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OPINION | OTHER THOUGHTS

Staying True To
Net Neutrality

LOS ANGELES TIMES (May 16): Chairman Tom Wheeler of the Federal Communications Commission said all the right things about Net neutrality Thursday as the agency voted to release draft rules for preserving the open Internet. Nevertheless, real questions remain about whether the proposal he's championed is the right way to protect the Internet's reach, connectivity and innovative spirit. Perhaps that's why the commission provided an unusually long time for the public to comment on Wheeler's proposal and possible alternatives. It's a reminder that, despite the near-hysteria drummed up by some Net neutrality advocates, we're still at the start of the rule-making process, not the end.

At issue is whether and how the government should try to stop certain Internet service providers — companies such as AT&T, Verizon and Time-Warner Cable that connect individual users to the Net — from favoring some sites and services over others. The fear is that ISPs would sell high-priority delivery to deep-pocketed companies, enabling their content to look and perform better at the expense of everyone else's. Although the FCC has been saying for a decade that broadband access service should be free from such interference, the courts have twice rejected its rules and enforcement efforts. There are no neutrality rules in force today, just antitrust and consumer protection laws to deter ISPs from tilting the online playing field.

Wheeler has proposed taking a case-by-case approach that would forbid ISPs from striking "commercially unreasonable" deals with sites and services that want to pay for premium access to Internet users. Critics on the left say his approach would lead to a "two-tiered" Internet with fast lanes for big companies and slow lanes for start-ups and innovators, while those on the right say it's a solution in search of a problem. The proposal is moving ahead in part because of language Wheeler added to clarify the sorts of deals ISPs would be barred from making, providing more assurance that consumers and content providers wouldn't face slowdowns, and giving more weight to a stringent regulatory alternative favored by many neutrality advocates.

Before Thursday's vote, Wheeler emphatically declared his opposition to a two-tiered Internet. "There is one Internet. It must be fast, it must be robust, and it must be open," he said, adding, "The prospect of a gatekeeper choosing winners and losers on the Internet is unacceptable." He's right about all that, yet good intentions don't count for much. The commission needs to show that whatever rules it adopts will actually promote innovation and investment, set clear guidelines for ISPs that won't shift with the political winds, and have a solid basis in law. Wheeler's statements raise the hope that the new rules will meet those tests. But the scrutiny is just starting.

ON THIS DATE

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, May 22, the 142nd day of 2014. There are 223 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On May 22, 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson, speaking at the University of Michigan, outlined the goals of his "Great Society," saying that it "rests on abundance and liberty for all" and "demands an end to poverty and racial injustice."

On this date: In 1761, the first American life insurance policy was issued in Philadelphia to a Rev. Francis Allison, whose premium was six pounds per year.

In 1860, the United States and Japan exchanged ratifications of the Treaty of Amity and Commerce during a ceremony in Washington.

In 1913, the American Cancer Society was founded in New York under its original name, the American Society for the Control of Cancer.

In 1939, the foreign ministers of Germany and Italy, Joachim von Ribbentrop and Galeazzo Ciano, signed a "Pact of Steel" committing the two countries to a military alliance.

In 1947, the Truman Doctrine was enacted as Congress appropriated military and economic aid for Greece and Turkey.

In 1960, an earthquake of magnitude 9.5, the strongest ever measured, struck southern Chile, claiming some 1,655 lives.

In 1963, Greek politician Grigoris Lambrakis was attacked by right-wingers after delivering a speech in Thessaloniki; he died five days later. (The assassination inspired a book as well as the 1969 Costa-Gavras film "Z.")

In 1968, the nuclear-powered submarine *USS Scorpion*, with 99 men aboard, sank in the Atlantic Ocean. (The remains of the sub were later found on the ocean floor 400 miles southwest of the Azores.)

In 1969, the lunar module of Apollo 10, with Thomas P. Stafford and Eugene Cernan aboard, flew to within nine miles of the moon's surface in a dress rehearsal for the first lunar landing.

In 1972, President Richard Nixon began a visit to the Soviet Union, during which he and Kremlin leaders signed the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. The island nation of Ceylon became the republic of Sri Lanka.

In 1981 "Yorkshire Ripper" Peter Sutcliffe was convicted in London of murdering 13 women and was sentenced to life in prison.

