

Opinion



Your Views Count

• Letters

Businessman asks why no local bids

Keeping your money in town?

I may be wrong but on the other hand I may be right. I think Colby spends a lot of money on ads to get Colby people to spend their money in Colby to support local businesses and keep our stores open. Now what I would like to know is why the Colby Housing has hired an out of town and out of county roofing company to do the work on Southpark and another building that is being run by the City of Colby.

This seems to be a back stabbing deal to me. Yes, we do have a company in Colby that has the man power to do the job.

Now the way I see it, we lost thousands of dollars for labor and materials out of the city of Colby that would have been spent three times over to help local business. I know lumber yards here in Colby that would have loved to sell the materials for these jobs. But no, spend the money out of town.

Now if the City of Colby can't keep our local business and labor in town why should any of us local people want to shop Colby? The old saying is what we see is what we do.

I read the paper every day and I did not see where bids were to be taken on this job. A local construction company was not asked to bid — having a chance to either bid or turn it down. I would have liked to have been able to see about bidding and putting a crew together but didn't have a chance.

**Davis Knowles
Colby
(Letter #70)**

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 pjschief@nwkans.com or pdecker@nwkans.com.

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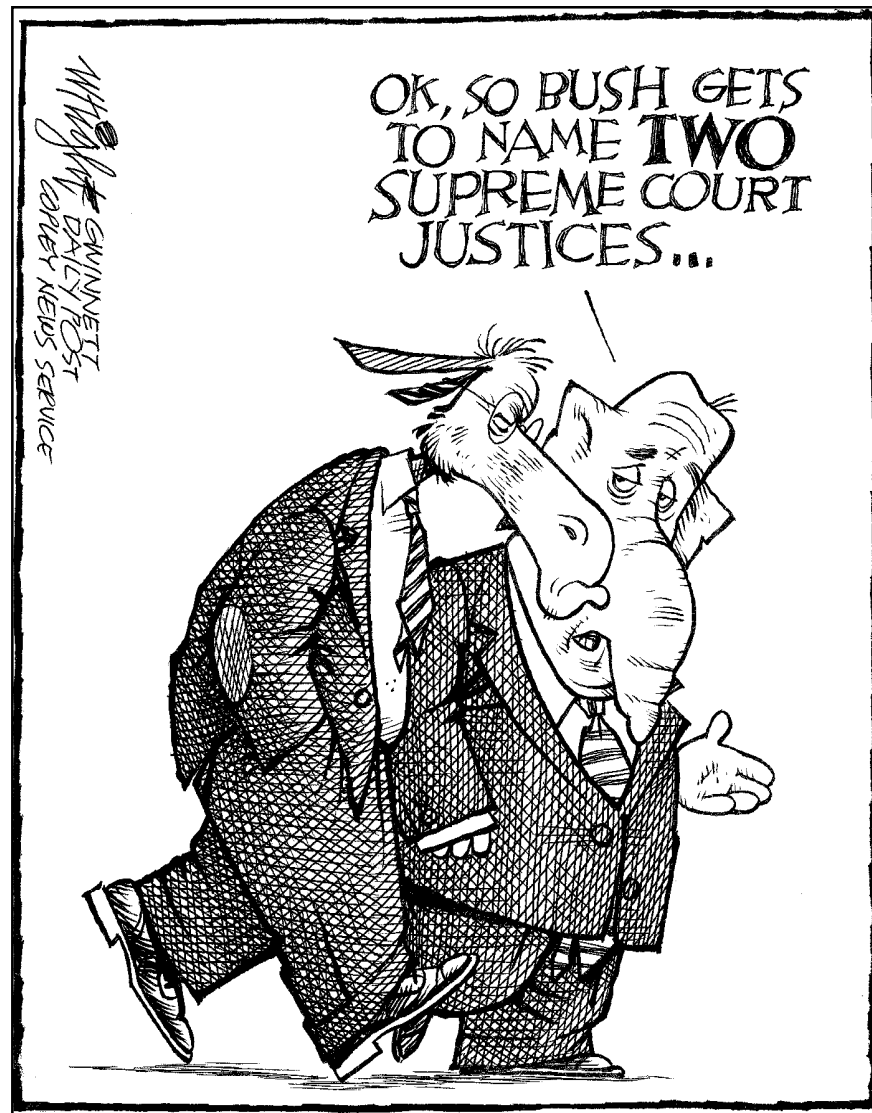
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We need to help one another

When I interviewed Lori Koster on Tuesday a flood of memories came to mind. While I've never been evacuated from a home, I've been required to be prepared to do so.

The circumstances did not include a hurricane, but like Lori, I too was a military wife who had to keep her family prepared to leave in a moments' notice.

