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OPINION

U.S. Is Essentially At War With ISIS

In some ways, it's hard to see any kind of a long-term future for the Islamic State terrorist group, known alternately as either ISIS or ISIL.
But it's also unwise to dismiss what the group can do in the short term — and there is an urgent energy in the west to not take this matter lightly.
America has now entered into a de facto war against ISIS, and there are signs that some European nations are or will soon follow suit.

But that future we spoke of at the top of this piece seems to be limited at best. The group is a well-funded organization devoted not merely to terror but to genocide, killing Muslims, Christians and others who do not ascribe to its hard-line fundamentalist beliefs. Its stated aim is to set up a caliphate, or Sunni state, in parts of Iraq and Syria. It has amassed a formidable and murderous army that is so brutal, that even Pope Francis, an outspoken champion of peace, has advocated for military action in Iraq against the group. The execution last week of American journalist James Foley is only the latest example of the group's brazen credo of barbarism.

But according to several accounts, ISIS is not a group of crazed fanatics. It has established lucrative funding sources and is currently feeding and thriving on Sunni dissatisfaction, especially in Iraq. The group is also known to set up children's clinics and other social services in its controlled territories to win the trust of people it intends to otherwise rule with an iron fist — people who may believe, in their desperation, that life under ISIS will be better than what has been presented to them from the predominantly Shia-influenced government in Iraq or the secular government in Syria.

So, while the group is a merchant in terror and murder, it also knows its politics. Reports say it's also promoting itself worldwide as a viable and powerful alternative to al-Qaida, from which it broke away a few months ago.

ISIS now flexes its muscle in lands where Sunnis dominate. But from there, the group will find tougher going. And it will find tougher resistance.

America has unleashed a bombing campaign that may bloody the group, but will probably not break it on its own. Instead, the U.S. will need the alliance of interests that must oppose ISIS, and this is where the diplomacy of the situation gets tricky for Washington. One ally would be Iran, which is already pleading support for the wobbly Baghdad government. Another might be Syria, where ISIS has taken territory and has opposed the government of Bashar al-Assad — who, as you may recall, was the demon that many hawks here wanted us to go after a few months ago. But al-Assad has also used ISIS's independent strength as an opportunity to beat down other rebel factions. As some point, he will have to face ISIS, and he will need our help. Even al-Qaida looms as an ISIS opponent, and wouldn't THAT be an unlikely alliance for this nation to even consider? It probably won't happen, but the preposterous truth is that, in this situation, both the U.S. and al-Qaida may share a common foe. (That, it seems, is how the convoluted logic of Middle East diplomacy often rolls.)

The future for ISIS seems murky because, historically, a rule based on terror cannot by its nature endure. And ISIS's hard-line, violent interpretations of Islam are in fact unpopular in the Muslim world, according to polls. However, ISIS's calculations are really more political than religious, and that makes the group a threat in the short term.
America must meet that threat, and we must not meet it alone. An international coalition must address this group with military, political and economic weapons. Frankly, if it means going to war with this homicidal bunch, then so be it.

