

Opinion

Monday's Salute

Thumbs to...

✓ **Tammy Higerd** — Heartland Christian School teacher, and your students, on your unusual luncheon menu. Sounded interesting.

✓ **Brownie Troop 165** — for again undertaking the "proper disposal of U.S. flags" project.

✓ **Dr. Boyd Walker, Dr. Gerald Sanden and Sue Long** — for your years of service to Colby Community College. Good luck in your retirement.

✓ **Pioneer Memorial Library** — on your "Booked for Lunch" programs, the final session of the season to take place on Wednesday, featuring reviewer Sharon Kriss.

✓ **Nancy Arendt** — good luck with your plans to organize a Colby Archaeology Chapter, which would be a nice addition to the local menu.

✓ **Senior Progress Center** — on your Tuesday program featuring the Red Barn Gang and presentation of awards. Should draw a large crowd.

✓ **Tucker Stover, Chris Elsen and Brandon Gay** — on the awards presented by the Kansas Association of Broadcasters and the Kansas Press Association. All three have ties to Colby Community College.

✓ **Colby Trap Club** — on your reawakening after a 20-year absence. Jim Deibert is president, Bob Luck is vice president and Paul Bailey is secretary-treasurer. Other board members are Tim Hansen, Royce Porter, Rod Taylor, Glen Strait, Jeff Unger and Dan Zerr, of Pheasants Forever.

✓ **All Flag Raisers** — your daily duty of placing the American Flag atop the poles in many locations in Thomas County does not go unnoticed. Thanks!

This weekly salute is prepared each Monday morning by the newspaper's publisher. Submissions, comments or questions can be directed to td@nwkansas.com, faxed to 462-7749 or call 462-3963.

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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

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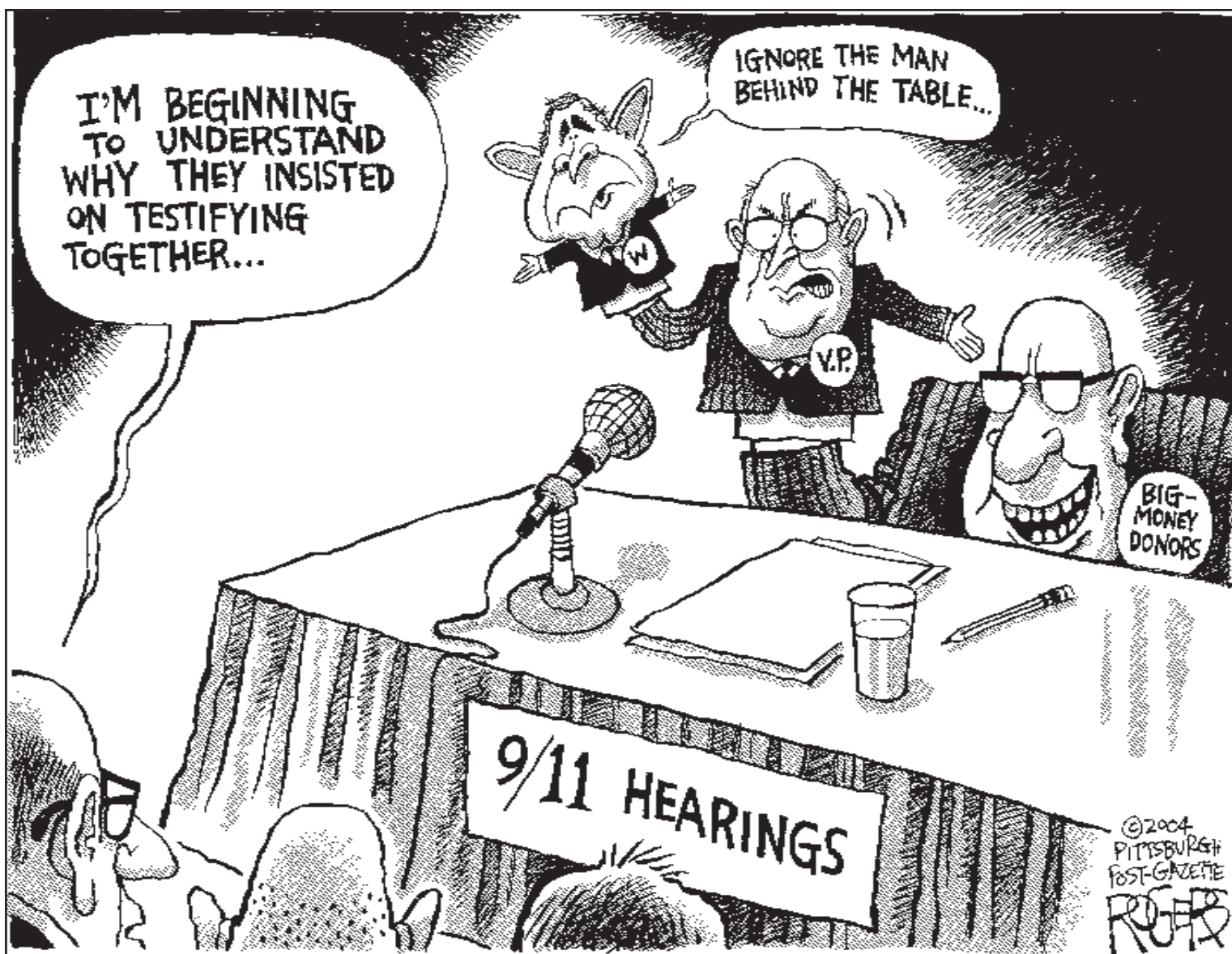
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Skippy's list

