



Other Viewpoints

## Program will help us promote towns

Not too long ago, when gasoline prices hit \$3.50 a gallon and headed toward \$4, Kansans were encouraged to vacation in their home state and discover its various amenities and attractions.

Now that gas prices have settled just below the \$2 mark, some would think Kansans would vacation again outside the state's borders. But layoffs, furloughs, reduced work weeks and an unsteady economy have combined to give Kansans even more reasons to check out their state.

And that is a good thing.

So good, in fact, that a state agency is partnering with a nonprofit to help small towns promote themselves for tourism.

Kansas promoter and Sampler Foundation director Marci Penner is hooking up with the state's Travel and Tourism Division for an initiative that will help small towns shed their "smallness" mind-set and see themselves as tourist meccas.

The state awarded the Kansas Sampler Foundation a \$50,000 grant to develop a website and a training program which will help rural leaders learn about and market the uniqueness of their towns....

After a community completes the program, the town will have its own page on the site and can promote its attractions and upcoming events.

The initiative will help rural residents understand their own towns' unique characteristics and, more importantly, likely lure tourists to explore and experience rural Kansas.

No matter the price of gasoline or the state of the economy, the state's partnerships with Penner - Kansas' No. 1 cheerleader — is perfectly timed to reintroduce Kansans to Kansas and possibly extract some tourist dollars from outside the state's borders as well.

- The Hutchinson News, via The Associated Press

### Where to write, call

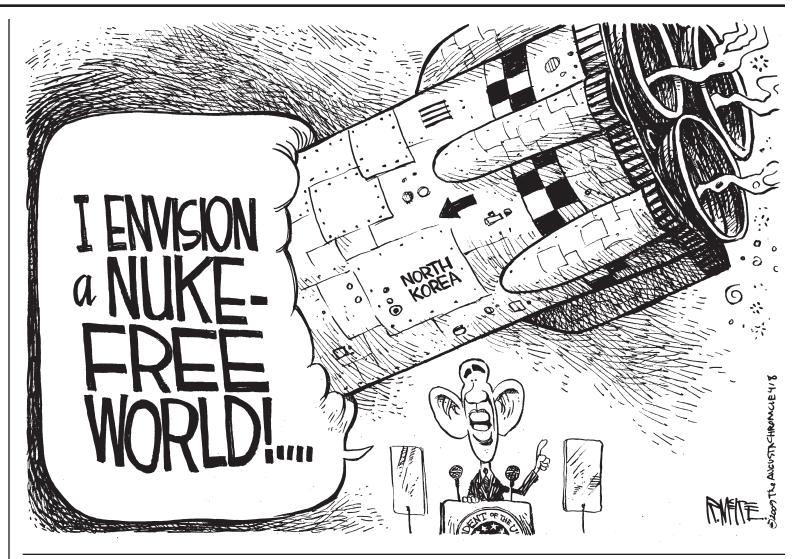
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# U.S. record nothing to crow about

To understand the complex nature of our involvement in the Middle East, you need to be aware America's past history in this volatile region.

No study of American foreign policy in the Middle East can be complete without acknowledging the disastrous effects that came from the U.S.-backed coup in Iran in 1953 that led to the fall of the country's democratically elected leader prime minister, Mohammed Mossadeq. Mossadeq nationalized the oil industry after years of exploitation at the hands of the British Empire.

After that, both the British and the United States decided he was too radical and independent to be trusted. The two countries had different reasons to want to oust Mossadeq. The British wanted to continue their wretched history of exploiting Iran, while fanatical CIA director Allen Dulles was convinced any leader who interfered with big business must be a communist.

In his book "Legacy of Ashes: The History of the CIA," Pulitzer-prize-winning writer Tim Weiner wrote, "while British oil executives and technicians played in private clubs and swimming pools, Iranian oil workers lived in shanties without running water, electricity or sewers; the injustice bred support for the communist Tudeh Party of Iran, which claimed about 2,500 members at the time."

With help from the British intellig agency, the CIA started a campaign of bribery the Ba'ath Party and communist politicians by Islamic extremists and petro-dictators. and subversion in to overthrow Mossadeq. "The agencies' officers rented the allegiances of political hacks, holy men and thugs,"



#### Weiner writes.

These covert actions finally succeeded in ousting Mossadeq and installing the U.S.friendly dictator Mohammed Reza Pahlavi. He ruled Iran in a repressive manner with help from his secret police, known as SAVAK, who were trained and equipped by the CIA until the radical Islamic Iranian Revolution overthrew him in 1979 and installed a hostile anti-American regime.

In many ways the current Islamic regime in Iran is a direct consequence of America's role in overthrowing a popular, democratically elected leader in 1953. Iran was not the only place in the region where American covert action led to regime change.

In 1949, the CIA installed pro-American general, Adib Shishakli, to lead Syria. Miles Copeland, CIA station chief in Damascus, described Shishakli as a "likeable rogue" who had "committed sacrilege, blasphemy, murder, adultery and theft."

The "likeable roque" was overthrown

nate Abdul Hamid Serraj, longtime chief of the Syrian Intelligence Services, along with the chief of the Syrian general staff and the head of the communist party.

The coup attempt failed after Rocky Stone of the CIA was caught in a sting by Syrian officers, who went on televison and announced they had been bribed by "the corrupt and sinister Americans" in an attempt to an attempt to overthrow their country's government. The Syrian co-conspirators in the coup were sentenced to death and every military officer that had ever associated with the American embassy in Syria was purged. This past coup attempt gives the current Syrian government a propaganda tool it can use against the U.S. any time our government accuses it of any wrongdoing. These are only two of several past and present American policies in the Middle East that have been morally questionable and shortsighted.

I bring these past policies to light not to demonize America, but to make sure the public and our armed forces are aware of why some people in the Middle East have a legitimate beef with American foreign policy.

It would be wise for President Barack Obama to come clean about these polices and to apologize to the people in the region for the harmful effects they have caused. This would not only serve to bolster opinions of America in the Muslim world, but provide a counterfoil to the anti-American propaganda being peddled Andy Heintz, a K-State journalism graduate, According to Weiner's book, he CIA and the is sports reporter for the Colby Free Press. He

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and military officers after four years in power. British intelligence hatched a plan to assassi- loves fishing, sports and opinion writing.

## Time to pay workers what living costs

#### To the Editor:

Keith Olbermann on MSNBC exclaimed, "So, you were screwed! Do you want to fight about it?'

I wish he hadn't said that, because I thought of the time I was drilling a hole for a rivet. The drill slipped into my left forearm and out came rolling flesh in the shape of a long screw. Oh my!

This happened at the Lockheed-Vega Aircraft plant in Burbank, Calif., during World War II. The employees were paid well and we were patriotic. I think Keith's outburst referred to the exceedingly low wages workers in general have been getting for the past 20 years.

Large companies have been suppressing wages by discouraging workers from organizing unions, which tend to get cost-of-living raises that benefit employees everywhere.

Do I want to fight about it? You bet! I was a waitress in Colby before World War II, got a dollar a day pay. The pay has gone up, but I'll bet it still doesn't meet the cost of living.

If there is a large company, employees can go on strike for health benefits and pay. But an employee's union has to have enough money to strike. For example, a fellow who belonged to the California State Employee's Association wanted to go on strike and stated his case at a Los Angeles meeting. The union president reminded him that state employees don't go on strike, and that is why it is called an "association" instead of a union.'

The agitator said that a loaf of bread cost someone who made \$1,000 more a month the



same price he had to pay. Btus drivers in Los Angeles went on strike every three years and always got a raise and that there was no reason why state employees couldn't go on strike.

The President of Chapter 4, Los Angeles, was the supervisor of the clerk's office at the Workers Compensation Appeals Board in Los Angeles, and my direct supervisor. She told the young fellow, "Now, listen carefully; CSEA chapters in all the state don't have enough to go on strike. Bus drivers have the money and they know how much they can bargain for and how long to go on strike.

"We do not have enough money in this large organization to go on strike.... Don't point the gun unless it's loaded."

One time, we got a pay raise and it was vetoed by the governor, but we marched and the Legislature overrode the veto.

So, for the American people to get the wages they require, we have to shake off the "trickledowners." We are tired of being trickled down on, and we're in a fighting mood because we've been screwed.

Edna Hatcher, Colby

## We print comments

To the Editor:

I was surprised to see a "Letter to the Editor" in the Colby Free Press from me since I didn't send one to the editor. I was told the accounting department was at Oberlin, so I sent a letter, with no salutation, to The Oberlin Herald. So it should never have been published since neither the letter nor the envelope had the word editor anywhere.

I know cartoonists draw the cartoons, but you are the ones who choose to print them.

I merely sent a request for a refund of money. You were quick to run a letter that was not intended for publication. To bad you aren't as fast with your refund. Since you let all your subscribers know I had requested a refund, where is the check?

Della Jean Shipley, Hoxie

Editor's Note: We try to print all letters that comment on the paper, unless the writer specifically asks us not to. In your case, we thought you raised an interesting issue. For the first six months of a new administration, nearly all the cartoons will be about the new president.

Someone at the Colby office should have taken care of your request when you called. That is our policy. It's our job to get things done, not yours. And the check – no kidding - is in the mail. You should have it by now. Steve Haynes



## Mallard Fillmore

• Bruce Tinsley

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