

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:
We don't need trophies
to show how well we played

To the Editor,
I am writing a letter in response to the one you received from Robin Somers.
Robin said that not to keep score was a dishonest thing to do and that trophies should be given out to the winners.
She quoted Paul from the Bible as saying everyone will run but only one will get the crown. We don't need trophies and signs to show how well we played.
The thing that counts is that you have the heart of the champion, even in losing still play your hardest so you can get the feeling of being a winner. I've "lost" many

games in my five years of playing soccer and my teams never said that we were losers.
This year I had an "undefeated" season. I didn't need a trophy to make me feel good. You can make yourselves mental trophies as I did this year when my coach said that I had a great attitude all season long. That's enough for me; no trophy is necessary to say that I had a good attitude.
Lastly, as a player, I would like to thank the coaches, refs and the staff for making AYSO soccer in Norton happen.
Josiah Laughlin, age 13
Norton

Religious leaders shouldn't
be threatened by a novel

Imagine you, like me, are tired of the Da Vinci hype. I read the book, which the author stated to be fiction. It was entertaining and he wove a great tale. I am disgusted with the clergy, Catholic and Protestant's, seemingly arrogant attitude about the "commoner's" inability to understand the movie. Perhaps the movie propels each of us to question the powers that be which run our religions, not our faith, mind you, our religions. Each of us as individuals controls our faith.

I heard one church official condemning Dan Brown because the book made fiction look like fact. Hmmm, now there is an interesting accusation, I thought that is what good fiction did. I thought it made one wonder at the end, was this a true story? Even the thrillers of Stephen King are successful because of his ability to make the subject believable.

If my faith can be so easily swayed by a novel, I'm in trouble. If my faith rests upon the idea that Jesus was unmarried, I'm in trouble. If I am so naïve as to believe violent acts have never taken place in the name of God, remind me to look at Iraq. All the attention merely acknowledges the fact that religion is in the business of control.

How sad those religious leaders are so threatened by this fictional work. Anything, which opens conversation about our God, brings us to a better understanding of one another. Different individuals have taken it upon themselves to "protect" others from this seemingly sinful movie. We may not like the conclusion others draw, but isn't it better to encourage communication?

The reaction to The DaVinci Code is very reminiscent of the

Phase II
Mary Kay
Woodyard



ordeal of Salmon Rushdie's book, The Satanic Verses, in the late 80's but from the other side. His depiction of the Muslim faith, and the Muslim's subsequent reaction were at the time ludicrous to us and now the shoe is on the other foot and we are afraid of what The Da Vinci Code book may reveal about Christianity. The following quote in a book review of The Satanic Verses could well have been written of The Da Vinci Code:

"In issuing his decree against Salmon Rushdie and his book, The Satanic Verses, Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini drew worldwide attention to a novel that otherwise might have gone largely unnoticed by many people. It is Khomeini who helped make The Satanic Verses a bestseller."*

Likewise it is the hollers of the opponents, which will thrust this movie into the spotlight.

Obviously psychology has not been high on many of these critics' minds or they would realize they are simply increasing the advertising and the interest.
Religion is a private matter; our faith rests with each of us and our God. Freedom of expression is critical to democracy, but perhaps even more critical to our relationship with God. I don't understand the desire to encourage boycotting the movie, but I will forever defend their right to do so.
*http://www.webcurrent.com/rushdie.html

K-12 funding session's most important issue

It goes without saying that the most important issue before the 2006 Kansas Legislature was financing K-12 education. There were several education plans offered and voted on, but none were a real "win/win" for rural schools.

The approved plan (SB 549) increases base state aid per pupil totaling more than \$100 million over the next three years. It also increases the at-risk weighting more than \$150 million over the same time period. It offers some additional funding for schools with a large percentage of students qualifying for free meals under the federal lunch program, and at-risk programs for those students scoring below proficient in math or reading. It also provides more than \$80 million of new money to fund special education.

I did not vote for any plan that relied on LOB funding. It is a given fact that urban schools benefit much more from LOB increases as compared to our rural schools. With this in mind, you can imagine the intensity of the debate over school funding. Very wealthy school districts need only 5 to 7 mills to fund the new 31 percent maximum while smaller rural districts would need 35 to 40 mills to reach that same maximum.

I would have liked to see more

Senate
Doings
Sen. Ralph
Ostmeyer



money put into base state aid per pupil, but the trade-off was just too much. Our rural schools will benefit from the school finance package totaling \$466 million over the next three years.

