



The Wife And The People

BY KATHLEEN PARKER
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CHARLESTON, S.C. — As the reporter said to the novelist: Why bother to make stuff up?

For stories and characters, one needs only a pair of walking shoes in this city, where recent attentions have turned to two salacious stories. One concerns a murder-for-hire plot involving a banker, his wife, his lover's ex-husband and his ex-lover's husband's cellmate. Not to be confused with his soul mate.

No, that designation refers to the other story making rounds on the cocktail circuit. Yes, he's back but maybe not for long. Mark Sanford, the former governor who disappeared for five days, allegedly to hike the Appalachian Trail only to find himself in the arms of his lover (now his fiancée), is discovering that not every kid gets a come-back.

What is it about the shamed male politician that he seems unable to accept when it's over? This is strictly rhetorical, obviously. Part of the answer is hubris. Another part is history: Voters generally are forgiving once a person confesses and repents. But key to general forgiveness is the forgiveness of the wronged spouse. If Mrs. forgives, Joe and Jane Public usually do too.

The list of those who have sinned and recovered is too long for this space, though a couple serve the point — and at least one deserves special mention: Bill Clinton.

Despite his well-known peccadilloes, the former president has become a respected global figure in the wake of his impeachment by the House of Representatives (the Senate failed to convict) on charges of perjury and obstruction of justice. His personal sins mostly forgiven, he has emerged with his popularity largely intact.

Perhaps the explanation lies in his overall likability as well as his good works through his foundation, not to mention a larger sense that he was unnecessarily persecuted for behaviors that were more or less familiar to (and ignored by) a majority of voters. At some point in the investigation, he became more sympathetic than his pursuers.

Clinton did not, moreover, seek public office again. And, significantly, Hillary, her early protestations notwithstanding, stood by her man.

Switch now to former New York Rep. Anthony Weiner, who left Congress after accidentally tweeting a photo of his assets to his Twitter followers. Despite unfathomable embarrassment, Weiner now is considering a run for mayor of New York City. A recent poll shows him in second place in a hypothetical Democratic mayoral primary at 15 percent, behind City Council Speaker Christine Quinn at 26 percent.



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Again, Weiner's wife, who was pregnant at the time of his topper, stayed with him. Lest Democrats feel unfairly singled out, we further note that Republican Sen. David Vitter of Louisiana has held his seat despite his intersection with prostitution. His longevity no doubt is attributable to his sincere repentance, constituent satisfaction and, importantly, his wife's forgiveness.

Which brings us back to Sanford. Not only did he abandon his state for five days during his walkabout, but he committed the unthinkable. He wept. Not taking it like a man, this one. Without consideration for his wife and young sons, he referred to his paramour as his soul mate.

Sanford didn't even have the decency to resign from office, but finished his term and vanished for a couple of years only to re-emerge in pursuit of a fresh legacy. He recently won the Republican primary for an open congressional seat and faces Elizabeth Colbert-Busch (sister of Stephen Colbert) in a special election May 7.

To many South Carolinians, especially women, Sanford's candidacy is an embarrassment of Weineresque proportions. But if history is any guide, his candidacy is on life support. Not only did his former wife, Jenny Sanford, not stand by her man, she wrote a book, went on TV and recently took him to court for trespassing. This in the wake of his fiancée showing up at his primary victory party and appearing on stage with him and two of his sons, one of whom had not previously met their future stepmother.

Sanford's lack of empathy for his family, not to mention his impeachable judgment, should disqualify him from further public service, an opinion apparently shared by the Republican National Committee, which recently withdrew support for his candidacy.

Where the wife goes, so go the people.

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Coping With Casual Terrorism

BY BILL O'REILLY
 Creators Syndicate

On Monday night, I went before a live television audience and tried to put the Boston terror attack into some perspective. I told the viewers that as an American, I was angry. I said the attack was vile and cowardly, designed to injure innocent people including children. I put forth that the Nazis did that kind of thing.

And finally, I said that President Obama made a mistake by using the word "tragedy" to define the attack.

While the dictionary defines "tragedy" as "a disastrous event, especially one involving distressing loss or injury to life," the word is not precise enough to define what happened in Boston.

If the bombers are foreigners, the event is an act of war.

If the killers are Americans, it is high treason; in committing an act of terror, you essentially declare war on your own country. There is a difference between detonating bombs that kill and maim innocent people and shooting up a school or movie theater. Both are murderous acts, but only one is politically motivated.

And it is the political factor that takes "tragedy" out of the descriptive equation.

