

from our viewpoint...

## New fax regulations hamper business

The government is helping folks again — helping put us out of business.

As part of the Do-Not-Call law, the Federal Communications Commission amended its regulations to restrict the use of faxes for business.

The commission ruled that no one can send a fax with advertising information on it without having the written permission of the person to whom it is sent. This permission is good for three years.

You can't get permission by faxing someone a sheet. It has to be mailed to them, even if they have asked that you send them information.

Advertising information can be as little as your letterhead with a logo or slogan.

If you decide to do a little remodeling and want bids from two or three contractors, they won't be able to fax you the information.

If you want to send a bill to a customer who asks you to fax it to them, you couldn't unless you had their written permission to fax them first.

If you wanted the proof of an ad, a copy of a legal document, a bill, a bid, a purchase order, a set of plans or just about anything other than a letter from your grandmother, you'd better have sent the person faxing you written permission.

Worse yet, if you run a commercial fax business, you are liable for what other people send out on your line.

Businesses in Goodland would be liable not only for what they do, but for what other people do using their service.

The government, in its infinite wisdom, has put off implementation of this rule until January. However, after that violators can be sued for up to \$1,500 per fax.

In the cities, lawyers are gathering unsolicited faxes and paying \$2 each with the understanding that they can sue the sender and collect any damages for themselves.

What does all this mean?

It'll cost everyone more to do business.

That means that it'll cost the consumers more for goods and services. Businesses will not be able to give the kind of service that they should be able to provide because they'll be afraid of being sued.

And for what? Who gets so many faxes that they feel threatened by the overload?

Once, before e-mail spam, there were a lot of junk faxes. But now, why would anyone spend money sending faxes when they can junk up your e-mail for free?

This is another example of the government offering a steam shovel to swat a fly which has already flown off.

And, of course, the government will be exempt from the rules. As usual.

"We're from the government. We're here to help you." — Cynthia Haynes

## The Goodland Star-News

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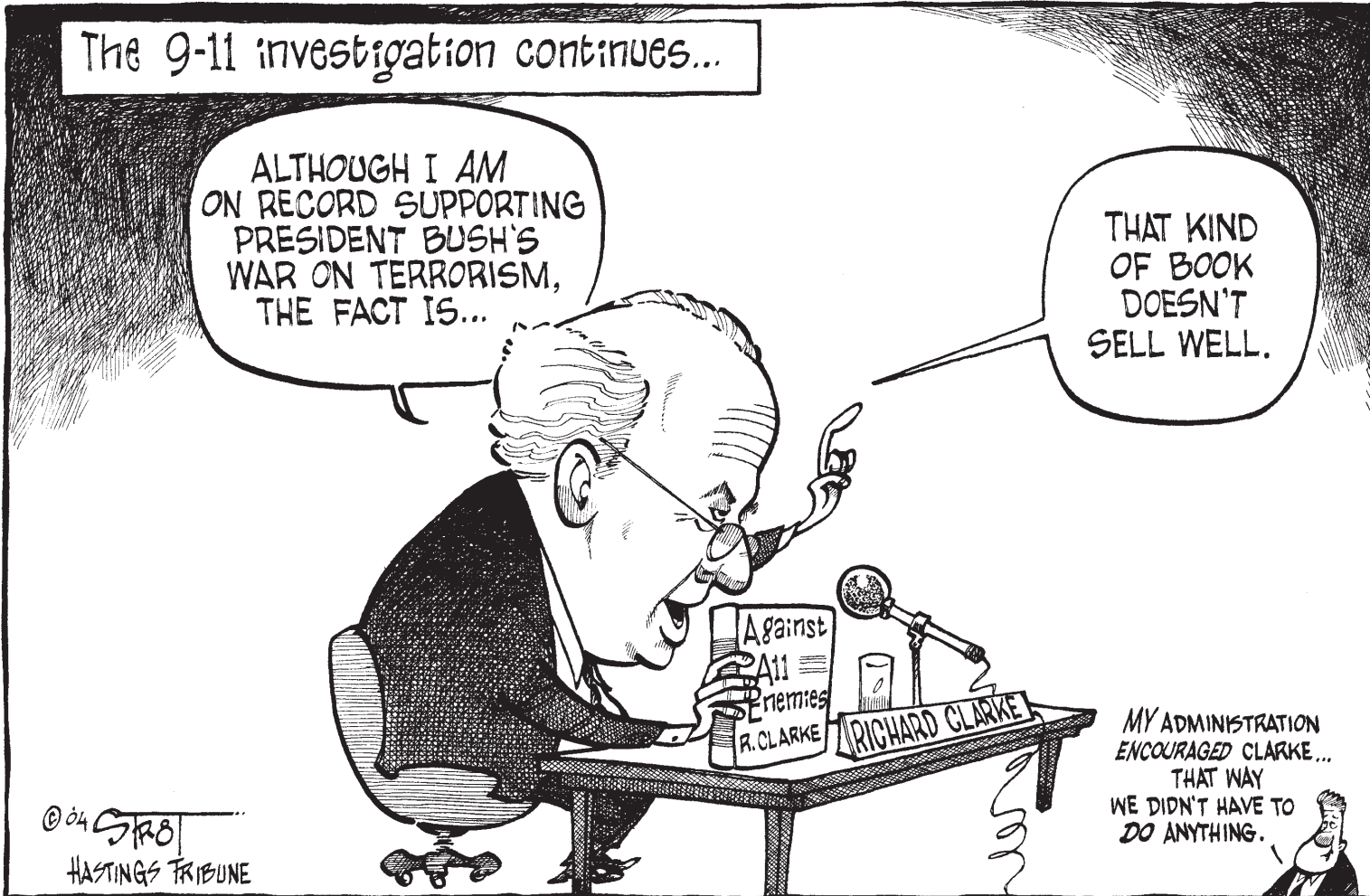
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## It has been an interesting Lent season

