

Remembering Great Britain's 'Iron Lady'

BY MICHAEL REAGAN
CagleCartoons.com

Margaret Thatcher, who served as prime minister of Britain from 1979 to 1990, is most famous for teaming up with my father Ronald Reagan and Pope John Paul II to peacefully end the Cold War and bring about the collapse of the Soviet Union.

But at home, the "Iron Lady's" intellect, political will and love of freedom and capitalism also saved Britain from its long, slow death by socialism.

Prime Minister Thatcher freed up Britain's economy by deregulating business, privatizing government-owned industries and breaking the back of the powerful unions that were smothering her country to death.

Not that *The New York Times* can bring itself to give Lady Thatcher much credit for any of this in its coverage of her death from a stroke on Monday at age 87.

Paul Krugman, the pathetic *Times'* in-house apologist for the serial failures of the Obama Economy, dug out some arcane data that he said raises doubts that Thatcher's pro-capitalist policies actually did anything to turn around Britain's economy.

Meanwhile, a so-called news article in the *Times* on Wednesday about the debate over Thatcher's legacy in the British Parliament is the latest example of how the Paper of Record's liberal bias is always at work.

Two *Times* writers – John F. Burns and Alan Cowell – said, "The Thatcher era is generally recalled as a time when a capitalist revolution crushed labor unions, decimated staid industries that had once formed the nation's economic base, and inaugurated a period of robust economic growth that sanctified a generation's acquisitiveness."

No bias there, right? I think Burns and Cowell spent more time describing what nasty things Thatcher's left-wing critics in the Labor Party had to say about her than mentioning her triumphs.

But Lady Thatcher doesn't need the support of *The New York Times* or Hollywood to make it into the history books. Her accom-



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Apologies to Elzie Crisler Segar (and Olive Oyl).

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plishments on the world stage will speak for themselves forever.

I'll never forget meeting Lady Thatcher several times in London and in the United States. But my greatest memory of her occurred in 2004 when, despite being very ill, she attended my father's funeral at the Reagan Library.

The morning after the funeral, as I was eating at the hotel with my family, I greeted Lady Thatcher when she came in for breakfast.

"Oh, Michael," she said in that great accent of hers. "Think of how much we could have accomplished if your father had been elected in 1976, not 1980."

"Lady Thatcher," I said with the greatest respect, "I think God chooses the time for many of the things that happen in the world. And 1976 wasn't that time; 1980 in fact was."

"Why would you say that?" she said.

"Simply because I look at 1976 and I say, 'Where was Margaret Thatcher? Where was Pope John Paul II? Where was Lech Walesa and Helmut Kohl and Mikhail Gorbachev?' In 1976 none of you were in positions of power to do anything.

"But 1980 was the right time," I said to Lady Thatcher.

"You were prime minister. Pope John Paul was pope. And you had a man in Washington, D.C., who understood freedom. Because you were all in positions of power in 1980 you were all able to work for the betterment of the world."

"Oh, Michael," Lady Thatcher said, "I didn't think of that. You're right."

Because Ronald Reagan was elected in 1980, his legacy and the legacy of Margaret Thatcher will be tied together forever – thank God. And though the "Iron Lady" and my father have both passed away, their legends – and historic accomplishments – never will.

Michael Reagan is the son of President Ronald Reagan, a political consultant, and the author of "The New Reagan Revolution" (St. Martin's Press). He is the founder of the email service reagan.com and president of The Reagan Legacy Foundation. Visit his web-sites at www.reagan.com and www.michaelereagan.com. Send comments to Reagan@caglecartoons.com. Follow @reaganworld on Twitter.

Writer's Block

What Difference Does It Make?

BY LINDA WUEBBEN
P&D Correspondent

I'm suffering from writer's block while trying to write a Writers Block and it's really not as funny as it sounds.

Let me try to explain. I have had a short question written on a piece of scrap paper on my desk for three months. I wrote it down as a springboard for my column at that time. But as I considered what to write and how to write it, I found many pros and cons I wasn't sure I wanted to examine.

The short question is, "What difference does it make?"

Of course, you may all remember former secretary of state Hillary Clinton wailing those words when she testified before a Senate hearing about the sequence of actions which occurred when our ambassador to Libya and three others were killed after an attack on the U.S. Embassy in Libya. Clinton said in her mind it didn't really matter how it happened; they were killed.

I remember those philosophy courses I took way back when at Mount Marty College. I don't remember the names, but I recall wrestling with an age-old question — does the end justify the means and the flip side, do the means justify the end?

Does it matter how many people we kill if we are successful with our goal? Does it matter that we torture the prisoners we capture? If the tables were turned, certainly they would be torturing us. So, I guess that makes it OK to torture people. Is that the message we're sending?

What difference does it make?

Everywhere we look today, there is violence. Many think violence has escalated out of control. After watching the five-week miniseries, "The Bible," I came to the conclusion we can't claim rights to a violence-ridden society. It was barbaric back then, too. It seems to be the nature of the beast — the human beast. I don't see it as a badge of honor or a claim to fame.