In 1992, after a reign lasting nearly 30 years, Johnny Carson hosted NBC's "Tonight Show" for the last time.

Ten years ago: In Tunisia, Arab leaders convened their annual summit, but the opening session was overshadowed by the walkout of Libyan

leader Moammar Gadhafi, who criticized peace efforts. Filmmaker Michael Moore's "Fahrenheit 9/11," a scathing commentary on Bush White House actions after the September 11 attacks, won the top prize at the Cannes Film Festival. Samuel C. Johnson Jr., who'd built the family's S.C. Johnson Wax company into a consumer products giant, died at age 76.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama promised graduating midshipmen at the U.S. Naval Academy that, as their commander in chief, he would only send them "into harm's way when it is absolutely necessary." Vice President Joe Biden arrived in Lebanon to reinforce U.S. support for the government ahead of key parliamentary elections.

One year ago: Lois Lerner, an Internal Revenue Service supervisor whose agents had targeted conservative groups, swore to a House committee she did nothing wrong, then refused to answer further questions, citing her Fifth Amendment right not to incriminate herself. Chechen immigrant Ibragim Todashev, a friend of Boston Marathon bombing suspect Tamerlan Tsarnaev, was fatally shot by an FBI agent in Orlando, Florida. In a brutal daylight attack in London, two men with butcher knives hacked to death an off-duty British soldier, Lee Rigby, before police wounded them in a shootout. (The attackers were later sentenced to life in prison.)

Today's Birthdays: Singer Charles Aznavour is 90. Actor Michael Constantine is 87. Conductor Peter Nero is 80. Actor-director Richard Benjamin is 76. Actor Frank Converse is 76. Former CNN anchor Bernard Shaw is 74. Actress Barbara Parkins is 72. Retired MLB All-Star pitcher Tommy John is 71. Songwriter Bernie Taupin is 64. Actor-producer Al Corley is 59. Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, is 57. Singer Morrissey is 55. Actress Ann Cusack is 53. Country musician Dana Williams (Diamond Rio) is 53. Rock musician Jesse Valenzuela is 52. Actor Mark Christopher Lawrence is 50. White House Press Secretary Jay Carney is 49. Rhythm-and-blues singer Johnny Gill (New Edition) is 48. Rock musician Dan Roberts (Crash Test Dummies) is 47. Actress Brooke Smith is 47. Model Naomi Campbell is 44. Actress Anna Belknap is 42. Actress Alison Eastwood is 42. Singer Donnell Jones is 41. Actor Sean Gunn is 40. Actress A.J. Langer is 40. Actress Ginnifer Goodwin is 36. Actress Maggie Q is 35. Olympic gold-medal speed skater Apolo Anton Ohno is 32.

Thought for Today: "It is the people who can do nothing who find nothing to do, and the secret to happiness in this world is not only to be useful, but to be forever elevating one's uses." — Sarah Orne Jewett, American author (1849-1909).

FROM THE BIBLE

Who can say, "I have made my heart pure; I am clean from my sin"? *Proverbs 20:9.* Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

YOUR LETTERS

A Job Well Done

Rhonda Mines, Yankton
Chairperson, Parents for a Safe Prom

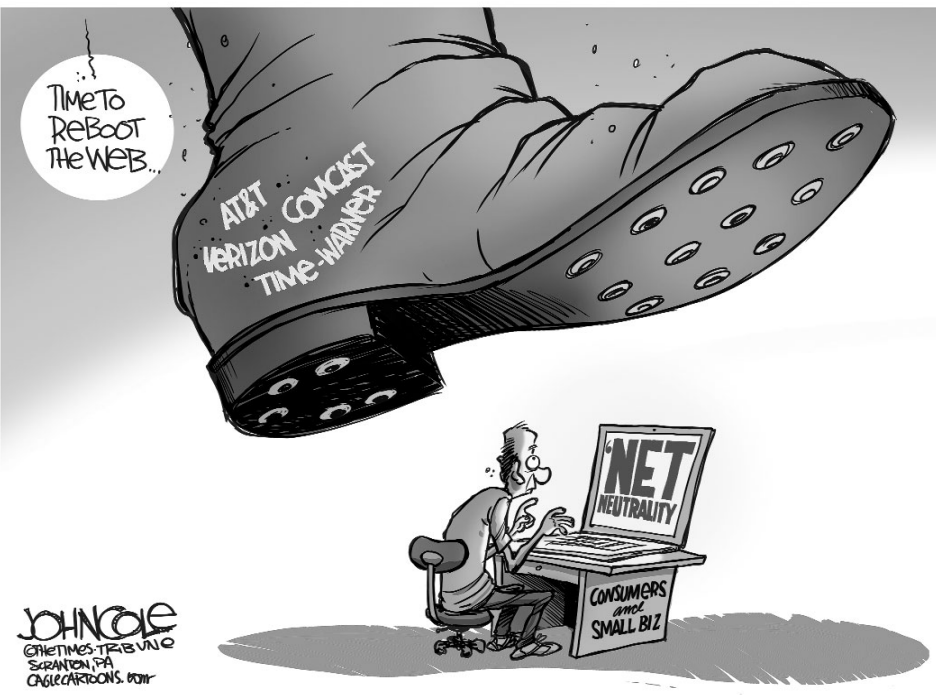
I would like to pass along a heartfelt "THANK YOU" to everyone who made this year's After Prom Party a resounding success!

