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Free Press Viewpoint

by Tom (TD) Dreiling

Memorial must not undergo any change

Sometimes so-called *political correctness* gets in the way of reality. Case in point: a planned memorial to honor the 343 firefighters who died at the World Trade Center.

The memorial—a 19-foot bronze statue—is based on a news photo of three firemen raising an American flag over the rubble at Ground Zero. The photo received worldwide distribution and the three flag raisers were white firefighters. It wasn't planned that way but that's just the way it happened.

Now comes The Organization for Recoloring Documents of Historic Note to Reflect the Correctness Intended by Those Who Might Have Overlooked the Fact of Justice in their Daily Routines. No, there isn't such an organization, but it sounds as silly as those who are now spearheading the fight to have two of the white guys in the photograph recolored to black and Hispanic so the memorial can better honor all those who made the supreme sacrifice.

Whoa, there! The photograph, the work of Tom Franklin of The Record of Bergen County, N.J., clearly shows three white guys. They know who they are, but if the planned memorial is recolored, the role of two of them engaging in this patriotic gesture will be reduced to zero. This memorial then, changed to satisfy the political correct bunch, will be a lie. And we all know that. So, why would we engage in an untruth?

We need to step back, take a deep breath and let the memorial depict the truth of the matter. Changing it in any fashion would be a sham. And if you place the letter "e" at the end of "sham" is becomes "shame."

Shame on us.

Letter Guidelines

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.

Mail them to the Colby Free Press, 155 W. 5th St., Colby, Kan. 67701. Or e-mail td@nwkansas.com or pdecker@nwkansas.com.

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. 449-N, Topeka 66612. 785/296-7399 e mail: sclark@ink.org



Took him a while to surrender

Tom Dreiling

I AM not interested... I am not interested... Count 'em —nine — the number of times I repeated those words when a telemarketer interrupted my lunch Tuesday in his quest to get me to join some kind of goofy program I wouldn't have let my garbage can join. Nine times I repeated that phrase until he finally surrendered and wished me a happy day. Of course I know these people are paid a commission on each "hit" — a hit being a sale. But he certainly should have known his persistence wasn't going to change the wording "I am not interested." When he finally waved the white flag I could tell he still wasn't finished with his pitch, but accepted defeat and was probably already in the process of ringing up the next number on his computer keyboard. This is the first time I had to repeat "I am not interested" nine times. In past phone calls three would generally do it.

GOT to mention here, before I forget it, to salute my three favorite Colby Eagle basketball boys: the Stovers — Tucker, Landon and Shane! The guys with the hairless heads, much akin to mine, although mine is the handiwork of Mother Nature. My picture accompanying this column doesn't do me justice, but I get mine cut as close as Ed's clippers at the barbershop can get. I have entertained the thought of getting what is left shaved off. The Stovers are my catalysts — if I go through with it. They are just plain cool. Carry on, guys!

YOU KNOW, gang, there's always a lot to be thankful for, if you just take time to look for it. A few

 $\sqrt{\text{How nice it is that wrinkles don't hurt.}}$

 $\sqrt{\text{The easiest way to find something that is lost}}$ around the house is to buy a replacement.

 $\sqrt{\text{The sole purpose of a child's middle name is so}}$

he can tell when he's really in trouble. √Birthdays are good for you, the more you have

the longer you live.

 $\sqrt{\text{Some mistakes}}$ are too much fun to only make N, followed by the numbers 3:16.

• My Turn

 \sqrt{A} truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.

√I love cooking with wine. Sometimes I even put it in the food.

√Everyone has a photographic memory. Some just don't have film.

 $\sqrt{\text{Dogs}}$ have owners. Cats have staff.

MOST OF us have now learned to live with 'voice mail' as a necessary part of our daily lives. But have you ever wondered what it would be like if God decided to install voice mail?

Imagine praying and hearing the following:

 Thank you for calling Heaven. For English press 1. For French press 2. For all other languages press 0. Please select one of the following options: Press 1 for Requests. Press 2 for Thanksgiving. Press 3 for Complaints. Press 4 for all other inquiries.

• I'm sorry. All our angels and saints are busy helping other sinners right now. However, your prayer is important to us, and we will answer it in the order it was received. Please stay on line.

• If you would like to speak with God, Press 1. Jesus, Press 2. Holy Spirit, Press 3. If you would like to hear King David sing a Psalm while you are holding, Press

• To find a loved one who has been assigned to Heaven, Press 5, then enter his or her social security number, followed by the 'pound' sign. (If you receive a negative response, please hang up and try area code

• For reservations at Heaven, please enter J-O-H-

• For answers to nagging questions about dinosaurs, the age of the earth, life on other planets, and where Noah's Ark is, please wait till you arrive.

 Our computers show that you have already prayed today. Please hang up and try again tomorrow.

If you are calling after hours and need emergency

service, please call your local pastor. • The office is now closed for the weekend to observe a religious holiday.

• Thank you for having a Heavenly Day!

SORRY, but I don't think they are going to generate much interest. There are now two very similar game show situations on television, "The Chair" on ABC-TV and "The Chamber" on Fox-TV 36. What do you think? I have watched both and probably will surf the channels for something else.

