

## U.S.-Canada border too big to fight drug war over

A news story the other day recounts the problems along our “other” border, the 5,500-mile, mostly unfenced and often imaginary line that separates the U.S. from Canada. Both U.S. and Canadian authorities realized the mostly unguarded border sees increasing traffic in both guns and drugs. The U.S. is using unmanned aircraft to keep an eye on the border and plans to send hundreds more border agents to the north. The length of the border and its remote nature, far in most places from major cities, makes tightening controls tough, if not impossible. While Americans cry for a fence and tough enforcement to the south, there’s little talk of tougher measures at the Canadian border, other than the requirements for identification in place everywhere people enter the U.S. Fair enough. To the south, Mexico has become a hotbed of drug traffic — and violence. A crackdown by the Mexican government has resulted in as many as 10,000 murders in the last few years as drug cartels fight the army, federal police and each other. But we hear little about drugs from Canada. Truth is, the Associated Press reports, it isn’t the problem seen in Mexico, but illegal traffic from the north is growing. Biker gangs and Asian drug runners move marijuana and other drugs across the border. Indian reservations straddle the line in a few areas, allowing almost free access back and forth. What’s the answer? Government men always say it’s more enforcement, both because they tend to think that way, and because they can’t afford to speak the truth. And the truth is, without spending a lot of money and committing a lot of manpower, it’d be next to impossible to close off the 5,500-mile border. We can’t afford that much fence and that many border agents. The head of the Drug Enforcement Agency, James Burns, said as much to the AP: “It’s a long border, mostly very remote, very wooded, very sparsely populated. It’s easy to go from one side to the other without detection.” Truth is, you can make something illegal, but you can’t keep people from getting what they want. They want drugs, someone will supply them. Making them illegal just drives up the price and improves the cartels’ profits. The border patrol, drug cops and others build empires on trying to stop this traffic, but mostly it’s a waste of money. Contraband flows towards money and demand. Fences, airplanes, agents on the ground can only do so much. When they catch a big load, it looks good, but that’s about it. In the flow of illegal drugs alone into this country, one truckload is a drop in the bucket. Even a dozen don’t amount to much. We’d be better off spending the money to track and locate terrorists and to help people learn to stop doing drugs, than to spend billions on border controls. The benefits are too few, the cost too great. That said, expect a big push to waste a lot of money on the border up north. That’s what the bureaucrats will ask for, and likely, what Congress will do. The futility of it all will escape notice, but what’s a few billion here and there?

— Steve Haynes

### Your political connection

- ★ **Governor Mark Parkinson**, 300 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785) 296-3232
- ★ **U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts**, 109 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 224-4774; fax (202) 224-3514
- ★ **U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback**, 303 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 224-6521
- ★ **U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran**, 2443 Rayburn HOB, Washington, D.C. 20515. (202) 225-2715; fax (202) 225-5124

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

ISSN 1063-701X

215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, KS 67654

Published each Tuesday and Friday by Haynes Publishing Co., 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, Kan. 67654. Periodicals mail postage paid at Norton, Kan. 67654. Postmaster: Send address changes to Norton Telegram, 215 S. Kansas, Norton, Kan. 67654. Official newspaper of Norton and Norton County. Member of the Kansas Press Association, National Newspaper Association, and the Nebraska Press Association

**Nor’West Newspapers**  
Dick and Mary Beth Boyd  
Publishers, 1970-2002  
Incorporating the Norton County Champion  
Marion R. Krehbiel, editor



**STAFF**  
Tom Dreiling..... editor and publisher  
Dana Paxton..... advertising director  
Dick Boyd..... Blue Jays sports  
Erica Bradley..... news editor  
Sherry Hickman..... bookkeeping/circulation  
Vicki Henderson..... computer production

**Office hours:**  
8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.  
Phone: (785) 877-3361  
Fax: (785) 877-3732  
E-mail:  
nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

## What ever happened to respect?

**L**et me see if I have this right: the President of the United States of America, the greatest, the wealthiest, and the mightiest of them all, the Commander in Chief of all things military, duly elected in 2008, and himself the father of two young girls, was ushered to the back of the auditorium, so to speak, instead of onto the stage to address the millions of students returning to class from the summer recess.

Some parents objected loudly and sarcastically, so a number of students didn’t have to watch the president’s televised speech at their schools. Some school districts flatly refused to let their kids see the televised talk — they just happened to have other activities scheduled for that part of the morning. But most school districts encouraged students to take advantage of the president’s talk. He wasn’t there to push any hidden agenda, as sometimes suggested. Much like Presidents Reagan, and Bush (the elder), President Obama was just there to give them a pep talk. And needless to say he was well received.

Ironically, former First Lady Laura Bush, former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, former presidential aide Carl Rove and a number of other ranking Republicans were in support of the president’s speech.

So what was this all about? Was it to create small attendances to embarrass our president around the globe? If it was that didn’t happen. The controversy has pretty much faded from the scene, and those who were hiding behind the good old ‘patriotic’ label, are the ones with egg on their faces today.

If ever there was an attempt by radicals here in Norton to stop Congressman Jerry Moran, or U.S. Senators Pat Roberts and Sam Brownback from talking to classes at our schools, rest assured I’d be on the front line defending their right to do so.

Had President Obama chosen Norton Community High School from which to deliver his televised talk, there wouldn’t have been room enough in Stull Gymnasium to house

Let’s Chat  
Tom Dreiling



the throngs. You see, we people out here in rural America think differently. We might not have supported President Obama in the 2008 campaign, and we might not have liked him as a person, but as President of the United States of America, the freest country in existence, we would have shown him the respect his tile commands — PRESIDENT!

