

Don't give licenses to our young teen-agers

The headline was sad, the story sadder. A 15-year-old girl was killed, her passenger, also 15, hurt, when their pickup rolled on a rural highway.

The girls were thrown from the truck as it rolled. Neither was wearing a seatbelt, and it's a wonder both weren't killed.

These girls were 15. The driver, who was killed, had a restricted license good for driving to and from school and on farm errands.

The wreck occurred when the inexperienced driver lost control, drifted off the pavement, then "overcorrected" — jerked the wheel — and rolled the truck.

Police said she was driving illegally, joy riding with a friend. Teens under 16 are not supposed to have anyone with them except an adult or a relative.

None of that matters much now to a grieving family or a grieving town. A child has been lost, and nothing will bring her back.

We can save others.

Kansas needs to change its driver licensing laws.

Kids 14 and 15 don't need to drive. It isn't safe. Too many of them are killed every year.

They don't need to drive to school. Kansas districts have plenty of buses.

The don't need to drive on farm errands. That can wait until they are 16.

They sure don't need to be out cruising with their friends. They'll have plenty of time for that later — if they live.

Most surrounding states no longer allow 14- and 15-year-olds to drive. All are farm states, but most have seen the light. We should, too.

The law needs to be changed, and until it is, Kansas police officers need to enforce the laws we have.

No more kids driving to school in violation of the law. No more kids driving around without a license.

The cops should stop them, give them a ticket and send these kids home.

Before it is too late.

Before another one is killed.

Sure, the kids won't like it.

Some parents will be angry.

It won't be the most popular bill this session.

But it will save lives and end this senseless loss of our children.

Kids 14 and 15 don't need to drive. We shouldn't let them go out and kill themselves.

We need to change this law, this year, before one more child dies.

— Steve Haynes

Wife reflects on 10 years together

My husband must be in a slump this week.

He hasn't said or done anything even mildly amusing.

Oh, you know that's not true. Every day with that man is like a new dawn.

Our 10th anniversary is this week. Perhaps that makes me reflective about our life together.

We are completely alike in many areas and total opposites in others. We share the same Christian beliefs, even though I can't express them as eloquently as he can.

We look at money the same way: as a means to support the mission work we both love, to provide a home for ourselves, and eat dinner out occasionally.

We both love our children and grandchildren dearly, even when they do things we don't approve of. And most importantly, we are committed to each other.

Not that there haven't been times when one or the other of us has been ready to throw in the towel.

We just resolve to never have them at the same time.

We are firm believers in the old adage, "Never let the sun go down on your anger; stay up and fight all night."



Out Back

By Carolyn Sue Kelley-Plotts
cplotts@nwkansan.com

You use the 3, 4, 5 theory of right angles and there's your answer.

"Right."

Anyway, together we had a combined IQ of 145. Does that mean we each average out at 72 1/2?

—ob—

We received relatively good news about my brother Don and his wife Liz.

She had surgery on her carotid artery last week and it went well. She is, however, still facing extensive therapy.

Don has begun treatment for what is being called a "low-grade" cancer.

Last week, he was able to fly back to their home in Arkansas to check on things while Liz remained in Phoenix with their daughter Pam.

Don will return for Liz, and they plan to be back in their home soon.

—ob—

good and asked her what it was.

Kara said, "What kind of an animal do you think it came from?"

Aghast, Taylor asked, "I'm eating an animal?"

"Yes, you're eating an animal. What kind do you think it is," her mother inquired.

Taylor made several guesses like sheep, horse, or cow.

"No," her mother said, "You're eating pig."

Kara said when Taylor heard she was eating a pig, she started laughing and laughing.

Then, sobering up, looked her right in the eye and said, "That's sure good pig, Mom."

Thinking this might be a good time to explain about other meats and their origins, Kara went on to explain that hamburger comes from cattle, but thought it best not to go too far.