I'm a member of several online communities, or more to the point, I've recently started keeping track of the goings-on on a couple of Web sites that happen to be of particular interest to me.

One is the message board for a certain comic book company, mainly because the conversations can get pretty interesting and in some cases, downright funny.

One evening, I ran across a thread that caught my eye so I decided to go check it out. There were only three posts, all commenting on how much mayhem one Web site caused when it was read.

Naturally I was curious so I clicked on the link and soon found myself on a page entitled "The 213 Things Skippy is No Longer Allowed to Do in the U.S. Army."

(I hope nobody from the FCC is reading this. "Due to the possible improprieties, this column is canceled this week...")

According to the site, administered by a Sgt. Shawn Stanford, the list was compiled by one Specialist Schwarz, a member of the U.S. Army stationed in the Balkans (Croatia and the like) a few years back.

He was PSYOPS, and as the site says, he was either incredibly lucky, bored, creative or some mixture of all three.

I laughed until I cried when I read the list and even felt a little twinge of sympathy for this guy's fellow soldiers and commanding officers.

After reading the list, I wonder what ever happened to Specialist Schwarz. Clearly his antics gave the brass a huge headache. Maybe he's still out there somewhere wreaking havoc on unsuspecting officers.

Or possibly he's back as a civilian, living a nice quiet life somewhere.

Somehow, I seriously doubt that.

Anyway, this list is a piece of work.

Some of the better lines include:



Tisha Cox

• Off The Beaten Path

Not allowed to wear a dress to base functions. It is better to beg forgiveness or ask permission no longer applies to Specialist Schwarz.

Am not the atheist chaplain.

Some people didn't find this list so funny. The reaction on the boards at Yahoo! was a little different. A couple of people ranted on how it was a testament to the lack of quality of the soldiers in the Army these days.

I beg to differ, but that's my opinion.

The guy obviously had his reasons. Who hasn't pushed the envelope to see what they can get away with but I don't think the regimented lifestyle of the United States armed forces is the appropriate place to test the waters.

Nor is the average, everyday workplace but they can only fire you.

Compiled below are a few of what I consider to be my favorites from the list.

33. Not allowed to chew gum at formation, unless I brought enough for everybody.

34. (Next day) Not allowed to chew gum at formation even if I *did* bring enough for everybody.

35. Not allowed to sing 'High Speed Dirt' by Megadeth during airborne operations. ("See the earth below/Soon to make a crater/Blue sky, black death, I'm off to meet my maker")

71. I must not flaunt my deviances in front of my chain of command.

87. If the thought of something makes me giggle for longer than 15 seconds, I am to assume that I am not allowed to do it.

