

Sources mysterious in anonymous letters

Once again it's election time, and things are getting downright nasty.

"The presidential elections?" you ask.
No. Those are always nasty. It's almost expected in this day and age.

What we're talking about is going on right here in our own community.

We're talking about the anonymous flyers that have been sent out. Not only do the writer or writers refuse to name names, chiefly their own; they don't seem to be concerned with saying where they are getting their information.

Never have we seen such dirty tactics. The not-so-funny thing is, it more than likely isn't the incumbent commissioners' opponents who are using them. Both Robert Clydesdale and Ivan Kingham seem like upstanding people. In fact, Mr. Kingham told us that he seriously disapproves of such things.

Dear anonymous flyer writer: Where are you getting your information?

Did you call the Natural Resources Conservation Service? Did you call the Kansas Department of Health and Environment? Or did you just drive up, roll down your window and take a quick look in the middle of the afternoon when you thought no one would be looking?

Expressing an opinion is one thing.

Writing something to cause dissension without putting your name on it or any sources for your information is another.

Leroy Lang has an Ag Waste Management Plan for his new feedlot, which tells us he's trying to do something about a problem and not just sweep it under the rug. What have you seen? Whom have you talked to?

But then, if these mysterious writers took the time to say who their sources are, with proof of hard facts instead of half truths, they wouldn't be afraid to put their names with them, would they?

Maybe the reason they don't want their names on the flyers is because they don't want to deal with one of those pesky libel suits for defamation of character.

Hey, who does?

Now, we've said writers, but we don't actually know if there is more than one.

Were both of the flyers written by the same person or different people? Does anyone, other than the writers, really know for sure?

Guess it just makes gossip all the more fun and entertaining.

No one deserves to have this kind anonymous flyer printed about them. County commissioners work hard to see that things get done that are in the county's best interests.

They get enough grief for their decisions from people who have names, and probably don't need more from people who don't.

We bet the mysterious writer wouldn't think it was so great if someone randomly distributed a flyer like this about him or her.

Oh wait, we almost forgot. No one knows who it is, so that can't happen.

— Veronica Monier



Plant keeps growing no matter what

Vel-ly in-te-rest-ing." Remember the old Laugh-In show, where Artie Johnson, in his Gestapo uniform, would part the bushes, peer through, and utter those words that became a national catch phrase? That's about how I feel with the mini-jungle I have growing in my front room.

Several years ago, my brother Bob and his wife Bert brought me a little dieffenbachia plant. I watered it, it grew, I repotted it, it grew some more, I watered it, repotted again, it grew more, and so on, and so on, and so on. It grew to the ceiling and beyond. We cut the top off and stuck the trimmed part in the pot. And wouldn't you know it — that part grew, too.

Somewhere along the line, I sat a planter of philodendrons next to the pot of dieffenbachia and the vines started spreading. I kept twining the vines between the two planters. Now, they are so intermingled, it takes the two of us to turn the pots. And they have to be turned every month or so, because the dieffenbachia curves so much toward the window that it almost breaks. In order to keep it somewhat straight, we have to keep rotating it.

I have to give the silly thing credit just

Out Back

Carolyn Plotts



for being so tenacious, but I still can't decide if I like it because it is pretty or just because I can't seem to kill it.

—ob—

We spent the day in Denver on Saturday, and while there visited a couple of hours with my Aunt Bernice. Aunt "B" is my mom's youngest, and only living, sibling. She has decided to sell her home and move to a retirement center, so she is in the turmoil of sorting out her belongings. Her three daughters have been given equal shares of the family Christmas china, one daughter wanted the dining room set, another daughter something else. Aunt "B" was never the accumulator that Mom was, but still, it's hard to part with your "stuff".

—ob—

On the trip home, I remembered there

was to be a fellowship dinner the next day after church. Knowing it would be about 10 p.m. when we got home, I tried to think of something good and easy to make. Pecan pie was my answer. Jim tried to talk me into potato salad, but that is a process I didn't want to start at that time of night. He even tried to persuade me with promises of chopping the onions and boiling the potatoes.

