



The Rational Answer

BY MICHAEL REAGAN
CagleCartoons.com

What do Al Hunt of Bloomberg News, David Gregory of “Meet the Press” and President Obama have in common — besides their liberal politics? They all send their kids to Sidwell Friends School.

With campuses in Washington, D.C. and Bethesda, Md., the highly selective private school is where the Clintons and the Gores sent their kids, along with Joe Biden’s grandchildren.

It’s also where the local 1 Percenters and the government-media elites who can afford to shell out about \$32 grand a year to send their children to be indoctrinated — excuse me, educated — and to be safe.

Unlike parents across America who are worrying about how to protect their school kids in the wake of the tragic shootings in Newtown, Conn., Sidwell parents spend their days worry-free.

Their children are better protected than the printing presses at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. And it’s not because of the heavily armed Secret Service detail posted on campus to protect first-kids Sasha and Malia Obama.

It’s because Sidwell Friends — a Quaker school, by the way — is defended by guards with loaded guns. In addition to the Secret Service with its Uzis and large ammo clips, Sidwell has its own security staff of 11.

I didn’t hear President Obama mention Sidwell Friends’ solution to school safety on Wednesday when he announced his sweeping plans to reduce gun violence by banning assault-style weapons and high-capacity magazines, instituting tougher gun-registration laws and taking steps to keep guns out of the hands of the mentally ill.

None of Obama’s measures would have prevented the slaughter of innocents in Connecticut, but that’s not the point. The point is pure politics and the president and his crew want to take full advantage of the Newtown shootings to advance their anti-gun agenda.

At his White House media extravaganza, the president used lawmakers, law enforcement officials and children as his props. The kids, drawn from across the U.S., had written letters to the president saying they were worried about gun violence and school safety. You can bet there were no Sidwell kids on stage with him.



Michael REAGAN

While Washington’s grandstanders and anti-gun nuts prepare to fire their latest round of ineffective, politically correct, feel-good federal laws at law-abiding gun owners, at least six states are preparing new legislation that will allow teachers to carry guns into schools or require several teachers in the building to be armed.

Putting guards with guns in places that need to be protected from bad guys or crazies is not a radical idea. It’s perfectly sensible.

Politicians and celebrities use armed bodyguards all the time. We have armed guards in banks, jewelry stores and malls. After 9/11 we armed airline pilots and armed federal marshals posing as passengers.

Only politicians and hysterical celebrity dummies like Piers Morgan can’t understand why making schools gun-free zones attracts mass-murders and reduces the chances that anyone with a gun will stop them to zero.

The president never thought of using Sidwell Friends as an example of how armed guards at schools can make them safer.

He was too busy trying to score points by attacking the NRA, dreaming up laws to further oppress law-abiding gun owners and making fun of the people who know the Second Amendment isn’t about protecting duck hunters’ rights, it’s about the right of the people to protect themselves from their government.

Meanwhile, here in Los Angeles, the Catholic grade school where my daughter teaches didn’t wait around for the president or Joe Biden to come up with complicated new laws to allegedly ensure the safety of their children.

The officials at my daughter’s school decided for themselves the best way to make their campus safer. Taking a cue from the smart folks who run the Sidwell Friends School, they did a simple, effective and rational thing. They hired an armed guard.

Michael Reagan is the son of President Ronald Reagan, a political consultant, and the author of “The New Reagan Revolution” (St. Martin’s Press). He is the founder and chairman of The Reagan Group and president of The Reagan Legacy Foundation. Visit his websites at www.reagan.com and www.michaelereagan.com. Send comments to Reagan@caglecartoons.com. Follow @reaganworld on Twitter.

The Reality Of The Cancer War?

BY KELLY HERTZ
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Ten years ago this week, my father died of cancer. I can still recall those last hours with aching clarity, as if it all happened just days ago.

When you have a loved one who is battling cancer — when you invest your heart, soul and prayers in fighting the fight with them — you resort to looking for lifelines of hope in whatever forms they may possibly take. One of those lifelines is usually the enormous faith you place in the medicine that’s mobilized for the battle, and you cling to the confidence that those techniques are changing all the time as our understanding of the damn disease grows, and the results are improving.

But a study issued last week suggests how presumptive that clinging might be.

The annual report, released by the nation’s leading cancer organizations, was wrapped in good news. It indicated that cancer death rates in this country are gradually falling: Between 2000 and 2009, the rates decreased by 1.8 percent for men and children, and 1.4 percent for women.

But beyond that wrapping, many researchers lament that cancer incident and mortality rates really aren’t falling particularly fast. Fran Visco, president of the National Breast Cancer Coalition, put it bluntly: “We don’t look at (the study’s findings) as progress. This is such incremental improvement, when you look at the decades of investments, the cost of treatments, the number of researchers and journals, and then at the number of people who die ... well, we are clearly doing something wrong.”

When I read that earlier this week, it was terribly disheartening.

