

OPINION

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Why spy on France? ■ By Tom Purcell

The French daily Le Monde alleges that the US National Security Agency has spied on French diplomats in Washington and at the UN. I contacted my French informant, Pierre Le Paint, to learn more about the incident.

"What could America possibly have to gain by spying on the French?" I said.

"The people currently running your government admire our country," said Pierre. "We have many cradle-to-grave government programs and powerful government unions. Our unemployment is nearly 11 percent — even in good economic times, unemployment rarely goes below 7.5 percent! — and we have excessively high taxes on the rich."

"Regrettably, some Americans do admire such things, but I don't see why we'd have to hack your computers for this information."

"I will tell you, then, the real reason they would do it: romance!"

"Romance? You're losing me, Pierre."

"Look, now that the American economy is bogged down by new regulations, a growing government and massive debt, it remains stagnant. With so much less work to do, Americans finally have free time to learn how to woo a woman. This requires secrets that only French men know."

"You're saying American men are poor at the art of romance?"

"Of course, you fool. Tell me: What would a typical American male consider to be a romantic date?"

"That's easy. We pick up our better half about 7 p.m., go to the diner for a couple of burgers, knock down some pins and brew at the bowling alley, then have 75-cent nightcaps at the American Legion."

"Clumsy oaf! This is not what women want! Let me share with you the basics on how to woo a woman. First, you promise to take your lady to a special place, but you don't tell her where."

"We American men have the promise part down pat!"

"Then, you go to a fine winery and find yourself a fine French wine. Not too dry, not too sweet."

"I already have a jug of that stuff in my refrigerator."

"Then, as you walk to her place, you stroll through the fields until you pluck a lovely flower."

"Are graveyard flowers acceptable?"

"And as you approach your beautiful lady's home, you prepare yourself for her."

"Double-check your deodorant?"

"No, you American peasant! You must MENTALLY prepare yourself for her! You close your eyes and dream of a faraway beach in the South Pacific."

"I do that when I'm at work."

"Then you picture yourself lying on the sand. And you imagine that you open your eyes and see a stunning woman, a mermaid, splashing about in the sea."

"Did you say mermaid?"

"She is the most beautiful woman you have ever seen. You stand and run into the water to be near her, but she laughs at you and swims away."

"What if she starts smacking you with her flipper?"

"She will not smack you, idiot Yankee! You must long for the mermaid, and as you are, you ring your lady's doorbell. Your lady will open the door. She will see the longing in your eyes and think you are longing for her!"

"If you say so."

"You give her your flower and wine, kiss her, then take her to a fine French restaurant, where you will charm her and whisper sweet nothings into her ear."

"Let me get this straight, you're suggesting that the U.S. government hacked into the French presidential office to find out French secrets on how to woo women?"

"Of course, but mainly your government was after the greatest French secret of all!"

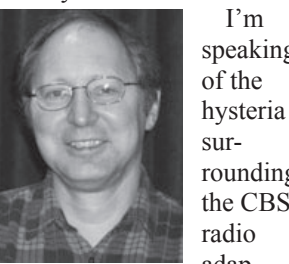
"And what would that be, Pierre?"

"How to woo women without your wife finding out about it."

The Martians were coming, the Martians were coming!

■ TYRADES!
 Danny Tyree

Ah, time passes faster than a flying saucer. So we blink and find that October 30 marks the 75th anniversary of one of the most embarrassing incidents in American history.



I'm speaking of the hysteria surrounding the CBS radio adaptation of H.G. Wells' science fiction novel "The War of the Worlds." The first two-thirds of the hour-long "Mercury Theatre on the Air" broadcast (directed by and starring Orson Welles) was designed like a live newscast. More than one-fourth of the six million listeners tuned in late, missed the disclaimers, and thought that tentacled Martians were actually landing on earth and (without "Take me to your leader" niceties) using brutal "heat rays" to incinerate every civilian, soldier and weapon they encountered.

Those who remained with the program until the bitter end learned that the aliens (75-YEAR-OLD SPOILER ALERT) were ultimately defeated by common earth bacteria for which they had no immunity. Granted, one Brooklyn mother insisted that the extraterrestrials actually failed because they refused to wait an hour after eating before wading the Hudson River with their tripod machines.

And timing certainly mattered. A scene cut from the script had one dying alien grousing to another, "I wanted to schedule the invasion when earth had the Powdered Wig Generation or even the Big-Wheeled Bicycle Generation, but YOU had to go up against The Greatest Generation, Mr. Big Shot! All these humans saying 'sir' and 'ma'am' and pulling their pants up and offering to buy us a new spaceship for a nickel have got me off my game!"

An unnamed source said that President Roosevelt was a bit peeved by the reaction to the show, muttering, "'Say goodnight, Gracie' they remember — but 'nothing to fear but fear itself,' they forget. I'd like to give the ingrates a NEW New Deal, but Eleanor insists I watch my language."

