

from our viewpoint...

McCain pulls off tactical coup

The McCain campaign pulled off a tactical coup, making the surprise announcement of a woman running mate for the Arizona senator just in time to boot the Democrats off of Page 1 on the Friday after the Democratic convention was over in Denver.

It remains to be seen how well they can take advantage, but you had to admire the tactical skill of the McCain planners.

There was Barack Obama, basking in the glow of his well-oiled convention when, bam, Sen. McCain had the spotlight. Every newspaper, every newscast, every website turned instantly to the Republican choice.

And what a surprise.

Gov. Sarah Palin of Alaska, a young (44), conservative, reform-minded woman who nearly everyone had never heard of. John McCain had, though.

Some thought he might be trying to snare the disgruntled Hillary vote, but that's not likely to fall his way in any great numbers. Clinton supporters are mostly orthodox liberal Democrats, and they're not going to vote for any Republican.

The best the McCain camp can hope for is for the Hillary die-hards to stay home this fall, and they might just do that in droves. With their candidate gone, and the Republicans set to produce, quite possibly, our first woman president, what's there to live for?

That vote might be offset by the fact that African Americans may turn out in big numbers to vote for Sen. Obama this fall, but still, the Clinton votes are votes the Democrats will need, no matter how powerful the Obama ticket is.

Did we say Obama ticket? The selection of Sen. Joseph Biden hardly stirred any interest out here.

The Delaware Democrat at least looks sort of presidential, but in vice-presidential terms, about all he adds to the ticket is experience and racial balance. He's an older white guy with years and years in the Senate. He's big on foreign policy, if not on executive experience.

It's Gov. Palin who has the executive experience, in fact, as a mayor and governor. True, she ran a small town and a small-population state, but it's more executive time than anyone else on either side.

So who is this mysterious woman from the far north?

She has family, an impressive political resume — she beat an incumbent and a former governor to take her present post — and a commanding presence that seems to work in her favor. She once was a beauty queen, winning a local contest, and she's tough.

Detractors have tried to pull her into a scandal surrounding her sister's divorce from a state trooper, but it remains to be seen whether that will stick. Our guess is it won't hurt her with women at all.

Sen. Biden, however, has some serious baggage. He made a habit over the years to copy the work of others, stealing speeches and reportedly getting in trouble in law school for lifting five pages of a law-journal article for one paper. That's hardly the new standard Sen. Obama says he wants to set.

We'll see how this all shakes out, but this week, the points go to the McCain camp. Sen. Obama was the first candidate in years not to get a "bounce" in the polls from his party's convention.

The Republican show weathered a hurricane, and Sen. McCain might not get much of a bounce, but it will be a more exciting election. — *Steve Haynes*



We get cracked up about omelets

Steve and I really get cracked up about omelets

Sorry about that. However, several years ago we met "The Egg Man" at a Kansas Press Association convention. I'm sure the guy has a name, but no one ever uses it. He's just the "Egg Man."

He works for the American Egg Board, traveling around the country teaching people to make really quick omelets. In fact, if I remember correctly, he's some sort of national fast-omelet champion or something. Anyway, he shows people how to make an omelet in 40 seconds.

The secret is having a really hot nine-inch stick-proof skillet and all the ingredients chopped, stirred and ready to go.

For each omelet, you break two eggs and two tablespoons of water, plus salt and pepper, in a bowl and mix well. You heat one tablespoon of butter or oil in your skillet. You pour in your egg mixture and move it around until it is almost set. Then you put in your personal ingredients — meat, cheese, green onion, pepper, tomato, whatever — on one half of the omelet. Flip the other half over the ingredients. Cook for a few seconds and then flip to cook on the other side. Slide the perfect (sometimes) omelet onto a plate and do the next one the same way. It's fast food at home.

At our house, we usually split the duties. We put everything from silverware to jelly on the table before we start cooking. Then, I do the



cynthia haynes

• open season

chopping and Steve prepares the eggs. While he cooks the omelets, I make the toast. It's a fast, cheap supper in about 15 minutes, including finding the green onions in the bottom of the hydrator and tossing out the bad ones.

