

The young soldier looked down at his lap, where in his hand lay his draft notice. He moved his thumb across the name, which was not his own. Was he to die for the safety of another?

The man stood outside his home staring up at the sky. He watched as a plane flew overhead. He wondered if on that plane was his brave comrade who had gone to war in his place for the sake of his family.

Both of these men knew the responsibilities of living in the United States of America. They both knew that they held the obligation to protect their freedom. These men as well as millions of others were brave for the sake of our lives.

I am a senior in high school, living in a time where fear and death stare us in the face. Men and women alike are being sent to defend us, only now, by choice. There are those who are sent overseas and to the coast for duty, and yet as I sit in class or in my community

I hear people ask, "Well what can we do? We can't be sent to war so there's nothing we can do. Why worry?"

Well this is my advice to those. Though we may not be old enough or able to fight, we also have an obligation to freedom. Those who are old enough to vote should, and those who aren't, encourage those who are of age, to vote. Support the people who went overseas to fight, and support the families of those who've died.

We all need to join together and protect our freedom. We must learn from our experiences to make our future better.

I ask you to think about the story I told you about the soldier and the man who was drafted. I know these experiences, though not exact, may have been presented to you somewhere in your lives. And although this war I spoke of was before my time, it has impacted my life also.

You see these acts of bravery and patriotism can hit very close to home. This young soldier I mentioned is my father. He stood up and defended us in time of need in a time where our freedom was being challenged.

Now it's our turn, those of us left at home must fulfill freedom's obligation.

Director tries to get feel for business situation

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the next closest town rather than going off to a city.

In looking at the county, Applegate said the schools and hospital are in good shape, and the city has done a lot to be sure the infrastructure is in place for the future.

"People say there is nothing to do," Applegate said, "but you just need to look around at the opportunities. There are many places that don't have a the-

ater, bowling alley, activity center, video stores, a water park and great city parks and playgrounds.

"In talking to the business people I find many care about the future, I feel one area we need to work on is to get the youth involved and make them believe they have a stake in the future."

She said she has had several people come into the office to ask



Applegate

what can be done about the empty buildings. She said she has asked the board members to help gather information on vacant buildings, including the specifics about the size and what is available.

"We are a resource center," Applegate said. "If you need to know about creating a business plan or cash flow

projections, we have information and can put you in touch with people who can help with these. These are free services that our tax money pays for and we need to use them.

"It is my experience in my years in economic development that it is important to have network contacts. I have spent seven years developing those contacts, and I can put people in touch with who can help or be able to find an answer."

One program available from the state is to help businesses expand into

the international market. She said there is money available to send business people to international trade shows to investigate how to expand their market. She said there is money to retrain workers when there is a change in what a business is doing.

A question from the audience asked about the other parts of the county, such as Kanorado. Applegate said she has talked to people in Edson, and plans to hold a meeting in Kanorado next week to talk to them.

When asked about a "negative aura" in the city, Applegate said she did not think some people were going to change those minds.

"I believe we can get past that by getting to the people who want to see this city grow," she said.

The Economic Development Council will hold its monthly board meeting at 5:15 p.m. Monday at Wheat Ridge Acres. Secretary Patty Eckhardt said there will be an open forum from 5:15 to 5:30 p.m. for people to talk.

Bin Laden threatens more attacks in newly released tape

TAPE, from Page 1

He said the tape proved that "there is an active enemy that continues to hate, that is willing to use murder as a way to achieve their goals."

Technical analysis thus far by the CIA and National Security Agency shows bin Laden likely recording the tape, but officials said the full analysis to match bin Laden's voice to previous recordings of him continues.

"Assuming it is in fact authentic, it is an effort to boost morale among the

rank and file," the official said. "It is an effort to show members of al-Qaida that top leadership is still around. It could also signal future attacks."

In the audiotape, aired Tuesday on Al-Jazeera, an Arabic television network, the speaker refers to recent terrorist strikes U.S. officials believe are connected to bin Laden's al-Qaida network. If verified, it would provide the first evidence in a year that bin Laden survived U.S. bombing in Afghanistan.

"I think there's a message here," Sen.

Richard Shelby said on CBS' "The Early Show." The Alabama Republican said, "The message is, we better be looking closely now for more terrorist attacks."

The audiotape was played alongside an old photograph of the al-Qaida leader, but there was no new video of him. Al-Jazeera said it received the tape on the day it was broadcast.

Officials believe bin Laden would release an audio recording, instead of a video, because they are easier to make and limit his public exposure, the

U.S. official said. An audio tape also hides an appearance of illness, and anything bin Laden might have done to disguise himself in the last year.

Military officials, who have led the yearlong hunt for the al-Qaida chief in Afghanistan and elsewhere, said they view the tape as the first independent proof in nearly a year that bin Laden is alive.

Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld has said repeatedly over recent months that there was no conclusive proof that bin Laden was dead, nor any that he was alive.

"This indicates he is alive," one official said today.

The speaker on the tape also threatened new terrorism against the United States and its allies, and castigated U.S. policy toward Iraq.

Confirmation that bin Laden is alive could pose problems for Bush, underscoring to an anxious public that the war on terrorism is far from over.

The tape is addressed to "peoples of the countries allied with the tyrannical U.S. government" and specifically mentions Britain, France, Italy, Canada, Germany, Australia and Israel, according to a U.S. government translation provided to the Associated Press.

"What business do your governments have to ally themselves with the gang of criminality in the White House against Muslims? Don't your governments know that the White House gang is the biggest serial killers in this age?" the speaker says.

Recent statements from al-Qaida

leaders have led U.S. and European leaders to warn of possible new attacks, particularly against railroads and oil and gas facilities. A law enforcement official said Tuesday that "chatter" among suspected terrorists has reached the level seen before the Sept. 11 attacks.

The last hard evidence bin Laden was alive surfaced late last year. A videotape recovered by U.S. forces in Afghanistan showed him having dinner with some of his deputies on Nov. 9, 2001.

Late in December, another tape of bin Laden giving a statement aired. He appeared gaunt and possibly wounded. The references in the tape suggested it was filmed in late November or early December, but officials are not certain.

County approves raise for dispatcher

Friday, Sherman County commissioners met with Communications Director Mary Messamore and approved a raise for dispatcher Bonnie King of 25 cents an hour to \$10.34, and appointed her the assistant coordinator of emergency management for the

county. They held a closed-door session with County Attorney Bonnie Selby to discuss legal matters involving water monitoring wells near the old city/county trash dump. No action was taken when they came back to open

session. The commissioners will hold a special meeting at 8 a.m. Friday to review and approve the county bills for the first half of the month. They meet in the commission room on the main floor of the courthouse, 813 Broadway Ave.

Israel does biggest sweep in months

NABLUS, West Bank (AP)—In the biggest sweep in months, Israeli troops hunting for militants stormed dozens of homes in this Palestinian city Wednesday, ordering residents to line up in the dawn chill as tanks blocked roads and helicopters hovered above.

Several explosions were heard in Nablus' Old City, or Casbah, apparently set off by soldiers breaking open doors. Tanks sealed all exits from the

Casbah, a maze of alleys and underground passages and the scene of fierce fighting in April. Troops took over a nearby girls' elementary school as a makeshift base.

The raid was triggered by a weekend shooting attack on an Israeli communal farm in which a gunman from the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade, a militia linked to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, killed five Israelis, including

two little boys. Israel says the gunman came from the Tulkarem refugee camp, which was raided Monday, and that he was dispatched by militiamen in Nablus.

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