

Other Viewpoints

Prisoner relocation not so threatening

The sound decision to close the Guantanamo Bay detention facility by January is turning into a daunting test of President Obama's leadership, with even members of his own party balking at funding the closure of the prison and the transfer of detainees to U.S. soil.

To the president's credit, he underscored his promise to shut down Gitmo (recently), saying that "by any measure, the costs of keeping it open far exceed the complications involved in closing it."

It's useful to recall that before Obama took office, those calling for Gitmo's closure included President Bush, then-Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz.

Unfortunately, members of Kansas' delegation are among the worst fearmongers on Capitol Hill on the issue, acting as if terrorist suspects will be unshackled and dropped off in neighborhoods around the state.

Have our lawmakers forgotten that more than 400,000 prisoners from the Axis powers were held at 500 camps during World War II, including at Concordia, Salina, Fort Leavenworth and Fort Riley?

Don't they realize that, according to Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., nearly 350 convicted terrorists already are securely held at U.S. prisons? And that a comparatively few 50 to 100 Gitmo detainees may need to be moved to U.S. facilities, according to Defense Secretary Robert Gates, who also supports closing Gitmo?...

Closing Gitmo would be advisable even if it hadn't become a damaging symbol of waterboarding and other excesses of the Bush administration's prosecution of the war on terror...

Obama is taking a measured approach to each thorny problem presented by the national security policies of the Bush years. On Gitmo and otherwise, the hollering from critics isn't helping.

— *The Wichita Eagle, via The Associated Press*

Where to write, call

U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts, 109 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 224-4774

U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback, 303 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 224-6521

U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran, 2202 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. (202) 225-2715 or Fax (202) 225-5124

State Rep. Jim Morrison, State Capitol Building, 300 SW 10th St. Room 143-N, Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785) 296-7676 e-mail: jmorriso@ink.org

web: www.morrisonfamily.com

State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer, State Capitol Building, 300 SW10th St., Room 128-S., Topeka, Kan. 66612, (785) 296-7399 ralph.ostmeyer@senate.state.ks.us

We encourage comments on opinions expressed on this page. Mail them to the *Colby Free Press*, 155 W. Fifth St., Colby, Kan., 67701, or e-mail s.haynes@nwkans.com or colby.editor@nwkans.com. Opinions do not necessarily reflect those of the *Free Press*, its staff or the owners.

COLBY FREE PRESS

155 W. Fifth St. (USPS 120-920) (785) 462-3963
Colby, Kan. 67701 fax (785) 462-7749

Send news to: colby.editor@nwkans.com

State award-winning newspaper, General Excellence, Design & Layout, Columns, Editorial Writing, Sports Columns, News, Photography. Official newspaper of Thomas County, Colby, Brewster and Rexford.

