

Opinion



Free Press Viewpoint

We must not forget the war’s real focus

Reports indicate, as of this writing, that they are closing in on Osama bin Laden’s #2 man. Great! But most of us still think without the capture of #1 we’re no closer to satisfaction in this fight with terrorists. Number Two in anything is simply that: no. 2. The runner-up. The messenger.

With the pending capture — and that, as of this writing was not a guarantee — terrorism will continue. Even after the capture of Osama himself, that’ll be the pattern There will always be pockets of bullies who will continue to function regardless of who is perched at the top of the ladder.

We’re just making too much out of the capture of a mortal being.

Saddam Hussein’s in jail. And come to think of it, when was the last time you heard his name mentioned? But car bombings and bloodshed and murdering continue. With Iraq’s former #1 behind bars, there hasn’t been a decline in the activity associated with terrorism If anything, it’s getting worse.

Before we begin tooting our horns and blowing our whistles and shooting off fireworks and cheer and celebrate, keep in mind the daily reports of American military people losing their lives in Iraq.

That should be our focus.

We put too much emphasis on the faces of enemy hierarchy. And not enough emphasis on the faces of those wearing the uniform of the United States military fighting the war. They are bogged down in a war that almost looks endless.

President Bush has cautioned us that the war on terrorism will be a global fight. And it will go on for a long, long time. He’s right.

Let’s not, as a media, make more out of the potential capture of a scumbag than need be. There’ll be more scum to bag as we march on.

By Tom (TD) Dreiling
Free Press Publisher

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@nwkansas.com. Please sign your comments and include your address and your daytime phone number.

Addresses of elected officials:

- U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts**, 109 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. 171-W, Topeka 66612. 785/296-7676 e mail: 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

COLBY FREE PRESS

155 W. Fifth (USPS 120-920) (785) 462-3963
Colby, Kan. 67701

freepress@nwkansas.com

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.

Tom (TD) Dreiling - Publisher
td@nwkansas.com

NEWS

Patty Decker - Editor
pdecker@nwkansas.com

Tisha Cox - General Assignment

ADVERTISING

Crystal Rucker - Advertising Representative
crystalr@nwkansas.com

BUSINESS OFFICE

Lea Bandy - Circulation Manager
Jeanette Applegate - Bookkeeping & Ad Building
Evan Barnum - Systems Administrator
support@nwkansas.com

NOR’WEST PRESS

Jim Bowker - General Manager

Richard Westfahl, Lana Westfahl, Ron VanLoenen, Judy McKnight

THE COLBY FREE PRESS (USPS 120-920) is published every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and 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

Haynes Publishing Company



Welcome to our town, Madam Mayor

THE mayor of an area town gave Colby the kind of publicity it could never, ever buy. While reading *The Goodland Star-News* a few days ago, a headline grabbed my attention. Two words, lead story front page, said, **Mayor resigns.**

At first I thought the mayor of the city of Goodland had stepped down, but that was not the case. It was Mayor Hazel Estes, of Kanorado, who resigned. According to the newspaper, she had told the city council that it was time for her to retire and move on. And where does she plan to “move on?”

To **Colby.** That’s right ,the longtime mayor of Kanorado said she was moving to Colby.

“I always wanted to retire in Colby,” she is quoted as saying in *The Star-News*. “I always liked that town.” Estes explained that she was going to get her Kansas real estate license.

“I used to teach physical education, and will try to put together some exercise classes for senior citizens in cooperation with the city recreation,” she said.

How about those apples? Eh! The mayor of the most western community in Sherman County picks Colby in which to retire, and it sounds like she’ll become actively involved.

Welcome, Madam Mayor!

THE new Meat Market on Franklin Ave. in downtown Colby, Bourquin’s expansion at their campground at the southern most point on Franklin, the inclusion of a Motel 6 on Range Avenue, the completion of the new Tourist Information Center, also on Range, the pending re-opening of the Deep Rock Cafe and other business-related projects brought to the attention of readers of the Free Press, speak well of our growing community. I wrote in Wednesday’s column about a niece who stopped for lunch here the other day and she remarked how attractive, progressively healthy Colby looked at the major interchange (Range/K-25). That again points out the perception travelers have of a community located next to an interstate. We get awfully high marks in that category. We need to pat ourselves



Tom Dreiling

● My Turn

on the back. Just a little, anyway.

A MAJOR event will be taking place here come Monday. It’ll involve a lot of folks. Chances are good that you’ll be among them. “What is it?” you ask. *It* is the return of our kids to the classroom as spring break ends. That’ll ease the stress for a lot of parents who were trying to juggle monitoring of kids with responsibility of work. Been there, done that and it was always a period of concern for me.

FRED dispatched the following note via e-mail. It came from Uncle Lyle, whom Fred said “isn’t even remotely related to me.” It’s about...

TUMBLE WEEDS

“Would you believe there is a lady who sells tumbleweeds in Garden City? Check it out at www.prairietumbleweeds.com. She has even shipped a thousand dollars worth to Japan! She put the business on the web as a joke and started getting orders. She gets as many as 30 orders a week now.

“My most amazing contact with tumbleweeds was in Brussels Belgium back in 1957-58. That was the year of the Exposition Mondiale (World’s Fair). Janet and I were in Brussels attending Ecole Coloniale in preparation for mission work in Burundi, Africa. We visited the fair on opening day. Of particular interest to us was the American Pavilion.

