

## **KC Star 4/17/2011**

### **Fairly Unbalanced**

I've been watching Fox News, and I've finally got a handle on the economic problems plaguing our great nation. Quite simply, deadbeat teachers, police officers, and firefighters are exploiting their high positions for gain.

So what if you've been paying into a pension account your entire career (if you can call nine months a year a "career")? Wall Street chief executives managing your funds know what they are doing. Stop trying to regulate, get out of their way and let that money trickle on down.

Union entitlements such as retirement age are passé. Besides, think of the veteran presence a 75-year-old police officer could bring to a criminal chase. Likewise, a 75-year-old firefighter's response time would be honed by decades of experience. And teachers, well, they have summers in which to retire.

The neoconservatives on Fox and in Washington, D.C. are right. What a refreshing change from pansy liberals in disguise like Ronald Reagan: "Where free unions and collective bargaining are forbidden, freedom is lost."

**Boyd Bauman**

*Roeland Park*

## **KC Star 11/1/2011**

### **God Bless America**

Thank heavens for Republicans who stand strong against the atrocities President Barack Obama attempts to inflict upon the American people.

He proposes a jobs bill and attempts to pay for it by eliminating tax loopholes for millionaire citizens? Ridiculous.

The fellow teachers with whom I speak aren't concerned with decreasing budgets, increasing class sizes, or students' futures. We want to keep our corporate tax loopholes.

Obama's concern for the bottom 98 percent of Americans has gone unchecked too long.

First he restricts insurance companies from discontinuing health coverage should someone lose a job or discover a pre-existing condition.

Then he proposes higher mileage standards for automakers.

Where in my Bible does it say I should be a good steward of the Earth? At least I'm in a state where reason reigns. Thank you, Governor Sam Brownback, for realizing the poor should have the freedom not to deal with red tape institutions like social services, which infringe on one's right to choose to stay unemployed or obtain adequate care.

You've raised supporting us CEOs to an art form. Sorry for that obscure reference, fellow Kansans.

You see, art was a means of expression...

**Boyd Bauman**

*Roeland Park*

**KC Star 12/18/2012**

## **The Right to Keep and Bear Reason**

“Have a nice day at school, dear!”

Imagine that as the last thing you’ll ever say to your six-year-old as you drop her off.

Are you a parent? Do you know any parents? Have you ever seen or loved a child?

Is this the kind of freedom you envision for them? Can we even discuss reasonable and rational reduction of assault weapons?

“No!” the chorus will echo as this is read. “This is the lone act of a madman.”

But these madmen are shooting every day in this country. Have you noticed?

What if every church and right-to-life group made the safety of those born an integral part of their platform? What if it was decided that owning multiple semiautomatic weapons, gun shows, inadequate background checks and inadequate waiting periods are not pro-life? Could we have a march on Washington, D.C. for that?

So hug your kid extra hard now. But remember, there is nothing we can do, especially demanding action from representatives beholden to the benevolent support of the National Rifle Association.

That is, until your kid is 18 and can be legally armed. Ah, if only those six-year-olds would have been packing.

**Boyd Bauman**

*Roeland Park*

**KC Star 10/6/2013**

## **Principled Shutdown**

Way to go, GOP. It's about time you took a principled stand against the National Rifle Association.

Long has the NRA had you in its greedy pockets and made your members eschew even the most sensible debates of background checks and keeping military-style weapons off the streets.

What's that? The shutdown isn't to keep guns out of criminals' hands but insurance out of the hands of the uninsured?

Still, there are principles involved. The Affordable Care Act was passed by all branches of the government, and President Barack Obama was freely elected twice, so in principle, that constitutes a mandate.

All congressmen get to keep their tax-paid health insurance even through a government shutdown, so, in principle, it's hypocritical to attempt to deny insurance to one's constituents.

Go ahead, Republicans. Stand your principled ground.

**Boyd Bauman**

*Roeland Park*

## **KC Star 11/16/2014**

### **Smoke ‘Em if You Got ‘Em**

I’m happy to hear groups like Open Carry Texas are bringing their automatic weapons into restaurants like Chipotle. I’ve been feeling very unsafe having burritos with my kids lately, looking around for the good guys with the guns.

They need to be careful, however, because corporations are people, lest citizen Chipotle panic and stand her (his?) ground.

Next we need a group with real courage to start bringing cigarettes – yes, even lit ones – into public spaces. No one ever said cigarettes kill people.

Besides, our country was made great by putting happy slaves in tobacco rows, and we can’t change anything upon which our great country was founded, right?

**Boyd Bauman**

*Roeland Park*

## **KC Star 3/6/2015**

### **Sunflower Recipe**

A recipe for creating a flyover state:

- 1) Simmer a massive debt.
- 2) Chop debt by defunding once-great schools.
- 3) Cut social and mental health services.
- 4) Discard national capital to expand Medicaid.
- 5) Stir the pot to lure gun manufacturers by allowing all residents to conceal and carry without a license.
- 6) Sprinkle in more incentives so enterprising young entrepreneurs can expand their gun-making business.
- 7) Garnish \$900 million on candidates who will continue such measures.
- 8) Season voters to believe these are Christian practices.
- 9) Repeat, repeat, repeat.

**Boyd Bauman**

*Overland Park*

## **KC Star 11/11/2016**

### **Thanks Obama**

Thank you, Mr. President:

- For pulling our economy from disaster and collapse.
- For insuring more than 16 million of your most vulnerable citizens at great political cost to yourself.
- For creating coalitions so we didn't have to go it alone in our battles against evil.
- For never engaging in "locker room talk" and being a positive role model for my daughters.
- For crying over the Newtown, Connecticut tragedy and attempting to enact sensible legislation to prevent violence.
- For keeping nuclear weapons away from Iran and other countries.
- For taking global warming seriously and signing the Paris Agreement to preserve the Earth for future generations.
- For bringing a brilliant woman with you who improved the health of our children.
- For brushing aside the insults hurled at you even in your formal statements from the congressional floor with the grace of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Jackie Robinson.

