



Freedom of the press rights may be in danger

"I see that Bill of Rights Day is December 15th," a bored American yawns. "Ho, hum. That Constitution stuff is so dull and tedious that I've never read it. Besides, no one can take my rights away from me."

Anyone who harbors this blasé attitude hasn't been paying attention. We U.S. citizens have argued about, and fought for, some of these precious rights during this very year.

Freedom of the press is under attack. Journalists have been called "unpatriotic" because they reported the facts. Some try to bully or discredit the press by claiming it is too far "right" or too far "left" when they don't agree with reports.

While professional journalists try to deal only in facts, their critics ignore one thing. Even though members of the press are more unbiased than most Americans, they have a right to state opinions ... just as you have a right to sit in the local café and regale your fellow coffee drinkers with your slant on the truth.

You probably would fight anyone who tried to stop you from speaking freely — to cuss the governor, or second-guess the coach — just as our free press fights for its right not to be bullied or curtailed.

Along with freedom of speech and freedom of the press, we Kansans hear arguments about freedom of religion. Right here in our home state, we argue over the role of religion in our schools; we debate the teaching of evolution; and some think that religion should be a part of the curriculum.

Just this year, we have witnessed an attack on another freedom that is crucial to our Bill of Rights — the right to a speedy and public trial. Some Americans want to water down the writ of habeas corpus, which protects us from arbitrary imprisonment, gives us the right to face our accusers and liberates the illegally detained.

Probably you are hard-pressed to remember exactly what other rights you have. It's easy. Go to your computer and Google "Bill of Rights,"

then print your own copy and study it.

Or, if you prefer, here are a few highlights: You have the right to a trial by jury and the right to bear arms (another of today's arguments). You are protected from unreasonable search and seizure (which brings to mind warrantless wiretapping), and the Bill of Rights outlaws excessive bail and fines, along with cruel and unusual punishment (another hot issue in the U.S. Congress). You don't have to incriminate yourself in a court of law, and you can't be tried twice for the same offense.

Say what you think, and write what you wish (as long as you don't libel or slander someone), but at the same time be thankful that our Founding Fathers were wise enough to guarantee those privileges in the Bill of Rights.

We should set off fireworks, play patriotic music, and dance in the streets to celebrate the ratification of our Bill of Rights on December 15, 1791. This event is just as significant as the Fourth of July, and deserves parades with marching bands.

That probably won't happen, but at least find a moment to cherish your freedoms. Then argue about them if you must, but be extremely careful about tampering with them. They grew out of the Magna Carta, which limited the powers of English kings way back in the year 1215. These protections have served us well ever since they were adopted as amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

Most of all, don't take those rights for granted, because the world has too many people who would curtail your freedoms if they could. A British contemporary of our Founding Fathers, the British statesman Edmund Burke penned this warning: "All that is necessary for the forces of evil to triumph is for enough good men to do nothing."

—Darrel Miller

Darrel Miller, former owner and publisher of the Smith County Pioneer, Downs News and Times, Cawker City Ledger and Lebanon Times, is a former president of the Kansas Press Association.

Hangin' With Marge

Thistle

By Margaret Bucholtz



The other day when the wind blew I looked out at my yard and all I could see was thistles! I just went to the basement and spent the day knowing that my work would be cut out for me by the next morning.

I love my fence but it makes the wind do weird things and the trash seems to just circle around inside of it. That night I told Kurt that I was sure he wasn't a good enough farmer to have grown all of them, some of them had to be coming in from Wyoming.

The next morning it was kind of nice and I went outside with my

gloves on to start burning. I looked at the yard full, then I looked behind the fence and as far as I could see there were thistles. As I walked to the front of the house all I could see in the fence row was more thistles. I just turned around and went back into the house. It was safe there and even the dust on the furniture didn't look like such a big job so I cleaned.

By the next day I started the process all over again but just as I got outside the wind started coming from the south and within just a few minutes the thistles were coming

out of the fence rows and going over the top of my head heading straight for the yard again. The yard was so full that by now they were even going over the back fence and the idea stuck me. I got a pitchfork and I would just get it full and hold it up and I just about had the yard cleaned out when I turned around there stood Kurt watching me.

I tried to tell him that I had just finished cleaning out the fence row also, but he knew better.

The day before Thanksgiving it was finally calm, and since the house was pretty clean I headed out for the task in hand.

I hooked the trailer up to my jeep and started loading the thistles up. Eleven trailer loads later I had all of them hauled off and burnt.

I knew I was too tired to take a lot of pride in looking at a yard with no thistles, but it still was nice that on Thanksgiving you could see some grass.

Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Roger McQuigg, St. Francis; W.C. Boyson, Bird City; Deborah Farland, St. Francis; Dick Bannister, Haigler, Neb.; Clara Richers, Colby; Janis Elfers, Edson; Martin Busse, Bird City; Stephen Busse, Bird City; Hilda Mlinek, Manhattan; Katie Willers, Sioux Falls, S. D.; Charlene Piper, Parsons; Mrs. C R Allen, Hideaway, Tex.; Mike Day, St. Francis; Laverne Boll, St. Francis; Darrel Boll, Torrington, Wyo.; Lyle Boll, Highland Ranch, Colo.; Lisa Mann, Joplin, MD; Dana Rogers, Olathe.; Keith Zwegardt, St. Francis; Doug Sloper, Thornton, Colo.; Dan Knorr, Olathe; Robbie Little, Gilmer, Tex.; Waunita Fritchel, Loveland; Kevin Brown, St. Francis; Leon Merklin, St. Francis; Dean Knapp, Bird City;

Robert Phillips, Manhattan; Roger Moore, St. Francis; Bev and Darrel Henderson, Amarillo, Tex.; Royce Cook, St. Francis; Bill Ehrman, St. Francis; Billy Slyhoff, Montrose, Colo.; Jon Magley, Bird City; Thelma Sherlock, Goodland; Joe Hoffman, St. Francis; Gladys Cullum, St. Francis.