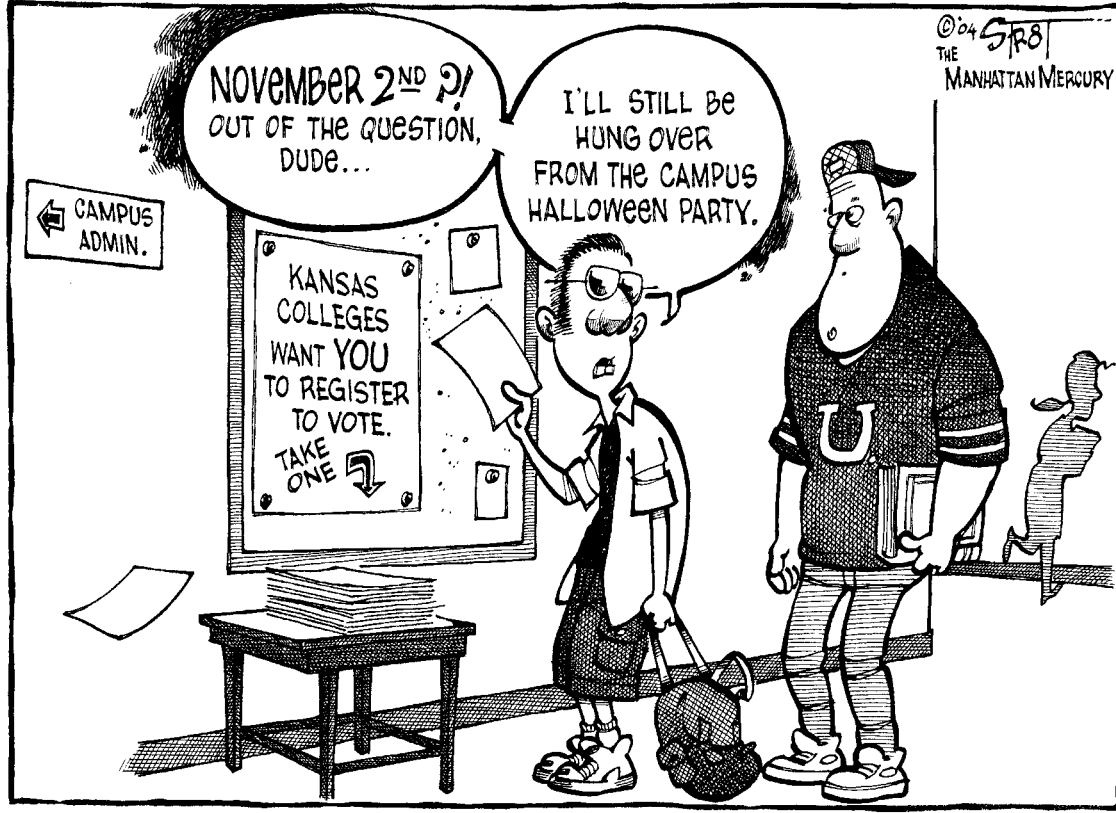
Taylor was at the grocery store with her mother last week when they tasted samples of smoked ham at the deli counter.

She told her mother it was really

Taylor doesn't need to know that last night for dinner, the meat in the spaghetti sauce was "Bucky burger."

From the Bible

Be merciful unto me, O Lord: For thou, Lord, art good, and for I cry unto thee daily. Rejoice ready to forgive; and plenteous the soul of thy servant: for unto in mercy unto all them that call thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul. upon thee. Psalm 86: 3-5



Cats feather nest using new door

Steve warned me, but as usual, I just smiled and went ahead with my plans.

He said that if I had a cat door put into the house, I would find all sorts of creepies, crawlies and birdies in my house.

I shrugged. I wanted a way for the cats to get back in if they got left outside and we were gone.

So we had the little plastic flap installed.

The back door would have been a good spot, but it wasn't practical. A screen door moves back and forth across the French doors, blocking one or the other at all times. Besides, I decided that would be ugly.

I looked around. I really wanted a pet door beside the house through the old coal chute. Steve and the contractor shook their heads. They said the pet door had been purchased wouldn't fit where the coal chute had been, and besides the inside part would be under the basement stairs with no exit to either the basement or the upstairs. Not a good solution.

OK, I looked around some more, and found a basement window that came out onto a small ledge which would be an easy jump to the top of a cabinet near the washer and dryer.

That was doable, and was done did.

Next we had to convince the cats to use the pet door.

It looked easy enough to grab one



Open Season

By Cynthia Haynes
chaynes@nwkansan.com

and push it through. I did that with April Alice. She was uncooperative and just plain confused.

Next I tried it with Molly Monster.

She was uncooperative, obstinate and stronger than an unhappy boa constrictor. She has broad shoulders and works out regularly. (A two-mile walk a couple of times a week does wonders for a cat's physique.)

I could not push, prod, force, cajole or propel her through that little flap of plastic. She planted all four feet and did a bull terrier imitation.

I gave up.

The next day, Steve gave April Alice another lesson. She seemed just as confused as before, but by the end of the week she had the door figured out and so did Miss Monster.

I knew this on Saturday when I let them both out and they were at the back door again in 10 minutes, demanding to be let out again. This went on most of the day. It was obviously a great game.

I have yet to discover if they know how to use the pet door to get out, but they sure know how to get in.

About three days after our Saturday game, I got up to find a dead bird in my kitchen and feathers all over the floor. (This was the day company was coming, naturally.)

Then last week, two weeks after installing the pet door, I discovered a dead dove in my upstairs bedroom. (Well, at least it was in season.) There was dove blood all over one of Steve's T-shirts.

