



The RINO Rebellion

BY KATHLEEN PARKER
© 2013, Washington Post Writers Group

WASHINGTON — RINO-hunting, the long popular political sport that morphed in 2008 into a sort of hysteria-driven obsession, lately has become a suicide mission.

RINO, of course, refers to Republicans In Name Only and is the pejorative term used against those who fail to march in lockstep with the so-called conservative base. I used “so-called” because, though the hard-right faction of the party tends to be viewed as The Base, this isn’t necessarily so. My guess is there are now more RINOs than those who, though evangelical in their zeal, are poison to their party’s ability to win national elections.

Yet, as always, the base manages to control the message because it is vocal, loud and, most important, makes for “Good TeeVee.” Spittle sells. Stay calm and carry on ... right past the elevators and leave your visitor badge on the counter on your way out the door.

There are now so many RINOs wandering the barren plains that, banded together, they might even form a critical mass. A base, if you will. If only they weren’t so attractively independent. The individualist nature of those most likely to be drawn to the Republican Party is such that they tend not to gather in groups. Ostracized by their own tribe, they feel alone in their exile.

Quite the opposite is true. Indeed, as the base seeks El Savior, isn’t it time for a RINO Rebellion?

Take a cue from the tea party, RINOs. Embrace your alienation. Slap a bumper sticker on your angst and rally that dispassion. Witness how bloggers turned others’ in-sults into a movement. What were random basement bloggers in terrycloth bathrobes and Uggs are now the respected and influential Pajamas Media, aka PJ Media.

Own your insult, in other words. Why should RINOS hang their heads in shame and be relegated to the fringes of their party? The party *is* the fringe. Isn’t it time to reclaim the salt lick? RINOs need to be defiantly proud, aggressively centrist and unapologetically sane.

There are a couple of obstacles to this obvious course. First, sane people are too busy Being Normal to organize. No, “normal” is not a relative term. We all know what normal is and it doesn’t involve carrying gigantic photos of aborted fetuses to political conventions. For example.



Kathleen PARKER

We fetishize politics and political display in this country, or at least the media do. But The Normals really are not so interested in politics as guerrilla theater as programmers, consultants and spinners seem to think they are. Most would like the country to rock along without drama — operating within a reasonable budget, with respect for privacy and the rule of law, compassion for the disadvantaged and an abundance of concern for national security, including border control but not necessarily drone attacks on citizens.

More or less.

Another related obstacle to RINOs organizing is that RINOs don’t much like organizations. Remember John McCain the Maverick? Precisely. Though long considered a RINO by his own party, McCain enjoyed kinder, gentler treatment by the media — and, therefore, the sexier “maverick” moniker — at least until he fell for Sarah Palin, the tea-chugging Diana of RINO-haters. The truth is, most RINOs, mavericks by any other name, would rather be alone, which makes playing well with others problematic.

Finally, they lack the necessary grandiosity to recognize how fabulous they are. Ever seen a RINO in one of those silly hats that screams: “I Belong! I Am A Member Of The Party!”? No. They tend to be discreet — strangers in a strange land, keeping a low profile and an eye cracked for signs of fellow travelers. At most, they gather in smallish groups and dine on ironically named dishes such as Baked Alaska. At their most enthusiastic, they form polite alliances, such as the “No Labels,” um, something.

Sorry, guys. The sentiment behind no-labels is at the core of my very being, though I prefer Walker Percy’s more eloquent imperative that we should repent of labels. It is the essence of my Moi-ness: Stop fussing and fix it. But movements don’t begin with “No.” No-labels is a *non* without a *sequitur*. A yield without a merge. A ... non-starter.

Thus, what has become glaringly clear is that RINOs need to stop being so normal and grant their better angels a sabbatical. Forget taking back the country. Start by taking back your party. Do it for your country.

RINOs: The Strong. The Proud. The Many.

Kathleen Parker’s email address is kathleenparker@washpost.com.

Writer’s Block

War, Peace And A Slice Of Pizza

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
nathan.johnson@yankton.net

Pizza is a powerful tool that can foster peace or conflict.

I know this from experience.

As a boy, I often wielded the pizza cutter in the household. When my mother was at work, I was most likely to be tasked with doing the cooking for the family after completing my farm chores. These meals could consist of 1) hot-dogs with macaroni and cheese 2) chicken strips and shrimp — with macaroni and cheese or 3) canned spaghetti with tuna thrown in to spice things up. As you can see, we were culinary connoisseurs.

But the most popular supper option when Mom was out of the house was Tombstone Pizza. My two younger brothers, dad and I loved that special brand of frozen pizza, although I’ve no idea who thought it was a good idea to link pizza to the Wild West. (I should also add that Tombstone Pizza isn’t anywhere near as good as the homemade pizza Mom would make if she was at home.)

