

# Editorials



## Letters

### Remember the fallen

I ask that the folks of Lampasas take a moment on this day to say a prayer for the fallen heroes who have protected this country so we may have our freedom. Pray for our heroes in Iraq now and their families who have had to carry on without them.

On the morning of Oct. 23, 1983, a terrorist drove a truck full of explosives into the compound being used by American troops during their peacekeeping mission in Beirut, Lebanon. The truck was detonated inside the barracks. Our nation lost 241 heroes: 220 Marines, 18 Navy personnel and 3 Army soldiers. Sixty Americans were injured.

One of those Marines is very special to me: Lance Cpl. Virgel Dean Hamilton. Virgel was looking forward to his re-enlistment on the Marine Corps birthday, which also was his birthday. He was supposed to be finished with his deployment in time to be home for Christmas with his family. Instead, on Nov. 9, the day before his 21st birthday and re-enlistment, Virgel was buried in the Butler County Memorial Garden Cemetery.

We cannot let our heroes who perished in Beirut be forgotten.

Ramona Green  
sister of Lance Cpl. Virgel Dean Hamilton

### Enforcement of athletic rules

This is in response to the recent letter about rules needed to apply to everyone. That was a very unfair letter, the star athlete you were talking about.

I believe that the whole varsity team are stars. Any team that can be losing a game and still give it their all are stars in my eyes.

Anyway, the athlete in question did his punishment. He ran his 50 miles and was suspended for a scrimmage. His offense happened during the summer, therefore it is a different punishment schedule.

My son was caught with smokeless tobacco in his vehicle during a search of the campus. It wasn't on his body or in his mouth. He was suspended for the two most important games of his senior year -- Sweetheart and Homecoming -- and ran 25 miles. And he wasn't allowed on the field during the games or to participate in the pep rallies.

I, at first, was very unhappy with his punishment, but it was brought to my attention about the offenses occurring in the summer and school time. It was explained to me that the new athletic rules have been Coach McQueen's rules at every school he has been a part of. Both Coach McQueen and Coach Bailey spoke to me about this issue at a JV game.

I believe Coach McQueen and Coach Bailey are both fair men, and the rules will be enforced to each student who misbehaves. And all children make mistakes. That is how each of us learns wrong from right.

Missy Hlavaty

### Community support of new health science programs

Here is just another example of our great community. Our local healthcare facilities have provided a wonderful opportunity for our new Health Science Technology courses at the high school.

Students involved in the upper-division clinical rotation program (Health Science Technology II) are exposed to the inter-departmental functions in a variety of clinical settings. This enables the student to gain a better perspective of the total healthcare delivery system. During the spring semester, students focus their training on becoming a Certified Nursing Assistant.

The following sites have graciously welcomed our 20 Health Science II students into their facilities to further their medical experience: Family Medicine Clinic, Rollins Brook Community Hospital, The Village at Hancock Park, Lampasas Nursing and Rehab, Spring Oaks Nursing and Rehab, H.S. Bailey DDS, Frank N. Leavell DDS, Fresenius Medical Care, Lampasas Veterinary Hospital, LISD school nurses and LISD Special Education Department. Capital Ambulance and Lampasas Fire Department also have been instrumental in our EMT training.

Thank you to all for supporting our future healthcare providers!

Kim Kuklies, R.N.  
LHS Health Science instructor

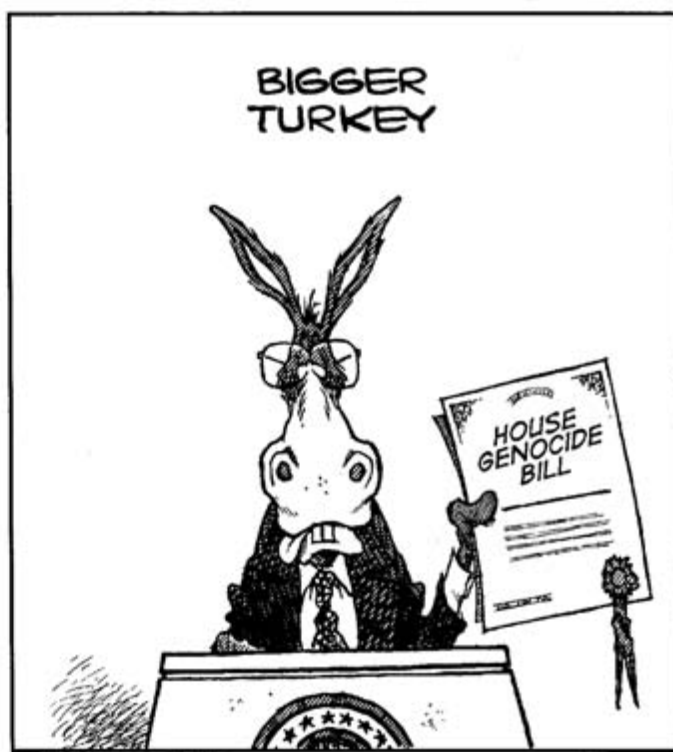
### From the Bible

"I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe."

