

# Opinion



## Free Press Viewpoint

### Coach should only have one team

Derek Bissitt and the Colby School Board did the right thing today.

During a special meeting held this morning, the school board approved the resignation of Derek Bissitt as boys basketball coach. Bissitt tried to do what few people have done, coach both varsity boys and girls teams in the same season. His first, and only, season at the helm of both teams finished weeks ago.

Coaching two teams at the same time is a lot to ask for. It is not that Bissitt is incapable of doing such a task, but the question to ask is: Should a person have such responsibilities?

The Colby girls team had an excellent year and was just two games away from the state tournament. The Colby boys team was not the same story. Although their play improved later in the season, their season was a struggle.

Hindsight is always 20-20 and Colby fans can only speculate the answers to these questions.

Would the girls have made it to the state tournament had they had a coach giving 100 percent to only the girls team? They were just seconds away from beating Goodland in Scott City in the substate semifinals.

Would the Eagle boys had a better season if they had a coach giving 100 percent only to the boys team? Would the Eagle boys have reached at least a .500 record and had a better foundation for 2006-2007?

Was Bissitt putting more emphasis into one team than the other? Does he have more interest in the girls team because they were ones winning? Let's hope not. After he put his all into the girls game, he had to regroup and do it again for the boys game.

Remember, horses used on the Pony Express were changed every 10 to 15 miles because they ran out of energy after running full speed for that long. One horse could not run the entire route, just as one person should not coach both varsity basketball teams at the same time.

— John Van Nostrand, publisher

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155 W. Fifth (USPS 120-920) (785) 462-3963  
Colby, Kan. 67701

State award-winning newspaper, General Excellence, Design & Layout Excellence, Column Writing, Editorial Writing, Sports Columns, News, Photography.

Official newspaper of Thomas College, Colby, Brewster and Rexford.

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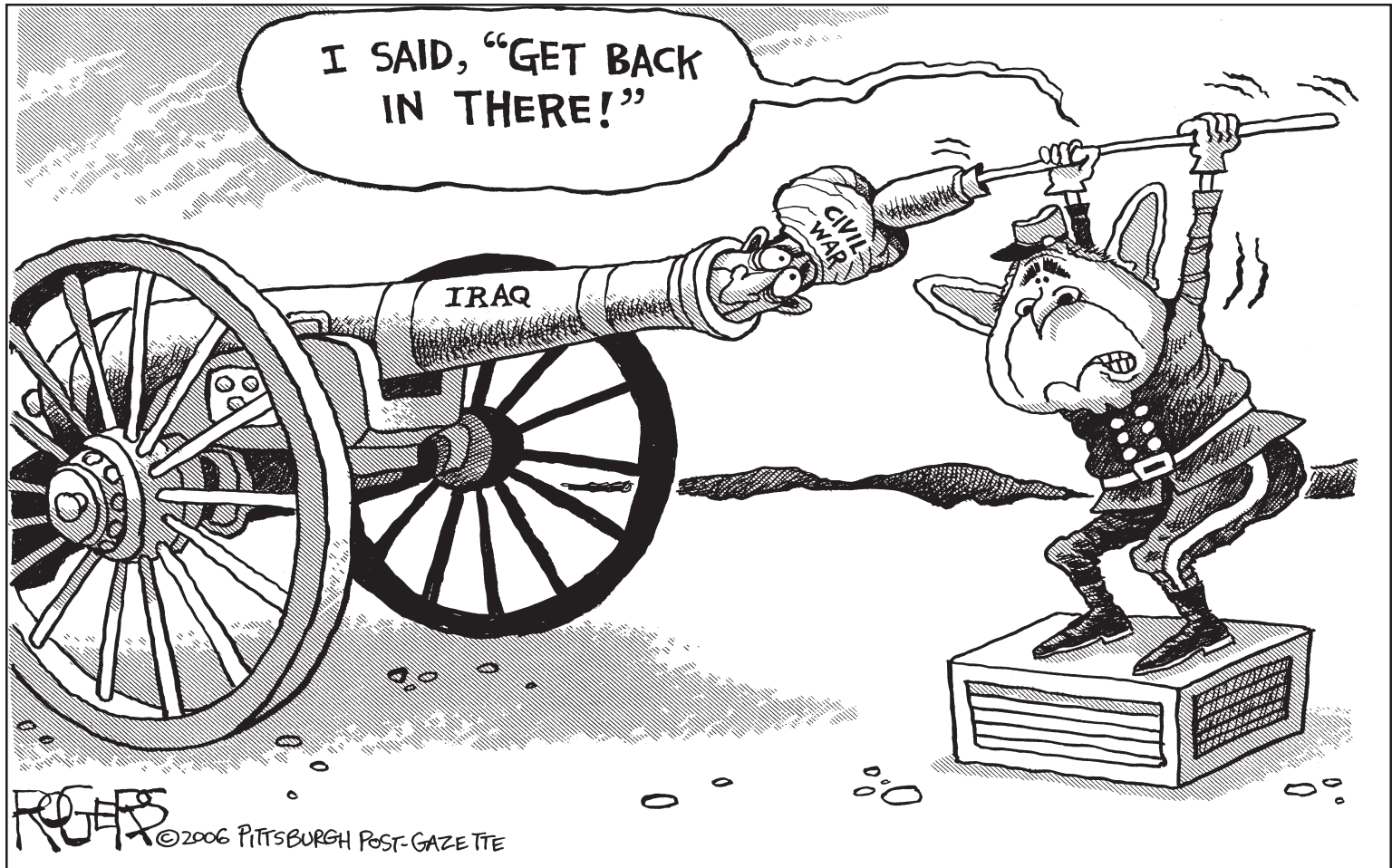
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THE COLBY FREE PRESS (USPS 120-920) is published every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, except the day observed for Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day, by Haynes Publishing Co., 155 W. Fifth, Colby, Kan., 67701.

