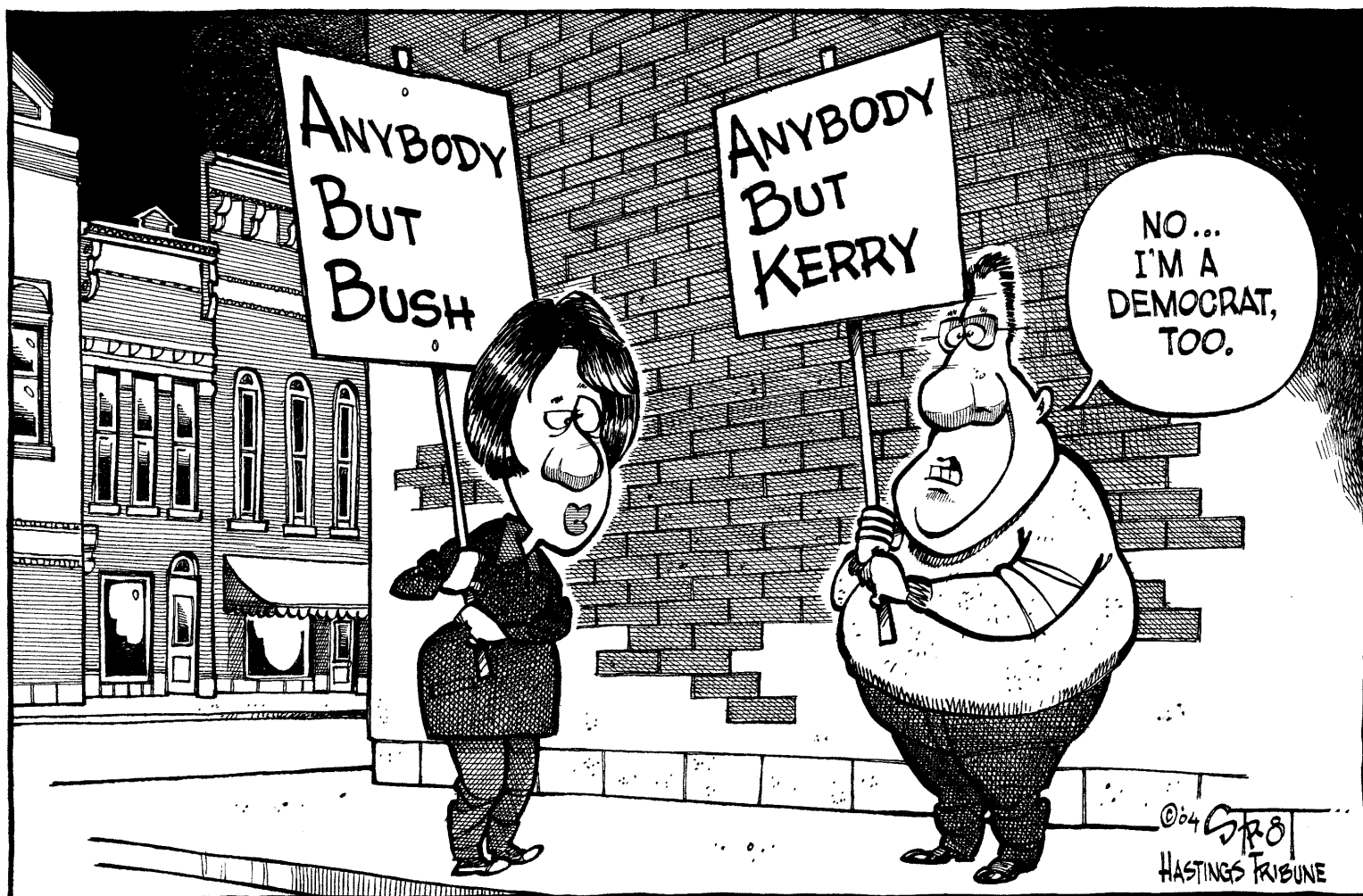


from our viewpoint...

Choosing between Bush and bin Laden

Bush or bin Laden?
That's one of the choices Americans will have to make when they vote this fall.
There's no doubt if President Bush is turned out, it will be a victory of sorts for Osama bin Laden and his like.
The Bush administration has pursued Osama into the hill on the Afghan border. He's hemmed in, far from his one-time military bases and training camps. The effectiveness of al Qaida is greatly reduced from four years ago.
If voters repudiate Bush, are they repudiating his policies? Democrats won't like the answer, but it's yes.
Four years ago, the Clinton administration was doing little, if anything, to track down bin Laden and his tribe. Clinton handled al Qaida and terrorism as a "law enforcement problem." The administration put barriers in the way of tracking down terrorists, including the infamous "wall" separating the FBI from foreign intelligence services.
It's easy to argue with Bush's motives.
Detractors say he was fixated on Iraq, that he wanted only to finish his daddy's war. But he struck first at the terrorist hideouts in Afghanistan, and he continues to pursue al Qaida there.

