

"Our aim: To fear God,  
tell the truth  
and make money."

H.C. PADDOCK  
1852-1935

# Opinion

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## Saturday Soapbox

Some opinions require lots of words and elaboration. Some don't. This is Saturday Soapbox, briefly stated commentary from the Daily Herald's editors.

### A crime that ought not be forgotten:

Joshua Evans was 7 when he hid while his mother and sister were being murdered. In the next 24 hours, the killers tried once to strangle him, then once to poison him, but he somehow survived. Finally, in a last attack, one stabbed him to death. His body was dumped in an alley. A 7-year-old boy. From DuPage County. Imagine what his last day must have been like. But don't stop there, Governor; remember him when you are deciding whether to grant blanket clemency for everyone on death row.

### Teen's timeless contribution:

If the contributions to a time capsule commemorating the Wheaton Chamber of Commerce's 100th anniversary are any indication, the top priorities for teens are timeless. Trendy clothes, popular music and Krispy Kreme doughnuts are predictable contributions. But this time capsule also carries a somber reminder of life in 2002. In a letter to those who will crack open the capsule in 50 years, Wheaton North sophomore Sarah Sorensen eloquently summed up the dreams

## Our View

we share for our children and grandchildren: "I hope that for you guys, you still have some of the things we have. I hope you never have to go through things like we did Sept. 11."

### No aliens after all:

File this under Gee Whiz, No Kidding? A DuPage County UFO expert has confirmed the crop circle that appeared in a Naperville farmer's soybean field this summer was a hoax. Whew! Now if someone could just explain Anna Nicole Smith.

### Enough to make you ill:

On the other hand, if there are little green men in DuPage County, they're the ones sick over their stock portfolios.

### Ghost of Property Tax Cuts Past:

It's not Halloween yet. But we wonder if DuPage County Board members are feeling haunted by those politically popular tax cuts they approved over the past few years, given the county's grim financial outlook. And here's a

scary thought — what if the board now has to consider raising those taxes?

### Motorist migraine in Wood Dale:

Wood Dale is a den of construction. A new footpath just went up over Irving Park Road. The old school board building was razed to clear the way for a new home. Just one question: When is work going to continue at the intersection of Wood Dale and Irving Park roads?

### New name doesn't solve old problem:

Peabody Mansion at the Mayslake Forest Preserve has finally been restored! At least to its original name. It is once again being called Mayslake Hall. But Peabody Mansion or Mayslake Hall, it will be the taxpayer-supported White Elephant until it's fixed up into the revenue-producing tourist attraction it's supposed to be.

### Good choice for school name:

Indian Prairie Unit District 204 considered about 30 names for a new elementary school before settling this week on Owen, in honor of former board member Owen Wavrinek. Good

choice on two counts: First, Wavrinek was a champion of education for 21 years and played a part in opening 23 schools. Second, going with his first name instead of his hard-to-pronounce, hard-to-spell last name saved us a generation of tongue-tied second-graders.

### A decent act that ought not be forgotten:

Here's a story born out of tragedy that should remind us that not every CEO is a scoundrel: Sunday marks the 20th anniversary of the Tylenol poisonings. Seven people died in Chicago area including four in DuPage County. Jim Burke was CEO of Johnson & Johnson, which faced enormous losses as the maker of Tylenol. He called his board directors together and asked if they agreed with the company credo. They did. The first sentence of it said, "We believe our first responsibility is to the doctors, nurses and patients, to mothers and all others who use our products and services." When the crisis came, J&J could have tried to contain the damage. Instead, it ordered an immediate recall of every bottle of Tylenol on every store shelf in the country. That's integrity.

## Questionable motives in Bush's push for war

Is George W. Bush's proposed use of force in Iraq designed to distract U.S. citizens from the administration's failure to either capture Osama Bin Laden (remember him) or to end the first recession in a decade? When the November elections take place, the Republican administration would much rather have voters thinking about war in Iraq than the persistence of al-Qaida and the economy's downturn. You can't spell "wag the dog" without G.W.

Austin Mayor  
Glen Ellyn

## Strong schools good for property values

I am a resident in Salt Creek School District 48. I have lived here for the past 17 years, and I sent four children through Salt Creek, Swartz and Albright. As a matter of fact, I bought my house in District 48 because I wanted my children in these schools. When we were house hunting, we firmly believed District 48 was the best place for our children, so we were willing to pay a little extra to get a house there.

Did I get what I paid for? Yes, absolutely! The Salt Creek schools offered a quality education taught by outstanding teachers in a nurturing environment. Our children had the opportunity to experience band and orchestra, preschool, foreign language, sports, technology, all-day kindergarten, before- and after-school day care. We had all this before other schools even dreamed of these programs. Now these programs and the very existence of our school district is in jeopardy if the referendum on Nov. 5 is not passed.

