



American women and their role in warfare

By SHELLY HUELSMAN

H.F. Davis Library Director

As a nation at war, we are very conscious of the lives lost in Iraq. Our culture, being a media centered culture, is very aware of the events that are occurring thousands of miles away. We watched while Jessica Lynch was rescued from captivity, an American soldier, a woman.

While not always serving as members of the armed forces, women have played active roles in all kinds of warfare. In honor of National Women's History Month, and as a salute to those souls who have and will fight for what they believe in, here is a list of some titles relating to American women and their role in warfare.

• *Weathering the Storm: Women of the American Revolution* by Elizabeth Evans is a collection of journal and diary entries written by women. The American Revolution was a long drawn-out affair, with brutal fighting between family and neighbors. Evans collects entries from all sides of the conflict, loyalists who were denied any civil rights, to women fighting alongside the men to pacifist Quakers. If you think the Civil War was brutal, you might just change your mind after reading this.

• *All the Daring of the Soldier* by Elizabeth D. Leonard is an account of women who gave their all to battle for their cause, whether it was the blue or the gray. Again, these are personal accounts of women who

served as spies, nurses, and even disguised as male soldiers fighting on the front line. Perhaps as important as noting the service of these women is the answer to the question, why? Why did they make the choices they did? Why fight? The answers may be found by reading *All the Daring of the Soldier*.

• *Nurses at the Front: Writing the Wounds of the Great War* edited by Margaret R. Higonet concentrates on the role of nurses during World War I. This title recounts the memories of nurses Ellen N. La Motte and Mary Borden — two American nurses working in the same field hospital on the Western Front. They describe the realism of the Army hospital to the harsh conditions and personal struggles they

signed to the 71st Evacuation Hospital near the Cambodian border. She doesn't pull punches when describing the mass casualties, the horror of war and the effects that serving in Vietnam had

• *And if I Perish: Frontline U.S. Army Nurses in World War II* by Evelyn M. Monahan and Rosemary Neidel-Greenlee. World War II stories are common today, but not many concentrate on the role of the nurses. This title takes the reader from Africa to the liberation of the concentration camps in 1945. Personal recollections have a place in this title, but not the focus of this highly readable, scholarly look at the experiences of World War II nurses.

• *Home before Morning* by Lynda Van Devanter is a graphic, moving novel relating the author's experiences in the Vietnam War. Van Devanter was a nurse, as-

signed to the 71st Evacuation Hospital near the Cambodian border. She doesn't pull punches when describing the mass casualties, the horror of war and the effects that serving in Vietnam had

on a young, idealistic American woman. This was the first book I read dealing with the Vietnam War. I earned a new respect for combat nurses and for the Vietnam vets, who traditionally, have been underappreciated by the American people.

I'll end this list with one more title:

• *Women at Ground Zero: Stories of Courage and Compassion* by Susan Hagen and Mary Carouba. *Women at Ground Zero* is a collection of stories, memories and expe-

riences of women in the New York Police, EMS, and fire departments. This book was written solely to honor these brave women, who often were forgotten or overlooked by the media. This title demonstrates that women can and do perform courageous acts in a time of crisis, which is what any human does, regardless of gender.

Honor women during Women's History Month. Read about women. There are many books written about the role and experiences of women throughout the ages, not just during times of war. Stop by and check one out.

The H.F. Davis Library is open to the public from 8 a.m.-9 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Fridays and 4-8 p.m. Sundays.



COLBY COLLEGE PHOTO

Colby Community College admissions counselors Nikol Scheuerman and Doug Johnson go through the line at the breakfast prepared by the college's Office Professionals Organization.

Their cry: 'Breakfast is served'

Eleven members of the Colby Community College Office Professionals Organization prepared breakfast for faculty and staff members on March 19.

"Each year we try to do at least one service project," said the organization's president Jody Engel.

"The breakfast is a way to say,

'thank you,' to everyone on campus for their hard work."

The Office Professionals group meets each month to share solutions and network with each other. Trudy Wildeman, agriculture/vet tech secretary, and Doris Anderson, student services secretary, will be attending the state meeting of the Kansas Community College Office Profes-

sionals later this month in Kansas City. "We always get new ideas and methods at this conference," said Engel. "Trudy and Doris will share the information at our April meeting."

The group's other officers are Bev Anderson, vice-president; Melanie Fortin, treasurer; and Bridget Murray, secretary.

Coach is pleased with livestock judgers

First year Colby Community College livestock judging coach Matt Ellicott said he was pleased with his team's recent performance at the Iowa Beef Expo.

"In addition to several individual member awards, the team received several awards for their outstanding

performance," said Ellicott. "Competing against 23 teams, we placed 7th high overall, 7th high in placings and 10th high in team reasons."

Individual awards were earned by the following: Bob Mahan (Ranier, Wash.), 1st in placings and

26th high individual overall, and Brian Coon (Goodland), 12th in reasons and 10th high individual overall.

Other team members included Andy Mills (Stratton, Colo.), Kent Nelson (Ansley, Neb.) and Joleen Wilson (Smith, Center).

