

commentary

from other pens...

Powell's optimism may not be realistic

"It's a wonderful time to be Secretary of State of the United States of America."

Always the optimist, Colin Powell made that off-the-cuff remark the other day to a business group. Crises may be looming in Iraq and North Korea, but grim foreboding is not Powell's style.

What passed for a crisis just a few years ago was Yugoslavia's harsh treatment of the Albanian majority in Kosovo. A U.S.-led NATO bombing campaign in 1999 put a stop to it. The outcome was never in doubt. There were no American casualties.

Today is the second anniversary of Powell's debut as the nation's 65th secretary of state. "We're going to have a great time," Powell told well-wishers as he entered the State Department two years ago.

At the time, Powell had no way of knowing what would happen at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon eight months later or that America's terrorist enemies would openly declare that they are seeking weapons of mass destruction. Nor could he foresee the developing crises with Iraq and North Korea.

Iraq seemed more of a problem when Powell took office. "Instead of seeking peace and prosperity for his people, we see a weakened Iraq that utters threats and pursues horrible weapons to terrorize its neighbors," Powell said at his Senate Foreign Relations Committee confirmation hearing a few days before he was sworn in.

Now the specter of a second war with Iraq in 12 years looms as well as a possible confrontation with North Korea, perhaps as early as this spring, over concerns about Pyongyang's nuclear weapons program.

As a man who has occupied some of the most senior positions in the national security apparatus, Powell has seen crises before.

From that experience he has come up with a set of 13 rules, spelled out in his autobiography, some of which could apply to today's difficulties. They include: "Get mad. Then get over it." "Remain calm. Be kind." "Perpetual optimism is a force multiplier."

That optimism is in evidence when Powell speaks to groups.

Alluding to the benefits he believes democracy and free markets can bring, Powell told a State Department gathering last fall, "I always make sure that we spend part of our day not just on the crisis of the moment, but thinking about this future that's out there that can be so bright for so many millions upon millions of people."

It's hard for him to be pessimistic when he greets leaders from Russia or from former communist bloc states to talk about economics or security issues. He says he marvels at how he can have a relaxed conversation nowadays with people from countries against which he spent years mapping war strategies in his prior career as a soldier.

But he will need all the optimism he can muster as he tries to cope with one of the most difficult hands any secretary of state has been dealt in decades. Powell has often been at odds with colleagues on tactics and strategy, and reaching consensus on these issues is not easy.

