

# Opinion



## Letters

### Quit pointing fingers

*To the Colby Free Press:*

It is real disgusting what the Democratic Party is trying to do in blaming President Bush for 911. The threat was already there during the Clinton administration, so does President Clinton then owe the American people also an apology because he didn't do anything more than bomb a baby food factory and radio station in Afghanistan?

Think the Republican Party should demand this? I don't think so on either counts. The only reason a finger is being pointed at President Bush is because he is a Republican president and the Democratic Party want to degrade him for what he has done for our nation. There is no way that he could have prevented what happened and am sick of listening to John Kerry degrade him when he talks out of both sides of his mouth. We certainly don't need someone like that for our president.

If fingers are going to be pointed at so called mistakes of a president, then I think the Republican Party needs to go back and get posthumous apologizes from President Roosevelt, a Democrat president that was warned about Pearl Harbor, also President Johnson, a Democrat that created the Vietnam war.

Japan declared war on us, we invaded Germany so I think the Democrats need to back off this political ploy that they are trying to use to turn this nation against a strong, and dedicated president that has only this country and the American peoples best interest and safety first and foremost at heart.

Get real people, we are at war whether we like it or not, and let President Bush complete the job of destabilizing the terrorists to keep them from another 911.

**Joyce Dean Colby**  
(Letter #23)  
mamadean@st-tel.net

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**State Rep. Jim Morrison**, State Capitol Building Rm. 171-W, Topeka 66612. 785/296-7676 e mail: [jmorriso@ink.org](mailto:jmorriso@ink.org) web:<http://www.ink.org/public/legislators/jmorriso>  
**State Sen. Stan Clark**, State Capitol Building Rm. 449-N, Topeka 66612. 785/296-7399 e mail: [sclark@ink.org](mailto:sclark@ink.org)

### COLBY FREE PRESS

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[freepress@nwkansas.com](http://freepress@nwkansas.com)

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**Tom (TD) Dreiling - Publisher**

[td@nwkansas.com](mailto:td@nwkansas.com)

#### NEWS

**Patty Decker - Editor**

[pdecker@nwkansas.com](mailto:pdecker@nwkansas.com)

**Tisha Cox - General Assignment**

[tcx@nwkansas.com](mailto:tcx@nwkansas.com)

#### ADVERTISING

**Crystal Rucker - Advertising Representative**

[crystal@nwkansas.com](mailto:crystal@nwkansas.com)

**Kathy Brooks - Advertising Representative**

[kbrook@nwkansas.com](mailto:kbrook@nwkansas.com)

#### BUSINESS OFFICE

**Lea Bandy - Circulation Manager**

**Jeanette Applegate - Bookkeeping & Ad Building**

[japplegate@nwkansas.com](mailto:japplegate@nwkansas.com)

**Evan Barnum - Systems Administrator**

[support@nwkansas.com](mailto:support@nwkansas.com)

