



A Father's Day Message

BY MICHAEL REAGAN
CagleCartoons.com

It's no news to anyone that I disagree strongly with President Obama on just about any issue or policy position you can name.

But I'm not the least bit uncomfortable saying I admire something about the president that transcends politics and makes him a role model for every man in America.

President Obama is a good father.

That's no small thing in 2013 America. And not too long ago in Dallas I told the president exactly that.

The event was a small "meet-and-greet" coffee for first family members held before the dedication of the George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum.

My wife, daughter and I represented the Reagan family at the private event, which included the Johnson daughters, Trish Nixon, Susan Ford, along with presidents Obama, Bush 41 and 43, Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton.

"I disagree with your policies," I said, after saying hello and shaking the president's hand. "But I applaud you for being a good father and a good husband. The world needs more of those."

President Obama, a father of two daughters who says he still goes on "dates" with his wife, said he appreciated my praise.

I don't know if the first father is as familiar as I am with the statistics of fatherlessness, but America needs all the good dads it can get.

Fathers are the super glue that keeps families strong and healthy in many important ways. But according to childcare experts and the U.S. Census, about 24 million kids in our country go to bed each night without a father in the house.

You don't have to be a social scientist from Princeton to know that the absence of a father can do serious damage to a child and, ultimately, society. But the numbers are grim — and they cut across race and class.

Over the years various studies have found that kids in

fatherless homes are more likely to be poor and more at risk for drug abuse and suicide, plus more likely to get in trouble with the law.

Fatherless kids are also more likely to be sick or have mental health problems than kids growing up in two-parent households, and less likely to do well in school, graduate from high school and attend college.

Some of the hard numbers from those studies are not pretty: 70 percent of juveniles held in detention facilities come from fatherless homes. So do about 63 percent of teen suicides and 71 percent of high school dropouts.

Boys who grow up in homes without fathers do much worse in school and are twice as likely to end up in jail as those who come from traditional two-parent families — no matter what their race, family incomes or parents' educations are.

Father's Day is Sunday. Good fathers like President Obama will get the props and the love they deserve from their families and the rest of society.

But Father's Day is also a good time to think about how you can become a better father to your children and a better husband to your wife.

And if you don't have kids of your own, you can celebrate Father's Day in another important way.

America has more than 400,000 of its children in foster care. Many of those kids are eligible for adoption and need a good father. You can celebrate Sunday by deciding to adopt one of those foster-care kids — and become someone's father on Father's Day. A good place to start is the website of Childhelp, a key source for information on foster care and child-abuse prevention.

Happy Father's Day!

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 of the email service reagan.com and president of The Reagan Legacy Foundation. Visit his websites at www.reagan.com and www.michaelreagan.com. Send comments to Reagan@caglecartoons.com. Follow @reaganworld on Twitter.



Michael REAGAN

A Brief History Of A Revolution

BY KELLY HERTZ
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One night 10 years ago next week, at precisely 2:01 a.m., I tapped a link on a website and flew into a new old world.

This was when I downloaded my first online song. The iTunes music store was only two months old at this point but it was already a monster story. Out of late-night curiosity and really nothing more, I opened an account and downloaded a song to experience the process.

What has happened since has been transformative for a planet of music consumers. Music downloading has helped sweep away old ideas of both marketing and listening to music. In February, the iTunes store, which is now the biggest music retailer in the world, reported that consumers had downloaded 25 billion songs — about 3 1/2 songs for every person on earth — since April 2003. That's more than transformation; it's a revolution.

Personally, what I didn't expect is that my simple act of evolution 10 years ago would reignite my love of listening to music. In a typical teen way, I enjoyed this a lot back in high school and college, then it waned dramatically thereafter as I, for lack of a better description, grew up. But thanks to mobile technologies, I listen to more music now than I ever did. And when I say more, I speak not only of repeated plays and time spent, but also in the types of music. And for me, that's the best evolution of all.

Here are a few songs that illustrate my journey of the last 10 years:

- "Lakini's Juice," Live — Of all the songs that I could have chosen to download on that long-ago summer night, this 1997 cut was the first. I'd heard it on the radio several times but never could muster enough interest to buy a whole album just for this one track. The iTunes store changed that, and I snapped it up. Some artists detest the notion of selling songs piece by piece instead of in an album format. But then again, a sale is a sale, and if they don't want any of my money, so be it.

Anyway, this is where it all started. I still remember watching it download, then slipping on the headphones and hearing that dark, brooding song thump into my ears. I was hooked immediately.

- "Space Junk," Wang Chung — I'd never heard of this 1997 song (nor was I even aware that this band was still around in the 1990s), but like many people, I encountered it in an episode of "The Walking Dead" in 2010. Intrigued, I popped onto iTunes and bought it. It was an act of impulsive gratification, which can be cool as well as disappointing. Either way, it's too easy, to be honest. Fortunately, I still like this song.

- "Jazzman," Carole King — Really? When this song was a hit in 1974, I had no use for it whatsoever. But one



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day a few years ago, I heard it somewhere and, after all those years, something about it sounded right to me. Maybe it was just a nostalgic noise, or perhaps it was a chronicle of middle age: "It's the late night side of morning in the darkness of your soul" ... NOW I can relate. Anyway, I still find myself surprised that I have it.

