

STRICTLY HARE SAY

'Enviromaniacs' Make A New Mark On Our Language

BY LISA HARE
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I've always had an appreciation for a clever turn of phrase. Language, for some reason, fascinates me — always has.

The Internet, and moreover, phone texting seem to have spawned a completely new and ever-evolving language of their own — acronyms, abbreviations and the offensive commingling of numerals with letters and symbols. To my amazement, I've discovered it's not only limited to written language any more. I recently heard a teenager actually say "O-M-G!" to her confiding friend, as though the acronym (identical in syllabic syntax to its counterpart) was somehow more efficient means of communication.



Lisa HARE

Speaking of new words, I ran across another one the other day. I've been trying to stay a safe distance from the Keystone Pipeline controversy — for my own sake. If I were to be completely honest (cynical), I'd say we already know how this one is going to turn out. When doesn't Big Oil always get its money-making way?

But I've been following the protests, interviews, various letters to Secretary of State Clinton and the dog-and-pony of the rest of it, and somewhere in my reading a new term popped up.

"Enviro-maniacs."

Though my first reaction was one of disgust — people concerned about maintaining the safety and integrity of North America's largest underground aquifer being so unreasonable, and all — the linguistic-loving part of me had to give a nod to the genius of the phrase. For a brief moment, I imagined whatever pro-pipeline lobbyist or politician staffer that first conceived the phrase had to have paused in his stream of thought at the keyboard, re-read the word on the screen — his eyes widening in excitement — pumped his fist in the air once, and thought, "Yes! This is good."

This discombobulated marriage of two unrelated words accomplishes several things in its implications. At once ridiculing and nullifying, enviromaniacs corrals anyone concerned for our resources — in this case, drinking water — into the "radical" category. Definitely not a place where any tractor-driving, calf-branding, Husker-loving Nebraskan wants to be held. Or so I always thought.

To my surprise, and to his credit, Gov. Dave Heineman did step out last month and urge Obama to block the \$7 billion project, despite the State Department's recent "findings" in its environmental review that any oil spill from the line would only affect a limited area in Nebraska's Sand Hills region.

Sorry Dave, I guess no one cares about the potentially catastrophic consequences to the aquifer if a leak actually occurred. (By the way, the precursor pipeline to this one, a much smaller one, in its first year of operations sprang 12 leaks.)

Let's look at the real facts. The ones that really matter ... to the people that matter.

Sen. Mark Christensen from Neb. District 44 — pipeline supporter — projects that the Keystone Project will create more than \$450 million in new spending with \$11 million in construction-generated taxes, and \$150 million in new property tax dollars.

Hmm. Just 12 leaks you say? Twelve, itty-bitty little tricklers?

There's a bigger picture here that is being carefully ignored. Bigger than the aquifer, bigger than \$450 million.

Jim Hansen of NASA, recognized as one of the world's foremost climate scientists, was arrested last month before the White House in a protest against the pipeline. He contends that if we begin tapping unconventional energy sources, of which the tar sands in Canada are the biggest example, it is essentially "game over" for the climate situation.

Notice I said he works for NASA — not Greenpeace.

After a year of the most violent and extreme weather we have ever recorded around the planet, after the price of food has gone up around the world 80 percent because we're missing harvest after harvest with drought and with flood, people are still declaring climate change a myth — a trumped up, Al Gore-ified fabrication.

Enviromaniacs. Gotta hand it to those oil guys and their discrediting campaign — pretty slick.

Public, Private Ag Research Eyed

BY TERRY O'KEEFE
Watertown Public Opinion

Legislation introduced in the U.S. Senate late last week aims to take agriculture research in a new direction, pairing private investment with public universities around the country.

The bill, offered by Sens. John Thune (R-S.D.) and Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.), who chairs the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, is known as the Charitable Agriculture Research Act and would amend the nation's tax code to create a tax-exempt category for agricultural research organizations, which the authors say would be similar to medical research program donations that have been allowed for 60 years.

In a joint release, Thune and Stabenow said that would encourage corporate and private donations to public universities and other entities to fund agriculture research.

"Research is critical in protecting the health and welfare of our rural and farming communities and expanding our agriculture economy," Stabenow said. "American agriculture outpaces

and outperforms every other nation in the world because of decades of research — learning how to be more efficient, innovative and productive with fewer resources.

"This productivity has created an American agriculture sector that is 16 million jobs strong."

Thune said with all eyes in Washington on reducing spending, the legislation is a common sense way to increase funding in a critical area.

"Production agriculture's current economic strength is a direct result of research that — among other things — has increased crop yields, made livestock healthier and made food safer," Thune said.

"Our bill will facilitate the transfer of much-needed private funding to agriculture research, helping to prevent innovation from stalling due to funding shortfalls."

