

from our viewpoint...

Bullying should be confronted head on

Karen Huff Klein: does that name ring a bell? No? Google it, you'll be shocked to learn why she's making the news.

Mrs. Klein is a 68 year old school bus monitor for a school in Rochester, New York. Four middle school kids—yes, middle school—relentlessly bullied this woman one morning on the bus ride to school. A student happened to be videotaping this altercation...which happened to make it on to the Internet, which allowed millions of people to see the video.

It is absolutely heartbreaking to watch this video. It's ten minutes long and to finish it, I had to watch it several different times. I couldn't watch the video in full it's that gut-wrenching.

These boys called Karen every name in the book. The insults they sling at her are horrible, repulsive, disgusting, degrading, and I can go on and on. The kids talk about stabbing her, they relentlessly call her a "troll" and also mention her family killing themselves because they didn't want to be near her. Did these monsters know that ten years ago, Karen's oldest son actually did kill himself? To be spoken to in this manner, at any age, is revolting. I hope the parents of these middle school kids are absolutely ashamed of themselves and their children.

I have a feeling that it's not the first time these four kids have done this. The way they bullied Karen, they seem like they are seasoned pros. My wish was that they went home that day and realized the repercussions of what they did. They destroyed a part of Karen that day.

After watching the video, I was amazed at Karen's restraint. How in the world could she sit there and endure this brutality? "Fox & Friends," a Fox News show, had Karen on their show Thursday morning. She said "I don't like confrontations like that. I didn't want to do anything to hurt anybody...that wouldn't have looked good either."

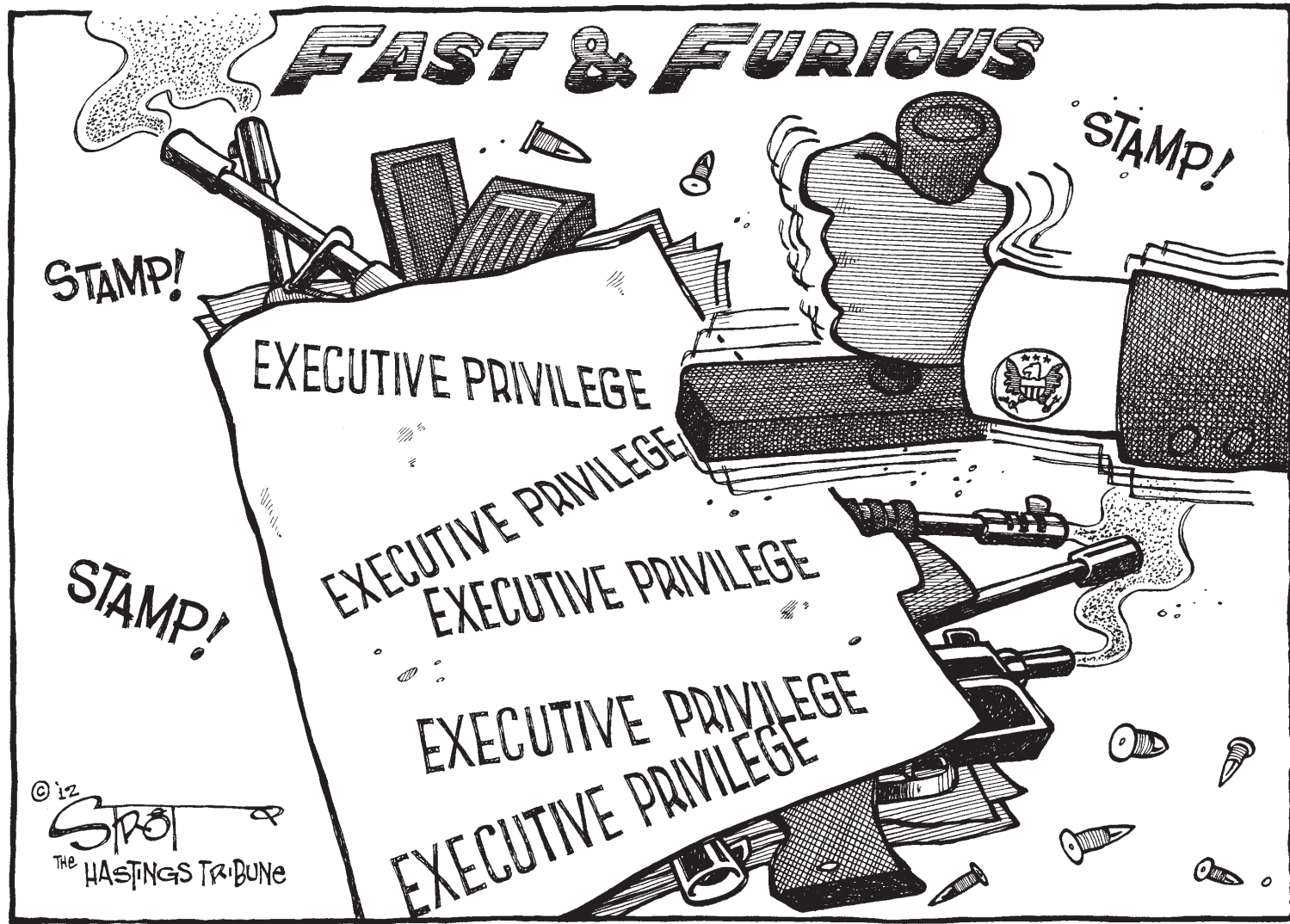
So the big question is...how in the world do we stop the bullying issue head-on? Is this a school issue or home issue? I think the answer is both!

