

from other pens...

Snow brings life to Bush press room

Tony Snow will bring new life to the press room of the White House. Not that Scott McClellan wasn't doing a good job; he was. But it was time for a breath of fresh air.

Snow, a Fox news pundit and conservative columnist, was picked by President George W. Bush to replace McClellan, who has served nearly three years as press secretary, one of the most thankless jobs in Washington.

Snow hasn't always spoken favorably of Mr. Bush. He once called him "something of an embarrassment," not to mention a leader who "lost control of the federal budget." And the architect of a "listless domestic policy."

The change in press secretary is another step by the president to rework a faltering engine. President Bush's approval ratings rank right down there with uncomfortable winter temperatures.

Snow is a Washington insider, so it will be interesting to see how he fits in with a White House gang make up of Texans who brag about being outsiders. He just might be the guy who has the guts to tell it like it is instead of telling it like is really isn't.

President Bush will be his boss, but Snow will probably, in his smooth-talking way — his trademark — get across some points others who surround the president haven't been able to do.

Snow knows Washington and he knows the reporters he will be facing each morning in the White House briefing room. The exchange will probably be less confrontational than what we have witnessed under McClellan, who, at times, literally lost it.

But then we are only speculating. It could be a short honeymoon. It could be more confrontational than anything we've seen. As a conservative partisan, Snow just might find that his usual laid-back approach isn't going to cut it with a liberal press.. And he might find that the opinions he expressed as a columnist and Fox News analyst count for naught with his new boss. In other words, he had better toe the line.

Then again, maybe the presidential think tank persuaded Mr. Bush to muzzle another occasional high-profile critic.

We'll see as time goes on.

—Tom Dreiling, The Norton Telegram



The drill for meeting the President

What do you say when you get to meet the president?

Not much.

He doesn't have time, he gets more advice than he needs, and how many people does the president meet in a week, anyway?

"It's a great honor, sir," will just about do it.

He's got a schedule to keep.

Here's the drill.

If the president decides to talk to your group, the leaders get to go backstage to greet him when he arrives.

In the case of the National Newspaper Association, that meant the president, the vice president and the treasurer — that's me. I guess we could think of it as a little perk for the hours we've spent sitting in meetings.

So about 45 minutes before the man was supposed to arrive, the three of us — already cleared by the White House and Secret Service — were ushered backstage, where a small section of the hotel ballroom had been partitioned off.

There we met the White House advance man — actually a political operative from Veterans Affairs. A couple of Secret Service guys with wires running out of their ears stood by the entrances. Their buddies were all over at the hotel.

Then there was the director — call her J. — who



steve
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• along the sappa

programmed the music, lights and announcements out of a computer setup.

Meantime, our members were being screened by uniformed Secret Service cops, wanded and sent to their seats in the ballroom. They were locked down as soon as the president left the White House, about 10 blocks away.

J. said, "I'll go out and hang the seal."

After she put it on the podium, she got a round of applause. She queued up some marches for the crowd.

"She's the voice of God," the advance man said with a wink. "You'll see."

We stood around talking. The advance guy showed us where to stand, cautioning us to stay in order so the president would know who we were.

And we talked and waited.

Eventually, word came that "he" was in the building. We got back in line, President Jerry first,

Vice President Jerry second.

A curtain parted at the back, and the Leader of the Free World strode firmly across the room. Just like that, blue eyes twinkling.

He talked a minute with Jerry from Illinois, then with Vice President Jerry from Texas. They knew each other from his campaigns for governor, and Mr. Bush recalled surviving the marathon Fourth of July parade in Granbury.

Jerry, an avid Texas Rangers fan, was polite and didn't ask him about the Sammy Sosa trade.

"Where are you from?" he asked.

"Oberlin, Kansas," I replied. "Out west."

"That's in Jerry Moran's district?"

I nodded, knowing he'd been briefed. The advance man pulled him toward the stage.

As he walked out, J. pushed a button and the sound system intoned, "Ladies and gentlemen, the President of the United States."

It was her, all right, but from the machine. She didn't have to say a word.

Behind the president was a gentleman with a receding hairline and a bright blue tie: Karl Rove, the political genius behind the Bush movement. Jerry II and I introduced ourselves.

Lots of people get to shake the president's hand, after all, but how many of us get to meet Karl Rove?

