

# Opinion



## Letters

### Concerns aired

To the Colby Free Press:

This is a statement I read at the Colby school board meeting on Monday, Jan. 19:

Superintendent Mr. Kirk Nielsen, you must be very proud this evening that you have proven to the patrons of U.S.D. 315 that you get what you want.

In spit of a successful petition and successful court cases to stop your renewal of the Capital Outlay Fund and a new administration building, you did the following:

1. Spent the balance of the old capital fund of \$180,000.00, plus or minus.
2. In spite of the legal District Court challenge, you taxed the patrons illegally the following year for another \$180,000.00, plus or minus. Three citizens protested the tax and got their money back.
3. You got the board to add the Baby L.O.B. (Local Option Budget) after the citizens of the district had previously voted out the regular one.
4. There's no way to prove how much the children and teachers have sacrificed in supplies and salaries because of transfers to Capital Outlay Funds from the general (fund).
5. In spite of the above facts you were still vindictive enough that you had a private restroom for your office. (This is in reference to his private restroom in the new administration building.)

Mr. Nielsen, what was the extra cost and will the board members get to use this private toilet?

**Lloyd E. Theimer  
Colby  
(Letter #3)**

Comments to any opinions expressed on this page are encouraged. Mail them to the Colby Free Press, 155 W. 5th St., Colby, Kan., 67701. Or e-mail [td@nwkansan.com](mailto:td@nwkansan.com) or [pdecker@nwkansan.com](mailto:pdecker@nwkansan.com).

#### Addresses of elected officials:

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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. 171-W, Topeka 66612. 785/296-7676 e mail: [jmorrison@ink.org](mailto:jmorrison@ink.org) web:<http://www.ink.org/public/legislators/jmorrison>
- State Sen. Stan Clark**, State Capitol Building Rm. 449-N, Topeka 66612. 785/296-7399 e mail: [sclark@ink.org](mailto:sclark@ink.org)

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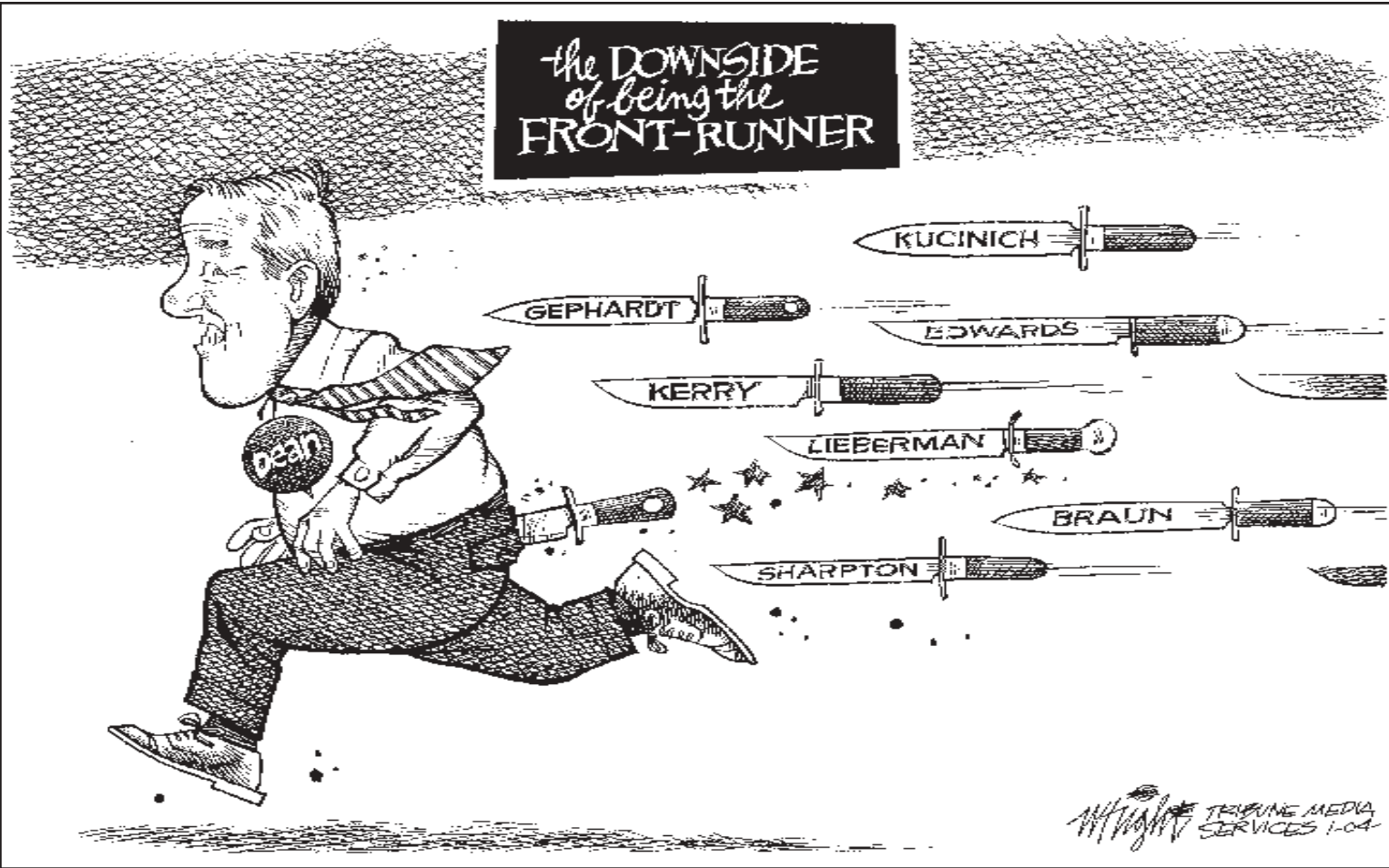
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## They can keep their 'gift'

