



THE CLIFF'S TOP/RIGHT  
BY MICHAEL REAGAN  
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# Republican Suckers

BY MICHAEL REAGAN  
CagleCartoons.com

Republicans had better learn from history — and from Ronald Reagan's mistake.

President Obama and his fellow big-spenders in Congress are promising if they get higher tax rates today they'll make even higher spending cuts tomorrow.

It's an old sucker's game. Republicans — and the rest of the country — should know it by now, because for three decades we've all been suckers.

If history is our guide, and Republicans in Congress don't grow a spine, by this time next year we'll have higher taxes, higher spending, more debt and a bigger government.



Michael REAGAN

Twice before, Republicans have been fooled into playing the Democrats' con game. It happened to my father early in his first term when he sought to close a growing federal deficit caused by the deep economic recession. He believed Democrats in Congress would keep their pledge to make \$3 in future spending cuts for every \$1 in immediate tax increases.

In 1982 he signed a compromise tax bill with the horrible name of TEFRA — the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act. And, when those promised spending cuts never materialized in Congress, TEFRA became one of the biggest regrets of my father's presidency.

My father was duped by the duplicity of Democrats. And so was George H.W. Bush less than a decade later, when he foolishly allowed himself to be taken for the same ride.

In 1990's budget wrangling, which was aimed at reducing the federal budget deficit by \$500 billion over five years, Bush 41 was seduced by the Democrats' promise of making \$2 in spending cuts for every \$1 in tax hikes.

The first Bush fell for it completely, reneging on his "Read my lips, no new taxes" pledge, opening the door for "tax-cutter" Ross Perot and losing in 1992 to Bill Clinton.

Even before he was de-elected, Bush 41 regretted the "bargain" he had made with Democrats. In March of 1992, the sucker in chief said, "I thought this one compromise — and it was a compromise — would result in no more tax increases.

"I thought it would result in total control of domestic

discretionary spending. And now we see Congress talking about raising taxes again. So, I'm disappointed, and given all of that, yes, (it was) a mistake."

Fast-forward to "Nightmare on Obama Street, Part II." We have trillion-dollar federal deficits as far as our children's eyes can see. We have an economy that's looking at four more years of low growth and higher taxes.

And now some Republicans in Congress — who apparently don't have a piece of conservative cartilage left in their bodies — are getting ready to be duped again.

What's that old saying? "Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me." Well, Republicans look like they are about to be fooled for the third time, which is so stupid there's no adage to describe it.

While my father was bargaining with Democrats in 1982 over spending and tax cuts, he spoke over the heads of Congress to the American people.

"In a few days the Congress will stand at the fork of two roads," he said. "One road is all too familiar to us. It leads ultimately to higher taxes. It merely brings us full circle back to the source of our economic problems, where the government decides that it knows better than you what should be done with your earnings and, in fact, how you should conduct your life. The other road promises to renew the American spirit. It's a road of hope and opportunity. It places the direction of your life back in your hands where it belongs."

America is at that same fork in the road today. Twice in 30 years Republicans have let Democrat promises lead them and the country down a one-way road to bigger and bigger government.

Double shame on us. And if the GOP allows itself to be suckered again, it won't be just another disaster for conservatism, it'll be a tragedy for the whole country.

*Michael Reagan is the son of President Ronald Reagan, a political consultant, and the author of "The New Reagan Revolution" (St. Martin's Press). He is the founder and chairman of The Reagan Group and president of The Reagan Legacy Foundation. Visit his websites at www.reagan.com and www.michaelereagan.com. Send comments to Reagan@caglecartoons.com. Follow @reaganworld on Twitter.*

# If I Ever Won \$500 Million ...

BY KELLY HERTZ  
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The headline for a story on CNN's website early this week was rather blunt about it: "Why You Won't Win The \$500 Million."

This referred to both the astonishing half-billion-dollar (ultimately, \$588 million) jackpot for the Powerball drawing Wednesday night and the even more astonishing odds of coming up with the winning numbers.

The odds were indeed long, something on the order of one chance in 175,223,510.

Oh, but to dream the dream!

What would YOU do with \$500 million?