In a perfect world, there would be enough money to go around, but unfortunately, other programs will have to be cut in order to balance our budget around school finance. I have always believed that Kansas should have balanced books, just as all farmers and businesses have to do each year. If we continue the trend of allowing the courts to dictate how our money is spent, then what need is there to have elected officials? The governor signed the school finance bill, and I am confident the courts will find it equitable.

We successfully defeated gambling again this year, but it will continue to be a huge topic going into the future. Based on current spending, the state's ending bal-

Walkers go the distance

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bination of fruits and vegetables. This has been true of walkers in many counties. Seven individuals met the minimum of eating 280 servings of fruits and vegetables for the eight week time period. This number was arrived at because of the minimum servings of fruits and vegetables for most people, which is five cups per day. This number has increased since the release of the new Food Pyramid Guidance System by the USDA in 2005. Those who met the minimum servings of fruits and vegetables were: Bob Cotton (Fit to Go), Jeanne Pharis (Sensational Six), Fonda Lawrence (Fit to Go), Nan Smith (Strutters), Joan Bolt (Walkabout), Lila Attwell (Crimson Cuites) and Deloris Keiswelter (Mile Walkers).

None of the teams met the minimum of 1,680 cups of fruits and vegetables for the eight week period. However, the top teams were Fit to Go (Bob Cotton) 1454,

Walkabout (Bill Goscha) 1446, Strutters (Pam Menagh) 1384, Crimson Cuites (Anise Gill) 1261, and 2006 Jolly Walkers (Candy Field) 1258.

Congratulations to all of the participants for a very good year in the Walk Kansas program. If you would like to participate in Walk Kansas - 2007, start to plan now. It is an exceptional opportunity to promote health and fitness for the entire family. It's also a great way to enjoy time together as a group or one-on-one with a child or teenager. This year it was an eye-opener for many to see how few fruits and vegetables were actually being consumed by most participants.

Walk Kansas is an easy way to increase fruits and vegetable consumption as well as improving your health and physical fitness. If you have further questions, contact your local K-State Research and Extension Office or e-mail: wmwts@cornhusker24.com

Youngsters take to the pool

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for late enrollments.

The first session will be June 5-16 and the second session will be held June 19-30. The cost of each session is \$15.

Kids wanting to participate in the lessons must be at least 4-years-old.

Water aerobics classes are also being offered this summer by Connie Glenn and Jan Volgamore.

Adults can swim without kids during each rest break, which is held during the first 10 minutes of each hour, said Mrs. Lively.

This season, the pool will have

14 lifeguards, who will also be doubling as concession stand workers, she said.

The lifeguards are Morgan Bailey, Laura Delimont, Tanner Griffith, Rachael Lentz, Klaire Mann, Hannah Mills, Gena Myers, Brianne Nelson, Ashley Smith-Maybon, Heath Vincent, Tabitha Vincent, Alexi Wolf, Brett Wyatt and Seth Mills.

Mrs. Lively said they hope to keep the pool open until Labor Day, but it depends on how many lifeguards they have who are still able to work.

Bus company may use Oberlin airport

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and so its directors and customers don't have to drive from regional airports in Denver or other parts of Kansas or Nebraska.

"It's an all-day affair to get here from California," said BCI Chief Executive Officer Phil Oldridge. "It's an all-day affair to get here from anywhere. We have a customer base that needs to get here."

A plan to have the county help build a runway near Jennings fell through earlier in the month when it was discovered that it would be illegal for the county to use road equipment to help private industry in that way.

Tuesday, a new plan to add a runway, longer and wider than the current one, to the Oberlin airport and get federal grants to help pay for the work met with the approval of everyone at the meeting.

Lee Gilroy, chief operating officer for BCI, said that he thought there were federal grants available to help upgrade the Oberlin airport to handle the traffic, which he estimated would include about 300 landings and takeoffs a year for his

company alone.

Mr. Oldridge suggested that if the Oberlin airport was expanded, it might be able to attract more business, which would help the tax base, and maybe even get a regional carrier like Great Lakes.

"We will base our company aircraft here and we will have others here also," he said.

The company has three aircraft, he said — a nine-passenger Cessna Citation corporate jet, a Hawker 700 and a Challenger. The Citation would be housed here.

All in good fun...



Wiyanna Paxton took a direct hit from a water balloon at the "End of the Year Bash" held May 23 at The Rock Youth Center.
— Telegram photo by Charlotte Stephenson.

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