

# Opinion

## Letters from readers



### Cutting advisors cutting our throats

Letter to the Editor:  
 "Cutting investment in scientific research and discouraging our best minds from advising our political leaders is a surefire way to shortchange our future." These are the words of Mortimer B. Zuckerman, Editor-in-Chief in his September 26, 2005, editorial in the U.S. News and World Report.

He goes on to say, "An administration that packs advisory committees with industry representatives and disbands panels that provide advice unacceptable to political ideology is shortchanging the future of all of us."

... . A presidential tradition of leading the public and its representatives to appreciate the importance of science and professional education goes all the way back to Thomas Jefferson. It is time it was renewed."

It is my opinion that more parents would discourage their kids from participating in so many sports in order to get a better education if it wasn't for thinking that sports would be good for them because it would keep them out of a lot of trouble with those that have delinquent tendencies. Also, if they participated in sports Monster Television and Worse Movies could not nail their attention.

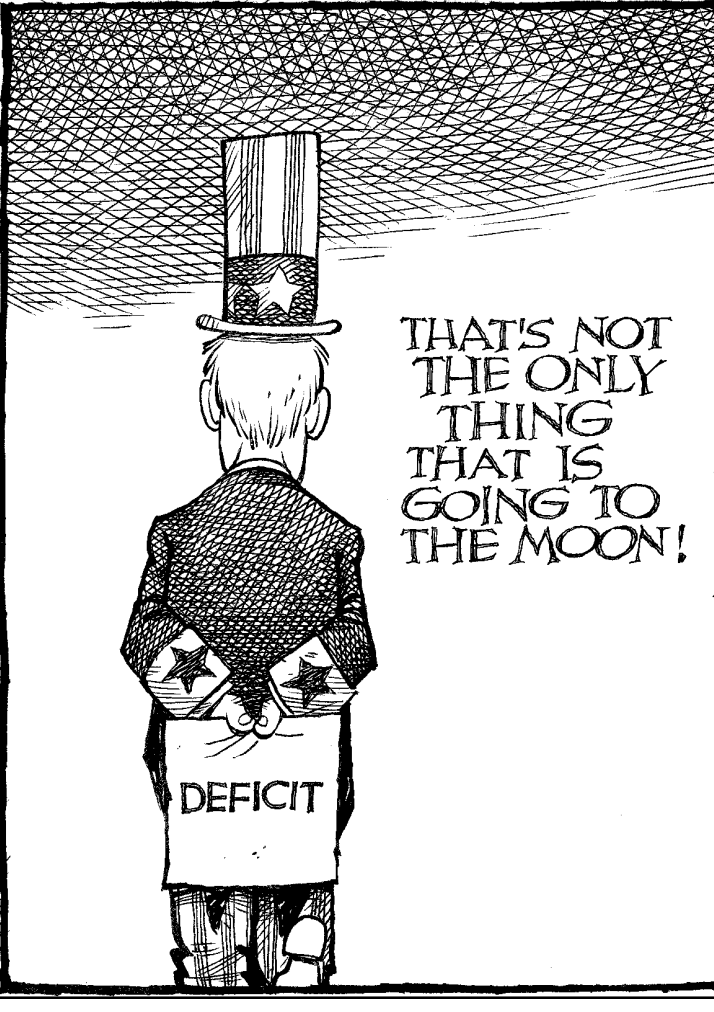
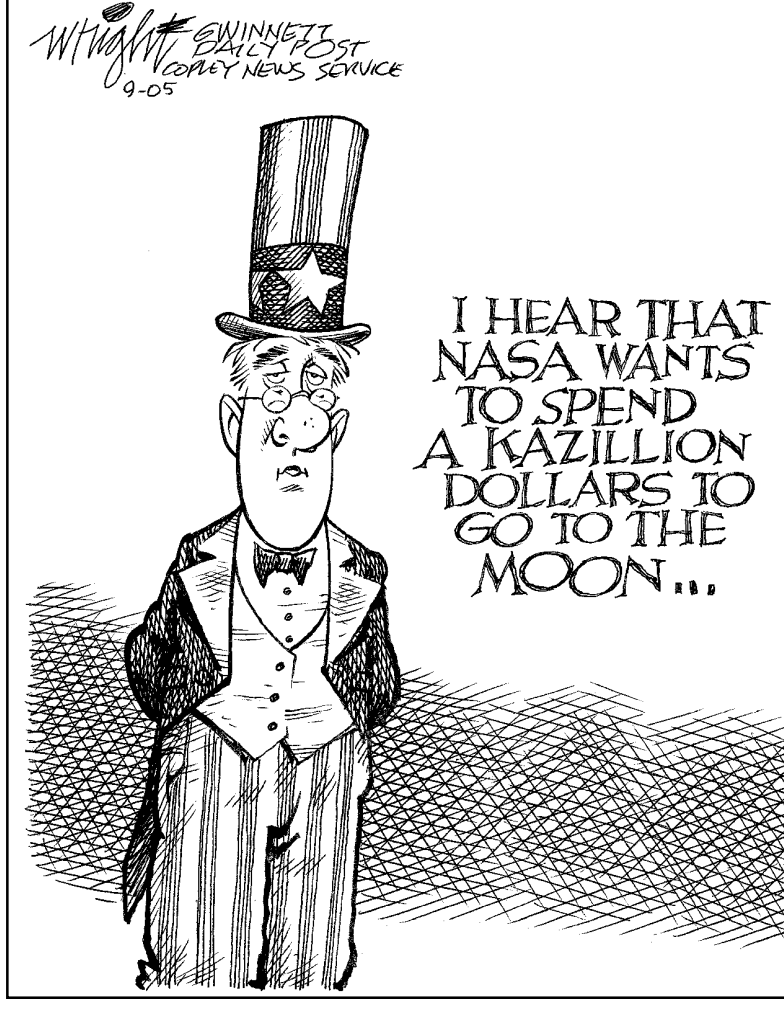
However, sports has shanghai'd education to the extent that the ordinary student doesn't have a chance to become an electrical, mechanical or chemical engineer because he/she hasn't had a chance to weigh in heavily on math in high school. Where does the student who participates so much in sports get a chance to read good books or learn to express himself/herself by discussion, debate, or writing?

