



## Free Press Viewpoint

### Workable system needed for borders

What the U.S. needs, and no candidate is promising, is an immigration system that works.

Illegal immigration today is an economic issue. We have jobs. People in other countries need them. And we have no functioning mechanism for allowing workers or permanent immigrants into this country to work.

If we did, the flood of illegal immigrants would cease. No one would be foolish enough to risk life and limb to enter this country illegally were it simple and easy to come under the law.

The truth is, it's all but impossible to get a work permit. Legal immigration can take 20 years or more.

The laws of economics are simple and harsh; it does not pay to ignore them. Workers flow to jobs. Legal niceties won't stop people desperate for a better life. We can make it illegal, but no wall can stop the flow.

Our country once welcomed anyone who would come here and help build a better future. We took in the tired, the poor, the huddled masses of a continent. Today, they are us.

It's true, we didn't always treat them well. We called them names, rented them slum apartments and let them work in the packing plants, on the track gangs and in any other job a gentleman would shun.

Still, they came. They come today, but we make it difficult. We make it impossible, legally. Still, they come.

And as long as we have more jobs than we have people to fill them, they will continue.

But there's no plan to deal with this problem. Politicians proclaim they will stem the flow, build a wall, enforce the law, ship everyone home.

We all know it won't happen.

None of the candidates has a clue as to how to make the immigration system work.

We should start by issuing visas, work permits and residency status to workers with a clean record. Criminals should be sent home. Anyone who violates the law here should go back for good.

Our welfare system and government medical care, meantime, should be reserved for citizens. Guest workers and legal residents who can't make a living should go home. Immigration is for those who will and can work.

The law should, rightly, be tough on violators. But not unfair.

Nor should we create a class of permanent guest workers who can never become legal. European nations struggle with that; it's a prescription for unrest and injustice.

The system won't be fixed overnight. It took 50 years to get this broken. But we need to start today. We need to ask our candidates, not what will they do about illegal immigration, but how they will make the immigration system work. That's the only way to solve this problem.

Sadly, no one is even talking about this. Debate on immigration amounts to little more than hysteria. Nothing will be accomplished that way.

Isn't it time we changed this awful system and built one that will work? - 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 colby.editor@nwkansas.com. Opinions do not necessarily reflect those of the Free Press, its staff or the owners.

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## 250 TROOPS DEPLOYED TO 1,254-MILE TEXAS-MEXICO BORDER



### Garlic harvest offers aroma of success

It's harvest time again.

Nope, the tomatoes aren't ready and my sweet corn still has several weeks to go.

The squash has lots of blossoms, but so far, they're all male and won't give me the tons of zucchini I'm expecting in a few weeks.

The lettuce, spinach and peas have come and gone, and I don't expect any carrots until fall.

This week, it's garlic harvest time.

When we bought our home in 1993, the owner had an herb garden by the back deck. It was a lovely herb garden, but I'm not much into herbs. They always sound like a good idea but end up being more work than I want to do.

What the yard lacked was irises. Both Steve and I love irises, and my grandmother raised them as a hobby.

Mary, the former owner loved lilies, and had lilies everywhere. I soon learned that you don't just take lilies out and replant with irises. Lilies take over. I think they must be some sort of invasive species, because you can't get rid of them.

Since I wasn't into herbs, and the lilies were meaner than I was, I soon decided I'd better plant my irises in the herb garden.

This has worked well. I get some nice blossoms each spring. But, I soon discovered, there are two herbs that are almost as tenacious as



Cynthia Haynes

- Open Season

lilies - mint and garlic.

Mint spreads worse than crab grass but is easier to pull. It's just that it doesn't go away after you pull it because you can never get all of it. So I have allowed the spearmint to take over a small space outside the bounds of the former herb garden and pull any stray plants that come up inside the bed.

Garlic is a whole different matter. You can pull garlic, but if you miss one clove, it'll produce again next year. I obviously missed a lot of cloves when I first tried to replant that bed. And since I had my irises planted, I couldn't just dig the whole bed up again.

Well, if you can't beat them, eat them.

Now each spring, I water the bed really well and go out the next day and thin the garlic. If you don't thin it, you get a lot of really tiny garlic bulbs. These are fine for cooking, but it takes six or eight of them to make a traditional clove and that's just a pain.

After thinning, you just sit back and enjoy the iris blossoms, then the garlic heads start to appear. These contain the seeds and are quite attractive.

When the seed stalks start to dry out, it's time for another good soaking and then comes the garlic pulling. I'm sure they dig garlic in the field, but I don't want to disturb my flowers, so we pull it.

Steve pulls and I cut the tops and bottoms off. The seed heads go in one basket and the garlic bulbs in another while the stalks go in a pile for the compost heap.

We always miss some, and we always lose enough to ensure a crop for next year. We also take some of the seeds and toss them back into the bed for good measure.

And I have to tell you, this year the harvest was good, with big, solid cloves and lots of garlic. I'm going to make a lot of Italian dishes, and there won't be any vampires within miles of our place.

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

### Value does not lie only in popularity

Three months ago, a large discount store - you know the one - decided to remove about 300 items because they were not selling very well. Within a month, they found that customers who were loyal to those brands went elsewhere. And when they went elsewhere, they bought everything else at the competing store as well. Those 300 items went back on the shelves.

What does this have to do with education? Well, Kansas universities are becoming the victim of a dangerous "business model" of education. Between the Legislative post-audit department and administrators who fancy themselves to be CEOs of an education business, universities are now counting beans.

This is not a hypothetical question. Wichita State University is reportedly about to close its physics department and merge those faculty into engineering. There are not enough "customers" (students) to meet the "de minimus" bean counting originating in Topeka. The rationale for this simple-minded approach is that we can save money by trimming programs with low numbers. But just as the discount store realized there is a down side, higher education policymakers need to also realize simple-minded bean counting is bad business.

Closing a physics program does not save faculty lines when the courses are still needed by the biology, and chemistry, engineering and



John Richard Schrock

- Education Frontlines

science-teaching students. This just eliminates an option for students, many of whom enter college undecided or are among the 60 percent who change majors.

Indeed, if chemistry teaching and physics teaching were considered stand-alone programs, every program in the state would be closed down by the bean counters. Not one Kansas university turns out enough of these science teachers to make the minimum required for a program. But those few physics and chemistry teachers that we do graduate are desperately needed. To turn out none at all would be disastrous for the state.

For those who believe the Gordon Gecko claim that the free-market business model is the best way to run public education, we only need to take a look at some of the many cases where a private business model has failed.

Malaria is one of the most widespread diseases in the world, inflicting children and pregnant women throughout the tropics. But these

are poor people. There no profit in developing a cure for malaria - the victims cannot afford to buy drugs. Private enterprise has no incentive to address this problem and it has not. It is left to governments and foundations.

In America, even if you are rich, you had best not contract one of the very rare diseases. There are medical conditions that seriously affect perhaps a dozen victims per year throughout the whole country. In spite of your affluence, you are far too few in number to make pharmaceutical research and production worthwhile. Again, the business model fails.

And therein lies the difference. Public universities should not work as a business to serve each student as a "customer," but for the public good of the state of Kansas. Private schools can chase after the popular majors and abandon the state to shortages of vital scientists and science teachers. But public schools have a responsibility to serve Kansas. We need chemistry and physics teachers in Kansas schoolrooms, and nuclear physicists at Wolf Creek, regardless of the class sizes that the current culture generates.

That puts the "public" in public university.

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.

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### Mallard Fillmore

- Bruce Tinsley

