



Free Press Viewpoint

'Patriots' forget others' free rights

In a disturbing trend, gangs of demonstrators have been disrupting "town hall" meetings being held around the country to boost President Obama's push for a national health insurance plan.

That's not the way we do things here in America, where we believe in free speech and we hold that every viewpoint has a right to be heard.

If the protestors are "patriots," as some say, then they should be the first to back our Bill of Rights. And the rights to speak, to assemble and to address the government are among the most important guaranteed to all citizens.

If the protestors have something to say, they are more than free to say it. They may call their own meeting, make speeches, send out press releases, just as the Democrats have done.

If they don't like the Obama plan — and many Americans do not — they are free to criticize it. They can march out front in protest. They can go inside and ask questions of the speakers.

What they cannot do is disrupt or try to stop a pro-plan rally. That's just wrong.

That kind of thing used to happen in American politics, in the days of boss rule in the cities, and in the era when labor unions and other "radicals" were seen as a threat to society. In those days, though, it was often the government and employers suppressing the "reds."

Today, the demonstrators are a shadowy group opposed to the president and his health-care plans. Some claim to be "patriots." Democrats would like to blame the disruptions on the Republican party.

It should be clear, though, that the Republicans have nothing to gain from this undisciplined behavior. Any involvement by the party in disruption or violence would be foolish.

Right-wingers, "tea party" backers and others disturbed by the government's massive shift from the left are wasting their time and effort if they are involved. The way to counter this leftward list is to get organized and elect more conservatives to Congress. Demonstrations won't cut it.

Disrupting the Democrats' rallies, in fact, is just playing into their hands. It generates more publicity for the forums, which otherwise might pass unnoticed, and it creates sympathy for the cause.

That just leaves assorted fringe thugs to disrupt these rallies, and the police ought to know how to deal with them: move them outside, arrest them if necessary and let the meeting proceed.

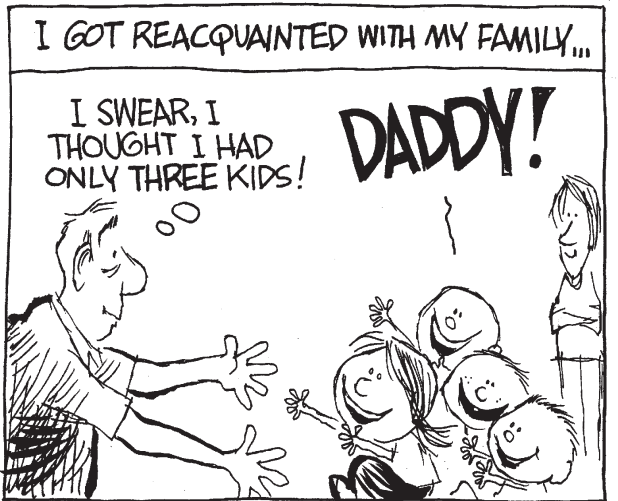
American politics have no place for silencing any group, especially by mob action. Arrest them, throw them in jail and let the debate continue, we say.

Protest is fine; disrupting opponents' speech is not.
— Steve Haynes

HOW I SURVIVED WITHOUT TWITTER!



I RETURNED TO FACEBOOK, BUT THEN FACEBOOK WENT DOWN... SO I KICKED IT OLD SCHOOL WITH >GULP< MYSPACE!



Summer garden taking over

Yep, it's August, and the produce is rolling in.

We picked up a couple of Rocky Ford cantaloupe and some West Slope peaches when we were in Colorado the other day. They were delicious.

Back at home, the tomatoes are starting to turn red — or in the case of our garden, red and yellow. Steve likes to plant a variety of tomatoes, so we have cherry, yellow pear, early, late and yellow tomatoes.

Over in the side yard, the zucchini is looking for a way out of the garden, which I have guarded by a row of broccoli. So far, the broccoli is holding the line on the front, but the zucchini staged a flanking maneuver to the side. Either way, we've enjoyed a couple of meals of steamed broccoli (with only a small side of worms) and both zucchini stir fry and zucchini bread.

Even the green pepper plant one of the cats broke is bearing (on the ground, mind you, but it's got a pepper) and the carrots have been right tasty.

The spaghetti squash is fighting the English ivy for possession of the dog pen fence, and I think the squash is winning. So far, though, it's had lots of male flowers but no fruit.

The yellow squash doesn't have a very good spot. It got put in late and clear to the back under the tree after I realized that the yellow



Cynthia Haynes

• Open Season

squash seeds I had planted were actually zucchini. Still, it's blooming and I should have something off it before the end of the season.

We picked and ate our first batch of corn. It was a little overage and undersized, but tasty nevertheless.

And then there are the cucumbers. Steve planted them for me even though he doesn't like cucumbers.

I got about one a day for a week. Then I went on vacation. When I got back, I had more than I could eat ready to go. And one big, ugly two-footer.

