



Silent On Rape No More

BY KATHLEEN PARKER
© 2013, Washington Post Writers Group

WASHINGTON — Mariska Hargitay, better known as “Law & Order: Special Victims Unit” Detective Olivia Benson, is the human intersection of life and art.

Precisely, the line between the fictional role she plays and the role she has carved out in real life is approximately a hair’s breadth. The passion television viewers witness on the popular crime show — the rage, the disgust, that curled lip, the twitching eye — may be part of the actor’s toolbox, but it’s no act.

Philosophically, at least, Olivia and Mariska (pronounced Marish-ka) are one and the same. This much was clear when Hargitay visited Washington recently to launch her “No More” campaign related to her victims’ advocacy group, the Joyful Heart Foundation (joyfulheartfoundation.org).

“No More” means no more bystanders to crime, no more silence about domestic violence and sexual assault. The motto comes with an icon — a blue donut, more or less — that Hargitay hopes will become a unifying symbol as familiar as breast cancer’s pink ribbon.

Hargitay’s transformation from an actor into a powerful voice for victims began about 15 years ago when she began researching the role that would make her a household name. In the process, she stumbled upon the appalling statistics about sexual assault, domestic violence and child abuse. Especially offensive was the fact that hundreds of thousands of rape kits remained unprocessed.

This meant that hundreds of thousands of victims, mostly women, were never taken seriously or given an opportunity for justice — and their rapists were free to rape again. Why is there no outrage?

Hargitay set about to make her own outrage known, creating her foundation, which advocates for justice and the sort of prosecutorial zeal one wishes weren’t only on TV. Speaking at the National Press Club, she urged an end to the silence that feeds shame and posed the question: “Think how helpful it is to a criminal if we refuse to talk about it?”

A rape kit, as fans of “L&O: SVU” know, is the evidence collected during a medical exam following a rape, including DNA swabs. Typically, it costs \$1,200-\$1,500 to process a kit, hence, in part, the backlog. But more to the point, a rape kit takes several hours and is



Kathleen PARKER

both invasive and humiliating for someone who already has endured a violent attack. This alone should be sufficient to dissuade those who assume that many rapes are not “legitimate.” Why, otherwise, would anyone put themselves through such a hideous ordeal?

As Hargitay put it, the rape victim’s body is a living, breathing, feeling crime scene. “After a four-to-six hour invasive exam, you’d think they’d be eager to process.” Instead, old attitudes persist, relegating rape kits to cold storage and awarding rapists free passes.

Hargitay, who became emotional several times during her luncheon talk, conceded that the characters on her show are not typical. The sympathy, empathy, psychological sophistication and compassion displayed toward fictional victims are also mostly fictional. More often, there is only passing regard for real women alleging rape, some of whom may be perceived (because of behavior or dress) to have been responsible for whatever happened.

In a time of cost-cutting and smaller staffs — not to mention other immediate cases — it is difficult to argue that old rape kits urgently need to be processed. But Hargitay’s persistence has paid off. In Detroit, where 11,000 rape kits have been collecting dust for as long as 20 years, 23 serial rapists have been identified from the recent processing of just 400 kits. Three resulted in convictions, according to Wayne County prosecutor Kym Worthly.

New York — which has a DNA databank that, thanks to Hargitay’s lobbying efforts, includes samples from anyone convicted of a crime — has cleared its backlog of 17,000 kits. The result: an arrest rate that leapt from 40 percent to 70 percent, according to Hargitay. Similarly, Los Angeles has cleared its 12,669 kits.

There are still tens of thousands to go, but Hargitay has succeeded in demonstrating that one ticked-off cop can make a difference — even if she is only a TV cop. These days, the pretend character is learning from the real-life woman who plays her. Hargitay admitted that what you see on television is often informed by the work of her foundation. The lesson she hopes to convey is as no-nonsense as the lip-curling Olivia Benson: Rape victims are victims, period. And perps *will* be prosecuted.

But first, America has to say, “no more.”