Steve Haynes - Publisher
s.haynes@nwkans.com

NEWS

Kevin Bottrell - News Editor
kbottrell@nwkans.com

Andy Heintz - Sports Reporter
aheintz@nwkans.com

Marian Ballard - Copy Editor
mballard@nwkans.com

Vera Sloan and Aubrey Spencer - Society Editors
colby.society@nwkans.com

ADVERTISING

Jasmine Stewart - Advertising Manager
jstewart@nwkans.com

Heather Woofter - Advertising Sales
hwoofter@nwkans.com

Kathryn Ballard - Graphic Design
kballard@nwkans.com

BUSINESS OFFICE

Tammy Withers - Office Manager
twithers@nwkans.com

Evan Barnum - Systems Administrator
support@nwkans.com

NOR'WEST PRESS

Richard Westfahl - General Manager

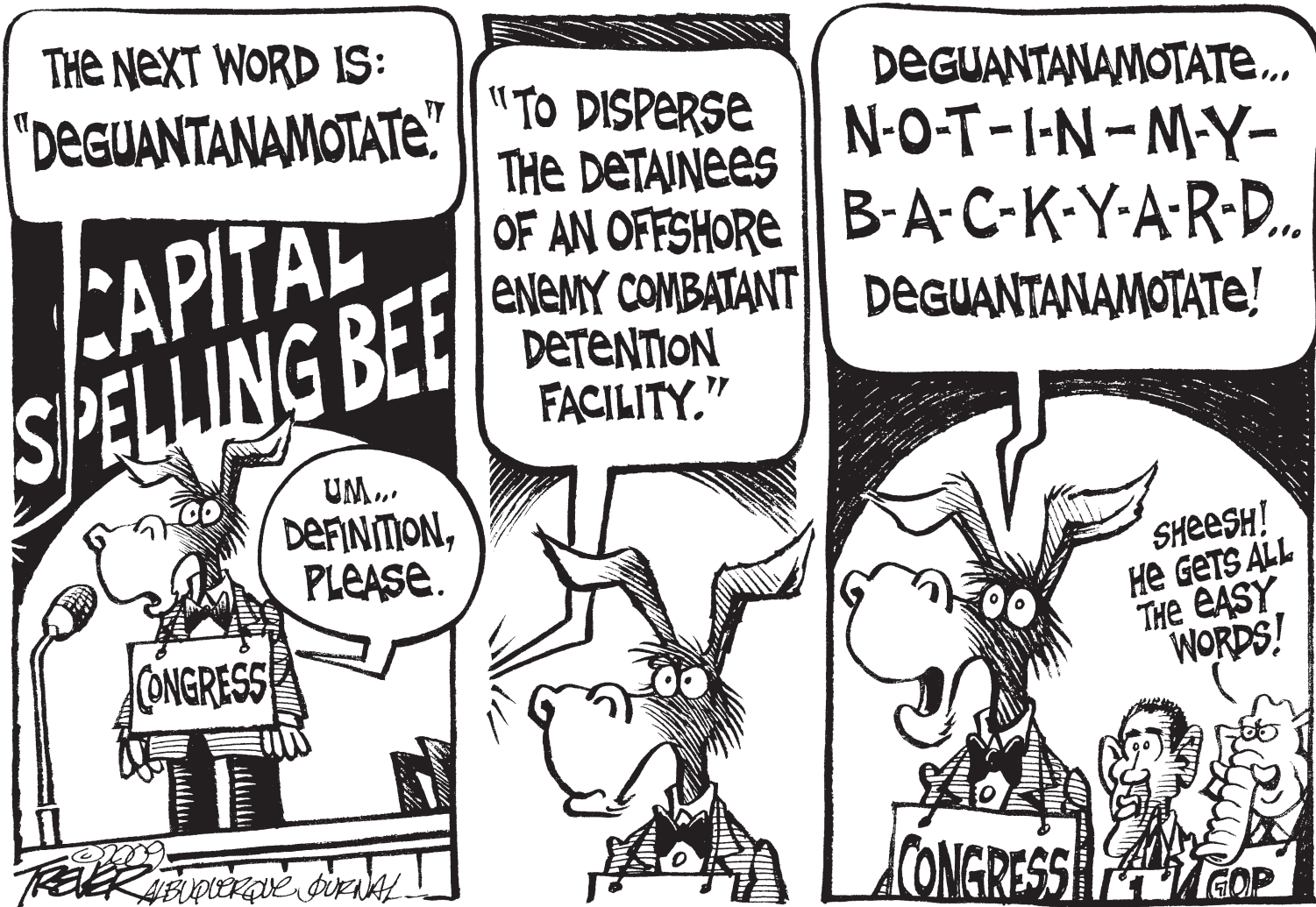
Lana Westfahl, Jim Jackson, Betty Morris, Jim Bowker, Judy McKnight, James Ornelas, Barbara Ornelas, Tasha Shores, Daniel Spillman

THE COLBY FREE PRESS (USPS 120-920) is published every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, except the days observed for Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day, by Nor'West Newspaper, 155 W. Fifth St., Colby, Kan., 67701.

PERIODICALS POSTAGE paid at Colby, Kan. 67701, and at additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to Colby Free Press, 155 W. Fifth St., Colby, Kan., 67701.

