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FORUM

Wisconsin State Journal

STALE SIX PACK

Leonard Pitts on Sarah
Palin. COMING MONDAY





Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama speaks to thousands of supporters at Monona Terrace in Madison last fall. JEFFREY M. JOHNSON/S.S. - SUN JOURNAL

OUR ENDORSEMENT

Now is the time for Obama

America is at a pivotal point in its history — a difficult time that demands talented leadership to renew our nation's spirit and pull us together to meet the intractable challenges ahead.

The right leader for the time is Barack Obama.

The Wisconsin State Journal endorses the dynamic and youthful senator from Illinois for president.

Far more than his opponent, Obama represents a new direction. He has shown he can inspire and lead people to action. And his relatively short time in corrupt, self-absorbed, terribly-failed Washington, D.C., may actually be a key strength. Obama is not stuck in the status quo of the Capitol crowd or its long-failed Congress.

Obama doesn't just give pretty speeches. He speaks to people's best instincts, encouraging them to shine. Obama is best equipped this election to make America feel good about

The dynamic and youthful senator best represents a new direction that's sorely needed.

Itself again. That's a powerful feeling — one that could go a long way toward invigorating our economy and national sense of purpose.

Obama is convincing in his call for a new kind of politics in Washington. His life story and history-making bid for the White House also have forced the rest of the world to view America in a new and more positive way.

An Obama presidency will immediately give America more clout and credibility around the globe. It will immediately win over and win back allies and friends.

As much as other nations may fear American power and influence, they

What do you think?

Send your views on the race for president, 200 words or less, to wisconsinjournal.com. Please include your phone number and address for verification.

And that's why voting for the first-term senator is worth the risk. We endorse Obama with hope, but also some reservation.

As president, Obama must reject extremism. He needs to keep the balancer and ideologically-driven partisans on the far left and far right out of his administration.

If Democrats control Congress, Obama also must resist massive new spending and instead strive to foster our future. America is already teetering on financial collapse, having

doubled its debt — much of it owed to foreign countries — during the last eight years.

Obama needs to tackle the unsustainable and soaring costs of entitlement programs.

Now is the time for shared goals and shared sacrifice. Now is the time for a fresh approach, for renewed energy, for smart and cost-effective solutions that appeal across the partisan, economic and racial divides.

John McCain is a great American. He would make a fine president. McCain is impressively studied to say "no" to runaway government spending and commitments that could lead America to financial ruin.

Yet Obama shows strong signs of being that once-in-a-generation leader who can inspire more people to say "yes" to a better world for our children and grandchildren.

Wisconsin should support Obama on Nov. 4.

Wisconsin State Journal

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Opinions above are shaped by the board, independent of news coverage decisions elsewhere in the newspaper

YOUR VIEWS

WALL STREET CRISIS

Money became more valued than people

How has the crisis on Wall Street affected you? How might it affect you in the future?

In the last seven years the very wealthy (top 1 percent) have done well while the incomes of the middle class have remained stagnant and the cost of basic necessities like fuel and food have climbed. This did not cause a serious problem, since we initially

used our credit to purchase goods and services we could no longer afford.

But, unlike the government, there is a limit to the credit individuals can access. When the middle class stops spending, who is there to buy?

We are currently spending billions a month on a senseless war in Iraq. The cost in human life is priceless, but it also contributes to our financial crisis.

When we spend money on highways, schools and hospitals, much of it goes toward salaries of American workers,

who spend it on goods and services — you get the picture. When we spend it on bullets and bombs, it's gone.

Our culture places a monetary value on everything. There are still teachers who love to see the minds of children grow and people to business who want to serve the community, but far too many of us only want to make money.

When making money becomes more important than the well-being of people, bad things happen.

— Gilbert Spjut, Madison

Healing found when we humble ourselves

What really caused this mess? No respect for the hardworking middle class, and greed and dishonesty by Wall Street and our government.

They should read Second Corinthians 12:9, "If my people who are called, by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and forgive their sin and heal their land."

— Cliff and Joyce Pflanz, Madison

Lazy politicians did not pay attention

This mess was caused by lazy politicians who weren't doing their jobs. They should have been passing legislation to stop business from going to China and other cheap-labor countries. Neither party has done anything to stop this.

The more jobs that leave this country, the less taxes we bring

Both major parties at fault for mess

This crisis started many years ago, and both parties are shares in the responsibility or blame.

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