



## People of good will need to come together

People of good will in this country need to come together now and make some sense of the racial divide growing in the wake of the Trayvon Martin shooting and the senseless shootings of five blacks in Tulsa over the weekend.

The potential for more violence seems high. Another spark could set off events which could erase decades of progress in racial equality and interracial goodwill. That must not be allowed.

There's already been way too much irresponsible talk in the wake of the killing of Trayvon, a 14-year-old middle-school student who died Feb. 26 in Sanford, Fla. School pictures showed him as a smiling football player. The neighborhood watch volunteer who shot him claimed he was attacked.

The incident raises as many questions, maybe more, than we have answers. Civil Rights leaders jumped on a chance to trumpet the cause, assuming the shooter, George Zimmerman, had a racial motive.

NBC News reportedly fired a producer over his editing of the volunteer's 911 call reporting a "suspicious" teen. The edit omitted a question from the police dispatcher and made it appear the man had a racial motive for suspecting Trayvon.

In fact, when Mr. Zimmerman called police, the dispatcher asked for a description of the suspect, standard procedure, and prompted him for a race.

Such irresponsible reporting can do great damage, however. And those who want to believe Trayvon was killed because of his race likely won't hear NBC's retraction.

More disturbing, perhaps, is why a neighbor-

hood watch volunteer would call police, then go out alone with a gun to confront a "suspicious person." Why not let the cops handle it?

It has nothing to do with Mr. Zimmerman's right to carry a gun. The truth is, though, that no good can ever come from shooting someone in a situation like this unless a life is in danger. And that was not the case, at least until he stepped out into the street without waiting for help.

Comedian and social commentator Bill Cosby raised the issue Sunday in an interview with the *Washington Times*.

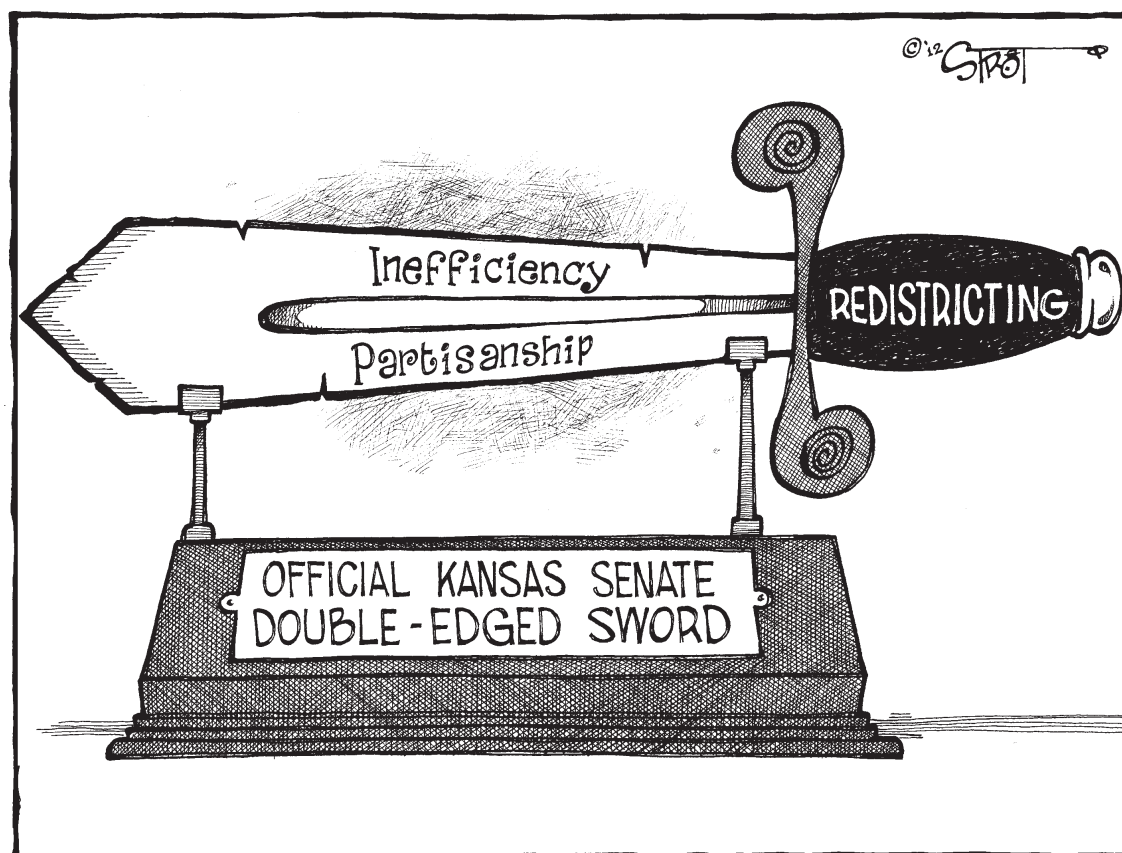
"We've got to get the gun out of the hands of people who are supposed to be on neighborhood watch," said Mr. Cosby. "Without a gun, I don't see Mr. Zimmerman approaching Trayvon by himself."

