

views

PAGE 4

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OPINION OTHER VIEWS

Robbing Consumers Of Food Information

PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE (May 22): The World Trade Organization said (last week) the U.S. violates international trade pacts by requiring "country of origin" labels on packages of meat. Although the practice benefits consumers, who deserve to know where their beef and pork come from, it's likely to end because of pressure from Canada and Mexico.

Two days later, the House Agriculture Committee voted 38-6 to repeal the law that puts such labels on meat. It's the start of an ironic capitulation in a month when President Barack Obama said, "No trade agreement is going to force us to change our laws.

The president made the statement at Nike headquarters May 6 in a speech about the Trans-Pacific Partnership. The $\ensuremath{\mathbb{W}}\xspace{TO}$ decision is not related to that proposed agreement but was in response to longstanding complaints from Mexico and Canada that the U.S. labeling requirements unfairly hurt their sales. American meat processors despise the rules, too, saying they require segregation of imported animals and onerous record-keeping.

Increasingly health-conscious consumers, however, rightly look to labels for assurance of quality, and they trust products made, grown and raised in the United States.

Two years ago, a *Consumer Reports* study showed 78 percent of Americans prefer to buy U.S. products, and 60 percent prefer to do so even if they cost more. Labels become even more important when it comes to produce and meat, which, unlike a pair of imported socks, has the potential to kill you if carrying E. coli or mad cow disease.

Emboldened by the WTO ruling, Mexico and Canada vow to retaliate economically if the U.S. doesn't change its label policy. Ontario says it will impose punitive tariffs on 38 products including wine, orange juice, cereal and — horrors — ketchup.

This summons a platitude: With friends like this, who needs enemies? Cooler heads would find compromise, but with American meat processors also clamoring for change, new labels are likely coming, even though consumers are right to have a beef with that.

&D LETTER POLICY

The **PRESS & DAKOTAN** invites its readers to write letters to the editor. We ask 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

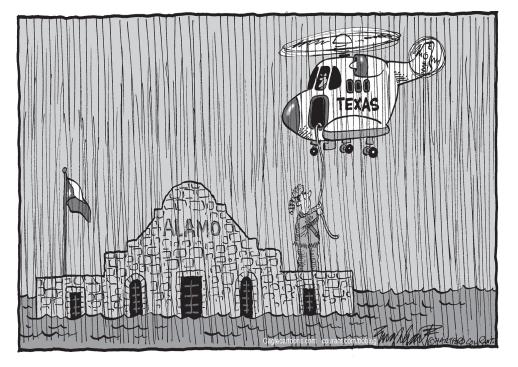
• Specific individuals or entities addressed in letters may be given the opportunity to read the letter prior to publication and be allowed to answer the letter in the same issue.

 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 us at kelly.hertz@yankton.net/.

in history

By The Associated Press Today is Thursday, May 28, the 148th day of 2015. There are 217 days left in the year.

where he personally confronted the spreading damage wrought by the crude gushing into the Gulf of Mexico from the BP blowout — and the bitter anger rising onshore. Suspected Islamist militants at-tacked two mosques packed with hun-



Writer's Block

True Yankton 'Citizen'

BY JIM VAN OSDEL For the Press & Dakotan

As proofreaders at the Press and Dakotan in the early 1960s, we often had some spare time to read other newspapers from the area which were placed in racks at our table. One of my favorites was the Mitchell paper which carried regular columns by their regional news

editor, Les Helgeland. Helgeland had the ability to infuse a great sense of humor into his reporting. When asked by his editor to cover the Alcoholics Anonymous convention, he came back to the paper with a story and with a picture of the new officers. The editor did not take to the idea right away but, in recognition of the large convention in town, the next day the paper carried a picture of the new AA "officers," a picture of four empty chairs

So I was delighted when the P&D publisher hired Helgeland as his new executive editor. But the new editor was a tough task master. And he drove himself just as hard, arriving at the office by 6:30 or 7 a.m. and circulation (numbers of subscribers) continued to increase.

