

Opinion

Letter Drop

- Our Readers Sound Off



Here we go again

To the Colby Free Press:

That damnable liberal press is at it again!

The nerve of some sleuth snooping around and purportedly finding that the latest big terrorist alert was put together from intelligence gathered 3 or 4 years ago!

Can we holler 'wolf' loud enough and long enough to get re-elected before the sheep ignore the pachyderm that's supposed to be protecting them?

The braying donkeys and trumpeting elephants are neither one addressing the real issues of the day!

While they are debating and arguing about whether to lock the gate, how best to do it and who should retain the key, the varmints are springing all the traps.

What a tangled web they weave!

We have been deceived so many times, it is hard to determine whom we should believe.

Ken Poland Gem
rcwinc@cheerful.com
(Letter #63)

A note to our readers

Dear Readers:

If you submitted a letter recently that has not been published, it may be because the following requirements have not been met.

1. The signature of the writer must appear on the letter.
2. A daytime telephone number must appear on the letter.
3. Your address must appear on the letter.

We use telephone and address to obtain verification of the writer. It is rare it happens, but it does, that someone will submit a letter and use another's name as the writer.

These requirements are designed to head off those kinds of situations.

We know you understand.

Thanks...and keep those letter coming.

Tom A. Dreiling
Publisher
(Letter #64)

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 to 785-462-7749. Please include your signature, daytime telephone number and your address.

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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Tom (TD) Dreiling - Publisher

td@nwkansan.com

NEWS

Patty Decker - Editor

pdecker@nwkansan.com

Tisha Cox - General Assignment

tcx@nwkansan.com

ADVERTISING

Crystal Rucker - Advertising Sales/Director

crystalr@nwkansan.com

Jeremy Blackwill - Advertising Sales

jblackwill@nwkansan.com

BUSINESS OFFICE

Lea Bandy - Circulation Manager

Jeanette Applegate - Bookkeeping & Ad Building

japplegate@nwkansan.com

Evan Barnum - Systems Administrator

support@nwkansan.com

NOR'WEST PRESS

Jim Bowker - General Manager

Richard Westfahl, Lana Westfahl, Ron VanLoenen, Judy McKnight

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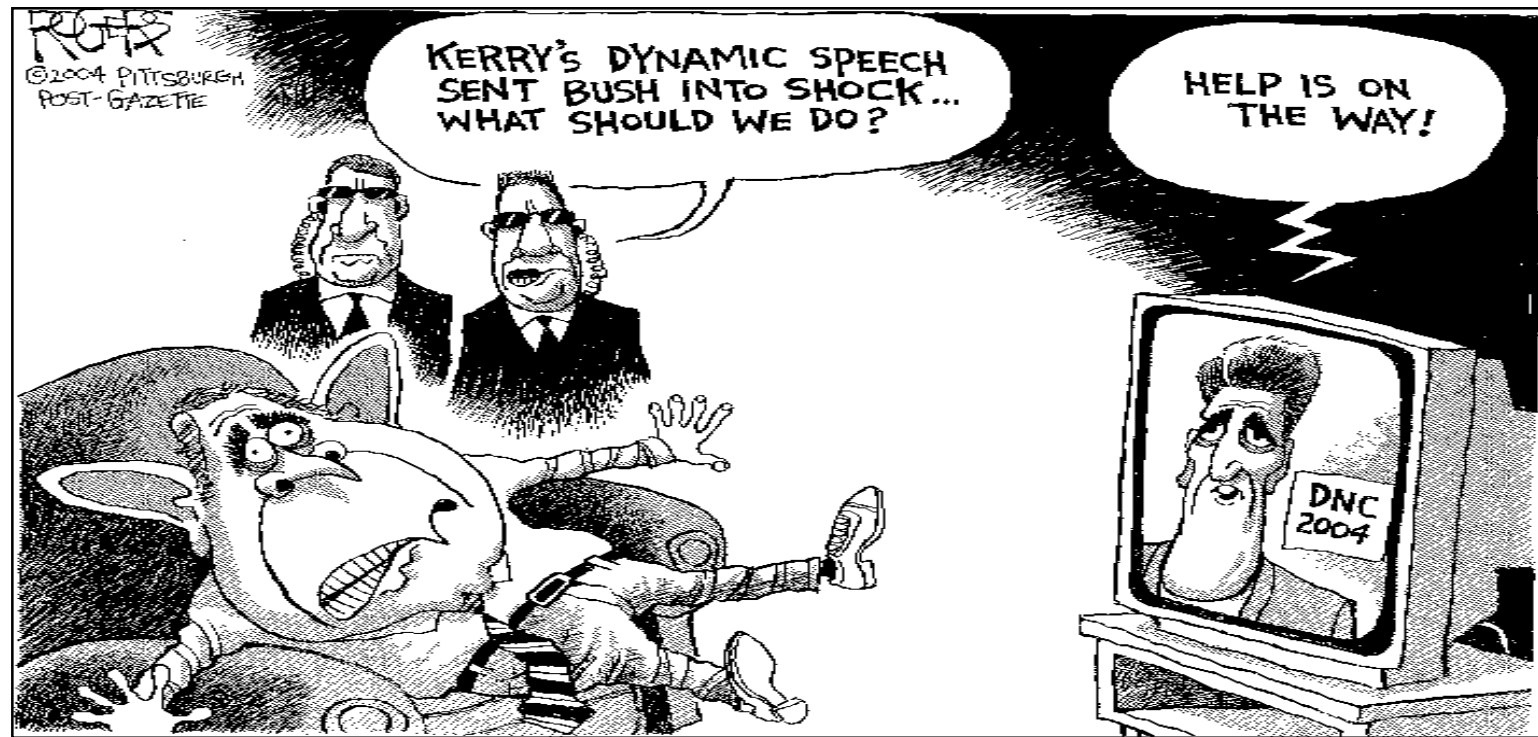
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My visit to the Statue of Liberty



