



Energy is watchword of political discussion

Energy has become the watchword of our political discussion, though there's little real understanding of what counts and — and what doesn't — in the energy debate.

Since most of us — political operatives included — know little about the economics and impacts of energy decisions, we tend to believe what we want to believe.

So the debate becomes a matter of faith, every bit as much as those over abortion or a balanced budget.

Today, the argument is over whether to renew our push for oil in offshore fields and in the Alaskan wilderness. No one has any figures on whether there's enough oil to make any impact on American consumption, but everyone has an opinion.

It's the same with proposals to build coal-fired power plants: Proponents argue that we need the power, that these plants would be cleaner than any yet built in the state. Opponents, most of whom only assume global warming is a threat, fear the added "carbon footprint."

How many on either side understand the carbon-dioxide equation?

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, hot to get to Washington one way or another, has staked much of her political capital on opposing coal plants and pushing wind power.

No one thinks wind power is bad, except those who don't want some of our most scenic landscape cluttered up with giant windmills, but is it really the answer to our needs?

Unless someone can figure out how to store massive amounts of electricity, it can't be, but the emotional arguments in favor of wind are unstoppable.

Are Big Oil companies ripping off the American public to pile up unconscionable profits?

The answer depends more on whether you see Big Oil as greedy corporations out to rape the land or as a few million retirees whose union (or state) pension plans happen to own a lot of oil stock, doesn't it?

True, corporate executives bring down huge salaries, especially when times are good, but stockholders seem to benefit the most. And who are they? Just average Americans with a pension or 401K plan. That's all.

Oddly enough, the same unions whose pensions benefit from high oil prices often back Democrats who decry the greed of Big Oil. Members don't make the connection, apparently, between oil profits and healthy pensions.

Then there are those who told us oil prices were never coming down. Demand will drive them ever higher, these doomsayers cried.

The plunge in the last week gave that the lie. Now "experts" say oil might drop back to \$70 a barrel, with fuel prices following.

Is it all a plot to make us appreciate \$3-a-gallon gas?

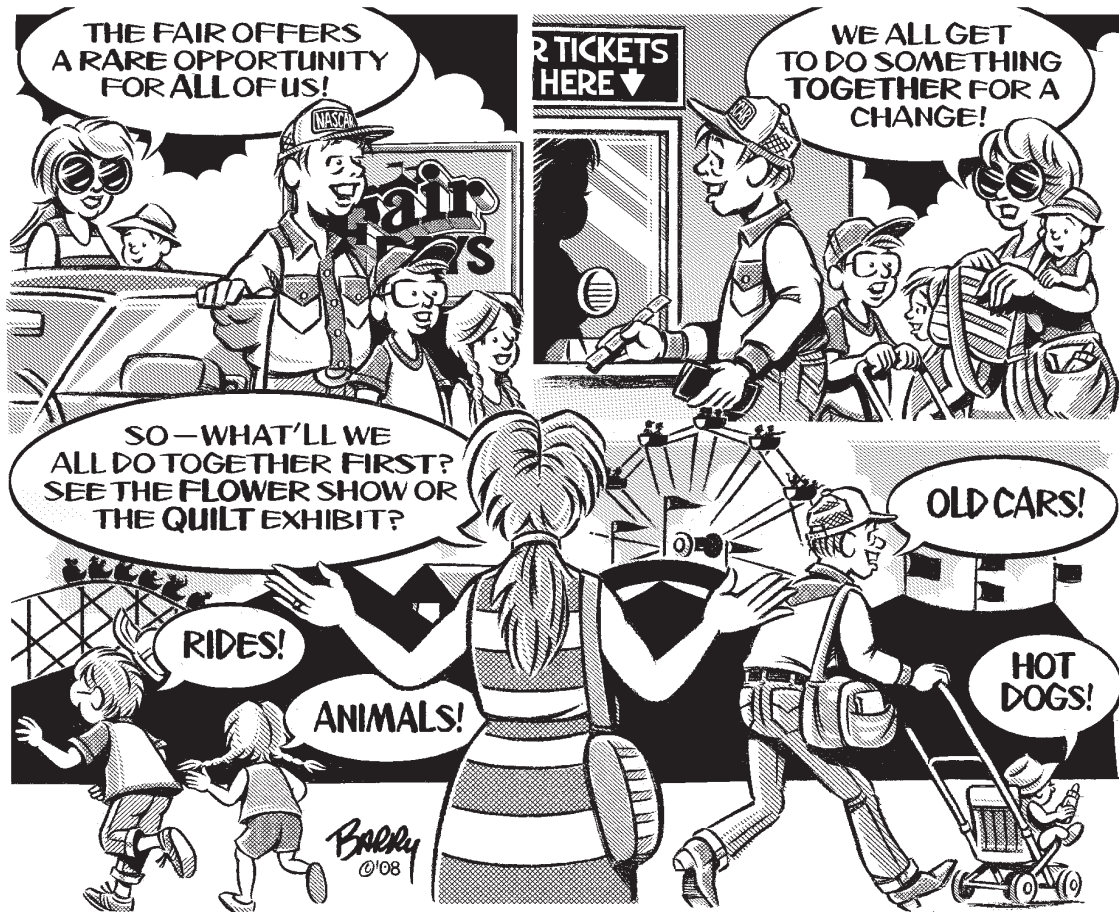
Could be. If you believe in conspiracy theory.

