

# Opinion



## Your Views Count

- Letters

## Setting the record straight

To the Colby Free Press:

The article on page 5 of Friday's *Free Press* entitled United Church of Christ could change has prompted no small amount of questioning for me and other members of the Church of Christ in Colby concerning our stance on homosexuality and the Bible.

First, the United Church of Christ and the Church of Christ are different entities. The United Church of Christ claims denominational status and apparently has some sort of annual meeting in which doctrinal concerns are aired and decided.

The Church of Christ is, on the other hand, the fellowship of all who have, by faith, accepted the grace of God and been immersed into Christ.

Because we have no rule other than the Bible, no authority outside of scripture and no earthly organization outside of the local congregation, we cannot say what "our church" believes. We can only repeat what the Bible says.

Second, we are commanded by scripture to love all humanity. In fact, the preaching of the gospel, which includes humanity's need for the savior because of sin, is done out of the love of God who desires all people to be saved and sent Jesus so that salvation could be possible.

The Lord himself explained that his mission was not to the healthy, but to the sick. Those who do not understand themselves to be sinners can never understand their need for a savior.

Third, scripture is clear in its description of homosexuality as a sin. So are lying, greed and envy. Each of those requires repentance — which includes the willingness to reform — in order to receive forgiveness.

While certain sins may be worse according to human understanding because of their effect on society, no sin will be better or worse in God's eyes at the final judgment. All will either be forgiven or condemned based solely on our response to Jesus.

Finally, no sin is unforgivable. God is able to forgive any sin so long as the sinner comes to Him through Christ and in true penitence.

As such, our doors are open to any who wish to have such a relationship.

**A. Jay Kelley**  
Evangelist  
Colby Church of Christ  
(Letter #55)

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](mailto:td@nwkansas.com), fax 462-7749 or call 462-3963. Please sign your submission, provide an address and daytime phone number.

### Where to write, call

**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**, 2443 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. 202/225-2715 or Fax 202/225-5124  
**State Rep. Jim Morrison**, State Capitol Building, 303 SW 10th St. Rm. 171-W, Topeka 66612. 785/296-7676 e mail: [jmorrison@ink.org](mailto:jmorrison@ink.org) web: [www.ink.org/public/legislators/jmorrison](http://www.ink.org/public/legislators/jmorrison)  
**State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer**, State Capitol, 300 SW 10th St., Rm. 128-S., Topeka, Kan. 66612, 785/296-7399 [ostmeyer@senate.state.ks.us](mailto:ostmeyer@senate.state.ks.us)

## COLBY FREE PRESS

155 W. Fifth (USPS 120-920) (785) 462-3963  
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[freepress@nwkansas.com](http://freepress@nwkansas.com)

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**Tom (TD) Dreiling - Publisher**  
[td@nwkansas.com](mailto:td@nwkansas.com)

### NEWS

**Patty Decker - Editor**  
[pdecker@nwkansas.com](mailto:pdecker@nwkansas.com)

**Tisha Cox - General Assignment**  
[tcox@nwkansas.com](mailto:tcox@nwkansas.com)

**Jan Katz Ackerman**, Area Reporter  
[ackermanjk@ruraltel.net](mailto:ackermanjk@ruraltel.net)

### ADVERTISING

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**Jasmine Crottinger - Advertising Sales**  
[jasminec@nwkansas.com](mailto:jasminec@nwkansas.com)