That frustration found voice in a withering criticism unleashed by legendary molecular biologist James Watson, who co-discovered the double-helix structure of DNA back in the 1950s. He criticized current cancer research practices, which he said tend to take a narrow focus as opposed to a broader view. The outspoken Watson also lambasted the trendy fixation on antioxidants, openly speculating whether they might do more to cause cancers than to prevent them.

“Even though we will soon have comprehensive views of how most cancers arise and function at the genetic and biochemical level,” Watson wrote, “their ‘curing’ seems now to many seasoned scientists an even more daunting objective than when the ‘War on Cancer’ was



Kelly HERTZ

started by President Nixon in December 1971.”

This is a war that must be won, or so we’ve always vowed. Chances are, you know the disease on a very intimate level, either because someone you know and/or love has battled it and perhaps died from it, or because you have battled it. Cancer is a life-altering disease that has touched almost every family everywhere. It’s a ferocious enemy on so many fronts.

In fact, we have done a good job at fighting the fight in whatever ways we can at the grass-roots level. Many scientists say the main reasons for the decrease in cancer incidence and mortality are the decline in smoking and the rise of early detection practices. These are invaluable and empowering weapons. And to be fair, treatments have evolved and have produced successes in some cancers. We must be grateful for that.

But the disease, in its many forms, continues to take its toll. About 1.6 million Americans are diagnosed with cancer each year, and more than 500,000 die from it annually. It comes with a financial cost, too: The National Cancer Institute has estimated that, by 2020, U.S. cancer costs may reach an estimated \$158 billion each year.

Meanwhile, an Internet search this week showed me various headlines of cancer agencies facing federal and state funding cuts in this tight times. And, by Watson’s reckoning, we are going down too many wrong paths.

“The main factor holding us back from overcoming most of metastatic cancer over the next decade,” Watson concluded, “may soon no longer be lack of knowledge but our world’s increasing failure to intelligently direct its ‘monetary might’ towards more human-society-benefiting directions.”

A decade ago, I so many people to believe that perhaps the sacrifices that so many wanted have endured and wept over would have made a significant difference by now. But we appear not much further along today than we were on a bitterly cold morning 10 years ago when I held my dad’s hand for the last time and whispered goodbye. It turns out that his death, the millions of other deaths through the many years, the countless hardships and tears, and the estimated 4,400 new cancer diagnoses made each day in this country simply haven’t been enough to push the issue along very far.

And for me this week, that’s almost too discouraging to bear.

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

poor people from becoming dependent on government handouts. In addition, eligibility and coverage cannot be guaranteed from year to year.

Instead, the governor wants these uninsured poor people to be self-reliant and fend for themselves. Absolutely stunning!

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OPINION | WE SAY

Crossing The Streams



THUMBS UP to the Yankton City Commission for pressing for single-stream recycling in the future. Single-stream recycling would make it so all recyclable materials could go in one bin, and sorting would occur later in the process. This week, commissioners reviewed a study from HDR, Inc., regarding the future of recycling in the Vermillion/Yankton Joint Powers solid waste management system. Options available include minor

changes to the existing system, collecting additional recyclables, single-stream collection and processing, and procurement of a private operator for handling single-stream operations for the cities. After an hour of discussion, the city directed its representatives on the Joint Powers board to recommend an option that would provide single-stream recycling. If an economical way can be found by the Joint Powers to pursue this route, it appears to be a promising way to increase recycling in the area because of the sheer ease of it. We hope it works out.

Positive Thoughts



THUMBS UP to Yankton Area Progressive Growth and the investors who have made a commitment to YES! The \$2.2 million capital campaign will be used toward recruiting new employers or helping current ones grow, training the workforce and other goals aimed at growing the Yankton economy. This is necessary work that only a dedicated group of committed, local stakeholders can do for the community — especially at a time when federal and state assistance is shrinking. YAPG claims its prior five-year campaign created approximately 300 jobs and \$100 million in wages/salaries from 2008-2012. It also led to \$36 million of private capital investment and \$80 million in consumer expenditures. Let’s hope the next five years are even bigger for Yankton. However, YAPG requires the investment of the community to help make that happen.

Helping Hands



THUMBS DOWN to the slow progress that was made in Congress to approve aid for areas devastated by last fall’s Superstorm Sandy. This turned into a slow and, for the impacted states, infuriating process as the effort to help those in need was dragged out, mostly by political maneuvering. The package was passed in segments, with the final segment being approved just this week. In the House, it passed by a margin of 241-80, with those opposed, including S.D. Rep. Kristi Noem, citing spending issues and pork programs. Of course, when the districts and states of those 80 dissenting votes are impacted by a disaster, these lawmakers probably won’t put such fiscal considerations as their priority. This is about helping out our fellow Americans in a time of need. It’s also about recognizing (and hoping) that others would do the same when we need the help. This was yet another discouraging comment on the state of our political discourse in Washington.