Even so, when my friend Pat gave me a recipe off the Internet for a Ziploc omelet, I was intrigued. Steve was out of town and I decided to try the recipe, which touts itself as a great way to fix breakfast for a party or family get-together.

Have each person write their name with a permanent marker on a quart-size Ziploc freezer bag.

Crack two large or extra-large eggs into the bag and shake to combine. Add your pre-chopped goodies and salt and pepper. Shake each bag, press to remove the air and zip 'em up.

Cook in a large pot of boiling water for exactly 13 minutes. It says you can cook up to six to eight in a single large pot.

Open the bags and the omelets will roll out ready to eat.

Thirteen minutes is forever when you're on your lunch hour, though, and waiting for the

darn thing to cook. I made my toast, started another load of laundry, put the wet clothes in the dryer and folded the dry ones, fed the dog, watered the cats, picked the dead leaves off the house plants and checked my watch 10 times.

At the end of 13 minutes, my omelet was still a little runny. I think I didn't get quite all the air out of my bag, so I resealed it, weighted it down with a heavy spoon and cooked it another minute.

The result was everything the recipe claimed. It was a beautiful omelet and rolled right out of the bag.

I thought it was a little tough, but that may have been the extra cooking, and I missed the nice browned edges Steve's masterpieces get. However, it was tasty and if you don't have Steve around to do the cooking or need to make more than one or two in a short time, it works well.

For those who don't care for the eggs smushed up in omelets, the Egg Board web site offers more than a hundred recipes for everything from homemade mayonnaise to orange-spice pickled eggs. Just go to www.aeb.org to learn how to turn hen fruit into anything from a main dish to a dessert.

Now, I wonder if there's a National Bread Board to tell me how to do other things beside turn my slightly stale slices into toast.

The Goodland Star-News

(USPS No. 222-460. ISSN 0893-0562)

Member: Kansas Press Association
Inland Press Association Colorado Press Association
National Newspaper Association

e-mail: star-news@nwkanssas.com

Steve Haynes, President
Tom Betz, Editor
Pat Schiefen, Society Editor
Sharon Corcoran, Reporter
Jordie Mann, Jessica Corbin, Advertising Depr.
Sheila Smith, Office Manager



Nor'west Press

Jim Bowker, General Manager
Richard Westfahl, Betty Morris, James Jackson
Lana Westfahl, James Ornelas, Tasha Shores
Barbara Ornelas, Elizabeth Brock, Judy McKnight

nwkanssas.com

N.T. Betz, Director of Internet Services
(ntbetz@nwkanssas.com)

Evan Barnum, Systems Admin. (support@nwkanssas.com)

Published every Tuesday and Friday except the days observed for New Year's Day, July 4th and Christmas Day, at 1205 Main Ave., Goodland, Kan. 67735.

Periodicals postage paid at Goodland, Kan. 67735; entered at the Goodland, Kan., Post Office under the Act of Congress of March 8, 1878.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Goodland Star-News, 1205 Main Ave., Goodland, Kan. 67735.

TELEPHONE: (785) 899-2338. Editorial e-mail: star-news@nwkanssas.com. Advertising questions can be sent to: goodlandads@nwkanssas.com.

The Goodland Star-News assumes no liability for mistakes or omissions in advertising or failure to publish beyond the actual cost of the ad.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: In Sherman County and adjacent counties: three months, \$29; six months, \$46; 12 months, \$81. Out of area, weekly mailing of two issues: three months, \$39; six months, \$54; 12 months, \$89 (All tax included). Mailed individually each day: (call for a price).

Incorporating:

The Goodland Daily News

1932-2003

The Sherman
County Herald
Founded by Thomas McCants
1935-1989

THE SHERMAN COUNTY
STAR
Founded by Eric and
Roxie Yonkey
1994-2001

Nor'West Newspapers

Haynes Publishing Company

Union bosses joyful over Obama lead

Nobody is grinning wider about Barack Obama's lead in the polls than big union bosses. This election is their best shot in a half-century to make over Washington. If they can capture the White House, the House of Representatives, and produce a filibuster-proof Senate, they are looking at the biggest rewrite of labor law in modern history.

