

THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861

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OPINION | WE SAY

Open Up



THUMBS UP to the South Dakota Senate for unanimously passing legislation Thursday that would make police logs public records in our state. By a vote of 33-0, the measure now moves to the House. Currently, the police logs can be released to the public at the discretion of law enforcement. That discretionary aspect has been removed, although

certain privacy protections would remain in place. This measure represents another step forward into introducing more sunshine into our public records. Let's hope members of the House feel the

Dead End



THUMBS DOWN to news from Gov. Dennis Daugaard this week that a proposal to renovate the Ordway, Mellette and Herreid buildings on the South Dakota Human Services Center campus will not proceed. Foutch Brothers, a Kansas City, Mo., development company, had eyed the properties for a possible housing development. Daugaard shared

that, after working on a proposal with the firm for months, he was notified recently that Foutch Brothers were not interested in proceeding. We appreciate the effort of both parties to find new life for those magnificent historic buildings and are saddened that now they are sentenced to demolition. Had things worked out differently, we believe they could have played an important role in Yankton's future.

Certified Ready



THUMBS UP to the City of Yankton, Yankton Area Progressive Growth and Planning and Development District III for their successful effort to get five properties in the South Dakota Certified Ready Sites Program. Currently, only four other communities have certified ready sites, and none of them have multiple listings. The program puts these commercial and industrial sites on the state's short list for prospec-

tive businesses and makes it easy for them to access information about the properties. This is a sign of a progressive community that wants to grow, and we are always glad to see collaboration in pursuit of a common goal. It bodes well for the future.

Get-Well Wishes



THUMBS DOWN to the news that Yankton native, University of South Dakota graduate and former NBC News anchor Tom Brokaw, 74, has been diagnosed with cancer. He has multiple myeloma, a cancer that affects the blood cells in the bone marrow. Brokaw said he was diagnosed last August, and the prognosis is good. NBC said doctors are encour-

aged at Brokaw's progress so far. That doesn't surprise us, as Brokaw has shown a dogged determination and has lived life to the fullest, including his current coverage of the Winter Olympics at Sochi, Russia. We wish him well in the days ahead.

ONLINE OPINION

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

LATEST RESULTS:

Who would you support in a hypothetical three-way Senate ractween Mike Rounds, Rick Weiland and Larry Pressler?	
Mike Rounds	34.7%
Rick Weiland	
Larry Pressler	18.4%
Not sure/other	12,2%
TOTAL VOTES CAST	438
The Duran C Delector International in and a selectific common and well-	4- 41

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 support raising the minimum wage? To vote in the Press & Dakotan's Internet poll, log on to our website at www.yank-

ON THIS DATE

By The Associated Press Today is Friday, Feb. 14, the 45th day of 2014. There are 320 days left

in the year. This is Valentine's Day.

Today's Highlight in History: On Feb. 14, 1924, the Computing-Tabulating-Recording Co. of New York was formally renamed International Busi-

ness Machines Corp., or IBM. On this date: In 1014, Henry II was crowned Holy Roman Emperor in Rome by Pope Benedict VIII.

In 1778, the American ship Ranger carried the recently adopted Stars and Stripes to a foreign port for the first time as it arrived in France. In 1859, Oregon was admitted to the Union as the 33rd state.

In 1895, Oscar Wilde's final play, "The Importance of Being Earnest," opened at the St. James's Theatre in

London. In 1903, the Department of Commerce and Labor was established. (It was divided into separate departments of Commerce and Labor in

In 1912, Arizona became the 48th state of the Union as President William Howard Taft signed a procla-

In 1929, the "St. Valentine's Day Massacre" took place in a Chicago garage as seven rivals of Al Capone's

gang were gunned down. In 1949, Israel's Knesset convened for the first time. In 1963, Federico Fellini's art-

house classic "8 1/2" was first released in Italy. In 1979, Adolph Dubs, the U.S.

ambassador to Afghanistan, was kidnapped in Kabul by Muslim extremists and killed in a shootout between his abductors and police.