MS. EDNA A. HATCHER  
 Colby, Kansas  
 Letter #75

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 pjschief@nwkans.com or pdecker@nwkans.com.

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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**, 2443 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. 202/225-2715 or Fax 202/225-5124
- State Rep. Jim Morrison**, State Capitol Building, 303 SW 10th St. Rm. 171-W, Topeka 66612. 785/296-7676 e mail: jmorrison@ink.org web: www.ink.org/public/legislators/jmorrison
- State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer**, State Capitol, 300 SW 10th St., Rm. 128-S., Topeka, Kan. 66612, 785/296-7399 ostmeyer@senate.state.ks.us



### It's truly a small world

We've been back in Kansas for a dozen years and we decided it was time for a small celebration.

Actually, the anniversary was just an excuse to see another baseball game before the end of the season, even though our Rockies aren't anywhere near being in the playoffs.

Since I had to work Saturday, we decided to go to a Sunday game, leaving Saturday when I got off work and spending the night in Denver.

I tried to get a room at my favorite downtown hotel but all the reasonably priced ones were gone, and I wasn't about to pay more for a room than I make in a week, so I started checking around. The Adam's Mark, a nice hotel on 16th Street at the end of the mall, had a good deal, so we decided to stay there.

As soon as we arrived, Steve laid down. I had taken a nap on the four-hour trip to Denver while he drove. While I had worked in a nice, cool store, he had mowed the lawn in 90-degree-plus weather.

Well, I wanted to go to the book store and he wanted a nap. No problem. I headed downstairs.

As I started out the front door, I came face to face with our best friends, Merle and Mary Barnczyk from Salida, Colo. Since I didn't know they were coming to Denver, let alone staying at the Adam's Mark, I was stunned, if not very surprised.

(I have always said, never have an affair.



**Cynthia Haynes**

#### ● Open Season

No matter where you go, you'll run into someone you know.)

Merle and Mary were in Denver with their grandchildren because they had won a one-night stay at the hotel and dinner for two. They all planned to go to the amusement park on Sunday.

Merle and Mary are also in the newspaper business, and the two men always get lost in computers, presses and problems with the papers. Mary and I talk about our children, her grandchildren, what's happening and where we are going next.

We've been friends for more than 20 years, and even though we sometimes don't see each other for months at a time, we always seem to stay close.