Philippians 1:18-19a



© 2007 CREATORS SYNDICATE INC.  
WWW.CREATORSSYNDICATE.COM  
CORRELL



## Health insurance dilemma

Memo to the president's foes: It helps sometimes to have a president you hate. Think of the bad choices he can save you from, including those you urge on him. Consider the present guttural outcry — How Dare This Child-Hater Veto The Children's Health Insurance Bill?

How dare he? On account of due appreciation for the need to squash the kind of foolishness that eventually turns and bites proponents as well as adversaries. That's the State Children's Health Insurance bill to a tee.

What fun in the short run to bash George W. Bush for nixing a bill that extends government-paid health insurance to middle-class families earning as much as \$62,000! Here is Families USA on the matter: "Bush vs. Kids." Here's another such *bon mot*: "President Bush to Children: No Health Care for You."

Which is intellectual pollution of a variety suitable for removal and preservation behind glass. The president was ready to sign onto, and sign, legislation directed toward renewing subsidization of uninsured poor children. He never got the chance. With terrified Senate Republicans joining the stampede, Congress decided, why not open up this health insurance thing and get a little credit at the polls next year? By bringing middle-class families into the program, the majority of them with private insurance, members of both parties see themselves reaping substantial gratitude.

Well, naturally. Don't you want something free, or perceived as such? It's a modern habit — one in which politicians devoutly believe — to say, sure, bring it on.

This consideration inspires Bushophobes to see the debate over Bush's veto of the legislation, and the override vote set in the House, as succulent fare. How can the government-expanders lose? If the override vote fails, it's Bush's fault. Did we mention all Republicans hate kids? If, on the other hand, House and Senate override and the bill becomes law, the gratitude of a newly entitled constituency becomes large and real and warm. Can you beat it?

Not in the short run, maybe. Political tacticians who see "kid-hating" as a grand, glorious catchphrase are unlikely to be moved by considerations of intellectual seriousness. They are likelier to rejoice that the road to universal national health care seems more open than it has in years — maybe more open than ever before.

From families with \$62,000 annual incomes, it's the

merest jump to the governmental embrace of families with incomes of \$82,000. Once at that level, what stands between Congress and expansion of government health insurance to the whole population? Excepting, of course, those popular caricatures, "the wealthy," for whom all Republicangenerated tax cuts are supposedly tailored and crafted. It's what we might call the incremental approach to a problem that registers with voters.

But I earlier said Bush, in vetoing the children's health insurance bill, was saving his critics and adversaries from themselves. How so?

First, better means of solving the health insurance conundrum exist — namely, extension to the whole population of tax-exempt savings accounts for health care. Why should there be insurance in the first place, except for the worst stuff, generally known as "catastrophic"? Insurance you pay for but don't use is money down the drain. The more you expand government health insurance, the likelier it becomes you'll try what actually would work — like choice.

Second, bad as the present system may be, it beats the national system for which control freaks clamor: an English- or Canadian-type system, financed by whopping taxes, wherein entitlement to access is offset by the inadequacy of the care such access provides.

Not even the "Bush vs. Kids" fraternity — I earnestly hope — yearn for a system that puts crucial health care decisions in the hands of Those Who Know Best for Us. The president's veto, which stalls briefly anyway the rush to national health insurance, is a favor to everyone — not least those who imagine voters rush right out to thank the politician whose schemes make life costlier and harder than it was to begin with.

William Murchison is a columnist with Creators Syndicate.

### William Murchison



### David Limbaugh



## Reckless resolution on Turkey

Why now, of all possible critical moments, are congressional Democrats insisting on passing a resolution guaranteed to offend Turkey, our vital ally in the Iraq War, by denouncing the Ottoman Empire's century-old massacre of Armenians as a "genocide"?

Nancy Pelosi and her cohorts have been warned that Turkey will be deeply offended by the move and may even take punitive action against us by withdrawing their permission for us to use Incirlik Air Base, through which well more than half of our air cargo passes in route to supply our troops in Iraq. Human Events editor Jed Babbin reports that some 95 percent of the new MRAP (mine-resistant, ambush protected) vehicles, designed to save our troops' lives, pass through Incirlik. Also as a result, Turkey might decide to attack Kurdish terrorist forces against our strong urging not to do so.

What on earth are Democrats trying to pull here? They are the same people that barely blanch when Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad denies the Holocaust. It's not like we need to worry about offending Iran, a charter member of the Axis of Evil and by last count a sworn enemy of the United States, actively working to defeat us in Iraq.

Democrats constantly castigate President Bush for alienating the international community by "going it alone." Their presidential candidates are united in promising that if their party recaptures the White House, they'll restore sound relations with foreign nations. In a recent speech, the irrepressibly garrulous Bill Clinton stressed that this would be a major theme in the next Clinton co-presidency.

But are Democratic Party leaders, who claim to be such staunch supporters of our troops, concerned about jeopardizing their indispensable supply lines? Are they the slightest bit nervous that in response to a House committee vote on this resolution, Turkey has already recalled its ambassador, Nabi Sensoy, for consultation?

Apparently not. When a seemingly incredulous Brit Hume questioned House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer about the resolution considering the high stakes involved, Hoyer cavalierly responded, "Turkey's help to us is vital, but more vital is the United States' help to Turkey." In other words, Turkey needs us more than we need them — presumably implying Turkey wouldn't dare cut off our supply lines.

But Turkey has denied our troops access before — as recently as 2003. More than that, this idea that other countries need us more than we need them could be said about almost any allies Democrats complain the Bush administration has alienated. What if President Bush had responded to Democratic complaints in the same high-handed manner Democrats are exhibiting today, saying, "Our allies need us more than we need them?"

Given that there is nothing to be gained and so much to be lost by the proposed congressional resolution, how can we not be suspect, as Jed Babbin implies, that congressional Democrats might be trying to effect a withdrawal of our troops from Iraq indirectly? Is this suspicion really far-fetched?

They've tried similar ploys, like a "dwell-time" amendment attached to the Defense policy bill that would have mandated troops have as much time at home between deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan as they had in those countries. This would have virtually guaranteed we didn't have enough manpower to complete the mission — one of several "slow bleed" tactics advanced by Democrats to undermine our prosecution of the war.

In that case, they at least have the cover of arguing they are forcing longer stateside missions on behalf of the troops. Their motive was suspicious but at least ambiguous. But there is no upside to their proposed resolution designed to offend Turkey. None.

I can think of only one other possible explanation for the Democrats' gratuitous insult of our vital ally during time of war. Their worldview often compels them to pursue actions driven by their so-called good intentions — even when those actions are sure to result in adverse consequences to their intended beneficiaries, such as with promoting expansive welfare, affirmative action, nationalized health care, minimum wage laws, gun control and radical environmental measures, or opposing tax cuts and school choice.

But in the unlikely event the Democrats' motive isn't to undercut our mission in Iraq, it might as well be — and they ought to be held accountable just as sternly as if it were. To the extent the resolution imperils American troops, it is egregiously reckless and indefensible at all levels.

This must not pass without loud and fierce opposition. President Bush and Republican congressional representatives, along with every conservative commentator in this nation, should mobilize to expose the Democrats' proposed course of action as an outrageous assault on our fighting forces — not to score political points but to deter these misguided renegades from endangering our troops.

This appalling stunt must not be permitted to proceed.

David Limbaugh is a writer, author and attorney. His twice-weekly column is distributed by Creators Syndicate.

## Write your representatives

Let your voice be heard on important issues by contacting your elected officials regularly.

**WASHINGTON:**  
The Hon. George W. Bush  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500  
(202)456-1414  
Fax: (202)456-2461  
E-mail: president@whitehouse.gov

The Hon. Kay Bailey Hutchison  
U.S. Senate  
284 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
(202)224-5922  
Fax: (202)224-0776  
www.hutchison.senate.gov

The Hon. John Cornyn  
U.S. Senate  
517 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
(202)224-2934 Fax: (202)228-2856  
www.cornyn.senate.gov

The Hon. Mike Conaway  
U.S. House of Representatives  
c/o Llano Regional Office  
104 W. Sandstone  
Llano, TX 78643  
(325)247-2826 Fax: (325)247-2676  
www.conaway.house.gov

**AUSTIN:**  
The Hon. Rick Perry  
Governor's Office  
P.O. Box 12428  
Capitol Station  
Austin, TX 78711  
(512)463-2000  
Fax: (512)463-1849

The Hon. Troy Fraser  
Texas Senate  
P.O. Box 12068  
Austin, TX 78711  
(512)463-0124  
Fax: (512)475-3732  
E-mail: troy.fraser@senate.state.tx.us

The Hon. Jimmie Don Aycock  
Texas House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 2910  
Austin, TX 78768-2910  
(512)463-0684  
Fax: (512)482-8284  
E-mail: jimmie.aycock@house.state.tx.us

## Thank you for reading the Lampasas Dispatch Record