Tom Dreiling

- My Turn

THE Statue of Liberty, that massive copper figure on Liberty Island in New York harbor, that symbol of liberty so emotionally embraced by all who see her, reopened Tuesday for the first time since the 9-11 terrorist attacks. Visitors now are limited to entering only the 7-story base of the statue and not permitted to climb the winding stairway through the interior of the crowned woman holding a torch in her upraised hand.

I feel fortunate to have visited the statue in years gone by and at a time when this nation's freedoms were not threatened by killers of the worst degree — terrorists!

I was in the Statue of Liberty in the summer of 1960 on a three-week whirlwind visit to Major League baseball stadiums. We huffed and puffed our way up the long, winding stairway to the observation area which happened to be the crown of the statue. And wow! what a view of the harbor and a breath-taking panorama of the world's most celebrated city. I still consider that the most impressive part of our summer journey, even overshadowing the Nation's Capitol and White House.

To know we were inside the Statue of Liberty was an emotional experience that would take someone with a much better command of our language than have I to describe.

When I learned that Tuesday was the day the statue was reopening to the public my thoughts ran wild as I took time to reflect on my visit to that historic figure that carries the official name *Liberty Enlightening the World*. Back then there were no security checks as is the case now. Exploration of the interior of the statue itself was not limited, although there were areas the public could not access due to safety concerns.

I can almost feel the physical endurance, although not as pronounced then as it would be now, I am sure, of climbing up those many stairs and then coming back down the statue and getting on the elevator that takes you back to ground level on legs not as steady as you thought they would be.

She's a grand old lady, that's for sure. And I feel so fortunate that I got to see her as she was and not see her today in a more rigid, security-dictated setting. The freedoms she stands for are now being tested. And ironically she was a gift from a country that today some Americans have a hard time even saying — FRANCE. I, for one, thank that country even today for the gift that has stood for so long and for all the right reasons.

-td-

TUESDAY was election day — primary election day. As this is being written (Tuesday), I have not the slightest idea as to who won and who didn't, but that coverage will be on the front page. We had races locally, and in some of the House Districts in our area and in our Senatorial District (the 40th). It'll be interesting to learn how many of the registered voters voted. And with the primary now in the history book, our attention is on the general election on Nov. 2.

-td-

KEEP in mind that our fair — the Thomas County Free Fair — is in full swing at the fairgrounds and continues through Saturday. This is one of those "family rated" activities. So let's make it a "family affair." It took a lot of work on the part of a lot of people to put this thing all together. Don't disappoint. Attend!

-td-

WELL, I think it's safe to assume that the worst of our tornado season is behind us. Of course there can still be that isolated storm, but the alerts will be fewer in number. Now, those living along the waters of the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico are listening to hurricane chatter. When I was writing this weather people were telling us that off the Carolinas a hurricane was taking shape. So that season is officially underway.

-td-

TODAY is Aug. 4. Two weeks from Thursday, Aug. 5, the new school term in Colby begins. Yep. Aug. 19 will usher in the first day of classes for students in the Colby School District. That's really not a lot of time to get it all together, to retool the thinking process of the kids in the house from the carefree days of summer to the more structured routine of school days. I know, I've been there. Good luck to those of you who are still there, or getting into it for the first time.

