

Opinion



Letters

Just a coincidence?

To the Colby Free Press:
John Negroponte was elected to be ambassador to Iraq by a vote of 103-3.
Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) had something to say about this. When he was a staff member in Congress in 1970 he was sent to Honduras and had the chance to view the prison setup. He was horrified at the torture and Negroponte who was in charge had, what Harkin said, was a “blind eye” and a “deaf ear” to any complaints concerning the torture going on there. Harkin was told, when relating the experience back in the United States, that those in charge of the prisoners were prejudiced and they lied and couldn’t be believed or trusted.
I was getting sleepy watching television but Harkin told of a time later when he was sent to another island where the prisoners were tortured and again Negroponte was the ambassador who turned a “blind eye” and a “deaf ear” to complaints of horrible torture.
However, this time Harkin had a tape recorder and a camera with him for proof of the activities. He said he would like to help the people who took the pictures showing sexual obscenity and abuse in Iraq and although they would be punished they did the right thing by taking those pictures to show the outside world what was really happening!
There was talk on various TV programs about a few “bad apples” could ruin a barrelful and this torture under American command (as reported) was going on in Afghanistan and other places.
It seems to me that when the military spies one of these “bad apples” the bad apples are given duty in torture units instead of dismissing them and it has become an accepted practice.
One of these bad apples in an ordinary community can ruin not just one family but those around him/her and for a generation or two afterward. That’s a bad apple.
A description of this kind of person and his/her perversity would be this: He/it has a creepy hint of slime about him/her that may not generally be noticed by those associated with him in an occupation. He is oversexed and morally corrupt and definitely declares in various ways from time to time that women and animals have to be shown who is master. There is a long streak of cruelty here. He is well-equipped to be a prison guard in somewhere like the torture chambers in somewhere like Afghanistan, Honduras or Iraq, if conditions remain as they have been.
If you notice, you will see that Donald Rumsfeld never mentions who is in charge of these filthy prisoner jails. We should have some detail on that!

Ms. Edna A. Hatcher
Colby
(Letter #36)

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U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran, 1519 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. 202/225-2715
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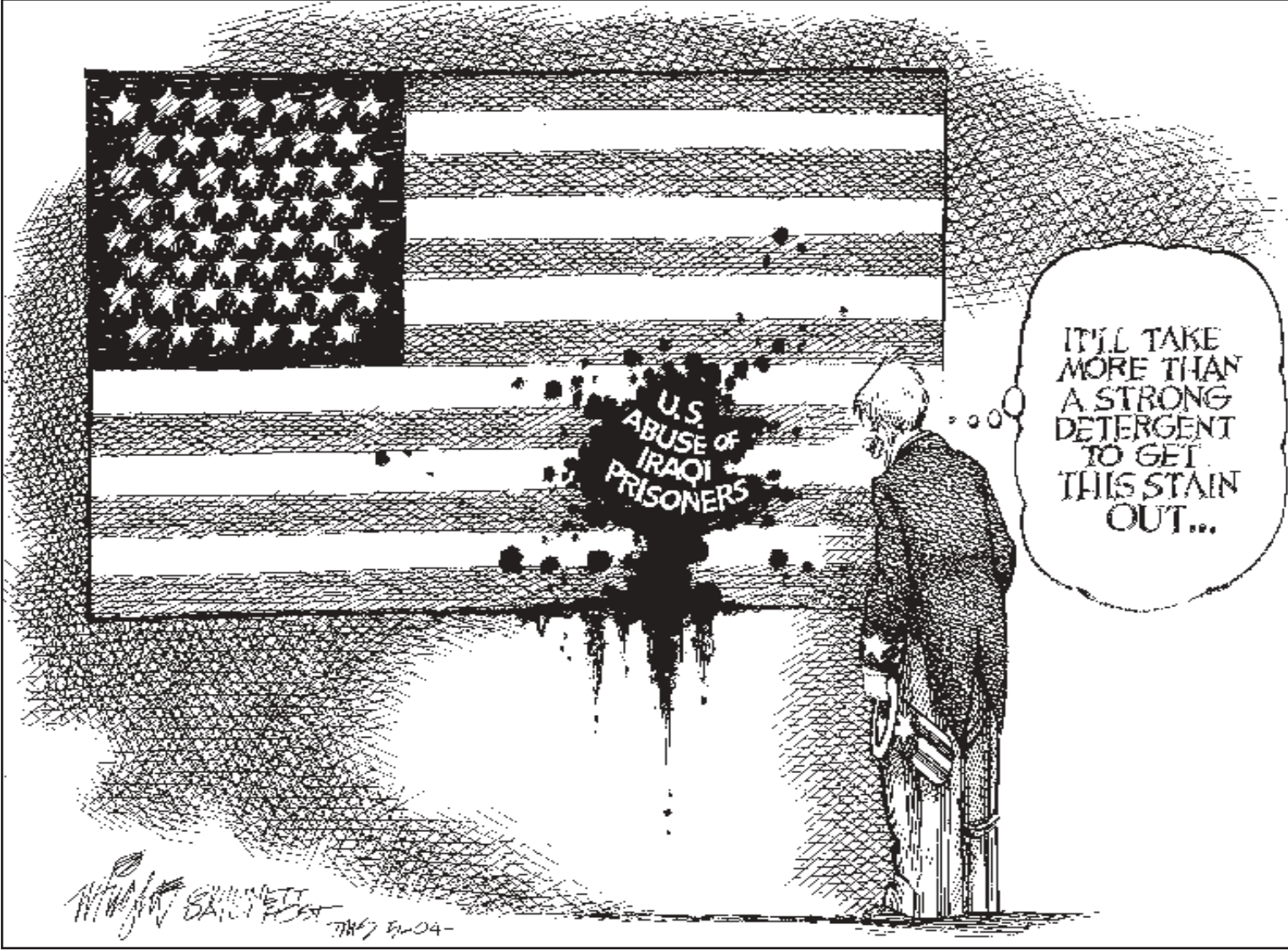
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Cool morning, wasn't it?