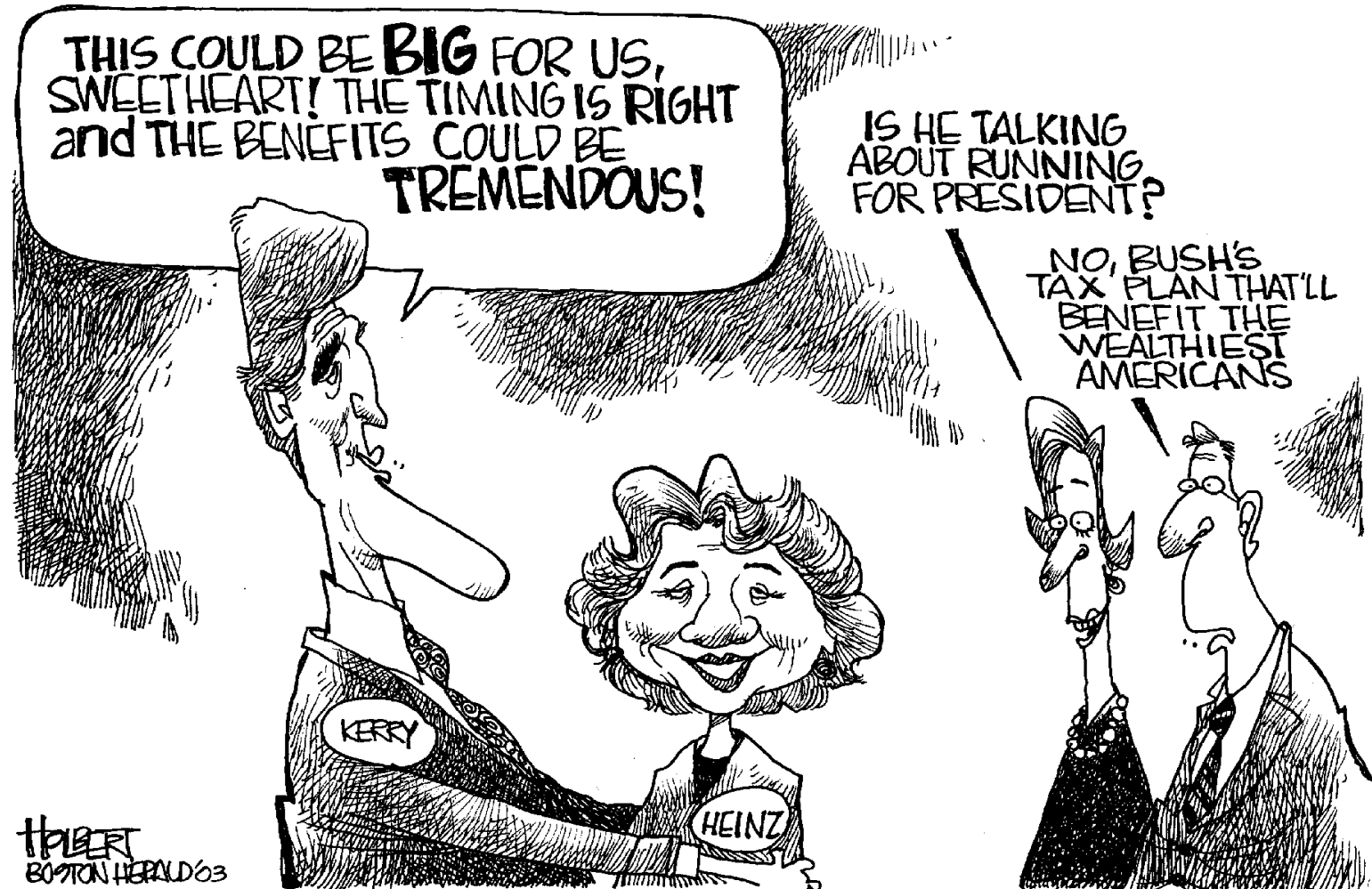
Based on Monday's U.N. Security Council meeting in New York, France, China and Russia are not prepared to await the report of U.N. inspectors before staking out a position against a war with Iraq.

The Bush administration believes a policy of pre-emption applies to Iraq. Worldwide, that view is clearly in the minority.

The administration seems puzzled about how to deal with North Korea, a country that Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld says may be "teetering on the verge of collapse." Rumsfeld notes, it is the world's leading proliferator of missiles and, given a few months, could become a proliferator of nuclear weapons as well.

Given these daunting circumstances, Powell can only hope that the first of his 13 rules will continue to apply during the weeks and months of danger that lie ahead: "It ain't as bad as you think. It will look better in the morning."

EDITOR'S NOTE: George Gedda has covered foreign affairs for The Associated Press since 1968.



Super food for Super Sunday

The big day is around the corner for the football enthusiasts. The following recipes are from the Kansas Beef Council.

Touchdown Beef Chili

2 1/2 pounds boneless beef chuck or round, cut into 1/2 inch pieces
2 cans (15 1/2 ounces each) black beans, rinsed, drained
1 can (15 1/2 ounces) chili style tomato sauce with diced tomatoes
1 medium onion, chopped
2 teaspoons chili powder
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon ground cumin
1/2 teaspoon pepper
1 cup prepared thick and chunky salsa
Combine all the ingredients except salsa in a Dutch oven and bring to a boil. Reduce heat, cover tightly and simmer 1 1/4 to 1 1/2 hours until beef is tender. Stir in salsa just before serving and heat thoroughly. Serves 6 to 8 (10 cups).

