

Opinion

Monday's Salute

Thumbs to...

✓ **Daniel Cormier** — on your upcoming 'date' on the mats in the Olympics at Athens.

✓ **Coach Steve Lampe** — on your major role in the development of Cormier, former Colby Community College wrestling standout!

✓ **Ralph Fischer** — on your position as the community's chief welcoming official at the new Colby Visitors Center.

✓ **Fair Board** — for another fine fair, and also a tip-of-the-hat to all others who played a part in this year's event.

✓ **Kirk and Holly Young** — for considering Colby as a possible location for your "Truck Town" business.

✓ **All Candidates** — for getting involved in the process.

✓ **Erika Best** — for the generous personal contribution to "Locks of Love."

✓ **Bill Draper** — for your 32+ years of dedicated service to Midwest Energy.

✓ **Leilani Thomas** — for your continuing positive reports as director of the Colby Convention & Visitors Bureau.

(This column is prepared each weekend by the newspaper's publisher. To recognize a person or persons for consideration in this weekly column, please e-mail td@nwkansas.com, call 462-3963, fax 462-7749 or drop by the office at 155 W. 5th. It's free and just another way to pat someone on the back for something they have done.)

Where to write

U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts, 109 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. 202/224-4774

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: jmorrison@ink.org web: http://www.ink.org/public/legislators/jmorrison

State Sen. Ruth Clark, State Capitol Building Rm. 449-N, Topeka 66612. 785/296-7399 e mail: rclark@ink.org

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freepress@nwkansas.com

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Tom (TD) Dreiling - Publisher

