

Domestic violence worse than a little show of skin

Such a stir one middle-aged woman's breast can cause.

Congress wants an investigation, new laws, stiffer fines for indecency.

Federal Communications Commission chair Michael Powell wants new rules, slaps heavy fines on foul-mouthed radio jocks.

Across the country, people howl and wail. OK, it was tasteless and tacky. If not for the fact that millions of Americans were watching the pathetic Super Bowl halftime show, not much mention would have been made.

It wasn't, after all, a whole lot more than the family would see on a Sunday trip to the beach.

Nudity has become a staple on cutting-edge television, on cable but also on network drama. Just because NYPD Blue airs later, do your really think the kids aren't watching?

It probably wasn't such a good idea, but a national emergency?

The country has greater problems. Domestic violence, for one.

It was three weeks after the Janet Jackson flap before anyone even mentioned that the song and dance routine she and Justin Timberlake were doing bordered on abuse. He was singing about tearing her clothes off, and no one seemed to mind.

So, is it OK to talk about roughing your woman up, as long as you don't show any skin on television?

Domestic violence is a major problem,

though much of society still tends to look the other way. Domestic cases often are not reported publicly and far too often, no charges are filed. There's still a feeling that what people do at home stays there.

Is sex on the air a problem? The feds levied huge fines against a disc jockey who calls himself "Bubba the Love Sponge" last week. We haven't heard his program, but how does it compare to the dozens of people shot and killed by cops, bad guys and good guys during the average television week?

Why is all this violence OK? Why do video game producers pander to our violent side?

Maybe blood sells even better than sex.

Compare the two, and decide which is more harmful.

Wife beating, or skin?

Murder as entertainment, or Bubba the Love Sponge?

In a world where children die every day of disease and hunger, where women are abused in country after country, where cheating amounts to business ethics and lying passes for statesmanship, is a little skin the biggest problem we have?

After the outcry this year, a repeat is unlikely at any future Super Bowl halftime.

But is anyone getting worked up about the real problems we face?

— Steve Haynes

Electrical generator is fascinating

There are three essential components of a good electrical system. The first is a good reliable generator, the second is a good transmission line that moves the electricity to your community and the third is the smaller distribution lines to local businesses, farms and homes.

The "glamorous" part of the system is the generators. I don't care whether it is the nuclear reactor at Wolf Creek, the coal-fire plant at Holcomb, the hydroelectric plant at Lawrence, gas and diesel municipal power plants or the wind generators at Montezuma, there is a certain majesty observing these marvelous machines. I have always enjoyed the sounds and smells, watching the gauges and every visible moving part at the Oakley Power Plant.

A couple of years ago, I spent an afternoon at the Bowersox Power Plant in Lawrence. The water current turns the turbines at 109 revolutions per minute and it was fascinating watching technology that is centuries old still supply power for the electric grid.

Several times I have visited the Montezuma wind farm and marvel at these massive wind machines; the towers are 208 feet tall and the three blades of each turbine are each over 70 feet long. I am told the latest technology is at least 50 percent larger.

The ignored crucial component of a viable electric delivery system is the transmission lines. These are the large electric lines that go from town to town. The support towers are so snugly that no one wants them to destroy their view of a Kansas sunrise or sunset, and they are a nuisance to farm around.

Historically, transmission lines were constructed by a utility operating as an integrated monopoly that



Letter from Topeka

By State Sen. Stan Clark
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owned the generator and held a franchise to serve the businesses and residents of a specific service area. Because of the monopoly status, rates were set by the Kansas Corporation Commission and the utility had an opportunity to earn about 12 percent a year on its investment.

Eventually transmission lines interconnected with other utilities so that they could supply each other with electricity during planned maintenance and repairs of the generation system. In time, because the transmission lines connected generation between states, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission became responsible for determining the rates that could be charged for using the transmission lines.

Newly constructed generation is likely now to be built by a company that is not a utility but has negotiated long-term contracts with a utility to supply electricity. Sunflower Electric at Holcomb is considering a second plant, but the co-operative would be the operator and probably not the owner.

The wind generators at Montezuma are owned by a company in Florida but the electricity is marketed by the company that serves the Dodge City and Liberal area. Before more wind generation can be constructed in Kansas, we have to have more transmission lines to