PERIODICALS POSTAGE is paid at Colby, Kan. 67701, and at additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to The Colby Free Press, 155 W. Fifth, Colby, Kan., 67701. THE BUSINESS OFFICE at 155 W. Fifth is open from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, closed Saturday and Sunday. MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, which is exclusively entitled to the use for publication of all news credited to it or not otherwise herein. Member Kansas Press Association, Inland Press Association and National Newspaper Association. **SUBSCRIPTION RATES:** In Colby by carrier: 4 months \$38, 8 months \$53, 12 months \$70. By mail with in Colby and the nine-county region of Thomas, Sheridan, Decatur, Rawlins, Cheyenne, Sherman, Wallace, Logan and Gove counties: 4 months \$50, 8 months \$62, 12 months \$78. Other Kansas counties: 4 months \$57, 8 months \$67, 12 months \$81. All other states, \$81, 12 months.

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## A week and a season to remember

Even though the National Junior College Athletic Association tournament is not yet over, it has been a fun week covering the Colby Lady Trojans' first ever appearance at the tournament.

This year's Colby team will be remembered for a long time for their firsts, let alone their trip to Nationals. This year was also Colby's first ever win at Seward County, Jayhawk West Conference and Region 6 championship.

Colby was just one of 16 stories at the tournament. Across the country there are more than 150 schools. Although I was there for Colby, there was much more to experience.

I wish every basketball fan, either of men or women games, could have watched the Trinity Valley vs. Northeast Mississippi's first-round game Tuesday. Trinity Valley set a tournament record scoring 123 points in the game, two points better than the old record set in 1995.

Maybe Northeast Mississippi was not playing their best game, with all due respect, but how the Cardinals played was phenomenal.

Within the first three minutes of the game they had a 20 point lead.

Their offense was a fast break. Most of their possessions probably took no more than seven seconds to run the length of floor, make two passes and make the open shot. It was like watching a blur run up and down the court.

What I really liked about Trinity Valley is no matter who they had on the floor, they produced. The Cardinals' backup center led the team in scoring and she was athletic enough to battle Northeast Mississippi's point guard at the top of the key and created steals. Centers are not intended to do that.

It was the best single performance of basket-



### John Van Nostrand

#### • Line in the Dust

ball I have ever watched — no matter what gender.

But as with most tournaments, the further you advance the tougher the teams get. Trinity Valley lost in the second round to Chipola, Fla., another excellent team, but not as flashy as Trinity Valley.

You have got to give Salina some credit for making the town attractive for hosting the tournament. Salina is in the center of the country which reduces travel expenses, considering teams came from as far as Arizona and upstate New York. Also, knowing Region 6 is heavy with Kansas teams, that will hopefully provide some sort of fan base when one of the Kansas schools qualifies. It was great to see all the Colby fans Wednesday.

Unfortunately, that is about the only fans who show up. The Bicentennial Center holds about 6,500 for basketball. Even though Salina is a city of 50,000 plus, it still shows a town needs a connection to get more of the locals interested. I thought many area high school teams would be there to see how junior college ball is played. If they were there, I didn't see them.

I don't know how much Salina people care about having the tournament in their own backyard.

## We need to protect property rights

During my six years of public service in the Kansas legislature, two issues stand out in my mind for having the most public feedback from my constituents: The Marriage Amendment and Eminent Domain.

I recall a conversation with Harold Lundgren of Gove. He said "Good fences make good neighbors." I agree with him.

People get along best when they feel secure in their possessions, and when they can be confident that their earnings will be secure from their neighbor's desires.

Government and local officials must come to see the vital importance of property rights in any free country. There can be no other rights without property rights. A civilized political system simply cannot survive when a government can take away people's property and give it to whatever group having the most political influence.

The definitions of "Public Use" can not be interpreted to mean "Private Use." Tightening the legal definition of "blight" would help ensure that eminent domain is only used for truly unsafe property, not just property that fails to



### Ralph Ostmeyer

#### • Senator 40th Dist.

produce enough tax revenue.

We should not allow cities, counties, or state agencies the power through eminent domain to force someone to involuntarily sell their house, their business, or their farm so they can give it to other private owners for their own private use.

Until the Kelo decision, the fifth amendment of our U.S. Constitution has allowed government to take private property for "public use" only. The Kelo decision opened up the arena to allow anything a governmental unit decides will benefit the public, including increased tax revenues. I don't agree with the argument that eminent domain is a valuable tool for economic development.

Eminent domain abuse will damage people's faith in their own government, and people who are not secure in their own possessions cannot plan for their own future. A healthy economy is best achieved when individuals are free to use their own resources as they see fit.

We need a Constitutional Amendment in Kansas to protect private property rights from eminent domain abuse. I see a lack of support of this happening. We should put something into law that clarifies the definition of public use and blight designations.

I would close with a quote from Nobel Prize winning economist Milton Friedman. He said "In an economically free society, the fundamental function of government is the protection of private property and the provision of a stable infrastructure for a voluntary exchange system.

When a government fails to protect private property, takes property itself without full compensation, or establishes restrictions (and follows policies) that limit voluntary exchange, it violates the economic freedom of its citizens."

### Mallard Fillmore

#### • Bruce Tinsley



### Doonesbury

#### • Gary Trudeau

