

Same-sex marriages not amendment material

The president and many in Congress are running around worrying that the sky is falling, when the only thing falling on their heads is a bad idea.

The president has called for a constitutional amendment to stop homosexuals — gays and lesbians — from marrying each other.

This is swinging a steam shovel to kill a fly. A constitutional amendment is a big deal. In more than 200 years, there have only been 27. They have been for such things as giving the vote to minorities and women, allowing citizens to disagree with the government and giving the states certain rights, though admittedly those seem to be getting fewer and fewer.

A constitutional amendment is not needed to solve every problem in our society. The "problem" of some states allowing same-sex couples to "marry" is not that big a deal. It's a point of view; a reason for excitable people to get all aflutter.

Excuse us, folks, but this is a non issue. Allow the states to do their thing. It doesn't make any difference. It's not skinning our nose at all.

There is no such thing as marriage between two people of the same sex. Marriage is the union of a man and woman before God, period.

That said, there is no reason two people who are committed to each other cannot join in some kind legal union. This isn't marriage, but a legal contract similar to marriage, the purchase of a busi-

ness or adoption.

As for insurance and Social Security benefits, it should be up to those who administer these programs to decide if they will allow partners in "legal unions" to have benefits.

Disney has long allowed partners of any sex to share in its benefit programs. That is a corporate decision made to attract talented people to the company with benefits they couldn't get most other places. This is perfectly legal and probably a good decision for Disney.

Social Security does not allow benefits to "legal unions," whether they be same-sex couples or those of opposite sex, for partners who have never married. This, too, is a legal decision, made to protect the program.

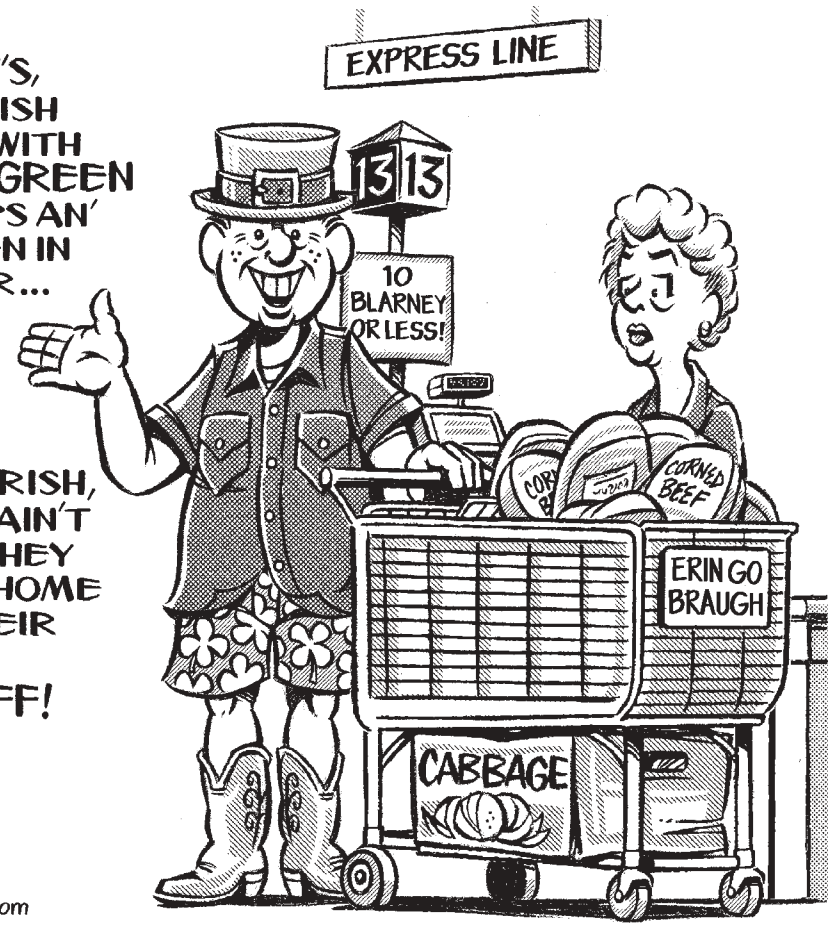
Neither Disney nor Social Security is necessarily wrong. They have different aims and both should be allowed to do what they think best.

