

Secretary didn't answer the senator's question

Testifying before Congress last week, outgoing Secretary of State Hillary Clinton showed she's mastered the artful lie.

Asked once again what happened at the consulate in Benghazi, Libya, the night of Sept. 11 when U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans died in a terrorist attack that apparently took her State Department by surprise, she exploded into indignation.

"With all due respect, the fact is we had four dead Americans," Clinton responded, raising her voice at Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.), who continued to interrupt her. "Was it because of a protest or was it because of guys out for a walk ... who decided to kill some Americans? What difference at this point does it make? It is our job to figure out what happened and do everything we can to prevent it from ever happening again, senator."

Well, the secretary might start by answering the question, but notice, she did not.

Guys out for a walk who decided to kill some Americans? Armed with the firepower to storm a U.S. consulate, kill the ambassador and his guards? And how did they know where the ambassador was, anyway?

Let's get real, Madam Secretary. Or should we say, Madam President?

For there's little doubt that Ms. Clinton is quitting the State Department now so she'll have plenty of time to get ready for the 2016 presidential race. Flying around the world for another couple of years might be fun, but presidential campaigns are not built in a day. And she must be presumed the front runner, well ahead of plodding old Joe Biden.

The secretary managed to be indignant enough, almost, to make herself look like the injured party in this sparring match. On the defensive for

months, she tried to put the other party in a corner.

And she stuck to the administration's line, which has been all along an effort to minimize the attack and make it look like less than it was.

The White House coordinated the story that night and the next day that the deaths resulted from a protest against an anti-Muslim video made by an American and posted on the Internet. Such a protest tied up the streets of Cairo that same day.

But it was apparent from news reports that night, no matter which source, that the incident had in fact resulted from a planned attack by trained terrorists who had in mind the death of an ambassador they and their friends blamed for the deaths of many of their ilk. And on the anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks in the U.S.

Still, Ambassador to the U.N. Susan Rice was sticking to the official line a week later on the Sunday interview shows. Her loyalty left her out on a limb and may have cost her a shot at replacing Ms. Clinton at State.

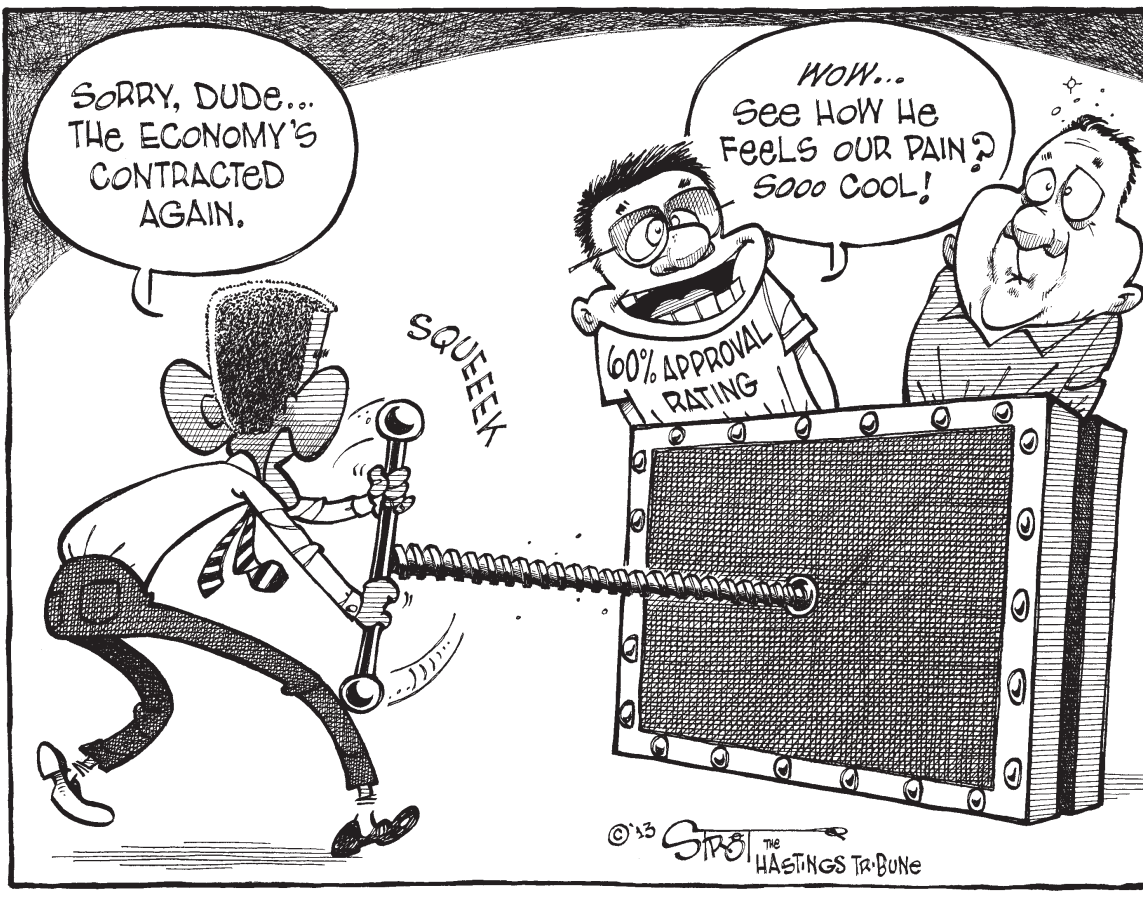
And then here was Hillary, telling us it was guys out for a walk, still clinging to the official version.

