

# Opinion

## Letters



### Is the answer in coal?

To the Colby Free Press:

In one newsletter it stated that gasoline would one day cost \$15.00 a gallon and suggested that when a certain high on the stock market was reached, to sell all investments and wait five years for gas prices to straighten out as they usually do and then make investments.

When I went to locate the newsletter to find out at what price a person should sell oil stocks (as a matter of curiosity) I couldn't locate it. But found was a newsletter and here is what Frank Curzio, Jr. has to relate:

**The U.S. has more energy in coal than Saudi Arabia does in oil!**

**5 Fast Facts about Coal Bed Methane:**

**FACT #1** — There is so much methane in coal beds that recovering just 15 percent would yield enough gas to meet the entire country's natural gas needs for the next ten years.

**FACT #2** — The American West holds 31.5 percent of the nation's proved reserves of coal.

**FACT #3** — Utah, Colorado, Wyoming and New Mexico hold an estimated one-third to one-half of the nation's estimated recoverable reserves of coal bed methane.

**FACT #4** — Natural gas production in the Rocky Mountain Region is projected to grow by 2.7 trillion cubic feet (Tcf) by 2025, the largest increase in the United States

**FACT #5** — Coal bed methane production has grown by over 700 percent in the last 10 years — and we've only scratched the surface!

**Ms. Edna A. Hatcher**  
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(Letter #15)

#### About those letters . . .

The *Free Press* encourages and welcomes letters from readers. Letters should be typewritten, if at all possible, and should include a telephone number and an address. Most importantly, all letters must include a signature. Unsigned letters cannot be published. We reserve the right to edit for clarity and length, and, likewise, reserve the right to reject letters deemed to be of no public interest or considered offensive or libelous.

#### Addresses of elected officials:

**U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts**, 109 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. 202/224-4774

**U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback**, 303 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. 202/224-6521

**U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran**, 1519 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. 202/225-2715

**State Rep. Jim Morrison**, State Capitol Building Rm. 171-W, Topeka 66612. 785/296-7676 e mail: jmorriso@ink.org web:http://www.ink.org/public/legislators/jmorrison

**State Sen. Stan Clark**, State Capitol Building Rm. 449-N, Topeka 66612. 785/296-7399 e mail: sclark@ink.org

### COLBY FREE PRESS

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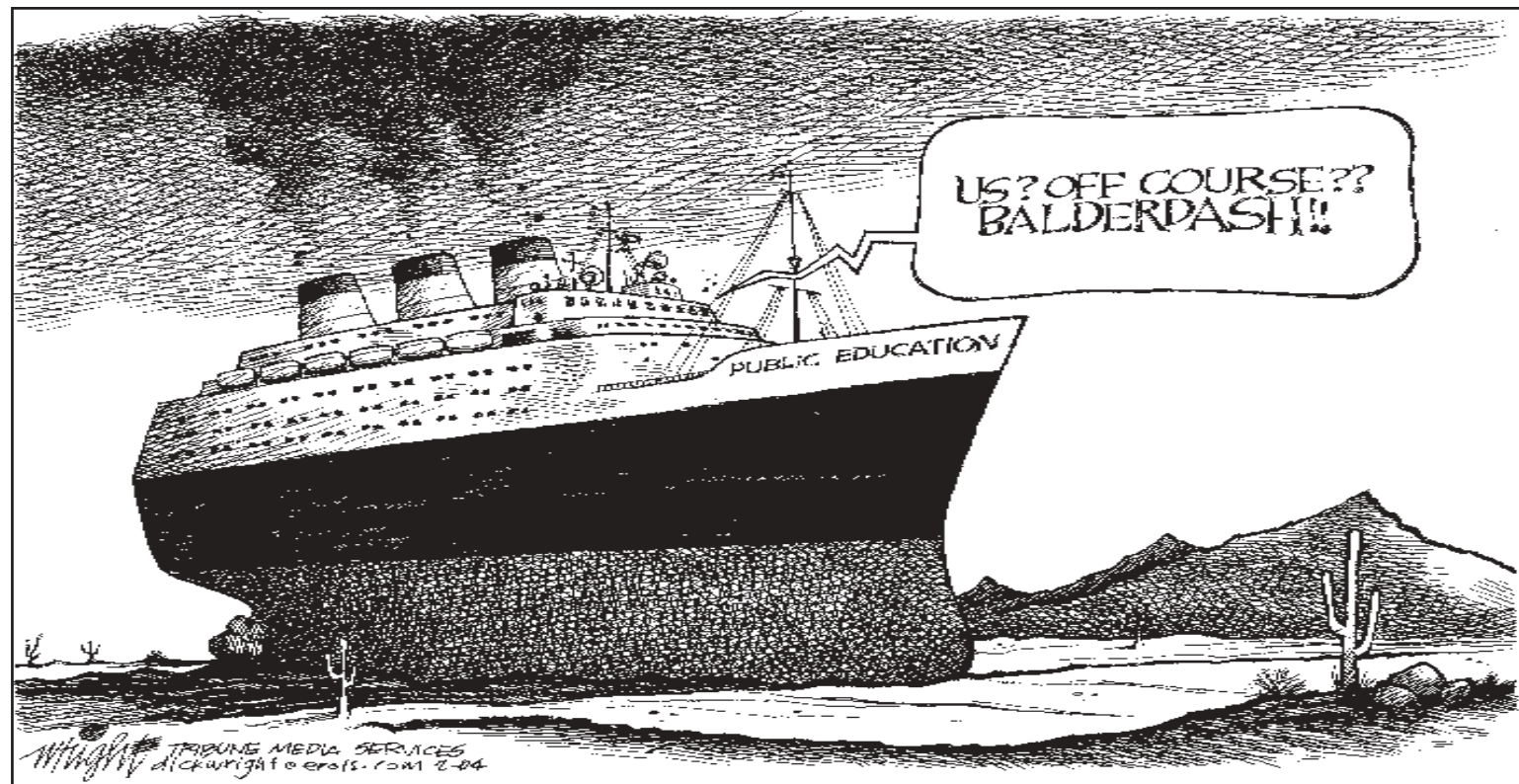
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### Nor'West Newspapers