I played with this question the day before the big drawing. Accepting the fact I had virtually no chance to win (or, as it turned out, to even get one matching number), I nevertheless began making my list of the possibilities — and, for ease of conjecture, assumed I'd get all of it without the government taking out its gargantuan chunk. Eschewing the usual answers, like paying off all my debts or buying a new car for each day of the year (that is usual, right?), I came up with the following:

- I could buy the people of Yankton County celebratory drinks — lots of them. Assuming a rough general cost of \$3.50 per draw of beer and working under the county's 2010 census of 22,438, I could buy every person in the county about 6,300 glasses of beer. Of course, a monster tip would be involved, and buying alcohol for all those minors would probably get me in some expensive trouble.



Kelly HERTZ

- I could help pay for just more than half of the Minnesota Vikings' new publicly-funded stadium. Naturally, I'd demand naming rights — not for the stadium, but for the entire state. (Denny Sanford can't have all the fun.)
- I could go a long way toward patching up South Dakota's infrastructure. According to the website, InfrastructureReportCard.org, the state has about \$756 million in deferred maintenance and construction needs.
- I could completely buy out a performance of a play at Yankton's Dakota Theatre, provided the theater was selling tickets for just more than \$83 million a pop (thus also assuming its a musical with a lot of kids in it);
- I could buy that vast expanse of land known as the Louisiana Purchase, provided someone in D.C. could give me 1803 rates as a basis. The U.S. bought all that land (which included present-day South Dakota and Nebraska, as well as all or parts of 13 other states) for about \$15 million, or 3 cents an acre. Adjusted for today's rate, that would be \$233 million, or 42 cents an acre. Talk about a Black Friday bargain.
- I could ALMOST buy the Minnesota Twins franchise, which in March was estimated by Forbes to be worth

\$510 million. I'd probably have to settle instead for the Washington Nationals, who are worth "only" \$480 million.

- I could rent out all the campsites in the Lewis and Clark Recreation Area for quite a while. According to the recreation area's website, there are 409 paved campsites and 17 cabins, and assuming a top-level rate of \$20 per night for the pads and \$42 for the cabins, I could reserve all those state-run pads and cabins every day year-round for approximately 154 years.
- I could buy South Dakota's entire alfalfa hay crop, valued last year at \$410.2 million.
- I could buy many, many lunches with Omaha financial wizard Warren Buffett. In 2010, a charity lunch date with Buffett was auctioned off through eBay for \$2.6 million. That's more than 192 million lunches, not to mention a lot of breadsticks and water.
- I could put a down payment on the "Twelve Days of Christmas." A story this week noted that the cost of the items listed in the verses of that tune would run about \$107,000 now. Thus, I could pay in advance for the next 4,673 Christmases.
- I could try to buy gasoline for every vehicle in America. The math here is tricky and broad. I saw a rough estimation that there are 300 million vehicles — including cars, pickups, etc. — in the country now. With the price of regular unleaded gas sitting at about \$3.17 a gallon, I could buy just more than a half-gallon for every one of those vehicles. It doesn't really seem worth it.

These are fun fantasies to consider, but those 1-in-175 million odds were rather daunting. According to various sources I encountered, I had better odds of:

- hitting two consecutive holes in one in golf: 1 in 156 million;
- dying in a lightning strike: 1 in 3 million;
- dying by having a vending machine fall on me: 1 in 112 million;
- being elected president: 1 in 10 million;
- dying in an asteroid strike: 1 in 12,500 (why do I find that number uncomfortably low?);
- being canonized: 1 in 20 million;
- being executed: 1 in 3,444,325 (although the odds in Texas may vary).

I mentioned earlier that my lottery wish list was based on me taking home the entire \$500 million without a tax bite (or, more likely, amputation). This stirs a question: What are the chances of that happening if I asked the government, very nicely, if I could just this one time keep all that money for myself?

The probable answer: I have better odds of winning the lottery.

You can follow Kelly Hertz on Twitter at [twitter.com/kelly\\_hertz](http://twitter.com/kelly_hertz)

## YOUR LETTERS

### Dog Gone

**Jack and Judy Gregg**  
Abby, our precious little live-in 7-year-old puppy, went missing last week. We were heart-broken not knowing what happened. We e-mailed neighbors and searched the entire neighborhood.

