

# Opinion

## Free Press Viewpoint

### Opportunity goes begging in area city

Where did they go? That's a question that begs an explanation. The community of Hays lost two large employers not long ago, with a combined workforce in excess of 300. Probably closer to 400.

The moans and groans coming from that town could be heard all the way up here in 'Oasis' territory.

The jobless picture was one of doom and gloom. What to do, what to do.

Well, since then, a new company to Hays based in Dulles, Va., did some tinkering around with city and county officials and decided to set up shop in Hays. The new company is, yes you are reading this right, N.E.W. Customer Service Companies Inc., a call center.

They need 80 workers now to have an ample employee corps on the floor on opening day sometime in October. Late last week, according to reports, they have been able to muster only 25. Some ex-employees of the businesses that closed said they don't plan on getting burned again, thus they aren't filling out applications and submitting resumes.

But they still have to eat. Seemingly the jobs are there. But the people aren't. But they were. Where are they now?

In the end the N.E.W. new-to-Hays company will probably find their workforce in the ranks of students attending Fort Hays State University, or the Northcentral Kansas Technical College, which also has a campus in Hays.

Who would have thought a town dealing with a major disruption in its employment ranks would have trouble finding people for a new opportunity.

Tom A. Dreiling  
Free Press Publisher

Comments to any opinions expressed on this page are encouraged. Mail them to the Colby Free Press, 155 W. 5th St., Colby, Kan., 67701. Or e-mail [td@nwkansans.com](mailto:td@nwkansans.com), fax 462-7749, call 462-3963, or visit the office. All submissions must carry a signature of the writer, a daytime telephone number and address. The telephone number and address are used for verification only. Thanks in advance for your letters and columns.

#### Where to write

- U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts**, 109 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. 171-W, Topeka 66612. 785/296-7676 e-mail: [jmorrison@ink.org](mailto:jmorrison@ink.org) web: <http://www.ink.org/public/legislators/jmorrison>
- State Sen. Ruth Clark**, State Capitol Building Rm. 449-N, Topeka 66612. 785/296-7399 e-mail: [rclark@ink.org](mailto:rclark@ink.org)

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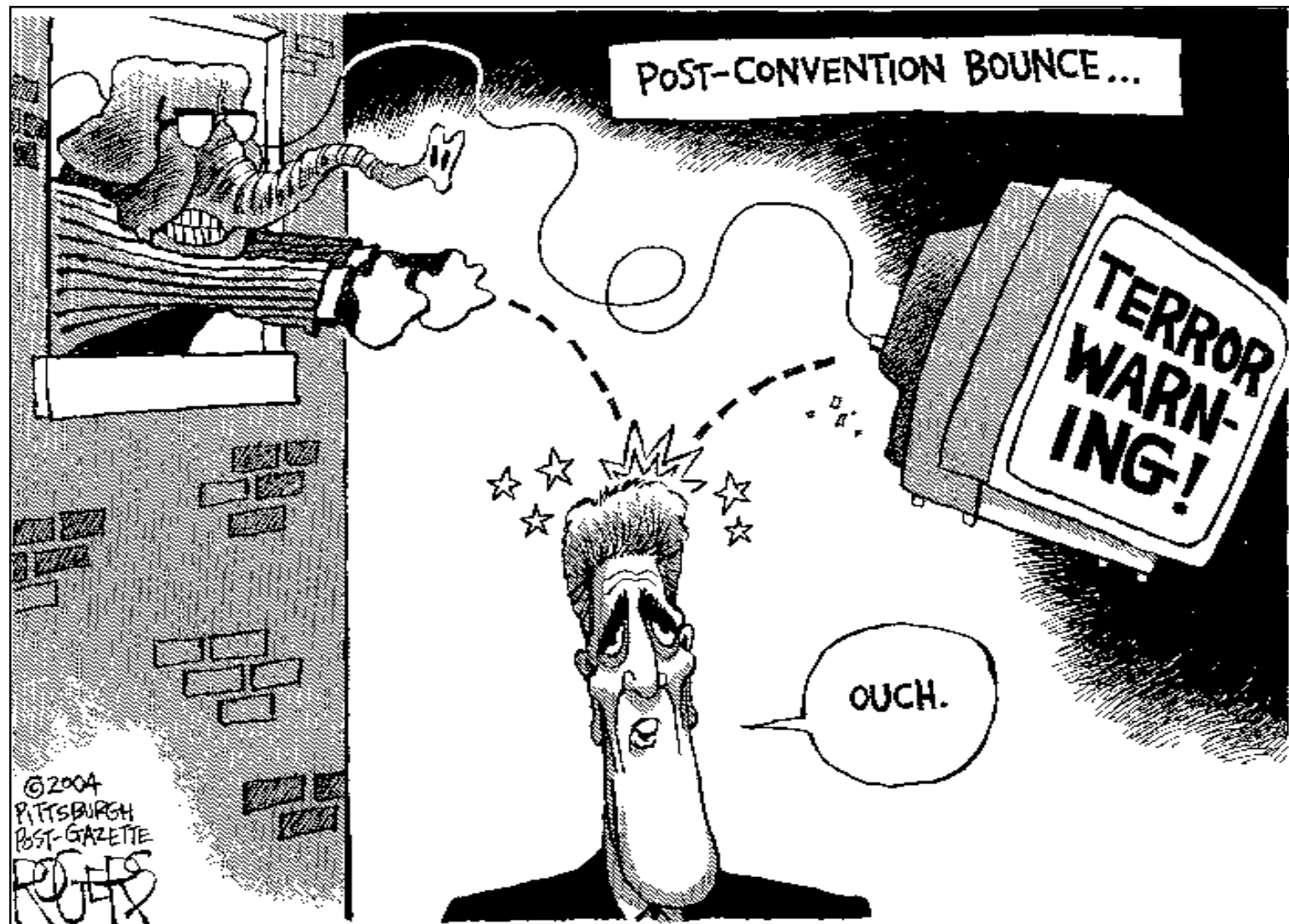
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## Parents as partners in USAF mission

Secretary of the Air Force  
Washington, DC

Mr. Thomas Dreiling  
PO Box 238  
Colby, KS 67701-0238

Dear Mr. Dreiling:

Our national leaders have called upon a new generation of Americans to rise to their duty and to stand up to those who threaten us at home and around the world. Because of the service of thousands of airmen like your son Lance, we are confident that we will prevail in the long struggle against the forces of terror.

