

# commentary

from other pens...

## Attacks evaporated ‘Star Wars’ defense

**The Chanute Tribune on the terrorist attacks:**  
Whatever sense of security the “Star Wars” missile defense shield offered evaporated sometime Tuesday. Even if the high-tech system could be developed — and many doubt it — it became frighteningly clear that America faces an enemy that is completely invisible to space age technology. ...

Have we made the mistake of associating high-tech with high security? The terrorists last week used tactics perfected in the 1970s (hijacking) and weapons as old as history (knives). We face an adversary so opaque it can hide in plain sight.

The hijackers enjoyed our freedom for years. The U.S. military may have even helped train some of them. The question now is, can we adopt a new mindset to combat such an intangible enemy?

The president has vowed to go after not only the terrorists directly responsible but the countries that harbored them. But, if the attack was the handiwork of Osama bin Laden, the list of countries is dozens long — and includes the United States. ...

Here’s how counter-intuitive this conflict is: Desert Storm played a central role in galvanizing bin Laden’s hatred for the United States, even though bin Laden also regarded Saddam as a threat. In going after bin Laden’s enemy, we moved ourself to the top of bin Laden’s enemy list. Truly, it’s a new war.

**The Parsons Sun on flying the flag:**  
Firefighters scrambled over the pile of rubble that was once a building. Covered in ash and sweat, choking to breathe through the debris-filled air, they moved to hoist an American flag on the fallen antenna that once allowed some kind of communications in New York City.

In an earlier image, Old Glory flew from the top of a fire truck, its brilliant colors in dramatic contrast to the overwhelming grays of fallen buildings and stunned rescue workers and the never-ending ash. Nothing else spoke so clearly of the defiance of the American people.

“Attack us if you must, from behind a cloak of anonymity. Go ahead and kill thousands of absolutely innocent Americans to quench your warped thirst for blood and insane idea of justice. But you will not subdue this nation, its people or its spirit. Our flags proclaim that for all the world to see. And we will come get you.”

In the unending days of horror since Tuesday morning’s attacks, we Americans have begun displaying flags to show our unity and support of this nation. ...


If possible, please add your flag to the display of unity. ... Wave your flag proudly. It is a statement for all the world to see.

**The Iola Register on natural gas prices:**  
Last February Iola joined a lobbying effort launched by the National Association of Gas Consumers to get the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to roll back the price of gas at the well head to \$2.74 a unit... Many families over the state were hammered with gas bills between \$300 and \$400 in this year’s hard winter... One in every 10 customers of Kansas Gas Service, which is a division of Western Resources, owed back gas bills when the grace period on those past-due winter bills rolled to a close on Aug. 1. Western Resources then cut off electric and gas service to 15,000 Kansas homes... Gas prices today are set by speculators in the commodity market. They bid against one another and a price for delivery at some future date is established... There is absolutely nothing to prevent that sequence of events from repeating this fall and winter — unless, that is, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission does what it was established to do: REGULATE... The Kansas experience demonstrated beyond challenge that regulatory bodies can set the prices of gas and electricity high enough to assure production of an adequate supply while preventing price gougers from bankrupting low-income families.

**The Goodland Daily News**  
(USPS No. 222-460. ISSN 0893-0562)  
Member: Kansas Press Association  
The Associated Press  
Inland Press Association Colorado Press Association  
e-mail: [daily@nwkansas.com](mailto:daily@nwkansas.com)

Steve Haynes, President  
Tom Betz, Editor/Editorial Page  
Rachel Miscall, Managing Editor  
Society Editor/Reporter  
Sharon Corcoran, Sports Editor  
Doug Jackson, Eric Yonkey, Bill Wagoner, Advertising Sales  
James Schiefen, Adv. Production  
Sheila Smith, Office Manager Pat Schiefen Bookkeeping

