

from our viewpoint...

## Exchange of power not time to get out

Even as the Bush administration pushes through the transfer of power to a new Iraqi government, it looks like much of America is ready to give up on Iraq. Apparently, we see Iraq as just another foreign adventure unworthy of our attention — or our sons. Americans, in increasing numbers, see this war as difficult and deadly, but not worth fighting. The administration has committed itself, and an early withdrawal is unlikely, leaving our troops in a hostile land with increasingly less support.

The winner here is likely to be the terrorist mob, who will see many of their objectives won if Iraq falls into anarchy and confusion as Americans withdraw. At this point, it matters little if we got into the war because of faulty intelligence or the president's supposed desire to finish what his father started. It matters not whether Iraq was the right battleground.

Nearly a thousand American soldiers have given their lives in this effort. Can we afford to walk away? War is a terrible thing, and the Iraq war has been harder by far on Iraq than it has been on us. But now the terrorists seem to be winning. They have honed their tactics and driven for the jugular of the western coalition.

By randomly and viciously killing most any hostage they can capture from a foreign land, the terrorists are betting that the West has no stomach for prolonged fighting.

This is not the kind of war our armies are designed to fight. We believe in large-unit war, where divisions sweep in and conquer objectives. We won that war in the first few weeks in Iraq. President Bush declared it over, but he warned then that we faced years of tough fighting ahead.

Now we see he was right. The terrorists toppled a government in Spain, and they would like nothing better than to see "regime change" in America and England.

The people running this war are not Iraqi, but Arab terrorists aligned with Osama bin Laden. His chief henchman was the one who bent before the camera and sawed the head off a living American hostage.

These tactics will continue until we — the coalition and the Iraqi government — find and kill or capture the terrorists. They have the upper hand, because they are perfectly willing to use any disgusting tactic against us. The more cruel and bloody, in fact, the better.

We, on the other hand, raise a ruckus — and rightly so — if our troops embarrass or harass enemy captives.

That is the difference between our cultures — the Arab terrorists we face are barbaric and uncivilized. They believe in their cause and they believe they will win.

We may be too civilized to fight them, but we must. Great civilizations can and do crumble when they lose the will to fight for their freedom.

It's an ugly thing, and hard to know when it is necessary. History teaches that it sometimes is.

We need to ask ourselves if this is the time, because if we fail in Iraq, it's quite likely the terrorists will regroup and return to our shores, and soon. — *Steve Haynes*

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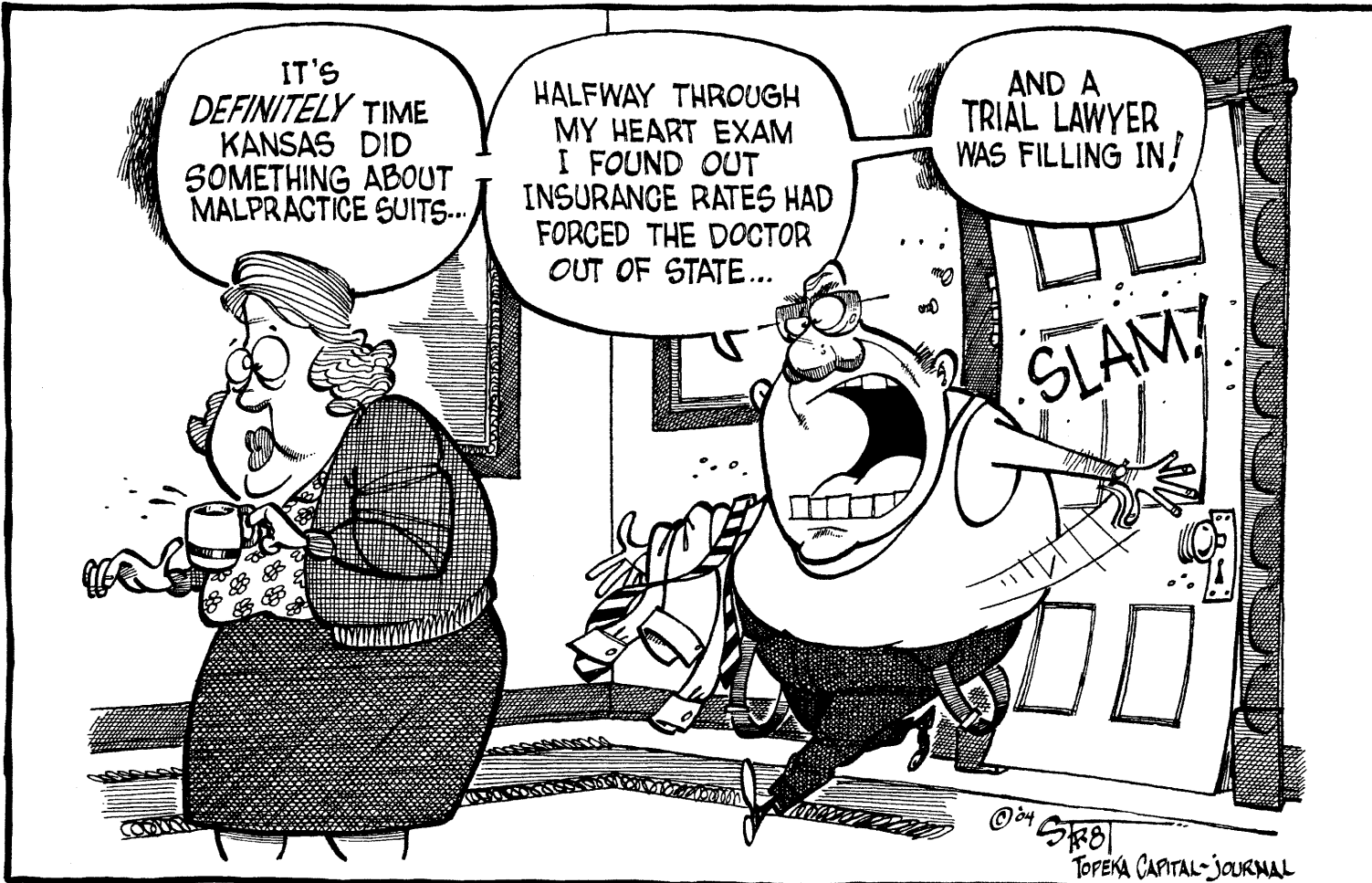
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## I have a new goal in life