We could not protect America's freedom without the incredible people who are willing to carry on the Air Force tradition. As the proud parent of one of those airmen, your support continues to be critical to our ongoing efforts and makes a real difference to your country. We understand that the vitality of this support can be an emotional balancing act, and we thank you for everything you do to make Staff Sgt. Dreiling's service possible.



Please accept the enclosed lapel pin as a token of our appreciation. During World War II, the U.S. military used "E" flags to recognize companies whose efficient production made major contributions to the overall war effort. Today, as we defend American interests throughout the world, we have adapted this tradition as a way to recognize the vital partnership between America's Air Force and the parents of our airmen. We hope you will wear it proudly as a statement of our common goals.

Thank you again for standing shoulder-to-shoulder with America's Air Force as a full part-



**Tom Dreiling**

• My Turn

ner in the war against terrorism

Sincerely,

John P. Jumper  
General, USAF  
Chief of Staff

James G. Roche  
Secretary of the Air Force

(I might mention that son Lance arrives back in the States Thursday night of this week, concluding his year's tour in Korea. He has been reassigned to Fairchild AFB, Spokane, Wash. With his reassignment, he also enjoys a promotion to the rank of T/Sgt. He, wife Tobie and children Alyssa and Caleb, plan to be at their new base prior to the start of the new school year.)

I AM not a waterboy for any political body. Thus, I won't pass along the material I received as it relates to Teresa Heinz Kerry, wife of the Democratic presidential nominee Sen. John Kerry. I don't know how true or untrue any of it is. The brief bio is apparently being circulated on the Internet with a request to "pass it on. Let everyone know these people (Teresa and John) are unfit to represent this great nation. The uninformed will never hear the truth from the press, who wants Kerry elected!" Whoa, there, let's analyze the quoted part above. The "press wants him elected." What press? I consider myself in that category and I can't think of anytime in the past I have asked my readers to send Kerry to the White House. Too, those who feel they are uninformed haven't been paying attention. It's all out there for you to sift through.

### Board wrong in raising taxes

To the Colby Free Press:

Here is my outline account of the Colby School District 2004-05 budget hearing on Monday, Aug. 2 at 7 p.m. If you still have your Wednesday, Aug. 4 Free Press you are invited to compare this with the newspaper's account.

Note especially how board member Tracy Rogers took advantage of the closed hearing when the board reopened the meeting under Item V New Business (A) Approval of the 2004-2005 Budget. Quote, a part, Rogers: "Kansas ranks at near the bottom in the nation as far as teachers' salaries are concerned."

1. Discussed an example of Statesmanship. Read from "Making Do and Doing Without, Kansas in the Great Depression." (Division of Continuing Education, The University of Kansas.) Gov Landon said: "I cut the appropriations for the executive mansion. The state auditor went to Mrs. Landon and said 'you can't operate that mansion as low as I've fixed it.' I said, 'That's too bad. We're cutting everybody else twenty-five percent, honey; we've got to cut ours.'"

### We are leaving behind friends, memories

To the Colby Free Press:

People of Colby and surrounding areas...As my family and I plan to move to Topeka, we leave with thankful hearts for the Colby community, especially God's people at Trinity Lutheran Church.

We are thankful for all the devoted volunteers in Girl Scouting, and the faithful teachers in the Colby School District.

We are also thankful for "Mr. Bop Shop Saturday" and his partnership with Trinity people to

### Letter Drop

• Our Readers Sound Off

2. People have consistently voted out any new tax issues such as L.O.B. (Local Option Budget), Capital Outlay, etc. Still this Board remains totally dictatorial with its power to tax. Already 62 percent of my local courthouse tax goes to support (USD) 315 and the college. My information from Topeka states that approximately 50 percent of the Kansas General Budget goes for K-12 education.
3. The serious financial problems that are confronting all of agriculture-related business. Such as individuals and institutions such as Co-ops, etc.
4. Salaries. From the State Department of

Education a copy of materials discussed will be left at the Colby Free Press office for your viewing. All salaries quoted include Fringe Benefits.

Superintendent's salary, 2003-2004, \$85,700  
Principals, average, 2003-2004, \$64,195  
Teachers, average, 2003-2004, \$42,198

Colby Public Schools (USD 315):  
Total certified employees, 90.5  
Special Education Teachers, 7  
K-12 teachers, 70.5  
Enrollment, 1,005.1.

5. Other possible problems. Litigated bonds. Landfill costs. Possible crop failures, etc.

Last comment: This presentation was one of the most compelling collections of reasons why we should not increase USD 315 local taxes.

But they did! And I am sure that the superintendent was happy!

Sincerely,

Lloyd E. Theimer  
Colby  
(Letter #66)

I ask for your prayers for me and my family as God takes us to Topeka and further away from our fellow Broncomaniacs. I ask you to pray for Trinity as they wait for God to bring another pastor.

God be with you,

Dave, Stacy, Alison and Albert Hall  
Colby  
(Letter #67)