

from other pens...

Democrat show sets mark for GOP

The Democrats are off and running. They ushered in their convention in Denver Monday with an Obama-Biden ticket. Obama, as in Sen. Barack, and Biden, as in Sen. Joe. The ticket is being hailed as tough and ready to mow down the opposition.

Well, that's what the Democrats say. Next Monday, in St. Paul, the Republicans will open their convention with a McCain-Romney ticket. McCain as in Sen. John and Romney as in former Massachusetts governor.

We might be a little ahead of ourselves, but it's fun getting in on the guessing game, too. The ticket will be hailed as tough and ready to mow down the opposition.

Well, that's what the Republicans will say. A year or so ago, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton was expected to be the Democratic Party's presidential nominee. That didn't happen.

A year or so ago, former New York City Mayor Rudy Guiliani was expected to be the Republican presidential nominee. That didn't happen.

Instead, both Clinton and Guiliani will have roles at their respective conventions as keynote speakers.

What a difference a year made. As soon as the conventions exit Denver and St. Paul, the gloves come off and the fight begins. Hold tight; it'll be breath-taking. And when the final bell rings and the fight is called a draw, then that's when we, the voters, step in.

If you are not registered to vote, we would strongly suggest you do so. And if you are, make sure you show up at the polls on Nov. 4.

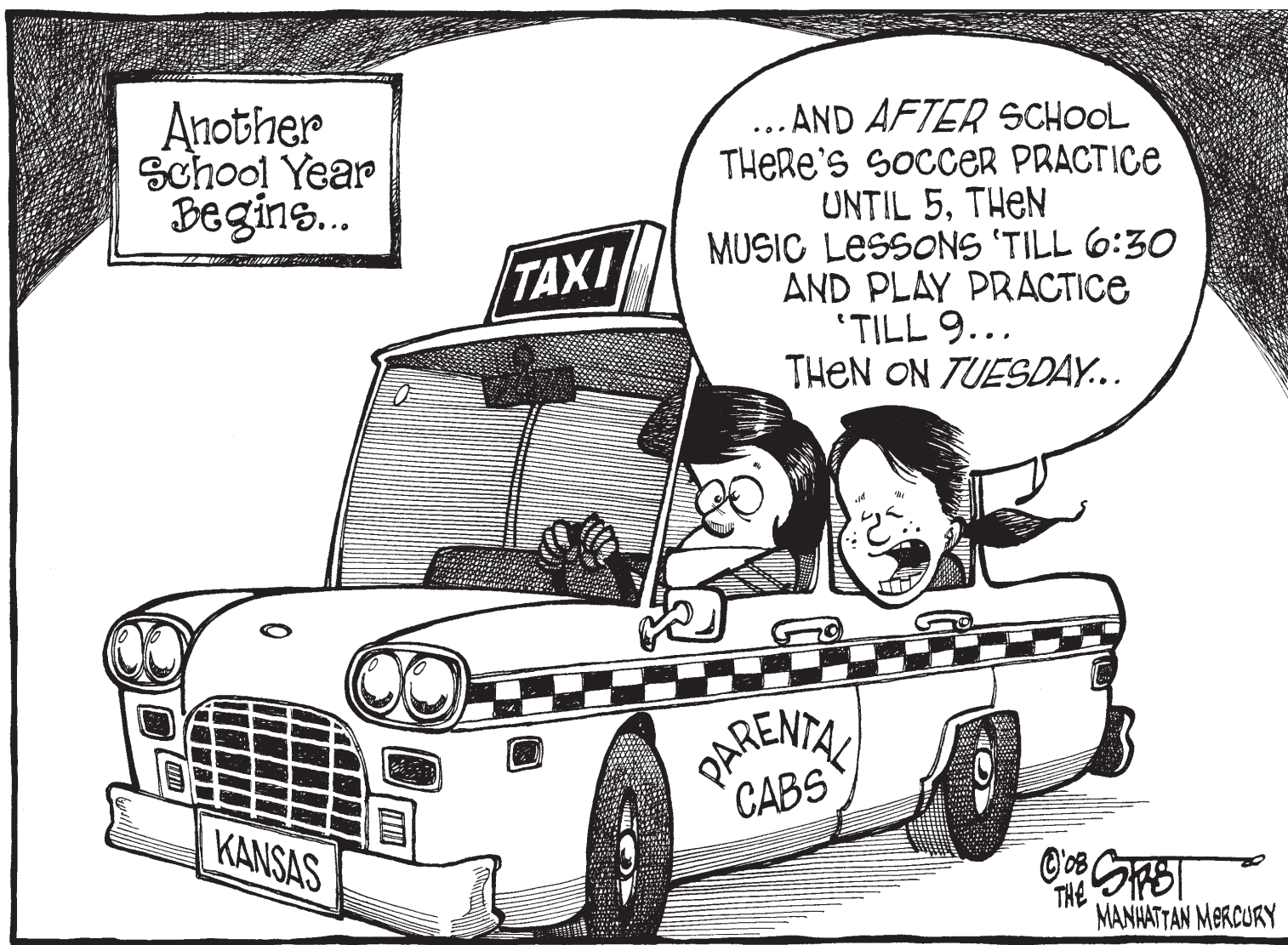
Each presidential election year they tell us, "This will be the most important election this country has ever held."

So, now in 2008, "This will be the most important election this country has ever held." Of course, we disagree. One is no more important than another. We have been through many, many, many presidential elections over the years, and each one, in its own way, was important.

We will do our duty and vote. Then, regardless of which candidate ends up in the White House, we will stand behind that man as our president and as our commander-in-chief. And it would be awfully nice if the crazies on the 24/7 cable news channels would feel the same way. And quit stirring the pot after the fire's out.

