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THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

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OPINION | OTHER THOUGHTS

Sex Trafficking Needs A Spotlight

ARGUS LEADER, Sioux Falls (June 3): The use of task forces to fight methamphetamine and child pornography in South Dakota is being expanded to a war against sex traffickers.

U.S. Attorney Brendan Johnson announced last week that state, federal and local resources will be used by the task force because the problem of using force, fraud and coercion to make money through prostitution has risen to that serious of a level in South Dakota.

It would seem like Johnson's portrayal that sex trafficking is a growing problem here would be on target. More cases have come through the court systems identifying people who have targeted underage girls and advertised them for prostitution. With more cases, the police have heard from more victims.

Locally, authorities have gone after people paying for sex, too. Johnson says victims in sex trafficking are often young and vulnerable based on a history of abuse, drug addiction, homelessness and other factors. Prostitution is offered as a way out but ends up trapping them in a lifestyle.

Certainly, prostitution isn't a new crime nor is the work of johns who put the prostitutes on the street. But it's time to stop the preying on victims, the abuse and the trapping of young females into a life of prostitution.

We have to do more than say, "Isn't that sad," or to somehow dismiss it because we think the victims did something wrong to get themselves involved in the crime.

That attitude as a society is as wrong as turning our backs completely on the victims.

It might take more than a task force to really eliminate sex trafficking and prostitution, but a task force is a great way to start. It provides specific structure and organization between agencies that shows offenders that law enforcement is serious.

We've seen its success with tracking down meth dealers and people involved in child pornography. Sex trafficking is an ugly crime against humanity that needs the spotlight that a task force provides.

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

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OUR LETTER POLICY

The **PRESS & DAKOTAN** encourages its readers to write letters to the editor, and it asks 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 to views@yankton.net.

TODAY IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press
 Today is Monday, June 10, the 161st day of 2013. There are 204 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On June 10, 1963, President John F. Kennedy signed into law the Equal Pay Act of 1963, aimed at eliminating wage disparities based on gender. The same day, Kennedy delivered a commencement address at American University in Washington, D.C., in which he declared, "If we cannot end now our differences, at least we can make the world safe for diversity."

On this date: In 1692, the first official execution resulting from the Salem witch trials in Massachusetts took place as Bridget Bishop was hanged.

In 1861, during the Civil War, Confederate troops routed Union soldiers in the Battle of Big Bethel in Virginia.

In 1907, eleven men in five cars set out from the French embassy in Beijing on a race to Paris. (Prince Scipione Borghese of Italy was the first to arrive in the French capital two months later.)

In 1921, President Warren G. Harding signed into law the Budget and Accounting Act, which created the Bureau of the Budget and the General Accounting Office.

In 1922, singer-actress Judy Garland was born Frances Ethel Gumm in Grand Rapids, Minn.

In 1935, Alcoholics Anonymous was founded in Akron, Ohio by Dr. Robert Holbrook Smith and William Griffith Wilson.

In 1940, Italy declared war on France and Britain; Canada declared war on Italy.

In 1942, during World War II, German forces massacred 173 male residents of Lidice, Czechoslovakia, in retaliation for the killing of Nazi official Reinhard Heydrich.

In 1967, the Middle East War ended as Israel and Syria agreed to observe a United Nations-mediated cease-fire.

In 1971, President Richard M. Nixon lifted a two-decades-old trade embargo on China.

In 1985, socialite Claus von Bulow was acquitted by a jury in Providence, R.I., at his retrial on charges he'd tried to murder his heiress wife, Martha "Sunny" von Bulow.

In 1991, 11-year-old Jaycee Dugard of South Lake Tahoe, Calif. was abducted by Phillip and Nancy Garrido; Jaycee was held by the couple for 18 years before she was found by authorities.

Ten years ago: Israeli helicopters fired missiles at a car carrying Abdel Aziz Rantisi, a senior Hamas leader, wounding him and killing two others. (Israel succeeded in killing Rantisi in April 2004.) Im-Clone chief Sam Waksal was sentenced to

more than seven years in prison in connection with a stock-trading scandal. (He was released in 2009.) A rocket holding the first of two Mars rovers, Spirit, blasted off from Cape Canaveral, Fla. (Spirit arrived on Mars in Jan. 2004.) Former Treasury Secretary and White House chief of staff Donald T. Regan died in Williamsburg, Va., at age 84.

