

Opinion



Other Press Viewpoints

Higher gas prices have silver lining

Higher gas prices in recent years have had the silver lining of pushing America toward conservation and development of alternative energy sources.

If gas prices that were a little higher had that effect, then the unimaginable prices we now see at the pump are all the better. In fact, let us just say that \$3-a-gallon gas is good.

Why? People now actually are conserving, taking fewer trips and thinking about trading in their gigantic SUVs for something a little easier on the pocketbook.

That might even be a hybrid car — the high gas mileage vehicles that combine electrical power with fuel. Automakers are talking about producing more of them.

And ethanol promoters in Kansas are seeking more locations to sell 85-percent ethanol at the pump. No doubt more car makes will be flex fuel and able to take E-85 as well as standard petroleum. That in turn will fuel expansion of grain-based ethanol production in Kansas.

All this is good. We should be adopting hybrid technology. And we should be adopting many other alternative energy technologies. But we have not done so until now because of the relatively low cost of gasoline.

Consumer demand largely drives the development of other sources of energy. ...

Another difference between other gas price spikes and now is before we could say the solution was decreasing our dependence on foreign oil. Now it is our domestic production that has been set back by the twin gulf hurricanes.

That will come back, but we should hope gas prices stay high because for the sake of our future and of our environment we should make conservation and demand for energy-efficient technology a permanent culture change in America.

Meanwhile, natural gas also is becoming an expensive commodity. Again, high energy costs will lead to conservation and to the development of alternative energy.

Hybrid cars make good sense. So do ethanol and biofuels. And so do wind and other renewable energy resources.

Oil and gas are not limitless, even if we do drill into the virgin Arctic landscape.

But other energy sources exist. The sad reality is that their development is based on economics.

High gas prices make favorable economics for new and better energy.

The Hays Daily News

Where to write, call

- 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**, 2443 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. 202/225-2715 or Fax 202/225-5124
- State Rep. Jim Morrison**, State Capitol Building, 303 SW 10th St. Rm. 171-W, Topeka 66612. 785/296-7676 e mail: jmorriso@ink.org web: www.ink.org/public/legislators/jmorriso
- State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer**, State Capitol, 300 SW 10th St., Rm. 128-S., Topeka, Kan. 66612, 785/296-7399 ostmeyer@senate.state.ks.us

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155 W. Fifth (USPS 120-920) (785) 462-3963 Colby, Kan. 67701

freepress@nwkansas.com

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Official newspaper of Thomas County, Colby, Brewster and Rexford.

Pat Schiefen - Interim Publisher

pjschiefen@nwkansas.com

NEWS

Patty Decker - Editor

pdecker@nwkansas.com

Tisha Cox - General Assignment

tcox@nwkansas.com

Jan Katz Ackerman, Area Reporter

ackermanjk@ruraltel.net

ADVERTISING

Crystal Rucker - Advertising Sales/Director

crystalr@nwkansas.com

Jasmine Crotinger - Advertising Sales

jasminec@nwkansas.com

Cindy Davis - Advertising Sales

c.davis@nwkansas.com

BUSINESS OFFICE

Lea Bandy - Circulation Manager

lea@nwkansas.com

Jeanette Applegate - Bookkeeping & Ad Building

japplegate@nwkansas.com

Evan Barnum - Systems Administrator

support@nwkansas.com

NOR'WEST PRESS

Jim Bowker - General Manager

Richard Westfahl, Lana Westfahl, Ron VanLoenen, Judy McKnight

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Lessons learned should not be forgotten

As protests against the war in Iraq grow I hope the lessons learned from Viet Nam are not forgotten.

As the shortfalls for manpower in the military continue the memory of the draft reappears. I hope we continue with an all-volunteer military unless we are faced with a war of survival. I don't know whether we should be the world's police force though. Also if they want us to police how about letting them pay the bill.

The one thing I hope does not happen is that people forget their countrymen and countrywomen in the military who are doing their duty. I hope no service man or woman is ever spat upon again as they were during the Viet Nam war.

Our soldiers took the brunt of the dissatisfaction of the people with an unpopular war. I am not sure we understand what psychological damage came from that treatment. We have the right to disagree with our government's policies but not to take it out on our service people.

I do not know where the idea came from that we could send troops into areas with conflict and have no casualties. We all grieve for the loss of life that has happened in Iraq. However, it is not realistic to think that no one will get hurt when you send soldiers into a war zone. Do people know how many are killed in training accidents?



