

Commercial ad cute but not controversial

After watching the Super Bowl commercials, you have to wonder what all the shouting and complaining was about.

The Focus on the Family ad with quarterback Tim Tebow and his mom was, well, cute, but not exactly controversial.

Women's groups had demanded that CBS not run this ad, apparently fearing that the conservative Christian group, based in Colorado Springs, planned to spring some sort of hidden anti-abortion agenda.

The network, to its credit, stood by its decision. The opponents were way off base, as it turned out. Pam Tebow, who reportedly had a difficult pregnancy with her now-famous son and at one point was advised to consider an abortion, didn't lay any heavy message in the ad.

If you know her story, then you know the choice she made and you know how she feels about it today. It was an effective ad from a lot of perspectives, but it played to choice — something the other side in the abortion debate always claims to back.

Abortion is all about choices, really, and not laws. Women make choices whether the law allows abortion or not — and in the Tebow case, an abortion likely would have been legal under any set of laws. If one side promotes giving women a choice and the other counsels them not to have an abortion, isn't that what a free society is all about?

The really scary thing here is the pressure mounted to get CBS to drop the ad. This was a legitimate, though soft sell, expression of a

viewpoint. It's true that networks often have shied away from anything vaguely resembling controversy in prime-time ads, but there's no law or ethical rule that requires it.

Networks, the press in general, deal with controversial topics in news programs, even in entertainment, all the time. They accept political ads. They accept ads from big corporations that many might abhor. All of this is free speech, protected by the First Amendment.

So where do the liberal women's groups get off calling for CBS to can this or any other ad they might not agree with?

The same could be asked of right-wing groups which demand that networks drop this or that show or ad because it "promotes" something they don't like.

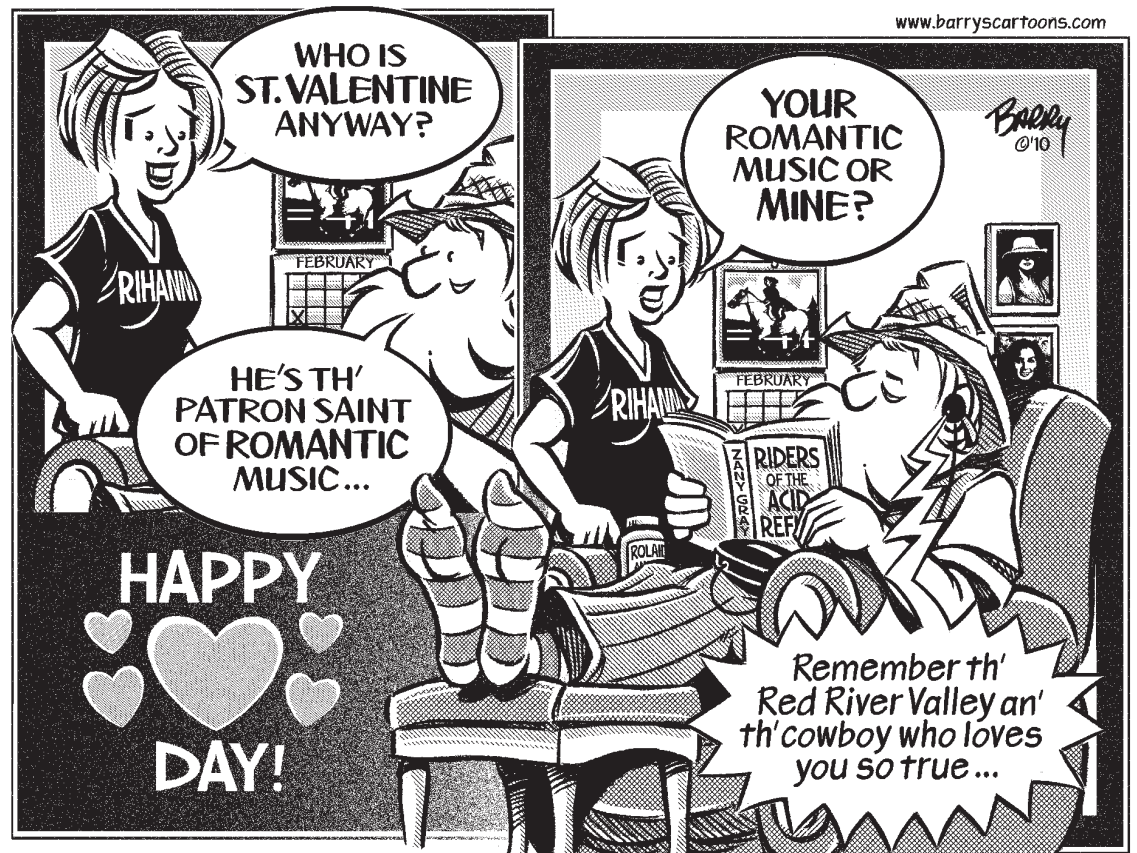
It's all political pressure designed to suppress an opposing view, and it should not be allowed in a democracy. Our focus always should be on allowing, even promoting, opposing views. No side has such a corner on right that it can be allowed to suppress all other viewpoints.

