

YOURVIEWS

Obama cutouts draw glares at fair

My husband and I are Democrats. We manned the Democratic booth at the County Fair on Friday afternoon, and I was absolutely appalled at the behavior of some of the fairgoers. I was surprised to note faces filled with animosity and unveiled dislike after recognizing the life-size cutouts of President and Mrs. Obama. Many of these hostile looks were followed by snide and uncomely remarks. After mentioning our unpleasant encounters to other individuals who manned the booth during other days, we found we were not the exception.

At one point I was asked if I didn't know that Washington County was the strongest Republican county in the United States. The tone of the question conveyed the message that I shouldn't be there.

One young woman complained about a health-care program being crammed down her throat. When asked if she had health insurance, she said no, and she didn't want coverage. One can only hope that she never needs medical attention.

Republicans are quick to forget the eight years we just suffered through under the Bush administration. Two wars not paid for and an economy in the toilet contributed to the \$1 trillion-plus debt handed to President Obama on his first day in office. By the way, he has been in office for only six months. It took eight years for us to get in this mess.

There will always be differences in ideology between Democrats and Republicans. I can only guess at what causes this vitriolic physical and verbal reaction to the name or picture of President Obama.

Kathleen Roecker West Bend Book about gay sons sends wrong message

Is it possible that a local business is trying to send a message to the West Bend community? Is Fireside Books thumbing its nose at the "community standards" many parents in West Bend have stated they demand?

It is well understood that Dennis Uhlig and Mary-Reilly Kliss (manager and employee of Fireside Books respectively) are not in agreement with moving sexually explicit books for minors in our local library. This has been stated on public blogs, at the ALA conference (where Reilly-Kliss openly spoke about her role in shutting down West Bend parents) and in the media. Now Fireside Books is sending an in-your-face message to West Bend families with a book-signing event.

The name of the book is "Ready or Not ... They're Gay." It is a book authored by a Wisconsin couple, Paul and Hjordy Wagner, who have two sons who are gay. The book emphasizes encouragement and acceptance of homosexual behavior.

The book, itself, is not so much the issue as the overt statement being made in promoting this book to our community. Draw the conclusion yourself, though the effort here is quite obvious. We do not agree with business owners who disrespect and thumb their nose at their patrons.

My family, as well as many, many of my friends, will no longer do business with Fireside Books. The damage they are doing to themselves will be irreparable.

Jean Weymier West Bend Cartoon bias

The Daily News does a good job of balancing your political opinion columns. However, the almost daily anti Obama cartoons suggest a strong bias. Of course, we readers also have our biases.

I suspect that a great many of your readers react negatively to these cartoons. Why? Because they are particularly pleased that for the first time in years we have a man in the White House

who goes about making friends rather than enemies; who devotes his energies to helping the many rather than the powerful few; and who has the grace and high intelligence that we deserve in our president.

Jim Rubenzer West Bend