

from our viewpoint...

The phony issue is specter of draft

The phony issue of the 2004 election? The draft. John Kerry keeps trying to hang the specter of a draft to provide troops for Iraq on George Bush.

The president has promised, flatly, that he has no plans to begin a draft, but that doesn't stop Sen. Kerry from his attacks.

It won't wash, though.

First of all, Congress isn't going to institute a draft for Iraq or any foreseeable war.

There's no support for a draft. Too many Americans remember Vietnam.

We hated the draft then. We don't like it now. We won't vote for it.

Neither will Congress, where memories are long and the desire to be re-elected strong.

Mr. Bush is criticized for a lot of things that aren't his fault: An economy that started south on Bill Clinton's watch, a supposed quagmire in Iraq that many who've been there say isn't nearly that bad, the list goes on.

That's politics.

But of all the phony issues, the draft is the worst. The president has never once advocated a draft, and there's no evidence he's planning to ask for one.

The Army is keeping up with its enlistment requirements, and Mr. Bush says he will work to see that it stays that way.

The only statements the president has made are simply that there will be no draft next year.

Make no mistake: No president could promise that he would *never* ask for a draft. The country needed a draft to fight two world wars, and that could happen again.

But that time has not come. We see no reason not to believe the president.

Even if he wanted a draft, it unlikely Congress would give him one.

By bringing up this issue, Sen. Kerry is pandering to the fears of younger Americans. It's dishonest politics, and it could backfire on him.

There are plenty of issues on which he and Mr. Bush disagree — taxes, health care policy, how to fight terrorism, to name a few.

The senator ought to stick to those honest disagreements and get off this phony issue now. — *Steve Haynes*


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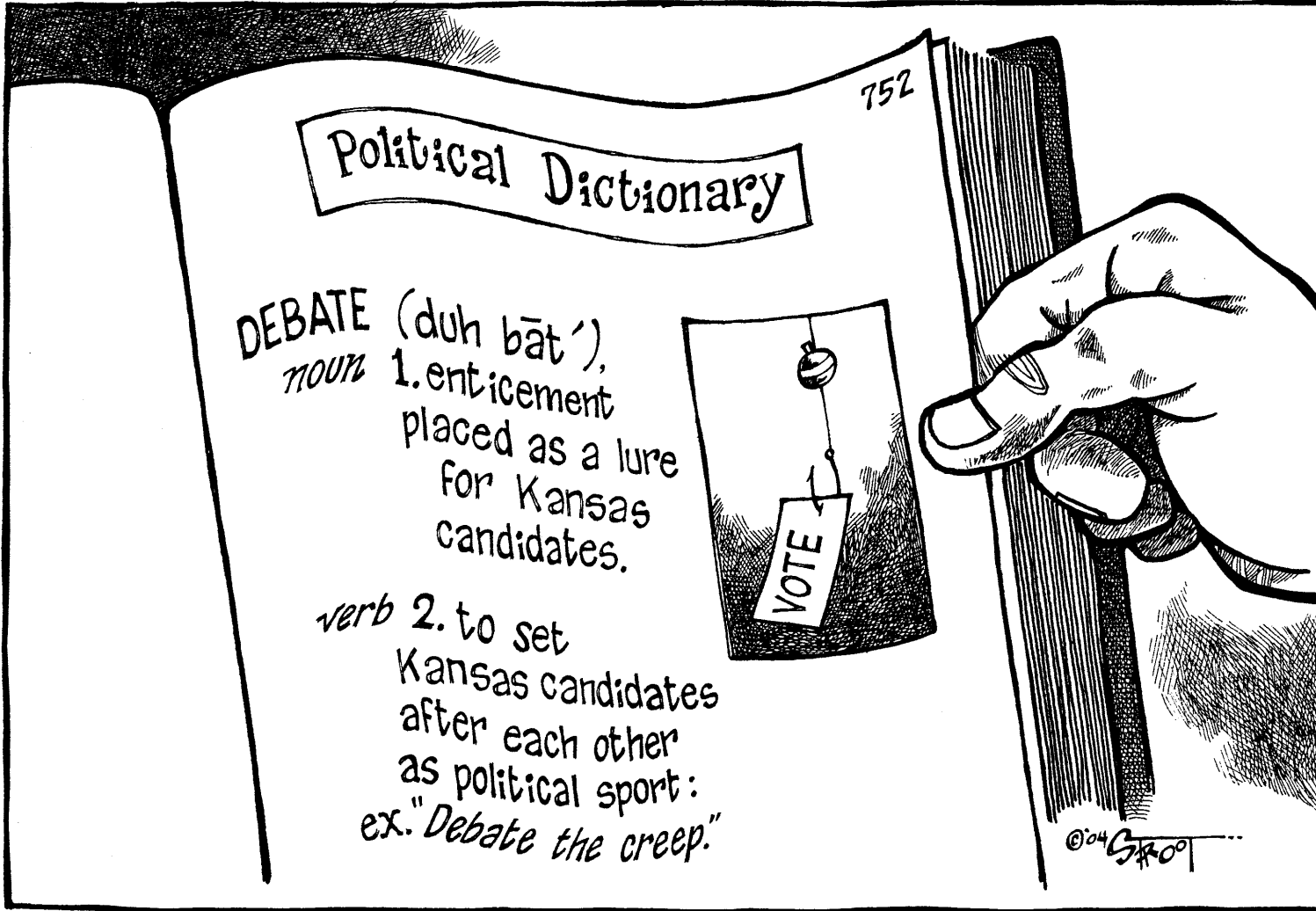
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It is finally time to vote

Lorna GT is on vacation, so we're reprinting a previous column.