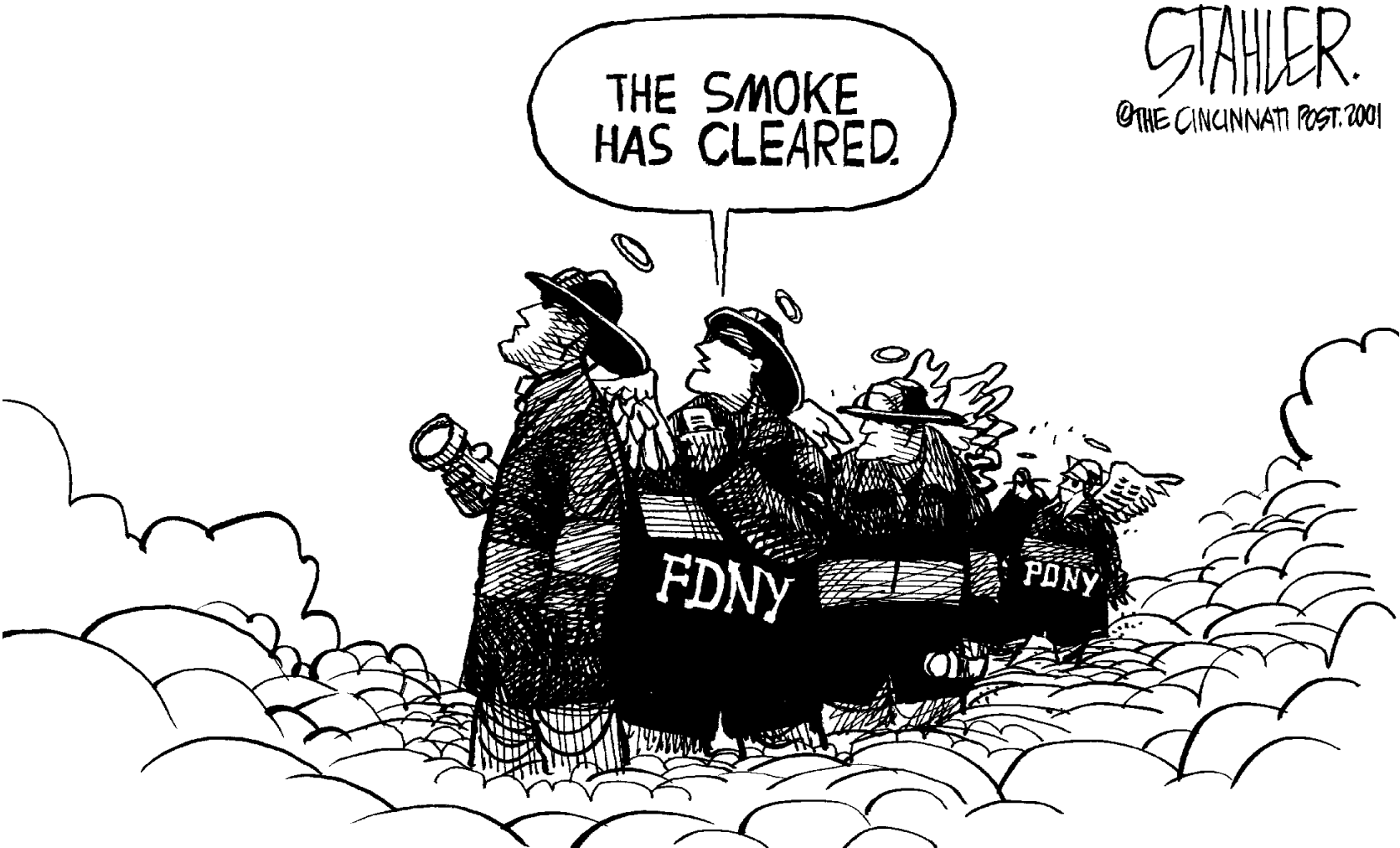
**Nor’west Press**  
Jim Bowker, General Manager  
Ron VanLoenen Judy McKnight Richard Westfahl  
Lana Westfahl Betty Morris Helen Dilts

 [nwkansas.com](http://nwkansas.com)

N.T. Betz, Director of Internet Services ([nbetz@nwkansas.com](mailto:nbetz@nwkansas.com))  
Evan Barnum, Systems Admin. ([support@nwkansas.com](mailto:support@nwkansas.com))

