

# Fakes can test bounds of good taste, be pet peeves

I'm frequently not a fan of fake, especially when it stretches the bounds of taste. I'm not the only one.

Several years ago, I learned that a friend's pet peeve was plastic, pink flamingos. I can understand how someone can find them tacky, especially if they are faded, but I think they are a matter of taste.

But then, with most things, good or bad is a matter of opinion. One that has often irked me is fake flowers, though I have to admit I've learned to like silk arrangements now that I know what the real thing can do for allergies.

But I draw the line at plastic flowers, especially when they are "planted" outside. I've seen plastic flowers in boxes along porches and along the sides of houses, and while I applaud the solution for those who can't garden, I think this is a stretch.



**sharon corcoran**  
• just for fun

Everyone knows they are fake. No one's falling for this. And not everyone who snickers when they look is laughing with you; they are laughing at you. I especially find it disturbing when the plastic flowers are left out until they are so faded people wonder which is older, the flowers or the person who insists on keeping them.

I understand it takes a lot of work to garden, and not everyone has a green thumb, myself included, but could I suggest a rock garden?

Another fake that especially bothers me is food. Yes, food. For

example, my grandmother (dad's mom) used to make the worst peanut butter sandwiches in the world. Having cooked since I was so little I had to stand on a chair to reach the stove, I could not understand how it's possible to botch peanut butter sandwiches. Then my mom explained that grandma used imitation peanut butter. Imitation? Why? Is the real thing too expensive? Is imitation less fattening? More healthy? I doubt it. This one makes no sense at all, unless you're allergic to peanuts, but then I might suggest not eating peanut butter, real or otherwise.

Another thing that bothers me is imitation cheese slices. The package refers to them as "cheese food."

If the package has to tell you it's food, that can't be good.

Why eat fake cheese? It seems to me the thing lacking is the dairy, the calcium, the vitamins that should be the real reason to eat it. I like cheese, but I want the real thing. If I'm going to eat a heap of preservatives and get no nutrition, I may as well have some Oreos.

But I don't hate all fakes, and maybe my fakes bug someone else as much as theirs bother me. For example, I firmly believe it's not possible to have too much faux fur.

I have sweaters trimmed with faux fur, a couple of faux fur coats and several hats made of faux fur. I don't expect anyone to think it's real; that's not the point.

I just like the way it looks, usually. I've seen faux fur I hated, but most of the time, it's my thing exactly. Anything frilly, girly and just plain

fun in the fashion world is for me.

I would wear velvet, satin, bead trim, faux fur, sequins and other fancy fabrics every day if I could. But sometimes I need something to work in, something not fun, just basic.

I also like cubic zirconia, the fake diamond of choice. I would love to have the real thing, of course, but they don't pay me that well here. Plus, I'd have to pay for much better insurance than I have now.

But CZ is a nice choice. You can get them as big as you want and in whatever color you like without spending a lot of money. Anything that glitters is good in my book, the bigger the better, and the more color the better. Again, real is not the look I'm going for.

I wonder if some people have that philosophy with plastic surgery. I can understand a little nip or tuck;

it's tough not being perfect. But some people have so much surgery, they can't possibly believe anyone thinks they're real.

For example, Pamela Anderson Lee looks like a life-sized Barbie doll, only sleazy. Barbies look fine as small toys, but a life-sized one? That's just weird.

And Michael Jackson. He's a freak in my book. I don't know whether he's actually a child molester or not, but he's definitely not right in the head. He can't be. No one in his right mind would live his lifestyle on purpose.

But then, it's all a matter of taste, and everyone sees things differently. Maybe when I'm wearing my faux fur sweater with a velvet skirt and giant CZ rings, there's someone out there thinking I may be a couple of bricks shy of a full load.

Not that that would stop me.

## Watching TV cuts attention spans

A recent research study at Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center in Seattle reported that every hour preschoolers watch television each day increases their chances by about 10 percent of developing attention deficit problems later in life.

Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), a common children's mental impairment, becomes more apparent when children enter a school setting where paying close attention and completing assignments is a necessity.

Young children with attention deficit problems may exhibit difficulty concentrating, act restless and impulsive and be easily confused.

The Seattle researchers explained that their findings are similar to previous research which had indicated that watching too much television can shorten a child's attention span.

The Seattle study suggested that television might over stimulate and permanently "rewire" the developing brain, and it includes a recommendation that children under age 2 not watch television.



**high plains mental health**  
• plain sense

The researchers explained that it isn't necessarily the content of the shows that preschool children watch that is the issue.

Rather, it is the unrealistically fast-paced visual images typical of most television programming that might alter normal brain development.

