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OPINION | OTHER THOUGHTS

Spying And A Double-Edged Sword

AIKEN (S.C.) STANDARD (Oct. 29): Mass surveillance of American citizens hit the news cycle first. Now, international spying on foreign leaders by the National Security Agency — or NSA — has hit the headlines.

This has undoubtedly infuriated individuals overseas, fueling concerns that American officials are indiscriminately collecting vast amounts of mobile phone and email data globally. It's really no secret that our country collects data from sources around the world. So does every intelligence service with such capabilities internationally. They likely also spy on the U.S. or would if they could.

However, our security officials need to ensure we're collecting information because we need to, not merely because we can.

For instance, Spanish media reports indicated the NSA allegedly spied on 60 million phone calls placed in Spain between Dec. 10 of last year and Jan. 8. Those reports followed the revelation that the NSA eavesdropped on millions of phone calls in France and other countries.

In the post-9/11 world, that may be what it takes to keep the world safe. However, such measures must be weighed against the needs of our international relationships and ever increasing global economy.

Some heads of state have indicated the allegations have deteriorated trust in the Obama administration. This could come back to hurt us during trade agreement negotiations or when we really do need intelligence information that we haven't gathered ourselves.

While counterterrorism efforts are obviously vital, spying on close allies seemingly does more to undermine our relationships than anything else. An inside memo obtained by *The Guardian* newspaper indicated that eavesdropping on foreign leaders actually produced "little reportable intelligence."

We should not lose sight of the mission to keep America safe, but analyzing the political and economic costs and benefits of international spying is still essential.

ON THIS DATE

By The Associated Press
Today is Thursday, Oct. 31, the 304th day of 2013. There are 61 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Oct. 31, 1517, Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses on the door of the Wittenberg Palace church, marking the start of the Protestant Reformation in Germany.

On this date: In 1795, English poet John Keats was born in London. In 1864, Nevada became the 36th state.

In 1887, Nationalist Chinese leader Chiang Kai-shek was born in Zhejiang Province.

In 1926, magician Harry Houdini died in Detroit of gangrene and peritonitis resulting from a ruptured appendix.

In 1938, the day after his "War of the Worlds" broadcast had panicked radio listeners, Orson Welles expressed "deep regret" but also bewilderment that anyone had thought the simulated Martian invasion was real.

In 1941, the Navy destroyer *USS Reuben James* was torpedoed by a German U-boat off Iceland with the loss of some 100 lives, even though the United States had not yet entered World War II. Work was completed on the Mount Rushmore National Memorial in South Dakota, begun in 1927.

In 1959, a former U.S. Marine showed up at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow to declare he was renouncing his American citizenship so he could live in the Soviet Union. His name: Lee Harvey Oswald.

In 1961, the body of Josef Stalin was removed from Lenin's Tomb as part of the Soviet Union's "de-Stalinization" drive.

In 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson ordered a halt to all U.S. bombing of North Vietnam, saying he hoped for fruitful peace negotiations.

In 1984, Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was assassinated by two Sikh (seek) security guards.

In 1992, Pope John Paul II formally proclaimed that the Roman Catholic Church had erred in condemning the astronomer Galileo for holding that the Earth was not the center of the universe.

In 1994, a Chicago-bound American Eagle ATR-72 crashed in northern Indiana, killing all 68 people aboard.

In 1999, EgyptAir Flight 990, bound from New York to Cairo, crashed off the Massachusetts coast, killing all 217 people aboard.

In 2001, New York hospital worker Kathy T. Nguyen (nwen) died of inhalation anthrax, the fourth person to perish in a spreading wave of bioterrorism.

Ten years ago: A man angry at a lawyer over the handling of his trust fund was captured on videotape shooting and wounding the attorney by crews covering actor Robert Blake's murder case in Van Nuys, Cal-

ifornia. (The shooter, William Strier, was later convicted of attempted murder and sentenced to life in prison plus 25 years.) Teen surfing star Bethany Hamilton lost her left arm in a shark attack off Kauai, Hawaii. Abdullah Ahmad Badawi was sworn in as Malaysian prime minister, ending Mahathir Mohamad's 22-year reign.

Five years ago: President George W. Bush signed an executive order restoring the Libyan government's immunity from terror-related lawsuits and dismissing pending compensation cases. Pulitzer Prize-winning author Studs Terkel died in Chicago at age 96.