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

How The Feds Are Conning You

BY BILL O'REILLY
Creators Syndicate

This week President Obama told ABC News that the current national debt, which is approaching \$17 trillion, is “sustainable,” and he does not feel the need to try to balance the budget.

Where is Herbert Hoover when we need an economic genius?

Just about every honest economist knows that running up massive debt without an effective strategy to improve the economy is flat-out dangerous. If the U.S. dollar collapses, there will be a worldwide depression that will make the recent recession look like an after-party at George Clooney’s house.

In the meantime, I can report the following federal expenditures that the president apparently has no problem overseeing:

- \$27 million to the country of Morocco to teach the folks over there how to make pottery. I guess the Moroccan government is not capable of pottery instruction. This con is courtesy of the U.S. Agency for International Development, which now has the nerve to tell us that the pottery project is “not on track to achieve its goals.” Translation, the dollars we sent were likely stolen.
- \$1.5 million to the Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston to study why many American lesbians are overweight. The National Institutes of Health calls the situation “an issue of high public-health significance.” Sure. Everybody’s talking about it.
- \$947,000 to research a “Mars menu.” This would determine what astronauts could eat on the planet Mars if they ever get there. NASA says it will send six volunteers into a barren Hawaiian landscape to eat stuff so it can figure out what tastes good on Mars. I am NOT making this up — with apologies to Dave Barry.
- \$325,000 to develop a robotic squirrel. The Na-



Bill O'REILLY

tional Science Foundation wants the robots to scare rattlesnakes. The agency also says the robosquirrels will help in “public outreach.” Does anyone know what that means? Rocky? Bullwinkle?

• The National Science Foundation strikes again by funding a New York City theater company called The Civilians. They got nearly \$700,000 in tax money to put on a play about “climate change and biodiversity.” Have you seen that play? No? That might be because it only played in Kansas City. Even Al Gore hasn’t seen it.

Finally, if you check out the Alabama Watermelon Queen tour this year, know that you paid for some of it. If you visit Nebraska, you should know that your tax dollars funded a company that makes shampoo and toothpaste for pets. And if you like caviar, well, you paid for a website designed to bring those exotic fish eggs to “the masses.”

These expenditures are so stupid it hurts. But I also think they are a criminal misuse of our tax dollars. It is estimated that the federal government could save \$400 billion a year by eliminating wasteful and redundant programs.

There comes a point when folks get the government they deserve. The American people re-elected Barack Obama knowing that he is the biggest spender of all American presidents to date. In fact, Obama has spent more federal money than every president combined up until George W. Bush’s second year in office. And to this day, Obama and the Democratic Party are proud of their spending record.

The donkey is the symbol of the Democratic Party. It should be the robosquirrel.

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.”

to the great detriment of our nation.

The Supreme Court, the Congress, the administration, the state governments and even county governments are loaded with lawyers. If they are not to blame, who is? Maybe those who elected them.

Would you consider it productive if the above were mostly teachers or farmers or whatever? Can we do better than a 10 percent public approval rating (for Congress) to save our republic?

THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

THE DAKOTAS’ OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861
Yankton Media, Inc., 319 Walnut St., Yankton, SD 57078

OPINION | OTHER THOUGHTS

SD Lawmakers Fail Driver Safety Test

RAPID CITY JOURNAL, Rapid City (March 6): The South Dakota House passed a bill on Monday that would prohibit drivers younger than 16 from using cellphones while driving after failing to pass the measure last week and rejecting another bill that would ban texting while driving for all drivers.

Let’s see. It’s not OK for young drivers to use a cellphone while learning to drive, but as soon as they turn 16, they can talk and text all they want.

Supporters of the bills argued that young drivers should not use cellphones and no one should text while driving because doing so increases the chances they will cause an accident. Opponents said there’s no proof that banning cellphones reduces crashes.

Common sense alone will tell you that talking on a cellphone or texting are dangerous distractions.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has studied the causal relationship of distracted driving and automobile crashes. A 2009 NHTSA study found that driver distraction was the cause in 26 percent of fatal accidents in 2008. The leading distractions were dialing a hand-held device, entering text or talking on a hand-held device (cellphone). The NHTSA website notes that drivers texting while driving are 23 times more likely to be involved in an accident.

