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THE COVERUP...

# Freedom Under Fire

BY BILL O'REILLY  
Creators Syndicate

Every time there's a horrendous story about kidnapping or child molestation, America loses another ounce of freedom. The Cleveland situation in which three young girls were held in sexual slavery for 10 years is a perfect example of my statement. Although kidnapping by strangers is rare in the USA, the shocking media accounts of stories like Cleveland make a deep public impression.

According to the FBI, 411 Americans were abducted by strangers in 2012. The primary motive for the abductions was sexual assault, and in the case of missing children, 89 percent of them are murdered by their kidnappers, according to the Washington State Attorney General's Office. So the numbers are very small, but the outcomes are very severe.



Bill O'REILLY

Twenty years ago in America, children could play unsupervised in most neighborhoods. I grew up on Long Island about 30 miles from New York City and was out of my house more than I was in it. I had a gang of junior hoodlums, and we played sports and games constantly. My mother and father were actually relieved when I went out to play, knowing that I would be annoying people other than them.

As far as I know, nobody was ever abducted in Levittown back in the 1960s, and it was teeming with kids. The Lindbergh baby kidnapping in 1932 pierced the national consciousness, but up until about 20 years ago, most suburban and rural streets were considered safe.

Now nobody's safe, or so it seems. Parents rarely let children play on their own. Playdates and organized activities rule. The urchins are deprived of creating their own playtime agendas, problem solving

without adult supervision, and thinking up crazy, fun games. Playtime in Levittown usually consisted of dodging, kicking, batting or shooting a ball. Plus, there were games of running around smashing into each other. That was called ring-a-levio.

It is important for children to feel secure, to grow up safe. So it is not unwise to keep close track of kids these days. Kidnaping and molestation may be rare, but it happens, and it's a life-altering experience. The cliché goes "better to be safe than sorry." And it's true.

It is also true that we were a much freer nation back when stories like Cleveland were not driven by the news media 24/7. The evildoers have robbed us of security and have created massive apprehension. Many schools now have armed guards, cameras are everywhere, and children are suspicious. The predators have forced us to guard the kids.

And so they stay inside far more than I did. They become addicted to machines that provide them with easy stimulation via games in which they never lose or get bruised. The urchins sit there and stare at a screen full of high-tech opium that quickly overwhelms their senses. Rain or shine, the Net is always there.

Fear and high-tech mania have changed our country in ways most of us can't even comprehend. And every time there is a story like Cleveland, our independence takes a hit. We are living in a brave new world, for sure. But I liked it better back when.

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# While We Fight The Imaginary ...

BY LEONARD PITTS JR.  
Tribune Media Services

It should've been the shot heard around the world. Chances are, you didn't hear it.

An ominous sort of history was made last week near Austin, Texas, but it seems to have largely escaped notice. There was some media coverage, yes, but less than, say, Lindsay Lohan's latest stint in rehab, certainly less than you'd think for something whose ramifications will likely shadow us for years.



Leonard PITTS

On May 2, you see, a group called Defense Distributed, led by law student and self-described anarchist Cody Wilson, accomplished what was apparently the first successful firing of a gun "printed" entirely by a 3-D printer. According to Forbes reporter Andy Greenberg, who witnessed the test, the gun is made almost entirely of plastic, the only metal in it being the nail that served as a firing pin and the bullet it fired.

A 3-D printer, for the benefit of those who remember when the mimeograph machine was the cutting edge of duplication technology, is a device that can download computer blueprints and use them to manufacture complex physical objects right on your desktop.

The one Defense Distributed used is said to have cost \$8,000. Amazon has one listed for \$1,299.

So we now have technology, largely unregulated, with the potential to turn every desktop into an armory. Forbes reports that, in just two days, 100,000 blueprints were downloaded.

Hold that thought as you ponder another recent headline. It seems one Adam Kokesh, an Iraq War veteran and activist, is organizing an armed march on Washington for Independence Day. Participants — he claims 2,500 so far — with loaded rifles slung across their backs plan to march into the nation's capital to protest the "tyranny" of the federal government.

While D.C. residents are allowed to have registered firearms on their property, they are not allowed to carry them in public. Police Chief Cathy Lanier has said marchers will be met at the border and if they break that law, "we'll take action."

Kokesh, apparently delusional, promises to turn

back peacefully if confronted, but says it is his hope the city will suspend the law for him and even provide his group a police escort.

You will not be surprised to learn that, by "tyranny," Kokesh means the duly elected (not a hanging chad in sight) president of the United States going about his job. Thing is, if you don't like the way he does his job, you get a chance every four years to make a change. People in North Korea would doubtless love to live under that kind of "tyranny."

Because it isn't. Kokesh's march is just the latest product of the great American panic machine, the mechanism by which the extreme right works itself into spasms of apoplectic terror over threats that don't exist.

"We're going to be under sharia law!" Except, we're not.

"We've become a socialist country!" Except we haven't.

