



## Free Press Viewpoint

### We should wonder: are they thinking?

Having been terribly embarrassed by video of a crash victim being run over by a fire rig, San Francisco officials have done the logical thing: banned firemen from carrying cameras so it can't happen again.

The embarrassment, we mean, not the unfortunate accident. Seems the offending video was taken by a "helmet cam" worn by Battalion Chief Mark Johnson. It showed a 16-year-old Chinese student who was on the pavement, covered with fire-retardant foam and not moving, being run over by a crash rig. She was one of three fatalities in the July 6 crash of an Asiana Airlines Boeing 777.

Fire Chief Joanne Hayes-White issued the ban, saying she was concerned for the privacy of victims and fire fighters.

What a crock.

The incident was unfortunate, because fire fighters played a big role in keeping the fatality count so low in the spectacular crash. The secondary accident took some of the luster off that accomplishment. But the real damage was done to the department's image. And like the good bureaucrat she apparently is, the chief took action to be sure that never happens again.

You'd think she'd be more concerned with why a fire truck was running over victims.

As violence continues in Egypt, many in Congress are demanding the administration do something. A popular demand is to cut off aid to the current government, installed after a military coup ousted the elected president, Mohammed Morsi.

It's true that Morsi had been elected after the "Arab Spring" uprisings that toppled governments in Egypt and Tunisia, but the situation is much more complicated. Even if you discount charges that his Muslim Brotherhood rigged the election, there's the fact that the Brotherhood was driving Egypt toward a theocracy where millions of moderate Muslims and Christians would have had no voice.

Brotherhood demonstrators have trashed Christian neighborhoods in their rampages, and they continue to battle police and troops in Cairo. Their vision of "democracy" is not one most Americans would support.

But then, we don't think much of the continued bloodshed in the streets, which undoubtedly works in favor of al Qaida and other extremist groups.

What to do? The best suggestion we've seen came from Minnesota Democrat Keith Ellison, the first Muslim elected to Congress: cut off aid, but push for talks, saying, "Stop the bloodshed and get back on the track to democracy."

We can't run other countries, but we don't have to finance civil fighting, either.

And finally, wire reports show the government still has thousands of pages from the Kennedy assassination files under lock and key some 50 years after the fact, classified until at least 2017 and maybe longer.

After all this time, you have to ask: What the heck are they hiding, especially the CIA?

Free the Kennedy files! — Steve Haynes

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@nwkansan.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@nwkansan.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**

