



Care should be taken while saving the 'big 3'

Congress and the Bush and Obama administrations need to take care that, while trying to save the Big Three automakers, they don't deal a death blow to small-town America.

A sensible, controlled bailout of the Big Three is a must.

So is preserving the new-car dealerships in rural America.

Our towns depend on these dealers for jobs, tax income and economic health. Over the years, the government has done plenty to hasten the decline of our towns. We do not need another body blow.

Yet, in talk about the auto rescue, the supposed "need" to reduce the number of dealers' automakers use has come up again and again. Who determined this need is hard to pin down. It became one of the "assumed" facts of the debate.

The National Association of Auto Dealers says its members already are an endangered species. More than 700 already have closed their doors in the last few months, the group says.

If someone decides many — some estimates are as many as half the 20,000 dealers in the U.S. — should close, where would they be?

Not, you can rest assured, in cities dominated by block-long superdealers. No, the ones Detroit might like to ax would be in your town and mine.

These are businesses we depend on out here, far from the city. They provide not just cars, but employment and a tax base for our cities and counties.

An auto dealer often is the largest single sales-tax source in a small town. If the dealership closes, the tax revenue goes to some larger city. The county or town where it was located just loses a big chunk of its income.

Rural dealerships may already be disappearing. Their numbers have been in decline along with rural population in many areas. Already this winter, one Kansas dealer announced that he'd close his "store" in a small Kansas town but keep open one in a nearby city.

Government may not be able to prevent this. Government certainly should not encourage it.

Neither Congress nor the administration should do anything to force small-town dealers out of business. Nor should the Big Three be encouraged in any way to slight rural areas.

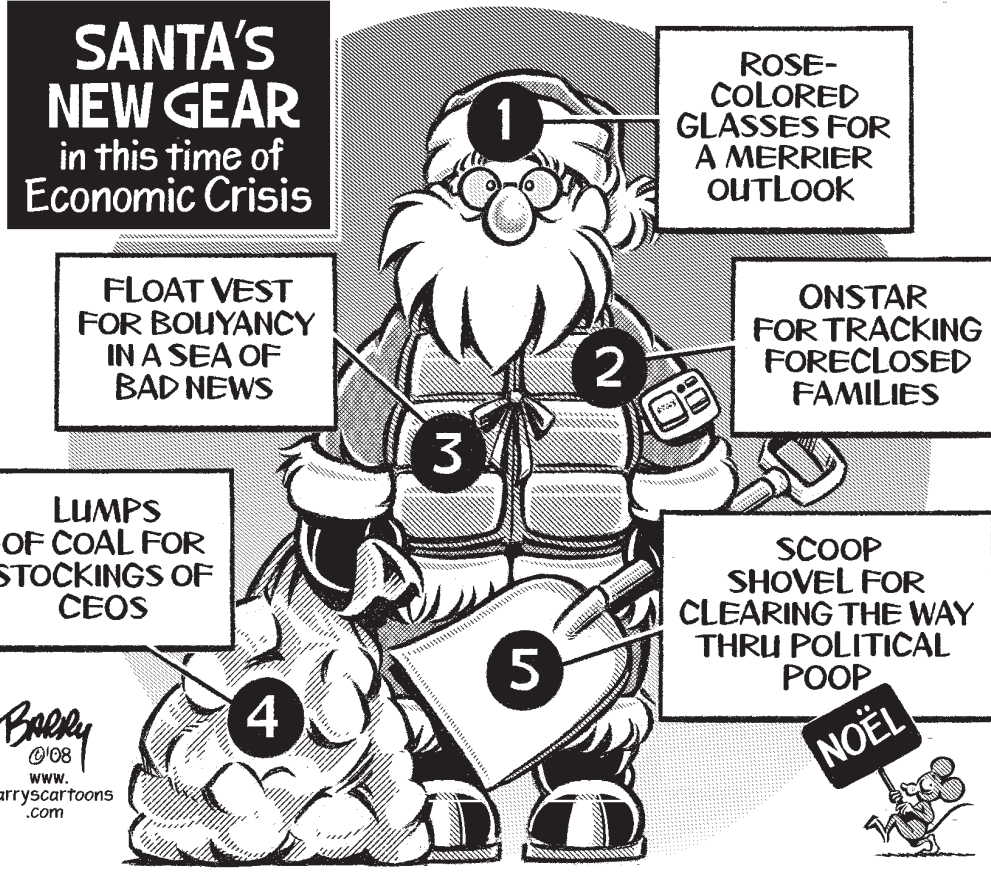
It'd be a grim day if all of us in the hinterlands were forced to drive to some city to buy a car, where sharp dealers would lurk, knowing they'd never have to give warranty service on a car that was going 400 miles away.

City services, schools, county roads all could deteriorate if car dealers go away. Even state tax revenue could be affected if, say, everyone in western Kansas decided to go to Denver to buy cars.

Thousands would be jobless, families would have no income, public workers might be laid off. This is no small matter, and the government must not take it lightly.

Something that sounds like a "good idea" can have terrible consequences. This is one of those times.

