

Way we treat friends not friendly

Talking with people in the United Arab Emirates, and in other countries that consider themselves our friends, a couple of themes emerge. One is that our friends want a dialog with us, not just a one-way relationship where Washington gives orders and our allies follow.

The other is that right now, we treat our friends poorly.

The first complaint you hear around the world. We have a lot of friends, and they tend to think we take them for granted.

It's common in Latin America to hear people complain about the remnants of "gunboat diplomacy," everything from the U.S. ambassador ordering a candidate to make a speech to our aid policies.

In Abu Dhabi, capital of the U.A.E., one minister complains that, coming up to the invasion of Iraq, the U.S. seemed bent on a self-determined course.

"Nobody was willing to listen to the advice from the region," he complained.

Worse still is the treatment we give our friends when they come here.

The furor over the Dubai Ports contract last year is a case in point. The firm, an international power-



Along the Sappa

By Steve Haynes
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house in the port business, contracted to run several U.S. ports. A political furor in Congress forced the Arab company to withdraw, though both it and the country as a whole are firmly on "our side."

"The people in charge here understood the political atmosphere," one minister said. "I don't think it has affected the formal relationship between the two countries."

"It may have affected the people. It could have an effect on private relations."

"There has been a drop in travel (to the U.S.). The scrutiny in issuing visas, the treatment at the airports..."

"I'd hesitate to go now. Nobody would like to humiliate himself."

Much of the damage from this kind of treatment won't show up for years. Wherever you go in the Arab world today, as in many parts of the

Second and Third worlds, you meet people educated at American universities.

These are people who know America and Americans. By and large, they love us. The next generation may not be so friendly, because relatively few of them will come to school here.

"With the restrictions on visas and the hassles at the airports," says Abdul-Aziz Abdulla al Ghurair, speaker of the U.A.E. parliament, the Federal National Council, "with the FBI watching, parents don't want to take the risk of sending their kids to the U.S."

"It has created choices for parents to send their kids elsewhere. We are building more universities here."

"I am sad and disappointed. I want my kids to study in the U.S."

Part of the problem is the Ameri-

can tendency to see things in black and white. We were attacked by people from an Arab country, so all Arabs must be bad. All Muslims must hate us. That is essentially racist thinking.

And if we keep thinking that way, it may come to be. Certainly, the way we treat our friends is not winning us any.

"In general, the Americans are very nice people," the speaker says, "very straightforward and very friendly. I wish they would get away from thinking of stereotypes for any region of the world."

"In the U.S., Muslims have been labeled as bad boys. In a billion people, you will have some crazies, but you can't just label everyone."

"You have to let people know that not all Arabs are crazy."

He went on to talk about diplomatic relations.

"You should give from your right hand without the left hand knowing what you are doing," he said. "We are all keen to have even a better relationship with the U.S. We expect a two-way relationship."

Farm Bill decisions affect all

"Farming looks mighty easy when your plow is a pencil and you're a thousand miles from a corn field."

President Eisenhower's words are a fitting reminder as Congress works to draft a farm bill that will have lasting effects on the livelihoods of the farmers and rural communities I represent. As the farm-bill debate takes shape in Washington, farmers across the country are working from dawn until dusk, harvesting the wheat that will soon be a loaf of bread on a table in New York or San Francisco.

The farm bill is a complex legislative package that funds everything from conservation practices to school lunches. In fact, the lion's share of the new bill, about 66 percent, would go to Food Stamps.

The last farm bill, drafted in 2002, put into place a safety net to support farmers when growing conditions or markets fail. Critics of that policy claim that too much money is being spent to support farmers. Yet these critics fail to mention that the farm program has come in about \$25 billion under budget since that bill was enacted five years ago. This leaves the Agriculture Committee with 42 percent less money to work with.

Another fact omitted by critics of farm policy is that American farmers are supported at much lower levels than those in other countries around the world. In 2005, Ameri-



On the Potomac

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can farmers received around \$44 per acre, compared to European farmers at \$390 per acre and Japan at a whopping \$4,442. Couple the low support level with the foreign regulations and tariffs imposed on U.S. commodities abroad, and it is easy to see why it's difficult for American farmers to compete in the world.

The benefits of the farm bill are evident in the prices Americans pay at the grocery store — be it in Kensington, Md., or Kensington, Kan. In 2004, the average American spent about 7.9 percent of their budget on food, whereas Germany came in at 15.9 percent, Japan at 17.6 percent and India at 46.1 percent.

In addition to food and fiber, American farmers are also now being called on to help meet our country's energy needs. Farmers are doing what they can to decrease our reliance on foreign fuel. While striving for energy independence, we should not act to increase our foreign sources of food by ending the vital safety net in the Farm Bill.

In few other professions is one's very livelihood at the mercy of Mother Nature. Be it snow, freezes, floods, fire, tornadoes or drought, our farmers face serious obstacles in their quest to meet the challenge of not only feeding and clothing their own families, but also the families of millions around the world.

As farmers in Kansas harvest their wheat and begin to prepare for the next crop, we in our nation's capital are planting the seeds for the next generation of American farmers and working to provide stability to a risky profession so integral to our country. I can only hope that the farm bill we debate today does not simply write off the very future of American agriculture.

