

Opinion



Letter Drop

- Our Readers Sound Off

Ticket reminder issued

To the Free Press:
The Western Plains Arts Association will begin its season on Sunday, Sept. 8, with the Steve Miller Cabaret Band in Hoxie. The performance will be in the Hoxie High School auditorium and begin at 3 p.m..
If you have not had an opportunity to purchase a season ticket, \$40 for adults and \$15 for students, please call one of the following: Amie Kendrick at 462-3837, Joan Albers at 462-6448, or Pat Ziegelmeier at 462-2984, ext. 307 (leave a message). Any other WPAA Board member you know will be glad to assist you. You may also buy season tickets, as well as tickets for individual performances, at the door.
We will have seventeen performances for adults as well as several in area schools this season. You will certainly get your money's worth!
Hope to see you at a concert.

Joan Albers
Colby
(Letter #118)

What gives?

To The Free Press:
I am a parent of a seventh grade football player and of a seventh grade cheerleader, and it has come to my attention that, even though my husband and I paid the same amount for a transportation fee for our daughter as we paid for our son, they are not being treated the same. The cheerleaders have been informed that they will be transported to only one out-of-town A-team game, and it is my understanding that all football players will be transported, by the school, to all out-of-town games.
These girls have worked hard — practicing through the summer and now practicing as a group. They had to pay for their uniform, which included: shoes, socks, pom-poms, sweatshirt, polo shirt, bloomers, outside uniform attire, plus the \$20 transportation fee. The only thing a football player pays for is his shoes, and the \$20 transportation fee.
I feel that the cheerleaders are needed more at the out-of-town games than the in-town games, because many of the parents are unable to attend the out-of-town games. I also feel that it is important to have the cheerleaders there for the support of their team.
If cheerleading is not a sport, why are they paying the same transportation fee as the football players? To these girls who have worked so hard all summer and are still practicing hard, cheerleading is definitely a sport.
As a parent, I am asking that the school board make transportation available to the cheerleaders for all out-of-town games through the activities transportation fund, the same as they have for the football players.
If anyone is interested in supporting our cheerleaders please contact me at this number: 462-9792.
Thank You,

Vel Brown
Colby
(Letter #119)

Addresses of elected officials:

U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts, 302 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. 202/224-4774
U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback, 303 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. 202/224-6521
U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran, 1519 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. 202/225-2715
State Rep. Jim Morrison, State Capitol Building Rm. 174-W, Topeka 66612. 785/296-7676 e mail: jmmorriso@ink.org web:http://www.idir.net/~jmmorriso/
State Sen. Stan Clark, State Capitol Building Rm. 449-N, Topeka 66612. 785/296-7399 e mail: sclark@ink.org

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Let's hear it for Tom Albers

I READ with more than just passing interest the page 1 feature story with accompanying photos last night in The Hays Daily News about Hays High's new assistant principal — Tom Albers. Tom, the son of Joan Albers and the late George F. Albers, graduated from Colby High in 1984. The school in Hays has an enrollment in excess of 1,000. He'll have his hands full, as the story notes, as his responsibilities include student attendance and discipline, school-to-career programs, vocational-technical education, staff development, buildings and grounds, and evaluating staff. Prior to Tom's move to Hays High, he was assistant principal at Pittsburg High, a school with about 800 students. Before that he taught and coached at Pratt, with coaching experience in football, basketball and track, the story by Judy Sherard says. Albers graduated from Fort Hays State University in 1988 and received his master's degree in educational administration from Fort Hays State in 1997. Tom and wife Tina have three children. It's always nice pointing out the positives that happen to our kids, thus passing along this information was a real treat.

I SEE where the largest school district in California — the Los Angeles area — will be removing all pop machines. The school board has decided that Pepsi and Coca-Cola and its affiliated brands of pop aren't what kids should be putting into their bodies — too much sugar, they say, and that leads to obesity. They indicated there are other choices, such as fruit-based drinks and milk. I really don't know how I feel about this. On the one hand I think the board is clearly showing it is more interested in the health of the students than it is with their educational smarts. And I also feel if mom and dad think soda pop is okay to drink at home, why should it suddenly not be okay to drink at school. It would also be interesting to know how many parents hand out condoms to their kids at home, such as is the practice in many schools across this land today. Somehow I think we're just a bit on the flakey side with some of our decisions. And do you really believe that kids will kick the pop habit



Tom Dreiling

- My Turn

after the school day ends? Get real.
So much for this topic.

A CLASS in sex education was about to begin, and each student had to bring in a permission slip in order to take it. A boy handed in his slip and explained to the teacher, "My mom says I can take the course as long as there's no homework."

IRAQ: should we invade? I'd be interested in *your* response — YES or NO. Email td@nwkansans.com or call me at 462-3963 or 462-7882.

HMM! 111,111,111 x 111,111,111 = 12,345,678,987,654,321.

