



# COLBY FREE PRESS

## Days gone by Eisenhower, Nixon presidencies recalled in lectures at Colby College

By DARREL PATTILLO

Colby Free Press

A rare glimpse inside the Eisenhower and Nixon White Houses was offered by Julie Nixon Eisenhower on Wednesday night as part of the Dr. Max Pickerill Lecture Series in the Frahm Theatre in the Northwest Kansas Cultural Arts Center on the campus of Colby Community College, where a large crowd gathered to hear the daughter of the late President Richard M. Nixon.

"The number one question I get asked the most is," Julie said, "what it was really like growing up in the White House."

"Imagine a giant fishbowl with spotlights shining on it that are so intense that you wonder if your life will ever be the same after you leave. That's what it was like."

As the child of then-Vice President Richard Nixon, Julie remembers talking to Mamie Eisenhower about then President Dwight D. Eisenhower. "Mamie was worried that the fame Ike experienced after his return to the U.S. after World War II would change him," she said. "But it didn't. Mamie said that Ike was still the same man from Abilene (Kan.). 'Ike belonged to the world,' Mamie lamented, 'he didn't belong to me anymore.'"

Julie recalled her mother, First Lady Pat Nixon, doing laundry in the kitchen sink at the White House after her father was elected president. "I asked my mother why she was washing clothes in the sink," Julie said. "She told me, 'when you become dependent on others, you soon become ugly.' That's the way my mother was."

She also talked about being "only somewhat spoiled as a child." "I de-

cidied to design needlework as a way to raise funds for decorating the White House. At that time, there was no budget for doing that," she said.

"A photographer came to take pictures for a magazine. They posed me under a portrait of President Lincoln, and for some reason I looked really bad in the photos."

**Imagine a giant fishbowl with spotlights shining on it..."**

Julie Eisenhower, describing life in the White House

Rather than telling me that I looked bad, the photographer called back and said that they would have to reshoot the pictures, because in the photos, President Lincoln looked bad."

She finished with a memory involving her future husband, David Eisenhower, the grandson of President Eisenhower.

"I remember pulling back rugs all over the White House and finding notes that David had left. They said, 'I shall return.'"

The Eisenhowers then conducted a brief question and answer period. Among the questions from the audience was query as to what involvement the Eisenhowers had planned in the political arena.

"We've done our public service in the political spotlight," Julie said. David, a political professor at the University of Pennsylvania, said that he "works closely with young people who have an interest in politics, and I try to guide them into leadership roles."

By MAXINE NELSON

Colby Free Press

The White House was a fun place to grow up in the 1950s, David Eisenhower told a capacity crowd Wednesday afternoon in the Frahm Theatre in the Northwest Kansas Cultural Arts Center at Colby Community College. David Eisenhower, the grandson of President Dwight David "Ike" Eisenhower, talked about the American presidency and his days in the White House. "Ike" was president from January 1953-January 1961. His appearance at the college was through the Dr. Max Pickerill Lecture Series.

Eisenhower said the White House is the most exquisite structure occupied by a head of state in any nation, as it symbolizes a free society and a nation of leaders.

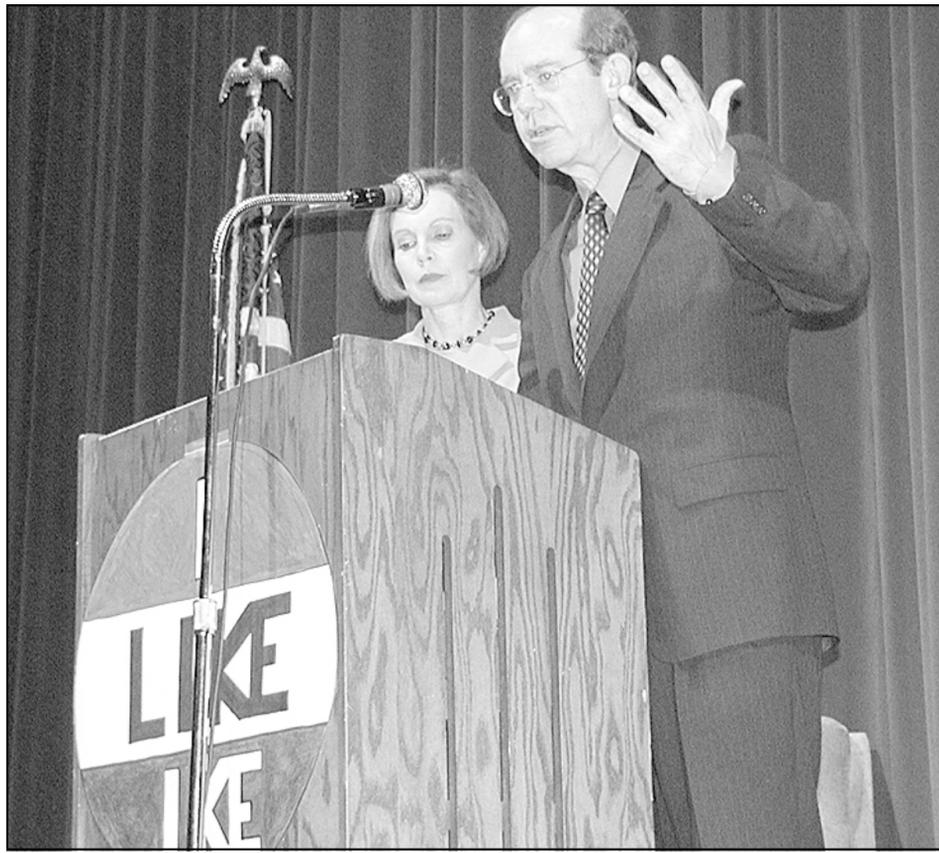
"From the viewpoint of a boy, it was a fun place and my classmates were always glad for an invitation," he said. His 8th birthday party was held at the White House.