The situation is further muddled by the fact that Mr. Zimmerman apparently is, like most Americans, of mixed ancestry, half hispanic, and technically a minority himself.

Quick police action in Tulsa led to the arrest of two men, but police cautioned not to judge their motives, at least not yet. People began to return to their normal routines after a weekend of fear.

Perhaps the whole thing will blow over. Maybe not. But those who care need to develop a voice that says race is not the issue. Justice. Less crime, less violence. More love, more understanding. Those ought to be the issues.

Not hyped up, distorted and overblown events. America is better than that. — Steve Haynes



## Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



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I love baseball! In my opinion, no other sport embodies the spirit of America so closely. The drama of the game gives expression as if it were our own Greek tragedy or Shakespearean play. The diamond is the stage for epic achievements as well as broken bats and spirits.

My team, the Boston Red Sox, is celebrating the 100th anniversary of its home. Fenway Park is part cathedral and part bandbox. With the oddity of the Green Monster for a left field wall, it has much the same look and character

as when the turnstiles churned for the first spectators who entered its hallowed concourses.

However when the stadium opened it was not the big news of the day that April 20, 1912. For five days earlier an event unimaginable over shadowed the new baseball jewel of the east coast.

The other centennial and sorrowful occurrence, marks the sinking of the R.M.S. Titanic on April 15. In the early morning hours some 1,514 souls went down with the grand ship in the icy, cold wa-

ters of the north Atlantic.

Much like our generation's 9-11 disaster, few events have caused nations to stop and be humbled in such a way.

A few days after the unthinkable deaths at sea, the Boston Red Sox defeated the New York Highlanders, later to become the Yankees, by the score of 7 to 6 in 11 innings.

## The Gardener

By Kay Melia



So you head down to the supermarket, and on your grocery list, usually added as an afterthought, is carrots.

Yeah, carrots. Remember them? Carrots are those little two-inch long orange things in the fresh produce department that are displayed in one- or two-pound plastic bags, and really taste good!

You quietly wonder why you can't seem to grow those little beauties in your backyard garden that are so uniformly perfect and you are grateful to the commercial carrot grower for his ability to do so. They are so perfect for those holiday trays of dippers.

You have been misled. Those beautiful little carrots were harvested at full size and then machine trimmed into their perfect baby shape. They are indeed tasty. And sooo handy. No need to get out the potato peeler or the paring knife and spend a half hour cleaning them up.

Say goodbye to all that good healthful outer fiber that was peeled away in the process, although most of it is saved and used for other foods or juices.

I suppose the discovery of "baby carrots" is a good thing. If their appearance or taste entices you to buy a bag of them, that's good, because most of us

don't eat nearly enough carrots. They are literally jam-packed with Vitamin A. A single (full size) carrot contains enough beta carotene for our bodies to manufacture all our vitamin A needs each day.

Despite the carrots rather benign ability to draw much attention to our shopping routine, nearly 70 percent of all backyard gardeners grow a few of them each year. I think that's good evidence that most of us are aware of the carrots dietary value.

