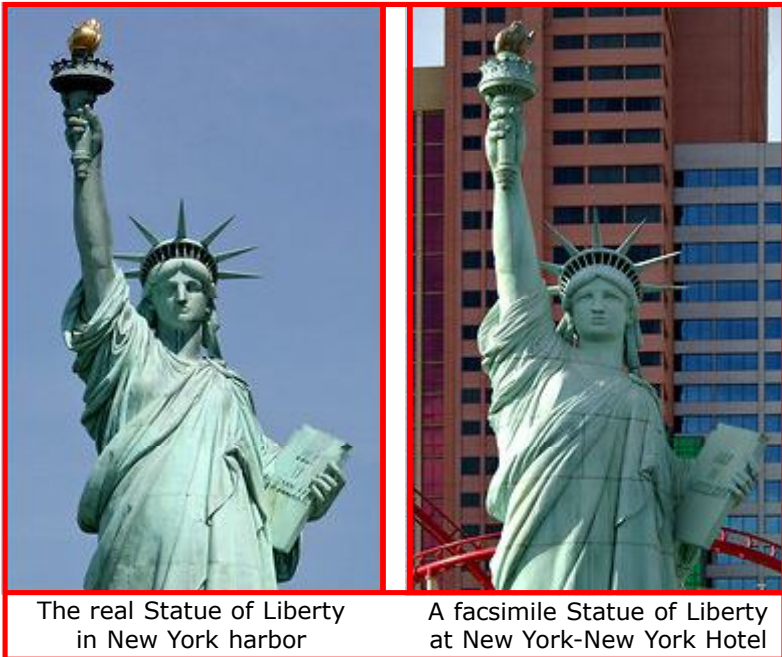


It's just a stamp!



The real Statue of Liberty in New York harbor

A facsimile Statue of Liberty at New York-New York Hotel

A USPS new "forever" stamp depicts the Statue of Liberty. Or does it?

No. Actually it is a stock photo of the replica Statue of Liberty at the New York-New York Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas.

In a December 2010 USPS press release, the stamp photo was described as "a close-up photograph taken by Raimund Linke of the Statue of Liberty located on Liberty Island in New York Harbor."

Ah ... no it's not.

There are some not-so-subtle differences between the two Statues, not the least of which is the Vegas one has a roller coaster running through it. The Vegas Liberty is 150' versus 350' of the New York Harbor Statue. The real one weighs 27,000 tons, the replica but 150 tons. The original has iron support and beaten copper - the Las Vegas one is mostly carved Styrofoam coated with reinforced fiberglass and exterior drywall. The stamps were sold for a couple months before a collector noticed the difference. Oh, well.

Wisconsin Supreme Court election just held

My wife and I happened to be in Wisconsin on April 5 when their Spring general election was held.

While we had some interest in local elections, the big story was the contest for a Wisconsin Supreme Court seat. That race had been portrayed as a referendum on new Governor Scott Walker's successful elimination of collective bargaining rights for some public employees. Not those who supported him in the 2010 election, though - he targeted teachers.

The incumbent Justice, conservative Republican David Prosser was facing off against a "little-known State attorney" JoAnne Kloppenburg. She was running in opposition to Prosser's support for the Governor. As votes were being counted election night, it was nip and tuck.

By the following morning, the challenger had a 204 vote lead.

But, not for long.

That following day, in heavily Republican Waukesha County, "the clerk announced that she had forgotten to save 14,000 votes on her computer." That county clerk, Kathy Nickolaus, "worked for [Justice] Prosser as a member of the Assembly Republican caucus in the mid-1990's."

As Church Lady might say, "How conveeeeeenient."

After canvassing was complete, the apparent loser became the winner. By 7,316 votes. There were 1,497,330 votes cast in this unusual election. The 2009 Supreme Court race, in which an incumbent won re-election, had but 793,864 votes cast.

Some observers, conservatives of course, have reasoned that the unknown candidate should have defeated the three term incumbent handily because of her help from unions unhappy with the Governor's action. Ungracious winners, they.

That's really a stretch.

While the loser hasn't announced whether she'll demand a recount, with a one-half of one percent margin, she *can* claim a moral victory. To come close to an incumbent who has no strikes against him is incredible. To not vote for the incumbent Justice because of an anger with a Governor of the same party is asking a lot. For her to get almost three quarters of a million votes is nothing short of spectacular. The sudden appearance of 14,000 votes in a Republican stronghold county stood up in the canvassing phase.

It is unlikely the challenger could change the outcome with a recount. From personal experience with a recount (in Wisconsin), each candidate might pick up votes and lose votes in a recount without changing the result.

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Jamie Kamai unsolved murder - The tenth anniversary of this unsolved murder is approaching. As embarrassing as it is to residents of the area, it is much more embarrassing to the Laramie County Sheriff's Department. It was a cold-blooded murder in broad daylight at one of Cheyenne busiest intersections during morning rush hour. It defies imagination that there were no credible witnesses to the multiple-shots-fired murder. In the way of a brief reminder, Jamie Kamai apparently stopped his car in front of a man driving a pickup and went back to either confront him about road rage or to talk with him about something. The driver shot Jamie through the open driver's door window and again in the back as Jamie tried to make it back to his car in which sat two young children he was taking to daycare.

As the anniversary (June 21) nears, I again urge anyone who has any reliable information about this murder to come forward. You can work through me if you choose (637-2879) and I will pass along your tip(s) - with or without your identification, at your direction - to the Laramie County Sheriff's Department. I am still considering asking one of the recognized psychics from national television to come to Cheyenne to try to aid in the investigation. At this point, nearly ten years after the murder, it may be more likely, rather than less likely, that a tip will come forward that finally nails the ruthless murderer. As time passes, he may be convinced he has gotten away with the crime and say something to another person. The likelihood of a jilted wife or girlfriend knowing something and coming forward increases with time. If you know anything, or think you know something, even if it's something you think we've probably heard before, please call me at the telephone no. below or call the Laramie County Sheriff's Department non-emergency number in Cheyenne - ask for the detective handling the Jamie Kamai case or the head of detectives, Linda Gessell. This is a murder I'd like to see solved before I cease publication of the Cheyenne Herald near the end of 2012.

Graffiti continues to proliferate - It is apparent, particularly with the extensive graffiti placed on city property at the Yellowstone Road/Central Avenue welcome sign and in Lions Park, that the painters show no fear of apprehension. It is equally apparent that the Cheyenne Police Department, try as they might, cannot keep up with the clean-up.

The obscenity placed on the side of the Snyder Avenue/21st Street gas station/c-store remains. Instead of passing an ordinance as Casper and many other cities in the United States have, which allows the City to clean up graffiti from private properties after those owners have been given an opportunity to do so themselves, the mayor and city attorney sit timidly in their offices at the City Building, wringing their hands about the damage and destruction being perpetrated on both public and private property in our city. Combined with the hole downtown and the debris that was once the proud Hitching Post Inn, Cheyenne has taken on the appearance of a community officials care little about. So little that they don't even clean up easy removable graffiti. That's where we are.