

Opinion



Free Press
Viewpoint

Terrorism, Hussein, and now North Korea

Now what?

With Iraq in our gunsights and a possible strike closer than most of us think, something has happened that could refocus our attention from 'Insane' Hussein to another scoundrel-run country, North Korea.

The White House is still reeling today after a startling disclosure yesterday that North Korea has a secret nuclear weapons program and pretty much snubbed this country by telling U.S. diplomats that it was no longer bound by a 1994 anti-nuclear agreement.

The United States contends Pyongyang is guilty of a serious infringement of the 1994 agreement under which North Korea promised to be nuclear-free in return for economic assistance.

When you fool with some of the fools leading the charge in some of those countries you can't be too careful. Their word is about as solid as a chunk of ice in an oven.

With a war on terrorism ongoing, and a war on Iraq a real possibility, there just might have to be a 'readjustment' in thinking among the thinkers in the White House's inner circle.

Is Saddam Hussein our biggest threat? Or is it now North Korea with its admission of having a secret nuclear weapons program in place. We are not fully sure what Saddam has in his stockpile or what his capabilities are. But we do know now what North Korea has up its nuclear sleeve.

We wonder if the 1994 agreement under which North Korea promised to be nuclear-free in return for economic assistance was one of those kind of deals whereby the promise was kept only until the economic assistance was received and plowed into their nuclear weapons program.

You just can't trust those guys.

Now what? — *Tom (TD) Dreiling, Publisher*

About those letters . . .

The *Free Press* encourages and welcomes letters from readers. Letters should be typewritten, if at all possible, and should include a telephone number and an address.

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COLBY FREE PRESS

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State award-winning newspaper, General Excellence, Design & Layout Excellence, Column Writing, Editorial Writing, Sports Columns, News, Photography.

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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.

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Yes, colorful Kansas

Sally
Wilcox

• Senior Focus

Autumn is slowly inching into Kansas, and with the season comes an array of beautiful colors. Oranges, yellows, browns and reds start appearing little by little on trees, shrubs and grasses sometime around the autumn equinox. Warm days and cooling nights brings out the best of nature for a final fling before winter.

Seniors, in particular, love to see the fall foliage and often go on fall foliage tours or simply take a day to drive somewhere to see fall color. Psychologists have speculated that seniors appreciate the season more because they, too, are in the autumn of their lives.

Maybe when you think of fall foliage, New England, the Ozarks, the Smokey Mountains or the Rocky Mountains come to mind. Don't overlook home. Kansas offers a great fall palate for your viewing pleasure.

Finding fall color in Kansas isn't difficult. In many towns, home owners and parks have planted trees that will be colorful in the fall. One such tree is the Washington Hawthorne with leaves that turn from green to purple, orange or crimson and berries that change from green to lipstick red. Others are pin oaks with glassy red-orange leaves, red maples and Chinese pistachios that turn orange. Accent these with Kansas shimmering yellow cottonwoods and you have a fall to be remembered.

Not all falls are picture-beautiful. Dry weather can make a difference as can a too-early frost, snow or ice. The leaves turn pretty colors because of the nu-

trients that remain in them after the green of their chlorophyll is gone. With the chlorophyll gone, any yellow, brown and red, orange, or purple pigments that have been there all along are what we see as fall color. Most trees have only the yellow and brown pigments. The reds, oranges and purples appear only in certain species of trees that have a sugar buildup in the leaves, including the ones mentioned above.

It's difficult to be specific about places in Kansas where you can find fall color. I would suggest that you check with your County Extension Service, the Kansas Forest Service in Hutchinson, local chambers of commerce, arborists, or the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.

Most Kansas maps will show all the state parks, lakes and various wildlife refuges, often good places to see fall color. In the hilly area around the Leavenworth County State Lake near Tonganoxie, many of the deciduous trees will have a blend of colors. Back roads in this and other eastern Kansas and southeastern Kansas areas can be spectacular, particu-

larly where there are hills and streams.

Central and south-central Kansas also have many hills and streams. The Dillon Nature Center at Hutchinson; the Chapin Nature Center near Winfield and Arkansas City, off U.S. 166; the Quivera National Waterfowl Refuge in Stafford County, west of Highway 281; and the Maxwell Game Preserve off U.S. 1-35 in Dickinson County are places where fall colors are usually beautiful. Botanica Gardens, 701 Amidon, Wichita, offers flowers and trees of the season, too. The hills near the Caney River between Cedar Vale and Sedan offer fall color much like that in eastern Kansas.

Farther west, along U.S. 160, the red dirt landscape around Medicine Lodge blends startling color combined with the greens of cedars and is accented by fall grasses and flowers.