td@nwkansas.com

NEWS

Patty Decker - Editor

pdecker@nwkansas.com

Tisha Cox - General Assignment

tcx@nwkansas.com

ADVERTISING

Crystal Rucker - Advertising Sales/Director

crystal@nwkansas.com

Jeremy Blackwill - Advertising Sales

jblackwill@nwkansas.com

BUSINESS OFFICE

Lea Bandy - Circulation Manager

Jeanette Applegate - Bookkeeping & Ad Building

japplegate@nwkansas.com

Evan Barnum - Systems Administrator

support@nwkansas.com

NOR'WEST PRESS

Jim Bowker - General Manager

Richard Westfahl, Lana Westfahl, Ron VanLoenen, Judy McKnight

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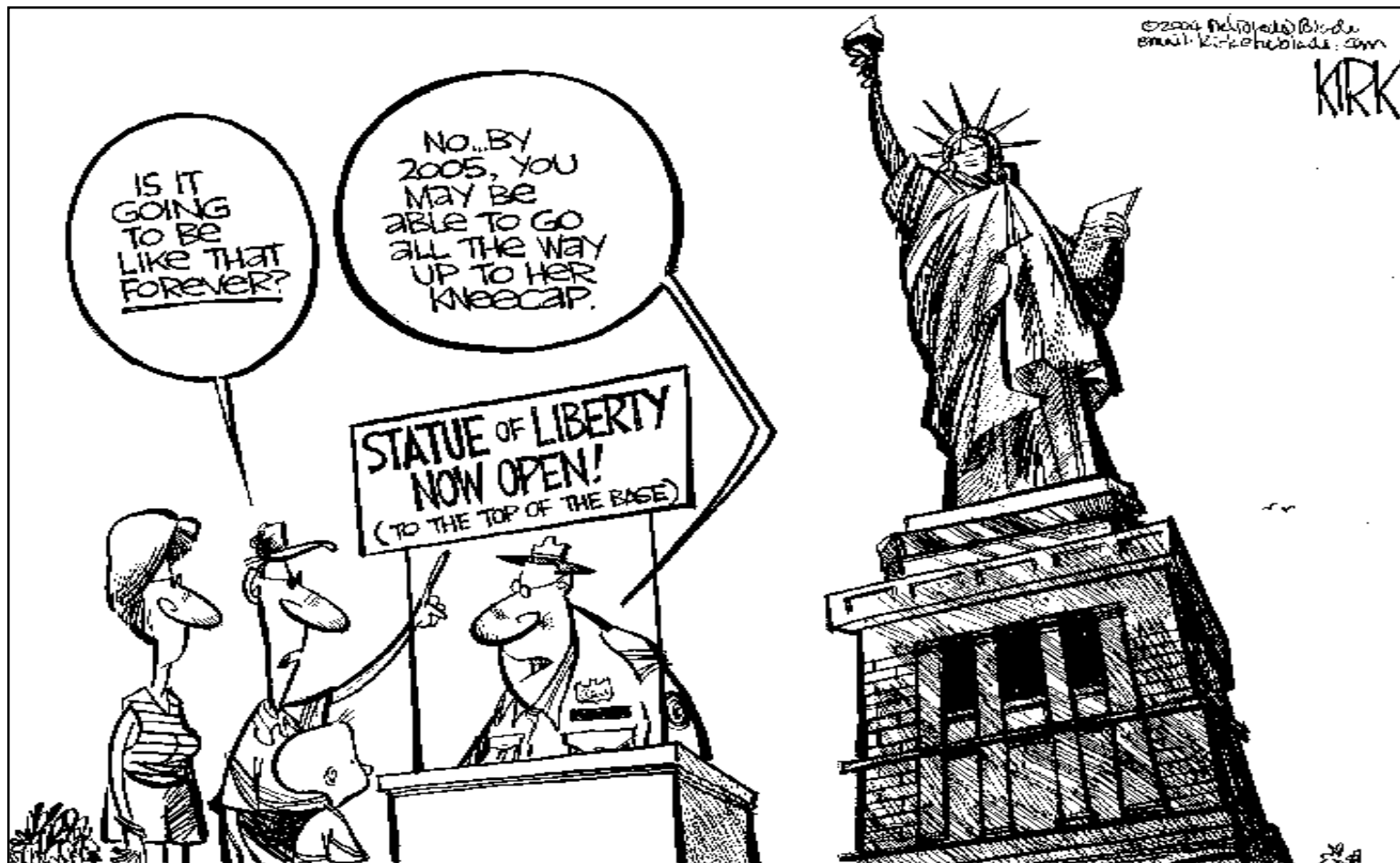
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Sequels, scares to fill the big screen

I know summer technically lasts until the fall equinox in September but the summer movie season officially ends Labor Day weekend. As I mentioned in a previous column, I would give the summer movie season a "C." Frankly, I think it ended back around the middle of July because nothing since has really tickled my fancy.

As far as winners for the year are concerned, my winners are "Hellboy" and "The Chronicles of Riddick." Both are genre flicks but both were solid, stand-alone stories that had depth.

Anyone saying "Spider-Man 2" was the definitive movie of the summer needs help but I can admit I did see it and for what it's worth, it had mass appeal and was something pretty much any audience could enjoy, which is becoming harder and harder to do these days.

The prospects between now and the holiday/winter movie season that starts in November are bleak, and I do mean bleak. But there are a few bright spots that should appeal to most people.

Through the end of August we have "Alien vs. Predator" Aug. 13, "Exorcist: The Beginning" on Aug. 20 and rounding out the month are the giant CGI snakes of "Anacondas: The Hunt for the Blood Orchid" Aug. 27.

"Alien vs. Predator" features the monumental smackdown between the aliens from the "Alien" trilogy and the "Predator" movies. Pure camp but should be enjoyable for the battle sequences this movie promises.

"Exorcist: The Beginning" is a prequel to "The Exorcist." According to Yahoo! Movies, the flick is about Father Merrin's first run in with the forces of darkness. Anyone wanting scares well before Halloween should enjoy those two movies.

More scares will come in the form of two zom-



Tisha Cox

Off The Beaten Path

bie movies coming out in September, an ever increasingly popular horror movie theme. "Resident Evil: Apocalypse" Sept. 10 and "Shaun of the Dead" on Sept. 24.

"Apocalypse" is the sequel to the video-game based "Resident Evil" about a virus that turns people into zombies.

There are also several comedies coming out during September. "The Cookout," hitting screens on Sept. 3, is about a young NBA draftee who holds a cookout to see who his real friends are. It's a sports comedy and not the only one coming out during September. Another is "Mr. 3000" with Bernie Mack as a baseball player who retires after getting 3,000 hits but has to come back to the game after a snafu with his record.

