

Opinion



Free Press Viewpoint

by Tom (TD) Dreiling
Publisher

American haters driving us to war

Secretary of State Colin Powell appeared before the world body at United Nations headquarters yesterday to lay out the reasons Saddam Hussein must be removed as leader of Iraq.

Persuasive? Depends on your point of view.

Regardless of what transpires in the U.N. Security Council — possible vetoes by France and Germany — the United States isn't going to back down from militarily confronting and driving "insane" Hussein from his lofty perch in that Mideast hot-bed.

The minds of those who are guiding our ship of state are made up: invade, remove, rebuild.

While some of our nation's allies are less then enthused with a possible invasion, the thinking is they will climb on board. They might be showing a stubborn streak right now, but in the end they will figure out that it is in their best interest to join the move to oust the fool.

Support in our own country continues to favor President Bush. The numbers may be dwindling some, but still more Americans feel Hussein is the prime threat to not only his region but also beyond those confines, and his ouster is a must.

Mr. Powell, former general/chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was slow climbing aboard the "w" train — "w" as in war — taking a dove's stance on the need for military action. But merging evidence — not "smoking gun" evidence — began to nudge him. Today, he is as staunch as anyone in the administration that Hussein must go even if it means using the military might possessed by the most powerful country on the planet.

How close to war are we? How many more days are left in February might answer that question. The buildup is close to complete and they — the Pentagon — will never tell us just how close, although some who study and analyze such situations are of the belief the buildup is complete. And Hussein either removes himself voluntarily or he will be rudely removed with consequences he probably won't live to talk about.

We hate war. But sometimes people who hate the United States of America drive us to that end.

Enter: Saddam.

Exit: Saddam.

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.

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COLBY FREE PRESS

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Colby, Kan. 67701

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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 daily, every Monday through 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.

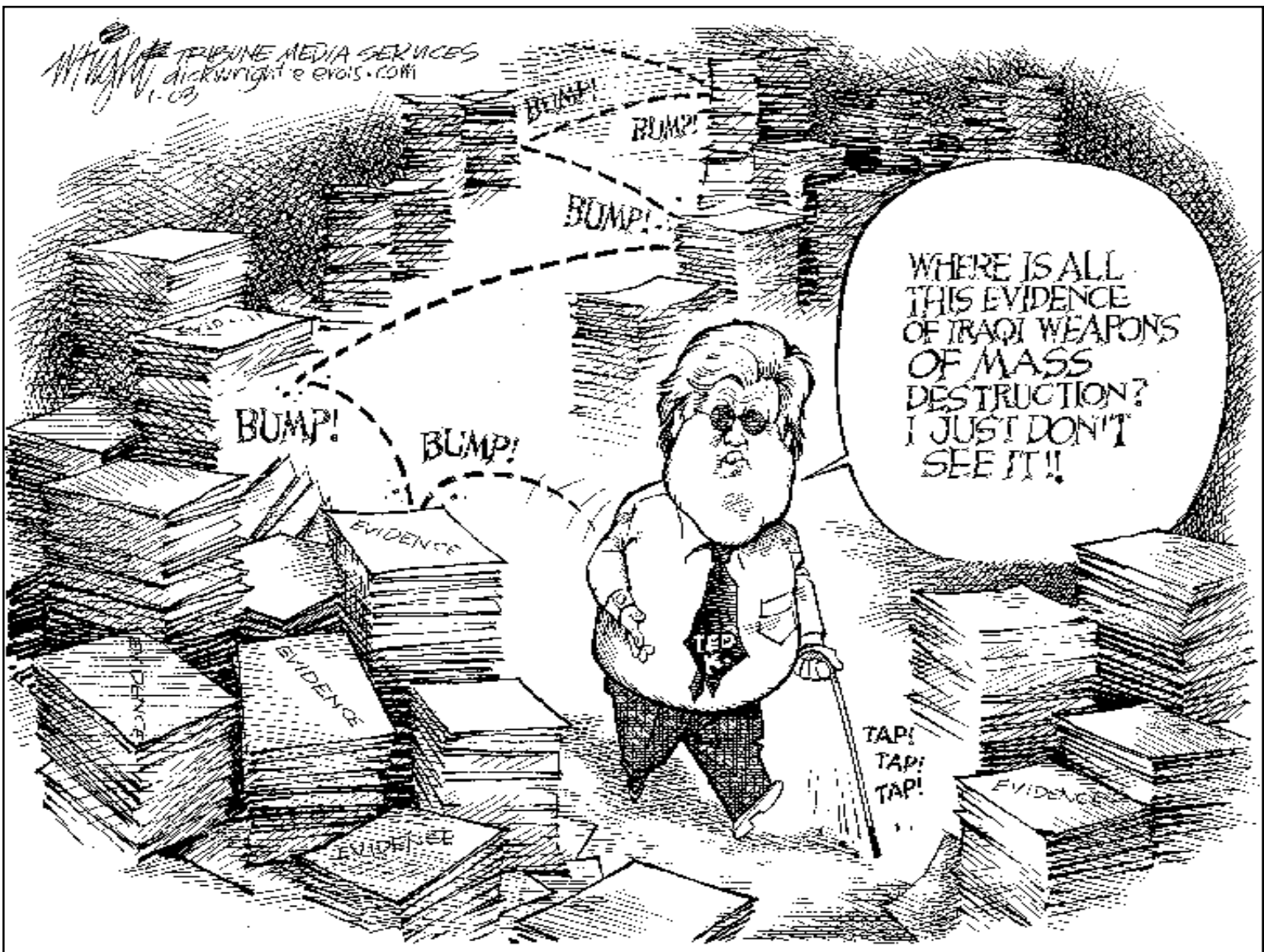
PERIODICALS POSTAGE is paid at Colby, Kan. 67701, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Colby Free Press, 155 W. Fifth, Colby, Kan., 67701.

