

Opinion



Free Press Viewpoint

Win or lose, Eagles still need fans

A big round of applause to the people who quickly organized tonight’s parade and pep rally for the Colby High football team. The team plays its last home game of the regular season Friday against Hugoton. As Colby fans know, the football team is on a 20 consecutive game losing streak. No matter how well or how bad a high school team is, they still need fans and the support.

Should Colby beat Hugoton, the parade and pep rally may be remembered as much as the game itself. It could even turn into a tradition for the last home game.

Either from the discussion in the stands during the games or over coffee on Saturday mornings, some people like to play coach and quarterback thinking they know what it would have taken for Colby to win. Let’s not think less of the boys who actually play the game and first-year coach Bob Ray. They are trying.

Two weeks ago, Colby held powerhouse Oakley to 8 points at halftime. Some people said for any team to hold Oakley to eight points by halftime must be doing something right.

Ray knew what he inherited. Before the season and during the season he said the team has remained positive about their situation. Not every team can be, or will be, fixed overnight. Fans must give Ray some time.

If Colby wins Friday, we’ve got to give some of the credit to that parade and pep rally no matter how big or small it is. Eagle players will know they are not being forgotten during this slump.

If Colby loses Friday, we still need to support them next week at Ulysses , and the week after that, and the week after that

(In a related matter, three cheers to Colby’s Logan Wark, Kaylie Dugger and Lindsey Wilson for playing at the state girls tennis tournament at Emporia Friday and Saturday).

— John Van Nostrand is publisher of the Colby Free Press.

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 jvannostrand@nwkansas.com or pdecker@nwkansas.com. Opinions do not necessarily reflect the *Free Press*.

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Are we headed in the right direction?

It’s said a picture is worth a thousand words. For me, that phrase never rang more true than when I saw a newscast showing a horse drawn carriage pass media satellite trucks parked near an Amish school house in Pennsylvania.

The clip-clop of the horse’s hooves was the only thing breaking the ominous silence.

Seeing modern technology inches away from centuries old technology made me question whether newer is better.

Is bigger and faster where we should be headed in life?

When we arrive, will we be any smarter or happier than those living more simply?

I think not.

If nothing else is learned by once again being bystanders of the terrorization of our nation’s children, let us learn to love and forgive.

Let us love and forgive as the parents of the children slain in Pennsylvania and Colorado have done.

I found it so very interesting to see several of the Amish community hold fast to their values, yet step forward and share them with the rest of us through the media. While the coverage lasted but only a few days, their values will last forever.

No, they don’t use modern technology such as electricity on a daily basis, but for a brief moment in time some members of the Lancaster County community used the media to witness to us about their faith.

Faith in a god bigger than life.

Faith in God who is their, and our, Almighty Maker.

How humbling to listen to a midwife, family members and friends of slain children say they were praying for the wife and family of the man



Jan Katz Ackerman

• From Where I stand

who murdered their mere babies.

How humbling to listen to the father and mother of the 16-year-old girl from Bailey, Colo., say they forgave the man who murdered their daughter.

Could I be as humble?

Could I be as forgiving?

I can’t answer these questions.

I would pray that my own faith in God would allow me to be, but I don’t know.

These two questions are one each and every one of us needs to be pondering in a time which is so filled with so much uncertainty.

However, that same time is filled with hope, peace and a future if we only grab hold of it.

A time which allows us to learn from parents of slain children.

A time which shows us new heroes in those older children in Pennsylvania who offered themselves up to be slain before their younger classmates.

Those teenagers were more courageous than many adults I know.

Are those of us who profess to be Christian doing as good of job as those we’ve witnessed in newscasts these past couple weeks?

Are we being the peacemakers Christ wants

us to be?

If not, how can people who don’t know our risen Lord learn about Him?

If we can’t get along ourselves, how can anyone learn what true peace is all about?

As you probably have gathered, these past two weeks have raised more questions than answers in my life.

How about you?

Are you asking these same questions?

