



The Same Old Song

BY MICHAEL REAGAN
CagleCartoons.com

I love talk radio; I love Fox News. If it weren't for the arrival of their strong conservative voices, Americans would still have nothing to listen to but the one-sided news and opinions of the left-liberals who run the mainstream New York-D.C. media.

But I'm frustrated. Talk radio and Fox are getting so boring, so predictable, so shrill, I can barely tune in anymore.

Night after night on Fox, it's the same issues, the same arguments, the same lame liberal guests showing up to be browbeaten by Hannity and O'Reilly.

How many Juan Williamses does Fox have on its staff anyway? Five? Is my friend Alan Colmes the only liberal in North America who'll come on and debate Hannity?

Seriously. Is there anything Williams and Colmes — or for that matter, pie-thrower Ann Coulter — will say about Obamacare or the Obama Economy they haven't said 100 times on TV in the last year?

"The Five" is another example. It gets great ratings, but it's so stale and predictable.

Can't Fox find anyone better than Big, Bad Bob Beckel to go 1-on-4 with that show's conservatives, who, except for funnyman Greg Gutfeld, are like watching Hannity II, III and IV?

And is there some new FCC law against having two liberals on a Fox show once in a while? (Not Juan Williams, thanks.)

Fox needs to get fresh faces and new voices into its regular lineup. Instead of arguing with Williams night after night, what's wrong with Hannity or O'Reilly talking to ordinary Americans — people who've lost their homes or can't find a job?

I think even loyal viewers are starting to notice that Fox's slogan should be changed from "Fair and Balanced" to "Stale and Predictable."

The other day, after seeing conservative guest Dennis Prager waste most of his air-time watching Hannity tangle his liberal guest, I sent out a Tweet saying, "I think sometimes Hannity invites guests on to watch him argue



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with another guest just to get their approval. It's frustrating."

The response from my conservative Republican followers was quick and one-sided; a bunch of Tweeters agreed with me that Fox was losing its steam.

A guy named Tom said nothing interesting ever happens on Hannity's show. Another guy said he loved Hannity but said he "needs to find new people to interview, too many repeats." Sharon tweeted she's stopped watching him altogether.

This is a serious problem for conservatives and Republicans — and the United States of America.

We're in a serious fight with Obama and his gang, who seem hell-bent on turning us into a socialist country with enough government spending and debt to qualify for membership in the European Union.

For good and bad, talk radio and Fox have become the national voices of conservatism, the places where conservative ideas and arguments can be publicized and debated.

The Republican Party has made the mistake of allowing Fox and talk radio to become its spokesman, in large part because it has no national spokesman of its own. But Fox and talk radio are letting the GOP and the rest of the country down.

People outside the Beltway are desperate for solutions to our economic and social problems, but Fox and talk radio seem more interested in giving them arguments — tired arguments.

People — our people in the conservative choir — are starting to tune out Fox and talk radio. And it's because their song — our song — is getting stale and predictable.

We need to start hearing a new tune from the conservative media — and new singers.

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Sodas, Freedom And Sense

BY KELLY HERTZ

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Actually, Michael Bloomberg is right. But so, too, are his critics.

The New York City mayor's controversial effort to ban the sale of sugary sodas larger than 16 ounces per serving crashed and burned this past week when a New York state judge struck down his decree. His proposed ban had unleashed a storm of criticism and sneering from libertarians, anti-Nanny Staters and sugarholics.

However, Bloomberg's motivation was quite sound. Those big drinks are contributing to the rise of obesity in this country, as well as such consequences as diabetes, heart disease and other maladies. Tackling (and swearing off) such sources of sugar is not a bad idea at all.

But it's not Bloomberg's place to make it happen, or so said his critics and, ultimately, the aforementioned judge. The mayor's soda decree became a symbol for overreaching and overbearing government — a handy prop for ridicule and defiance. So, when Sarah Palin brought out a large soda during her CPAC speech last weekend, she was striking a blow for liberty as well as for diabetes and high blood pressure.

Bloomberg isn't stopping with soda. This week, he has announced a campaign to prohibit the display of tobacco products in stores. If the history experienced in other communities that have tried the same thing is any guide, NYC will be sued shortly by several tobacco companies and an outfit called the New York Association of Convenience Stores, promising more courtroom adventures for the mayor.