IF you thought it was just a tad bit on the cool side this morning, you were right. The mercury dipped blow 30 degrees in Colby at 5 a.m. today — settling in at 29.3 degrees, according to a chart faxed to me this morning by the Northwest Research-Extension Center here. That, however, is not a record for the date. The coldest temp for this date was set in 1953 at 26 degrees.
At 11 p.m. Thursday night, the temperature was 32.6, at midnight it was 31.9, at 1 a.m. today it was 31.3, at 2 a.m. it was 30.5, at 3 a.m. it was 30.2, at 4 a.m. it was 29.6, at 5 a.m. it was 29.3 and at 6 a.m. it moved up to 34.6. Thursday's high, incidentally, was a cool 51. But on May 13, 1983, the temperature got no higher during the afternoon than 46.
So, “yes,” if you thought it was a bit on the cool side this morning, and “no” if you thought we might have set a new record.
Yep, this is May.

WHERE else but Kansas? Look around, Charlie, those things are found in many states, some even get more than we do in Kansas.
So, what am I complaining about today?
This: On “Good Morning America” this morning (ABC-TV) reports of tornadoes were among lead-in stories. They had a video showing a tornado Thursday night picking up a house and carrying it on its way. That prompted the show's co-host Charlie Gibson to remark, “Where else but Kansas?” And of course co-host Diane Sawyer was quick to chime in with some cute little bit about the Wizard of Oz.
Granted, the tornado lifting the house was taken near Attica. But you know when the only thing that hosts of news shows can show or say about some states is the negative, they fail to realize that is the perception their viewers have of that particular state.
I am not saying they need to ignore the fact that Kansas is part of so called “tornado alley.” But give me a break!
I always looked upon Wyoming as a nothing state. I got that impression from many years of



Tom Dreiling

- My Turn

hearing about Wyoming as barren, lifeless, enough to drive you insane as you travel its vast wasteland. Well, I spent several years as a resident of that state, in the northern part near the Montana line (Sheridan), and during my residency I got out and around and found Wyoming to be awesome, beautiful, challenging...and more. It was nothing like the wasted piece of real estate I thought it was, thanks to years of listening to those with powerful voices using their means to convey these less than truthful messages.
“Where else but Kansas, Charlie?”
I'll just chalk it up as another bum rap.

