

There's not much on television anymore



Editor:
What's on TV?

Good question. What is on TV? After viewing hour after hour after hour, I have come to the conclusion that there really isn't very much on TV. We have access to so many different channels, yet they all carry very low quality programs. In fact, you can just about tell what channels are going to be carrying what kind of programs, movies, or talk shows and what kind of content all of these various programs have.

For example you can rely on the Sci-Fy channel, Spike channel, G4 and some others to show movies that are full of violence and/or sex and programs that eulogize or talk about sex. And the sex that they talk about or show in their programs and movies is not a healthy sex but in most cases it is adulterous, fornication or just downright perverted. Also, all of it is pretty much without marriage. If marriage is involved, then one or both partners are going outside the bonds of the marriage to have sex with someone else. And there is plenty of bad language.

It makes no difference whether the hero is fighting others from this planet or aliens from another world, it is pretty much strictly violence, killing and destruction. There is nothing that could be considered in any way helpful in learning decent values.

Of course, there are a few channels that do show movies that do not have the main characters indulging in premarital affairs. The basic story on these movies is usually that of a man and a woman who meet through various circumstances and after a few problems eventually fall in love. It doesn't seem to make much difference whether or not that they're divorced from a previous spouse. These are called "feel-good" movies because they do not have premarital sex or perversions. The man and woman usually indulge in a few kisses near the end of the movie. They are either married at the end, or you get the impression that they will become married before having sex.

No matter what channel you watch, they all show the movies and other programs repeatedly, adding a ho-hum factor to the mix.

Several channels are, presumably, made with children in mind. These channels usually have different kinds of cartoons. Never mind that the artwork is very poor, and the storylines are a bunch of nonsense and don't really have any decent lessons to them. They are apparently considered okay for children to watch.

Then there are the commercials. Oh, the commercials! When TV was still young, the commercials were only a minute long and there were maybe three or four within an hour of programming. They have gradually increased, until you have 5, 6 or more in a commercial break that is 4-5 minutes long at least. They practically step on each other so fast that it's hard to distinguish where one stops and the other one begins.

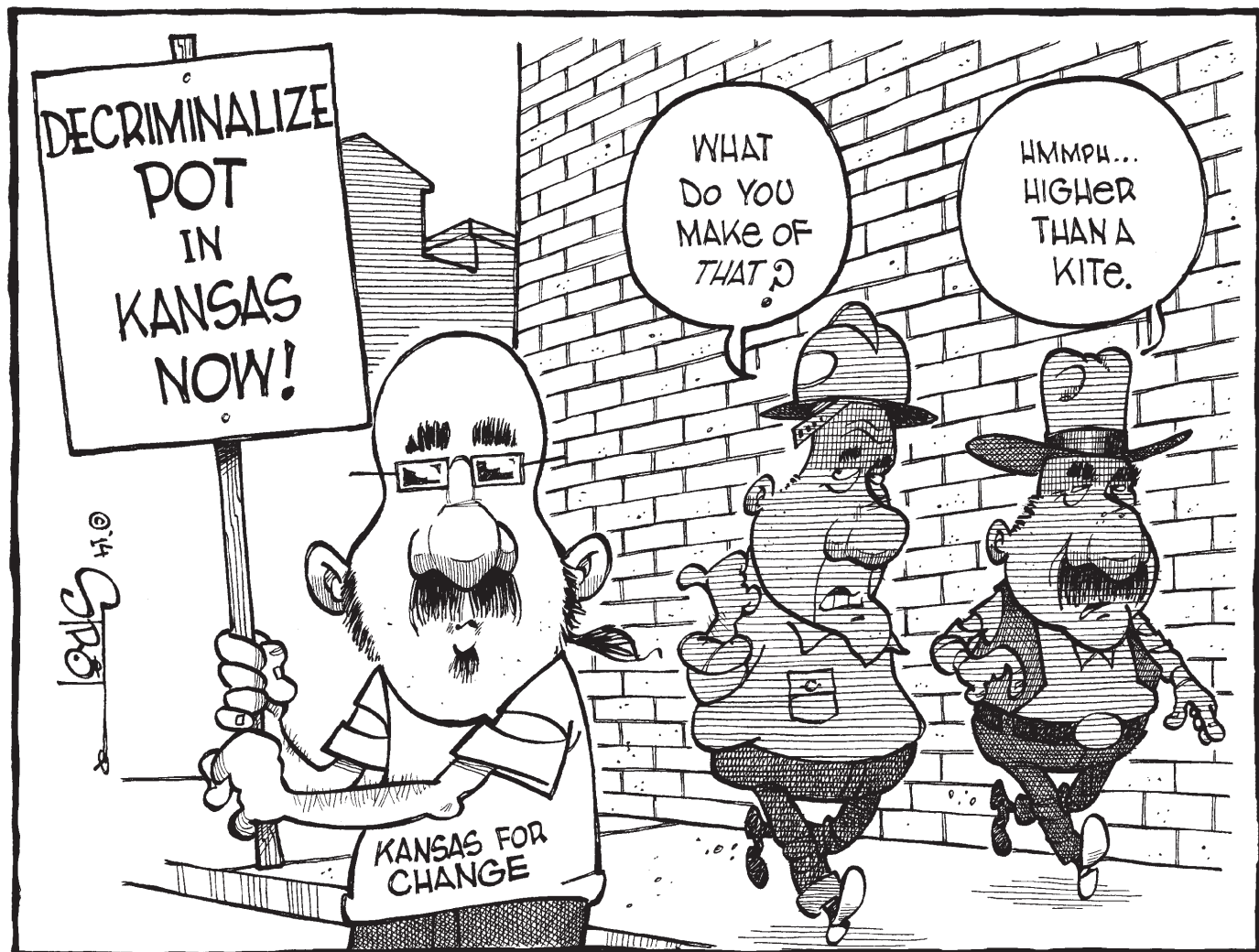
And then there are the repeats. They make one commercial and repeat it to the point that you are glad to have a reason to go get a snack or have something else to do. Even when they do make a new one, it's sillier than the first one.

