



From The Publisher

A Change Is Coming

BY GARY L. WOOD
P&D Owner And Publisher

The Webster Dictionary's definition of the word "change" is "to undergo transformation, transition, or substitution." But it seems for too many people, the word change is a four-letter word (it looks like six letters to me, but who's counting?).

As many of you know so very well, change has become a constant part of life and business nowadays. We see changes in how our government operates (that's another story for another day) and changes in how businesses operate and the effect that has on us. As we have seen through the years, many businesses that are not willing to undergo change, transition or even a complete transformation are those that find themselves becoming obsolete or not being able to compete in today's marketplace.

So, as you will see this coming Monday, June 24, we are once again seeing a change in how we present the printed version of the *Press & Dakotan* newspaper to our readers and advertisers alike. While the length of our printed page will remain the same, the width will become a bit narrower. The reason for this change is to provide both our readers and advertisers with a newspaper that is much more appealing

to the eye. With a change in production capabilities, we now have the potential to publish full color on every page and, as you will see in Monday's paper, we can have multiple sections and color everywhere. In fact, there will be full color on every page. The paper will be presented to you in two sections, with expanded news and sports coverage of this great community and the surrounding area that we are so privileged to serve.



Gary L. WOOD

Politicians And Fertility Rites

BY KATHLEEN PARKER
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WASHINGTON — Distilled to a slogan, politics of late goes something like this: "I'm more fertile than you are."

It seems fecundity is emerging as the best argument for public office, policy or even citizenship. What was once an unconscious appraisal — Is this person strong, healthy and vital? — has morphed into the sort of explicit review one usually associates with an X rating.

While male politicians have always strutted their stuff as a demonstration of virility and strength, most women until recently have had no such comparable public measures. Managing a household wasn't viewed as favorably as, say, the ability to pitch a ball over home plate.

Lately, a strange shift has occurred among female politicians as they have resorted to flexing their womb-manhood. Rather than try to out-man the men, women have begun to celebrate — or exploit in some cases — their higher purpose.

This brings us unavoidably to Sarah Palin, who reminded us recently that fertility is the ultimate trump card.

To be fair, Jeb Bush started it. He was attempting to explain the need for immigration reform as an economic argument. That is, we need an influx of immigrants — WHO TEND TO HAVE LARGER FAMILIES — to counter native-born Americans' low birthrates. Our current rate isn't sufficient to keep our nation's economic engine running competitively.

This is a legitimate argument, most forcefully advanced by Douglas Holtz-Eakin, Republican economic adviser and former director of the Congressional Budget Office under George W. Bush. Alas, Jeb Bush inartfully said we need immigrants because they are more "fertile," which sounds an awful lot like, "Hotah-mighty, those people can't tie their shoes without getting pregnant."

One is permitted a certain number of verbal pratfalls in public life, a bit of latitude Palin should appreciate. But Mama Grizzly came roaring out at Bush during a speech at one of those confabs where faith-and-freedom lovers assemble to flex their moral superiority. She not only scolded the third Bush for speaking in such terms but reminded the audience of her own bona fides in the matter.

"I say this as someone who's kind of fertile herself." As though anyone could forget.

In an earlier speech in May at the Conservative Political Action Conference, Palin drew applause with a

quip about her marital virtuosity. For Christmas, she gave husband Todd a gun, and he gave her a gun case for the four-wheeler, and ...

"He's got the rifle; I got the rack." Oh, chortle chortle.

Palin is nothing if not fertile. Or perhaps more accurately, she is nothing if she isn't fertile.

The most flauntingly fecund female politician in American history, Palin made the most of men's imaginations as John McCain's running mate — even winning over the fantasies of the politically opposed. Most memorable of these was Christopher Hitchens, who, though no Palin fan, once confessed to me: "Even I have wondered what it would be like to change her expression."

Hitchens knew how to be provocative and/or insulting while still seeming courtly, a gentleman's art nearly lost with his passing. Only the other Christopher — Buckley — does the same as well.