One of the reasons for the increased number of subscribers was the fact that Helgeland knew what his readers wanted to read. He was a conservative and the editorial pages of the Press and Dakotan reflected that vein.

But the P&D once carried a letter to the editor from Dick Kneip, then Democrat governor of South Dakota. Kneip wrote to express his appreciation to Helgeland and the Yankton daily for printing editorials on the editorial page and for not "editorializing" in stories on other pages, as did larger dailies of the time, according to Kneip.

Kneip appreciated the abilities and achievements of the conservative editor and appointed Les Helgeland to serve as the S.D. Bicentennial committee chair in 1974. And the current GM dealer in Yankton at the time, Louie Wudel, also appreciated him and loaned Helgeland a new Chevy to drive as the Bicentennial chairman.

When sports reporters were sent to cover football or basketball games, the new editor insisted they return with pictures of the cheerlead-He said that the parents and grandparents

to lunch where citizens of the community had occasion to meet the editor of the P&D. Helgeland would return to the office the next morning and have a list of at least four or five area residents for the area news editor to call on for

news stories. The P&D would be full of stories about that town though out the next 10 days. It sure made sense to me.

One morning in 1970, Helgeland and Hod Nielsen, the P&D sports editor, were waiting for Harry Speece, the now, very happy and busy circulation manager, to come in so the three could go to coffee. Helgeland said that he had been thinking that some stellar citizen of Yankton should be officially recognized for their contributions to the community as Yankton's "Citizen of the Year" and that the publisher of the *P&D* would be happy to sponsor the award.

Perhaps it was Nielsen or Speece who happened to glance out the window of the *P&D* news office just as the legendary Yankton College educator and coach, Carl I. Youngworth, walked past. One or the other quickly commented, "There goes our first Citizen of the Year," and so it came to pass that Youngworth was the initial "Citizen" in 1971.

This is for edification of current newspaper staff who apparently do not know the origin of the "Citizen" award they share annually.

Helgeland shared the art of news reporting with many fledgling "reporters." There are a few of us who greatly respected Helgeland and who believe he should have been nominated for the award but he died unexpectedly at the age of 62 in 1983.

As I tap these keys, I am reminded of one of my duties of the news office, writing obituaries. I had written what the funeral director had dictated to me, that someone had died suddenly.

Les provided a stern correction. "Everyone dies suddenly. They either are or they are not. They may die unexpectedly but we do not use suddenly in our obits"

Several months after we lost Les, Lenny Koupal, area news editor, and I were seated at our desks. He was writing up his story on the school board meeting he had covered that night and I was working on my City Commission meeting story Lenny asked over shoulder "Is it now Yankton High School or Yankton Senior High" We had a new publisher and editor by then. With all the changes that were being implemented by the fledglings, I responded that, "It is 180 degrees from wherever Les would want it. I guess it is now Yankton Senior High School.' And so it goes. Some of us are very fortunate to remember Les, a true newsman.



VAN OSDEL

eannine Econom Jeremy Hoeck Sarah Lvnde Nicole Myers Robert Nielsen Diana Smallwood David Stephenson Cathy Sudbeck JoAnn Wiebelhaus Brenda Willcuts

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Today's Highlight in History: On May 28, 1945, the novel "Brideshead Revisited" by Evelyn Waugh was published in London by Chapman & Hall.

On this date: In 1533, the Arch-bishop of Canterbury, Thomas Cranmer, declared the marriage of England's King Henry VIII to Anne Boleyn valid.

In 1892, the Sierra Club was organ-ized in San Francisco. In 1912, the Senate Commerce Com-

mittee issued its report on the Titanic disaster that cited a "state of absolute unpreparedness," improperly tested safety equipment and an "indifference to danger as some of the causes of an "unnecessary tragedy." In 1929, the first all-color talking pic-

ture, "On with the Show!", produced by Warner Bros., opened in New York.

In 1934, the Dionne quintuplets — Annette, Cecile, Emilie, Marie and Yvonne were born to Elzire Dionne at the family farm in Ontario, Canada.

In 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt pushed a button in Washington signaling that vehicular traffic could begin crossing the just-opened Golden Gate Bridge in California. Neville Chamberlain became prime minister of Britain.

