

commentary

from our viewpoint...

Why did we think war would be easy?

War, said Gen. W.T. Sherman, that favorite of southerners, is hell. Why we thought it would be otherwise is a puzzle. As the casualties mounted into the dozens Sunday, overwrought television reporters began questioning the allied drive to Baghdad. The CNN web site trumpeted the war's "bloodiest day." American generals came under sharp questioning. American troops continued their drive.

The hand wringing was almost laughable. Almost. The skirmishes the coalition encountered on the road to Baghdad so far could not be compared to the slaughter at Omaha Beach or Gettysburg or Pork Chop Hill.

This is a war, and war is hell. But so far, our feet are just a little warm. The American columns advanced more than halfway to their target before they encountered any significant opposition. More allied fighters were being lost to accidents — helicopter crashes, stray missiles, auto crashes — than to the enemy.

The Iraqi regular army's main role seemed to be to surrender to the Americans and British.

Bunker buster "smart bombs" followed one another down to the basement level of Saddam's palaces, and an easy triumph appeared to be within reach.

But there is no free pass in war, no "get-out-of-jail-free" card. Did it surprise anyone that Saddam's henchmen would mistreat and abuse the few American prisoners they have taken, a mere five compared to the thousands of Iraqis in our hands?

Did it surprise us that his militias would appear out of uniform, waving a white flag, to trick Marines into an ambush?

(This move serves a dual purpose, to kill a few Americans and to make it much harder for Iraqi troops to give up. Cruel, but effective.)

This is a regime that uses rape and torture as tools to interrogate and punish its own people. A regime that gassed whole villages of its countrymen. A regime that tortures not just someone who speaks against it, but their entire family.

As the American columns near the target, resistance is likely to get more intense. We will lose more soldiers. There will be more accidents.

But make no mistake. The administration and the military intend to win. They will not rest until Saddam is gone.

It's a war that no one wanted — not the world, not America, certainly not President Bush.

It's a war that will be more difficult to win than the first few days revealed. But we expect to win it. The American command says our advance is "unstoppable."

They expected difficulty along the way.

At a briefing Sunday, a British reporter asked the American general in charge if the problems of the weekend had made them realize the war would be more difficult than the commanders had thought.

"No," he said with a glare of contempt, turning to take the next question.

The high command, knowing Saddam Hussein and knowing war is hell, knew what to expect all along.

Hard times, and victory. We pray for them. — *Steve Haynes*



Respect seems to be in short supply

I don't know about you, but don't you think respect is in short supply?

Good manners and respect seem to be slowly disappearing from the American scene.

I suppose it could be one of those old-fashioned values we moderns don't need anymore.

Well, I disagree.

Is respect a God-given right? I believe it is. Every person is a child of God, created in God's image. What isn't there to respect in that sense?

Yet, many of us prefer to behave more like animals than creatures made almost like angels. There is a saying: "God don't make no junk. It takes us humans to do that!"

So the God-given right becomes something not everyone automatically deserves.

Demanding respect from your children when they don't see you demonstrating respect isn't



**lorna
gt**

• commentary

fair. Even though one of the Ten Commandments says "Honor your parents," honor still has to be deserved.

I wonder if respect has to be earned over and over? Or can we rely on its always being there if we had it sometime in our past?

That's something to consider.

Can it be lost if you make a mistake? Surely; it can be. But establishing an over-all good character goes a long way toward regaining respect or at least being given the benefit of the doubt.

But be careful: respect, like trust, is hard to get back once it's lost. Sadly, people aren't as forgiving as God is.

Sounds like I'm going around in circles, doesn't it?

Well, I am. I guess

I wish we all behaved as God intended so we wouldn't have to think about deserving or not deserving respect - let alone whether or not to give it.

Maybe respect isn't even material to your world. Maybe you don't care if you have it or give it.

How sad. Society is so much better when we exhibit it toward each other. Diversity is good. The world would be a colorless, boring place if we were all alike.

I wonder if we'd respect each other then.

Change to central makes late news later

To the Editor:

The change to Central Time will bring our late news and weather on at 10:00 p.m. Most people will have gone to bed by this time.

Sherman County has an advantage by staying on Mountain Time. It gives us and our neighbors to the north, east and south an extra hour to shop here, and we will still belong to the 21st century.

Lois Cossman
Goodland



**from our
readers**

• to the editor

ness is done in the Central Time Zone. Almost all of our business with the state and federal government is done in the Central Time Zone. I realize many of us do not work an 8-to-5 job, but most government and most businesses in the city do work such hours. That being the case, there are at least four hours per day when we don't have access to those business and governmental offices in the Central Time Zone. At 8 a.m. Mountain Time, we have missed an hour of Central Time access. At 11 a.m. Mountain Time, the "Easterners" go to lunch. At noon Mountain Time we go to lunch. At 4 p.m. Mountain Time the "Easterners" have gone home for the day. By changing to Central Time, businesses and government would have the same access to the "Easterners" as the rest of the state.

GEOGRAPHY: There are 105 counties in Kansas and four on Mountain Time. St. Francis and Elkhart are just as far west as we are, and they survive on Central Time. It seems to me that all 105 counties on the same time zone makes sense and maybe the other three counties would follow our lead.

TIME ITSELF: A farmer friend of mine recently said "anyway you look at it, there are just 24 hours in a day" and he works sunup to sundown so it doesn't matter to him.

For those who are concerned about access to our businesses, I believe most businesses in our community would stay open past 5 p.m. if customer demand required it.

There are only 24 hours in the day. It is my opinion that we should measure them and time them for the most good for the most people. I think it will be hard to adjust to the sun being up until 9:30 or 10 in the evening, but then that gives me more time for yard work. But that is one of those little personal issues that in my opinion we should avoid if our community as a whole would be benefited by avoiding the constant confusion and calculation we daily, and even hourly, find ourselves going through

with almost everyone we talk to.

This is just my opinion. I respect your right to disagree with it. I just hope you will consider changing our community to Central Time.

Vote Tuesday at the courthouse on this issue.
Ron Vignery
Goodland

To the Editor:

One of the best things about Sherman County is being in the Mountain Time Zone.

Noon should come when the sun is directly overhead, not at the 10 o'clock position.

We have always managed the simple math problem of adding or subtracting an hour. Why has this suddenly become so difficult?

An additional hardship falls on working parents who must prepare children for school an hour or two earlier in the morning, depending on Central Time or Central Daylight time. Imagine this on dark winter mornings! Surely we don't need this added stress of hours set ahead.

Young children need adequate rest for health and good school performance.

Some tourists desire to stop early and shop and some wish to go on. Wal-Mart would be the biggest incentive to stop and shop, not the time. Unless tourists stopped extremely early, most downtown businesses would be closed.

Everyone comments on how fast time flies. Why speed it up an hour or two?

We are thankful to be able to vote on this issue.

Evelyn Schindler
Goodland

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