



Program has policemen drawing blood samples

A federal program has police and prosecutors in Idaho and Texas drawing blood samples in the field for alcohol testing.

Officials say they hope to cut down on the number of drunk-driving cases that go to trial, but the program raises constitutional questions and frankly, it's just a little bit creepy.

In Arizona, the Phoenix Police Department has been taking blood from drivers who refuse a breath test for several years. There, however, blood is taken from drivers who agree to the test after being told the alternative could be to lose their license for a year. For the few who still won't comply, officers can get a search warrant from the on-call judge and take the sample by force if necessary.

Under the pilot program in Idaho, however, officers are authorized to use force without bothering to get a warrant. They can call other officers over to hold a suspect down for the draw. Officials say the procedure meets standards set by the state and U.S. Supreme Courts.

No one's in favor of drunk driving, of course. But the specter of officers pinning drivers to the hood of their cars for forcible blood tests may be a bit much.

Police have used blood tests for people who refuse a breath scan for years. Normally, though, they have to get a warrant and take the driver to a hospital. By the time the blood is drawn, which can be hours later, the suspect's blood-alcohol level may well have gone down.

In Idaho, 20 percent of the drivers stopped

for drunk driving refuse a breath test, which is slightly under the national average. Most of these people hire a lawyer and go to trial, challenging the evidence at every turn. That's their right under the Constitution.

Federal and state officials involved in the pilot project say their aim is to reduce the number of trials by taking blood in the field. Officers have to pass training used by regular phlebotomists, workers trained to draw blood at a hospital or clinic. They learn safety and sanitation procedures and blood-letting techniques.

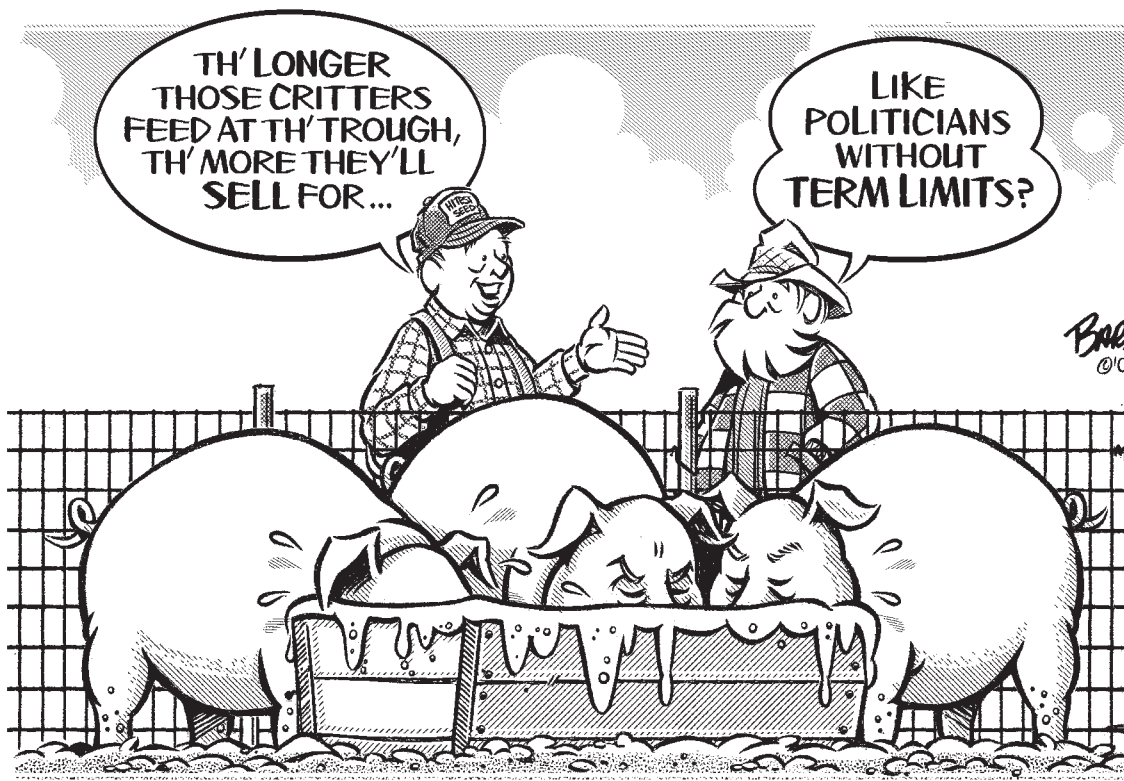
Not everyone is thrilled with the idea of cops taking blood samples on the hoods of patrol cruisers. In Phoenix, for instance, drivers are taken in to a precinct station or to a mobile booking van for the test.

The tests are not perfect. Police have to preserve the chain of evidence so vials don't get mixed up and be careful to properly store blood, which can ferment, increasing the alcohol content, if it gets warm. A medical error could result in illness and a lawsuit, and officers themselves stand some risk from the blood.

Maybe this is a step forward in the drive to eliminate drunk driving. But the very idea of police holding people down and taking blood against their will seems like something out of a science-fiction movie.

