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OPINION OTHER VIEWS

Clinton And Her 'Transparency'

THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER (Oct. 6): Hillary Clinton seems to have ripped a page from the Barack Obama playbook in addressing the ongoing controversy over work-related — and even classified — emails she kept on her private, unsecured server.

"I have gone further than anybody that I'm aware of in American history," Clinton said of the release of her email messages at a town hall hosted by NBC's "Today Show" on Monday. While acknowledging the relatively short history of email technology, "I've gone longer and farther to try to be as transparent as possible," she asserted. "Nobody else has done that."

Her statement recalls President Obama's dubious claim, apparently made with a straight face, in February 2013 that his administration is "the most transparent administration in history." Never mind that it has broken its own record this year for censoring or denying access to information made through Freedom of Information Act requests, including those concerning Clinton's emails. Recall that it took a lawsuit by the Associated Press to gain access to such information, and subsequent judicial rulings to address the State Department's foot-dragging on their release.

The administration's lack of transparency and disdain for the freedom of the press and (other people's) privacy is reflected in Freedom House's annual Freedom of the Press indexes. While the United States is still among the "Free" nations in the index, it is no longer the paragon of First Amendment rights that it once was, and now ranks tied for just 31st out of the 63 "Free" nations.

The U.S. has seen a marked drop in its ranking in recent years, from tied for 16th in 2007. This is due to the Obama administration's unprecedented prosecution of whistleblowers, the Edward Snowden revelations about wiretapping and other government spying on journalists (not to mention the general public), "relatively rigid controls on the information coming out of the White House and government agencies" and "detentions, harassment and rough treatment of journalists by police during protests in Ferguson, Missouri," Freedom House notes.

The Ennalsgate scandal is emblematic of the government's hypocrisy in proclaiming privacy for itself, but not for its wee subjects. Given her behavior and erroneous statements over her emails, we should expect more of the same if Clinton takes over the White House.

ABOUT THIS PAGE

The View page provides a forum for open discussion of issues and interests affecting our readers. Initialed editorials represent the opinion of the writer, but not necessarily that of the PRESS & DAKOTAN. Bylined columns represent the view of the author. We welcome letters on current topics. Questions regarding the Views page should be directed to Kelly Hertz at kelly.hertz@yankton.net/.

IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press
Today is Thursday, October 8, the 281st day of 2015. There are 84 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On October 8, 2005, a magnitude 7.6 earthquake flattened villages on the Pakistan-India border, killing an estimated 86,000 people.

On this date: In 1869, the 14th president of the United States, Franklin Pierce, died in Concord, New Hampshire.

In 1871, the Great Chicago Fire erupted, fires also broke out in Peshtigo, Wisconsin, and in several communities in Michigan.

In 1890, American aviation hero Eddie Rickenbacker was born in Columbus, Ohio.

In 1918, U.S. Army Cpl. Alvin C. York led an attack that killed 25 German soldiers and captured 132 others in the Argonne Forest in France.

In 1934, Bruno Hauptmann was indicted by a grand jury in New Jersey for murder in the death of the kidnapped son of Charles and Anne Morrow Lindbergh.

In 1945, President Harry S. Truman told a press conference in Tiptonville, Tennessee, that the secret scientific knowledge behind the atomic bomb would be shared only with Britain and Canada.

In 1956, Don Larsen pitched the only perfect game in a World Series to date as the New York Yankees beat the Brooklyn Dodgers in Game 5, 2-0.

In 1957, the Brooklyn Baseball Club announced it was accepting an offer to move the Dodgers from New York to Los Angeles.

In 1967, former British Prime Minister Clement Attlee died in London at age 84.

In 1970, Soviet author Alexander Solzhenitsyn was named winner of the Nobel Prize for literature.

In 1982, all labor organizations in Poland, including Solidarity, were banned.

In 1998, the House triggered an open-ended impeachment inquiry against President Bill Clinton in a momentous 258-176 vote; 31 Democrats joined majority Republicans in opening the way for nationally televised impeachment hearings.

Ten years ago: An Associated Press Television News crew covering the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina videotaped three New Orleans police officers beating retired teacher Robert Davis. (Two of the officers involved were fired; one of them, Lance Schilling, committed suicide, while the other, Robert Evangelist, was cleared of battery and false imprisonment and reinstated to the police force.) Auto supplier Delphi Corp. filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. (Delphi emerged from bankruptcy protection in 2009.)