That’s plenty of proof for us. When the House Judiciary Committee rejected the texting ban, not one person testified against the bill, yet committee members were sufficiently convinced that texting while driving is not a problem.

Opponents said there are other ways to teach that texting is not acceptable. Why pass laws then, if lawmakers believe they’re not effective in changing behavior?

It’s irresponsible for legislators to reject a bill that prohibits a driver distraction that NHTSA studies have linked to an increase in accidents by claiming the behavior isn’t hazardous.

The teen cellphone ban was the only recommendation from the teen driving task force to pass the Legislature — a disappointment to the task force members who devoted many hours and miles to improving teen driver safety only to have all but one of their solutions rejected.

This year, state lawmakers have failed their driver safety test.

Last Call On The Pipeline

LINCOLN JOURNAL STAR (March 11): The Obama administration deserves compliments for scheduling another public hearing in Nebraska on the environmental impact of the proposed Keystone XL pipeline.

It will give Nebraskans and others an opportunity to express themselves in person before a decision is made on whether to issue a permit for the pipeline. (The date, time and location of the hearing have not been set.)

The federal public hearing in Nebraska and a 45-day comment period will be one of the last opportunities for opponents to register their complaints and suggest changes in the project.

The dynamics of the debate on the pipeline have changed considerably since the first public hearing held by the State Department in Atkinson.

Since then, many of the concerns expressed by Nebraskans have been allayed by TransCanada’s decision to revise the pipeline route away from the state’s fragile Sandhills, where the water table often is close to the surface and re-vegetation sometimes is next to impossible after the porous, sandy soil has been disturbed.

The revised route has been studied by the state Department of Environmental Quality. Based on its report, which was the subject of several public hearings across the state last year, the risks of the revised route would be minimal. Damage would be limited to small areas.

To be sure, there remains a dwindling vocal minority of Nebraskans who oppose the pipeline. Like their colleagues elsewhere in the country, the remaining pipeline opponents oppose the use of fossil fuels in general. ...

But, as many have concluded, the effort to fight climate change by stopping the pipeline is misguided.

The new 2,000-page State Department report makes clear that rejecting the permit for the pipeline that will move oil from Canada to oil refiners in the Gulf will do little to decrease global emissions. Canada can and will, if the pipeline permit is rejected, sell the oil in other markets.

A properly designed, constructed and operated pipeline is an efficient way to transport crude oil that, according to the report, will do less harm to the environment than shipping it by truck or rail. It will bring economic benefit to Nebraska and the rest of the country.

The last federal public hearing in Nebraska is an important and necessary step of a process that has been fair and open.

TODAY IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, March 18, the 77th day of 2013. There are 288 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History: On March 18, 1963, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Gideon v. Wainwright*, ruled unanimously that state courts were required to provide legal counsel to criminal defendants who could not afford to hire an attorney on their own.

On this date: In 1766, Britain repealed the Stamp Act of 1765.

In 1837, the 22nd and 24th president of the United States, Grover Cleveland, was born in Caldwell, N.J.

In 1913, King George I of Greece was assassinated in Thessaloniki.

In 1937, some 300 people, mostly children, were killed in a gas explosion at a school in New London, Texas.

In 1938, Mexican President Lazaro Cardenas nationalized his country’s petroleum reserves and took control of foreign-owned oil facilities.

In 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed an executive order authorizing the War Relocation Authority, which was put in charge of internment Japanese-Americans, with Milton S. Eisenhower (the younger brother of Dwight D. Eisenhower) as its director.

In 1959, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the Hawaii statehood bill. (Hawaii became a state on Aug. 21, 1959.)

In 1962, France and Algerian rebels signed the Evian Accords, a cease-fire agreement which took effect the next day, ending the Algerian War.

In 1965, the first spacewalk took place as Soviet cosmonaut Alexei Leonov went outside his Voskhod 2 capsule, secured by a tether.