It all comes back to belief. Belief that times are bad tends to make them so. Belief that what's happening at this instant will go on forever blinds us to the change around the bend.

Sometimes, especially in politics, when there's hay to be made, the underlying facts don't have much to do with it. Belief is enough.

And some days, belief is all we have. Few of us are equipped to investigate and understand economics or global markets. The one truth is that markets, left to their own devices, will solve their own problems. Politicians seldom solve anything.

But if you believe that, it's hard to believe most of the rest, isn't it? — Steve Haynes



Hangin' With Marge

By Margaret Bucholtz



Summer Wedding

This has been a busy summer packed full of company and events.

In June we went to Kansas City for our sons wedding. Lezlie and Casey, Doug and Marla, Darrin and myself all shared a motel room. Darrin had bought his two little ones and they entertained us.

The day of the wedding I went in the bathroom and got ready to go. When I came out little Tucker looked at me and said, Button Bucholtz (which is what he calls me) you look different. I asked

him what looked different and he said, "Button, You look pretty." I thanked him and thought how sad it was that the child had never seen me in a dress and make up on, let alone my hair fixed.

When I got closer to the door he said, "You look like Cinderella." Feeling good about myself I went on to the wedding.

At the reception Sawyer, my little granddaughter, had kept me busy. There was a wonderful meal and chocolates were placed by your plate. I took her outside and played with her and she ate the

candy and the wind blew, but we had fun.

When I got back to the hotel I took my shoes off in the elevator and was carrying them in my hand, chocolate was stained all over my dress, my hair was a mess and I was tired.

I walked into the room and Tucker looked at me kind of funny. I asked him if I still looked like Cinderella? He wrinkled up his face and said, "No way, Button."

Sure took the soup out of my sales.

Open Season

Fly Fishing

By Cynthia Haynes



Steve had some pretty good catches while fly-fishing in Colorado last week.

He caught about two dozen brook trout, numerous trees and himself.

The brookies were mostly catch and release, although we did get a nice couple of fish dinners out of them.

The bushes were all catch-and-release except the one that gave him back his fly rather quickly.

Which is how we come to the last thing he caught last week — his thumb.

I was busy getting supper ready on the next-to-the-last day of our Colorado vacation. Steve was fishing. He had left at 5:30 p.m. promising to be back by dark, which would be about 8 p.m. out there. However, just before 7, he appeared at the front door.

I was a little surprised, but the weather was a little unsettled and I figured he might have outrun a thunderstorm. The only other thing that gets him off the water early

is an unexpected tumble into the creek. That moves him home really, really quickly.

"Catch anything," I asked. "Oh, yes!," he smiled. "Four small ones and this."

He held his right thumb up and there appeared to be a caterpillar or furry black-and-white-bug very firmly attached to the pad.

I looked the situation over. He looked the problem over and tried to wiggle the hook out again. No luck. He tried to push the barb back through the skin so we could cut it off, but that's tough skin there. Finally, he used a scalpel to remove the fly and returned it to Steve for his next fishing trip.

"There you go," he said. "The most expensive fly you'll buy all year. But it should do well, probably had lots of extra flavoring on it now."

Steve hopes to try that out later this month, when he'll get a chance to offer some trout a really expensive treat.

