



## Other Viewpoints

### Scouts' decision will lower numbers

The good news for the Boy Scouts of America is that they still matter. The bad news is that if they continue their current path, they will matter less as the years go by.

The 112-year-old organization this past week said that after a two-year study, it reaffirmed its policy of excluding gays. The reaction was immediate and predictable.

Chad Griffin, president of Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay-rights group, said Scouts had sent a message that only some young people are valued. "They've chosen to teach division and intolerance."

According to a story from the Associated Press, the Scouts said that support from parents was a key reason for keeping the current policy, and it also said that it hoped that the long debate might now subside.

The debate won't go away, and the Boy Scouts better hope that it doesn't. If the Scouts were just some fringe group, then announcing a policy that so clearly contradicts where society is rightly headed wouldn't matter. But the Scouts do matter. They do a lot of good for a lot of families and boys.

But their influence and relevance will wane if they continue to go against a society that's becoming more inclusive, not exclusive. Eventually what will happen is that today's children who are being raised in a time when being gay is not a big deal will grow up and have families. And those people won't want to be a part of and financially support an organization that won't accept people for who they are.

The ironic and sad thing about the Scouts is that they already have gay members. Most are just too young to know what their sexual orientation is, or they're closeted.

The Scouts can continue to say whom they don't want in their club, and after a while, that's just what they'll get – a lot fewer people who'll join them.

– The Salina Journal, via the Associated Press

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- U.S. Rep. Tim Huelskamp**, 126 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. (202) 225-2715 or Fax (202) 225-5124. Web site: [huelskamp.house.gov](http://huelskamp.house.gov)
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## CORN-BASED PYRAMID



### End of insanity starts with vision

A friend of mine during a discussion about the economy, politics and the present state of our nation said, "I don't know how we end this insanity," and then said, "but end it we must." How?

We end it with visions and dreams. Most all mechanical inventions are the result of someone's vision or dream. Just someone saying we need this or that doesn't build it. Observing that we need something better – ideology – doesn't produce something better. The psychology of positive thinking has its place, but reality says it takes initiative and action to make things happen, or prevent things from happening.

It takes observation of where we are and what we have now. It helps if we know what was before us and how it worked or met the immediate needs of that time. It takes the ability to rationalize our abilities and resources to advance to better methods or tools. It takes determination and fortitude to get up and try again if at first we fail.

How many times did Edison have to mold another light bulb before he successfully produced a practical one that worked? How many improvements have others made on Edison's first successful bulb?

How many times did the Wright brothers' crude contraptions fail before they finally got off the ground? They accomplished what no one before them was able to do. Do you suppose they researched and studied their predecessors' failures and near-successes? How many models of gravity-defying, self-propelled machines did we see before we got to the space crafts and satellites we have today?

We, as human beings, may never be able to establish the religious vision of heaven here on earth. Incidentally, that vision is not univer-



**Ken Poland**

#### • Ken's World

sally the same for all people.

But, is there any doubt in anyone's mind that we can do better than we have? We have a few obstacles in our way.

The biggest obstacles are human nature, greed and lust for power. Self worth and self esteem carried to egotistic extremes create monsters that destroy civilization – co-existence of all, regardless of where they stand in the structure of society. Cabals of religious or political men and women take advantage of the meek and lowly.

Is that what we have in today's political world? It isn't limited to any one political party or religious organization.

In a democratic republic, our supposed form of government, all people have a responsibility to be involved with their dreams and visions of what kind of society they want to live in. We all have equal responsibility to demand a voice in the affairs of society. We all have a responsibility to protect one another from one another. Civilization depends upon us being "our brother's keepers."

We all have to negotiate and sometimes compromise. We can't all be "king of the mountain" or "team captain." And even the king or the captain has to realize they are members of the team. The one with the most intelligence or charisma isn't always the one who has all the

answers or common sense to dictate the rules.

Someone said, "If it is to be, it is up to me." That is a big mouthful of wisdom, using simple and small words. You don't have to be a genius, have extensive vocabulary, or position. All you have to do is have an idea, dream or vision and present it to a listening audience, and then be willing to do your part to make it happen.

