

Colbyite visits famous chocolate museum

Editor's note: Brian Barnett is a senior at Kansas State University, majoring in French/Spanish/International Studies. He recently returned from a 10-month stay in Europe, spending an academic school year at the Université de Franche Comté in Besançon France.

During this time, he visited fourteen countries. Brian's parents are Charles and Rylinda Barnett of Colby. In the fourth of a continuing series that started in the Wednesday, Aug. 29 edition, he will review highlights from Germany and Switzerland.

Germany and Switzerland were two countries close to the towns near where I was studying, but I did not go frequently to these places.

In Germany, I went to Cologne, Bonn, and Aachen and in Switzerland:

Bern and Neuchâtel. Germany, one of the biggest countries in Europe has much to offer. Cologne has the impressive Dom, a cathedral. The spires rising to 157 meters and house the remains of the Three Wise men.

The popular chocolate museum in Cologne has a chocolate fountain and gives free samples. Bonn was West Germany's capital from 1949 to the reunification and then the shift was made back to Berlin. The house where Beethoven was born in 1770 still stands.

It house memorabilia concerning his life and music, including his last piano and a large variety of enormous antique hearing aids that he used after going deaf. Aachen was known in roman times for its thermal springs and I went to a

thermal bath/sauna, which is always very relaxing. The Frankish conqueror Charlemagne was so impressed by Aachen's revitalizing water that he settled here and made it the capital of his kingdom and he is buried in the huge cathedral.

Switzerland is a country everyone talks about when wanting to visit Europe. The Swiss Alps are amazing but expensive.

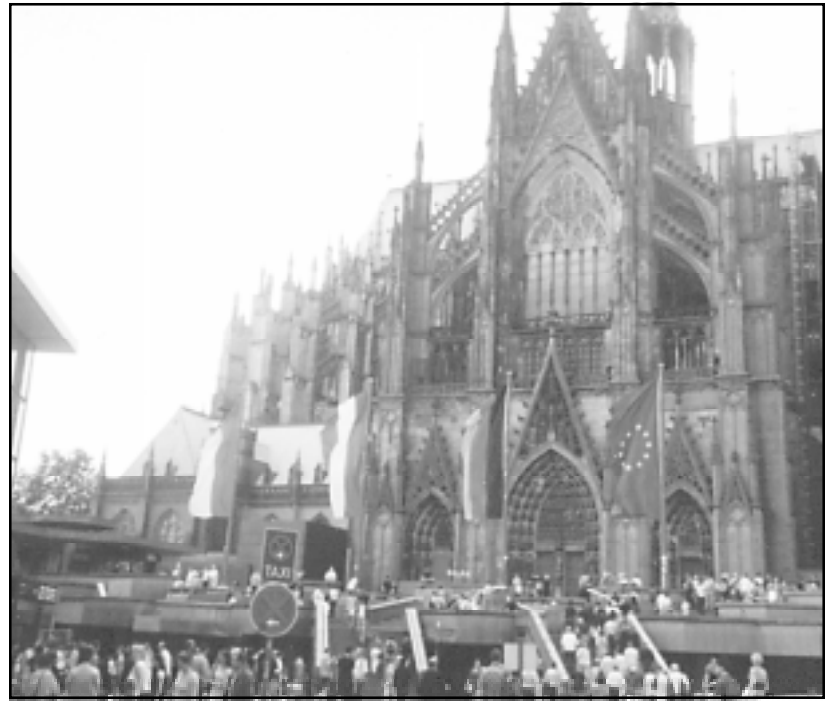
Switzerland is not cheap. Bern located in the German speaking part of Germany is the capital. Bern got its name for the German word for bear, Bärn and this animal has become the symbol of the city, and the bear pits just on the outskirts of town had housed live bears since 1857.

Also in Bern is the house where the physicist Albert Einstein developed his

theory of relativity. Neuchâtel is a town of 32,000 (a name of cheese similar to cream cheese in the US) in the French speaking part of Switzerland located on the shores of Lake Neuchâtel. It is the perfect base for exploring the snow-topped mountains and ice-covered lakes.

Final Ranking Out of 10: Germany: 7 Enjoyable place to visit but just did not grab me like the other countries did. Just a reminder, for an English speaker, the German language sounds rough and even though the people sound angry all the time, it is not the case. They were very friendly.

Switzerland: 8 The Swiss landscape is beautiful in the winter. Swiss chocolate is delicious. As a whole, Switzerland is a little too expensive for a student's budget.



The cathedral in Dom with spires rising to more than 500 feet.

Magazine contract more than expected by consumer

Dear Attorney General Stovall:

About four months ago I was contacted by a man who was selling what he said was a magazine service. He claimed that "for as low as \$2.90 per week" I could have six magazines of my choice delivered to my home. The man told me the price would not be increased by any postage or subscription increases. I thought this sounded like a good deal and I signed up for the service. When the contract arrived, it stated I was to pay \$27.72 per month for 30 months, at a total price of \$831.60! This was not what I had agreed to over the telephone. I called the service in an attempt to resolve the situation, but the company told me I could not cancel because I verbally agreed to buy this service. Attorney General Stovall, my agreeing to this service was a mistake. What can I do?



