

Opinion



Letter Drop

- Our Readers Sound Off

Cursing is nothing new

To The Free Press:

I am reading a letter to the Colby Free Press by Evelyn Gibson headlined, "What would God say?" She mentioned cursing by emergency room nurses and doesn't mention the main contention against Dr. Hildyard was that he cursed one of the assistants. Since I am 81 years old I have been in numerous hospitals and I find there are many things going on in them that would cause anyone to use unprofessional language!

Having been reared in a farming community in my early years, I recall that obscenity and profanity were in every day use by men with no evil intent at all. They were good people just trying to make a living but their sentences were punctuated with dirty words to make the machinery work. They knew it was unacceptable socially and when women appeared on the scene they hushed it up.

Those of us with that experience in early years were educated out of using vulgarity for expression. Words paint a picture just as an artist can convey what he feels on canvas with the various hues of color in his paint. Thus it pays for one to build a good vocabulary and study the meaning of words so that when that person speaks it expresses with more exactitude what he/she feels.

However, these past few years the way I have seen cursing and vulgarity used on television and the way some of the people in every day life use it, it just portrays that they are uneducated people — hooligans and ignoramuses.

As to "What would God say?" — that would depend on your definition of God. One definition I have is that God is the good in every person. Mark Twain has said, "God puts something good and noble in everyone His hands create. (from Mark Twain's Speeches).

In her last paragraph, Evelyn Gibson said, "I thanked Dr. Hildyard for saving my life. He didn't become angry; what he did say made me comfortable and he had done all he could do but credit was due to God, not him.!"

She should just give the credit to Dr. Hildyard because God was in him and in all the people in his life that put him there as a physician.

Ms. Edna A. Hatcher Colby
(Letter #144)

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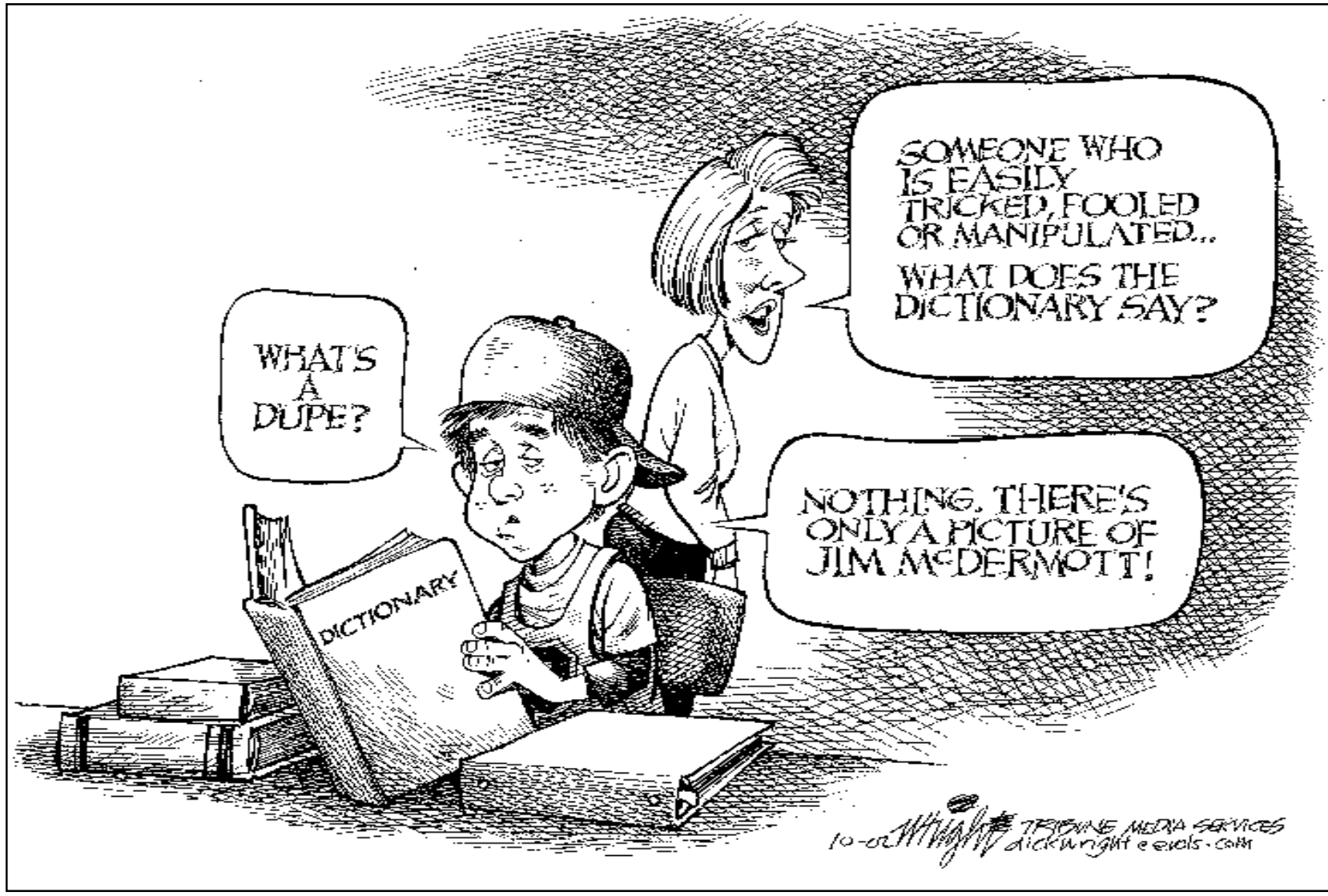
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The community comes first

I CERTAINLY hope the dispute between the hospital and the local doctor can be resolved before too long. Colby needs both the hospital and the clinic. I have not heard the hospital's point of view. The closest I came was the letter from the departing doctor who said something to the effect if we knew what was going on, we would be shocked. Maybe so. Is someone going to tell us?