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.

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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
Haynes Publishing Company



Creating a room for creativity

Clutter stifles creativity. I don't know if anyone else has said that phrase but that is what I think and feel.

We have been doing some re-decorating and changing of rooms recently in our household. With our oldest daughter away at college, our other daughter moved downstairs into her sister's old room. So for the last couple of months we have been painting and moving furniture and things around. In the process my office/craft room got promoted into a bigger room.

I chose the color yellow for the walls, because I had heard somewhere that yellow inspired creativity. It has been so much fun fixing the room up and organizing it for the specific purpose of it being an office/craft room and not a glorified bedroom that had evolved into an office/craft room.

In the process, I have been going through files and drawers that needed organization. Some things had been ignored since our last move. Some things I want to keep, but they just need to be put in a logical place so they can be found and used on a regular basis. I look at other things and wonder, "Why in the world did I keep that!" For some reason, I have a sense of pleasure and accomplishment when I clean, sort and see things put away with the trash can full.

Now I have more room for my books and places for my projects, a table for working on crafts and drawers and shelves for supplies. When I have a

Rosie Stockton

• Rosie's Route

place for everything and everything in its place, it gives me the desire to work on creative things. Clutter doesn't seem to bother some people, but I am one that gains a certain amount of freedom from organization. Now I can come into the room, look around and say, "What do I feel like working on today?" (Other artists will understand what I mean by that, because so much of what motivates us is our emotion, how we feel about what project we are working on at the moment.)

Ever since I was a child I have always had craft/art projects that I worked on and somehow I was always given the impression they were silly projects. Yes, I always had a drawer or two and some shelves to put my things in, but I never had a room that I decorated exactly how I wanted it, with places for all the things that are important to me. After taking an art class last semester at the college it was so encouraging to have someone take my work seriously. This encouragement

was also pivotal in motivating me to dedicate a room like this.

The windows are free from obstruction, letting the weather affect my mood and attitude. There are times, like right now when the weather is cold, the wind is blowing and the bare branches are being tossed about by the incoming storm and I am thankful that I can be inside where it is warm. I might be moved to work on a quilt that will someday be warm and cozy. Other times the sun is bright and the temperature warm and the air coming in the open windows will have the fragrance of spring blossoms, other projects such as painting or working with clay may entice. Then there will be times when the urgency to sit down at the computer to write will be the direction the creative juices will flow. There will be words to write, scenes to describe, letters and emails to write or computer art to create.

All of these things are creative and having a place to release the creative seeds we have hidden deep down inside is a gift we should give ourselves to develop the talent we have been given. I know everyone doesn't have the freedom to dedicate a whole room to their creative pursuits, but if you do, make it special, make it yours and then enjoy the things you do because you are special, that makes what you do special.

Rosie Stockton of Colby is a frequent contributor to this page. Feedback to td@nwkansas.com.

Now it's their turn

Donald Kaul

• Beyond the Beltway

"I read your op-ed piece on SUVs in my local newspaper and I agree with you 100 percent. It was a great, well-written piece."

Thank you. It's nice to get an intelligent letter once in a while.

"Pointing out all the deficiencies of SUVs is nothing more than a cover to force Americans to drive little kiddie cars and to save oil consumption and be exposed to being crunched by a tractor trailer. Be honest. You liberals believe we Americans have it too good and for the sake of others who are not as fortunate to live in a free society, plus due to your compassion, we should do with less. Of course, that excludes you doesn't it?"

You're absolutely right; I've been a hypocrite. I'm going to sell my car, give away my shoes and go forth barefoot into the world, throwing broken glass in front of me. A true liberal can do no less.

"If someone is a bully he will be a bully if he is driving an SUV or a Honda. I drive a minivan and my experience is that the people in small cars are the ones who will cut me off in traffic every time. You stated that a Chevy Tahoe kills 122 people

for every 1 million, while a Honda Accord kills 21. What I want to know is, how many times was it — the driver of the Honda's — fault?"

The difference between being bullied by an SUV and being bullied by a Honda is the difference between going into the ring with Mike Tyson or Woody Allen.

"I recently ran for township office on an Independent platform and lost, but I did get 15 percent of the vote. As a former Green Party operative (but a registered Republican) I appreciate commentary such as yours."

Congratulations. Fifteen percent is the most an honest person should expect to get in an election.

"I liked your article a lot. I agree completely. This is one of the first things we noticed when we moved here from Germany two years ago. The SUV drivers to me are representative of the typical American and so we have the bullying America and the rest of the world consists of the smaller, so unimportant, vehicles."

Right. And we keep complaining that the Honda Accord countries are cutting us off (in the United Nations).

But enough. George W. Bush has just proposed a new tax break for businesses that buy SUVs and pickups, the bigger the better. Next: a tax subsidy for gasoline thrown on forest fires.

Donald Kaul is without question the most disliked columnist that appears in the Colby Free Press. He is retired after serving as Washington columnist for the Des Moines Register. He covered the nation's capital for 29 years, winning a number of awards along the way. Email: donaldkaul@aol.com.

Doonesbury

• Gary Trudeau