One year ago: President Barack Obama joined Republican New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie for a tour of damage along the New Jersey coast from Superstorm Sandy; Christie said he "can't thank the president enough" for his concern and compassion. Wall Street was back in business after a two-day shutdown caused by the storm; stocks finished mixed. With New York's subways shut down, parts of the city were paralyzed by traffic gridlock; New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced that limited subway service would resume the next day. National Guard troops delivered meals and other supplies and evacuated stranded residents in Hoboken, N.J., amid complaints that relief efforts had been slow.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Lee Grant is 88. Former astronaut Michael Collins is 83. Former CBS anchorman Dan Rather is 82. Folk singer Tom Paxton is 76. Actor Ron Rifkin is 75. Actress Sally Kirkland is 72. Actor David Ogden Stiers is 71. Actor Brian Doyle-Murray is 68. Actor Stephen Rea is 67. Olympic gold medal long-distance runner Frank Shorter is 66. Actress Deirdre Hall is 65. Talk show host Jane Pauley is 63. Actor Brian Stokes Mitchell is 56. Movie director Peter Jackson is 52. Rock musician Larry Mullen is 52. Actor Dermot Mulroney is 50. Rock musician Mikkey Dee (Motorhead) is 50. Rock singer-musician Johnny Marr is 50. Actor Rob Schneider is 49. Country singer Darryl Worley is 49. Actor-comedian Mike O'Malley is 48. Rap musician Adrock is 47. Songwriter Adam Schlesinger is 46. Rap performer Vanilla Ice (aka Rob Van Winkle) is 45. Rock singer Linn Berggren (Ace of Base) is 43. Reality TV host Troy Hartman is 42. Gospel singer Smokie Norful is 40. Actress Piper Perabo is 37. Actor Brian Hallisay is 35. Actor Eddie Kaye Thomas is 33. Rock musician Frank Iero (My Chemical Romance) is 32. Actor Scott Clifton is 29. Actress Vanessa Marano is 21. Actress-singer Willow Smith is 13.

Thought for Today: "I would venture to guess that Anon, who wrote so many poems without signing them, was often a woman." — Virginia Woolf, English author and critic (1882-1941).

FROM THE BIBLE

For we do not want you to be ignorant, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. 2 Corinthians 1:8. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

YOUR LETTERS

You Made A Difference

Lauren Hanson, Yankton

United Way & Volunteer Services

People of all ages shared their spirit on Oct. 26 for Make a Difference Day.

One of the largest Make a Difference Day projects in the area was the 18th annual Coat & Winter Wear Giveaway held at the Human Services Center. This event, hosted by the Yankton Volunteer Leaders and United Way & Volunteer Services of Greater Yankton, distributed more than 800 warm clothing items, including coats, boots, hats, gloves and snow pants.

It takes a community to make projects successful and the following people/organizations need to be especially thanked for the Coat & Winter Wear Giveaway. The principals and students at the Yankton Public Schools and Sacred Heart Schools for organizing the school clothing collections; Avera Sacred Heart Hospital, the Boys & Girls Club of Yankton, Payless Shoes and Maurice's for being community drop-off locations; Will Kennedy and the Yankton Boys Scout Troops for picking up the donations; and the Yankton Volunteer Leaders for organizing, sorting, and helping set up this

yearly event. And a big thank you to Leah Brandt from HSC; you are the glue that sticks the whole project together.

A thank you also needs to be extended to all those who helped with set up on Thursday and those who enjoyed assisting with the distribution of the winter items on Saturday: Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) volunteers, local and Clothing Closet volunteers; and finally, all the people that donated their much needed and appreciated coats and warm winter items. In just an hour and a half you helped keep your neighbors warm with more than 300 coats and more

than 500 other winter-wear items being distributed. This event will continue to warm those in need throughout the winter months with the help of the Clothing Closet.

To everyone that contributed to the many community projects from rehabbing a home, collecting and donating items for the Contact Center, to volunteering your time at the Winter Wear Giveaway and Clothing Closet, THANK YOU! And remember to mark your calendars for the fourth Saturday in October 2014 for next year's Make a Difference Day.



YEARS LATER HE WOULD BELIEVE, WITH ALL HIS HEART, THE PROMISE THAT HE COULD KEEP HIS HEALTH CARE PLAN IF HE LIKED HIS HEALTH CARE PLAN.

