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OPINION

Taking Action Against Bullying

ou might say that Yankton's Webster Elementary School is teaching children how to fight.

That is, the school is teaching its students to fight back against bullying - not with physical confrontation, but by diffusing situations and exposing hurtful incidents.

For the fourth straight year, the school is participating in the Olweus Bullying Prevention program, which instills in kids the power to confront bullying and protect others who are victims of such incidents. They become allies — not antagonists — in an effort to put an end to a damaging social practice that has, frankly, been around since the dawn of humankind. It's simply the way we're wired, and anti-bullying programs like this try to do something about it.

The school held its kickoff rally for the program Monday. The Webster gymnasium was aglow with enthusiasm for the effort, which is quickly becoming, for lack of a better word, a tradition at the school. Bullying is characterized as repetitive aggression in which there is

an imbalance of power. It can cause long-lasting damage to the victims. We all think we know what bullying is (although it's tough sometimes to recognize what it isn't), but many of us would probably be shocked by how this arena of abuse has expanded. It's no longer simply

about name-calling or taunting. Now there's cyber bullying, which can include online harassment; vicious, anonymous trolling; exposing sensitive personal information; posting embarrassing images and so on. The Internet and social media can give full reign to such demons. According to one recent report, 14 percent of high school students in the U.S. report being bullied through electronic means last year. Based on what we've seen on things ranging from scams, online comments and social media posts, the possibilities here seem frightfully limitless.

That's why addressing the problem with kids is essential. Teaching them how to resist and thwart the abusive nature of bullying can have immense benefits.

One point made Monday by Webster Principal Melanie Ryken rings particularly true: In regards to bullying at school, it's not adults who can stop it, it's the kids themselves. That's why it's smart and practical to arm them with the knowledge and the tools to address it.

There is no way to completely eradicate bullying from social interactions. There is always someone who may push that line, perhaps even without seeing it as bullying; and there will always be those who "go along" with the situation as bystanders who do not intercede. But steps like those taken at Webster School, which may seem modest to some, can have practical benefits for the long term. They may even make these kids better people by preventing them from becoming, even without intending it, bullies themselves. It's a lesson in compassion that is priceless

kmh

IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press Today is Wednesday, Oct. 28, the 301st day of 2015. There are 64 days left i the year

Today's Highlight in History: On Oct. 28, 1965, Pope Paul VI issued a Dec-laration on the Relation of the Church with Non-Christian Religions which, among other things, absolved Jews of collective guilt for the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. On this date: In 1636, the General Court of Massachusetts passed a legisla-

tive act establishing Harvard College. In 1776, the Battle of White Plains

was fought during the Revolutionary War, resulting in a limited British victory. In 1886, the Statue of Liberty, a gift from the people of France, was dedicated in New York Lendon to Prance and Control in New York Harbor by President Grover

call for the destruction of Israel Five years ago: Investigators with the president's oil spill commission said tests performed before the deadly blowout of BP's oil well in the Gulf of Mexico should have raised doubts about the cement used to seal the well, but that the company and its cementing contractor used it anyway. (The cement mix's failure to prevent oil and gas from entering the well has been cited by BP and others as one of the causes of the accident.) Caro-ling Wozniacki wrapped un the vaseend line Wozniacki wrapped up the year-end No. 1 ranking after rallying to beat Franc-esca Schiavone 3-6, 6-1, 6-1 at the WTA Championships in Doha, Qatar. Stage and screen actor James MacArthur, who played "Danno" in the original version of television's "Hawaii Five-0," died in Jack-



Paging Mr. Blumenthal

BY KATHLEEN PARKER

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WASHINGTON - Who the blast is Sidney Blumenthal?

Doubtless many watching Thursday's House select committee hearing on Benghazi must have wondered the same. This obviously important person's name was mentioned so many times, it was challenging to remember that Hillary Clinton, not he, was the one on

trial, for lack of a more-accurate word. Short answer: Blumenthal is a

longtime Clinton family friend and confidant going back 30 years. Nicknamed "Sid Vicious," think of him as the Clintons' Lee Atwater.