Obama did not do anything wrong in describing the Boston bombings as a tragedy. But he did not use his pulpit to clearly define the issue. Americans need to know that this country is under attack by a variety of forces from within and without. U.S. authorities

have performed brilliantly in keeping terror attacks on American soil to a minimum, but too many folks do not understand the danger this country is facing. There are fanatics who would kill each and every one of us if they could. That is not tragic; it is real. And we must deal with it.

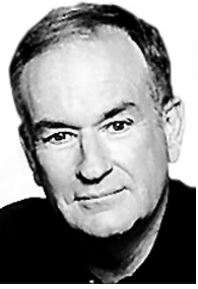
Freedom puts all of us at risk. We are living in a time when just about every security measure is controversial — from drones to Internet snooping with a warrant. In New York City, liberals rail against the "stop and frisk" police policy designed to control illegal weapons. Never mind that the policy has saved thousands of lives. The zealots don't like it, and that's that. Security be damned.

Hanging in the New York City office of the ACLU was a sign that read: "We reserve the right to check all bags." But if the cops want to check a suspicious bag on the street or in a subway car, get ready for the usual yelping by the ACLU.

Obama should bring a sense of urgency to terrorism. At times, he doesn't even like using the word. His style is cool, while the issue is hot. Americans react emotionally when children are blown up on the streets.

Obama's use of the word "tragedy" is a small thing, and again, he did not do anything wrong. But I want my commander in chief to command. All Americans are under attack. Let's sound the alarm in very vivid terms.

Veteran TV news anchor Bill O'Reilly is host of the Fox News show "The O'Reilly Factor" and author of the book "Pinheads and Patriots: Where You Stand in the Age of Obama."



Bill O'REILLY

Bowling, and Yankton Federal Prison Camp. We would also like to thank the following Yankton businesses that donated items for raffle and door prizes: First Dakota Bank, Avera Sacred Heart Hospital, Wal-mart, Yesterday's Cafe, Embroidery Screen Works, Hy-Vee, First National Bank, JJ Benji, Ace Hardware, Wells Fargo Bank, McDonalds, Pizza Ranch and Burger King. Thank you all again for your donations and services. It truly helped make the conference a success and showed support from the Yankton community.

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OPINION | OTHER THOUGHTS

Trade With China Benefits Us All

ARGUS LEADER, Sioux Falls (April 10): Gov. Dennis Daugaard and business leaders have been so busy during their trip to China that Daugaard compared the schedule of meetings to "speed dating."

The 11 South Dakota business leaders, three ag representatives and the governor have plans for more than 80 meetings with Chinese business leaders in the weeklong trip. The goal is to try to get more business for South Dakota companies.

Daugaard's delegation traveled with the help of a federal grant to open up opportunities for trade. China is South Dakota's third largest foreign trading partner, even though the state has the lowest amount of exports to the country of any state. That shows potential that South Dakota businesses like.

We like that the governor has something of a world view and wants to take an active role in helping state businesses.

The trip — Daugaard's second in two years — makes the business opportunities more legitimate to Chinese companies because they see government and industry working together. It's access that South Dakota businesses would not as easily acquire, either.

Daugaard's active role is good. Any results that help South Dakota companies or ag producers in turn help us all.

Dealing With Juveniles, Murder

THE GRAND ISLAND (Neb.) INDEPENDENT (April 12): The U.S. Supreme Court threw a sensitive issue back to the states last year and Nebraska is one of many states trying to deal with it.

The court said it was unconstitutional to sentence juveniles convicted of first-degree murder to life in prison without parole. Doing so, the court ruled, amounted to cruel and unusual punishment.

So now 29 states, including Nebraska, are working to comply with the court's ruling.

It's not an easy issue. On one hand, "These aren't shoplifters. These are people doing some really bad things," as state Sen. Ken Schilz of Ogallala said in legislative debate last week. These are killers, murderers who deserve harsh punishment.

The opposing argument is that these are people whose young age may have played a part in their terrible judgment in committing these murders. Their young age may be considered a mitigating factor in a sentence, as the court said.

In Nebraska, 27 inmates are serving life sentences without parole for crimes they committed before they turned 18.

The Nebraska Legislature has been wrestling with this issue. The Judiciary Committee proposed a 30-year minimum prison term. However, in debate on the floor, some lawmakers thought 30 years was too low because the inmate would be eligible for parole in 15 years. Nebraska law allows parole after half of a minimum sentence has been served, although few are released at that time.

So some legislators proposed increasing the minimum sentence to 60 years. In the end, senators agreed to a compromise of 40 years. Under the plan, juveniles convicted of first-degree murder could receive a sentence within the range of 40 years to life in prison.