104. Vodka, green food coloring, and a 'Cool Mint' Listerine® bottle is not a good combination.

110. Never, ever, attempt to correct a Green Beret officer about anything.

142. 'Calvin-Ball' is not authorized PT.

147. I should not threaten suicide with pop rocks and Coke®.

148. Putting red 'Mike and Ike's'® into a prescription medicine bottle, and then eating them all in a formation is not funny.

194. Shouldn't take incriminating photos of my chain of command.

195. Shouldn't use Photoshop® to create incriminating photos of my chain of command.

203. "To conquer the earth with an army of flying monkeys" is a bad long term goal to give the re-enlistment NCO.

181. Pokémon® trainer is not an MOS.

200. My chain of command is not interested in why I 'just happen' to have a kilt, an inflatable sheep, and a box of rubber bands in the back of my car.

187. Must not taunt officers in the throes of nicotine withdrawal, with cigarettes.

And there you have it folks, some of the lessons Skippy learned and compiled into his list. Enjoy.

Parts of this column were borrowed from http://www.avalanchetankers.us/archives/000058.html, administered by Sgt. Shawn Stanford. The entire list can be found at that address.

Tisha Cox is a general assignment reporter/photographer for the Free Press. Her column appears on Mondays. tcx@nwkansas.com.

Thanks...but no thanks

Someone called and offered me a job the other day, and although flattered and pleased that they thought of me, it didn't take me much reflection to realize I am in no condition to take a job, even a part-time job. So I had to regretfully say no. I've never had to go job hunting. Jobs have sort of fallen on my head, like a blanket, and I'd be flailing around in the dark, trying to figure out what I was doing.

I've been blessed to have jobs I liked. The only job I didn't like was the first one I had. My mother got it for me. It was sorting potatoes when I was about 13. In my hometown, a farming community, they produced potatoes, which were brought by the truckload to the potato shed, where they were washed, sorted and sewn into bags. High school kids were hired to do most of the work, which was seasonal.

They put me to work at the 'dog' table. The 'dogs' were bad potatoes, and I was told to throw away the bad potatoes. "And don't throw out too many, or the boss will be mad. But if you miss too many, the Department of Agriculture inspector will be mad."

Nobody bothered to explain to me what or how much was bad; cuts, bruises, green spots or mold, I didn't know. Then the older kids harassed me because I didn't know what I was doing. I think I worked there for about a week. I hated



Maxine Nelson

• Random Thoughts

that job. Decisions! Decisions! Decisions!

Fortunately, most of my other jobs were as a secretary. I worked my way through the University of Nebraska in Lincoln as a secretary. When I was a freshman, I worked for a lawyer up on the fifth floor. It had big, fold out windows, with no screens. One day as I was typing away, a stray gust of wind came by, and my typewriter cover went flying out the window and sailed majestically down the street. I never did tell my boss. Wonder if he ever missed it.

I love being a secretary. Secretaries know everything that is going on, they don't have to make decisions, and they get to remind the boss what he needs to do. When I belong to an organization, I volunteer to be the secretary. That gets me off the hook when they are looking for a vice-president or president, unless it's one of those organizations which expect you to work up

through the offices.

When I was working for the Free Press, I felt like I was the social secretary for the whole town. I remember when I first started doing the calendar and Colby Happenings, I discovered two organizations, I think the Lions Club, and perhaps the Odd Fellows, had pancake feeds scheduled for the same time at the same place on the same day. They were shocked when I told them. I think they finally worked it out that the one who already had the tickets printed up got to keep the day, and the other one changed its date.

-mn-

I was driving out to Wal-Mart the other morning, and it occurred to me that I hadn't driven to a store in the morning very often. When I was working, I was always on deadline at that time of day, or if I was out driving, it was to report on a story.

Joy Davis told me it was almost two years after she retired before she felt comfortable not having to go to work at a certain time, and could enjoy going when she wanted, where she wanted. I guess I am right on schedule. It will be two years this summer.

Maxine Nelson is a retired reporter and editor for the Colby Free Press and frequently contributes to this page.

Doonesbury

• Gary Trudeau