WHO says sex doesn't sell? I see where "Sex and the City" HBO's much heralded series, walked off with some impressive Golden Globe Awards earlier this week. This series is about four attractive women. thirtysomethings, whose minds are most generally on the three-letter word in the title. The setting is New York City. We've really gotten raunchy and reckless in our award selections.

HAPPY Birthday to...

Jan. 23 — Shirley Burroughs, Joe Calliham Jan. 24 — David Wilson, Amy Jo Nelson, Bryce Dougherty

HAPPY Anniversary to...

Jan. 23 — Gene & Mary Ostmeyer, Roy & Eileen

Congratulations!

Call us at 462-3963 or e-mail td@nwkansas.com to have your special day mentioned as our gift to you. And keep us advised of any changes. Thanks!

HAVE a good evening!

Dreiling is publisher of the Free Press. His column appears Wednesdays and Fridays. E-mail td@nwkansas.com.

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For many years legislators could justify any position by using rhetoric that it is "for the children" or "economic development." The second term is what I would like to explore in this newsletter. Many government programs have been created to advance economic development and most involve creating an infrastructure that enhances transportation; communications; housing; local utilities; planning; and providing grants and loans to assist in funding prospective businesses. It is difficult for a local community to survive without any of these but they are useless without people to use them.

Ned Webb, in the Community Development Division of Kansas Department of Commerce and Housing is leading an effort to build the capacity within communities across the state of people to utilize the traditional infrastructure because true eco-

nomic development walks on two legs: 1) the creation of infrastructure;

2) building the capacity of people to utilize such

This truly involves a change in attitude. No longer is there reliance on an outside expert, a "sage on the stage," or an artificial preconceived vision that is sold to a community with a top down approach but the focus for development is bottom up from within the human heart, head and hands of individuals. The shift is from proactive to responsive, it requires focusing on and genuinely believing that a truly successful individual is one who lives out the definition of success as the progressive realization of personal, worthwhile, predetermined goals.

Mr. Webb and local communities will be working with the Sirolli Institute which pioneered an economic development approach that he calls "enterprise facilitation." Enterprise facilitators start with no plan and a firm directive to initiate nothing. They make it known in an economically struggling town or neighborhood that they are available to help—in confidence—anyone with a dream of starting a busi-



State Senator Stan Clark

•Under the Dome

ness. The facilitator is part business consultant, part advocate, part matchmaker, helping individuals crystallize an idea and passion to develop that idea into a business. The belief is that all people can do well if given the proper support, a positive environment and help in cutting through the red-tape. In many ways the development approach returns us to an apprenticeship, mentorship skilled trade era, but its emphasis is on management activities of production, marketing and finance. An entrepreneur can be passionate about any one of these three areas or production and marketing or production and finance but never equally passionate about marketing and finance. You might become skilled in all three areas but not equally pas-

The belief is that in every community, no matter how small or economically depressed, there will exist some people for whom a unique work in which they may or may not yet be skilled is passionate driving force. Also, within that same community, are others that possess the skills necessary that can assist in developing, testing and transforming the idea into a successful business.

Does it work? The first experiment was a town on the seacoast of Australia in 1985. Five hundred of the 8,500 citizens were out of work, the tuna industry was in shambles, the people demoralized. The fishermen, businessmen and government officials didn't trust each other. In relatively short order, a sushi processing plant was developed to provide jobs and purchase tuna at 30 times the price the fisherman had been getting from the cannery. By 1989, the town had 45 new enterprises and since then 335 more business have been created. Hundreds of communities in Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United States have modeled this approach.

Prosperity can be directly attributed to "civic values" and attitudes. A precondition of a good economy

is the existence of social conditions which allow creativity and intelligence to blossom, or conversely, to wither and die. In particular, the environment that is required to capture the passion, entrepreneurship, innovation and creativity of local people is an environment that promotes mutual and reciprocal cooperation. This, of course, is the definition of community where through volunteering and networking a social glue is created and the whole community pros-

Just as in this world "peace" cannot be defined as the absence of conflict, but has to be defined as "quiet goodness," so the citizens in our rural communities have to join together and pool their talents. We are no different than the citizens of the coastline town in Australia except the struggling industry is agriculture. The change in our communities is very apparent, the middle-class is being squeezed. Many communities have home grown carnivals that pull them together, others rally around their high school athletic team; we need to experience the same community passion with helping each other, and particularly our youth in developing their dreams into businesses in our hometowns. We can see some success stories locally where an idea is now a business: Heartland Mills in Marienthal markets organic grains and food products around our nation and in Europe; Koeperich Bookbinders in Selden has an international business binding books; the finest puppets in the world are designed by Martha Bishop at the Puppet Factory in Goodland; go on an African Safari and your bullet most likely will have been made by Swift Bullet Co. in Quinter; try Becky's Bierrocks in St. Francis; or purchase the finest fabric which is printed at the Country Store in Sharon Springs. I was at Focus on the Family in Colorado Springs and was pleased to see that the Food Service Equipment was manufactured by New Age Industries in Norton. These businesses along with numerous pheasant hunting hatcheries, hunting lodges as well as the finest steak and bread all come from our area. The Sirolli Institute will be assisting communities

in Leoti, Scott City, Tribune, Dighton, Goodland and Lakin this spring. Now is the time to crystallize your dream, pool our resources, unravel the tangled mess of wool and truly bring new life to our communities.

State Sen. Stan Clark represents the 40th District.