

School competition could be the solution

How to solve the school mess? Mayor Rudy Giuliani has convinced us where Speaker Newt Gingrich never could: The solution lies in competition.

That means a complete overhaul of our school system, but then why not?

It's a mess today. Everyone agrees on that. Let's be fair. American schools, whatever their faults, remain among the best in the world. Government interference, first by states and then by the federal government, shackled them with an increasing burden.

When it appeared they were dragging, the solution always has been more money and more rules. Neither works.

Neither produced the kind of drive for excellence we perceived our schools as having a century ago.

Part of the problem is expectations. For much of that 100 years, we've pushed every year to get more and more kids into schools. Out here in rural America, most kids succeed. Most graduate, almost all of those go on to some kind of post-secondary education.

In our cities, though half, even 75 percent of minority students still drop out. Without education, they face a bleak future of unemployment, poverty, crime, drugs and despair.

The No Child Left Behind Act, supposedly President Bush's crowning achievement, set even more regulations and spends even more money, but it won't work. All men may be created equal, but not all of us have equal capacity for learning, at least school learning.

But No Child may be the saving grace for our schools. It may finally make things so bad we see that More of the Same isn't going to cut it. Thick books of federal and state regulations won't teach kids anything. Teaching them to pass standardized tests won't get them a job.

The solution, the mayor says, lies in creating competition, competition among public and private schools, church schools, charter schools and for-profit schools. If every parent gets a voucher to spend, and every parent shops for the best education for her children, then soon, only the best schools will survive.

Freed from burdensome regulations, public schools ought to be able to compete. Teachers could teach again, principals could supervise and discipline.

Only the market will tell, of course. There's no telling what education would look like in 50 years, but it'd be far better than the mess we have today.

Scary? Sure.

The education establishment — school boards, superintendents, teachers, everyone who draws a school paycheck — they won't like it, not at first.

Change scares people. But we've been living with change for years now, and even teachers agree it hasn't been good.

The old days aren't coming back. We'll have to jump into the future, and the American experience shows, time and time again, with airlines, trucks, railroads, cars, appliances, that competition is the way to make things better. Let's get with it.

— Steve Haynes

Hangin' With Marge

OH-OH

By Margaret Bucholtz



A couple of weeks ago Kurt and I went to Belleville to watch our granddaughter, Lauren, compete in Junior Miss Kansas.

Darrin, Dina and family also came from Wichita to give their support to Lauren.

It was so much fun seeing the interaction with the two little children as, once again, they made friends with all of us from western Kansas.

Tucker just entertained us all with his little actions and Sawyer was her usual little, quiet self. However she got sick so Dina and she didn't get to go to the program.

After sitting still for the time while watching the girls perform, Tucker was in the mood for some action after the program.

Darrin went to their motel room to check on the baby and Dina and then he and Tucker came to Grandpa's and Grandma's room.

Immediately Kurt turned on the television, sat down in the recliner and leaned back for his time of rest. Meanwhile Tucker climbed onto our bed and began bouncing. Darrin and I were standing up talking when all of a sudden we heard this loud thump.

Both Darrin and I looked over at Tucker thinking he must have

fallen, but there he stood, very still on the bed, his eyes wide open, both arms stretched out with the palms of his hand turned upward as he said, "Oh, Oh Where'd Popa go!" We turned to look at Kurt and there he was, his recliner over backward and both legs in the air.

As we got him up and the chair back into position, Tucker said, "Popa hit your head?"

He didn't hurt anything and the night turned out fine. Probably Tucker's first time at the game "now you see me, now you don't"

Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Dwen DeGood, St. Francis; A.O. Rueb, Kansas City, Mo.; Shelly Farmer, Great Bend; Richard Schlepp, Salina; Lenard, Schlepp, St. Francis; Roger Montgomery, Hugo, Okla.; Nina Raile, St. Francis; Meta Dankenbring, Bird City; Irene Andrist, St. Francis; Rex and Royce Roberts, St. Francis; Marlin Burr, St. Francis; Roberta Graves, St. Francis; Delmont Price, St. Francis; Violet Cranmer, St. Francis; St. Francis High School Library, St. Francis; Rowland Roelfs, St. Francis; Vada Burkhalter, Bird City; Teri Novacek, Kearney; Robert Burr, St. Francis; Bill Kephart, Goodland; Daryl Loyd, St. Francis; Walter Forsythe, St. Francis; Kary Zweygardt, St. Francis; Floyd Larkin, St. Francis; Steve Yost, Haigler; Merlyn Hilt, Lindsborg; George Baxter, Wheat Ridge, Colo.; Megan Douthit, St. Francis; Harry Roelfs, Vancouver, Wash.; Amelia Meyer, Bethune, Colo.; Ralph Duell, Goodland; Marlin Rueb, St. Francis; Norvin Northrup, St. Francis; Nancy Vernonk, St. Francis.

Reader suggest another idea for naming building

Dear Editor,

Upon reading a letter about naming a structure after Ron Evans I would like to make a comment.

Ron and I went to school together in the short time he lived in St. Francis and it would be my feeling that the Gienger family has brought more attention to the community than Ron.