If the federal government would just forget about gays and lesbians marrying, the whole issue would die down. Yes, some couples would still go to California to get "married," but no one would care except them.

It's time the federal government got its nose out of others' business and went back to solving the problems that need a steam shovel — like health care, foreign policy and where will the next parking garage in Washington be. — *Cynthia Haynes*

ON ST. PAT'S,
TH' PART-IRISH
CELEBRATE WITH
FLAIR, DONNIN' GREEN
ON THEIR CAPS AN'
COATS — EVEN IN
THEIR HAIR...

BUT FER
FULL-BLOOD IRISH,
ONCE A YEAR AIN'T
ENUFF — SO THEY
NEVER LEAVE HOME
WITHOUT THEIR
GREEN
UNDERSTUFF!



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News From the Past

100 years ago - 1904

Charley Burnham has purchased the Ira Harrison home in the south part of the city for \$650.

Rolla Roberts, who has been down to Omaha to learn the barbering business, has bought John Snyder's shop and will be conducting business there.

The assessors of Cheyenne County met and elected John Bear chairman and F.B. Benkelman secretary. All quarter sections will be valued at between \$150 and \$500 and all lots in the original town of St. Francis will be valued from \$5 to \$50 per lot.

Al Trent has disposed of his livery stable to F.M. Adams, who took possession on Monday morning.

Rev. R.E. Dunham will probably be preaching his farewell sermon in St. Francis at the M.E. church next Sunday evening. He has been asked to return but it is hardly likely that the conference will return him as he has been here three years.

They are working on a water well at Thomas McKee's place. They are now down 600 feet and are still in slat.

60 years ago - 1944

Feb. 22 rounded out 40 years for R.M. Roberts in the barber business in St. Francis. Old timers will remember that in 1904 Rol accumulated some shears, a razor or two and some towels and opened up a shop in the building now occupied by the Bon Ton Cafe.

Some decorating has taken place at the Angel Cafe. The walls and fixtures were painted and new linoleum placed on the

floor.

St. Francis was one of eight school attending the Kansas State Wrestling meet in Salina. They placed fifth and had two state champions Lyle Linnell at 133 pounds and Warren Gienger at 127 pounds. Walter Brown at 120 pounds, Dan Winston at 138 pounds and Royce Walz at 145 pounds, all placed third.

Leo O'Leary is taking over the dray line and the equipment of Melvin Rogers, who passed his physical and will report for active training in the United States Armed Forces.

Plans for the erection of a water softener plant in St. Francis were under discussion at the City Council meeting.

A postal rate has been announced. After March 26 all letters mailed at St. Francis for delivery on the rural routes or for delivery to other post offices must now have a 3 cent stamp.

45 years ago - 1959

A Cheyenne County couple, Mr. and Mrs. Keith Loyd, have been selected as one of 10 Kansas farm couples to receive recognition in the balanced farming and family living program of the Kansas State College Extension Service.

Smith's Bay Cafe is now open after being closed approximately two weeks for remodeling. Big feature at the cafe is the new private dining room capable of seating 50 persons.

Ideal Super Market is having the Grand Opening of their new self service meat department.

Shari Holliday and Marvin Smull are the royalty of the St. Francis Community High School Annual. Winning demonstrations at

County 4-H Days were given by Dorothy and Phyllis Keller of Plum Creek and Sue Partch of Happy Lark.

Lyle Williams has announced that he has opened the Highway 36 Sinclair Station and it will go under the name of Lyle's Sinclair Service Station.

Ron Daggett of St. Francis was named to the Topeka Daily Capitoles All Northwest Kansas Class A basketball team.

T-Bone steaks are on sale at Cochran's Hi-Way Market for 89 cents a pound.

20 years ago - 1984

St. Francis wrestlers climaxed a fantastic season by winning the State Championship in Hays. St. Francis took 11 wrestlers to State and scored 125.5 points. Attending State and their placings were Darris DeGood (second), Mark Sherlock (first), Mike Sherlock, Martin Hilt, Scott Hilt (second), Darrell Vandike (first), Denis Vandike, Troy Faulkender, Shawn Vernon, Monte Pixler and John Love.

Mary Rogers is the new St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce secretary.

