

Opinion



Your Views Count Letters

It all boils down to ‘You’

To the Colby Free Press:

It is time to give thanks to all those who make the Thomas County Chapter of the American Red Cross possible. The chapter was chartered by the American Red Cross more than 90 years ago and it is the only Red Cross chartered chapter remaining in the 12 northwest Kansas counties. I am honored an delighted to be affiliated with such an elite organization.

As a chapter, we have the responsibility of providing relief to victims of disasters and to help people prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies. Over the years, the national organization has delegated an ever increasing responsibility to the Thomas County Chapter. We take that responsibility with pride and enthusiasm.

The Thomas County Chapter accomplishes their mission with two very capable part-time paid staff members, Roger Herren, executive director, and Betty Ryan, health and safety administrator. Roger and Betty are assisted by many volunteers and guided by a topnotch board of directors. We take our fiduciary responsibility very seriously at the Thomas County Chapter.

We at the Red Cross realize, though, who is ultimately responsible for the continuation of our organization — you the people. The people of Thomas County have been very supportive of the Red Cross in the past and we look forward to a continued strong partnership, and we just want to say, “Thank You!”

Sincerely,

James E. Oliver
Chapter Chair
Colby
(Letter #4)

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. Your submission must be signed, include a daytime phone number and address.

Where to write, call

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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/jmorrison>
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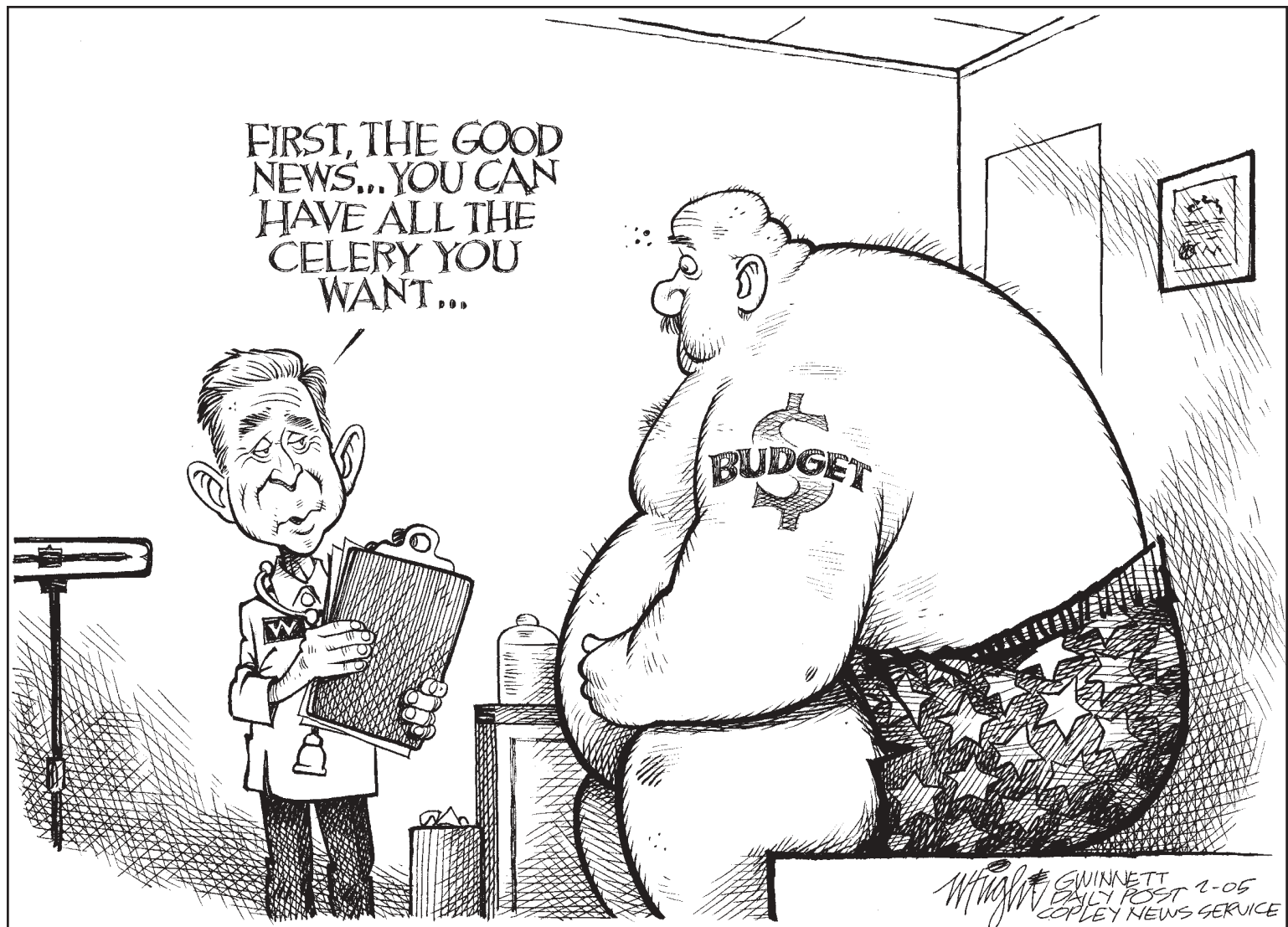
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Chute, shoot and darn

Well, I proved my point. In last week's column I told you there are three things you can count on me for, the first being that I'd try everything humanly possible to provide you with correct information the first time out of the "shoot."

