

Opinion

Free Press Viewpoint



Where's America?

What has not been talked about related to an Arab company owning six major American ports has nothing to do with the threat of incoming terrorists.

What needs to be addressed is it is yet another form of American commerce in the hands of somebody outside the country.

Critics of the recent proposed acquisition of the ports are blaming the Bush administration the ports will be the gate terrorists will easily walk through to get to the United States. The Bush administration quickly denied those accusations and Bush, again, emphasized the American people will be safe and secure.

The United Arab Emirates company is reviewing the entire proposal before signing on the dotted line.

If and when approved, the Arab company will purchase the ports from a British company. Where has been the American interest in the ports? Why can't an American company own those ports? Do they want to or are they too busy merging with other companies?

The growing number of things produced outside the States but sold here is staggering. Now, we will continue to have foreign-made products arriving in America at still foreign-owned ports. It's disturbing.

Look around your place of work or home and try and find things that are made in America.

Bush has been plagued since his first term of many American companies loading moving trucks and relocating jobs to Mexico, China and India. American workers then head for the unemployment line. In fact, before one company closed its American operations, the American workers trained the foreign workers before leaving. That's the insult to the injury.

But the president can't be blamed for all of that.

Some of that blame is on us.

To keep prices low, those companies are using extremely cheap labor in foreign countries.

Those companies know Americans love a good bargain, and really can't pass one up. Just look at the scary average credit-card balance of Americans. Then Americans also complain there are not enough good paying jobs to keep up with our growing consumer debt.

For more manufacturing to happen in America, we need to sacrifice a few bucks and pay a little more for the American-made product to show we want stuff made, and jobs, here. CEOs and stockholders of American companies need to do some sacrifices to keep American jobs.

American consumers need more things to turn over and read "Made in the U.S.A." — and know the guy down the street who made it.

John Van Nostrand, 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 jvannostrand@nwkansan.com or pdecker@nwkansan.com.

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The song remembers when

Lately, I've been going through my music collection, trying to make "old" music new again.

It's been fun, and a trip down memory lane. I know experts say smell is the sense most connected with memory, but sometimes, hearing is too.

All I have to do is hear certain songs and I remember times I've heard them on the radio, and where I was at the time.

Most of these songs are connected with road trips, and much of my favorite music has strong ties to the open road.

Like Korn. I can't listen to that band without thinking about the concerts I've been to, and had to drive fairly long distances to get to them, usually listening to them on the way.

Or the Bellamy Brothers. Old school country music, yes, but each time I hear almost any of their songs, I can't help but remember a fateful summer trip in 1989. Their music helped inspire, and reinforce my love of the American South-west.

Anything by George Strait before and up to 1992 — night driving, usually in Colorado, sitting in the back seat, trying not to fall asleep.

Most of the memories are good, some bitter-sweet, but music has been inspiration, and accompanied many adventures. It's even been a source of defiance a time or two. (Like the time we drove down Main Street in a certain town, late, with the windows down, and the music up just loud enough to be heard well, but not disturbing the peace. Blaring "All in the Family" as the deputy watched us troll slowly by.)

The X-Games soundtracks, Metallica, U2, Limp Bizkit, Green Day, Michael Martin Murphey, Rick Trevino, MXPX, New Found



Tisha Cox
● Off The Beaten Path

Glory are all favorite bands or artists.

My favorite music conjures up visions of my favorite places, and times, and are the soundtrack for what has become my life.

"Make Me Bad" (Korn), "Lucky," and "Funeral for a Good Girl" (Bif Naked), "Western Skies" (Chris Ledoux), "This Road," "Blue Heeler" and "Across the Miles" (James Blundell), "Come Down" (Bush) are all songs that have meaning then, and now.

Punk, country or metal — it's all good to me, and I'm always willing to give new music a chance.

New favorites are Bif Naked's "Superbeautifulmonster," and the band Institute, which is fronted by former Bush lead singer Gavin Rossdale. I'm also rediscovering albums from John Mellencamp, the Eagles, and more.

And I also can't resist sharing my top 10 road trip/desert island/favorite albums, in no particular order.

The Eagles, "The Very Best of" — Thirty-three of the hits from this classic band, everything from "Peaceful Easy Feeling," and "The Best of My Love" to "New Kid in Town" and "I Can't Tell You Why."

