



COLBY FREE PRESS

Speaker: Teachers' hands are tied

By John Van Nostrand
Colby Free Press

Even though the federal government is using the slogan "no child left behind," a retired school teacher said morals, as well as children, are being left behind in today's public education.

Guy Doud, named National Teacher of the Year in 1986 and honored at the White House with then President Ronald Reagan, will speak at Heartland Christian School's Partners for the Future endowment banquet 6 p.m. Oct. 21 in Colby.

"The president's No Child Left Behind is always up for debate and how it has improved education is very controversial," Doud said.

Doud spoke at Colby Community College in the late 1990s, before No Child Left Behind was passed. Doud said education has changed since then and since the law's enactment.

Doud, 52, retired in 2004 after teaching for 30 years. He lives in Baxter, Minn.

Approved by President Bush in January 2002, No Child Left Behind focuses to improve the performance of America's primary and secondary schools by increasing the standards of accountability. Some critics claim the requirements are too difficult for schools to reach.

Doud said schools struggle with keeping kids in school, let alone meeting No Child Left Behind requirements.

"We still have drop outs," Doud said. "And there is a bigger divide between the haves and the have nots."

According to Doud's research, about 80 percent of students in inner-city districts drop out of school, compared to the national average of 33 percent.

"That's real tragic. There should not be any drop outs, but even that is not realistic."

"We should hope for less than 2 percent."

Doud speculates school districts have emphasized more on testing



G. Doud

School violence not new

By John Van Nostrand
Colby Free Press

Guy Doud says just get used to it.

Doud, who will be the featured speaker at Heartland Christian School's Partners for the Future banquet Oct. 21 in Colby, says school-related violence has been around longer than publicized.

Doud will speak in Colby about two weeks after the third of three fatal shootings in public schools in Colorado, Wisconsin and an Amish school in Pennsylvania.

"It's not new," he said. "School violence goes back to the 1930s

and 1940s with kids bringing guns to school."

Doud, who was named teacher of the year in 1986 plus has other awards and written books, said the response to school violence is growing and changing the atmosphere of public schools.

He once spoke at a school in Indianapolis, Ind., and noticed there were guardposts around the school. When cars entered the school's parking lot, they were subject to searches. Then people walked through a metal detector while entering the building.

"It's becoming more like maximum security prisons," he said.

and test results related to No Child Left Behind, rather than focus on how teachers can relate to their students.

"It may have actually increased the drop outs," Doud said.

Speaking with various teachers across the country, Doud said teachers' work today is more prescribed and have less freedom.

Because of situations and lawsuits across the country, teachers' relationships with their students are limited and under stringent guidelines.

"Public schools are filled with caring teachers, but most of the time they feel like their hands are tied," he said.

Doud said new teachers must be aware of the situation they could be put in.

He said it is common for new teachers to be idealists thinking their students will want to learn and students' parents will be involved and supportive.

"It's a rude awakening," he said. "Students are bored or just don't like school and there is low parent involvement. For the ideals, it is rude slap in the face. It's a big adjustment."

A teacher from Queens, N.Y., asked Doud what he could do to motivate his students.

The students do not know their biological father, live in broken homes or are raised by their grandparents. The teacher fears discipline

because of revenge or reaction by school administration. He shares his philosophy and encouragement with teachers who ask him for advice.

Doud said what has added to the stress of education has been the erosion of morals, even within schools.

He said some public schools are promoting same-sex marriages, offer contraceptives to students and have become critical when any Christian reference is made.

"The move to being PC has put a damper on public schools. In their effort to not offend anyone, they offend someone."

Those issues are why Doud appreciates private, Christian schools, like Heartland.

"They are more tender, loving and caring," he said.

"Christian schools can pray and show examples of the Bible and Christ."

"You have the opportunity to have a caring attitude."

Doud said his strategy to teaching is based on the Golden Rule - treat others as you would want to be treated.

"I don't have all the answers," Doud said, "and some people expect the answers."

For more information about the banquet and to make reservations, contact Heartland Christian School at 460-6419.

Reservations are to be made by Wednesday.



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Brette Pfeifer, helping with the Sacred Heart Church and Auction, looked over one of the more than 400 items that will be auctioned off Saturday at the 9th annual event. Tickets are still available.

Auction set for Saturday

By Patty Decker
Free Press Editor

More than 400 items will be auctioned off Saturday at this year's annual Sacred Heart Church and School auction, starting at 5:30 p.m., Saturday, at City Limits Convention Center.

"Follow the Yellow Brick Road" is the auction's theme and, Brette Pfeifer, helping with the event, said they are hoping

for a larger attendance since the location changed from TNT Auction to City Limits Convention Center, 2227 S. Range Ave.

"There are still plenty of tickets available for the auction," she said, "and lots of great items."

In addition to trips, food, hand-crafted items, and chocolates, there's also two lottery baskets and many bags of seed corn from a variety of dealers.

