



Other Viewpoints

With election past, cooperation needed

Now that President Obama has been re-elected to serve as president for the next four years, one change will have to take place.

There will have to be a renewed spirit of compromise in our nation's capital....

The specter of sequestration, across-the-board federal spending cuts that include a \$500 billion cut in defense that politicians of every stripe seem to agree would be disastrous, looms with the arrival of 2013. With our national debt swollen to \$16 trillion and four straight years of \$1 trillion deficits, somebody's got to wake up and make some real decisions to address that while also finding a pathway for America to continue recovering from this devastating recession.

America can't allow its elected political officials in Washington, D.C., to collect a paycheck and campaign donations while they cavalierly point fingers at the other side as excuses for being useless at their job, which should be to lead the country. We can't afford for Democratic or Republican leadership to draw lines in the sand that no one is willing to step over.

America has thrived because, somehow or another, our political system managed to meld together the best ideas from both sides of the aisle, right and left. No party and no ideology has proven to be infallible in running our nation, and it's past time the so-called leadership in our major political parties figured that out.

We have the right to expect whoever is in the White House to actually listen to the opposition party with an open mind, and to look out for selfish motives within his own party. We have the right to expect our lawmakers to do what is right, not what is politically expedient.

Most Americans, we believe, do not expect the federal government to be perfect. But Americans do have the right to expect it to be functional.

— The Albany (Ga.) Herald, 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

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

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

Marian Ballard - Copy Editor
mballard@nwkansas.com

Sam Dieter - News Reporter
colby.editor@nwkansas.com

Christina Beringer - Society Reporter
colby.society@nwkansas.com

ADVERTISING

colby.ads@nwkansas.com

Kathryn Ballard - Advertising Representative
kballard@nwkansas.com

Janene Woodall - Advertising Representative
jwoodall@nwkansas.com

Kylee Hunter - Graphic Design
khunter@nwkansas.com

BUSINESS OFFICE

Office Manager

Melissa Edmondson - Office Manager
medmondson@nwkansas.com

Evan Barnum - Systems Administrator
support@nwkansas.com

NOR'WEST PRESS

Richard Westfahl - General Manager
Gary Stewart, Foreman

Jim Jackson, Jim Bowker, Pressmen
Kris McCool, Judy McKnight, Tracy Traxel,
Sheri Arroyo, Mailing

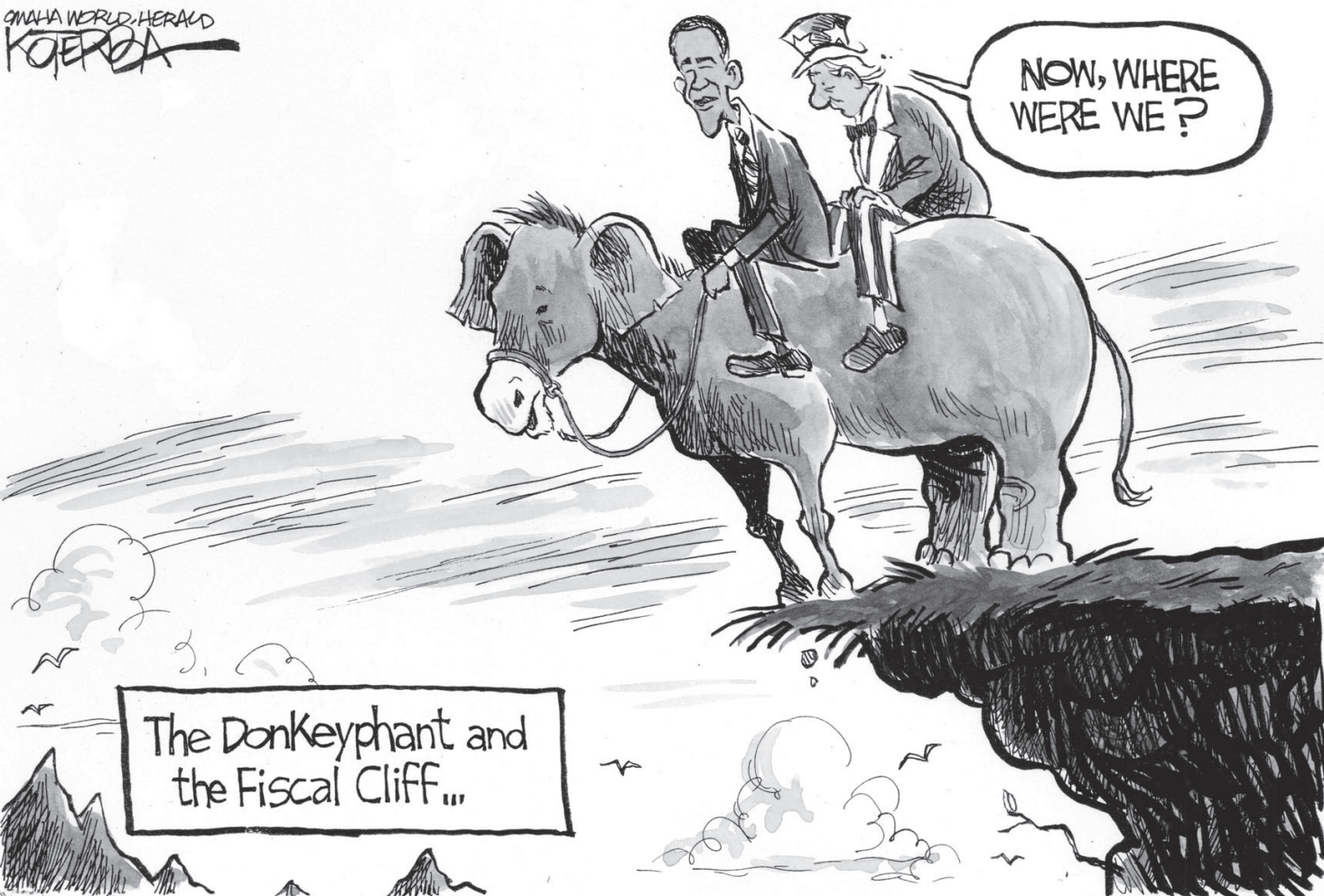
THE COLBY FREE PRESS (USPS 120-920) is published every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, except the days observed for Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day, by Nor'West Newspaper, 155 W. Fifth St., Colby, Kan., 67701.