Five years ago: Imprisoned Chinese dissident Liu Xiaobo won the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize, prompting a furious response from China. British aid worker Linda Norgrove, who'd been taken captive in Afghanistan, was killed during a U.S. special forces rescue attempt, apparently by a U.S. grenade. Gen. James Jones announced he was quitting as President Barack Obama's national security adviser. Albertina Walker, the Grammy-winning singer from Chicago known as the "Queen of Gospel," died at age 81.

One year ago: President Barack Obama told top military commanders at the Pentagon that he was confident the U.S. would keep making progress in its fight against the Islamic State group. Thomas Eric Duncan, a Liberian man who was the first person diagnosed with Ebola in the United States, died at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Dallas 10 days after being admitted. U.S. researchers Eric Batzig and William Moerner and German scientist Stefan Hell were named recipients of the Nobel Prize for chemistry for giving optical microscopes much sharper vision than was thought possible.

Today's Birthdays: Entertainment reporter Fiona Barrett is 79. Actor Paul Hogan is 76. Rhythm-and-blues singer Fred Cash (The Impressions) is 75. Civil rights activist Rev. Jesse Jackson is 74. Comedian Chevy Chase is 72. Author R.L. Stine is 72. Actor Dale Dye is 71. Country singer Susan Raye is 71. TV personality Sarah Purcell is 67. Rhythm-and-blues singer Airion Love (The Stylistics) is 66. Actress Sigourney Weaver is 66. Rhythm-and-blues singer Robert "Kool" Bell (Kool & the Gang) is 65. Producer-director Edward Zwick is 63. Country singer-musician Ricky Lee Phelps is 62. Actor Michael Dudikoff is 61. Comedian Darrell Hammond is 60. Actress Stephanie Zimbalist is 59. Rock musician Mitch Marine is 54. Actress Kim Wayans is 54. Rock singer Steve Perry (Cherry Poppin' Daddies) is 52. Actor Ian Hart is 51. Gospel/rhythm-and-blues singer CeCe Winans is 51. Rock musician C.J. Ramone (The Ramones) is 50. Actress-producer Karyn Parsons is 49. Singer-producer Teddy Riley is 49. Actress Emily Procter is 47. Actor Dylan Neal is 46. Actor-screenwriter Matt Damon is 45. Actress Kristanna Loken is 36. Rhythm-and-blues singer Byron Reeder (Mista) is 36. Rock-soul singer-musician Noelle Scaggs (Fitz and the Tantrums) is 36. Actor Nick Cannon is 35. Actor Max Crumm is 30. Singer-songwriter-producer Bruno Mars is 30. Actor Angus T. Jones is 22. Actress Molly Quinn is 22.

Thought for Today: "Don't let yesterday use up too much of today." — Will Rogers, American humorist (1879-1935).

FROM THE BIBLE

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you. 1 Peter 1:3-4. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Need To Do Better

Gregg and Susan Spindler, Cazenovia, N.Y.
We are the parents of Maegan Elizabeth Spindler, a 25-year-old victim of a double-DUI killing in Pickstown in 2013 along with her supervisor, Dr. Robert Klumb. Both were on-duty for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, standing in a parking lot during daylight, run down at highway speed. While this horror is etched in our minds, we have solace in knowing she rests in eternal peace with our Lord.

What other good may come from such a horror?
Being professional statisticians, we read

the South Dakota Department of Public Safety's annual "Crash Report," released last month. The governor introduced the report in a letter exclaiming "good news on other fronts!" for DUIs, asserting that, in the past two years, DUI crashes have dropped 11.5 percent.

Unfortunately DUI crashes actually increased in 2014, averaging close to 1,000 per year since 2007. Deaths increased substantially from 42 in 2013 to 47 in 2014. Injuries are down modestly, which was good. But progress has stalled for eight years, after reductions across the board between 2002-2007.