I reflected for many days on the courageous SEAL team which successfully hunted down Bin Laden. It was a great relief to know that man was not of this world anymore. Brave men surely but what lengths did they take to claim success? Eventually they were killed, as well. What goes around comes around?

The SEAL unit is a highly trained group of soldiers — very professional and able to complete great mis-

sions of recovery in foreign nations. But they are also trained assassins; at least that's what we are told. Because they are highly trained and complete missions where they kill those who are creating havoc, is that right? Is that justified? I also remember many history classes hearing how assassinations turned many countries against one another. War was the eventual end; more fighting. Do we need to wonder where we would be without their expertise? Could it be worse?

What difference does it make? Does it mean we can be dishonest in our business dealings? All's fair in love and war just as long as we end up on top. Shoplifting isn't so bad. The businessmen expect some of that to happen and if their prices weren't so high, we could afford to buy their wares. See how easy it is to justify wrong actions making them right in our minds?

What difference does it make? It would appear we have become a selfish world, thinking only of ourselves and what we deserve; what should be ours; what we need; how we feel as opposed to how our neighbor and family and friends feel. Many maniacal, evil men and maybe women sometimes, too, claim, "it's mine, mine, mine."

We lose our jobs and believe the government owes us a living. We deserve food stamps and handouts, otherwise how will we survive? It seems hard work has nothing to do with it these days. When teenagers graduate from high school, they have a lifestyle which is high maintenance. Cell phones, iPads, iPods, laptops, wireless connections all take money to operate. Rarely do they drive an old junker like we did way back. Who will pay the gas, insurance, repairs? How can they pay for all those amenities with a minimum wage job at a burger fry joint?

What have we as parents created and what difference does it make?

I have heard lots of comments about young people headed out into the job world. They are not interested in getting dirty; they want jobs where their hands stay clean.

What difference will that make? We are facing some real job shortages in the labor field out there in the real world. We need welders, plumbers, electricians, garbage men, farm workers and nurse's aides, and we are not finding them. But do we encourage them in our schools?

What difference will that make? See my problem? I only have questions but no answers. And the more I think about the questions, the more blocked my writing becomes.



Linda
WUEBBEN

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OPINION | OTHER THOUGHTS

Forget Filibuster Of Senate Gun Bill

CHICAGO TRIBUNE (April 10): It looks as if enough Republicans are on board to avoid a really ugly moment for the GOP: a filibuster to block a federal law that would require background checks on nearly all gun sales.

More than a dozen Republican senators have said they'll try to block a vote on "any legislation that will serve as a vehicle for additional gun restrictions."

They don't want a debate on the bill's merits, much less a vote. They don't want to explain why they oppose the single most effective tool to keep guns from ending up in the wrong hands — a tool favored by 9 out of 10 Americans. Democrats and Republicans. Gun owners or not.

The filibuster threat is a cowardly and irresponsible tactic. It's also a bad political move, which is why several other Senate Republicans came out against it Tuesday. The GOP doesn't need to be seen as obstructing sensible measures aimed at preventing the sort of violence that killed 20 first-graders in Newtown, Conn., 12 moviegoers in Aurora, Colo., and a 15-year-old majorette and a 6-month-old baby, weeks apart, in Chicago.

The broad antiviolence agenda set out by President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden in the wake of the Newtown killings has been narrowed considerably. It's still not certain that anything at all will get done. That would be a travesty.

At bare minimum, Congress must pass universal background checks. Federally licensed gun dealers already conduct those checks before making a sale. The requirement should be expanded to cover Internet transactions and sales at gun shows — the preferred shopping venue for people who can't pass a background check at their local gun dealer and for the "straw buyers" who resell guns to criminals.

Some lawmakers, gun lobbyists and conspiracists object to a requirement that sellers keep records of the check and sale. They think it's the first step to a registry of gun owners — "government surveillance of constitutionally protected activity," in the words of Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, one of the leaders of the filibuster effort.

That's not the case. Without a paperwork requirement, there's no way to know if a background check was actually done. That would make the law unenforceable. Congress can't afford to come up empty in this effort.

Anticipating resistance, Obama has insisted that lawmakers owe it to those victims to vote, up or down, on his proposals. During his State of the Union address in February — with the parents of slain Chicago teen Hadiya Pendleton next to first lady Michelle Obama and relatives of the Sandy Hook victims seated throughout the chamber — Obama demanded that Congress consider meaningful gun restrictions. "They deserve a vote," he said.

He repeated the line in a speech at the University of Hartford on Monday, wagging his finger at the threatened filibuster. "You deserve better than that," he told the crowd. "You deserve a vote." He's right.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid plans to move the bill forward Thursday. The filibuster crowd needs to stand down.

SPEAK OUT!

Share your thoughts with us. Write to the **PRESS & DAKOTAN** on a topic of the day or in response to an editorial or story. Write us at: Letters, 319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078, drop off at 319 Walnut in Yankton, fax to 665-1721 or email to views@yankton.net.