I am sorry for the injustice that will allow the man who questioned your citizenship to undo much of your good work, but please accept our gratitude until the arc of the moral universe bends again towards justice.

**Boyd Bauman**

*Overland Park*

**KC Star 2/18/2017**

## **Mental Health Issue**

Congress has finally repealed one of President Barack Obama's most onerous acts. Not his sin of providing health insurance to U.S. citizens, but his rule enacted after the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting that prevented an estimated 75,000 mentally ill people who can't manage their own Social Security finances from purchasing weapons. (Feb. 16, 2A, "Congress blocks rule barring mentally impaired from guns").

With generous Republicans being led by an articulate, caring president, we are finally putting (fire)power back in the hands of the people.

**Boyd Bauman**

*Overland Park*

**KC Star 10/17/2017**

## **Streaming Literacy**

A co-worker of mine recently expressed his disbelief that his sons were catching up on their favorite Netflix series during school hours and on devices provided by the Shawnee Mission School District.

No doubt, this is not unique to this district, and Shawnee Mission has been proactive in implementing many project-based learning opportunities using technology.

However, I can't help feeling depressed when walking into a beautiful library like Shawnee Mission North High School's and needing to squint to see the small collection of books in one corner.

The district's high schools employ one librarian, whereas Blue Valley stocks high school libraries with two licensed librarians, two full-time paraprofessionals and stacks of books.

If you live in the district, please consider voicing your support for libraries on the superintendent search survey on the district website ([www.smsd.org](http://www.smsd.org)). It will be available until Friday. Also, contact your school board representative.

It's easy to find studies correlating high student achievement with school librarians, and a qualified library media specialist can advance technology innovation while occasionally putting something in a student's hands that can supplement Netflix — a book, perhaps?

**Boyd Bauman**

*Overland Park*

# The Courier-Tribune 4/29/2020

(Seneca, KS, population 2,000 – seven miles from my childhood farm)

Many U.S. citizens feel we should give our president a break and cease criticism of him, as he is only human and doing the best he can in running a country. *Let Trump be Trump*, they've told us for three years now.

*He's a great businessman*, Trump and others have told us. He's an American success story, the way he pulled himself up by his bootstraps and reached for his father's money. When his hotel and casino businesses filed those six bankruptcies between 1991 and 2009, he was just using the system to his advantage. He'll run America like he runs his business.

*It's just locker room talk* we were told during the campaign when he was caught on tape joking about where a man, if he is a celebrity, is entitled to grab a woman. *It's not been proven he used citizens' campaign donations* when it was revealed he had an affair with an adult film star while his third wife was at home with their infant son. His lawyers are just doing their jobs in paying off the adult actress so she doesn't ruin his chances at election.

*The liberal media distorts his words*, although Trump prides himself at speaking directly to the people via his Twitter account, sometimes tweeting as often as 142 times in a day. That's a lot for one flawed human being to keep track of, so it's little wonder he has made 16,421 false or misleading claims during his first three years of office. "False or misleading claims" - that sounds like an expression of a liberal with his or her belief in facts and science, doesn't it? My Nemaha County parents would have just called them "lies," but what did they know about the workings of great men?

*The press is the enemy of the people*, as Trump has said about every outlet but Fox News, whose anchors also advocate giving the president a break. Never mind that that goes against the First Amendment of a Constitution Trump swore to protect. Never mind that reporters give their lives in war zones every day to get the truth to us. If reporters now receive death threats from our president's supporters, that's the price of this new democracy.

*There are very fine people on both sides* of all these issues, right? Just like our president said about the neo-Nazis after they held a rally in Virginia in 2017. It's too bad we weren't this smart before losing so many soldiers fighting Hitler and his very fine Nazis in WWII.

How on earth could citizens see this incredibly flawed person as anything but human? It could have something to do with the constant praise and support of Franklin Graham and his evangelical followers who go so far as to say *I think God was behind this last election*.

So now we are in the midst of a pandemic. We look to the man who told us in February that COVID-19 was just like the flu and the number of U.S. cases *within a couple of days is going to be down close to zero*. We look to the man who muses live on national TV about ingesting disinfectant to fight the disease *by injection inside or almost a cleaning?* We look to the leader who, as the number of COVID cases in the U.S. was soaring past a quarter of a million in early April, stated to the press, *I just found out I'm number one on Facebook. I thought that was very nice. For whatever it means, it represents something*.

There are countless more examples of this human being doing the best he can. As fellow human beings, religious or otherwise, we are called to do our best to forgive him. As fellow U.S. citizens, religious or not, must we reelect him to lead us?

## KC Star 5/19/2020

### Unpresidential

It was disconcerting to witness former President Barack Obama offer words of wisdom to 2020 graduates on television Saturday evening.

It was anything but bombastic. Absent was blame, belittling or grievance. There was no self-aggrandizement. In fact, the focus seemed to be on the 2020 graduates themselves, as if their feelings actually mattered.

There was a call to respect one another and a lack of divisive rhetoric. The language was thoughtful and intelligent. The vocabulary was, uh, big! Tremendous! One might say no one in the history of the world has ever used a vocabulary like that.

The message was especially confusing as, after a fact-check, it appears to contain not a single lie. Obama's words exuded warmth and positivity and stirred long-dormant feelings of hope. To bewilder us further, he even smiled.

Let's face it: Sadly, Barack Obama doesn't look or sound presidential anymore.

Boyd Bauman

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