In 1974, most of the Arab oil-producing nations ended their embargo against the United States.

In 1980, Frank Gotti, the 12-year-old youngest son of mobster John Gotti, was struck and killed by a car driven by John Favara, a neighbor in Queens, N.Y. (The following July, Favara vanished, the apparent victim of a gang hit.)

In 1990, thieves made off with 13 works of art from the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston (the crime remains unsolved).

Ten years ago: A jury in Corpus Christi, Texas, cleared Bayer Corp. of liability in a \$560 million lawsuit that accused the pharmaceutical giant of ignoring research linking the cholesterol-lowering drug Baycol to dozens of deaths. In Salt Lake City, Brian Mitchell and Wanda Barzee were charged with aggravated



THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

THE DAKOTAS’ OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861

Yankton Media, Inc., 319 Walnut St., Yankton, SD 57078

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS/

CIRCULATION:

Extension 112

CLASSIFIED ADS:

Extension 108

NEWS DEPARTMENT:

Extension 114

SPORTS DEPARTMENT:

Extension 106

ADVERTISING OFFICE:

Extension 122

BUSINESS OFFICE:

Extension 119

NEW MEDIA:

Extension 136

COMPOSING DESK:

Extension 129

* * *

MANAGERS

Gary L. Wood

Publisher

Michele Schievelbein

Advertising Director

Tonya Schild

Business Manager

David Jeffcoat

Circulation Director

Tera Schmidt

Classified Manager

Kelly Hertz

Editor

James D. Cimburek

Sports Editor

Beth Rye

New Media Manager

Kathy Larson

Composing Manager

Bernard Metivier

District Manager

* * *

DAILY STAFF

Andrew Atwal

Melissa Bader

Derek Bartos

Brett Beyerle

Cassandra Brockmoller

Rob Buckingham

Randy Dockendorf

Jeannine Economy

Jeremy Hoecck

Nathan Johnson

Muriel Pratt

Sheldon Reed

Noelle Schlechter

Cathy Sudbeck

Sally Whiting

Brenda Willcuts

Jackie Williams

* * *

Published Daily

Monday-Saturday

Periodicals postage

paid at Yankton,

South Dakota, under

the act of March 3,

1979.

Weekly Dakotian

established June 6,

1861. Yankton Daily

Press and Dakotian

established April 26,

1875.

Postmaster: Send

address changes to

Yankton Daily Press

& Dakotan, 319 Wal-

nut, Yankton, SD

57078.

* * *

MEMBERSHIPS

The Yankton Daily

Press & Dakotan is

a member of the Associ-

ated Press, the Inland

Daily Press Associa-

tion and the South

Dakota Newspaper

Association. The Asso-

ciated Press is entitled

exclusively to use of

all the local news printed

in this newspaper.

* * *

SUBSCRIPTION

RATES*

(Payable in advance)

CARRIER DELIVERY

1-month . . . \$12.09

3 months . . . \$36.27

6 months . . . \$72.53

1-year . . . \$133.09

MOTOR ROUTE

(where available)

1 month . . . \$14.51

3 months . . . \$43.53

6 months . . . \$87.05

1 year . . . \$139.14

MAIL IN RETAIL

TRADE ZONE

1-month . . . \$16.93

3 months . . . \$50.79

6 months . . . \$101.57

1-year . . . \$148.82

MAIL OUTSIDE

RETAIL TRADE ZONE

1 month . . . \$19.35

3 months . . . \$58.05

6 months . . . \$116.09

1-year . . . \$186.33

* Plus applicable

sales tax for all rates

YOUR LETTERS

America’s Lawyer Issue

Rex Alberts, Yankton

America is truly in the hands of the lawyers, and we have been in wars most of our lifetimes while our nation is more than \$16 trillion in debt. Lawyers and judges make the final decisions on both large and small matters. Lawyers are trained to argue when not on vacation, and that is exactly what Congress does

FROM THE BIBLE

The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many. Matthew 20:28. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis