

Opinion



Your Turn

- Our Readers Sound Off

More food for thought

To the Colby Free Press:

Citizens Medical Center Inc. and Prairie Senior Living Complex article, *Colby Free Press*, Jan. 24, 2003, says in paragraph two, "C.M.C.I. is providing as much honesty and openness in its communication as it can and still follow the law."

It is difficult to take that statement or any other statement seriously when the front page of "Citizens Medical Center Inc. Celebrating twenty years of service" for Oct.-Dec. 2002, states that the Thomas County Hospital's original unit was built in 1932. Any native knows that statement is an untruth, President Hoover was still in office and the 1909 Colby Community High School building was still standing on that site and was being used. (See 1932 yearbook picture.)

Two important questions remain unanswered concerning the recent blitz of political advertising by CMC Inc. Are private contributions providing the revenue to pay for this political rhetoric or are hospital funds which include Medicare and Medicaid income being used?

The second question is: Did each board member sign the ad or is the corporation just listing names (of the board)?

It's been said before and will be said again — people who live in glass houses should not be throwing bricks.

Lloyd E. Theimer
Colby
(Letter #10)

About those letters . . .

The *Free Press* encourages and welcomes letters from readers. Letters should be typewritten, if at all possible, and should include a telephone number and an address. Most importantly, all letters must include a signature. Unsigned letters cannot be published. We reserve the right to edit for clarity and length, and, likewise, reserve the right to reject letters deemed to be of no public interest or considered

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Nor'West Newspapers
Haynes Publishing Company



Are you a whistler?



Tom Dreiling

- My Turn

"WHISTLE while you work..." You remember that old song? Well, we literally put it to use here in the office Thursday afternoon to cap off a busy day. It wasn't on the day's agenda, for sure, but most of the staff — so it seemed — ended up in the newsroom as the day neared an end and conversation went from one topic to the other, like haircuts (sure, my favorite topic), to thank-you notes, school stuff, toothpaste, teeth in general (a topic Darrel P. thought we should bypass), news stories, the excellent run of advertising in this issue, etc., etc. Then someone mentioned whistling. I asked if anyone could put a couple of fingers in their mouth and whistle loudly. I can't, never could. About that time Pattie S. walked by and Patty D. said "she can!" "Can what?" asked Pattie S. "Whistle with a couple of fingers in your mouth," said Patty D. "Sure, I can do that," she said and so demonstrated. Amazing! We used to have an employee, Mandy H., who whistled various tunes while she worked and at times it seemed to add an air of therapy for the stress-inclined, although not everyone agreed. I like to listen to good whistlers. I can remember when I was much younger and we listened to talent shows on the family radio and later watched them on television. There always seemed to be some who could really put their whistlers to music. I was always fascinated by those who had this talent. They, the so-talented, will tell you there is nothing to it. They would instruct you how to hold your mouth and you would try and all that would come out of your mouth was slobber. Whistlers of classical, semi-classical, popular, country, and even rock music are a breed of their own. And not only can they do music, but they can also make sounds of just about every kind of bird known to man. I have an old harmonica. When I bought the thing it came with a small book that guaranteed if you followed the steps included you would be playing tunes to the amazement of your friends within 3-6 weeks. That was 20+ years ago. Still no tunes. When I was in the United States Air Force and stationed in Misawa, Japan for 2+ years in the late 1950s, I bought an accordion — out of boredom. It guaranteed results in no more than 3 months. Gee, that was a long 3 months. I finally sold the thing when I returned back to the states and was finishing out my 4-year enlistment at Kelly AFB, Texas. Never was able to play a single tune on it. Of course I wasn't done searching for something I could play. So, this talented guy invested in an electric keyboard. I did manage a couple of

tunes — played by ear, and boy did that hurt! How was I supposed to know the salesman was joking. My Dad, R. A. (Richard) Dreiling was longtime organist and choir director at St. Joseph's Church in Hays. He also had a dance band, and was studied in many instruments. As a young man he took some formal training at Quincy College, Ill. I just naturally figured his talents would rub off on his offspring. Some of my siblings did acquire his musical abilities to some degree. I didn't. I'm like the dead of winter — 0 degrees, which is none.
Well, I better get onto another topic,...I hear them whistling in the background.

