

# Opinion

## Letter Drop

• Our Readers Sound Off



### A flawed argument

To the Colby Free Press:

Since moving to Colby two months ago, I have read a number of columns chastising Christians for "forcing their beliefs" on the public. The beauty of our country is that each citizen has a vote. And like it or not, each one of us brings our belief system into the political arena. To say that it's okay for me to believe abortion is wrong or same-sex marriage is wrong, but that I have no right to bring those beliefs into the political debate is a fundamentally flawed argument.

If using one's vote to make changes in the system is "forcing my beliefs" on society, then of what value is my vote? Shall I lay my convictions down outside the polling place? Shall I vote for my opponent so I'm not accused of unfair bigotry? Taken to the natural conclusion, President Bush should then vote for (Sen. John) Kerry. After all, I'm sure he doesn't want to "force" himself on the American people.

How can any thinking person not see the negative impact same-sex marriage would have on our society? It goes way beyond the privacy of the bedroom. If homosexual relationships are granted the same standing as heterosexual marriage, the effects would be felt throughout society, beginning in the classroom. When teaching sex education, what would the curriculum look like? If all marriages are created equal, then all sexuality would be taught.

The truth is, heterosexual relationships are not equivalent to man-woman marriages. True, statistics do show a 50 percent divorce rate. There is no disputing the negative impact this has had on our nation's children. However, homosexual relationships are far less stable than marriages. A recent *Washington Times* article cited a study of Dutch homosexual men which found that the average homosexual relationship lasts only 1-1/2 years. The study further indicated that those in homosexual relationships on average have eight partners *per year* outside those relationships. The affects this would have on our nation's children should strike horror into this "village" that is raising the next generation.

Societal changes should only be legislated when it benefits society as a whole to make those changes. I fail to see that redefining the institution of marriage will benefit society. I believe that just the opposite is true. Christians have been silent long enough. Perhaps that is why we find ourselves in the middle of a debate that I, for one, never thought was an issue. Of course marriage is between a man and a woman. Who thought we would ever be arguing that point?

So it's time to stop standing by while our nation is highjacked. Call me a bigot, a zealot, a religious fanatic. I will not be silent. My one little vote will be tallied, and my morality is coming right inside the voting booth with me!

**Jeannie Herndon Colby**  
(Letter #68)

### Where to write

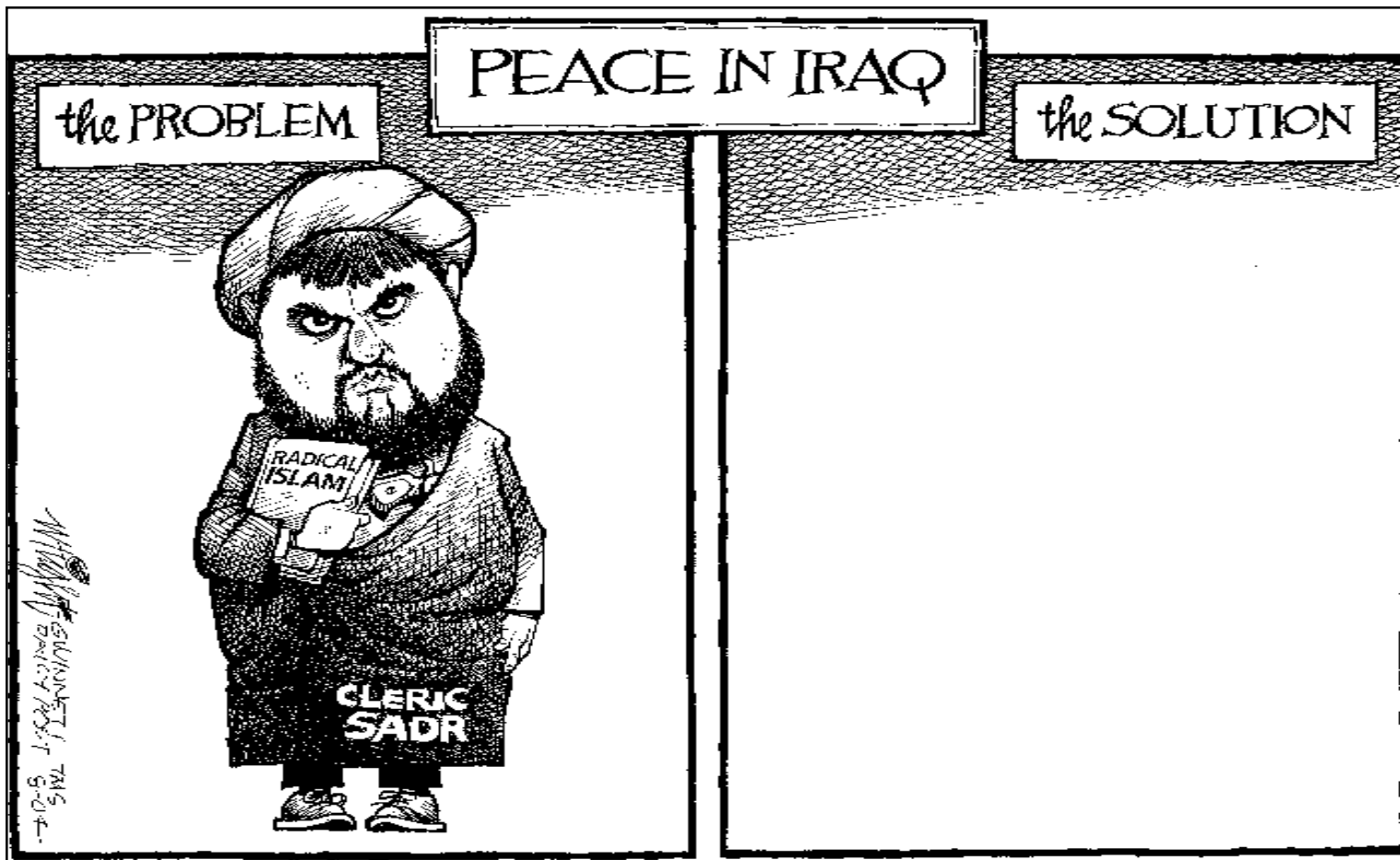
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## University festival to have Colby flavor

