



Other Viewpoints

Give honors only when well deserved

In the workplace and elsewhere, giving someone a title can eliminate the need to reward them financially.

In too many cases, it seems that universities across the nation apply that philosophy when they award honorary degrees to celebrities who agree to deliver a commencement address.

Now that state universities in Kansas will be allowed to award honorary degrees, we hope they will reserve that honor for recipients who are truly deserving and not cheapen the designation by using it to attract celebrity speakers or reward financial support for the university.

The policy adopted last year by the Kansas Board of Regents tries to preserve the dignity and distinction that should accompany an honorary degree. It says honorary degrees should be considered “an exceptional honor” that is conferred to candidates “deeply grounded in a career of scholarship, research, creative activity, service to humanity or other profession consistent with the academic endeavors of the University awarding the degrees.”

Honorary degrees, it says, should not be considered an annual occurrence and they specifically “shall not be awarded for philanthropic activity or service” to the state or the university.

With those caveats in mind, officials at Kansas University are starting the process of considering potential honorary degree recipients. In some cases the recipients might be asked to give a speech that could replace the chancellor’s traditional address or be in addition to it. Who addresses the graduates at commencement will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Some years, KU may elect not to award any honorary degrees.

That’s as it should be. It’s fine for KU and other state universities to have the option of awarding honorary degrees, but it’s an honor that should be granted sparingly to only the most deserving recipients. Having a recipient address the graduating class could be a nice addition to KU’s commencement, but it’s unlikely to ever eclipse the true main event for KU graduates: the walk through the Campanile and down the hill to Memorial Stadium.

— Lawrence Journal-World, 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  
roberts.senate.gov/public/  
**U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran**, 354 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 228-6966. Fax (202) 225-5124 moran.senate.gov/public/  
**U.S. Rep. Tim Huelskamp**, 126 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. (202) 225-2715 or Fax (202) 225-5124. Web site: huelskamp.house.gov  
**State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer**, State Capitol Building, 300 SW10th St., Room 225-E., Topeka, Kan. 66612, (785) 296-7399 ralph.ostmeyer@senate.state.ks.us  
**State Rep. Rick Billinger**, Docking Building, Room 754, Topeka Kan., 66612, (785) 296-7659

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 colby.editor @ nwkansas.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 @ nwkansas.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.