"There's a War on Christmas!" Except there isn't.

"They're trying to take our guns away!" Except that it is now theoretically possible for a mental patient to manufacture his own gun in the comfort of his aluminum foil-lined basement. That's a sobering development with far reaching implications barely considered, much less addressed, by lawmakers though this technology has existed for over a decade.

Since Wilson's test, there's been a flurry of calls for legislation. On Friday, the federal government ordered Wilson to remove the blueprints from his website. All of which is the very epitome of locking the garage after the Hyundai has been hot-wired.

It's a pity some of the energy that has gone into fighting imaginary tyranny did not go into pondering this real and eminently predictable threat. But, then, we are unserious people in a very serious age.

And therein lies the danger of the panic machine. We spend so much time fighting threats that do not exist, we are left ill-prepared for the ones that do.

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## YOUR LETTERS

### Appreciates Help On Project

Ben Rust, Yankton

I want to thank the following people and businesses for their financial support of my Eagle Scout project: Gary Armstrong, Ponca, Neb., Mary Clare Armstrong, Kernersville, N.C., Bank of Dixon County, Ponca, Neb., Brian and Perri Bauman, Newcastle, Neb., Dave and Lesa Cinco, Lennox, Clark's Rentals, Yankton, Gene and Susie Day, Newcastle, Neb., Luken Memorials, Yankton, John and Myra Kingsbury, Ponca, Neb., Tom and Lou Ann Kneifl, Newcastle, Neb., Meyer Brothers Colonial Chapel, Sioux City, Iowa, Mohr Funeral Home, Ponca, Neb., Charles and Ellen Livingston, Sioux City, Iowa, Northeast Nebraska Public Power District Round Up Program, Don and Ginny Meyer, Newcastle, Neb., Cindy Loftus Myers, Algonia, Iowa, Mary Lou Pfister, Newcastle, Neb., Rick Rohan, Clear Lake, Iowa, Joe and Lori Rust, Yankton,

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I have spent many hours mapping the Newcastle St. Peter's Calvary Cemetery in Newcastle, Neb., creating a Cemetery Directory and map and constructing a path and arbor that houses the Directory and I appreciate all the help I have received. The Directory will make it easier for people to find a gravesite quickly as well as benefit anyone researching family history. Once again, thank you to everyone who helped donate time and money and for the words of encouragement.

# THE PRESS & DAKOTAN



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## OPINION | OTHER THOUGHTS

# State Tourney Site Choices Questioned

**THE DAILY REPUBLIC, Mitchell (May 2):** When Wayne Carney, executive director of the South Dakota High School Activities Association, spoke last week in Mitchell, he said it's important that he keep his organization's best interest in mind when making decisions on its behalf.

"My job is to run the (SDHSAA) as a business," he told the Mitchell Quarterback Club. "I have nothing against any city or town, but we want to hold tournaments where it will be the best turnout."

We have been hard on the SDHSAA over the years, after that organization decided that Mitchell no longer can host state basketball tournaments. The problem is that the SDHSAA has declared that the Corn Palace does not have enough seating to justify giving it regular turns as a basketball host.

We disagree with Carney about his role. The SDHSAA is not a business. It's a nonprofit that, according to its own website, exists to "direct and coordinate interscholastic activities carried on by the member high schools of South Dakota." If businesslike profit-making is the motivation of the organization, that's unfortunate. The non-businesslike furtherance of opportunities for students should be the primary mission.

But if Carney thinks it's his job to run the SDHSAA like a business, let's consider it.

We say some of the decisions made recently by the SDHSAA just, in the end, don't make business sense. The most recent Class AA girls' basketball tournament is a prime example — so many seats were vacant that we felt embarrassed for the participants.

Had that event been held in the Corn Palace, instead of the cavernous Rushmore Plaza Civic Center in Rapid City, the crowds would have seemed more suitable for state-tournament play. Meanwhile, in Carney's defense, it's also possible that if the Corn Palace would have hosted the event — instead of the far-off Rushmore Plaza — more people may have showed up, creating seating troubles.

We get it. The SDHSAA wants to line up arenas that are large enough for any contingency. The organization would rather be safe than sorry.

We still feel Mitchell could host a girls' basketball tournament now and then. Boys' tournaments are out of the question, but a girls' tournament isn't unreasonable.

The SDHSAA should consider the Corn Palace for girls' basketball events in the future, using traditional attendance records as their basis. A Daily Republic report earlier this year showed that of 180 total girls' basketball sessions held over the past decade — there are six sessions per tournament — only six of those sessions would have surpassed the Corn Palace's seating capacity.

If the SDHSAA is to be run solely like a business — and again, we don't think that's the right outlook — we acknowledge that difficult decisions must be made. If that means Mitchell is out, we can understand the reasoning.

Meanwhile, we stress that the SDHSAA consider other factors, too, including low attendance figures. If most seats are vacant during a state championship session, then the SDHSAA must think long and hard before awarding a tournament to that site again in the near future.