**WHAT** would you like to talk about today?  
Politics?  
Religion?  
Marriage?  
No. No. And no?  
Me neither!

-td-

**I SEE** where Fort Hays State University's 2004 "Bluegrass Festival" is coming up on Saturday, Aug. 21, starting at 3 p.m. and continuing to dark. It'll be held on the grounds at Gross Memorial Coliseum. The reason I bring this up is because our own — the McLemore Family — is one of the featured entertainers. The festival is a scholarship benefit for the college, so there is a slight admission charge. If you are in the Hays area on Aug. 21, why not take in the festival that'll have a Colby flavor.

-td-

**I HAVE** noticed that my e-mail box has taken on a 'Christian' look of late. Just a few of the categories:  
Christian lending  
Christian dating  
Removing your bills the Christian way  
Christian singles  
Christian debt helpers  
Christian debt management  
What's that all about?

-td-

**THE** only way I can address the following issue is to set the stage.

The temperature is 112. The sun is relentless in its effort to make conditions more uncomfortable than a person need to endure. The wind is kicking up the hot sand and blowing it in your face. Your clothing may be loose fitting but in these conditions that's little help. You and your buddies retreat to the tent. It's not any cooler but you're out of the rays of the sun. You all collapse onto cots. One of the guys says, "Wow, a cold beer



### Tom Dreiling

• My Turn

would be heaven right now!" The officer in charge says, "Forget it. You're not old enough to drink."

But they're old enough to fight and die for their country. And in most cases, because of the choice they made, they grow up quickly. They are mature beyond their years.

We think they are mature enough at 18 to vote — probably a politically-motivated plot by some eager office holder who needed to find another source of support.

No, I'm not advocating anything. I'm only pointing out inconsistencies in our "politically correct" society.  
That's all.

-td-

**AS I** glance at the calendar gracing the front of my monitor, I see where we are just days away from the official opening of fall sports practices for our high school athletes. Monday, the 16th day of August is the first day of organized practice. But most importantly, lest we forget, these athletes will be joined by large numbers of other students — in Colby anyway — to take their seats in the district's classrooms for the first day of school on Thursday, the 19th day of August. That'll be the day the parents return their children to the teachers of the district. And something tells me, by observation and chatter, that for most part the kids are ready to get back into the swing of things, not to mention the parents.

