

# Opinion



Free Press  
Viewpoint

## Come on people, we're a lot better than that

We still have a couple of letters on the desk waiting to be published. They deal with the ongoing controversy in our medical community. Chances are slim to nothing that they will ever appear.

It seems to me that the medical controversy letter writers must have gotten their training in letter writing from *How to be Negative 101 in Politics*. You will notice letters in support of candidates, ditto advertising, always seem to focus on the negatives of the other side. They, and writers of letters about our medical controversy, would best serve the reading public by finding something positive to advance.

It's easy to call someone, or some group, or some people, or some organization incompetent. It's easy to scream at the top of your lungs how misinformed the public is. It's easy to smirklily proclaim the state of affairs as you see them as chaos — but never give anything that sensibly resembles a solution.

We will never, ever reach accord on our medical controversy until cool heads prevail. And if you think for one second the hell you are raising out there — regardless of what side of the controversy you are on — is impressing the public, think again. They're sick of it. And if you question that statement come sit in this chair for one day. You might get an eye opener.

Those who confront us as a newspaper on our medical controversy come from both sides. They usually point a finger at us and yell that we're siding with the other side, which tells us we must be doing something right. But those who contribute in their own way, void of public disclosure, are those who wonder why we have to be tearing our town apart over something we all agree we need: medical care. Good question.

If all of us would expend as much energy on solutioning our problem as we do tearing one another apart, the good Lord only knows how high our star will rise.

Accent the positive. It's high time we do that. We may have to suck it up, but it is necessary. If we can't say anything good about a person, a group or an organization, then let's keep our lips sealed. We only add fuel to a fire we don't need.

Colby is just far better than what it is showing to the outside world. And if we intend to continue to be the leading city in northwest Kansas, we'd better behave like leaders behave.

God Bless America, God Bless Colby, Kansas. — by Tom A. Dreiling, publisher

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@nwkansan.com.

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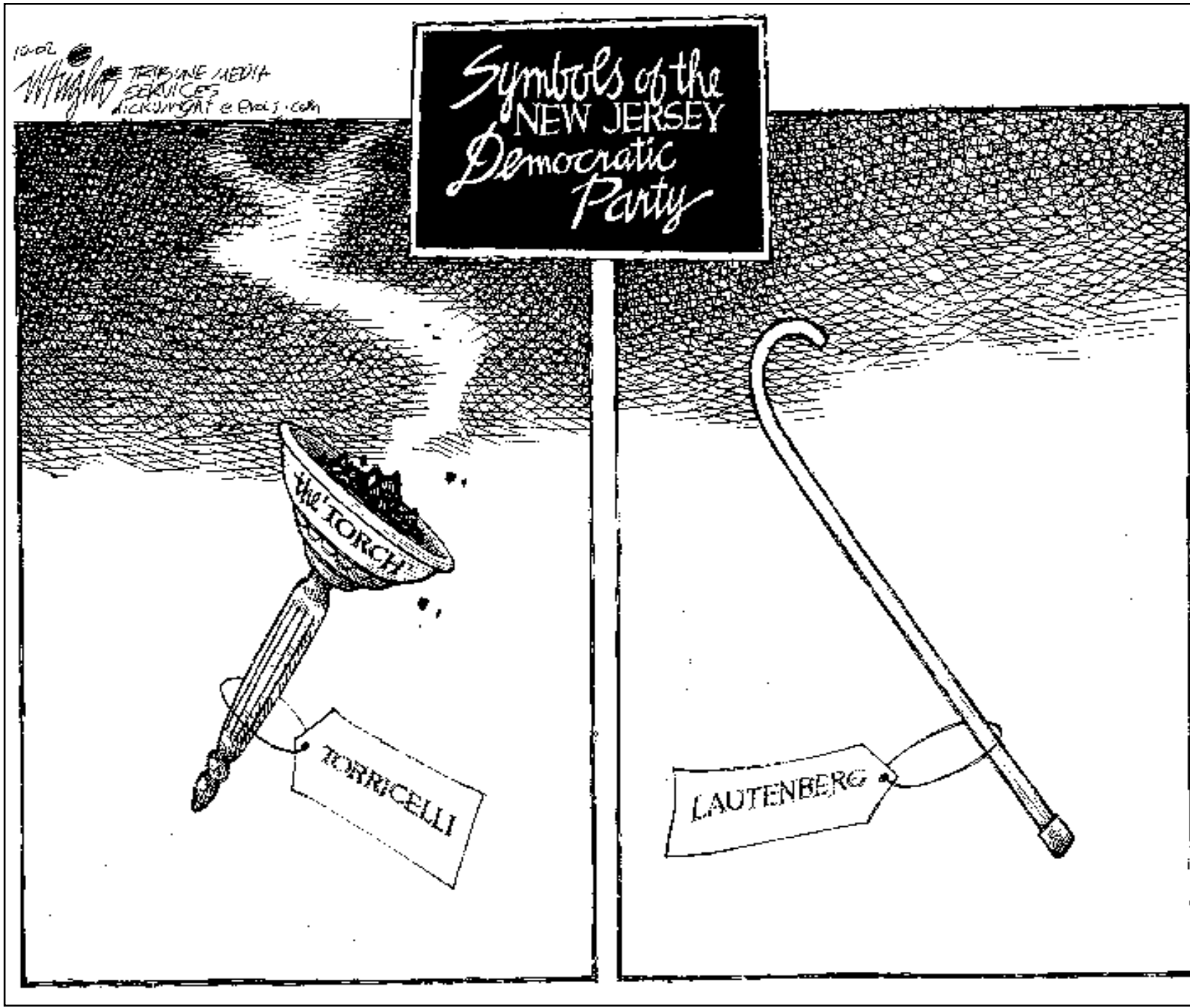
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## Something about mice I don't like

**BABY** mice make excellent cat toys, especially if the cats properly dispose of them after playing with them. Apparently we have some mice living in a small outbuilding where my husband stores straw. Both cats like to linger in the area and then can be seen playing with some small object out on the lawn, which is fine, as long as they keep it out on the lawn.