- Anything by Bjork — It's all so odd and occasionally compelling. Now I can rummage through her discography and discover just how odd and compelling she can be.

- "Summer Breeze," Isley Brothers — I never liked the original 1972 Seals and Crofts hit, but I found this version in 2012 and love it. However, this cover was done in 1974, which means it was around for 38 years before I caught up with it. As I explore online music catalogs, I wonder what other gems have been out there for ages but I have yet to discover.

- "Sharron Apple," Aerial — The great thing about online music outlets is that you can explore and sample, and in the process you may find sounds that were off your radar. This track is a great example: Not only had I never heard of the song or the band, but I had never even

heard of this rock sub-genre: shoe-gaze. This music usually features shimmering walls of guitars, with vocals that are sometimes barely audible as they blend into the soundscape. This 2004 track is my favorite example of a musical style that was totally foreign to me and likely would have remained that way had it not been for the digital revolution.

- Operator, Jim Croce — There are tunes that you see finally available for purchase in a music store and you practically scream "It's about time!" This was one such song, which came out in 1972 but didn't make it to iTunes until 2008. My impatiently-waiting list is currently topped by the studio version of "Lola" by The Kinks and "Sober" by Tool.

During this past decade, there have been songs I've downloaded on a whim, or because I heard something interesting on NPR, or I found an old sound that felt good again, or I just bounced around until I unearthed some fresh, interesting noise. Some of these discoveries are new (School of Seven Bells, Bombay Bicycle Club, a universe of world cuts) and some are old (Louis Prima's 1950-ish frat-house cover of "Over the Rainbow"). But they are all accessible to anyone anywhere and at any time, which was not the case in the pre-download age.

The old pleasure of listening to a song now seems timeless. But how I enjoy those songs now would have been completely unimaginable to me once upon a time. It's the sound of evolution. I suppose: of where we've been and, better yet, where we're going.

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

First Fitness, First Dakota National Bank, Riverfront Event Center, Head to Heals, Yankton Education Association, Summit Activities Center, Hatch Furniture, King Buffet, Sweet T's, Charlie's Pizza, Carpenter Shop, Phinney's, Fryn' Pan, Royal Sports, TMA, Rita's Purse-O-Nalities, *The Observer*, Kopetsky's Ace Hardware, Muggsy's, Yankton Motor Company, Pied Piper, *Yankton Press and Dakotan*, Fox Run Golf Course, Yankton Nurseries, Minerva's, Pizza Ranch, Kelly Inn, Carmike Cinema, Wal-Mart, Lily Crest Cottage, JC Penney, Mexico Viejo, Ben's Brewery, Sunrise Coffee, Subway, Linda's Angel Crossing, JJ Benji's, B-Dazzled, Quiznos, Yesterday's Cafe, Abe's Detailing, Monta's and Country Cupboard.

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OPINION | WE SAY

Making The Grade



Auction Time



Artistic Expression



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Stubborn Drought



THUMBS UP to the 12 Yankton High School alumni and several other student-athletes with area ties named to the Summit League's Distinguished Scholar list for the spring semester. When the University of South Dakota and South Dakota State University made the move to NCAA Division I, many people questioned if college athletic opportunities for area kids would dry up, but this shows that not only are area kids competing at a high level, they're also making the grade in the classroom.

THUMBS UP to the news this week of some movement on the effort to sell the former downtown Yankton post office building. The United State Post Office (USPS) confirmed that the building will be among those sold in an online auction. The downtown facility was closed in January 2012 when all retail postal operations were moved out to the annex at Fox Run. The downtown building has been on the market ever since, but little progress has been made. Officials confirmed that the online auction will seek a "fair market price" for the 1905 downtown structure, meaning no \$1 bids will do the trick. Hopefully, we'll see some movement soon so that life can return to that historic structure.

THUMBS UP to Menno freehand airbrush artist Mickey Harris and others, including area veterans, who gathered this week at the Classic Collision auto shop in Menno to launch a major fundraiser for the Wounded Warrior Foundation. The nationally-recognized Harris is painting a 1956 Chevrolet — purchased by Ronnie Rains of Odessa, Texas — in tribute to the nation's living Medal of Honor winners. South Dakota's lone living Medal of Honor winner, Michael Fitzmaurice of Hartford, signed the donated car that will be auctioned after a scheduled national tour. The car is incredible, but the support provided by the project is even more beautiful.

THUMBS DOWN to the growing threat of invasive species in the Missouri River and other waterways. This week, Paul Lepisto with the Izaak Walton League of America told the *Press & Dakotan* that the threat of invasive species hasn't gone away. The Asian carp has been held at bay just below Gavins Point Dam near Yankton, and zebra mussels lurk further downstream. Plants also pose a problem, particularly salt cedar, purple loosestrife and Eurasian milfoil. It only takes a small misstep for invasive species to gain a foothold and spread rapidly, making public vigilance even more crucial.