## Yes sir, 'Go, Navy!'

**TD**

• At Week's End

*Today's column is a potluck of stuff stuffed in my e-mail box. No priorities, I just randomly picked them out. But, as always, you'll discover the findings interesting. -td*

The following data may give civilians a better understanding of how the U.S. Navy operates. These facts are gleaned from the Captain's Log of the USS Constitution:

The USS Constitution (Old Ironsides) as a combat vessel carried 48,600 gallons of fresh water for her crew of 475 officers and men. This was deemed sufficient to last for 6 months of sustained operations. She carried no evaporators. (How modern naval vessels produce their fresh water, for drinking, bathing, laundry, etc.) However, let it be noted that:  
In July 1798, the USS Constitution set sail from Boston. She left with 475 officers and men, 48,600 gallons of fresh water, 7,400 cannon shot, 11,600 pounds of black powder and 79,400 gallons of rum. Her mission: To destroy and harass English shipping.  
Making Jamaica on 6 October, she took on 826 pounds of flour and 68,300 gallons of rum. Then she headed for the Azores, arriving on 12 November. She provisioned with 550 pounds of beef and 64,300 gallons of Portuguese wine.  
On 18 November she set sail for England. In the ensuing days she defeated five British men-of-war and captured and scuttled 12 English merchantmen salvaging only the rum.  
By 26 January her powder and shot was exhausted. Unarmed, she made a night raid up the Firth of Clyde. Her landing party captured a whiskey distillery and transferred 40,000 gallons aboard by dawn. Then she headed home.  
The USS Constitution arrived in Boston after eight months on sea duty on 20 February, 1799 with no cannon shot, no food, no powder, no rum, no wine, no whiskey and 48,600 gallons of stagnant water.  
Those were the good old days. Go, Navy!

A guy is having a drink in a very dark bar. He leans over to the big woman next to him and says: "Do you want to hear a funny blonde joke?" The big woman replies: "Well, before you tell me that joke, you should know something. I'm blonde, six feet tall, 210 pounds, and I'm a professional athlete and bodybuilder. Also, the blonde woman

sitting next to me is 6'2", weighs 220 pounds and is an ex-professional wrestler. And next to her is a blonde who is 6'5", weighs 245 pounds, and she is a current professional kickboxer. Now, do you still want to tell me that blonde joke?"  
The guy thinks about it for a second and says: "Nah, not if I'm gonna have to explain it three times."

George went on a vacation to the Middle East with most of his family including his mother-in-law. During their vacation and while they were visiting Jerusalem George's mother-in-law died. With the death certificate in hand, George went to the American Consulate Office to make arrangements to send the body back to the States for proper burial.  
The Consul, after hearing of the death of the mother-in-law, told George that the sending of a body back to the States for burial is very, very expensive. It could cost as much as \$5,000. The Consul advised him that in most cases the person responsible for the remains normally decides to bury the body here. This would only cost \$150.  
George thinks for some time and answers, "I don't care how much it will cost to send the body back; that's what I want to do."  
The Consul, after hearing this, says, "You must have loved your mother-in-law very much considering the difference in price."  
"No, it's not that," says George. "You see, I know of a case many years ago of a person that was buried here in Jerusalem. On the third day he arose from the dead. I just can't take that chance."

The woman's husband had been slipping in and out of a coma for several months, yet she had stayed by his bedside every single day. One day, when he came to, he motioned for her to come

So, drivers, be alert to the cautionary signs and lights in school zones.

-td-

**IN** April 1888, the first school was organized here, located five miles south of the present city. The teacher was Miss Ann Colby, daughter of the founder of the city. Sometime within the next six years, school was held in a frame 40X69 building located between Fourth and Fifth street. The street was named School Street as a result. (This piece of information is contained in the 2004-2005 Colby Public Schools *Activities & Events Calendar*.)

-td-

**THINGS** to ponder:

- √Why do you press harder on a remote control when you know the battery is dead?
- √Since light travels faster than sound, isn't that why some people appear bright until you hear them speak?
- √If it's zero degrees outside and it's supposed to be twice as cold tomorrow, how cold is it going to be?
- √Isn't Disney World a people trap operated by a mouse?
- √Why do they call it the Department of Interior when they are in charge of everything outdoors?
- √Why is the alphabet in that order?
- √Why buy a product that it takes 2000 flushes to get rid of?
- √If vegetarians eat vegetables, what do humanitarians eat?
- √When you erase a word with a pencil, where does it go?

-td-

**HAVE** a good evening and a good weekend. And don't forget your date at church.

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*Tom Dreiling is publisher of the Free Press. His column appears Wednesdays and Fridays.*

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