Opinion



This tells all

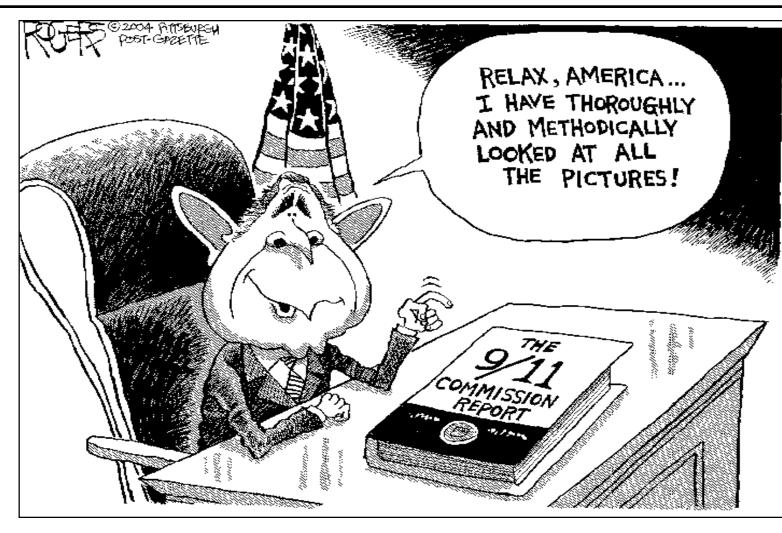
To the Colby Free Press:

For the individual wanting to sift through the hype of the Democratic National Convention and assess the facts, an incredibly helpful website can be found at www.votesmart.org. This site is an impartial, nonpartisan collection of facts about voting records of elected officials.

One can access the site, type in Kerry (Sen. John Kerry, presidential candidate), select the category Interest Group Ratings, and read about his voting record on numerous issues - agriculture, animal rights, budget and taxes, family and children, foreign aid, gender issues, gun control, economy, defense, health issues, environment and others.

If Mr. Kerry was not there for the vote, that is also mentioned. Since action is really a more reliable indicator than rhetoric in measuring the leadership of an individual, evaluation of Mr. Kerry's actual voting performance could be helpful in making an informed voting decision.

> **Margaret Houtz** Colby (Letter #62)



About those letters . . .

The Free Press encourages and welcomes letters from readers. Letters should be typewritten, if at all possible, and should include a telephone number and an address. These are used for verification of the writer only. If, however, you want your address and telephone number to appear with your letter, please ask us to do so when you submit your letter, or include a note with your letter. Most importantly, all letters must include a signature. Unsigned letters cannot be published. We reserve the right to edit for clarity and length, and, likewise, reserve the right to reject letters deemed to be of no public interest or considered offensive or libelous. You can expect your letter to appear in print within 24-48 hours of receipt. Letters to the Free Press allow readers to become engaged in public debate on topics they deem important. Please consider sharing your thoughts with the family of Colby Free Press readers. Thank you.

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: jmorriso@ink.org web:http://www.ink.org/public/ legislators/jmorriso

Death of former editor noted

IRECEIVED a note this week that informed me of the sudden death of Judy Farrell, former Colby Free Press editor. She died June 14 at her home in Thornton, Colo. At the time of her death, Judy was senior public affairs specialist of the corporate communications staff of the Western Power Administration. Memorials are suggested to the Westminster Public Library/Children's Collection of Westminster, or to the Dumb Friends League Humane Society of Denver. Online memorials may be posted on the Denver Post Guest Book at http://www.legacy.com/ denver/Guest Book. Jack and Angie Farrell, 511 West High Street, Edwardsville, Ill. 62025 relayed this information to me.

HERE is a reader's philosophy on housecleaning

-td-

(1) I don't do windows because... I love birds and don't want one to run into a clean window and get hurt.

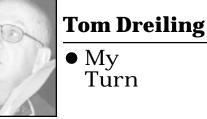
(2) I don't wax floors because... I am terrified a guest will slip, hurt themselves, I'll feel terrible and they may sue me.

(3) I don't mind the dust bunnies because... They are very good company, I have named most of them, and they agree with everything I say.

(4) I don't disturb cobwebs because... I want every creature to have a home of their own.

(5) I don't Spring Clean because... I love all the seasons and don't want the others to get jeal-

(6) I don't pull weeds in the garden because... I don't want to get in God's way, He is an excellent designer.



WELL, you can take this with a grain of salt, but it was sent to me so I will share it with you (with a comment at the end):

"Sen. John Kerry, Democrat from Massachusetts, says he is the strongest presidential candidate on national defense!

"He said 'Check the Record' ... We Did! "Here is what we learned:

"He voted to Kill the Bradley Fighting Vehicle "He voted to Kill the M-1 Abrams Tank "He voted to Kill every Aircraft carrier laid

down from 1988

"He voted to Kill the Aegis anti aircraft system

"He voted to Kill the F-15 strike eagle "He voted to Kill the Block 60 F-16

"He voted to Kill the P-3 Orion upgrade

"He voted to Kill the B-1

"He voted to Kill the B-2

"He voted to Kill the Patriot anti Missile system

"He voted to Kill the FA-18

"He voted to Kill the B-2

"He voted to Kill the F117."

