

from our viewpoint...

# Are we winning the war on terror?

Are we winning the war on terror? Or are we letting Osama bin Laden get away? Charges and countercharges fly in debates, on the radio, in columns and editorials.

The truth is harder to come by. While no one would argue the threat of terrorism has gone away, al-Qaida has not mounted any serious attacks on U.S. interests in recent months.

Even the Democrats agree President Bush did the right thing when he invaded Afghanistan, drove out the insane Taliban government and liberated its people.

Afghanistan is no longer a base for terrorism. The camps are gone, the support base that bin Laden depended on is now denied him.

Did bin Laden "get away." Maybe. We haven't arrested him, and he still sends out the occasional rant on tape.

Most people believe he's holed up in the lawless fringe of Pakistan, where American troops cannot go without losing one of our most important Muslim allies.

You know there are a lot of people — from the military to the CIA to many of our allies — looking for him. Some day, if he's alive, he'll be found. The \$25 million reward will prove much too tempting.

Meantime, his effectiveness as leader of al-Qaida is nil. He has abandoned radio and Internet communications, using only couriers with multiple cutouts. It may take weeks for his commands to move a few miles.

Over the last three years, we've killed or captured many of his top lieutenants. Al-Qaida ain't what is used to be.

The war in Iraq, in a strange sort of way, is helping to win the war on terrorism. If terrorists are "flowing across the border" to fight in Iraq, they're not blowing up embassies in Africa or buildings in New York.

In Iraq, we're killing "foreign fighters" by the hundreds. We haven't found any weapons of mass destruction — and what that says about not just our intelligence services, but everyone's, is disturbing. But we may well be winning the war by drawing terrorists out in the open where we can shoot them, round them up or keep them too busy to blow things up.

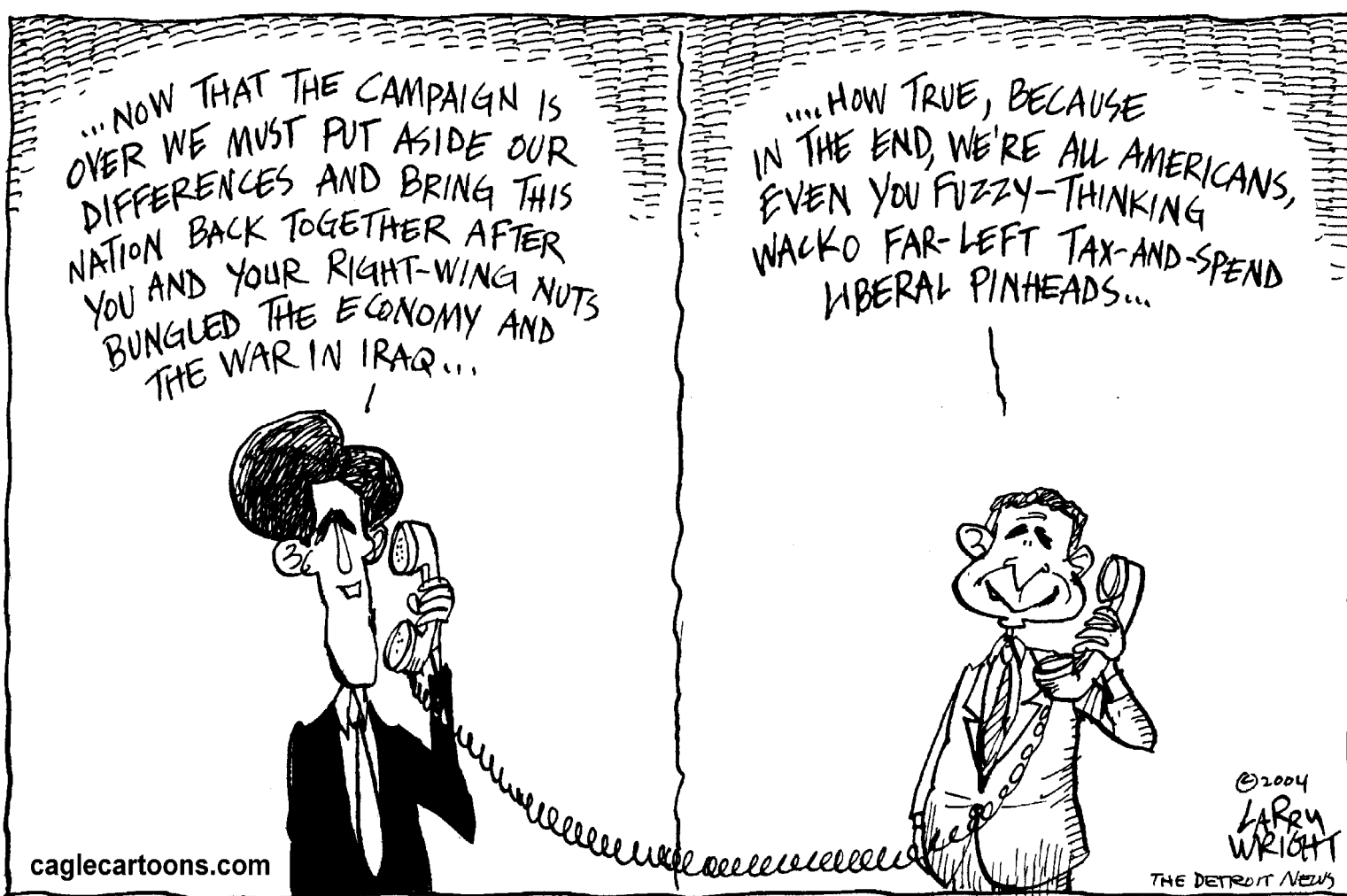
Americans are famous for our impatience. We want results, and we want them now. We tend to think our government can do whatever we want it to, and do it right away.

