



## Free Press Viewpoint

### The right to life can't justify killing

The assassination Sunday of the abortion doctor George Tiller is an abomination, an act of domestic terrorism which has no place in a supposedly free and open society.

The alleged perpetrator, a 51-year-old from a Kansas City suburb known as an anti-abortion protester, clearly hadn't heard the "Right to Life" message.

In a civilized nation, it can't be acceptable to take the law into your own hands by killing someone you disagree with. The battle over abortion has, and should be, fought in the courts and on the streets outside clinics. It most properly belongs in church. Killing does not.

But this is a disagreement over right and wrong. It is not a matter for the death penalty, no matter how applied.

Eventually, both Dr. Tiller, known as one of three physicians in the country who did late-term abortions, and his killer will have to face Judgment before the Son of Man. Their sins and merits will be weighted on that terrible day, and He will decide.

Everyone else would be well to remember that while we can disagree, in this country, we all are allowed to have our own beliefs. It is not up to the rest of us to judge.

Oddly enough, Dr. Tiller's murder may well work against the killer's agenda. Most Americans will be horrified by the slaying in the vestibule of the Lutheran church where the doctor was an usher and his wife sang in the choir.

Such a crime, defiling a church, ignoring basic rights, is wrong in so many ways. Public reaction is not likely to be in favor of the anti-abortion movement.

Leaders on both sides of the abortion fight were quick to condemn this act. One anti-abortion spokesman said, "He clearly is not one of us."

That is as it should be.

The abortion dispute, seemingly endless since the Supreme Court decided *Roe vs. Wade* in 1973, won't be settled anytime soon. It certainly won't be settled any sooner because of this murder.

No one, whether they believe abortion is justified as birth control, for medical reasons, to save a life or in any circumstances, or that it is never justified at all, should be comfortable with just killing those we disagree with.

That would mean an end to civilized society, to the rule of law and to our basic human rights, for no one with an opinion would ever be safe again.

Dr. Tiller may be a martyr to the abortion cause. He knew he could be in danger; he is said to have usually traveled with a body guard, though apparently not in church.

No matter; his death was not called for.

Those on both sides of this fight can and should join to condemn the slaying and all violence aimed at accomplishing political ends. Swift arrest and punishment will help, but some will see the act as justified by the alleged sins.

But if there is a Right to Life, and a rule of law, that can't be true.

— Steve Haynes

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](mailto:s.haynes@nwkansas.com) or [colby.editor@nwkansas.com](mailto:colby.editor@nwkansas.com). Opinions do not necessarily reflect those of the *Free Press*, its staff or the owners.

