**TEXAS, OPINIONS**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2013**

**WINTON CHURCHILL**

Raising the ‘Iron Curtain’ call in 1946

JAMES HUMES

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T he greatest address Britain’s Prime Minister Winston Churchill ever delivered was when Churchill was no longer prime minister and not speaking in Britain. It was the March 5, 1946, address given to the world that marked the first “Cold War: Iron Curtain.”

The invitation came to Churchill in September 1945, in Italy, where Churchill was seeing his wounds after his traumatic defeat in the previous July. Churchill briefly looked at the envelope address “Westminster College, Fulton, Missouri,” and tossed it aside — another speaking invitation.

He reminded his daughter, Sarah, who was vacationing with him, “Westmin¬ster? I suppose there are even col¬leges in America called Parliament, too?”

But Sarah read the letter. She came back and said, “Daddy, look. There’s a PS by President Truman: ‘This is a wonderful school in my home state. Hope you can do it. I'll introduce you. You’re Harry Truman.’

This gave the speech a dramatic new dimension. To be introduced by the U.S. president gave the delimited prime minister a world stage. He may have been out of office, but he was the world’s foremost political figure; a man whose words could still com¬mand attention in the world’s leading language.

He had a message to deliver to America: The forces political and mili¬tary encroachments in Europe could jeopardize the economic health of the state — casting nearly 500,000 annually in its social security system. Churchill knew his warning would not be popularly re¬ceived. The U.S. was not a super¬power.

The widow of the late President Roosevelt still referred to President Stal¬lin as “dear Uncle Joe.” FDR’s former vice president, Henry Wallace, had attacked President Truman for policies jeopardizing post-war peace. Truman noticed Churchill studying Roosevelt’s seal on the train, the president proudly pointed out the branches instead of the arrows. Churchill now turned to face the olive branch — the change he had made to the seal — the president proudly pointed out the letter of the state’s top three winna¬bles.

In January 1946, Churchill visited America and boarded in Miami’s warm sun as he prepared his remarks. His grandson, Winston Churchill II, told me in 2007, that his grandfather spent about two hours for every minute of the address.

On the last day of February, Churchill took a trip to Washing¬ton where he holed up in the British Embassy to add his address which he titled, “Sinews of Peace.”

On March 4, Churchill joined the presidential party aboard the “Te¬raine” Mar腈e, a special train that Roosevelt had built in 1939. When the train reached Fulton, Churchill studied the presidential seal on the train, the president proudly pointed out the change he had made to the seal — the eagle now turned to face the olive branch instead of the arrows.

Churchill asked Truman, “Why not put the eagle’s head on a peel so that it turns to the right or left as the country changes?”

On the train, Churchill shared a draft of the speech with Truman, who expressed his approval during the alterations. Churchill's enthusiasm for the text led to a memo giving a picture to an abstraction in his speech. Churchill's masterful genius, “tendentious,” “impartial” and “statistical revision,” was the most important imagery that would richly persist in the audience’s mind.

**SE HE UES, 4G**

**HIGHER EDUCATION**

Pushing students to make a choice

DAVID SVALDI

Gentle columnist

David Svaldi is a professor of Adams State University in Alamosa.

I t was inevitable. The need for continuing sup¬port for higher education and, in particular, sup¬port for the next generation of students. But it is also true that students must take responsibility for their own education.

Every year a majority of entering freshmen from across the country indicate they aspire to be medical doctors or lawyers. Yet, one third of all col¬lege freshmen will complete a degree. In fact, the success of the first year degree compli¬ment is determined by the first year percentage of students who continue beyond the first year.

While those might want to be a lawyer or a medi¬cal doctor, in fact the most popular major is “uncommit¬ted” or “no major declared.” Our institutions must take some of the blame for not pushing students to choose, but the students themselves (and their parents) also have responsibility to make a deci¬sion. Back in the day, it was acceptable to take time to “find yourself.”

Going to college was the start of a journey in which students might take courses in many different disciplines and then, at some point, make a choice regarding a career fo¬cus or job preparation. But today, education is looking at making and funding students think and make choices on a thought¬ful and edu¬cated manner.

I strongly believe in the college experience, but believing in the college experience is not enough. It is also true that our market is in a state of flux. Fortunately for me, I found a partner who took the time to dissect my work. I took all of his political science and made the right choice.

Our institutions must take the responsibility to make sure students take the course of action that best fits their personal needs. This is a challenge we face as we move forward.

**SEE Chance, 46**

**DENTAL DISEASE**

A health program with teeth in it

CHRISTIAN ILLUSTRATION/ANN BOYDEN

In Ari’s Urusha, a Pueblo native, is the executive director and chief medical officer of the Colorado Department of Health and Environment. Kate Paul is president and chief ex¬ecutive officer of Delta Dental of Colorado.

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The fund raised capacity of infants within eight medical centers is $2 million in dental care. In Pueblo more than 10,000 dental care ap¬pointments were submitted under the third party dental program. That’s not surprisingly, restor¬ative treatments — including fillings and tooth extractions — comprise the largest cate¬gory of care. These services alleviate debilitating pain and put patients on a path to pre¬ventative treatment.

Fund donors are gaining access to care that can mean healthier smiles, which can have significant positive im¬pact on their lives.

Colorado’s oral health community is committed to fighting dental disease by building a strong public infra¬structure, educating the public, improving access to care and fostering communities that make the right choice the easy choice.

Working together, oral health is a battle we can win.