

Governments need plan for dealing with pirates

The world's governments have made a few steps forward in the last couple of weeks since American, French and Indian teams killed pirates threatening or in possession of ships on the high seas.

They need to get together and form a plan, however, on how to deal with pirates once they surrender.

The specter of a Dutch naval vessel releasing a gang of pirates should haunt officials around the globe. It rightly outraged Dutch legislators back home, who demanded to know how their government let a gang of cut throats get away.

While this time, the Dutch navy blamed a communications foul up, releasing pirates has been an all-too-frequent occurrence in the past.

So far, just shooting the pirates has been the most effective course of action, but that's not the way every incident can be handled. For one thing, while sometimes necessary, it isn't very civilized.

World governments rushing to prosecute Bush Administration officials over allegations of torture might instead want to focus on these criminals of the high seas, who seize and terrorize innocent merchant crews, families out on private yachts and anyone else they can get their hands on.

Business-like demands for ransom, paid through world banking channels to unidentified kingpins ashore in Somalia, should not

mask the naked threat of death the pirates use to take over a ship. These people can and will kill. Their bosses are equally guilty.

And if world governments are serious about stopping this outrage, they will ban together and go after both the pirates at sea and the bosses ashore. They should demand the help of the weak Somali government and make it their ally. Then go get them.

Then they need a plan to put the pirates on trial and assess a fitting punishment. Long years at hard labor would do. The threat of prison in a far-off land — and none too nice a treatment, at that — ought to work.

Just maybe, the United States will have an unused camp that would work. It's isolated and primitive, but a real prison in the first world might be a step up in living conditions for the pirates.

The so-called civilized nations need to move swiftly and decisively on this crisis. They cannot afford to dither while pirates keep seizing ships. They have tried to take cruise liners, without success so far. Do we need to wait to see what happens when they have hundreds of hostages rather than dozens?

No more pirates should be set free. Any who resist should be shot. And the world needs to be ready to try and punish all who are caught until this problem goes away.

The very thought of this behavior in the 21st century is unpardonable.

— Steve Haynes



Problem will be self solving

Scientists worry about the future China in 15-20 years, when a surplus of young men comes to adulthood, according to a recent Associated Press story.

The Chinese, trying to solve their population problems, instituted a one-child-per-household policy in the 1970s and, of course, the law of unintended consequences has raised its ugly head.

In many areas of the country, boy children are still more prized than girls. As a result, parents sometimes abort female fetuses in the hopes of trying again and having a boy. This has led to more boys than girls in the schools, and down the road, a lack of female partners.

While this has been going for more than 30 years, it's gotten worse with the use of sonograms, which weren't available back in the '70s when I was having my kids. Now people find out whether the baby will be a boy or girl months before birth.

A study, published in *BMJ*, which used to be called the *British Medical Journal*, said that an analysis of 2005 census data showed 119 boys born for every 100 girls in China, compared to 108 per 100 in other industrialized nations.



Open Season

By Cynthia Haynes
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The biggest shortage of girls seems to be between ages 1-4, so the problem will not become acute for another 15 to 20 years.

Experts, who spend most of their time worrying about what "might" happen, are postulating a crime spree by young men with too much testosterone and not enough female company.

Experts in London and from eastern China's Zhejiang province studied the problem and came up with a lot of hand wringing.

"Nothing can be done now to prevent this imminent generation of excess men," said Therese Hesketh, a lecturer of the Centre for International Health and Development at University College London, and her Chinese colleagues agreed.

But, like most problems, this one will solve itself. The Chinese will either start to export their young

men or import some women. Look at the American West, where women were few and far between. The problem was solved at times by importing brides from the eastern U.S. or Europe.

Over in Hong Kong, there are hundreds, probably thousands, of young Filipino girls working as maids. A steady husband, home and family might look as good to some of those women as becoming a mail-order bride did to hundreds of women in the 1800s.

And there are lots of countries that still need to import labor, so that might be another option.

It seems that scientists have been telling us the world is going to pot since the Middle Ages, but it's still here and people are solving their problems as they come up.

Reader disagrees with tea parties

To the Editor:

With interest, I have been reading articles about the Oberlin Tea Party in *The Oberlin Herald*. This was the first time I had read anything about the "Tea Bag Parties" until this week, when I heard about the parties being held throughout the country on the national news. That's probably because I don't watch Fox News, and because I haven't heard of any "Tea Bag Parties" being held here in Los Angeles.

Like most of you attending the parties, I, too, have lost a large percentage of my wealth in the past year. And like most of you, I have serious doubts if these bailouts will work. Our bankrupt casino capitalists now look to socialism to save them. What happens when socialism can no longer support them? Feudalism?

I really don't see any hope until we change our capitalism from a consumer economy back to a producing economy. Remember when there were jobs that produced something? Haven't we learned that gambling in the markets for quick, big money is not the answer and that we need to get back to investing long-term? Haven't we learned that the top-down economy just hasn't worked? Surely, we can all agree that borrowing more than \$2 billion a day over the last 10 years has to stop.

From what I have read and observed, "Teabaggers" want to limit government, keep the health care as is, cut taxes, keep the top-down model and return to the former ways of governing.