I'm not sure which cat is the mighty huntress, but Steve said he's just glad they haven't brought anything alive into the house so far.

I think he still remembers the cat that brought a live rat through our front door.

Loud screaming from our house will indicate a repeat performance.

PS: I think that the bird population is stupider in the spring and fall, so I'm hoping that the depredations on the flock will cease once it gets cold.

Artist appreciates audience

To the Editor:

I had the opportunity to perform in your town last Saturday evening, as part of the Oberlin Arts and Humanities Commission Concert Series. The fantastic response of the audience made for a fun evening for me. The audience laughed, they applauded, they gave standing ovations, and most of all, they are supporting this wonderful series.

Not many towns the size of Oberlin are fortunate enough to have a series like yours, bringing in world class entertainment to a fine

Letters to the Editor

theater, and with a Baldwin concert grand piano that was to die for. All in all, it was a fantastic experience for me, not only as a performer, but also as a visitor to your inviting town.

My hat is off to all of the patrons, sponsors and attendees, who make this series possible, and, of course, to the board and its president, who

make sure that every event runs smoothly.

I look forward to returning to Oberlin to entertain again, and hopefully, it'll be in the near future. What a jewel you have in your Oberlin Arts and Humanities Commission concert series.

Ronnie Koleski
Slidell, La.

Sister thanks all who helped

To the Editor:

It's been almost four months since tornadoes destroyed our home and community of Hallam, Neb. Since then, my family has had to pick up the pieces and get on with our lives.

We were able to survive only because of the many good people who reached out to us, including many people whom we have never met.

Even though we haven't met all of you, we know of you and we know what type of people you are — kind, considerate, good.

We would like to thank all of my sister's friends (my sister is Brenda Breth) who reached out to us after the destruction — Pat, Candy, Tina, Marlene, Shelli, Leigh, and others who remembered us in their prayers.

We'd also like to thank Brenda's church, Faith Lutheran, for their many thoughts and prayers, and especially the children from their Va-

cation Bible School who raised in nearly \$300 for our church in Hallam. We used the money to buy each child in our church a new Bible, since most of theirs were destroyed in the tornado.

Recently, we have decided to move to an acreage between Hallam and Crete on the site of an old schoolhouse. Our daughter Haley is happy that she will finally have a horse. However, our 10-year-old son Matt, who listened to the storm from our basement, hearing the roof crashing down on the piano, isn't so sure. He asked if our new house has a storm shelter. The real estate agent who was showing it said as a matter of fact, it did. In the basement is a self-contained tornado shelter which was part of the old school.

That's when Matt decided it was OK.

My whole family is healing. I re-

cently bought a plaque I plan to hang in my new house. The plaque says: "The best things in life aren't things."

I'm asked all the time, "Is there anything I can do?"

This is my answer: You can get in your basement if it looks anything like a tornado. You can pray that God will help each family figure out what's best for them. You can thank God that more lives weren't lost. You can pray for the children of Hallam who can't sleep at night when it's storming. You can tell yourselves that you, too, can handle whatever comes your way. You can thank God every day for the important things in your life — your family and friends.

Thank you, Oberlin.

Kyla Jensby
Crete, Neb.

THE OBERLIN HERALD

Serving Oberlin and Decatur County since 1879

USPS 401-600

170 S. Penn Ave., Oberlin, Kan. 67749-2243

Phone: (785) 475-2206 Fax (785) 475-2800

E-mail: obherald@nwkansan.com

Nor'West Newspapers

STAFF

- Steve Haynes editor
- Kimberly Davis managing editor
- Mary Lou Olson society editor
- Judy Jordan proofreader
- Carolyn Kelley-Plotts columnist
- Cynthia Haynes business manager
- David Bergling advertising manager
- Pat Cozad wantads/circulation
- Karla Jones, Doris Miller advertising production
- Joan Betts historian
- Marsha Morford mailing
- Whitney Beinke page makeup

Published each Wednesday by Haynes Publishing Co., 170 S. Penn Ave., Oberlin, Kan. 67749. Periodicals mail postage paid at Oberlin, Kan. 67749.

Steve and Cynthia Haynes, publishers

Official newspaper of Oberlin, Jennings, Norcat, Dresden and Decatur County. Member of the Kansas Press Association, National Newspaper Association, Colorado Press Association, Nebraska Press Association and Inland Press Association.

Subscriptions: One year, \$28 (tax included) in Decatur, Norton, Rawlins, Sheridan, Thomas and Red Willow counties; \$32 (tax included) elsewhere in Kansas; \$35 elsewhere in the U.S. Foreign subscriptions, \$20 extra per year (except APO/FPO). POSTMASTER: Send change of address to 170 S. Penn Ave., Oberlin, Kan. 67749-2243.

Office hours: 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri. (Also open most Saturdays when someone is in.)

