And now we pause for the energy crisis, brought to you by...

By Storm Kauffman

I feel about this time that I am junking the journalistic bandwagon of speculating on the causes and effects of the energy crisis.

Ever since the problems became noticeable, I have been involved, shaping up a scapegoat on which to lay the blame. The favorite villains are the government and the oil industry, but the people themselves may be the ultimate culprits.

We in the US have grown accustomed to the way of plenty; our surplus has led us into a habit of wastefulness and consumption for its own sake. The shortfall, artificially created by an outside agency, may actually turn out to be a blessing (in the proverbial: plane).

We have been forced to face the fact that cutbacks will be necessary now, when we are too dependent on imports.

The public can do much by changing its attitude of "I deserve more this year than last year because this is this year." (which, I will readily admit, I have subscribed to.) There may not be any more to its attitude of "I deserve more this year than last year because the government has done nothing to help me." Our energy crisis is not a one-year or two-year crisis, but a long-term crisis. The public can do much to change the government's attitude of "We have done enough to help you."

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