

# commentary

from our viewpoint...

## Adding slot machines won't save race tracks

A coalition of gambling interests and spenders is, once again, pushing a slot machine bill in the Kansas Legislature.

The bill, which has come up every year in recent memory, supposedly is necessary to save the race track industry in Kansas. Why the track owners think they will make a mint on slots when their tracks are in trouble is beyond us, but they want slots bad.

The once profitable tracks have been in trouble ever since the so-called "riverboat" casinos opened across the state line in Missouri. While the boats seldom, if ever, venture out into the river, the casinos have become big business in Kansas City.

And the dog and horse tracks in Kansas have been complaining ever since.

Opponents — include us in that crowd — don't think the state needs more gambling. We already have the tracks and Indian casinos, plus the state-run numbers racket.

The pro-slot faction is an odd bunch, led by legislators from counties with tracks, of course, but backed by assorted Democrats and Gov. Bill Graves, who sees the potential \$50 million rakeoff for the state as a bonus in tight budget times.

When the tracks came in, they promoted the sport aspect of racing.. The fact that casinos are killing them gives the lie to that argument. They are gambling establishments, pure and simple.

Hardly anyone talks about the social damage done by gambling when they are promoting economic development or income for a cash-starved state, but it's a real problem, growing worse with the proliferation of gambling.

There is no talk of any part of the state's "winnings" going to gambling-abuse programs, though you'd think that would be the least the state could do.

Better yet, just say no. Kansas already depends enough on sin — whether it's tobacco and alcohol taxes, gambling or its numbers game — that we don't really need any more of that kind of money.

Gambling may be OK for those who can afford expensive recreation, but it's tough on addicts. State-sanctioned gambling like the Lottery or slots is little more than a tax on those who can least afford it.

It's not the way we should set our priorities, even if the state does need the money. And we're not too sure about that, either. — *Steve Haynes*

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## I have done a little remodeling on myself

I saw you looking at me, wondering what happened, too embarrassed to ask but curious nevertheless.

No, I wasn't in an accident. I didn't wreck the car, fall down the stairs or run into a door. I did not run into any part of my husband.

I may look like a battered wife, but nope again. I had to *pay* to look like this.

I've been remodeled, had plastic surgery, got a face lift.

A doctor spent several hours remodeling my eyes, chin and neck while I was under general anesthetic.

All my life, I've said that I wasn't planning on going gracefully into wrinkles and sags. I always said I would do something about it.

So I started saving my money, and the day after my 53rd birthday, I went to Denver and told the doctor to take a few years off my face.

The immediate result was two black eyes and two swollen cheeks. I had stitches in my chin, eyelids, hairline and behind my ears. After a couple of days, the swelling spread to my neck, with the bruising forming a lovely V from my neck to my



**cynthia haynes**

• open season



Cynthia

age have already been checking out the results, which even with bruises and swelling are quite dramatic.

To answer the questions:

• No, it wasn't terribly painful. There is discomfort. It isn't a pain-free process but it is more like

cleavage.

It's been two weeks now and both the swelling and bruising are fading, although it will take a couple of months for everything to go away. In the meanwhile, I'm wearing dark glasses and dickeys to cover up the bulk of the mess. Nothing short of a paper bag over my head will hide everything.

So as people see me, they wonder, and a few friends asked what happened. Several women of my

## All students should be treated equally

Dear Editor:

I just got done listening to Richard Liess on the radio. It was his Monday morning program. He's the athletic director for the Goodland High School. He was so proud of our girls' basketball team for going to state.

He received so many compliments on how the girls conducted themselves on and off the court. He also felt the girls were emotionally and physically drained. Part of this was due to the fact they had played three games and he even mentioned they had just had a long road trip to Salina.

You want to talk about a road trip Mr. Liess; I have one for you. This one involves the high school band, the band instructors and last but not most important a bus driver.

These people were bused back and forth to every game. From Thursday at 2 p.m. until Saturday at 5 p.m. Fifty-one hours they were on or waiting for a bus due to a breakdown for 32 hours.

They traveled over 1,400 miles. They could have been in Washington, D.C., or Disneyland in California.

Mr. Liess when you started your broadcast on Saturday morning from Salina at 10:45 a.m. you laughed and apologized for not having things all together because it was so early in the morning to be announcing a basketball game. Did you ride four hours home on the bus after the game on Friday



from our readers

• to the editor

night, getting into Goodland around midnight and then have to get up and leave Goodland at 6:45 a.m., ride four hours on the bus back to Salina before the broadcast? No, I know a high school band, band instructor and the same bus driver that did.

It was the same group that left at 2 p.m. on Thursday, had a breakdown 30 miles west of Salina and had to wait until a Salina bus could come and get them and take them to the game. This same group then had to wait until 11 p.m. for the other bus from Goodland to get there, putting them into Goodland at 3:30 a.m., and that is not home and in their beds where you, the team and the cheerleaders had been for hours.

Dan Mangus called you on Thursday morning and wanted to know why the band could not stay, even one night as the cheerleaders were staying every night? One of the many excuses you gave was there were no rooms in Salina, they were all taken up by the other schools. This mother called at noon Friday and there were 23 rooms at the Best Western and 20 rooms at the Ramada Inn where the

team, cheerleaders and you were staying.

I called a school board member and he had no idea the band had not been able to stay and felt everyone should be treated equal. When I explained the way the group was loaded, unloaded, loaded, unloaded, etc. he said it sounded like the way people treat cattle. When I asked him who had the final decision on the band staying he said it was you and Superintendent Marvin Selby.

The cost which the school district bus barn uses for each mile (not including the driver's salary) is 69 cent and was based on figures from last year, which does not account for the increase of 30-40 cents per gallon for diesel. I don't think \$1.25 would touch the cost this year. So 1,400 miles would cost \$1,750.

I hope the reason wasn't the money, if so where are you getting the \$80,000 plus dollar to help the city with the tennis courts. Over \$17,000 has already been spent on the new athletic programs for this school year, and not to mention the \$1.2 million on the Max Jones Fieldhouse.

I sure hope there isn't a problem raising the money for the science department at the high school. This is the only thing that will help every student at Goodland High School.

What we hear on the radio is not always the whole picture. We need to hear the rest of the story.

Charlene Mangus  
 Kanorado

### berry's world

