

Opinion



Free Press Viewpoint

Kansas should wish Brownback well

From The Wichita Eagle

Ten years after Bob Dole’s loss to incumbent President Bill Clinton, Kansas again can say it has a candidate in the running for the White House. At least it sure looked that way Monday (Dec. 4) as Kansas Sen. Sam Brownback, the man who now holds Dole’s seat, announced that he had set up an exploratory committee and would visit 10 states in the next month. ...

Will Brownback’s “campaign of national renewal” catch on? By any measure, he remains a very long shot, barely registering in national opinion polls. The midterm election’s leftward shift and the GOP rank-and-file’s revolt against Brownback’s vision of comprehensive immigration reform further complicate the moment. And can somebody who ranks 66th in the Senate for popularity among constituents, according to the latest Survey USA poll, really hope to garner the votes necessary to win the White House, especially with stars such as Rudolph Giuliani and John McCain likely among the GOP contenders?

Even among his natural base, evangelical Christians, Brownback doesn’t stir much excitement. ...

Still, as Americans get to know Brownback over the coming months, they should find him to be an interesting candidate, compassionate and more complicated than his labels as a religious conservative and anti-gay marriage crusader would suggest. ...

... How quickly and how well he raises money will be key, and every day seems to bring more competition for those dollars in both parties. For now, Kansans should wish Brownback well.

About those letters . . .

The *Free Press* encourages and welcomes letters from readers. Letters should be typewritten, if at all possible, and should include a telephone number and an address. Most importantly, all letters must include a signature. Unsigned letters cannot be published. We reserve the right to edit for clarity and length, and, likewise, reserve the right to reject letters deemed to be of no public interest or considered offensive or libelous.

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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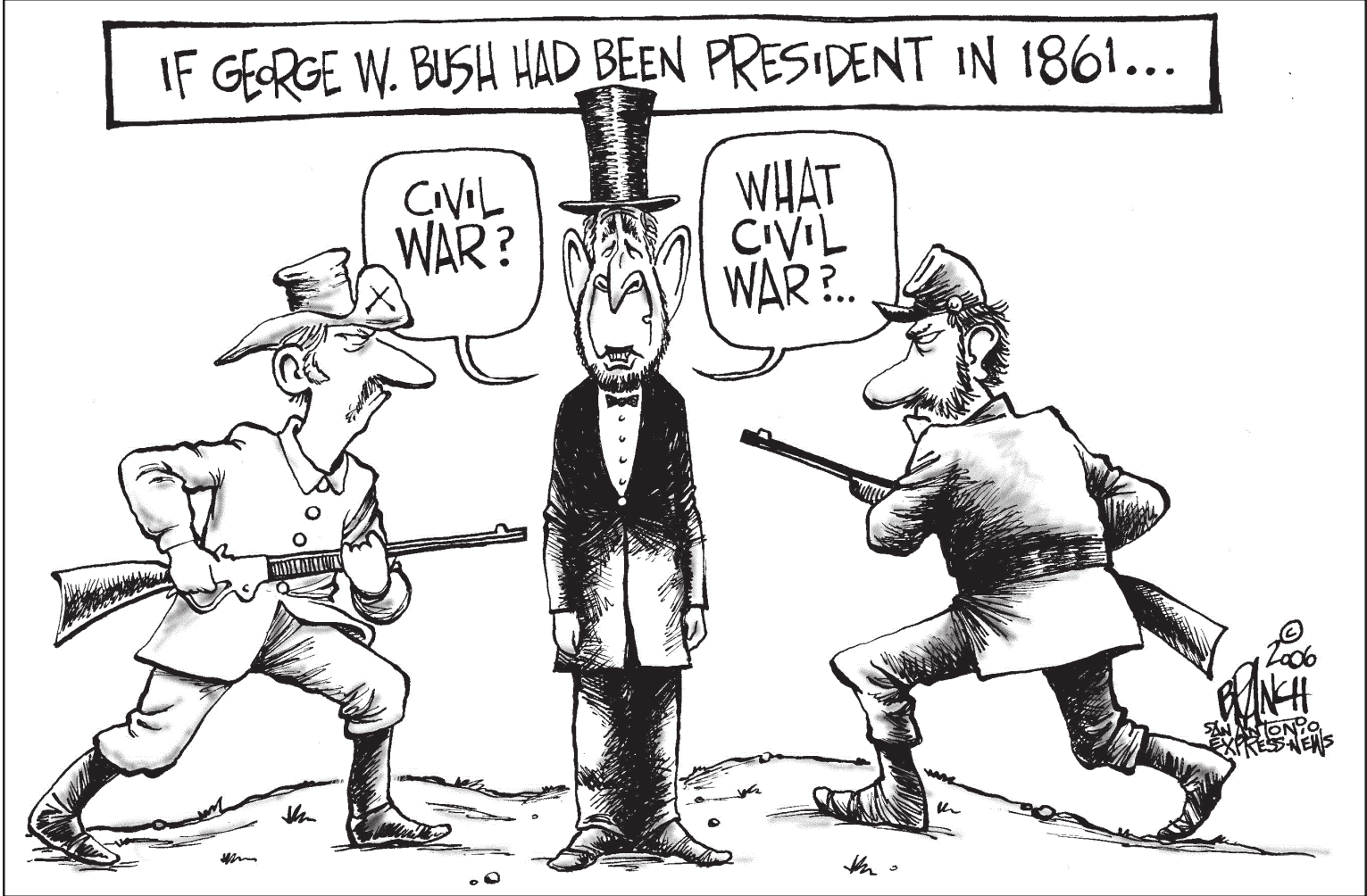
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Pay it forward

Maybe it was there for a reason.