**Sharon Friedlander - Publisher**  
sfriedlander @ nwkansas.com

NEWS

**Kevin Bottrell - News Editor**  
kbottrell @ nwkansas.com

**Kayla Cornett - Sports Reporter**  
colby.sports @ nwkansas.com

**Marian Ballard - Copy Editor**  
mballard @ nwkansas.com

**Tomi Miller, Christina Beringer - Society Reporters**  
colby.society @ nwkansas.com

ADVERTISING

colby.ads @ nwkansas.com

**Andrea Bowers, Kathryn Ballard, Shannon Harris**

**Advertising Representatives**

abowers @ nwkansas.com kballard @ nwkansas.com sharris @ nwkansas.com

**Kylee Hunter - Graphic Design**  
khunter @ nwkansas.com

BUSINESS OFFICE

**Robin Tubbs - Office Manager**  
rtubbs @ nwkansas.com

**Evan Barnum - Systems Administrator**  
support @ nwkansas.com

NOR'WEST PRESS

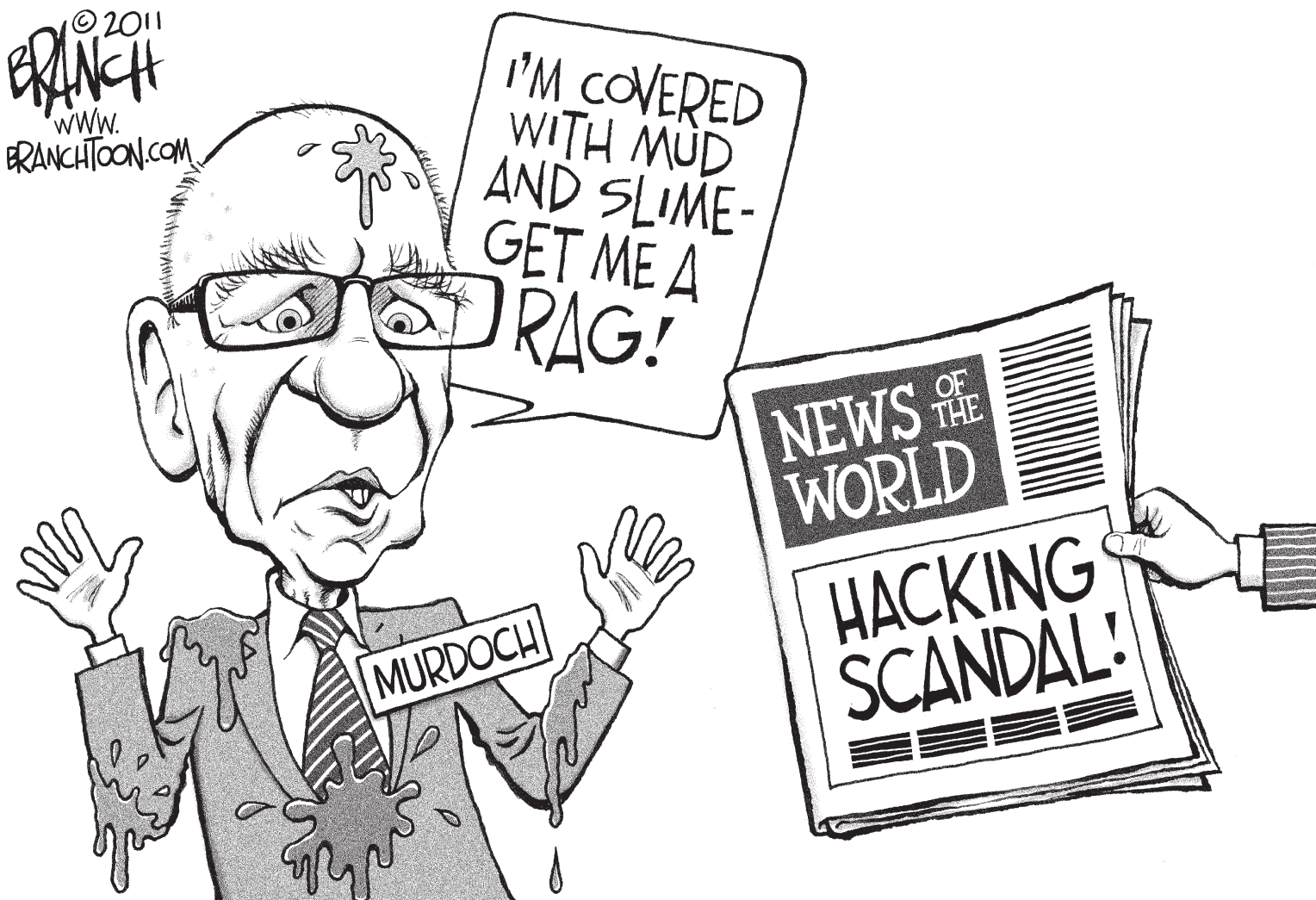
**Richard Westfahl - General Manager**  
Lana Westfahl, Jim Jackson, Betty Morris, Jim Bowker, Judy McKnight, Kris McCool

**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



Stuck truck dredges up driving memories

A couple of days ago, I saw a minor bit of entertainment through the office window as a semi came up the alley beside our building, tried to turn left onto Fifth Street, and couldn’t quite make it.

As I say, it was a minor show, since the driver knew just how much to back up, in which direction, to get out of that tight spot with no damage to the parked vehicles across the street or the truck – or to our building, it’s worth noting, since other (smaller) vehicles apparently are not able to miss the side of a barn.

My experience with operating two-part vehicles is just broad enough to say I’m grateful I didn’t have to figure out how to get that semi through. It would have taken me an hour – and that’s without the actual driving, which really doesn’t sound fun to me.

Many years ago, in a state far, far away – well, South Dakota – I found myself driving a pickup with a horse trailer attached. If memory serves, the trailer was empty. Nobody would have done such a cruel thing to our horses.

My assignment was fairly simple. Open a gate, drive through, turn around and back up to a corral gate. No tight turns here; the song “Give Me 40 Acres and I’ll Turn This Rig Around” comes to mind. There were probably a few ruts, but nothing too dramatic.

No, the problem came with that last step –



**Marian Ballard**

Collection Connections

backing up.

If I didn’t already know, I found out that you have to back up the wrong direction when you’ve got a trailer hitched on your pickup. So, if you need to go left, you steer right.

Now I can’t back up worth a hoot even without something hanging off my back bumper. A look in the rear-view mirror doesn’t help; I could be two inches or two yards away from where I need to be. I’d rather walk a block than parallel park. Add a twenty-foot trailer to the mix and you’re lucky if I wind up in the right county.

If memory serves, once they caught their breath from laughing their heads off, one of the men took pity on me and pulled the trailer forward from where I had stopped two feet from the fence and five feet left of the gate, taking about five seconds to do what I couldn’t manage in five minutes.

The days of horse trailers in my life are long

gone, but I’ve had a couple of hair-raising stints driving a rental truck with a car trailer hooked on behind. Having learned my lesson, though, I adopted a few hard and fast rules.

- Make someone else hitch up the trailer.
- Make someone else drive the car onto the trailer (though I have actually done this, with fear and trepidation.)

• Never, never, never, never park where there’s the slightest chance I have to back up.

