

Opinion

Free Press Viewpoint



Some things are better left unsaid

Word is spreading out about the college's proposed wellness center and its \$15 million price tag.

What word you want to rely, believe or have faith in about the center not only depends upon who you hear it from, but the attitude behind it.

Some property owners are red in the face because of the increase in property taxes that will occur to pay for the facility, if it is approved. Others have said there are other things at the college that need improved, but will be put on the backburner again for this project.

Sports fans are excited about the facility. Some of those fans have daydreamed of having the Jayhawk Shootout basketball tournament to hosting the 1A state high school basketball tournament.

Those with an economic development/exposure interest, are envisioning various shows and exhibits to stop in Colby as they criss-cross the country.

Those are all valid discussion topics — and another reason to divide the community. That's where we need to be careful and respectful of other people's opinions.

Every town in America has its issues and debates. Colby is no different. We continually prove that with the situation regarding Dr. Victor Hildyard.

What we may be forgetting is how our attitudes, comments and sharp tongues may impact other people. The college's proposal has probably spread throughout western Kansas by now, as with the comments, from both sides.

No matter what happens with the college's proposal and the wellness center, Colby and Thomas County people still need to act in a way to show that Colby is the best town to live in Kansas because of our attitudes.

— John Van Nostrand is publisher of the Colby Free Press.

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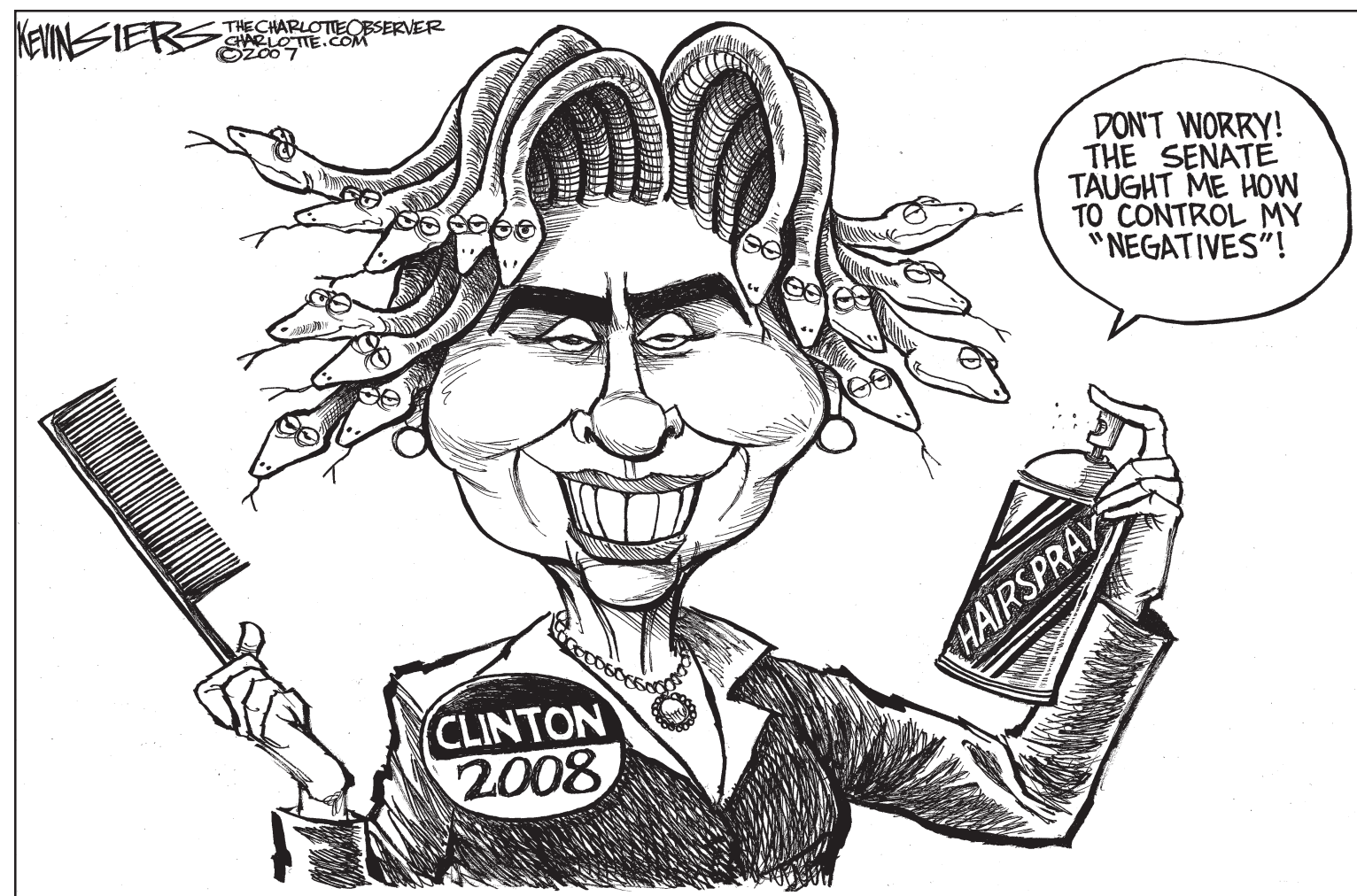
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Harsh theology

"Yet if you devote your heart to him and stretch out your hands to him, if you put away the sin that is in your hand and allow no evil to dwell in your tent, then you will lift up your face without shame; you will stand firm and without fear." Job 11:13-15



Jay Kelley
● Speaking MyMind

These words of Zophar the Naamathite seem to answer Job's question concerning his own culpability quite nicely.