That, too, is a business decision that should be considered.

## 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.
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- 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](mailto:views@yankton.net).

## TODAY IN HISTORY

**By The Associated Press**

Today is Monday, May 13, the 133rd day of 2013. There are 232 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:** On May 13, 1963, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Brady v. Maryland*, upheld, 7-2, a lower court decision overturning the death sentence (but not the conviction) of John L. Brady for murder because the prosecution had withheld from the defense a statement by a separately tried accomplice, Charles D. Boblit, that he'd actually carried out the 1958 killing of William Brooks during a robbery. (Brady spent years in prison in legal limbo, declining his right to another sentencing hearing; he was eventually paroled. Boblit, 79, remains imprisoned in Maryland.)

**On this date:** In 1607, English colonists arrived by ship at the site of what became the Jamestown settlement in Virginia (the colonists went ashore the next day).

In 1846, the United States declared that a state of war already existed with Mexico.

In 1917, three shepherd children near Fatima, Portugal, reported seeing a vision of the Virgin Mary.

In 1918, the first U.S. airmail stamps, featuring a picture of a Curtiss JN-4 biplane, were issued to the public. (On a few of the stamps, the biplane was inadvertently printed upside-down, making them collector's items.)

In 1940, Britain's new prime minister, Winston Churchill, told Parliament: "I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat."

In 1958, Vice President Richard Nixon and his wife, Pat, were spat upon and their limousine battered by rocks thrown by anti-U.S. demonstrators in Caracas, Venezuela.

In 1968, a one-day general strike took place in France in support of student protesters.

In 1972, 118 people died after fire broke out at the Sennichi Department Store in Osaka, Japan.

In 1973, in tennis' first so-called "Battle of the Sexes," Bobby Riggs defeated Margaret Court 6-2, 6-1 in Ramona, Calif. (Riggs had his standing challenge to female players accepted by Billie Jean King, who soundly defeated Riggs at the Houston Astrodome in September.)

In 1981, Pope John Paul II was shot and seriously wounded in St. Peter's Square by Turkish assailant Mehmet Ali Agca.

In 1985, a confrontation between Philadelphia authorities and the radical group MOVE ended as police dropped a bomb onto the group's row house; 11 peo-

ple died in the resulting fire that destroyed 61 homes.

In 1992, the Falun Gong movement had its beginnings in the northeastern Chinese city of Changchun.

**Ten years ago:** A judge ruled that Oklahoma City bombing conspirator Terry Nichols should stand trial in state court on 160 counts of first-degree murder. (Nichols was later found guilty on 161 counts; the 161st count was for the fetus of a pregnant victim. Nichols was sentenced to life in prison.) The government unveiled a more colorful version of the new \$20 bill. Algerian army commandos freed 17 European tourists who'd been kidnapped in the Sahara Desert by an al-Qaida-linked terror group.

**Five years ago:** An embattled Hillary Rodham Clinton trounced Barack Obama in the West Virginia Democratic primary. Eighty people were killed in coordinated bomb attacks on crowded markets and streets outside Hindu temples in Jaipur, India. LPGA great Annika Sorenstam announced she would retire at the end of the season. Actor John Phillip Law died in Los Angeles at age 70.

**One year ago:** The mutilated bodies of 49 people were found near Monterrey, Mexico, apparent victims of a drug cartel. A gunman assassinated Arsalah Rahmani, a former high-ranking Taliban official working to end the decade-long war in Afghanistan. Donald "Duck" Dunn, 70, the bassist who helped create the gritty Memphis soul sound at Stax Records in the 1960s as part of the legendary group Booker T. and the MGs, died in Tokyo while on tour.

**Today's Birthdays:** Actor Buck Taylor is 75. Actor Harvey Keitel is 74. Author Charles Baxter is 66. Actor Franklyn Ajaye is 64. Actress Zoe Wanamaker is 64. Singer Stevie Wonder is 63. Producer-writer Alan Ball is 56. Basketball Hall of Famer Dennis Rodman is 52. Actor-comedian Stephen Colbert is 49. Rock musician John Richardson (The Gin Blossoms) is 49. Actor Tom Verica is 49. Country singer Lari White is 48. Singer Darius Rucker (Hootie and the Blowfish) is 47. Actress Susan Floyd is 45. Contemporary Christian musician Andy Williams (Casting Crowns) is 41. Actress Samantha Morton is 36. Rock musician Mickey Madden (Maroon 5) is 34. Actress-writer-director Lena Dunham is 27. Actor Robert Pattinson is 27. Actress Candice Accola is 26. Actor Hunter Parrish is 26.

**Thought for Today:** "I can usually judge a fellow by what he laughs at." — Wilson Mizner, American playwright (1876-1933).

## FROM THE BIBLE

*They shall call His name Emmanuel. Matthew 1:23 (KJV).* Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

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