He said the press room is built on the site of the former swimming pool, and he took many a dive into the pool from where the speaker's stand is now.

His first novel, *Janet's Day*, is on record at the White House. When he was 10, he wrote a novel about a favorite person, and asked the president's secretary to type it up. She typed it and made copies on the then-new Xerox machine on July 14, 1958.

That was the day the U.S. Marines landed at Lebanon, and lots of generals and other important people were coming through the office. He set up outside the Oval Office, and sold copies of his novels for 15 cents each. One of the purchasers was Richard Nixon, then vice-president.

Eisenhower said the events of June 14, 1958, was a forerunner of the situation in the Middle East today. At that



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

Julie and David Eisenhower fielded questions from the audience Wednesday night after Julie's presentation on life in the White House.

time, the government of Iraq was overthrown by the people who run Iraq today and they announced their plan to 'liberate' Kuwait. President Eisenhower saw that this was just the first of Iraq's planned conquests, and ordered the Marines to prepare to intervene.

Eisenhower said his grandfather left office when he was a teenager and the thing he missed most about being in the White House was the Secret Service agents. They had been buddies, and playmates as well as protectors.

In the fall of 1960, he was invited to attend a World Series game in New York City, and 11 of the 12 Secret Service agents assigned to the White House volunteered. "What dedication!" he said.

He later saw three of the agents in

Russell (Kan.) when he was passing through in 1976 on his way from Denver to Abilene. The agents were in Russell for the kick-off of Bob Dole's run for the vice-presidency as President Gerald Ford's running mate.

Eisenhower said his first experience with politics was when he was elected secretary/treasurer of the Young Democrats, in absentia, at the instigation of his prep school roommate, who later served four terms as the congressman from Iowa.

And incidentally, can be seen as 'Gopher' on *The Love Boat*.

Eisenhower said his grandfather, President Eisenhower, told him, "Politics is a serious business...It is the people's business...Business and politics coincide, and all must take part."

In the fall of 1966, Eisenhower went

off to Amherst College. Julie Nixon was attending Smith College, only seven miles away. People told him he should call on her, but he resisted. Finally upon the urging of his grandmother, Mamie Eisenhower, he decided to call on Julie and decided her liked her. Later he married her.

Eisenhower said a president can be judged by how well he performs his mission, which is the national priority before the country at the time. But success in performing a mission does not make a presidency a success, or insure re-election.

Julie Nixon Eisenhower joined her husband for a question and answer period after his speech. Asked if they planned to enter politics, she said they had three good reasons for not doing so — their children.

## Political talk



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

Lynn Jenkins, Republican state senator from Shawnee County, talked with Brent Wiedeman of Colby at the Deep Rock Cafe this morning. Jenkins, also a certified public accountant in Topeka, announced her intentions to run for state treasurer following Tim Shallenburger's decision to vacate that position in his bid for governor.

## Schroeder waives rights to preliminary hearing

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

A Colby man accused of burglary, theft and possession of narcotic drugs stemming from an incident in December of 2001, waived his rights to a preliminary hearing in the Thomas County District Court on Tuesday.

Robert D. Schroeder, 35, of rural Colby, along with his attorney, Don Hoffman of Hays, appeared before Thomas County Magistrate Judge Rick Ress, requesting to proceed without a preliminary hearing.

## Abuse victims skeptical Vatican will make changes

By RACHEL ZOLL

AP Religion Writer

For victims of clerical sex abuse, the communique U.S. prelates issued after their Vatican summit ended was more significant for what was not said than for what was.

There was no pledge to publicly disclose the names of Roman Catholic priests who molest children, no promise to immediately report abuse claims to law enforcement authorities and no specifics on helping victims.

