

from our viewpoint...

## By any other name ‘war’ remains ‘war’

Quick, when was the last time our country was at war? In the last half century, we’ve sent men (and increasingly, women) to fight and die in Korea, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Kuwait, Somalia, Bosnia, Afghanistan, Iraq and a few other places.

But not since 1942 has Congress declared war on anyone.

Maybe it’s the modern trend of calling a spade anything but a spade.

George Orwell protested about the time the Department of War became the Department of Defense.

So in Korea, for years, we claimed to have had a “conflict,” not a war. No matter that 34,000 American boys died there.

Or they fought, supposedly, for the U.N and not for the U.S.A. Or the North Koreans had attacked first.

In Vietnam, our troops slipped in quietly as “advisors,” and the contingent grew.

We used to call that one a conflict, too. The 47,000 names on The Wall belie that.

Sometimes, our troops have gone in as “peacekeepers,” under international auspices as in Bosnia, or on their own. It’s hard to say, was Somalia a war, or just a little “action” the president ought to have authority to take?

The answer might depend on whether you are among those getting shot at.

One reason we often have troops in harm’s way, but seldom at war, may be the general reluctance of Washington to call anything by its right name.

Congress is always going to “reform” something, but that could mean anything from abolishing the agency, as with Amtrak, to making it bigger and more bloated, as with the Postal Service.

Sorting the “police actions” from the “peacekeeping” from the “wars” may not be easy, but in the larger sense, it shouldn’t be that hard to know a war when we see one.

In Vietnam, though, it sort of snuck up on us. And there we were.

But when you plan to invade a country with whole divisions and corps, isn’t that, by definition, a war?

And if we’re going to fight a war, shouldn’t Congress have to declare one?

Of course, it’d be harder to get a war powers resolution than something less.

It would mean a real commitment by the country, Congress and the government, not just the troops in the field.

And that might not be so bad.

It’s not the Washington way, but maybe it’s time for some change.

The next time we send divisions to fight, let it be under a declaration of war.

War is hell, after all, and it’s no good to pretend otherwise. — *Steve Haynes*

## 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@nwkanssas.com](mailto:star-news@nwkanssas.com)

Steve Haynes, President

Tom Betz, Editor

Pat Schiefen, Copy Editor

Sharon Corcoran, Society Editor

Kathryn Burke, Reporter

Doug Jackson, Advertising Coordinator

Mona Carver, Advertising Sales

Sheila Smith, Office Manager



### Nor’west Press

Jim Bowker, General Manager

Richard Westfahl Ron VanLoenen Judy McKnight Betty Morris

Aaron Hickert Kris McCool Jerry Kirkpatrick Lana Westfahl



[nwkanssas.com](http://nwkanssas.com)

N.T. Betz, Director of Internet Services

([ntbetz@nwkanssas.com](mailto:ntbetz@nwkanssas.com))

Evan Barnum, Systems Admin.([support@nwkanssas.com](mailto:support@nwkanssas.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@nwkanssas.com](mailto:star-news@nwkanssas.com). Advertising questions can be sent to: [goodlandads@nwkanssas.com](mailto:goodlandads@nwkanssas.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, \$24; six months, \$42; 12 months, \$76. Out of area, weekly mailing of two issues: three months, \$34; six months, \$49; 12 months, \$84. Mailed individually each day: 12 months, \$119. (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



## Summer must be around the corner

I don’t know about you, but my calendar says summer is coming even though temperatures outside cause me to doubt.

Summer. It conjures up many great memories of tree-climbing, fishing trips, neighborhood games of “work-up.”

I loved the summers; I still do. They used to be carefree, fun, and much too short.

As I’ve aged (all too quickly, I might add), I still love the summers.

They aren’t nearly as carefree but stay consistently much too short. I’ve often wondered if I shouldn’t move to a perennially warm climate. I might be warmer, but would I appreciate summer weather if it didn’t follow a period of cold? I’ll probably never know.

Summer reminds me of children. They are out of school, but not out in the neighborhoods in full force as they were in my childhood. Today too many of them are inside in isolation created by air conditioning, television and computers. Instead of falling happily into bed at night after days full of imaginatively created games, they are squeezed into highly-organized team behavior which encourages competitiveness and points out children who are less capable while praising those who excel.