Referring to the sentence our daughter's

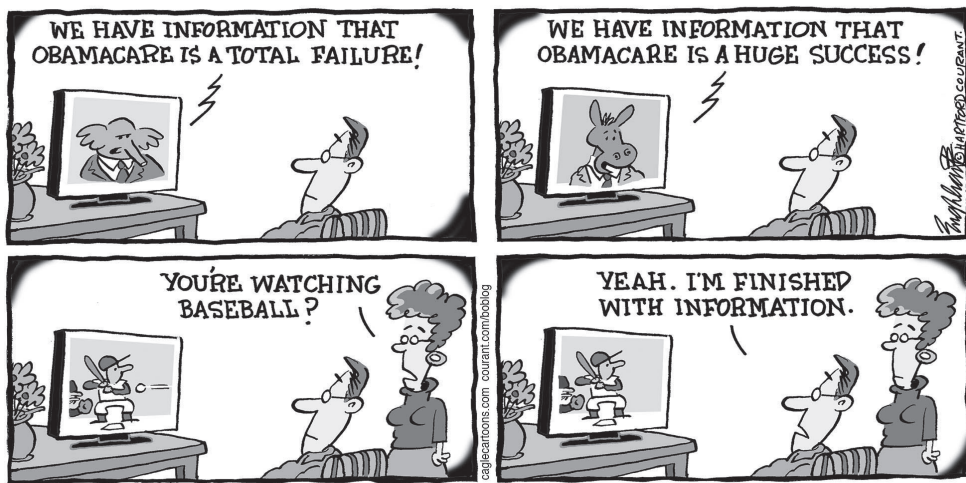
killer received, Attorney General Marty Jackley said, "This case demonstrates the need for legislative review of South Dakota's vehicular homicide law ..." We hope he is able to convince legislators to change the law.

But this isn't enough; a stronger deterrent is needed.

Ninety-three percent of all fatal incidents involve first-time DUI offenders, like our daughter's killer. They drive drunk 80 times on average before arrest. Deterrence means more effective DUI enforcement with swift, certain and severe penalties. Education and adequate funding is needed. Rural cities and counties simply don't have sufficient

manpower, while the state Highway Patrol does. County governments bear the burden of enforcement and adjudication. Make the drunk drivers pay the enforcement tab with administrative fees and increased fines. Why should homeowners and other taxpayers foot their bill?

The governor stated, "I will do whatever I can to keep these hazardous individuals off the road." We call upon him to make good on his promise by proposing DUI reform legislation. There's been enough suffering and victims. Please let your elected representatives know this.



Writer's Block

Dealing With Her Own 'Garden'

BY JIM VAN OSDEL
For the Press & Dakotan

It is difficult to believe that it has only been 18 months since readers have had the opportunity to learn of our family's experience with Alzheimer's disease. What is even more difficult about this disease is to have to watch your wife deal with her own "Garden of Gethsemane" experience.

There are times when my resilient wife is overcome when contemplating her future and she weeps piteously with the expectation of losing her faculties and her mind, knowing there will be a time she cannot remember names of her children and her caretaker, her spouse.

My wife, Kathy, was diagnosed with Alzheimer disease in 2009 and by November of 2011, her mind could no longer tell her how to move her legs to get out of the car to get into church. I thought to myself, "I get to buy a wheelchair tomorrow."

When tomorrow came, my younger brother, Dan, called with information on a nutritional supplement which had been helpful for others. We began the supplement Dec. 6, 2011. The supplement is said to help the body fight oxidative stress which many scientists believe to be the cause of Alzheimer's and others.

Some folks who earned a degree in medicine, and many of those who have not, have no idea of what this is and think it is bull manure. Go to Wikileaks and search "oxidative stress."

I spent three weeks in 1965 at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Md., a tony address area adjacent to Washington, D.C., where congressmen like to live. This is a large hospital operated on taxpayer money. NIH has a website which catalogues peer-reviewed medical studies authored by researchers. These folks do no post bull manure on their website, unless some medical researcher has made a peer-reviewed study of such, probably at taxpayer expense.

Researchers at home can log onto www.pubmed.gov to access these research studies logged by NIH. When one logs onto this website, one may search "oxidative stress." Last time I checked, as I wrote this, there were more than 149,000 studies posted, with 3,479 studies on Alzheimer's disease and oxidative stress alone. Not bull manure. The information is there should

Leonard Pitts Jr.

Bush Family's War On English

BY LEONARD PITTS JR.
Tribune Content Agency

And the Bush family's War on English continues. You are, by now, familiar with the astonishingly tone-deaf response by Jeb Bush, the nation's would-be 45th president, to last week's shooting at a community college in Oregon in which a gunman killed nine people. "Look," said Bush, "stuff happens."

Like a stink bomb in the flower bed, the dismissive-sounding words were buried in a longer comment about whether this latest massacre should spur new legislation. Said Bush: "...I don't think more government is necessarily the answer to this ... I had this challenge as governor, because we had ... look, stuff happens. There's always a crisis and the impulse is always to do something and it's not necessarily the right thing to do."

