

from our viewpoint...

## Search for weapons doesn't change result

The search for weapons of mass destruction will continue in Iraq, and the controversy will not be settled until some evidence is found that the weapons did exist.

Secretary of State Colin Powell was on the Sunday talk show circuit saying the intelligence about the weapons in Iraq was solid, and blaming the media for raising questions now.

he Congress is planning inquiries into the intelligence and other aspects of the invasion of Iraq, and the apparent lack of the chemical and nuclear weapons that were supposed to exist.

For the Bush administration, the lack of evidence may be a problem with the American public because it was the cornerstone of why we invaded this country and risked American lives to remove Saddam Hussein.

Of course, some of the gnashing of teeth and rhetoric is being done for political reasons, to slice into Bush's popularity as the election season begins to move forward.

Having hearings is one way Congress can have something of a say in how things are being done, and whether the effort should continue. The worst that could happen would be a reversal of support for the war effort and a cut off of money to keep the troops in the field. That is not likely to happen, but it gives the politicians a way to make waves.

We should not be surprised at the furor the politicians and press seem to be making over the lack of weapons of mass destruction. This is not the first time an American president has stuck his and the country's neck out and sent men to war because of similar reports.

Going back to the Spanish American War in 1898, we used the explosion of the USS Maine in Havana Harbor as a rallying cry to go to war. That gave rise to the Rough Riders and Teddy Roosevelt.

Evidence sifted and resifted over the past 100 years shows the ship blew up from a coal fire setting off ammunition and not from a mine on its hull.

We used the sinking of the British steamship Lusitania as one of the reasons to enter World War I, but years later it was revealed the Lusitania was not the innocent passenger ship everyone had been told. It was carrying weapons and ammunition to the British.

There is evidence Franklin Delano Roosevelt had information about the attack on Pearl Harbor before it happened, but the message was not delivered with a high priority and got delayed.

When American advisors were first sent to South Vietnam, in 1958, it was supposed to be as a training support and not as combat troops. However, that all changed when an American destroyer was supposedly attacked in the Gulf of Tonkin in 1964, and Congress was asked to give President Lyndon Johnson the power to take military action. Later, many of those who supported the resolution as it flew through Congress regretted their action and Congress repealed the resolution in 1971.

Hearings and investigations are a part of the afterlife of any war, and despite the revisions in history, the ultimate answer is that the war has been fought, men died and we now face a new challenge.

Today that challenge is helping Iraq move away from the old regime and into the light of a new more peaceful world. — *Tom Betz*

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# Check out modeling school claims of success

Dear Attorney General Kline:

Last week my friends and I were at the mall when a person approached claiming he was an agent for a famous modeling school, and that I had the look they were looking for. He gave me his card and asked me to come to an audition. I didn't know it at the time, but he also gave the same talk to my two friends the day before. Do real modeling agencies recruit this way?

Dear Kansas Consumer:

While a small number of famous models and actors have been "discovered" in ordinary places, the vast majority of those who make it in show business do so after knocking door-to-door for work, working in no-paying or low-paying theaters, and taking endless classes learning how to walk, talk, and wave. Very seldom is someone able to get modeling work based on looks alone.

However, there are a number of recurring scams which take advantage of people's desire for the glamour of modeling combined with their ignorance of how the industry really works. In these scams, an "agent" for a modeling company will invite many people to an audition which is in fact a sales presentation for photographs, acting classes, or any number of other services which can separate you from your money without moving you any closer to your first modeling job. In order to avoid the scams while preserving your ability to break into the business legitimately, you'll need to be on the lookout for the following:



## phill kline

- attorney general

Understand the difference between an agency and a school. An acting school can train you in the proper way to compose yourself, walk, apply makeup, even cry. They provide an educational service for a fee and are usually under no obligation to find work for you. An agency will secure work for you and take a percentage of your earnings as their fee. Be careful of agencies that charge you fees up front, or of schools that only work with specific agencies.

Be wary of claims about high salaries. While hourly modeling rates are high even in small markets, most models spend a lot of hours securing each paying hour of work. The vast majority of models are not paid full-time, only for the few hours that it takes to model a specific project.

Check out an agency or school's claims. If it claims to have secured high-paying work with specific magazines or for specific models, follow those claims up. Ask for the names and addresses of those who have secured work with the help of the agency. A little time spent asking questions can save you a lot of time and money later.

Do a background search on the company,

# Storms give high plains deep green color

We left Colorado half a step ahead of the storms.

Almost.

Leaving Walsenburg, at the base of the mountains, a big one caught up with us. We got pasted: rain, wind, hail so thick the road turned white.

I was expecting frogs next, maybe dogs and cats.

Cynthia's knuckles were white on the steering wheel. She slowed down to 35 to navigate the ice.

A huge storm was sweeping off the mountains and out onto the plains. It's been doing that for days now, and the forecast is for a couple more weeks of storms.

It may not be a wet year yet, but it's certainly a different world out on the plains from this time last year.

Last year, all you could see for miles on end was brown. This year, on the high plains, everything is green as far as the eye can see. And you can see a long, long ways out there.

Farther west, where not much grows over a couple of inches tall, the grass is green and growing. There are still some brown spots. But not many.

And the rains are coming. Friday night, clouds covered nearly all of eastern Colorado. Saturday, they were sweeping down onto the plains again. Sunday, they made it to Oberlin, drenching the whole of Decatur County.

In the mountains, the daily monsoons have



## steve haynes

- along the sappa

started — about a month and a half early.

Is the drought over? Seems to be. Are we back into a wet cycle? Only time will tell.

But Sunday, it sure felt like it.

☆☆☆☆

Out on the plains, you're luck to meet a car every couple of miles or so. Most days.

When you start passing rig after rig pulling stock trailers, you know it must be a rodeo.

We're talking fancy rigs here, especially the trailers. They have space for a horse or two in the back, windows for the mounts, bunks up front for the riders.

## where to write

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## garfield

