



Reporters limited power may climax in U.S. Senate

Sometime this week, a decades-long effort to protect news reporters from the almost unlimited power of federal judges may come to a climax in the U.S. Senate.

Supporters hope to get a vote before the August recess on a federal Shield Law, known as the Free Flow of Information Act.

Kansas Sen. Pat Roberts may be a critical vote on the bill, but so far, the senator has been sitting on the fence. He may be under strong pressure from the Bush Administration, which does not like this bill, to vote no.

We think, though, that Pat Roberts — who has a journalism degree from Kansas State University and worked as a reporter many years ago — should see the injustice a few judges have visited on reporters and vote yes.

Tonda Rush, lobbyist and legal counsel in Washington for the National Newspaper Association, points out that efforts to force journalists to talk have become more common, even in civil cases, as lawyers get the idea they can punish the press.

One, Toni Locy of *USA Today*, was fined \$5,000 a day. The judge, in an implicit threat of personal bankruptcy, told her she could not call on her friends, her family or her employer to help pay the fines.

That amounts to the courts leaving an individual to fight the immense power of the Justice Department on her own, an extraordinarily unfair situation.

"The vindictiveness of the order was stunning," Rush said. "That got attention on Capitol Hill."

Where once lawyers might have hesitated to subpoena reporters, today it's becoming more common. The losers here, though, are not the

press, hard as it might be for an individual newsmen to fight the government alone.

The reporters who get haled into court have been investigating government corruption, organized crime, security lapses, lying and cheating in Washington, corporate greed and white-collar crime. Things the people want and need brought to light.

Their work is not political, though attempts to block them or out their sources often are. They want only to bring wrong-doing, stupidity and greed to light.

All of us lose when the government and the courts can make reporters fear them. Sources afraid to be outed will clam up. The next generation of whistle blowers will hide under their desks.

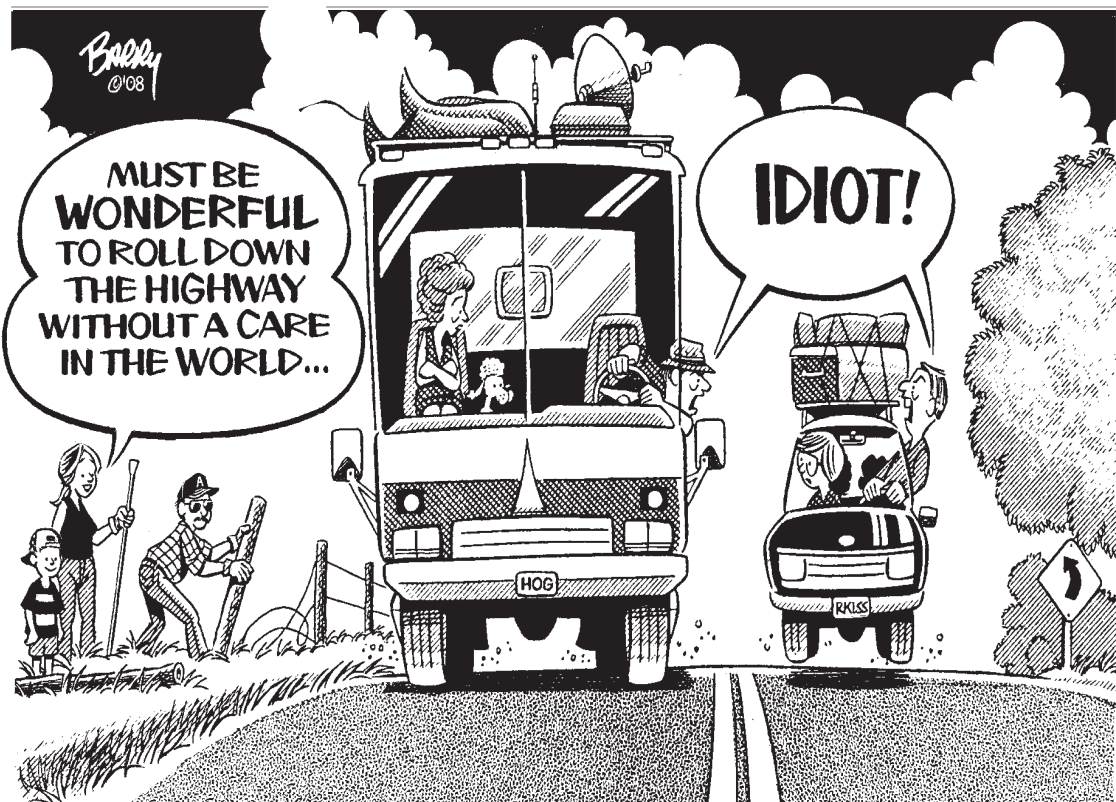
Then we might never know about the next set of Pentagon Papers, or how the mayor of some large city has been on the take. Subpoenas could be used to discourage reporters and threaten sources.