Somewhere along the way, Americans may want to ask if the ends do justify the means.

—Steve Haynes



News From the Past

5 years ago - 2004
Cub Scout Pack 120 of St. Francis spent three days and two nights on a Colorado Adventure. They traveled to the Colorado Springs area and saw the Garden of the Gods Park, where they took part in the Junior Ranger Program, receiving a badge. They also visited the North Pole Santa's Workshop, the Cave of the Winds, Sharsmore Discovery Center and the North Cheyenne Canyon Park where they enjoyed hiking to Helen Hunt Falls. Later they traveled along a narrow, winding, mountain dirt road that follows the roadbed of the old Cripple Creek short line railroad.

20 years ago - 1989
For the second consecutive year, the Cheyenne County 4-H Livestock Judging Team walked away with the top honors at the state meet. Team members are Joe Leibbrandt, Greg Hilt, Tye Faulkender and Jeremy Busby. Lyn Wiley is the coach. After delivering mail for 49 years, Spud Lockard has decided to retire. He first started delivering mail in 1939 and at one time or another has delivered mail on all the St. Francis routes.

Hangin' With Marge

By Margaret Bucholtz



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We really do have a caring community. Since my experience the other day I can rest assured that I will be taken care of as I saw an out pour of concern.

Kurt and I went to town as he needed a part and we needed groceries. I told him just to drop me off and I could get started getting the groceries and he could get his part. I knew that getting one part shouldn't take too long and I needed several things.

I started shopping and got my cart full and went up to check out. When the groceries were sacked and paid

for, I looked around for Kurt. He wasn't there. The store was busy and I knew I needed to get out of the way so I just said, "Help me get the bags outside and I will just sit on the bench."

Several people kind of glanced at me as they went by, but before long a lady that knew me said, "Margaret, did you forget where you parked?" She was laughing as she said it, and I just told her "not this time."

Pretty soon a man walked out of the store and as he walked by he said, "Aren't you a little old to be a bag lady?"

We both laughed but still no

Kurt. Another lady came out of the store and she asked if she could drive me home.

Finally Kurt pulled up in front of me and honked the horn, with this smile on his face.

He helped get the bags in the pickup and I looked at him and said, "Did you get your part?" He replied, "no."

I told him it was sad to think I could spend over \$100 dollars, be a bag lady and have no memory before he could pick up a little part.

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



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Memories can be like presents. It's like a little piece of your past, laying wrapped up and waiting for you to find again. Once opened, the image becomes a vivid moment recaptured.

I've been lucky enough to have a few of these lately. The American Football League is celebrating its 50th anniversary. By coincidence, my twin brother and I will also reach that plateau later this year.

The parallel is fun to look at. As the Denver Broncos, Houston Oilers, Dallas Texans, New York Titans, Oakland Raiders, Buffalo

Bills, San Diego Chargers and Boston Patriots were introduced in 1960, so were the McCormick twins.

The new football league was the unwanted step children to the more established NFL. Kelly and I had an older brother and sister.

They wore goofy, out-dated outfits and used antiquated equipment. We wore clam diggers and Chukka boots.

The AFL has had its share of ups and downs, miracle finishes and even the "Heidi Bowl." Kell and I are both working on our second

marriages.

All in all, the league and teams have grown into a monstrous success. More and more fans tune in each week to watch games and its place in the NFL is unquestioned.

My twin and I have done okay too. Although he's kept his franchise in Denver, my squad relocated to Kansas. There's been a lot of memories in those 50 years!

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GOD SAYS
For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be. But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.
Psalms 37:10, 11

Readers urged to support soldiers

To the Editor,

Operation SOS (Supporting Our Soldiers) is an organization whose goal is to provide support to the troops serving the United States overseas. Supporting Our soldiers is not new to our area as we have been very much a part of this very worthwhile project for the past several years. It seems to those of us that are organizing the ingathering that this year it is more important than ever to remember our service personnel overseas. Our president and the people that make decisions concerning our military, especially in Afghanistan, are procrastinating concerning the need for more support, help and personnel in order to make it possible to win. Why?

Letter to the Editor

We will not forget these people and so we will again gather food, hygiene products, Christmas lights, cards and letters made and written by school children and of course cash for postage to send boxes filled with goodies for their holiday cheer.

In the past we have sent as many as 1,000 boxes in time for the holidays and plan to reach that goal again. We need to have this ingathering by Nov. 15, and we feel there is no one in our area that is unable to help in some way for this worthy cause.

Boxes will be placed in our grocery stores for gifts that can

be purchased in our local stores. Encourage your children to participate as a way to thank our service personnel for the great job they are doing to keep them living in the "land of the free and the home of the brave" and assure them that they are appreciated.

In Bird City, Hulda Dorsch is in charge as president of the American Legion Auxiliary and, in St. Francis, Christy Wurm, as a 4-H leader, will be in charge. Feel free to contact us if you have questions. Lists will be posted throughout our towns.

Hulda Dorsch
Bird City

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