Pat Schiefen

- **Interim Publisher**

After Viet Nam people became aware of post traumatic stress syndrome in returning service persons. After talking to wives of men who were in WWII they had some of the same problems. Since WWII veterans came home to a different situation than their brothers in Viet Nam the post traumatic stress syndrome did not make much of an appearance until the men had serious health issues. In WWI post traumatic stress syndrome was sometimes referred to as shell shock.

Personally I would not advise my own son, who is military age, to evade the draft and if he wanted to join the military I would back him wholeheartedly. I have had family in WWI, WWII, Viet Nam, and Desert Storm.

As women have fought for equality in society as well as the military, responsibilities come with that equality. Women as well as men should be prepared to participate in battle.

The Department of Veteran's Affairs has been losing in the budget wars in Congress. Our society owes a debt to the soldiers who have served this country. Are we going to forget their sacrifices?

The whole concept of war for the U.S. has changed since the end of WWII. Historically most of our early warfare was tied to our very survival as a country. If we didn't fight we didn't survive. I am not sure that WWI had as much of a direct threat to our survival as WWII. If we had lost WWII I might be typing this in German.

After WWII the U.S. found itself trying to prevent the economic and ideological spread of communism - the Cold War. Who could have known that the Iron Curtain would crack because of the failure of communism economically. All that effort put into propaganda by both sides is now a mute point.

The idea of fighting a war from a computer has been the subject of many a science fiction movie. Sanitizing and depersonalizing war is not in the best interest of mankind. That makes the death and distraction of war too unreal.

We might lose sight that the number of dead and wounded are humans like us.

Maybe wars should be fought by the leader or leaders of the countries in the dispute.

Misbehavior destroying legacy

Michael Reagan

- **Making Sense**

The whole incident reminded me of one of my father's finest moments when on the day of his inauguration in 1983, just minutes after learning that the American hostages in Iran had been freed, he sent former President Carter to greet the hostages and even gave him the use of Air Force One for his mission.

Dad had no reason beyond his great compassion and decency to treat the man he had defeated after a bruising campaign with such a great and generous gesture. And from that moment on he never once spoke ill of Jimmy Carter nor did Jimmy Carter speak ill of him during his eight years in the White House.

Ronald Reagan and Jimmy Carter may have been worlds apart in their politics, but they shared one similarity - they were both gentlemen. It's something that could never be said about Bill Clinton, now appropriately memorialized by the Chinese by having a line of condoms named after him. Our media and his fellow Democrats may not have his number, but the rest of the world does. Clinton's condoms - what a legacy!

Clinton's activities showed once again, that like his Democrat colleagues, he cannot stop wanting to run this country and run the world while he's at it. The man's overwhelming hunger

for the spotlight marks everything he says and does.

He cannot bring himself to leave center stage and slip into the background. Nor can his fellow Democrat Chuck Schumer; when he sees a microphone the area between him and the mike becomes a hazardous place to be. Get near either of them and you could be trampled to death as they race to get in front of the TV camera.

Clinton's ingratitude to the president who honored him once again by pairing him with his father to raise funds for the victims of Hurricane Katrina simply boggles the mind. At the very first opportunity he turned on the man who went out of his way to twice honor him with a prestigious assignment.

Chanting the Democrat party's favorite mantra about the need to raise taxes so they can spend more of the people's money on their pet spending schemes, Bill Clinton proved oblivious to the simple fact that the president's tax-cutting policies have given the United States the fastest growing economy in the world. His obsession with tax increases would plunge the U.S. into the recession he left behind when he and his wife slipped away from the White House with a few national treasures in their trunks. We hoped then that he was gone. He wasn't.

Will he never go away?

Mike Reagan, the eldest son of the late President Ronald Reagan, is heard on more than 200 talk radio stations nationally as part of the Radio America Network. Email Comments to mereagan@hotmail.com.

Letters

Letter to the Editor:

Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas would like to wish all of the area Knights of Columbus organizations in northwest Kansas the best of luck as they conduct their annual Tootsie Roll Drive. For many years, people with developmental disabilities have

benefited from the generosity and hard work of the Knights. We truly appreciate their kindness and support.

Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas' Consumer Medical Fund was established due to the contributions made through the K of C Tootsie Roll Drive. This

fund assists individuals with disabilities with the cost of medical items and care that are not covered by Medicaid such as dental expenses and adaptive equipment. We hope that everyone will take the time to donate through this great effort by your local Knights.

Once again, good luck and thank

you for making the medical needs of people with developmental disabilities one of your top priorities. You are making a great difference in peoples lives.

Steve Keil

Director of Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas

Doonesbury

- **Gary Trudeau**