It all starts with the parent volunteers, especially those on the Parents for a Safe Prom Committee, donated countless hours to organize and work at this year's event. Your efforts produced a party that was attended

and thoroughly enjoyed by approximately 280 Yankton High School students and their guests! This could not have been accomplished without the monetary donations of the junior and senior parents, and the support of the entire community.

Many businesses, organizations and individuals provided support in the form of services, merchandise and monetary donations to provide a safe alternative for students as they celebrated prom this year.

Thank you all so very much!



Writer's Block

An Unexpected Journey:
A Test Of Inner Strength

BY JIM VAN OSDEL

For the Press & Dakotan

My wife, Kathy, was devastated when I sold her car. She was a social worker in her work and social organizer in her retirement, running kids and grandkids on errands and shopping. She had not realized, in recent days, her daughter and granddaughter were afraid to ride with her when she was behind the wheel.

You see, my wife is the face of Alzheimer's.

With all the other challenges we have faced in our life together for almost 43 years — surgeries, debilitating botched surgeries, fibromyalgia and various "kid problems" — we did not see this coming. But ours is not a new story.

As we keep in touch with email friends, mostly far-flung high school classmates, relatives and a few daily associates, they have been made aware, via daily visits and emails, of our current struggle.

I have told them that I have learned through my reading and experience that one of every six seniors will die from Alzheimer's disease.

Some in our immediate family have been made aware that quite a few medical doctors and health practitioners insist Alzheimer's and other such "old age" diseases are preventable, but that is another story, related, but cannot be told here in this venue, not yet.

Our troubles began about six years ago when a practicing physician in Sioux Falls informed Kathy that she was in early but severe stages of Alzheimer's — even though she had negotiated the busy streets of the city to locate his office. But then he let her leave his office and find her way home. Swell guy.

We have been making routine visits to see another longtime associate and practicing psychiatrist in Sioux Falls. He knew Kathy when she was a social worker in a nursing home where the physician's mother was a resident. Kathy had then kept the physician/son abreast of his mother's condition.

Now he has treated Kathy as a patient since 2000 and monitors Kathy's progression and medications, serving us well as a mentor through this, yet another ordeal. But he is retiring at age 78 and we will now have to find an-

other doctor to guide us.

Alzheimer's is an unwelcome guest in our house. We must learn to live with it. But when you wander into the kitchen to find your wife silently weeping at the stove, admitting she cannot remember how to turn on the burner to begin dinner, the realization hits home.

We are coping. Someone else now does the laundry, dishes, cooking. We used to have "discussions" about who was responsible for all these chores. But now there is no discussion.

My wife always was a good sleeper. Now she sleeps more than usual but that is OK. I believe deep sleep helps rejuvenate the body and Kathy needs all the help she can get. But her mobility is better and we even danced several times New Year's Eve at the Elks Lodge.

Such challenges drive us to become students. We have become attuned to the opinions of medical doctors, chiropractors, researchers and other health practitioners who insist that oxidative stress is behind all these old-age diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's.

What is oxidative stress? Ask chefs why they must rinse apples and bananas with lemon juice when preparing fruit for a salad. Without the lemon juice treatment, the fruit turns brown, like rust. That is oxidative stress — exposure to a necessity, oxygen, which when introduced to the blood system through the lungs begins a "rusting," aging process.