If we truly believe in freedom, then we need to defend freedom of expression, even when we don't like the ideas. That's what the First is all about.

It applies to Focus on the Family the same as it does to choice advocates. Church and family groups have as much right to promote their viewpoint as anyone else.

And any threat to that right is a threat to us all, no matter which "side" we are on.

— Steve Haynes



CheyCoDeveloping

By Chuck Kribs

Once again, it has been a busy, and we hope, productive period of time for Diane and me. We attended the town meeting last night at the high school and learned more about the expected effect of the state's budget shortfall upon our schools and other services. We urge everyone to attend the meeting in Bird City, to make our concerns known to our elected officials.

We have been working in conjunction with the Small Business

Development folks at Fort Hays State University to assist several new small businesses in getting started in St. Francis. We spent time at the ISE in Denver promoting Cheyenne County to people. Lots of good contacts were made. Several projects are underway which may result in increased business for existing local business. A call has been put out for volunteers to assist in meeting the guidelines of the housing renovation grant in Bird City. To learn more, stop in

and see us. Our thanks to everyone who has helped us out in the past year — The Cheyenne County Commissioners, city councils in Bird City and St. Francis, and the economic development team in St. Francis, to name a few. We will continue to work hard for Cheyenne County in this coming year.

See you at the meeting in Bird City on Saturday.

Thanks, Chuck and Diane Kribs

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



scmcormick@nwkansascorp.com Millions of folks around the world tuned into the Super Bowl on Sunday. In the U.S., the Nielsen Company estimated that over 106 million people watched the game. That surpasses the record set in 1983 of 105.97 million who saw the final episode of M*A*S*H*.

As for the outcome, I saw it as a good thing. It's easy to picture many jubilant fans, not only in New Orleans, but throughout the South. The party should last awhile. And it is hard not to appreciate the transformation from "Aints" to "Saints."

Hope to see everyone at the Town-hall meeting next Saturday at 8 a.m. in Bird City.

Lines from the Library

By Pat Leibbrandt

The library has the following new books: *U Is For Undertow* by Sue Grafton; *Ford Country* by John Grisham; *Trial By Fire* by J.A. Jance; *Three Times Blessed* by Lori Copeland; *Twice Loved* by Lori Copeland; *Vanishing Acts* by Fern Michaels; *Pirate Latitudes* by Michael Crichton; *House Of Reckoning* by John Saul; *Once In A Blue Moon* by Eileen Goudge; *Blood Game* by Iris Johansen; *Breathless* by Dean Kootz; *Smash Cut* by Sandra Brown; *Southern Lights* by Danielle Steel; *True Blue* by David Baldacci; *The Scarpetta Factor* by Patricia Cornwell; *Alex Cross's Trial* by James Patterson; *The Twilight Saga Series* by Stephanie Meyer; *Under The Dome* by Stephen King;

Creating Web Pages For Dummies by Bud Smith; *How to Build A Kit Bike* by Timothy Remus; *The Parachute Manual* by Dan Poynter; *How To Build A Chopper* by Timothy Remus.

The following new books have arrived in the children's department: *Sprinkles' First Haircut* by JC Schwanda; *Safety First* by Marcy Kelman; *Oscar's House Of Smoothies* by Marcy Kelman; *Ariel's Beginning* by Kristen Depken; *A Visit To The Firehouse* by Lauryn Silverhardt; *Tools At The Pool* by Marcy Kenman; *Transformers Animated: Robot Roll* by Jennifer Frantz; *Motorcycle Adventure* by Susan Amerikaner; *Barbie And The*

Diamond Castle by Mary Man-Kong; *Going To The Sea Park* by Mercer Mayer; *How Does It Grow* by Catherine Nichols; *Surf's Up, SpongeBob* by David Lewman; *When Robots Attack* by Ray Santos; *Billy Bully* by Alvaro Galan; *Biscuit Takes a Walk* by Alyssa Capucilli; *Fancy Nancy: Pajama Day* by Jane O'Conner; *The Berenstain Bears' Class Trip* by Jan Berenstain; *Diego's Wolf Pup Rescue* by Christine Ricci; *What's That Mittens* by Lola Schaefer; *Fancy Nancy: The Snow Must Go On* by Jane O'Conner; *The Berenstain Bears' Family Reunion* by Stan Berenstain; *A Humpback Whale Tale* by Justin Spelvin; *Dooby Dooby Moo* by Doreen Cronin.

Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Delbert Powell, Bird City; Kacey Harper, Benkelman, Neb.; Aimee Northrup, St. Francis; Todd Schoenrogge, St. Francis; Mary Anderson, Bird City; Clay Zimbelman, St. Francis; L. Jean Miller, St. Francis;

GOD SAYS
Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go: lest thou learn his ways, and get a snare to thy soul.
Proverbs 22:24, 25

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Be careful what you wish for

Letter to the Editor:

First let me applaud School District 297 and all of those who make it a first rate educational facility. I often brag upon our schools and say; "most places on the planet you would have to pay real money to give your children an equivalent educational experience".

While I have children in school, I would like them to get the best possible education. As I age, I would like to have access to the best possible health care. I believe most people think the same way. The real question is: How are those things going to be paid for?

Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Virginia Sawhill Gallo-way, Denver; James Cram, Lakewood, Colo.; Woodline Farms, Ludell, Frontier Age, Bird City; Robert Bell, McDonald; Arrie Cox, St. Francis; Sharon Kamla, Nevada, Mo.; Amanda L'Heureux, St. Francis; Brad Richard, St. Francis; Les Lacy, St. Francis; Bill Keller, Pratt; Roger Douthit, St. Francis; Western Sprinklers, Colby; Stan Wahrman, St. Francis; Steve Workman, St. Francis;

Letter to the Editor

I attended the forum at the High School Auditorium last night in order to learn about the impact of state funding cuts. Let me assure you that I would make every argument possible to help our community get our fair share of state funding if we were somehow being shorted. Unfortunately, the truth is; we are not being unfairly shorted and it seems our community leaders are asking us to go to our legislature and ask them not to cut funding and to raise taxes if necessary. I actually heard the word "redistribute."

Do we really want our central Governments to become stronger and watch our great nation slide further and further into the abyss of socialism? Is that the legacy we want to leave our children? If we in northwestern Kansas are not going to stand up; applaud, encourage, and demand fiscal responsibility from our State Legislature then who in God's name will? Does it really seem fair to ask those in eastern Kansas with overcrowded classrooms and an inferior educational system to disproportionately fund our excellent system? The painful answer

is NO! Most people here talk about their proud conservative values in one form or another. Here is a chance to "walk the talk". We can proudly stand up and support our local institutions with local taxes (perhaps those we were recently contemplating for a new gymnasium) and common sense solutions. Or, we can go beg our legislature to collect more taxes and send us a welfare check from Eastern Kansas. I'll admit the latter would be the cheaper and easier solution in the short term. It shouldn't be hard to ask a politician to take and control more money. If more and bigger government is really what we believe in then we should freely run to our legislators at the first sign of adversity and tell them that we can't or don't want to take care of ourselves, our family, or our community and would like the central government to assume more of that responsibility for us. Just be honest with yourselves and your children about what you are really asking for.

Craig Schoenrogge
St. Francis

Church of Christ 332-2380, Pars. 332-3424 502 W. Spencer Norman Morrow - Minister Bible Class 11 a.m. Morning Worship 10 a.m. Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.	St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church 625 S. River • 332-2680 Fr. Roger Meitl Sunday Mass 11:00 a.m. Weekday Mass 8 a.m. Confessions Sat. 4-4:30	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.
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.	Salem Lutheran Church 332-3002 Pastor Chris Farmer Sunday School 10 a.m. Morning Worship 11 a.m. Communion 3rd Sunday	St. Francis Community Church 332-3150 204 N. Quincy Street 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.
Seventh-Day Adventist Church 785-890-5718 • 3rd & Adams Pastor Jerry Nowack Sabbath School 9:30 Morning Worship 10:45	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.	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. Communion 1st Sunday of the month
First Christian Church Pastor Jeff Landers 332-2956 • 118 E. Webster Bible Fellowship 9:15 a.m. Church Service 10:15 a.m.	St. Francis Equity	St. Francis Herald