Last year, the auction brought in about \$43,000 and this year, orga-

nizers hope to meet or exceed that total.

All proceeds from the event help the parish and school both.

A special preview is scheduled Friday from 7 to 8:30 p.m. for those wanting to see the items prior to the event. Doors open Saturday at 5:30 p.m.; the silent auction and dinner is at 6 p.m. and the oral auction is 7:30 p.m. For tickets or questions, either call 462-2179 or stop by the Rectory, 585 N. French Ave.

Colby's biggest sports fan remembered by family, friends

By Tisha Cox
Colby Free Press

Colby lost one of its most loyal sports fans and supporters Ray Kersenbrock, 82, who died Wednesday, Sept. 27 in Colby.

His brothers, Glen and Bill Kersenbrock, said there weren't many sporting events in the county he didn't attend.

"He went to everything," Glen said.

Bill said if there wasn't anybody playing in Colby, he would travel to Rexford or Brewster, and his wife Ruth, almost always by his side.

Ray's interest in sports began early on.

"Sports was about the only thing we did around here," Glen said. "Sports was a major part of the community when we were young. It was just a way of life."

Many towns in the area had base-



Ray Kersenbrock, second from left, was a familiar face at Colby athletic events. He is pic-

tured with Larry Miller, far left, Bill Kersenbrock, Jared Johnson, and Glen Kersenbrock.

ball teams and traveling teams would come to play them. Baseball was Ray's favorite sport.

He played when he was young and later coached American Legion and K18 teams.

"All he did was go to all the games," Glen said.

The Kersenbrocks also had their

favorite seats in the Colby Community Building. If anyone sat in those two seats, others would tell them to move. Their seats were mid-court behind the first railing.

Their father played baseball, and instilled a love of the game and sports in his sons. Bill said their father went to as many activities as he

could to watch and passed that tradition on.

Bill drives the activity bus for the Colby School District and also tries to attend as many sporting events as he can. Glen is also at many events.

Away from sports, Bill said Ray enjoyed playing cards at family gatherings, as well as a good yarn.

"He liked a good story and liked to tell a good story," he said. "He always had a smile on his face."

Ray and Ruth met in high school. Glen said she attended country school until she started high school. They were married 64 years.

Ray served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Most of his time in the war was spent in the Philippines.

Ray worked for Colby Distributing, a wholesale liquor outlet, until he retired.

Colby radio broadcaster Rich Epps saw Ray at almost every Colby sporting event for more than 20 years.

"He was the epitome of what a fan should be for Colby," Epps said. "He bled orange. He was encouraging and an encourager for kids as long as I can remember."

Epps said Ray and Ruth inspired children at an early age, whether it

was T-ball or middle school foot-

ball. "They were there to cheer them on," he said. "He (Ray) was genuinely interested."

Epps met Ray in the late 1970s after moving to Colby and beginning to broadcast sports for KLOE. He got to know Ray in the early 1980s.

Epps said his family owned a restaurant in the mid 1980s. Ray would eat lunch each day.

Epps recalls how the Kersenbrock brothers sat together at games, almost always on the front row.

"They were their own cheering section," he said.

He also said Ray was missed at sporting events the past few years, unable to attend because of his health.

"I'm not sure we'll have another Ray Kersenbrock," Epps said. "He was that unique. He will be missed."

Nursing home announces change in management, operations

By Tisha Cox
Colby Free Press

The name is staying the same for now, but Infinia at Colby will no longer be managed by Infinia Healthcare Companies, LLC.

Zach Gibson, public relations with Infinia, said nine facilities in Kansas and one in Ohio will not be operated by

Infinia. Management by Infinia in Colby ended Oct. 3, and will now be handled by Deseret Healthcare Company of Centerville, Utah. Gibson said administration and employees at Infinia of Colby now fall under the jurisdiction of Deseret.

Infinia's decision was to focus on leadership and support for 14 other facilities in Arizona, Minnesota, Nebraska and Utah.

Other Kansas Infinia facilities include

Hutchinson, Kensington, McPherson, Onaga, Oswego, Smith Center, Wichita, Yates Center and Mansfield, Ohio.

Each of the facilities were not owned by Infinia Healthcare Companies, only managed.

However, Infinia at Colby will retain that name until a new name is decided.

Ty Weston, president of Deseret Healthcare Company, said the company has

made a commitment to improve the quality of life at Infinia of Colby.

"We are working to improve operations and resident care," he said.

"We believe we can do that very quickly."

Weston said the goal is to be "a long-term player in the market place and support the community."

Infinia at Colby administrator James

Foster was unavailable for comment today but Weston said nothing is changing right now for the employees at Infinia of Colby, and he has faith in their abilities.

"We believe they have done an excellent job under the circumstances," Weston said.

Weston and others from Deseret will visit Colby.