



DAVE BRUBECK, 1930-2012

Learning About A Friend

BY KELLY HERTZ
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When former Yankton High School teacher Richard Anderson died last week at age 72, it made me feel more than sad — it also made me feel like an outsider. This was a peculiar feeling. I've worked at this newspaper since the first Reagan administration and have lived in Yankton for more than 20 years. During all that time, certain things have given this place a feeling of home — my friendship with Dick being one of those items. And yet, as I heard people reminisce about Dick in the classroom and as I read about his impact as a motivator, I felt out of the loop. I never went to school in Yankton, therefore I never knew the man from a classroom point of view; he was never "Mr. Anderson" to me. Instead, I knew him as a co-worker and friend from the many years in which he worked here part-time lending a hand on page design. I also knew him by reputation as a teacher and, especially, as a journalism advisor.



Kelly HERTZ

The latter is important, because that's where my point of reference with him really begins. The details are not important here, but the consequences of those details are. Journalism is a hard business, especially if you have no appetite for its relentless demands. If you don't love journalism, you'll never amount to much in it. The same is true of most any profession, I suppose. But in journalism, if you lack the passion for it, that weakness will be laid bare to everyone in no time at all. You can't really hide it and you can never fake it. You simply must have it to survive. I think this is what made Dick such a marvelous journalism advisor: He was able to cultivate that passion in the students who wanted to own it. And some certainly did because they've gone on to great things in journalism. In fact, some have gone on to great things in fields other than journalism, and the passion that Dick helped instill in them stoked their ambitions in whatever they chose to do. Not every educator can do that; not every one even tries to do that. So perhaps Dick merely happened to be a teacher of English and journalism; he was really a teacher of life. His students knew that about him, but I had to pick it up in other ways, the best ways: by looking at those kids. Dick's stature as a journalism mentor was as lofty as

they come. He produced an army of award-winning journalists and a consistently strong student newspaper that won numerous honors. But the journalism accolades that seemed to mean the most to him were the accomplishments of those YHS students who, say, won Neuharth scholarships at USD or who landed gigs at metro dailies — or, for that matter, at any newspaper where those kids could practice their craft and utilize that passion he helped develop.

This was his gift, the kind of magic that we never really appreciate until it's gone. He helped mold good people who were good journalists, in that order. If they could excel at both, Dick would smile that warm smile. He could share a laugh — he had a wondrous laugh — with his former students when they stopped by his wife's store, The Pantry, to visit. There was a bond, forged by respect and, in some ways, a sort of love.

Dick used to pop in here a lot, even after he no longer worked here, and spend some time chatting with the reporters. Just like back in his working days here, his presence injected an energy and a lightness into these deadlined mechanics. That, too, was a gift, and I imagine it was something he brought to the classroom to complement his taskmaster qualities ...

But honestly, that persistent past tense hounding my recollections now is hard to bear. It's difficult today to imagine a newspaper, a high school or a Yankton without Dick.

Journalism is a hard business, in part because it sometimes forces us to study a situation and break it down to its barest bones to tell its story in a brief space. Sometimes you feel the need to go on and on to do the topic justice, but deadlines loom and brevity rules.

When I look at all that was Dick Anderson's career — especially all the students who strove for more because of his mentoring and the quality he demanded from his journalistic charges — I can build down his life this way: He was the best at what he did. However, I don't think that's news to anyone who knew this extraordinary educator and this very dear friend.

You can follow Kelly Hertz on Twitter at twitter.com/kelly_hertz

Message From This Empty Dorm

BY LEONARD PITTS JR.
Tribune Media Services

Young people are not exactly renowned for their judgment. We are, after all, talking about an age group that has to be told it is a bad idea to text while doing 70. Or drink alcohol till it spews from your nostrils. Or wear a T-shirt and flip-flops to interview for the office job. So no, judgment is not their forte. Yet even they have enough sense to steer clear of the gun dorm.



Leonard PITTS

You haven't heard about the gun dorm? Well, back in August, the University of Colorado announced it was segregating students with valid concealed-carry permits in dorms of their own on its campuses in Boulder and Colorado Springs. This, after the state Supreme Court upheld a lower court ruling that struck down the school's ban on people bringing guns on campus. So now, a student 21 years or older who has a permit may be armed in the dorm or even in class, though not, for some reason, at a school event requiring a ticket.

Recently, the Denver Post decided to count the number of young gunslingers who wanted to live among their own. How many kids had rushed to take advantage of this opportunity?

Let's just say there is not a waiting list. The Post reports the number of kids who opted for the gun dorm is zero. A big, fat goose egg.

The paper speculated on a few reasons for this: maybe there are not enough students with carry permits who live on campus; maybe students with such permits find it more convenient just to sneak their guns into the old dorm.

OK. But isn't it also possible at least some of this preference for unlearned dorms reflects a happy outbreak of simple sanity? Is it too much to hope at least some students recognize — as the court did not — that an environment full of immature judgment, poor impulse control, overactive hormones, sexual rivalries, drug use and binge drinking is perhaps, not the best place to introduce weapons of mass destruction?