I find that the worst commercials are those involving prescription drugs. There are drugs out there for every kind of ailment or condition that people might have. What is really scary is when they list the side effects. By the time they get through with all the things that can go wrong while taking the drug, including the possibility of fatality, you can pretty well figure that the so-called cure or help is worse than the condition or disease that it is supposedly treating. Personally, I think I'll take my chances with the disease or other condition without the "help" of these hideous chemical concoctions. By and large, most commercials are disgusting insults to the viewer's intelligence.

Putting it bluntly, there is so little of value on TV, a person is better off not even turning it on and finding something better to spend their time on. What a shame. TV in its infancy showed a great promise of becoming a medium for information, learning and teaching as well as quality entertainment. It could've been a blessing, instead it is basically a curse in which the minds of our children and of adults are being manipulated and exposed to the grossest slop and rawness of the gutters of this world.

So, what's on TV? Not much.

June Prout
Norton



Search for explanations is paramount

Researchers believe we may be "hard wired", genetically, to believe in conspiracy theories. Humans may have evolved to believe in the "malevolent forces" at work in the unknown corners of our lives. Such theories have probably existed since man's desire to explain life's events. A priest I knew used to explain how people came to believe that sacrificing a virgin would quiet the volcano. When the young maiden fell in, the volcano ceased to erupt, and there was the answer. Totally random, but to a frightened populace it soothed shattered nerves. It is not in our nature to accept a lack of control over strange or unexpected happenings. The search for a "plausible" explanation becomes paramount.

Even when presented with hard scientific evidence, some still discount it. For instance, some believe autism is the result of infant vaccinations, although no concrete evidence has emerged. Conspiracy theories exist in

Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



As you can see, there is no shortage of conspiracy theories. It has even been suggested the missing Malaysian jet is the work of President Obama. Distrust of the "big hand", whether on the arm of healthcare, government or political opponent, seems to be rampant in society. It doesn't take much to fuel speculation.

Years ago, Jack taught critical thinking courses. One year he was amused, although that might not be his word of choice, by a student who determined the accuracy of an article by how it paralleled her own beliefs. In today's world of 24/7 news and Internet sources, it can be challenging to find valid and credible resources. Gaining knowledge and employing common sense should help put most conspiracy theories to rest. Sometimes, however common sense is in short supply and when it comes to conspiracy theories, that is definitely the case...or maybe not. mkwoodyard@ruraltel.net

most aspects of our lives; from medicine to business to geological events to relationships, our explanations satisfy our need to cope.

Any unexplained event can be at the core of a conspiracy theory. Probably two of the most famous conspiracy theories involve President John F. Kennedy's assassination and Princess Diana's death. Some still believe that Elvis is alive. President George W. Bush and Cheney were the targets of a conspiracy theory surrounding 9/11. The movie Capricorn One fed those who believed the 1969 Apollo moon landing was a hoax put forth by NASA.