I would bake two Tombstones so that, between the four of us, there were four pieces each.

It sounds so simple on paper.

But as the wielder of the cutter, I had great power that I did not always use responsibly. I knew that a pizza does not necessarily have to be divided equally.

Sometimes, I’m not proud to admit, I was tempted by that alluring pizza staring me in the eyes to give in to greed and slice the pie in a way that provided me with more than the rest of the family. (Remember, since I was doing the slicing, I also had first dibs on claiming what was mine.)

This unequal distribution, of course, did not escape the attention of my equally pizza-loving brothers and inevitably led to some conflicts.

However, we survived those “Pizza Wars” and are still on speaking terms today.

Now, let’s fast-forward to last weekend.

I found myself at Zio’s Pizzeria, located in Omaha’s Old Market, with Mom, Dad and my middle brother. The franchise has been voted the “Best of Omaha” in *Omaha Magazine*, so we wanted to give it a try.

While ordering, we were told it could be 45 minutes before receiving our pizzas. Considering how busy every eatery in the Old Market was that night, we didn’t consider the potential wait unreasonable.

So, the four of us sat and chatted about family matters, politics, entertainment and whatever else came to mind.

An hour passed, and I found my stomach growing impatient. Being hungry and inhaling the rich aroma of pizza for an hour can be exhausting and wear down one’s sense of decorum.

That’s when the devastating news arrived.



Nathan JOHNSON

The waitress approached timidly before launching her attack. It was the Pearl Harbor of pizza non-delivery.

“I have some really bad news,” she said, doing her best to ignore the long strands of saliva that were now trailing out of our hungry mouths and onto the table. “They left your pizzas in too long and now they’re all burnt. The manager said that if you still want your pizzas, we will give them to you for free. Do you want us to re-make them?”

Suddenly, we were on war footing. Our supply lines had been breached and our future was in peril.

The unfulfilled promise of pizza could have led lesser souls to retaliate by storming out of the restaurant, making a rude comment to the waitress or declaring all-out war on Zio’s Pizzeria — scenarios that I briefly entertained in my hungry delirium.

Instead, the whole family looked at each other for guidance — and this is where I became quite proud of us.

We kept our calm, looked to the server and said, “Yes, we’ll wait for our pizzas.”

My middle brother, who I think it is fair to say can be the most impatient among the four of us due to the simple fact that he is a middle child, remained calm and observed with sarcasm, “That was really nice of the manager to make the waitress come and deliver the bad news instead of doing it himself.”

We all nodded our heads in agreement.

“The waitress is such a sweetheart,” Mom added.

“I guess this just means more quality time together for us,” I said, only half-joking.

And so we did the only thing we could do — we chatted some more and enjoyed each other’s company.

In another 20 minutes, we were devouring our free pizza with the intensity of soldiers who hadn’t seen food in days.

It was good pizza and, as I watched the red tomato sauce drip onto my plate, I was grateful that this favorite food would not be a source of conflict as it had been in my past.

Mom told Dad to tip the waitress well, and he did as instructed (just as he always does in matters where Mom provides instruction, I can assure you).

We got up and peacefully made our way to the door, content with the pizza now in our stomachs. The only “piece” I was armed with now was a slice left over for breakfast.

Pizza could have been the catalyst for war on this fine day. Instead, it was used to facilitate peace. The world could learn something from this simple equation.

I would also add this small bit of advice: When life throws you pepperoni, have some patience and maybe it will throw in a free pizza.

You can follow Nathan Johnson on Twitter at twitter.com/AnInlandVoyage

THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

THE DAKOTAS’ OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861
Yankton Media, Inc., 319 Walnut St., Yankton, SD 57078

OPINION | OTHER THOUGHTS

It’s Time To Vote On Chuck Hagel

THE SEATTLE TIMES (Feb. 18): Republicans in the U.S. Senate are wrong to filibuster the confirmation of Chuck Hagel as U.S. secretary of defense. They should let a vote go forward without delay, and confirm him.

Hagel is a former member of their caucus, and on matters of war the two-term senator from Nebraska was the most levelheaded among them. He saw combat in Vietnam and was twice wounded.

He knows war. He knows how war so often turns out much more painfully than the visions of the keyboard belligerents who promote it. Hagel was the first Republican in the Senate to come out against the Iraq war, and he was right.

Sen. John McCain, who ought to know better, now badgers Hagel for doubting the “surge” in Iraq. Wasn’t it a success? Short term, it was, just as President Richard Nixon’s bombing in Vietnam was. Long term, it is unlikely the surge made any difference in Iraq. That country has its own political culture. So does Afghanistan.

The Senate obstructionists want an America with more boldness and resolve. Sometimes that’s what a country needs. Not now. Our government has been bold on bad advice. Its resolve has become an unwillingness to see. Our leaders need to think more and shoot less.

There is also the matter of federal spending. The budget is still \$900 million out of balance almost four years after the recession’s official end. Spending has to come down, and that includes the military. Hagel understands that.

Our Democratic president ran in 2008 as an opponent of the Iraq war. In practice, President Barack Obama was not nearly as skeptical of war, especially in Afghanistan, as many of his supporters hoped. With Hagel, the president has a chance to pursue a more cautious policy about overseas military commitments and focus on reform and recovery at home.

THE VIEWS PAGE

The PRESS & DAKOTAN Views page provides a forum for open discussion of issues and interests affecting our readers. Initialed editorials represent the opinion of the writer, but not necessarily that of the PRESS & DAKOTAN. Bylined columns represent the view of the author. We welcome letters to the editor on current topics. Questions regarding the Views page should be directed to Kelly Hertz at views@yankton.net.

TODAY IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press
Today is Thursday, Feb. 21, the 52nd day of 2013. There are 313 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History: On Feb. 21, 1613, Mikhail Romanov, 16, was unanimously chosen by Russia’s national assembly to be czar, beginning a dynasty that would last three centuries.

On this date: In 1513, Pope Julius II, who had commissioned Michelangelo to paint the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, died nearly four months after the project was completed.

In 1862, Nathaniel Gordon became the first and only American slave-trader to be executed under the U.S. Piracy Law of 1820 as he was hanged in New York.

In 1885, the Washington Monument was dedicated.

In 1912, the Great Fifth Ward Fire broke out in Houston, Texas; although property losses topped \$3 million, no one was killed in the blaze.

In 1916, the World War I Battle of Verdun began in France as German forces attacked; the French were able to prevail after 10 months of fighting.

In 1925, *The New Yorker* magazine made its debut.

In 1945, during the World War II Battle of Iwo Jima, the escort carrier *USS Bismarck Sea* was sunk by kamikazes with the loss of 318 men.

In 1947, Edwin H. Land publicly demonstrated his Polaroid Land camera, which could produce a black-and-white photograph in 60 seconds.

In 1965, black Muslim leader and civil rights activist Malcolm X, 39, was shot to death inside the Audubon Ballroom in New York by assassins identified as members of the Nation of Islam.

In 1972, President Richard M. Nixon began his historic visit to China as he and his wife, Pat, arrived in Beijing.

In 1973, Israeli fighter planes shot down Libyan Arab Airlines Flight 114 over the Sinai Desert, killing all but five of the 113 people on board.

In 1986, Larry Wu-tai Chin, the first American found guilty of spying for China, killed himself in his Virginia jail cell.

Ten years ago: The owners of The Station nightclub in West Warwick, R.I., where 100 people perished in a fast-moving fire the night before, denied giving the rock band Great White permission to use fireworks blamed for setting off the blaze, although the band’s singer insisted the use of pyrotechnics had been approved. Chief U.N. inspector Hans Blix ordered the destruction of dozens of Iraqi missiles with ranges that violated U.N. limits. Michael Jordan became the first 40-year-old in NBA history to score 40 or more points, getting 43 in the Washington Wizards’ 89-86 win over the New Jersey Nets.

Five years ago: Serb rioters broke into the U.S. Embassy in Belgrade and set fire during protests against Western support for an independent Kosovo. President George W. Bush concluded his six-day African tour in Liberia, where he offered help to lift the country from years of ruinous fighting. A Venezuelan plane crashed in the Andes, killing all 46 on board. Author Robin Moore, who wrote “The French Connection” and “The Green Berets,” died in Hopkinsville, Ky., at age 82. Former Arizona Gov. Evan Mecham, who was removed in a 1988 impeachment trial, died in Phoenix at age 83.

One year ago: Greeks were torn between relief and foreboding on the news that their country had received a new massive bailout — a \$170 billion rescue package created by the 17-nation eurozone, with conditions. Publisher Barney Rosset, 89, who introduced the U.S. to such underground classics as “Tropic of Cancer” and “Lady Chatterley’s Lover,” died in New York.

Today’s Birthdays: Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe is 89. Movie director Bob Rafelson is 80. Actor Gary Lockwood is 76. Actor-director Richard Beymer is 74. Actor Peter McEnery is 73. U.S. Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., is 73. Film/music company executive David Geffen is 70. Actor Alan Rickman is 67. Actress Tyne Daly is 67. Actor Anthony Daniels is 67. Tricia Nixon Cox is 67. Former Sen. Olympia J. Snowe, R-Maine, is 66. Rock musician Jerry Harrison (The Heads) is 64. Actress Christine Ebersole is 60. Actor William Petersen is 60. Actor Kelsey Grammer is 58. Country singer Mary Chapin Carpenter is 55. Actor Jack Coleman is 55. Actor Christopher Atkins is 52. Rock singer Ranking Roger is 52. Actor William Baldwin is 50. Rock musician Michael Ward is 46. Actress Aunjanue Ellis is 44. Blues musician Corey Harris is 44. Country singer Eric Heatherly is 43. Rock musician Eric Wilson is 43. Rock musician Tad Kinchla (Blues Traveler) is 40. Actress Jennifer Love Hewitt is 34. Singer Charlotte Church is 27. Actress Ashley Greene is 26. Actress Ellen Page is 26. Actor Corbin Bleu is 24.

