



Free Press  
Viewpoint

World should stop  
pirates’ games short

The world’s governments have made a few steps forward in the last couple of weeks since American, French and Indian teams killed pirates threatening or in possession of ships on the high seas.

They need to get together and form a plan, however, on how to deal with pirates once they surrender.

The specter of a Dutch naval vessel releasing a gang of pirates should haunt officials around the globe. It rightly outraged Dutch legislators back home, who demanded to know how their government let a gang of cutthroats get away.

While this time, the Dutch navy blamed a communications foul up, releasing pirates has been an all-too-frequent occurrence in the past.

So far, just shooting the pirates has been the most effective course of action, but that’s not the way every incident can be handled. For one thing, while sometimes necessary, it isn’t very civilized.

World governments rushing to prosecute Bush Administration officials over allegations of torture might instead want to focus on these criminals of the high seas, who seize and terrorize innocent merchant crews, families out on private yachts and anyone else they can get their hands on.

Business-like demands for ransom, paid through world banking channels to unidentified kingpins ashore in Somalia, should not mask the naked threat of death the pirates use to take over a ship. These people can and will kill. Their bosses are equally guilty.

And if world governments are serious about stopping this outrage, they will band together and go after both the pirates at sea and the bosses ashore. They should demand the help of the weak Somali government and make it their ally. Then go get them.

Then they need a plan to put the pirates on trial and assess a fitting punishment. Long years at hard labor would do. The threat of prison in a far-off land – and none too nice a treatment, at that – ought to work.

Just maybe, the United States will have an unused camp that would work. It’s isolated and primitive, but a real prison in the first world might be a step up in living conditions for the pirates.

The so-called civilized nations need to move swiftly and decisively on this crisis. They cannot afford to dither while pirates keep seizing ships. They have tried to take cruise liners, without success so far. Do we need to wait to see what happens when they have hundreds of hostages rather than dozens?

No more pirates should be set free. Any who resist should be shot. And the world needs to be ready to try and punish all who are caught until this problem goes away.

The very thought of this behavior in the 21st century is unpardonable.

– Steve Haynes

The *Colby Free Press* encourages Letters to the Editor on any topic of general interest. Letters should be brief, clear and to the point. They must be signed and carry the address and phone number of the author.

We do not publish anonymous letters. We sign our opinions and expect readers to do likewise. Nor do we run form letters or letters about topics which do not pertain to our area. Thank-yous from this area should be submitted to the Want Ad desk.

COLBY FREE PRESS

155 W. Fifth St. (USPS 120-920) (785) 462-3963  
Colby, Kan. 67701 fax (785) 462-7749

Send news to: colby.editor @ nwkansas.com

State award-winning newspaper, General Excellence, Design & Layout, Columns, Editorial Writing, Sports Columns, News, Photography. Official newspaper of Thomas County, Colby, Brewster and Rexford.

Steve Haynes - Publisher  
s.haynes @ nwkansas.com

NEWS

Kevin Bottrell - News Editor  
kbottrell @ nwkansas.com

Andy Heintz - Sports Reporter  
aheintz @ nwkansas.com

Marian Ballard - Copy Editor  
mballard @ nwkansas.com

Vera Sloan - Society Editor  
colby.society @ nwkansas.com

ADVERTISING

Jasmine Stewart - Advertising Manager  
j.stewart @ nwkansas.com

Heather Woofter - Advertising Sales  
hwoofter @ nwkansas.com

Kathryn Ballard - Graphic Design  
kballard @ nwkansas.com

BUSINESS OFFICE

Tammy Withers - Office Manager  
twithers @ nwkansas.com

Evan Barnum - Systems Administrator  
support @ nwkansas.com

NOR’WEST PRESS

Richard Westfahl - General Manager

Lana Westfahl, Jim Jackson, Betty Morris, Jim Bowker, Judy McKnight, James Ornelas, Barbara Ornelas, Tasha Shores, Daniel Spillman

THE COLBY FREE PRESS (USPS 120-920) is published every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, except the days observed for Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year’s Day, by Nor’West Newspaper, 155 W. Fifth St., Colby, Kan., 67701.

PERIODICALS POSTAGE paid at Colby, Kan. 67701, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Colby Free Press, 155 W. Fifth St., Colby, Kan., 67701.

THE BUSINESS OFFICE at 155 W. Fifth is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to Friday, closed Saturday and Sunday. MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, which is exclusively entitled to the use for publication of all news herein. Member Kansas Press Association and National Newspaper Association.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: In Colby by carrier: 4 months \$40, 8 months \$56, 12 months \$74. By mail within Colby and the nine-county region of Thomas, Sheridan, Decatur, Rawlins, Cheyenne, Sherman, Wallace, Logan and Gove counties: 4 months \$53, 8 months \$65, 12 months \$82. Other Kansas counties: 4 months \$60, 8 months \$70, 12 months \$85. All other states, \$85, 12 months.