In the meantime, he left the emergency room with a Dora the Explorer bandage on his finger and a new appreciation for barbed hooks.

possible complications of waiting until 9 in the morning for the local doctor. The ER won out.

But first Steve took a shower and we had supper. The doctor would be there all night, the barbed hook didn't hurt much — and we were hungry. Besides, we'd bought a steak for dinner. Steve went out to start the fire.

Down at the emergency room the doctor numbed the thumb, then tried to push the barb out so he could cut it off. That's some tough skin there. Finally, he used a scalpel to remove the fly and returned it to Steve for his next fishing trip.

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Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



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Someone asked me the other day if I would be going to Denver for the Democratic National Convention to be held Aug. 25-28. I doubt if I'll make that one.

Even though I am not a Democrat and my political views lean more to the right, I think the event would be interesting from a historical point-of-view. It has been 100 years since the Mile-High City has hosted the convention.

But I'm afraid the police and local officials are going to have their hands full.

Two groups have promised to make themselves heard. One is Recreate '68 and the other is a band of self-professed Anarchist.

The 1968 Democratic National Convention was held in Chicago and was marred by violence. Protesters of the Vietnam War clashed with Chicago police and National Guardsmen, as Mayor Richard Daley tried to use the powers at hand to combat mob violence.

The Recreate '68 group plans to

have 50,000 anti-war protesters in Denver during the convention.

I don't know what to think about the other group. It's a little hard to take any organization seriously that calls themselves "anarchist." After all, how long would a society last if everyone was doing their own thing? And how would you recognize who is in the group and who isn't?

When I was in college, at Metropolitan State in Denver, I saw on campus where someone had spray painted on a building, "Anarchy is Freedom!" I kind of doubt if it would be the same kind of "free-

dom" we have in a Democratic government.

Winston Churchill stated, "It has been said that democracy is the worst form of government except all the others that have been tried." And freedom of speech is a good thing, even if it comes from idiots.

So no, I won't be going to Denver in August. But I will be hoping that Mayor John Hickenlooper and the Denver police don't have another 1968.

News From the Past

90 years ago - 1918

Evan Boardman, the splendid young manager of The Toggery has received his call for military service, and on July 15 will leave to work for Uncle Sam. It is a very hard time for the people to make a change in their

store, on such short notice. But they have arranged with P.L. Kreuscher, the old stand-by, to take charge and Mr. Jacks will spend considerable time there.

Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Phyllis Bexley, St. Francis; Don Younk, Arvada, Colo.; Mrs. J. Davis, Santa Rosa, Calif.; Beth Heitschmidt, Gypsum, Okla.; Vickie Dorsch, Salina; Gary Leach, Bird City; Ron Wieck, St. Francis; Amelia Henderson, St. Francis; Eldon Palmer, Goodland; Mary Lou Munn, Benkelman, Neb.; Robert Walter, Goodland;

GOD SAYS
This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.
Psalms 118:24

The Saint Francis Herald
 (USPS 475-960)
A Century of Service to Cheyenne County
 P.O. Box 1050, St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050
 Published each Thursday by Haynes Publishing Co., 310 W. Washington, St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050. Entered as periodicals matter at the post office at St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050, and at additional offices.

Official newspaper of Cheyenne County. Member of the Kansas Press Association, National Newspaper Association, Colorado Press Association and Inland Press Association.

Subscriptions: One year \$33 (tax included) in Cheyenne and adjacent counties; \$38 (tax included) elsewhere in Kansas; \$42 elsewhere in the U.S. Foreign subscriptions, \$25 extra per year (except APO/FPO). POSTMASTER: Send change of address to Box 1050, St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050

Nor'West Newspapers
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Mon.-Fri.
 (785) 332-3162 Fax - (785) 332-3001
 E-mail - sfherald@nwkansan.com

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Praise the Lord

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<p>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.</p>	<p>Salem Lutheran Church 332-3002 Pastor Chris Farmer No Sunday School until Sept. Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>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.</p>	
<p>Seventh-Day Adventist Church 332-2888 • 3rd & Adams Pastor Mike Larson Sabbath School 9:30 Morning Worship 10:45</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	
<p>First Christian Church Pastor Jeff Landers 332-2956 • 118 E. Webster Bible Fellowship 9:20 a.m. Church Service 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>St. Francis Equity</p>	<p>Saint Francis Herald</p>	
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