October brings a remake of "The Flight of the Phoenix" only the 2004 version features Dennis Quaid. It also means the release of a remake of a movie most people probably haven't seen. Sarah Michelle Gellar of "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" fame heads up the cast of "The Grudge," which is a remake of a movie that just came out this year in Japan.

"Ju-On" is the original title of this horror movie about the spirit of vengeance that jumps from person to person. The original Japanese

version just came out on DVD last month so it might be worth checking out before taking in the American take on the theme.

And unlike American horror, Japanese horror depends more on the what isn't seen than flat-out gore and violence. More like horror used to be so check out "The Grudge" on Oct. 22.

Looking further down the road, November will see the release of more family-type movies and a couple of sequels, one of which is the sequel to an American remake of yet another Japanese horror flick.

On Nov. 10, "The Polar Express" hits screens, just in time for families to get a start on their holiday cheer. Based on the popular children's book, the movie features the voice of Tom Hanks as the conductor.

Also coming out on the same day is "The Ring 2" with Naomi Watts, the sequel to "The Ring." The sequel is directed by the Japanese director who did the original "Ring" movie in Japan so it should be even better than the first. (As in scarier.)

"Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason," the sequel to 2001's "Bridget Jones's Diary" with Renee Zellweger comes out on Nov. 19.

Kids will cheer on that same day when "The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie" hits the silver screen. Fun with the square sponge and his squidly friends in Bikini Bottom.

Even further out, December brings the debut of sequels like "Blade: Trinity," "Ocean's Twelve," and "Meet the Fockers."

Parts of this column were taken from Yahoo! Movies at <http://www.yahoo.com>.

Tisha Cox is a general assignment reporter/photographer for the Free Press.

All it takes is common sense

Some of the email forwards I receive are just plain ridiculous. Common sense should have told the senders that the information they are forwarding cannot be factual. Liberal, conservative, Christian, radical Christian, non Christian; you name them and you find the same lack of discipline to check their insinuations or accusations. But, I don't think we need to pass a law that says you can't send ridiculous forwards. Neither do I want legislation identifying common sense.

For instance, I received an answer from Senator Brownback about same sex marriage. I had sent an email message to him opposing the proposed constitutional amendment. It appears his main justification for opposing such marriages and voting for the amendment was that it would help prevent promiscuity in our young people and thus reduce the number of illegitimate children. It would also protect the sanctity of marriage. ??? Same gender marriage or homosexual sex does not produce offspring! What does it tell you about the present state of sanctity in marriage when we have as many or more 3rd and 4th time heterosexual marriages every year as the marriages that last a lifetime? And to make that argument more questionable, a high percentage

Ken Poland

Ken's World

of those 3rd, 4th, and more marriages are performed in churches by State licensed clerics. (sanctified?)

Consenting adults, most assuredly, take part in sexual and sometimes even religious practices that I can not agree with. But as long as they leave me or anyone else who doesn't want to join them alone, I can't see that it is my place to condemn them or pass laws to restrict them. If their actions can be determined to be infringing on society's privacy (public exhibition), then we have every right to interfere. Acceptable heterosexual practices can be offensive in public, too.

It takes interest and a lot of work to try figuring out the real issues behind any candidate who spends thousands or millions of dollars to get elected to an office that pays much less than they

would even think of accepting in the real world. When one of my senators justifies his vote with such ridiculous reasoning, I have to wonder just what his real agenda might be. I give him credit for being smart enough to know what he implied is bordering on stupidity. Does he think I'm stupid enough to buy it?

I do not favor homosexuality nor multiple remarriages. But I certainly can't use those two arguments to justify my positions! Neither do I presume the authority to declare any one who practices such behaviors as unfit for the Kingdom of God or citizenship in the United States of America. I'll let God be the judge of what he accepts for qualification to enter heaven.

Neither obedience to law nor our works happen to be what I believe the bible tells us will get us to heaven. I will let my fellow man know my stand on such issues and why, but I will not demand they conform to my standards on the basis that God has given me the absolute authority to use the force of man made laws to enforce his will.

Ken Poland is a Gem farmer and frequent contributor to this page. Email rcwinc@cheerful.com.

About those letters . . .

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Doonesbury

• Gary Trudeau

