# pinion



### Other **Viewpoints**

### Delay on tankers forced by economy

If the Air Force delays construction of a new refueling tanker, a potentially important project for the Wichita economy, then supporters essentially can blame the Iraq war.

This nation has reached a point when it no longer can afford to spend to oblivion on its military when we have huge domestic problems to solve. For that reason, the Obama administration is perfectly logical to suggest that a contract to build the new tanker be delayed by up to five years.

Yet the threat of delay had members of the Kansas congressional delegation up in arms last week. Press release-dueling Reps. Todd Tiahrt and Jerry Moran — possible opponents for the U.S. Senate in 2010 — and Sen. Pat Roberts fired off statements saying the new tanker was critical for the Air Force.

Roberts and Tiahrt sent a letter to Peter Orzsag, director of the Office of Management and Budget, inviting him to Wichita to ride in one of the existing, aging tankers. Moran wrote to the president himself.

The current tanker was first built during the Eisenhower administration, they said, and delaying a new version further would put flight crews at great risk....

Funny how Roberts, Tiahrt and Moran weren't so worried about delays a year ago when they worked to scuttle a contract to build a new tanker because it wasn't awarded to Boeing and wouldn't have been built in part in Wichita.

Maybe a new refueling tanker is the nation's No. 1 military need, but it would be good to hear that from an objective source. We already know that a tanker contract to Boeing would be good for Kansas....

Come on. Let's make real priorities.

Obviously, we must protect our nation's defenses, and military contracts can mean jobs, too. But at some point, the military must take a back seat to critical domestic issues.

- The Hutchinson News, via The Associated Press

#### Where to write, call

U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts, 109 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 224-4774

U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback, 303 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 224-6521

U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran, 2202 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. (202) 225-2715 or Fax (202) 225-5124

State Rep. Jim Morrison, State Capitol Building, 300 SW 10th St. Room 143-N, Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785) 296-7676 e-mail: jmorriso@ink.org web: www.morrisonfamily.com

State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer, State Capitol Building 300 SW10th St., Room 128-S., Topeka, Kan. 66612, (785) 296-7399 ralph.ostmeyer@senate.state.ks.us

We encourage comments on opinions expressed on this page. Mail them to the Colby Free Press, 155 W. Fifth St., Colby, Kan., 67701, or e-mail s.haynes @ nwkansas.com or colby.editor @ nwkansas. com. Opinions do not necessarily reflect those of the Free Press, its staff or the owners.

#### COLBY FREE PRESS

155 W. Fifth St. Colby, Kan. 67701 (USPS 120-920)

(785) 462-3963 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

Andy Heintz - Sports Reporter Marian Ballard - Copy Editor

Vera Sloan - Society Editor

**ADVERTISING** 

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

Heather Woofter - Advertising Sales

Tvler Zolinski - Graphic Design

**BUSINESS OFFICE** Tammy Withers - Office Manager

Evan Barnum - Systems Administrator support @ nwkansas.com

**NOR'WEST PRESS** Jim Bowker - General Manager

Richard Westfahl, Lana Westfahl, Jim Jackson, Betty Morris,

James Ornelas, Barbara Ornelas, Tasha Shores, Daniel Spillman THE COLBY FREE PRESS (USPS 120-920) is published every Monday, Wednesday

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

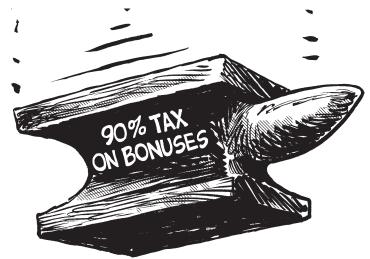
Thursday and Friday, except the days observed for Memorial Day, Independence Day,

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







### Media, 'johns' fuel sex trafficking

This column about sex trafficing has content that may be inappropriate for young readers.

A few weeks ago, I saw the movie "Taken." In it, Bryan Mills, a retired CIA agent, is trying to reconnect with his 17-year-old daughter Kim. But when Kim and a friend take off on a trip to Paris, the girls are kidnapped by sex traffickers.

And Bryan is going to find his daughter, no matter what it takes or who gets in his way.

However, before the feature presentation, my friend and I had to sit through a preview of Miss March, a movie with a slightly different take on the scene of sexuality. Miss March is a Playboy-themed comedy. It centers around Eugene and Tucker, two guys who go on a trek to the Playboy Mansion in search of an old girlfriend from high school who had just become the featured Playboy bunny of the month.

Hopefully I'm not the only one, but I have noticed a correlation between customers and the sexually saturated media. Men who are addicted to pornography are fueling the sex trafficking business completely unaware, increasing the demand for more supply. Women and children are the supply.

Shared Hope International, an organization that provides long-term care for sex trafficking victims and public education, investigated actual people and places in the sex market in the United States, the Netherlands, Japan and Jamaica. Based on the United Nations protocol. a person is recruited, harbored, moved, forced, obvious personality problems or particular ab- majoring in Bible and journalism.



 A Moment with Michelle

tricked or coerced into a paid sex act. And anyone under the age of 18 in any commercial sex act is automatically a trafficking victi.

But who is this buyer?

The general view is that men who visit prostitutes are single men who cannot get a woman to fulfill their desires. Or he did not use to be single, but at 75, he is.