"This is damage control," said Peter Isely, a Milwaukee psychotherapist who says he was molested by a priest as a teen-ager.

"They have not met with us. The

Ress explained today that a preliminary hearing requires the state to prove there is probable cause that a crime was committed and in waiving this hearing,

Schroeder, through his attorney, has asked to proceed to the arraignment phase. It will be at the arraignment hearing that he could enter a plea of guilty or not guilty to the charges.

Schroeder, along with his attorney and Thomas County Attorney Allan Taylor will be meeting with Thomas County District Judge Glenn Schiffner to determine a date for his arraignment.

As of today, no date had been scheduled, Taylor said.

Schroeder, who worked as a relief pharmacist at Citizens Medical Center, was arrested December after hospital officials told police that they could be having a problem with missing prescription drugs.

The first discrepancies in the hospital's pharmacy department surfaced prior to Dec. 3, 2001 when one of the other employees noticed some narcotic drugs were coming up short during a routine inventory.

Over the next couple of weeks, hospital personnel continued monitoring the pharmacy's inventory on a daily basis as Kansas Bureau of Investigation officials and Colby police officers conducted interviews and used forensic-type evidence to narrow down suspects. Following the investigation, Schroeder was arrested on Dec. 20, 2001 and later that day released on \$10,000 bond. He was scheduled for a preliminary hearing on Jan. 9; however, that date was postponed until earlier this week.

Pope John Paul II also called sex abuse a crime, and expressed solidarity with victims and their families.

Yet the meeting did little to ease the frustration victims feel.

Some wanted the church to ensure errant priests register as sex offenders. Isely, noting the church has treatment centers for abusive priests, wanted the U.S. bishops to create a national treatment center for victims as well.

Janet Patterson of Conway Springs, Kan., sought more accountability for church leaders. She blames the 1999 suicide of her 29-year-old son, Eric, on abuse by their parish priest when he was 12.

She remains bitter that Catholic of-

ficials in her diocese knew of abuse allegations against the priest, yet alerted no parishioners. The priest was sentenced to prison for abuses in a different town.

"The way they could restore my trust is if they made a real confession about the cover-up and the fact that they deliberately withheld information from people who were trying to get help for their children," Patterson said. "They deliberately circled the wagons and kept everything in-house."

In 1992, U.S. bishops responded to a wave of abuse lawsuits by developing guidelines for handling molestation claims, but those were nonbinding.

## Briefly

### Moisture chances improve

Keep those fingers crossed and those prayers going. Rain chances are set at 70 percent for Friday night and even at 30 percent after midnight tonight, according to the National Weather Service in its Colby area forecast. Tonight's low is expected to be around 42 with southeast winds 15-25 mph. Friday, cloudy through early afternoon, then becoming partly sunny, highs in the lower 70s, southeast winds 20-30 mph, gusting to 40. Friday night, cloudy, 70 percent chance for thunderstorms, winds continuing and lows in the lower 40s. Saturday, another 30 percent chance for showers in the morning, then becoming partly sunny, highs in the middle to upper 60s. Colby's high Wednesday was 59

and the overnight low this morning was 25, climbing to 39 by 8 a.m. Precipitation for the month remains at 0.17 inches. The records for April 25: 92 in 1989 and 24 in 1910. (The temperatures and precipitation are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)

### Marijuana seized on I-70

A Minnesota woman was arrested last Friday after the Kansas Highway Patrol made a routine stop resulting in the seizure of 476 lbs. of marijuana on Interstate 70 near Colby. Roxanne Sanders, 42, of Minneapolis, Minn., was initially stopped for a traffic violation near the highway reconstruction area at Colby for following another vehicle too closely.

According to the report, the trooper became suspicious after speaking with Sanders and asked permission to search her 1997 Ford Expedition. No details were provided as to where the marijuana was located. However, once the marijuana was discovered, Sanders was taken into custody and is being held in the Thomas County jail pending charges or further investigation with the Drug Enforcement Agency.

### Youth workshop scheduled

Logan and Thomas County are sponsoring a hazardous occupational training workshop on Wednesday and Thursday, May 1 and 2, from 5 to 9 p.m. at the Thomas County Extension Office. The event is open to all youth ages 14 and

15, said Dennis Chandler, Thomas County extension agent. For questions, call (785) 462-4582.

### 'Kids Port' open house Saturday

A new alternative hour childcare facility, known as Kids Port, located next to Puddle Duck Preschool, 520 W. 5th, Colby, will hold a grand opening celebration on Saturday from 2 to 4 p.m. The new facility, which is a joint project between the Birth to Success Coalition and Smart Start of Northwest Kansas, will not compete with traditional childcare providers, but rather is designed for scheduled drop-in, night and weekend care, officials said. Everyone is invited to the open house.

