



The Keystone Jihad

BY KATHLEEN PARKER

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WASHINGTON — "This time, the imbeciles have won."

That was the assessment of French philosopher Bernard-Henri Levy in his remembrance of U.S. Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens.

And he wasn't just whistling "Freres Jacques." BHL was referring to the fact that Stevens was a great friend of Libya and of the Muslim/Arab world generally.

And, they killed him (perhaps in part) because of the actions of another imbecile in the U.S. One lowlife creates an anti-Islam film that looks like a blend of "Blair Witch Project" and "Keystone Terrorists," and the unhappy Muslim world goes ballistic.

I emphasize the word "unhappy" because it is no more accurate to condemn the Muslim world for the atrocities of a relative few than it is to indict America because one lowbrow decides to upload a lousy flick that nobody otherwise would watch or even know about.

And by the way, anybody can burn a Quran. Or a Bible. Or smear feces on a crucifix. Or ... ad infinitum. We tolerate rudeness because the alternative — state-enforced politeness — leads to the guillotine.

Unfortunately, even we seem to have lost sight of the nature and causes of these incidents, which have less to do with reasons than with excuses.

The extent of our role, alas, has been exaggerated by our own actions. At least two notable missteps should be reminders about the importance of getting it right.

First, the U.S. Embassy in Cairo issued what amounted to an apology to the mobs for any hurt feelings they may have suffered because of the film in question.

But then, the America-hating, unhappy Muslim mob

isn't familiar with "Rotten Tomatoes" or even Siskel and Ebert. They watch a homemade movie trailer on their computer and see a nation of haters.

Apparently, not through any civilized response such as, "Gosh, sorry about that awful film. We don't really believe that."



Kathleen PARKER

Here on Planet Earth, where being goofy isn't a head-severing offense, one reaches without strain the following observation: The film was idiotic and not worth the attention of our president or secretary of state.

This is most certainly why Mitt Romney decided to enter the fray, for which he has been variously pilloried and heralded.

Attempting to clarify, Romney's foreign policy adviser, Rich Williamson, subsequently asserted that events would have been different under a President Romney.

Obama critics have long held that his post-exceptionalist, lead-from-behind model only invites contempt in the Middle East.

What we clearly must not convey to the Muslim world is that either a random, Quran-burning zealot or an anti-Muhammad filmmaker is remotely relevant to our foreign policy.

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OPINION | OUR VIEW

BPI Lawsuit Faces A Long Uphill Climb

It wasn't a huge surprise last week when Beef Products, Inc., (BPI) of Dakota Dunes announced it was filing a lawsuit over a television report concerning the meat product referred to as "pink slime."

The lawsuit could fairly be seen as a counteroffensive by BPI to reclaim some of its public image. The company is doing this by utilizing South Dakota's food-disparagement law, which, according to The Associated Press, "allows businesses to sue anyone if they knowingly spread false information that a food product is unsafe."

The lawsuit names American Broadcasting Companies Inc., ABC News Inc., ABC news anchor Diane Sawyer and ABC correspondents Jim Avila and David Kerley as defendants.

The actual issue is not new. Zimstein first coined the term "pink slime," referring to what the product looked like to him in its unfrozen form, back in 2002.

It wasn't until the ABC News story last March that LFTB became a widespread controversy. It was reported that 70 percent of the ground beef sold in the U.S. contained the additive.

BPI claims the ABC News reports misled the public into believing the LFTB/"pink slime" filler is unsafe for consumption.

But the lawsuit must also prove that ABC News acted irresponsibly, or even with malice, in its reporting. According to University of Wisconsin journalism professor Bob Drechsel, who was interviewed by AP, BPI will have to prove that ABC News used "obviously unreliable sources."

The best guess at this moment is that the lawsuit will not succeed, since it must go a very long way in establishing wrongdoing by the defendants.

kmh

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ONLINE OPINION

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

LATEST RESULTS:

According to a new Pew Research Center report, a third of Americans see themselves in the lower-middle or lower class — up from a quarter of Americans in 2008. Do you see yourself as being in the lower-middle or lower class?

CURRENT QUESTION:

Are you satisfied with your choices for president?

To vote in the Press & Dakotan's Internet poll, log on to our website at www.yankton.net.

TODAY IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press Today is Tuesday, Sept. 18, the 262nd day of 2012. There are 104 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Sept. 18, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed a commission naming Rabbi Jacob Frankel of Rodeph Shalom Congregation in Philadelphia the first Jewish chaplain of the U.S. Army.

On this date: In 1759, the French formally surrendered Quebec to the British. In 1793, President George Washington laid the cornerstone of the U.S. Capitol.

In 1810, Chile made its initial declaration of independence from Spain with the forming of a national junta.

In 1850, Congress passed the Fugitive Slave Act, which created a force of federal commissioners charged with returning escaped slaves to their owners.

In 1927, the Columbia Phonograph Broadcasting System (later CBS) made its on-air debut with a basic network of 16 radio stations.

In 1931, an explosion in the Chinese city of Mukden damaged a section of Japanese-owned railway track; Japan, blaming Chinese nationalists, invaded Manchuria the next day.

In 1947, the National Security Act, which created a National Military Establishment, went into effect.

In 1961, United Nations Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld was killed in a plane crash in northern Rhodesia.

In 1970, rock star Jimi Hendrix died in London at age 27. In 1975, newspaper heiress Patricia Hearst was captured by the FBI in San Francisco, 19 months after being kidnapped by the Symbionese Liberation Army.

In 1981, a museum honoring former President Gerald R. Ford was dedicated in Grand Rapids, Mich.

In 1990, the city of Atlanta was named the site of the 1996 Summer Olympics. The organized crime drama "GoodFellas," directed by Martin Scorsese, had its U.S. premiere in New York.

