



Other Viewpoints

Avoid Arizona's misguided policy

Olathe Republican Rep. Lance Kinzer is determined to see Kansas adopt Arizona's heavy-handed approach to immigration.

However, a proposal to follow an Arizona law that requires police to check the legal status of people they suspect of being in the U.S. illegally hit a roadblock recently when the House Judiciary Committee refused to endorse the measure.

Business groups rightly opposed the proposal because it would be burdensome for companies and local governments. Lawmakers agreed.

During a recent legislative coffee, Rep. Reynaldo Mesa, R-Garden City, suggested Kansas would need more jail space if this bill was enacted. Rep. Larry Powell, R-Garden City, noted the negative impact on businesses that rely on immigrant labor.

While those practical issues have merit, it's also important to emphasize how discriminatory it would be to allow police to demand proof of citizenship if there is "reasonable suspicion" that a person is here illegally — which could be based on appearance....

Regardless of how those who disagree with the measure arrived at that conclusion, every ounce of opposition is welcome.

Indeed, reasonable legislators still know the best fix for illegal immigration is in comprehensive federal reform that tightens border security while giving those here illegally a path to citizenship if they meet certain demands.

The vast majority of immigrants are here for work and a better life. While some have made the mistake of coming here without proper paperwork, their contributions to the nation's economy — and this region, in particular — cannot be ignored.

It's worth noting that the House panel's move didn't kill the measure, but a majority of the committee must agree to bring it up to be considered again. Expect Kinzer and others who support the plan to try to amend its provisions into another bill before the House.

If they do, lawmakers who rightly fear the racial profiling and other unwelcome fallout that would result must again step up and stymie their misguided pitch.

— *The Garden City Telegram, via the Associated Press*

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U.S. Rep. Tim Huelskamp, 126 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. (202) 225-2715 or Fax (202) 225-5124. Web site: huelskamp.house.gov

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COLBY FREE PRESS

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State award-winning newspaper, General Excellence, Design & Layout, Columns, Editorial Writing, Sports Columns, News, Photography. Official newspaper of Thomas County, Colby, Brewster and Rexford.

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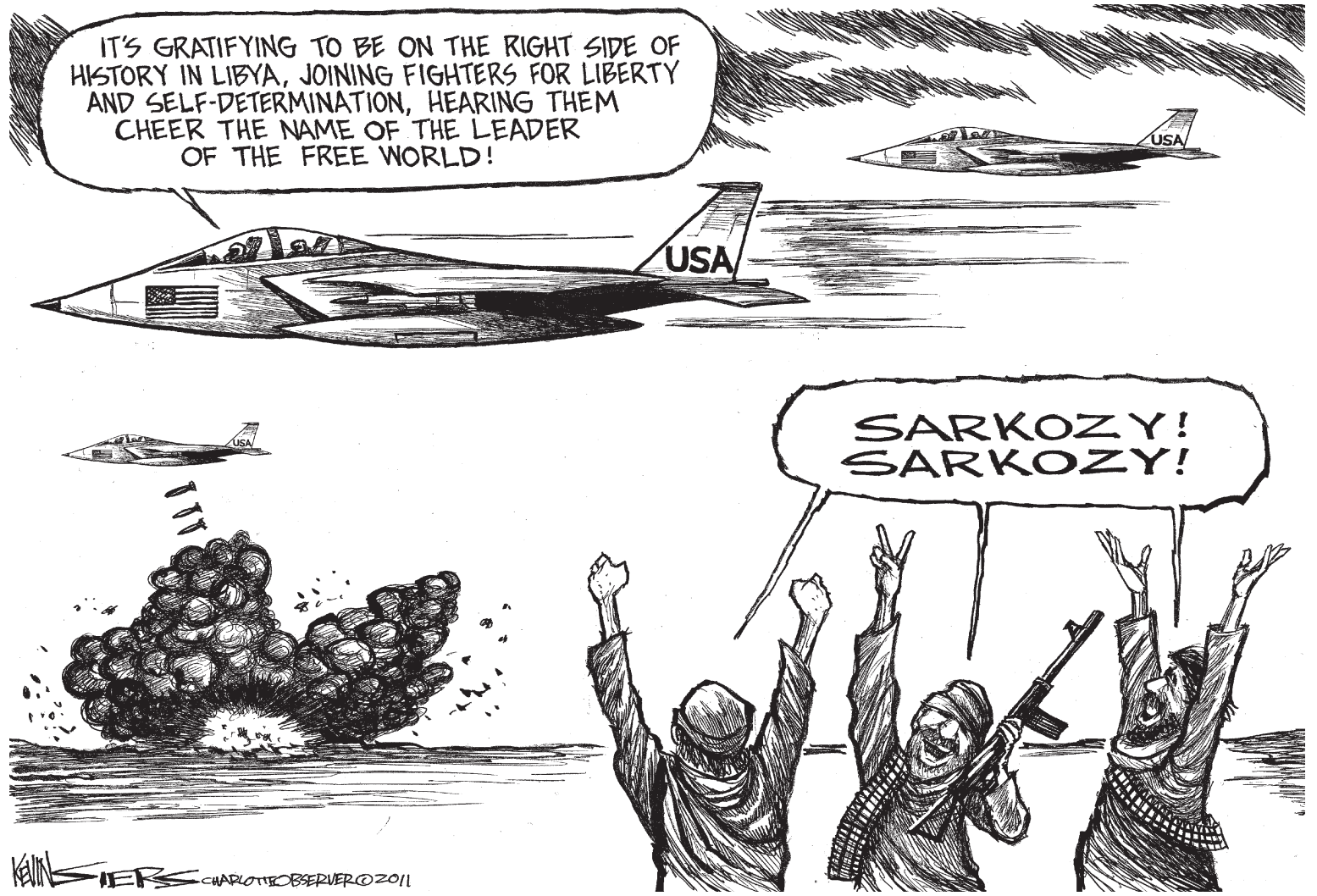
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THE COLBY FREE PRESS (USPS 120-920) is published every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, except the days observed for Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day, by Nor'West Newspaper, 155 W. 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



