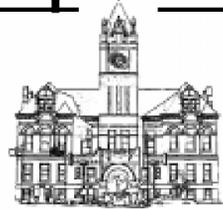


Opinion



Free Press
Viewpoint

Democrats' darts missing the target

Now they are asking, "How much did he know and when did he know it?"

They will be awfully embarrassed to eventually learn he knew very little and he learned it very late.

Reports continue to persist that President Bush failed to connect the dots on reports from intelligence that just might have prevented 9/11. Of course since the initial attack on the presidency by the likes of Sen. Hillary Clinton, Sen. Tom Daschle and Rep. Dick Gephardt, all presidential wannabes, the chatter is starting to take on a different focus. The *attack* we speak of is centered around the question posed by the big three — Hillary, Tom and Dick — "how much did he know and when did he know it?" And they knew at the time they were riding a train heading for derailment. But it sounded good. Keep the public scratching their head.

Now it looks like perhaps FBI Director Robert Mueller and Atty. Gen. John Ashcroft didn't make President Bush aware of a report that, coupled with other reports, might have shed some light on what was about to happen on Sept. 11, 2001. But that has to be proven. We've had conflicts between the FBI and CIA for years and straightening this out has to be priority #1.

Terrorist activities have been going on for years, even in the Clinton administration. So finger-pointing by the Democrats at the Republican White House carries no credibility. Politics as usual.

Using 9/11 as a political football certainly carries more than just a 15-yard penalty. It calls for ejection from the game.

The voters are the referees. Flag 'em! Boot em! — *by Tom A. Dreiling, Publisher*



PHOTO OF BUSH LOOKING PRESIDENTIAL ON SEPTEMBER 11...

Let's talk about losing weight

LAST Saturday morning while eating breakfast, I switched on the television to see what was going on. I encountered four channels on which various ways to lose weight (they call them unwanted pounds) were being hawked. Pills, juices, sweet bars, goofy looking contraptions that you wrap around whatever area of the body you want to slim up, machines on which to run, others on which to walk, still others to lay down on as vibrations jiggle off the pounds, a method of losing weight while sleeping...and on and on. If I did what each of the pitchmen on each program suggested I do, and lost the weight they guaranteed I would, I could easily lose more weight than I weigh within a period of six weeks. And that would be hazardous to my health. What would I look like if I didn't weigh anything? Would I end up being a doily on the arm of the couch? Or a foot mat? Or worse yet a napkin next to a plate of food?

I always like the before and after shots of people who have lost a ton of weight! How enthusiastic they describe the experience. The loneliness before the loss and the renewed spirit of being socially accepted after. Duh!?

Then there's a program that encourages you to eat anything you want to eat, as much as you want to eat and whenever you want to eat it, and lose weight in the process. It think it works a lot like diarrhea.

A doctor once advised me — when I was heavier then I should have been (219 then) — that he would work with me but I could lose no more, and he emphasized *no more* than a pound (if that much) a month. He said it would take me a couple of years to get down to what he thought would be acceptable. I shed 39 pounds over the next 2 1/2 years to get down to 180 and the thing I remember about that experience is it was an ongoing process of losing weight, very slowly but a loss, nonetheless, which was the point of the whole thing. He said, and he was so right, that once you lose weight in that fashion you will be able to keep it off, no more ups and downs as most weight loss plans end up being. Eat in moderation, do some exercise (mine is walking) and pay as much attention to your health as you do to your car, pickup, boat, or whatever.

Willpower is the key word. Now, go lose weight — sensibly.

HOW hard did the wind blow yesterday? A shopper at Dillons told me this morning that it blew the paint off his car!



Tom Dreiling

• My Turn

WICHITA mayor Bob Knight is running for governor. You've seen him numerous times on television (he even came to Colby to announce his candidacy). Who does he remind you of? His looks and mannerisms remind me of so much of Vice President Dick Cheney. Right?

IPICKED up on one of those television guys who heals people the other night. I've seen him on a couple of other occasions — the one who knocks over the person(s) being healed. On this particular night, he was curing aids, leukemia, arthritis and blindness. While watching this *drama* unfold, I thought to myself: why in the world are we spending all those millions of dollars on research when we could simply hire this guy to perform his cure all?

TWOELDERLY ladies had been friends for many decades. Over the years they had shared all kinds of activities and adventures. Lately, their activities had been limited to meeting a few times a week to play cards. One day they were playing cards when one looked at the other and said: "Now don't get mad at me.... I know we've been friends for a long time...but I just can't think of your name! I've thought and thought, but I can't remember it. Please tell me what your name is."

Her friend glared at her. For several minutes she just stared and glared at her. Finally, she said, "How soon do you need to know?"

HAPPY Birthday to...
May 22 — Olivia Herbel, Blanche Cheney, Ann Goossen, Barb Breckenkamp, Dorothy Brady
May 23 — Justin Kniep, Carol Severson, Jason Simmering

HAPPY (Belated) Birthday to...
May 19 — Charlie Cook (79)
HAPPY Anniversary to...
May 23 — John & Betty Schroeder (50th), Steve

& Sara Juenemann
Congratulations!