Go, Barack!
Go, John!
Go vote!

— Tom Dreiling, The Norton Telegram



Golden angel food cake wins trip to state

The angel food cake took 12 egg whites, which is how the golden angel cake was born.

Rhonda said her mother was a thrifty farm wife with the usual barnyard fowl population. The family ate a lot of eggs, and Mom made a lot of cakes, including a nice angel food which required a dozen whites.

This left a dozen yolks, and it would have been a sin to throw out perfectly good food. So a second cake — the golden angel cake — always accompanied the angel food. The golden angel cake took its name from the yellow coloring brought on by the egg yolks and lemon flavoring.

Rhonda admitted she was never a big fan of the golden angel cake, not liking the lemon flavoring very much. But the cake was always a big hit at home, so when it came time for young Rhonda to make a cake for 4-H to take to the county fair, that's the one she chose. To her immense surprise, she got a purple ribbon and a trip to the state fair.

At state, she got another purple. The cake was a hit everywhere it went — except with one aunt, who said that when she tried the



cynthia haynes

• open season

recipe, it flopped.

This information was conveyed to me in a whisper as we sat on the front row of the food auction at the fair.

The famous golden angel cake had won the grand champion prize and was being sold for more than I could afford to the very woman who invented the recipe.

Note to self: never bid against a grandparent at any 4-H auction.

Rhonda told me that her husband was going through some old recipes and came upon the golden angel cake just about the time their son needed to make something for 4-H to take to the fair.

Father and son put their heads together and decided that if the recipe was good for a visit to the state fair once, it was worth another try by another generation.

So while the family enjoyed an angel food cake — Rhonda's a lot like her mother — the golden angel cake was whipped up by the third generation. And, after winning the top prize, it's heading for the state fair again.

Rhonda and her mother were good enough to share the recipe for this popular dessert, but I haven't had a chance to find an angel food cake recipe yet and it'll be a sin to waste those perfectly good egg whites.

Yep, I'm a lot like Rhonda and her mother.

State Fair Golden Angel Cake

- 12 egg yolks
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 cups cake flour
- 1 cup boiling water
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. lemon extract

Beat egg yolks and sugar until light lemon color and fluffy. Sift flour and baking powder together three times. Add flour mixture, then add the boiling water a bit at a time while mixing. Add extract. Mix until the batter appears well combined. Push gently into an ungreased tube cake pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 50 to 60 minutes.

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In any struggle between the dreamers and the realists the realists always win.

We're seeing that played out right now as the supreme realist of our time, Vladimir Putin, not only is running circles around the dreamers of the West, but is also making them look like a bunch of incompetent ninnyes.

Putin is playing the role of Vlad the Impaler, and the heads he is displaying atop Red Army bayonets as he marches through Georgia — a la Gen. Sherman — are those of the leaders of what used to be called the Free World.

We should have seen it coming, but we were too busy with George Bush's dreams of a democracy-drenched world — and Western Europe's preoccupation with the destruction of all vestiges of its Christian past — to notice what Vlad has been up to as he goes about creating the latest version of a czarist imperialist Russia itching to expand its borders.

As the always-perceptive Ralph Peters wrote in the New York Post, Putin's latest venture "not only sized up President Bush humiliatingly well, but precisely anticipated Europe's nonreaction — while taking a perfect-fit measure of Georgia's mercurial president."

Putin, he added, "not only knew what he was doing — he knew exactly what others would do" an example, Peters wrote, of "intelligence work at the hall-of-fame level. (For our part, we had all the intelligence pieces in our hands and failed to assemble the puzzle.)"

Peters recalled the signs that were always there for the CIA to see, had they been able to recognize what was taking place right under their noses — "the months of meticulous planning and extensive preparations for this invasion [that] were covered by military exercises, disingenuous explanations — and maskirovka, the art of deception the Red Army had mastered."

The result? "The Russians convinced us to see what we wanted to see."

The reaction of all of this by the Bush administration and our Western allies has been to run around like headless chickens. We have been shown exactly how it feels to be rendered impotent in the face of a determined opponent that doesn't care what the rest of the world thinks of him.

There are a lot of lessons to be drawn from this, but for Americans one of the most important ones concerns the current debate on energy. Nobody seems to have noticed that the crisis in Georgia points up once again just how dependent we are on getting much of our



michael reagan

• making sense

oil from areas of the world where turmoil is rampant.

A vital oil pipeline runs through Georgia, for example. One word from Putin and it shuts down.

In the face of all this, when we need desperately to take advantage of the vast stores of oil that lie beneath our feet and off our shores waiting to be exploited, we allow the Democrats to place all that petroleum off-limits as they have since the Clinton administration all but banned drilling.

They scoff at the vast majority of Americans who are demanding that we drill and drill now, using the lame excuse that it will take years before the oil here can be brought to the surface and refined and supplied to the nation's gas pumps.

Instead they dream of presently unavailable

alternative sources of energy that may never become realities, and in any case are years in the future.

Realists don't dream. They recognize that if we start to drill now, sometime in the not too distant future — two, three five or even ten years from now — America will have all the oil we'll ever need and we won't have to worry about what Vladimir Putin or Iran's President Ahmadinejad are doing to threaten our oil supplies.

If we listen to the dreamers ten years from now we'll still be waiting for the promised age of alternative energy to get off the ground — and we'll still be dependent on foreign oil at only God knows how much per gallon.

Note: Peters' full article can be seen at http://www.nypost.com/seven/08142008/news/columnists/a_czar_is_born_bad_vlad_wins_war_dupes_124459.htm and it's required reading for anyone who wants to understand what Putin is up to.

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