kmh

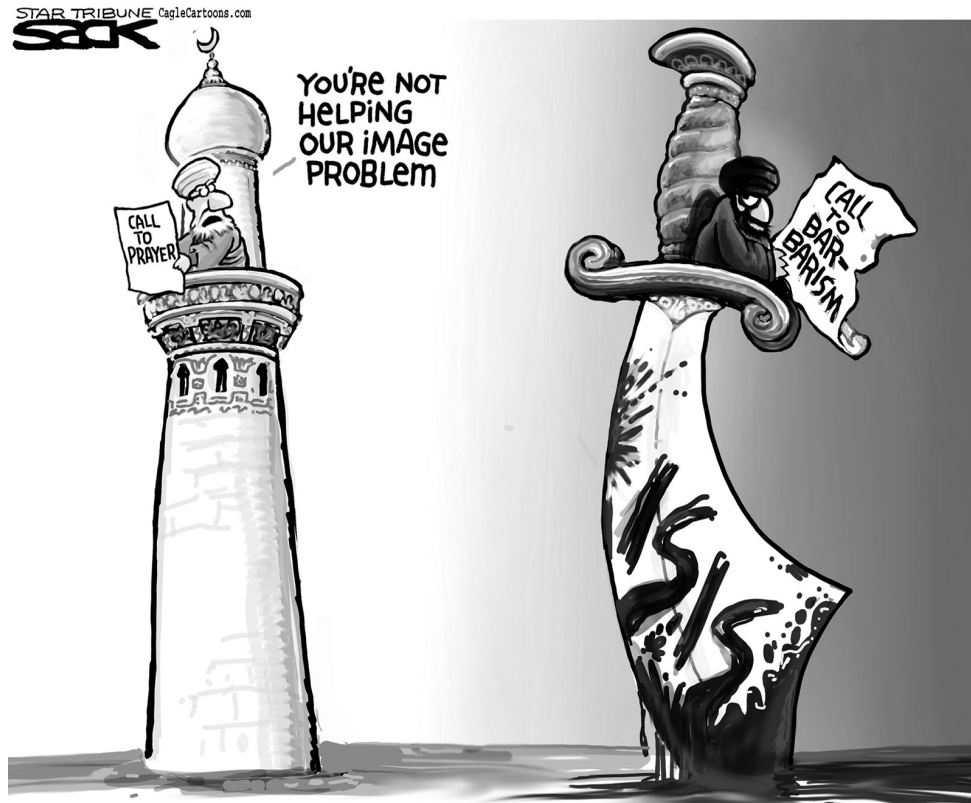
ON THIS DATE

By The Associated Press
Today is Tuesday, August 26, the 238th day of 2014. There are 127 days left in the year.
Today's Highlights in History: On August 26, 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson was nominated for a term of office in his own right at the Democratic National Convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey. The Kinks' single "You Really Got Me" was released in the United States by Reprise Records, three weeks after its British release.
On this date: In 1789, France's National Assembly adopted its Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen.
In 1883, the island volcano Krakatoa began cataclysmic eruptions, leading to a massive explosion the following day.
In 1920, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, guaranteeing American women's right to vote, was certified in effect by Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby.
In 1939, the first televised major league baseball games were shown on experimental station W2XBS: a double-header between the Cincinnati Reds and the Brooklyn Dodgers at Ebbets Field. (The Reds won the first game, 5-2, the Dodgers the second, 6-1.)
In 1944, French Gen. Charles de Gaulle braved the threat of German snipers as he led a victory march in Paris, which had just been liberated by the Allies from Nazi occupation.
In 1958, Alaskans went to the polls to overwhelmingly vote in favor of statehood.
In 1968, the Democratic National Convention opened in Chicago.
In 1972, the summer Olympics games opened in Munich, West Germany.
In 1974, Charles Lindbergh — the first man to fly solo, non-stop across the Atlantic — died at his home in Hawaii at age 72.
In 1978, Cardinal Albino Luciani of Venice was elected pope following the death of Paul VI. The new pontiff took the name Pope John Paul I. (However, he died just over a month later.)
In 1986, in the so-called "preppie murder case," 18-year-old Jennifer Levin was found strangled in New York's Central Park; Robert Chambers later pleaded guilty to manslaughter and served 15 years in prison.
In 1996, Democrats opened their 42nd national convention in Chicago.
Ten years ago: The nation's supply of vaccine for the impending flu season took a big hit when Chiron Corp. announced it had found tainted doses in its factory, and would hold up