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## Maybe....just maybe



### Tom Dreiling

#### • My Turn

**MARCH** not only came in like a lion, it also come in wet. In case you haven't been tracking the precipitation, the Northwest Research-Extension Center's chart shows 0.74 inches fell here since Monday, March 1. If you pencil in Sunday, Feb. 29, the total swells to 1.15 inches. Bundle up all of February and March to date and we have had 1.42 inches of moisture.

Here is how it has happened to date (February and March):

- February
- 1st, 0.08
- 2nd, 0.02
- 4th, 0.10
- 5th, 0.07
- 29th, 0.41

**Total 0.68**

- March
- 1st, 0.47
- 3rd, 0.05
- 5th, 0.22

**Total 0.74**

- January
- Total, 0.07**

• **Year's Total to date**  
(Jan. 1-March 5)

**1.49 inches**

Just maybe we're onto something good.

**IN JUST** a month, it is hard to believe, we will be turning our clocks UP one hour to begin functioning on Daylight Saving Time (Sunday, April 4). That is also Palm Sunday. Moving the clock up is the beginning of extended daylight later in the evenings. Gardening, walking, fishing, camping, boating — whatever your fancy begins emerging as the days march on. We're not yet out of the wintry grasp by any stretch the imagination because snow and cold will be with us for some time yet. But out over the horizon the transformation from winter to spring to summer is slowly, ever so slowly, beginning to take shape.

**THERE** are some things you just can't pass up without sharing. This is one of those:

A man had hit upon a plan to get rich. He would take out a large insurance policy on his wife, have

her killed, then he would collect the insurance and live like a king. A "friend of a friend" put him in touch with a nefarious underworld figure by the name of "Artie." Artie explained to the husband that his going price for snuffing out a spouse was \$5,000. The husband said he was willing to pay that amount but he wouldn't have any cash on hand until he could collect his wife's insurance money.

Artie insisted on being paid something up front. The man opened up his wallet, displaying the single dollar bill that rested inside. Artie sighed, rolled his eyes, and reluctantly agreed to accept the dollar as down payment for the dirty deed.

A few days later, Artie followed the man's wife to the local supermarket. There, he surprised her in the produce aisle and proceeded to strangle the life out of her. As the poor unsuspecting woman drew her last breath and slumped to the floor, the manager of the produce department stumbled unexpectedly onto the scene. Unwilling to leave any witnesses behind, Artie had no choice but to strangle the produce manager as well.

Unknown to Artie, however, the entire proceedings were captured by hidden cameras and observed by the store's security guard, who immediately called the police. Artie was caught and arrested before he could leave the store. Under intense questioning at the police station, Artie revealed the sordid plan, including his financial arrangements with the hapless husband.

The local newspaper ran a front page story the following day about the tragedy under the banner headline,

"Artie chokes two for a dollar at the supermarket."

**PRESIDENT** Bush has unveiled his first of an expected billions of dollars worth of campaign advertising this campaign season and it's

## Never a dull day

### T D

#### • At Week's End

*Following are just a few examples of stuff (I just love the word stuff) that finds its way into my e-mail. Each day I am greeted by no less than 150-180 e-mails, and when Monday morning rolls around and I haven't opened the computer since leaving the office Friday afternoon, that numbers swells to easily above 500. Thought you would enjoy the ones I've selected for this column today.*

I cannot imagine anything worse than being old. How awful it must be to have nothing to do all day long but stare at the walls or watch TV! So, when the President suggested we all celebrate Senior Citizen Week by cheering up a senior citizen, I decided to do just that. I would call on my new neighbor, an elderly retired gentleman, recently widowed, and who, I presumed, had moved in with his married daughter because he was too old to take care of himself. I baked a batch of cookies, and, without bothering to call (some old people cannot hear the phone), I went off to brighten this old guy's day.

When I rang the doorbell this "old guy" came to the door dressed in tennis shorts and a polo shirt, looking about as ancient and decrepit as Donny Osmond.

"I'm sorry I can't invite you in," he said when I introduced myself, "but I'm due at the Racquet Club at 2. I'm playing in the semifinals today."

"Oh that's all right," I said. "I baked you some cookies..."

"Great!" he interrupted, snatching the box. "Just what I need for bridge club tomorrow! Thanks so much!"

I continued, "...and just thought we'd visit a while. But that's okay! I'll just trot across the street and call on Granny Grady."

"Don't bother," he said. "Gran's not home; I know. I just called to remind her of our date to go dancing tonight. She may be at the beauty shop. She mentioned at breakfast (at which

house?) that she had an appointment for a tint job."

So I went home and called my Mother's cousin (age 83); she was in the hospital ... .. working in the gift shop....

I called my aunt (age 74); she was on vacation in China. .

I called my husband's uncle (age 79). I forgot.... he was on his honeymoon. ....

I still dread old age, now more than ever. I just don't think I'm up to it.

— Author Unknown

Timmy was a five-year-old boy whose Mom loved him very much. Being a worrier, she was concerned about him walking to school when he started kindergarten. She walked with him the first couple of days, and at the end of the week, he came home from school and told his mother that he did not want her walking him to school everyday. He wanted to be like the "big boys" he protested loudly.

She had an idea how to handle the situation. She asked a neighbor, Mrs. Goodnest, if she would please follow him to school in the mornings, staying at a distance, so perhaps he wouldn't notice her. Mrs. Goodnest said that since she was up early with her toddler anyway, it would be a good way for them to get some exercise as well, so she agreed.

The next school day, Mrs. Goodnest and her little girl, Marcy, set out following behind Timmy as he walked to school with another neighbor boy he knew. She did this for the whole

not a bad first try. I enjoyed the spin because I watched it for its intended purpose: to remind me of his leadership. But some folks are really disturbed because it briefly shows 9/11 scenes from the disaster at the Twin Towers and, they reason "he is using that tragedy for political gain!"

Duh?!

These very same people are probably among the millions who hailed the President for the way he handled everything after the towers collapsed, the plane crashed in Pennsylvania and another hit the Pentagon.

We are a society of short memories.

Relax. Relax. If you are going to get yourself all twisted up like a pretzel this early in the campaign, what'll you look like when election day finally rolls around? A hanging chad?

Cool it.

The real fireworks awaits!

**HERE** are some interesting T-shirts recently brought to my attention:

- √On the front: 60 is not old.
- √On the back: If you're a tree.
- √I'm still hot. It just comes in flashes.
- √At my age, "getting lucky" means finding my car in the parking lot.
- √My reality check just bounced.√
- √Life is short, make fun of it.
- √I need somebody bad. Are you bad?
- √Physically pffffffft!
- √I'm not a snob. I'm just better than you are.
- √It's my cat's world. I'm just here to open cans.
- √Keep staring....I may do a trick.
- √Dangerously under-medicated.
- √My mind works like lightning. One brilliant flash, and it's gone.
- √Every time I hear the word "exercise," I wash my mouth out with chocolate.
- √Cats regard people as warm-blooded furniture.
- √In God we trust. All others we polygraph.

**HAVE** a good evening, a good weekend, and pencil in some church time.

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week. As the boys walked and chatted, kicking stones and twigs, Timmy's little friend noticed the same lady was following them as she seemed to do every day all week. Finally he said to Timmy, "Have you noticed that lady following us to school all week? Do you know her?"

Timmy nonchalantly replied, "Yeah, I know who she is."

The friend said, "Well, who is she?"

That's just Shirley Goodnest," Timmy replied, "and her daughter Marcy."

"Shirley Goodnest? Who is she and why is she following us?"

Timmy explained, "Well, every night my Mom makes me say the 23rd Psalm with my prayers, 'cuz she worries about me so much. And in the Psalm, it says 'Shirley Goodnest and Marcy shall follow me all the days of my life,' so I guess I'll just have to get used to it!"

— anonymous

The teacher announced to her first grade class that they would start the day with the Pledge of Allegiance. She instructed them to put their right hand over their heart and repeat after her. She looked around the room as she started the recitation, "I pledge allegiance to the flag..."

When her eyes fell upon little Nathan she noticed his hand over the right cheek of his buttocks. "Nathan, I will not continue until you put your hand over your heart."

Nathan replied, "It is over my heart!" After several attempts to get little Nate to put his hand over his heart, the teacher asked, "Why do you think that is where your heart is?"

"Because every time my Grandma comes to visit, she picks me up, pats me here, and says, 'Bless your little heart,' and my Grandma wouldn't lie!"

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*Got something for "At Week's End?" Just e-mail td@nwkansas.com, fax (785) 462-7749, call (785) 462-3963 or mail to 155 W. 5th, Colby, Kan. 67701. Thanks!*