

from our viewpoint...

Bush says right thing about ongoing war

President Bush said the right thing the other night in a low-key speech about the war on terrorism. It's going to cost us, in lives and in cash, he said, but we have to finish what we've begun here. What the terrorists want is for America to retreat. That's what they've wanted all along. They destroyed the World Trade Center and tried to down the Pentagon because they want us out of their part of the world. They hate us and our way of life. They won't leave us alone, even if we withdraw all our troops from Afghanistan and Iraq. And it would be wrong to do that anyway. We promised freedom to the oppressed people of those two lands.

Freedom from the religious zealots of the Taliban. Freedom from the torture and mass killings under Saddam Hussein. We need to keep that promise. We would dishonor the American soldiers, the Afghan soldiers and the Iraqi patriots who have died so far if we pulled out. Their deaths would be in vain. Ted Kennedy and a lot of the Democrat candidates for president want us to pull out, to turn tail and run home because people are shooting at us.

The president made it pretty clear when we started this effort two years ago that it would not be quick, easy or cheap. Nothing has changed.

The Taliban, armed and encouraged by Osama bin Laden's al Qaida, is making an attempt to retake Afghanistan. Coalition troops are needed to support the new government as it fights them.

American troops will be shot at, and yes, some will die. But we can't afford to let this country go back where it was, a base and sanctuary for international terrorists.

In Iraq, foreign forces including al Qaida are trying to mount opposition to our army. Of course, they don't want us there. Bin Laden and his buddies don't want us to win. And they don't want to see a free, democratic Iraq that might not toe the line with their strict form of Islam.

We were hailed as liberators by the common people in both these nations. We have a compact with those people to protect their liberty, and we need to honor that.

More importantly for us, we need to keep the forces of terrorism on the run. We're winning this war, but it is far from over.

It's no time for retreat. The president put it well: "We are fighting that enemy in Iraq and Afghanistan today, so that we do not meet him again on our own streets, in our own cities."

He's right. — *Steve Haynes*

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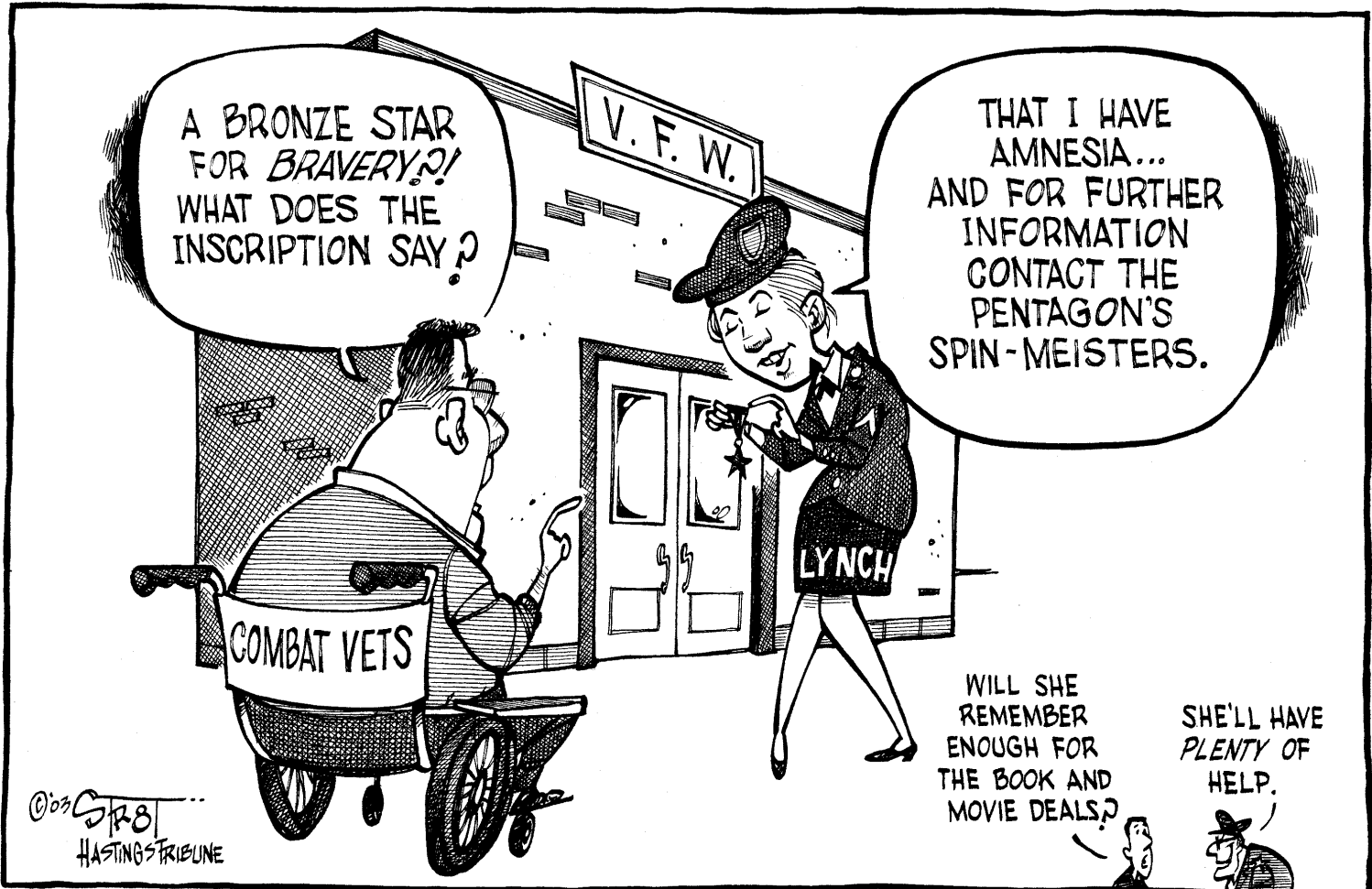
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Celebrating Grandparents Day