My brother, Dan, helped us find an inexpensive supplement which, I most firmly believe, has kept Kathy walking and out of a wheelchair. She simply could not dance at our 40th anniversary party in September 2011.

But as they say, that is another page in another story. This current saga is a page at a time, and usually does not have a happy ending. We are striving to edit the usual ending of these stories.

Kathy recently called her younger sister to admit she believes she is beginning to fail, another indicator of her amazing inner strength which allowed her to be such a good listener and counselor in her professional life. That courage and strength will continue to serve our family for some time to come, we hope.

Warning: Literature Happening

BY KATHLEEN PARKER

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WASHINGTON — Just when you thought American higher learning couldn't get any more ridiculous, along come demands for warning labels on provocative works of literature.

One never knows when a sentence, phrase or word might trigger some buried memory or traumatic experience. Life is a veritable assault on the excessively sensitive, but somehow most of us muddle through. *C'est la vie*, after all.

But literature, apparently, is fair game for those tortured souls who fear that some -ism or another might leap from a page, causing what exactly? A moment of discomfort? An opportunity to sort through one's emotional attic? Or, heavens, exposure to an involuntary insight?

Several schools (including Oberlin College, Rutgers University, George Washington University and the University of Michigan) are toiling with these very questions as students have begun requesting "trigger warnings" on books and syllabuses.

"Warning: This book includes a rape scene," for example, would warn rape victims lest they be traumatized by the contents.

Mightn't students Google a book in advance of reading if they're so fearful of a psychological crisis? One is surprised that student organizers at these schools would use such a loaded word as "trigger," given its obvious association with guns.

Without making light of anyone's ethnicity, race or trauma, especially rape or stress disorder suffered by veterans (another specific group of concern), such precautions are misplaced in an institution of higher learning where one is expected to be intellectually challenged and where one's psychological challenges are expected to be managed elsewhere.

There are, besides, other ways to inform oneself about a course or literary assignment that might be problematic for whatever reason. Then again, if reading "The Great Gatsby" causes one undue angst owing to its abuse, classism, sexism and whatever-ism, then one might consider that college is not the right place at the right time.

Moreover, part of literary criticism is understanding the historical context of a given work. Thus, when the egregiously offensive N-word appears in the "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn," is it too much to ask that readers reflect upon the

Jim
VAN OSDELKathleen
PARKER

word's usage when Mark Twain wrote the book?

Within that understanding is a world of learning, from the history of race to the evolution of language. Instead, we are enslaved to "responsible pedagogical practice," as one sympathetic faculty member put it. Thus, a draft guide at Oberlin College suggests flagging anything that could "disrupt a student's learning" or "cause trauma."

"Be aware of racism, classism, sexism, heterosexism, cissexism [transgender discrimination], ableism and other issues of privilege and oppression. Realize that all forms of violence are traumatic, and that your students have lives before and outside your classroom, experiences you may not expect or understand."

I don't know about you but I'm presently suffering acute trauma caused by being trapped in a world full of (you say it, not me). What is the -ism that refers to discrimination against relatively sane people who can read "The Merchant of Venice" without a therapist on speed dial? Normalism? But then, this would be offensive to people who are ...

The mind left free to wander happens upon a vacant building that used to house thousands of volumes. Now a museum, it was once called a library. Which is to say, a list of books that might be offensive to someone, or cause one to ponder the universe beyond one's personal experience, would be so long as to make libraries obsolete. Most if not all of Shakespeare and the Greek tragedies would require so many labels they'd look like a Prius in Portland.

Let I leave anyone unoffended, studying at the adult level, that is, in an institution of higher learning, isn't supposed to make one feel good — or necessarily bad. It is to make one feel challenged, excited by new ideas, elevated by fresh insights, broadened by others' perspectives.

Obviously, one should be sensitive but also sensible. We also might expect that professors, guided by their own educations, common sense and goodwill, might mention the potential to find some words or expressions disturbing. But requiring labels on books is the busywork of smallish minds — yet another numbing example of political correctness run amok and the infantilizing of education in the service of overreaching sensitivity.

Kathleen Parker's email address is kathleenparker@washpost.com.