sriedlander@nwkansan.com

#### NEWS

**R.B. Headley - Sports Editor**

colby.sports@nwkansan.com

**Marian Ballard - Copy Editor**

mballard@nwkansan.com

**Sam Dieter - News Reporter**

colby.editor@nwkansan.com

**Heather Alwin - Society Editor**

colby.society@nwkansan.com

#### ADVERTISING

colby.ads@nwkansan.com

**Kathryn Ballard - Advertising Representative**

kballard@nwkansan.com

**Kylee Hunter - Graphic Design**

khunter@nwkansan.com

#### BUSINESS OFFICE

Office Manager

**Melissa Edmondson - Office Manager**

medmondson@nwkansan.com

**Evan Barnum - Systems Administrator**

support@nwkansan.com

#### NOR'WEST PRESS

**Richard Westfahl - General Manager**

Gary Stewart, Foreman

Jim Jackson, Jim Bowker, Pressmen

Kris McCool, Judy McKnight, Tracy Traxel,

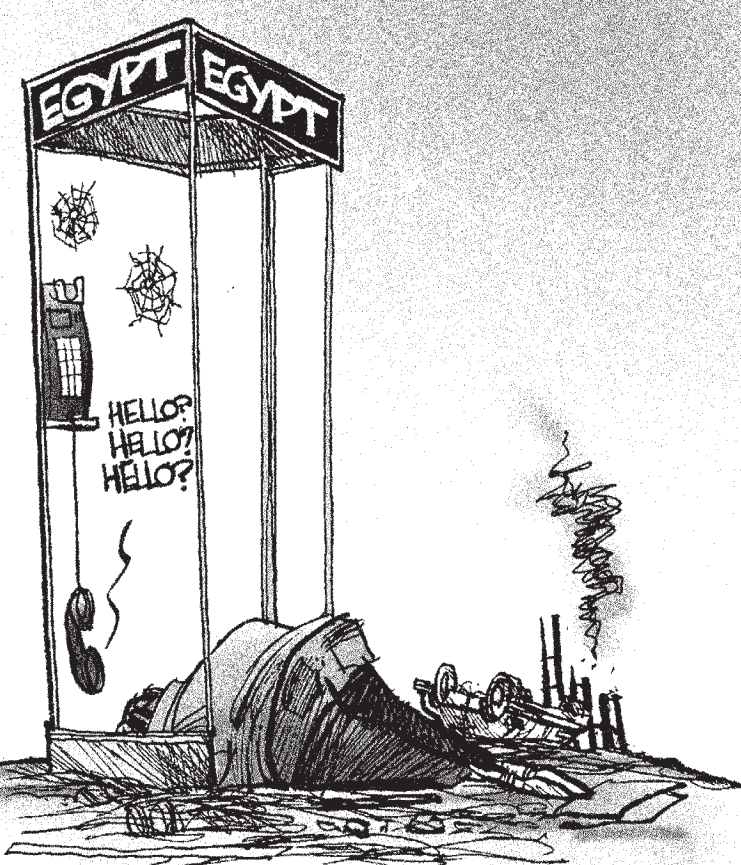
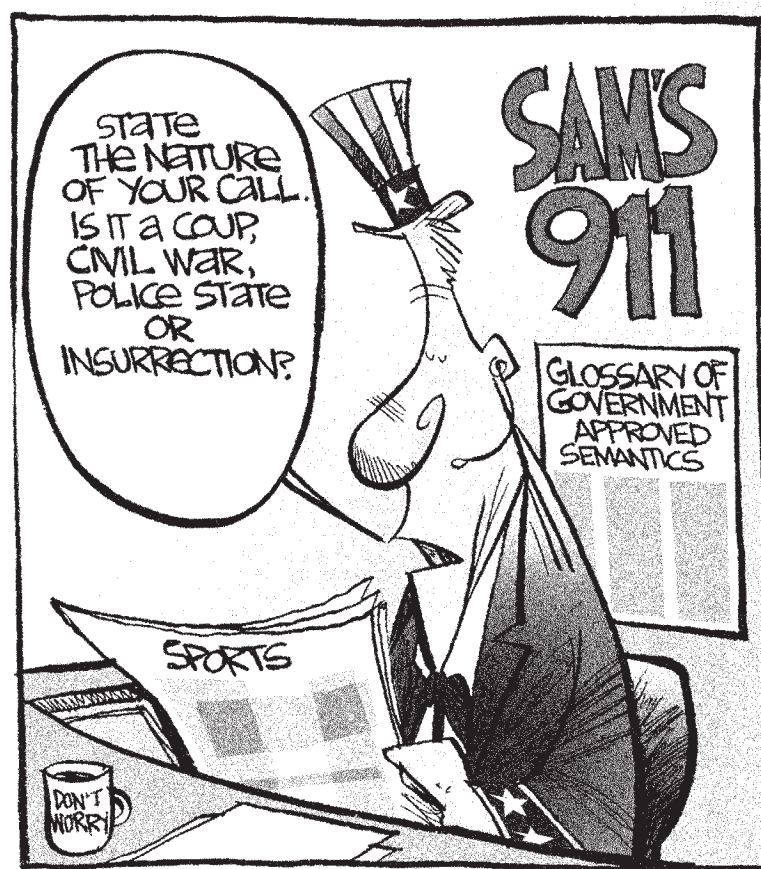
Sheri Arroyo, Mailing

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.



## Park zoo sponsored by town 'character'

Information for Fike Park history comes from research done by Opal Linville at the Prairie Museum of Art and History.



**Marj Brown**

### • Marj's Snippets

I don't know that I was ever officially introduced to Dad Wilson, but I knew who he was. Everyone knew who he was. He was one of those wonderful jewels that give small towns their flavor. People like Dad you either enjoy or just put up with, but they still have a place in your heart.

His name was Harry, but everyone called him Dad — for some reason of which I have no clue. He was a wiry little man who always wore overalls and did lawn work and odd jobs about town. He drove a little lawn tractor instead of a car, but because he imbibed a little too much of the refreshment at the local pool halls and bars, he was finally prohibited from even driving his little tractor around town.

He always seemed happy and had strange ways about him. If you saw him working in someone's yard and you honked, he would laugh and wave, and then he might fall to the ground like someone had shot him. People who didn't know him might not know whether to laugh or call an ambulance.

It seemed to me that Dad was already an old man when I first moved to Colby in 1948, but

he lived many years after I moved here. I don't know exactly when he died, but I'm guessing it might have been in the 1960s or early 1970s. He must have lived in Colby many years before I moved here, because an article in the Colby Free Press Tribune in 1936 said that a city workman named William Brookman was in the process of building a large screened-in area in Fike Park to house an addition to the present display of Dad Wilson's animals. It was to be just behind the new city building.