The decision on a fence has been made

A couple of weeks ago the dog woke us from blissful slumber. Not because he barked. We'd never sleep if his barking bothered us. That night he was frantic, and something went bang against the side of the house, right by the back door.

By the time he got there, the hubby saw a coyote in front of the garage 30 feet away. He yelled; it disappeared. He was reassuring the dog. When the coyote reappeared and charged up the steps.

YIKES---the hubby yelled again and the coyote took off.

The next day he placed a gun and ammo by the back door and improved the lighting situation.

A few nights later; another ruckus! The hubby sprinted to the door. He hit the light switch (inadvertently turning on the inside lights and temporarily blinding himself). After getting his bearings he located the coyote; retreating.

Lamont is a farm dog. He does not like to be confined. He will not ride in a vehicle and never attempts to come in a door though he will go in the shop if the big overhead door is open.

In my world, this is an ideal dog. Maybe your dog was bred for living indoors. But are dogs truly happier indoors where they have to learn a whole set of acceptable behaviors? Or outside where they can live naturally?

I ask because after posting our trou-

This Too Shall Pass Nancy Hagman



If you have a fence you can turn kids loose. You can tell older kids, "Don't leave the yard!" and it is very clear what you mean. Mo could toddle around with no worries. 'Cause even though he is just beginning to toddle. In a month or two he will probably be moving faster than granny!

Fences were advantageous back in the day for keeping chickens and other assorted livestock out of the garden.

My mom claimed our fence was a screening tool. The gate was brilliantly engineered to open both ways and close when slammed shut. When the fellows called, if they could not figure out the gate that was all we needed to know!

That fence also protected cats from larger predators.

Our dog could clear it so he pretty much did what he pleased. He loved to ride in a pickup. If you left a window down he would jump in and sit for hours waiting for someone to give him a ride!

Lamont is too small to jump a fence, but coyotes would stay on the other side, right?

That settles it! We are getting a fence! Should I tell the hubby or just let him read about it in the paper?

Well, I've wasted enough time figuring this out. I think I hear a quilt calling my name.

It can't be the weeds, all they say is "Leave us alone!" Music to my ears!

bles on Facebook most of the comments were some version of: "Bring Lamont inside!"

Im not certain we could get Lamont, a fairly undisciplined adult dog, inside. I'm certain it if we did it would be a miserable experience for all.

So the hubby built a "gate" for the porch entrance. Now at 10 p.m. or so he locks the dog onto the porch and unwelcome visitors out. It's a complete pain! Plus if we have to do this every night how are we going to go to Lincoln and see Mo?

This got me to thinking about why we need a fenced yard.

Every farmstead used to have one. It defined the housewife's horticulture responsibility. Without a fence I have no idea where to stop mowing. Or planting or weeding! The whole mess is overwhelming and I hate it. I look outside and think, "NO! Let me quilt!"

Some friends took down their yard fence recently; along with all the plantings intertwined with the wire. I guess they think it will be simpler to mow. But I was envious of that fence!



Thumbs up to all the downtown Norton businesses who decorated their windows. They look fantastic. Called in.

Thumbs up to Lance Griffey. Lance has won the Norton Geography Bee for the second year in a row. He traveled to Abilene both years, as well, and participated in the Kansas Geography Bee as one of the 100 students selected to compete at the state level. Way to go Lance. We are proud of you!

Remember there is no charge for rendering a Thumbs Up. Thumbs Up are meant to give recognition for a positive person or event in the community. Also remember all Letters to the Editor must be signed.

Call Dana for your next ad.
785 - 877 - 3361!

Letters to the Editor and Thumbs Up:
e-mail dpaxton@nwkansas.com
or to write 215 S. Kansas Ave.

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

E-mail:
nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

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

OFFICE HOURS:
8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Mon.-Thur.
8 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Friday
Phone: (785) 877-3361
Fax: (785) 877-3732

STAFF

Dana Paxton..... General Manager
Advertising Director
dpaxton@nwkansas.com
Dick Boyd..... Blue Jay Sports
nortontelegram@nwkansas.com
Michael Stephens..... Reporter
Managing Editor
mstephens@nwkansas.com
Shylo Paxton..... Society Editor
spaxton@nwkansas.com
Vicki Henderson..... Computer Production
Marcia Shelton..... Office Manager

Nor'West Newspapers
Dick and Mary Beth Boyd
Publishers, 1970-2002

Kansas Press
Association