This is a case where government power clearly is abused. This bill is not a pure "shield law." Compromises and exceptions protect national security and ensure that information the courts must have will be revealed.

But it should slow the advance of government power and protect reporters — who really represent all of us, looking after our interests in ways we cannot do alone — from unwarranted and unfightable oppression.

Hear the call, Sen. Roberts. Vote for the defense of reporters' rights and against the ever-expanding power of government to suppress and block reporting that stands between corruption and liberty.

— Steve Haynes



Ye Olde Country Church enjoyed

—Letters to the Editor—

To St. Francis citizens,
Sunday evening Ye Olde Country Church rang with the sound of music! If you weren't there you missed a wonderful time.

Kate Jenkins welcomed everyone and introduced the song leader, Althea Lebow and Pastor Jeff (Landers) of the Christian Church, at the piano.

We sang beautiful hymns. Lea Keller gave a history of one of the hymn writers with a background of Pastor Jeff's music.

We sang some more and then

Glenn Isernhagen gave a history of another of the songs. It seems both writers had sad lives but wrote beautiful hymns.

We sang some more and Althea smiled as she directed, Pastor Jeff played beautifully. The rafters rang and if anyone looked really close maybe the roof raised a tiny bit.

Kate closed the meeting thanking all who came and all who helped in any way.

Then she said she had a surprise which was a great treat of homemade ice cream! Kate Jenkins and Glenn and Louanne Isernhagen made the wonderful ice cream.

The bell rang a fitting ending to the evening.

Sincerely,
Marie Holzwarth

P.S. A big thank you to the kind lady who loaned me her pillow seat.

Reader surprised by endorsement

To the editor,
A politician endorses another politician for a job based in Goodland. Not much of a surprise. However, what is surprising is the choice.

I attended the forum at the Goodland High School auditorium introducing candidates running for election in primary elections Aug. 5. Ms. Wyrick concluded her remarks by stating, you can check my records at District Court Clerk's office.

Ms. Wyrick has "served" Wallace, Logan and Thomas counties as their County Attorney. In January 2005, she was quoted by Editor Julie Samuelson in the *Western Times* as stating, "I can't imagine pleading a felony to a misdemeanor." However, in her first year she did this 50 times in Thomas County alone. In the *Colby Free Press* before she took office she was quoted by reporter Tisha Cox as stating "I am ready to take on the role of being proactive again - too many diversions are being handed out with plea bargaining which has minimal consequences for committing a crime." Again, in her first year, 80 cases ended in dismissal in Thomas County alone.

Recently, it was revealed in the July 16th edition of the *Colby Free Press* that Ms. Wyrick had funneled thousands of drug forfeiture dollars

to Heartland Christian School in Colby; a school her brother serves as principal. All this while leaving the Colby School District and Sacred Heart School high and dry. A blatant conflict of interest. Should a county attorney who has such a disregard for the rights of victims be elevated to District Judge?

Jim Morrison states, that experience is not necessary for a District Judge. He feels we need a new

"unspoiled" face to fill the position. Does he really think inexperience is such an asset, especially since he is an incumbent politician himself. Would you use such standards when you pick a doctor or a lawyer?

Perhaps more thought should be given before endorsements are handed out.

C.C. Frankenfeld
Goodland

Bad experience had with judge candidate

To the Editor:
I am not biased, as I am not voting for any of the ones running for district judge.

I met Andrea Wyrick a few years ago, since I had an appointment with her in her law office in Colby. Her secretary directed me to her office.

I just got my foot in the door and Andrea informed me that she was too busy to see me as she was working on some bankruptcy cas-

es. She even gave me the name of one of the people.