Baby is so grateful to have a warm home this winter, she keeps bringing me little tokens of appreciation. She brought in a young mouse the other day, and I was so shocked, I called on the neighbor to help catch it. I knew I couldn't outrun it. The neighbor picked it up by the tail, put it into a bowl, and threw it outside. The next day, Baby brought in a smaller mouse, and this time I had enough presence of mind to grab it by the tail, and dispose of it.

We've never been ones to have rodents as pets. They don't go well with cats. We did have a white rat once someone gave us. He bit everyone in the family except me. Guess he was smart enough not to bite the hand that fed him.

-mm-

I attended the telephone hearing of the hospital/Dr. Hildyard matter Thursday morning and was glad District Judge Jack Burr left the temporary restraining order in place until after the hearing between Hildyard and the hospital board. The hearing had been set for Nov. 6, but Hildyard's attorney said he



Maxine Nelson

### • Random Thoughts

had a conflict of interest, so the meeting was to be rescheduled. The order will not be dissolved until the hearing is held and a decision reached.

The public meeting Thursday night was well attended and upbeat. Suggestions were solicited from the audience, and I was glad to see several people submitting suggestions. I hope the parties concerned can reach an agreement.

-mn-

I want to compliment the students at Colby Community College. I'm taking a class in art history at the college (loving it a lot), and the students are so nice to me. They come and open doors for me, and one even helped me walk down the hill when the wind was blowing. Dr. Mikel Ary always says they are 'the cream of the crop,' and he is right.

-mn-

THE weatherman on one of the morning shows

was broadcasting from Maine Friday morning. He was there to observe the fall foliage. When they telecast local scenes, the trees all looked like various shades of green to me.

We have been having a glorious fall so far, and I will put our local foliage colors up against any, anywhere, not to mention the gorgeous fall flowers still in bloom. This seems to be an exceptionally good year for yellow, from the yellow chrysanthemums and marigolds to the gold of some of our trees. There is a large ash tree just north of our house which turns brilliant gold in good years. (In other years, the leaves just turn brown and fall off.)

*Retirement Life*, National Association of Retired and Current Federal Employees magazine, reports the U.S. Forest Service operates a toll free number to provide recommended viewing dates for fall foliage. The number is 1-800-354-4595 (the Internet address is <http://fs.fed.us/news/fall.shtml>).

If you can't afford the time or money to make a trip out of town, just take a drive around Colby and observe our home-grown beauty. Of course, this was written on Friday. By the time it gets printed, Mother Nature may have changed the looks of the area.

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Maxine Nelson is a retired editor/reporter for the Colby Free Press. She remains a frequent contributor.

## Peace is possible



Jay Kelley

### • Speaking My Mind

of those who would come from within their own numbers to destroy that church.

He encouraged vigilance and a willingness to confront evil when he said, "Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. So be on your guard!"

I'm still not sure that war with Iraq is the best answer and I'm sure that violence will only beget violence in the long run. I'm also certain that Paul would not have encouraged the leaders in any church to use the same kind of force in protecting the congregations they are overseeing.

The willingness to use force, however, seems to be the only thing the man that rules in Baghdad understands and the responsibility of civil authorities to protect their citizens, even by force, is very much a

I wish the Nobel Peace Prize Committee had not used the prize, supposedly apolitical, to take a political shot at current American foreign policy. The shot didn't diminish Jimmy Carter, whose passion is undoubtedly world peace, whatever one might think of his politics or ability, but it did diminish the standing of the prize itself, at least in my opinion.

Thomas Jefferson said the price of freedom was eternal vigilance. I would add the price of peace is also eternal vigilance. William Buckley once said that the Nobel Peace Prize, if given for results, should go to the American Secretary of Defense each year.

His point was that American power had been the key element in enforcing a general peace, although at times precarious, in the modern era. While one might argue the extensiveness of the peace enforced by American forces, the principle is sound.

Even the Pax Romana, the Roman peace, was enforced by the ability of the Roman Legions to defeat any and all who threatened the empire, thereby giving pause to anyone who might threaten their well-being.

To place that in a modern context, I'm quite sure that Saddam Hussein's recent willingness to comply with United Nations directives concerning arms inspectors had more than a little to do with American willingness to use armed force to remove him from his position.

The apostle Paul, when meeting with the elders of the church in Ephesus for what he believed to be possibly the last time, warned them about the dangers

part of Biblical teachings.

It is worst sort of pie-in-the-sky optimism that expects everyone to play nice if we do, while it is the worst sort of cynicism to sink to the level of those who would use the power and authority invested in them for their own personal gratification.

I wonder if we haven't done both sometimes and I'm convinced the movers and shakers on the world stage have missed the most important point.

Saddam Hussein is not the problem. Neither was any other dictator or despot we care to name. Poverty is not the problem, nor is lack of democracy or any other social ill. The problem with world peace is people. So long as we are willing to put up with evil and call it good, we will have a problem with it.

As long as we are unwilling to confront evil where it lives, whether it affects us or not, we will have to eventually deal with dictators and despots, because eventually they will affect us.

World peace starts, like most every other endeavor, whether good or ill, in the home and it begins with the Bible. When all children are taught the Golden Rule and grow up knowing a God that loves them enough to die for them, world peace will become a reality.

Until then, we'll just have to muddle from one crisis to the next.

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## Doonesbury

• Gary Trudeau

