

2014-03 Hobbs – The Frog Has It Right

THE FROG HAS IT RIGHT

By Fred Hobbs

Unlike some neighboring states such as North vs. South Dakota, New York vs. New Jersey, and Kentucky vs. Tennessee, a strong rivalry doesn't seem to exist between Colorado and Wyoming. Residents of the Cowboy state, however, do make fun of Coloradans sometimes, calling us "greenies," a reference to the color of our license plates.

Various colors also are used to connote moods, naughty jokes, political affiliations, cowardice, important days, tragedies, inexperience, and, of course, nicknames of states and sports teams (tied to their chosen color schemes.) When you are unhappy, you are "blue." Likewise if a comedian tells an "off-color" joke, that means that the material used also is "blue." Since the advent of color TV, the political leanings of the individual U. S. states have come to be divided into blue (generally more liberal and leaning toward the Democrats) and red (conservative and Republican.) Critics of the recently hatched Tea Party movement sometimes label its members as being "blood" red.

Cowards are "yellow", important events occur on "red letter days." Tragedies are "black"; the Denver Broncos defense of a few years back was labeled "The Orange Crush," Alabama's gridiron crew is known as the Crimson Tide and if you are a rookie on any team in sports or business you are said to be "green."

Which brings the reader to the one word prescribed topic for the exercise: green.

The featured character in this essay is a very wise modern-day philosopher who just happens also to be a short-bodied tail-less amphibian commonly referred to as a frog. His name is Kermit. He was originally given voice by the talented and inventive creator of the Muppets, Jim Henson.

In addition to his ongoing, but somewhat hapless romantic encounters with the jealous porcine character, Miss Piggy, Kermit has discovered that "It's not easy being green," which, of course, he is.

In a plaintive semi-falsetto voice, Kermit croons this lament:

"It's not easy being green, having to spend each day the color of leaves
When I think it could be nicer being red or yellow or gold
Or something much more wonderful like that."

But in the last verse, Kermit comes to the conclusion that being green is not so bad after all:

"When green is all there is to be
It could make you wonder why, but why wonder why
Wonder, I am green and I'll be fine, it's beautiful"

And I think it's what I want to be."

Green, white, black, brown, it's not always easy being what we are, but Kermit has it right. And, for the most part, I think what I am is what *I want to be*.