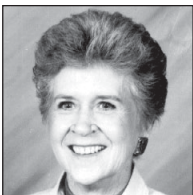
I don't know about you, but for me, this has been an interesting Lent.

One book I've been reading has been on the best-seller lists for quite awhile. "The Purpose-Driven Life" by Rick Warren.

I'd like to share some of it with you:

"Everyone is driven by something. Many people are driven by guilt. They spend their entire lives running from regrets and hiding their shame. Guilt-driven people are manipulated by memories. They allow their past to control their future. They often unconsciously punish themselves by sabotaging their own success. We are products of our past, but we don't have to be prisoners of it. God specializes in giving people a fresh start

"Many people are driven by resentment and anger. They hold onto hurts and never get over them. Instead of releasing their pain through forgiveness, they rehearse it over and over in their minds. Resentment always hurts you more than it does the person you resent. Listen: Those who have hurt you in the past cannot continue to hurt you now unless you hold onto the pain through resentment. Nothing will change (the past). For your own sake, learn from it, and then let it go.



**lorna  
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● commentary

"Many people are driven by fear. Regardless of the cause of (the fear), fear-driven people often miss great opportunities because they're afraid to venture out. Instead they play it safe, avoiding risks and trying to maintain the status quo. Fear is a self-imposed prison that will keep you from becoming what God intends for you to be.

"Many people are driven by materialism. Their desire to acquire becomes the whole goal of their lives. This drive to always want more is based on the misconceptions that having more will make me more happy, more important, and more secure, but all three ideas are untrue. Possessions only provide temporary happiness, and (will not guarantee self-worth or security).

"Many people are driven by the need for approval. Many adults are still trying to earn the approval of unpleasable parents, or (by

what other people might think). Unfortunately, those who follow the crowd usually get lost in it. ...one key to failure is to try to please everyone.

"There are other forces that can drive your life, but all lead to the same dead end: unused potential, unnecessary stress, and an unfulfilled life."

What drives your life?

Whatever road you're currently traveling, I pray it will lead you toward being the best that you can be.

With God's help, it will.

But stubborn insistence on having your own way will just drive you farther away from all that God intends for you.

I recommend this book to you, not just during Lent, but at any time you are in need of introspection and spiritual nourishment. Like maybe, now?

*I have compiled some of my columns into a hardcover book. It is \$22 if I don't have to mail; \$24 for a mailed copy; that is just my cost, no profit. Contact me through star-news@nwkansas.com or at PO Box 12, Conway Springs KS 67031 if you would like to purchase one.*

## Exhibit worth the wait, effort

It took a year, but it was worth it as 14 World War I posters from a collection at the Big Timbers Museum of Lamar, Colo. arrived Friday to be on display with a special Smithsonian exhibit.

The Smithsonian show "Produce for Victory" is a representation of the posters used during World War II to encourage the American workers to produce at a maximum level and to support the war effort in every way possible.

"These posters are a really neat way of capturing the ideological ideas of that era," said Jay Antle, an assistant professor of history at Johnson County Community College. Antle was the speaker for the opening of the exhibit on Saturday afternoon.

Pointing out the display of original World War I posters on loan from the Big Timbers Museum, Antle contrasted the messages. The U.S. was neutral for the first few years of World War I, he said, so the government needed to convince Americans that joining the war was necessary.

In World War II, he said, the attack on Pearl Harbor convinced Americans it was a good war. Pearl Harbor clarified doubts and unified America, he said, not that America wouldn't have joined the war anyway. When World War II began, the U.S. government had been pushing neutrality, Antle said, and Americans at first were not willing to consider another war. Hitler's march across Europe changed that.

It was a great afternoon, and Antle did a wonderful job of comparing the posters and talking about their importance in the war effort on the home front.

Talking about the World War I posters, he said it was good to see them as a part of the show, and that they are a rare find. He said he likes to collect the World War I posters because of the art. They are more intricate than the more



**tom betz**

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stylized ones from World War II.

It is a personal pleasure to have those World War I posters on display. It was about seven years ago when I was working with the Big Timbers Museum that a friend, Loren Reyher, and I found a roll of paper in the corner of a basement room. We were surprised and excited when we unrolled it and found about 60 original World War I posters.

Reyher took the lead in an effort to get Lamar businesses and people to help get the posters framed using special preservation materials. Of the 60 we found, about 45 were eventually framed and put on display at the museum.

When we heard last year about the Smithsonian exhibit coming we began asking about bringing part of the Lamar collection to Goodland. We kept

## where to write

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