I don't know about you, but I spent a very quiet 4th of July.

No fireworks, no hot dogs, no picnic.

It was just wonderful!

Oh, I did take in a Sesquicentennial (150th anniversary of Kansas as a territory) celebration at Wichita's Cowtown.

I went with a friend, but we went late in the afternoon after most of the crowd has gone. It was quiet, slow-paced and fun.

We saw things as they were in the 1800's when people weren't living their lives quite so frantically.

They worked hard, ate anything they wanted (or could get) and didn't worry about gaining weight.

Afterwards we went for a Chinese food dinner. (I think I'm starting a new tradition. I had Chinese on last Christmas, too!)

As I thought about the slower-paced lifestyle, I decided it will be a goal in my life.

I am going to stop trying to do, have and be everything. I'm going to do what needs to be done, and enjoy quiet times between.

Here is a poem I received via e-mail, written by a terminally ill young girl in a New York Hospital. It was sent out by a medical doctor.

The girl has definitely discovered what is important in life. It's called SLOW DANCE, and it's good advice for all of us!



**lorna  
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• commentary

We should all enjoy the dance, just not wish it away or do it so fast.

"Have you ever watched kids  
On a merry-go-round?  
Or listened to the rain  
Slapping on the ground?  
Ever followed a butterfly's erratic flight?  
Or gazed at the sun into the fading night?  
You better slow down.  
Don't dance so fast.

"Time is short.  
The music won't last.  
Do you run through each day  
On the fly?  
When you ask 'How are you?'  
Do you hear the reply?  
When the day is done  
Do you lie in your bed  
With the next hundred chores  
Running through your head?  
You'd better slow down  
Don't dance so fast.

"Time is short.  
The music won't last.  
Ever told your child,  
We'll do it tomorrow?  
And in your haste,  
Not see his sorrow?  
Ever lost touch,  
Let a good friendship die  
Cause you never had time  
To call and say, 'hi?'  
You'd better slow down.  
Don't dance so fast.

"Time is short.  
The music won't last.  
When you run so fast to get somewhere  
You miss half the fun of getting there.  
When you worry and hurry through your day,  
It is like an unopened gift....  
Thrown away.  
Life is not a race.  
Do take it slower  
Hear the music  
Before the song is over."

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

## Technology doesn't make Monday's easier

Some days are just Mondays.  
That's the way today has been.  
Things started out pretty well.

We are supposed to be on vacation in Colorado, but vacation for us often includes a fair amount of work. Only when we go to Mexico for a week do we just drop off the face of the earth. The rest of the time, we have our computers.

When we got here last week, a package containing a new DSL modem was on the table. That was good news, because the telephone service here is bad and the dialup Internet connection even worse.

High-speed Internet seemed like it might be worth it here, though in Oberlin we've stuck to our own (very reliable, thank you) dialup service.

Better yet, the high-speed line worked as soon as we got the modem connected and made a few adjustments in settings. It's rare for anything connected to a computer to work the first time.

Then we were off to Durango for three days of meetings. Back home Sunday night, a pile of work awaited both of us, dozens for stories and items for the three newspapers we supervise between us.

All of it had to come through the new Internet connection, the DSL or digital subscriber line. And for a while Monday, that seemed pretty good.

Since it was Monday, though, it didn't last. It rained in the afternoon, there was lightning, the phone got busy, who knows what the problem was.

The "lightning-quick" line dropped to some-



**steve  
haynes**

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where near a snail's pace. I tried for two hours to read four stories that were holding Oberlin up. No luck.

Cynthia wanted to work, but we couldn't get her computer up on the same line. She wanted to check on Norton copy, but I was stuck on Oberlin and getting more frustrated by the minute.

She volunteered to go to town and get the papers.

Now a DSL line works on your normal, old-fashioned copper phone lines. In fact, it shares them with your phones. I can't say for sure that the phones were interfering with the computer line, but the more she talked with her offices, the less I was getting done. I was getting grouchy.

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