**Tom Dreiling**

● **My Turn**



READER'S Digest sent me a 2004 desk calendar and appointment book as a thank-you for being a subscriber. Nice looking. Functional. Peppered with cartoons and other light stuff. When I got to the back cover, however, I got angry, unChristian-like angry. It proclaims **Printed in Argentina**. Well, enough for this all-American publication. I wonder how many printing jobs in America were sacrificed at the expense of having this "gift" printed across the pond. It's sinful the number of companies abandoning the American job market for cheap hire elsewhere on the planet. (Maybe our goal to put people on the Moon and Mars is nothing more than a shopping trip to seek even cheaper help.) More companies than we are aware of are sending their jobs overseas. The "Made in America" tag is getting to be nothing more than a collector's item, and those who can do something about it aren't. They are talking the talk and that's all.

I think if we could restore those jobs that have been moved from American soil to foreign ground, and stop the ongoing outflow, we wouldn't need tax cuts to stimulate the economy. Those restored jobs would do the trick.

It's enough to make you want to throw up.

WELL, Iowa can now get back to normal. The caucuses are over. Now all those politicians are in New Hampshire for that state's primary election next Tuesday. And of course they will tell the world how much they "love" New Hampshire much like they told the world how much they "loved" Iowa. But they could hardly wait to get out of the gate when the last of the caucuses reported in Monday night.

Iowa provided some surprises. Or maybe they weren't. Maybe the pollsters were pulling everybody's leg — even mine as I depended on those polls to provide me with some insight. They, the pollsters, had former Vermont Governor Howard Dean as the front runner, as the man who would win in Iowa and take his fortunes and supporters to the next step in his quest to win the

White House in the fall. Dean, however, came in a dismal third with 18 percent of the caucus vote. Sen. John Kerry was first with 38 percent and Sen. John Edwards was second with 32 percent. Neither of those two were expected to make much of a showing in Iowa.

Rep. Dick Gephardt was hardly visible on the radar screen after the caucuses were over, and the pollsters were telling us all along that he would probably give Dean the toughest run for his money. Didn't happen. Gephardt is out and Dean, who got a ticket to New Hampshire's primary by virtue of getting at least a 15 percent showing in Iowa, claims he was a winner-of-sorts because a year ago he wasn't given a chance of even surviving in Iowa. Talk about political bull. He had to be angry as all get out with his weak caucus showing.

