

Opinion



Letters

Loosen up a little

To the Colby Free Press:
What do I think?
I think when we no longer question the decisions of our leadership and no longer demand accountability, we are in serious trouble. I think we are in serious trouble when we bristle up and lash out at anyone who is questioning our motives or intents. I think when we don't question our own political opinions or even our own theology and relationship with God, we are in serious trouble. I think some of us are in trouble most of the time.
The evidence of partisan politics is virtually impossible to avoid. Those same folks who are crying 'foul' when President Bush is questioned were on center stage in 'fouling' President Clinton. Those folks who are bashing the sins of their next door neighbor have sins enough of their own to worry about.
My brother has 'logs' in his eye and I only occasionally have a 'speck' in mine. Right? My opinions are based on facts. Yours must be based on something less than factual, like the liberal left or maybe the ultra right. I take my orders from the Bible and you must be ignoring what The Word says. My sources are directed by the Holy Spirit and yours obviously must be from the Devil himself. My Church takes its theology and doctrine from the Holy Bible and therefore it is right. (My Church has a capital C and yours doesn't.) Your church doesn't agree with mine on every interpretation, doctrine and creed, so therefore; your church must not believe in the Perfect Word of God. In fact, I guess you must be listening to the devils angels. God tells me I am right and you are wrong. I don't believe there is a God; therefore you can't talk about God in my presence.
In conclusion, I think maybe we all need to loosen up a bit and try finding middle ground to work from. We don't any of us have the absolute wisdom of God and I'm very doubtful that God has given any one of us the authority to declare eternal damnation for anyone else. I don't think God has laid His mantel of protection and approval on any specific church or political party. I think God deals with the individual. He deals with the corporate structures of society through individuals.

Ken Poland
Gem
(Letter #54)

Where to write

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. Ruth Clark, State Capitol Building Rm. 449-N, Topeka 66612. 785/296-7399 e mail: rclark@ink.org



Still time to get your tickets

TICKETS are still available for Saturday's concert in the Colby high School auditorium featuring one of Christian music's outstanding personalities David Phelps. You've heard him, you've seen him. Now you can have a 'live' encounter with the man experts claim has one of the most powerful voices on planet Earth. The concert is scheduled at 7 p.m.
Here are some of his awards and accomplishments:
• 1988 — first place winner at Christian Music "Seminar in the Rockies," Estes Park, Colo.
• 1999 — GMADove Award for the album *Still the Greatest Story Ever Told*.
• 1999 — GRAMMY Award for the album *Kennedy Center Homecoming*.
• 2000 — GMADove Award for the album *God is Good*.
• 2001 — GMADove Award for the song "God is Good All the Time"
• 2001 — GMA Dove Award for the album *I Do Believe*.
• 2002 — *Southern Gospel News Music Award*, "Male Vocalist of the Year."
• 2002 — Performance for President George W. Bush.
• 2002 — GRAMMY Award for *A Billy Graham Music Homecoming*.
• 2002 — GMA Dove Award nomination for "Male Vocalist of the Year."
• 2003 — Southern Gospel New Music Award, "Male Vocalist of the Year."
You can see the credentials he is bringing to the high school stage. You don't always get to keep company with artists of this mold. If you know anything about gospel music, the name Gaither should come quickly to mind Well, David Phelps is associated with that name, that organization.
Do yourself a favor — make it a family night out. Be there when he brings the crowd to its feet.
Tickets here in Colby can be purchased at The



Tom Dreiling

- My Turn

His Shop.
-td-
I DON'T quite know how he meant it, but I asked a friend if he had an enjoyable 4th and he said he enjoyed his 5th more.
-td-
I SEE where we have received 2.22 inches of rain so far this month — and the month is in its infancy. That might just be a bit of a stretch, however, because the 0.33 inches logged on July 1 actually fell on June 30. The Northwest Research-Extension Center takes readings at 8 a.m. each day for the preceding 24 hours. To keep the books straight, we utilize their daily reports as received, although they may not balance out with yours. But the main thing is we are receiving some nice rain activity (if there was just something we could do about the wind). Of course we say that about the snow, also. Regardless, we'll take it as we get it. And be thankful for it.
-td-
THE community fireworks display didn't pan out as expected — thanks to the stormy weather. So, it is back on the schedule for Sunday, July 11 at the fairgrounds in Colby following the races. Mark that on your calendar.
-td-
SPEAKING of fireworks, we had some of those in our neighborhood over the weekend, pre-storm and post-storm. Really, the weather provided its own version of July 4th and July

