

Colby scholar's bowl team takes league championship

The Colby Eagle High School Scholar's Bowl team are the League champions, said Bernadine Samson, head coach.

The Eagles defeated each of the other five league scholars bowl teams at the league contest held Monday, Jan. 12 at Oberlin.

Taylor Miller (captain), Erika

Erickson, Jessica Morton, Matt Hull and Collin Bielser were the members of the Colby team.

Quinter and Oberlin each had three wins and two losses.

Since Quinter had beaten Oberlin in the head-to-head competition, Quinter was the runner-up and Oberlin placed third, she said.

The set of questions seemed more difficult for all the teams as reflected in the lower scores for each round.

The Colby team had a slower start against Atwood.

The score was tied at the end of the round of sixteen questions. Jessica Morton correctly answered the

the-breaking question that was in the math category for the win, 50-40.

Overall, Erickson and Miller answered the most questions for the team. Other scores were Colby over Oberlin 60 to 50, Colby over Goodland 70 to 30, Colby over Quinter 55 to 20 and Colby over Oakley 50

to 25.

The varsity team now has a 5-0 record. Their next competition was Tuesday at Scott City..

"The junior varsity has gained experience competing at Quinter, Thursday, Jan. 8 and Norton on Tuesday, Jan. 13," she said.

The junior varsity were up

against varsity teams from most of the other schools competing.

Junior varsity team members are Ethan Walker, Becky Lang, Collin Bielser, Valarie Higerd, Brian Saddler, Lindsey Bugbee, Rashaun Wilson, Hannah Zimmerman, Henry Lamb, David Kinderknecht and Watanya Fangsawat

Hot-tempered couple wants to fight fair

DEARABBY: My boyfriend and I have been seeing each other for three years. We moved in together eight months ago and have been talking about marriage as soon as we're financially stable.

Abby, we both have hot tempers. We don't get violent, but we flare up at the drop of a hat. We tend to take things personally and become defensive.

When we fight, it's all-out war. Neither of us seems to be able to stop until it's too late, and by then, we have usually said hurtful things for which we're sorry.

How do people learn to fight fair and control their tempers? We love each other very much.

— HURT IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR HURT: Learning to "fight fair" is an acquired skill, and like any other skill it takes self-control and practice. When people disagree, it is helpful to stay on the subject when talking it out. That means refraining from dragging in baggage from previous arguments.

Another technique that can avert misunderstanding is to "mirror" what the other person has said. ("I heard you say you didn't like my outfit. Did you mean I'm getting fat?") In other words, the person might not have liked the color or style, but how will you know if you don't ask?

Another helpful technique is to ask yourself, before venting, "Is



Abigail Van Buren

• Dear Abby

it true? Is it kind? Is it hurtful? Is it helpful?"

A trial lawyer once told me, "You can't turn the bell." This holds true in relationships as well as courtrooms.

DEARABBY: I am a gospel minister, and members of the congregation are divided over whether to hold a baby shower for an unwed mother who is a member of the congregation. I have been told that it "is just not done." The expectant mother has made it right by repenting and asking for prayer.

Is there any rule of etiquette that prohibits having a baby shower for an unwed mother?

— MINISTER IN GEORGIA

DEAR MINISTER: There is no rule of etiquette that prohibits an unwed mother from being given a shower. And because of her unmarried status, she is going to need all the help she can get. Babies are expensive.

Since she repented, perhaps you should remind your flock of:

1. The Golden Rule. (Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.)

2. Judge not lest ye be judged. And ...

3. Let he (or she) who is without sin cast the first stone.

Your work is cut out for you, because your congregation seems to have forgotten a principle of their religion: Love one another.

DEARABBY: For years now, my dad's health has slowly deteriorated. He has good days when he kind of knows what's going on, and bad days when his whole world is off balance. Recently he suffered some mini-strokes, and last September the doctor diagnosed him with Alzheimer's.

I was there when Dad was diagnosed. You could see the look of relief on his face to finally have a name for what was going on inside him. He told the doctor, "Well, at least now I know I'm not going crazy" because it was a medical condition he could comprehend.

The problem is his siblings. They get angry at Mom when she tells the doctor how Dad is at home and accuse her of exaggerating. They get upset with us for not letting Dad drive, even though he doesn't see well and has been known to get lost. They have even gone behind our backs and told Dad he does not have Alzheimer's, which only compounds the problem.

Some of Dad's siblings see him only once a week at church. They all insist he is "fine" and blame Mom for his lack of "spirit." One aunt, in

particular, is cold and nasty toward Mom.

Poor Mom has a hard enough time being caregiver to a man who doesn't always recognize us and can't remember names. There are times when Dad runs to the neighbors saying, "People are in the house trying to steal things."

Mom, who has always been a strong woman, cries almost daily. She does not deserve nor need the aggravation that Dad's siblings are causing. She loves Dad and wants, as we do, only the best for him.

How can I handle this? Mom wanted to include Dad's family in what is going on with him, but all it's done is bring heartache.

— THEY'RE NOT HELPING

DEAR THEY'RE NOT HELPING: You and your mother have my deepest sympathy. Your father's siblings are in deep denial — which is probably why they can't bring themselves to admit what is really happening. Their anger at your mother is part of their denial. They would rather believe that she is exaggerating than come to grips with the truth. What your mother needs now is emotional support. I recommend that she contact the Alzheimer's Association ((800) 272-3900) for the location of the nearest support group. No caregiver should have to go through this experience alone — and with their help, she won't.

Proposed center would focus on small-town journalism

COFFEYVILLE (AP) — A nationally known broadcaster and one of the state's oldest journalism families hope to turn a former library into a training center for small-town and rural journalists.

"We want to provide a way that we can better train existing employees to the size of our market," said

Andy Taylor, editor of the Montgomery County Chronicle.

Taylor, whose family has produced five generations of Kansas journalists, is working with Kansas State University and television host Bill Kurtis, a native of nearby Independence.

Their goal: to launch the Taylor-

Kurtis Kansas State National Center for Community Media Training.

"They don't have to be award-winning journalists," said Taylor, whose family owns and publishes seven papers in Montgomery, Chautauqua and Labette counties.

Taylor plans to operate his newspaper from the Carnegie Library

building beginning in April.

The building, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, has been vacant for the past three years.

Kurtis, host of three series on the A&E Network, said the center also will attract attention to his native southeast Kansas.

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