#### NOR'WEST PRESS

**Jim Bowker - General Manager**

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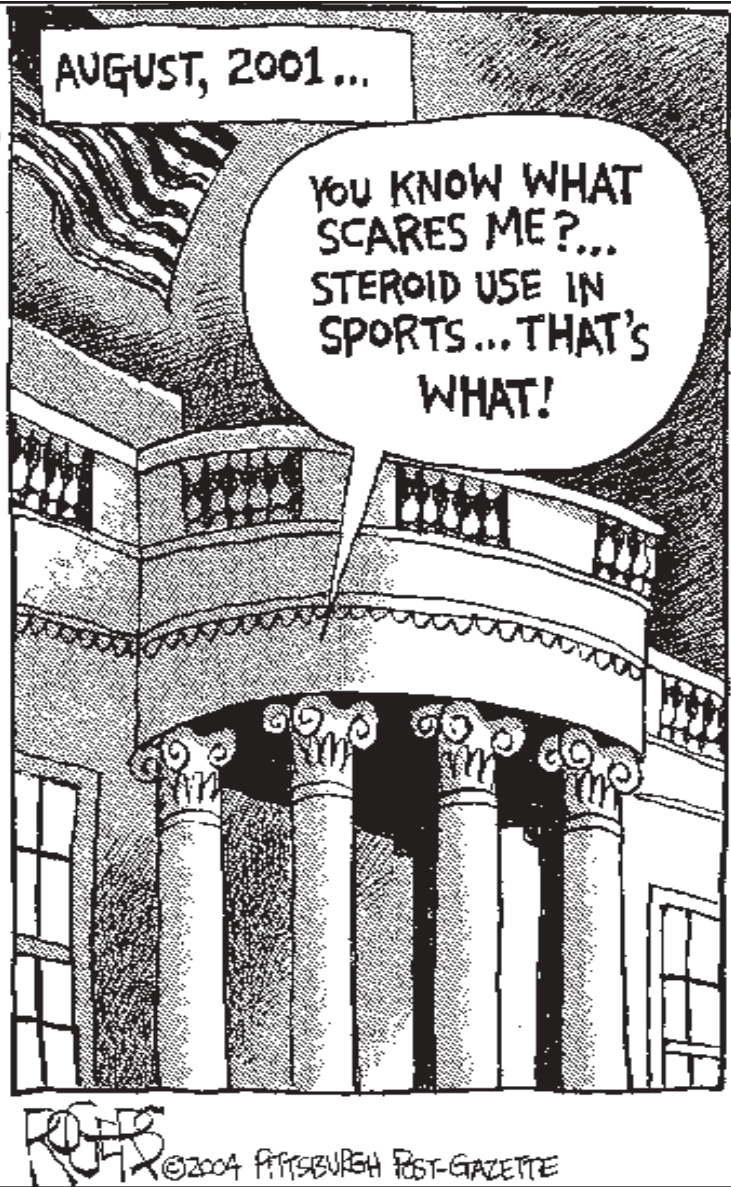
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## Not seeing is believing

My daughter, Tracy, recently returned from a trip to Germany — visiting her boyfriend, David, who was born and raised in Berlin.

It was fun to hear about her adventures, having lived in Berlin myself for five years in the mid-1970s.

One thing that I was particularly interested in knowing more about was the blind restaurant that I spoke of about a month or so ago.

For those who recall the column about the restaurant, they might remember that I couldn't think of the name.

After being there, Tracy told me the English translation for the restaurant's name is "The Invisible Bar Berlin."

She said it was a lot different than what she had been expecting. Apparently, customers really don't know for sure what they are eating and that made her a little nervous. The hostess does ask if anyone is allergic to certain foods and there is a choice of fish, meat, pork or poultry, but you still really don't know for sure what you are getting.

Tracy was telling me that when you walk into the restaurant, the hostess greets you and then hands everyone a menu. That area of the restaurant is dimly lit with candles and it's where visitors make their dinner choices.

Once everyone decides on their meal, the hostess walks them into the pitch-black dining area.

What Tracy found odd is that when she and David were being escorted into the dining area, she could hear glasses clinking, people talking, and activity synonymous with sounds in a restaurant — but she couldn't see anything.

In some ways, Tracy said she was uncomfortable and even a bit frightened not being able to see what was around her — and that was before dinner was served.

The reason no one knows what they are actually going to eat is because the menu contains stories for the meals — sort of an adventure in



### Patty Decker

#### • Deep Thoughts

dining. In other words, every dish has hints about what you will be eating, but it's worded in such a way that you need to guess what exactly it is.

As David said, if you are good at solving problems, it probably won't be too difficult to figure out what's on the menu — the adventure happens when you can't figure out what's on your plate.

Tracy said she ordered a fish dish. When her plate was put in front of her by one of the blind waitresses, it took a few moments to feel her way around the plate. Since she wasn't sure what was on the plate, she felt the food and touched something smooth, wet and cold.

Being a bit finicky and allowing her imagination to run wild, she figured the cold item was probably uncooked fish or something — turned out it was just a tomato.

What she found fascinating, though, was when the waitress served them.

"The waitress put the plate directly in front of each of us," Tracy said. "She didn't brush up against us or feel for the table before setting the food down."

Some other interesting facts about the "Invisible" is that the hostess who seats everyone can speak many languages and the restaurant isn't a small operation.