Longer answer: Blumenthal is a former journalist who has worked for the Clinton Foundation and for Media Matters, the watchdog group that savages journalists who fail to fully grasp the Clintons' pivotal importance to humanity's salvation.

More to the committee's interest, Blumenthal was busy with Libya-related emails to then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton at the same time he was advising business interests in Libya. His correspondence seemed to be of monumental importance to committee Chair Trey Gowdy of South Carolina, who repeatedly questioned Clinton about Blumenthal's emails. Did she solicit them? Did she read them? Why did she respond that he should continue emailing her?

None of this was remotely relevant to the alleged purpose of the hearing - to find out once and for all what happened before, during and after that terrible night in Benghazi when four Americans, including Ambassador Christopher Stevens, were killed. The real purpose was as obvious as the shine on Gowdy's nose - to discredit Clinton both as secretary of state and as a leading presidential candidate - and, if possible, to make her head explode. All the questions about Blumenthal's emails ultimately resulted in a rather wispy point: That he had Clinton's personal email address and Stevens, also a friend, did not.

The only "news" to emerge from the hearing was email corroboration that Clinton knew immediately after the attacks that they were committed by terrorists and not by street demonstrators reacting to a dumb video, as initially and serially reported. This fact, now indisputable, suggests a range of explanations, from deliberate deceit to incompetence at the highest levels.

want the world to know that their Libya mission had failed, so they blamed it on the anti-Islam video then in circulation. More horrid is the suggestion that Clinton purposely denied extra security to Stevens lest her role in directing our

Libya policy be tarnished. People will believe what suits them. But the more probable truth concerning Benghazi is that the early story was a deception with a pur-

pose, which was to buy time until the administration and the CIA could figure out how to manage the crisis without exposing the intelligence agency's operation in the area.

There may be no satisfactory explanation for why Stevens wasn't provided more security after multiple requests or why those requests never reached Clinton's desk. She testified that security requests were handled by experts further down the line and noted she had more than 200 ambassadors in her charge. But Libya was special by virtue of Clinton's role in molding our policy there, as was Stevens, whom Clinton handpicked to wade into the fire.

She has accepted responsibility both for what happened and for what didn't work systemically under her watch, which is about all she can do short of stepping into a live volcano. And though tropes such as "terrible things happen in terrible places" and "mistakes were made" bring no solace to the bereaved, they are nonetheless true in theaters of chaos.

Speaking of which, whatever Republicans hoped to accomplish in the hearing, they fell embarrassingly short. You don't have to like Clinton to objectively observe that the hearing was little more than a prolonged reiteration of known bungling characterized by contempt-coated questions delivered with near-hatred. At times, I thought lasers might suddenly burst from Ohio Republican Jim Jordan's eyes and incinerate Clinton on the spot.

At the end of a very long day, most people know what they think of Clinton and now they know what can be known about Benghazi. Takeaways from the hearing, however, accrue to candidate Clinton's benefit. She displayed the mental discipline of a Jedi, the physical stamina of a boxer, and the patience of a basilisk, a fair imitation of which she maintained through spells of bickering among committee members. Finally, any pretense that the committee and hearing weren't politically motivated was shattered by the Republican's strategy itself - yet another deception with a purpose that backfired.

Kathleen PARKER

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Clevelar

In 1914, Yugoslav nationalist Gavrilo Princip, whose assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria and Sophie, Duchess of Hohenberg, sparked World War I, was sentenced in Sarajevo to 20

years' imprisonment. (He died in 1918.) In 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt rededicated the Statue of Liberty on its 50th anniversary In 1940, Italy invaded Greece during

World War II In 1958, the Roman Catholic patriarch

of Venice, Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli, was elected Pope; he took the name John XXIII. The Samuel Beckett play "Krapp's Last Tape" premiered in London.

In 1962, Soviet leader Nikita Khrush-chev informed the United States that he had ordered the dismantling of missile bases in Cuba; in return, the U.S. secretly greed to remove nuclear missiles from U.S. installations in Turkey. In 1964, the "T.A.M.I. Show," a two-day

rock concert filmed for theatrical release, opened in Santa Monica, California.

