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OPINION

Hacking Sony: On The Plus Side ...

Let's pause for a moment to consider the possibility that the cyber attack on Sony Pictures Entertainment and the resulting cancellation of the release of a highly-publicized movie could actually be a good thing.

It is widely believed (although there is not a consensus on this) that the recent corporate hacking of Sony was done either by North Korea or by a North Korean-backed operation as retaliation for the making and looming release of the Seth Rogen-James Franco comedy "The Interview." The film involves two American journalists who have scored an interview with North Korean despot Kim Jong-un and are recruited by the U.S. intelligence to assassinate the leader. That's a fairly gutsy, in-your-face concept for a movie, and it's not surprise that the North Koreans were displeased about this concept.

The cyber attack exposed a multitude of corporate emails and script details to the light of day, and it was followed by threats by a group called Guardians of Peace of terrorist attacks against theaters screening the film. This prompted Sony to cancel the film's release — a move which has been criticized from everyone from Hollywood stars to lawmakers, including President Obama, who chastised the studio for giving in to extortionists. (The studio is now hinting that it may find a way to release the film after all.)

But what may be far more important here — and this is not to say that emboldening terrorists is unimportant — is that this episode shines a startling light into the shadow arena of cyber warfare.

Nations (including the United States) launch cyber raids on one another all the time, with sometimes destructive results in terms of intelligence compromised and securities breached. Corporations are also common targets. And these attacks are usually launched in such a way that it's very difficult to lay direct blame at one nation or group. That kind of subversive stealth makes cyber warfare very difficult to defend against and to prosecute. And indeed, there are some analysts and groups (such as the Anonymous hacker group) who don't believe North Korea was really behind this incident.

However, it's also been noted that Western powers like the United States and Great Britain lag behind in cyber warfare: Our defenses are not up to speed to match the constantly evolving/mutating skills of rogue regimes that find it easier to invest in and recruit cyber warriors than it is to mount more conventional military infrastructure.

In a way, this incident involving "The Interview" has exposed our weakness in this realm.

And that could be a good thing, because it's a stunning wake-up call.

It has brought the issue front and center into our national thinking in the way that few other cyber attacks probably could have done.

The fact that this wake-up call — what some might liken to a cyber Pearl Harbor — came at the expense of a motion picture studio putting out a movie may be looked back upon as a real gift, but only if we respond accordingly and aggressively. The fact that a studio was the target may be why Obama is now carefully calling this incident "cyber-vandalism" as opposed to an act of cyber war.

In direct terms, the U.S. probably faces limited options in dealing with the Sony incident only because it's so frustratingly difficult to draw clear lines of guilt back to any nation or group.

But if this matter compels Washington and U.S. corporations to work more aggressively on cyber defense and to build up stronger, smarter countermeasures against these phantom warriors, we'll be better for it — and at a relatively bargain price.

kmh

IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press
Today is Tuesday, Dec. 23, the 357th day of 2014. There are eight days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Dec. 23, 1954, the first successful human kidney transplant took place at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston as a surgical team led by Dr. Joseph Murray removed a kidney from 23-year-old Ronald Herrick and implanted it in Herrick's twin brother, Richard, who was dying of chronic nephritis. (Because the donor and recipient were identical twins, tissue rejection was not an issue. Richard Herrick lived until 1962; Ronald Herrick died in 2010.)

On this date: In 1788, Maryland passed an act to cede an area "not exceeding ten miles square" for the seat of the national government; about 2/3 of the area became the District of Columbia.

In 1823, the poem "Account of a Visit from St. Nicholas" was published anonymously in the Troy (N.Y.) Sentinel; the verse, more popularly known as "Twas the Night Before Christmas," was later attributed to Clement C. Moore.

In 1893, the Engelbert Humperdinck opera "Haensel und Gretel" was first performed, in Weimar, Germany.

In 1913, the Federal Reserve System was created as President Woodrow Wilson signed the Federal Reserve Act.

In 1928, the National Broadcasting Company set up a permanent, coast-to-coast network.

In 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt restored the civil rights of about 1,500 people who'd been jailed for opposing the (First) World War.

In 1941, during World War II, American forces on Wake Island surrendered to the Japanese.

In 1948, former Japanese premier Hideki Tojo and six other Japanese war leaders were executed in Tokyo.

In 1953, the Soviet Union announced the execution of Lavrenty Beria, former head of the secret police, for treason.

In 1968, 82 crew members of the U.S. intelligence ship Pueblo were released by North Korea, 11 months after they had been captured.

In 1972, in football's "Immaculate Reception," Franco Harris of the Pittsburgh Steelers caught a pass thrown by Terry Bradshaw and scored a touchdown after the ball was deflected during a collision between Jack Tatum of the Oakland Raiders and the Steelers' John Fuqua; the Steelers won, 13-7.

In 1986, the experimental airplane Voyager, piloted by Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager, completed the first non-stop, non-refueled round-the-world flight as it returned safely to Edwards Air Force Base in California.

Ten years ago: Democrat Christine Gregoire won the Washington governor's

race over Republican Dino Rossi by 130 votes out of 2.9 million ballots cast, according to final recount results announced from Seattle's King County. Former Connecticut Gov. John G. Rowland pleaded guilty to a corruption charge (he was later sentenced to a year and a day in federal prison; he served 10 months). Assaults claiming to be members of a revolutionary group opposed to the death penalty ambushed a bus in Honduras, killing 28 people, including six children. Two men were convicted in Houston for their role in a smuggling attempt that resulted in the deaths of 19 illegal immigrants crammed in a tractor-trailer. (Freddy Giovanni Garcia-Tobar was later sentenced to 15 years in prison; Victor Jesus Rodriguez, to 20 years and seven months.)

Five years ago: Richard and Mayumi Heene, the parents who'd pulled the "balloon boy" hoax in hopes of landing a reality TV show, were sentenced by a judge in Fort Collins, Colorado, to jail (90 days for him, 20 days for her). Gary Patterson, who'd guided TCU to its best season in 70 years, became the first Associated Press Coach of the Year from outside the six conferences with automatic BCS bids. Yitzhak Ahronovich, captain of the Exodus during a 1947 attempt to take Holocaust survivors to Palestine, died in northern Israel at age 86.

One year ago: The last two imprisoned members of the Russian punk band Pussy Riot (Maria Alekhina and Nadezhda Tolokonnikova) were given amnesty and set free after spending nearly two years in prison for a protest at Moscow's main cathedral. Auburn's Gus Malzahn was honored as The Associated Press national coach of the year. Mikhail Kalashnikov, 94, designer of the AK-47 assault rifle, died in Izhevsk, Russia.

Today's Birthdays: Former German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt is 96. Actor Gerald S. O'Loughlin is 93. Actor Ronnie Schell is 83. Emperor Akihito of Japan is 81. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Paul Hornung is 79. Actor Frederic Forrest is 78. Actor James Stacy is 78. Rock musician Jorma Kaukonen is 74. Rock musician Ron Bushy is 73. Actor-comedian Harry Shearer is 71. U.S. Army Gen. Wesley K. Clark (ret.) is 70. Actress Susan Lucci is 68. Singer-musician Adrian Belew is 65. Rock musician Dave Murray (Iron Maiden) is 58. Actress Joan Severance is 56. Singer Terry Weeks is 51. Rock singer Eddie Vedder (Pearl Jam) is 50. The former first lady of France, Carla Bruni-Sarkozy, is 47. Rock musician Jamie Murphy is 39. Jazz musician Irvin Mayfield is 37. Actress Estella Warren is 36. Actress Anna Maria Perez de Tagle is 24. Actor Spencer Daniels (TV: "Mom") is 22.

Thought for Today: "If you want to do things, do things." — Grace Paley, American writer (1922-2007).

FROM THE BIBLE

So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you. John 16:22. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.

Secret SANTA...



The Rez Of The Story

A 2014 Retrospective

BY VINCE TWO EAGLES

Hau Mitakuepi (Greetings My Relatives), The past (even if only last year) is our bridge to fully understanding where we come from and to give necessary perspective and context to the events of today. In this respect we are all historians of sorts, would you not agree?

In a kind of conspiracy of circumstance, we columnists find ourselves pressured if not compelled to lend our two cents to the conversation about last year and maybe (optional) offer some thoughts about the coming year herein respectfully submitted.

Nobel Prize winning laureate and American author William Faulkner once wrote: "Never be afraid to raise your voice for honesty and truth and compassion against injustice and lying and greed. If people all over the world ... would do this, it would change the earth."

Unfortunately, trouble with a capital T visits those who argue about things like who's culture is superior to who's, or who's religion is the right religion for everybody, who's brand of governance is more effective, how to define poverty and wealth, how others should live their lives according to our standards and we theirs. These arguments are un-winnable as there is an obvious difference between objective and subjective truths. Truth, it seems, is relative in many respects.

I have learned that perspective and perception are everything. Truth can be as illusive and rare as true love or it can be right in front of our face; made invisible by our own prejudice and unwillingness to achieve compromise.

The year 2014, like every other year offered us ample opportunity to tell the truth to and about each other — the choice has always been ours to make. I believe I tried my level best to meet these seemingly daunting

requirements in writing my column every week and I will continue to do my level best to continue in 2015. If I have fallen short of telling truth as I see it and have caused anyone any harm in doing so, I sincerely apologize. It has never been my intent to cause or create conflict but to always seek ways to overcome the differences between the Native and non-Native cultures. I have always said that it is a far better strategy for survival and well-being to seek collaboration rather than isolationism and 2015 will not change my view about this.

Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "As my sufferings mounted I soon realized that there are two ways in which I could respond to my situation — either to react with bitterness or seek to transform the suffering into a creative force. I decided to follow the latter course."

Like last year, 2015 will no doubt offer each of us a multitude of new opportunities to be all that we can be and challenges we know not yet will present themselves to us. Some challenges we will be prepared to face while others will take us by complete surprise. I only wish all of you the resolve to accept no defeat and to embrace with grace all your victories in the new year and beyond. And so HAPPY HOLIDAYS to all of you and have a HAPPY NEW YEAR as well.

I leave you with these thoughts by the author Renee Bledsoe (Addiction Alchemy): "The Light is more than some abstract unknowable energy force. Light is truth. If Light is truth, then darkness must be lies. Each and every lie we tell ourselves and others casts a shadow of separation upon us. Every time the most minor deception is revealed and the truth is made known we are re-united with the Light. So, let there be Light. Those are the words by which you can create your own magnificent world."

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



Vince TWO EAGLES

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Closing Time

Dick Kulbel and Duane Frick, Yankton
Many people in Yankton have heard of the great generosity of Otto Ullrich. Over the past several years we have had the honor and privilege of serving as trustees of the Otto Ullrich Trust, which was funded by a gift in his will when he died in May of 2006. In the past several years we disbursed over \$625,000 to many different organizations within Yankton. We would like to thank all the groups and organizations who put together worthy requests for funding from Otto's Trust. The funds have now all been distributed and the Trust has been closed.

Otto made a deep impression on us by his example of building the community in which he lived, worked and enjoyed. He loved Yankton and desired to reinvest (his lifetime of saving and earning) in all things that make Yankton such a great place. Many times we hear of estates of long-time Yankton residents being settled and their money leaving our community, never to be reinvested in the community in which it was earned. Otto, a life-time resident of Yankton, gave each of us a wonderful example of how to build our own commu-

Poll Results

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

LATEST RESULTS:

Do you support the thawing of relations between the U.S. and Cuba?
Yes.....56%
No.....31%
Not sure.....13%
TOTAL VOTES CAST302

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 think Sony made the right decision in canceling the release of the movie "The Interview"?
To cast your vote in the **PRESS & DAKOTAN'S** Internet poll, log on to our website at www.yankton.net.

nity and help ourselves by investing in it.

May Otto Ullrich always be remembered by his generosity to Yankton!

P&D LETTER POLICY

The **PRESS & DAKOTAN** invites its readers to write letters to the editor. We ask 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 kelly.hertz@yankton.net/.

EMPOWERMENT: "Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter." — Thomas Jefferson

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS: It's Your Right To Know!