My comment, as promised: It looks like Kerry

-td-

"I MUST not tell a lie. I chopped down that cherry tree," George Washington told his father. Boy, can't you imagine what kind of election issue that would be today? Someone telling the truth?

-td-

THIS column would be remiss if it did not remind you of next week's big Thomas County Free Fair (3rd through the 7th). Take the family, invite friends and relatives in neighboring communities to be your guests. It's for all ages. -td-

WE all forget. When Minnesota was casting its votes during the roll call of the states at the

convention Wednesday night, Walter "Fritz" Mondale - former Demo presidential candidate (1976) — cast all of his state's votes for the "next President of the United States, John Edwards." A delegate quickly leaned over and whispered in his ear, sending a correction through the public address system ... "John Kerry." Maybe I finally know, after all these years, why he lost that election.

WHEN the Republicans hold their convention next month, do yourself a favor. Watch it on C-Span! I watched the Democratic National Convention on C-Span and got in on so many things that the commercial networks pay no attention to. They, the commercial guys, are too busy with their analysts telling us what we are watching. I guess they think we are all stupid and need them to separate fact from fiction. When the roll call of the states was being taken, I

-td-

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

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(7) I don't put things away because... My hus band will never be able to find them again.

(8) I don't do gourmet meals when I entertain because... I don't want my guests to stress out over what to make when they invite me over for dinner.

(9) I don't iron because... I choose to believe them when they say "Permanent Press".

(10) I don't stress much on anything because... "A Type" personalities die young and I want to stick around and become a wrinkled up crusty ol' woman!!

There, that should remove any guilt you may have about housecleaning.

Thanks, Grace, for sharing.

-td-

Killed everything that Kills. The Good Book says something about that.

-td-LAST week in the "At Week's End," I featured a Republican bumper sticker. You just knew the Democrats would ask for equal spin. So, here it is: "What Has 18 Legs That Bush Rode To The White House? The Supreme New York City - C-Span all the way! Court!"

-td-

"LIAR liar, your pants is on fire!" Remember that old chant? Well, if applied to those who have served as commander-in-chief over the history of this great land, without exception all of them would have needed a fire extinguisher to save their hide.

flipped to MSNBC and CNN and they weren't carrying it in its entirety, they were too busy mouthing about something else. I don't know what FOX was doing because I banned them from my television set. They are a waste of time, period. This is just a tip because that how I'll be watching the GOP gang when they convene in

-td-

HAVE a good evening and good weekend. And remember to visit the church of your choice this weekend.

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

This would really test them

I've got an idea, speeches without speech writers.

I wrote about the caviling campaign rhetoric in my last article. It takes more than charisma and wit to write a 500-word article that only takes about three minutes to read. For some of us, it takes a lot of re-writing.

For instance we must: Check the popular meaning of words. (When I was a kid, "gay" meant a happy go lucky person with out a care in the world. Call someone a "gay young bachelor," today, and you might get smacked up the side of the head). We must try to remember our grammar lessons from half a century ago. We discover that proper punctuation and grammar has changed. Our software spell checks don't ferret out typographic errors. Some words are even spelled differently than they were 60 years ago. Slang has definitely changed.

The list goes on. We might even have to resort to a little "caviling" to fill the column. Not very many of us majored in writing or speech.

What does it take to prepare and deliver a speech or lecture to fill a one-hour slot?

Ken Poland

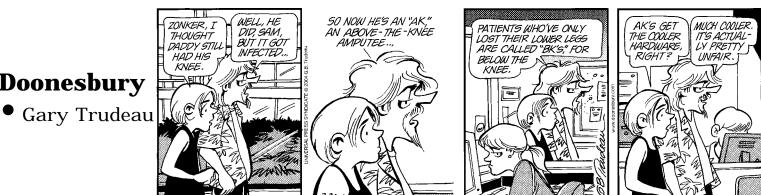
Ken's World

Why don't we assign a major test for the four major candidates, Mr. Bush, Mr. Cheney, Mr. Kerry and Mr. Edwards. Let's sequester each of them in a room by themselves. Give them, no dictionary, no grammar guide, no assistance from a professional speech writer, "no nothing," just a tablet, a pencil and their memory. Tell them to prepare a full transcript of a one-hour

That hour will not allow any time for pauses to bow and scrape to a cheering audience. In other words, that speech or lecture must contain a full hour's worth of their own ideas and ways of expressing those ideas. Give them a four-hour time limit for preparation. (You might need a four-hour nap before you have to sit and listen to them deliver that speech.)

Wow! Wouldn't that scare the socks off their professional campaign managers! Then, just for fun, let's subject them to a 30-minute question and answer period from the audience. They don't get advance access to the questions and cannot check their speech notes before answering. We might discover some of them have a hard time not contradicting themselves and flip flopping in just the span of one hour. We might even discover they don't know what their position is on some major issues. It might even reveal their honest opinions on some things. And perhaps more importantly, we might discover they don't have a clue about the world of the common folks. Just an idea. Don't hold your breath waiting on each one of them volunteering to complete that assignment.

Ken Poland is a Gem farmer and frequent contributor to this page. E-mail rcwinc@cheerful.com.



speech.

Doonesbury