Parents have been advised for a long time about the importance of monitoring the time their children spend watching television, which takes away from important activities, such as school work, playing outdoors, exercise and interactions with family and friends.

In addition, children are influenced by the large number of commercials, many of which are for alcohol, fast foods and toys.

Young children are also highly

To encourage healthy child development, it is suggested that parents monitor the content of programs, place limits on their child's television viewing, choose age appropriate shows and turn off the television during family meals and study time.

Contributed by Karen Beery, manager, Consultation and Education Department. The views expressed here are those of the individual writer and should not be considered a replacement for seeking professional help.

Mail questions to High Plains Mental Health Center, Plain Sense, Consultation and Education Department, 208 E. Seventh, Hays, Kan. 67601.

Internet site: [www.highplains-mentalhealth.com](http://www.highplains-mentalhealth.com).

impressable about the content of television shows, including violence, sexuality, race and gender stereotypes and substance abuse.

## matters of record

### Marriage License

The following marriage license has been issued by the Sherman County District Court:

Michael Wayne Franklin and Jennifer Renee Smith, both of Goodland.

### Goodland Police

The following crimes have been reported to the Goodland Police Department:

**Jan. 31** — A juvenile was taken into protective custody at 319 E. 10th.

The Northwest Kansas Technical College reported criminal damage to property at 1209 Harrison.

Tammy M. Kindall was arrested for driving under suspension, transporting an open container, speeding and failure to yield at 1800 Cattletail.

### District Traffic

The following fines were paid in the Sherman County District Court:

**Jan. 10** — Jennifer L. Hubbard, 35, Harrisonville, Mo., \$168 for speeding and \$60 for no signal when turning or stopping.

Jena N. Apice, 19, Aurora, Colo., \$114 for speeding.

Megan D. Storm, 21, Yankton, S.D., \$138 for speeding.

John R. Finck, 33, Denver, \$150

for speeding.

Mary A. Nunnery, 24, Statesville, N.C., \$132 for speeding.

Wayne J. Pierson, Jr., 21, Parker, Colo., \$132 for speeding.

Jennifer C. Powers, 24, Gypsum, Colo., \$132 for speeding.

Jason M. Vandyne, 31, Springfield, Mo., \$150 for speeding.

Kathrine M. Washnock, 32, Colorado Springs, \$120 for speeding.

Dale B. McLaughlin, 49, Woodland Park, Colo., \$126 for speeding.

Darryl G. Christian, 29, Grants Pass, Ore., \$159 for speeding.

Kenneth L. Ludden, 44, Castle Rock, Colo., \$177 for speeding.

Steven J. Thomas, 30, Winston Salem, N.C., \$132 for speeding.

Vanessa R. Aleman, 21, Fort Worth, Texas, \$204 for speeding.

Kevin M. Cooke, 50, Colorado Springs, \$120 for speeding.

Anna L. Jones, 19, Monument, Colo., \$138 for speeding.

**Jan. 11** — Michael F. Humby, 41, Lincoln, N.E., \$112 for over weight limits on wheels and axles.

Jonah B. Caldwell, 24, Littleton, Colo., \$231 for speeding.

Donna L. Price, 42, Highland Ranch, Colo., \$120 for speeding.

Amy M. McLaughlin, 30, Marshfield, Mass., \$138 for im-

proper parking.

Michael P. McFadden, 19, Westminster, Colo., \$160 for speeding.

Bobby J. Warren, 32, Stratford, Okla., \$120 for over weight limits on wheels and axles.

Keith P. Bryner, 35, West Mifflin, Pa., \$210 for tractor trailer violations.

James L. King, 36, Colorado Springs, \$138 for speeding and \$20 for no child restraint.

Irwin C. Tran, 22, Rochester Hills, Mich., \$150 for speeding.

Nelson C. Grumney, III, 20, St. Louis, Mo., \$159 for improper parking.

Christy M. Chiba, 19, San Jose, Calif., \$177 for speeding.

**Jan. 12** — Derek W. Thompson, 23, Columbia, Mo., \$159 for speeding.

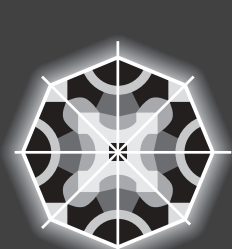
Michaeline Chance-Reay, 62, Manhattan, \$168 for speeding.

Robert R. Thomason, 29, Colorado Springs, \$138 for speeding.

**Jan. 13** — James H. Pedrick, III, 56, Colorado Springs, \$144 for speeding.


Heron Maupin, 58, Cincinnati, Ohio, \$138 for speeding.

Juan Rodriguez-Collazo, 25, Lawrenceville, Ga., \$168 for speeding.



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