But let's get back to Bloomberg's soda crusade, which I find far more intriguing because it's part of a growing effort to attack this nation's obesity issue — especially among kids, where the problem has been growing at an alarming rate. Another example is the USDA's ongoing efforts to instill new nutrition guidelines for school lunches, which have been met with vigorous resistance from kids and from schools. It's the battle of the bulge being waged by third-party powers, whether the principals want the "help" or not.

In New York's soda war, two different things are being argued by the opposing sides. Bloomberg is trying to promote health, while the critics of the soda de-



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cree are arguing for the freedom of choice. It's an interesting collision because, indeed, they are both right.

However, the well-intentioned but overzealous Bloomberg is viewing the matter all wrong. He is approaching it as we all imagine billionaires would do such things: as if he can simply impose his will to change the lives of others.

I've learned that in lifestyle issues, the only way you can truly expect results is when the intended beneficiaries buy into and embrace the program, thus altering their habits by choice. When they do, whatever the problem is will begin taking care of itself.

It's very much like a diet. If you want to drop some weight, there's always the temptation to go on some fad diet in which you eliminate this or eat nothing but that, or you limit yourself to pre-packaged foods that are manufactured exclusively for the diet, or you simply starve yourself. And a lot of times, you can drop the weight. But then, when you revert back to your old eating habits — i.e., the pattern of consumption that made you overweight in the first place — guess what happens. Thus, the best diet is not the one that works the fastest; instead, it's the one that lets you lose weight AND teaches you how to change your eating habits. Embrace those habits, and you embrace (by choice, mind you) a healthier life path.

You can't legislate that from the top down. It's got to come from the soul of each person, who has to WANT to change. Bloomberg should at least be commended for being passionate enough to take these steps, no matter how overreaching they are. He has the right idea, but he is using the wrong tools to disseminate his view.

The best he can do is to educate people and to encourage them to make healthier choices. There is nothing absolute or mandating in those verbs because there can't be. Bloomberg can only lead his overweight citizenry so far; those people ultimately have to finish their own journeys. In the meantime, Bloomberg's critics can slurp down tall, sugar-loaded drinks as they savor their triumph and their reinforced freedom. Legally, they are in the right. In the long term, however, they just might consider taking his advice, if not his orders.

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

rechaun, and have an opportunity to take home some terrific auction prizes. The staff from the Landing kept plates full and the Jokers just kept the music coming! The excitement about the Mead Building is at a high point and we are glad to conduct tours or make presentations so that even more area residents are aware of the unique contribution the Society is making in restoring this magnificent building.

Please call the Dakota Territorial Museum at 665-3898 if you have any questions or, better yet, stop by at 610 Summit Street, Yankton.

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OPINION | WE SAY

Sacrifices



THUMBS UP to the brave men and women who served in our armed forces. We are reminded of their sacrifices — and those of their loved ones — with this week's 10th anniversary of the start of the Iraq War. The troops may be withdrawn from Iraq, but the battles still continue in Afghanistan and other hot spots around the world. And the war's cost will continue to escalate as we provide for the veterans' medical care and other needs. Wars will continue to be debated, but there remains no doubt that we owe a debt of gratitude to those who answer the call.

Great Performance



Cold Spring



Reaching Out



THUMBS UP to the concert provided by the Abrams Brothers Monday night at the Dakota Theatre. The duo's tremendous musicianship, songwriting ability and pleasant personalities were a great way to kick off the Lewis and Clark Theatre Company's first concert series. The Abrams Brothers left the audience who attended begging for more at the end of the night. We hope they make it back through the Yankton area again.

Hoop Happiness



THUMBS UP to area college basketball teams who are making their presence known on the national stage. The South Dakota State University men played their NCAA Division I opener on Thursday night against the University of Michigan, while the SDSU women make their "Big Dance" appearance against the University of South Carolina on Saturday afternoon. But Jacks fans aren't the only ones celebrating in the spotlight. The University of South Dakota women kicked off their WBI (Women's Basketball Invitational) play on Thursday at Utah State. And the Augustana College women will make their first appearance in school history at the NCAA Division II "Elite Eight" next week in San Antonio, Tex. The Vikings face current No. 1 and undefeated Clayton State (Ga.). Best of luck to all. Regardless of the outcomes, South Dakota will enjoy a big dose of national "hoop-la."

