



Consumer activist looks at global warming

Max Pickerill Lecture Series offers Ralph Nader's presentation free and open to the public

The Max Pickerill Lecture Series at Colby College will feature Ralph Nader at 7 p.m., Tuesday, April 17, in the Northwest Kansas Cultural Arts Center on the college campus. The topic of Nader's talk will be global warming.

Honored by *Time* magazine as "One of the 100 Most Influential Americans of the Twentieth Century," and recently as "One of the 100 Most Influential Figures in American History," by *The Atlantic*, consumer advocate and presidential candidate for the Green Party, Ralph Nader, has devoted his life to giving ordinary people the



Nader

tools they need to defend themselves against corporate negligence and government indifference.

Recently the subject of the critically acclaimed documentary, "An Unreasonable Man," he has also written his introspective book, "The Seventeen Traditions" about the earliest days of his own life, where he revisits 17 key traditions he absorbed from his parents, his siblings, and the people in his community, and draws from them inspiring lessons for today's society.

Nader's foray into public life began in 1965 when he took on the Goliath of the auto industry with his book, "Unsafe at Any Speed," a shocking exposé of the disregard carmakers held for the safety of their customers.

The Senate hearing into Nader's accusations and the resulting life-saving motor

vehicle safety laws catapulted Nader into the public sphere.

Nader quickly built on the momentum of that success.

Working with lawmakers, he was instrumental in creating the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Laws he helped draft and pass include the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Meat and Poultry Inspection Rules, the Air and Water Pollution Control Laws and the Freedom of Information Act.

Working to empower the average American, Nader has formed numerous citizen groups, including the Center for Auto Safety, Public Citizen, the Pension Rights Center, the National Coalition for Universities in the Public Interest, and the student

Public Interest Research Groups that operate in over 20 states. In his latest citizen initiative, he is working with alumni classes, including his own at Princeton University and Harvard Law School, to expand their efforts beyond parties and reunions to community projects that systematically advance social justice.

Believing that Republicans and Democrats are so close ideologically he calls them "tweedle-dee and tweedle-dum," Nader organized the Green Party's first presidential campaign in 1996 to challenge the "duopoly" of the two-party system.

He received 700,000 votes on a limited campaign budget of \$5000 and he ran again in 2000, receiving 2.8 million votes. His goal is to build the foundation of a third political party and a robust progressive political movement that rally around issues

rather than empty slogans and figureheads.

Among his best-selling books are "Winning the Insurance Game"; "Why Women Pay More" and "Getting the Best From Your Doctor."

His most recent books are "Children First: A Parents Guide to Fighting Corporate Predators"; "No Contest: Corporate Lawyers and the Perversion of Justice in America" and "The Ralph Nader Reader."

Nader's most recent best-seller is "Crashing the Party: How to Tell the Truth and Still Run for President." He also writes a weekly column, "In the Public Interest," which runs in newspapers around the U.S.

There is no charge to attend Nader's presentation. The Max Pickerill Lecture Series is funded annually by anonymous donors.

For information, call Lecture Series Director Tom Moorhous, 460-5534.

Oakley students learn the news

The Colby Community College television department recently assisted in the editing and recording of a special newscast for three students from the Oakley Elementary School.

Fourth-grade students Emma Slack and Marlee Rath and fifth-grader Alexa Keller devoted many hours to the production of a documentary on Alaska. Teacher Valerie Brown with the Northwest Kansas Educational Coop assisted the students with the project.

"The girls chose to record the project as a television news story," said Brown.

"They did a great deal of research on Alaska and the special project will include audio, video and several maps and graphics. They named their news orga-



DEBBIE SCHWANKE/Colby Community College

Northwest Kansas Educational Coop teacher Valerie Brown with Oakley Elementary School students Marlee Rath, Alexa Keller and Emma Slack on the KTCC-TV news set.

nization the Last Frontier News Agency." College instructor Rod Thomasson assisted with editing and

recording the project.

Marlee is the daughter of Ann and Randall Rath, Emma is the daughter

of Darin and Lori Slack, and Alexa is the daughter of Gary and Raelene Keller, all of Oakley.

Questions on ballot could be confusing

By Dr. Lynn Kreider
Colby College president

It is important for voters in Thomas County to realize there are two questions on the April 3 ballot regarding the proposed Wellness/Activities Complex to be built on the Colby College campus.



Kreider

One vote is required to authorize the college to enter into a lease purchase agreement and, if advantageous, issue Certificates of Participation with the principal amount of such lease purchase agreement to not exceed \$10,510,000.

The second ballot question will authorize the college to issue General Obligation Bonds in the amount of \$4,490,000.

"I have committed to raising a total of \$5 million dollars in grants and contributions for this project,"

said Colby College President Lynn Kreider. "The Board of Trustees has indicated they will not go forward with the project unless both questions are approved by the voters." The total estimated cost of the project which includes a 115,000 square foot Wellness/Activities Complex and a 260-bed dormitory is \$20 million.

