



We hope the president lives up to his promise

You don't have to be a liberal or even a Democrat to be proud of your country this week.

Our new president embodies everything that this nation stands for: hard work, independence, human rights for all.

Go ahead and disagree with his policies if you like. This newspaper has and probably will again. No president is perfect.

Barack Obama takes office amidst a euphoric time of high expectations and good will.

He faced crises foreign and domestic as he stepped up to take the oath. It was most of a year before Sept. 11 befell George W. Bush.

The new president does not face the worst of times: Terrorism is less of a threat today than it was eight years ago, the nation's two wars seem mostly won and the economy, while down, is nowhere near a depression.

That doesn't mean the country does not face tough choices. All the billions for bailouts meant to keep big corporations afloat will have to be paid for by someone. So will social programs and the continuing wars.

Soon, the threat will be inflation, not stagnation. But you'd imagine we can deal with that.

President Obama brings an aura of leadership and likability to office that his predecessor lacked. His engaging personality lights up the room when he arrives, and he's able to project that on stage or on television.

Whether he can translate that to true leadership, we'll find out. It won't be easy. John Kennedy found that out; his programs mostly stalled in Con-

gress until after his death. It was only years later that the world really appreciated how he had faced down the Russians over Cuba.

Still, Mr. Obama has fulfilled the dream that sparked our bloody Civil War, (nearly half a million dead), the long years of reconstruction and segregation, the civil rights movement and the dawn of American acceptance for human diversity.

It may be ironic that he grew up largely outside what we think of as the "black experience" in America, but there is no doubt that his skin color and heritage represent a true shift in this nation. We will not go back to the way things were before.

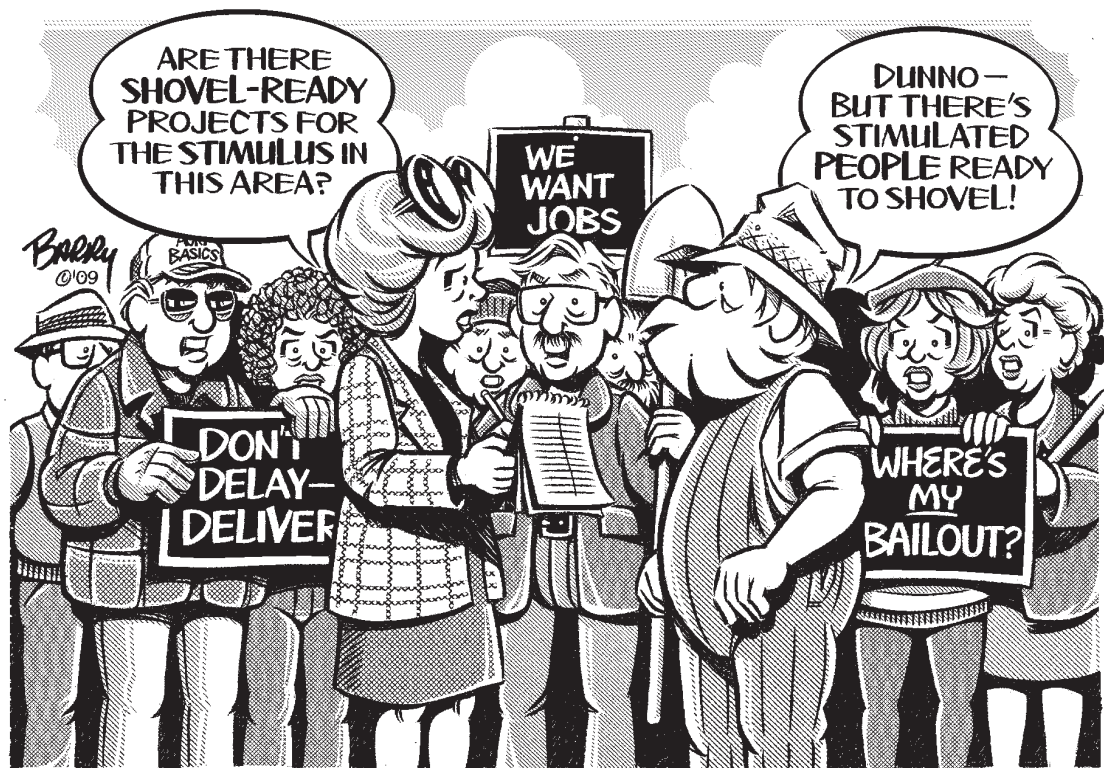
That does not mean that the battle for human rights is over or that Dr. Martin Luther King's dream has been realized. Many battles will be fought in the days and years ahead. Many people would like to take our rights — not just those of minorities, but of all Americans — in the name of security, progress or peace.

But it does mean that those soldiers who gave the ultimate sacrifice in a string of battles from Charleston Harbor to Normandy and beyond, did not die in vain.

The American dream is alive and well. After 230 years, the foresight of the Founding Fathers, particularly in the Bill of Rights, never seemed greater. The promise of the future never seemed brighter.

We wish Mr. Obama good luck and Godspeed. The arena has a way of tarnishing even the brightest star, but we can only hope — all of us — that he lives up to his promise.

—Steve Haynes



Hangin' With Marge

Working with Husbands

By Margaret Bucholtz



By Margaret Bucholtz
margeb@cityofstfrancis.net
I think I can speak for the majority of wives that when you work with husbands it always is just a little different than working by yourself.

