

# Opinion



## Letters

### A fond good-bye to you all

To the Citizens of Colby,  
I did not get an opportunity to say good-bye to so many people. I cannot list each one of you but I do already miss the daily contact and friendship I enjoyed for so many years.  
I only wish the best for Colby and all of the fine people that live in the community.  
I would like to thank the City of Colby for giving me the chance to put my small impression on the future of Colby. After nine years of being the director of public works/utilities, I would hope that it be obvious to some that I was very committed to the community. My only goal was making Colby the best place to live for its citizens and keeping it an attractive community for growth.  
I wish only good things for Colby. I hope the quality staff that remains in the City of Colby utility departments will be given the chance to excel and to give the community everything that they are capable of without being strangled by hypocrisy.  
Good luck to all!  
Thank you,

Gerry Bieker,  
Paola  
(Letter #57)

### Thumbs on hold

“Thumbs Up” will appear in this space on Wednesday. It is generally a Monday feature of the *Free Press* publisher, Tom Dreiling, but he is out of town due to a death in the family, and he won’t be back until Tuesday. His brother-in-law, John Pilkington of Hays, husband of Wanda (Eberle) Pilkington died late Thursday at Hays Medical Center. John was the son-in-law of Sally Eberle of Colby, and the late Nick Eberle, and brother-in-law of Judy Wintz, of Colby.

Comments to any opinions expressed on this page are encouraged. Mail them to the Colby Free Press, 155 W. 5th St., Colby, Kan., 67701. Or e-mail [td@nwkansas.com](mailto:td@nwkansas.com).

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- U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback**, 303 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. 202/224-6521
- U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran**, 1519 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. 202/225-2715
- 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>
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155 W. Fifth (USPS 120-920) (785) 462-3963  
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[freepress@nwkansas.com](http://freepress@nwkansas.com)  
State award-winning newspaper, General Excellence, Design & Layout Excellence, Column Writing, Editorial Writing, Sports Columns, News, Photography.  
Official newspaper of Thomas County, Colby, Brewster and Rexford.

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THE COLBY FREE PRESS (USPS 120-920) is published every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, except the day observed for Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day, by Haynes Publishing Co., 155 W. Fifth, Colby, Kan., 67701.  
PERIODICALS POSTAGE is paid at Colby, Kan. 67701, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Colby Free Press, 155 W. Fifth, Colby, Kan., 67701.  
THE BUSINESS OFFICE at 155 W. Fifth is open from 8 a.m. to 5:30 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 credited to it or not otherwise herein. Member Kansas Press Association, Inland Press Association and National Newspaper Association.  
SUBSCRIPTION RATES: In Colby by carrier: 4 months \$32, 8 months \$47, 12 months \$64. By mail with in Colby and the nine-county region of Thomas, Sheridan, Decatur, Rawlins, Cheyenne, Sherman, Wallace, Logan and Gove counties: 4 months \$44, 8 months \$56, 12 months \$72. Other Kansas counties and surrounding states: 4 months \$51, 8 months \$61, 12 months \$75. All other states, \$75, 12 months.

**Nor'West Newspapers**  
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## When will it ever end?

The summer movie season has reached its midpoint. It started the first week in May and ends officially Labor Day weekend.  
If I was giving the season a grade based on the movies I’ve seen this summer, it would be an average “C.”  
Despite record box office takes, nothing’s really hanging on in the minds of moviegoers, this one included.  
I’ve pretty much shied away from anything romantic or too kiddie, opting instead for the movies that would be considered the big-budget flicks. Right now, I’d settle for some indy flick that doesn’t make me want to inflict bodily harm on the people responsible for my pain.  
A lackluster movie season and lack of other suitably stimulating entertainment has forced me to explore other avenues.  
It’s made me turn instead to cable and reality television. My definition of “reality TV” still is and always will remain to be the documentary but this summer, there’s been one show that’s sucked me in.  
It’s TBS’ “Outback Jack” about an Australian outdoorsman trying to select his lady love from among 12 high-maintenance American girls.  
The spin on this one is they think they’re going to a California mansion to woo a rich man. Instead, they’re dropped in the middle of the Australian outback in their evening attire to stay in a camp without any modern conveniences (like electricity for their blow dryers and curling irons) and try to win the affections of outback boy.  
This one has me alternating between laughter and revulsion.  
I know part of it’s probably scripted but no matter how hard I try to turn the channel, I can’t.  
So far, through four episodes, “Jack” has eliminated several girls and on the latest installment Tuesday, July 13, the crew left the outback for