After all, if Job was really a faithful man, why would God give him such troubles? This passage is all the more powerful (and incomprehensible at times) when we realize that what Zophar said is generally true and has been said by other inspired men as a reason for hope and comfort.

Zophar (along with Job and the others) has lost sight of the point. God is neither a heavenly Santa Claus who rewards all the good little boys and girls, nor an arbitrary Grinch, handing out bless-

ings and cursings as suits his will with no rhyme or reason.

He is the creator, sustainer and redeemer of all things who is working all things toward his will — namely the reconciliation of all humanity. He is also omniscient, omnipotent and omnipresent and his creation is not always privy to the details of His will.

In fact, I seem to remember that even Jesus did not know the day and hour of His ultimate return — at least not while he walked this earth.

Job and his friends seemed to be suffering from worldly point of view. Yes, they were wrong, but I'm not going to be too harsh. For one thing, I don't know what I would do in their place.

I do know, however, that God is in control and whatever happens is according to either his express will or his permissive will. In other words, He either caused it to happen or he allowed it to happen.

I also know that whatever happens is for the good of God's people and for the purpose of bringing as many people to Christ as will come.

Finally, I know that I do not always understand his will, but that my attitude must always be "Thy will be done."

It isn't easy, but it is best.

Jay Kelley is the evangelist for the church of Christ in Colby. His e-mail is jkelly@st-tel.net.

Your turn

Editor's Note: Thomas County's Relay for Life Committee is honoring eight cancer survivors this year. Survivors have been chosen by their commitment to Relay for Life by serving on committees or helping with the event the past 13 years. Relay for Life is an annual event in Thomas County to raise funds for cancer research. Each person will write their story of their fight against cancer.

My name is Devlin Dempewolf and I was diagnosed with cancer in the fall of 1994.

When I was first diagnosed there was no Relay for Life or American Cancer Society in Thomas County, Kansas. My parents both were trying to figure out how we could battle this problem head on. Finally, after getting to Denver's Children's Hospital, where I spent a lot of my childhood and going through different surgeries, tutors, and physical therapy, the first tumor was taken out and it was the size of an adult man's thumb, which had wrapped around my spinal cord.

After that I went through a series of Radiation treatments where I would leave my friends at school on Monday morning and then return after spending the week out in Denver to them on Friday afternoon. After all this, my father heard of the American Cancer Society.

He gave them a call and found out there was not a chapter in Thomas County. So, 12 going on 13 years ago he started the ACS chapter in Thomas County, which led to Thomas County

Relay for Life.

After a couple of years of good doctors appointments, my doctor called us into his office and said those two words that can just shatter your smile and turn it into a frown "it's back", he said. Then he kept explaining things to us that it was the same type of cancer, but there were now multiple tumors (10 to be exact). So we asked what are the plans were now to try and beat this, he said the only thing to do at this time is chemotherapy. So they went in and put a med port in my chest to give them better access for my chemo. I went through that until 1998 when I was just finishing up at Colby Middle School.

Everything was going well for about a year or so and he said that a couple of the tumors had grown.

So it was back to square one again. We went in with our heads held high this time even though our hearts were heavy. This time they had some new ideas to try and get rid of the cancer once and for all in my life. We went a different route with chemo, this time instead of getting the heavy dose of chemo as I had before; we tried a manageable dose that could be taken at home. This was a shot given just under the skin daily Monday through Friday. I did this through high school and even into college. I was receiving good reports and the doctors felt the shots might be working.

Then after everything I had gone through, my life was just beginning with a new career, then the doctors said my father was diagnosed with

bladder cancer. In February 2005, my father passed away from complications of bladder cancer and I stepped up to the challenge and legacy my father had taught me and I am still one of the volunteers in ACS and Thomas County Relay for Life. In September 2006, I had been to see my doctors about how much longer I should be on the shots and they said for the rest of my life. So I asked how long had it been since there was any indication that the tumors were still alive and he said it was hard to say, but there has not been any growth in over a year.

So I said, "Let's try no shots for the next six months to a year and see where we stand at the end of the trial on my own terms". I have not taken any shots since September 2006 and I am feeling great.

When the ACS says that being diagnosed with cancer is like a sunset and I feel most of my life has been after the sunset and into the night. Now I can start to see the sun rising in the distance and my journey is hopefully coming to a close with having this terrible disease.

All that I have been through in the last (14) and half years, I have seen many changes in how the health field can and will help prolong the lifetime of cancer survivors. Hopefully in my lifetime with the help of volunteers and the American Cancer Society all around the world, we will help to eradicate this disease and put a stop to the deaths of so many people diagnosed with cancer.

About those letters . . .

The *Free Press* encourages and welcomes letters from readers. Letters should be typewritten, if at all possible, and should include a telephone number and an address. These are used for verification of the writer only. If, however, you want your address and telephone number to appear with your letter, please ask us to do so when you submit your letter, or include a note with your letter. Most importantly, all letters must include a signature. Unsigned letters cannot be published. We reserve the right to edit for clarity and length, and, likewise, reserve the right to reject letters deemed to be of no public interest or considered offensive or libelous. You can expect your letter to appear in print within 24-48 hours of receipt. Letters to the *Free Press* allow readers to become engaged in public debate on topics they deem important. Please consider sharing your thoughts with the family of Colby Free Press readers. Thank you.

Mallard Fillmore

● Bruce Tinsley