But so did a couple in Norton. Patsy Barnard had so many cucumbers she was leaving them in locked cars and with unsuspecting pharmacy clerks. She also left her recipe for microwave pickles.

I figured if Steve wouldn't eat cucumbers but would eat pickles, it was worth a try.

My quart of pickles took about half an hour to make and a couple of hours to cool. They

are delicious, and while I'm not sure about long-term storage, right now we're enjoying these easy and quick bread-and-butter pickles.

Microwave Pickles

- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon mustard seed
- 1/2 teaspoon celery seed
- 1/4 teaspoon turmeric
- 1/2 cup vinegar
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 cucumbers, sliced thin
- 1-2 onions, sliced thin

Mix together the spices, vinegar and sugar. Put cucumbers and onions in a microwave-safe dish and pour vinegar mixture over the top. Toss to cover and microwave on high for five minutes. Stir and microwave on high for another five minutes.

Pickles are ready to eat as soon as they are cool.

I wasn't sure if this should be covered, but figuring that things in the microwave are usually covered, I opted for a lid, and that seemed to work well.

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

Write us

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 and Aubrey Spencer - Society Editors
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

Evan Barnum - Systems Administrator
support@nwkansas.com

NOR'WEST PRESS

Richard Westfahl - General Manager

Lana Westfahl, Jim Jackson, Betty Morris, Jim Bowker, Judy McKnight, Barbara Ornelas, Tasha Shores, Daniel Spillman, Patricia McGoyne, Kris McCool

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, Thomas County and Oakley: three months \$35, one year \$85. By mail to ZIP Codes beginning with 676 and 677: three months \$39, one year \$95. Elsewhere in the U.S., mailed once per week: three months \$39, one year \$95. Student rate, nine months, in Colby, Thomas County and Oakley, \$64; mailed once per week elsewhere in the U.S. \$72

What ever happened to 'Free Willy'?

Remember the 1993 movie "Free Willy"? Similar to the movie "Born Free" where a couple reintroduce a tame lion cub back into the wild savannahs of Africa, "Free Willy" shows a performing killer whale breaching a barrier to return to the open sea and a supposedly happy life ever after.

"Free Willy" was based on the life of an actual killer whale named Keiko. That story did not end happily ever after, however. In the July 2009 issue of the journal *Marine Mammal Science*, marine biologists describe his fate in "From Captivity to the Wild and Back: An Attempt to Release Keiko the Killer Whale."

Reintroduction of killer whales, also called orcas, to the wild has only been successful when the whales were only temporarily kept for short periods in sea pens. This was not the case for Keiko. Keiko was captured in 1979 near Iceland when about 2 years old. He lived in tanks with other killer whales for six years before going to an amusement park in Mexico. There he was a solitary performer for 10 years.

When it was decided that Keiko should be returned to the wild, in part under pressure from the public response to the movie "Free Willy," Keiko was moved to an enclosure in Oregon and then to a bay pen in Iceland.

Keiko received training to introduce him back into the open ocean and for eventual release into the wild. For two years, Keiko fol-



John Richard Schrock

• Education Frontlines

lowed his trainer's boat on open ocean swims in the proximity of wild killer whales that migrated each summer to Iceland waters. Keiko's DNA matched the DNA from these whale populations. In 2002, Keiko was led out to the group and after one month, took off swimming from Iceland to Norway.

Keiko's migrations and diving behaviors were monitored by radio transmitters using satellite tracking. When Keiko swam to Norway, he left the regular migration route and showed up alone in very shallow water, near shore in Norway. Perhaps he had heard the voices of fishermen, but in any case, he was back to interacting with people, where he "... often initiated the interactions and swam actively from one group of people to another."

But Keiko became lethargic. His caretakers had to rescue him, feed him fish, and take him for short swims in nearby waters. Keiko still had free access to the bay and open water, but he always returned. Keiko died in December 2003, at half his life expectancy, from pneu-

monia. He never integrated into wild killer whale pods. The researchers concluded: "... Keiko's release to the wild was not successful, since though physically unrestricted and free to leave, he kept returning to his caretakers for food and company."

Another release in 2002 of a lost killer whale named Springer was successful because she had been in captivity only a month, was a juvenile, and returned to her maternal group. Keiko was not part of a social unit, was not young, and had been in captivity most of his life. Therefore, the researchers in retrospect found Keiko "... a poor candidate for release."

With talking animals in the movies and on Saturday morning cartoons, we have a tendency to put our thoughts into animal actions. Each new generation of youngsters, ever more divorced from real animal experiences, is ever more susceptible to animal-rights fairy tales.

This is county fair season in Kansas. Any 4-H farm kid can tell you that some domesticated animals will no longer make it on their own in the wild. However, it is very unlikely that the animal rights groups that promoted the release of Keiko will ever admit this failure.

John Richard Schrock, a professor of biology and department chair at a leading teacher's college, lives in Emporia. He emphasizes that his opinions are strictly his own.

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

Mallard Fillmore

• Bruce Tinsley

