

Letters to the editor

Sister Elise weathered the turmoil

Recently, the University of St. Francis commencement and its proposed keynote speaker, Dr. Nancy Snyderman, made headlines for several days. On following the story, I realized that there was an inspiring display of courage, integrity and empathy by the president of St. Francis, Sr. Elise Kriss.

She showed courage and integrity in her public apology to Dr. Snyderman, Bishop D'Arcy and, most important, graduating students. With her apology, she effectively shifted the focus of the commencement back to the celebration of and for the graduates and facilitated healing and moving forward.

The graduating class need look no further for inspiration and a role model. Their president, an unwavering proponent of the Franciscan values on which the university was founded, is a true role model. She deserves the numerous leadership and achievement awards bestowed upon her and the designation "Citizen of the Year 2004."

Nancy Johnson

Evil of abortion is always newsworthy

Abortion is never long out of the news, as witness recent events in Fort Wayne. Yet few really understand the whole problem because the pro-abortion lobby has deliberately distorted the issue.

For example, the pro-aborts have convinced many that abortion is solely about "women's rights" or "abortion rights," ignoring the core issue, which is that all human beings have an "unalienable" right to life — according to the Declaration of Independence, forerunner of our Constitution.

Prior to 1973, every state had laws protecting the unborn. The U.S. Supreme Court decision on Jan. 22, 1973, nullified all those laws, creating abortion on demand, leaving the unborn unprotected. Before that, Western society almost unanimously saw abortion as a great moral evil. The unborn were treated as real people. Now the aborted are seen, in the words of one abortionist, as "so much garbage."

The Supreme Court has sanctioned the legal killing of an estimated 40 million unborn human beings. Are we so heartless that we can't see that this is wrong; that no one has the right to destroy innocent lives to solve their own personal problems?

*Ed and Rita Linder
Decatur*

This race was closer, thanks to you

I want to thank all the individuals who helped me in my campaign. Your support was extremely helpful. This campaign resulted in 21 percent of the vote — a nearly seven-fold increase over 2002, and this was with a low voter turnout.

Of the 1,000 signs that were put up, we have recovered 273. If anyone sees one of my signs, please give me a call at 637-0741 and I will see it gets removed. Please do not throw the signs away.

I learned a great deal this past primary and will use it to put forth even more effort in 2006.

To save Social Security in 2004, each adult must send a check today to Social Security for \$87,000 or cut benefits by 40 percent or raise taxes by 85 percent. To save Social Security in 2006, each adult must pay nearly \$97,750. Is this a good value?

William Larsen

Can disgrace in Iraq surprise anyone?

How can anyone be surprised by the disgraceful behavior of some of our military people in Iraq? Secretary Rumsfeld and President Bush have glorified war and displayed bully tactics since they took (as opposed to "were elected to") office. When we breed hate and violence, that is what we get.

In war, the enemy must be portrayed as less than human, thus enabling soldiers to murder, rape and intimidate and still maintain a level of conscience they can live with. This is nothing new. Ask the millions of women and girls who have been systematically raped in an effort to humiliate them, their families and their cultures as well as to create little momentos as a lasting memory of the events.

Nothing good can come from war. If you want to surprise us, tell us that Bush is sending *his* daughters to Iraq as foot soldiers; that Rumsfeld is going to Afghanistan to build schools and plant crops; that Congress is working on the impeachment of Bush for atrocities; that the \$24 billion more we owe to the Iraqis for our destructive ways will not be needed, because the big companies that are profiting from the war are donating the assistance to rebuild Iraq and Afghanistan and that that money can go to our kids' schools so they can learn how stupid war is from a book instead of an experience.

Cat Voors

Media shouldn't tell body counts

I am a 41-year-old man who can remember when we were fighting a war in Vietnam.

I remember hearing in the news every night about Cambodia, Laos, the Viet Cong and all of the problems back here at home about fighting a war in Vietnam. Now that we are fighting in Iraq, every newscast I hear tells the number of people who have been wounded or have died. I think this is very rude and very tacky reporting.

Fighting a war is never good, although the final outcome may make it worth fighting. There are always death and destruction in war. To tell the exact number of people fighting who have been wounded