IN HIS beautiful book, “I Shall Not Want,” Robert Ketchum tells of a Sunday School teacher who asked her group of children if anyone could quote the entire 23rd Psalm. A golden-haired, four-and-a-half-year-old girl was among those who raised their hands. A bit skeptical, the teacher asked if she could really quote the entire psalm. The little girl came to the front of the room, faced the class, made a perky little bow, and said:
“The Lord is my shepherd, that's all I want.”
She bowed again and went and sat down. That may well be the greatest interpretation of the 23rd Psalm ever heard.

AS WE get our lawn mowers ready for the many months of cutting ahead, I ran across a little story that might bring a chuckle or two. It goes something like this: Two ladies were talking over a cup of coffee. The one says, “Our

power mower is broken and won't run. I keep hinting to my husband that he ought to get it fixed, but somehow the message never seems to sink in.
“Finally,” she continued, “I thought of a clever way to make the point. When he arrived home for lunch one day, he found me seated in the tall grass, busily snipping away with a tiny pair of sewing scissors. He watched silently for a short time and then went into the house. He was gone only a few moments, and when he came back out again, he handed me a toothbrush and said, ‘When you finish cutting the grass you might as well sweep the sidewalks.’ ”
Her friend said, “And what did you do?”
“Well,” she answered, “the doctors said he will probably live, but it will be quite awhile before the casts come off.”

THREE more local commencements are on tap this weekend. Saturday, at 2 p.m. in the Colby Community Building, Colby Community College will confer degrees. At 4 p.m., Brewster High School will issue diplomas to seniors in the school's gymnasium. And at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Colby High School will hold commencement in the Colby Community Building. You will want to attend.

YOU have to wonder about some humans; they think God is dead and Elvis is alive!

WHEN a snow plow goes down the middle of the road and shoves the snow off to the side, what is that called? How about a ‘cold shoulder’? (Stop your booing, that story walked in the door.)

HAVE a good evening and a good weekend. And don't forget to share a little time this weekend in the house of worship of your choice.

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

Tips...that may help you along

Pasture Management
Good pasture management is still very critical for cattle producers this year. Some of the rain we've had recently has greened up pastures. However, not everything that is growing in the pastures is quality, palatable forage for cattle.
As a result stocking rates should be reduced to allow more desirable plant species to become more competitive and reestablish. Doing what is convenient now, may prove costly later because of poor grass stands due to overgrazing and thus reduced cattle performance.
An option may be to drylot cows this summer as hay prices are relatively cheap. Drylotting cows may increase labor costs but those can be made up in future years by having higher quality pastures. Also, make sure the cows are receiving a balanced ration if drylotting.
A second option may be culling less productive cows. With good cattle prices, this could be a good choice. Another option would be to utilize crop stubble. This relieves some stress on the pastures, but there may be concerns with water for livestock. The important thing to remember is the long term consequences of short term decisions.



Joe Leibbrandt

- Offering a Helping Hand

Windbreaks and Tree Problems
Many people have contacted the extension office about problems with their trees. In most cases there are parts of the tree that have recently turned brown and are dead or appear to be dying.
While visiting with Jim Strine, Northwest District Forestry Specialist, he said, “Most tree problems are simply due to drought stress. I'm actually surprised that there aren't more dead trees.”
There are problems with borers on several trees, but those are secondary problems from drought stress. When a tree is healthy, it is able to fight off borers naturally. Locust trees, cedars, junipers and pines (along with others) have all

showed signs of stress. Many locust trees are in bad shape and Scotch pines are less drought resistant than other pine trees.
The best thing to do is water trees if possible. Watering will help improve the strength and health of a tree. Unfortunately, it is too late to help many trees.
Lawn Care
May is an excellent time to fertilize cool-season lawns such as tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass if they will be irrigated through the summer. Non-irrigated lawns often go through a period of summer dormancy due to drought and do not need this fertilization.
Irrigated lawns, however, can benefit from this extra fertility. Slow release nitrogen sources are ideal for use in May; however, fast release sources can be used if done in split applications. These nitrogen sources promote controlled growth, which is desirable as the stressful summer weather approaches.

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Doonesbury

- Gary Trudeau

