



## Planned merger should challenge administration

The planned merger of United and Continental to form the world's largest airline should challenge the Obama administration's commitment to the idea of doing away with "too big to fail."

For just as the collapse of two of the last three U.S. automakers produced a crisis, and just as the collapse of several merged-and-merged-again megabanks and brokerage houses threatened the financial system, so the collapse of one of these huge airlines will get us yet another crisis.

What this country, and the world, need is not bigger and bigger businesses, each too big to fail. But fail they will. It always happens.

Take the auto industry. Once, there were dozens of brands. A few hardy firms came to the top, buying up the competition along the way. We had the Big Four, then after American Motors failed, the Big Three.

There was competition from foreign manufacturers, then Chrysler failed, only to be bailed out. Then Chrysler and General Motors failed. And proving once again that "What's Good for General Motors is Good for the U.S.A.," Congress and the Bush administration bailed both out.

President Obama, threatened by the growing financial crisis, was only too quick to sign on to the bank and carmaker bailouts when he took over. There's little downside for him: if things go south, he'll claim it was all Mr. Bush's doing.

Now the airline industry, with the balance upset by the previous merger of Delta and Northwest, seems ripe for further consolidation. Ripe may be too mild a term; between the recession and the price of fuel, hardly any airlines are making money, and none of the big ones.

United brags that it's doing better, losing "only" \$82 million in the first quarter this year. The companies expect to save \$1 billion to \$1.2 billion this

year from the merger, allowing the new United to make a profit.

How the merged company will fare in the market is anybody's guess. United already suffered from its bureaucratic weight and from years of acrid labor relations. Service standards were abominable, crews surly, service poor. Continental was a pretty good airline to fly. Which "culture" survives is anybody's guess, but the new company will control a lot of traffic.

It'll be too big to fail, as Delta probably is already.

And you can be sure, as has happened in other industries that consolidated past the point of no return, that one or more will fail.

What then will the government do?

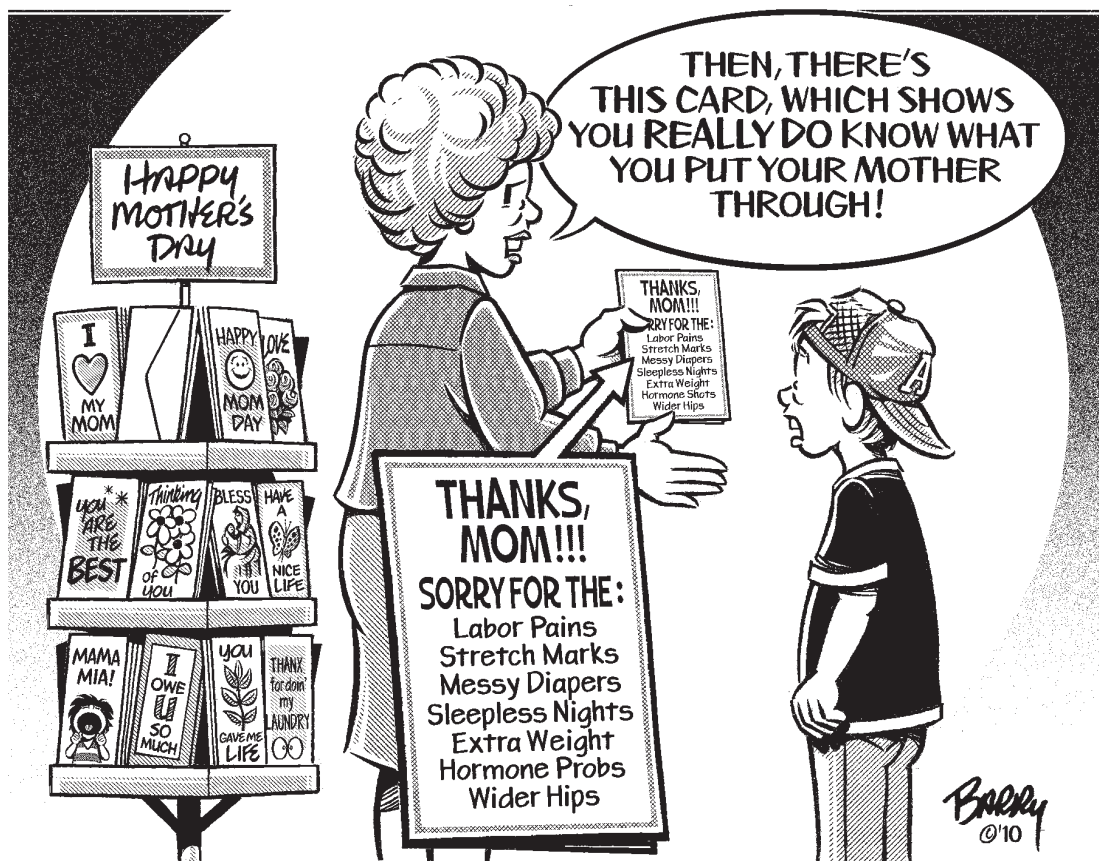
Why not put our foot down now, and start enforcing the antitrust laws? Why not return to the spirit of the Ford administration, which oversaw the dismantling of the AT&T monopoly and unprecedented growth and competition in the telecommunications industry?

The antitrust enforcement machinery touted by Theodore Roosevelt a century ago had begun to rust so badly by the second Bush administration that it was largely abandoned. The government, influenced no doubt by money emanating from megabanks and megacorporations, all but gave up policing big mergers.

