

# Opinions

## Stopping pornography will help save children from kidnappers

By Richard A. Viguere

Six-year-old Adam Walsh was left in the toy department while his mother went shopping for a lamp. She never saw him again.

Sarah Avon, six years old, had been playing with friends in front of her house. Then, suddenly, she was gone.

Twelve-year-old John David Gosh went out on his paper route. His dog returned home, but he never did.

In the United States, about 200 children are reported missing each hour. Most are runaways, and about 90% return home within a few days. About 100,000 are abducted by parents following divorce. But 50,000 vanish, leaving few if any clues to their fate.

Nobody knows how many of them are kidnapped, how many are raped, and how many are murdered. According to one estimate, 80% of children kidnapped by strangers are killed within two days.

A large number of those who are not killed are forced into pornography and prostitution, and lost forever in the dark underworld populated by child molesters.

Last year the FBI uncovered a nationwide child sex and pornography ring that kidnapped children "to order."

Incredible as it seems, customers would place orders for children according to height, weight, and hair color. The children would be sexually exploited and forced to appear in pornographic photographs and movies.

All types of people are involved in these despicable crimes. Last December, when another ring was

broken up, among those arrested were a computer programmer, a lawyer, a merchant, and a pediatrician.

An FBI agent told the New York Daily News that the ring had contacts all over the country, and even in other countries. He said, "Some people feel the United States is the world's leader in selling children." A private investigator who specializes in missing children cases told U.S. News and World Report, "Children have become a product. Some people are willing to pay \$20,000 for a child. Mostly, this is for illegal purposes — much of it for reasons of sex. Children as young as five or six are being used in pornography."

This sort of thing is almost too horrible to think about. And, because they don't like to think about it, most people are reluctant to do anything about the problem.

But some people are taking action. A man in Fresno, California, set up the National Child Identification Center after his daughter was the victim of a molestation attempt. (The attacker, by the way, was later shot to death while raping a three-year-old girl.) A New York organization called Child Find was formed to collect information about missing children. A research center was set up in Florida in memory of Adam Walsh, the little boy snatched from

the department store and murdered. The state government in Florida has set up a computer bank for missing children, and Senator Paula Hawkins is pushing for a nationwide system with a toll-free hotline.

For the most part, however, this problem has not received the attention it deserves from our public officials. Perhaps they don't think there are many votes to be gained by championing the cause of missing children; after all, most parents have the attitude that it can't happen to us.

It can happen to anybody. It's time for the government to give missing children — and their parents — the priority they deserve. It's time for Congress to give the Administration the support it needs to eradicate child pornography, to bust the network of child molesters who prey on our children.

And there is something we can do as individuals.

Millions of Americans (including parents of small children) support the pornography industry by buying so-called "adult" books and magazines and going to X-rated movies.

If each of us would stop and think before giving aid and comfort to pornographers, the world would be a lot safer place for the most innocent among us.

## ... Letters continued

### College will help Hoke County students

Dear Editor:

As a practical nursing student I would like to express my appreciation to the Sandhills Community College officials for allowing a satellite college to be formed in Hoke County.

The satellite program will help residents who can't afford traveling expenses, to further their education by eliminating the expense and time of travel to and from S.C.C.

Programs such as Health Occupations, Family Planning, and Emergency Medical Training will help improve health and living conditions for those individuals and families that want to live healthier and more productive lives.

Thanks again to Sandhills Community College officials for allowing the formation of a college in our county that will give our youth, young adults, middle age adults and our senior citizens opportunities to broaden and enrich their lives through educational training in various fields.

Thank you,  
Emily McQueen  
PNS/SCC

### Letters Policy

Letters to the editor are encouraged and welcomed. Writers should keep letters as short as possible. Names, addresses and telephone numbers should be included and all letters must be signed. Names will be printed, however, other information will be kept confidential. We reserve the right to edit letters for good taste and brevity. Letters should be received by The News-Journal by noon on the Monday of the publication week.

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8 member team from  
Campbell College  
Friday - 7 pm - youth only  
Saturday - 7:30 pm - open to all ages  
Sunday - 11:00 am - worship service

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## Return chapel to schools

By Cliff Blue

Prayer in public schools has been up for debate for sometime and while a majority voted for it, it required a two-thirds vote to make it stick, for a constitutional amendment.

While, "ye editor" was in public school many years ago, prayer was held each morning, and generally it was the "Lord's Prayer" we said; and reading from the Bible.

I think it would be well to return to the old system and have a chapel program two or three days a week, and during the other days have a devotional in the several rooms.

### People and Issues

I would hope that the people would not have moved away from the fundamental things in life as I learned them back in the one-teacher schools and later in the consolidated schools.

I appreciate that President Reagan has been lobbying on the telephone and in person.

The proposed constitutional amendment would allow prayer in public-school classrooms.

THURMOND...U.S. Senator Strom Thurmond, now 81 years

old, is planning to run again for the United States Senate, after serving 30 years.

Back in 1948, Thurmond was serving as Governor of South Carolina, and when Truman was president, Thurmond ran against him on a States Right platform.

He carried four or six states, I forgot which, but run again for Governor in South Carolina and was re-elected.

Thurmond, as we have observed him, is a forward looking politician and statesman, honest and above reproach.

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