



## A Blurry Cycle Of Life

BY KELLY HERTZ

kelly.hertz@yankton.net

My computer screen seemed to turn blurry Monday night. It was no wonder, since I'd spent much of the day and night sifting through constant updates on what was happening in Boston. Ultimately, I was trying to put together the newspaper while mentally juggling myriad moving parts to the story. Where to begin? Where to end?

At one particular moment, I was stuck on a headline. It wasn't for the main story on the Boston Marathon tragedy, for that was anchored on the front. Instead, it was a secondary wire story inside. I stared at the headline AP provided and, knowing it wouldn't work, I tried to pare it down. Finally, I decided it really needed a small kicker headline on top to label the story.

"Boston Marathon Explosions," I typed. It looked too clumsy, so I deleted it and tried again.

"Boston Attack." No, there was still no formal confirmation at that point that it was, officially, an attack. This is was still too presumptuous.

"Boston Bombings." That would do the job. It was short and had a punchy alliteration — even if it was blurry.

How many times throughout my career here have I struggled over nagging mousetrap details like this in the face of the vast stampede of a disaster? In this case, I was confronting what now really has been deemed a terrorist attack, this time at one of America's most revered sporting events, but I was wrestling over a couple of words in a sub-headline. I remember doing such things after the killings at Columbine, Virginia Tech and Newtown. I remember doing it all day and night on 9/11.

This is part of my job. While a piece of me is in shock over what I'm seeing and reading, another side of me demands that I fret over minutiae like headlines, photo captions and jump space.

To be quite honest with you, covering tragedy is something that journalists live for, although we're hesitant to really describe it like that. It's not as if we yearn for the worst to happen, because we don't. We ache, fear and grieve just like anyone else. However, when the worst does happen, we feel a burst of energy

squirming through the grimness. We feel compelled to chase the story and tell the tale. That may sound cold but it is the bottom-line truth, even if we don't consciously recognize it sometimes.

However, when you do this long enough, you tend to feel that the bad news is cyclical.

A bomb goes off in an American city. People die; people are maimed. The nation is shook. It was a terrible tragedy that happened last Monday, but it was also terrible when it happened in April 1995 — in fact, 18 years ago today — in Oklahoma City. Although I was covering sports at the time, I was involved in the newsroom discussions on the situation. I remember the wounded aura that surrounded us and, indeed, the country as a whole.

Alas, here we are again, and it feels awfully familiar — in more ways than one. An article on the Bloomberg website Tuesday night bore this headline: "Bomb Probe Turns to Public With Homegrown Terror Weighed." That rang a bell and I instantly time-warped back to the charred ruins of 1995.

Does anything really change? That's a bitter thought that makes me believe that the kind of tragedy we saw in

Boston Monday will happen again, if experience is any guide. Perhaps life, like bad news, is cyclical. Perhaps it's a reminder that people don't really change, for good or for bad. There are always culprits and victims. There were always dark, homicidal designs. There is always collateral damage. There is always bad news and stories needing to be told. There are always heroes.

This is life. The danger is always there. The dread never goes away.

Neither does that feeling of déjà vu, it seems. As I worked Wednesday, the wires and social media screamed the news of suspicious letters, possibly laced with ricin, showing up in Washington at congressional offices and even the White House. The calendar says it's spring 2013, but it suddenly felt like the fall of 2001, when letters laced with anthrax made me struggle over more headlines and story angles. What goes around comes around, it seems. And my computer screen just went blurry again.

You can follow Kelly Hertz on Twitter at [twitter.com/kelly\\_hertz](http://twitter.com/kelly_hertz)



Kelly  
**HERTZ**

## Dr. Gosnell's Clinic Of Horrors

BY MICHAEL REAGAN

CagleCartoons.com

Did you catch The Rev. Jesse Jackson the other night on CNN demanding a Senate hearing into why regulators never cracked down on that gruesome abortion clinic in Philadelphia?

Did you hear Al Sharpton on MSNBC saying that if Dr. Gosnell had been killing white babies in Bryn Mawr, his women's clinic would have been shut down 30 years ago?

Did you see the tears in Oprah's eyes when she read that passage from the grand jury report describing Gosnell's abortion mill as "a baby charnel house" that "regularly and illegally delivered live, viable, babies in the third trimester of pregnancy — and then murdered these newborns by severing their spinal cords with scissors?"

Didn't think so. Where are America's black leaders? Where are the president and the first lady?

From the pulpits to the Oval Office, black leaders have been shamefully silent on the case of Kermit Gosnell, the so-called doctor who made his fortune killing babies and endangering the health of women — mostly black babies and black women.

Gosnell is now on trial in Philadelphia, charged with the deaths of one woman and seven babies that were older than 24 weeks and had been born alive.