Historians have
 Continued on A-5



Who is wearing no clothes? ■ By Emily Kennedy

Since Barack Obama was elected for his first term, he has been attacked by conservatives for everything under the sun. Being too left (Socialist), too soft (Pacifist), too tyrannical (despot). The man couldn't make strides with conservatives if he rolled over and played dead, letting right wing zealots win their way, gleefully pumping their fists with satisfaction.

Everything under the sun?

I am indeed guilty of this exaggeration as well as insinuating, rather crassly, behavior akin to that of simians. However, when newspapers print inflammatory op-eds rife with gross misrepresentation of facts and misuse of metaphors, it is only fair to counter the attacks and point out how inflammatory they can be.

Calling President Obama a Socialist or Pacifist makes someone look undereducated in social studies. Calling him a despot reveals either an ignorance of history or penchant for debasing those with other political views or both. Joseph Stalin, Adolf Hitler, and Mao Zedong were despots. Barack Obama was elected President of the United States with both the popular vote and the electoral vote *two times*. He ran on the mandate of health care for Americans.

Instituting a law that follows this mandate does not make him a "potentate ruling over a nation of serfs all the while pretending to be clothed in constitutional authority." The law was upheld by the Supreme Court; therefore, it is

indeed constitutional. Shutting down the government to overturn this law or defund it and then blaming Obama is frankly political theater at its worst.

You don't like the law. I get it. But as a country, we are late in the game. Yes, it may be difficult to accomplish; the path may be bumpy, but is the United States less capable of enacting universal health care than the likes of Australia (1975), Austria (1967), Bahrain (1957), Belgium (1945), Brunei (1958), Canada (1966), Cyprus (1980), Denmark (1973), Finland (1972), France (1974), Germany (1941), Greece (1983), Hong Kong (1993), Iceland (1990), Ireland (1977), Israel (1995), Italy (1978), Japan (1938), Kuwait (1950), Luxembourg (1973), Netherlands (1966), New Zealand (1938), Norway (1912), Portugal (1979), Singapore (1993), Slovenia (1972), South Korea (1988), Spain (1986), Sweden (1955), Switzerland (1994), United Arab Emirates (1971), and United Kingdom (1948)? See http://www.health.ny.gov/regulations/hcra/univ_hlth_care.html.

For those who wish to counter with something like, "But the United States has the best health care system in the world," according to the World Health Organization, the US is ranked 38th. Behind even Chile and Costa Rica. See <http://www.photius.com/rankings/healthranks.htm>.

The US ranks 46th in Most Efficient Health Care. See <http://www.bloomberg.com/visual-data/best-and-worst/most-efficient-health-care-countries>.

Are those against the law just afraid of the bogeyman or hoping for failure so a Democrat will lose office during the next presidential election? Methinks someone is not wearing any clothes.

Capitol Hill Week in Review

■ State Senator
 Joey Hensley MD

New laws are promising in fighting prescription drug abuse in Tennessee

Prescription drug abuse in Tennessee is still a very serious health epidemic, but



we are making significant progress in our efforts to curb it. As

of October 1, the Addison Sharp Act limits the dispensing of opioids and benzodiazepine to a 30-day supply. That new law also requires reporting to the Controlled Substance Monitoring Database by all prescribers who dispense at their offices to reduce doctor shopping and monitor the dispensing of drugs which are subject to abuse.

Addison Sharp was a resident of Knoxville, Tennessee whose young life was tragically cut short in 2012 by an overdose of prescription medication. Since that tragedy, his family has been working with legislators, law enforcement and medical professionals to attempt to impact the number of lives being taken by this growing epidemic. The Addison Sharp Act is in addition to legislation passed in 2010 and 2011 to cut down on prescription drug abuse at pain clinics in the state.

Tennessee ranks eighth in the nation for fatal drug overdoses according to a recent study conducted by the "Trust for America's Health." Our state is not alone, however, as approximately 6.1 million Americans abuse or misuse prescription drugs, with an alarming national death rate of fifty per day. Since 1999, overdose deaths involving prescription painkillers have quadrupled and now outnumber those from heroin and cocaine combined. Fatal drug overdoses have now exceeded the number of fatal car accidents in nearly 30 states, including Tennessee.

Tennessee's Controlled Substance Monitoring Database (CSMD) is a key factor in turning back the tide of prescription drug abuse. Based on early statistics, the Department of Health projects approximately five million searches by the 33,382 registered clinicians of the CSMD by the end of this year. This is promising as it compares with 1.85 million searches by 14,574 registered clinicians in 2012 when participation was voluntary. With

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Letters to the Editor

Thoughts of an old man

I was raised on a farm where life was hard. I walked many a mile behind an old horse and plow.

When the horse got old and could not pull her weight, you dug a deep hole by the back forty gate.

Sadly I went for my horse and my gun. We walked our last mile without any load. She now lies at rest by the back forty gate.

Wake up America

While we can still pull our own weight, or we may be next by the back forty gate.

Obamacare is an old horse and cannot pull it's weight. But please don't bury it by my horse at the back forty gate.

Clare Derby

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