According to David, there are 22 waiters and waitresses, 4 sighted cooks, 2 bartenders, 2 hostesses and seating capacity at 120.

"Except for the cooks, the entire staff is either completely blind or has only 10 to 20 percent of their sight," he said.

There are no forks, knives or spoons — everyone uses their fingers to eat. Consequently, the cook uses very few sauces and gravy.

One thing I forgot to ask David and Tracy was how they looked after the meal. Can you imagine no silverware and the spill ratio? I would probably come out looking like my dinner! Then again, if it is pitch-black in the restaurant, nobody would be able to see what a mess they were or for that matter any of the other patrons.

Maybe I'm a bit wacky, but I think it would be fun to experience such a unique restaurant — and from what Tracy told me, the food was excellent once she got over the fear of what was on her plate.

As for its success as a business, I get the impression it must be doing well because David said the owners just opened a second one in Zurich, Switzerland.

It might be worthwhile to check out the Invisible next time you are touring in Switzerland or Germany.

A word of advice from David, though, is that if you want to try it make sure to call in advance for reservations. He said it took him over a month to get a table for the two of them.

It's really a good feeling that so many people can enjoy the kind of success that, for the most part, had been reserved for predominately sighted workers.

As for the rest of her trip, Tracy said she had a great time visiting castles, museums, art galleries and, of course, restaurants.

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*Patty Decker is editor of the Free Press. Her column appears on Thursdays. Her e-mail is [pdecker@nwkansas.com](mailto:pdecker@nwkansas.com). She can also be contacted at (785) 462-3963.*

## Did Jesus command us to clobber everyone?

Do you suppose our Rhinestone Cowboy President has had enough, or is he still smirking as he challenges the Muslim extremists to "Bring em on"? How many more 'casualties' and how much more 'collateral' damage are we prepared to accept? When will he accept the fact that you don't win the hearts of repressed people, who have been governed by intimidation, both religious and political, for thousands of years, with more acts of intimidation? The 'shock and awe' of our superior military power is helpless when it comes to dealing with emotional and spiritual issues that have steeped in a society for generations.

Saadam Hussein was a wicked and ruthless tyrant who ruled his empire with an iron fist. The promise of swift and lethal suppression of any resistance to his (and his sons') sadistic pleasure kept both his religious and political foes in check. Will a generation, that has never experienced even a taste of religious freedom or political self determination, be ready to take charge of their own destiny by June 30, 2004?

Iraq and much of the Middle East have struggled under extremist religious leaders and ruthless dictatorships for most all of recorded history. They have had only brief periods of

### Ken Poland

#### • Ken's World

peaceful existence. Zionist, pagan, and Christian radicals have not been the answer. Powerful secular dynasties have not brought lasting peace. History reveals, to them and us, that when the radical religious leaders and the powerful secular dynasties join hands, all hell breaks loose for mankind. (Religious Right and U. S. government?)

Do we expect those religious leaders and disenfranchised power structures to suddenly lay down their gauntlets and meekly turn their destiny over to an outside force? Especially when that force seems to operate from the same authority they have been ruled by for centuries? That authority being; our God is more powerful than your God and we have His blessings to do what ever it takes to bring you into submis-

sion. And, our God has blessed us with the ability to assemble the most powerful and destructive military machine this world has ever seen. We are so powerful that we don't care what other nations' or religions' opinions are. You will either join us or crumble under our mighty hand.

We have just celebrated the Christian Easter Observance. We claim to be a Christian nation. Have you read Matthew 28:19-20 lately? "Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age." Did Jesus command us to clobber everyone who didn't accept our interpretations and edicts? Did He instruct His disciples to get into the political arena and pass laws and edicts to control man's sinful nature? Did He promise to be our 'ace in the hole' when we confronted political resistance? Do the Scriptures indicate that Jesus operated from a power base or was it a love base? Did He not tell His disciples that His Kingdom was not of this world (political)?

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*Ken Poland is a Gem farmer and frequent contributor to this page. [rcwinc@cheerful.com](mailto:rcwinc@cheerful.com).*

### Doonesbury

#### • Gary Trudeau

