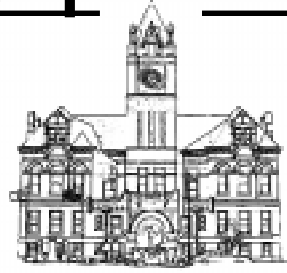


Opinion



Letter Drop

• Our Readers Sound Off

Our kids are respectful

To The Free Press:

After reading two letters regarding our children's lack of knowledge and respect for our flag, I felt compelled to reply and hopefully set the record straight.

Before writing this letter I surveyed the Colby schools. What I found out did not surprise me. Etiquette and flag history are taught starting in the kindergarten classroom and continues through high school. At the grade school level, all students have the opportunity to learn about our flag whether it be in the classroom, or during morning "Gathering". Dick Weston has been a guest to both the grade school and the middle school. He talked about the meaning of our flag, the veterans who fought for our country, as well as proper etiquette. In addition, our flag is honored daily with the flag salute. Disrespect is not tolerated.

My family attends most all sporting events, I witness the entire crowds' behavior during our National Anthem, I can assure you our community knows how to show respect to our flag and country.

If the authors of the two critical letters attended events such as these, they too would see we have a great community and super children. They would also have the opportunity to hear a number of our students sing the National Anthem — a cappella, a very difficult achievement. These students do an outstanding job, and should be commended! We have extremely talented children in Colby!

It saddens me that people only see the negative in children, and can't wait to criticize our youth. They seem to have the same attitude toward our school system, how unfortunate. The one thing both letters kept going on about was how our teachers and schools are responsible for the lack of respect shown. Let's not forget, it is the teachers' responsibility to teach, but it is our responsibility as parents to make sure the behavior of our children reflects what is being taught in school.

I appreciated Joan Albers' response to the same issue, and want to assure her, the model she set in her years of teaching are still being carried through today in the grade school.

Stand proud teachers, you do an excellent job. Stand proud Colby, a great community to live and raise our children!

Tami Brown Colby
(Letter #21)

Addresses of elected officials:

- U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts**, 302 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. 202/224-4774
- U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback**, 303 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. 202/224-6521
- U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran**, 1519 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. 202/225-2715
- State Rep. Jim Morrison**, State Capitol Building Rm. 174-W, Topeka 66612. 785/296-7676 e mail: jmorriso@ink.org web:http://www.idir.net/~jmorriso/
- State Sen. Stan Clark**, State Capitol Building Rm. 128-S, Topeka 66612. 785/296-7399 e mail: sclark@ink.org



Diversity is what it's all about

I GOT a good education yesterday, thanks to the letter on this page written by Dr. Mikel Ary, President of Colby Community College. As you recall he addressed the method used to select speakers for the Dr. Max Pickerill Lecture Series. Apparently there has been some concern expressed over the appearance in March of Susan McDougal, recipient of a presidential pardon and one of the prime figures in the Whitewater case, and I'm sure you all remember the Whitewater scandal. McDougal's talk at Colby College will focus on "Women in Prison," a first hand account inasmuch as McDougal was sentenced to and served some time behind bars for contempt; she wasn't about to spill the beans. Anyway, McDougal will take the stage twice on March 14. You can hear her at 1 p.m. in the Northwest Kansas Cultural Arts Center and at 7 p.m. in the Robert Burnett Memorial Student Union. There is no charge. I personally feel McDougal could have shed some damaging light on both President and Mrs. Clinton as regards their roles in the Whitewater mess, but decided to remain mum, and who knows might even have been promised a presidential pardon if she kept her mouth shut. Which she did. If you have watched her on television you know she can be persuasive. I won't change my mind about her but I always welcome comment by those who don't share my frame of mind. I was heartened by Dr. Ary's revelation in his letter that next year will bring David and Julie Nixon Eisenhower to campus. We are really in a unique position to have the community college right in our midst and be exposed to its many cultural activities. The Dr. Max Pickerill Series is one of its most distinguished programs and to those who make it possible goes today's *tip-of-the-hat!*

TODAY is Ash Wednesday, and now until Easter Sunday, we have a golden opportunity to re-examine our commitment, to embark on sacrifices that



Tom Dreiling
• My Turn

further solidify our faith-based beliefs, to reach out to those waiting to grasp a helping hand, and to demonstrate within our own households that life is more than the meaningless perks of instant, but not enduring, satisfaction. This is Lent. If it lends to your religious background, vow to make the most of it. More than ever we need a return to what is really important.

SAINT Peter is standing duty at the Pearly Gates when who shows up but 40 White House staffers from the Clinton Administration. Saint Peter: "What do you want?" Them: "We want in." Saint Peter: "Wait here. I'll have to go talk to God about this."

Saint Peter departs briefly and goes to see God. Saint Peter: "God, there are 40 Clinton staffers at the Pearly Gates. They want in. What do I do?" God: "Gee, we've never had that many Clinton staffers at one time before. Go tell them that 40 Clinton staffers at one time are too many. Tell them we'll take 5 now, and the other 35 can try again later." Saint Peter: "Roger that, God."

Saint Peter goes back to the Pearly Gates. Upon arriving, he immediately turns around and runs back to see God again — at flank speed. Saint Peter: "God, God, they're not there any more!" God: "The 40 Clinton staffers?" Saint Peter: "No, the Pearly Gates!"

HAPPY Birthday...

Feb. 28 — **Kerri Jones, Jessica Brenn**. You share

your special day with Mario Andretti, who today is 61. And also **Happy Birthday** to **Justine Kropp**, who celebrates on those years with a Feb. 29.