The next morning we called our vet at the Animal Health Clinic in case someone turned her in. We were told

by the clinic that Dakota Rescue had received a Shitzu of Abby's description. Judy went to Canine Grooming and retrieved our dog from Barb Steinberg. According to Barb, Heidi of Cork N Bottle found Abby on the Airport Road, picked her up and took her to Barb.

If you have ever lost a pet, you know what it's like. Please report a missing or found pet to your vet or groomer.

THANK YOU to Heidi, Dakota Rescue, Barb, KYNT, etc.

# THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

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## OPINION | WE SAY

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**THUMBS DOWN** to the passing this week of a very good friend and educator, Richard Anderson. He was a longtime English instructor at Yankton High School who was also the school's journalism advisor. In the latter capacity, he made YHS arguably the elite school in the state in terms of journalistic excellence. The *Woksape* newspaper won numerous state awards, and he had many students win Al Neuharth scholarships and the University of South Dakota

(which is no small feat). Some of his students also went on to do quite well in the journalism field. Dick also worked part-time for many years at the *Press & Dakotan* as a page designer, and his presence here — and that friendly spirit he brought with it — was always welcomed and, subsequently, sorely missed. We join so many other friends, family, coworkers and former students who miss him all the more now.

## The Last Day



**THUMBS DOWN** if you've waited this long to turn in a nomination for Yankton's 2012 Citizen of the Year. Today (Friday) is the deadline for getting those nominations in for the annual award. Each year, the flow of nominations always seems different; this time around, the nomination traffic started very slowly, but has speeded up greatly in the last 10 days. To nominate a Yankton resident for this award, drop off your nomination at the *Press & Dakotan*, located at 319 Walnut, or visit our website at [www.yankton.net](http://www.yankton.net). The winner will be announced in early January.

## Lighten Up



**THUMBS UP** to the holiday lights in downtown Yankton. It seems this year that there are more lights than ever, and they look great! Every time we see them, our hearts warm up a little more for the holiday season. If you haven't seen them yet, be sure to visit Historic Downtown Yankton along Third Street at night. We think your reaction will be similar. And while we're on the subject, Thumbs Up to all the fantastic holiday events going on this weekend. There is the Holiday Parade of Lights, the Gurney Landing Holiday Fair and Mount Marty's Vespers, among other things. Check out the story in today's *Press & Dakotan* for complete listings.

## 'Tis The Season ... Already?



**THUMBS DOWN** to the timing of Republican Mike Rounds' announcement of his candidacy for the Senate seat currently occupied by Democratic Sen. Tim Johnson. This isn't a condemnation of his politics or candidacy. Rather, it's simply a lament over the fact that we just got through Election Day three weeks ago, and now we already have to talk about Election 2014. Mike, can you give us a breather? At least through the New Year? Please! We guess it's too late for that now ...

## ONLINE OPINION

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

### LATEST RESULTS:

**Do you think lawmakers will strike a deal before reaching the "fiscal cliff" deadline?**  
No .....58%  
Yes .....42%

**TOTAL VOTES CAST** .....477

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:

**Do you think Sen. Tim Johnson will run for re-election in 2014?**  
To vote in the *Press & Dakotan's* Internet poll, log on to our website at [www.yankton.net](http://www.yankton.net).

## TODAY IN HISTORY

**By The Associated Press**  
Today is Saturday, Dec. 1, the 336th day of 2012. There are 30 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:** On Dec. 1, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln sent his Second Annual Message to Congress, which was read aloud by the Secretary of the Senate. In it, Lincoln called for the abolition of slavery, saying that "in giving freedom to the slave, we assure freedom to the free," and toward the end of his message, wrote: "Fellow-citizens, we can not escape history. We of this Congress and this Administration will be remembered in spite of ourselves."

**On this date:** In 1824, the presidential election was turned over to the U.S. House of Representatives when a deadlock developed between John Quincy Adams, Andrew Jackson, William H. Crawford and Henry Clay. (Adams ended up the winner.)