Later, as Merle and Mary and their crew headed for the hotel dining room, Steve and I started walking down 16th Street to find a quiet little restaurant for a romantic dinner.

Halfway down the mall, we ran into some more friends from Colorado. Boy, am I glad I was with my husband.

Shane and Susan Birdsey have a sporting goods store in Creede, the little town in the mountains where we settled 25 years ago to run our own newspaper and raise a family.

Back then, Shane was in high school and a source of gray hair for both his parents and the sheriff. Today he's a prosperous businessman with a wife and two children and works as a deputy for the same sheriff to whom he gave all those gray hairs.

The Birdseys were in town for a fly fishing equipment retailers conference, and the kids were home with grandma. They promised to say hi to all our friends back in the high country.

We found a good restaurant, but it wasn't too quiet. While the food was wonderful and the atmosphere inside great, there was the annual Oktoberfest going on in Larimer Square right outside.

I know, it's not October. Larimer Square holds Oktoberfest in September because you never know what the October weather will be like in the Mile-High City.

We had breakfast with Merle and Mary and their kids, went to church and watched the Rockies beat the Arizona Diamondbacks 7-2 without running into anyone else we knew, even though we stopped at the filling station at Byers, Colo., where you can meet someone from northwest Kansas almost any day of the week.

### Host puts foot in mouth

You got to feel sorry for poor Pat Robertson. This guy has put his foot in his mouth so many times in the last week, he's probably learned how to floss with his shoelaces.

First, he goes on his television show — "The 700 Club," and calls for the assassination of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez. And isn't it refreshing that somebody at last is speaking the truth about our foreign policy? This could be the start of a whole new trend. Next thing you know President Bush will show up at a Veterans of Foreign Wars rally and talk about how that punk Putin is just itching to be iced.

Of course, then the inevitable happened: a few nearsighted malcontents wondered aloud about Robertson's sanity and whether or not he should be herded off to a quiet place in the country and fed a steady diet of strained food, flavored just enough to hide the taste of the industrial strength sedatives. Not to mention a few Venezuelans who took minor umbrage.

So Pat reluctantly went back on TV, not to apologize, but to say he didn't really say what we all heard him say. "I didn't say 'assassination' (unh, yes you did). I said our special forces should 'take him out' 'Take him out' could be a number of things including kidnapping." Methinks the Reverend Robertson is either spending very little

#### Will Durst

#### ● Raging Moderate

money on his public relations firm or he has made it his policy to plug his ears and hum "Sugar, Sugar" while they speak.

Robertson denied saying he said Chavez should be killed when he went back on his television show and told his audience that maybe, what he meant to say, was Chavez should only be kidnapped a little. Well, why didn't you say so in the first place? Kidnapping is so much more civilized than out-and-out assassination. Assassination is so final, what with the deadness and all. But kidnapping allows room for doubt, what with the attendant missingness. Much more mysterious and romantic.

When you get right down to it, he's right; the phrase "take him out" could mean many things. It could mean — place him upright next to the garage like a stack of old National Geographic's on garbage night. Or maybe — take him out to dinner and then a movie followed by a long slow drive to Inspiration Point with the top down and the "Best of Tony Orlando & Dawn" playing soft and low. He could have meant either of those —

but I doubt it.

Asked to comment about Robertson's suggestion that our government "take out" Hugo Chavez, Donald Rumsfeld laughed it off as a ridiculous suggestion which would never happen because assassinations of foreign leaders are illegal. Nobody pointed out that so are the stealing of elections and the outing of CIA agents and the torture of foreign detainees. Sticky technicalities we've seemed to dodge in the past.

Of course, The Good Rev is being portrayed by the radical right as a wacky uncle who likes his Hot Toddlies a tad too much; but remember, this is the guy who once said feminism was responsible for women killing their children, practicing witchcraft and destroying capitalism. So obviously his hold on reality is about as tenuous as a room deposit for Courtney Love's fifth anniversary sobriety party. We can't expect him to lose his television show, but one can hope his invitations to the Lincoln Bedroom have been assassinated. Or at least kidnapped.

Political comic Will Durst wants to host a show called "The 1PM Club" because that's when he gets up.

Will Durst is a political comedian who has performed around the world. He is a familiar pundit on television. Email Will at willdurst@sbcglobal.net.

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● Gary Trudeau