I WAS told that Secretary of State Colin Powell, during a recent trip to the United Nations in New York was approached by an Iraqi news reporter, who asked, "Is it true that only 13 percent of young Americans can even find Iraq on the map?" Secretary Powell turned to the reporter with a smile and said, "Yes, that's true. But the sad news for Iraq is that the 13 percent are the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Air Force, the U.S. Army and the United States Marines!"

HAPPY Birthday to...

Jan. 31 — Helen Ostmeier, Troy Bartel, Jason Hickerson

Feb. 1 — Matt Hamill

Feb. 2 — Jim Vap Sr., Marilyn Ochs, Jessica Gaede, Carmelita Clark, Lisa Brown, Mallory Kern

Feb. 3 — Rod Gilley, Bernice Skiles

Feb. 4 — Marcina Wilson, Jerad Simmering
Congratulations!

Call us at 462-3963 or email td@nwkansas.com to have your special day mentioned. And please keep us advised of any changes. Thanks!

A SOFTWARE programming establishment

Let's hear it for Colby College

What is Colby Community College?

It's an institution in our community that employs approximately 135 full time and 115 part time people and recirculates \$11 to \$12 million. Approximately \$6 or \$7 million of that goes directly into the local service area's economy. Most likely, another \$2 million enters the local economy indirectly.

That is an impressive contribution to the economy of the area! Approximately \$2 million of the funding comes from Thomas County property tax. That means we have a very significant influx of outside resources fueling our economy. Additionally, the tuition and fees from northwest Kansas students will stay in the area.

But far more important is the fact that Colby Community College is an educational institution dedicated to providing effective tools as a means to advance learning opportunities to meet the educational and vocational training needs of on-campus as well as outreach students and area businesses and manufacturers.

Secondary to this primary function, the college provides facilities and activities to meet recreational and cultural opportunities for the surrounding community as well as the student body.

Having been privileged to serve several years

Ken Poland

- Ken's World

on the board of directors for the college, I can appreciate the dedication and foresight of all those who have served in that capacity since the college was born.

The administration, staff, and faculty down through the years, and especially those presently serving, deserve much praise and respect for their professionalism and dedication to the success of this institution.

We truly do have a "Community College" that all of northwest Kansas should and can be proud of. We have a very strong and active Endowment Association and have had tremendous support financially from individuals, businesses, and service organizations.

With the support of taxpayers, individual bequests (both large and small), endowment con-

tributions, and grants (federal, state and professional organizations) we have put together a beautiful campus that provides the facilities and equipment for one of the best academic and vocational programs in the state.

The board of directors, administrators, staff, faculty and the community face tremendous challenges. The financial conditions of our time are limiting our resources.

We face new challenges for additional facilities and equipment to maintain the excellence we have come to expect in all our programs.

We have a well trained and qualified administration, staff and faculty that deserve just and adequate compensation. And, most important of all, we have a student body made up of local, state, national and international students that deserve the best facilities and programs we can provide. The student body is the most valuable asset Colby Community College has.

We don't want to jeopardize or lose what we have, so, let's all work together to continue to provide the best and be proud of it.

Ken Poland is an area farmer and is a frequent contributor to the Colby Free Press Opinion Page.

YOU might be from Kansas, if:

- You have been asked, "Where is Toto?" more than once.

- You prefer the Little Apple to the Big Apple as a place to live.

- You had at least one summer job that was bucking bales or custom cutting.

- Your school classes have been canceled because of the cold.

- Your school classes have been canceled because of the heat.

- Traffic congestion is ten cars waiting to pass a combine on the highway.

- You have had to switch from heat to A/C in the same day.

- You know everything goes better with Ranch.

- You call that smell coming from the feed yards...Money.

- You know that Mt. Oread is really only just a hill.

- You have ridden the school bus for more than an hour each way.

- Over 50 percent of your wardrobe is purple.

- You instantly know someone is from Johnson County when they call everything west of Topeka...Western Kansas.

- If you're looking for a real high, you go to Mt. Sunflower.

FRIENDS back East told me their school board voted to buy a new bus to pick up kids so they wouldn't have to walk to school, and at the same meeting voted to spend a quarter million dollars on a new gym so those same kids would have a place to exercise.

Something wrong with that picture.

Dreiling is publisher of the Free Press. His column appears Wednesdays and Fridays.

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Doonesbury

- Gary Trudeau

