

Squabbling will not make terrorist threat less likely

Pass the blame. The country is fractured and squabbling over our response to the Muslim terrorist threat.

Rather than seeking common ground for the unified effort, our leaders in Washington spend their time vilifying and undermining each other.

The bitter, divisive attitude runs all the way down to the local coffee shop. Democrats and liberals characterize President Bush and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld in terms that would make Venezuelan President Hugh Chavez Frias, that old buddy of Fidel, proud.

Republicans respond by blaming everything on Bill Clinton for not finding Osama bin Laden, and boy is he touchy on that subject. He'd probably rather talk about Monica.

Mr. Bush had eight months to get Osama, President Clinton replied, and all his people did was make fun of the Clinton crew for being "obsessed" with chasing him.

Truth is, while Mr. Bush has pretty well eliminated bin Laden as an operational force, neither president caught him. It's a draw.

There is enough blame to go around, and if we don't start working together, there'll be even more.

We are crazies a global movement by radical Islamists. These people are clear about their goal — nothing short of world domination, conversion to Islam at the point of a sword and elimination not just of Christianity, but other world religions in turn.

The West can no more afford to ignore this threat than it could the Red menace of the last century. The fact that it is led by a few nut jobs who hide in caves does not make the move-

ment a joke. Far from it.

These people are serious, and they have friends. We are ill suited as a nation for this kind of fight.

We are ever prepared to go invade some country and set matters right, but we want our troops home the next day. As victims of imperial power, we have no taste for empire. We lack the ruthless nature needed to enforce our rule on others, and it goes against our tradition.

We argue endlessly about the occupation of Iraq, though in absolute terms you'd have to say it's been a success: No major terrorist attacks in the five years since 9/11, and a cost that's bearable.

It's fascinating that American liberals point constantly to the deaths of 2,600 U.S. troops, but never mention the thousands of Iraqis killed, so many that no one in this country bothers to count them.

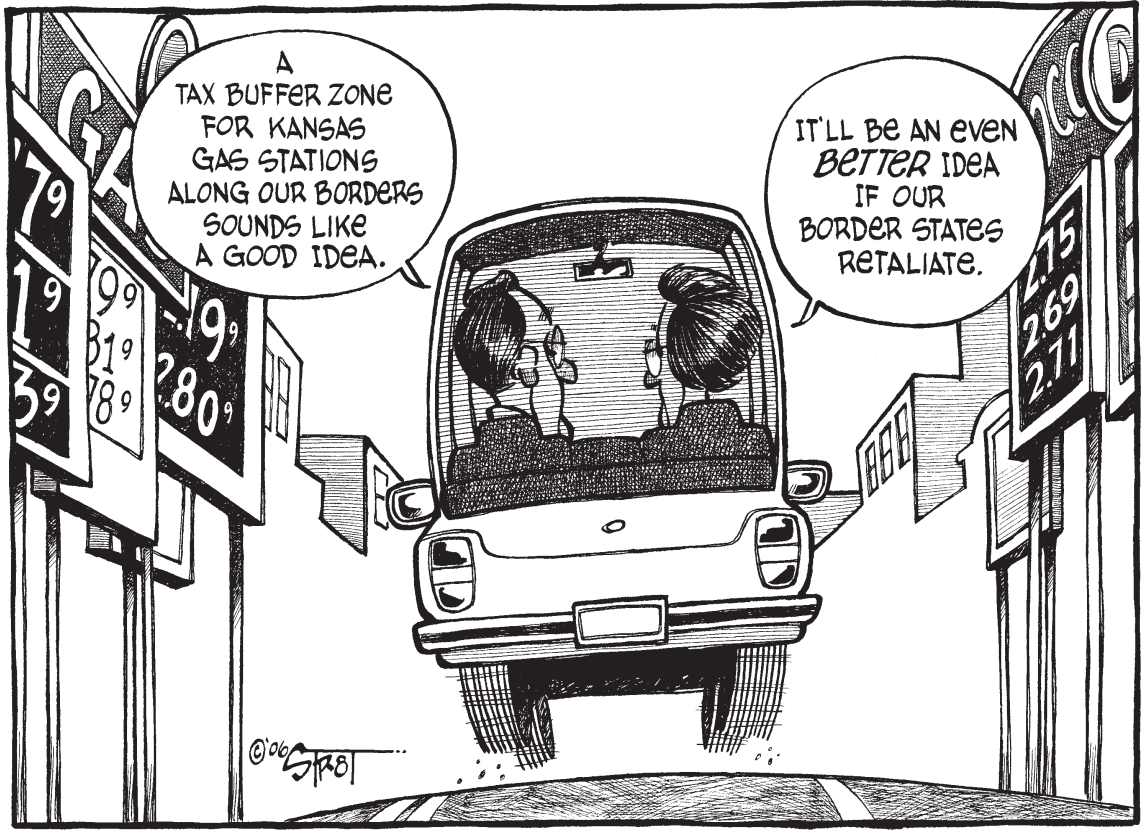
Perhaps the next president will give us the leadership we need to deal with this devil. Perhaps by the time he or she takes office, it'll be too late.