If this happens, The Wall Street Journal says, it "could lead to higher payroll and health costs for companies already being hurt by rising fuel and commodities costs and the tough economic climate." In turn, all prices go up for you, too.

To understand the excitement Obama creates for Big Labor, you need to look back at his early days in Chicago, because it was in organizing that Obama began his foray into politics.

Obama's arrival in Chicago in June 1985, to work with the Developing Communities Project on Chicago's South Side, became a pivotal and eye-opening experience. He was tossed right away into neighborhoods where crushing poverty, raging violence, a cornucopia of drugs and homicidal crime were endemic.

At this time, Obama's mentors schooled him in the Alinsky method, named for the radical socialist Saul Alinsky. He believed in agitating people so intensely, making them so angry about their rotten lives that they "rub raw the sores of discontent" and take action to change their lives. Alinsky's book, titled "Rules for Radicals," became the lodestar for Obama's approach to politics.

As Obama wrote in his memoirs: "Change won't come from the top... Change will come from mobilized grass roots. That's what I'll do. I'll organize black folks... For change."

For the unions, Obama has been a long time in coming.

George W. Bush gave the unions eight years of corruption probes, and forced more openness in their financial dealings. Bill Clinton gave them NAFTA. George H.W. Bush allowed workers to withhold the political dues they pay unions. Ronald Reagan famously broke the air traffic controllers' union. During this time the U.S. workforce came to see little



floyd, mary brown

• commentary

value in unions, and today only 7.4 percent of private-sector workers are members of a union.

Union bosses are well aware that their days were numbered until Obama came along. And they are sparing no expense in getting him elected.

The AFL-CIO and its affiliates have raised an unprecedented \$250 million to put 200,000 union workers on the street campaigning for Obama in the crucial final weeks. The National Education Association has budgeted up to \$50 million. The Service Employees International Union has added \$100 million to pay 2,000 union members to leave their jobs and go work on Democratic campaigns. All totaled, unions are expected to spend more than \$1 billion of their members' money on the 2008 elections. Moreover, it's not only money; many unions, including the mighty Teamsters, have given Obama their endorsements.

Obama hypocritically says he doesn't take money from special interest groups, yet unions are special interest groups. And what is organized labor expecting to receive in return? Plenty.

As Pete DuPont has written, if Obama is elected in November, "Significant labor law changes will likely start with the elimination of secret ballots for union organizing elections, so that unions can verbally "ask" workers if they would like to join (read: intimidate them into saying yes). Then may come repeal of the 1947 Taft-Hartley Act provision that allows states to enact "right to work" laws — 22 of them have done so — that allow workers to take jobs even if they decide not to join a union."

Sen. Obama co-sponsored the legislation to which DuPont refers, known as the Employee Free Choice Act or "card check." This would make it much easier for unions to add

new members by replacing secret ballots with cards that union organizers demand co-workers to sign. Obama has said several times he will sign it into law if elected.

Then there is the Teamsters Union. They claim they are not as corrupt as they used to be, and therefore should

not have the Feds watch their every move. In March 2008, they were able to extract a promise from Obama to turn down the heat. He released this statement: "It's time for the Justice Department to begin negotiations with the Teamsters regarding the elimination of the IRB (Independent Review Board, which investigates and punishes corruption)..."

This is only one of many promises he made to this special interest group — promises he will be hard-pressed to renege on. That's why union bosses are doing everything they can to get Obama elected. Not only will workers be coerced into paying union dues, but also a President Obama will make it much more difficult for businesses to survive, and the economy will suffer.

Floyd and Mary Beth Brown write a national weekly column. To comment on this column, e-mail browns@caglecartoons.com.

Letter Policy

The Goodland Star-News encourages and welcomes letters from readers. Letters should be typewritten, and must include a telephone number and a signature. Unsigned letters will not be published. Form letters will be rejected, as will letters deemed to be of no public interest or considered offensive. We reserve the right to edit letters for length and good taste. We encourage letters, with address and phone numbers, by e-mail to: star-news@nwkanssas.com.