



Free Press Viewpoint

Trophies deserve a place in the sun

Where have all the trophies gone? That's what one concerned Colby High alumnus who had come to town for the reunion wanted to know.

In a letter published in the Thursday paper, this alum said he was touring the new high school and wondered where the trophies from his era had gone.

In checking with the administration, we found that the district is overflowing with trophies and, as it stands now, can only display a few at a time on shelves and in cases at the new high school, old high school (now the intermediate building) and middle school. Officials told us that, because Colby students earn quite a few trophies each year, the older trophies have to go into storage and there are quite a few of these, especially from decades ago, on the shelf.

We think there should be a dedicated area, a room or series of display stands, to display these trophies year around. The Colby Eagles have won many state championships over their 100-plus years, and we should display those with pride.

Space is pretty tight at the high school, but there could be room to build some more display cases. The new academic award display case looks great, and there could room along some of the hallways for more. Dennen Field could be another possibility. There is some room on the property for a field house. Other locations either have no room or are too far off the beaten path, and you want visitors to see the trophy room.

The district could set something up, but with budgets as tight as they are, the schools shouldn't spend their money on things like that. The Colby Booster Club would be the next likely candidate.

The club has a big project on its hands right now, building a new locker room for visiting teams at the football field. This is a great project that will give Colby's reputation a nice boost, which makes us think a trophy room would be right up the club's alley. The club has demonstrated that it can raise enough money for this type of project without needing help from the district and has had successful projects in the past.

Beyond money and construction, the project would need some volunteers to catalogue and organize all of the trophies. If the collection was organized, it would be easier to decide what to display where.

We know space and money are tight, but school spirit and pride have their own value. They help imbue a sense of history and being a part of something to each new class of Eagles. Students worked hard over the past hundred years to earn these trophies, and they all deserve a spot on a wall somewhere.

-Kevin Bottrell

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.

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Steve Haynes - Publisher
s.haynes @ nwkansas.com

NEWS

Kevin Bottrell - News Editor
kbottrell @ nwkansas.com

Andy Heintz - Sports Reporter
aheintz @ nwkansas.com

Marian Ballard - Copy Editor
mballard @ nwkansas.com

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

ADVERTISING

Heather Woofter - Advertising Representative
hwoofter @ nwkansas.com

Andrea Miller - Advertising Representative
a.miller @ nwkansas.com

Kathryn Ballard - Graphic Design
kballard @ nwkansas.com

BUSINESS OFFICE

Robin Tubbs - Office Manager
rtubbs @ nwkansas.com

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support @ nwkansas.com

NOR'WEST PRESS

Richard Westfahl - General Manager

Lana Westfahl, Jim Jackson, Betty Morris, Jim Bowker, Judy McKnight, Barbara Ornelas, Kris McCool

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KOERDA
COLUMBIA WORLD-HERALD

Hats off to consistency

Sticking to your principles is a lot harder than it sounds.

This is especially the case when you are in the minority. Peer pressure can affect the way people think and act. Many times the agreeable man whom everybody likes secretly hates himself because he has repressed his actual personality in favor of a phony, people-pleasing character.

I have a lot of respect for Colby City Council members Dave Voss and Tim Hutfles, because they have been unwilling to shift their opinions even though their views on policies are often opposed by the majority and city manager Carolyn Armstrong. I don't always share their views, but I appreciate their willingness to stick to their principles.

At the last council meeting, Voss questioned the amount of overtime hours Colby firefighters had worked over a two-week period in May. Armstrong said firefighters received \$2,605 for doing 109 hours of overtime from May 17 to 31.

The reasons fire chief Bob McLemore gave for the unusually high overtime seemed pretty reasonable to me. The department certainly had had a busy two weeks, including three calls at the Quality Inn, two days of training in confined space and trench rescue, eight hours of hazardous materials training, rescue extrication training (helping people escape from wrecked cars) and responding to a rollover accident on Interstate 70. Much of the infor-



Andy Heintz

• Wildcat Ramblings

mation used in the story that week, I got from McLemore after the council meeting.

