

Opinion

Letters

Carnival readies for fair

To the Colby Free Press:
It has been a while since I have updated you on carnival happenings. After a little complication, I am happy to say things have fallen into place for us and now the Thomas County Amusement Association is getting things ready to roll for the Thomas County Free Fair Aug. 3-7.

For this year's fair we have added a new ride, the Scrambler and a concession stand. At this time we have 19 organizations that have committed to helping us; but once again, we still need support from organizations and the community to run the remaining games and work in the concession stand.

We still need approximately 125 people to help us out. People can work a two-hour shift or as many shifts as they like! And of course we need sitters for the dunk tank.

Also, if anyone is interested in purchasing a bench or picnic table, they can call Tina Harris at 785-462-8008 in the next week or so.

Jada Tubbs at the Chamber of Commerce has once again graciously taken the responsibility of coordinating schedules, so if anyone is interested in helping with the carnival, they need to call Jada at 785-460-3401.

As always, thanks to you and everyone else for the support. Without all of you, this carnival could not happen! See you at the fair!

Wanda Brown
Thomas County Amusement Association
(Letter #55)

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@nwkansan.com, fax 785-462-7749, drop by the office or call 785-462-3963. All submissions must carry the signature of the writer, a daytime telephone number and address. Phone number and address are used for verification only and will not become a part of the submission unless the writer so requests. The Free Press will attempt to publish your submission within 24 to 48 hours of receipt.

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 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

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Don't forget Saturday's the day

HOW do you like my makeover (photo in box accompanying this column).

Okay, so it's not my picture, but... is there really that much difference?

(Quit your laughing!)

The photo is that of David Phelps, who will be performing on the stage of the Colby High School auditorium at 7 p.m. Saturday. You won't want to miss it. He is highly acclaimed and has taken his place among the greats in Christian music.

It is indeed a treat to have him perform here, in Colby, his only stop in Kansas on his current 29-city June-July tour.

He has entertained in some of the nation's largest cities, before thousands of live audiences, has been seen by millions on television and even performed for President George W. Bush.

We are indeed blessed to have him in our company.

In Colby tickets can be purchased at The His Shop.

Let's pack the place!

Thanks for considering an evening out with one of the giants of the industry.

-td-

WELL, there he was. Tom Ridge (wish he's invest in a different suit and shirt...and tie), the Homeland Security boss, looking into the television eye and talking again about terrorist threats against us right here at home. Am I the only person tiring of these 'updates' that seem to take center stage when nothing else is going on? They keep mentioning the two political conventions and voting day itself, but are quick to point out that there is no intelligence specifically pointing to those events. I think they know the specific events, I really do.

But all the while if we are to be "vigilant" because of intelligence that points to trouble, then why is the alert level not changed? And the more they spit out these threats, the more uncomfortable we are. Frankly, I do not believe for one minute that we are any safer today than we were before 9-11. Forget the fact we haven't had any major disruptions since 9-11, but that in itself should be of no comfort. Instead, that should tell us that those who would do us harm are plotting and planning the next big harm — of their choosing and time.

Are we ready?



Tom Dreiling

• My Turn

Are we ready right here in Colby?

- Or Goodland?
- Or St. Francis?
- Or Atwood?
- Or Oberlin?
- Or Norton?
- Or Phillipsburg?
- Or Plainville?
- Or Stockton?
- Or Hill City?
- Or Hoxie?
- Or Quinter?
- Or Grinnell?
- Or Oakley?
- Or Sharon Springs?
- Or Brewster?

"Ready for what?" you ask. That's the question we keep looking to our Homeland protectors to answer. How do we know the next blow will be in a major city. It could well be a cluster of small, rural towns. They've already shown what they can do to the biggest of our big. Maybe next time they will show us what they can do to the smallest of our small.

Are our law enforcement people in our small towns ready? We don't hear them updating us as to what they are doing to protect us. And when Homeland Security czar Ridge goes before the television cameras, are our law enforcement people glued to the set, or do they receive advance notice of what he is going to say? Is there a direct and continuing link from here to Washington? And if so, how come we never talk about terrorism? We aren't immune — I don't think.

Or is Homeland Security one of those mandated things that fails to be accompanied by a money belt? In other words, we'll scare ya', but you gotta' shell out for our own protection? I see, hear and read often about the millions of dollars going to the cities. What do we reap?