That kind of resolution has escaped us so far in the war on terrorism, but that's only to be expected.

After the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, President Bush warned us this would be a long, dangerous and difficult fight. He didn't promise a quick victory, because he knew that wasn't possible.

Still, if we haven't won this war, we've certainly won some battles. We've also made some mistakes.

Only time will tell the rest. — *Steve Haynes*



# I applaud the freedoms we have

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

I don't know about you, but I applaud freedom.

Though I'm not sure anyone can truly appreciate freedom when he or she is born into it. It's one of those things more fully understood in comparison to its opposite.

Consider this prayer quoted in "Dear Abby" which said, in part: "We thank thee for freedom and remember the enslaved."

I like this quote, also from a "Dear Abby" column: "Freedom rings! Look and listen. You can still worship at the church of your choice, cast a secret ballot and even criticize your government without fearing a knock on the head or a knock on the door at midnight!"

"And if you want to live under a different system, you are free to go. There are no walls or fences — nothing to keep you here."

I saved a Gary Cartwright newspaper column from June 29, 1963. In it, Mr. Cartwright quotes part of the last letter from Air Force pi-



**lorna  
gt**

• commentary

lot, Condon Terry, to his wife (from Viet Nam):

"This country is the wettest, buggiest, dirtiest place I've ever seen...but don't get me wrong...There is one big good to all this...I'll never again think anything in the United States is bad or dirty...We are the most fortunate people in the world to live in our great America...This tour is proving it to me every day...I don't think I will soon take very much for granted, especially how I live at home...This is what we fight for here, and I am proud I have such a fine country and way of life to fight for..." I knew Condon Terry; he died in Viet Nam.

How truly blessed we Americans are! As citizens, we are:

- Free to vote, yet don't.
- Free to think, yet don't.
- Free to speak against wrongs, yet don't.
- Free to change our minds, yet don't.
- Free to instigate changes, yet don't.
- Free to go to church, yet don't.
- Free to get an education, yet don't.
- Free to eat properly, yet don't.
- Free to have good relationships, yet don't.
- Free to work, yet many don't.
- Free to live fully - with joy, yet don't.
- Free to make choices, yet still complain.
- Free to be good models for children, yet aren't.
- Free to have a lawyer, even if guilty.
- Free to enjoy the privileges in the Bill of Rights, yet criticize them.
- Free to leave, yet don't.
- Free to burn our nation's flag, yet some won't fight for it.
- Free, because others died for our freedom.
- What other country would put up with you? Or me?

# Blood supply needs donors on Wednesday

To the Editor:  
The need for blood at area hospitals has increased 13 percent in American Red Cross Central Plains Region since 1999.

We are living longer and there have been many medical advancements, but this all contributes to the increasing demand for blood and blood products.

By contrast, only 4.6 percent out of the 60 percent of the population in our region that is eligible to give blood, actually donate. It is a simple, selfless act that takes about an hour, with the donation itself taking about seven minutes.

Please make donating blood part of your community responsibility. There is a 97 percent chance you or someone you know will need blood.

Donating regularly ensures blood is available at a moment's notice when it is needed to save a life.



**from our  
readers**

• to the editor

The next Red Cross blood drive will be from noon to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 10, at Northwest Kansas Technical College. Call (800) 448-3543 for an appointment today.

Most medications are not cause for deferral. Those with diabetes or high blood pressure

may donate as long as their condition is controlled by medication, and they are feeling well that day.

Donors should drink plenty of water prior beforehand.

Please bring a photo ID. As of Jan. 31, everyone who comes to donate needs to present a photo ID or a Red Cross donor card (received after your first donation).

Luella Richardson  
Publicity Chairman  
Kanorado

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## garfield