I am glad Dean didn't do any better than he did. He isn't my favorite. There's something about him that makes me uncomfortable. Most of us just don't know very much about him. And I doubt very seriously that he could stand up against President Bush in the rough and tough campaign yet to come in the fall. He's got a short fuse, and if he doesn't put a cap on that he'll be turned back in next week's New Hampshire primary.

(Retired general) Wesley Clark wasn't an active candidate in Iowa and Sen. Joe Lieberman, neither. They spent their time in New Hampshire.

Unless the pollsters lead me astray again, I think New Hampshire will be all about Kerry

and Edwards, with Clark replacing Dean as their top challenger. After New Hampshire comes South Carolina, New Mexico, Arizona, Oklahoma, Missouri, Delaware and North Dakota. We'll probably know who the Democrat nominee will be sometime in March, even though their national convention won't unfold until the summer.

President Bush is vulnerable, just like his father was when challenged by a relatively unknown by the name of Bill Clinton. And don't think the White House isn't taking stock of what just happened in Iowa. It was the hope of the White House that Howard Dean would eventually be the opposition party's nominee.

Sit back and relax. Take in the show. We could be moving toward a real barnburner this coming fall.

Bring 'em on!

AT breakfast in a restaurant the special was two eggs, bacon, hash browns and toast for \$1.99.

"Sounds good," said the customer. "But I don't want the eggs."

The waitress said, "I'll have to charge you two dollars and forty-nine cents because you're ordering a la carte."

"You mean," snapped the customer, "I'd have to pay for not taking the eggs?"

"That's correct," was the reply.

"I'll take the special," the disgusted customer said.

"And how do you want your eggs?" asked the waitress.

"Raw and in the shell," was the answer, "I'm taking them home."

HAVE a good evening!

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## Something definitely stinks

**Jay Kelley**

● **Speaking MyMind**



Christians we ought to hold a leader who claims to be a Christian just as accountable as one who is a complete secularist.

The problem is not with George Bush or Britney Spears anyway. They are merely symptoms.

The problem lies at our feet.

Firstly, we have watered down Christianity in the interest of ecumenical harmony to the point that cult groups are welcomed at rallies earmarked for "Christians." We are willing to have fun, barbecue and play softball and even get together "special services" from time to time, but we don't want to talk about anything upon which we might disagree for fear of upsetting the harmony.

Folks, without agreement there is no harmony and we simply don't agree. Not only that, but "agreeing to disagree" has destroyed the effectiveness of the only message the world really needs to hear.

Secondly, we have redefined Christian success as the American ideal. America is called a "Christian" nation when our drug abuse and violent crime rates are a disgrace and Islam is our

Was anyone really surprised when Britney Spears married her old high school pal for 55 hours in Las Vegas? Does anyone want to lay odds her first "real" marriage will last a week? How about a month?

Letterman and Leno have had a field day with the annulled nuptials, along with most of the comics in America. The only ones quiet about this whole mess are the majority of conservative evangelicals who heralded Britney as the next Pat Boone, a believer staying pure and making it in the Sodom and Gomorrah of the music business.

I used to wonder if some of those fans had actually seen her first video.

Of course, no one wants to talk about that in the wake of the Madonna kiss and the annulment and some of the rabid anti-Christian liberals are eating it up.

Speaking to the conservative evangelicals out there, and I think I would fall into that category, something stinks and it smells like political correctness.

People were so happy to get someone like Britney who could be a "role model" for their kids they ignored the obvious fact that pop music is inherently the opposite of Christian values.

People are so happy to get a man in the White House who prays they are ignoring multi-billion dollar deficits and an administration party line that could teach a top a few things about spin.

I'm not saying we get rid of Bush and I'm definitely not endorsing any of the three-ring circuses posing as presidential campaigns on the other side. I'm saying that if we claim to be

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