

A PATH FORWARD

DISAPPOINTMENT AS PINKIE PROMISES GO UNFULFILLED

BY STEVEN P. DINKIN

March 5 was a day of dashed dreams for some. Solemn pinkie promises were put on hold for another four years.

It was two days after the Super Tuesday contests: the day that Elizabeth Warren, once a front-runner, dropped out of the presidential race. She often made pinkie promises with young girls at her events, saying, "I'm running for president because that's what girls do."

Law professor Abby Wood tweeted a photo of her daughter engaged in locked pinkies with candidate Warren at a campaign rally last fall. The caption read, "My daughter — who wore her fanciest cardigan for the occasion — told me, 'Mama, I feel like I met a real president tonight. Like, a real one.'"

Writing in the newsletter Think, Wood says, "(Warren) wants us to believe that we're living in a new era, an era where there is usually more than one woman on debate stages and female candidates are common, not extraordinary. Warren is asking America's girls, their parents and really the whole country to envision a national political culture in which women are simply expected to run."

When Warren announced her withdrawal, it was clear that she felt the weight of disappointing thousands of little girls, leaving the race to two men. She said with emotion, "One of the hardest parts of this is all those pinkie promises."

When asked the inevitable — whether gender played a part in her disappointing Super Tuesday showing — Warren called it a trap question for every woman. "If you say, 'Yeah, there was sexism in this race,' everyone says, 'Whiner!'" Warren said. "If you say, 'No, there was no sexism,' about a bazillion women think, 'What planet do you live on?'"

As the father of a college-aged daughter with a passion for social justice, I feel both disbelief and disappointment reading Warren's remarks. As a country, will we be ready to elect a woman to our highest office in my daughter's lifetime?

Warren is intelligent, accomplished and compassionate — but apparently, not likable enough. In an article in *The Atlantic* titled "America Punished Elizabeth Warren for Her Competence," Megan Garber writes, "Warren had something about her, apparently: something that galvanized the pundits and the public in a way that led to assessments of her not



JORDAN GALE NYT
Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), speaking at a town hall event at West Delaware High School in Manchester, Iowa, on Jan. 4.

just as strident and shrill, but also as condescending." She maintains that the accusation of condescension is intertwined with Warren's gender.

Garber continues, "The harder she works to prove to the public that she is worthy of power — the more evidence she offers of her competence — the more condescending, allegedly, she becomes," calling into question Warren's likability. Why isn't her compe-

tence admired? And why were some voters seemingly offended when, on the campaign trail, Warren talked about her many accomplishments?

It suggests a double standard: When it comes to singing your own praises, it's acceptable and expected from male candidates, but reviled from female candidates. (We saw the same reaction to Hillary Clinton in 2016.) For Warren, it's a deeply personal story

that gives context to her platform: making life better for all people.

In all the years I've voted for president, I don't recall any discussion of a male candidate's likability. Nor do I remember a male candidate being disparaged for his ambition.

Philosopher Kate Manne of Cornell University sees this behavior as pervasive evidence of misogyny, which she describes as the "law enforcement branch of patriarchy." Manne says, "It is perhaps the mechanism at play when a woman puts herself forward as a presidential candidate and finds her attributes — her intelligence, her experience, her compassion — understood as threats."

Intelligence, experience and compassion are qualities that our country desperately needs. For the sake of my daughter and the little girl in the cardigan, let's pinkie promise that soon, women can run for president and win.

Dinkin is president of the National Conflict Resolution Center, a San Diego-based organization working to create innovative solutions to challenging issues, including intolerance and incivility. NCRC is nationally recognized for its conflict management and communication strategies. To learn about NCRC's programming, visit ncrconline.com



Andrea Wild, Steve Jennings (Rady Children's Foundation executive director), Angie Lasagna (event co-chair), T. Denny Sanford, Joyce Glazer and Ray Riley (she's event co-chair), Carlee Harmonson (Rady Children's Foundation board)



Dr. Patrick and Anjie Frias (he's Rady Children's president/CEO), David and Phyllis Snyder, Neda Safarzadeh and Joseph Payne