For those of you who were at Colby’s lighted Christmas parade Sunday you may have heard Ron Evans make a surprising announcement before the parade began.

Someone found \$60 in cash at the corner of Fourth Avenue and Franklin Avenue. The person took the cash to the judge’s table, where Ron and I were hoping the owner would eventually show up to claim it.

Ron waited and waited and made repeated announcements about the money.

No one claimed it.

Now I wonder if it was intentional ly left behind. Maybe that money is for somebody else?

Years ago, a good friend of mine and his wife went for a drive in the mountains. During the drive they decided to have a picnic at one of those side-of-the-road-parks-complete-with-a-view. They went to a town and purchased their food at a store and off to the park they went.

Their picnic was fine until they got home — hours and many miles later. While emptying his pants pocket, my friend found the receipt for the food, but the roll of his remaining cash was gone. He looked in all his pockets, the car and even asked his wife if she had it or knew where it went. It was about the same amount found at the parade. But it was not to be found.



John Van Nostrand

• Line in the Dust

My friend speculated it must have fallen out while he was getting his keys for the drive home.

The one thing that made my friend feel better about the unintentional mishap was he was hoping whoever found the money needed it more than he did.

Since no one claimed the money found at the parade, Ron suggested the money be donated to a charity. The parade judges (I was one of them) decided to donate the funds to Genesis, the food bank for Thomas County. So that cash will help someone or family with a meal or two.

Extra dollars this time of year is always a prize to whoever finds it. Every so often you will hear of anonymous gifts during the Christmas season. One year, several Salvation Army volunteers across the country each had a rather large, anonymous donation in the bucket at the end of the day.

Rewards and punishments of choices

“He prayeth best, who loveth best All things both great and small; For the dear God who loveth us, He made and loveth all.” Taken from the “Rime of the Ancient Mariner”.

— loveth all — Does that include: Democrats, Republicans, gays, straights, black, white, Christian, Muslim, atheist, rich, poor, beast, fowl, and vegetable? We read Genesis 1:31, taken from the accepted canon of the Christian faith, “And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.” RSV

This Christmas season, as we celebrate, can we drop our bitter anger and judgment of our fellow man and join our hearts together in our effort to reflect the image of God? The Bible tells us we are made in His image. Do you believe that?

From the beginning of the recorded history of our faith and relationship with God, we have struggled between our fear of a vengeful and jealous God and our faith and trust in a loving and gracious God.

In that struggle, it appears that we have reversed the order of creation and attempted to create God in our image. When our human nature is appalled or embarrassed, we tend to portray the idea that God is a vengeful and jealous God and based on our standards, we judge our fellowman. When we find certain standards or

Ken Poland

• Ken’s World

actions pleasurable to ourselves, we declare those standards or actions as reflecting God’s image. We become confused over who is imaging whom.

In fact, as we attempt to interpret scripture, with absolute authority, we are declaring our infallibility and painting the image of God to reflect ourselves. The key issue here is “absolute authority.”

The Holy Spirit has revealed to me. Therefore, if you don’t accept my image of God and His will in the matter, you are wrong! Oh oh, and now the war begins.

If I’m saying that no person has absolute authority does that mean there is no right or wrong? Certainly not! If man cannot declare absoluteness then who can? If you accept that God created the universe as we know it, then perhaps we should depend upon his infinite wisdom to guide us in our finite ignorance. Let God be the ultimate judge of what he accepts and rejects.

It was never determined who was so generous, but it didn’t matter because the donation was going to a worthy cause.

Professional athletes and celebrities sometimes make donations to children’s hospitals this time of year. Players and actors go to kids’ rooms with gifts and toys knowing the child’s parents probably can’t afford much of a Christmas because of the mounting medical bills.

The next time you find money in public, like what happened Sunday, the first thing to do is find its rightful owner. But if the owner can’t be found, remember, there is probably somebody who needs the money more than you do.

Because of the press schedule for the Country Advocate, this year’s college football bowl contest entry form did not make it in this week’s issue.

The entry form will be in the Dec. 13 Country Advocate. That should be plenty of time for fans to fill out the form and return it to either the Colby Free Press or KXXX/KQLS radio station here in Colby. The first bowl is Dec. 19. Entries are due Dec. 18.

The entry has already been in the *Free Press*.
John Van Nostrand is publisher of the Colby Free Press.

We are responsible (read Genesis 1:28) for the care and maintenance of God’s creation. We are responsible for maintaining relationships of man with man. Our civil rules and regulations should, primarily, deal with the here and now. That is what our statutes and laws, both written and assumed are all about, or should be. When we cross the boundary and start writing religious mandates into civil laws, we have overstepped our civil responsibilities.

God can and will deal with the hereafter. Our religious or sectarian organization’s primary responsibilities are to assist mankind in finding and maintaining personal relationship with God. That relationship will determine how we fare in the hereafter. That relationship will, also, greatly influence our behavior in society. When forced by law, either religious or civil, we cannot truly project the image of God. God gives us freedom of choice. We enjoy the rewards or face the punishments (consequences) of our choices.

My choice, regardless of how you identify this season, is to wish you all peace within your hearts and a truly happy holiday celebration. That, my friends, translates into a Merry Christmas.

Ken Poland lives in Gem and occasionally contributes to the Colby Free Press.

Your turn

What protection do we have now?

**Mary McNutt
Colby**

What protection?

The board of healing arts claims to be protect-

ing the public. But what about all of us left with-

out a family doctor?

Witness the full courtroom and standing

room only on two floors of the courthouse in

support of Dr. Hildyard last Tuesday, Nov. 28?

What protection do we have now?

Mallard Fillmore

• Bruce

Tinsley