Dr. William Brad Lockee is moving into the Cheyenne County Clinic to set up practice.

The St. Francis Community High School speech team placed fourth out of 18 teams at Tribune. Members of the team attending the contest include Carol Knorr, Eric Yonkey, Donna Lippert, Amy Follett, Angel Purdy, Cindy Merklin, Anita Meyer, Becky Davidson, Lacy Jones, John Morrow and Lisa Jolliffe.

Hangin' With Marge

Comedy

By Margaret Bucholtz



A few weeks ago I enrolled in a Humorous writing class. I thought it would help me improve my writing and maybe come up with some new ideas. It didn't take long to realize I was certainly out of my league. The first requirement was to write a profile about oneself. I found almost everyone in this class had not only written for magazines, newspapers, their own books, but they had also did stand up comedy. Reading the profiles of those who had did the standup comedy reminded me of the few, and I mean a few, times I ever got up in front of an audience. It wasn't supposed to be a comedy act, but it probably looked like one. When they had asked me to speak to the group, my inter voice told me "say NO," but for some odd reason I told myself, "I think I might be able to do that."

After all how hard could it be if you really prepare your speech and know what you are talking about? An hour before time to stand up there in front of this huge audience I kept having this thought "maybe I could get sick," but my other brain cell would tell me "You can do it." The time arrived and somehow I man-

aged to get to the stage without falling down. By the time I took my first look at the people sitting out there staring at me my inner voice was screaming, "YOU SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN SICK," but it was too late. My knees were knocking together (before that night I thought someone saying "My knees are knocking" was just a phrase—but not so). I started to open my mouth and all that would come out was a strange squeaky sound. Someone, in the back of the room, stood up and said they couldn't hear me and would I please turn the microphone up. It was like they wanted to hear this squeaking sound. I reached for the "mike" with hands that were shaking as bad as my knees were.

When I touched it, it fell off of its stand and no matter how hard I tried I couldn't get it back in place. I knew I was going to have to hold it, get my voice back and try to save myself. Have you ever held a microphone to your mouth when your hands were shaking and your knees were knocking? It is a very dangerous thing to do. Your body is going one way and your hands are shaking another way. I don't think anyone ever noticed when the microphone hit my front tooth and chipped it. Nor did they see the blood dripping from my lip when it smashed into it. (Thank heavens I am not a bleeder.) All I knew was that my tongue had grown five times larger than my mouth. My throat was closing together, asthma

had apparently set in, and all the brain cells I had were gone. I got through that night but I don't really remember what I said. You would think I would have known better than to ever try it again, but I did.

My next speaking engagement was one that I couldn't get out of. I was president of an eight county area group and it was time for the first yearly meeting. Once again I made out my notes and rehearsed for a month, but when the night came I could still remember how the first speaking time went. I was very worried and while visiting with the vice president's wife, I conveyed my concern to her. She said, "Don't worry about it. Just stand up there and picture everyone out in the room dressed in their underwear and you the only one dressed in your clothes." This worried me a little as I thought to myself, "what if I blurted out something about underwear not meaning to." The meeting started, and it was going pretty smooth. Soon it was all over. As I was getting ready to leave the lady came over and said "You did great! My tip must have helped." Her husband was standing beside her, forgetting that he wasn't there when we had the first conversation, I looked at him and said "Yes it did, and by the way Mr. Brown, I noticed you have a hole in your underwear." Poor guy returned about 5 shades of red and headed straight for the door.

GOD SAYS

Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

James 1:12

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Morning Worship 10:45

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Weekday Mass 8 a.m.
Confessions Sat. 4-4:30

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Worship 10:30
Sunday Eve. Service 6 p.m.

Salem Lutheran Church
332-3002
Pastor Chris Farmer
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.

Peace Lutheran Church
202 N. College
332-2928 Pars. 332-2308
Pastor David Rossbach
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.

United Methodist
Church Office 332-2292,
Church 332-2254,
512 S. Scott

Pastor Marvin Zimbelman
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Early Bird Service 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.

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Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening
Service 6:30 p.m.,
Wednesday prayer
service, 6:00 p.m.
Wed. AWANA Club
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

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332-2506
Sunday School 9:00 a.m. CT
Worship 10:00 a.m. CT

St. Francis Community Church
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Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
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