One keeps thinking that surely there has to be some

middle ground that balances the rights of responsible adults to own firearms, with the need of a society to ensure that people who ought not have access to them are denied. But we will never get there so long as the debate is dominated by the sort of extremism Colorado exemplifies.

As has happened with conservatism generally, the gun rights movement has lurched hard to the right in recent years, has alienated reason, ostracized compromise and fetishized guns and gun ownership to a point that seems psychologically unhealthy.

What was once a campaign to ensure the right of people to bear arms has mutated into a campaign to ensure guns at all times for everybody everywhere and to smack down those who would seek to ban them, even from places where banning them makes obvious sense.

In Georgia, for instance, they've been arguing over whether or not to allow guns in churches.

In Arizona, Georgia, Tennessee and Virginia, you can bring a gun into a bar.

And now, in Colorado, where a deranged man shot up a movie theater in July, and two disaffected teenagers broke the nation's heart with a 1999 massacre at their high school, they say it's OK to bring guns into the dorm.

An armed citizenry will help deter crime, goes the "thinking." As if we were all living on the set of some old TV western.

But this is not "Bonanza." This is a nation where shell casings crunch underfoot, children and the mentally ill have guns, and there have been, according to the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, 60 mass shootings just since the attack on Gabrielle Giffords in 2011. You do not solve a problem of too many guns in the wrong hands with a policy of guns at all times for everybody, everywhere.

Maybe that's the message of the empty gun dorm. And that suggests pretty good judgment after all.

Leonard Pitts is a columnist for the Miami Herald, 1 Herald Plaza, Miami, Fla., 33132. Readers may contact him via e-mail at lpitts@miamiherald.com.

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OPINION | WE SAY

I, Robot



THUMBS UP to Yankton's RTEC Noids — the first Lego League robotics team formed in this community. The group of a dozen 9-14-year-olds will take part in their first competition Saturday at a South Dakota Lego Robotics League qualifying competition in Brandon. Visiting with the boys who make up the team this week, their enthusiasm and team spirit were evident as they made final adjustments on the robots they built and programmed by themselves. We wish them luck and hope this is the beginning of a long-standing Yankton tradition.

Treaty Fail



THUMBS DOWN to the U.S. Senate for its embarrassing failure to approve the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities treaty on Tuesday. The measure got 62 votes, but 67 were needed and 38 Republican senators — including John Thune of South Dakota and Mike Johanns of Nebraska — said no. The treaty was actually quite radical, calling for such things as "(e)mphasizing the importance of mainstreaming disability issues as an integral part of relevant strategies of sustainable development," and acknowledging the idea that "(discriminating) against any person on the basis of disability is a violation of the inherent dignity and worth of the human person." It was supported by former GOP presidential nominee Bob Dole, who was on the Senate floor Tuesday in a wheelchair to advocate for the treaty's passage; as well as by Sens. John McCain, John Kerry and, by the way, Tim Johnson. It basically mirrored the Americans With Disabilities Act. Yes, this was a United Nations treaty, which the opponents said gave the U.N. "too much power" (according to Rick Santorum) over American lives. But the treaty was also deemed flawed because doesn't impose laws. This looks like the actions of lawmakers pandering for votes and not utilizing logic. One Washington Post blogger labeled the affair "Profiles in Cowardice." Unfortunately, we agree.

A New Wing



THUMBS UP to the new surgical wing at Avera Creighton Hospital in Creighton, Neb. The facility, which cost slightly less than \$1 million, was opened Oct. 15 and put to immediate use. The surgical wing has remained steadily busy, according to hospital CEO Mark Schulte. The landmark will be celebrated with an open house from 1-3 p.m. today (Friday), incorporating a 1:30 p.m. blessing ceremony. The new facility represents a step forward during challenging

Trashing



THUMBS DOWN to damage and illegal activities inflicted on the Bow Creek Recreation Area near Wynot, Neb. The National Park Service (NPS) has taken steps to curtail the acts, particularly damage by all-terrain vehicles (ATVs). The NPS is also concerned about the removal of any historical and cultural artifacts with the dropping Missouri River levels. Rangers will conduct periodic patrols and issue citations where necessary. While some may dislike the enforcement, NPS officials say it's necessary to keep the rec area usable by everyone.

Take Five



THUMBS DOWN to the passing of a jazz legend Dave Brubeck, he died Wednesday one day short of his 92nd birthday. It's nearly impossible to overstate Brubeck's standing in music. The pianist helped popularize a smooth West Coast jazz sound — it got him on the cover of Time magazine in 1954, the first jazz musician ever to be so featured — while also showcasing a deceptively daring style, mixing musical signatures and rhythms, often interlaced in the same passages. In the late 1950s, with jazz fading under the glare of rock and roll, the Dave Brubeck Quartet released "Time Out," which is still one of the best-selling jazz albums of all-time, and the hit "Take Five" was the first jazz single to sell a million copies. Brubeck used jazz as a vehicle of social commentary in the 1960s, and later did classical work, too. The New York Times notes that he remained a major draw at jazz festivals until the end of his life. As Donald Fagan sang in his song "New Frontier," Brubeck was "an artist (and) a pioneer." The silence now is sad, but Brubeck's legacy will play on forever.