In 1984, 6-year-old Stormie Jones became the world's first heart-liver transplant recipient at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh (she lived until Nov. 1990). Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean of Britain won the gold medal in ice dancing at the Sarajevo Olympics. In 1989, Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini

called on Muslims to kill Salman Rushdie, author of "The Satanic Verses," a novel condemned as blas-

Ten years ago: Guerrillas overwhelmed a police station west of Baghdad, killing 23 people and freeing dozens of prisoners. Twenty-eight people were killed when the glass-

and-concrete roof of an indoor water park in Moscow collapsed

Five years ago: Savoring his first big victory in Congress, President Barack Obama used his weekly radio and Internet address to celebrate the just-passed \$787 billion economic stimulus bill as a "major milestone on our road to recovery." Jazz drummer Louie Bellson, who'd performed with Duke Ellington and his late wife, Pearl Bailey, died in Los Angeles at age 84 Publisher Alfred A. Knopf Jr., 90, died in New York.

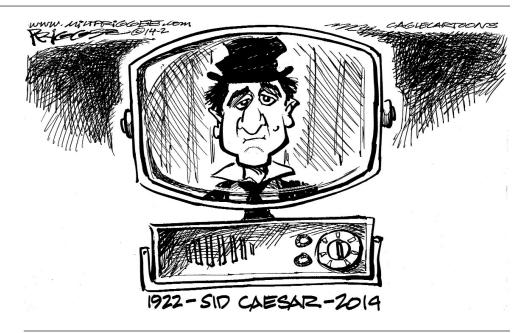
One year ago: Paralympic superstar Oscar Pistorius was charged with murdering his girlfriend at his home in South Africa, a stunning development in the life of a national hero known as the "Blade Runner" for his high-tech artificial legs. Billionaire Warren Buffett agreed to buy H.J. Heinz Co. for \$23.3 billion in the richest deal ever in the food industry. American Airlines and US Airways announced an \$11 billion merger that turned American into the world's biggest airline.

Today's Birthdays: TV personality Hugh Downs is 93. Actress-singer Florence Henderson is 80. Actor Andrew Prine is 78. Country singer Razzy Bailey is 75. Former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg is 72. Jazz musician Maceo Parker is 71. Movie director Alan Parker is 70. Journalist Carl Bernstein is 70. Former Sen. Judd Gregg, R-N.H., is 67. TV personality Pat O'Brien is 66. Magician Teller (Penn and Teller) is 66 Cajun singer-musician Michael Doucet (Beausoleil) is 63. Actor Ken Wahl is 57. Opera singer Renee Fleming is 55. Actress Meg Tilly is 54. Pro Football Hall of Famer Jim Kelly is 54. Singer-producer Dwayne Wiggins is 53. Actor Enrico Colantoni is 51. Actor Zach Galligan is 50. Actor Valente Rodriguez is 50. Rock musician Ricky Wolking (The Nixons) is 48. Tennis player Manuela Maleeva is 47. Actor Simon Pegg is 44. Rock musician Kevin Baldes (Lit) is 42. Rock singer Rob Thomas (Matchbox Twenty) is 42. Actor Matt Barr is 30. Actor Jake Lacy is 28. Actress Tiffany Thornton is 28. Actor Freddie Highmore is 22.

Thought for Today: "Age is strictly a case of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter." — Jack Benny (born this date in 1894, died in 1974)

FROM THE BIBLE

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs." 1 Corinthians 13:4-5 NIV



Sizing Up Our Comics Page

HERTZ

BY KELLY HERTZ

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There are times when there is nothing funny about the funnies.

