

Opinion



Other Press Viewpoints

Sailor didn't get resident tuition

It just doesn't seem right that someone who has lived in Kansas all of his life except when he was taken away by military service shouldn't qualify for resident tuition at Kansas University.

Yet, that is the situation facing Brian Depperschmidt, who was forced to pay nonresident tuition to enroll at KU this semester. Nonresident tuition for a 15-hour class load is \$6,638, compared with \$2,412 for Kansas residents.

So why is Depperschmidt, a Wichita native who was born and raised in Kansas, paying nonresident tuition? Because he spent six years in the U.S. Navy, a job that took him most recently to Florida where he had the temerity to obtain a Florida driver's license, buy a home and register to vote.

Those all seem like responsible things for a U.S. citizen to do, but in the eyes of KU, driving, voting and buying a home all worked against Depperschmidt because it established him as a resident of Florida, rather than Kansas.

It's not like he had a choice. There aren't a lot of naval bases in Kansas. He was stationed in Florida. He was a resident of Kansas his entire life, except during his military service.

Is this how we welcome our military men and women back to Kansas?

Perhaps, we hope, KU will reconsider this case upon review. People understand the need to draw some lines concerning who pays resident and nonresident tuition. It just seems that drawing the line in a way that penalizes Kansans who serve in the military is an unpatriotic and unfair practice.

Lawrence Journal World

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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Moments can define our lives

I have been thinking about how something that happens in one minute can alter our lives from then on.

There have been defining moments in our personal lives as well as the life of the nation. The tragic ones of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and 9-1-1 are examples in the life of our nation. Most people can remember where they were and what they were doing when those events happened. The assassination put barriers between the president and the public. It eliminated the walk down and shake hands with the crowd. 9-1-1 has created barriers to public buildings and hassles for travelers. The more numerous the rumblings about the Patriot Act makes one wonder if it was taken too far. Are our personal freedoms being infringed upon excessively?

Personal defining moments include marriages, births and deaths. The cycle of birth and death is part of life but death is the hardest to accept. The idea that a person just ends and his spirit (soul) does not go on would make it hard for most to deal with death. It's easier and more comforting



Pat Schiefen

• **Interim Publisher**

to think of them going on in another form. Maybe that is why religion seems to fill a basic need in human beings.

There are also other defining moments. The moment a person decides they believe something and must change their life to fit that belief helps define them. The opposite is also true. When someone espouses a belief and lives their life contrary to that belief also makes a statement.

Some people faced with obstacles, rise to the challenge and overcome them. Others seem to fold up and disintegrate under the same conditions. Psychologists probably may or may not have the answer for that one. If someone is asked

what they would do, most probably they would not know. The same person may not always rise to the occasion. Some are just more psychologically resilient than others just as some are physically stronger.

Everyone at sometime feels like their reserves have gotten up and left. For some their faith is the well spring where their reserves are renewed. Rest and a vacation does the trick for others. I think it is important that everyone knows that at some time they will feel like their reserves are depleted and know how to replenish them.

Others are weighted down with a load of guilt and should have. The practice of confession in some churches can help. Others write their feelings out, share them with a trusted friend and then destroy them. Getting rid of a load of guilt can be a very liberating experience. Then one needs to try to limit how much guilt they carry by making amends or whatever it takes.

We are all responsible for our own psychological and spiritual health just as much as our physical health.

Progressive ideals may not be extreme

The term progressive is widely used by contemporary writers, politicians, and liberals, but an understanding of what makes up a progressive agenda is generally unknown. Many people have a vague sense that progressives are left-of-center folks mostly concerned with societal fairness and governmental transparency.

This notion is rooted in the Progressive movement that occurred in the United States between 1900 and 1914. According to Richard Hofstadter in his book "The Progressive Movement," 100 years ago our grandparents and great grandparents faced the accumulated evils of political bosses, banking trusts, railroad greed/overcharging, unjust taxation, millionaire senators, yellow-dog journalism, and cities filled with pollution and tenements. A nationwide multi-party political movement of mostly middle class working people emerged that sought political reform, increased governmental regulation, city sanitation, and objective media. The movement was closely tied into women's suffrage and the formation of the NAACP.

Progressives in the 21st century continue in this tradition of democracy building and open transparency of corporate and political power. Progressive values are rooted in

Peter Phillips

• **Guest Commentary**

the American traditions of equality, fairness, due process, and democratic decision making at the deepest level possible. Progressives recognize that institutional power, both public and private, has created inequalities of race, class and gender, and that democratic governmental regulation is needed to make necessary social justice corrections for humanity worldwide. Progressives believe in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Bill of Rights, open access to corporate and governmental information, democratic media and individual human freedom. Progressives believe that human freedom includes the freedom from hunger, homelessness, unemployment, environmental pollution, discrimination based on physical attributes and long imprisonment for non-violent crimes.

Progressives encourage socio-economic/

political systems that maximize individual participation, self-actualization, loving interpersonal relationships and healthy environments.

Progressives are a diversified bunch, who come from all political parties with a full range of human characteristics.

More importantly, progressives seek personal life styles that reflect their core values. Simplicity is highly valued through a life of slower pace, natural foods, sustainable consumption, efficient living spaces, and a daily consciousness of striving for human betterment through social action.

Social action based on progressive values is possible locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. It is action emerging from internalized values that lead people to self-actualization and fair livelihood. One step at a time can lead us to a progressive future.

Imagine a society with regionally sustainable economies, crimelessness, and general equality. Such a life is possible, not just for us but for the world.

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Doonesbury

• **Gary Trudeau**