Carla J. Stovall

• From the Attorney General

Dear Kansas Consumer:

We contacted the company and explained that under the Kansas Consumer Protection Act, a verbal agreement made by a consumer to purchase goods or services from a telemarketer is not binding unless the telemarketer receives from the consumer a signed confirmation that discloses in full the terms of the sale they have agreed upon.

This confirmation must include the name and address of the telemarketer and a telephone number where the consumer may contact an employee or

agent of the company during normal business hours. All applicable prices and fees, including shipping, handling and delivery, must be listed, along with the date of the transaction and a description of the goods or services sold. There must be a duplicate copy containing the same information to be retained by the consumer as proof of the terms of the agreement. Immediately preceding the space allotted for the consumer's signature, the confirmation must state, in large print, "You are not obligated to pay any money unless you sign this confirmation and return

it to the seller." This company's contract did not meet these requirements.

Transactions exempt from this provision include those made in accordance with a prior visit by the consumer to the business establishment where there is a pre-existing business relationship, goods or services purchased pursuant to an advertisement, catalog or other mailed material, and where the consumer may obtain a full refund for the return of goods or cancellation of services within seven days after receipt by the consumer.

The company advised us that its "pay as you read" program is able to be canceled upon written request. It confirmed your account has already been canceled and you are under no obligation.

Should you happen to receive a few issues of some of the magazines, you may keep them with the company's compliments. We stressed to the telemarketing company that all future sales to Kansas consumers must comply with the Kansas Consumer Protection Act.

Editor's note: Attorney General Carla J. Stovall offers this public service to help people avoid becoming victims of consumer fraud. Although some of the details have been changed, the cases appearing in this column are based on actual complaints. For information or to file a complaint, write Attorney General Carla J. Stovall, Consumer Protection Division, 120 SW 10th, 2nd Floor, Topeka, Kansas 66612, or call the toll-free Consumer Hotline, 1-800-432-2310.

Coalition offers help coping with trauma

In response to the terrible victimization that has affected every person this country, the National Victim Crisis Coalition, a consortium of national victim assistance organizations, continues to offer information to the public in addressing this time of national crisis. Children in particular may be significantly affected by the recent events and may need extra support during these trying times.

The following, coalition officials said, are tips for parents to help their children cope with this trauma:

1. Listen to your child. Ask what they know about the event and find out what their perceptions are. Don't jump to conclusions.
2. Reassure children that their feelings are normal. Do not try to change their feelings or say they should not feel that way. Let them know that you will not judge, tease or make fun of them about what they tell you.
3. Allow children to express feelings and share yours with them if and when appropriate. Address the irrationality and suddenness of the event or disaster. Children and adults need their feelings validated. It may be useful to have children paint, draw or write about the event.
4. Reassure children that they are safe and loved, and that people are doing everything possible to make this

a safer world (give examples of police, firefighters, rescuers, nurses, doctors, etc. who may be on TV or in communities helping).

5. Review family safety procedures. If the family has none take this time to establish new ones.
6. Be honest and provide accurate facts about the event. Children want as much factual information as possible and should be allowed to discuss their own theories about what happened in order for them to begin to master the trauma or to reassert control over their environment.
7. Issues of death should be addressed concretely and factually.
8. Don't transfer your own fears to your children. Respond to safety issues with calm and reassurance. Often parents' despair interferes with a child's ability to heal.
9. Help children return to a normal routine as soon as possible.
10. Spend extra time with each child doing something fun or relaxing and have a family time every day.
11. Remember the importance of touch and hugs.
12. Parents should be prepared to tolerate regressive behaviors and accept signs of aggression and anger especially in the early phases after the traumatic event.
13. Make sure all caregivers in the child's life such as teacher, babysitters, daycare providers, friends, and neighbors are aware of the impact of the event on the child.
14. Watch for signs of repetitive play

or reenactments of the event. (These are normal reactions and can be addressed by trained trauma and mental health specialists).

15. Praise and recognize responsible behavior.
16. Connect the child and family to support groups, resources, child trauma specialists or other helpful community resources that can provide information and provide direction
17. Talk in hopeful terms about the future. This can help a child rebuild trust and faith in his own future and the world.

From The Nursery

Hayden Noss Young
Parker James Jr. and Renee Young of Overland Park announce the birth of their son, Hayden Noss, born Friday, Aug. 31, 2001 in Overland Park.

Hayden's grandparents are Parker and Nancy Young of Leawood; great-grandmother is Gwen M. Young of Colby; great aunt is Virginia Gwen Young of Colby; great uncle and family is Jeff Young, Jr. of Hays.

Hayden was welcomed home by his two sisters: Taylor, 4, and Marie, 2.

Jaime Kay Berggren
Mike and Teri Berggren, Oakley, announce the birth of Jaime Kay on Sept. 18, 2001, at Citizens Medical Center, Colby. She weighed 7 lbs., and 3 ozs. Grandparents are Larry and Gayla Berggren, and Dave and Kay

Anderson, all of Oakley. Brother Jason and sister Jenna welcome the baby home.

Adam Lewis Lovelady
David and Jessica Lovelady announce the birth of Adam Lewis on Sept. 13, 2001. He weighed 10 lbs., 7 ozs. Grandparents are Mark and Ardath Beringer, Colby, Mary Lovelady, Springfield, Mo., and Robert and Judy Powell, Chesterfield, Mo. Sister Jade Elizabeth welcomes the baby home.



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