Parents should be teaching their children to be respectful and kind. Children need great examples of this everyday because it's those examples from which they learn from. Listen and talk to your children, every day. That would be the best way to figure out if anything is bothering them.

I think schools should be having seminars/assemblies, maybe having bullying victims in to talk about what they have experienced and how they felt. Teachers and administrators should be taught how to deal with bullying. Students should have a safe environment to learn in and shouldn't be afraid to go to school for fear of being bullied.

I don't think bullying is a "harmless rite of passage" to the teenage years. It isn't an inevitable part of growing up. I was raised to be respectful of everyone, no matter the gender, age or race. Everyone is equal and I still carry that thought to this day.

-Jessica Corbin



Stop and view the farms while on vacation

All across our country Americans are checking their cars and SUVs, studying road maps, installing GPS devices and adding another item to their to-do lists in preparation for their long-awaited summer vacations.

Anticipation will soar and tempers will flare as husband and wife teams take to the great American highways and byways in search of rest, peace and tranquility. Children will ensure this dream remains only partially fulfilled with road questions like: "Mommy, I what a snack." "I need to go to the bathroom." "Daddy, Bethany pulled my hair." "Are we there yet?" and "I don't want to go on this dumb vacation, I want to go home."

Regardless of such comments, moms and dads everywhere will set their jaws and push ahead. After all, the money spent for the family vacation often represents cash left over after paying the family's food, clothing, fuel and other necessities throughout the year.

Parents will remind their children, "We worked hard for this time off. We deserve it and we're going to enjoy it."



Insight this week

• john schlageck

Americans remain some of the most fortunate inhabitants of our planet. Try to imagine what it would be like if we had to all be self-sufficient. What would happen to leisure time if family needs were not produced for them by others?

Although we all work hard throughout the year, we should not forget those people who also work hard to free up time so we can vacation with loved ones. One such group are Kansas farmers and ranchers. They meet our food, fiber and fuel needs. These needs are met without worry of availability.

The next time you walk into your local supermarket, remember milk comes from carefully cared for dairy cows on someone's Kansas farm. Remember, the butcher performs a ser-

vice by cutting and packaging the hamburger and steak we grill for our families while the Kansas rancher cares for and produces this beef. Styrofoam cartons only hold the eggs that are laid by hens on farms.

Few other countries enjoy the wide selection and availability of such wholesome, good tasting food. Few other countries can claim that so few people feed so many. Today, little more than 1 percent of our nation's population are farmers and ranchers. They supply the other 98 percent of us with most of the food and fiber.

Remember as you plot your vacation course this summer, and as you motor through the Kansas countryside to notice the fields of corn, milo, soybeans, sunflowers and alfalfa. Take a look at the cattle, hogs and sheep grazing in the pastures.

Don't forget, the Kansas farmer and rancher helps fulfill our family's food needs. These professionals also care for the livestock and crops you see as you drive by. They do so carefully and with as much care as possible.

Travel safely.

Immigration decision questionable

On Friday morning, Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano announced that the Obama administration would grant election-year amnesty to certain illegal aliens age 16 to 29.

It would apply to those who came here before the age of 16, have not been convicted of any major crimes, are in or have completed school or military service, and can somehow prove they have never returned to their own country since coming here. In addition to freedom from criminal prosecution for immigration law violations, the Obama Administration will allow these illegal aliens permission to work in the United States.