TODAY IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press
Today is Friday, Dec. 7, the 342nd day of 2012. There are 24 days left in the year.
Today's Highlight in History: On Dec. 7, 1941, Japan launched a surprise attack on the U.S. Navy base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii as part of its plan to conquer Southeast Asian territories; the raid, which claimed some 2,400 American lives, prompted the United States to declare war against Japan the next day.

On this date: In 1787, Delaware became the first state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.
In 1796, electors chose John Adams to be the second president of the United States.
In 1808, electors chose James Madison to be the fourth president of the United States.

In 1836, Martin Van Buren was elected the eighth president of the United States.

In 1842, the New York Philharmonic performed its first concert.

In 1909, chemist Leo H. Baekeland received a U.S. patent for Bakelite, the first synthetic plastic.

In 1911, China abolished the requirement that men wear their hair in a queue, or ponytail.

In 1946, fire broke out at the Winecoff Hotel in Atlanta; the blaze killed 119 people, including hotel founder W. Frank Winecoff.

In 1972, America's last moon mission to date was launched as Apollo 17 blasted off from Cape Canaveral. Imelda Marcos, wife of Philippine President Ferdinand E. Marcos, was seriously wounded by an assailant who was then shot dead by her bodyguards.

In 1982, convicted murderer Charlie Brooks Jr. became the first U.S. prisoner to be executed by injection, at a prison in Huntsville, Texas.

In 1987, 43 people were killed after a gunman aboard a Pacific Southwest Airlines jetliner in California apparently opened fire on a fellow passenger, the pilots and himself, causing the plane to crash. Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev set foot on American soil for the first time, arriving for a Washington summit with President Ronald Reagan.

In 1993, gunman Colin Ferguson opened fire on a Long Island Rail Road commuter train, killing six people and wounding 19. (Ferguson was later sentenced to a minimum of 200 years in prison.)

Ten years ago: Iraq handed over its long-awaited arms declaration to the United Nations, denying it had doomsday

weapons. President Saddam Hussein grudgingly apologized to Kuwait for his 1990 invasion. Shuttle Endeavour returned to Earth, bringing an astronaut and pair of cosmonauts home from a 6-month space station voyage. Bombs tore through four movie theaters in Bangladesh, killing 19. Miss Turkey Azra Akin won the Miss World contest in London, bringing to a close an international pageant that had incited deadly rioting in Nigeria, the original site of the event.

Five years ago: Congressional Democrats demanded a full Justice Department investigation into whether the CIA had obstructed justice by destroying videotapes documenting the harsh 2002 interrogations of two alleged terrorists. Two window washers fell 47 stories from a Manhattan skyscraper when their scaffolding failed; Edgar Moreno was killed, but his brother, Alcides, miraculously survived.

One year ago: Rod Blagojevich, the ousted Illinois governor whose three-year battle against criminal charges became a national spectacle, was sentenced to 14 years in prison. Veterans from Pearl Harbor observed the 70th anniversary of Japan's attack with a solemn ceremony at the site of the bombing. Veteran character actor Harry Morgan, 96, died in Brentwood, Calif.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Eli Wallach is 97. Linguist and political philosopher Noam Chomsky is 84. Bluegrass singer Bobby Osborne is 81. Actress Ellen Burstyn is 80. Sen. Thad Cochran, R-Miss., is 75. Broadcast journalist Carol Simpson is 72. Baseball Hall of Famer Johnny Bench is 65. Actor-director-producer James Keach is 65. Country singer Gary Morris is 64. Singer-songwriter Tom Waits is 63. Sen. Susan M. Collins, R-Maine, is 60. Basketball Hall of Famer Larry Bird is 56. Actress Priscilla Barnes is 55. Former "Tonight Show" announcer Edd Hall is 54. Rock musician Tim Butler (The Psychedelic Furs) is 54. Actor Patrick Fabian is 48. Actor Jeffrey Wright is 47. Actor C. Thomas Howell is 46. Producer-director Jason Winer is 40. NFL player Terrell Owens is 39. Rapper-producer Kon Artis is 38. Pop singer Nicole Appleton (All Saints) is 37. Latin singer Frankie J is 36. Country singer Sunny Sweeney is 36. Actress Shiri Appleby is 34. Pop-rock singer/celebrity judge Sara Balleilles (TV: "The Sing-off") is 33. Singer Aaron Carter is 25.

Thought for Today: "No nation ever had an army large enough to guarantee it against attack in time of peace or insure it victory in time of war." — President Calvin Coolidge (1872-1933).

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FROM THE BIBLE
"What then will this child be?" For the hand of the Lord was with him. Luke 1:66. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis