

from our viewpoint...

# Early turnover foils, surprises most

It really shouldn't have come as a surprise, but it certainly fooled some of the biggest names in network news who so often hint of having an inside track to what's going on wherever.

So, these giants of the industry — the anchors of the evening television newscasts and the stars of cable television news shows — packed their bags and made their way to Baghdad to record the much-heralded turnover of power from U.S. occupiers to the Iraqi interim government.

This was supposed to take place Wednesday. But it didn't.

You see, President Bush had another surprise up his sleeve: the Iraq Sovereignty Document was signed by Ambassador L. Paul Bremer and turned over to Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi in a secret ceremony Monday morning.

It wasn't a "fooled you" stunt aimed at the media. It was, however, designed to catch the insurgents off guard as there was no doubt they would have engaged in a bloodbath of some kind had the ceremony taken place on the appointed date of June 30.

We are certain this was the plan all along: determine a date for the turnover, publicize that date, and beat that date to death so nobody would forget it.

It was a stroke of brilliance. And it worked beautifully.

Networks aired more debates than you could count among those who questioned the wisdom of turning over the reigns of government to Iraq on June 30 ("too early, not realistic," they would shout) versus those who were in support of the date ("Iraq is ready to assume that responsibility," they would counter). And on and on the debates would rage.

Bingo! There was no June 30.

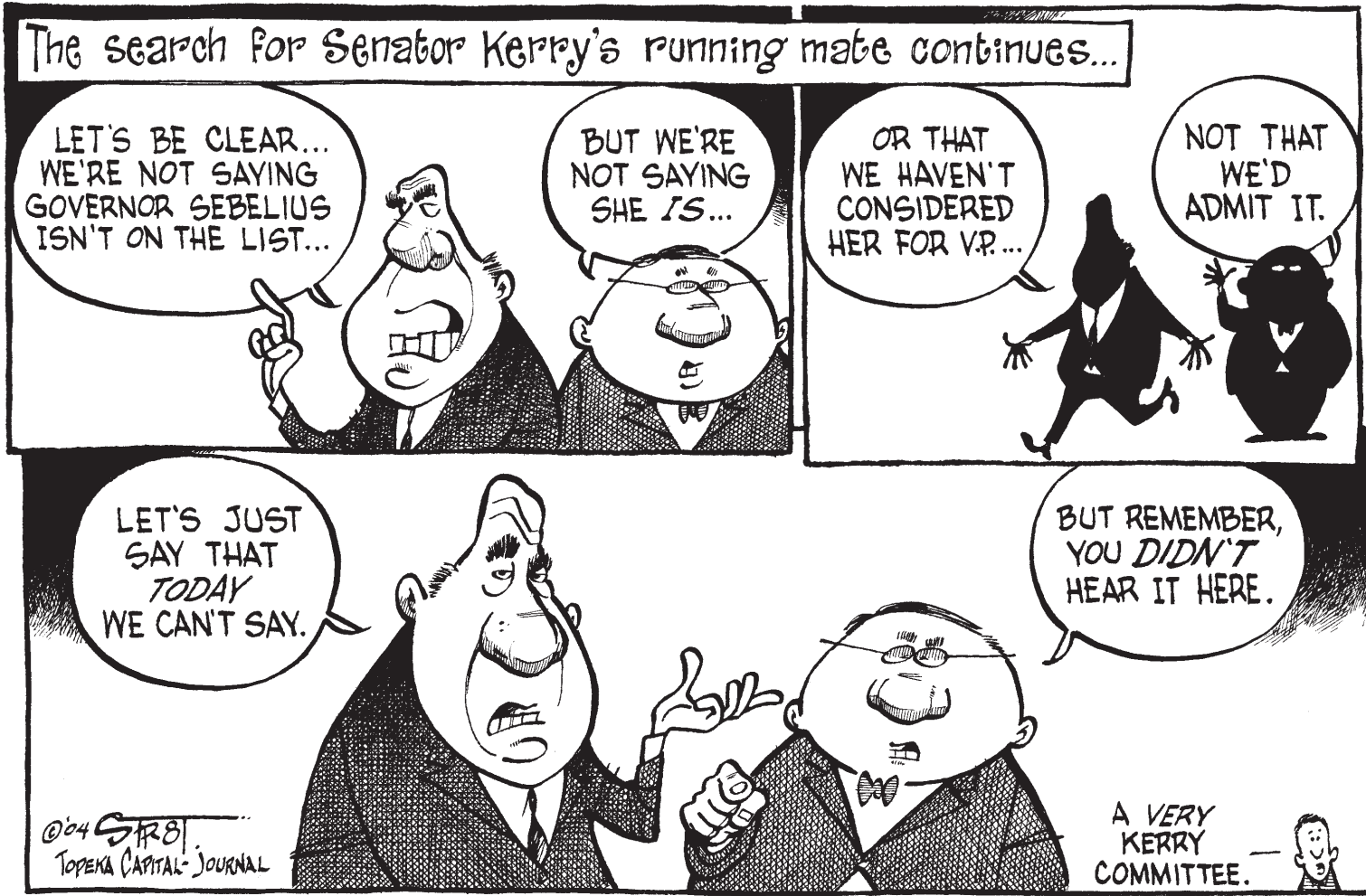
So the "breaking news" planned for that date broke on June 28.

How successful this turnover of limited power will be remains to be seen. It'll be a bumpy ride, no doubt. And we will still have our 130,000 military people on the ground.