In 1940, during World War II, the Bel-gian army surrendered to invading German forces

In 1959, the U.S. Army launched Able, a rhesus monkey, and Baker, a squirrel monkey, aboard a Jupiter missile for a suborbital flight which both primates survived.

In 1961, Amnesty International had its beginnings with the publication of an article in the British newspaper The Ob-server, "The Forgotten Prisoners."

In 1977, 165 people were killed when fire raced through the Beverly Hills Supper Club in Southgate, Kentucky. In 1985, David Jacobsen, director of

the American University Hospital in Bei-rut, Lebanon, was abducted by pro-Iranian kidnappers (he was freed 17 months later)

In 1998, comic actor Phil Hartman of "Saturday Night Live" and "NewsRadio" fame was shot to death at his home in Encino, California, by his wife, Brynn, who then killed herself.

Ten years ago: Two bombs exploded about 15 minutes apart in a crowded mar-ket in the Christian-dominated Indonesian town of Tentena, killing at least 22 people and wounding 40.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama visited Grand Isle, Louisiana,

FROM THE BIBLE

The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. Luke 16:22. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Connections

The Connections Board, Yankton

Connections, a local not-forprofit corporation is dedicated to providing social activities to adults with developmental disabilities in the Yankton area.

Our board and the greater than 120 adults we serve would like to thank the United Way, Yankton Bowl (Jim Palmer) and

dreds of worshippers from a minority sect in eastern Pakistan; at least 93 people were killed and dozens wounded. Gary Coleman, the former child star of the 1970s TV sitcom "Diff'rent Strokes," died at Utah Valley Regional Medical Center in Provo two days after suffering a brain hemorrhage; he was 42.

One year ago: Seeking to redefine America's foreign policy for a postwar era, President Barack Obama told West Point graduates the United States remained the only nation with the capacity to lead on the world stage but argued it would be a mistake to channel that power into unrestrained military adventures. Maya Angelou, 86, a Renaissance woman who survived the harshest of childhoods to become a force on stage, screen and the printed page, died in Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Today's Birthdays: Rockabilly singer-musician Sonny Burgess is 86. Actress Carroll Baker is 84. Producer-director Irwin Winkler is 84. Actor John Karlen is 82. Basketball Hall-of-Famer Jerry West is 77. Actress Beth Howland is 74. Former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani is 71. Singer Gladys Knight is 71. Actress-director Sondra Locke is 71. Singer Billy Vera is 71. Singer John Fogerty is 70. Country musician Jerry Douglas (Alison Krauss and Union Station) is 59. Actor Louis Mustillo is 57. U.S. Rep. Mark San-ford, R-S.C.., is 55. Actor Brandon Cruz (TV: "The Courtship of Eddie's Father") is 53. Country singer Phil Vassar is 51. Ac-tress Christa Miller is 51. Singer-musician Chris Ballew (Presidents of the USA) is 50. Rapper Chubb Rock is 47. Singer Kylie Minogue is 47. Actor Justin Kirk is 46. Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., is 44. Olympic gold medal figure skater Ekaterina Gordeeva is 44. Television personality Elisabeth Hasselbeck is 38. Actor Jake Johnson (TV: "New Girl") is 37. Actor Jesse Bradford is 36. Actress Monica Keena is 36. Actress Alexa Davalos is 33. Actress Megalyn Echikunwoke is 33. Pop singer Colbie Caillat is 30. Actress Carey Mulligan is 30. Actor Joseph Cross is 29. Thought for Today: "Courage is the

most important of all the virtues, because without courage you can't practice any other virtue consistently. You can practice any virtue erratically, but nothing consist-

The Center (Christy Hauer) for

facility contributions. Without

their generosity and willingness

to help, the dances, socials, din-

ners and bowling opportunities

provided would not be possible.

serving those with developmen-

tal disabilities in the Yankton

Thank you for assisting us in

their generous financial and

ently without courage." - Maya Angelou (1928-2014).

area.

of the cheerleaders would buy extra copies to share. Circulation continued to rise.