I wish I could say I contacted Voss so he could further explain why he was concerned about the department's budget. But I didn't. I assumed McLemore's justifications for the overtime hours had cleared up any confusion about the subject. That was wrong.

Reporters should get a range of opinions on every subject, even if those views are in the minority. And given the courage it takes to openly hold an unpopular viewpoint, the least reporters can do is give the dissenters a chance to further flesh out their views for the public. Even though McLemore's explanation of the overtime hours made sense to me, it shouldn't have kept me from getting Voss' views after the meeting.

Hutfles and Voss are the black sheep of the council. Both seem more conservative than the rest when it comes to spending money. The other members are not liberal by any means; they just aren't quite as conservative as Hutfles and Voss.

Even though I suspect my political views on state and national politics are different than theirs, I admire their authenticity.

Hutfles works hard to express the concerns of the public at the council. He always tries to get answers to questions citizens have been asking him. You can tell he really wants the council to understand how members of the public feel about important issues. Hutfles also consistently goes and looks at projects that he knows will be discussed or voted on at the next meeting.

He also tends to encourage discussion about the issues before the council makes a decision even when he is the only one willing to do this. He seems to be a believer in government by discussion. There are times when Hutfles questions policies that veteran council members say have worked in the past. In some of these cases it seems unwise to be messing with a good thing. Hutfles also tends to take a long time to describe his arguments, when I think a quicker explanation would be more appropriate. But overall, I've been impressed with how seriously he takes his job.

People who refuse to shift their positions – even when they are in the minority – should be admired, whether you agree with them or not.

Andy Heintz, a K-State journalism graduate, is sports reporter for the Colby Free Press. He says he loves K-State athletics and fishing, sports and opinion writing.

Gathering brings past reunions to mind

The Colby High School Alumni Reunion is over and the out-of-towners have returned home by now with, I hope, good memories of another time spent with old friends.

We had a good turn-out for our class of 1953, but imagine our surprise when we discovered that we are now listed as members of the oldest group. We were scheduled to have our pictures taken at noon. I presume that was so we wouldn't miss our afternoon nap.

It was only five years ago that we had our pictures taken in the evening. It seems that age comes on so fast when you're not looking.

There was one advantage to being in the noon group though: we were served a very nice grilled chicken dinner at City Limits while waiting to have our pictures taken.

I did notice another change this year in the tone of my classmate's conversations. Five years ago when our class members got together, the conversation generally centered around asking how many great-grandchildren we each had, or what trips we had taken. However, this year it was about when we had our knee or hip replacement and when we planned to have the next one, or about who had a heart bypass and



Marj Brown

• Marj's Snippets

what we are doing in our spare time now that we are completely retired.

My family had a family reunion on Sunday of the same weekend event. I must say that I was completely thrilled with the way the waiters and manager at Montana Mike's served the whole affair. We had 65 at our Wheaton Family Reunion, and there was not one complaint. It was a wonderful day.

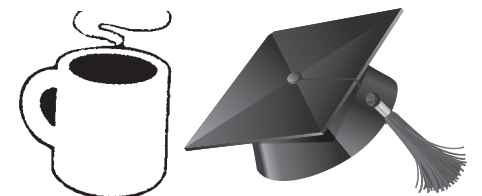
I still can't get used to seeing Mike Schwanke all grown up and serving as one of the masters of ceremonies at the big reunion event on Saturday in the Community Building. His family has lived across the street from us ever since Mike was born.

I still remember the time when Mike was about 3 or 4 and his mother left him in the car

parked on their slanted driveway and left the motor running. Mike climbed over the seat and put the car in gear. It ended up in our front yard, stopped by one of our trees. I can still see Mike's face as he cried hysterically, but he was not nearly as hysterical as his mother when she came running out of the house screaming.

Debbie said she learned a real good lesson that day: never leave kids in the car with it running. However, Mike's all grown up now, and I'll bet there isn't a more handsome news reporter in Wichita.

Marj Brown has lived in Colby for 62 years and has spent a good deal of that time writing about people and places here. She says it's one of her favorite things to do.



Mallard Fillmore

• Bruce Tinsley