In 1976, former Nixon aide John D. Ehrlichman entered a federal prison camp in Safford, Arizona, to begin serving his sentence for Watergate-related convic-tions (he was released in April 1978).

In 1980, President Jimmy Carter and Republican presidential nominee Ronald Reagan faced off in a nationally broad-cast, 90-minute debate in Cleveland.

In 1991, what became known as "The Perfect Storm" began forming hundreds of miles east of Nova Scotia; lost at sea dur-ing the storm were the six crew members of the Andrea Gail, a swordfishing boat from Gloucester, Massachusetts.

Ten years ago: Vice President Dick Cheney's top adviser, I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby, resigned after he was indicted on charges of obstructing a grand jury investigation and lying about his actions that blew the CIA cover of an Iraq war critic's wife. (Libby was convicted of most of the counts brought against him, but had his 30-month prison sentence commuted by President George W. Bush.) More than a million demonstrators flooded the streets of Tehran and other major cities in Iran to back President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's

FROM THE BIBLE

Behold, I have given you authority ... over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. Luke 10:19. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

March Of Success!

Jennifer Prussa, Yankton

I would like to congratulate Todd Carr and the YHS Marching Corps on a terrific season! They have performed their show—a powerful performance based on the musical "Les Misérables" — at two home football games and five marching competitions. These dedicated students have practiced and performed more than 150 hours throughout the summer and fall, all while balancing their other commitments to sports, jobs,

Florida, at

One year ago: An unmanned com-mercial supply rocket bound for the International Space Station exploded mo-ments after liftoff, with debris falling in flames over the launch site in Virginia. A video was posted online by a group called Hollaback/ showing actress Shoshana Roberts being verbally accosted by men as she silently walked through Manhat-tan over a 10-hour period; the video "went viral," spurring outrage and sparking discussions about the pervasiveness of street harassment that women face. The World Series was evened at three games each as the Kansas City Royals routed the San Francisco Giants 10-0.

Today's Birthdays: Jazz singer Cleo Laine is 88. Actress Joan Plowright is 86. Musician-songwriter Charlie Daniels is 79. Actress Jane Alexander is 76. Actor Dennis Franz is 71. Pop singer Wayne Fontana is 70. Actress Telma Hopkins is 67. Olympic track and field gold me-dalist Caitlyn Jenner is 66. Actress An-nie Potts is 63. Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates is 60. The former president of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, is 59. Rock musician Stephen Morris (New Order) is 58. Country/gospel singer-musician Ron Hemby (The Buffalo Club) is 57. Rock singer-musician William Reid (The Jesus & Mary Chain) is 57. Actor Mark Derwin is 55. Actress Daphne Zuniga is 53. Ac-tress Lauren Holly is 52. Talk show host-comedian-actress Sheryl Underwood is 52. Actress Jami Gertz is 50. Actor Chris Bauer is 49. Actor-comedian Andy Richter is 49. Actress Julia Roberts is 48. Country singer-musician Caitlin Cary is 47. Actor Jeremy Davies is 46. Singer Ben Harper is 46. Country singer Brad Paisley is 43. Actor Joaquin Phoenix is 41. Singer Jus-tin Guarini (TV: "American Idol") is 37. Pop singer Brett Dennen is 36. Rock musician Dave Tirio (Plain White T's) is 36. Actor Finn Wittrock is 31. Actress Troian Bellisario is 30. Singer/rapper Frank Ocean is 28. Actor Nolan Gould is 17.

Thought for Today: "If liberty means anything at all, it means the right to tell people what they do not want to hear." — George Orwell (Eric Blair), English author (1903-1950).

academics and family, to name

If you haven't been able to

performing it in the YHS gym on

Nov. 5 at 7 p.m. Come out and

support these terrific young

be disappointed. And to all

people. I guarantee you won't

you Band and Guard members,

thank you for your hard work

and congratulations on a won-

Thanks for letting me be

your "Band Mom." I am ex-

tremely proud of you!

see the show or want to see

it one more time, they will be

just a few.

derful season.