Jim and Jan Fitzpatrick, Joye Blount and Jessie Knight Jr., Paola Middleton, Doug Hutcheson (Rady Children's Hospital board chair)



Dan and Yasmine Yates, John and Dulle Ahlering (she chaired pre-ball reception; was 2003 and 2010 ball chair), Fiona and Dr. Stephen Kingsmore (he's Rady's Genomics Institute president/CEO)

SCENE

Leaping toward tomorrow's cures

Charity Ball for Rady Children's Hospital

STORY AND PHOTOS BY VINCENT ANDRUNAS SPECIAL TO THE U-T

On "leap day" (Feb. 29), 111th anniversary Charity Ball co-chairs Joyce Glazer and Angie Lasagna set the stage for Rady Children's Hospital to "Leap into the Future." With the support of 500 guests (and matching funds from the hospital's foundation), their event raised a projected \$500,000 to help fund new treatments embracing genomic medicine.

As San Diego's longest-running and most traditional social fundraiser, the black-tie gala, held at the

Hotel Del Coronado, featured cocktails and canapés in the Coronet Room before an elegant multi-course dinner in the ornate Crown Room, where the beef filet and salmon dual entrée was especially well-received. Afterward, in the Grand Ballroom, leaping City Ballet student ballerinas performed, T. Denny Sanford received the Leadership Award for his exceptional philanthropy, and The Mighty Untouchables played for dancing.

If you have an upcoming charity gala or event, tell us about it. Send the who, what, where, when and why to society@suniontribune.com

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Sunday, March 15, the 75th day of 2020. There are 291 days left in the year.

Today's highlight in history

On March 15, 1913, President Woodrow Wilson met with about 100 reporters for the first formal presidential press conference.

On this date

In 44 B.C., Roman dictator Julius Caesar was assassinated by a group of nobles that included Brutus and Cassius.

In 1493, Italian explorer Christopher Columbus arrived back in the Spanish harbor of Palos de la Frontera, two months after concluding his first voyage to the Western Hemisphere.

In 1820, Maine became the 23rd state.

In 1919, members of the American Expeditionary Force from World War I convened in Paris for a three-day meeting to found the American Legion.

In 1956, the Lerner and Loewe musical "My Fair Lady," based on Bernard Shaw's "Pygmalion," opened on Broadway.

In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson, addressing a joint session of Congress, called for new legislation to guarantee every American's right to vote. The result was passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

In 1985, the first Internet

domain name, symbolics.com, was registered by the Symbolics Computer Corp. of Massachusetts.

In 1998, Dr. Benjamin Spock, whose child care guidance spanned half a century, died in San Diego at 94.

In 1999, an Amtrak train slammed into a steel-filled truck at a crossing in Bourbonnais, Ill., killing 11 people.

In 2005, former WorldCom chief Bernard Ebbers was convicted in New York of engineering the largest corporate fraud in U.S. history. (He was later sentenced to 25 years in prison.)

Today's birthdays

Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg is 87. Actor Judd Hirsch is 85. Jazz musician Charles Lloyd is 82. Rock musician Phil Lesh is 80. Singer Mike Love (The Beach Boys) is 79. Rock singer-musician Sly Stone is 77. Rock singer-musician Howard Scott (War; Lowrider Band) is 74. Rock singer Ry Cooder is 73. Actress Frances Conroy is 67. Actor Craig Wasson is 66. Rock singer Dee Snider (Twisted Sister) is 65. Actor Joaquim de Almeida is 63. Actress Park Overall is 63. Singer Terence Trent D'Arby (aka Sananda Maitreya) is 58. Rock singer Bret Michaels (Poison) is 57. Rhythm-and-blues singer Rockwell is 56. Actor Chris Bruno is 54. Rock singer Mark McGrath (Sugar Ray) is 52. Country singer-musician Matt Thomas (Parmalee) is 46. Actress Eva Longoria is 45.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SMOLENS • Unity in far-less supply now than when 9/11 hit

FROM B1
ried that it might not be up to the task.