When a reporter asked about the wording afterward — perhaps trying to spare Bush some grief — the former Florida governor turned attitudinal. "No, it wasn't a mistake," he said. "I said exactly what I said. Explain to me what I said wrong."

"You said, 'stuff happens,'" said the reporter. "Whereupon, Bush hunkered deeper into his snit. "Things happen all the time," he said. "Things. Is that better?"

Um ... no.

And the pasting that followed was entirely predictable. Bush was slammed by Hillary Clinton and President Obama. In *Mother Jones*, the liberal magazine, his words were called "callous." In *Salon*, they were dubbed "tactless, graceless and ham-handed."

But let's not miss what's truly offensive here. At one level, after all, this is just a new round of the gaffe gotcha game where you strip clumsy language of inconvenient context so as to imply the candidate said or meant something he never said or meant. So let's be fair: Bush was not being callous toward the Oregon tragedy any more than Barack Obama was denying small businesspersons their due when he said, "you didn't build that." Rather, Bush simply offered an inarticulate statement of GOP orthodoxy: There are no legislative responses to mass gun violence.

you choose to simply read it.

But I digress. When one is thrust into such a situation as with dealing with an incurable condition, one often has to do considerable research on one's own. I did not learn of www.pubmed.gov or oxidative stress from a medical professional but they have heard plenty of it from me.

Our psychiatrist friend in Sioux Falls corrected my previous story by explaining that patients do not die from Alzheimer's disease. They die with Alzheimer's but from some other dire medical condition.

A caring neighbor who lives across the street from us said her father lived 20 years with Alzheimer's disease. My wife has a long row to hoe and she is deathly afraid of the consequences.

But with the help from my brother, Dan, and the good Lord, we keep on plugging.

After more than six years dealing with Alzheimer's disease and four years of the nutritional supplement, Kathy is still functioning — at home. She still enjoys her sleep but she is then at peace.

When she arises, she does need help getting the shower spray to work, the hair dryer is simply unfathomable and she needs help getting dressed. She tells me to just pick something out. Decisions are unbearable. She is French and Irish, was a social worker for years and helped direct many life situations for many people. She has always known exactly what she wants. Now, these decisions are agonizing.

She has enjoyed, the last two months, having breakfast, lunch and activities three days a week with a peer group, clients of the memory care unit at Majestic Bluffs. Only one problem today: Breakfast was biscuits and gravy. Kathleen Ann is not a B and G person and can make a quick decision on that one.

Has the nutritional supplement my brother recommended helped?

Four years ago, Kathy slept all day in her chair and could not seem to figure out how to get her legs moving to get out of the car for church. Today, six years after a diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease, she is back on the road and going to enjoy the day at Majestic Bluffs. And she will probably want to have dinner at the Elks Lodge Friday night where many folks do not even know she has Alzheimer's disease.

You tell me.

And while that's a point some of us would dispute, it is not what makes his words appalling. No, what makes them appalling is the surrender they imply.

"Stuff happens?"

That's what you say about the hurricane or the earthquake, the hail storm or the flood, natural disasters beyond the power of humankind to prevent. It's what you say about cancer or Alzheimer's or dog droppings on the lawn, the major and minor challenges that are an inescapable part of being alive.

To say "stuff happens" about a mass shooting is to suggest that mass shootings are somehow inevitable and unavoidable. But that is simply not true. This "stuff" doesn't happen everywhere — not with the numbing frequency it does here.

It doesn't happen like this in Great Britain. It doesn't happen like this in Brazil. It doesn't happen like this in Israel.

It doesn't happen like this in Japan, where gun ownership is strictly restricted, nor in Canada, where gun ownership laws are more liberal and there are, by one count, about 10 million firearms in private hands.

Ten million. Yet, you know how many gun homicides there were in Canada in 2013? A hundred and thirty-one.

Even as we mourn this latest mass murder, another is taking shape. Maybe tomorrow. Maybe next week. That's how predictable this "stuff" has become.

So it would behoove us to try and figure out what other countries know that we do not, what it is about our laws and/or our national character that returns us inevitably to this nexus of tragedy and recrimination week after week. You see, Bush is only half right.

It is not that "stuff happens."
No, stuff happens here.

Leonard Pitts is a columnist for *The Miami Herald*, 1 Herald Plaza, Miami, Fla., 33132. Readers may contact him via e-mail at lpitts@miamiherald.com.

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