**Tisha Cox**  
● Off The Beaten Path

the bustling metropolis of Perth, Western Australia.  
There are only a few episodes left and it’s gratuitous fun at its best.  
Despite “Outback Jack” being a guilty pleasure (“Jack,” better known in real life as Vadim Dale, is easy on the eyes), other reality television is just plain out there.  
I got bored one night so I watched “Fear Factor Las Vegas” when three contestants were supposed to eat “African cave-dwelling spiders” to try to win a new 2004 Mazda RX-8. I would eat bugs to win \*that\* car.  
“Fear Factor Las Vegas” was followed by “For Love or Money” which I thought was really, really stupid.  
Fear Factor does have its moments and I’ve watched two seasons of ABC’s “Celebrity Mole.”  
But I do have one question — will it ever end?  
In a recent interview, Connor Trinneer, one of the actors from “Star Trek: Enterprise,” put it most eloquently when he said if reality television continues to grow, people like him won’t have a job. I tend to agree with Mr. Trinneer’s assessment that something must be done.  
I know “Star Trek” isn’t high on many people’s lists but the man does have a point. Reality television does have an impact, although I’m not sure it’s what you could consider posi-

tive.  
People are getting what they consider their 15 minutes of fame but I think it’s more like notoriety. Every time you turn on the TV, more and more of the people from “Survivor,” “American Idol” and “The Bachelor” are popping up everywhere else.  
They’re now “correspondents” for the TV Guide Channel, E! and “Entertainment Tonight.”  
Live television is a thing of the past now, thanks to Janet Jackson’s revelation during the Superbowl, but that could be considered one of “reality” television’s most memorable moments.  
The real reality of it all is that people who shouldn’t be in front of a camera are becoming celebrities because somebody else thinks it’s a good idea. It’s not about Joe Public living the American dream but about network executives seeing how far they can push the good taste envelope.  
Not all of it is completely bad. So far, “Outback Jack” has been considerably more conservative than “The Bachelor” in terms of people’s behavior. And some of the home and personal makeover shows like “Trading Spaces” and “Queer Eye for the Straight Guy” fix things that really need fixing.  
But still, good taste and quality are in the eye of the beholder. Until the networks get smart, I think I’ll be watching more movies and reading a few good books. That is after I see how “Outback Jack” turns out. . .  
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## Separation of church and state

- Let the state (or civil government) take care of its responsibilities.  
Let the church (or this could be expanded to religion) take care of its responsibilities.
- Let the state deal with physical mayhem.  
Let the church deal with spiritual mayhem.
- Let the state deal with property rights.  
Let the church deal with spiritual rights.
- Let the state deal with license agreements.  
Let the church deal with spiritual agreements.
- Let the state deal with speed limits.  
Let the church deal with spiritual limits.
- Let the state deal with road building.  
Let the church deal with spiritual building.
- Let the state deal with corporate business ethics.  
Let the church deal with personal spiritual ethics.
- Let the state deal with civil unions.

### Ken Poland

#### ● Ken's World

- Let the church deal with spiritual unions.
- Let the state deal with civil law infractions.  
Let the church deal with spiritual law infractions.
- Let the state deal with ethnic diversity.  
Let the church deal with spiritual diversity.
- Let the state define civil democracy.  
Let the church define spiritual theology.
- Let the state deal with secular education.  
Let the church deal with spiritual education.
- Let the state deal with civil taxation.

Let the church deal with spiritual tithing.

Let the state fund state programs.  
Let the church fund church programs.  
When the church is successful and fulfills its responsibilities, as defined by its statutes, there will be sufficient influence in society to allow the state to fulfill its responsibilities. If the church could be totally successful there would be no need for state. But, when God allowed man to have freedom of choice, man proved himself to be unreliable in maintaining perfection in his relationships with either God or man. Therefore, man is subject to state authority, just to maintain civility on this old planet earth.  
The statutes for the Christian community would be The Holy Bible, commonly known as The Word of God. I profess to be a part of the Christian community. Other religions have their own writings and most of them, if properly interpreted and followed, enhance man relationship with man and his god or gods.  
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Ken Poland is a Gem farmer and frequent contributor of this page. E-mail [rcwinc@cheerful.com](mailto:rcwinc@cheerful.com).

### Doonesbury

● Gary Trudeau