When the 1986 Immigration and Reform Control Act gave amnesty to roughly 3 million illegal aliens, it also gave the attorney general the authority to change the terms of work authorization as he or she sees fit. Since then, the Department of Homeland Security secretary has assumed that authority.

I support the HALT Act (HR 2497), which would reserve that authority to the elected Congress, not a political appointee or the



tim huelskamp

• u.s. rep.

president.

With this election-year amnesty, once again the Obama administration has put politics ahead of the U.S. Constitution and the executive branch's obligation to enforce the law evenly and across the board.

And, with this ruling, the Obama administration has created an enforcement nightmare by design. How and to what extent can agents determine the actual fulfillment of the eligibility criteria?

The terms of this arrangement say that an eligible person cannot have committed a crime. However, entering the country through nonlegal means, overstaying a visa or using fraudulent documents like fake Social Security cards or birth certificates are all crimes. Yet, many people eligible for this amnesty will not

have a charge or conviction for any of these crimes.

Our nation is a nation of laws, yet Secretary Napolitano said immigration laws are not supposed to be "blindly enforced." Ironically, America is an attractive place to live, work, and raise a family because the rule of law protects the freedoms to do all of that. Yet, undermining the rule of law is exactly what the Obama administration does with this new order.

We already have millions of people who are out of work, and now President Obama wants to make more people legally eligible to work? One out of two recent college graduates are unemployed or underemployed and more than 70 percent of teenagers are without summer jobs. Certainly America is about opportunity, but not when the law has been broken and exploited by those illegally in this country.

President Obama's announcement shows only crass election-year politics, not any concern for the responsibilities and duties—as well as limitations—of his office.

Eggs multiply in the refrigerator

I don't keep chickens since it's illegal in Oberlin unless you have an acre or more and our lot barely holds our house, garden and a few trees. But, boy do I have eggs.

They seem to grow in the refrigerator.

First there was the dozen from Carolyn. She raises chickens in Norcat and usually has plenty of extra eggs, which she is willing to share with co-workers.

These are good, farm fresh—well at least small-town fresh eggs with wonderful yellow yolks from chickens that get to scratch in the dirt, eat bugs and have a good ol' time around the yard.

Then there is the dozen from the "egg lady." I have no idea what this woman's name is and I'm not sure that Steve does either. She sells eggs bringing them to the Colby Free Press off and on. Everyone there saves their egg cartons in anticipation of her visits because her eggs are, like Carolyn's fresh and wonderful.

Then there's the dozen from the grocery store. They are factory eggs from chickens that lay eggs for a living and don't get to wander around outside, where they can get eaten by foxes and badgers, chased by dogs or get their feet dirty. They all eat perfectly balanced chicken food and their eggs have a standard light yellow yolk—nothing to write home



cynthia haynes

• open season

about, but pretty nice to get when the egg lady doesn't show up and Carolyn forgets to bring eggs to Oberlin.

So, last week there I was. Carolyn had forgotten my eggs on Monday so I bought a dozen. On Tuesday, Carolyn showed up with two dozen. Pat, the office manager said she could use a dozen so she took one and I took one.

Now I had two dozen eggs for two people. That's a few more than two people, who aren't big bacon and eggs for breakfast eaters, can eat in a reasonable time.

Then Wednesday, Steve came home with a third dozen. The egg lady had struck and he had put in his order several weeks previously.

What do you do with three dozen eggs? You boil them for the upcoming church picnic in McCook and make a lot of deviled eggs.

Now, most people love my deviled eggs. It's Steve's recipe. Cut eggs in half, Mash the

yolks, mix with mayonnaise, yellow mustard, a little hot sauce, salt and some vinegar. Refill whites with mixture and top with a sprinkle of paprika. Simple and easy.

I made the deviled eggs with two of cartons of hen fruit and brought home an empty dish from the picnic. I got loads of compliments.

However, my deep, dark secret is—I hate boiled eggs. I don't like the smell of them boiling. I can't abide deviled eggs.

What I can do is take a tiny taste of my yolk mixture to see if I have enough mustard, hot sauce, vinegar and salt and adjust the seasoning.

So, thank you. I'm glad you liked them. I'm especially glad you ate the all.

Two dozen down and I'm sure I can handle the rest of them as long as I don't have to eat 'em boiled or deviled.

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e-mail: star.news@nwkansan.com

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Gary Meyer, Judy McKnight



nwkansas.com

N.T. Betz, Director of Internet Services

(nt.betz@nwkansan.com)

Evan Barnum, Systems Admin.(support@nwkansan.com)

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