I don’t have room to go into my adventures driving farm trucks, pickup trucks and a four-wheel drive through snow deep enough to high-center it or slick, gooey gumbo. Suffice it to say that short people driving rigs meant for tall people should get extra points when they manage to push down the clutch and the brake at the same time while still seeing through the windshield.

As for those semis and the men and women behind the wheel – hats off to you. I know you can put that rig just where you want it and stop on a dime – but if it’s all the same, I’ll still stand waaaaay back when you’re backing up.

*Marian Ballard has collected careers as counselor, librarian, pastor, and now copy editor for the Colby Free Press. She collects ideas, which are more portable than other stuff.*

Does free speech really include license?

So now the Supreme Court tells us that violent video games are protected by the Constitution’s free speech provision.

Really? Does anyone believe the signers of the Constitution would have defined free speech as the sale of a game in which “the player tortur[es] a girl as she pleads for mercy, ... dousing her with gasoline and setting her on fire?” (www.frc.org/op-eds/scalia-wrong-thomas-right-on-violent-video-games)

Laws that permit evil in the name of privacy, choice and freedom invite the evil activities about which those laws’ proponents claim neutrality. To allow moral wrong is to encourage it, given the realities of human nature. Not everyone will take part in wrongdoing, but some will – and of that latter group, some will carry out their indulgence to a destructive extreme.

In other words, when society sanctions “personal” activities that are in themselves immoral, participation in such activities will accelerate – as will the pathologies that these activities encourage.

“No fault divorce” became law in California in 1970, and New York became the 50th “no fault” state in 2010. Advocates of “no fault” claim that marriage is a private contract between two consenting parties; when one of them wishes to disengage, this wish should be honored by the law, no questions asked.

The result? Broken marriages from coast to coast. Roughly 55 percent of America’s children are growing up in homes with only one biological parent. These children will not thrive in the same manner as their peers being raised in two-parent, intact families. The data prove it. Private choices have profound social consequences.

In 1973, Roe v. Wade made abortion-on-demand legal throughout the country. More than 52 million abortions later, which have come with great personal, social and economic costs, to suggest that abortion is merely a

Other Opinions

Robert Schwarzwald

Family Research Council

“private” matter is sort of like saying a fatal car collision only affects auto bumpers: Such a claim misses the major point.

Human nature is fallen. The Founders understood this. That’s why they called neither for unrestricted liberty nor liberty’s suppression. They wanted “ordered liberty,” freedom under just and prudent law. In the words of the 18th century British statesman Edmund Burke, “But what is liberty without wisdom, and without virtue? It is the greatest of all possible evils; for it is folly, vice and madness, without tuition or restraint.”

Just as they believed that government oppression was an assault on God-given rights, the Founding Fathers also grasped that when sinful men and women are given free rein to indulge their appetites, virtue would soon be discarded and vice become triumphant. With the collapse of personal and thus social virtue, license would overwhelm genuine liberty, leading to the kind of chaos from which arises a Napoleon, a Hitler, or a Stalin.

In a letter to John Jay in 1786, George Washington wrote, “We must take human nature as we find it, perfection falls not to the share of mortals.” This reflects the biblical teaching that sin must not be “given opportunity” (Galatians 5:13).

The purpose of law is to remind the public of both the dignity and ignobility of man, a creature made in God’s image who nonetheless has darkness embedded in his unredeemed soul. It is also designed to curtail sins’ excess,

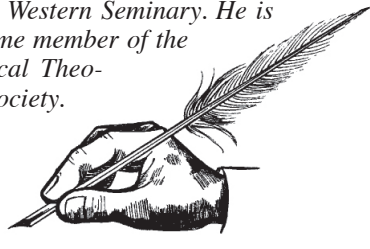
to put a brake on the moral weakness intrinsic to a nature with a bent toward selfishness and the easy way.

Immediately, someone will respond, “You’re calling for censorship!” Correct: In some measure, all of law is about censorship. We censor acts of murder and mayhem. We censor jay-walking and petty theft. It’s a question of what we censor, and to what degree.

We should legally prohibit behaviors that have a serious adverse affect on the society that, together, we compose. This is why we censor prostitution: It is not just a private act between two consenting parties, it is a destroyer of the family. It debases its participants and thus encourages their engagement in other wrongful pursuits, and spreads disease, brutality and human trafficking.

When video games that foster a delight in cruelty are permitted, when abortion at any time and for any reason is permitted (and even, under President Obama’s health care plan, subsidized), when marriage is redefined at the beck of a small minority of vocal activists and political contributors, and when men and women are given no lawful reason to remain married except a radically autonomous choice, social chaos is upon us.

*Robert Schwarzwald is senior vice president at the Family Research Council. He served as Chief of Staff for two Members of Congress, and as president of Ravi Zacharias International Ministries. He graduated from Biola University and has an M.A. in Theology from Western Seminary. He is a long-time member of the Evangelical Theological Society.*



Mallard Fillmore

- Bruce Tinsley