Anything by Australian James Blundell, although "Hand It Down" and "This Road" are at the top of the list. Songs like "Rain on a Tin Roof" and "Strokin'" keep me coming back.

Korn, "Issues." Always associated with my sister, Chris, for many, many reasons.

Incubus, "Morning View." Hard and edgy to melodic and hypnotic, something for every mood on this album.

Foo Fighters, "There Is Nothing Left to Lose" and "In Your Honor" — both came along at defining times in my life.

Bryan Adams, "Waking Up the Neighbors." Bought my first copy in 1991, but it still brings to mind happy times and the mouse incident on the high school art trip. . .

Dido, "White Flag." Good music to write by.

Heather Nova, "London Rain." Not an album, but the song is a favorite, for many reasons.

Godsmack, self-titled. Hasn't gotten old in the eight years since its release. Songs like "Voodoo," "Bad Religion" and "Moon Baby" keep me listening, and eagerly awaiting their next album.

I know my list is a little eclectic, but it reflects me, my taste, and how I've changed over the years. But, as the Metallica song says:

*Ash to ash
Dust to dust
Fade to black...
But the memory remains*

Tisha Cox is a general assignment reporter/photographer for the Free Press. Her column appears on Mondays. tcoc@nwkansan.com.

Your turn

Movie and theatre is worth it

Chris Niblock Hoxie

I am so excited that the movie "End of the Spear" is coming to Hoxie.

Many of you may remember this story. Fifty years ago in January, five courageous Christian men flew to Ecuador to mission to an Indian Tribe in the Amazon forest. At that time, this tribe was one of the most vicious groups of people in the world. These men knew that, but left their families anyway with the hopes of changing the hearts of these savage people.

Long story short, all five men were killed by

members of the tribe. The most moving part of this story is that family members of those five men went back to live within that Indian tribe, showing them love and forgiveness.

I share this because there is so much to learn from this story. If you would like to know more details about this story, please make time this weekend to attend the movie "End of the Spear" being shown at the Hoxie Theatre.

For those of you who may be unfamiliar with the Hoxie Theatre, here is my take on what they do so well. It is operated within our not-for-profit Neighborhood Entertainment Company.

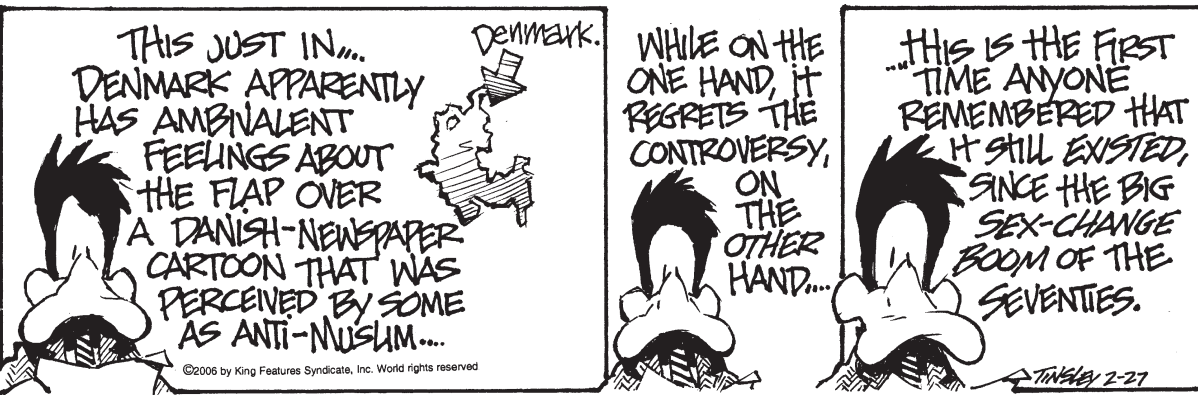
Most all of the work is done on a volunteer basis. They do an excellent job of promoting family-friendly entertainment. Most of the movies shown can be enjoyed by my children.

They have limited showings, Saturday 7 p.m. and Sunday 6 p.m. Admission is very reasonably priced. My thanks to all involved with our Theatre. You do an excellent job of bringing in great movies.

Our theatre is one more thing that I'm proud to promote for our community. Thanks again for your hard work and effort.

Mallard Fillmore

● Bruce Tinsley



Doonesbury

● Gary Trudeau