Iraq will remain the No. 1 issue as Americans ponder a Bush White House lease extension or a John Kerry takeover.

With the race at a dead heat, the result of the Nov. 2 election will only offer satisfaction or disappointment — depending on what candidate your were backing.

— Tom A. Dreiling



# Life's been a strange journey

I don't know about you, but I've found life to be a strange journey.

I don't remember ever really having a plan for my life, but I always knew it was going to be wonderful.

And it has been.

Now that's not to say it hasn't had some hard times.

When I look back, I wonder how I survived some of the unmarked curves in the road. They were traumatic at the time, but somehow I, with the help of God, lived through them.

Sometimes I speculate on life, but I don't think I ever felt the need to "find myself" or ponder the "meaning of life." Usually I take it one day at a time and trust God will continue to lead me through it.

Of course, I often wonder why bad things have to happen to good people, but then I'm brought up short and realize "Why not?"

Even the Bible tells us God "sends rain on the just and the unjust." And more times than I can count I see God bring good out of the bad.

There have been times when I dwelled too much on the past, trying to see the series of events and decisions which brought about some heart-breaking result.

And there were times when I felt sorry for myself until waking up to the fact I was just feeding the unhappiness. Instead of re-living the past, I needed to look forward to the future



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while making the effort to live totally in the present.

E-mail sent me some Great Quotes by Great Ladies. Some of the women seem to have struggled with the same issues I have.

Here are a few of their words, expressed much better than I could:

1) "Life is not a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a pretty and well preserved body, but rather to skid in broadside, thoroughly used up, totally worn out, and loudly proclaim, 'Wow, what a ride!'" (Unknown).

2) "The hardest years in life are those between 10 and 70." (Helen Hayes at 73).

3) I don't know if this one is pessimistic or just facing reality: "Things are going to get a lot worse before they get worse" (Lily Tomlin).

4) Remember when you thought everyone over thirty was old? Maybe you were right: "Thirty-five is when you finally get your head together and your body starts falling apart" (Caryn Leschen).

5) You can't get away from it! "Every time

I close the door on reality it comes in through the windows" (Jennifer Unlimited).

6) Eventually you see the truth in this quote: "Inside every older person is a younger person — wondering what the hell happened" (Cora Harvey Armstrong). And I also wonder how it happened so fast.

7) After awhile you have to agree with this: "Old age ain't no place for sissies" (Bette Davis).

Life is short. Life is sweet. Life is fully of trials. Life is \_\_\_\_\_ (you fill in the blank).

No matter how you feel or how old you are or how you've lived, time passes.

To make life worth the living, you must trust God.

You aren't in charge, no matter how much you think you are or how much you want to be. God gives life in its fullest, but you can settle for less.

You might spend some time thinking about this: eventually every person's life will end. How will you be remembered?

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

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# Package to Iraq helps boost morale

To the Editor:

We would like to say a big heartfelt thank you to the thoughtful and generous people at the First National Bank. The package you sent to Spc. Doug Lalicker in Ar Ramadi, Iraq, was greatly appreciated, and a real morale booster for him and his unit.

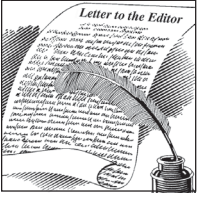
It is really wonderful in these times of great telecommunications that we are able to hear from our loved ones in the military so much more than people could in the past.

That means they also get the news that much faster. With so many negative stories in the news and so few of the positive things being shown, they start to worry about losing the support of the people back home. Freedom is not free, and these young men and women, as they have in the past, give up everything to give us this way of life.

That is why this wonderful gift from the First National Bank was so appreciated, not just because of the contents, but because of the thoughtfulness and support of the people who sent it.

Doug also wished to add a note of thanks to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, to Weldon McAdams (Mountain Man) for their gifts and encouragement and to the teachers and students from the Goodland schools who wrote to him.

He really enjoyed and appreciated them all. It is hard to put into words the feelings you get from a letter from home, to know you are re-



from our  
readers

• to the editor

membered when you are so far away.

The Family of Spc. Doug Lalicker  
Shirley Dupsky, grandmother  
Goodland

To the Editor:

The illegal Mexican national in the United States today is the modern day slave. A legal Mexican national has rights that are protected vigorously by society, law enforcement officers and the courts. The hundreds of thousands of illegal workers in this country, who are hired for and perform every kind of laborious task, have little, if any, protection.

Some of your readers will say "the damned wetbacks shouldn't be here in the first place. Send them back home." We ask them to remember the plight of the European immigrants a 100 or more years back. They, too, encountered inhuman treatment and conditions. But they endured and built the greatest nation in the world.

The Mexican wishes to make his contribution to this nation, if only given the opportunity.

Illegal Mexicans are the victims not only of

gringos, but of their fellow Mexicans who are legal. These people know the illegal is afraid to go to the police, file court actions or protect what rights they may have for fear they will be deported.

If they lose their job, their families do not eat. Because of this fear, they are the subject of repeated thefts, usury and many other hate crimes. They live in a state of domination as did the American Negro 150 plus years ago. It is sad, illegal, immoral, but it is the truth.

There is legislation before the U.S. Congress that will help the people remove this yoke of servitude. We respectfully ask you write your congressman and ask for the support of legislation to help the illegal Mexican national.

Joe Alfaro  
Goodland

# 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. We reserve the right to edit letters for length and good taste. We encourage letters, with address and phone numbers, by e-mail to: [star-news@nw-kansas.com](mailto:star-news@nw-kansas.com).

# garfield

