

Other Viewpoints

Heed reform call for immigration

Good for Wichita Mayor Carl Brewer and 31 other Kansas mayors for urging our congressional delegation to support immigration reform. But will delegation members heed that call and act? Unlikely.

The mayors recently wrote the delegation, saying they "are deeply concerned about the immigration problem that continues to plague our state and nation." They noted how immigration affects local communities and indicated that they favored a comprehensive solution.

"The immigrant population of Kansas includes valued members of our community," the mayors wrote. "We are supportive of a solution that allows reasonable access to citizenship while assuring adequate border security."

The letter was spearheaded by Brewer and Lenexa Mayor Mike Boehm. Other mayors came from large and small cities throughout the state, including Mount Hope and Belle Plaine.

Top Kansas business groups have also called on the delegation to support reform. The Kansas Business Coalition for Immigration Reform – composed of more than 20 organizations including the Kansas Chamber of Commerce, the Kansas Farm Bureau and the Wichita Independent Business Association – endorsed the comprehensive approach of the Senate-passed immigration bill.

"We are pleased with provisions that seek to simplify the immigration process, allow for temporary work visas, create a special agricultural guest-worker program, and provide a path for undocumented persons to remain in the United States, gain work authorization and eventual citizenship," the coalition wrote.

Despite this backing from business and city leaders and others, including evangelical groups, the Kansas delegation is unlikely to support comprehensive reform. Both Sens. Pat Roberts and Jerry Moran voted against the Senate bill, and the House is refusing to consider a comprehensive bill.

A main talking point in the House is that the United States needs to secure its southern border before it considers broader immigration reforms. Though border security is important, this can be an easy excuse to avoid action.

As an article in *The Eagle* noted last week, there are more agents and more fencing at the border than ever, and more people are being deported and fewer immigrants are trying to enter the country illegally. What's more, the Senate bill doubles the size of the U.S. Border Patrol and completes 700 miles of fencing along the U.S.-Mexico border. How much more money do we need to spend?

Most people agree that our current immigration system is broken. Not only is comprehensive reform needed, it's the only approach that can clear a divided Congress, as Republicans and Democrats both need to compromise.

The mayors wrote that comprehensive reform would "allow our economies to grow while protecting the quality of life of our citizens." That's what our congressional delegation should want, too.

– *The Wichita Eagle, via the Associated Press*

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HOW YOU PUNISH SYRIA

This grill's heavenly and worth the wait

Before I left Texas, my gas grill gave up the ghost.

We hauled it to the dump along with other things that no longer had a place in our lives. It was like abandoning a friend to unceremoniously huck it onto the piles of other things past their prime.

I kept looking at ads and trying to decide what I wanted to replace my old friend and wasn't inspired by the choices that I saw. None seemed to call my name. I am definitely an "all the bells and whistles" kinda gadget woman. I like my gadgets!

My husband and I had to go to Salina one day recently, so I decided to stop in at Home Depot to see if any of their grills were calling my name. The selection outside didn't seem very inspiring, so we ventured inside.

There it was – and it was calling my name. All shiny, with all the bells and whistles. It was like a force field grabbed me and tugged me to it. I lifted the top and stood in awe of the wonderful things inside.

It had four burners, porcelain grates and a genuine rotisserie. The cooking area was huge – just what I needed to cook for two people.

The right side top revealed a searing unit and two more burners. Wow, think of all the possibilities with all these bells. The left side of the grill even has a burner. I open the door below and out popped a trash can. Yikes.



Sharon Friedlander

• Musings

Okay, I admit that I was star struck. My husband just looked at me and said, "Well?" He had grown tired of listening to me say I wanted a new grill. "Get it," he said. I think he figured if I didn't get it right then we would be driving back to Hays to get it later. Wise man, my husband.

I found a clerk and told him what I wanted. He said he would go get it and bring it out to the loading area just beyond the cashiers. It took almost 30 minutes for him to bring it around, and it took a forklift. I was paying for it when my husband stuck his head in and asked if I knew that it weighed 300 pounds.

After asking him if he was kidding, he said check it out. The box was at least four and a half feet tall and three feet wide. The forklift loaded it onto the trailer and off we went. When we got home we read the box. Not 300 pounds – only 220.

Luckily it easily slid down the ramps and onto the patio. I now had visions of needing an

engineering degree to assemble this bad boy. We waited until Saturday to begin this building project.

I always read the instructions before I launch into these kinds of projects and my husband always laughs at me for doing so. I started to read the instruction and low and behold the first instruction was a doozy. It read, "assemble in a clean area and get a friend to help put it together." When I told my husband what it said, he didn't believe me. I finally had to show him instruction number one, "get a friend to help."

In this case the instructions were pretty easy and the illustrations even better. We didn't have any problems getting tab A to fit in slot B. When we finished, we stood back to admire our handiwork. Wow! It looked even better here than in the store.

Now if it is snowing and I want to grill a steak, I can. Gotta love it. So far everything I have tossed on the grill has turned out great.