This is a good compromise because it listened to all concerned and set the minimum sentence at a reasonable level for both sides. ...

THE VIEWS PAGE

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TODAY IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press
 Today is Monday, April 22, the 112th day of 2013. There are 253 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On April 22, 1993, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum was dedicated in Washington, D.C. to honor victims of Nazi extermination.

On this date: In 1864, Congress authorized the use of the phrase "In God We Trust" on U.S. coins.

In 1889, the Oklahoma Land Rush began at noon as thousands of homesteaders staked claims.

In 1912, the United States Chamber of Commerce had its beginnings with a National Commercial Conference held in Washington, D.C.

In 1930, the United States, Britain and Japan signed the London Naval Treaty, which regulated submarine warfare and limited shipbuilding.

In 1938, 45 workers were killed in a coal mine explosion at Keen Mountain in Buchanan County, Va.

In 1944, during World War II, U.S. forces began invading Japanese-held New Guinea with amphibious landings at Hollandia and Aitape.

In 1952, an atomic test in Nevada became the first nuclear explosion shown on live network television as a 31-kiloton bomb was dropped from a B-50 Superfortress.

In 1963, Lester B. Pearson took office as Canada's 14th prime minister.

In 1970, millions of Americans concerned about the environment observed the first "Earth Day."

In 1983, the West German news magazine Stern announced the discovery of 60 volumes of personal diaries purportedly written by Adolf Hitler; however, the diaries turned out to be a hoax.

In 1994, Richard M. Nixon, the 37th president of the United States, died at a New York hospital four days after suffering a stroke; he was 81.

In 1997, in Peru, government commandos stormed the Japanese ambassador's residence, ending a 126-day hostage crisis; all 14 Tupac Amaru rebels were killed, all 72 hostages were rescued (one died later of gunshot wounds).

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush announced he would nominate Alan Greenspan for a fifth term as Federal Reserve chairman. Songwriter Felice Bryant, who with her late husband, Boudleaux, wrote "Bye Bye Love" and other Everly Brothers

hits, died in Gatlinburg, Tenn., at age 77.

Five years ago: Hillary Rodham Clinton won the Pennsylvania Democratic primary, defeating Barack Obama and keeping her presidential hopes alive. At the close of a two-day North American summit in New Orleans, President George W. Bush chastised U.S. lawmakers for letting international trade deals falter and criticized Democratic presidential contenders for wanting to scrap or amend the vast North American free-trade zone. Singer-songwriter Paul Davis died in Meridian, Miss., a day after turning 60.

One year ago: George Zimmerman was quietly released from a Florida jail on \$150,000 bail to await his second-degree murder trial in the fatal shooting of unarmed teen Trayvon Martin. The U.S. and Afghanistan reached a deal on a strategic partnership agreement ensuring that Americans would provide military and financial support to the Afghan people for at least a decade beyond 2014, the deadline for most foreign forces to withdraw. In the first round of the French presidential election, Socialist Francois Hollande narrowly edged conservative incumbent Nicolas Sarkozy, sending the candidates to a May 6 runoff, which Hollande won.

Today's Birthdays: Actor George Cole is 88. Actress Charlotte Rae is 87. Actress Estelle Harris is 81. Singer Glen Campbell is 77. Actor Jack Nicholson is 76. Singer Mel Carter is 70. Author Janet Evanovich is 70. Country singer Cleve Francis is 68. Movie director John Waters is 67. Singer Peter Frampton is 63. Rock singer-musician Paul Carrack (Mike and the Mechanics; Squeeze) is 62. Actor Joseph Bottoms is 59. Actor Ryan Stiles is 54. Baseball manager Terry Francona is 54. Comedian Byron Allen is 52. Actor Chris Makepeace is 49. Rock musician Fletcher Dragge is 47. Actor Jeffrey Dean Morgan is 47. Actress Sheryl Lee is 46. Actress-talk show host Sherri Shepherd is 46. Country singer-musician Heath Wright (Ricochet) is 46. Country singer Kellie Coffey is 42. Actor Eric Mabius is 42. Actor Ingo Rademacher is 42. Rock musician Shavo Odadjian (System of a Down) is 39. Rock singer-musician Daniel Johns (Silverchair) is 34. Actress Michelle Ryan is 29. Actress Amber Heard is 27.

Thought for Today: "That men do not learn very much from the lessons of history is the most important of all the lessons that history has to teach." — Aldous Huxley, English author (1894-1963).

FROM THE BIBLE

Rejoice that your names are written in heaven. Luke 10:20. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

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