It was a routine for Les Helgeland to put his editorial page "to bed" by 9:30 a.m. (we were an afternoon paper at that time) and then inform his staff he would be out of office for the rest of the day. He liked to visit area towns, including Freeman, where many of the residents subscribed to the Mitchell paper.

He would call on the community banker who would then take the newsman to coffee and then

Sanders' Foul Socialist Odor

BY MICHELLE MALKIN

Creators.com

Socialist genius Bernie Sanders has figured out what's really ailing America.

Our store shelves have too many different brands of deodorant and sneakers Just look at all those horrible, fully

stocked aisles at Target and Walgreens and Wal-Mart and Payless and DSW and Dick's Sporting Goods. It's a national nightmare! If only consumers had fewer choices in the free market, fewer entrepreneurs offering a wide variety of products and fewer workers manufacturing goods people wanted, Sanders believes, we could end childhood hunger.

Nobody parodies the far left better than far-leftists themselves.

In an interview with financial jour-

nalist John Harwood on Tuesday, Sanders detailed his grievances with an overabundance of antiperspirants and footwear. "You don't necessarily need a choice of 23 underarm spray deodorants or of 18 different pairs of sneakers when children are hungry in this country. I don't think the media appreciates the kind of stress that ordinary Americans are working on.'

Try to suppress a snicker: Sanders, Decider of Your Sanitary and Footwear Needs, is casting himself as the Everyman in touch with "ordinary Americans" to contrast his campaign with Hillary "my Beltway lobbyist and foreign agent operator Sid Blumenthal is just a friend I talk to for advice" Clinton.

Blech. By the looks of the 2016 Democratic presidential field, liberals really do practice the anti-choice principles they preach.

At Caracas-on-the-Green Mountains, every business owner's success robs starving babies of vital nutrition. Because some tummies may be grumbling somewhere across the fruited plains, all must suffer. In Sanders' world, it's the "greedy"- America's real makers, builders and wealth creators - who must be punished and shamed, specifically with a personal income tax rate hiked to a whopping 90 percent for top earners.

Of course, the wealth redistributors in Washington never bear any of the blame for misspending the billions they confiscate. Nearly 100 million Americans participated in dozens of federal food assistance programs in 2014. The

General Accounting Office reported last year that \$74.6 billion went to food stamps, \$11.3 billion went to the national school lunch program, and \$7.1 billion went to the WIC (Women, Infants and Children) program, along with \$1.9 billion for nutrition assistance for Puerto Rico and \$10.7 million for a federal milk program.

But no, it's not the fault of command-and-control bureaucrats and their overseers on Capitol Hill that the War on Poverty and the War on Hunger have failed.

In Sanders' bubble, childhood hunger is the fault of selfish consumers, self-serving entrepreneurs and rapacious retailers who engage in voluntary transactions in a free-market economy. Just as Sanders believes there are "too many" products on the shelves, President Obama recently opined that families of America's top earners in the financial industry "pretty much have more than you'll ever be able to use and your family will ever be able

to use."

We need not speculate about whether the wealth-shamers' recipe of less capitalist consumption, fewer private businesses, stifling of entrepreneurship and more government control over goods and services would result in happier citizens and fuller stomachs. In Venezuela, the shelves are unburdened by "too many" deodorants and shoes and too much soap, milk or coffee. Food distribution is under military control. The currency of the socialist paradise just collapsed on the black market by 30 percent.

Here in America, dozens of private household goods companies make billions of dollars selling scented, unscented, quilted, two-ply, white and colored toilet paper that people want and need. In Sanders' utopia in South America, the government imposed price controls in the name of redistributing basic goods to the poor and seized a toilet paper factory to cure the inevitable shortages. The lines are long. The shelves are empty. The daily battle for subsistence is brutal.

Take it from those who suffer most under the unbridled fulfillment of "you didn't build that" and "you don't need that" radicalism: It stinks.

Michelle Malkin is author of the new book "Who Built That: Awe-Inspiring Stories of American Tinkerpreneurs." Her e-mail address is malkinblog@gmail.com.

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