I remember the wrestling families of Gienger, Kelly, and Sherlock bringing more attention to Sainty

than did Ron. I would suggest you at least consider something such as this rather than Ron.

You have the sign up on the highway and I would feel that is enough for tourists. Thank you for your consideration.

Bruce Firkins, Class of 1951

GOD SAYS
 Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another.
Romans 12:9, 10

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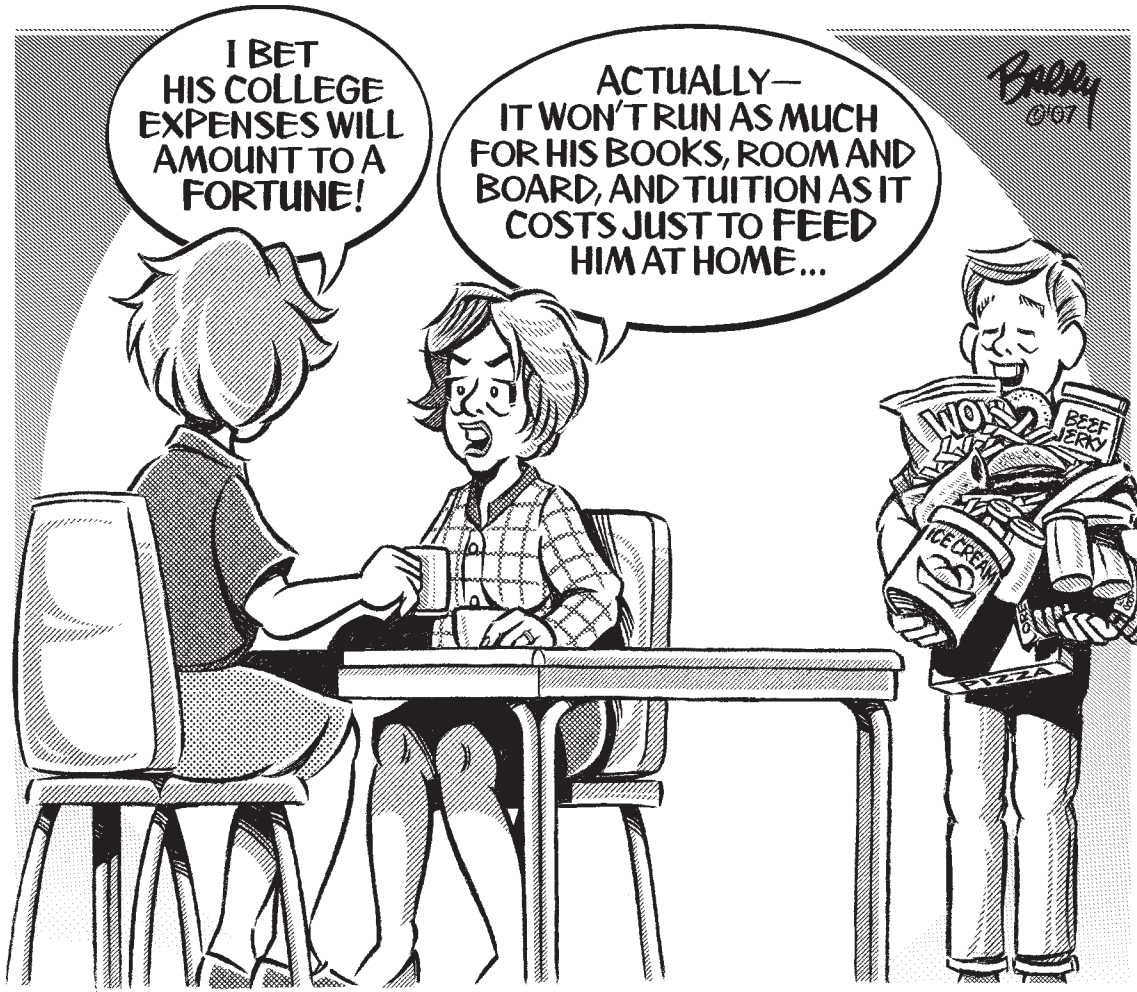


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News From the Past

10 years ago - 1997

The Indian wrestlers came home from Hays with the 3-2-1A State championship title. Scott Jenkins, Kelly Gabel and Travis Raile were all champions. Jim Keller placed second, Michael Ochsner, third; Gabe Jenkins, fourth and Shannon Wilson, fifth. Tyler Krien also qualified for State.

The Cheyenne County Hospital will open a new clinic in Bird City in the very near future.

A 57-51 overtime victory over Stockton in Substate basketball action earned the St. Francis Indians a trip to the State tournament. It is the first time a St. Francis boys team has qualified for State. Members of the team include Matt Blanchard, Tyler Raile, Ryan Schultz, Mat Moberly, Kelley Faylor, Brandon Terry, Jeff Rhoden, Justin McAtee, Aaron Culwell, Nick Young, T.J. Burr, Chad Weems and Travis Kechter. Coaches are Mark Willey and Greg Wolters.