But studies are showing that buyers, also known as customers or johns, come in all shapes and sizes. According to culture researcher Sabine Grenz of Humboldt University of Berlin, buyers come from all socioeconomic classes, working as stockbrokers, truck drivers, teachers, priests, law-enforcement officials. A man could be married and a parent with children.

"There are no social characteristics that basically distinguish johns from other men," said

Also, in a survey published in 1994 by psychologist Dieter Kliber of the Free University manufacturing victims. of Berlin showed that out of the 600 johns who Shared Hope defines sex trafficking as anytime filled out the Freiburg Personality Inventory, at Multnomah University in Portland, Ore.,

normalities were not found.

'Clients are basically men and women, to be honest with you," said Kevin Morss, Outreach Coordinator for WestCare in Las Vegas, NV, "Various ages, it doesn't really matter. They're the hardcore sex addicts, the bachelor who's just coming here to party, every race, every social problem, every social economic group."

Nikolas Westerhoff did a study to find out, "Why do Men Buy Sex?" which was published in the Scientific American Mind. He discovered that "Some [researchers] believe the practice serves as a salve for common psychological afflictions, such as an unfulfilled craving for sex or romance. Others, meanwhile, paint a dimmer portrait of johns, believing they are driven by chauvinistic motives, such as the desire to dominate and control women.'

While the buyer may be convincing himself that a click on a porn site, a drink at a strip club or a visit to a massage parlor is for his pleasure alone and no harm to anyone, these actions help keep the sex market and traffickers themselves in business.

I have to wonder that if movies like Miss March were not created, the demand for "product" in the form of women and children would decrease. And if the media would stop releasing sex-filled products, the sex trafficking business would have no fuel to continue

Michelle Myers, a Colby native, is a student

## Don't make farmers' problems worse

The tough payment limits for farmers proposed in President Obama's budget would cripple family farmers already suffering through the current recession.

These cuts are coming during the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression at a time when net farm income is projected to

decline 20 percent. Elimination of \$16 billion from the farm safety net is one cut agriculture cannot afford. These proposed cuts would strike at the economic heart of full-time farm families of every size operation. They would threaten the viability of hundreds of thousands producers across the country and could further undermine this country's economy.

The administration's main proposal is to prohibit subsidies from going to farmers with gross sales higher than \$500,000. During a three-year period, direct payments to these farms would be eliminated. This is much tougher than the '08 Farm Bill, which cut off subsidies to farmers with adjusted gross incomes above \$750,000.

The president's proposed phase-out of direct payments based on sales will impact a Kansas farms representing more than three-fourths of total production in the state. Using the 2007 Census of Agriculture, 6 percent of farms in Kansas have sales of more than \$500,000. However, these farms represent 78 percent of all farm sales in the state.

Rural towns will suffer with the proposed cuts and phase out of direct payments. These dollars flow back into the rural economy through debt repayment, donations to churches, property taxes to support schools and vis-



#### John Schlageck

 Insights Kansas Farm Bureau

its to Main Street merchants to buy groceries, shoes for kids, etc.

The farm safety net helps secure America's food supply, which is all the more vital in hard times. Now is not the time to breach a program that helps farmers feed a hungry planet. Thanks to America's farmers, food availability is one less problem to worry about in this time of uncertainty.

Kansas farmers are especially aggravated by shifting the limits from adjusted gross income to gross sales. These limits do not take into account farming costs like buying new equipment and other expenses and are not an accurate gauge of a farm's income.

Farmers already struggling with expenses that have increased as much as 40 percent in recent years cannot shoulder additional debt. Deeper cuts in agricultural support would have drastic bottom-line consequences on farm

Farmers are also annoyed the administration is reopening a debate they believe was settled. These budget cuts threaten to change the rules midstream for American farmers and ranch-

"You don't change provisions of a farm bill, implemented less than a year ago, that had the

support of more than 500 nutrition, conservation and farm organizations," says Steve Baccus, and Ottawa county farmer and president of Kansas Farm Bureau. "The provisions of the '08 farm bill have not yet been fully implemented. This law must be given time to work before more changes are considered."

These proposed budget cuts don't take into consideration that farmers and lenders alike have already made long-term business decisions based on the commitment made in the five-year bill. To fiddle with figures and projections now will exacerbate the credit crisis.

Family farmers are vital to Kansas and America's rural communities, as well as this nation's economy. Most Kansas farms are family-owned and operated. While they share the commitment to reducing the deficit, more cuts to the farm safety net would not be in their best interest or their communities'.

The farm safety net now in place constitutes less than one quarter of 1 percent of the total federal budget and only 16 percent of the total

Attempts to balance the budget on the backs of the American farmer, rancher and rural America will do little to reduce the deficit, but could spell the end for many of these farmers and ranchers.

During the first week of March, nearly 150 Farm Bureau members from across Kansas traveled to Washington to express their opposition to the more than \$16 billion in cuts to the farm safety net proposed in the president's 2010 budget.

John Schlageck of the Kansas Farm Bureau is a leading commentator on agriculture.

#### Mallard **Fillmore**

Bruce Tinsley



2 opinion CFP 3-23-09.indd 3/23/09 12:44:23 PM