Published daily except Saturday and Sunday and the day observed for New Year’s Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day, at 1205 Main St., Goodland, Kan. 67735.  
Periodicals postage paid at Goodland, Kan. 67735; entered at the Goodland, Kan., Post Office under the Act of Congress of March 8, 1878.  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Goodland Daily News, 1205 Main St., Goodland, Kan. 67735.  
TELEPHONE: (785) 899-2338. Editorial e-mail: [daily@nwkansas.com](mailto:daily@nwkansas.com). Advertising questions can be sent to: [gdnadv@nwkansas.com](mailto:gdnadv@nwkansas.com)  
**The Goodland Daily News** assumes no liability for mistakes or omissions in advertising or failure to publish beyond the actual cost of the ad.  
SUBSCRIPTIONS: In Sherman County and adjacent counties: three months, \$22; six months, \$38; 12 months, \$72. By mail in Kansas, Colorado: three months, \$ 28; six months, \$50; 12 months, \$95. (All tax included.) Out of area, weekly mailing of five issues: three months, \$25; six months, \$40; 12 months, \$75.

**Incorporating:**  
**The Sherman County Herald**  
Founded by Thomas McCants  
1935-1989  
**THE SHERMAN COUNTY STAR**  
Founded by Eric and Roxie Yonkey  
1994-2001  
**Nor’West Newspapers**  
Haynes Publishing Company



## This is ‘The Year of the Finger’

I don’t know about you, but I’ve had a sore finger for much too long.

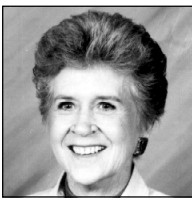
Since it is the index finger on my right hand, and I’m right-handed, this bandaged finger has been very obvious. People can’t help but notice it, and express their concern by asking what I did to myself.

It really does look like I cut myself or was bitten by a dog or cat. It would be a better story if I’d just make up one. However, the truth is I have poor circulation, which causes the blood vessels to constrict and then sometimes sores form. (Kind of like gangrene.)

I’ve had this condition for forty years and thought I knew how to control it, but this one got away from me. It is irritating and painful to the point of wearing me down.

My finger has taken over my life. I tire easily and have to space out my daily activities. I have to time my medicines so that they are taken at proper intervals, with food or without food. One medicine has the side-effect of decreasing the appetite (which is good since I could afford to lose some weight), but I have to force food down in order to take the medicine.

It has become a vicious cycle.



**lorna g. t.**

• commentary

One medicine is a pain killer that makes me light-headed and sleepy. I’m sure that when it kicks in, I probably shouldn’t be driving or operating large machinery. (Thankfully, the latter isn’t much of a problem!)

The finger has been sore off and on for almost a year, but only got out of hand (no pun intended) about three months ago. I am seeing three doctors, and doing what they tell me, plus suggesting to them every possible remedy my friends and family recommend. Who knows what is working or restricting healing? All I really can testify to is - “It still hurts!”

The specialist said last week that it is getting better. That was good news since the week before he had said, “Well, you know what the worse case scenario is, don’t you?”

I keep telling myself, “It’s only a finger. It’s not

a foot or an arm. It’s only a finger. Amputation would only be a minor inconvenience.”

But I still don’t like the whole idea.

I have learned a lot from this affliction. Even in the midst of my tears, I have never given up hope. But I have greater empathy for people who are in constant pain with conditions for which there is little hope.

I’m thankful it is only a finger, but my heart cries, not only for me, but for those who have lost sight or limbs. I now know to be careful about categorizing or downplaying suffering in any form.

Pain is pain, and it’s very real to the person experiencing it. I said some of this to one dear friend, and she smiled and said, “Yes, Lorna, but this is YOUR pain.”

I sincerely appreciated her giving me permission to hate my own hurt. My digit is getting better; I tell myself that all the time.

I truly believe attitude has a lot to do with healing. Most of the time mine is positive, but I have to admit I’m getting very tired of it all. If God has other lessons I need to learn from this happening, I hope I catch on to them soon.

It doesn’t sound very nice, but I truly think I will always remember this as “The Year of the Finger.”