Calendar of Events

- March 25 & 26 — Spring Break; no classes/offices open
- March 25 — Softball vs. Butler County Community College, 1 p.m., at the college softball diamond; baseball squad at Prescott, Ariz. tourney.
- March 26 — Baseball squad at Prescott Ariz.; rodeo team at Garden City.

- March 27 — Comfort Inn Classic Softball Tournament, 10 a.m.; baseball squad at Prescott, Ariz.; track at University of Nebraska-Kearney Invitational, 10 a.m.; rodeo continues at Garden City
- March 28 — Comfort Inn Classic Softball Tourney continues; rodeo continues at Garden City.
- March 29 — Students return to

their campus classes.

- March 30 — Baseball vs. Western Nebraska Community College, 1 p.m., college baseball diamond; softball team travels to Liberal to play Seward County Community College, 3 p.m.
- March 31 — Baseball vs. Pratt Community College, 1 p.m., college baseball diamond.

Instructor elected to state board

Jeanne Thyfault, Colby Community College home economics instructor and director of the Child Care Resource and Referral (R&R) was recently elected to the state board of resource and referral agencies.

The Kansas Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies is a network of R&R agencies serving all 105 counties of Kansas. Sixteen member agencies comprise the organization and provide the R&R services to the counties in their service area.

The mission of the group is to help families, child care providers and communities find, provide and plan for affordable, quality child care.

Thyfault represented the Kansas association at the national symposium of R&R's held in late February in Washington, D.C.

"We spent one day on Capitol Hill advocating for early childhood programs," said Thyfault.

"I also had the opportunity during the symposium to learn about new research-based information on

early learning systems."

Colby Community College is the sponsoring organization for the Colby Child Care Resource and Referral Agency which serves all licensed and registered child care providers in nine northwest Kansas counties. The Colby R&R was organized and licensed in 1998. In addition to Thyfault, the Colby agency includes Lisa Herbel and Brenda Mazanec.

For more information, contact Thyfault at (785) 462-3984, ext. 251, or ext. 250.

Variety of items await crowd's bid

Numerous merchants and individuals in northwest Kansas have donated items for the Colby Community College Endowment Auction scheduled for Saturday, April 3.

These include a 14-ct. Australian opal and diamond pendant, 2004 one-ounce gold coin, battery powered John Deere child's riding tractor with trailer, radio and television commercials, 4-wheeler, NFR/Las Vegas package, KU basketball package, 5-piece patio set, wall clock designed by Frank Loyd Wright, digital camera, sterling silver green quartz necklace and earrings, gift certificates, garage door, tools and much more. More than 250 items will be offered via live or silent auction at the Comfort Inn Convention Center in Colby.

"The theme for this year's event 'Hollywood' will provide an atmosphere for fun and goodwill," said Endowment Director Nick Wells. "A delicious buffet will be served at 5:30 p.m., followed by the auction at 7 p.m."

Proceeds will be used to provide scholarships for Colby College students.

Admission is \$30 per person or a

table of eight may be purchased for \$200. For reservations, call the Endowment Office at (785) 462-3984, ext. 684.

'Zach be nimble...'



COLBY COLLEGE PHOTO

Zach Brown, a 2001 graduate of Colby High School, is a member of the Fort Hays State University track and field team that took part in Saturday's track meet at Dennen Field. He competed in the high jump, the 4X400 and the 4X100. At FHSU, he is majoring in business administration. Brown also played football for two years at Garden City Community College.

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Panic drives reviewer to own library

By JANIS SCHULTE

Driving home from work Friday night, I realized the magnitude of what I had not done. Now I faced sixteen hours without a book until the library opened on Saturday. Unthinkable! Since I cannot make it through an evening without reading, I had only one choice: find a book from our own modest collection at home. I think we have somewhere over 500 books.

For some unfathomable reason, it is hard for me to read books I actually own — well, fiction, at least, since I have read virtually all works of fiction I've accumulated over the years. So that meant I had to turn to

nonfiction. I selected a book my husband Jack recently ordered: *Beauty in the Beasts: True Stories of Animals Who Choose to Do Good* by Kristin Von Kreisler.

I wasn't sure what to expect from this book with a picture of a chimpanzee on its front cover, and I'm still sorting out what I think of it. However, I do have some observations. The book, divided into chapters naming virtues — sensitivity, compassion, courage, loyalty, fortitude, cooperation, resourcefulness, and generosity — recounts particular experiences humans have had with or observed in animals. Von Kreisler's collection of anecdotes is impressive in its scope, covering animals ranging from fish to birds and house pets to wildlife predators. Her use of specific names and places lends credibility to the tales she tells.

The author leaves no place for speculation concerning her thesis,

which is repeated several times in different ways in every single chapter: animals consciously choose to demonstrate the virtues she describes. Throughout the book, she refers to various scientists who disagree with her. She presents their views, which all come down to the same thing: animals act out of evolutionary instinct, nothing more and nothing less. She then systematically refutes this view through multiple examples and her interpretive reasoning about each situation.

What do I think? I'm still on the fence, though my own experience with pets pushes me closer to Von Kreisler's views than the scientists she cites. There is one thing I'm sure of, though, and that's the next novel I'll be reading — *Moo* by Jane Smiley.

Janis Schulte is an English instructor at Colby Community College.



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