

# Opinion



## Letter Drop

- Our Readers Sound Off

## What would God say?

*To The Free Press:*

I've read letter after letter on the matter of Dr. Hildyard and the hospital board. So far it seems to be the blame game. I have yet to see or hear Dr. Hildyard slam anyone. He's been quietly moving along "one day at a time."

Up to now what I've read, seen and heard reminds me of the meanness in grade school when one or two "kids" didn't like another child and tried to get everyone else to not like that child also. We are adults, are we not? We are supposed to be. It would seem that the hospital board should be an example to the public. It appears one man wants his way and he wants people to believe like he does and is going to any lengths to achieve this. Grow up!

This isn't really about Dr. Hildyard's language. I, myself, have heard cussing in the ER by nurses who, by the way, refused to call Dr. Hildyard into the ER while he was in the hospital.

I believe the Bible tells us to remove the plank from our own eye before we remove the plank from anyone else's eye, and it also tells us the first and greatest commandment is to love the Lord our God with all our hearts. The second greatest commandment is to love our neighbor as ourselves. So, let's do this and stop the playground behavior. What is this showing our children on proper adult behavior, and how to remedy a bad situation?

One more thing to think on: when we all face judgment and we all will, it will not be Mr. (Michael) Boyles or the hospital board who will be sitting on the great white throne. And by the way, what could the good Lord be thinking of this behavior? The God I know only looks at our hearts. He blesses honesty, love and compassion. So far I haven't seen this at all. Also, how can the hospital board justify their actions with no proof and no criminal evidence of these allegations? If it's our hospital why are they hiding things and not talking to us? The public has a right to know.

We as individuals have no right to judge one another. Remember, God is the one and only perfect person and we can't hide anything from Him. Also, God says in his word we are not to give false testament anyone. We are to bring it to a public forum in the town square. There is a Bible story of a woman who was accused of adultery. The town was ready to stone her. God said anyone without sin let him throw the first stone.

I thanked Dr. Hildyard for saving my life. He didn't become angry, what he did say was he made me comfortable and done all he could do, but credit was due to God, not him!

**Evelyn Gibson Colby**  
(Letter #138)

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**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: jmorriso@ink.org web:http://www.idir.net/~jmorriso/

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State award-winning newspaper, General Excellence, Design & Layout Excellence, Column Writing, Editorial Writing, Sports Columns, News, Photography.

Official newspaper of Thomas County, Colby, Brewster and Rexford.

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THE COLBY FREE PRESS (USPS 120-920) is published daily, every Monday through Friday, except the day observed for Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day, by Haynes Publishing Co., 155 W. Fifth, Colby, Kan., 67701.

PERIODICALS POSTAGE is paid at Colby, Kan. 67701, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Colby Free Press, 155 W. Fifth, Colby, Kan., 67701.

THE BUSINESS OFFICE at 155 W. Fifth is open from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, closed Saturday and Sunday.

MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, which is exclusively entitled to the use for publication of all news credited to it or not otherwise herein. Member Kansas Press Association, Inland Press Association and National Newspaper Association.

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES:** In Colby by carrier: 4 months \$32, 8 months \$47, 12 months \$64. By mail with in Colby and the nine-county region of Thomas, Sheridan, Decatur, Rawlins, Cheyenne, Sherman, Wallace, Logan and Gove counties: 4 months \$44, 8 months \$56, 12 months \$72. Other Kansas counties and surrounding states: 4 months \$51, 8 months \$61, 12 months \$75. All other states, \$75, 12 months.

**Nor'West Newspapers**  
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## Quit scolding, Southwestern Bell

I'VE got a bone to pick with SBC — Southwestern Bell Companies. I switched my long distance service to AT&T a couple of days ago (their plan is better than SBC's), and have been receiving what I term harassing calls from some goofy recorded voice from Southwestern Bell. It's a male's voice, coached to sound like one real mean dude and inferring that I could lose some of my extra services because I switched. The guy rants and raves. Then about the time you think he is done insulting you and you start to hang up, he starts all over again. You can't cut him off, no matter how hard you try. They control your lines and you have to wait until they are done making a fool out of you. There's no one to call to register a complaint. The numbers you get are all automated answering devices and those are about as helpful as a lightweight windbreaker in minus 40-degree weather in Wyoming. SBC needs to do something about this. If that's customer service then I'm on the Fortune 500 list.