Of course, this modern Joseph is innocent until proven guilty. But the 280-page grand jury report about what went on at his clinic, available online at <http://www.phila.gov/districtattorney/pdfs/grandjury-womensmedical.pdf>, is a catalogue of horror and criminality.

Quoting many witnesses and former clinic employees, it details the filthy conditions at the clinic, the demeaning way non-white patients were treated, and the incompetent and ill-trained staff.

The grand jury report also shows that for decades

several state agencies repeatedly failed to do their oversight — even after being informed by patients, doctors and attorneys that horrible things were going on at the clinic.

Local news outlets in Philadelphia also clearly failed to do their job. Like the pro-choice journalists who run newspapers and TV stations across the country, they apparently had zero interest in scrutinizing the day-to-day operations or conditions of an abortion clinic in their city.

Black leaders have been conspicuously tongue-tied on the Gosnell case, even though minority women were his prime victims and blacks account for a disproportionate percent of the country's abortions.

But at least some national media giants have been shamed by pro-life politicians and honest pundits into finally giving Gosnell's case the attention deserved by a story about dead babies, exploited women, racism and government failure.

What happened to those babies and women in Philadelphia is more than a wake-up call for the news media to cover abortion fairly and begin scrutinizing the operations of their local clinics.

Gosnell's clinic of horrors — and other abortion factories that we've yet to hear about — is exactly what we in the pro-life movement have been warning about since the early seventies.

It's where we always said the slippery slope of Roe v. Wade leads. We're no longer aborting babies. We're murdering them after they're born.

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](http://reagan.com) and president of The Reagan Legacy Foundation. Visit his websites at [www.reagan.com](http://www.reagan.com) and [www.michaelreagan.com](http://www.michaelreagan.com). Send comments to [Reagan@caglecartoons.com](mailto:Reagan@caglecartoons.com). Follow @reaganworld on Twitter.



Michael  
**REAGAN**

## YOUR LETTERS

### 'All Of The Above'

Blaine Eilts, Valley Springs

I want to propose a common sense approach on how to become energy independent — my generation's equivalent of going to the moon. My proposal isn't new; it's the "all the above" approach.

First, we must address reality. Whether we like it or not, petroleum is the lifeblood of our economy and will be in the foreseeable future. An all the above ap-

proach that ignores this also ignores reality. While renewable energy sources like wind and solar are crucial and should be developed, it only gets us part of the way there.

It will take time to wean the U.S. off of petroleum. But until then, we are going to continue using petroleum, so why not purchase it from American companies? I would rather keep my money here and not send it overseas. More American energy means more American jobs, prosperity and economic security.

## THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

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### OPINION | WE SAY

#### Day Of Remembrance



**THUMBS UP** to Gov. Dennis Daugaard for declaring today (Friday) a "Day of Remembrance" to recognize and honor the 20th anniversary of the plane crash that killed Gov. George S. Mickelson and seven other South Dakotans. The plane went down in Iowa as the delegation was returning from Cincinnati where they were working on an effort (ultimately successful) to keep the John Morrell and Co. packing plant in Sioux Falls. Honestly, it's hard to believe 20

years have passed since that bleak day, and the anniversary might have been lost amid this week of extraordinary news events. Daugaard said it best in a press release: "I call on all South Dakotans to pause for a moment on Friday to remember these men and their contributions to our state." It's a moment worth dedicating, because it is a loss well worth remembering.

#### In A Sedimental Mood



**THUMBS DOWN** to sedimentation in the Niobrara River, which led to the waterway's listing as one of the nation's 10 "Most Endangered Rivers" by the American Rivers organization for 2013. The sediment has created increasing problems not only for the confluence of the Niobrara and Missouri rivers but for the rest of the basin affected by the siltation. American River officials noted the Niobrara River previously made their list for a different reason. Niobrara,

Neb., residents and other property owners point out that the sediment problem has been well known for generations, but the American Rivers designation focuses national attention that will hopefully lead to action.

#### Interim No More



**THUMBS UP** to the news Thursday that University of South Dakota president Jim Abbott removed the "interim athletic director" tag from David Herbst's title in the athletic department. Herbst, in his sixth year with USD, has served as interim A.D. since last December, when David Saylor left for another position. It was clear that the coaches and staff at USD were in favor of Herbst remaining on board in a permanent basis. Considering USD is still in the process of raising money for new athletic facilities, keeping things stable was important. The last thing USD needed at this point was to break in a new athletic director.

#### Lend Us An Ear



**THUMBS DOWN** to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for not even bothering to return a phone call from the Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce for a meeting during its annual fly-in to Washington, D.C. When U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem was told of the situation, she found the unresponsiveness of the Corps unacceptable. We realize that the Corps has many constraints on what it can or cannot do, but with the City of Yankton facing expensive water system upgrades in part because of decisions made by the federal agency, the least it could do is meet with the city's representatives and listen to their concerns.

