

commentary on May 14 was wrong, long and boring.

As for our real sheriff, Chuck Jenkins, I've not met anyone who doesn't agree that we once again look forward to voting for him this coming fall.

I applaud his service and believe he and his team are an absolute credit to our community. Please keep it up.

CHRIS HUCKENPOEHLER
Frederick

Ike's prescience

This is a response to Barry Kissin's timely and cogently argued May 15 piece on the Pentagon's runaway military budget. The historic precursor to Kissin's warning can be found in President Dwight D. Eisenhower's Farewell Address of Jan. 17, 1961, when he warned about the "conjunction of an immense military establishment and a large arms industry" with the real potential for unwarranted influence and the potential for "the disastrous rise of misplaced power" that could bankrupt our economy, impoverish our social order, and threaten our republican form of government.

Ike never used the power of his office to challenge this new internal threat to our democracy. He simply stated it in a memorable way and left the problem to his successor. Now, more than 50 years later, the growth of the military-industrial-congressional complex has reached a stage where it threatens to drag the nation down into a series of imperial wars.

The costs of our two wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have already exceeded \$1 trillion. But these calculations are misleading. Economist Linda Bilmes and Nobelist Joseph Stiglitz, in their book "The Trillion Dollar War," have unearthed hidden expenditures that place the cost of the needless and illegal Iraqi involvement alone

at \$3 trillion.

What is alarming is that the Obama administration seeks to establish a new military policy posture that shifts the emphasis from conventional combat to brush-fire wars and counterinsurgency. This new mission is laid out in the current publication of the Quadrennial Defense Review, the Pentagon's guide to military planning for the next four years.

The essence of the new military mission is a readiness for an unending series of counterinsurgency campaigns in failed states like Somalia, Colombia and Yemen and fragile post-conflict states like Liberia, Congo and Sudan that provide the conditions for radical insurgencies that threaten the stability of the world order. In short, QDR notes "US forces will need to maintain a high level of competency in this mission area for decades to come."

Short of significant voter protest, are we prepared for two, three, four Afghanistans?

JERRY McKNIGHT
Frederick

Title IX whole again

Thanks to the dedication and leadership of women's groups across the United States, a major victory was won for Title IX — and girls and women in sports. The Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights issued new guidance for Title IX, rescinding the deeply flawed March 2005 policy that allowed schools to use e-mail surveys to gauge the athletic interests of female students.

Under the 2005 guidance, schools could count nonresponses to the spamlike survey as a lack of interest in athletics. This not only created a major loophole through which schools could evade their Title IX obligations, it jeopardized

5/2010