In 1860, the Charles Dickens novel "Great Expectations" was first published in weekly serial form.

In 1921, the Navy flew the first nonrigid dirigible to use helium; the C-7 traveled from Hampton Roads, Va., to Washington, D.C.

In 1934, Soviet communist official Sergei M. Kirov, an associate of Josef Stalin, was assassinated in Leningrad, resulting in a massive purge.

In 1941, Japan's Emperor Hirohito approved waging war against the United States, Britain and the Netherlands after his government rejected U.S. demands contained in the Hull Note.

In 1942, nationwide gasoline rationing went into effect in the United States.

In 1952, the *New York Daily News* ran a front-page story on Christine Jorgensen's sex-reassignment surgery with the headline, "Ex-GI Becomes Blonde Beauty."

In 1955, Rosa Parks, a black seamstress, was arrested after refusing to give up her seat to a white man on a Montgomery, Ala., city bus; the incident sparked a year-long boycott of the buses by blacks.

In 1969, the U.S. government held its first draft lottery since World War II.

In 1973, David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first prime minister, died in Tel Aviv at age 87.

In 1989, Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev met with Pope John Paul II at the Vatican.

In 1992, in Mineola, N.Y., Amy Fisher was sentenced to 5 to 15 years in prison for shooting and seriously wounding Mary Jo Buttafuoco. (Fisher served seven years.)

**Ten years ago:** Colombia's largest right-wing paramilitary group declared a

unilateral cease-fire in its long-running battle against leftist rebels. Russia won its first Davis Cup title by rallying to beat defending champion France 3-2. Edward Latimer "Ned" Beach, the U.S. Navy captain who wrote the best-selling undersea thriller "Run Silent, Run Deep," died in Washington at age 84.

**Five years ago:** Police in Wichita, Kan., identified a body found days earlier as that of Emily Sander, a missing college student whose disappearance drew added attention after the discovery she was also an Internet porn model named "Zoey Zane." (A suspect, Israel Mireles, was convicted of rape and murder and sentenced to life in prison with no chance of parole.) Four suspects were charged in Miami in the shooting death of Washington Redskins star Sean Taylor. (One ended up pleading guilty to second-degree murder; a fifth suspect was also charged.)

**One year ago:** Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, on a groundbreaking visit to Myanmar, challenged its leaders to continue and expand upon recent reforms, calling for the release of all political prisoners, an end to violent campaigns against ethnic minorities and a breaking of military ties with North Korea. Bobby Valentine was named the 45th manager of the Boston Red Sox. (However, he was fired after one season.)

**Today's Birthdays:** Former CIA director Stansfield Turner is 89. Singer Billy Paul is 78. Actor-director Woody Allen is 77. World Golf Hall of Famer Lee Trevino is 73. Singer Dianne Lennon (The Lennon Sisters) is 73. Country musician Casey Van Beek (The Tractors) is 70. Television producer David Salzman is 69. Rock singer-musician Eric Bloom (Blue Oyster Cult) is 68. Rock musician John Denimore (The Doors) is 68. Actress-singer Bette Midler is 67. Singer Gilbert O'Sullivan is 66. Actor Treat Williams is 61. Country singer Kim Richey is 56. Actress Charlene Tilton is 54. Actress-model Carol Alt is 52. Actor Jeremy Northam is 51. Producer-director Andrew Adamson is 46. Actor Nestor Carbonell is 45. Actress Golden Brooks is 42. Actress-comedian Sarah Silverman is 42. Actor Ron Melendez is 40. Contemporary Christian singer Bart Millard is 40. Actor-writer-producer David Hornsby is 37. Singer Sarah Masen is 37. Rock musician Brad Delson (Linkin Park) is 35. Actor Nate Torrence is 35. Rock/Christian music singer-songwriter Mat Kearney is 34. Rock musician Mika Fineo (Filter) is 31. Actress Ashley Monique Clark is 24.

**Thought for Today:** "Life begins when a person first realizes how soon it will end." — Marcelene Cox, American writer.

## FROM THE BIBLE

*Jonathan made David swear again by his love for him, for he loved him as he loved his own soul. 1 Samuel 20:17.* Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

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