“The main lobby had a ceiling with the map of the USA on it. Under each state was an object that represented that state. Idaho had potatoes, Indiana had a student chair, etc. Under Kansas

was a raised box with light shining out of it. I observed some Europeans climbing up to look in the box then descending with puzzled looks, others were laughing their heads off.

“I climbed up, looked in and got the laugh of my life. There they were, a half dozen or so beautiful tumbleweeds! That really struck a cord with this Western Kansas boy so far from home.” Uncle Lyle

Maybe what we need to do is bag those things and sell them at our many tourist information centers around the state. I’ve seen people stop and gather one or two off of fences along the interstate and put them in their vehicles. There’s money blowing in the wind out there!!

APRIL 4, in case you have forgotten, is the date we move our clocks **UP** one hour to conform with Daylight Saving Time. It occurs annually on the first Sunday of April. At 2 o’clock in the morning on that day the time officially changes. But most of us will probably spend most of Saturday trying to figure out how to adjust those complex timepieces. I still haven’t figured out the one in my car but it will be on the right time again come April 4 — without changing anything.

IF WE reach 80 today, then the weatherman has been right on target with his (or her) predictions for this week. They told us we would be at the 70-degree mark on St. Patrick’s Day, which we were, and be in the mid- to upper-60s on Thursday — we reached 66. Our coolest morning this month was 18 on the 1st and that 70 was our warmest. Pretty much the norm for this time of year. But where’s the moisture?

HAVE a good evening and a good weekend. And don’t forget to join others in your House of Worship either Saturday or Sunday.

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

Putting your brain to work

T D

● At Week’s End

Variety, they say, is the spice of life. So, it’s probably the spice for this column. A few things came my way this week that certainly fits the bill for this weekly effort. Enjoy. -td

Okay, we are going to test your analytical skills today. Here are seven scenarios and all of them are quite rational and rather simplistic. Have fun with them and of course, use them to drive others crazy.

Ready?

- 1) A man is lying dead in a field. Next to him there is an unopened package. There is no other creature in the field. How did he die?
 - 2) Five pieces of coal, a carrot and a scarf are lying on the lawn. Nobody put them on the lawn, but there is a perfectly logical reason why they should be there. What is it?
 - 3) A man rode into town on Friday. He stayed for three nights and then left on Friday. How can this be?
 - 4) A woman had two sons who were born on the same hour of the same day of the same year. But they were not twins. How could this be so?
 - 5) Why is it better to have round manhole covers than square ones?
 - 6) A blind beggar had a brother who died. What relation was the blind beggar to the brother who died? (Brother is not the answer).
 - 7) A man walks into a bar and asks the barman for a glass of water. The barman pulls out a gun and points it at the man. The man says “Thank you” and walks out. Why?
- (I didn’t get any of them correct. Here are the answers, see how you did.)
- 1) The man had jumped from a plane but his parachute had failed to open (the unopened package).
 - 2) They were used by children who made a snowman. The snow has now melted.
 - 3) Friday is the name of his horse

- 4) They were two of a birth of triplets
- 5) A square manhole cover can be turned and dropped down the diagonal of the manhole. A round manhole can’t.
- 6) The blind beggar was the sister of her brother who died
- 7) The man had hiccups. The barman recognized this from his speech and scared him to cure them. It worked and so he thanked the barman.

Ah, nothing like a good old country song. Here, according to a survey, are some that made the top charts in 2003:

- ✓If The Phone Don’t Ring, You’ll Know It’s Me.
- ✓How Can I Miss You If You Won’t Go Away?
- ✓I Liked You Better Before I Got to Know You So Well.
- ✓I’m Still Missing You Baby, But My Aim’s Gettin’ Better.
- ✓I Wouldn’t Take Her To A Dog Fight ‘Cause I’m Afraid She’d Win.
- ✓I’m So Miserable Without You, It’s Like You’re still Here.
- ✓My Wife Ran Off With My Best Friend And I Sure Do Miss Him.
- ✓You’re Looking Better After Every Beer.

Boy, times are a-changin! Just take a look at the following advances in math education.

Teaching Math in 1950:

A logger sells a truckload of lumber for \$100. His cost of production is 4/5 of the price. What is his profit?

Teaching Math in 1960:

A logger sells a truckload of lumber for \$100. His cost of production is 4/5 of the price, or \$80. What is his profit?

Teaching Math in 1970:

A logger exchanges a set “L” of lumber for a set “M” of money. The cardinality of set “M” is 100. Each element is worth one dollar. Make 100 dots representing the elements of the set “M.” The set “C”, the cost of production, contains 20 fewer points than set “M.” Represent the set “C” as the subset of set M and answer this question: What is the cardinality of the set “P” of profits?

Teaching Math in 1980:

A logger sells a truckload of lumber for \$100. His cost of production is \$80 and his profit is \$20. Your assignment: Underline the number 20.

Teaching Math in 1990:

By cutting down beautiful forest trees, the logger makes \$20. What do you think of this way of making a living? Topic for class participation after answering the question: How did the forest birds and squirrels “feel” as the logger cut down the trees? There are no wrong answers.

Teaching Math in 2000:

A logger sells a truckload of lumber for \$100. His cost of production is \$120. How does Arthur Andersen determine that his profit margin is \$60?

Teaching Math in 2010:

El hachero vende un camion carga por \$100. La cuesta de production es.....

Got something for “At Week’s End?” If so simply e-mail it to td@nwkansas.com, fax (785) 462-7749 or mail it to 155 W. 5th, Colby 67701. If you wish you could also hand-deliver it to the office. Thanks!