

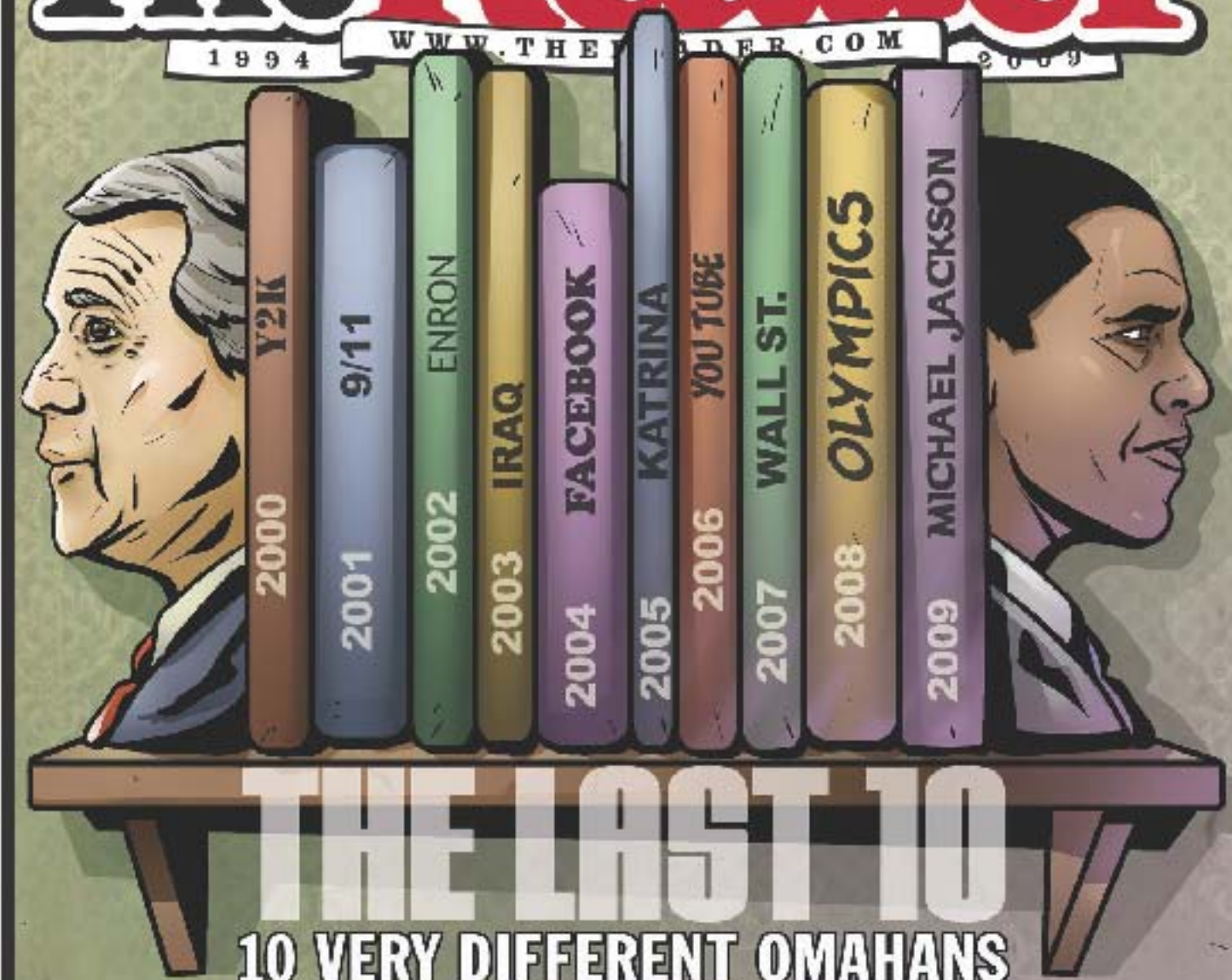
2009 YEAR IN REVIEW

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THE LAST 10
10 VERY DIFFERENT OMAHANS
REFLECT ON THE PAST DECADE

COVER STORY BY JILL BRUCKNER ROBERTS ~ PAGE 12

Bridging the Gaps

Patricia Zieg, Partner, Stinson Morrison Hecker, LLP

Terri McFarland, Director of Operations, The Estate Strategies Group
McFarland and Zieg are board members of Omaha Table Talk (OTT), an across-Omaha project to address the segregation issues in the Metro — challenges they say the city has faced for well over a decade.

Q: What has our city accomplished in the past decade?

A (McFarland): There are many groups and individuals working to help improve communications between the different races and ethnicities that make up Omaha. The major employers are more cognizant than ever of the need to encourage integration and to appreciate the uniqueness of their employees.

We have to help everyone who is trying to be more successful, not hold them back. Be it education, employment and social integration. Fear does not help us move this city forward.

Q: Where do you feel Omaha has room for growth in the next 10 years?

A (Zieg): To expand on recognition of and acceptance of the contributions of those who are not necessarily mainstream leaders. We need to welcome the unorthodox and encourage the diverse.

A (McFarland): Empowerment of our youth and minority groups to be confident productive members of this city, helping it become one of the top 10 places to stay after graduating from college.

Q: How has Omaha changed in the past decade?

A (Zieg): Internally, the last 10 years, saw a return of civility to city government. For the most part, the council and mayor's office have worked together well, advancing the city's interests and avoiding some of the problems other cities have experienced. Perhaps one of the most important achievements, in my opinion, is the recognition that not all segments of the Omaha community have shared in the successes of the past and present.