Now we have a three-day weekend and I will be found smiling with tongs in my hand and the sweet smell of barbecue will fill the air.

Sharon Friedlander, publisher of the Colby Free Press, enjoys reading, hot rods and critters. Contact her at sfriedlander@nwkansas.com.

American food in Peru a challenge

I had ordered all sorts of food in Peru. I had tried chicken with a side of beans, beef with a side of beans, alpaca with a side of beans, and beans with a side of beans. I was starting to feel like a human bean and decided it was time to see if I could find some American food. I expressed my feelings to others in our group, and they agreed.

We hunted all over Cuzco. Thankfully, most of the restaurants post their menus on their front window, and many of those are listed both in Spanish and in English.

We hunted for a long time, and the best we found was a pizza place. We were excited until we looked at the menu. The bread was more of a taco, and there were pizzas with beans and cheese; beans, rice, and cheese; and three different kinds of beans with cheese.

"Bean pizza?" I asked my colleagues. One of them shrugged. "It was bound to happen."

In all of our searching that night we didn't find anything, and eventually had to settle for the regular fare. That week we traveled over much of Peru, and one night we pulled into our hotel in a small town name Yucay. Right next to our hotel was a restaurant with a sign written both in English and Spanish. The sign read, "Peruvian and American Food."

We couldn't believe our luck. We looked at the menu, and it had line after line of the regular Peruvian foods. But then there was the "American" section. Underneath it there was a single item, and it plainly read, "Hamburger and fries with side salad."

I questioned the waiter as to whether this truly was an American hamburger and fries. He beamed proudly. "Of course. Our cook go America and learn cook American food. He say nothing more American than hamburger and fries."

I couldn't believe it, an American ham-

Other Opinions

• Daris Howard Life's Outtakes

burger right there in one of the tiniest Peruvian towns we had been in. I placed my order and waited with great anticipation. The others in our group were much more skeptical.

"Do you trust them when they only have one American item?" one in our group asked.

"I'm sure they are just trying to do one thing well," I replied.

The rest of our group all ended up ordering something they were more sure about, and I couldn't blame them. I had a bad experience once ordering tuna and asking for it to be served on bread with mayonnaise, only to find out tuna was the fruit of a cactus.

But, finally, the moment arrived. The fries were there. They were just a potato cut into strips and cooked in an oven. They might have been the slightest bit brown, definitely not fries by American standards.

But the hamburger was even more interesting. There was a hamburger patty with cheese melting on it, but there was no bun. The "side salad" was a nice stack of lettuce, a big slice of tomato, and a few pickles – basically all the fixings for a hamburger, but without the bun. And, of course, there beside them was an order of beans.

When I asked the waiter about the bun, he looked confused. "Wait minute," he said, disappearing into the kitchen. When he came back he said, "Cook say, American side order of decorative roll is extra."

I realized that when the cook had gone to America, he had misunderstood what the bun was for. In Peru, bread is served before the meal as a precursor to the main dish. Then, as the meal comes, the waiter clears the bread away. It seems it is inappropriate to eat bread with the main dish. Perhaps it is an insult to the chef if it is deemed necessary to the meal.

"You like side dish of decorative roll?" the waiter asked.

I shook my head, not wanting to offend the cook. "No thanks."

I added beans to my hamburger patty, put the side salad on top, and ate it with a fork.

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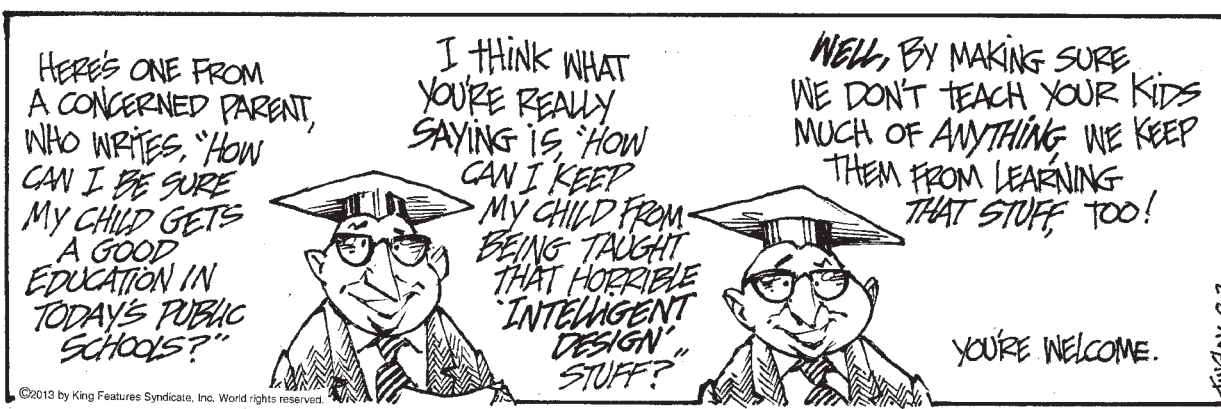
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