KEVIN MYERS CHARLOTTE OBSERVER © 2011

Who's responsible for their care?

I just read a long article by Danny Hakim in the March 13 *New York Times* about the horrible state of affairs in our system of taking care of the elderly, physically handicapped and mentally impaired.

Regardless of your religious identity (or non), partisan politics, liberal, conservative, or whatever, it has to make you ashamed to be a part of a society that allows the most vulnerable of our minorities to be subjected to abuse and neglect.

Too much government, not enough government, organized worker unions, professional employees and management; all have been blamed by each other. The truth is: it's us, you and me, that must shoulder the shame and blame. We are the ones who establish the morals, ethics and culture of our communities.

My wife and I have been involved in long-term care for parents, other family members and friends. Helen works as a volunteer state ombudsman and can identify with never-ending frustration with the long-term care industry, and sometimes, with the resident's families.

We have some outstanding homes managed by committed and compassionate organizations, with workers who truly give of themselves in caring for residents. But, sad to say, we have some that are little more than warehouses providing less than humane conditions. Most of our homes fall somewhere in between. Unfortunately, too few are at the top.

Money cannot buy compassionate care and love. Government rules and regulations are in-



Ken Poland

• Ken's World

adequate if inspectors and enforcement workers lack genuine love and compassion. Employees only showing up for pay will not find compassion and love for the residents or their fellow workers. Society seems too busy to stop in and visit residents and support and encourage caregivers. Are we too busy to love?

No, money can't buy love. But, the reality is our culture long since gave up on absolute self-sustaining lifestyles. We live in a bartering society, and the dollar bill is the main bartering commodity. If we don't adequately compensate the companies and individuals providing the services, the residents suffer. After all, the workers must have dollars to provide for their own needs. The private companies or government agencies must have dollars to secure the supplies and facilities required.

Many, or even most, of those in our long-term care facilities do not have the resources to buy their care. Our religious institutions don't have enough committed individuals to take care of their brothers. (Am I my brother's keeper? What did Jesus say about that?)

Our secular service clubs and organizations

fall short of having committed funds for meeting the needs. Are we human beings civilized and superior to the animal world? Or, are we willing to accept a "dog-eat-dog" system of survival? Does history indicate society will voluntarily always meet the needs of all minorities or those that are simply hard to love?

With the exception of the most radical anti-government anarchists, most people are committed to supporting our military security forces, fire protection agencies, law enforcement (at least minimally) and transportation structures. They are willing to even pay for those services with tax dollars. They don't always agree with the structure of the tax system, but even if grudgingly, they pay their taxes.