Writer's Block

Dedicated To The Fight

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF

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The Yankton boys basketball team took to the Corn Palace floor last January, preparing to battle host Mitchell in an Eastern South Dakota Conference contest.

But first, the two rivals became one team.

The Mitchell squad held a pre-game ceremony dedicated to those facing cancer, particularly breast cancer. The Yankton team was invited to take part in the dedication and accepted the offer.

The battle against breast cancer held special meaning for at least one member of the Mitchell team, said Yankton head boys basketball coach Chris Haynes.

"Mitchell informed us that they were doing a dedication," Haynes said at the time. "The mom of one of Mitchell's players, Cole Morgan, was diagnosed with breast cancer a few years ago."

Stacy Morgan, Cole's mother, uses her diagnosis as an opportunity to help others. She formed the "You'll Never Walk Alone" organization in 2009 as a support group for people undergoing cancer treatment.

Yankton coach Haynes was informed of last January's pre-game ceremony in the days prior to the Bucks' game with the host Kernels.

"Mitchell contacted us and asked if there was anyone who we would like to dedicate the game to," he said at the time. "We chose two staff members (Judy Tereshinski and Michelle Fleeer). I informed the ladies that we would be playing for them, and they graciously accepted."

At the time, Tereshinski was teaching Spanish at Yankton High School — she retired last spring after 43 years, all with the Yankton School District — while Fleeer was teaching at Stewart Elementary School.

Tereshinski and Fleeer shared their stories as breast cancer survivors for last year's "Pink Edition" of the *Press & Dakotan*. They spoke of the bond they shared in supporting each other. The two women also spoke about the tremendous support they received from others, including their students and fellow staff members.

However, the two teachers told the *Press & Dakotan* shortly after the Yankton-Mitchell basketball game that — even with the support they already received at school — they were unprepared for having a game dedicated to them.

"I was surprised when I was contacted about

the Mitchell game," Fleeer said at the time. "I was touched that the Mitchell athletic director called our AD, Ryan Mors, to ask if Yankton would like to dedicate the game to anyone, and touched that I was included in that dedication with Judy (Tereshinski)."

Fleeer said she was particularly surprised, since she didn't teach at Yankton High School.

"Because I teach in an elementary school, I haven't had the opportunity to know many of the Bucks players or coaching staff," she said. "That made it a special honor for me to be recognized with Judy, who is so loved by everyone at YHS."

The dedication reinforced Fleeer's realization that others are battling cancer — but also that family, friends and even strangers offer their love and support.

"There are so many people battling cancer right now, and at later and more aggressive stages than I had to deal with," she said. "I hope all this awareness soon leads to some advancements in research and treatment options."

Like Fleeer, Tereshinski said at the time that she was surprised by her selection for the pre-game ceremony in Mitchell.

"I received the email about the dedication from the administration on Friday morning the day of the game and was totally overwhelmed," she said.

"I sent my best wishes to the coaches and players and extended a hearty 'THANK YOU' for the gesture of cancer awareness. I guess one must never forget how caring our coaches and students are!"

The Yankton team was also touched during the past year by the example of Pierre athlete Conrad Adam, which raised awareness that cancer can strike young people, Tereshinski said.

Yankton High School students have shown support for Conrad, who has been declared cancer-free, through "Conrad's Clan." They have also supported fellow YHS student Adam Walter in his cancer battle through "Walter's Warriors."

For Tereshinski, the Mitchell dedication ceremony provided a moment lasting far after the game's final buzzer and the Bucks' 60-46 victory.

"I was humbled and will continue to be humbled by the kindness of all," she said.

You can follow Randy Dockendorf on Twitter at twitter.com/RDockendorf. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net.

Wall Street's Fed Fixation

BY BRAD SCHILLER

© 2013, Los Angeles Times

Fed Chairman Ben S. Bernanke could not have been more precise about the projected cutbacks in the monthly \$85 billion bond-buying program. He said in December that the Fed would continue the program until the national unemployment rate fell to 6.5 percent. And the person nominated to succeed him, Janet Yellen, who is widely viewed as an inflation dove, isn't likely to raise that target.

That announcement was a historic shift not only in Fed policy (which had heretofore set inflation triggers but not unemployment triggers) but also in the transparency of Fed policy (would Alan Greenspan ever have been so explicit?).