

## Controversy on agents rights to inspect travelers contents

A growing controversy centers on government agents asserting a right to inspect the contents of computers, cellular phones, music players and other electronic devices people – even Americans – bring into the country.

The Department of Homeland Security claims Customs and Border Protection agents can open and inspect anything that comes into the country, whether it's a box of pickles or a computer.

While the agency says it doesn't employ racial profiling, one American born in Pakistan claims his computer has been searched five times now. Most people are never stopped or questioned.

Customs officials says they don't need probable cause or a warrant to inspect travelers' computers. Few citizens are searched, however.

It's as if Americans check their constitutional rights when they leave the country. Police would need a warrant to search a computer in your home or even in your car, but Customs claims it's not the same at the border.

"You forgo your right to privacy when you are seeking admission into the country," said Russ Knocke, a spokesman for the department. "This is the kind of scrutiny the American public expects."

CNN quotes Knocke as saying Customs agents could inspect documents in a briefcase as well.

But privacy advocates see things differently.

Two groups, the Electronic Frontier Foundation and the Asian Law Caucus, filed a suit in federal district court in San Francisco demanding to see how Customs agents determine whose computers to search. It accuses the agency of conducting "lengthy questioning and intrusive searches." The groups claim some devices have been seized and never returned.

"Plaintiffs seek agency records in order to de-

termine what policies and procedures exist governing ... questioning and searches of individuals at the nation's ports of entry," the suit says. People don't expect their computers and phones to be open to inspection, though.

"Your laptop computer may contain your financial records, your e-mail with your friends and your family and your co-workers, records of the Web sites you visit, confidential business information," said Marcia Hoffman, an attorney for the foundation. "Our position is there should be some suspicion of wrongdoing before the government can search your sensitive personal information at the border."

Border Protection agents, with a glance and a question, have a way of making people returning home to America feel like criminals. They're trained to look for signs of illegal activity and guilty behavior. They ask questions and look for a reaction.

In recent years, customs agents have been and questioned fewer and fewer people, apparently relying on profiling to pick their targets rather than chance. Legal, nonracial profiling.

Americans of foreign descent and visitors complain the searches and questioning agents do conduct can be unreasonable.

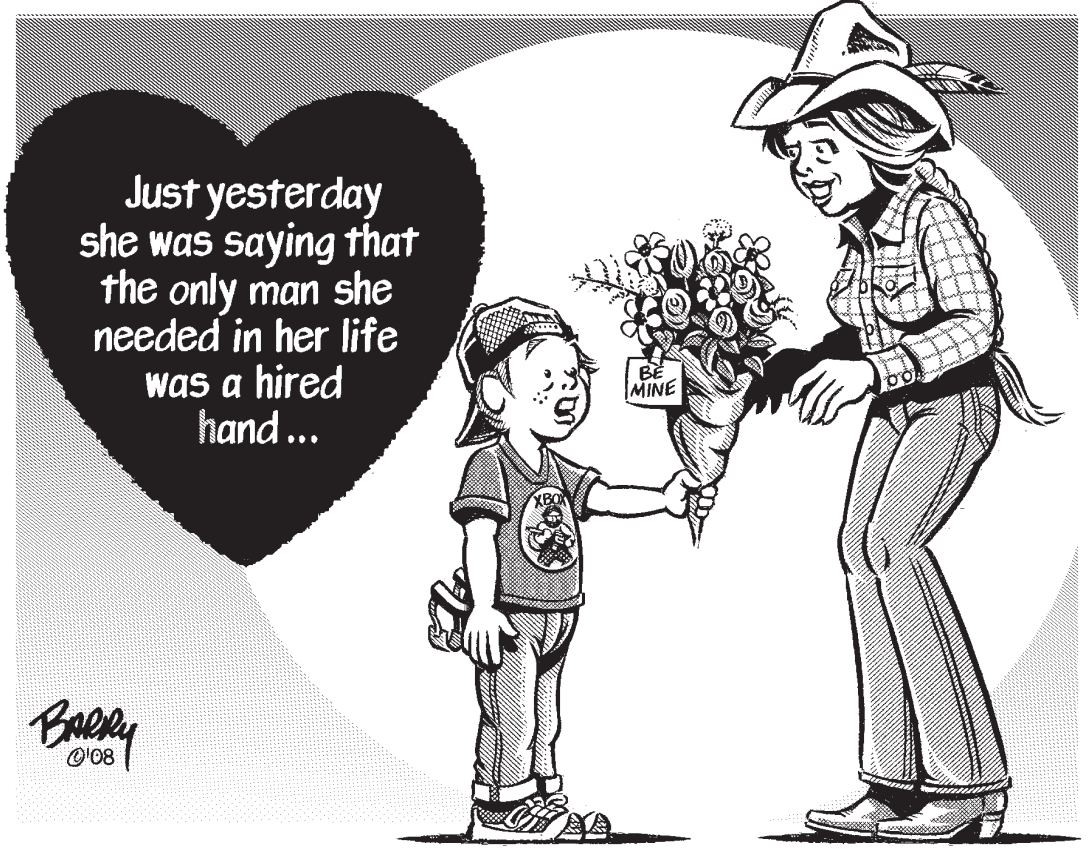
As a nation, we need to ask ourselves whether we want to welcome visitors or drive them away.