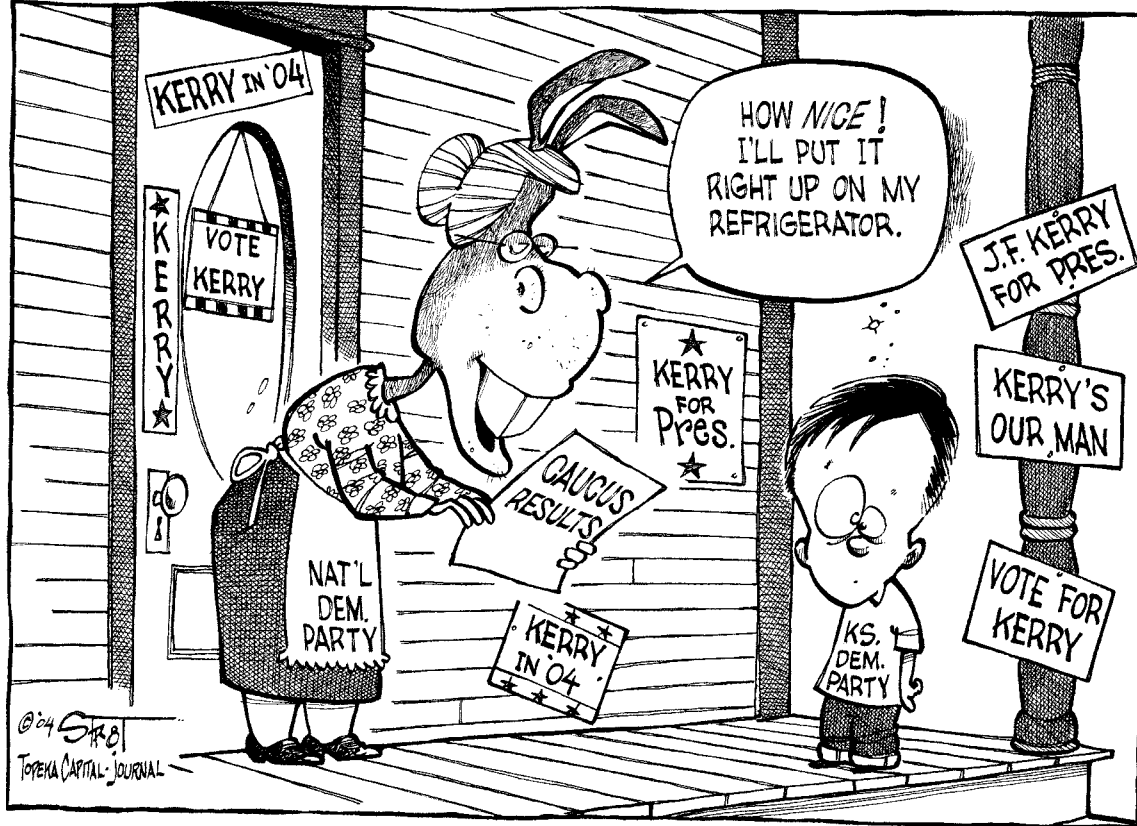
carry the electricity to market and the crucial question becomes: How do we encourage construction of more electric transmission lines?

For a few years, the discussions centered around two ideas; either the ownership of the transmission lines should be separated from generation and companies would be formed that would own, operate, and maintain the electric transmission system with rates established by federal commission; or utility companies would own the transmission lines but they would be operated by a company established just for this purpose.

The legislature is considering allowing municipalities and utilities to use Kansas Development Finance Authority bonding when constructing transmission lines, to allow accelerated depreciation cost recovery and to allow a greater return on their investment.

Talks are going on for another north-south line along the east edge of my district to connect to major transmission lines in Nebraska and Oklahoma. This will relieve congestion on current lines.

I can be reached by writing to Sen. Stan Clark, State Capitol, Room 449-N, Topeka, Kan. 66612; by calling (800) 432-3924 or (785) 296-7399; by fax at (801) 457-9064; or by e-mail at sclark@ink.org.



Finding new pictures is tough

It seems that Rotary Radio Day gets harder every year.

I really enjoy the annual fundraiser, but it's harder to find new poses for the pictures I take for the paper.

Let's face it. This is radio, not television. You have two people sitting side by side on tall stools, talking into microphones. Then there is another guy sitting in front of them behind a board of knobs and dials with earphones on his head. He nods and tells the people in front of the microphones when to talk and when to shut up.

It's not exactly a panoramic picture, but it's always a lot of fun.

Every year for the past four years — even through a change in ownership — KFNF Radio has allowed the Oberlin Rotary Club to take over the station for a day. The club sells ads, and on a Sunday near St. Patrick's Day, amateur deejays descend on the station.

The first year, we paid the station a nominal share of the take. It certainly wasn't enough to compensate them for the whole day. Since Dave and Connie Stout took over, we have paid nothing.

Each year, Dave comes down to the station with a sack lunch and spends hour after hour coaching Rotarians through the intricacies of the weather, reading ads, naming songs and telling what the club is all



Open Season

By Cynthia Haynes
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about. Dave is a Rotarian himself, even though he doesn't belong to the Oberlin club. Still most of us invest an hour. He hands over his whole Sunday.

The first year we did this, Alan Marietta was president of the club and I was vice president. The idea came from Russell, which did a radio day. They wanted to raise money for Alan's mother, Odetta Marietta, who was then district governor for western Kansas, to attend the international convention, which was held in Singapore or some such place.