The article went on to say, "The present stock of critters for the menagerie is somewhat limited. An opossum has been secured to take the place of the deceased porcupine, the late lamented Josephine, who died from a broken heart. There is also a pair of pheasants, and the little hen is laying some eggs, according to Dad. He also has a "jeep." A jeep, in case you don't know, is a what-you-may-call-it.

It seems to be a cross between a horned toad and a hoot owl. Unlike the late, lamented Josephine it doesn't seem to mind Dad much and seems, in fact, fairly well contented.

"When the zoo is completed, Dad expects to accumulate considerable livestock. He already has been approached on the question of taking a pair of coyotes off somebody's hands, and there have also been tenders of coons, wild-cats, skunks, badgers and other varmints....

"There was a violent explosion at that site in the zoo yesterday when Dad was frisking around in the screened-in area and an innocent visitor and sightseer threw in a ripe banana for him."

I never got to enjoy Dad's zoo because, according to a 1940 issue of the paper, the animals had to be removed because the people bothered them so much they didn't do well, but I guess we have to give Dad credit for at least trying to add to the enjoyment of the park.

Next time I'll tell about the addition of a swimming pool to the south side of the park. Please look for it.

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.

## Military censors Eisenhower now

If President Eisenhower were alive today, the five-star general may be shocked to know that his own speeches are too offensive to be quoted in the military he used to command.

A military chaplain has been taken to task for fulfilling the job description that most spiritual leaders (until recently) were hired to do: talk about faith. In a harmless post for his online website, "Chaplain's Corner," Lt. Col. Kenneth Reyes (USAF) of the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Alaska wrote an inspirational piece called, "No Atheists in Foxholes: Chaplains Gave All in World War II."

The phrase, which President Eisenhower made famous in 1954, dates way back to the Japanese attack at Corregidor. Reyes had hoped to encourage his troops — believers and non-believers — with the brave story of the man who first coined the quote.

Turns out, the story only encouraged the attack of anti-faith zealots. Mikey Weinstein, whose own statements are fairly well-known ("Christian monsters of human degradation, marginalization, humiliation and tyranny"), organized a letter to Reyes's commanding officer, Col. Brian Duffy, demanding the chaplain be censored. Weinstein and Military Religious Freedom Foundation (MRFF) representative Blake Page blasted Reyes for his "redundant use of the bigoted, religious supremacist phrase, 'no atheists in foxholes,'" and accused the chaplain of "defil[ing] the dignity of service members." Of course, anyone who has actually read Reyes's column would

### Other Opinions

• Tony Perkins  
Family Research Council.

understand how preposterous those charges are. Reyes never suggested that "there are no atheists in foxholes," he was merely tracing, in a very neutral way, the history of the well-known phrase — a far cry from the "anti-secular diatribe" MRFF calls it. Reyes goes out of his way to include unbelievers in his piece, even suggesting that "faith" can mean different things to different people.

Nonetheless, his superior, Col. Duffy, snapped to attention and within five hours of Mikey's complaint ordered the article scrubbed from the chaplain's website. In his profuse apology to MRFF, he promises to keep a vigilant watch over his troops' speech. "We remain mindful of the governing instructions on this matter and will work to avoid recurrence." Not surprisingly, that didn't satisfy Weinstein and MRFF, who are demanding a formal punishment for Reyes. "Faith-based hate is hate all the same," Page wrote. "Lt. Col. Reyes must be appropriately reprimanded."

For what — doing his job? Engaging in constitutionally-protected speech? Like it or

not, a chaplain's duties, by definition, are to offer prayer, spiritual guidance, and religious instruction. Whether Duffy punishes Reyes or not, the damage has already been done. As FRC's executive vice president, Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Jerry Boykin told Fox News's Todd Starnes, chaplains across the military are already afraid of carrying out the most basic duties of their job. "In this case, a chaplain has been censored for expressing his beliefs about the role of faith in the lives of service members.... Why do we have chaplains if they aren't allowed to fulfill that purpose?"

Thankfully the U.S. House of Representatives is on the verge of passing the Defense Department budget with language inserted to protect troops' conscience and religious rights. Additionally, over 160,000 Americans have signed a petition to Defense Secretary Hagel, urging him to issue clear policies to protect the religious freedom of our troops. Without such protections, the free speech rights and religious liberties of our nation's most diligent servants will continue to be trampled.

Tony Perkins, a Marine Corps veteran, is president of the Family Research Council. A former member of the Louisiana legislature, in 2002, he ran as a Republican candidate for the United States Senate. Perkins served in the Marine Corps, as a police officer and a television news reporter. He received his undergraduate degree from Liberty University and his Master's in public administration from Louisiana State University.

### 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

### Mallard Fillmore

• Bruce Tinsley