I will continue to be an advocate for agriculture policy that uses taxpayer dollars responsibly, is more free-market oriented and less trade distorting, allows producers to earn a reasonable living and helps to preserve the rural communities that we in Kansas call home.

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Oberlin Arts & Humanities

2007-2008 Schedule

Season Ticket Events:

September 8, 2007 Gateway Theater	7:30 p.m. Sat.	Jerry Barlow Celtic Fingerstyle Guitar
October 20, 2007 Gateway	7:30 p.m. Sat.	SW NE Community Theater "Curious Savage: Stage Presentation
November 11, 2007 Gateway	2:00 p.m. Sun.	Stanton Nelson Youth Pianist
December 2, 2007 High School	2:00 p.m. Sun.	Oberlin Area Concert Band & Clueless Christmas Concert
January 26, 2008 Gateway	7:30 p.m. Sat.	The Cartwright Brothers Comedy
February 23, 2008 Gateway	6:30 p.m. Sat.	Allegro Chamber Trio (Dinner Theater) Dinner-6:30, Theater-7:30
March 30, 2008 Gateway	7:30 p.m. Sat.	KU Dance Group
April 27, 2008 Gateway	2:00 p.m. Sun.	Local History Tour Dresden, Clayton & Jennings

YOUR MEMBERSHIP ALSO SUPPORTS:

- November 24, 2007 Sat. *Holiday Arts & Crafts Show*
- Spring, 2008 Sat., Sun. *High Plains ArtFest*
- Spring, 2008 *Senior Recital*
- Monthly, (call 475-2707 for reservations) *Anna Seeber Shaw Basic Drawing Workshop*
- *Series*

For Program information call Ella Betts (785-475-3557) or Mary Henzel (785-475-3329)

Information also available at www.oberlinarts.org

Season Tickets:

- \$60 Each, all season ticket events; one Dinner/Theater
 - \$125 Family, all season ticket events; all school age youth and two Dinner/Theater
 - \$65 Single Family, all season ticket events; all school age youth and one Dinner/Theater
- Tickets will be mailed to you if the mail-in form below is completed with payment enclosed and returned to *Oberlin Arts & Humanities, Ella Betts, 601 N. Penn, Oberlin, KS 67749*

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For more information or to purchase tickets, contact:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Gary Fredrickson 475-3135 | JoAnn Neidenthal 475-2966 | Joy Russell 475-3371 |
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Carnival Schedule ----- Volunteers are still needed!

Call Vicky Ray at 475-3351 or Stop by Ray Jewelry

	Tuesday Aug 7	Wednesday Aug 8	Thursday Aug. 9	Friday Aug. 10	Saturday Aug. 11
Baseball Toss	E Volunteer Needed L Volunteer Needed	Janice Shobe Marilyn Horn	T. Phillips Volunteer Needed	K&M Rush Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed
Birthday Wheel	E Stacy Hilemann L Tyler Bruggeman	Stacey Hileman T. Ashley	T. Shaughnessey Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed
Break-A Plate	E Pam Simonsson L Pratts	Pam Simonsson Pratts	Travis Raile Marilyn Horn	Dave Olson Volunteer Needed	Dave Olson Volunteer Needed
Darts	E Pam Simonsson L Shelby Hackney	L & Peg Roe Geishler/Stallman	Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed
Duck Pond	E Good Sam L Good Sam	L. Glaze Faith Lutheran	L. Glaze Phillips	Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed
Hi Striker	E Gun L Club	Gun Club	Antique Club	Doug Horn Rick Pauls	Doug Horn Doug Horn
Kid Game	E Shelby Hackney L Vickie Lippelman	H&J Votapka Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed
Kid Swings	E G&S Fredrickson L Volunteer Needed	Vickie Lippelman Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed	Stanley Hardware	Travis Raile Volunteer Needed
Lollipop Tree	E Marty Olson L Volunteer Needed	Modern Woodmen	Wilma May Connie Olson	Caroline Jacobs Volunteer Needed	D. Solko I. Ray
Moon Walk	E Faith Lutheran L Myrna Jones	M. Jones Volunteer Needed	Faith Lutheran Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed	Myrna Jones Volunteer Needed
Outhouse Alley	E The Reicherts L R&S Olson	Farmers Bank & Trust	The Bank	Shriners Volunteer Needed	The Reicherts Volunteer Needed
Soda Can	E PEO L Club	DPW DPW	Faith Lutheran Church	Faith Lutheran Church	Shriners Shriners
Sinko	E Alif L Be Khe	Alif Be Khe	Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed	Pi Alpha	Hirsch Volunteer Needed
Plinko	E ----- L -----	Decatur	Health Systems	-----	-----
Ric-O-Chet	E Monday L Evening Club	American Legion	Oberlin Knights	American Legion	American Legion
Kiddie Cars	E Metcalf L Volunteer Needed	T. Shaw/S. Wurm Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed	M&K Wasson M&K Wasson	Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed
Train	E C&J Simonsson L Hirsch	Zeta Nu	PEO Club	Volunteer Needed Lisa Paulson	Antique Club
Tickets	E I. Ray/D. Moore L Shaughnessey/Farr	I. Ray/D. Moore Myrna/Duncans	S&M Slabaugh Myrna/E. Carlson	J. Cundiff/Carlson E. Smith/I. Rayl	Olson/Shaugnessey M.Jones/G.Stapp

Games not listed have already been filled by Volunteers

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