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To the Editor:

Admittedly, I do not have the education, experience, or expertise of Dick Morris, but since our forefathers fought and died for my right to express my opinion, it is with the utmost respect I submit the following.

I took great offense to the article recently published that was authored by Dick Morris. Am I to understand that because of what "possibly might happen" in political elections in other countries, Morris suggests we encourage our lawmakers not to build a wall protecting our nation from illegal immigrants, and to encourage our lawmakers to enact a guest worker program (in my humble opinion, another name for amnesty)?

I would first of all like to state openly and publicly that I am not a racist. Some of my dearest friends and business associates are of national origins other than American. I am 100 percent for immigration ... legal immigration. With this said, I would like to state openly and publicly that I am afraid for our country ... afraid we are "giving" our country away.

For those of you who have been following the national protests for illegal immigrants, what is your take on the signs that stated, "This is our continent, you stupid Americans"? When signs of this nature, and the waving of Mexican flags raised the ire of onlooking American citizens, and increased their "awareness," the protesters hastily made a substitution, waving American flags and wearing white, symbolizing peace, to try to soothe the ruffled feathers. This new strategy to promote their cause was being publicly announced on Spanish television and radio stations.

I read over and over how illegal immigrants are only in our country doing jobs that no one else will do. Would you folks mind paying a little more for a product so that the owner of a



from our
readers

• to the editor

business can afford to pay a higher wage to legal employees, who I am sure, would be more than happy to do any job, as long as they were fairly compensated? I, for one, would not mind paying a little more.

I wonder how legal immigrants, such as the husband of Teresa Ogu, an immigrant from Nigeria, would feel about us turning our heads and allowing illegal immigrants to stay in this country, when they spent years and thousands of dollars gaining immigration "legally." Why would we Americans even consider allowing people to "break our laws" and then agree with them? Does our Constitution mean nothing? I simply do not understand this way of thinking.

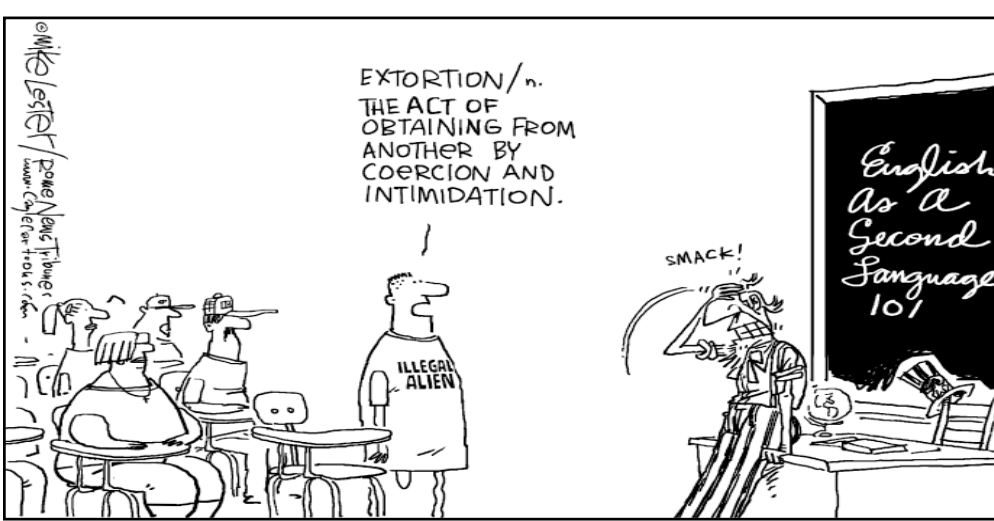
As a mother, I totally understand how a father and mother would want a better life for

their family. I would feel the very same way. My suggestion for families wishing to migrate to the United States, no matter what country you are coming from, is to do it legally ... then assimilate. There is no way I would move to another country and expect them to speak English instead of their native tongue. I would feel it was my responsibility to learn their language. I would not expect their country to provide free health care, education, and services to my family and me. How did this practice ever come to pass in the United States?

In closing, I would disagree with the last line of Morris' commentary ... instead of hoping that Congress won't pass legislation that alienates the Mexican electorate and delivers the country into Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador's (AMLO) hands ... I believe what we need to hope for is that Congress will vote to protect our borders and make everyone within our borders abide by the law of the land.

Cindy Carroll

Westminster, Colo.



garfield