Should we allocate an adequate amount of our tax dollars to meet the needs of our elderly, disabled, mentally impaired and maybe even the disenfranchised bums? After all, they are all members of the human species and members of society?

A "dog-eat-dog" world? I don't want to be the dog that eats the other dog, or the dog that gets eaten!

That's a little too graphic for you? I'm sorry, but that's the real world of "survival of the fittest."

Ken Poland describes himself as a semiretired farmer living north of Gem, a Christian, affiliated with American Baptist Churches, and a radical believer in separation of church and state. Contact him at rcwinc@cheerful.com.

Participation relies on voting access

To the Editor:

I was delighted to see Steve Haynes' editorial highlighting the voting problems in Brewster. I would like to add some comments.

There are no handicapped access problems at polling places in Brewster. Like the other reasons given for moving the voting from here, it has no validity at all.

Also, in the upcoming city election, there might be some last minute write-in candidates. Advance mail-in voters won't have fair access to their choice of candidates in this situation.

Participation in local government is a fundamentally important part of our system. Equal access should be provided to all the residents of Thomas County.

Craig Fulwider, Brewster



Free Press Letter Drop

• Our readers sound off

consin? Why are unions coming in from all over the U.S. to cause problems?

Why are grade school children protesting? They are too young to vote! Children have no business being in the middle of a protest where violence could and has broken out.

Sorry folks, but until a child is 18 they need to respect authority. Let kids be kids and enjoy childhood. Teach them to respect authority.

Let the adults of individual states take care of their own problems. Most state constitutions have a balanced-budget clause. Yes, Kansas does, and I'm glad to see Gov. Sam Brownback taking the bull by the horns to balance Kansas' budget.

Obama wants high-speed rail service everywhere. Why should taxpayers pay if it isn't feasible in certain areas? Why should Kansans pay for California or New Jersey? Let each state pay for their state's service, after a vote from the people. Why does government have to be in "business"?

Businesses have to balance their books and budgets. At the end of the year they pay their taxes. Families have to balance their books and tighten their budgets. Why has there not been a balanced budget amendment passed, ratified by the states and added to the Constitution?

Why hasn't it been done when the American people are paying debts from the last 60

or 75 years or more? It's because we have had a federal government that will not relinquish control over the supposedly dumb, uneducated slob it represents. It makes no sense, because they forget what the little guy sent them to do.

Why is Obama playing golf while Japan (who used to hold a lot of our country's debt) is having a huge nuclear and environmental crisis? He seems disinterested in anything more complicated than making a pretty speech.

The man was elected to lead, protect and defend the U.S. Obama has done more to undermine, endanger, embarrass and put down America than any president in my lifetime. I want to see him get his poop in a group and lead this nation instead of tearing her down.

He and his administration have done more to divide this country than to bring it together. The division is not racial, it is because of his lies, indecisiveness and just plain bad judgment. These are not good qualities in anyone and definitely not in a president.

Pretty speeches do not make a good president. Ignoring the majority of the American people and doing "your own thing" is nonsensical. Over \$14 trillion in debt (a good portion owed to China) and Obama wants to borrow more to pay America's debts? (\$1.6 trillion for next year.)

How many businesses or families could stay afloat by doing that? None!

So, why should the government keep digging America deeper in debt? Get rid of redundant agencies and workers, get rid of the special interest strangleholds. Make crooked politicians pay their income taxes and vote them out of office.

Then, turn the American people loose and let them be productive citizens again!

Jari Skiles, Colby

Bias goes both ways

To the Editor:

A little over a month ago, President Obama gave a stirring speech asking Americans to tone down the "hate speech" in response to the shooting of several Arizonans, including a state senator and a 9-year-old girl.

The left decided that hate speech from the right caused a young man, not even remotely involved in politics, to go on a shooting spree.

Now the mess in Wisconsin is causing death threats to be sent to the governor of that state, who along with lawmakers needs and wants to balance the state's budget. Why isn't the president going out of his way to calm things down there? Because the unions are in charge of the chaos and Obama sides with the unions.

Why is it OK for unions — and a weekly news magazine — to call for the death of men and women elected to clean things up in Wis-

Mallard Fillmore

• Bruce Tinsley