Dear Abby



THUMBS DOWN to the passing of Pauline Phillips — known the world over as Abigail Van Buren, the original author of the “Dear Abby” advice column. The Sioux City native died Wednesday at age 94 after battling Alzheimer’s disease. She and her twin sister, Ann Landers (who died in 2002), virtually cornered the industry in offering advice to millions of readers about social situations and personal conflicts. This newspaper ran the Ann Landers column until her passing, then picked up “Dear Abby,” which is now written by Philips’ daughter, Jeanne. Given the overwhelming support shown for the column in a survey we conducted last year, it’s clear that “Dear Abby” remains a strong and popular institution. The thanks for much of that goes to Phillips, who brought the right mix of wisdom and humor to her efforts. Her column will go on, but she will be missed.

SPEAK OUT!

Share your thoughts with us. Write to the **PRESS & DAKOTAN** on a topic of the day or in response to an editorial or story. Write us at: Letters, 319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078, drop off at 319 Walnut in Yankton, fax to 665-1721 or email to views@yankton.net.

TODAY IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press
Today is Friday, Jan. 18, the 18th day of 2013. There are 347 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlights in History: On Jan. 18, 1943, during World War II, Jewish insurgents in the Warsaw Ghetto launched their initial armed resistance against Nazi troops, who eventually succeeded in crushing the rebellion. The Soviets announced they’d broken through the long Nazi siege of Leningrad (it was another year before the siege was fully lifted). In the U.S., a ban on the sale of pre-sliced bread — aimed at reducing bakeries’ demand for metal replacement parts — went into effect.

On this date: In 1778, English navigator Captain James Cook reached the present-day Hawaiian Islands, which he named the “Sandwich Islands.”

In 1862, the tenth president of the United States, John Tyler, died in Richmond, Va., at age 71, shortly before he could take his seat as an elected member of the Confederate Congress.

In 1871, William I of Prussia was proclaimed German Emperor in Versailles, France.

In 1911, the first landing of an aircraft on a ship took place as pilot Eugene B. Ely brought his Curtiss biplane in for a safe landing on the deck of the armored cruiser USS Pennsylvania in San Francisco Harbor.

In 1913, entertainer Danny Kaye was born David Daniel Kaminsky in New York City.

In 1919, the Paris Peace Conference, held to negotiate peace treaties ending World War I, opened in Versailles, France.

In 1949, Charles Ponzi, engineer of one of the most spectacular mass swindles in history, died destitute at a hospital in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, at age 66.

In 1957, a trio of B-52’s completed the first non-stop, round-the-world flight by jet planes, landing at March Air Force Base in California after more than 45 hours aloft.

In 1967, Albert DeSalvo, who claimed to be the “Boston Strangler,” was convicted in Cambridge, Mass., of armed robbery, assault and sex offenses. (Sentenced to life, DeSalvo was killed in prison in 1973.)

In 1970, David Oman McKay, the ninth president of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, died at the age of 96.

In 1988, a China Southwest Airlines Ilyushin 18 crashed while on approach to Chongqing Airport, killing all 108 people on board.

In 1993, the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday was observed in all 50 states for the first time.

Ten years ago: Top U.N. officials warned Iraq it was running out of time to cooperate and avoid war. Protesters nationwide and overseas demonstrated in opposition to possible war in Iraq. Michelle Kwan won her sixth straight U.S. Figure Skating Championships title and seventh overall; Michael Weiss won his third U.S. men’s title at the competition in Dallas.

Five years ago: With recession fears rising and the stock market tumbling, President George W. Bush called for up to \$150 billion in tax relief for consumers and business, saying there was no time to waste. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon designated George Clooney a U.N. “messenger of peace” to promote the world body’s activities. Actress Lois Nettleton died in Woodland Hills, Calif., at age 80.

One year ago: President Barack Obama rejected a Canadian company’s plan to build a U.S.-spanning, 1,700-mile pipeline to carry oil across six U.S. states to Texas refineries. Wikipedia and other websites went dark in protest of two congressional proposals intended to thwart the online piracy of copyrighted movies and TV programs.

Today’s Birthdays: Movie director John Boorman is 80. Former Sen. Paul Kirk, D-Mass., is 75. Singer-songwriter Bobby Goldsboro is 72. Comedian-singer-musician Brett Hudson is 60. Actor-director Kevin Costner is 58. Country singer Mark Collie is 57. Actress Jane Horrocks is 49. Comedian Dave Attell is 48. Actor Jesse L. Martin is 44. Rapper DJ Quik is 43. Rock singer Jonathan Davis (Korn) is 42. Singer Christian Burns (BBMak) is 40. NAACP President and CEO Benjamin Todd Jealous is 40. Actor Derek Richardson is 37. Actor Jason Segel is 33. Actress Samantha Mumba is 30. Country singer Kristy Lee Cook (TV: “American Idol”) is 29.

Thought for Today: “Life is a great big canvas, and you should throw all the paint you can on it.” — Danny Kaye (1913-1986).

FROM THE BIBLE

And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Acts 2:42. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

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YOUR LETTERS

Medicaid Expansion

Dr. Lars Aanning, Yankton

The governor of South Dakota recently stated that one reason for not expanding Medicaid coverage to the 48,000 uninsured of South Dakota is to prevent