

Opinion

Your turn

He will be missed

Pat Turrell Colby
Wednesday was a very sad day for Colby with the passing of Dave Jennings. He was a strong supporter for Colby. He supported the schools in the academics as well as the sports and humanities.
The His Shop was truly where Dave made all his customers feel welcome and special. Even when he was busy, he would make eye contact and acknowledge he knew you were there. When he did get to you he would apologize for making you wait. Dave had the special touch to make you feel like you were important when he waited on you.
He remembered what you liked or didn't like and would go out of his way to find just the right combination. I always knew if I asked Dave to help me pick out something for my boys, they would always like it. Our son, Tom, always thought I knew just the right colors, but my secret weapon was the His Shop and Dave. My cover is gone and I will truly miss Dave and the His Shop.
Colby was a better place for having Dave, he will be missed.

Thank you, doctor, for fighting

Melinda Fikan Colby
Kudos to Judy Kistler's letter and all the other previous letters. I couldn't have said it better. I, too, will be seeking medical treatment outside of Colby.
I have doctored with Hildyard for over 30 years. He delivered both my children, saw them through childhood illnesses and has carried me through different medical issues over the years, and now I am faced to lose a 30 plus year relationship with someone who I have had the utmost confidence in.
I am sure that I am only one of hundreds of Hildyard's patients who have built a relationship with him and have come to trust and respect his judgment when it comes to my health and well-being.
It is really sad that a board, hundreds of miles away can be persuaded by such a small majority that possess political and monetary influence.
Thank you, doc, for continuing to fight for my rights and privileges.

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 jvannostrand@nwkansas.com or pdecker@nwkansas.com. Opinions do not necessarily reflect the *Free Press*.

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Production and jobs go hand-in-hand

With children in tow, I grabbed off the shelf what I thought was my favorite brand of toothbrush. But once I got home, I knew I grabbed the wrong one.

I took it out of the bag and first noticed the back of the packaging. "Made in China" was stamped on it. I turned the package over and realized that the brand I prefer was only used as a comparison to the generic one I actually purchased.

So back to the store to exchange the toothbrush for the one I really wanted. I had to pay \$1 more for it, but I didn't mind, knowing American workers made the toothbrush. It's always nice to see "Made in the U.S.A." on the back of things.

I know, it seems silly to exchange a toothbrush, of all things, just because I did not approve of where it was manufactured — plus pay another \$1.

I know that can't happen with every purchase I make — but that is what I strive for. A healthy, active economy must include purchasing items made in this country.

Some people upset at what they think is factory work, have become so close-minded their argument is getting weaker by the day. In other parts of rural America, where farming is prominent like it is here, people are outraged over the growth of corporate farming in their backyard.

Some are upset over companies building hog production facilities where just one can produce thousands of hogs each year.

People claim those factory farms and their large quantity strategies are eliminating the traditional family farm. Those hog barns are also potential environmental hazards. Should something related to manure collection fail, water



John Van Nostrand

• Line in the Dust

sources could be polluted. I keep thinking they are people who don't want America to have agriculture anymore.

The people who protest those things are obviously picking their own battle. Yes, corporate owned farm facilities compete with the traditional family farm. But I would much rather have American raised livestock than having meat imported from other countries.

Three years ago, when Japan refused American meat because of our BSE case, Japan had six more BSE cases.

Many of our daily needs are made in factories, usually in other countries, ruining more than family farms in America. Small manufacturers compete with the bigger industries who have utilized plenty of cheap labor in other countries.

Consider the tag on the shirt those factory-farm protesters are wearing. More than likely, it was made in another country, probably China. During the past couple of years, because of trade law changes, China has increased importing more articles of clothing to the United States.

Our American cotton growers and clothing manufactures in the United States need support too. Those corporate farm protesters should take

it to the next level. If they want their food produced by family farms, they should also have all their clothes tailor made.

Those protesters probably then go home and write letters about their opinion to the Congressman. They probably use mass-made Bic or Sheaffer pens, both now made in China.

The past couple of years, Sheaffer drastically reduced their American operations. According to a pen collector Web site, Cross brand pens are the only pen that only have American factories. I have proudly used a Cross pen throughout my career. A cheap Cross pen might be \$20. If protesters want to use small manufacturers, like they want family farms — ante up.

While they write, they probably drink sweetened coffee. The sugar comes from Central America upsetting Great Plains sugar-beet growers who provide the same product.

Years ago I wrote a story about a small company that produced various heating elements. The company closed to move operations to Mexico. The last thing some of the American employees did before walking out the door was to train the new Mexican employees their own job. That's the epitome of adding insult to injury.

Company CEOs and shareholders are always looking for a way to save and make a buck and that has meant to move operations to other countries to avoid the American tax laws and the pool of very cheap labor.

But if there are no American jobs who will be left to purchase a new toothbrush?

— John Van Nostrand is publisher of the Colby Free Press

Fish or cut bait



Jay Kelley

• Speaking MyMind

and Iran.

As long as Syria and Iran are stirring up the hornet's nest in Iraq unimpeded, there will be no peace and they will continue to do so until they or we are defeated.

If we compromise and negotiate, they will simply keep us at the table until they have drained us of enough blood and treasure that we quit and our defeat is apparent to all.

Some talk about a new course for the war and perhaps that is true. Certainly there have been some serious mistakes. For one thing, we have not held the Iraqi people accountable not only for their country now, but for Saddam in the first place.

No leader can hold sway over a people who will not be cowed and the Iraqis need to know they are responsible for what they allow in their country. That may include letting them fight their civil war by themselves.

We cannot, however, allow Syria and Iran to pull strings with impunity. They must also know

that any interference with the governing of Iraq will be met with resistance of a short and brutal nature.

They need to know that they, as sovereign nations, are being held accountable for what comes across their border (maybe we should do that in other places as well) and that the consequences of interference are severe.

If we compromise with our enemies, they have survived and therefore they have won by their standards. If we compromise and negotiate, there will be no further point in sacrifice.

If we negotiate, we might as well surrender, for we have already lost. War is never a good thing, but to continue the death and destruction in a war we have lost is unconscionable.

If we surrender, we should do so everywhere. There is no such thing as a limited war. We should simply come home and resign ourselves to being at the mercy of the rest of the world as befits the third-rate nation we will have become.

Winning this war — and Iraq, Afghanistan, Iran and Syria are but different theaters in the same conflict — means making a fanatical enemy understand defeat.

The fate of millions rests with us.

If we don't have the stomach for it, we should just go home.

Jay Kelley is a local writer who speaks his mind from time to time. His e-mail is jkelly@st-tel.net.

Mallard Fillmore

• Bruce

Tinsley

