



Free Press Viewpoint

New GOP women wear old traditions

The "new look GOP" features not aging, gray-haired gentlemen, but, instead, young, energetic women clothed in conservatism like the Grand Old Party once flaunted.

The "party of tomorrow" won't be a splintered mess as it is today. There are just too many fingers in the political cookie jar trying their best to capture the heart and soul of what once was truly a Grand Old Party.

And who are these "leaders of tomorrow?"

How about Liz Cheney, daughter of former Vice President Dick Cheney, and Sarah Palin, former governor of Alaska and 2008 vice presidential candidate. There are other women quietly studying the political landscape.

The thing that has sparked this turn of events, probably, was the victory scored by the Democrats in last year's presidential election. The showdown between candidates Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton, despite being vicious, ended up uniting the Donkeycrats and saw America installing its first African-American president.

The pre-election chatter by those who, it turned out, knew least about the situation, had Democrat women turning against their party for nominating Obama, assuring the Republican candidate, Sen. John McCain, and his running mate, Gov. Palin, a clear victory to the White House.

As it turned out, those angry Democrat women weren't angry enough to dump their party. Of course, they hoped Mr. Obama would pick Mrs. Clinton as his running mate. That didn't happen, but she did end up with the most influential post in President Obama's Cabinet, secretary of state.

Taking a page out of the Dems' Handbook for Success, the likes of Liz Cheney and Sarah Palin are beginning to fire up their grills for what promises to be an unheard of assault on the straying Republican Party of today. If they can rally women to their cause, the likes of GOP national chairman Michael Steele and radio talk show host Rush Limbaugh will be somewhat diminished. Ditto several others who feel they have the elephant farm to themselves.

Paraphrasing just a bit, "Oh what fun it ain't to ride in an elephant-crashing sleigh."
Go get-'em, ladies!

— Tom Dreiling

Write us

The Colby Free Press encourages Letters to the Editor on any topic of general interest. Letters should be brief, clear and to the point. They must be signed and carry the address and phone number of the author.

We do not publish anonymous letters. We sign our opinions and expect readers to do likewise. Nor do we run form letters or letters about topics which do not pertain to our area. Thank-yous from this area should be submitted to the Want Ad desk.

Letters will not be censored, but will be read and edited for form and style, clarity, length and legality. We will not publish attacks on private individuals or businesses not pertaining to a public issue.

Before an election, letters (other than responses by a candidate) will not be published after the Thursday before the polls open.