I don't know about you, but I know how to vote this year.

And it's that time — finally. With any luck, after next week, we'll have a few months of peace before the politicians start campaigning again.

Maybe we should use the lull to plan a strategy for getting more involved.

I'm proud to live in a democratic country; I'm glad that women are allowed to vote along side the male population.

I take that privilege seriously, as should every American.

I can't say that I enjoy the election process. It seems that politicians have become a breed to themselves, and the characteristics aren't always attractive. Many have the ability to say whatever their audience wants to hear, and yet feel little compunction to keep their promises or even to hold on to them any longer than it takes to find a new audience.

I recommend a book by D. James Kennedy, a Christian communicator. It's called Character and Destiny; the sub-title is "A Nation in Search of Its Soul." Here are some quotes from it:



**lorna
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• commentary

"We cannot continue to add a quarter-to-a-half-trillion dollars in new debt each year without paying the piper very soon. We cannot continue to pour endless sums down the rat holes of debt and welfare and government waste — and expect our economy to survive."

"The real danger we face may very well be that we are being lulled to sleep by those who are telling us that the Soviet Union has collapsed, while, in fact, the monster yet lives.... The ideologies of our enemies have not all died out. They may be found today on the great university campuses and in the halls of government."

Author Kennedy quotes the English statesman, Edmund Burke, "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing," and also Dr. Francis Schaffer, "It's time to reclaim America..... The culture is self-destructing, and Christians are doing almost

nothing about it."

I wish I knew who wrote the following quote; I'd like to congratulate the author: "Watch your thoughts; they become your words. Watch your words; they become actions. Watch your actions; they become habits. Watch your habits; they become your character. Watch your character; for it becomes your destiny."

We must each guard his/her thoughts and standards, for who we are individually molds the destiny of our society. Ashley Brilliant describes too many of us: "I want all my rights immediately, but have no urgent need of my obligations."

It really isn't fair to label politicians as I did earlier. They are a reflection of the society in which they find themselves. St. Augustine said, "We are the times. Such as we are, so are the times."

Christians need to stop avoiding politics and become part of the system. The very least we can do is vote. Concern or apathy is reflected at the ballot box. Doesn't it bother you to think that our society reflects who we are as people?

I vote for a different image.

First published — Nov. 1, 1996

Time to do our duty and vote

To the Editor:

Voters, here it is time to do our duty and vote.

How many of you know that the president of the United States can only be in office for a total of nine years? But we vote our County Officials for as many years as they want to run.

What is wrong with this picture? The president has so much more to deal with than the county officials.

How many of you have ever stopped and thought about who is managing our tax money. How many of you just go to vote and see one person's name on the ballot, and think, well he/she has been there for a while, so he/she must know what he/she is doing, without giving someone else the opportunity to run for office for the primary and then go from there?

I wish you all would take the time and energy to think about this, and think about where our tax money is going.

How many knew the elected officials do not have to be there in the office, as long as there is someone in the office that can run it? Yet they still get paid for going shopping, staying home, or just plain not wanting to work that day.

Is that how you want your tax money spent? I know I sure don't, and I think it is time we stand up for what we believe. I think they should clock in on the time clock, just the same as everyone else has to. That way, it would be fair.

I know the work is getting done, because of the other workers in the offices are doing it.

When the department heads and the commissioners go to meetings in other towns, they don't go for Motel 6 or some of the other cheaper ones. They go for the more expensive ones, and who do you think paid for that? You



**from our
readers**

• to the editor

and I did with our tax money.

I know the voting will have to stay as is this year, but get out and about and listen to some of us that worked there, and we will tell you how the atmosphere was — not pleasant.

Phyllis L Long
Goodland

To The Editor:

I read a recent letter regarding the upcoming election and would like to take issue with some of the information excluded.

I do believe that this could be one of the most important endeavors we as Americans can become a part of to influence the future of our nation. If we are doing our jobs as our founding fathers intended, then we should take great issue with a statement that suggests we not be influenced by the past. This America that we love is being taken apart piece by piece, but not as this person might suggest. These small groups of extremists are embraced by the Kerry camp, including homosexuals.

In the debate the other night, something was mentioned of the Social Security system being at a huge deficit. I contest whether we would be in this situation right now if we had not killed 1.4 million unborn babies per year since 1973. Furthermore, I am sure everyone has heard that the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals struck down the words "Under God" in the Pledge of Alle-

giance, citing the separation of church and state.

The issue of Iraq is very difficult, but must be addressed. We must act in defending our freedom. It is too bad we could not ask the 6 million Jews that were killed in Hitler's regime if we reacted too hastily. Saddam Hussein was doing the same things to his own people. This, as well as threats to our own nation, should be enough to justify what we did.

I agree, the economy is not where we would like it to be. In the late '90s, we started declining and are now on the rebound. Most people remember the prosperity of the '80s under Reagan's watch.

I do not feel that John Kerry appeals to a broad crosssection of America. Everything he does and says is politically motivated. This man can not be all things to all people. He is one of the most liberal senators, voting pro-abortion, anti-defense and anti-second amendment.

I agree we must change. We must become more like our forefathers and be visionaries, for our families first and secondly for our country. I feel our current president realizes these things, and wants to preserve our heritage as a nation.

The liberal media would have you believe he is a bumbling fool who only attacked Iraq to appease his father. I think the people are smarter than this. I will continue to support our current president and will enthusiastically cast my vote for him on Nov. 2.

Glen W. Teels
Wallace
(edited for length)

garfield