shipment of about 50 million shots. At the Athens Olympics, the U.S. women's soccer team won the gold medal by beating Brazil, 2-1, in overtime; Shawn Crawford led a U.S. sweep of the 200 meters. Pop singer Laura Branigan died in East Quogue, New York, at age 47.
Five years ago: Authorities in California solved the 18-year-old disappearance of Jaycee Lee Dugard after she appeared at a parole office with her children and the Antioch couple accused of kidnapping her when she was 11. A giant wildfire erupted north of Los Angeles; the blaze went on to destroy more than five dozen homes, kill two firefighters and force thousands of people from their homes. Death claimed crime story author Dominick Dunne, 83, in New York City; Ellie Greenwich, 68, who'd co-written songs like "Chapel of Love," "Be My Baby" and "Leader of the Pack," in New York City; Abdul-Aziz al-Hakim, one of Iraq's most influential politicians, at a Tehran hospital.
One year ago: President Barack Obama bestowed the Medal of Honor on Army Staff Sgt. Ty Carter, who'd risked his life to save an injured soldier, resupply ammunition to his comrades and render first aid during intense fighting in a remote mountain outpost in Afghanistan.
Today's Birthdays: Former Washington Post Executive Editor Benjamin C. Bradlee is 93. Actress Francine York is 78. Former Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge is 69. Rhythm-and-blues singer Valerie Simpson is 68. Pop singer Bob Cowill is 65. Broadcast journalist Bill Whitaker is 63. Actor Brett Cullen is 58. NBA coach Stan Van Gundy is 55. Jazz musician Branford Marsalis is 54. Country musician Jimmy Olander (Diamond Rio) is 53. Actor Chris Burke is 49. Actress-singer Shirley Manson (Garbage) is 48. Rock musician Dan Vickrey (Counting Crows) is 48. TV writer-actress Riley Weston is 48. Rock musician Adrian Young (No Doubt) is 45. Actress Melissa McCarthy is 44. Latin pop singer Thalía is 43. Rock singer-musician Tyler Connolly (Theory of a Deadman) is 39. Actor Mike Colter is 38. Actor Macaulay Culkin is 34. Actor Chris Pine is 34. Country singer Brian Kelley (Florida Georgia Line) is 29. Rhythm-and-blues singer Cassie Ventura is 28. Actor Dylan O'Brien (TV: "Teen Wolf") is 23. Actress Keke Palmer is 21.
Thought for Today: "Do not wait for leaders; do it alone, person to person." — Mother Teresa (born this date in 1910, died 1997).

FROM THE BIBLE

So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered Him to be crucified. Mark 15:15. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis



The Rez Of The Story

Comedy Is Relative

BY VINCE TWO EAGLES

Hau Mitakuepi (Greetings My Relatives), Aug. 11 marked the passing of one of the world's greatest entertainers. "He was an actor, comedian, film producer and screenwriter." Wikipedia goes on to say, "Starting as a stand-up comedian in San Francisco and Los Angeles in the mid 1970s, he is credited with leading San Francisco's comedy renaissance. His film career included acclaimed work such as 'Popeye' (1980), 'The World According to Garp' (1982), 'Good Morning Vietnam' (1987), 'Dead Poets Society' (1989), 'Awakenings' (1990), 'The Fisher King' (1991) and 'Good Will Hunting' (1997), to name a few.



Vince TWO EAGLES

"[He] was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Actor three times and won the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor for his performance as therapist Dr. Sean Maguire in 'Good Will Hunting.' He received two Emmy Awards, four Golden Globe Awards, two Screen Actors Guild Awards and five Grammy Awards.

"Robin Williams died of an apparent suicide by hanging at his home in Paradise Bay, California."

He will be missed by millions of people around the world as another bright, shining member of the human community is gone. True comedic genius is an exceptional occurrence in our human history and in my opinion Williams fit that bill.

Throughout Indian Country, another comedic genius is brought to mind with the passing of Robin Williams, namely: William Penn Adair Rogers, also known as "Will." Will Rogers is still fondly remembered after all these years as the political humorist of his time, and as he is also remembered as an outstanding Native American.

Wikipedia has recorded that Will Rogers was known as Oklahoma's Favorite Son. "Rogers was born to a prominent Cherokee Nation family in Indian Territory (now part of Oklahoma) in 1879. ... He traveled around the world three times, made 71 movies (50 silent films and 21 'talkies'), wrote more than 4,000 nationally syndicated columns, and became a world — famous figure. By the mid — 1930's, the American people adored Rogers. He was the leading political wit of the Progressive Era, and was the top paid Hollywood movie star at the time."

YOUR LETTERS

A Great Parade

Riverboat Days Parade Committee (Wayne and Jolene Williamson, Doug and Katie Feimer, Joy Ellis, Jeff and Connie Hines, Dale Maki, Leah Merkan, Curtis and Renae Brooks, Adam and Abby Goeken, and Kevin Watt.)

The 2014 Riverboat Days Parade was an "Out of this World" success. We had 136 outstanding entries decorated to match the theme, the parade route was packed and there was an unbelievable great effort by the people and businesses of the Yankton area.