Like all evil in this world, this trouble will pass. The question we must answer is the price we will pay to fend it off, or the price we will pay if the radicals, as they sometimes do, succeed.

It's not too much of a stretch to compare this time to the days before World War II, when many in this country, liberal and conservative, strove to avoid the inevitable conflict. Even 9/11 has not given us the resolve to deal with this one.

And until we unite in our efforts, nothing will.

— Steve Haynes



Feline finds new loving home

Words of warning: When you see a friend coming to your door with a sheepish grin on their face and holding a pet carrier — beware.

Last Tuesday my friend Barbara showed up at my house with a little white kitten she said someone had dumped at her house.

"I think it's sick," she said. "Would you take it to the vet when you go to town?"

We discussed the implications of assuming responsibility for this little furball. Neither one of us felt we could afford vet bills, but what are you going to do when an animal needs help?

Jim and I had talked about getting another cat after Max died, and had agreed that we weren't ready. I called him and told him what Barbara had asked me to do, and he said, "Carolyn, we are NOT keeping that cat."

"I know we're not," I said. "I'm just taking it to the vet for Barbara."

At this point we were still calling the kitten an "it," but a quick exam at the veterinarian's office revealed "it" was a "he." With antibiotics, flea medicine, cat food and instructions in hand, we were on the way home.



Out Back

By Carolyn Sue Kelley-Plotts
cplots@nwkansas.com

Well, Barbara works nights, so that meant we had to keep him until the next morning. And, as the saying goes, "That's all she wrote."

One night was all it took; he had us hooked. Little Petey has settled right in and rules the roost now. We are entertained with his antics and delighted with how smart and clever he is. Just like proud parents, we crowed at how quickly he took to the litter box.

I might even stand a chance of having him like me as much as he likes Jim. When I met Max, he was already full grown and was definitely Jim's cat. He liked me, but he loved Jim.

Petey is only about 8 weeks old, so he will grow up with both of us. He has the loudest purr you ever heard and it only takes a little petting

to get his motor running. He likes Jim's lap and, we are convinced, he watches television. He perks his ears up and his little head bobs back and forth like he's really watching the action.

His favorite perch on me seems to be my shoulder, with his head tucked under my chin. As long as I'm not wearing earrings, he will lay or sleep contentedly.

But, earrings bring out his mischievous side, and he won't let them alone, sometimes biting a little too close for comfort.

The computer keyboard fascinates him, too. He just walked across it and I had to erase a whole line of mmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmm.

Maybe he can be a guest columnist someday.

Little aspen color, lots of snow

It's snowing. The forecast was for snow, so I shouldn't be surprised.

But, it's Friday, Sept. 22, and there's a foot of snow on the ground out there, and it doesn't show any signs of letting up.

I was expecting half an inch at most.

We came to Colorado to see the fall colors.

