

Opinion



Letter Drop

- Our Readers Sound Off

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: 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

COLBY FREE PRESS

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

freepress@nwkansans.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@nwkansans.com

NEWS

Patty Decker - Editor
pdecker@nwkansans.com

Tisha Cox - General Assignment
tcx@nwkansans.com

ADVERTISING

Crystal Rucker - Advertising Sales/Director

crystalr@nwkansans.com

Jeremy Blackwill - Advertising Sales

jblackwill@nwkansans.com

BUSINESS OFFICE

Lea Bandy - Circulation Manager

Jeanette Applegate - Bookkeeping & Ad Building

japplegate@nwkansans.com

Evan Barnum - Systems Administrator

support@nwkansans.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.

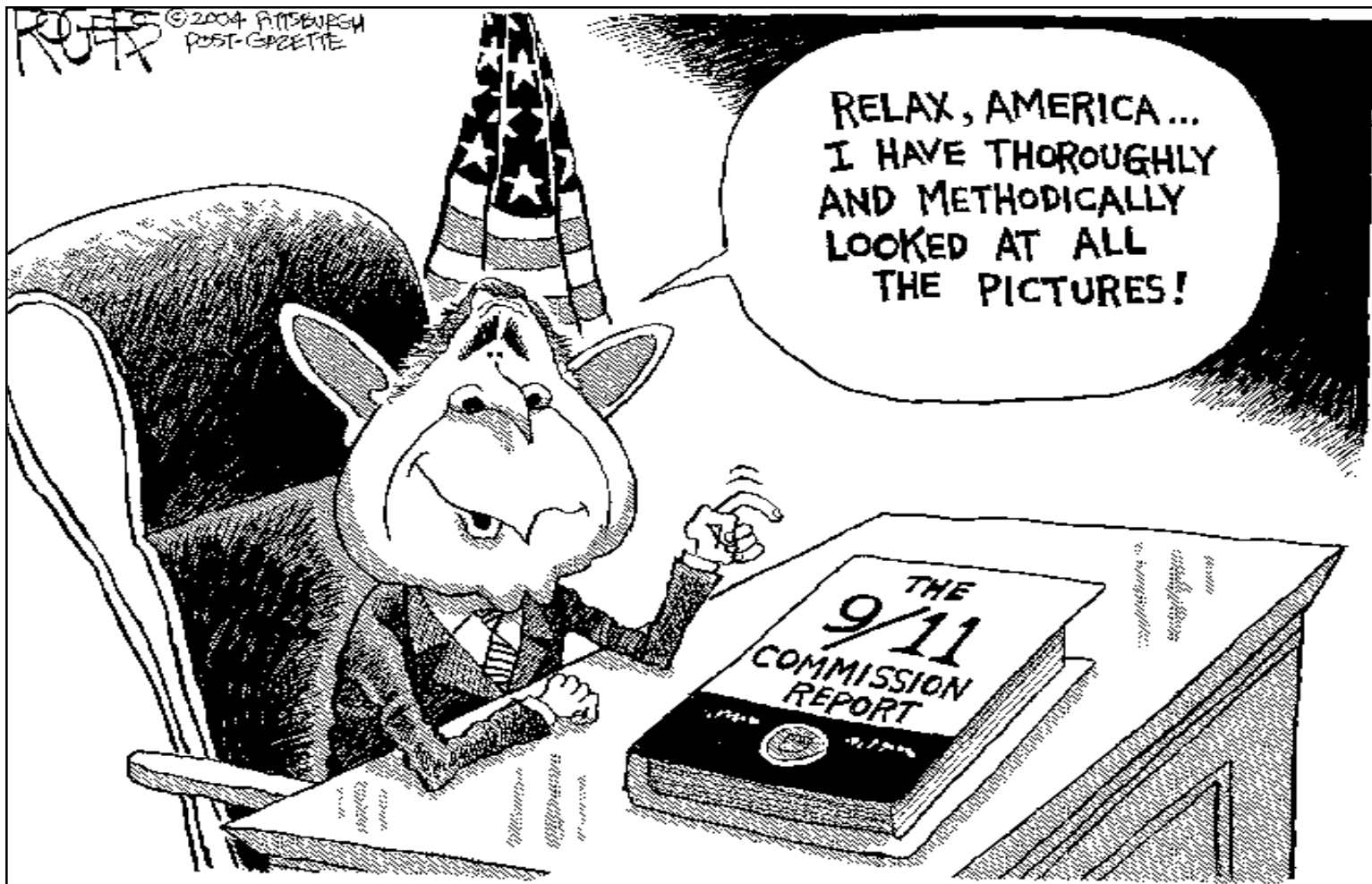
PERIODICALS POSTAGE is paid at Colby, Kan. 67701, and at additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to The Colby Free Press, 155 W. Fifth, Colby, Kan., 67701.

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



Death of former editor noted



Tom Dreiling

- My Turn

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 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 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.

-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.

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 speech.

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.

Doonesbury

- Gary Trudeau