In the western and northwest part of the state, grasses offer the most color. However, there will be some cottonwood, elm, locust and hedge trees. Don't underestimate the native grasses. They come in all shades of brown, yellow and red and can be spectacular.

Remember, too, this is the time that the Milo turns a beautiful red-brown.

Top that off with long or shot bluestem grass and a few late sunflowers and you have a picture-perfect fall scene.

Sally Wilcox is with the Kansas Senior Press Service.

Copyright laws up for sale

Nick
Nyhart

• Another Viewpoint

Today, friends can exchange clips of music they like, or pass around videotapes of "The Sopranos." Teachers can download a picture of Mickey Mouse off the Internet to use in a class on cartooning. Teenagers playing with their CD collection can "burn" a CD compilation of their favorite songs to play at a party.

Parents who spot their child on a local TV sports broadcast can make a digital recording of that clip, attach it to an e-mail message, and send it to the proud grandparents across America. But soon these wonderful applications of new technology may all be illegal.

According to consumer advocates like the Electronic Frontier Foundation, such commonplace uses of computer technology — known as "fair use" because they are not done for commercial purposes — would be effectively banned under the Consumer Broadband and Digital Television Promotion Act, sponsored by Sen. Ernest Hollings (D-N.C.), chair of the Senate Commerce Committee.

Indeed, if lobbyists for Disney, News Corp., AOL Time Warner, and the rest of Hollywood get their way, soon you won't be allowed to buy, sell, create or distribute any "digital media device" — from MP3 players to cell phones, fax machines, digital cameras and personal computers — unless it includes government-mandated hardware and software that would prevent the unauthorized display or reproduction of copyrighted works. New digital televisions would all be hardwired to recognize programs marked by a "broadcast flag," which would insure that they could not be copied. New PCs would have controls built into their hard-drives to allow files to be labeled as "unmovable" so they couldn't be backed up or moved to another machine.

Complementary legislation drafted by Reps. Howard Coble (R-N.C.) and Howard Berman (D-

Calif.) would change the copyright code to make most distribution of copies obtained by "fair use" illegal unless the owner has the written permission of the copyright holder. Berman has also authored a separate bill that would give copyright owners the extraordinary power to hack the PC of anyone they suspect of sharing their material without permission, without legal liability for damage they may inflict on innocent parties.

To top things off, at the urging of Sen. Hollings, House Energy and Commerce Chairman Billy Tauzin (R-La.) and ranking member John Dingell (D-Mich.), the Federal Communications Commission voted this August to mandate the use of "broadcast flags" on digital TV broadcasts, and to require TV manufacturers to have digital tuners on all sets by 2007 — regardless of the price increase this may impose on consumers. Legislation currently being drafted by Tauzin and Dingell goes even further — requiring TV stations to stop broadcasting their current analog signals by the end of 2006, which would spell the end of TV reception for anyone without cable or digital service.

As a group, Hollings, Coble, Berman, Tauzin and Dingell are so cozy with Hollywood they ought to have their own sit-com.

According to the Center for Responsive Politics, Hollings has received more than \$308,000 from the entertainment industry in the last six years, includ-

ing almost \$45,000 from AOL Time Warner, more than \$30,000 from News Corp., and more than \$24,000 from Disney. Over his lifetime in Congress, he's raked in more than \$600,000 from the movie, music and TV industries, the sixth highest among all Senators.

Collectively, Berman, Dingell, Tauzin and Coble have raked in an astounding \$1.6 million from the industry, and rank, respectively, at numbers 1, 3, 9 and 19 lifetime among all House members in terms of the largesse they've received from the entertainment industry.

While the \$300 billion high-tech sector outweighs the \$50 billion entertainment business in economic terms, the TV/movies/music lobby has a much larger investment in Washington. It has given \$52.5 million to members of Congress since 1989, compared to \$30.1 million from high-tech, according to the Center for Responsive Politics. And even though computer companies have stepped up their giving in recent years, Hollywood is still out-pacing Silicon Valley in the current election cycle: \$5.3 million to \$4.3 million.

Some high-tech advocates of a more open information system have started a "GeekPAC" to combat these forces. Better idea — support a system re-boot and help create a Clean Money/Clean Elections option for candidates to run with full public financing, so that such policy decisions can be made without regard for who has the fattest wallet.

Nick Nyhart is executive director of Public Campaign, a Washington D.C.-based non-partisan, non-profit organization devoted to comprehensive campaign finance reform. This essay is taken from "OUCH!", its regular publication. For more information, visit: www.ouch.org <http://www.ouch.org>. Feedback td@nwkans.com.

Doonesbury

• Gary Trudeau

