

from our viewpoint...

## Be very careful of the quicksand

How do we go about readjusting America? Land of the free, home of the brave, and might we add, home of the broke.

We are in a fiscal mess of nightmare proportions.

We seem shy to point the finger where some of the blame rests — the halls of Congress.

They make and pass the laws. “We the people” only get to express our approval or disapproval at the ballot box. They go about their business with what appears to be only limited regard for “we the people.” After all, we are their bosses. Right? Ah, that’s a stretch.

Don’t they set their own salary? Sure they do. It’s currently \$174,000 per year. And like it or not, there’s nothing “we the people” can do about it.

Set the length and number of vacations? “We the people” can’t do that?

Work on-site three days a week? Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday. Friday is travel time back home and Monday is travel time back to D.C. Is that the schedule “we the people” operate under?

If Congress is really serious about cutting expenses, why don’t they limit their weekly *back home* travels to just one a month? That would save a bundle, and keep them on the job longer. They could save another bundle if they would reject — **r-e-j-e-c-t** — collectively, their next pay raise. Bet they won’t. Bet you don’t even know when it is they take up their pay raise issue.

If you are frustrated the way our Congress acts, and this year has been the pits so far, there’s something “we the people” can do about it. After all we are partly to blame.

How?

Kick the habit!

No, not the smoking habit.

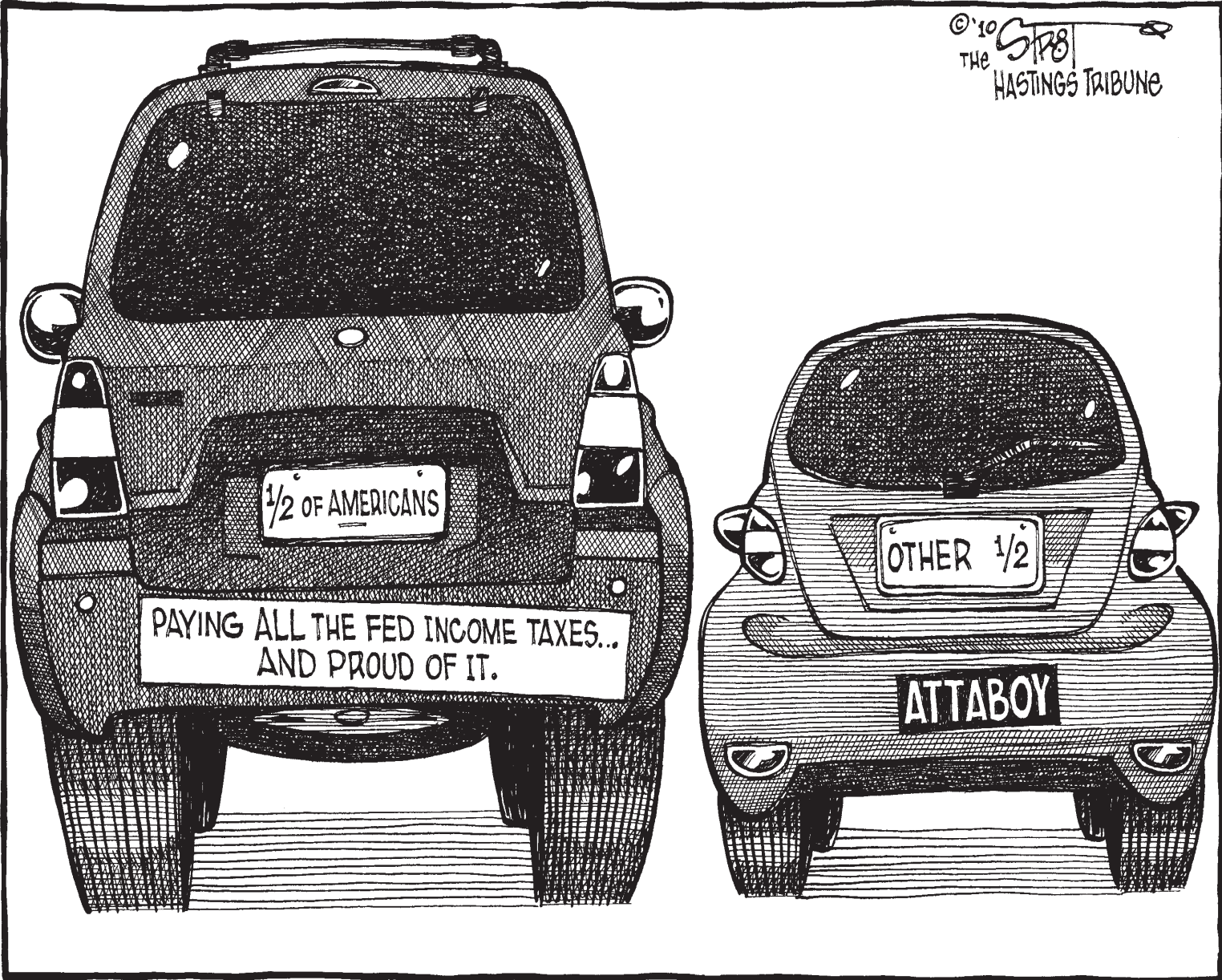
The voting habit.

Simply put, break yourself of the habit of looking at the initial next to a candidate’s name on the election ballot — (D) or (R) — before marking it. That’s not important.