THUMBS DOWN to the news that, despite three times the normal May precipitation in some areas, the Missouri River basin remains affected by last year's drought with reservoir levels below normal. Jody Farhat, the Corps of Engineers' chief of the basin water management in Omaha, said this week that the Corps will continue its dual operations of flood control and water conservation. It's a delicate balancing act, but one which will apparently remain necessary in the weeks ahead.

ONLINE OPINION

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

LATEST RESULTS:

Should the Washington Redskins change their nickname?

No76%
I don't care14%
Yes10%

TOTAL VOTES CAST357

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 approve of the City of Yankton's plans to develop the Meridian Bridge Plaza?

To vote in the *Press & Dakotan's* Internet poll, log on to our website at www.yankton.net.

TODAY IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press
Today is Friday, June 14, the 165th day of 2013. There are 200 days left in the year. This is Flag Day.

Today's Highlight in History: On June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress in Philadelphia adopted the Stars and Stripes as the national flag.

On this date: In 1775, the Continental Army, forerunner of the United States Army, was created.

In 1801, former American Revolutionary War General and notorious turncoat Benedict Arnold died in London.

In 1922, Warren G. Harding became the first president heard on radio, as Baltimore station WEAR broadcast his speech dedicating the Francis Scott Key memorial at Fort McHenry.

In 1940, German troops entered Paris during World War II; the same day, the Nazis began transporting prisoners to the Auschwitz concentration camp in German-occupied Poland.

In 1943, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnette*, ruled 6-3 that children in public schools could not be forced to salute the flag of the United States.

In 1952, President Harry S. Truman officiated at the keel-laying of the nuclear-powered submarine *USS Nautilus* at the Electric Boat Shipyard in Groton, Conn.

In 1954, the words "under God" were added to the Pledge of Allegiance.

In 1967, the space probe Mariner 5 was launched from Cape Kennedy on a flight that took it past Venus.

In 1972, the Environmental Protection Agency ordered a ban on continued domestic use of the pesticide DDT, to take effect at year's end.

In 1982, Argentine forces surrendered to British troops on the disputed Falkland Islands.

In 1985, the 17-day hijack ordeal of TWA Flight 847 began as a pair of Lebanese Shiite Muslim extremists seized the jetliner shortly after takeoff from Athens, Greece.

In 1993, President Bill Clinton chose Judge Ruth Bader Ginsburg to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Ten years ago: A wave estimated at

about 20 feet tall capsized the charter fishing boat Taki-Tooo off the northern Oregon coast; nine people were killed, two others are missing and presumed dead; eight survived by swimming to shore. A car driven by Phoenix Bishop Thomas O'Brien struck and killed pedestrian Jim Reed; O'Brien was later convicted of leaving the scene of an accident and sentenced to probation. The Czech Republic voted to join the European Union.

Five years ago: Iran rejected a six-nation offer of incentives to stop enriching uranium, prompting President George W. Bush and French President Nicolas Sarkozy to jointly warn Tehran anew during a news conference in Paris against proceeding toward a nuclear bomb.

One year ago: In dueling speeches in the battleground state of Ohio, Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney, speaking in Cincinnati, described the Obama administration as the very "enemy" of people who create jobs; President Barack Obama, going second in Cleveland, asked the nation to buy into his vision for four more years or face a return to the recession-era "mistakes of the past."

Today's Birthdays: Actress Marla Gibbs is 82. House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer, D-Md., is 74. Writer Peter Mayle is 74. Actor Jack Bannon is 73. Country-musician Spooner Oldham is 70. Rock singer Rod Argent (The Zombies; Argent) is 68. Real estate mogul and TV personality Donald Trump is 67. Singer Janet Lennon (The Lennon Sisters) is 67. Rock musician Barry Melton is 66. Rock musician Alan White (Yes) is 64. Actor Eddie Mekka is 61. Actor Will Patton is 59. Olympic gold-medal speed skater Eric Heiden is 55. Singer Boy George is 52. Rock musician Chris DeGarmo is 50. Actress Traylor Howard is 47. Actress Yasmine Bleeth is 45. Actor Faizon Love is 45. International Tennis Hall of Famer Steffi Graf is 44. Screenwriter Diablo Cody is 35. Actor J.R. Martinez is 30. Actor-singer Kevin McHale is 25. Actress Lucy Hale is 24. Actor Daryl Sabara is 21.

Thought for Today: "I am not the flag; not at all. I am but its shadow." — Franklin Knight Lane, U.S. Secretary of the Interior (1864-1921).

FROM THE BIBLE

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this. Isaiah 9:7. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

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YOUR LETTERS

Teacher Of The Year

ReNae Jackson, Yankton

I was recently honored as the Yankton Education Association Teacher of the Year. I am privileged to work with so many outstanding, supportive, and caring teachers, school professionals, and administrators in the Yankton School District.

As the recipient of this award, I received a generous gift basket filled with donations from local businesses. I am overwhelmed with their generosity and I would like to express my gratitude to these local merchants:

Maurices, JoDean's, *South Dakota Magazine*, Rexall Drug Store, Embroidery and Screenworks, Starbucks,