In fact, the liberation of Afghanistan ought to be listed among the administration's finest accomplishments.
Iraq is much more difficult to deal with. It's a complex society where we face trained and dedicated opposition from many forces lined up against the United States. And the whole world would like to know where the weapons of mass destruction went to.
While American troops were welcomed as liberators as Saddam Hussein fell, there are plenty of people who would like to see us leave Iraq. Bin Laden surely is among those, but so are Saddam's supporters and a host of others.
Terrorists are not dumb. They know we can't stand the sight of Americans being killed, maimed and mutilated.
They are likely to kill as many as they can between now and election day, hoping that a new administration will change American policy and pull out of Iraq.
It worked in Spain. It just might work against the United States.
Is that what we want? If we do not stand against international terrorism, who will?
There are other issues in this election: The economy, jobs, big government, schools, you name it. Republicans and Democrats can disagree over those.
On foreign policy, we need to be united against terrorists and terrorist states. Pulling out of Iraq and leaving the people there in the hands of those who set bombs and kill both troops and children is not the answer.
Changing presidents is not going to help us win this war, either in Iraq or around the world.
You can vote for Bush. Or vote, in effect, for bin Laden.
— Steve Haynes



There is a reason to pickup penny's

I don't know about you, but I still bend over to pick up a penny when I see one.

Many people don't. I've read that the government is advocating not making pennies anymore; they cost more to make than they are worth.

You always hear the usual stories of pennies on the sidewalk being good luck, gifts from angels, etc. Here is a new twist by an unknown author. Gives you something to think about:

"Several years ago, a friend of mine and her husband were invited to spend the weekend at the husband's employer's home. My friend, Arlene, was nervous about the weekend. The boss was very wealthy, with a fine home on the waterway, and cars costing more than her house.

"The first day and evening went well, and Arlene was delighted to have this rare glimpse into how the very wealthy live. The husband's employer was quite generous as a host, and took them to the finest restaurants. Arlene knew she would never have the opportunity to indulge in this kind of extravagance again, so was enjoying herself immensely.

"As the three of them were about to enter an exclusive restaurant that evening, the boss was walking slightly ahead of Arlene and her husband. He stopped suddenly, looking down on the pavement for a long, silent moment.

"Arlene wondered if she was supposed to pass him. There was nothing on the ground except a single darkened penny that someone had dropped, and a few cigarette butts. Still



**lorna
g t**

• commentary

silent, the man reached down and picked up the penny.

"He held it up and smiled, then put it in his pocket as if he had found a great treasure. How absurd! What need did this man have for a single penny? Why would he even take the time to stop and pick it up?

"Throughout dinner, the entire scene nagged at her. Finally, she could stand it no longer. She casually mentioned that her daughter once had a coin collection, and asked if the penny he had found had been of some value.

"A smile crept across the man's face as he reached into his pocket for the penny and held it out for her to see. She had seen many pennies before! What was the point of this?

"Look at it." He said. "Read what it says." She read the words "United States of America."

"No, not that; read further."

"One cent?"

"No, keep reading."

"In God we Trust?"

"Yes! And?"

"And if I trust in God, the name of God is holy, even on a coin. Whenever I find a coin I see that inscription. It is written on every single

United States coin, but we never seem to notice it! God drops a message right in front of me telling me to trust Him? Who am I to pass it by? When I see a coin, I pray, I stop to see if my trust is in God at that moment. I pick the coin up as a response to God; that I do trust in Him. For a short time, at least, I cherish it as if it were gold. I think it is God's way of starting a conversation with me. Lucky for me, God is patient and pennies are plentiful!

"When I was out shopping today, I found a penny on the sidewalk. I stopped and picked it up, and realized that I had been worrying and fretting in my mind about things I cannot change. I read the words, 'In God We Trust,' and had to laugh. Yes, God, I get the message.

"It seems that I have been finding an inordinate number of pennies in the last few months, but then, pennies are plentiful! And, God is patient..."

My life wouldn't be worth a penny — or a plug nickel — without God's trustworthiness and patience.

As long as my back permits, I will stoop to pick up any coin, but now a special meaning will be connected with the gift.

Happy Mother's Day!

(Lorna GT has compiled some of her columns into book form. Please contact this paper at <star-news@nwkans.com> if you are interested in purchasing one. It is \$24 for a hardback book, which includes postage & handling.)