—Steve Haynes



SANTA'S NEW GEAR in this time of Economic Crisis. 1. ROSE-COLORED GLASSES FOR A MERRIER OUTLOOK. 2. ONSTAR FOR TRACKING FORECLOSED FAMILIES. 3. SCOOP SHOVEL FOR CLEARING THE WAY THRU POLITICAL POOP. 4. LUMPS OF COAL FOR STOCKINGS OF CEOs. 5. FLOAT VEST FOR BOUYANCY IN A SEA OF BAD NEWS.

Reader enjoys movie with morals

Letter to the editor: Last week, I saw the movie *Fireproof*; it was an astounding film. Lately, in America I've seen a lot of things go downhill. It used to be a good nation full of morals; so many morals that we used to be afraid to show our belly-buttons. Now we go walking down the street half naked, dropping the f-bomb as we please; it's not right. But, what really makes me angry is how people are ripping on God and making fun of him in movies and in real life, and what scares me is people laugh about it and do it themselves.

Letters to the Editor: In a way it's the beginning of the end. I'm so happy that there are actually some people out there making a movie with good morals and still takes God seriously. I think that Hollywood needs to get their values straightened up and stop this stupidity of making fun of our Savior. *Fireproof* showed the common divorce, the hatred people had of each other, and how the love of God in unlike any other love; it's unconditional and forever no matter how much you may hate Him. He will always love you. It showed the importance of marriage and the importance of God, and that is the knowledge a lot of Americans are lacking today. I would like to thank the creators of this movie for still showing faith in Him. Thank you so very much, also, for reading this article. Christina Schoenrogge St. Francis

Hangin' With Marge

Grocery shopping

By Margaret Bucholtz



Grocery shopping is probably the most excitement I have and it takes the longest to do. Why? Because you have to prepare ahead of time to get the job done. I start out by making a list of all the things I think we need. I have finally gotten use to the fact that we have no kids at home, so we don't need 10 cans of everything — two cans will do. After the list, I have to bathe, find clothes to wear and fix my hair. Then I can start out. It takes about 10-15 minutes to drive to town and I hunt for any parking space there is. Once inside the store I go to get a cart. That takes another five minutes because you have to get the carts unhooked from each other. Finally I round the corner to get

the groceries. I haven't gone far until I realize the cart I have has one wheel that doesn't work. It doesn't matter I am strong enough to push it. I then reach in my purse for the list. Now my purse is not one that is organized so I usually end up dumping it while I am looking for the list that I have forgotten at home. From that point forward it just goes downhill. I know that I must just go into a trance because I don't remember much else while I am going up and down the aisles. I stay in that mode until I hear the checker say, "Your total is \$104.69." All the time I am writing the check I am thinking there is a mistake here. I hurry up and load all six bags on my arms and try to

waddle out of the store. When I jump in the car, I start looking through the bags for the receipt as I know there has to be a mistake. Before I find the right bag the receipt is in I have already eaten the box of Little Debbie's that I didn't plan on buying. I get the receipt and there is no mistake. It is that trance thing I went into. When I get home and start unloading the groceries I find my list and there is always about five items I didn't get that I really needed. That's when I call Kurt give him my list and let him bring it home. It is not only easier, but a whole lot cheaper.

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



Here comes the fighter part. This man grew up in the tough and gritty Italian neighborhoods of Chicago. This was during the Great Depression no less. In World War II he joined the Army and served in Europe, fighting the Nazi menace. As an adult he was a teacher and, eventually, a principle in Denver

Public Schools. To the teachers and parents out there, you know what "hazardous duty" that can be. So now Richard has to beat his cancer by being a fighter. I'm not a betting man, but if I were, my money would be on the determined Italian kid from Chicago.

GOD SAYS Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. John 14:1-2

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Lines from the Library

By Pat Leibbrandt The following new books have arrived at the library: Your Heart Belongs To Me by Dean Koontz; Crossroads by Belva Plain; Cruel Intent by J.A. Jance; Salvation In Death by J.D. Robb; Divine Justice by David Baldacci; Jessie by Lori Wick; Final Justice by Fern Michaels; Big Sky Winter by Diane Palmer; Under The Mistletoe by Linda Howard; Scarpetta by Patricia Cornwell; Dashing Through The Snow by Mary and Carol Clark; Leaving Whiskey Bend by Dorothy Garlock; Cross Country by James Patterson; A

Good Woman by Danielle Steel; Runaway by Heather Graham; The Heart Of The Family by Elizabeth Goudge; Maximize The Moment by T.D. Jakes; Cry The Beloved Country by Alan Paton; No Wonder They Call Him The Savior by Max Lucado; The Shack by William P. Young; Promise Me by Harlan Coben; Come Spring by Tim F. LaHaye; Sons by Pearl Buck; A 5th Portion Of Chicken Soup For The Soul by Jack Canfield; Forever Young by William S. Noonan. The library also has the following new books in the children's de-

partment: Music Of The Meadow by Susan Ring; June's New Shoes by Marcy Kelman; Annie's Solo Mission by Marcy Kelman; Go, Goofy, Go! by Sheila Higginson; The Mystery Of The Missing Muffins by Sheila Higginson; Curious George Takes A Trip by Rotem Moscovitch; Curious George by Kate O'Sullivan; Poppy's Perfect Home by Pippa LeQuesne; Jasmine's Starry Night by Kay Woodward; Willow's Underwater World by Kay Woodward; Sweet Pea's Precious Promise by Pippa LeQuesne; Donald's Lost Lion by Susan Ring.

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