Neither radical conservatism nor extreme liberalism will give us the mythical heaven on earth, we long for. Rational and pragmatic debate and discussion of all the issues and avenues of pursuit will get us a little closer. But then only, if we can get beyond our own selfish demands and look at the equity of all.

Some folks think God is in absolute control of man. Some think man is in control of nature and the hereafter and that there is no God. Neither biblical nor secular history really backs either theory. The Bible simply tells us that God created the universe and all that is in it. He created man in his own image, whatever that means. Note, image is not the real thing. Man is free to make his own choices, right or wrong. Man enjoys the rewards and consequences, right or wrong. All Christians don't agree on the details, but I believe that God can and has intervened at limited times in nature and man's relationships, but we best not depend on that to rescue us from our poor choices and decisions.

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### Doctor's death leaves a gap

To the Editor:

Colby Medical and Surgical Center mornings no longer have sameness about them. Patients, colleagues, staff subconsciously turn their heads as Dr. Hildyard's patient wing door opens expecting to see him or hearing "Nurse." Both instances provided security and knowledge that another day of devoted health care, unmatched diagnostic excellence, filled with auspicious banter was beginning.

His unparalleled patient care was matched by his determination to demand high standards of patient care from any health organization. Isn't ordering ER stocked, diagnostic test results available and professionalism from nurses and staff an integral part of any health care facility? If materials are lacking, medical protocol is ineffective, resulting in questionable care. Conclusion: frustrated physician and extremely disappointed patients. Sad to realize the reality of his personal-professional suffering was hidden so that greed was allowed to dictate policy.

Doc refused to take vacations, or even leave town for the weekend because, "One of my patients might need me." A typical day began at 5 a.m., morning hospital rounds, clinic appointments until 6 p.m., evening hospital rounds, arriving home around 9 p.m., sitting up all night with an ill child or answering ER calls. Debate concerning patient care, code of conduct, dedication or professionalism of Dr. Hildyard was and is an insult to his esteemed integrity. The high school auditorium standing-room-only memorial service was a salute



#### Free Press Letter Drop

• Our readers sound off

to Dr. Hildyard's love of medicine, kind, affectionate attitude, and fervent refusal to abdicate to boiler-room tactics or economic pressure.

During his outstanding family practice career, he delivered over 1,500 babies, diagnosed and successfully treated a plethora of diseases, saved innumerable lives (my wife included). In addition, he received honors from KU Medical School for student mentoring educational excellence and Wichita State University for his auspicious physician's assistant development contributions. Patients were told by Denver visiting specialists: "Colby doesn't know how lucky it is to have a doctor of Dr. Hildyard's diagnostic abilities and renowned reputation in residence."

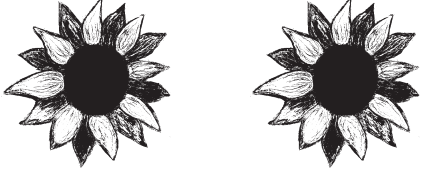
The *Free Press's* 05 July article announcing Dr. Hildyard's passing contained factual errors (he did not admit patients to the Goodland hospital and an incorrect personal name), pertinent omissions and a restatement of already public legal issues again denigrating his professional-personal character. Doesn't such a prominent citizen deserve a reporter being assigned to an in-depth interview of Dr. Hildyard's col-

leagues, staff, including soliciting volunteer patient comments to glean his medical philosophy, and interesting antidotes? Such information would have been news, light in character, leaving the reader with positive memories.

Instead, the *Free Press* chose to end its article with five paragraphs of impudent CMC vs. Colby Medical and Surgical Center public knowledge litigation based on kangaroo politics and monetary greed resulting in a community focused on facetious accusations rather than concentrating on becoming a Northwest Kansas medical center, Dr. Hildyard's dream and goal. Published tributes to honored professional or lay people should not discredit any aspect of their past personal life or career accomplishments. How rude. Novice journalism aside, where was the editor's proofread initials on this article?

Doc's bedside manner was infectious; name another doctor that would share the patient's candy or cookies. Considering life-threatening circumstances, he would have been my physician choice regardless of language, standing on his head, or any other supposedly unprofessional behavior. "Who in the hell cared, damn it Dr. Hildyard saved my life."

Vernon L. Wranosky, Colby



### Mallard Fillmore

• Bruce Tinsley

