pinion



Free Press **Viewpoint**

Inauguration spells time for new hope

You don't have to be a liberal or even a Democrat to be proud of your country this week.

Our new president embodies everything that this nation stands for: hard work, independence, human rights for all.

Go ahead and disagree with his policies if you like. This newspaper has and probably will again. No president is perfect.

Barack Obama takes office amidst a euphoric time of high expectations and good will.

He faced crises foreign and domestic as he stepped up to take the oath. It was most of a year before Sept. 11 befell George W. Bush.

The new president does not face the worst of times: Terrorism is less of a threat today than it was eight years ago, the nation's two wars seem mostly won and the economy, while down, is nowhere near a depression.

That doesn't mean the country does not face tough choices. All the billions for bailouts meant to keep big corporations afloat will have to be paid for by someone. So will social programs and the continuing wars.

Soon, the threat will be inflation, not stagnation. But you'd imagine we can deal with that.

President Obama brings an aura of leadership and likability to office that his predecessor lacked. His engaging personality lights up the room when he arrives, and he's able to project that on stage or on television.

Whether he can translate that to true leadership, we'll find out. It won't be easy. John Kennedy found that out; his programs mostly stalled in Congress until after his death. It was only years later that the world really appreciated how he had faced down the Russians over Cuba.

Still, Mr. Obama has fulfilled the dream that sparked our bloody Civil War, (nearly half a million dead), the long years of reconstruction and segregation, the civil rights movement and the dawn of American acceptance for human diversity.

It may be ironic that he grew up largely outside what we think of as the "black experience" in America, but there is no doubt that his skin color and heritage represent a true shift in this nation. We will not go back to the way things were before.

That does not mean that the battle for human rights is over or that Dr. Martin Luther King's dream has been realized. Many battles will be fought in the days and years ahead. Many people would like to take our rights — not just those of minorities, but of all Americans — in the name of security, progress or

But it does mean that those soldiers who gave the ultimate sacrifice in a string of battles from Charleston Harbor to Normandy and beyond, did not die in vain.

The American dream is alive and well. After 230 years, the foresight of the Founding Fathers, particularly in the Bill of Rights, never seemed greater. The promise of the future never seemed brighter.

We wish Mr. Obama good luck and Godspeed. The arena has a way of tarnishing even the brightest star, but we can only hope - all of us - that he lives up to his promise.

- Steve Haynes

Colby Free Press

155 W. Fifth St. Colby, Kan. 67701 (USPS 120-920)

(785) 462-3963 fax (785) 462-7749

Send news to: colby.editor @ nwkansas.com

State award-winning newspaper, General Excellence, Design & Layout, Columns, Editorial Writing, Sports Columns, News, Photography. Official newspaper of Thomas County, Colby, Brewster and Rexford.

Steve Haynes - Publisher

NEWS

Andy Heintz - Sports Reporter

Marian Ballard - Copy Editor

Marj Brown, Vera Sloan - Society Editors

ADVERTISING

Jasmine Stewart - Advertising Manager

Heather Woofter - Advertising Sales

Tyler Zolinski - Graphic Design

Jessica Estes - Classified Ad Desk iestes @ nwkansas.com

BUSINESS OFFICE

Tammy Withers - Office Manager

Evan Barnum - Systems Administrator support @ nwkansas.com

NOR'WEST PRESS

Jim Bowker - General Manager Richard Westfahl, Lana Westfahl, Jim Jackson, Betty Morris,

James Ornelas, Barbara Ornelas, Tasha Shores, Elizabeth Brock THE COLBY FREE PRESS (USPS 120-920) is published every Monday, Wednesday

