



Freedom of speech helps voters decide on leaders

Why should freedom of speech and of the press be allowed? Why should a government which is doing what it believes to be right allow itself to be criticized?

It should not allow opposition by lethal weapons. Ideas are much more fatal things than guns. Why should any man be allowed to buy a printing press and disseminate pernicious opinion calculated to embarrass the government?

Practical reality, or antidemocratic thinking at its worst?

Government leaders sometimes think they know what is best for us. They think it would be easier to "get things done" if they could work behind closed doors.

To this way of thinking, allowing the public or its representatives, the press, to watch the government process is just a waste of time.

Behind closed doors, that's how government used to operate in America, despite our two-century pretension to democratic ideals.

Political parties chose candidates nominated in smoke-filled rooms. Party bosses made the decisions, sometimes voting uncommitted slates, making deals for ambassadorships, cabinet seats and pork-barrel projects.

City councils and state legislatures often went behind closed doors. Ward healers delivered the vote in city precincts, and candidates did as they were told once elected.

A lot has changed in America since that day. We come a lot closer to living up to our ideals.

Presidential candidates are chosen in an open process, involving millions of voters and far fewer back-room deals.

States have laws requiring government meetings to be open and allowing citizens to inspect public documents.

Still, many officials might be tempted to agree with the words above. After all, they believe they are trying to do what is right. From hard experience and great devotion,

they know the city or county or school district needs.

They miss the point: It's not just what government does that people need to know in a democracy, but why and how a decision was reached. Then, and only then, can voters make intelligent decisions on their leaders.

All that may sound high minded, theoretical. But people need to know what their officials are doing and why. They hire the press — newspapers, magazines, television stations, bloggers — to tell them what's going on. And it's hard to get a story right when decisions aren't made in the open.

The author of those words above? V.I. Lenin, founder of the Soviet state.

Lenin did not start out to build a soulless government. He thought he was doing the right thing for "the people." He'd allow no one to get in his way.

One of our founders, Thomas Jefferson, had a different view. He believed a free press provided the only way for a large population to know the truth.

"If I had to choose between a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I would choose newspapers without a government," Jefferson wrote.

His pen helped shape the First Amendment, still the greatest statement of freedom in our history. It's spare language says more than many books. Its influence is mighty.

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

Today, no doubt, it would take a couple dozen pages to say all that.

Lucky we are to live in the shadow of Jefferson, and not of Lenin. — Steve Haynes



News From the Past

10 years ago - 1998

Having served as a volunteer of numerous activities and events since 1928, Dorothy Finley was recently recognized as American Association of Retired Persons "Outstanding Volunteer." She was presented a pin by Mavern Gienger, Cheyenne County president.

Milton and Betty Lampe will be celebrating their 50 wedding anniversary on June 14.

Nick Young of St. Francis brought home the gold from the 2A State Track Meet held in Wichita on Friday and Saturday. Young placed first in the pole vault with a leap of 14-0.

Erin Day, the 1998 Kansas Junior Miss and Cheyenne County Junior Miss, will participate at the 41st Junior Miss Program in Mobile, Ala., from June 15 to

June 29.

Two St. Francis teachers, Sandy Smull and Kent Kechter, were recognized by the University of Kansas for completing 25 years in the teaching profession.

Robert Grace, owner of Grace Flying Service, reported 115 aircraft including 12 hot air balloons and 16 Stearman biplane flew into the 16th annual Stearman Fly-in.

35 years ago - 1973

Four teachers have turned in their resignation to the school board. Those resigning are Patrick Dixon, junior high science teacher and coach; Joyce Helling, first grade teacher; Dulcie Kite, high school librarian and Carl Werner, high school English.

Virginia Harvey and Peggy Love will have work published

in the Young Kansas Writers annual publication.

A record-tying class of 69 will be graduating from St. Francis Community High School. Highlights of the class of 73 were presented by seniors Gary Watkins and Shana Winston at the graduation ceremonies.

Pam Schlepp of St. Francis has been chosen as one of three candidates for the title of Kansas Hereford Queen.

Dale Crabtree, high school junior, placed fourth in the javelin at the 2A State Track Meet in Wichita. Earlier this year Dale had set the school record at 198-9 at the regional meet. Track coaches Roger Lewis and Ray Huffman attended the meet along with Don Zwegardt, who placed sixth in the 440-yard dash.

Hangin' With Marge

Drama Queen

By Margaret Bucholtz



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I have heard my kids use the name of drama queen, but I didn't ever think I would fit into this group.

The other day I was out working in the yard. I was in a hurry because I only had about a half hour left until I had to get ready for work. Kurt was home sick that day and Trey had come over to use

the computer. I had my bucket full of weeds and went to get the wheelbarrow. When I got back to the front of the yard I grabbed my bucket and started across the electric fence (which we use to keep the dogs out of the flowers) when all of a sudden I tripped.

It all happened so fast. The bucket went flying and I hit the patio bricks. At first I felt some pain. My face had hit the patio, my knee had hit the brick steps and then I started accessing the damage.