President George W. Bush immediately addressed the nation following a visit to a Florida classroom to promote education reform. It was the first year of his presidency and Bush had just presided over a catastrophic intelligence failure. But he soon gained his balance, was clear about the threat and put the country on wartime footing, the manner and rationale of which is disputed to this day.

Widespread fear of repeated, large-scale terrorist attacks went unrealized, in no small part due to ramped up security efforts at home and abroad.

To be sure, a terrorist attack on iconic institutions — with dramatic video repeated on television over and over — is a much clearer signal that something terrible has happened than a creeping, deadly virus no one can see.

In his fourth year in office, President Donald Trump avoided addressing the growing reality of the virus that medical experts had gamed out. When he finally did, he initially downplayed the threat and offered information and advice that was flat wrong.

Not long ago, he seemed to suggest it was OK to go to work if you had the virus.

Now federal employees — along with countless private-sector workers — have been told to work at home to try to limit its spread. Finally, on Friday, he declared a national emergency after state and local governments

had already issued emergency declarations. Both attacks changed the country's trajectory.

The 9/11 attack put the U.S. on the path of what has been described as "endless wars" in Afghanistan and the Middle East, with unclear results at best, despite thousands of U.S. military and enemy combatant deaths and the loss of an untold number of civilian lives.

Several years earlier, some politicians were talking about how they planned to spend a "peace dividend" — the anticipated savings on reduced military spending after the Cold War ended.

Following the attack, government and businesses became more intrusive at airports with scanners and pat-downs, in public places with ubiquitous cameras and with searches of personal information in databases.

But life quickly returned to familiar routines. Schools reopened and ballgames commenced, though eventually those attending had to pass through metal detectors and undergo other kinds of scrutiny. Sadly, those procedures are in place to guard against the threat of domestic attacks as much as any generating from outside the country.

Still, despite predictions that things would never be the same, they actually were. We hardly think about how we've adapted to the security measures.

The coronavirus attack, after the initial indifference, is changing the country at

lightning speed. Colleges and universities are shifting to online-only classes, school districts are closing, concerts have been canceled and employees increasingly are telecommuting. Toilet paper has become a prized commodity.

Collegiate and professional sporting tournaments and seasons have been canceled or postponed indefinitely, as have other cultural events. The booming economy may go bust.

There are some similarities, good and bad, about the reactions to the 9/11 and coronavirus attacks. In both cases, all sorts of precautions have — at times — been described as being done out of fear. They have been done rationally — unfortunately, too late — with concern about how to protect workers, business and society in general.

Some post-9/11 moves may have been overreach. Some believe that's also the case now, but history will judge.

Yet fear has led to some rash action and irrational thinking.

Both attacks crashed the stock market. Back then, it took only about a month for the markets to regain their pre-9/11 levels.

Following the terrorist attack, people who were Muslim, or may have appeared to be, were viewed with suspicion and hostility by others.

Now, one person's sneezing or coughing can cause others to become unhealthful. On an airliner last week, passengers were so unruly about a person who ap-

peared to be ill that the flight had to be diverted.

Bias against Asians and Asian Americans has been reported and Asian markets in San Diego and elsewhere have experienced a sharp drop in business. Businesses more broadly are now realizing a drop-off.

There's another unfortunate, yet necessary, difference in our behavior this time around.

Following 9/11, the nation became united, if only temporarily. We didn't just rally around the flag and applaud folks for trying to support their fellow Americans, we had a yearning to become closer to people we know and love. We hugged more.

Finding that sense of cause now is hard, in part, because of the mixed messages from the president and because there are people who still insist the threat is overblown.

Perhaps more to the point, it's difficult to come together to face the challenge when experts insist we keep our distance from one another.

That's a pity. We could all use a hug right about now.

Tweet of the Week

Goes to Whitney Cummings (@WhitneyCummings), comedian and actor, after Tom Hanks announced he and his wife, Rita Wilson, tested positive for coronavirus.

"It's like it picked the celebrity we cared the most about to make a point."

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