IT IS now the 5th anniversary of the death of Princess Di. I see where the television networks are devoting time to recall the life and times of what they call one of the most admired women in the world. I never viewed her in that favored light. But I will keep my thoughts to myself. If memory serves me correctly, we are also on the eve of the 5th anniversary of the death of Mother Theresa. But I haven't heard any of those same networks even mentioning that fact.

THEN there's that Wichita television station that keeps giving us those optimistic "Kansas Business Updates." And they always conclude, in essence, "There's good news all over." They ought to get out here and take a look at what the drought has done to the livelihoods of those who depend on the soil to feed

you, me, countless others around the world — and yes, themselves. And then make that bold statement, "There's good news all over." We know they are referring to Wichita, but Wichita does not make up the state of Kansas. Wichita is merely a speck on the elephant's rump.

HAPPY Birthday to...

• Aug. 28 — Marcus Colson, Brady Holzmeister, Tom Sloan, Del Dempewolf, Tami Goossen

• Aug. 29 — Marlene Carpenter, Jyle Adelman, Jennifer Gilmore

HAPPY Anniversary to...

• Aug. 28 — William & Loretta Rikoff
Congratulations!

Call us as 462-3963 or email td@nwkansans.com to have your special day mentioned. And keep us advised of any changes. *Please*. Thanks!

QUESTION: What do bulletproof vests, fire escapes, windshield wipers, and laser printers all have in common? Answer:
All invented by women.

THE passenger tapped the cab driver on the shoulder to ask him something. The driver screamed, lost control of the car, nearly hit a bus, went up on the sidewalk, and stopped inches from a department store window. For a second everything went quiet in the cab, then the driver said, "Look mister, don't ever do that again. You scared me half to death!" The passenger apologized and said he didn't realize that a little tap could scare him so much. The driver replied, "You're right. I'm sorry, really it's not your fault. Today is my first day as a cab driver. I've been driving a hearse for 25 years.

HAVE a good evening!

Dreiling is publisher of the Free Press. His column appears Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. td@nwkansans.com

To err is human, to forgive divine

Forgiveness is a funny thing. All of us have pet peeves; things for which it is difficult, or even humanly impossible to forgive. Some have great difficulty in forgiving themselves and therefore find it difficult to forgive others.

Others, especially the more conscientious and tender-hearted among us, find the foibles of others and themselves to be so ingrained that they become cynical, expecting everyone to do the worst.

If ever there was someone who had the right to become cynical, it was the apostle Paul. He was a well-educated, but misguided, zealot who had the strength of character to turn his thinking 180 degrees when confronted with the error of his ways.

As a result, he lost most of his friends and endured almost unbearable hardships from those he called brethren.

By most worldly standards, he had the right to become cynical and morose, yet he remained supremely confident in the ability of man to do the right thing.

No, he wasn't some "pie-in-the-sky" optimist. He understood the evils that beset mankind and the temptations that each person faces. His letters reveal a man with a realistic view of the human condition along with an idealistic understanding of the potential in people.

He was a man who never stopped forgiving while continuing in his insistence that right and wrong did exist and holding himself and others to the highest



Jay Kelley

- Speaking My Mind

moral and ethical standards.

He could have allowed his insistence on the moral certainties of the Bible and the reality of salvation only in Jesus Christ to make him harsh and strident. Instead, he saw the reality of God's love in setting standards that were actually good for people, even when they didn't particularly want to follow.

I know the apostles were inspired, but I don't believe that inspiration controlled them to the point they wrote things they didn't themselves believe. In other words, they were not hypocrites.

Paul actually believed what he said when he told the church in Ephesus to forgive one another as God, through Christ, had forgiven them.

We would do well to follow that advice in our daily lives. If God found man worthy of the sacrifice of his only son, should we not find man worthy of the sacrifice of a little of our pride?

Forgiveness isn't about not holding people accountable, nor is it about allowing those who would perpe-

trate evil impenitently to continue in their wicked deeds. That isn't God's style and it shouldn't be ours.

Forgiveness is about the willingness to forget a person's mistakes when they fail to meet high standards they are so desperately trying to achieve.

Forgiveness is about understanding that when people are doing all they know how to do, it is enough until they know to do better.

Perhaps, if we practiced a little more forgiveness, we would have better leaders. Many times those who lead us feel forced to put on a front of perfection because of our history of turning on those who are perceived as weak.

We have a tendency to forgive anything from our leadership, as long as things are going good, while finding flaw in everything those in charge do when things are not going so well. Perhaps if we were a little more consistent in our standards, our leaders would be a little more consistent in theirs.

After all, in our country, we get to choose the leaders. Continual, impenitent misconduct must not be tolerated, regardless of the perceived competence of the person in office, but neither should they be crucified for lapses in character simply because they failed to meet the standard of perfection.

After all, only one man ever met that standard and it's a good thing he has a forgiving spirit.

A. Jay Kelley is the evangelist for the church of Christ in Colby. His e-mail is jkelley@nwkansans.com

Doonesbury

- Gary Trudeau