The people on the hospital board are people I have always respected and considered sensible and reasonable. The only reason I can think of for their attitude is that they are stuck with some binding bureaucratic regulation which has supposedly been violated (like the king who put Daniel in the lion's den), but that's only a guess.

Perhaps they legally have no choice. But the public won't know their reasons until they tell us.

At the time of this writing, an area-wide meeting was planned for 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 10, in the Colby Community Building, following a court hearing which was set for Oct. 9. Perhaps we can get some answers at the meeting. I hope a representative of the hospital board will speak.

In the meantime, we all need to think about the good of the community, and put it before the personal agenda of anyone concerned.

WE ARE not alone in our problems. Our neighbor state to the north has its own troubles. In addition to the slaying of six victims in an abortive bank robbery in Norfolk last week, Nebraska has been ordered to pay \$151 million by a federal judge who



Maxine Nelson

• Random Thoughts

said the state acted deceptively in 1998 in denying a license for a low-level nuclear waste facility. Nebraska had entered into a contract in 1991 with Kansas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Arkansas to build a regional waste facility, each state hoping/expecting the facility would be in some other state.

When Nebraska was chosen, the license application was denied. Then-Governor Ben Nelson is accused of using his influence to defeat the facility.

Apparently they are still looking for a place for the facility. The judge said he would not force the state to issue a license or go forward with the license process, because Nebraska could frustrate any such court order.

The chosen site for the facility was in Boyd County, Neb., and the *Omaha World-Herald* says the rift between those wanting the facility, and those opposing it has continued now for nearly 15 years. We don't want that to happen here.

AND HAYS has its own troubles. City workers are having to water the plants in the Vine Street median

manually, because the irrigation system was never completed because it violates the city's water conservation ordinance by spraying water on the street; it was installed by a landscape contractor who failed to obtain a permit from the city; the system was never inspected by the city because there was no permit; and more.

City authorities say they thought a drip irrigation system was being installed; the contractor says he followed the blueprints; some believed the watering system did not have to meet code because it was funded by the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT). KDOT says it is not responsible.

In the meantime, some of the plantings are dying; and the local contractor whose bid was rejected in favor of a lower bid from out of town, says the trees are too big and will interfere with traffic, and are not appropriate for the area.

And, "there appears to be plenty of blame to go around," said an article in the Oct. 1 *Hays Daily News*.

THE PEEPING Tom case in Brewster is certainly shocking. However, I read with (amusement? interest? surprise?) the headline in the Oct. 1 *Free Press*. "Officials viewing tapes of Brewster shower scene" to identify victims.

It's a tough job but somebody's got to do it. (Sorry, no offense meant!)

Maxine Nelson is a retired *Free Press* editor/reporter. She favors us with frequent columns on a variety of topics.

The enemy within

Along with millions of other Americans, I was filled with emotion on September 11.

When I witnessed citizens of all colors and with many different accents singing "America the Beautiful," my spirit soared.

When I remembered the feeling in the pit of my stomach upon seeing the World Trade Center collapse, it sank like a stone.

And when I remembered a friend of mine who grew up in New York and was killed 29 years ago shortly after another September 11, the tears began to flow again.

The last time I talked to Charles Horman was in August 1973. I had returned to New York after living for two years in Santiago, Chile. Charlie had also returned to the city where he was raised for a short visit with family and friends. We had thought we might get together but it didn't work out that way.

Charlie went back to Chile on August 30. On September 11 in the bloodiest coup d'état in Latin American history, the democratically elected government of Salvador Allende was overthrown. Shortly thereafter Charlie was arrested, tortured and killed. He was killed, the academy award winning movie "Missing" and the book on which it is based suggest, because he knew too much about the role the United States

Paul Cantor

• Another Viewpoint

played in overthrowing Allende.

A blow by blow account of how President Richard Nixon and his advisor Henry Kissinger helped orchestrate the coup is provided in "Covert Action in Chile: 1963-1973," a report of a special United States Senate committee that studied government operations with respect to intelligence activities.

After Allende's overthrow, a repressive military junta headed by Augusto Pinochet seized control of the government, dissolved the congress, outlawed labor unions, and arrested, tortured and killed its political opponents. By the time he was forced out of office, Pinochet had become a pariah in his own country and the world. In 1998 he was arrested in England for human rights violations committed during his reign.

That is something Charlie would want us to think about on the first anniversary of the attack on America and the nearly three-decade anniversary of the coup in Chile. When we acted unilaterally to topple the government of Chile, the result was disastrous for democracy and human rights.

The same can be said about our "success" in bringing the shah to power in Iran in 1953 and Castillo Armas to power in Guatemala in 1954.

Therefore, Charlie would point out, in fashioning a response to the threat to world peace posed by Iraq's Saddam Hussein or the head of any other nation, we should cede the leadership role to the United Nations.

That is how to demonstrate respect for the principle that countries as well as individuals within countries should be governed by law and act collectively to prevent the law from being transgressed. That is the way to bring about the secure and democratic future we all seek.

Paul Cantor is a retired professor of economics at City University of New York. He also served as a Fulbright professor in Costa Rica, and was a journalist covering Chile prior to the coup in 1973. For more information, email: paulcantor@hotmail.com. Local feedback to td@nwkanssas.com.

About those letters . . .

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Doonesbury

• Gary Trudeau