What is important is what **you** believe, not what your party’s candidate says he/she believes. Educate yourself about the candidates, put their feet to the fire, don’t just take them at their word. After all they speak ‘politician,’ which is a deceptive form of communication.

We need to get out of the box and not be led by the nose. In other words, be Republican if you wish. Be Democrat if you wish. Nothing wrong with that.

But for safety’s sake, stay away from the quicksand! -TD



## First time grandparents give a thumbs up

### Thumbs up...

“To the new addition to our family. How nice it is to finally be grandparents. Let the fun begin!”-(e-mail); “To our neighborhood friends, for their care and concern. We love you all.”-(e-mail); “To Mrs. McCants, good luck with your campaign.”-(e-mail); “To Brenda, now the politician. You have renewed our interest in local politics.”-(telephone); “To those who organized the talent show. It was good, wholesome family entertainment.”-(per visit at Walmart).”

(To render a salute, simply e-mail tad1@stel.net, call 890-2475, mail to The Star-News, 1205 Main or Tom D. at 516 E. 6th, Apt. 212 Thanks; no charge.)

-td-

As this is being written Wednesday evening, the rainfall we received was really a good one. All total we received 1.05 inches — 1.01 up to midnight Tuesday and then .04 after that into early Wednesday. Yep, patience has its reward. Remember the windy conditions Tuesday? Gusts up to 58 miles per hour and sustained winds of 35-45 miles per hour caused some dirt to blow. Ah, springtime on the plains.

-td-

I received this humorous note from a reader:



### tom dreiling

- time out with td

“23255 days old....that explains why I’m so tired all the time!!!”

-td-

The professional sports world must have its own money printing press. I understand that the Denver Broncos’ receiver Brandon Marshall jumped ship out there — and I’m sure to no teary eyes — and signed on with The Miami Dolphins NFL team for \$47 million. The salary structure in the professional ranks is nothing short of insane. No wonder it costs so much to attend games. And once you get inside and stop at a concession stand to buy a hot dog and something to drink, your wallet is empty. So we are in tough economic times, huh?!

-td-

It will be interesting to see who will be the winner when the American Idol calls it quits for this season. Honest to goodness, it would be difficult to pick a winner at this point in time. The talent is so inconsistent from week

to week. I find myself more on Simon’s side as far as judging goes, and I can’t say that Ellen added much to the judge’s table. Wednesday night two more hopefuls were eliminated — Andrew and Katie. That leaves the following seven still standing: Aaron, Casey, Lee, Shioban, Michael, Crystal and Tim. I’m sticking with Aaron and Shioban to be the last two standing. We’ll see.

-td-

Chapter 2: My visitor, Flat Stanley, is still making the rounds with me. I took him out to the fair grounds the other day to look around; we enjoyed a Coke as we relaxed at Gulick Park where he checked out the play things; he helped me pick up a few groceries at Walmart, and then we paid a quick visit to the airport. He doesn’t watch much television. By day’s end he’s pretty tired and he goes to bed around 8:30 p.m.

-td-

Have a good evening! And remember to visit the house of worship of your choice this weekend. And because there is no admission charge and no concession stand, maybe you could spring for a little more in the giving plate.

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## No more bacon and eggs?



### Insight this week

- john schlageck

They forget our farmers and livestock producers make sure we eat the healthiest, most affordable food on the planet. These producers take care of their livestock because it’s the right thing to do. It is part of a farmer and rancher’s values that embody everything they do.

It’s up to us in agriculture to expose the Human Society of the United States (HSUS) and People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) for who and what they are. In case you haven’t heard, these two organizations are leading the charge to “step up for animal welfare.”

However, HSUS has one goal and one goal only — the total elimination of all animal agriculture in this country. Go to their website and check it out. HSUS wants to remove meat, milk and eggs from the human diet, yours and mine.

Most American consumers have never lived or worked on a farm. Still they retain nostalgic visions of their grandparents or great-grandparents’ farms. You know the story where these farmers and ranchers of old grew their own vegetables, milked a few cows, raised pigs for bacon, ham and pork chops and cared for a couple dozen chickens who laid eggs in an old

white wooden chicken coop.

Like a lot of things from the past, nostalgia might appear to be better than it really was. Many of our grandparents were barely able to eke out a living while raising a large family.

The days of yesteryear on the farm took a lot of hard work from sunup to sundown. Many still went hungry or broke and times were lean.

Today’s animal husbandry, or care and feeding of livestock, is no accident. Rather, it’s because of the dedicated men, women and children who raise and care for this state’s livestock. For generations, Kansas farmers and ranchers have watched over and nurtured cattle, hogs, sheep, chickens and other livestock from sunup to sunset — every day of the year.

The more comfortable these animal producers make their animals, the more productive they’re going to be and the better opportunity they’ll have to make a profit.

The health and welfare of livestock trumps everything else on the farm, even a producer’s own comfort. That’s been the recipe for success for nearly 150 years and with any luck it’ll be the same for another 150 years.

*John Schlageck of the Kansas Farm Bureau has been writing about farming and ranching in Kansas for more than 25 years. He is the managing editor of “Kansas Living,” a quarterly magazine dedicated to agriculture and rural life in Kansas*

## where to write

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