March 1 — **Margaret Bohme, Gary Garrett**. You share your special day with Ron Howard 47 and Harry Belafonte 74.

Call us at 462-3963 to have your special day mentioned, at no charge. And please keep us advised of any changes in any listing(s).

HAVING truth decay? Brush up on your Bible!

DON'T care what anyone says. Hillary (Sen. Hillary) Clinton knows more about the current controversy that she's leading us to believe. How often does she think we're going to buy that garbage that she is against the victim?

THEY tell me that Sue, the T. rex exhibit at the Sternberg Museum of Natural History in Hays is a must see. Several thousand people (2,600 to be specific) viewed the mammoth gal on opening day this past weekend, and many thousands more are expected to see the exhibit during its two-month stay. I have it on my schedule, why not include it on yours?

HAM and eggs: A day's work for a chicken; a lifetime commitment for a pig.

THE CHURCH bulletin, absent proofreading, advises: "We will hold an evening of fine dining, superb entertainment and gracious hostility."

It concludes, "Please attend, and have a healthy meal."

HAVE a good evening!

Dreiling is publisher of the Free Press. His column appears Wednesdays and Fridays.

William J. Clinton, please go...now!

"The time is come. The time is now. Just go. Go. GO! I don't care how." Those immortal words of Dr. Seuss probably come close to what George W. Bush would like to say to Bill Clinton. We know popular wisdom dictates that the Clinton coverage is good for the new president, but we disagree.

At first, the stories of the china and silver and furniture and office space, not to mention pardons, must have been delicious to the Bush crowd. As the moving van returned from Chappaqua to Washington with large pieces of furniture that were somehow spirited from the White House, it would have been hard for any Clinton opponents to contain their glee. When Bush talked endlessly on the campaign trail about "restoring honor and dignity to the White House," he didn't know that an armoire and some tables needed to be restored to their rightful places as well.

But now that everyone's gotten the point about who looks classier, Bush needs to push Clinton off the front page to promote his agenda. In the week when the new commander-in-chief was out posing for photo ops with G.I.'s and talking about defense, he barely got noticed. Instead, the nightly network news broadcasts devoted more of their scarce time to Clinton, according to the Center for Media and Public Affairs, which tracks news coverage. The former president also showed up on the front pages of national newspapers as much as or more than the current president.

It's not just that Clinton's hogging the headlines — it's the subject of the stories that could be prob-



Cokie & Steve Roberts
• Two Sets of Eyes

lematic for the president. After a brief burst from some overeager young lawyers in the Justice Department about nullifying the Clinton pardons, Bush let it be known he wanted no part of that conversation. Why would any new chief executive begin his tenure by circumscribing the powers of the presidency? GOP Sen. Arlen Specter's talk of a constitutional amendment to limit the pardoning authority can't possibly be welcome at the Bush White House.

And look where an investigation of the Marc Rich pardon leads — to a strong suspicion, if not criminal charges, that it was a payoff for political money. Is that really something Bush wants to highlight right now? When he's busy appointing ambassadors and commission chairs, does the president want every person's campaign contributions to become the focus of news reports?

Then there's John McCain, who seems poised to poke his former rival in the eye at any opportunity. The Rich pardon is giving the Arizona senator a perfect stick to beat the drums of outrage over campaign cash — something he's eager to do in order to pass

his campaign finance reform bill, which the Bush White House has no interest in seeing succeed.

It's no wonder that the president suggested it's time to "move on," to look to the future, not the past. Some Democrats accuse Bush of playing the good cop to the Republican Congress's bad cop. But we don't think so. During the presidential contest, Bush operatives told us repeatedly that they were stunned at how much voters hated all of the backbiting and bickering in Washington. When the Texas governor started talking about bringing civility to the capital city, he discovered he had hit on a wildly popular theme. Now, instead of that promised calm, here once again are the angry partisans, railing against Clinton, ruminating about ex post facto impeachment, making voters weary with their whining.

It doesn't do Bush a bit of good. A solid third of the voters will hate Clinton no matter what, and a solid third are likely to defend him no matter what. For the third in the middle, Bill Clinton is now irrelevant as anything but entertainment. Those voters need to know what George Bush is up to, what his programs will be, whether he "cares about people like me," which was always Clinton's great strength. It's hard for the president to show any empathy when he has to shout to be heard over his predecessor.

On Inauguration Day, as he soaked up praise from his supporters, Clinton finally offered an ersatz farewell. We're not going anywhere, he said. We'll still be around. At the time, Bush couldn't have known just how true that would be.

The Roberts' write from Washington.

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155 W. Fifth USPS 120-920 (785) 462-3963 Colby, Kan. 67701
freepress@nwkanssas.com
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Tom Dreiling - Publisher
td@nwkanssas.com

NEWS

Patty Decker - Editor
pdecker@nwkanssas.com

Jay Kelley, Sports Editor
colbysports@nwkanssas.com

Maxine Nelson, family and religion
mnelson@nwkanssas.com

ADVERTISING

Crystal Rucker - Advertising Representative
crystalr@nwkanssas.com

Jeff Dreiling, Advertising Representative
jeffd@nwkanssas.com

Flo Rodriguez - Ad Composition, Legals

BUSINESS OFFICE

Lea Bandy - Circulation Manager

Pattie Stevens - Office Manager, Want Ads

Evan Barnum - Systems Administrator
support@nwkanssas.com

NORWEST PRESS

Jim Bowker - General Manager

Richard Westfahl, Lana Westfahl, Ron VanLoenen, Judy McKnight

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