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OPINION

Letter: Web site offers way to help troops

Published: Feb 14, 2007

In response to the Feb. 9 letter from Gabrielle E. Vantol, in which she asks "Can somebody please tell me how we can support our soldiers and their families?" Here is one option. I will warn you though, that this option can become an addictive habit.

There is a Web site called <http://www.anysoldier.com>, where members of all branches of our armed forces are able to post messages with information about their unit and can make requests for items they cannot easily obtain.

This Web site is fantastic. You will be touched by the faces and stories of our men and women who find themselves far from home, too often in dangerous situations, and you will feel proud of our nation and the fighting men and women who defend all of us.

Unfortunately, you will also be dismayed to discover how many of our soldiers do not have access to very basic items, such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste and deodorant. It is hard to understand how this can happen.

This is where care packages come in. Care packages are easy to send. The post office offers two sizes of flat-rate boxes that, no matter how much you stuff into them and no matter how much they weigh, only cost \$8.10 to mail to a soldier. We have been amazed and delighted to find out just how much can be squeezed into one box.

Via this site, you can request the address of a soldier whose story or humble request may particularly touch you, and you can collect the items his unit needs and send the box directly to them.

These men and women are our mothers and fathers, our sisters and brothers, our friends and neighbors and our children. They are far from home and long for anything that reminds them of home.

I encourage our caring Baton Rouge community to visit this Web site and adopt a soldier and his or her squad. You will be so glad you did.

Christy Marchand
state employee
Baton Rouge

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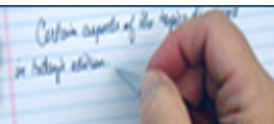
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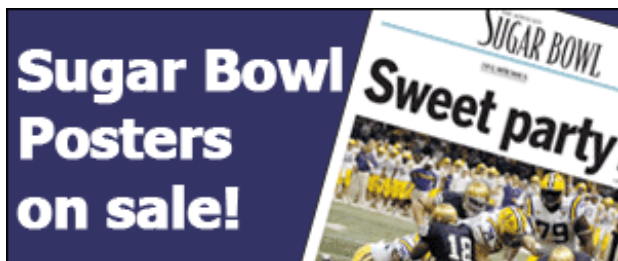
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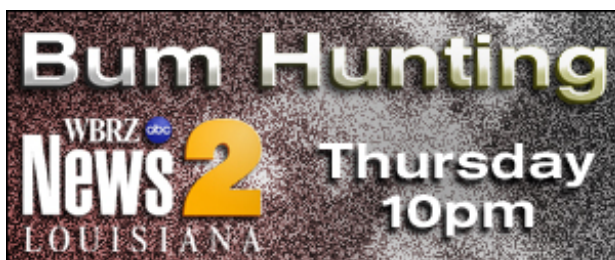
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