**And while I’m on my soapbox**, I might mention that a lot of disrespect shown those who occupy the White House can be blamed on some of our late night comedians who had, what some termed a “field day” when President George W. Bush occupied the Oval Office, and they couldn’t wait to get in front of the cameras to make light of everything George. So distasteful, disrespectful and don’t think the youngsters we are trying to teach *respect* to didn’t pick up on what I called *comedianitis*.

**I thought Erica’s story** on economic development on Tuesday’s front page was very telling. If we can successfully tackle the negatives we’ll have smooth sailing going forward. If not, well, the ride will be bumpy. If you overlook the story or thought you’d read it later, please take time to do so. It’s part of a strategic plan and it was frank and to the point.

So often, unfortunately, these kind of studies are discussed, then put on the shelf to collect dust. Maybe now would be a good time to make sure this one isn’t of the dust-collecting variety. Carry on, economic development.

**Two more weeks** and counting. It will feel strange not to be arriving at The Norton Telegram mornings to be

greeted by Vicki who already would be there. Turning on the computer to check the usual load of several hundred overnight emails. Pour that first cup of coffee. Greet the other employees as they arrive. Yep, it will feel strange. But, as I have mentioned before, the time has come. So I will blow out the candle for the last time on Sept. 25, take one last glance around an empty office, bid farewell to Sport (our pet office cat), dab a teary eye... and be on my way.

**A man was sitting** on the edge of the bed, watching his wife, who was looking at herself in the mirror. Since her birthday was not far off he asked what she’d like to have for her birthday.

“I’d like to be 6 again.” she replied. On the morning of her birthday, he arose early, made her a nice big bowl of Lucky Charms, and then took her to Six Flags theme park. What a day! He put her on every ride in the park; the Death Slide, the Wall of Fear, the Screaming Roller Coaster, everything there was.

Five hours later they staggered out of the theme park. Her head was reeling and her stomach felt upside down. He then took her to a McDonald’s where he ordered her a Happy Meal with extra fries and a chocolate shake. Then it was off to a movie, popcorn, a soda pop, and her favorite candy, M&M’s.

What a fabulous adventure! Finally she wobbled home with her husband and collapsed into bed exhausted. He leaned over his wife with a big smile and lovingly asked, “Well, Dear, what was it like being 6 again?”

Her eyes slowly opened and her expression suddenly changed when she said, “I meant my dress size, you CREEP!”

The moral of this story is easy: Even when a man is listening, he is gonna get it wrong!

**Have a good evening!** And come Sunday morning, get it right — attend the church of your choice.

## Question begs: Who did justice serve?

**A** couple of things covered in The Telegram’s editorial pages and some other stories in the news have intrigued me about how we view justice. What is fair and just when crimes are committed? Can we draw any conclusions from how the justice system and public opinion treat three football players, Michael Vick, Dante Stallworth and Plaxico Burris and one privileged man, Ted Kennedy?

Who deserves a second chance? Who gets a pass? Does race have anything to do with it? Family and political connections? Professional football?

During Vick’s trial, comedian and social commentator, Dick Gregory said he knew Vick was in big trouble because people hire nannies, who don’t even speak the same language, to change their baby’s diapers but they follow their dogs around and pick up the messes.

What Vick did was reprehensible. You have to wonder how dark is the heart of a person who inflicts pain on another living creature in the name of entertainment. If you are drawing a parallel to football, you haven’t gotten ahead of me; the thought crossed my mind also.

After Kennedy’s death I heard a pundit on a talk show explain why Kennedy was so admired in the black community. The pundit said Kennedy took up the cause of racial injustice like it was his own. His eloquent remarks had me giving an “Amen”.

Then I got to thinking about it. Ken-

Back Home  
Nancy Hagman



nedly drove a car off a bridge, leaving a young woman to die. He waited hours to report the accident. He never was charged with a crime or stood in a court of law.

The argument for giving Kennedy a pass is it would have been a double tragedy to lose not only the life of Mary Jo Kopeckne but also Kennedy’s career. History will undoubtedly judge him to be a great statesman.

He has certainly been forgiven by the people of Massachusetts and much of the rest of the country and the world. Perhaps by his service he has redeemed himself.

His punishment is the asterisk by his name relating to Kopeckne’s death. And the fact that his political ambitions were forever limited because of it. Is that enough?

What about the football players? Derek Laughlin’s Aug. 28 letter (The Norton Telegram) made an effective case for Vick.

Burris, we have just learned will spend 2 years in prison. His crime? Illegally carrying a concealed weapon and accidentally shooting himself.

Stallworth? He was over the limit for

blood alcohol when he hit and killed a pedestrian who was jaywalking. He was sentenced to 30 days in jail, 1000 hours community service, 2 years house arrest, and 8 years probation. His Florida driver’s license is suspended for life. He is suspended from the NFL for one year and he made an undisclosed financial restitution to the victim’s family.

Sort of boggles the mind. Burris gets more time for shooting himself than Stallworth or Kennedy got for homicides! And Vick; for some he can’t be punished enough.

At least Burris, Stallworth and Vick (all of whom are black) have been judged by the laws of man. In the long run wouldn’t it have been best if Kennedy had put aside the power of his family, his connections and his ambitions and allowed himself to be judged? How can people of color embrace him and believe he suffered with them?

If anyone, let alone a black man, but Kennedy had driven that car off that bridge would they not have been charged with some crime?

Kennedy was a mostly good man, who made a tragic mistake. Was it right to allow him to go on with his life and accomplish all that he did? I’ll say, yeah, okay.

But then I think about justice and who it is supposed to serve. I think of Mary Jo. We found out what Kennedy’s potential was. Hers was lost forever because of his actions.

Who did justice serve?  
(gnepht@yahoo.com)

(785) 877-3361

(785) 877-6908

Fax (785) 877-3732