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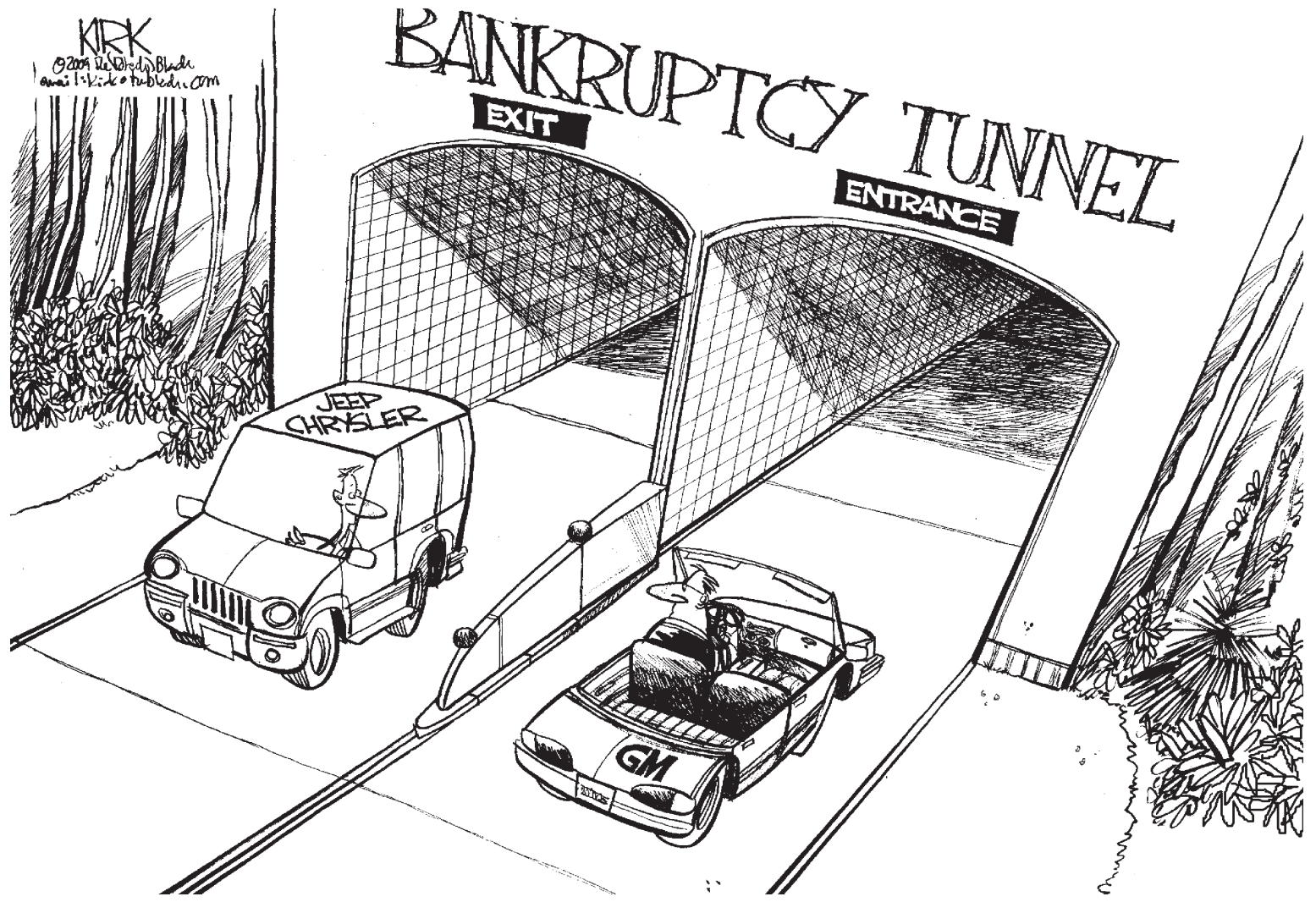
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### Mom's in the pest-control business

My granddog eats slugs.

This disgusting habit should be beneficial, since it not only rids daughter Lindsay and son-in-law Brad's yard of vermin, but it could save on dog food.

However, Zoey's consumption of slugs is almost always higher than her tolerance for the slimy little monopodes, and she ends up barfing them out on the kitchen floor.

Talk about disgusting.

Being a helpful mother-in-law, I got a book on ways to rid your yard and garden of pests. It gives about 20 chemical-free ways to get rid of slugs. However, 19 of them involve putting out egg shells.

Now, I think that's reasonable. If I were a slug, it would keep me out. I certainly wouldn't want to slide on my slimy little belly over a bunch of egg shells. Heck, I wouldn't even want to walk on them in my bare feet.

I just hope that the kids don't have a cholesterol problem, because if they follow the nonchemical instructions for attacking slugs, they're gonna be eating a lot of eggs over the next few weeks.



Cynthia Haynes

• Open Season

They have a big yard and it seems to have slugs all over. Not covered, mind you, just slugs here and there all over the place.

In fact, when we were visiting last month, I had to save my son-in-law from a vicious slug attack.

Now, I should start by explaining that Brad is no wimp. He works out at the gym almost every day. He loves sports and is a soccer referee. In fact, while we were visiting, he got hit by an errant player and had a wonderful black eye.

But, he's also a city boy. He was reared in Chicago. He doesn't like things with more than four or less than two legs. He hates bugs and spiders of all types. And after moving to

Georgia and getting a house and yard, slugs have moved way up his list of things he just doesn't want anything to do with.

So, when Zoey brought in a slug attached to her coat while we were in Augusta for a visit, he accidentally got it on his arm while brushing her.

The slug headed up his shirt sleeve and Brad reacted. He screamed like a little girl and flung his arm out, sending the slug sailing through the air. Then he called for help.

Since Lindsay was already helping her Dad install a new light fixture upstairs, I came to the rescue. I discovered the slug sliming his way down the wall, removed and disposed of him.

I think I've got a new job — Cynthia Haynes, Slug Removal and Disposal. Results guaranteed.

Boy, that's just what I need, another job.