Southwestern Subs

1 package (1 ounce) Williams Tex-Mex Chili Seasoning
1 1/2 cups mayonnaise
1/3 cup minced, fresh cilantro
6 sandwich rolls
12 slices deli meat
12 slices Cheddar or Monterey Jack cheese



pat schiefen

• postscript

2 tomatoes, sliced
lettuce leaves

To make Tex-Mex mayonnaise combine chili seasoning, mayonnaise and cilantro in a small bowl. Blend well. Cover and refrigerate for several hours to blend flavors.

Spread Tex-Mex mayonnaise on rolls. Add deli meat, cheese, tomatoes and lettuce. Makes 6 sandwiches.

Play Off Burgers

2 pounds ground chuck
1 pound hot bulk sausage
2 tablespoons lime juice
1 package Williams Cajun Chili seasoning
2 tablespoons olive oil
1 cup chopped green onions
2 cloves, minced
1/3 cup chopped green bell pepper
1/3 cup chopped red bell pepper
2 jalapeno peppers, seeded and minced
1 small zucchini, chopped
3/4 cup hot barbeque sauce

Legislature's main issue is budget cuts

The Legislature convened on January 13. The main issue facing the legislature this year is the budget and it's projected shortfall. At this point everything is on the table.

Kansas Budget

During her State of the State address last Wednesday, Governor Sebelius proposed two budgets: a budget designed to meet statutory requirements and one intended to fulfill her campaign promises. The former has a 7.5% end balance, while the latter does not. The difference between the two is that she has stated her intentions not to pass the statutory budget. The Governor refused to have the statutory budget introduced as a bill. That budget cut most state agencies by almost 22 percent. As for the "campaign" budget, she told the legislature it is only a "starting point."

I really appreciate Governor Sebelius providing us a budget so quickly when she did not have to. She may be right that a tax increase is not needed but I will need lots of convincing to fully support that point of view (no tax increase needed). I am excited about working with the Governor.

Non-Statutory Budget Summary

• Increase in spending towards education is only a case load adjustment for bonds and per student weighting. At the same time, she is recommending a reduction of higher education spending by 0.8 percent (\$5.1 million) in FY 2004 for the Regents. However, the Governor recommends a \$242.6 million reallocation in



jim morrison

• capitol review

expenditures for Education on Governor's recommendation to roll special education aid into base State Aid Per Pupil as a per pupil weighting.

• Governor's proposed budget stops payments for the KPERS Death and Disability Fund for the FY 2004 and last quarter of FY 2003. Saves \$26.9 million from funding sources, including \$17.8 million from general budget. There was opposition to Governor Graves' proposal of this measure when the fund had enough money to handle the cessation of payments. So, it will be interesting to see if it is supported this time.

• No State General Fund transfers to the State Highway Fund. Governor's recommendation shifts portions of the Kansas Highway Patrol budget to the Department of Transportation.

• Calls for a 1.5 percent base salary increase for state employees. Estimated at \$26.9 million, including \$13.5 million from general fund.

• \$112.7 million increase in spending for Dept. of Social and Rehabilitation Services "largely for caseload increases."

Committee Reports

2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
2 tablespoons molasses
1 cup Roma tomatoes, seeded and diced
2 teaspoons grated lime zest
12 Kaiser sandwich rolls or hamburger buns
Combine chuck, sausage, lime juice and chili seasoning. Blend well and form into 12 patties. Grill or broil patties until cooked.

Heat oil in large skillet over medium high heat. Add green onions, garlic, peppers and zucchini. Saut  3 to 4 minutes. Add barbecue sauce, Worcestershire sauce and molasses. Stir while cooking until liquid is nearly gone. Stir in tomatoes and lime zest. Serve on buns and top with vegetable mixture. Makes 12 servings.

Spicy Beef Wraps

3/4 pound thinly sliced deli roast beef
1 container (8 ounces) onion and chive flavored soft cream cheese
4 large (10 inch diameter flour tortillas
1/2 cup A.1. Bold & Spicy Steak sauce
1/2 cup chopped celery
Spread cheese evenly over one side of each tortilla leaving a small border. Spread steak sauce over cheese. Sprinkle celery over steak sauce. Top with deli roast beef. Roll up tightly and wrap in plastic wrap. Refrigerate 1 to 3 hours or even overnight. Cut each roll cross-wise into 4 pieces. Makes 16 appetizers.