The second was that when, not if, I made a mistake I'd take ownership of it.

There you go.

I just owned up to not double checking myself, and making sure I used the correct word chute not shoot.

Now all you English majors will have a new project — watching out for me!

Seriously, over the years, I've learned a much different vernacular of English is used for journalism than for other forms of writing or speaking. But, I've also learned to correct my mistakes and move.

I guess that goes back to what my folks taught me when I was young:

"Just be glad people are talking about you, because that way they are leaving some poor soul alone who can't handle the pressure."

What do you think of while sitting on the 'throne'?

Well, a couple weeks ago I enjoyed watching a lady walk out of the bathroom at her office and she said she wasn't sure if she should talk about "this," but there were two men on the floor looking at her while she was on the throne.

"hat?" I asked.

"Well, you know you can see things in clouds when you look at them. I can see these two men on the floor in the bathroom," she said.

As her co-worker chimed in, I learned the woman was talking about shapes in the vinyl



Jan Katz Ackerman

• From Where I stand

flooring which looked like two men staring at whoever was sitting on the toilet.

The second woman said in all the years she'd worked in the office, the faces had never been apparent to her (as she raised one eyebrow as to question the actuality of the two guys looking upward), so I went to investigate the matter myself.

As the first women stood in front of the stool and gestured to me where to look for the two faces, she then stepped aside and let me see if I could see what she saw.

Lo and behold, standing there in front of the 'throne,' I saw two men staring at me!

Sure enough, the one guy had a little tuft of 'hair' on the top of his head, and the other guy had the 'meanest' eyes!

Okay, I'll admit while it was my first time standing in a bathroom with another woman staring at the floor looking a men watching us, I wonder what her male co-worker was thinking as he heard us giggling about men in the bathroom.

I think I'll stick to watching clouds!

I feel sorry for birds.

I really feel sorry for them this time of year.

It's like they don't know if they should be in Kansas or in Mexico.

For instance, about 10 days ago it went from short sleeve weather to coats and mittens over night.

I was standing on my covered deck at noon barbecuing and watching robins get smacked on the head and back with ice pellets.

That made me think of election candidates.

While I don't ever feel sorry for anyone who runs for public office, sometime I feel bad about the fact some candidates can't seem to make up their mind.

Do they want to be in Kansas or Mexico?

Do they want to serve the special interest groups or the average John and Jane Doe family which is just trying to make a living and making it through life paycheck to paycheck?

Do they want to ride the fence and risk getting barbed wire cuts in places the 'sun don't shine,' or do they want to do what's right!

My hope is the candidates who've thrown their hat in the ring for the upcoming city council, school board and hospital elections will get their priorities in order and lock their axes in the shed before opening their mouths promising things they might not deliver.

Maybe its time candidates take a lesson from the robins — grow thick enough feathers that it doesn't hurt to be out in the sleet and do what they promise and what's best for the general public, not just a few of the public.

Jan Katz Ackerman is a reporter for the Colby Free Press. Her column appears Thursdays. Email ackermanjk@ruraltel.net, or call (785) 675-2155.

Bigger than politics



Jay Kelley

• Speaking MyMind

how to make the introduction.

We have a plethora of churches preaching a plethora of gospels and all claiming to be Christians. Most say they take the Bible as their holy book, but some think it is but one of many sources of authority and others, though they say it is the authority, have their own creeds or other man-made requirements for entrance.

Even among those whose consensus is the Bible is the God-breathed revelation of the Divine plan to mankind, there are such major differences in foundational doctrines as to make cooperation in all but the most superficial forms nearly impossible.

Most of us believe the Constitution of the United States to be understandable. It was written by imperfect, albeit good men, but they were still fallible. Why is it then we act as though we cannot understand the Bible, revealed by God and written in man's language for his understanding?

Why is it that we are unwilling or unable to stomach frank and honest questions concerning Biblical doctrine? We have chosen, in the place

of the unity for which Jesus prayed, based upon the whole of apostolic teaching, unity based on selective morality and the celebration of certain pagan rituals which we have co-opted for ourselves.

Acceptance and tolerance have gone far beyond matters of opinion until, within some churches even acceptance of Jesus Christ as the only begotten Son of God has become a matter of opinion.

Until the church of God — and the Bible knows of only one — comes together on the basis of his revelation, or at least finally realizes that every conflicting dogma can't be valid, the message will be watered down into a legalistic morass of contradictory demands for external morality.

Some say unity is impossible and such attempts will only engender strife. It may well be impossible, but did not the Lord say that with God all things are possible?

As for the strife, that is to be expected as well. When those wolves in sheep's clothing that freely prey on flocks under the protection of acceptance and tolerance are put to the test, they will fight, just as Satan's minions have always done.

They don't have any choice. They may look like us, but they can't survive the light.

Jay Kelley is a local minister and writer who speaks his mind from time to time. His e-mail is jkelley@nwkansas.com. He belongs to the Colby Free Press Writer's Club.

Doonesbury

• Gary Trudeau