Andrea did not seem to mind me taking my time and gas driving to Colby.

This was not a good experience for me. She was not kind or respectful.

After all, as an attorney, she should have shown integrity, respect and honesty.

Elsie Walters
Oberlin

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



scmcormick@nwkans.com
Radovan Karadzic, one of the most wanted men in the world, has been captured. So why should we care?

Karadzic is the former Bosnian Serb President who led his government during the Bosnian War of 1992-1995. Under his leadership a policy of "ethnic cleansing" was carried out. Countless Muslims and Croats were forced from their homes or were

slaughtered. Karadzic is thought to be directly responsible for the deaths of 7,500 men and boys.

Today he is being held in a prison in Belgrade, Serbia (formerly Yugoslavia) awaiting extradition to The Hague to be prosecuted for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

So what difference does this make to us?

When Allied armies entered areas that had been controlled by

Nazi Germany, near the end of World War II, they made a grisly discovery. Unknown to the outside world, the Germans had been operating camps with the objective of exterminating members of their society that were considered undesirable.

Thousand upon thousands of Jews, Gypsies and political dissenters had been rounded up and became victims of Adolph Hitler's "final solution."

Amazingly there are people today who will argue that the Holocaust never happened. I suppose the same people would think that Karadzic is innocent of blame.

Why should we care? Because if we stand by idly while the weak are victimized, how long will it be before our turn comes up?

"I have sworn upon the altar of God, eternal hostility against every form of tyranny over the mind of man." Thomas Jefferson, Sept. 23, 1800.

Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Roger Zwegardt, St. Francis; Mallory Knodel, New York, N.Y.; Lavaugh Cemen-sky, St. Francis; Patricia Nichols, Stockton; Cale and Lori Rieger, Wichita; Charles Smith, Elizabeth, Colo.; Shelly Culwell, St. Francis; Tye Faulkender, St. Francis; Farm Credit of Western Kansas,

Colby; Eugene Doddridge, Kirk, Colo.; Loren Watason, Aurora, Colo.; Ken Hohbery, Topeka; Sally Wieck, Kingwood, Texas; Lisa Smalley, Spokkane Valley, Wash.; Clifford Raile, St. Francis; William Hilt, St. Francis; Jeanne Falk, Colby; Jeff Nederman, Littleton, Colo.; Mildred Burr, St. Francis; Ron Ewing, St. Francis; Clifford Page, Jefferson, Ore.; Dave Ritter, St. Francis; Donna Moberly, Fort Collins, Colo.; Philip E. Heath, Wray, Colo.; Maynard Wright, Colo.;

Corrections

The Saint Francis Herald will correct or clarify any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at 332-3162 to report errors. We believe that news stories should be fair and factual, and appreciate your calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

GOD SAYS

Ye shall not steal, neither deal falsely, neither lie one to another.

Leviticus 19:11

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Morning Worship 10 a.m.
Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.

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Weekday Mass 8 a.m.
Confessions Sat. 4-4:30

First Baptist Church
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Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service 6:30 p.m.,
Wed. AWANA Club 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

United Methodist Church Office 332-2292,
Church 332-2254,
512 S. Scott
Pastor Morita Truman
Early Bird Service 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.

Salem Lutheran Church
332-3002
Pastor Chris Farmer
No Sunday School until Sept.
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

St. Francis Community Church
332-3150
204 N. Quincy Street
www.sfccfamily.com
Pastor: David Butler
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Potluck & Communion -
Every 2nd Sunday
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

Seventh-Day Adventist Church
332-2888 • 3rd & Adams
Pastor Mike Larson
Sabbath School 9:30
Morning Worship 10:45

Solid Rock Baptist Church
412 S. Denison
Welcomes You!
Pastor Allen Coon
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30
Prayer Meeting, Wed 7:30 p.m.

Peace Lutheran Church, AFLC
202 N. College
Pastor Ken Hart
332-2928 Pars. 332-2312
Prayer Time 8:45 a.m.
Worship 9:30 a.m.
Fellowship Time 10:30 a.m.

First Christian Church
Pastor Jeff Landers
332-2956 • 118 E. Webster
Bible Fellowship 9:20 a.m.
Church Service 10:30 a.m.

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