I don't know about you, but I helped celebrate Grandparent's Day last Sunday.

All the grandparents in our church stood up and were applauded. Then all the grandchildren were asked to stand. You should have seen the confusion on some faces. I think only the ones who had living grandparents finally stood, but aren't we all grandchildren of someone?

I didn't have any grandchildren with whom to celebrate in person, but I spent some time thinking about my family. My children and grandchildren are scattered all over the world.

The grandchildren have grown up seemingly overnight, and I hardly got to know them. There's no chance to worry over them much because I don't know what they're into; I'm grateful that there's also little need to worry about them. However, just the world situation is enough to make me wonder about the challenges they face and will face in their lifetimes.

I remember things about my own children, and wish I'd taken time to just enjoy them more. They were such good kids. Mannerly and considerate. Smart, but also with a lot of common sense. I was always proud to take them out in public. I hope they felt the same about their mother.

I remember our teasing our oldest about his always needing to know the details — where we're going, how we'll get there, etc. His per-



**lorna
gt**

• commentary

sonality was 180 degrees different from the second son's. Number Two was happy-go-lucky, content to let others take care of things. Number Three son seemed to always be a good mixture of the other two. As adults, they carry some of the same traits, but others (some very unexpected) have emerged in surprising ways. I love the three of them though and am proud of them.

I brought out some quotes I'd saved about rearing children, so I'll share them:

"Growing children is like growing plants: They take a lot of nurturing and cultivation. Here are some things that children learn on the way to growing up: 1. Cats don't like water. 2. When Mom is mad at Dad, don't let her brush your hair. 3. If your sister hits you, don't hit her back. They always catch the second person. 4. You can't trust dogs to watch your food. 5. You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk. 6. Don't wear polka-dot underwear under white shorts. 7. When you're sad, the best place to be is Grandpa's lap." — Thanks to Kathy

Haste makes you go back for what you forgot

Haste makes you turn around and go back home to pick up what you forgot.

I've been running back and forth and up and down lately, and about half the time that means I'm retracing my steps.

Last week, it meant an extra trip to Norton on Saturday afternoon.

Saturday is my time to write. I sit down at my little desk in the kitchen with a hot cup of coffee and write sports, columns and other works of deathless prose. In the afternoon, I return to the computer with a bowl of popcorn and a diet Coke and do artificial resuscitation on the deathless works of prose.

Last week, I sat down to write up my notes from the Norton City Council.

The council had had one of those edge-of-your-seat meetings. First you sit on one edge of the seat, then on another, hoping for some relief from a numb gluteus maximus. I have the same problem during the sermon in church sometimes.

My notebook was gone. It wasn't in my car, on my desk or at the Oberlin office. It wasn't next to the bed, on the kitchen or dining room tables or in the living room.

I called Dick Boyd, former publisher of *The Telegram*, in Norton and implored him to go check the office. He did and, sure enough, my notebook was beside my desk, right where I had left it while rushing off the day before.

Around trip between Oberlin and Norton isn't that big of a deal, but it was more than an hour out of my writing time and a couple of gallons of gas.

Steve has the same problem of rushing off as he speeds towards Goodland most days of the week. Since he can only get one and one-half round trips between Oberlin and Goodland, he



**cynthia
haynes**

• open season

spends a lot of time at the gas pump. That pump is frequently in Selden or Bird City, depending on his route.

He refuses to fill the tank until it is less than one-fourth full and frequently coasts into town after midnight with that little red light that says you're about to run out of gas glaring at him.

It's the same at home. We both run home from different directions and start tossing supper together.

In the summer, we like to cook outside on our charcoal grill.

More than once, the pork chops, steak or

chicken have tasted amazingly like kerosene because we haven't waited long enough for the starter to burn off before tossing the meat on the grill.

Son Lacy learned a hard lesson in not rushing into things.

He and sister Lindsay spent Labor Day weekend at our place in Colorado. On arriving at the house, he was thirsty and grabbed a carton of orange juice and downed a couple of glasses. The next morning he had another one.

By afternoon he had stomach cramps and diarrhea. He didn't think to check the expiration date on the juice until the last of it came out in a large green lump.

I can't imagine that the juice tasted very good, but he said it seemed fine until the end.

I'm just glad he finished off the juice, because I'm always in a hurry to fix breakfast, and I'm going out to Colorado next week.

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