THE BUSINESS OFFICE at 155 W. Fifth is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to Friday, closed Saturday and Sunday. MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, which is exclusively entitled to the use for publication of all news herein. Member Kansas Press Association and National Newspaper Association.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: In Colby, Thomas County and Oakley: three months \$35, one year \$85. By mail to ZIP Codes beginning with 676 and 677: three months \$39, one year \$95. Elsewhere in the U.S., mailed once per week: three months \$39, one year \$95. Student rate, nine months, in Colby, Thomas County and Oakley, \$64; mailed once per week elsewhere in the U.S. \$72



Portland offers quirky tastes

Before I moved to Portland, I knew that it was quirky. Portland has its own culture and flavor, shaped by its community and the places these people have created.

But once I immersed myself in Oregon's Rose City, I learned that quirky is only the beginning.

For example, my boyfriend and I went on a date the other night. Dates for us usually include dinner somewhere and relaxing with coffee and dessert at our favorite coffee shop, Ava Roasteria.

Not only does Ava serve amazing coffee and desserts, but it also has an elegant set-up with a waterfall wall by one entrance and an outdoor fire-pit at a second. Another waterfall flowing into a narrow river outlines the porch area of the cafe. The porch has covered tables, as well as a few near the fire-pit that will actually keep me and my friends warm during cool nights.

So far, this place may not sound so odd; it's the people Ava attracts that make it quirky. Ninety percent of the time, Ava is crowded with bikers, Asians and Asian bikers. I don't know what it is about Ava that brings these people in by droves, but it's normal to see lines of motorcycles in the front parking area.

Perhaps it's just me, but leather-clad bikers and trickling waterfalls don't go together. I don't mean to stereotype, but it's true.

Before Ava Roasteria, however, my boy-



Michelle Myers

• **A Moment with Michelle**

friend and I wanted to spend our date at one of Portland's quirkiest restaurants, Le Bistro Montage. It's located in the East Industrial district, which is a nice way of describing the sketchy part of Portland. The restaurant is under a bridge where many homeless people sleep, but it's a favorite place for Portlanders.

People crave the Montage for its trademark macaroni and cheese. Order it with chicken or sausage, and it will taste even better. The menu ranges from a frog-leg appetizer to rock shrimp pesto linguini and alligator jambalaya.

And make sure to have leftovers or order food to go so they can wrap it up in one of their signature foil creations. I got my leftovers in a foil rose once.

Maybe mac and cheese or frog legs aren't meeting your desire. Maybe you're feeling like doughnuts. If that's the case, check out Voodoo Doughnuts in downtown Portland. They feature doughnuts I could never imagine, like the Grape Ape with vanilla frosting

and grape powder. Or try the Trip Chocolate Penetration that has a chocolate glaze and cocoa puffs. They even have vegan doughnuts in a variety of flavors.

Or perhaps you want to get hitched. Voodoo Doughnuts does weddings (supposedly they're legal) and they will make a cake out of doughnuts to match your theme.

Quick disclaimer: I have never been to Voodoo Doughnuts. I guess having "Voodoo" in the name of an eatery kind of creeps me out. This place also attracts a — well, a diverse crowd, and I've been warned that it's not an ideal place to hang out. I do see it as a Portland staple that adds to the city's quiriness.

Voodoo Doughnuts isn't for everybody. Neither is Le Bistro Montage or Ava Roasteria. And that's what I've come to love about Portland. There is something here for everybody.

Sure, I don't agree with everything that Portland accepts and encourages. But I do see God working, like at Solid Rock's church service on Friday nights where over a thousand college students come together to study the Word of God. To me, that's pretty quirky.

Michelle Myers, a Colby native, is a student at Multnomah University in Portland, Ore., majoring in Bible and journalism. She enjoys the 32 Starbucks found within five miles of her campus.

Sheriff wants funds for audit

To the Editor:

I have checked with Collin Wood, a special assistant U.S. attorney in Wichita, and an expert on seizures, and have been advised I can use forfeiture funds to finance an audit for the Thomas County sheriff's office. This audit would be done by the Colby accounting firm, Adams, Brown, Beran and Ball.

The purpose will be to establish exactly what it takes financially to operate the sheriff's office. It will also include expenses and equipment we share with the Colby Police Department at the Law Enforcement Center.

The audit will clarify how much money is actually generated by the sheriff's office and placed in the county's general fund each year. I feel the taxpayers should be aware of this information, especially when the sheriff's office may need extra money for unforeseen expenses through the year although the budget has already been approved.