### 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](mailto:views@yankton.net).

### ONLINE OPINION

The results of the most recent Internet poll on the *Press & Dakotan's* Web site are as follows:

#### LATEST RESULTS:

**Do you think significant gun control legislation will pass Congress?**  
No .....87%  
Yes .....13%  
**TOTAL VOTES CAST ..... 294**

*The Press & Dakotan Internet poll is not a scientific survey and reflects the opinions only of those who choose to participate. The results should not be construed as an accurate representation or scientific measurement of public opinion.*

#### CURRENT QUESTION:

**Do you support the hiring of Wayne Kindle as superintendent of the Yankton School District?**

To vote in the *Press & Dakotan's* Internet poll, log on to our website at [www.yankton.net](http://www.yankton.net).

### TODAY IN HISTORY

**By The Associated Press**  
Today is Friday, April 19, the 109th day of 2013. There are 256 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:** On April 19, 1993, the 51-day siege at the Branch Davidian compound near Waco, Texas, ended as fire destroyed the structure after federal agents began smashing their way in; dozens of people, including sect leader David Koresh, were killed.

**On this date:** In 1775, the American Revolutionary War began with the battles of Lexington and Concord.

In 1861, a week after the Civil War began, President Abraham Lincoln authorized a blockade of Southern ports.

In 1912, a special subcommittee of the Senate Commerce Committee opened hearings in New York into the *Titanic* disaster.

In 1933, the United States went off the gold standard.

In 1943, during World War II, tens of thousands of Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto began a valiant but ultimately futile battle against Nazi forces.

In 1945, the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical "Carousel" opened on Broadway.

In 1951, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, relieved of his Far East command by President Harry S. Truman, bade farewell in an address to Congress in which he quoted a line from a ballad: "Old soldiers never die; they just fade away."

In 1960, South Korean students began an uprising that toppled the government of President Syngman Rhee a week later. The South West African People's Organization (SWAPO) was founded in Namibia.

In 1973, the science-fiction film "Soylent Green," starring Charlton Heston, was released.

In 1982, astronauts Sally K. Ride and Guion S. Bluford Jr. became the first woman and first African-American to be tapped for U.S. space missions.

In 1995, a truck bomb destroyed the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, killing 168 people. (Bomber Timothy McVeigh was later convicted of federal murder charges and executed.)

In 2005, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger of Germany was elected pope in the first con-

clave of the new millennium; he took the name Benedict XVI.

**Ten years ago:** Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo won a new term in an election denounced by opponents as fraudulent.

**Five years ago:** President George W. Bush wrapped up two days of talks at Camp David with South Korean President Lee Myung-bak. A Russian capsule carrying South Korea's first astronaut (Yi So-yeon) touched down 260 miles off target in northern Kazakhstan after hurtling through the atmosphere in a bone-jarring descent from the international space station.

**One year ago:** Republicans rammed an election-year, \$46 billion tax cut for most of America's employers through the House, ignoring a White House veto threat. (The measure went down to defeat in the Senate.) India announced the successful test launch of a new nuclear-capable missile. Levon Helm, drummer and singer for The Band, died in New York City at age 71. Greg Ham, a member of the Australian band Men at Work, was found dead in his Melbourne home; he was 58.

**Today's Birthdays:** Actor Hugh O'Brian is 88. Actress Elinor Donahue is 76. Rock musician Alan Price (The Animals) is 71. Actor Tim Curry is 67. Pop singer Mark "Flo" Volman (The Turtles; Flo and Eddie) is 66. Actor Tony Plana is 61. Former tennis player Sue Barker is 57. Former race car driver Al Unser Jr. is 51. Recording executive Suge Knight is 48. Singer-songwriter Dar Williams is 46. Actress Ashley Judd is 45. Singer Bekka Bramlett is 45. Latin pop singer Luis Miguel is 43. Actress Jennifer Esposito is 41. Actress Jennifer Taylor is 41. Jazz singer Madeleine Peyroux is 39. Actor James Franco is 35. Actress Kate Hudson is 34. Actor Hayden Christensen is 32. Actress Catalina Sandino Moreno is 32. Roots rock musician Steve Johnson (Alabama Shakes) is 28. Actor Courtland Mead is 26. Tennis player Maria Sharapova is 26.

**Thought for Today:** "There is a Law that man should love his neighbor as himself. In a few hundred years it should be as natural to mankind as breathing or the upright gait; but if he does not learn it he must perish." — Alfred Adler, Austrian psychoanalyst (1870-1937).

### FROM THE BIBLE

*The LORD is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation. Exodus 15:2. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis*

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