Republicans have focused on a narrative that is too ghastly to imagine. One theory is that Clinton and the Obama administration didn't

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

Robert B. Reich On Leaders And Demagogues

BY ROBERT B. REICH

Tribune Content Agency

Among the current crop of candidates for president of the United States, who exhibits leadership and who doesn't?

Leadership isn't just the ability to attract folowers. Otherwise some of the worst tyrants in history would be considered great leaders. They weren't leaders; they were demagogues. There's a difference

A leader brings out the best in his followers. A demagogue brings out the worst.

Leaders inspire tolerance. Demagogues incite

Leaders empower the powerless; they give them voice and respect. Demagogues scapegoat the powerless; they use scapegoating as a means to fortify their power.

Leaders calm peoples' irrational fears. Demagogues exploit them.

My list of great American leaders would include Abraham Lincoln, Susan B. Anthony, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Frances Perkins and Martin Luther King Jr.

In his second inaugural address near the end of the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln urged his followers to act "with malice toward none, with charity for all.

In his first inaugural at the depths of the Great Depression, Franklin D. Roosevelt told Americans "the only thing we have to fear is fear itself - nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts.

In 1963, as African-Americans demanded their civil rights, Martin Luther King Jr. urged his followers "not to seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred.

My list of American demagogues would include Sen. "Pitchfork" Benjamin Tillman of South Carolina, who supported lynch mobs in the 1890s; Father Charles Coughlin, whose anti-Semitic radio rants in the 1930s praised Nazi Germany; Sen. Joseph McCarthy of Ŵisconsin, who conducted the communist witch hunts of the 1950s; and Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace, the staunch defender of segregation.

These men inspired the worst in their followers. They scapegoated the weak and set Americans against each other. They used fear to stoke hate and thereby entrench their power.

Back to the current crop of presidential candidates: Who are the leaders, and who are the demagogues?

The leaders have sought to build bridges with those holding different views.

Rand Paul spoke at the University of California, Berkeley, for example, seeking common ground with the university's mostly progressive students.

Bernie Sanders traveled to Liberty University, where most students and faculty disagree with his positions on gay marriage and abortion. "I came here today," he said, "because I believe from the bottom of my heart that it is vitally important for those of us who hold different views to be able to engage in a civil discourse.

Other candidates, by contrast, have fueled division. Ben Carson has said being gay is a choice. "A lot of people who go into prison go into prison straight, and when they come out they're gav." he said, "so did something happen while they were in there? Ask yourself that question.'

Carson has also argued that Muslims should not be allowed to become president: "I would not advocate that we put a Muslim in charge of this nation."

Donald Trump, meanwhile, has charged that Mexican immigrants are "bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists."

Trump has lashed out at those who he charges come to America to give birth so that their children will be, in his term, "anchor babies." He argues that "we have to start a process where we take back our country. Our country is going to hell."

After one of his followers charged at a New Hampshire town hall event that Muslims "have training camps growing where they want to kill us," and asked Trump "when can we get rid of them?" Trump didn't demur. He said, "A lot of people are saying that," and, "We're going to be looking at that.

Nor has Trump inspired the best in his followers.

At one recent rally, after Trump denigrated undocumented workers, his supporters reportedly shoved and spit on immigrant activists who had shown up to protest. At other Trump rallies, his followers have shouted at Latino U.S. citizens to "go home" and yelled "if it ain't white, it ain't right."

Trump followers have reportedly told immigrant activists to "clean my hotel room, bitch." They've beaten up and urinated on the homeless, and joked "you can shoot all the people you want that cross illegally.'

America is the only democracy in the world where anyone can declare himself or herself a candidate for the presidency – and, armed with enough money, possibly even win.

Which makes it all the more important that we distinguish leaders from demagogues.

The former ennoble our society. The latter degrade and endanger it – even if they lose.

Robert Reich is Chancellor's Professor of Public Policy at the University of California at Berkeley and Senior Fellow at the Blum Center for Developing Economies. His new book, "Saving Capitalism: For the Many, Not the Few," is out now.