What is left of the forfeiture money will also be audited. This has not been done since agencies started seizing currency for civil forfeiture in 1999. Not following forfeiture laws and supplementing the approved budget by thousands of dollars each year since 1999 is one of the reasons the sheriff's office budget is in such a mess at this time.

Having this audit done will make it better for the sheriff's office to work with the county commissioners, and will also keep the taxpayers better informed of how their tax dollars are being spent and why the sheriff's office is in need of more money.

Rod Taylor, sheriff
Colby

Disagreement vital

To the Editor:

I thought Andy Heintz was "fair and balanced," and then he went all MSNBC on us in the May 15 *Colby Free Press*. The only thing missing was to blame George W. Bush and insult Sarah Palin.

He did write that Sean Hannity, Bill O'Reilly and Glenn Beck manufacture discontent and drive a wedge between liberals and blue collar workers. Since Fox news is spanking other networks like a misbehaving child in Wal-Mart, perhaps people are becoming more informed. Perhaps people want opinions that question government rather than report it like a school girl at a Jonas Brothers concert.

Perhaps some want their November vote



Free Press Letter Drop

• **Our readers sound off**

back after realizing President Obama isn't going to deliver a magic unicorn to their house.

If anything, Fox has been consistent. It wasn't just the anti-war, anti-Republican crowd that gave President Bush historically low approval ratings. Bush expanded government and ran up the deficit. Evidently, that wasn't popular. Just because the new guy has a different letter behind his name doesn't change the principle.

President Obama traveled the country like an infomercial pitchman promoting the stimulus bill because we had to "act now!" Going against a campaign pledge of transparency, the largest single bill in U.S. history was passed without being read by the people voting on it. That was our government, not Glenn Beck.

Our president went overseas and said America doesn't appreciate Europe. (Our dead soldiers were unavailable for comment.) Bill O'Reilly didn't do that. Fox is not creating discontent any more than the other networks, unless Fox is typing into the President's teleprompter to make him say those things.

Not everything is about party affiliation. Many in the media underestimate the values that Americans have. Polls indicate that most are against bailouts, excessive taxes and abortion, yet the president enjoys a 60 percent approval rating. Fantastic, just like it's OK for Fox to have a lot of viewers.

Disagreement is necessary to expose the truth. Besides, there aren't enough unicorns to go around.

Doug Johnson, Colby

Seniors seek equity

To the Editor:

On Monday, May 4, I received a call from Rep. Jerry Moran's office telling me that he supports Notch Reform. I was greatly relieved that he hadn't changed his mind.

The Senior Citizens League informs me that The Notch Fairness Act (S.81) was one of the first pieces of legislation to be introduced in the

opening days of the new 111th Congress. For the first time in more than four years, the bill was introduced in the Senate, by Sen. David Vitter (R-La.). The bill would allow "Notch" babies born from 1917 through 1926, and beneficiaries on their accounts, a choice of \$5,000 payable in four annual installments, or an improved monthly Social Security benefit.

Notch Reform legislation was also introduced in the House. Rep. Jo Ann Emerson (Missouri) re-introduced her bill, H.R. 238, that would provide an improved monthly benefit for Notch Babies and other retirees having similar work and earnings record born outside those years.

The Social Security Notch refers to a disparity in the amount of benefits received by retirees born during 1917 through 1926 and others having similar work and earnings record born outside those years. Due to changes in the benefit formula enacted by Congress in 1977, seniors born during the Notch period receive lower benefits than other retirees having similar records. Studies for the league have found that Notch Babies appear to receive about \$1,000 to \$3,000 less per year than other retirees.

Based on Social Security data through December, the league estimates that about 5.3 million Notch Babies could benefit if Congress enacts the bill this 2009. They estimate that the cost of this would be about \$24 billion.

There must be quite a number of Kansans who want this bill passed, or Rep. Moran would not want this bill passed. Several years ago, he mentioned that his mother would benefit.

If this bill passes, Congress might wise up and not pass bills that puts age groups of any war into a Social Security notch.

Edna A. Hatcher, Colby