Committee meetings have been brief this week. Here are some selected highlights for selected committees:

Taxation: 63 bills offered to repeal tax credits and exemptions. Internet taxes will be reviewed. Reviewing Class-C Inheritance taxes.

Agriculture: Bill to stop the Federal Government from treating prairie dogs as endangered species.

Corrections and Juvenile Justice: Bill introduced to create two more prisons to accommodate overflow.

Commerce and Labor: Hearing with Lt. Governor Moore, discussion of Sunday sales of alcohol.

Rules and Journal: Discussed joint rules on Tuesday specifically ways to tighten our rules to meet our deadlines and finish our work on time.

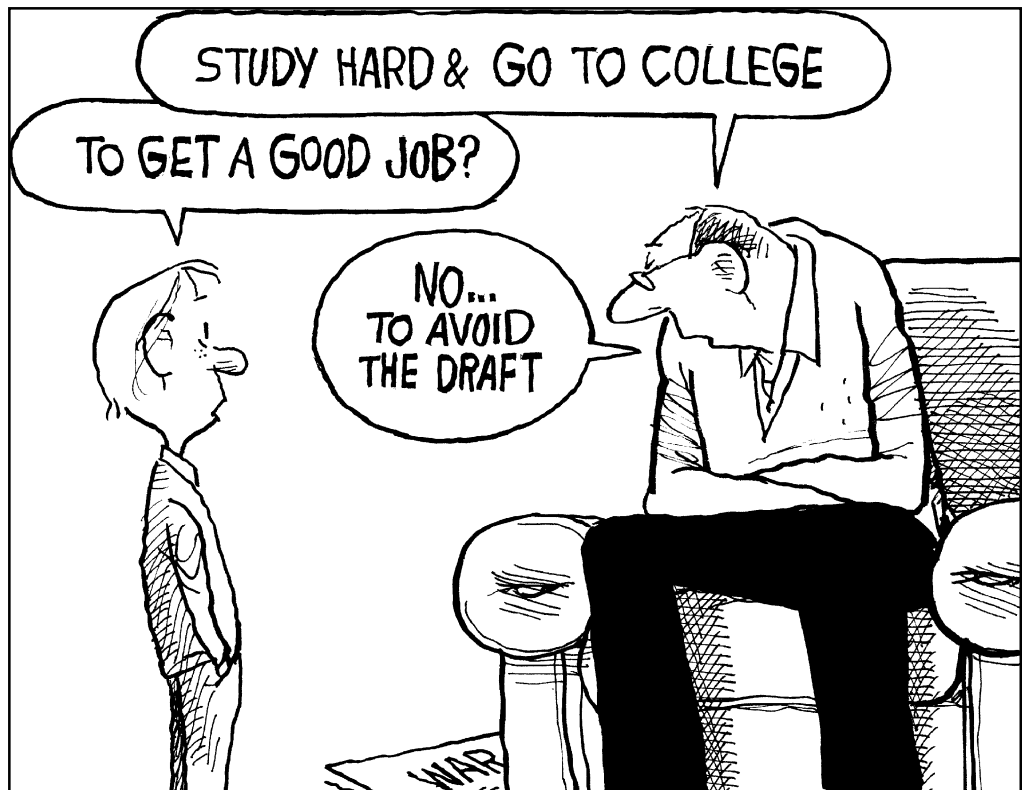
Ethics and Elections: Secretary of State will appear today.

Utilities: Hearing from proponents on the massive broadband bill.

Health: The committee will be the first legislative committee to experiment with paperless technology. It is also available live on the internet at <http://172.16.25.98:1089> daily from 1:30 to 2:50. I chair this committee and hope to improve committee discussions with the use of technology.

berry's world

EDITOR'S NOTE: Jim Berry is on vacation. Please use this classic cartoon, which was originally printed in 1995.



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