GOD SAYS

Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all mallice: And be ye kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Ephesians 4:31, 32

The Saint Francis Herald
(USPS 475-960)
A Century of Service to Cheyenne County

P.O. Box 1050, St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050
Published each Thursday by Haynes Publishing Co., 310 W. Washington, St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050. Entered as periodicals matter at the post office at St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050, and at additional offices.

Official newspaper of Cheyenne County. Member of the Kansas Press Association, National Newspaper Association, Colorado Press Association and Inland Press Association.

Subscriptions: One year \$33 (tax included) in Cheyenne and adjacent counties; \$38 (tax included) elsewhere in Kansas; \$42 elsewhere in the U.S. Foreign subscriptions, \$25 extra per year (except APO/FPO). POSTMASTER: Send change of address to Box 1050, St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050

Nor'West Newspapers
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Mon.-Fri.
(785) 332-3162 Fax - (785) 332-3001
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Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



By Casey McCormick
Last Saturday I was at a wrestling tournament when I saw something that took me back to my younger days.

I was taking pictures for the paper next to the mat, when one of the kids got his bell rung. As I stood a few feet away, his two coaches and the referee surrounded this poor kid. His eyes were both rotating but in opposite directions. All three adults were asking him questions like: "How many fingers do I have up?" "What town are you in?" "Who was the first president of the United States?"

Finally his eyes stopped swirling and he looked at his coach, smiled and let him know he was okay to continue.

When I was in high school, there was a group of us guys who liked to play sandlot football. We would go to the Moffat Water Treatment Plant in west Denver. There were huge underground tanks that were covered by the most perfect grass. The place was paralleled only by Mile High Stadium.

The field we played on was level on two sides. However, the south and west sidelines dropped off at about a 45 degree angle. The secret was to get tackled, if you were to be tackled, in bounds. Otherwise bodies would roll about 50 feet down the slope to where big pine trees grew.

Some junior college football players came to town and heard about our game. They challenged us and we made the unwise decision to play. Needless to say, we were pretty out-matched.

The college guys were scoring at will and we couldn't do a thing on offense. As we came to the huddle one of our players said, "I have an

idea, let's make McCormick the quarterback!"

I was not very excited but always considered myself a team player. I took the snap and rolled to my left. A large lineman stood between me and guy I was supposed to throw a short pass to. I changed direction and ran to the right side and saw open field.

Running for my life I skirted the west side line. Then, out of the corner of my eye I saw this massive linebacker making a beeline toward me. When he got there I thought I could hurdle him as he dove for my legs. Unfortunately he aimed higher and caught me at the hips.

Reader feels womens' rights made problems

Letter to the Editor:
Sex-sick America!

The writer notes the following consequences of 1960s "womens' lib" in America:

- 1) Increase in homosexuality, pedophilia and child abuse.
- 2) Increase in decline of family values.
- 3) Increase in abortionism.
- 3) Increase in divorce.
- 5) Increase in births "out of wedlock" (now four out of 10).
- 6) Increase in sex crimes.

-Letter to the Editor-

- 7) Increase in pornography.
 - 8) Increase in television filth.
 - 9) Increase in "movie trash."
 - 10) Increase in "legalization of immorality" by U.S. Supreme Court.
 - 11) Increase of "foul language" in American society.
- What comes next??

Terry Rueb
St. Francis



Honor Roll

Dr. R.W. Stuart, Hays; Jessica Flemming, Colby; Wendell Kite, Junction City; David Nicklos, St. Francis; Kelly Allen, Clay Center; Rick Lucas, St. Francis.

Church of Christ
332-2380, Pars. 332-3424
502 W. Spencer
Norman Morrow - Minister
Bible Class 11 a.m.
Morning Worship 10 a.m.
Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.

United Methodist
Church Office 332-2292,
Church 332-2254,
512 S. Scott
Pastor Morita Truman
Early Bird Service 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.

Salem Lutheran Church
332-3002
Pastor Chris Farmer
Sunday School 10 a.m.
Morning Worship 11 a.m.

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
625 S. River • 332-2680
Fr. Roger Meitl
Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m.
Weekday Mass 8 a.m.
Confessions Sat. 4-4:30

First Christian Church
332-2956 • 118 E. Webster
Sunday School 9:20 a.m.
Church Service 10:30 a.m.
Wed. night Bible Study 7 p.m.

Grace Assembly of God
332-2925, Pars. 332-2899
208 E. 2nd
Rev. Rob Meyer
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30
Sunday Eve. Service 6 p.m.

St. Francis Community Church
332-3150
204 N. Quincy Street
Pastor: David Butler
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

Seventh-Day Adventist Church
332-2888 • 3rd & Adams
Pastor Mike Larson
Sabbath School 9:30
Morning Worship 10:45

First Baptist Church
2nd & Scott • 332-3921
J.W. Gildewell, Pastor
Sunday School 9:30
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service 6:30 p.m.,
Wed. AWANA Club 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Peace Lutheran Church
202 N. College
Pastor Ken Hart
332-2928 Pars. 332-2312
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.

Clough Valley Church of Hope
12 m. west, 6 m. north of SF
Pastor Jason Howard
332-3152
Saturdays 8 p.m. CT or 7 p.m. MT

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