"The voters must approve both questions—the \$10,510,000 lease purchase (Certificates of Participation) and the general obligation bonds in the amount of \$4,490,000," explained Kreider.

"The project cannot go forward if one passes and the other is defeated. Those who are in favor of the Complex must answer 'yes' to both questions."

The Wellness/Activities Complex will include a 2,400-seat competition gymnasium, a secondary practice gym, wrestling room with spectator seating, eight locker rooms, an elevated walking track, free weights, machine weights, cardio center, offices, an all-purpose classroom, large concession area and vestibule.

Grade point average stats show students excel across the board

Recent statistics provided by Kansas Regent's schools prove that "Academic Excellence" is much more than just a slogan at Colby Community College.

Grade point average statistics comparing students who graduate from Colby College and then continue their education at a four-year university to those students who

begin at the university show Colby College students perform much better.

The average grade point average of Colby College students who transferred to Fort Hays State University is 3.32.

Statistics provided by Fort Hays State indicate the average grade point average of a student who be-

gan at the Hays school was 1.78.

Colby College students who transferred to Kansas State University had a 2.94 grade point average for spring 2006. KSU students who began their career in Manhattan had a combined grade point average of 2.76.

The average grade point in spring 2006 for Colby College graduates

who transferred to Emporia State University was 3.01. The average grade point for undergraduates who began at ESU was 2.90.

Statistics provided by Wichita State University indicate Colby transfer students posted an average grade point of 3.068 compared to those who began at WSU who averaged 3.066.

"These statistics prove what we have always known at Colby Community College," said President Lynn Kreider, "which is that we have excellent instructors who are among the best in the state."

Students at Colby College receive a quality education at a very affordable cost.

"We do a good job of preparing

these students to transfer and be successful at the next level or to enter the job market after graduating from Colby College.

Academic success is our main priority and these statistics provided by the Regent schools validate our slogan that CCC is the school 'where you achieve success', Kreider said.

Endowment auction scheduled March 31

"Treasures from the Seven Seas"

is the theme for the Colby College Endowment Foundation Scholarship Benefit planned Saturday, March 31.

Nick Wells, Foundation Director, is estimating over 250 items will be auctioned to raise money for student scholarships.

"We'll have about 100 items on the live auction with an additional 150 items in the silent auction," Wells said. "There is something for everyone including nice trips, jewelry, art and gift certificates."

The doors will open at 4:45 p.m. with dinner served at 5:30 p.m. The live auction begins at 7 p.m.

"I'd like to personally invite everyone to attend the auction," said Wells. "Tickets are \$30 each or \$200 for a table of eight."

The Endowment Foundation has been invaluable to the development of Colby Community College.



Wells

"We'll have about 100 items on the live auction with an additional 150 items in the silent auction."

— Nick Wells, foundation director

The organization has raised thousands of dollars for scholarships and has been a useful vehicle for the college's board of trustees to assist with the construction of buildings and the enhancement of the campus.

All proceeds from the auction are used to fund student scholarships, Wells said.

Endowment Foundation members are Karen O'Neal, president; Nancy Saddler, president elect; Diane Williams; Darrell Pabst; Monica Kane; Sandy Hill; Sherry McDonald; Troy Faulkender; Troy Hilt; Dale Schilling; and Amanda Wahlmeier. For tickets or information, call 460-4684.



DEBBIE SCHWANKE/Colby Community College

Left to right, Vice-president of Student Affairs Skip Sharp, Dave Starkey, board members Mark Winger, Larry McDonald, Colby College President Dr. Lynn Kreider and Board Chairman Don Kready, took time out for a lighthearted moment during a recent board meeting.

College attorney resigns after 17 years

Dave Starkey has been the attorney for the Colby Community College Board of Trustees for 17 years.

Starkey recently resigned and closed his law partnership in Colby

effective last week.

At the last board meeting, the board presented him with a desk clock in recognition of his years of service. Starkey is moving to To-

peka and will be an attorney for the State of Kansas.

Replacing Starkey as board counsel through June 30 is John Gatz, his former law partner.

Three forums set to address new complex

Colby Community College President Lynn Kreider will host two public forums in Colby, with one in Brewster and another in Rexford to discuss the construction of the proposed Wellness/Activities Complex on the college campus.

"I encourage all Thomas County voters to attend one of these question/answer sessions," said Dr. Kreider. "The forums will be informal and will provide an opportunity to address any concerns voters may have about the project. If you are not able to attend one of these forums, please call me or stop by my office."

The question/answer public forums scheduled for March are:

Thursday, March 15
5:30 p.m. — Colby College Phillips Lecture Hall on the north end of Thomas Hall

Tuesday, March 20
5:30 p.m. — Brewster High School gymnasium

Thursday, March 22
Noon — Colby Community College Student Union
5:30 p.m. — Golden Plains High School gymnasium in Rexford