The professor was right

Today will be another interesting day for this column. Lots of e-mails, lots of variety. Join in the gabfest. Send me your stuff (I just love the word 'stuff.') -td

When things in your life seem almost too much to handle, when 24 hours in a day are not enough, remember the mayonnaise jar...and the coffee.

A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, wordlessly, he picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.

So the professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous "yes."

The professor then produced two cups of coffee from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar, effectively filling the empty space between the sand. The students laughed.

"Now," said the professor, as the laughter subsided, "I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things — your God, your family, your children, your health, your friends, and your favorite passions — things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full. The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, your house, and your car. The sand is everything else — the small stuff."

TD

• At Week's End

"If you put the sand into the jar first," he continued, "there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you. Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your children.. Take time to get medical checkups. Take your partner out to dinner. Play another 18. There will always be time to clean the house and fix the disposal. Take care of the golf balls first, the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand."

One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the coffee represented.

The professor smiled. "I'm glad you asked. It just goes to show you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a cup of coffee with a friend."

Good lesson, I'm sure you will agree.

Thanks to Rod E. for that.

Ah, Kansas, you'll love this!

Once upon a time in the kingdom of Heaven, God was missing for six days. Eventually, Michael the archangel found him, resting on the seventh day. He inquired of God. "Where have you been?"

God signed a deep sigh of satisfaction and proudly pointed downwards through the clouds, "Look Michael, look what I've made."

There are so many questions about so-called homeland security. But few, if any, answers, other than "be vigilant."

Now I'll get off my soapbox.

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-td-

861.

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After listening to a portion of an interview this morning on the television set with a member of the bin Laden family, again the old saw "blood is thicker than water" prevails.

HERE is a small part of an e-mail arriving in my box this morning (and then hang in there for my response):

"First of all, we plan to take out at least FIVE FULL-PAGE ADS in the greater Boston metro area, DEMANDING that Sens. Kerry and Edwards resign from the Senate in order to run for President and Vice President, because they're there so rarely there's no way for them to actually represent their constituents."

Okay, listen up: What Sens. Kerry and Edwards do is the business of Sen. Kerry's and Sen. Edwards' constituents — not me nor you who don't live in their states. And, if we are to ask them to resign because of their absences from the senate, should we not be asking President Bush to also resign because of his absence from the Oval Office as he flies all over the country to also campaign?

Fair is fair. Nit-picking is sick. And this is not the first election in which some goofy group called for a senator to step down because he was seeking the presidency.

Wake up, America! These hate mongers, on both sides of the political landscape, are as dangerous as anything we face. They would dismantle, from within, the way the majority of us live.

-td-

HAVE a good evening and a good weekend. And why not toss some of that money being spent on those five full-page ads referenced above, in your church envelope this weekend?

Tom Dreiling is publisher of the Free Press. His column appears Wednesdays and Fridays. E-mail td@nwkansan.com, fax 785-462-7749 or call 785-462-3963.

Archangel Michael looked puzzled and said, "What is it?"

"It's a planet," replied God, "and I've put Life on it. I'm going to call it Earth and it's going to be a great place of balance."

"Balance?" inquired Michael, still confused.

God explained, pointing to different parts of earth. "For example, northern Europe will be a place of great opportunity and wealth while southern Europe is going to be poor."

"Over there," he continued, "I've placed a continent of white people and over there is a continent of black people." God continued pointing to different countries. "This one will be extremely hot and while this one will be very cold and covered in ice."

The Archangel, impressed by God's work, then pointed to a land mass and said, "What's that one?"

"Ah," said God. "That's KANSAS, the most glorious place on earth. There are beautiful lakes, rivers, streams, hills, and forests.

"The people from KANSAS are going to be handsome, modest, intelligent and humorous and they are going to be found traveling the world."

"They will be extremely sociable, hardworking and high achieving, and they will be known throughout the world as diplomats and carriers of peace."

Michael gasped in wonder and admiration but then proclaimed, "What about balance, God? You said there would be balance!!!"

God replied wisely, "Just wait until you see what I'm surrounding them with in Oklahoma, Colorado, Missouri and Nebraska."

Got something for "At Week's End" E-mail it to td@nwkansan.com, fax 785-462-7749, mail to 155 W. 5th, Colby 67701 or drop it by the office. Thanks!