AND JUST in case Master Card has forgotten, tornadoes are nothing to make light of, which they do in a new television commercial. I see nothing funny about it. All I see is some stupid fool trying to be clever, but in the process of creating the commercial he/she comes off looking like some stupid fool. Too many deaths, injuries and damages are the result of tornadoes, no matter how badly one wants to make it look like a remake of Dorothy and Toto. Grow up.

SMALL world, indeed. My niece, Nancy, who lives in Florida (married, several kids and grandkids) called me Thursday to reiterate how small a world we live in. Nancy is employed in a clinical setting in Orange Park. A young lady came in this week checking into possible internships as she continues her studies in the field of health care. Nancy was taking down the information and asked her where she had studied, and the young lady said, "Colby Community College in Kansas." Of course Nancy just about jumped out of whatever she was wearing when she heard the name "Colby Community College." She then told the young lady that her uncle is publisher of the Colby Free Press. Upon hearing my name she said she had heard of me but didn't know me. The young lady in question is Kristin Hafliger. Small world, huh?

WHILE President Bush was beating the drums for



Tom Dreiling

- My Turn

Republican candidates in Texas this week, while also beating the drums for war with Iraq, he said something that we better all take to heart. He mentioned his "daddy" while talking about Saddam Hussein. That got me to thinking: is he focusing on Iraq as a matter of revenge? If so, deal me out of his plans. I can be swayed, but there better be something a heck of a lot more important than simply getting revenge for a failed assassination attempt on his dad some years ago. I do a lot of praying that the warmongers and peaceniks in our own country get their stuff together. Iraq must not be the place we choose to settle the squabble.

LAST Saturday, the "Ad Astra" Indian sculpture stopped in Colby as it trips around the state to give Kansans a close up look at what is going to grace the Capitol Dome in Topeka. I've never been in support of the project from day one. I like the light atop the dome that radiates the warmth of those who call Kansas home. The Kansa warrior is going to be one lonely guy atop the Capitol and few will know what that thing is "way up in the sky." Some say the cost to the folks of Kansas is not much. Sure, just look: the crane sitting outside the Capitol waiting to hoist the Indian statue costs \$225 per hour or \$1,800 per day. The total cost of the crane, including operator, mobilization and demobilization will be approximately \$150,000, according to Thaine Hoffman, state architect. State funds used for the project to cover the cost of installation and modification to the dome are estimated at \$614,000 — and chances are that figure will be topped. Sure could have put that money to better use, especially in these times of sinful deficits.

HERE are some police quotes you might get a chuckle out of:

"The handcuffs are tight because they're new. They'll stretch out after you wear them awhile."

"If you run, you'll only go to jail tired."

"So, you don't know how fast you were going. I

guess that means I can write anything I want on the ticket, huh?"

"Warning! You want a warning? O.K., I'm warning you not to do that again — or I'll give you another ticket."

"Life's tough, it's tougher if you're stupid."

"No sir, we don't have quotas anymore. We used to have quotas, but now we're allowed to write as many tickets as we want."

"Just how big were those two beers?"

### HAPPY Birthday to...

- Sept. 27 — Elva Livingston, Phil Shuman, Michael Leiker, Shirley Cranston
- Sept. 28 — Steve Juenemann, Michael Eicher, Sheryl McInay
- Sept. 29 — Robbie Dice, Karen Adelman, Deb Bickner, Cora Porter, Gerald Plantz, Don Guilfoyle, Jason Haworth
- Sept. 30 — Twila Wilson
- Oct. 1 — Shawna Goossen, Marsha Matzek, Andrew Charles, Dean Schielke, Ashley Edwards

**HAPPY Anniversary to...**

- Sept. 28 — Kenneth & Joan Denton of Monument
- Sept. 30 — Ken & Wanda Rogers, Pete & Sondra Stephens

Congratulations!