The aspen turn yellow, gold, orange and red in the fall, and the hill-sides look like patchwork quilts of colors as the aspen turn and the evergreens add dark touches here and there.

We arrived late Tuesday night and went for walks on Wednesday and Thursday. The mountains were less colorful than we expected. The trees are really just starting to turn — most are still a light late-summer green.

Still, it was good to be out in the woods, walking along the rocky trails watching out for late wildflowers (there weren't many) and interesting wildlife.

The air was crisp with a slight breeze on Wednesday and we picnicked in a favorite glenn.

It rained Wednesday night and snowed on the mountains.

The snow line came down to about 9,500 feet. We're at 8,800 feet, so we smiled at the white-capped peaks and were glad that the rain had quit so we could go for another walk.



Open Season

By Cynthia Haynes
cahaynes@nwkansas.com

We chose our favorite trail. The official name is Deep Creek. We call it Tick Creek in the spring — up to six or seven of the little monsters were found on each of us one day — or Lion Creek for the last wildlife we spotted in the area.

The walk was not pleasant. The wind was blowing in our faces and it had gone from crisp to cold.

Luckily, the trail is sandy and the rain from the night before had soaked in, so it wasn't muddy.

However, I was glad when we were back in the car headed for home. Exercise is all right, but why does it have to be so much work?

We went to bed expecting to see the ground with a crisp white blanket of fresh snow in the morning. Snow that would melt off by 10 or 11 a.m.

I awoke to see the evergreen tree outside the window covered in snow.

Wait a minute. There is no evergreen tree outside that window. That's an aspen in full late-summer leaf.

Steve looked outside and said, "Gee, we don't have a snow shovel."

Well, I hadn't planned to move snow anyway.

I did have to sweep off my car. I was going to my class reunion. That required a two-hour drive to the airport, a flight to Denver with a transfer to McCook and then a drive to my hometown of Concordia.

Next week — will I make it to my class reunion or be snowbound in the Colorado mountains? Stay tuned.

From the Bible

And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

Daniel 7: 14

Lost arts and other things

By DAN NEDLAND

Do you have a talent, a hobby, or a passion that you would be willing to share with your community?

We have many talented, skillful, interesting people who could enrich our community, help to preserve some of the "Nearly Lost Arts" of our heritage or provide pathways to greater knowledge.

The Decatur County Vision Team, charged with helping to "Maximize Existing Facilities," met and discussed plans for Community Generated Classes that might help preserve "Nearly Lost Arts," and other unique skills here. We are seeking ideas for classes and volunteers to teach these classes. Some of you have already been contacted.

The "Nearly Lost Arts" classes hopefully will include: wheat weaving, crocheting, knitting, spinning, rug making, tatting, leather working, carving, painting, flower arranging, making dried flower arrangements and getting started in quilt making. These classes could be single events or a series of classes on a larger topic. The Bohemian Hall at the Last Indian Raid Museum, The Gateway, the high school library, and the Senior Center have been suggested to hold these classes

Opinion

depending on size, lighting and facilities needed.

Cooking classes at the high school or Gateway kitchens have generated a lot of interest. Many people remember the CORE classes that were so popular in the past. These classes focused on preparation, cooking and eating your results and fun was had by all. We hope to find people who would lead classes in bread making, pie making, canning, jams and jellies, salsa making, tamale making, wine tasting, gourmet foods, ethnic food, and holiday cooking.

Computer classes at the Decatur Community High School computer lab or other locations in town are a priority. We are not talking about semester long classes with tests, but single classes or short series to help people of all ages with their computing problems.

Ideally, people with questions can direct the classes to real problems and get real answers to such things as: How do I make this thing work? (first computer familiarization). How do I store photos on a CD?

How do I make better digital photos? How do I protect against viruses and spyware? How do I make Excel work? How do I get started in e-mail? How do I set up a wireless network? How do I transfer data from my old computer to my new computer? How do I make my own computer? We think we may already have a teacher for some these classes, so expect to hear from us.