COLBY FREE PRESS

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

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

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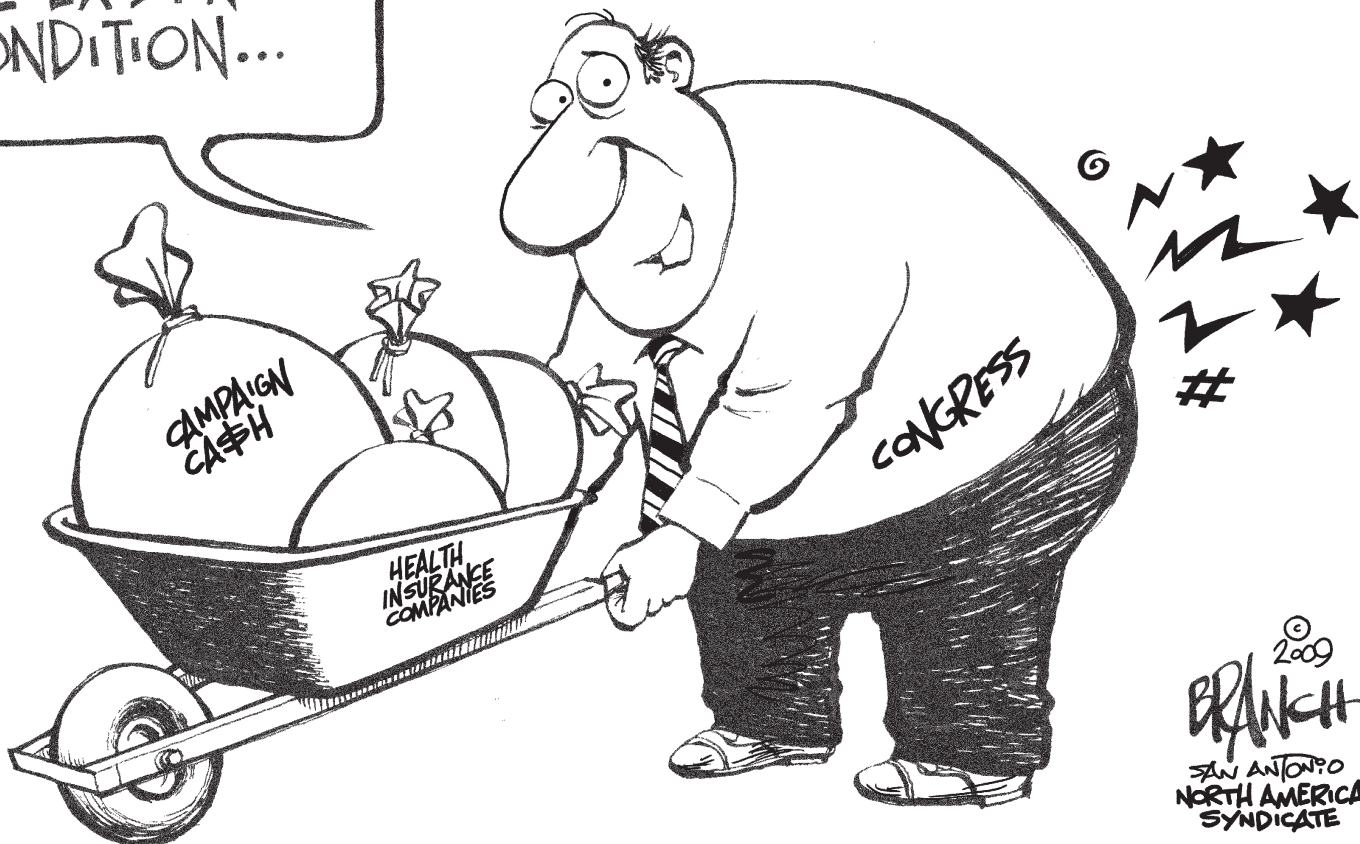
THE COLBY FREE PRESS (USPS 120-920) is published every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, except the days observed for Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day, by Nor'West Newspaper, 155 W. Fifth St., Colby, Kan., 67701.

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

I HAVE THIS -UM-
PRE-EXISTING
CONDITION...



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BRANCH
SAN ANTONIO
NORTH AMERICA
SYNDICATE

Time to get the heck out of Lincoln

We beat a hasty retreat out of Lincoln on Friday, and the next day, I was glad we did.

We'd been at a press association dinner downtown. Several friends, the ones wearing red ties, suggested that we should stay for the game. None of them had extra tickets, of course.

We politely declined, pointing out that as illegal immigrants from the south, we really didn't have a dog in that fight. (And failing to note that as loyal University of Kansas grads, we'd probably have been cheering for Iowa State anyway.)

Alan Beerman, a former Nebraska secretary of state who heads the press association, laughed when we suggested he could find us tickets. He turned to the governor, who just laughed and said, "Sure, 86,000 of 'em."

Well, either one of them probably could have produced two tickets. But we once sat in the student section at Manhattan during a KU-Kansas State game, so we know approximately how it would feel.

We high-tailed it out of town, stopping at the first motel that had rooms for the night — near York, 70 miles west — and holed up. After a good night's rest (For me, anyway; Cynthia claimed the bed was no good), we started on west.

At Holdrege, we stopped for lunch and saw



Steve Haynes

• Along the Sappa

the grim fourth quarter of the big game on the telly. I can only imagine what Bo Pelini said in the film room the next day about eight turnovers.

Trying not to cheer too hard for Iowa State (the place was full of people in red shirts), we munched Mexican food and watched the bitter end.

I figure we missed a lot of road rage around Lincoln by being halfway home at the end of the game. I know our Nebraska friends will think us disloyal, but I think you about have to grow up there to really understand this Big Red thing.

It's sort of like a religion. I tell people they have to realize that it's the closest thing to major-league pro sports Nebraska is ever likely to have. Even the other college towns are decked out in red on game days.

So we slipped quietly back across the state line and tuned in the KU-Oklahoma game.

And we thought Nebraska had it bad....

We had been in the home of Herby Husker for the annual induction dinner of the Nebraska Press Hall of Fame. We've been there before, both because we were representing the national association and because they usually befriended us and showed us the ropes. But this year was special.

One of the inductees was Gene O. Morris, retired publisher of *The McCook Gazette*, who when we arrived in Oberlin and knew next to no one in the newspaper business around here, befriended us and showed us the ropes.