In this era of low art, one finds comfort at least in the knowledge that fertility passes, and so, one hopes, do those who insist on attention to their procreative histories. Which, I hasten to add, recently includes former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

When challenged about the difference between late-term abortion and the killing of babies who survived late-term abortions at the hands of the convicted murderer Dr. Kermit Gosnell, Pelosi hid behind the skirt of her own bassinet.

Rather than answer the question, she invoked her five children and declared any discussion of abortion "sacred ground" to her Catholic sensibilities. Fecundity, apparently, triumphs over moral reasoning.

Most likely, Pelosi is deeply troubled by what her politics requires and what her Catholic mother-heart tells her is true. The real reason she avoided the question is because there is no good answer. The atrocity of late-term abortion and post-abortion murder is a matter of moments.

And though Palin's pro-life position is more palatable in the harsh light of Gosnell's killing chamber, her coquettish reminders that her field is still tillable diminishes her credibility as anything other than a one-liner comedienne.

Perhaps Palin recognizes this herself and is auditioning for her own show. She may have a fertile future as an entertainer, though Honey Boo Boo will give her a run for her money.

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YOUR LETTERS

Under Distress

William J. Collen, Yankton

In World War II, a group of us soldiers was surrounded at the Battle of the Bulge. The Nazi commander sent a message to the US Commander and asked him if he wanted to surrender? The commander's reply was "nuts."

He raised and flew the U.S. flag upside down so other allied troops would know he was in trouble and under attack.

Today, just like then, we are under attack by "RINOs" (Republicans in name only), progressives and liberals. So I say that when you fly the American flag, do it upside down — so others know where you stand.

WRITE US

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OPINION | OTHER THOUGHTS

Immigration Reform And Border Security

CHICAGO TRIBUNE (June 16): Federal spending on border security is at a historic high. Illegal crossings are at a 40-year low. Deportations reached record numbers in President Barack Obama's first term. Let's get on with the business of fixing the rest of our dysfunctional immigration system.

We're talking to you, Sen. Mark Kirk. The U.S. Senate began debating an immigration bill, the product of months of negotiations by the Gang of Eight, a group of four Republicans and four Democrats who are serious about getting this done.

The bill's authors haven't declared victory in the effort to seal the border. Their measure contains up to \$6.5 billion for more agents, more fencing and more surveillance equipment, including drones.

Much of that wouldn't be necessary, frankly, if lawmakers worried more about letting workers into the country legally instead of keeping them out. That means overhauling the visa system so American businesses can hire the workers they need. It means dealing with the 11 million immigrants who came here without permission to fill jobs for which there were no available visas.

The Gang of Eight proposal would update the visa system to reflect the changing needs of American businesses. It would provide separate, flexible allocations for high-tech, white collar and low-skill workers, with an additional program for agricultural guest workers. The increase in visas would come at the expense of current programs that favor relatives of immigrants already here.

The bill would require employers to use an electronic screening system to verify the immigration status of new hires. ...

Opponents have offered amendments that would set those benchmarks higher — so high, the bill's supporters say, that the path to citizenship would be out of reach.

The full Senate already has rejected one amendment that would have withheld provisional status — leaving the 11 million living in the shadows — until the entire border is under surveillance. That could take 10 years or more.

Kirk was one of 15 senators who voted against bringing the bill to the floor for debate at all. He's still stuck on the "enforcement first" model, and he's apparently not impressed with the falling numbers.

He says he likes a plan outlined by Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas. That amendment would raise the bar that must be met before immigrants can apply for green cards. The bill's supporters say Cornyn's targets are unreasonable and prohibitively expensive. ...

Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., the conservative point man on the Gang of Eight, has said he won't vote for the bill he helped draft unless the enforcement provisions are stronger. He's trying to broker a compromise. Step one: Get Kirk and others to let go of the idea that until the border is fixed, everything else has to stay broken.

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TODAY IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press
 Today is Thursday, June 20, the 171st day of 2013. There are 194 days left in the year. Summer arrives at 10:04 p.m. Pacific time (Friday 1:04 a.m. Eastern time).
Today's Highlight in History: On June 20, 1863, West Virginia became the 35th state.

On this date: In 1782, Congress approved the Great Seal of the United States, featuring the emblem of the bald eagle.