Five years ago: A Sudanese jetliner skidded off a runway and crashed into airport lights after landing in Khartoum, killing 30 of the 214 people on board.

One year ago: Parts of northern Colorado and southern New Mexico battled wildfires that were spreading rapidly through mountainous forest land, forcing hundreds of evacuations. Shanshan Feng won the LPGA Championship to become the first Chinese player to win an LPGA Tour title and a major event, closing with a 5-under 67 for a two-stroke victory. The bittersweet "Once" won eight Tony Awards, including best musical; "Clybourne Park" won best play.

Today's Birthdays: Britain's Prince Philip is 92. Columnist Nat Hentoff is 88. Attorney F. Lee Bailey is 80. Actress Alexandra Stewart is 74. Singer Shirley Alston Reeves (The Shirelles) is 72. Actor Jürgen Prochnow is 72. Football Hall of Famer Dan Fouts is 62. Media commentator Jeff Greenfield is 70. Country singer-songwriter Thom Schuyler is 61. Former Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C., is 60. Actor Andrew Stevens is 58. Singer Barrington Henderson is 57. Former New York Governor-turned-media commentator Eliot Spitzer is 54. Rock musician Kim Deal is 52. Singer Maxi Priest is 52. Actress Gina Gershon is 51. Actress Jeanne Tripplehorn is 50. Rock musician Jimmy Chamberlin is 49. Actress Kate Flannery is 49. Model-actress Elizabeth Hurley is 48. Rock musician Joey Santiago is 48. Actor Doug McKee is 47. Rock musician Emma Anderson is 46. Country musician Brian Holfeld (The Derrailers) is 46. Rapper The D.O.C. is 45. Rock singer Mike Doughty is 43. Rhythm-and-blues singer JoJo is 42. Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal is 42. Rhythm-and-blues singer Faith Evans is 40. Actor Hugh Dancy is 38. Rhythm-and-blues singer Lemisha Grinstead (702) is 35. Actor DJ Qualls is 35. Actor Shane West is 35. Country singer Lee Brice is 34. Singer Hoku is 32. Actress Leelee Sobieski is 31. Olympic gold medal figure skater Tara Lipinski is 31. Model-actress Kate Upton is 21. Presidential daughter Sasha Obama is 12.

Thought for Today: "I am firm. You are obstinate. He is a pig-headed fool." — Katharine Whitehorn, British newspaper columnist.

FROM THE BIBLE

When they had seen Him, they spread the word ... about this child. Luke 2:17 (NIV). Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

Tweaking Real Life

BY KATHLEEN PARKER

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NEW YORK — It was never quite clear what feminizing the workplace would mean when women en masse invaded corporate America a generation ago.

Most of us donned our Mao suits, bow ties and sensible shoes and did our best to blend in. The workplace didn't become more feminine; women became more masculine.

Then along came "Sex and the City." The new working girl was glam, femmed-out to the max in sheer tops, short skirts and stilettos. She was brash, tough (neurotic), and above all sexy. Where the previous generation of women had tried to camouflage their sexuality, the new generation flaunted every inch.

Much, and little, has changed over the decades.

Women are exceeding their male counterparts in education. One in four earns more than her husband. The office may not have a fern bar, but there's likely to be a private space for breast pumping. Our fight for on-site child care has given way to a tsunami of third-world nannies.

To the point: Women are reaching equality as never before. Certainly many struggle to keep food on the table. But in the salons where luckier women discuss what women really want, they are reaching the traditional benchmarks of happiness — money and power — and guess what: They're still not happy.

Before you roll your eyes and wake up poor, old tired Dr. Freud, listen up. Women aren't happy precisely because they tried to fit themselves neatly into the male template of what constitutes happiness. And, voila — please do sound the gongs — men and women are different.

Of course women want wealth and power, but not at the expense of the things that matter most — equilibrium, inner peace, wisdom, heart, and a family that isn't in constant chaos. These intangibles are largely ignored, alas, because the male-created workplace views them as froufrou "women's" concerns.

What's love got to do with the bottom line?

Everything, really. Research, which we prefer to common sense, supports that happy, well-adjusted, less-stressed-out people make more productive and efficient workers. Men also, by the way, because it turns out, men are human, too.

Those brilliant seers "They" always said that money doesn't buy happiness. And though being rich and unhappy beats poor and unhappy every time, "They"

were right. Women, who now constitute a critical mass in the workplace, have learned through exhaustion, divorce and disappointed children that trying to fit their lives into the male mold of success was like trying to squeeze into Cinderella's shoe.