-td-

THE current hot spell is no surprise. This is fair week. And the weather, historically, is never fair — for the fair.

Time out for a little fun



Jay Kelley

- Speaking MyMind

It should be no surprise the weather has turned off hot. We have had a nice summer so far, with good rains and cool weather, so August has to make up for it.

There is another reason the weather has to turn this week, the Thomas County Fair. It must be a rule somewhere that there can only be three kinds of weather during the fair; hot, rainy or both.

This year's fair is again the big thing in Colby and the surrounding area. Folks are getting their exhibits ready and the home-owned carnival is ready to go. I'll be working the tilt-a-whirl as part of the fire department again, which is okay as long as I don't have to actually ride it.

You'd think after nearly seven years of sea duty in the Navy and never being seasick, a ride like that would be a piece of cake, but my stomach doesn't like anything that goes in circles, especially two circles at the same time.

I can also say I've literally given blood sweat and tears to fair this year. Some of the firefighters went out to work on some rides and I managed to be under a light bracket when someone else dropped it.

Fortunately, it landed on my head, where it couldn't do any permanent damage, but it did result in a cauliflower ear and a ringing headache the next day. There was also blood involved. It's amazing how much blood can come out of a

small body part like your ear.

It's also amazing how the sight of blood doesn't affect you until you realize the blood you're looking at is your own.

Of course, there will also be the standard fair fare. The usual civic groups will be operating food booths to make a little money for their particular projects.

Funnel cakes and corn dogs will abound, as will hamburgers, hotdogs and other goodies which aren't actually so good for us, but its only once a year.

Many see the fair as a time to relax, but it is also a busy time for others. Countless volunteers put in extra hours to put on the animal shows, exhibits and races.

County fairs are a tradition going back probably even beyond our European heritage. Many of the early civilizations had festivals to celebrate the passing of the harvest and the com-

WELL, another husband is behind bars. Mark Hacking of Salt Lake City was arrested Monday in the what police said is the murder of his pregnant wife, Lori Hacking. Authorities believe her body is buried somewhere below 3,000 tons of trash at the county landfill. Although her body has not as yet been found, police said they have gathered enough evidence — including the murder weapon — to bring charges. This thing sounds like the Scott Peterson case out in California. He is currently undergoing trial for the murder of his pregnant wife.

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-td-

I REFER to this as "stump time." You know, that time when politicians try to *stump* the voters. On the national scene, it's the guys who *wannabe* president and vice-president and the ones who *wannaremain* president and vice-president. Listen to them closely. Sometimes they sound alike. From where I sit I take an opposing view and see the November election not nearly as close as the experts see it. And considering that the experts are the *Belway* dwellers, I'll stick with my predict. Bush or Kerry, whoever, it ain't gonna be like last time around. It'll be an outright victory, with ample room to spare.

-td-

THE minister was pleading to his congregation for a salary increase. It was an intense, emotional plea. "I've been here seven years," he said. "I never missed a service. I never took vacation. I was always at your beck and call." The church was silent. You could hear a pin drop. "I ask not for a hefty increase, just something to lighten my financial burden," he said. All through his plea you could hear ever so lightly the organist touching a key here and there. Finally, when the minister had finished stating his case in a softly spoken manner, the organist said, "I'm been here only one and a half years. I'm making good money." Then he started to play and sing, "There's no business like show business...!"

-td-

HAVE a good evening!

Tom Dreiling is publisher of the Free Press. His column appears Wednesdays and Fridays. td@nwkansan.com. You can also comment via letter to 155 W. 5th, Colby 67701, or fax 785-462-7749, or by simply picking up the phone and calling 462-3963.

ing of fall. Growing up in Hutchinson, I went to the state fair nearly every year. Although I thought it was huge at the time, I've come to realize it is just a larger version of the county fair and that even depends on the county in which you live.

Living near Lubbock, Texas was a real eye-opener. The Lubbock County Fair is about the size of the Kansas State Fair. I guess everything is bigger in Texas.

But not better. I'll put our small county fairs in northwest Kansas against any of the bigger fairs. You can go see the exhibits anywhere, but here you know who put the exhibit on, how hard they worked and might have even had a part in the process.

So, go to the fair. Eat too much cotton candy or too many funnel cakes and ride some of the rides (just don't do both on the same night.) Take a look at the exhibits and appreciate the hard work.

The county fair only comes around once a year and there are people who work hard to bring it to us. All they ask in return is that we go and have a good time.

That's not a real tough request.

Jay Kelley is a local minister and writer who speaks his mind from time to time. His e-mail is jkelly@nwkansan.com.

Doonesbury

- Gary Trudeau