5th — boomers and flashes. So, when the footfolks took over they were trying to outdo Mother Nature's show. I liked the people thing better.
-td-
IT'S Sen. John Edwards. I think most everybody felt it would be. He has what presidential hopeful Sen. John Kerry lacks — charisma. As Kerry's running mate, the North Carolina senator will light a fire under a campaign that is drawing big crowds but just seems to lack that cheerleader appeal. A big plus also is the fact the two Johns weren't always kind to one another in the earlier debates. They made up and are now a team. The Republicans, not be outdone on the day Kerry named Edwards, unleashed a tidal wave of television commercials showing President Bush and Sen. John McCain as a united duo. It wasn't always that way. So, putting things into perspective, the Democrats' Kerry picked someone who picked on him early on, and our Republicans President is wrapping himself around a popular Republican senator who has not always said kind things about the commander-in-chief.
So, what's new? That's politics.
-td-
AND I see where Sen. Elizabeth Dole is showing her age by comments made this morning on the tube. As long as she's been involved in the process you'd think she could come up with something new, different and persuasive. She and Sen. John Edwards are from the same state and Dole is the junior senator in rank.
-td-
THEN there's Ralph Nader who can't seem to find a party. That should tell him something.
-td-
WELL, have a good evening!

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

A bittersweet birthday

As we celebrated America's 228th birthday this weekend, I couldn't help but feel a little bittersweet about the division that is wracking our country right now.
It isn't the rancorous nature of our presidential election, or the debates over abortion, the war in Iraq or the countless other things upon which we disagree that bothers me. Rancor and name-calling, while they should not be, have been a hallmark of many of our spirited debates throughout history.
Indeed, a look at our own congressional history or a short time on C-SPAN watching the British House of Commons makes our modern congress look positively civil.
The frightening thing about our current division is that it is based on the very ideals for which we stand. We have left off an objective understanding of basic truth for a subjective understanding that real truth is found only in the experience of the individual.
The real problem with the debate is those on the side of objective truth aren't putting their money where their mouth is.
American Christians have developed an ecumenical slant which has caused us to accept subjective truth concerning the unity of the body of Christ in order that we might be united against moral issues.
We have, in short, replaced the important with the urgent. Until we who accept the Bible as the unique, inerrant word of God can unite on its basic principles, we cannot hope to influence



Jay Kelley

- Speaking MyMind

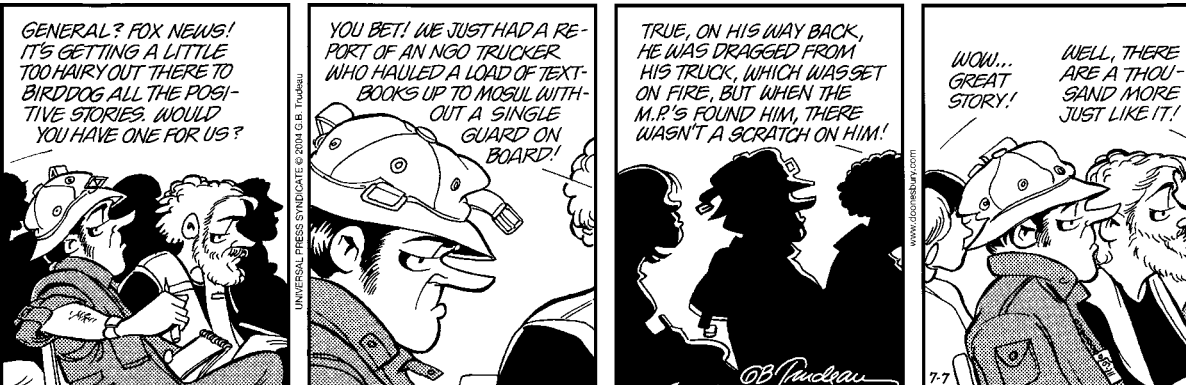
others to make a better society.
We cannot even agree on what it means to be saved, or how one enters into that state. How, pray tell, can we expect the world to listen to us when we claim there is objective truth when we don't practice it in our most fundamental beliefs?
Going even further, until we can unite on the word of God as the sole complete and perfect revelation of God's will, we don't even have a message.
Our founders did not intend for everyone to do as they pleased. They understood the government they created could only last if it were made up of honest, conscientious citizens.
They also understood the need for vigorous debate in order to settle differences and the difference between compromising on issues and compromising principles.
We, it seems, have forgotten those things. Religious activities in our early days included debates on basic principles of scripture between people of differing views. Today's get-togethers

between different groups seek to sweep differences under the rug in the name of togetherness.
Folks, that is like tying two cats, tails together and throwing them over a clothesline. You might have togetherness, but you certainly don't have unity.
Unity in such a diverse world as Christendom is going to require more than joint services and a few potlucks. It is going to require some intense soul-searching and some public debate.
It is going to require all of us to examine our most cherished beliefs in light of what God has to say. In fact, it might even require some of us to examine what God has to say!
Until we are willing to do it, though, we have no voice in the world. We cannot unite against abortion until we are willing to unite on salvation.
We cannot unite against pornography until we are willing to unite on faith. We cannot unite on the role of civil government until we unite as one church.
Christendom is faced with a great choice. We can continue in division and schism, giving lip-service to unity while pursuing vastly different doctrines and allow our country, our world and even many of our people, to die in sin.
One thing we should all remember, Jesus said our enemy is not divided.

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Doonesbury

- Gary Trudeau



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