My hip hurt, my hands started turning black and blue and my poor face hurt. I thought I shouldn't try to move much just in case I broke something so I started yelling. First I screamed, "Kurt, Kurt" and nothing happened. I thought about Trey and I screamed for him, still nothing. I thought maybe they were just used to me yelling at them I would

try the word, "HELP!" Still nothing, so I squirmed my hips down to the step, I used my elbows to try and sit me up since my bottom was at least six inches lower than my top part. I knew my hands hurt too bad to use them. I got sit up and leaned against the fence and tried to yell again. Nothing! I finally got myself standing up and walked into the house crying. Kurt immediately got out of bed and put salve on my knee and a huge bandage. I couldn't bear to look at it just in case it was too bloody.

I hobbled to work and my body ached. The next morning I checked to see just how bruised I was. Nothing, not even my face was black and blue. So I pulled the bandage off and looked at my knee. Barely a little scratch. It was then I realized I was a "Drama Queen."

Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Diana Brunswig-Bosso, Arnold, Mo.; Terry Morris, Culbertson, Neb.; Mr. and Mrs. Haugsness, Auburn; Floyd Pettit, Benkelman, Neb.; David Fry, St. Francis; Gus Zwegardt, St. Francis; Lavern Young, Bird City; Anjeane Lang, Greeley, Colo.; Vera Grant, Silt, Colo.; Elva Weick, Orange, Calif.; Steve Daniels, North Attleboro, Mass.;

Link Zwegardt, St. Francis; Brent Rueb, St. Francis; Marica Rueb, St. Francis; Darla Dimitt, Syracuse; Calvin Raile, St. Francis; Randy Raile, Goodland; Norma Weems, St. Francis; Bob Fiedler, St. Francis; Virginia Fiedler, St. Francis; St. Francis Equity, St. Francis; Dennis Friedrichs, Goodland; Verlin Schauer, Colorado Springs, Colo.; Sarah Clogston, Overland Park; Majestic Service, St. Francis;

GOD SAYS
"It is mine to avenge: I will repay. In due time their foot will slip; their day of disaster is near and their doom rushes upon them."
Deuteronomy 32:35

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



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Agricultural communities, like ours, don't run from bad things. They stand and fight.

Their forefathers came to the "Great American Desert" to build a better life for themselves and future generations.

Whether the adversaries they

faced were hostile Plains Indians or drought, frost and hail, Mother Nature's scorn, they battled through it.

Farmers and ranchers have persevered and, with hard work and determination, they have conquered.

So why should cancer be differ-

ent? Last Friday they came in droves to the Relay for Life. From youngsters to elderly in wheelchairs, they marched all night. Like a band of Christian soldiers, they were united in a spirit of hope.

The ripple effects of this dreaded disease have touched so many in our corner of paradise. It seemed the majority of Cheyenne County clans were represented.

But do these folks wince with pain and accept a future of suffering, frustration and death? No!

They do what they have always done. The path chosen is short and direct, against their foe.

Ask them if a cure to cancer will be found. The answer is not "maybe" but "when." For it is only a matter of time until these warriors defeat this affliction.

Reader shares opinion on the political circus

The 'political circus' cast

- Letter to the Editor:
1) The Clintons — Pathological liars of record.
2) Barry Obama — "Patent snake oil peddler" with a cure for all of the world's ailments.
3) John (The Tin Man) McCain — About as "tinny" as a "tinny ford car."
4) Jeremiah Wright, etal — Ravening wolves in sheep's clothing.

- Letter to the Editor -

- 5) Rush Limbaugh — "Commander in Chief" of the "political cesspool" — a Bush "stooge."
6) Michael Savage — Professional "political muck roto-rooter."
7) George Bush — Dumbfounded bystander.
Terry Rueb
St. Francis

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502 W. Spencer
Norman Morrow - Minister
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Morning Worship 10 a.m.
Wed. Bible Study 7 p.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 Baptist Church
2nd & Scott • 332-3921
J.W. Glidewell, Pastor
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service 6:30 p.m.,
Wed. AWANA Club
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Salem Lutheran Church
332-3002
Pastor Chris Farmer
No Sunday School until Sept.
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

St. Francis Community Church
332-3150
204 N. Quincy Street
www.sfccfamily.com
Pastor: David Butler
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Potluck & Communion -
Every 2nd Sunday
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

United Methodist Church
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.

Solid Rock Baptist Church
412 S. Denison
Welcomes You!
Pastor Allen Coon
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30
Prayer Meeting, Wed
7:30 p.m.

Peace Lutheran Church, AFLC
202 N. College
Pastor Ken Hart
332-2928 Pars. 332-2312
Prayer Time 8:45 a.m.
Worship 9:30 a.m.
Fellowship Time 10:30 a.m.

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

First Christian Church
Pastor Jeff Landers
332-2956 • 118 E. Webster
Bible Fellowship 9:20 a.m.
Church Service 10:30 a.m.

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