In 1791, King Louis XVI of France and his family attempted to flee the country in the so-called Flight to Varennes but were caught.

In 1837, Queen Victoria acceded to the British throne following the death of her uncle, King William IV.

In 1893, a jury in New Bedford, Mass., found Lizzie Borden not guilty of the ax murders of her father and stepmother.

In 1921, U.S. Rep. Alice Mary Robertson, R-Okla., became the first woman to preside over a session of the House of Representatives.

In 1943, race-related rioting erupted in Detroit; federal troops were sent in two days later to quell the violence that resulted in more than 30 deaths.

In 1947, Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel was shot dead at the Beverly Hills, Calif., mansion of his girlfriend, Virginia Hill, apparently at the order of mob associates.

In 1963, the United States and Soviet Union signed an agreement to set up a "hot line" between the two superpowers.

In 1967, boxer Muhammad Ali was convicted in Houston of violating Selective Service laws by refusing to be drafted. (Ali's conviction was ultimately overturned by the Supreme Court.)

In 1972, three days after the arrest of the Watergate burglars, President Richard Nixon met at the White House with his chief of staff, H.R. Haldeman; the secretly made tape recording of this meeting ended up with the notorious 18 1/2-minute gap.

In 1982, President Ronald Reagan proclaimed National Bald Eagle Day.

In 2002, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled, 6-3, in *Atkins v. Virginia* that executing mentally disabled murderers was unconstitutionally cruel.

Ten years ago: Secretary of State Colin Powell met separately with the leaders of Israel and the Palestinian Authority, praising the Israelis for efforts toward an eventual peace settlement and urging speed on the Palestinians. President

George W. Bush named Scott McClellan his new press secretary, succeeding Ari Fleischer. Wildfires fueled by high winds burned 250 homes in southern Arizona.

Five years ago: Lightning began sparking more than 2,000 fires across northern and central California, eventually burning over a million acres.

One year ago: A Republican-controlled House committee voted to hold Attorney General Eric Holder in contempt of Congress for failing to turn over Justice Department documents related to Operation Fast and Furious. (The full House voted in favor of the contempt citation eight days later.) Pittsburgh Penguins center Evgeni Malkin won the Hart Trophy as the NHL's most valuable player. Painter and sketch artist LeRoy Neiman, best known for evoking the kinetic energy of the world's biggest sporting and leisure events with bright quick strokes, died in New York at age 91.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Martin Landau is 85. Actress Olympia Dukakis is 82. Actor James Tolkan is 82. Actor Danny Aiello is 80. Blues musician Lazy Lester is 80. Actor John Mahoney is 73. Movie director Stephen Frears is 72. Singer-songwriter Brian Wilson is 71. Actor John McCook is 69. Singer Anne Murray is 68. TV personality Bob Vila is 67. Musician Andre Watts is 67. Actress Candy Clark is 66. Producer Tina Sinatra is 65. Rhythm-and-blues singer Lionel Richie is 64. Actor John Goodman is 61. Rock musician Michael Anthony is 59. Pop musician John Taylor is 53. Rock musician Mark DeGiantoni is 51. Rock musician Murphy Karges (Sugar Ray) is 46. Actress Nicole Kidman is 46. Country/bluegrass singer-musician Dan Tyminski is 46. Movie director Robert Rodriguez is 45. Actor Peter Paige is 44. Actor Josh Lucas is 42. Rock musician Jordinne White (AKA Twiggy Ramirez) is 42. Rock singer Chino Moreno (Deftones) is 40. Country-folk singer-songwriter Amos Lee is 36. Country singer Chuck Wicks is 34. Christian rock musician Chris Dudley (Underoath) is 30. Rock singer Grace Potter (Grace Potter & The Nocturnals) is 30. Actor Mark Saul is 28. Actress Dreama Walker is 27. Actor Chris Mintz-Plasse is 24. Actress Maria Lark is 16.

Thought for Today: "Know how to ask. There is nothing more difficult for some people, nor for others, easier." — Baltasar Gracian, Spanish philosopher (1601-1658).

FROM THE BIBLE

Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. Romans 15:2. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

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