I look at this issue from another perspective, because I have been a Realtor in this area for the past 12 years. It is a fact that home values are affected by the quality of schools. Many buyers will not even look at a house if it isn't in a desirable school district.

Residents of District 48 should wake up and realize their property values are directly linked to the quality of their schools. If we lose the outstanding reputation that has drawn families to our school district,

## Fence Post

we will lose more than the 50 cents per \$100 equalized assessed value increase our schools are asking for.

Residents of District 48 have enjoyed the lowest property taxes around for many years. If you compare a similar house in District 48 to one in District 45 or District 205, you will see taxes in District 48 are much lower, even with this tax increase.

No one likes to see taxes go up, but for homeowners in District 48, it would be foolish to say no to this increase and risk losing the one thing that has made us special for all these years. Don't let our property values go down just to save a few bucks!

Mary Reedy O'Connor  
J.W. Reedy Realty  
Lombard

## For some, the cross is inappropriate symbol

I am sure it was a pure and noble intention depicted on your front page of Sept. 11 (3,000 crosses).

However, I believe it helped to illustrate a great fundamental misconception that exists in America today. America is an immense melting pot, and people of many different religions perished on that tragic day in New York — not just Christians. The common thread that bound us that day was our belief in our country, not crosses. To put the names of non-Christians who perished in the World Trade Center tragedy on crosses is a slap in the face to their heritage, their beliefs and their memory. Would it not have been a more fitting tribute to put up 3,000 American flags?

Our great country was founded on diversity and our ability to respect the beliefs of others. We must stop trying to lump people

together and instead recognize the difference in our culture. Then, and only then, will our tributes to our fallen countrymen be a true symbol of their ultimate sacrifice.

Steven E. Cohen  
Bartlett

## Get people out of cars and into public transit

I am the mother of two young children in Wheaton, and I am grateful to have a downtown where it is very simple to get around by walking. I enjoy the freedom of walking to several of our frequent destinations, including the library, the swimming pool and the stores in our downtown area. This is particularly true during the summer months, when our regular trip to the library can include a stop at the Farmers' Market. Unfortunately, once we leave downtown Wheaton, we have to depend on a car to get around because so many places are built to accommodate only automobiles. We don't have the choice of walking or taking public transportation, so we end up burning gas to get our groceries or run other errands.

Our towns and our region are still growing. If we continue to subsidize the use of cars at the expense of transit and pedestrians, we will diminish people's choices further. I urge our leaders to plan for growth by building in transportation choices, including walking and public transit. Mixed-use zoning also would help, so we can have corner stores in our neighborhoods, instead of miles away.

If you also believe that smart planning now means a better life later for our children and us, raise your own voice to city and state elected officials and the transportation planning agencies.

Jeannine Kannegiesser  
Wheaton

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## Why is U.S. singling out Iraq for war talk?

He has weapons with massive destruction capacity, threatens neighboring countries and is implacable with domestic opposition. This description is valid for Saddam Hussein, but it is also for Jiang Zemin, China's top leader; Pervez Musharraf, Pakistan's president and Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan.

So, why is the United States threatening Hussein with military attack while other leaders, with a similar background, enjoy a preferential trade partner status?

There are several answers, but it is certain that the wish to "bring justice" cannot be included among President George W. Bush's main motivations.

It is reasonable to think that Bush is using Hussein as a pretext to reinforce his hegemonic standing.

By seeking to topple Saddam Hussein, Bush seems to try to demonstrate that he can be tough when it fits his needs.

• From Folha De Sao Paulo, Brazil.

## Views from around the world

### Seeking war profit?

It is estimated that a war with Iraq would cost no less than \$200 billion. Yet this colossal expense does not seem to ruffle key advisers of U.S. President George W. Bush.

Advocates of an armed conflict with Iraq maintain that overthrowing Saddam Hussein would mean an additional 3 million to 5 million barrels of oil reaching the global economy.

The argument in favor of war with Iraq therefore rests on the assumption that what is good for the U.S. economy would be good for world economy as well.

• From the Jordan Times, Amman.

### An eye on the polls

Tony Blair insists he has not changed his goals on Iraq or the means that he favors to achieve them. But the more immediate truth

is that, over the past month, Blair's public approach to Iraq has been substantially redefined in a more measured way. Why this has happened is no mystery. It has happened because Blair's loyalty to a frighteningly unclear U.S. policy was causing him to lose too much domestic political support to ignore.

• From the Guardian, London.

### The threat defined

British Prime Minister Tony Blair has given clarity: Iraq has chemical and biological weapons that can be ready for use against other nations or his own people within 45 minutes. He also has ballistic missiles, and may soon have nuclear weapons to arm them with. The message is clear. With Saddam Hussein in charge, Iraq is a danger to its own people, to its region and, finally, to the entire Earth.

• From De Telegraaf, Amsterdam.