The St. Francis Board of Education accepted the resignations of two long-time instructors at the latest meeting. Bud Burnham, athletic director and teacher, and Eunice Burnham, high school math teacher, turned in their resignations. Mr. Burnham had taught in the St. Francis schools for 38 years and Mrs. Burnham for 29 years.

Calvert Evins has retired from the grain department of the St. Francis Equity.

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick

There is something a little silly about all the folks who are jumping on the "global warming" bandwagon.

After all, how serious can you take Al Gore? Is it just me or doesn't it seem like a stretch from vice president to Hollywood celebrity? Will his next book be about scientology?

This last winter, moisture was a real boon for our agricultural needs. But it is nothing new. People remember storm seasons from the 1930s to recent times.

Back to global warming. Two

women decided they were going to make an expedition to the North Pole to prove the damage of climate changes. Ann Bancroft, 51, and her partner, Liv Arnesen, 53, of Oslo, Norway, had planned to wear body suits and swim in waters that were caused by polar ice melts. They would use a satellite phone to contact school groups to document the damage up north.

However, what was supposed to be a 530-mile trek over the Arctic Ocean was called off early on when Ms. Arnesen developed frost bite on three of her toes. One night the temperatures inside their tent

registered 58 degrees below zero with outside temperatures reaching below 100.

One of the organizers for the expedition was a woman named Ann Atwood. When she was questioned about the failure of the global warming adventure she replied: "They were experiencing temperatures that weren't expected with global warming," Atwood said, "But one of the things we see with global warming is unpredictability."

Contact Your Legislators

U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts, 109 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. 20510. (202) 224-4774; web address — roberts.senate.gov

U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback, 303 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. 20510. (202) 224-6521; web e-mail address — brownback.senate.gov/CMEmail.me

U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran, 2202 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. (202) 225-2715; Fax (202) 225-5124 e-mail address — jerry.moran@mail.house.gov

State Rep. John Faber, State Capitol Building, Rm. 426-S, Topeka, KS 66612. (785) 296-7500; e-mail address — jfaber@ink.org

State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer, State Capitol Building, Rm. 128-S, 300 SW 10th, Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785) 296-7399; e-mail address — ostmeyer@senate.state.ks.us

Kansas Attorney General Paul Morrison, 301 S.W. 10th, Lower Level, Topeka, KS 66612-1597 (785) 296-3751 Fax (785) 291-3699 TTY: (785) 291-3767

Church of Christ
 332-2380, Pars. 332-3424
 502 W. Spencer
 Norman Morrow - Minister
 Bible Class 11 a.m.
 Morning Worship 10 a.m.
 Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.

United Methodist
 Church Office 332-2292,
 Church 332-2254,
 512 S. Scott
 Pastor Morita Truman
 Early Bird Service 8:30 a.m.
 Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
 Worship 10:30 a.m.

Salem Lutheran Church
 332-3002
 Pastor Chris Farmer
 Sunday School 10 a.m.
 Morning Worship 11 a.m.

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
 625 S. River • 332-2680
 Fr. Roger Meitl
 Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m.
 Weekday Mass 8 a.m.
 Confessions Sat. 4-4:30

First Christian Church
 332-2956 • 118 E. Webster
 Sunday School 9:20 a.m.
 Church Service 10:30 a.m.
 Wed. night Bible Study 7 p.m.

Grace Assembly of God
 332-2925, Pars. 332-2899
 208 E. 2nd
 Rev. Rob Meyer
 Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
 Worship 10:30
 Sunday Eve. Service 6 p.m.

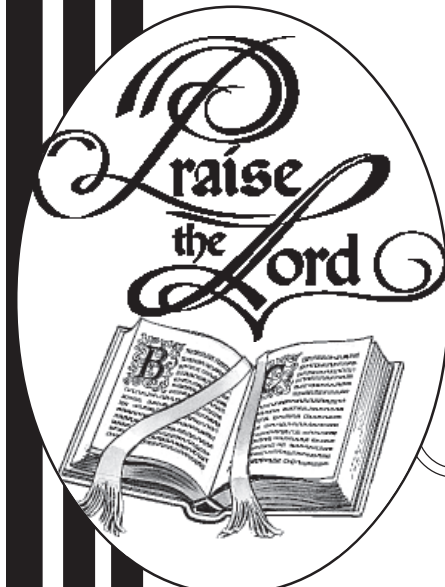
St. Francis Community Church
 332-3150
 204 N. Quincy Street
 Pastor: David Butler
 Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
 Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
 Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

Seventh-Day Adventist Church
 332-2888 • 3rd & Adams
 Pastor Mike Larson
 Sabbath School 9:30
 Morning Worship 10:45

First Baptist Church
 2nd & Scott • 332-3921
 J.W. Glidewell, Pastor
 Sunday School 9:30
 Worship 10:30 a.m.
 Sunday Evening Service 6:30 p.m.,
 Wed. AWANA Club 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Peace Lutheran Church
 202 N. College
 Pastor Ken Hart
 332-2928 Pars. 332-2312
 Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
 Worship 10:30 a.m.

Clough Valley Church of Hope
 12 m. west, 6 m. north of SF
 Pastor Jason Howard
 332-3152
 Saturdays 8 p.m. CT or 7 p.m. MT



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