We all know better. Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) may have said it best: "It's been a coverup from the beginning."

"It was theatrics," Sen. Johnson said in a later interview. "She didn't want to answer questions, so she makes a big show of it."

Ms. Clinton carries a lot of baggage, but unless the Republicans come up with the kind of candidate they haven't had in more than 20 years, she'll be measuring the White House for drapes. Come to think of it, she used to live there; she may already have the window sizes.

- Steve Haynes



Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



"I want to live in A-mer-ic-a!" That catchy tune from the musical West Side Story captures a common theme for many.

Immigration reform is a hot button topic that is being dealt with in Washington, D.C. But no matter where you stand on the issues of immigration, unless you can mark yourself down as being a Native American, your family came "off the boat" at some time or another.

No wonder people from other

countries want to come here. Despite all that is wrong with our nation, it still has a quality of life unequalled anywhere else.

I had a chance recently to ask a green-behind-the-ears American what it means.

Lounie Erskin came to northwest Kansas through marriage from the island nation of the Philippines. Recently she passed all of the requirements and joined around 140 individuals from 28 different coun-

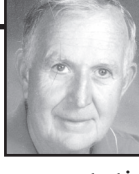
tries at a naturalization ceremony in Wichita.

"It's an honor," said Lounie. To be able to live the American Dream is very special to this new citizen.

Seeing the excitement in her eyes made me wonder about what it was like for my Scot-Irish forebearers when they got here?

Legislative News

By Ward Cassidy



120th State Representative

Gun Control

The correspondence I have been receiving this year is weighted heavily toward gun control and Medicaid. There are going to be many controversial and passionate matters that will be addressed in the 2013 legislature. This week, I will address gun control.

The core goal of legislation Kansas is looking at is to insure that personally responsible citizens have an avenue to protect themselves without infringing on the safety and freedom of others.

In 2006, Kansas passed its first concealed-carry bill, and since then tens of thousands of law-abiding Kansans have applied and been granted a permit. To obtain the permit, Kansans must complete a certified firearms safety training class and fill-out an application, which is reviewed by law enforcement. I, myself, have concealed carry.

The motivation behind this type of legislation was the notion that we should not treat law-abiding citizens like criminals. Those who take the time to go to

the training and fill-out the necessary paperwork are not the citizens who cause trouble. In fact, to date, only 51 licenses have been revoked out of the more than 55,000 issued.

Many have said that guns should have no place in public buildings and we should keep these areas gun-free. It is a point of view that many share. Last year, I received numerous communications saying that our courthouses, schools, hospitals could not afford the security necessary if the conceal-carry signs were taken down. The problem is without adequate security to ensure no one has a gun in a public building, it becomes irresponsible to prevent law-abiding citizens from protecting themselves. Most people can agree that a sign with a gun and a line through it does not provide adequate security.

I was a high school principal when the Columbine incident took place. Several of our area schools received threats, shortly thereafter, that we would be attacked. After careful consider-

ation, I took measures to ensure that our school would be safe and that, if necessary, force would be met with force. We followed this plan until I retired several years later. My thought—I would do anything to protect my students and staff.

At this time, I can only see the Kansas Legislature fighting to preserve the rights given to us in the Second Amendment.

On a fun note - I had the opportunity to give the Oberlin eighth grade students and their sponsors a tour of the capitol on Martin Luther King Day. We were the only people in the capitol building and the students had time to ask questions and go places normal tours don't get to go. They returned the next day for a picture with the governor.

Every time I have a group from Northwest Kansas, I receive compliments on their behavior and I received several nice compliments about the Oberlin group.

Hangin' With Marge

Super Bowl 2013

By Margaret Bucholtz



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The 2013 Super Bowl is over and it is one of the first ones I have watched in several years. Once again I didn't care which team won but I was interested in the two brothers that were coaches for the opposite teams. How hard that had to be for the brothers and the parents. Of course on the other side the defeat and/or the win would be all in the same family.

With all that said about football my interest was not in the super bowl but the advertisements. My favorite has always been the Clydesdale horses. I couldn't wait to see that ad

and except for the half time show, I never left the room. At half time however Kurt changed the channel because neither of us cares much for the Beyoncé or her music.

Most of you now know with this information that we missed the commercial. We did see the Ram commercial so we just decided that with the blackout, we missed the other one. The Ram and the Jeep (even though we missed it) were both good.

This morning I looked on the computer and found the ads and told Kurt we had missed several of

them. Dam old black out just left us out in the sticks again.

Minutes later I was reading on Facebook when I read a conversation that stated, "The good commercials" were at the half time.

Who invented the remote? I am sure that neither Kurt nor I would have gotten up and changed the channel, but with the handy dandy remote we can just change anything at any time.

Wonder what else I have missed with the channel surfer?

Support greatly appreciated

Letter to the Editor:

We greatly appreciate the continued interest and support of the "HUGS" project and for the donation of \$2,120 in November made by the American Legion Auxiliary. Rest assured your donation was put to good use. The postage bill alone for Christmas was over \$60,000. We couldn't do it without the help of caring citizens.

On behalf of our troops, the HUGS project thanks each member for the sunshine they brought into their lives with donations and support. In an organization like HUGS, every donation received is needed to make life a little better for those who make it a lot better for us!

With the help of donations, the project is shipping between 50

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and 100 boxes weekly and they sent over 4,750 in December. Your contribution made a difference in the lives of some of America's fin-

est young men and women.

Karen Stark
HUGS founder/executive director

GOD SAYS

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

II Chronicles 7:14

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