Thank you to all those that helped make the 31st annual parade a great event. The committee would like to thank the City of Yankton especially the Police, Parks and Street Departments, Kmart, Unclaimed Freight-Western Office, ABATE cycle club, Yankton VFW Post 791 Honor Guard and other honor guards, Yankton Public Schools, Yankton High School Band, Keep Yankton Beautiful and the Parade Judges.

A special thanks goes to City Administrator's, Amy Nelson, Al Viereck and Todd Larson for the after-the-horses clean up.

Thanks also to the following parade announcers: Jim Reimler and Steve Imming with WNAX, Dr. Jim Hohn, Craig Ernster, Bill Bobzin of Century 21, Matt Fischer with KYNT-KK93, Jim Payne and Mike Grimme.

It is rewarding to see Yankton and the surrounding communities come together to sponsor such a great family fun-filled weekend. We would like to thank all that watched and all that entered the parade. The 2014 parade awards went to

I think Rogers was a genius and he left proof of that in his writings and his now famous quotes.

- Here are but a few of my favorites:
- "Never miss a good chance to shut up."
- "If there are no dogs in Heaven, then when I die, I want to go where they went."
- "Everything is funny a long as it is happening to somebody else."
- "There are two theories to arguing with a woman, neither works."
- "Everyone is ignorant, only on different subjects."
- "The short memories of the American voters is what keeps our politicians in office."
- "If pro is the opposite of con, what is the opposite of Congress?"
- "I don't make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts."
- "Ten men in our country could buy the whole world and 10 million can't buy enough to eat."
- And my personal favorite, "Most men are about as happy as they make up their minds to be."

In the Dakotah culture, our comedians are called "Heyokas." These are individuals who have dreams about the lightning and in the Dakotah belief system they are being called or chosen by the Creator to be contraries. They do everything opposite of normal when they do their ceremonies. For example: If it is hot out, they will pretend to be cold and will wear a blanket and shiver as if they were truly cold. They will ride their horse backwards. During a Sundance, they are the only ones who can drink water and/or pour it out on the ground in front of the Sun Dancers who have been fasting from food and drink for four days.

The late John Fire Lane Deer recounts in his book, "Lame Deer Seeker of Visions," as follows: "A Heyoka, if he follows his dream to the letter, has to dress up as he saw himself in his vision. Now, here is something strange. The people he saw in his dream, if he saw you, you would be there, at the time and place where he would put on his act. You'd be there to witness it, regardless of whether you had planned to be there or not. You couldn't help being there. It's hard to believe. Some people say it is fantastic; others say it is ridiculous, but it is so."

I have noticed that each family, regardless of their race, has a clown, someone who is funny. I find that interesting indeed. It points out that we are in fact, all related.

And now you know the rez of the story. Doksha (later) ...

Online Opinion

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

LATEST RESULTS:

Do you think South Dakota's ban on gay marriage will be overturned in court?
Yes 54%
No 46%
TOTAL VOTES CAST 323

The Press & Dakotian 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 think your school district should adopt a four-day school week?
To vote in the Press & Dakotian's Internet poll, log on to our website at www.yankton.net.

- **Commercial Division**
1. Future Look Salon; 2. Ripper Tours; 3. Hatch Furniture Vehicle Division
1. Fauth Trucking; 2. Robert Nissen; 3. Yankton Antique Auto
- **Non Profit Division**
1. Yankton Ice Association
2. Yankton Girls Scouts
3. Yankton Community Library
4. Yankton County 4-H
5. Yankton Pink Ladies

A big thanks goes out to all the 2014 entries. We look forward to the 2015 parade and hope to see you there.

PRESS & DAKOTAN LETTER POLICY

The PRESS & DAKOTAN encourages its readers to write letters to the editor and asks that a few simple guidelines be followed.

■ Please limit letters to 300 words or less. Letters should deal with a single subject, be of general interest and state a specific point of view. Letters are edited with brevity, clarity and newspaper style in mind.

■ In the sense of fairness and professionalism, the PRESS & DAKOTAN will accept no letters attacking private individuals or businesses.

■ Specific individuals or entities addressed in letters may be given the opportunity to read the letter prior to publication and be allowed to answer the letter in the same issue.

■ Only signed letters with writer's full name, address and daytime phone number for verification will be accepted. Please mail to: Letters, 319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078, drop off at 319 Walnut in Yankton, fax to 665-1721 or email us at views@yankton.net.