Do you have a skill, hobby, or need that we have left out? Please contact me at 475-1500, Charles Haag at the high school at 475-2231 or Rick Langness at 475-8972 or at the school website, www.usd-294.org.

Would you like to be part of our team? We are happy to have any and all be a part of what we are trying to accomplish. We are happy to welcome Sharleen Wurm of the Last Indian Raid Museum to our team, and thanks to Dori Pauls, who coined the phrase, "Nearly Lost Arts." We plan to have more information available by Mini-Sapa Days, so look for us while enjoying this unique community activity.

Does traffic citation justify deaths?

To the Editor:

The last phrase of the Pledge of Allegiance is "and justice for all." It is getting very difficult to have faith in that phrase with the corporate scandals and lack of punishment handed out and a recent Thomas County court decision.

In the Friday, Sept. 1, issue of *The Goodland Star-News*, you published a story about a woman from Colby who received a \$177 traffic citation for the Oct. 1 deaths of motorcyclists Roberta Casey and Roger Blau.

They are part of the "all," but justice was not served.

I am sure that Dawnelle Umberger is a good person and that no posi-

Letters to the Editor

tive purpose would be served by her being in jail for a long time, but a ticket for failure to yield does not seem to be justice for a careless moment that claimed two lives.

The article does not even say if her driving privileges were suspended. Our state will jail you, revoke your license and give a permanent record if you get a drunk-driving citation. That same issue showed a \$210 fine issued for a dog at large.

Would the court's decision be the same if a biker ran over a pedestrian?

Thomas County Attorney Andrea Wyrick and Judge Richard Ress should resign immediately and face censure for this flagrant miscarriage of justice.

Citizens of Kansas, this decision makes us look terrible. We should be ashamed that it was allowed to happen in our state.

Motorcyclists should and probably will boycott Kansas. We deserve it.

James Waugh
Goodland

Reader requests your comments

To the Editor:

I would like to express my appreciation to James Waugh for his letter to the editor published in the Tuesday, Sept. 5, issue of *The Goodland Star-News* discussing the recent plea agreement made for the Oct. 1, 2005 accident which resulted in the deaths of my father, Roger

Blau, and Roberta Casey.

I would like to invite your readers to send me their comments or reactions concerning the decision.

I would also like to thank everyone who has supported our families since the accident.

I hope to hold a memorial motorcycle ride in honor of Roger and

Bert.

Please watch for announcements for the ride.

David K. Blau
Oberlin



THE OBERLIN HERALD

Serving Oberlin and Decatur County since 1879

USPS 401-600

Phone: (785) 475-2206 Fax (785) 475-2800

E-mail: obherald@nwkansas.com

Nor'West Newspapers

STAFF

- Steve Haynes editor
- Kimberly Davis managing editor
- Mary Lou Olson society editor
- Judy Jordan proofreader
- Carolyn Kelley-Plotts columnist
- Cynthia Haynes business manager
- David Bergling advertising manager
- Pat Cozad wantads/circulation
- Karla Jones advertising production
- Joan Betts historian
- Jim Merriott sports reporter

Published each Wednesday by Haynes Publishing Co., 170 S. Penn Ave., Oberlin, Kan. 67749. Periodicals mail postage paid at Oberlin, Kan. 67749.

Steve and Cynthia Haynes, publishers
Official newspaper of Oberlin, Jennings, Norcatur, Dresden and Decatur County. Member of the Kansas Press Association, National Newspaper Association, Colorado Press Association, Nebraska Press Association and Inland Press Association.

Subscriptions: One year, \$33 (tax included) in Decatur, Norton, Rawlins, Sheridan, Thomas and Red Willow counties; \$38 (tax included) elsewhere in Kansas; \$42 elsewhere in the U.S. Foreign subscriptions, \$50-\$250 (in US dollars only) extra per year (except APO/FPO). POSTMASTER: Send change of address to 170 S. Penn Ave., Oberlin, Kan. 67749-2243.

Office hours: 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.
(Also open most Saturdays when someone is in.)