I stood firm and made the pie. Then, following the dinner, he was upset that he didn't get a piece of the pie, and I had to promise to make two more that night.

Again, it was late when I got started on the pies. My oven is not large enough for two pies at one time. I got the first one done just fine. But the second pie didn't get into the oven until after 11 p.m. I punched 50 minutes into my digital timer and sat down to watch the news.

I must have been so dead tired that I slept through the timer's buzz. I awoke at 1 p.m. to the distinct aroma of a pie more than a little done.

It's very chewy, but still edible. And at the price of pecans, you can bet we will eat it. But considering the time and cost involved, I wish now I had just made the potato salad.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: Commissioners do a good job

Dear Editor:
There is an old saying, "Don't change horses in the middle of the stream." This is a fitting remark in regard to the race for county commissioner.

John Miller and Leroy Lang have served us well. We need them to continue doing the job. They should be encouraged as they do a thankless job

trying to look after the welfare of the people of Norton County and still uphold the laws of the state of Kansas.

It also is not ethical to send out unsigned mailings — especially to women and children.

This is my opinion. This is my name.

Delores Atkinson
Norton

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: Former candidate asks voters for support in election

I want to thank the voters of Norton County for supporting me in the primaries. I got to meet some nice people that I would not have met.

I would like to ask the people of Norton County to support Bob Clydesdale. Bob cares about all the people and wants Norton County to grow for future generations.

Bob's father was the county treasurer for a number of years. (the late Leonard

Clydesdale). Bob knows how the county works, cares about the county employees and knows we need economic development to keep the business we have. More jobs help keep our young people here.

I do not agree with the mudslinging, lies and dishonesty that we have in this county. I know serving the people in any aspect is a hard job. Society makes us do things we do not always agree with. I am not pointing my finger at any one person,

but I believe honesty is the best policy.

I would like to have you vote for Bob Clydesdale, but I want you to check out the candidates, make sure you know them, what they stand for and what they will do for all the people of Norton County and last but not least, VOTE.

Make this election a people's choice election.

Sincerely,
George Gassmann

People have rights, but also responsibilities

To the Editor:
I've been reading about the furor over the feedlot operations and the anonymous flyer that has been sent out to voters. I did not receive one of these flyers, so am not privy to what it said. One of the things that is not being discussed is the fact that these flyers are anonymous.

This is the United States. In this country anyone has the right to express his or her opinion on anything, public or private whether by flyer, newspaper, soapbox or whatever. However, one of the things that makes our system so strong is that the person or persons expressing that opinion take responsibility for it.

In hiding behind anonymity, these people make themselves unavailable to anyone seeking more information about their opinion. By writing anonymously, they do not have to provide any sound proof or research to give their statements any validity. Any proof they do provide must be questioned as valid because of the anonymity.

The feedlot operators have gone

openly, to the public forum (i.e. *The Telegram*) to answer to whatever accusations there were in these flyers.

The folks who sent these flyers should sign them. If it's an organization, that signature should be one of their legitimate officials (president, vice-president, secretary). There should also be listed some way to contact them for more information such as telephone number(s) and/or address(es).

They have the right to put out these flyers, but as anonymous, their worth becomes little more than the paper they are written on, much less the voters time taken to read them.

Voters have more than enough vague statements, smoke screens and etc., to get through in the normal election process so we can make a decent decision at the polls. We really don't need anonymous statements to add rumors, hearsay and more to muddy the waters.

Sincerely,
June Prout
Norton

WRITE:

The Norton Telegram encourages Letters to the Editor on any topic of public interest. Letters should be brief, clear and to the point. They must be signed and carry the address and phone number of the author.

We do not publish anonymous letters. We sign our opinions and expect readers to do likewise.

We do not publish form letters or letters about topics which do not pertain to our area. Thank-yous should be submitted to the Want Ad desk.

Letters will not be censored, but will be read and edited for form and style, clarity, length and legality. We will not publish attacks on private individuals or businesses which do not pertain to a public issue.

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