The Goodland Star-News

(USPS No. 222-460. ISSN 0893-0562)

Member: Kansas Press Association
Inland Press Association Colorado Press Association
National Newspaper Association
e-mail: star-news@nwkans.com

Steve Haynes, President

Tom Betz, Editor

Pat Schiefel, Copy Editor

Sharon Corcoran, Society Editor

Greg E. Stover, Reporter/Sports Editor

Doug Jackson, Advertising Coordinator

Bill Wagoner, Anne Hamilton, Jennifer Arntt, Adv. Sales

Sheila Smith, Office Manager



Nor'west Press

Jim Bowker, General Manager

Richard Westfahl Ron VanLoenen Judy McKnight

Betty Morris Aaron Hickert Mary Jo Tapparo Lana Westfahl

nwkans.com

N.T. Betz, Director of Internet Services

(ntbetz@nwkans.com)

Evan Barnum, Systems Admin. (support@nwkans.com)

Published every Tuesday and Friday except the days observed for New Year's Day and Christmas Day, at 1205 Main Ave., Goodland, Kan. 67735.

Periodicals postage paid at Goodland, Kan. 67735; entered at the Goodland, Kan., Post Office under the Act of Congress of March 8, 1878.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Goodland Star-News, 1205 Main Ave., Goodland, Kan. 67735.

TELEPHONE: (785) 899-2338. Editorial e-mail: star-news@nwkans.com. Advertising questions can be sent to: goodlandads@nwkans.com

The Goodland Star-News assumes no liability for mistakes or omissions in advertising or failure to publish beyond the actual cost of the ad.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: In Sherman County and adjacent counties: three months, \$20; six months, \$38; 12 months, \$72. Out of area, weekly mailing of two issues: three months, \$30; six months, \$45; 12 months, \$80. Mailed individually each day: 12 months, \$115. (All tax included.)

Incorporating: The Goodland Daily News

1932-2003

The Sherman
County Herald

Founded by Thomas McCants
1935-1989

THE SHERMAN COUNTY
STAR

Founded by Eric and
Roxie Yonkey
1994-2001

Nor'West Newspapers

Haynes Publishing Company

Celebrating National Nurses Week

To the Editor:

National Nurses Week is May 6-12, ending on Florence Nightingale's birthday. Nurses Week provides an opportunity to celebrate the spirit of nursing and acknowledge the tireless efforts of these vital health professionals.

The role nurses play in the delivery of health care cannot be overestimated. Our facilities rely on their training, experience and caring nature every day and every night. I would like to recognize, applaud and encourage all the nurses in the northwest Kansas area for the work they do and thank them for the contribution they make to better the health care of the communities they serve.

Debbie Hickman, RN
Director of Patient Care Services
Goodland Regional Medical Center

To the Editor:

I thoroughly enjoyed the insert on Rural Health Care in last week's paper. My compliments for the many well written articles about the challenges rural hospitals face in the current economy and the many services they are providing to stay viable.

I was especially interested because I have or have had clinical privileges at every hospital written about in your insert. I am a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA), one of 30,000 in the United States and one of several who provide anesthesia services in our area.

CRNAs are advanced-practice nurses who specialize in anesthesia. We were the first spe-



from our
readers

• to the editor

cialists in anesthesia, beginning 120 years ago, but we have been called "the face behind the mask" and "the best kept secret in health care." And even in our rural area where we know our neighbors, I guess we still are! I was dismayed as I read about all the services and professionals listed by the hospitals that not one mentioned anesthesia!

Several hospitals mentioned obstetrics. CRNAs in the area provide, pain relief for labor and delivery and are "on call" in case an emergency C-section must be done. Other hospitals mentioned the specialists that are coming to our rural hospitals and what a wonderful advantage that is for us. For those who that come and do painful procedures or perform surgery, how could that have been arranged if anesthesia was not readily available to them?

Emergency services were mentioned by several hospitals and I salute the often unsung heroes who take their time to be trained and serve to provide emergency care. However, often when the ambulance arrives at the hospital, one of the providers who is waiting there is a CRNA called in in case there is a need for our particular skills. Sixty percent of the 30,000 CRNAs in America work in rural health

care in exactly the situations I've mentioned. They are an integral part of our rural hospitals staying viable. Since the insert didn't mention them, I will:

Leon Nielson, Goodland and Colby.
Rick Abbot, WaKeeny, but also Oakley and Norton.

Brad Wertz, of Quinter as well as others, including Citizens Medical Center in Colby.

Gary Kliewer, Fort Morgan, Colorado, who also goes to Burlington and St. Francis.

Gary Bartel, Oberlin.
and myself, for Cheyenne County Hospital, Rawlins County Health Center, Dundy County Hospital in Nebraska, and Kit Carson County Hospital with privileges at five others.

Between all of us, patients in our rural area have expert anesthesia care available for obstetrics, surgery, trauma, and pain management. Maybe now, your readers will recognize "the face behind the mask" and hopefully the "best kept secret in healthcare" isn't so secret anymore!

Kim Zwegardt CRNA
Moonlight Anesthesia PA
St. Francis

Letter Policy

The Goodland Star-News encourages and welcomes letters from readers. Letters should be typewritten, and must include a telephone number and a signature. Unsigned letters will not be published. Form letters will be rejected, as will letters deemed to be of no public interest or considered offensive.

garfield