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

OMAHA WORLD HERALD
KOERBA



Good ideas can outlive their usefulness

Have you ever had one of those “ah-ha” moments when you realize that you’re no longer a youngster?

Some of you know what I mean. It happened to me just a couple of weeks ago on a trip to Topeka. One evening, I was driving around, looking for a place to eat, when I saw Buffalo Wild Wings. Back in my college days, I ate my weight in wings. My three friends and I would order a pan of 100 and split them over a ball game with no regrets.

Nostalgia being what it is, I went in and ordered a dozen wings – extra hot garlic – just like I had years ago. And just like years ago, they were so very good. I savored every bite. Unlike those bygone years, though, I did not walk away without paying a stiff price.

That evening and into the next day, my stomach and colon did all they could to destroy my will to live. Please understand that even after all the discomfort, I still love wings. Times have changed, though, and my decision, based on the consequences, probably wasn’t the best one.

That incident in Topeka reminded me of the recent decision by the college trustees to discontinue the Thomas County Tuition Grant, which will end with students who entered college this fall. When the program was authorized in the summer of 2001, it was a good idea that also had financial support.

The college, at the time, received more than 30 percent of its budget from the state of Kansas, based on a formula that rewards higher numbers of students. So the loss of actual tuition which would have been generated by those Thomas County students was offset by additional state aid, based on added credit hours. But much has changed in the last



Steve Vacik

• From the president

decade, and the concept behind the grants, though still a good one, no longer makes good financial sense.

It is no secret that the college has been struggling with financial issues for quite some time. (We still seriously need folks with the available means to contribute to the college – shameless plug.) In reviewing our proposed scholarship budgets for 2013-14 from across the institution, we learned that unless we make some significant reductions, over \$1.2 million would be needed to cover scholarships. That figure included the Thomas County Tuition Grant, which totaled around \$300,000 for the current budget year. We needed to cut the total by about a third. The amount of these grants was simply unsustainable, given our limited revenues.

Unlike 2001, today the college receives less than 15 percent of its money from the state. Our enrollment has been consistent, with limited periods of growth in the past decade, but we have fallen further behind other community colleges located in metropolitan areas. Simply put, the “pie” is limited and our slice – which is based on student credit hours – grows smaller and smaller. The result is that the burden of additional revenue to meet expenses has been disproportionately levied on the people of Thomas County. As such, the

Majority depends on government

To the Editor:

Our house, like millions of others, had a very sleepless night last night. Once the sky started to crack a little light, we found ourselves in mourning as we contemplated the gravity of the election results.