Probably the most disturbing things I observed from the "Tea

Letter to the Editor

"Bag Parties" was both blatant racism and big money fear for the First Family. There were signs depicting "White Slavery," Obama kneeling to a Muslim cleric, Obama depicted as Hitler, Arms and Revolution, Socialism, etc. Naturally, I was curious as to where this all came from. Who exactly is behind this?

Having done some research, I learned that the "Tea Bag Parties" were being funded largely by millions of free public relations from Fox News and from the Freedom Works Foundation. With Steve Forbes on the foundation's board, the big money came from the Koch, Scaife, Bradley, Olin and other reliable funders of right-wing infrastructure, including Exxon Mobil.

If you are a listener of Fox News, you might recall that it was Fox that put out the lie that Obama was

schooling in a madrassa. Or Fox News' golden boy, Juan Williams, characterizing First Lady Michelle Obama as "Stokely Carmichael in a designer-dress." Or Bill O'Reilly promising to investigate Michelle Obama's patriotism, and thereafter, decide if a "lynching party" was appropriate for her.

We could go on and on. However, I think such racist propaganda is poisonous to our country, especially when such talk is presented as news. I also think it is sad that the "Teabaggers" are being manipulated by the very people they appear to be raging against and who are hoping that President Obama will fail. How sad.

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Photo Policy

The Oberlin Herald wants to emphasize photos of people doing things in the community. If you know of an event or news happening that we should attend, please call 475-2206.

Please be sure to allow a couple of days' notice so we can arrange to be there.

Space in the paper is limited and so is the time of our staff, so we may not be able to get to every event, but we will try.

Because space is so limited, we cannot run team or group photos,

any pictures of people lined up or of people passing checks, certificates and the like. (We will always try to make room for a story about any of these events, however.)

We do run wedding and engagement pictures and "mug" shots with stories and obituaries, when they are provided to us. Please remember that we need a clear, sharp picture. Dark or fuzzy prints will not work.

We cannot return photos unless you submit a self-addressed, stamped envelope with clear instructions for return.

Dwarf calf is ultra aggressive

Our little dwarf calf must have a Napoleon complex. He's smaller than his two heifer pen mates, so he has to try harder.

Bear, aka, Stubbs, is ultra aggressive. If I mix up the bottles at feeding time and give him the nipple that slips off, he will pull it off every time.

It just makes me mad, but he gets doused with a bottle-full of milk. Besides being wasteful, he doesn't get a full feeding.

Jim thinks I need to get them off the bottles anyway, but I don't mind the feedings. And I am assured they are all getting their fair share. Except whenever Bear gets a face full of formula.

— ob —

I received my first bouquet of the season. I can't tell you which of the neighbor's yards Jim stole (borrowed) it from, but I have a beautiful display of flowering crapple blossoms perched on my kitchen window sill. Sometimes, he brings me a rose, sometimes it's just a dandelion.

Here's a word of advice to my



Out Back

By Carolyn Sue Kelley-Plotts
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male readers: Go to your neighborhood thrift store and spend fifty cents to buy two bud vases. Stash them someplace known only to you. Then, when you see a pretty flower (hopefully in your own yard), snip it off, put it in your bud vase and surprise the woman in your life with an unexpected gift.

Not only will you earn "brownie points" but, she will, more than likely, reciprocate with a special treat for you. Maybe a homemade pie, a special dinner or a cup of coffee served with a kiss and a smile.

Imagine couples across America being extra nice to each other. We could have happiness breaking out all over. And, all because of one little flower. Hey, it could happen.

I checked my fan mail this week. OK, so it was only one letter. And, it was from a reader I inherited from my mother. Phillene Weets in Rapid City, S.D., wrote a nice letter and included a clipping from columnist Dorothy Rosby. Phillene thought I would appreciate it, and I did.

Dorothy wrote about managing time and all the household jobs she is going to finish when she "finds the time." From mending to cleaning closets, Dorothy is like me — she never gets a "roundtoit".

Me, I've come to the point that I don't care if you write your name in the dust on my furniture — just don't date it.

Thank you from Red Cross workers

To the Editor:

On behalf of all the volunteers involved in the Red Cross fund raiser in Jennings last week, I'd like to thank all of the attendees and donors. A total of \$650 in contributions was raised and presented to the Phillips County Red Cross office to help pay for emergency response to local disasters. Decatur County is part of the Phillips County chapter.

The program presented by the Kiowa County Hospital was interesting and informative. Even more important to the chapter was the increased awareness of the Red Cross in northwest Kansas, its activities and its ability to help in times of need.

Also, in response to a news story in last week's *Oberlin Herald* con-

cerning costs for a Red Cross-sponsored shelter in Jennings, there is no expense involved in qualifying a community shelter as a Red Cross shelter. There are no application fees or other expenses associated with becoming a Red Cross shelter. Once a shelter is approved by the Red Cross, the agency on how to best utilize the facility and provide shelter to the area.

When designated as a Red Cross shelter, we would be eligible to receive supplies such as sleeping cots and other gear from the Red Cross if there is any available. Also, the community might be able to recoup part or all of the expenses of providing shelter during or following a disaster. The worst that can happen is that if the requirements (mostly

involving paperwork) are not met, there would be no reimbursement.

Marjorie Hartzog
Jennings

From the Bible

But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:6-7

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