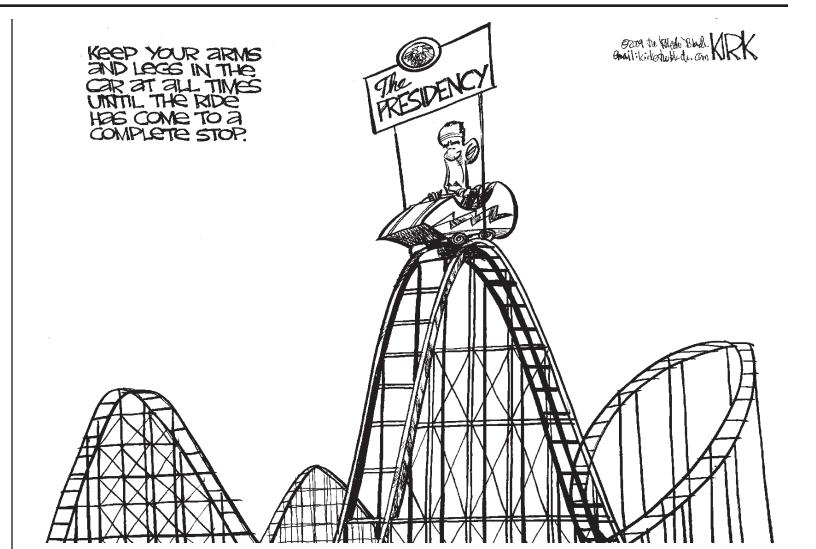
Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day, by Nor'West Newspaper, 155 W. Fifth St., Colby, Kan., 67701. PERIODICALS POSTAGE paid at Colby, Kan. 67701, and at additional mailing offices

Thursday and Friday, except the days observed for Memorial Day, Independence Day,

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Colby Free Press, 155 W. Fifth St., Colby, THE BUSINESS OFFICE at 155 W. Fifth is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to

Friday, closed Saturday and Sunday. MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, which is exclusively entitled to the use for publication of all news herein. Member Kansas Press Association and National Newspaper Association.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: In Colby by carrier: 4 months \$40, 8 months \$56, 12 months \$74. By mail within Colby and the nine-county region of Thomas, Sheridan, Decatur, Rawlins, Cheyenne, Sherman, Wallace, Logan and Gove counties: 4 months \$53, 8 months \$65, 12 months \$82. Other Kansas counties: 4 months \$60, 8 months \$70, 12 months \$85. All other states, \$85, 12 months



Righty, Lefty short on conversation

"You should sew eyes on them," Sherry said.

Vicky just giggled at my sock-covered

Hey guys. this is serious medicine. I'm taking care of my winter-chapped, wind-burned, sore fingers.

OK, they're right. My hands, covered with a pair of Steve's tan socks, do look a little like sock puppets without any adornment.

I knew I had to do something when I got the crack in my finger and I couldn't get it healed. I put bandages on it, but they'd get wet and I'd toss them and pretty soon I'd notice a bloody fingerprint on something. The crack was bleeding again.

I'm sort of a slow learner. It took more than a week before I decided that just covering up the wounds and putting on hand lotions were not going to work.

I remembered an old pharmacist's trick. Slather your hands with petroleum jelly and put an old pair of cotton gloves or socks on before you go to bed. Do this for several days, and your hands will be nice and soft — and hopefully — healed.

So, I dug around until I found the jar of pe-

Cynthia Haynes

• Open Season

medicate one of the cats.

That's an old veterinarian's trick. You put some petroleum jelly on the end of a cotton swab and touch the pill, which then sticks to the petroleum jelly. You pry open the cat's mouth and shove the pill down as far as you can. Hopefully, you live through the experience and the pill gets far enough down that it

I tried this a couple of times. The cat won, so I pried her jaws open and shoved the dang pill down her throat with my finger. She swallowed, and the bites healed in a couple of

Anyway, after getting the petroleum jelly, I rummaged around in Steve's sock drawer for the oldest, crummiest socks he had. I should have gone down to the laundry and picked up troleum jelly I had gotten a year or so ago to a couple of mismatches, but that's hindsight.

What I got was a somewhat worn pair of tan

The only problem was it was 8:30 a.m. and I was going to Concordia to see my mother. Since it takes three hours to get there, I figured, I might as well give my hands their first application of "medicine" while I was driving. After all, who would know or care.

I forgot about the stop in Norton. That's where I got tripped up. I couldn't take off the socks since my hands were as slippery and messy as greased pigs.