Should Americans, regardless of where they were born, be subject to this kind of search?

Do we really check our rights at the border when we go out of the country, or does the constitution cover us even during a Customs inspection?

What it all comes down to is, what kind of a country do we want to be? Free and open, or a police state?

We're rapidly moving from one to another in the name of Homeland Security. — Steve Haynes



## Casey's Comment

By Casey McCormick



Over the last couple of years I've received e-mails with pictures of the bill board for a restaurant called Casa D'Ice. The bill board doesn't tell you what the soup de jour is or what the happy hour specials are. Instead, the owner uses the board to give out a piece of his mind.

Casa D'Ice is located in North Versailles, just outside of Pittsburgh, Pa. The owner, an Italian-American named Bill Balsamico, opened the restaurant after 23 years in the ice business.

Mr. Balsamico's family moved from Italy to the United States in the early 20th century. Like most immigrants of that time, they adopted the English language and

adapted to the "New World." After the attacks of 9-11, Mr. Balsamico found himself watching news broadcasts on television after closing up his business at night. He had something to say about the state of affairs that this country was in, so he started using the bill board for his opinions.

These are a few of his messages:

"This is America, Why must we press 'I' to proceed in English?" "Two presidential candidates each will blow over \$125 million for a job that pays \$400,000 yearly. Must have a great dental plan." "Political Correctness will result in the loss of our ancestry-culture-heritage and eventually our country. Wake up America!"

The signs got my curiosity up so I gave him a call.

"I take from context whatever someone does that irritates me," Mr. Balsamico said.

I feel like Mr. Balsamico and I have something in common. He uses his bill board and I write a weekly opinion. Agree or disagree, at least people are reading what we have to say. Hopefully, they get a little bit of something to think about.

When I get close to Pittsburgh in the future I plan on visiting Casa D'Ice for the linguini in clam sauce. You can visit it too and check out the bill board at [www.casadice.com](http://www.casadice.com).

## Writer encourages ethanol use

Dear editor, What can one person-you, for instance- do to reduce pollution, decrease America's dependency on foreign oil and stimulate our economy?

Use ethanol. Buy vehicles that run on ethanol. And ask your gasoline distributor to stock and clearly label gasoline pumps that feature ethanol.

Ethanol is a clean-burning, renewable fuel. Ten percent, ethanol-enriched fuel reduces carbon monoxide better than any other gasoline by as much as 30 percent. The use of 10-percent ethanol-enriched fuel reduces greenhouse gas emissions by 12-19 percent compared with conventional gasoline, according to Argonne National Laboratory. E85 is the cleanest burning fuel available on the market today.

Today, nearly all auto manufacturers approve, and even recommend, fuel enriched with up to 10-percent ethanol for all cars. Most vehicles produced since 1982 can operate on gasoline/ethanol blends up to 10 percent ethanol.

If you're unsure whether your older car is suited for ethanol, check the owner's manual or ask a reputable mechanic. By looking at your vehicle's fuel cap, you can tell if it's a flex-fuel vehicle - meaning it can run on regular gasoline, 10-percent ethanol-enriched fuel or E85.

Fuel enriched with 10-percent ethanol is also manufacturer-approved for use in small engines, including power equipment, motorcycles, snowmobiles and outboard motors.

Ethanol is the highest-performance fuel on the market, with

## Letter to the Editor

an octane rating of 113 in its pure form. Ethanol-enriched fuel contains more oxygen - so it burns cleaner. Fuel enriched with 10-percent ethanol burns cleaner, helping to remove gummy deposits in the fuel system so engines can run with optimal performance.

Ethanol is American made. Ethanol is made from crops, primarily corn and milo, grown in this community and across our country. Today there are more than 110 ethanol plants across the country. Ethanol replaces gasoline that would require the use of 600,000 barrels of oil a day. Last year, the United States produced over 4.8 billion gallons of ethanol.