ONLINE OPINION

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

LATEST RESULTS:

Should South Dakota get rid of the death penalty?
No73%
Yes23%
Not sure4%
TOTAL VOTES CAST560
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:

Would you support a possible \$28 million renovation/expansion of Yankton's water treatment system?

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, March 22, the 81st day of 2013. There are 284 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On March 22, 1963, The Beatles' debut album, "Please Please Me," was released in the United Kingdom by Parlophone.

On this date: In 1312, Pope Clement V issued a papal bull ordering dissolution of the Order of the Knights Templar.

In 1638, religious dissident Anne Hutchinson was expelled from the Massachusetts Bay Colony for defying Puritan orthodoxy.

In 1765, the British Parliament passed the Stamp Act of 1765 to raise money from the American colonies, which fiercely resisted the tax. (The Stamp Act was repealed a year later.)

In 1820, U.S. naval hero Stephen Decatur was killed in a duel with Commodore James Barron near Washington, D.C.

In 1894, hockey's first Stanley Cup championship game was played; home team Montreal defeated Ottawa, 3-1.

In 1933, during Prohibition, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a measure to make wine and beer containing up to 3.2 percent alcohol legal.

In 1941, the Grand Coulee hydroelectric dam in Washington state went into operation.

In 1943, the Khatyn Massacre took place during World War II as German forces killed 149 residents of the village of Khatyn, Belarus, half of them children.

In 1958, movie producer Mike Todd, the husband of actress Elizabeth Taylor, and three other people were killed in the crash of Todd's private plane near Grants, N.M.

In 1978, Karl Wallenda, the 73-year-old patriarch of "The Flying Wallendas" high-wire act, fell to his death while attempting to walk a cable strung between two hotel towers in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

In 1988, both houses of Congress overrode President Ronald Reagan's veto of the Civil Rights Restoration Act.

In 1993, Intel Corp. unveiled the original Pentium computer chip.

Ten years ago: Anti-war activists marched again in dozens of cities, mar-

shaling well over 100,000 in Manhattan and sometimes trading insults with backers of the U.S.-led war on Iraq. U.S. forces reported seizing a large weapons cache in Afghanistan.

Five years ago: Vice President Dick Cheney, visiting the Middle East, said the U.S. had an "enduring and unshakable" commitment to Israel's security and its right to defend itself against those bent on destroying the Jewish state. Jeffrey Buttle of Canada won the men's title at the World Figure Skating Championships in Göteborg, Sweden.

One year ago: Coroner's officials ruled singer Whitney Houston died by drowning the previous February, but that heart disease and cocaine use were contributing factors. In a dramatic end to a 32-hour standoff, a masked French SWAT team slipped into the Toulouse apartment of an Islamic extremist suspected of seven killings, sparking a firefight that ended with the suspect jumping out the window and being fatally shot in the head.

Today's Birthdays: *USA Today* founder Allen H. Neuharth is 89. Composer-lyricist Stephen Sondheim is 83. Evangelist broadcaster Pat Robertson is 83. Actor William Shatner is 82. Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, is 79. Actor M. Emmet Walsh is 78. Actor-singer Jeremy Clyde is 72. Singer-guitarist George Benson is 70. Writer James Patterson is 66. CNN newscaster Wolf Blitzer is 65. Composer Andrew Lloyd Webber is 65. Actress Fanny Ardant is 64. Sportscaster Bob Costas is 61. Country singer James House is 58. Actress Lena Olin is 58. Singer-actress Stephanie Mills is 56. Actor Matthew Modine is 54. Country musician Tim Beeler is 45. Actress Anne Dudek is 38. Actor Cole Hauser is 38. Actress Kellie Williams is 37. Actress Reese Witherspoon is 37. Rock musician John Otto (Limp Bizkit) is 36. Rapper Mims is 32. Rock musician Lincoln Parish (Cage the Elephant) is 23.

Thought for Today: "Kindness consists in loving people more than they deserve." — Joseph Joubert, French moralist (1754-1824).

FROM THE BIBLE

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Galatians 5:22-23. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

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