Thought for Today: “Whether you think you can, or you think you can’t — you’re right.” — Henry Ford, American industrialist (1863-1947).

FROM THE BIBLE

Whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother. Matthew 12:50. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

YOUR LETTERS

Gun Issue: On Call

John Magnuson, Yankton
I suppose I’m not the only one receiving robo phone calls from worried gun advocacy groups. I never did like robo calls and most are from out of state. They seem to make a lot of presumptions about what I think is important and act like their clothing is too tight in the wrong places.

One caller was distraught that our governor, Dennis Daugaard, was going to take away their rights to carry concealed weapons in our state of South Dakota. Well, I have no idea what the governor’s thoughts are on this subject, but he seems like a fairly reasonable guy at times. If he has the kahunas to take leadership and do what is right for South Dakota, then he

should have his chance.

We all know that we need to make some changes. Some of us have lived elsewhere such as Chicago, Philadelphia, Kansas City and Timbuktu and have not felt the need to pack heat.

There’s a certain fear factor at play that groups use to influence public policy. Personally, this fear seems irrational and I hate the feeling of being manipulated.

I’ve never felt afraid in our state. It’s very peaceful and we should keep it that way.

If these advocacy groups are so afraid, then maybe they should start wearing Kevlar vests. While they are at it, maybe they should cover their faces too. And maybe Wayne LaPierre should move back to France or wherever his La La is from.

CONTACT US

PHONE:
(605) 665-7811
(800) 743-2968
NEWS FAX:
(605) 665-1721
ADVERTISING FAX:
(605) 665-0288
WEBSITE:
www.yankton.net
EMAIL ADDRESS:
news@yankton.net

SUBSCRIPTIONS/
CIRCULATION:
Extension 112
CLASSIFIED ADS:
Extension 108
NEWS DEPARTMENT:
Extension 114
SPORTS DEPARTMENT:
Extension 106
ADVERTISING OFFICE:
Extension 122
BUSINESS OFFICE:
Extension 119
NEW MEDIA:
Extension 136
COMPOSING DESK:
Extension 129

* * *

MANAGERS

Gary L. Wood
Publisher
Michele Schievelbein
Advertising Director
Tonya Schild
Business Manager
David Jeffcoat
Circulation Director
Tera Schmidt
Classified Manager
Kelly Hertz
Editor
James D. Cimburek
Sports Editor
Beth Rye
New Media Manager
Kathy Larson
Composing Manager
Bernard Metivier
District Manager

* * *

DAILY STAFF

Andrew Atwal
Melissa Bader
Derek Bartos
Brett Beyerler
Cassandra Brockmoller
Rob Buckingham
Randy Dockendorf
Jeannine Economy
Jeremy Hoeck
Nathan Johnson
Muriel Pratt
Sheldon Reed
Noelle Schlechter
Cathy Sudbeck
Kelsey Thomas
Sally Whiting
Brenda Willcuts
Jackie Williams

* * *

Published Daily Monday-Saturday
Periodicals postage paid at Yankton, South Dakota, under the act of March 3, 1979.

Weekly Dakotian established June 6, 1861. Yankton Daily Press and Dakotian established April 26, 1875.
Postmaster: Send address changes to Yankton Daily Press & Dakotian, 319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078.

* * *

MEMBERSHIPS

The Yankton Daily Press & Dakotian is a member of the Associated Press, the Inland Daily Press Association and the South Dakota Newspaper Association. The Associated Press is entitled exclusively to use of all the local news printed in this newspaper.

* * *

SUBSCRIPTION RATES*

(Payable in advance)

CARRIER DELIVERY
1-month . . . \$12.09
3 months . . . \$36.27
6 months . . . \$72.53
1-year . . . \$133.09
MOTOR ROUTE
(where available)
1 month . . . \$14.51
3 months . . . \$43.53
6 months . . . \$87.05
1 year . . . \$139.14
MAIL IN RETAIL TRADE ZONE
1-month . . . \$16.93
3 months . . . \$50.79
6 months . . . \$101.57
1-year . . . \$148.82
MAIL OUTSIDE RETAIL TRADE ZONE
1 month . . . \$19.35
3 months . . . \$58.05
6 months . . . \$116.09
1-year . . . \$186.33
* Plus applicable sales tax for all rates