Male problems face Chinese

Scientists worry about the future China in 15-20 years, when a surplus of young men comes to adulthood, according to a recent Associated Press story.

The Chinese, trying to solve their population problems, instituted a one-child-per-household policy in the 1970s and, of course, the law of unintended consequences has raised its ugly head.

In many areas of the country, boy children are still more prized than girls. As a result, parents sometimes abort female fetuses in the hopes of trying again and having a boy. This has led to more boys than girls in the schools, and down the road, a lack of female partners.

While this has been going on for more than 30 years, it’s gotten worse with the use of sonograms, which weren’t available back in the ’70s when I was having my kids. Now people find out whether the baby will be a boy or girl months before birth.

A study, published in BMJ, which used to be called the British Medical Journal, said that an analysis of 2005 census data showed 119 boys born for every 100 girls in China, compared to 108 per 100 in other industrialized nations.



Cynthia Haynes

• Open Season

The biggest shortage of girls seems to be between ages 1-4, so the problem will not become acute for another 15 to 20 years.

Experts, who spend most of their time worrying about what “might” happen, are postulating a crime spree by young men with too much testosterone and not enough female company.

Experts in London and from eastern China’s Zhejiang province studied the problem and came up with a lot of hand wringing.

“Nothing can be done now to prevent this imminent generation of excess men,” said Therese Hesketh, a lecturer of the Centre for International Health and Development at University College London, and her Chinese colleges agreed.

But, like most problems, this one will solve

itself. The Chinese will either start to export their young men or import some women.

Look at the American West, where women were few and far between. The problem was solved at times by importing brides from the eastern U.S. or Europe.

Over in Hong Kong, there are hundreds, probably thousands, of young Filipino girls working as maids. A steady husband, home and family might look as good to some of those women as becoming a mail-order bride did to hundreds of women in the 1800s.

And there are lots of countries that still need to import labor, so that might be another option.

It seems that scientists have been telling us the world is going to pot since the Middle Ages, but it’s still here and people are solving their problems as they come up.

Cynthia Haynes, co-owner and chief financial officer of Nor’West Newspapers, writes this column weekly. Her pets include cats, toads and a praying mantis. Contact her at c.haynes @ nwkansas.com

Developmental services suffer

To the Editor:

The Kansas Legislature adjourned from its first session two weeks ago, and some would consider it a success in the current economic situation. From the perspective of people with disabilities, their families and the employees who work with them, the session accomplished nothing positive.

The only decision made was to cut state money. The state, according to the Kansas Constitution and the Developmental Disabilities Reform Act of 1995, is responsible for funding agencies appropriately for the services they provide, yet the past four rate studies by the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services have shown that community agencies are underfunded by large amounts.

The most disappointing aspect of the past session was that the Legislature had the opportunity to finally address the problem by using money from the federal stimulus package to support HB 2094. This would have injected over \$15.2 million in economic impact and new jobs to northwest Kansas over the next few years, but the bill did not pass committee.

Money went to the state hospitals for raises, which are rightly deserved, but nothing was given to the employees of agencies like ours, providing the same service in the community.

Community organizations are hemorrhaging from the state’s neglect. In the last year and a half, Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas has eliminated 26 staff positions, reduced programs and services and closed one



Free Press  
Letter Drop

• Our readers sound off

of its service locations.

Nearly 4,000 people fill a statewide waiting list for services, but not a dime was spent to help them. It is frustrating for parents of those with developmental disabilities to see the progress their children made in special education fade away once they graduate, because there are no services.

There is strong support from some legislators, but others keep telling us there is no new money. We hear this every year, yet hundreds of other programs and projects receive new money each year. Why?

Some argue it is because people with developmental disabilities are not a loud enough voice and do not turn out to vote. There is a misperception by some that we get enough money, yet their own studies indicate that this is not the case.

Our legislators in both the House and the Senate need to make this the No. 1 priority when they return to Topeka next Wednesday<A29>. Their responsibility, as well as the leaders of the Senate and House, is to ensure that people

who, in many instances, are not able to take care of themselves are cared for.

Please help the thousands of people on the waiting list, their families and the workers who provide services, by contacting your legislators and urge them to support more money for people with developmental disabilities.

Those with disabilities are real people and should never be overlooked as if they are invisible. Legislative contact information can be found at www.kslegislature.org.

Gerard L. Michaud, president  
Developmental Services of  
Northwest Kansas  
Hays

Ask for licenses

To the Editor:

Starting Jan. 1, all contractors – general construction, plumbers, electricians, gas fitters, lawn sprinkler and heating and ventilation – are required to be licensed if doing business in the City of Colby.

Before you hire someone to work on your property, we suggest that you call City Hall to see if that individual has the proper license and insurance to work in Colby. A list of licensed individuals and companies can be obtained by calling 460-4410.

Richard Dickman, Colby  
city building official

Mallard  
Fillmore

• Bruce Tinsley