The U.S. ethanol industry supported the creation of more than 160,000 jobs in all sectors of the economy in 2005, boosting household income by \$6.7 billion.

Two years ago, farm organizations like Kansas Farm Bureau and our state's corn and milo commodity organizations supported removal of the Ethanol label in Kansas. The thinking being that some consum-

ers saw the label as a "warning" when nearly all vehicle manufacturers today warranty that ethanol is acceptable in their engines.

This change in this state's ethanol labeling had as much to do with fuel retailers having to segregate fuel because of the label requirement meaning extra storage tanks (often cost prohibitive) if they wanted to sell ethanol. Also, all retailers may label ethanol as a promotional tool if they so choose, but are no longer required.

What fuel you put in your car is an individual decision and it should be. It just makes sense in an agricultural state like Kansas to help stimulate our local economies, reduce our dependence on foreign oil and reduce pollution in our environment.

You can have a voice. You can make an impact. You can vote with your dollars. You can do your part to promote the increasing use of renewable fuels.

Buy ethanol today. Cheyenne County Farm Bureau Clayton Janick, President

## Hangin' With Marge

By Margaret Bucholtz



As most of you know I used to be a hairdresser. When I first got out of beauty school I moved back home and immediately went to work for Polly Hartley.

One of my patrons was a lady that lived at the Royston Rest Home out by Wheeler. She was a very nice person, but just one that couldn't take care of herself.

I always enjoyed visiting with her and listening to the stories of

### Sick Lady

her life. One day she arrived and I started to give her a shampoo, when she just jumped out of the chair and went running for the bathroom.

Now I am not one that could have ever been a nurse because I just can't stand to even hear the sound of someone throwing up. As I stood there and could hear the sounds of her gagging, I kept telling myself, "You are a big girl now and you must not get sick!"

I just about had myself convinced that I could do it when she rounded the corner with her false teeth in her hands.

When I took the first look at them I swallowed hard, but when she said, "I just urped my teeth into the toilet!" as she popped them back into her mouth.

I lost it! I knew I had never heard water running to have rinsed them off.

## News From the Past

### 5 years ago - 2003

Paul Rainbolt, administrator at the Good Samaritan Village, has received final approval for the construction of a new fourplex on the Village campus.

Class officers at the high school include (in order of

president, vice president and secretary/treasurer) seniors: Brooke Kibel, Dennon Zimelman, Kari Gienger; juniors: Toni Rice, Allyse Lampe, Lori Beth Faulkner; sophomores: Cody Barnhart, Chelsey Weeden, Amy Grace;

freshmen: Sam Marin, Maddie Knodel, Erin Neitzel.

City councilman Roger Jensen reported on the cement work being done at the recycling center at the latest city council meeting.

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332-2380, Pars. 332-3424  
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Morning Worship 10 a.m.  
Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.

**United Methodist**  
Church Office 332-2292,  
Church 332-2254,  
512 S. Scott  
Pastor Morita Truman  
Early Bird Service 8:30 a.m.  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship 10:30 a.m.

**Seventh-Day**  
Adventist Church  
332-2888 • 3rd & Adams  
Pastor Mike Larson  
Sabbath School 9:30  
Morning Worship 10:45

**St. Francis of Assisi**  
**Catholic Church**  
625 S. River • 332-2680  
Fr. Roger Meitl  
Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m.  
Weekday Mass 8 a.m.  
Confessions Sat. 4-4:30

**Salem Lutheran Church**  
332-3002  
Pastor Chris Farmer  
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.  
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.

**Solid Rock**  
**Baptist Church**  
412 S. Denison  
Welcomes You!  
Pastor Allen Coon  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship 10:30  
Prayer Meeting, Wed  
7:30 p.m.

**First Christian Church**  
Pastor Jeff Landers  
332-2956 • 118 E. Webster  
Bible Fellowship 9:20 a.m.  
Church Service 10:30 a.m.

**First Baptist Church**  
2nd & Scott • 332-3921  
J.W. Glidewell, Pastor  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday Evening  
Service 6:30 p.m.,  
Wed. AWANA Club  
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.  
**St. Francis**  
**Community Church**  
332-3150  
204 N. Quincy Street  
[www.sfccfamily.com](http://www.sfccfamily.com)  
Pastor: David Butler  
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.  
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.  
Potluck & Communion -  
Every 2nd Sunday  
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

**Peace Lutheran Church,**  
**AFLC**  
202 N. College  
Pastor Ken Hart  
332-2928 Pars. 332-2312  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday eve  
Bible Study 7 p.m.

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