The girls got a good laugh out of the deal and it wasn't such a bad thing for me either. I named my hands Righty and Lefty and had a nice conversation with them over the next 2

Well, maybe not a conversation. They didn't say much, but they nodded in all the right places and were wonderful listeners.

Cynthia Haynes, co-owner and chief financial officer of Nor'West Newspapers, writes this column weekly. Her pets include cats, toads and a praying mantis. Contact her at c.haynes @ nwkansas.com

Spend taxes on health care, not Iraq

The Colby Free Press on Jan. 8 announced that Gov. Kathleen Sebelius would assess the state budget in her televised State of the State address on Jan. 13, and I watched her do that.

In the Free Press of Jan. 15, in the Opinion column, The Wichita Eagle comments that the governor's speech avoids money issues. Most surprising, she offered not a word on behalf of health care reform, which has been her top issue for several years.

I noticed that Gov. Sebelius mentions that "Medicaid is the largest expenditure in the state budget." In the past, she had proposed that the federal government should pay for Kansas Medicaid.

Where is all that money going that ordinary citizens can't have health care? Instead of "nation building" in Iraq and other countries, let us have that money going to nation building in the United States. We need that money to repair roads and bridges so that our food and products can be traded here in America and cut out some of that bacteria we are getting in our food supplies from other countries.

Children of all ages are in dire need of education if this country is to survive.

George W. Bush could be tried in World Court for violation of the Geneva Convention. Torture is a war crime. He made a bad choice when he selected Dick Cheney for vice president.

The citizens of this country — the poor and the middle class — are so busy trying to keep up with living expenses that they don't have time to be aware of the maneuvers of Washington. For example, the cost of the Iraq war is not listed in the federal budget; when more money is granted for ...the "nation-building of Iraq," it is taken out of some other fund. At one time it was called "the Rainy Day Fund" by some in Congress. Yes, that's right — the Social Security Trust Fund. If Congress has a contingency



Free Press Letter Drop

• Our readers sound off

never heard of it.

When George W. Bush gave "tax cuts," most

the population, got much richer. Indeed, the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. Some of the rich didn't even want more money. Also, another little trick was to privatize Medicare, make the premiums higher and take

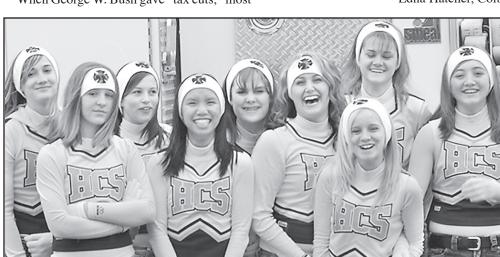
everyone was pleased, but what they didn't

know was that the rich, the upper 1 percent of

it out of Social Security. But that's not the way President George W. Bush tells it! I didn't tell Congress they could use my So-

fund, which successful businesses keep, I've cial Security money. This is taxation without representation.

Edna Hatcher, Colby



HEARTLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

The Heartland Crusaders cheerleaders: (back row, from left) Alexi Regier, Brittany Bear, Ariel Regier, Abbie Reed, Megan Bear, and (front row) Kirsten Bandy, Danyelle Mazanec, Tiffany Wilson and Reiley Wilson.

Cheerleaders thank fire department

To the Editor:

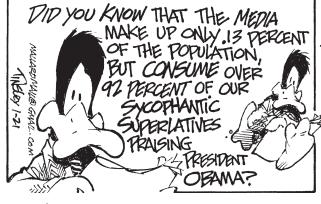
The Heartland Christian School Crusaders cheerleaders would like to thank the Colby Fire Department for the use of a fire truck for our first Homecoming pep rally. The theme

was "Firing up the Crusaders for a Victory." The weather was turning cold and snowing, but we persevered and had a lot of fun.

The Heartland Cheerleaders

Mallard **Fillmore**

Bruce Tinsley



ALL OF US IN JOURNAUSM NEED to ACT NOW to CUT DOWN OUR TOADYING, SUDONING, GUSHING AND Sucking up or THERE'LL BE NOTHING LEFT

TO CONSERVE:



1/21/09 11:13:19 AM 2 opinion CFP 1-21-09.indd 1