However Kurt and I manage pretty well. I have gotten used to whatever I start that is going to require help he is always there. I appreciate that fact, but it kind of takes the wind out of my sails as he always has the better idea. Usually I will agree that he will have the better idea and he can produce the project better than I can.

Recently I started on an old cabinet that was out in our old shop. When I mentioned to him that I would like to strip it and fix it up his answer was the same as always, "What are you going to do with it?" First I told him I wanted it in my office in the basement, but after some measuring I figured out I couldn't get it down there as it

was too big. I think I forgot to mention that this conversation was probably at least two years ago. When I asked again this year he wanted to know "WHY." I explained that I loved the old glass on the doors on the cupboard.

After lots of whining he finally helped me get it ripped out of the old shop and into the new shop and I went right to work.

It was a big job! Someone who had lived here before us had used it for a machine cupboard so you can imagine the amount of oil and dirt that was on it. As for the glass it had all been painted inside and out, but I still wanted it.

I tore into removing the doors and stripping them. I just knew that the glass wouldn't be a problem. Just a little striper and a lot of paint thinner. I was sure wrong! The wood wasn't bad, but the raised, patterned glass had really enjoyed being painted because it just didn't

budge. I used a little pick and dug for months until Kurt finally decided to give in and give me a hint. He got out the little Dremel tool and showed me how to grind the paint out. There still are some little flakes of white paint, but that is what I call character.

He then replaced some wood and worked right along beside me and now we have the bottom half in the house. By the end of the week I am sure we will be done and I can start filling it.

When we were carrying it around I realized that no matter which end I pick up he always manages to have me in the position of walking backward. I mentioned this to a friend and she laughed and said "It's the same at my house, I do all the backing."

Maybe this explains the reason that Fred Astaire's partner always danced backward and in high heels.

Reader wants baby rules changed

—Letters to the Editor—

To the editor,

What a blessing it is to have Dr. Allard offer obstetric care at the Cheyenne County Hospital. It is great for us mummies to be able, if we choose, to deliver our babies locally...what a great stress reliever to know we don't have far to drive! It's a benefit for our community development and economics, also, and that benefit trickles down to the families in our county.

I wonder, though, if many parents have been aware of their option to deliver locally that has

been available to them for several years: home birth with a skilled certified professional midwife (CPW). Sara Sowers, certified professional midwife, is a resident of Cheyenne County and has been practicing midwifery for 6 years. She has attended over 150 births in homes and birth centers. Two of my own babies were born at home under Sara's care. In fact, Sara's sweet baby Adrianna, the 2007 New Year's Baby contest winner, was delivered at home with a midwife.

I saw that this year, in order to qualify for the gifts and prizes of the New Year's Baby contest, the baby must be born at the Cheyenne County Hospital. I would like to request that *The Saint Francis Herald* revise the rules for next year to include those babies born in Cheyenne County but outside of the hospital. Thank you very much, and congratulations to the parents of the 2009 New Year's Baby!

Abby Howard
St. Francis

Problem solved, others created

To the editor:

Once again, the government has passed a law to solve one problem and in the process created numerous other problems.

The Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act, signed in August and effective Feb. 10, requires any maker or retailer of an item designed for children younger than 12 to conform with strict limits on lead and other harmful substances. There was no publicity or notification of this ruling until just a couple of weeks ago. While it is certainly important to protect our children, this law has far reaching effects on small businesses and people who make things in their homes to sell. It would cost many thousands of dollars to buy the equipment capable of testing for these substances. The government cannot guarantee that everything imported into this country is free of harmful ingredients, yet they expect small businesses to do so.

While there are many opinions on exactly what this law means and how it will be enforced, it may prohibit thrift stores, such as the United Methodist Thrift Store in St. Francis and 2nd Beginnings

in Bird City, as well as anyone who makes children's items in their homes, from selling toys and many children's clothing items.

Thrift stores have become more important across the nation as the economy has tanked. In our local thrift store people constantly thank us for being there so that they can buy affordable things for their families. In 2008, the United Methodist Thrift Store gave away over \$30,000 (much of it stayed in our community) plus the money we spent with local businesses for store improvements and supplies. We also contributed over \$5,000 in sales tax.

There has been much emphasis

and money spent on stimulating the economy, yet they pass a law that will close down some enterprises, such as home-made items. Maybe they want to pay more unemployment and welfare benefits?

The Thrift Store will survive, but may have to stop selling some items, including kids' clothing, which is one of the things most needed by families.

If you feel strongly about this, please contact your U.S. Senators and Representative.

Sherry Schultz
United Methodist Thrift Store
St. Francis

GOD SAYS
Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.
I John 4:10

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Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



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Every now and then something new occurs which takes us by surprise.

For instance, the Arizona Cardinals are going to the Super Bowl!

The odds on them winning the championship were 45 to 1 before the season began. Now that's something you don't see every-day.

Staying with sports, it's a lot like the Tampa Bay Rays making it to the World Series. The year before last they had a 66 and 96 record. Then they achieved a com-

plete about face and made it to the ultimate baseball classic.

Now for something that eclipses the world of sports.

The United States is settling in with a new president. Few of us could imagine an African-American in that position. But today it is a reality.

Imagine going back in time about 50 years. A similar sense of amazement surrounded the first Irish-Catholic president. Doesn't seem like that big of a deal now.

I was not a supporter of President Obama during the election. But he deserves to be the leader of the free world and the respect that comes with it. Something new happened for history to record.

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