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](mailto:c.haynes@nwkansas.com)

### Salaried county jobs don't earn overtime

To the Editor:

If (Sheriff Rod) Taylor needs more money for the sheriff's office, perhaps he should curtail the unbelievable amount of overtime he is giving his undersheriff.

If that continues, I can see why he needs money. I doubt they could utilize the county attorney's drug forfeiture fund, as (current Undersheriff Mark) Finley did without authority and without my knowledge before (former County Attorney Andrea) Wyrick left office. She permitted Finley and one of his Colby Police Department cohorts to purchase night vision equipment from the county attorney's drug forfeiture fund, leaving the fund depleted for the incoming county attorney.

When I was undersheriff under Sheriff Tom Jones, I did not qualify for overtime under the Fair Labor Standards Act. When I was sheriff, my undersheriff was held to the same standard.

We (the undersheriff and sheriff) worked on salary, and any duties we performed were covered by that salary — no overtime involved. We often covered shifts when deputies were on vacation, sick or on holidays.

When I was sheriff, I determined that Taylor's position as part-time Interstate criminal interdiction officer, all K-9 related expenditures (including overtime) and C.D. Hopper's position as investigator, were special-duty areas, outside the county budget. Money for special-duty areas and special equipment was taken from the drug forfeiture fund.

The county budget supplied two new patrol vehicles on a three-year lease-purchase plan. I had early on asked for more money to be allocated for vehicles, but my request was denied. Therefore, I used drug forfeiture funds to purchase and maintain other agency vehicles. That was not supplanting the budget.

I also granted drug forfeiture money to Big Brothers/Big Sisters, the Regional Prevention Center, VFW baseball, school after-prom parties and the trap club, and filled other requests. Using drug forfeiture to benefit the community, and for agency needs that were not covered in the budget, made sense to me.

The sheriff's budget can never be big



Free Press Letter Drop

• Our readers sound off

enough to cover unforeseen expenses (remember Remeta, Dunn and Hunter), but the current budget is adequate to cover the positions of sheriff, undersheriff, three road deputies, five detention deputies, a civil process/warrant deputy, office manager, and sheriff's office and jail operations. This excludes any special-duty areas.

As sheriff, one of my concerns was to keep the budget from being a burden on taxpayers. Drug forfeiture fund expenditures have always been a matter of public record, as were expenditures from the sheriff's budget. I am curious to see how Sheriff Taylor is going to keep the taxpayers better informed of how their tax dollars are being spent.

Lastly, I would encourage the county commissioners to use their statutory authority to include the drug forfeiture funds in their budgeting process. This would be a fiscally responsible move for the county.

Mike Baughn, Brewster former Thomas County sheriff

### Where does it go?

To the Editor,

In these days of unstable times and lots of changes in our taxes and government expenditures, I feel we should have an idea how our county funds are being used. Do you agree?

I started my research with a call to the county Clerk. The salaries of county employees are public knowledge, so feel free to call and verify the following figures and whoever else's salaries you may want to check.

Our Thomas County sheriff's monthly sal-

ary is \$4,273. This is gross salary. The Thomas County underheriff's gross monthly pay for January was \$6,224; February, \$6,129; March, \$9,427; April, \$7,702; May, \$5,486; five month total, \$34,969.

The time turned in for March for the above position was slightly over 343 hours, which for four weeks would be 86 hours per week.

I feel this should warrant (hiring) another officer or at least, to be fair, the overtime could be shared with the other department employees. I have lived a long time, worked all my working years and certainly never made any money like that. How many folks in Thomas County make almost \$7,000 per month?

Now believe me, I appreciate our city and county law enforcement officers. I realize their jobs are important and also dangerous, and I would thank them all. I moved to Colby in 1952; I worked at the Southwestern Bell Telephone office as an operator. We took the police calls in the evenings and at night.

There were two officers. The sheriff had a deputy to help him in rural areas. I moved back here in 1958 when my husband got out of the service. I don't remember the city police force employee numbers, but the sheriff's department still had a Sheriff and deputy. We all felt protected, still do feel safe, however there are a lot more employees and a larger budget to pay those employees. I don't know the difference in population of our county then and now. But I imagine we can find all this out if you want comparisons.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these figures and thoughts. I do feel we need to watch our tax dollars and how they are spent, don't you?

Fawna J. Haremza-McFee, Colby



### Mallard Fillmore

• Bruce Tinsley



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