**Cindy Davis - Advertising Sales**  
[c.davis@nwkansas.com](mailto:c.davis@nwkansas.com)

### BUSINESS OFFICE

**Lea Bandy - Circulation Manager**  
[lea@nwkansas.com](mailto:lea@nwkansas.com)

**Jeanette Applegate - Bookkeeping & Ad Building**  
[japplegate@nwkansas.com](mailto:japplegate@nwkansas.com)

**Evan Barnum - Systems Administrator**  
[support@nwkansas.com](mailto:support@nwkansas.com)

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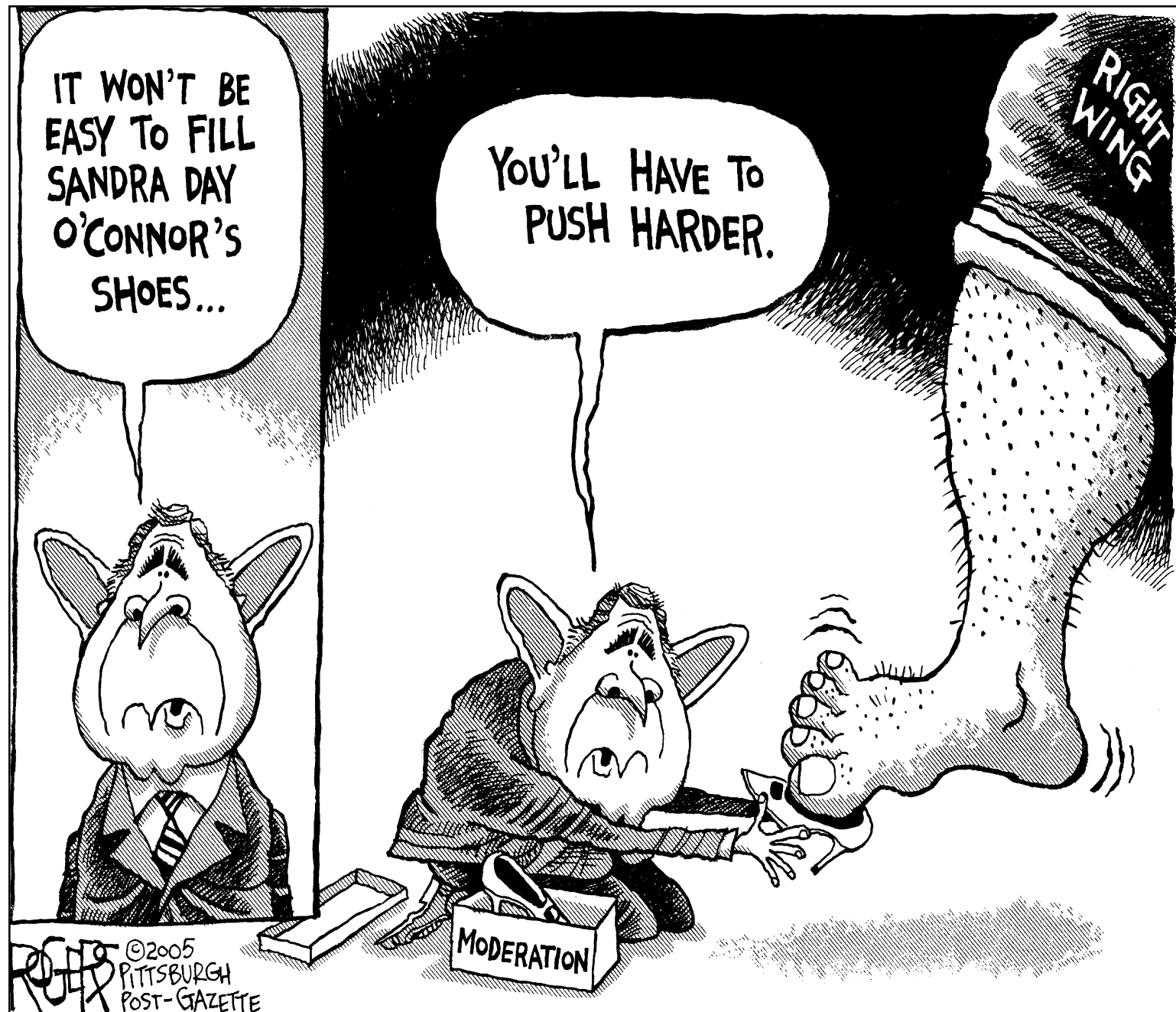
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## Nor'West Newspapers

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## Things you need to know about July

Remember the cloudy days, and the rain, and the cool temperatures of not too long ago? Remember?

Now it's pretty much sun and heat. But we must remember this is July!

And this is the month that in years past gave us a **record-setting 113 degrees** on the 25th in 1940.

And **111** on the 13th in 1934 and **111** on the 24th in 1936.

And many 109s, 108s, 107s, and 106s.

It is also a month that gave us a **very warm overnight low** temperature of 80 degrees on the 14th in 1913 and 80 degrees on the 27th in 1914.

A month that gave us a **chilly daytime high** of only 59 degrees on the 10th in 1895.

A month that gave us a **cold overnight low** of 38 degrees on the 9th in 1905.

And a month that gave us **11.04 inches** of rain — that's right, 11.04 inches of rain — in 1941. July. What else can I add?

I see where Karl Rove, President Bush's closest advisor, might be in a heap of trouble. Reports are that he may well have been the guy who leaked some very sensitive information about a CIA agent, including the woman's name. Rove, probably the guy with the biggest ego in Washington, repeatedly denied in the past to being the source of the leak.

Now, the White House is scrambling because if this is correct, the "L" word again comes into play. And since it is a criminal offense Mr. Bush might have to take action against his #1 man. It'll be interesting to see how this drama unfolds. And



### Tom Dreiling

- My Turn

whether this White Hosue can keep the lid on what could be an explosive revelation.

Don't forget the Pickin on the Plains this coming weekend. Always a fun time and always a good draw for the community. Information available in a half-page ad on page 5 today.

Today's Tip: Always keep several get well cards on the mantle so if unexpected guests arrive, they'll think you've been sick and unable to clean.

A man owned a small farm in Iowa. The Iowa Wage and Hour Department claimed he was not paying proper wages to his help and sent an agent out to interview him.

"I need a list of your employees and how much you pay them," demanded the agent.

"Well, there are my hired hands. One has been with me for four years; the other for three. I pay them each \$600 a week, plus free room and board.

"The cook has been here for 18 months, and I pay her \$500 a month plus free room and board.

## Recognizing the difference



### Janis Schulte

- Random Reviews

Both sides, it seems, have forgotten that The Da Vinci Code is a work of fiction.

While some of it may be loosely based on historical facts, it is primarily a work of speculative fiction.

Who doesn't enjoy an interesting conspiracy

theory now and then?

What about suspense, brilliant detective work, and innovative scenes?

If we move Brown's novel from fiction to some sort of philosophical treatise or factual reporting, we've missed the point.

I've never confused coffee with tea.

I've usually preferred cream to milk.

And I always keep in mind the difference between fact and fiction.

*Janis Schulte is an English teacher at Colby Community College and a member of the Colby Free Press Writer's Club. She will frequently share book reviews. Comments to [td@nwkansas.com](mailto:td@nwkansas.com).*

## Doonesbury

- Gary Trudeau