It is now perfectly clear that America has made it past the tipping point. Just two short years ago, candidates who espoused and supported the historical American principles of self-reliance, free-markets, Constitutional adherence and limited government were elected in droves. Not so this time.

Now those who depend on government have outnumbered those whom government depends upon. Since 2009, our nation has added 75 times more folks to the food stamp rolls than we have added jobs.

It used to be said that Americans voted with their pocketbooks, and that really hasn’t changed. What has changed is that business no longer fills the majority of Americans’ pocketbooks – government does. Those who vote for a living now outnumber those who work for a living.

Like a re-showing of a bad movie, those of us who have studied history know where this is all headed, and that’s what makes us mourn for the loss of the America that lit the stage of humankind for these past two centuries.

We know that the forces that desire us to be serfs to an all-powerful government will grind America down until it is a mere shadow of its former self, millions who have fallen for the lie of socialism. Dictators and tyrants the world



Free Press Letter Drop

• Our readers sound off

over rejoice today as they eagerly pursue their twisted designs without interference from the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave.

Our debt will crush us. Our accepted dependence on someone else to pay for our food, our housing, our babies, our child care, our college, our health care, our business profits and all manner of things we rightly should pay for ourselves is what got us into this mess. In a very short time, the financial zombie we know as the American monetary system will fall over dead. There will be lies spun as to what happened, but many of us will know the truth and we will be madder than heck.

Our tyrant in chief will now be unrestrained in his selective enforcement of law, his penchant for class warfare, his love of Islam, his disdain for our Judeo-Christian foundation and his outright contempt for our Constitution. Karl Marx and Mao Tse-tung would be proud.

But before he and the ilk fully extinguish America’s light, there is hope. There is always hope so long as there are willing patriots left on the battlefield with breath left in them. The forces of tyranny are not assured of their suc-

cess, as the forces of freedom are not yet done. There are yet millions of patriots who, like our original Founders, are willing to pledge “our lives, fortunes and sacred honor” to restore this nation to it’s rightful and God-given role as the light of all mankind.

Therein lies our task. Do not take counsel from your fears. Do not despair. Strengthen your resolve to stand for freedom and righteousness. Sacrifice what you have to leave something for generations yet unborn.

Last night, this author succeeded in being elected to his first official position (as county commissioner). I take this small step as a simple man with little spare time or finances and with children in college and some yet at home. I, like hundreds of others throughout this great nation, have understood the gravity of our situation and have put what I have on the line.

Not all need serve in plain sight, but all are needed to serve. Patriots, hear the voice of our God calling! Put on your white shirt and face the new America of today with courage. Work with all that you have to restore America to greatness. Be forceful in thought and sure in action and we, like our Founders of yore, will one day be remembered as the generation that, with God’s strong arm, gave something to mankind of incalculable value.

May God yet Bless America!

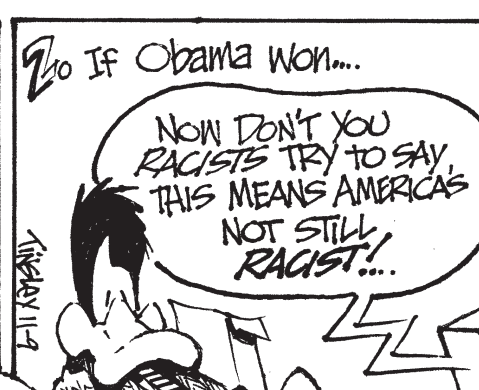
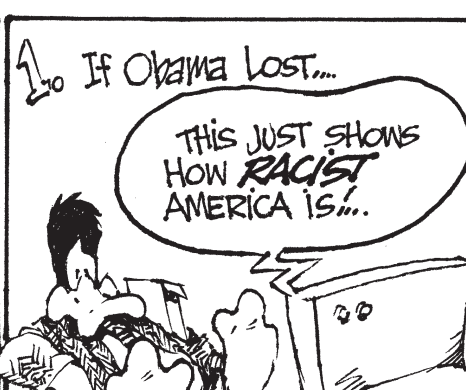
Ken Klemm, Goodland



Mallard Fillmore

• Bruce Tinsley

This comic strip was drawn before the election results were in, and so offers the reader two alternative media reactions....



©2012 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.