Gene left the paper a couple of years ago and now works just as hard on the restored Fox Theater in McCook. He's a fine person and a good friend.

The first time we went to a Nebraska Press meeting was at his invitation the year he became president. He introduced us around. Saturday, we were glad to be there and see him honored, and call him friend.

He didn't have any tickets for the game to give us, either.

Now, about that KU game.... No, too painful. Let's not go there.

Steve Haynes is editor and publisher of *The Colby Free Press* and president of *Nor'West Newspapers*. In his spare time, whenever that is, he like to ride and watch trains.

Sales tax could be used for other projects

To the Editor:

I think that people should read paragraph (c) (of the sales tax ballot issue) and understand that this money may be used for other city budget projects:

"(c) for the payment of such other governmental purposes as may be in the best interests of the City; the collection of such Sales Tax to commence on April 1, 2010, or as soon thereafter as permitted by law and shall terminate ten years after its commencement."

Do we really need a \$5 million swimming pool?

Henry C. Vette, Colby

Sales tax for pork?

To the Editor:

The ballot presented to the voters is typical government.

Sales tax proposal: for the proposed swimming hole, to pay for the fire house they already built, and for whatever pork is desired.

The voter has a choice of yes or no for all or none. Comparing sales tax with other cities is like comparing one big spender with another. We really don't have a blank check.

Jared Williams, Colby

Who is Obama?

To the Editor:

Once upon a time, a time not long in our past, a man appeared on the horizon. A man virtually unknown to anyone outside of Illinois.

He rose to the top of his political party to become his party's candidate for president of the United States of America. His rival had to prove his eligibility, but alas, "the chosen one" did not have to even prove he was an American



Free Press Letter Drop

• Our readers sound off

citizen. The election went off without a hitch, and when it was over, he was President.

From the time he was elected 'till the time he was inaugurated, he was flying all over the United States. "What is he doing?" many of us asked. The funny thing is, he did not have to prove his eligibility, not only that, nothing and I do mean nothing can be found that would prove he is eligible to hold the highest office in the land.

His birth certificate, his school records from kindergarten through college have all vanished! Even papers that he wrote in college are gone, his travel visa, passport, doctor records, everything. His footprints have been wiped out! Five days before his inauguration, he said, "We are just five days away from fundamentally changing America."

He has insulted our greatest allies and cozied up to America's greatest foes. He has filled his cabinet with czars, men and women who want to change America's Constitution (the law of the land) and write their own laws and interpret the Constitution as they see fit. These men and women answer to no one, no one except the president!

Congress is the branch of government that is supposed to make or change laws! They want to silence the people who voice a concern and who let their views be known. His fellow party members call us racists, mobs, right-wing extremists, tea-baggers, white supremacists, religious right, almost any derogatory name they

can think of to undermine our concerns.

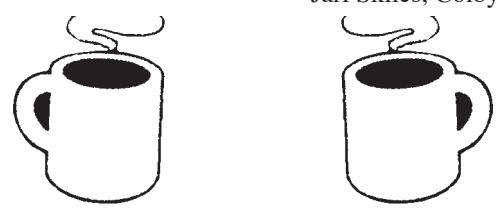
This man who is our president says he is a constitutional lawyer and has a law degree, however, he and his political cronies have violated and bastardized the Constitution to be interpreted and changed as they see fit. The Constitution means what it says: The Constitution limits the powers of our federal government. It is all laid out very specifically that the states and the people have more specific rights than the federal government.

The senators and representatives in Washington want the people to give up our God-given rights and let Washington take care of them. I don't know about you, but I do not want to give up my right to free speech, my gun (if I had one), my right to be protected from illegal search and seizure. I don't want to pay exorbitant taxes, I don't want our country overrun by illegal aliens.

I could go on and on, but I will simply say this: please read, re-read then read again the Constitution of the United States. Study it, get familiar with the Amendments and the Bill of Rights and make your own list of the rights this present Congress and president are wanting to take from you!

They in Washington are just bidding their time until they can hoodwink us all into thinking their way is best for us! We cannot give up our rights, for if we do, we as "We The People" will cease to exist, and we as Americans will no longer be the free and independent nation that our ancestors died to envision and protect for the last 233 years.

Jari Skiles, Colby



Mallard Fillmore

• Bruce Tinsley