Call us at 462-3963 or e-mail td@nwkansan.com to have your special day mentioned as our gift to you. And *please* keep us advised of any changes (including deaths) so we can make the necessary adjustments. Many of the greetings are called in by friends and we would ask that you — as a friend — inform us of these things. It is always difficult for a family member to do. We thank all of you in advance for your assistance.

BUCKLE UP! The Kansas Highway Patrol, and other law enforcement agencies, will be focusing in on this state law over the long Memorial Holiday weekend. If you are not buckled up, and if your children are not properly restrained, expect to be pulled over. And ticketed. It's the law. It saves lives. **BUCKLE UP!**

YOU will love this one. A farmer had five female pigs and, as times were tough, he decided to take them to the county fair and sell them. While at the fair, he met another farmer who owned five male pigs. After talking a bit, they decided to breed their pigs and split everything 50/50. The farmers lived 60 miles away from one another and so they agreed to drive 30 miles and find a field in which to breed their pigs. The first morning, the farmer with the female pigs got up at 5 a.m., loaded the pigs into the family station wagon, which was the only vehicle he had, and drove the 30 miles. While the pigs were mating, he asked the other farmer, "How will I know if they are pregnant?" The other farmer replied, "If they're in the grass grazing in the morning, then they're pregnant, if they're in the mud, then they're not." The next morning they were rolling in the mud, so he hosed them off, loaded them again into the family station wagon and proceeded to try again. The following morning, MUD again! This continued all week until the farmer was so tired that he couldn't get out of bed. He called to his wife, "Honey, please look outside and tell me if the pigs are in the mud or in the pasture."

"Neither!" yelled his wife. "They're in the station wagon and one of them is honking the horn."

HAVE a good evening!

Dreiling is publisher of the Free Press. His column appears Wednesdays and Fridays. He can be e-mailed at td@nwkansan.com.

About those letters . . .

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.

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COLBY FREE PRESS

155 W. Fifth (USPS 120-920) (785) 462-3963
Colby, Kan. 67701

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State award-winning newspaper, General Excellence, Design & Layout Excellence, Column Writing, Editorial Writing, Sports Columns, News, Photography.

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THE COLBY FREE PRESS (USPS 120-920) is published daily, every Monday through Friday, except the day observed for Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day, by Haynes Publishing Co., 155 W. Fifth, Colby, Kan., 67701.

PERIODICALS POSTAGE is paid at Colby, Kan. 67701, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Colby Free Press, 155 W. Fifth, Colby, Kan., 67701.

THE BUSINESS OFFICE at 155 W. Fifth is open from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, closed Saturday and Sunday.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES: In Colby by carrier: 4 months \$32, 8 months \$47, 12 months \$64. By mail with in Colby and the nine-county region of Thomas, Sheridan, Decatur, Rawlins, Cheyenne, Sherman, Wallace, Logan and Gove counties: 4 months \$44, 8 months \$56, 12 months \$72. Other Kansas counties and surrounding states: 4 months \$51, 8 months \$61, 12 months \$75. All other states, \$75, 12 months.

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Meddling where we shouldn't

It seems that George W and Gang were not present the day God handed out irony genes to us humans.

When the Bush Gang got caught supporting the failed military overthrow of the democratically elected president of Venezuela, Hugo Chavez, an administration spokesman was asked if Bush now recognized that Chavez is that country's legitimate president. "Legitimacy is something that is conferred not just by a majority of the voters," spake the spokesman smugly. Ironic, since Bush himself failed to win a majority of votes in his election.

Compounding the irony, a week after Chavez regained power Bush publicly lectured him on the need to preserve democracy in Venezuela. This is doubly ironic because the Bush administration has been aggressively funneling your and my tax dollars into a political effort to undermine Chavez's presidency, either by impeaching him or defeating him. What is a megapower like the United States doing meddling

Jim Hightower

• Another Point of View

in the internal politics of a sovereign democracy?

Yet, something called the National Endowment for Democracy is spending nearly a million of our tax dollars to finance Venezuelan opposition to Chavez. More than half of this money is being channeled through the international arms of our own Republican and Democratic parties. For example, the Endowment gave some \$340,000 to the International Republican Institute, which even has an office in Venezu-

ela and is supporting the political demise of Venezuela's duly elected president. To add to the irony, the former head of this Republican Institute now sits as Bush's assistant secretary of state for democracy.

First, who knew that our tax dollars are being given to the two big parties to finance their own foreign adventures? Second, imagine the shrieks of outrage from the White House if Chavez decided to "promote democracy" in the United States by sending a million bucks to Bush's opponents.

Bush loves democracy...unless it produces people he doesn't like. Ironic, huh?

Radio talk-show host and author Jim Hightower is a former Agricultural Commissioner of Texas.

The views expressed are solely those of the writer, and not necessarily those of the Colby Free Press.

Doonesbury

• Gary Trudeau