Oberlin picked up the idea and ran with it. It has become the club's leading fund raiser, netting between \$2,000 and \$3,500 a year, which goes for scholarships at home and abroad.

The first year, my job was writing radio copy. Someone figured if I could write newspaper copy, I could write radio ads. I had to do about 30 ads. By No. 25, though, the flower

shop ad started to sound a little like the one I had done for No. 6, the feed yard. Oh, well, they both deal in fertilizer.

After the first year, though, writing the ads became easier. Many of the customers used their old ads, or after hearing my mangled versions, wrote their own.

The first year I was asked to deejay, I was petrified. I feel about microphones about the same way I feel about needles — keep 'em away from me.

But Dave put me at ease and showed me the ropes. Now I only feel mild trepidation when I take my seat on the high stool.

But, there is still the problem of those pictures. As the years go by, selling, writing and delivering the copy gets easier, but the pictures get harder.

Well, I'll keep looking for new poses and hopefully, the Stouts will keep inviting us back. It really is a great fund raiser — and a great time.

Food is high on their travel list

When we travel, one of our favorite things to do is try new foods and eat at restaurants that haven't seen fit to locate in western Kansas.

We are on another trip to Juarez, Mexico, and spending an extra day in El Paso before crossing the border with a team of college kids from Wisconsin. Red Lobster and Olive Garden are on my "must do" list. Long John Silver's and a little mom-and-pop taco joint we found last trip are on Jim's.

We both thought Chinese food would be good our first night in town, so we drove to a nearby establishment for carry-out. We neither one noticed the "Mongolian Chinese" notation until we were back in our room and it was too late. Most of the dishes were way too spicy for us, more like flaming tongues of fire. It made us appreciate, all the more, the excellent Chinese restaurants in our part of the country.

We've already hit Long John Silver's and will pick up Red Lobster on our way out of town. Jim got his hankerin' for good Mexican food satisfied yesterday in Juarez, when we stopped at several little roadside stands for chicken, chili rellenos, tortillas and ice cream. (Mexican ice cream is fabulous!)



Out Back

By Carolyn Sue Kelley-Plotts
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One of the reasons for coming early was to drive out to the house of the family we built for in February.

It was wash day for Graciella. She had laundry hanging on the fence and tubs of water in the yard, but she dropped everything to welcome us with warm hugs and continuous, "Gracias, gracias."

She proudly showed us her home. She had a refrigerator, a table and three chairs, and a china cabinet with no glass in the doors outfitting her kitchen. The living room contained a bed, a dresser, a television and pictures of her children on the walls. The back room also contained a bed and some free-standing closets.

Keep in mind this is a three-room, 15' by 30' house with no plumbing. But to Graciella, it's a mansion.

We had a few more gifts for her.

A friend's grandmother sent a handmade quilt that brought tears to Graciella's eyes. It was so "bonito" (beautiful), she said.

My friend, Teresa, sent a sewing machine. It was an older model, but still in good shape. Graciella was so appreciative. I foresee her making many beautiful things with it.

From the Bible

For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself. But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. Galatians 6:3, 4

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Banker clarifies Patriot Act policies

To the Editor:

Steve Haynes' editorial on the Patriot Act has several points that I think need to be clarified from the banking industry side of things.

Yes, two sections of the U.S.A. Patriot Act have directly affected your local banks. The first is Section 326 which requires all financial institutions to verify new customers' identity by collecting four pieces of information: 1) your name, 2) your date of birth, 3) your Social Security number or alien ID number, and 4) your physical address. The law provided a lot of flexibility in how your institution set up its policies and procedures, so each institution may handle this collection procedure differently.

The second aspect of the law that affected us was Section 314(a). This section requires each financial institution to check their database against a government-produced list of suspected terrorists and terrorist organizations. The bank does not submit any information in its data-

base to the government — the government submits its list to the bank.

I think all our patrons should know that there are other laws and regulations that protect your banking information. Mr. Haynes stated that "Government agents can check on your bank activity". This is not necessarily true. Congress passed the Right to Financial Privacy Act in 1978, which prohibits any federal governmental agency from obtaining financial records of bank customers without some form of court order or formal notice.

In either instance, the bank customer is made aware that a request has been made of their financial records and has the opportunity to quash the order. Banks cannot release any information until a Certification of Compliance is received from the inquiring governmental

agency (this includes the IRS!). Keep in mind this law only covers federal government agencies, not local or state agencies.

I do agree with Mr. Haynes that the new provisions we have to comply with under the Patriot Act are burdensome and inconvenient for those of us living in our small north-west Kansas community. But please keep in mind our primary goal is to safeguard your banking information. We do not — AND CANNOT — release any financial information on your accounts without court orders or your permission.

If you have questions or concerns, please stop by your financial institution and ask what their policies are regarding your personal and banking information.

Marilyn J. Noone, branch manager
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