**lorna  
gt**

• commentary

Talk about encouraging insecurities.

Yes, I know these are not the goals, but think about it. And consider these quotes:

“All parents damage their children. It cannot be helped. Youth, like pristine glass, absorbs the prints of its handlers. Some parents smudge, others crack, a few shatter childhoods completely into jagged little pieces, beyond repair.” — Mitch Albom, *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*.

“Developing the mind is important, but developing a conscience is the most precious gift parents can give their children.” — John Gray, *Children Are From Heaven*.

“Parents rarely let go of their children, so children let go of them. They move on. They move away. The moments that used to define them — a mother’s approval, a father’s nod — are covered by moments of their own accomplishments. It is not until much later, as the skin

sags and the heart weakens, that children understand; their stories, and all their accomplishments, sit atop the stories of their mothers and fathers, stones upon stones, beneath the waters of their lives.” — Mitch Albom, *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*.

“A child, at least in the beginning, is made almost entirely of parents’ dreams.” — Sutter’s Cross — W. Dale Cramer.

Maybe it is good that parents have dreams for their children. But how about letting them “be” children when they are young, but let their imaginations develop so they can dream their own dreams? How about letting them develop with approval and encouragement instead of hectic schedules and competition at every turn? What’s wrong with carefree summers with healthy exercise engineered by all the neighborhood children instead of pop and potato chips in front of the TV?

It seems like that’s what summer should be: letting go of frenzied schedules, a time of rest and rejuvenation. Periods of calm, rest and imagination are important to development, too.

I have wonderful memories of summer. What kind of memories will our children and grandchildren have?

## Meetings a way to meet interesting people

Going to press meetings over the years, we’ve gotten to hear and meet some interesting people — cartoonists like Lynn Johnson (For Better or Worse), politicians like Bob Dole and celebrities like Erin Brockovich.

This year at the Kansas Press Association, we heard Carl Bernstein.

People my age remember Bernstein as one of a pair of young reporters who uncovered the Watergate scandal and eventually brought down the Nixon administration. That, however, was 30 years ago.

When I first heard that Mr. Bernstein was speaking, I sort of yawned. I thought it was OK, but wasn’t it a little late? Carl Bernstein was old news.



**from our  
readers**

• to the editor

## Headline was correct quote

To the Editor:

I wish to ask your pardon for casting an aspersion on your entitling the articles on the “To the Editor” page of *The Goodland Star-News*. I refer to the April 22 issue, in which I am correctly quoted under the headline “Religious columns informative, educational.”

Thank you and your staff for your fairness and objectivity. You have my respect for your professionalism.

Earl Martell  
Goodland



**cynthia  
haynes**

• open season

Where does a man go who brings down a president? Is there any up from there?

Actually, it was more sideways. Over the last 30 years, as a reporter and author, he has uncovered a secret agreement between the U.S., Egypt, China and Pakistan to supply arms to Afghan rebels, been tossed out of Iraq by Saddam Hussein and uncovered a secret alliance between Ronald Reagan and Pope John Paul II that helped hasten the fall of communism in Europe.

His talk was a mixture of fear that the big conglomerate news organizations are more interested in profits than the common good and a cry for journalists to seek the truth and not just the sensational.

He sees so much of what is reported today as celebrity seeking, sensationalism and manufactured controversy. And he did that without once mentioning the trials of Martha Stewart or Michael Jackson.

Mr. Bernstein decried what he called “Idiot Culture.” This is not seeking the truth or greater good but pandering to the masses, he said, sort of fast food for the mind.

Instead of reporting on what people do and think in Iraq and how their lives have been changed, the networks are counting bodies and reporting the bombings and terrorism of a few.

Ah well, bread and circuses have been with us for a long time. Some whose names are revered today — publishers like Hurst and Pulitzer — were not above manufacturing a little war in some faraway place in order to sell papers.

Of course, we should be better than we are. We need preachers like Mr. Bernstein to keep us on the straight and narrow.

### garfield