Please call us at 462-3963 or email td@nwkansas.com to have your special date mentioned. And keep us advised of any and all changes. If you are not a family member, please make sure of the date and spelling of the name or names you submit. Thanks for your help.

### THAT took care of that.

A new teacher injured his back and had to wear a plaster cast around the upper part of his body. It fit under his shirt so it wasn't all that apparent. His first class was full of unruly students who were giving him a rough time. He gave the students a reading assignment and sat at his desk, but a strong breeze from an open window made his tie flap annoyingly. He kept rearranging the tie as the entire class laughed at him. Finally, the teacher decided to put an end to this misbehavior, so he took a big stapler off his desk and stapled the tie to his chest in several places. From that day on, discipline was never a problem in his class.

### HAVE a good evening...and a good weekend!

Dreiling is publisher of the Free Press.

## Polls down? Start a war!

Mark Weisbrot

- Another Viewpoint

Back when the first Gulf War was being debated, I gave a speech at an anti-war rally in Charleston, Illinois. A university student interrupted to heckle. I stopped and looked at him: "You look like you could carry a gun. If you think this war is such a great idea, why don't you sign up for it?"

He didn't have an answer. But it wasn't merely a rhetorical question. During the first Gulf War, only two out of 535 members of Congress and no cabinet members had children who served there. Republican Senator Chuck Hagel, a Vietnam veteran, recently noted that "many of those who want to rush this country into war . . . don't know anything about war . . . They come at it from an intellectual perspective versus having sat in jungles or foxholes and watched their friends get their heads blown off."

That includes President Bush, who — like many privileged young men — avoided Vietnam by serving in the National Guard; and Vice President Dick Cheney, who got a student deferment and beat the draft altogether.

Today's "economic draft" continues a long tradition of having poor and working people fight and die for the ambitions of the rich and powerful. And it is perhaps more clear than ever that this is what our troops will be fighting and dying for.

While the Bush administration has offered scant new evidence of a security threat from Iraq, there are other reasons for war. The economy is sputtering, and a number of scandals threaten to ruin this presidency. The president himself profited from accounting scams very similar to those that brought down Enron, while he was a director of Harken Energy Corporation. Vice President Dick Cheney is under even more

suspicion for his chairmanship at Halliburton, which includes — among other things — accounting irregularities and his own \$18.5 million profit from selling stock not long before bad news about the company became public. Then there is the most massive intelligence failure in American history — the ignored or unnoticed warning signals of September 11.

Add in various corporate accountability scandals (including Enron) and voters' anger and disgust, and any of the likely domestic issues in the November elections — for example, Medicare and prescription drugs, Social Security — and it is easy to see why this administration is eager to embrace war.

Without even a single shot being fired, the Bush administration has managed to shove aside almost all the issues that could hurt them politically, and focus the media's attention on Iraq.

People have forgotten how much domestic opposition there was to the first Gulf War, before it started. For a while it looked like Congress might not even give its approval, and opponents organized the largest national anti-war demonstration since the Vietnam era. But once the war started, President George Bush I was able to capitalize on the tendency, at the begin-

ning of every war, for people (including journalists and politicians) to equate support for the war with support for the troops that are in combat. The war was over in a few weeks, U.S. casualties were very few, and as Adolph Hitler once noted, "the victor will never be asked if he told the truth."

No one knows if Bush II can repeat this scenario. First there is the problem of conquering Iraq and running the country, despite its geographic and ethnic divisions. And then there are the economic consequences of the war: a potentially serious spike in oil prices, and huge costs (the last Gulf War cost \$80 billion in today's dollars).

But even if he can pull it off, Americans will still lose. Aside from increasing hatred in the rest of the world, there is a domestic cost to these foreign adventures that pushes us toward the back of the pack among developed nations in so many areas that really matter: health insurance, poverty rates, education, infant mortality.

We lose because we allow corrupt politicians to divert us from the real issues here at home, simply by pointing a finger overseas at the enemy of the month.

Last year George W. Bush joked that "you can fool some of the people, all of the time — and those are the ones you have to concentrate on." It remains to be seen if he can fool enough people to get this war going.

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