Whenever we do a reader survey of our comics page, I find that out immediately as people's passions for the comic strips bursts forth with both petals and Recently, the Press & Dakotan de-

cided to undertake a survey of our comics page by test-running the strip "Take It from the Tinkersons," which we made room for by temporarily pre-empting the venerable "For Better or For Worse. This move seemed to cause some

people to question my sanity. But at least they were questioning, while many others also voiced their opinions on what they liked and didn't like in our stable of comic strips and panels.

First off, a big thanks goes to everyone for doing that, because it gave me something that I rarely encounter as I work with that page: feed-

It's been about five years since we did our last comics page survey; when we don't do such exercises, I hear practically nothing about the page. (We did do a snap survey last year on "Dear Àbby," which came back resoundingly positive.) That makes it hard to get a gauge sometimes on what's working and what isn't — or if anyone is even paying attention at all.

But, when this latest survey began in late January, the feedback started coming in immediately and it remained very steady. We received nearly 120 responses, which is more than I expected and far more than I feared. It reaffirmed that there is still considerable interest in the comics page, a unique and rich newspaper tradition.
OK, enough of the backdrop: Let's get to the

It's clear that we won't be taking the "Tinkersons." Many readers disliked it — some, vigorously so. It had very few favorable responses. So,

scratch the "Tinkersons" off the list. I also learned how popular "For Better of For Worse" is with our readers, so it is going nowhere. In fact, the only strip that surpasses "For Better" in affection is "Zits," which remains our most popular strip among our survey respondents.

Also very popular are "Baby Blue," "Blondie" and "Family Circus." "Peanuts" has many fans, too, but it also had a relatively (compared to past surveys) high number of negative votes - which may or may not be sacrilege.

Some comics are quite divisive, which brings up questions of diversity and interest. "Bizarro and "Mother Goose and Grimm," which are similar in attitude if not format, were frequently men-

tioned together by readers as their least favorite offerings. Both had lots of negative votes. On the other hand, both garnered about the same or more positive votes - and far more overall votes than the likes of "Garfield" and "Beetle Bailey." Which matter should be potentially the greater concern: the high number of negative votes for some comics, or the lower number of any votes for

What did become instantly clear in this survey was that, as much as readers dislike the "Tinkersons," they despise "Dick Tracy" even more. It got more overall votes than any other strip, and almost all were negative. I'll take the

blame for this. When we did our last survey, I became intrigued by dramatic strips with running story lines similar to what I used to see back when I was a kid. I was surprised by how few there were left. The "Tracy" strip had actually run in the Press & Dakotan for almost 40 years until it was dumped sometime in the 1980s. Šo, spurred on by a couple of suggestions to give "Tracy" another try, I decided to do so. But you clearly don't like it.

Thus, we've decided to jettison that strip at some point in the near future.

What will replace it? Finding that answer is the next phase of this

survey/experiment/ordeal. We plan to do another two-week test run of three or four comic strips, hopefully starting Feb. 24. This time, to accommodate the test strips, we plan to move the "Dear Abby" column to the Life page during that period. (PLEASE don't freak out over this temporary shift.) The test strips, which should be announced next week, are based on several suggestions supplied by readers. (By the way, I'm thankful for the fact that, this time, no one demanded that we bring back "The Far Side," which we and practically every paper in the country would do if we

Be watching for those details, and once again, please let us know what you think.

You can follow Kelly Hertz on Twitter at twitter.com/kelly_hertz/. Discuss this story at www.vankton.net/.

Double Standards 101

Kathleen

BY KATHLEEN PARKER

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WASHINGTON — Groundhog Day isn't just a Here it is early 2014 — still almost

three years away from a new presidency but it's high time to mention that Hillary Clinton was a "ruthless" first lady. This shocking revelation comes to us courtesy of the Washington Free Beacon - an online conservative commen-

tary/news site — that published an article based on the papers of Hillary's good friend, Diane Blair, a University of Arkansas political scientist. Blair's papers were handed over to the university

after her death in 2000. The headline: "The Hillary Papers: Archive of 'closest friend' paints portrait

PARKER of ruthless First Lady. Blair's journal included not only her own contemporaneous observations during the Monica Lewinsky saga but also the notes she took

while talking on the phone with the then-first lady. One mustn't speak ill of the dead, they say, but they were Spartans in the 6th century B.C., so whatever. One might at least wonder whether Blair told Hillary she was taking notes that she would release posthumously. That's certainly one form of life insurance. But wouldn't it have been more close-friendish to wait until all parties concerned were enjoying the hereafter before publishing notes that could damage the living?