Two women who know something about power, money, success, and shoes (there's no point trying to talk about women as though shoes don't matter) recognized this soul-void in women's lives and did what women do. The indefatigable Arianna Huffington and Mika Brzezinski convened a conference — "The Third Metric" — to address that missing thing in our lives.

Huffington described it as that inner place of heart, soul and wisdom where few of us spend much time. We're too busy. Creating space for quietude — unplugged rather than unhinged — requires strategic planning. This isn't space for moon-gazing, but for the fallow time that engenders calm, which often precedes the storm of innovation and creativity.

Where do your best ideas come from? The chorus was instantaneous: "The shower."

Between panel discussions, we practiced being quiet. We breathed. (I know, you had to be there.) We closed our eyes. We really did gong the gong. We opened our arms and said "wow." Really. We ate healthy food, drank juice served by delicious men (not kidding), got hand massages, and listened to a parade of accomplished women (and a smattering of men) talk about health, wellness, and "tweaking" our lives. We heard from Candice Bergen, Katie Couric, Jill Abramson, Valerie Jarrett and Sen. Claire McCaskill, as well as comedians, writers, filmmakers and dozens of others whose work is helping mold a future generation that will be healthier and happier if not wealthier.

There will be dissenters. Urging people to be go-givers instead of go-getters, easier to do when you are already a millionaire, may not appeal to the board of directors. And I confess, when John Mackey, co-founder of Whole Foods, spoke of promoting people who are emotionally evolved over the merely ambitious, I didn't know whether to assume a lotus or a fetal position.

But all things considered, a culture in which meaning is recognized as a goal equal to profit cannot make a worse world. Besides, when Mama is happy, everybody is happy.

Kathleen Parker's email address is kathleen-parker@washpost.com.



Kathleen PARKER

Little League: The Heat Is On

BY BILL O'REILLY

Creators Syndicate

So, last Saturday I'm back on the ball field coaching my 9-year-old boy's little league team along with three other fathers. We lose big. Why? Because it was hot. Yes, I know what you're thinking: Wasn't it hot for the other team? Stop with the logic, OK?

My team wilted in the fourth inning. In fact, three of the players cried. One missed his mother. I told him the game would be over shortly and she was looking forward to seeing him. He accepted it, but struck out anyway.

The right fielder cried when the ball hit his thumb after he booted it. The catcher shed tears when he was called out at first base. Where was Tom Hanks when I needed him?

But above all, the heat dominated the game. It was about 90 degrees, and the field was dusty. The kids were appalled. They are used to climate-control. When it's hot, they stay inside and enjoy the air conditioning. When it's cold, the house is cozily warm. So when they are forced to play six innings outside on a scorching day, there is much angst.

When I was 9 years old, I was hot all the time in the summer. My tiny Levittown house had no air conditioning, and I slept upstairs directly underneath the tar-infested roof. So one August day, I had the following dialogue with my father:

"Dad, could we get air conditioning?"

"Why? You have a fan in your room."

"But the fan just blows the hot air around."

"So don't turn it on."

End of conversation. Later, at the dinner table, my

father told my sister and me about how hot it was in Brooklyn where he grew up. At least on Long Island, there's a "sea breeze."

My sister and I looked confused. The ocean was 15 miles away.

Our dog, a German shepherd named Barney, was so hot he didn't move for hours, lying supine on the linoleum kitchen floor.

"I think Barney may be dead," I told my parents.

"Don't be a wise guy," my father retorted.

We never did get air conditioning until I moved out in 1971. Then two units arrived. I still hold a grudge.

But back to the ball field.

We lost the game 12 to 4, but the team really didn't care. They quickly left the diamond for more comfortable precincts. Most of them are really good kids, far smarter than I was at their age — but far softer, as well.

America is a place where you can succeed no matter who you are. I am proof of that. But you must work very hard and be willing to endure pain. You must set a goal and win in the marketplace, no matter the air temperature. You must pay the price for success.

These kids don't know that. But they do know two things. First, they don't want to be hot. And second, they don't have to be.

Veteran TV news anchor Bill O'Reilly is host of the Fox News show "The O'Reilly Factor" and author of the book "Pinheads and Patriots: Where You Stand in the Age of Obama."

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