TODAY IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press
Today is Thursday, April 11, the 101st day of 2013. There are 264 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On April 11, 1913, Postmaster General Albert S. Burleson, during a meeting of President Woodrow Wilson's Cabinet, proposed gradually segregating whites and blacks who worked for the Railway Mail Service, a policy which went into effect and spread to other agencies.

On this date: In 1689, William III and Mary II were crowned as joint sovereigns of Britain.

In 1713, the Treaty of Utrecht was signed, ending the War of the Spanish Succession.

In 1814, Napoleon Bonaparte abdicated as Emperor of the French and was banished to the island of Elba.

In 1921, Iowa became the first state to impose a cigarette tax, at 2 cents a package.

In 1945, during World War II, American soldiers liberated the notorious Nazi concentration camp Buchenwald in Germany.

In 1951, President Harry S. Truman relieved Gen. Douglas MacArthur of his commands in the Far East.

In 1953, Oveta Culp Hobby became the first Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare.

In 1963, Pope John XXIII issued his final encyclical, "Pacem in Terris" — "Peace on Earth."

In 1970, Apollo 13, with astronauts James A. Lovell, Fred W. Haise and Jack Swigert, blasted off on its ill-fated mission to the moon.

In 1979, Idi Amin was deposed as president of Uganda as rebels and exiles backed by Tanzanian forces seized control.

In 1983, at the Academy Awards, "Gandhi" was named best picture; its star, Ben Kingsley, won best actor while Meryl Streep received the best actress Oscar for "Sophie's Choice."

In 1988, "The Last Emperor" won best picture at the Academy Awards ceremony; Cher won best actress for "Moonstruck," Michael Douglas best actor for "Wall Street."

Ten years ago: Ten of the main suspects in the 2000 bombing of the *USS Cole* escaped from prison in Yemen. American

troops took the northern Iraqi city of Mosul without a fight. In Cuba, three men convicted of hijacking a passenger ferry the previous week were executed by firing squad, a swift response by Fidel Castro's government to a recent string of hijackings to the United States.

Five years ago: Group of Seven financial officials meeting in Washington pledged to strengthen their regulation of banks and other financial institutions while anxiously hoping the credit crisis in the United States would be a short one. French troops captured six pirates after the pirates released 30 hostages who were aboard the French luxury yacht *Le Ponant* when it was seized off Somalia's coast.

One year ago: George Zimmerman, the Florida neighborhood watch volunteer who fatally shot 17-year-old Trayvon Martin, was arrested and charged with second-degree murder. A California prison panel denied parole to mass murderer Charles Manson in his 12th and probably final bid for freedom. A University of California task force said that UC Davis police should not have used pepper-spray on student demonstrators in an incident that prompted national outrage. Algeria's first president, Ahmed Ben Bella, 95, died in Algiers. French Resistance figure Raymond Aubrac, 97, died in Paris.

Today's Birthdays: Ethel Kennedy is 85. Actor Joel Grey is 81. Actress Louise Lasser is 74. Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Ellen Goodman is 72. Movie writer-director John Milius is 69. Actor Peter Riegert is 66. Actor Meshach Taylor is 66. Movie director Carl Franklin is 64. Actor Bill Irwin is 63. Country singer-songwriter Jim Lauderdale is 56. Songwriter-producer Daryl Simmonds is 56. Rock musician Nigel Pulsford is 52. Actor Lucky Vanous is 52. Country singer Steve Azar is 49. Singer Lisa Stansfield is 47. Rock musician Dylan Keefe (Marcy Playground) is 43. Actor Johnny Messner is 43. Actor Vicelious Shannon is 42. Rapper David Banner is 39. Actress Tricia Helfer is 39. Rock musician Chris Gray (The All-American Rejects) is 34. Actress Kelli Garner is 29. Singer Joss Stone is 26. Actress-dancer Kaitlyn Jenkins (TV: "Bunheads") is 21.

Thought for Today: "We think in generalities, but we live in detail." — Alfred North Whitehead, British philosopher (1861-1947).

FROM THE BIBLE

God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God. James 4:6-7. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

YOUR LETTERS

All Smiles!

Lauren Hanson, Yankton
Executive Director, United Way & Volunteer Services of Greater Yankton

The Delta Dental Dakota Smiles Mobile came to Yankton March 18-22. Preventive and restorative dental care valued at \$19,548 was provided to 41 Yankton area youth via the Dakota Smiles Program. This dental program offers free access to oral health care for children ages 0-21 and is provided to those who have not been able to see a dentist for at least two years or are financially unable to see a dentist. Beadle Elementary School and its

principal, Carey Mitzel, and staff graciously hosted the Smile Mobile and its personnel. Retired Senior Volunteer Program volunteers assisted with reception and registration of patients.

The Dakota Smiles Delta Dental visit to Yankton was sponsored by United Way and Volunteer Services (UWVS). Funding is made possible through the generosity of the Yankton community.

UWVS would like to thank Dakota Smiles Delta Dental Program and all those who helped to make it a success.

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