Hillary has been memed. Effective immediately,

she is ruthless. The Beacon headline was based on a private 1992 poll about Hillary Clinton during her husband's presidential campaign. Although respondents expressed general admiration for the Clintons, they also expressed fear that "only someone too politically ambitious, too strong, and too ruthless could survive such controversy so well.

The pollsters concluded: "What voters find slick in Bill Clinton, they find ruthless in Hillary.' Welcome to Double Standards 101.

But we needn't visit that lecture hall. Instead, let's assume that Hillary Clinton is ambitious, strong and ruthless. Quick, the ink on my palm is fading. Please remind me who those two people are in Washington who don't fit this description. But Hillary Clinton is sui generis, endlessly fas-

cinating in that love-her-or-hate-her way. To some, she is an intelligent woman who has weathered a 20-year assault with relative grace. To others, she's a pushy broad whose dagger gaze reminds them of

a disapproving teacher, or worse. Guess which ones are women and which are men.

What Blair's papers mostly reveal is that Hillary Clinton is a human being who was deeply hurt and humiliated by the Lewinsky affair — and that she is

sometimes profane in private. Men, we admit, are less secretive, often hurling their epithets in public — even sometimes on the Senate floor.

We also learn that Hillary once referred to Lewinsky as a "narcissistic loony toon," which by most books is a charitable observation.

Perhaps the more apt metaphor for this week's buzz isn't a movie after all but double jeopardy. The case of Hillary, Bill and Monica has been prosecuted and then some. Thus all, especially Hillary, have been politically inoculated against further prosecution on this point. Besides, as some apparently need reminding, Hillary was the victim.

She wasn't the only casualty, however. Also wounded, tragically, was Lewinsky, now 40. Forevermore, her life is a stained blue dress. Though legally of age and consensually available when she began flirting with the president, she ultimately was a naive, misguided kid barely out of college. (Depending on what is revealed in a rumored \$12 million tell-all book, I reserve the right to amend the foregoing.)

Meanwhile, Hillary, who has said she forgave her husband years ago, might consider also forgiving Lewinsky. There's nothing like compassion to ruin a ruthless meme. If I were her scriptwriter, she might say something like this:

Everyone is familiar with the marital difficulties Bill and I worked so hard to get through. Yet, some have seen fit to resurrect the past. As I've said before, I forgave my husband a long time ago. Today I'd like to forgive someone else. Monica Lewinsky.

As you've probably read, I once made a disparaging remark about Ms. Lewinsky in confidence to a dear friend. I'm sure you can understand why. I can't apologize for my feelings, but I am sorry I said those things. In any case, that was also a long time ago. We've all matured, become wiser and moved on with our lives. It's time to let the country move

Thank you for your decency in allowing the past to rest. I'm Hillary Clinton, and I'm the one running for president.

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

YOUR LETTERS

Sack Pack Success **United Church of Christ Mission Board, Yankton**

Recently, the United Church of Christ (UCC) Mission Board held a Shop For Sack Pack Event at Yankton Hy-Vee. Area shoppers filled numerous boxes with needed food items and donated more than \$900 for the Yankton Sack Pack Program.

Thank you to Marilyn Kratz and Jill Wermers for organizing the event. Thank you to HyVee for hosting the event and transporting the food items to the Sack Pack location. Thank you to the UCC members who volunteered during the event. Thank you to the Yankton community for supporting our youth!