No, I’m not suggesting we all give up electricity, television, computers and so forth, but I am suggesting we all question where are lives are headed.

Are we headed in the right direction?

Is that direction one which causes us to love our neighbors as ourselves? Do we even know our neighbors? I’m not talking about just the guy next door; I’m talking about our community as a whole then expand that to a wider area such as the adjoining county, state and nations around the world.

If we are so busy in our lives that we snap at each other when asked a question, I’d say we have not got life figured out.

If we are so busy we can’t allow someone who is in an obvious hurry to go ahead of us in line, we have not got life figured out.

If we can’t say, “I’m sorry,” when we’ve offended or hurt someone, we certainly don’t have life figured out.

It’s people like those I’ve watched on television who openly share their faith and forgiveness that I want to be like when I grow up.

They’ve got life figured out.

— Jan Katz Ackerman is a reporter for the Colby Free Press.

Your turn

Traveler thankful for Colby

Jane Dreiling Claflin
Sunday, Oct. 8, my family was traveling home to central Kansas from a visit to Colorado Springs.

My mother-in-law who was 80 was traveling with us. Just as we pulled off the interstate she suffered a heart attack. I pulled into the Oasis, had them call 911 and waited for help.

I want you to know that even though this turned out to be one of the worst days of my life because Dolores died, it was also one of the best days because we stopped at Colby.

The staff at the Oasis were so helpful in getting the call made, helping take care of my granddaughter who was traveling with us and helping us get mom ready for the ambulance. Two police officers were there to help us almost before I got back to our car and the ambulance was there right away.

Everyone was so kind and gentle with mom and with us, the ambulance people treated her like she was one of theirs and made us feel so safe.

When we got to the hospital, again the staff was great. They answered questions, took care

of us and gave mom the very best care they could. She was later transferred by Eagle Med to Salina and the ambulance crew was the same as took her to the hospital.

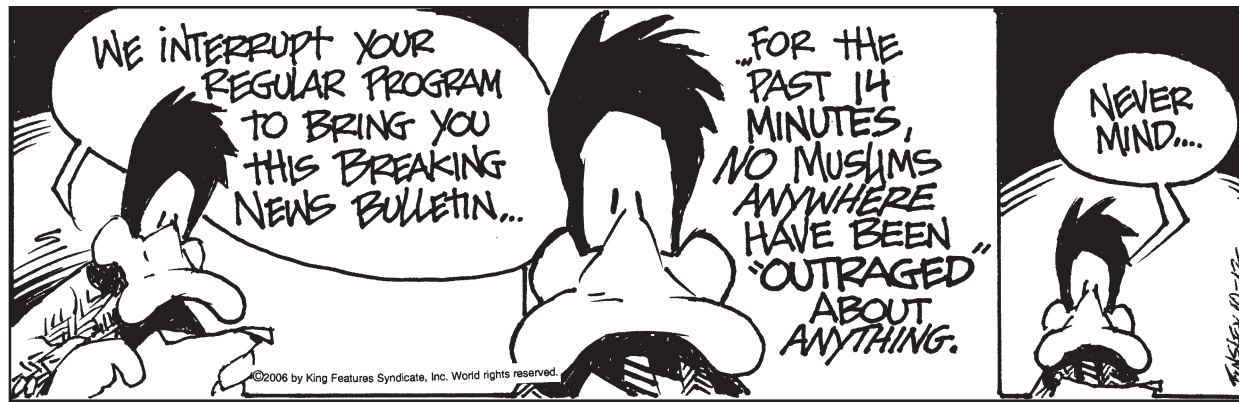
I lost one of my best friends Sunday, but I feel I made a lot of new friends because of the people of Colby and everyone who helped us take care of her made all the difference in how we were able to say goodbye to mom. Please make sure that everyone knows how grateful we are for everything done for us and how thankful I am they were there, ready to help and willing to make the difference.

About those letters . . .

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Mallard Fillmore

• Bruce Tinsley



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