But bigger has never proven to be better. Industries that consolidate their way out of competition usually wind up in bankruptcy. Airlines are there most of the time anyway, so there's no reason to believe they are different.

Why not stop this nonsense, Mr. Obama, before it costs taxpayers more billions?

— Steve Haynes



## Invitation to pray on Thursday

### Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor and fellow citizens,

The citizen's of St. Francis are invited to join together on Thursday, May 6, at noon in front of the Cheyenne County Courthouse to observe the National Day of Prayer. Throughout the history of America, its citizen's have turned to prayer in time of need as have the leaders of our great country.

James Buchanan, the 15th president of the United States, said in his inaugural address in 1857, "In entering upon this great office I must humbly invoke the God of our fathers for wisdom and firmness to execute its high and responsible duties in such a manner as to restore harmony and ancient friendship among the people of the several States and to preserve one free institution throughout many generations."

There are many challenges that face us. War, famines, earthquakes, financial instability. America has always stood as a beacon of light, freedom and hope to other nations, but those freedoms are being challenged like never before. God is sovereign and can do as He wills, but throughout the Bible He chooses to partner with ordinary people to change the world and asks us to pray.

The Scripture for the 2010 National Day of Prayer says it best:

"The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in Him" Nahum 1:7

Please join us at the courthouse to pray for our nation. If you cannot come to the courthouse, following is the prayer written by Franklin Graham, honorary chair of the 2010 National Day of Prayer that will be prayed across our nation on May 6.

Please take a few moments to

pray for America on Thursday. It will make a difference.

Kim Zweygardt  
St. Francis

Lord,

We are thankful for the abundant blessings You have bestowed on America. Our forefathers looked to You as Protector, Provider, and the Promise of hope. But we have wandered far from that firm foundation. May we repent for turning our backs on Your faithfulness. We pray that this great nation will be restored by Your forgiveness.

From bondage, You grant freedom. Through Your own sacrifice, You offer salvation.

From the state of despair, You offer peace. From the bounties of Heaven, You have blessed - not because of our goodness - but by Your grace.

You have given us freedom to worship You in spirit and in truth as Your holy Word instructs. May our lives honor You in word and deed. May our nation acknowledge that all good things come from the Father above.

President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed that our nation should

set apart a day for national prayer to confess our sins and transgressions in sorrow, "yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon... announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord."

"We have vainly imagined in the deceitfulness of our own hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own... we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God who made us! It behoves us then... to confess our national sins and to pray for clemency and forgiveness."

Help us to pray earnestly for our president and leaders who govern, that they will humble themselves and seek Your guidance so that everything we do will shine the light of Your glory in a darkened world.

May our prayers as a people and a nation be heard and blessed for such a time as this. We make this plea in faith, believing in the mighty name of Jesus our Lord.

### Mother's Day

The Greatest Holiday of the Year

Think about it?? Where would you be without your mother??? Think of Jesus - the Pope, the Leaders of all countries, Presidents, Kings, Queens, Everybody.

We are nothing without our mothers. They gave us birth, unconditional love. They taught us, clothed, cooked and cleaned, mended our bruises, our broken hearts.

All their help is endless and priceless. Mothers are the greatest living people.

Have a truly great Mother's Day. You've all earned it.

Laverne Boll

## Hangin' With Marge

A Good Week

By Margaret Bucholtz



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This has been one of those weeks that was great. On Monday, I worked in the yard, Tuesday, I went to the doctor in the morning and got a great check-up. That afternoon, I went to The Herald and did some proof reading while I was waiting until I could go to the dentist.

I really don't like going to the dentist, but I had been having a toothache for about three weeks. After I called and made the appointment the toothache went away, but I kept the appointment.

Sure enough there was nothing wrong so on the way home I decided to treat myself. I bought a little

bag of Risen caramels and as I put one in my mouth and bit down I had a pain. Not on the right side of my mouth, but on my left side.

By Saturday, I finally figured out that I had broken my tooth in half. I really hated to call the dentist again but I did. He called me back on Sunday and told me to come over and he would see what he could do.

Kurt said he would take me and I was really glad about that as I worried about driving if I got it pulled.

When the dentist looked at it he told me it had to come out. First was the horrible shot in the roof of your mouth and then a couple

around the tooth. He twisted and pried for what seemed like hours, but was only minutes and out it came.

When I stood up I felt kind of woozy and thought what a wonderful husband I have. He was so sweet to bring me to the dentist.

When all the thanks were said we headed to the car. When we got in I turned to Kurt to tell him what a jewel he was, but before I said anything he was smiling. Then he turned to me and said, "How's it going toothless?"

So much for the "jewel" I thought I had.

## Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



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My education has helped me along with many things. Having a background in history and English puts writing this column right down my alley for instance.

But one subject that always gave me fits was mathematics. Although I had some very dedicated teachers try as they would, my brain never seemed to be able to grasp numbers and how they work together.

But I do have an understanding of how math can work in a family.

Addition is at work as we welcome another daughter, Nichole, to the clan. They married his soul-mate last week in Mexico and we will have a celebration for them this weekend. That will also bring up our numbers as family

and friends will gather to see the newly weds.

Next October the oldest son, Travis, will join with his longtime girlfriend, Brooke, in a Kansas City wedding. Again we get to increase another daughter to our ranks.

So now that I have the addition thing down, I wonder how long it

will be for the couples to work on multiplication? I can't wait to see some new children running around and creating new branches on the family tree.

Maybe this mathematics stuff isn't as tough as I thought.

**GOD SAYS**

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

— II Timothy 3:16

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Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday Eve. Bible Study 7 p.m.  
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