My children's dad was in the military and we were stationed in Germany at the height of the Iran hostage crisis. As a military dependent, I was trained how to get my children to a safe haven evacuation point in the happenstance we had to quickly return to the United States.

I can empathize with Lori's comments that it is sometimes difficult to keep the mission as the first priority, setting one's spouse as second and do things alone.

Like Lori, I lived months on end without a spouse as the 24/7 caregiver for minor children. And like Lori, it saddens me that we have Americans out and about who don't support our nation's leaders, particularly President Bush, and the military personnel.

Excuse me, but aren't these the people who continually make it possible for us to live in a free nation?

Aren't they the people who put their lives in the line of fire so people in other nations can try and live without the strongholds and savage leadership of those like Saddam Hussein?

I'm sure soldiers who are coming back from that war could tell us horror stories about women and children being raped and killed by the former Iraqi regime.

But are we listening to them, or are we listening to women like Cindy Sheehan who run around the country bashing President Bush for her son's death. I'm sure Sheehan's



Jan Katz Ackerman

• From Where I stand

son's knew all too well when he joined the military he might die in a war he might have to fight.

From where I stand, Sheehan's war protesting efforts are doing nothing but desecrate the memory of her son and all his comrades which have fallen before him.

And if the war has saved one woman or child from being raped or killed it's been worth my tax dollars and worth my support.

Women like Cindy Sheehan need to funnel their grief into something positive and help keep America free. Something positive like protecting the daughters, a daughters-in-law and someday grandchild from the likes of Saddam Hussein.

Lori's evacuation from the devastating hurricane which ravaged the southern border of our nation is only a glimpse of what could happen if we didn't live in a free nation. Put aside the destruction caused by the hurricane and think about what our nation would be like if we didn't live in a democracy.

Watching television coverage of the hurricane should bring to mind not only the sticks and mortar that lay strewn about. Each and every one of us should ask ourselves what the cost would be if each and every item was a body. When we look at those photographs, we needed to imagine the debris as bodies.

Airlines are doing less for more

Isn't it just pure pleasure to fly the friendly skies these days? I'm sure there are mule trains that offer more joy per mile.

I know that airlines have been hard-hit financially, but what management genius came up with the idea that - hey, I know, let's cut back on the employees that serve the public, eliminate everything from meals to movies, charge customers for services that should come with the price of a ticket, jam people onto the planes like chickens in a cage, even take away those little pillows that offered a modicum of comfort...and then run TV ads that show delighted customers and happy-go-lucky workers skipping along together and singing Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Dah.

Yet, we might soon remember the unpleasantness of today's travel reality as the good ol' days, for the industry's bosses are scheming on new ways to do less for customers...while charging more. For ex-

Jim Hightower

• Guest Commentary

ample, why should you get a seat that reclines and has padded armrests for nothing, you bum? Airlines are thinking they could charge extra for such frills.

Also, while the companies already are charging passengers for boxed lunches, they're now looking at the revenue possibilities of adding a fee for you to use a tray table. Luxury isn't free, bucko.

Then there are your bags. Why should airlines check, load and unload them for nada? Since adding a charge for this is expected to tick off a whole lot of travelers, the savvy executives are contemplating a phase-in

Bodies which could be lying in a mass grave put there by terrorists.

How familiar do we want to become to the term evacuees?

Who would have ever thought Americans would ever again be using that word for some of our own?

While the current wave of evacuees is from a hurricane, we need to be asking ourselves just how close do we want America to resemble a third-world country?

If we don't step up to the plate and support our country as the best nation in the world, we just might stumble. I'd bet there are thousands of evacuees who are already thinking our nation has stumbled.

Talk has already surfaced about whether the hurricane was an act God willed or allowed to clean up our society.

All I'll say about that debate is I believe it's our nation's materialistic and unholy mindset which is going to take us down the tube if we don't change our ways.

But, as far as our evacuees go, there are thousands out there wishing they just had some food and a blanket.

Those of us who have, need to be contributing to those who are in need. Not in my lifetime did I think I'd be thinking of ways to help a refugee.

How about you?

All I can say is something my late-mom used to say, "There but by the grace of God I trod."

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strategy, beginning by assessing a fee for priority baggage service. For ten bucks or so per bag, you could get yours unloaded ahead of all the deadbeats standing around the baggage carousel scowling at you.

The nickel-and-diming is practically unlimited.

Who says your orange juice should be free? An aisle or window seat could come at a premium.

That flight attendant call button and the little air vents could be equipped with coin slots.

The customer might always be right...but there'll be a fee for that in the friendly skies.

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Doonesbury

• Gary Trudeau