The senators said the U.S. produces \$312 billion in ag products and exports of \$108 billion an-



Thune



Stabenow

nually and cited Department of Agriculture research as indicating farm production has increased 158 percent since 1948. That increase is linked to production efficiency and new technology, they said.

The legislation will address the need for funding in ag research by creating agricultural research organizations that would work with agricultural and land-grant colleges and universities, they said, helping prop up financial resources that have dwindled over the last 40 years.

"The demands on American agriculture continue to increase and Americans are looking to the nation's farmers and agricultural industries for solutions to concerns for food production, energy security and mitigation of environmental problems," said Dr. Kevin Kephart, vice president for research at South Dakota State University.

"The Charitable Agricultural Research Act will bring critically-needed funding as well as new collaborations for public and private sector scientists."

Archery

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ees. Cull said the programs are well attended and are now self-sustaining.

In the next week or so, construction will get under way on the 29,500-square-foot addition that will more than double the size of the current 21,600-square-foot facility. Besides the world's first 70-meter indoor range, the expansion will include a warehouse to store equipment and office space. It is expected to be complete early next year.

All of the developments should help the effort under way to get the facility designated as a Community Olympic Development Program. The United States Olympic Committee has partnered with sport groups across the nation to create programs that provide training in fencing, weightlifting, judo and a variety of other activities. Only one other archery program exists.

Cull said it's possible the designation could be given to Yankton within the next year.

"The 70-meter range is going to be one of the biggest things to help us attain that," he stated. "That designation

will help us with a lot of things, including the perpetuation of these programs. It will give us that validation that we are one of the best places in the country to train for archery."

And even more plans are on the horizon, Cull said. An archery pro shop will be opened at the site. It may be in the former Mexico Viejo building that the NFAA purchased on the north side of its property, or it could end up being a part of the expansion.

Cull said Dakota Archery, of which he is an owner, may end up changing the name of its original location and moving its archery merchandise to the pro shop.

Easton would like to have similar pro shops opened elsewhere, Cull said.

"Easton would really like this to be the training center for all of their pro shops," he stated. "It will probably take another three to six employees to train people to run these shops they're going to have all over the United States. There could be some great things coming there, but it's a complicated process."

In the meantime, the NFAA is working to expand archery programs in schools and colleges around the region, according to Cull.

"It's going to grow, without a doubt," he said.

NCLB

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The impact on school kids could vary greatly depending on how states choose to reward or punish individual schools. Under No Child Left Behind, children who attend schools deemed failures after a set period of time are eligible for extra tutoring and school choice. Under the president's plan, it's up to states granted waivers to decide if they will use those same remedies.

A majority of states are expected to apply for waivers, which would be given to those that qualify early next year.

State officials have long complained that if they had more flexibility, they could implement positive changes. Now, they will have to step up and prove it.

"This is really going to change things because it really does put responsibility squarely on the states," said Amy Wilkins, a vice president at Education Trust, a nonprofit that seeks to raise achievement standards in schools.

Officials from Kentucky, Idaho, Wisconsin and Colorado were among those expressing support for the president's plan on Friday.

"I look forward to the federal government narrowing its role in education and allowing Tennessee the flexibility to abide by its own rigorous standards," Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam, a Republican, said at the White House event.

But Rep. John Kline, R-Minn., who chairs the House Education Committee, wrote in an editorial Friday published in *The Washington Examiner* that the plan "could mean less transparency, new federal regulations and greater uncertainty for students, teachers, and state and local officials."

HHS

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Schmidt said there is a pet with a personality to match any request with the animals housed at the shelter located at 601 Burleigh Ave.

Other upcoming activities with the shelter include the second Wine and Whiskers, scheduled from 6-10 p.m., Nov. 5, at the Hillcrest Country Club in Yankton. The event includes wine and beer tasting, hors d'oeuvres, live music, live and silent auctions, and

an animal fashion show.

HHS is also looking for additional foster homes for dogs and volunteers at the shelter.

"If someone is interest in volunteering at the shelter, we can always use their help," Schmidt said. "We are also always in need of good foster homes. Maybe you don't feel you can adopt an animal right now, but for a time, you could foster one. We would love to visit with you."

More information about the Heartland Humane Society can be found at <http://www.heartlandhumanesociety.net>, or by calling 605-664-4244 or emailing HHS@midconetwork.com.

Hay To Be Removed From State Highway Right Of Way

PIERRE — The South Dakota Department of Transportation requests the cooperation of all farmers and ranchers in removing processed hay from the highway right of way. State regulations require that hay be removed from the right of way within 30 days of being processed, but no later than Oct. 1.

highway right of way is an important safety consideration for motorists. The bales or stacks can be a safety hazard for vehicles forced to leave the road and, in some cases, can restrict a driver's sight distance. Hay left in the road ditches late in the year can also cause snowdrifts across the highway.

For more information, contact Jason Humphrey at 605-773-3571.

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