Ten years ago: The Bush administration pressed Congress to take the lead in authorizing force against Iraq, with Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld asserting, "It serves no U.S. or U.N. purpose to give Saddam Hussein excuses for further delay."

Thought for Today: "We want the facts to fit the preconceptions. When they don't it is easier to ignore the facts than to change the preconceptions." — Jessamyn West, American author (1902-1984).

died in 2007 at age 96.) Five years ago: President George W. Bush, cheered on by Iraq war veterans and their families on the White House's South Lawn, urged lawmakers to back his plan to withdraw some troops from Iraq but keep at least 130,000 through the summer of 2008 or longer.

One year ago: Dominique Strauss-Kahn, former head of the International Monetary Fund, broke his silence four months after a New York hotel maid accused him of sexual assault, calling his encounter with the woman a "moral failing" he deeply regretted.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Jimmie Rodgers is 79. Actor Robert Blake is 79. Former Sen. Robert Bennett, R-Utah, is 79. Actor Eddie Jones is 78. Actor Fred Willard is 73. Singer Frankie Avalon is 72. Rock musician Kerry Livgren is 63. Actress Anna Deavere Smith is 62. Basketball coach Rick Pitino is 60. College Football Hall of Famer and retired NFL player Billy Sims is 57. Movie director Mark Romanek is 53. Baseball Hall of Famer Ryne Sandberg is 53. Actor James Gandolfini is 51. All-country-rock musician Mark Olson is 51. Singer Joanne Catherall (Human League) is 50. Actress Holly Robinson Peete is 48. Rhythm-and-blues singer Ricky Bell (Bell Biv DeVoe and New Edition) is 45. Actress Aisha Tyler is 42. Racing cyclist Lance Armstrong is 41. Opera singer Anna Netrebko is 41. Actress Jada Pinkett Smith is 41. Actor James Marsden is 39. Actress Emily Rutherford is 38. Actor Travis Schuldt is 38. Rapper Xzibit is 38. Comedian-actor Jason Sudeikis (TV: "Saturday Night Live") is 37. Actress Sophia Brown is 36. Actor Barrett Foa is 35. TV personality Sara Haines is 35. Actress Alison Lohman is 33. Actors Taylor and Brandon Porter are 19. Actor C.J. Sanders is 16.

One year ago: Dominique Strauss-Kahn, former head of the International Monetary Fund, broke his silence four months after a New York hotel maid accused him of sexual assault, calling his encounter with the woman a "moral failing" he deeply regretted, but insisting in an interview on French television that no violence was involved.

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The Rez Of The Story

Our Ongoing Quest For Balance

BY VINCE TWO EAGLES

Hau Mitakuepi (Greetings My Relatives), An American writer and publisher from Cleveland once wrote, "A budget tells us what we can't afford, but it doesn't keep us from buying it."

According to a Time magazine article by Michael Grunewald who says that taxpayers "... pay in \$2.5 trillion and pay out [government spending] \$3.8 trillion" — no wonder we don't have a balanced budget and as long as we pay out more than we take in, we never will.



Vince TWO EAGLES

Politicians have to be very careful how they vote on debt-reduction initiatives because if the people they represent are going to lose jobs and economic development opportunities because of specific cuts in the budget, they have to think twice about their respective re-election plans or even their current longevity in office.

Did you know that, according to Grunewald's article, at least \$15 billion a year goes to farm subsidies? Another \$1.3 billion of our national budget subsidizes the cotton industry while still another \$138 billion goes to defraying electricity costs?

And what about the net interest we taxpayers pay on our national debt to the tune of \$225 billion, the annual Defense budget is \$716 billion and Social Security pays out

\$779 billion annually? And while Medicare eats up \$485 billion education gets \$139 billion, vet benefits receives \$130 billion, food and other assistance programs called Income Security uses up \$580 million and a "other" category which includes Medicaid, transportation and agriculture. This is by no stretch of the imagination a complete listing of government spending — not to mention billions lost to tax loop holes and other deductions.

So where does one begin to cut? You can see that for our elected leadership, it is a Catch-22 proposition because you are damned if you do and damned if you don't. You won't be able to win for losing.

I just want to say that after looking more closely at this "balanced budget" issue, I can't help but have gained a new appreciation for the difficult work our president and Congress have to do to best represent the public interest for us all. The times are calling all of us regardless of our political affiliations, geo-political issues and economic signatures to work together — to find the way of compromise and cooperation as it is the wiser path to follow most of the time.

Does this mean not holding our elected leadership accountable and to cease the demand for transparency in our government? Of course it doesn't. But it might serve us well to be supportive where we can and do what we can as good citizens to be a part of the solution, not part of the problem. Being only critical feeds the diehard cynic in all of us, and being naive sets us up to be victims.

Balancing the budget is definitely on the list of campaign issue during the upcoming presidential election, as it should be. While our elected leaders struggle to achieve balance, let us remember that it is wise to be in good relationship with all things (sitomani ob washteyta ipi ichiye) as we all struggle to achieve balance, too. And now you know the rez of the story. Doksha ...

couragement. Special thanks to the Homecoming royalty candidates for going above and beyond to help Amber be a part of all the week's festivities. You are truly a great group of young people, and your kindness will never be forgotten. Yankton can be proud of the compassion and friendship shown by its youth this past week. Thanks again to all of you and God bless!

YOUR LETTERS

A Homecoming To Remember

Tom, Tammy and Amber Tacke, Yankton We are overwhelmed and humbled by the outpouring of support from the Yankton community during the 2012 Homecoming season.

Thanks to Dr. Wayne Kindle, YHS faculty and staff, and the entire student body for your kindness and en-

FROM THE BIBLE

Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out. Acts 3:19. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

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