## We need universal threat to make us human

WASHINGTON — In 1987, President Ronald Reagan said to the 42nd General Assembly of the United Nations: “In our obsession with antagonisms of the moment, we often forget how much unites all the members of humanity. Perhaps we need some outside universal threat to make us recognize this common bond.

“I occasionally think how quickly our differences worldwide would vanish if we were facing an alien threat from outside this world.

“And yet, I ask you, is not an alien force already among us? What could be more alien to the universal aspirations of our people than war and threat of war?”

The World Trade Center horror is that “alien force.” It has united Americans — not just in New York — in ways not felt since the Kennedy assassination.

Unlike the horror of Dallas, it has carried a subsequent positive force. Nov. 22, 1963, brought death to a national leader. Sept. 11, 2001, brought life to our sense of nationhood.

This feeling is the silver lining to this cloud of gloom. Class, an un-American notion to begin with, has faded for the moment.

Firemen, not stock brokers, are the “masters of the universe.”

Savers and riskers of life, they receive the honor, respect and gratitude they deserve.

Race, that backbeat of urban life, seems forgotten as we dig for hope among the wreckage.



**chris matthews**

• commentary

“Can you spare a little eye contact?” a beggar asks a well-to-do passerby in a now hopelessly outdated New Yorker cartoon printed just days before the horror.

In the streets of today’s Manhattan, commuters try, for the first time anyone can remember, to catch each other’s eyes.

Rudy Guiliani, the city’s mayor, has captured that spirit. A politician with nothing to gain, he found himself, in the aftershock of the horror, with so much to give.

Community. Until this tragedy happened, that word seemed foreign to me.

Now I understand it.

For years, African-Americans have used that word to convey their sense of unity and togetherness against the cold forces surrounding, controlling, and, too often, repressing them.

Now I feel it. I know that New Yorkers feel it. I can see by the little votive candles set out on street corners, the flags flying from cars, the lapel ribbons on people’s chests, that so many others feel it too. Maybe this feeling will last. Maybe politi-

cians will put some perspective into their attacks on each other. Maybe the “red” heartland part of our map that voted for Bush will feel less distance from the “blue” bi-coastal parts that voted for Gore.

And, yes, maybe things will break bad. Congresswoman Barbara Lee, who represents Berkeley, was the lone vote against giving the president wide powers to track down the terrorists. For this act, she has gotten death threats.

This is the dark side of national unity. Web site agitators of the left and the right use the horror to sell their creeds, punish their enemies, enforce their ideological decrees. Hate-mongering clergymen do worse. Having no more premonition of this hell in New York than the least spiritual among us, they offer a shameless litany of “I told you so’s.” They use the fire to warn of more.

The dividers should be the last to speak. The great truth this tragedy has shown us, the great revelation, if you want to call it that, is that which old romantic Ronald Reagan imaged that day before the United Nations. He proclaimed that once we saw a true enemy — in this case, crazed religious zealotry — we would unite as one.

John Lennon could not have said it better: See ourselves as one.

(Chris Matthews, a nationally syndicated columnist for the San Francisco Chronicle, is host of “Hardball” on CNBC and MSNBC cable channels. The 1999 edition of “Hardball” was published by Touchstone Books.)

## Director apologizes to groups

Dear Editor:

I would like to apologize to Kiwanis and the 24 Hour Relay Committee members for not having them recognized in the Sept. 6 article “Scaring kids off cigs.” The presentations at the schools certainly would not have been possible without support from these two groups, which have so graciously supported many programs and projects in our community. In trying not to forget someone, I forgot! And I am truly sorry.



**from our readers**

• to the editor

Thank You,  
Cris Lovington, Regional Prevention Center

### where to write

**U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts**, 302 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**, 1217 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 225-2715  
**State Rep. Jim Morrison**, State Capitol Building Rm. 174-W, Topeka, KS 66612. (785) 296-7676  
**State Sen. Stan Clark**, State Capitol Building Rm. 128-S, Topeka, KS 66612. (785) 296-7399  
**Kansas Attorney General Carla J. Stovall**, 301 S.W. 10th, Lower Level, Topeka, KS 66612-1597 (785) 296-3751 Fax (785) 291-3699 TTY: (785) 291-3767

### berry's world