Unfortunately, carrots aren't the easiest vegetable to grow. The seed is very slow to germinate and must be planted in a very shallow mode, or else they may never emerge. And they must be kept damp until they sprout.

Carrots need a deeply worked, fine soil in which to thrive. If the ground isn't well worked, the growing root may show deformity and grow in strange shapes which certainly won't hurt their taste.

Insects seldom bother them, except in late fall when fly maggots burrow into the roots and render them unusable.

As with several other garden vegetables, the seed of the carrot is difficult to sow evenly, and

despite our best efforts, we plant it too thickly. It then becomes absolutely necessary to thin out some of the plants as they grow, else the spindly plants will not mature into good size.

Basically, there are two types of carrots, one called Chantenay, and the other, Nantes. The Chantenay grow long and slender, while the Nantes types are shorter and generally smaller, which I prefer.

Most of the newer introduced varieties are of the Nantes type since the shorter root seems to thrive well in shallow worked soils.

A newer Nantes-type carrot that I think raises the bar for quality, sweetness and growth habit, is one called Yaya. Yayas are smooth, offer good bright orange color, and have great carrot flavor.

One more thing...when you buy your carrot seed, always look for pelleted seed. It's so much easier to handle.

Plant a short row of carrots this year. Forget about the manufactured baby carrots at the supermarket...if you can.

## Hangin' With Marge

By Margaret Bucholtz



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Phones

I know I have written about phones before, but never from this point of view. I, the person that felt most people could not possibly be so important that they would need to carry a phone at all times.

This past week I had a little health problem and I think I have changed my mind.

It started on Sunday afternoon when I felt a little like walking so I went over to the camper to get some drinking straws. I need to drink a lot and I would rather have ice water with a straw than just gulping it down. With a straw I can do some sipping not gulping until my stomach hurts. I am sure you know the feeling of the stomach full of water. It isn't very pleasant and it makes me not want to drink anymore when I walk and can hear the sounds of splashing.

I got the straw holder out of the camper and about that time Kurt asked me if I knew where the paint brush would be? I told him I would go over to the house and get one for him. When I got to the house I started getting a little sidetracked.

I thought about getting my cell phone just in case someone called. Then I remembered I wanted to get my ice water since I had my straws.

While I was downstairs getting the brush for Kurt I remembered I needed to put another load of clothes in the washer and dryer.

With that done I started out the door and then it hit me I didn't grab one of the straws. Where are the straws, I couldn't find them upstairs, downstairs or in any room I went to.

Kurt came over to the house to

check that I was still OK, and I had to tell him that I couldn't find the straws. We both went back to the shop and found my straws laying in the chair I left them in.

The only problem was that I forgot the paint brush I had went after. Then I told Kurt, after this we would just start calling each other on the phone and hopefully one of us will remember what we are doing!

## Appreciation shown for putting up signs

Letter to the Editor:

Whoever initiated putting up the sign directing travelers to the "Breaks" is to be commended.

About once a year, I encourage someone heading west to make the effort to see this wonder of nature. Having not traveled the roads

-Letter to the Editor-

north of town for 30 years, my directions are a bit suspect.

Now, all I have to do is tell them to follow the signs.

Thanks, Bill Pannbacker  
Washington

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**GOD SAYS**  
A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth. Ecclesiastes 7:1

**The Saint Francis Herald**  
(USPS 475-960)  
A Century of Service to Cheyenne County

P.O. Box 1050, St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050

Published each Thursday by Haynes Publishing Co., 310 W. Washington, St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050. Entered as periodicals matter at the post office at St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050, and at additional offices.

Official newspaper of Cheyenne County. Member of the Kansas Press Association, National Newspaper Association, Colorado Press Association and Inland Press Association.

Subscriptions: One year \$38 (tax included) in Cheyenne and adjacent counties; \$42 (tax included) elsewhere in Kansas; \$48 elsewhere in the U.S. Foreign subscriptions, \$28 extra per year (except APO/FPO). POSTMASTER: Send change of address to Box 1050, St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050

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