

# How times have changed

United States President John F. Kennedy once said this: “Too often we... enjoy the comfort of opinion without the discomfort of thought.”

That basically sums up the state of the world today. Especially thanks to social media, where because of it there are a lot of people all too quickly giving their opinions, as if they know what they are talking about. But most don’t have the facts.

In fact, social media and perhaps media in general are so mud-died by floods of user comments, all of whom think they are right, that it’s almost impossible to really know what constitutes the truth anymore.

And according to Data Reportal, these are the online usage facts: There are 5.64 billion internet users in the world today. And the total number of internet users around the world grew by 144 million in just the past 12 months alone.

Globally, internet user numbers are growing at an annual rate of 2.6 percent, but year-on-year growth is even higher in many developing economies.

Routine research delays also mean that growth rates for the most recent 12 to 18 months often under-rep-



Kevin Holten

resent actual trends. So, you can anticipate that real adoption rates may be much higher than the latest data suggests.

Whatever the case, the average global internet user now spends 33 hours and 23 minutes each week consuming online media, although you should note that simultaneous use of different kinds of media may mean that this figure overstates actual online time. But what if it’s only half of that?

Added together, the world’s internet users currently spend more than 1.1 billion years of combined human existence consuming digital media each year.

Which means that, if you control the internet, as some have tried to do, you control the world’s minds. Or perhaps the flipside of that is true. Perhaps there are just too many varying opinions online these days to be certain of anything.

The words etched in stone above the

front doors of my high school are “Knowledge is Power”. But if that school was built today, the words might be changed to: “Too Much Knowledge Might Be Confusing”.

So, where does that leave us? Searching for the truth.

Prominent American writer, Ralph Waldo Emerson may have traveled into the future during his lifetime. Because he once said this, and it sounds eerily like he is describing today’s online opinionators: “People do not seem to realize that their opinion of the world is also a confession of character”.

And that’s so true, isn’t it? If we spout off, we open the door all too wide to reveal what’s inside of us. Even the Bible has 100 verses that warn us about what we say.

For example, Matthew 12:36 says: “I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak.” And Matthew 12:37 says: “For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.” It makes you want to go back in time with an oversized eraser, doesn’t it?

Meanwhile, President Thomas Jefferson obviously never traveled through time to the present day like Ralph Waldo Emerson did, because he had this to say: “I never considered a difference of opinion in politics, in religion, in philosophy, as cause for withdrawing from a friend.”

My, how times have changed.

## Golden Valley Manor News by Mary Barthel

April 15 - Tuesday morning exercises were done in the activity room with Mary and the residents. In the afternoon we held “Fun with Foods.” Residents enjoyed an afternoon of dying Easter eggs. We dyed several eggs with the good old-fashioned dye and tried a new fun approach to egg dying, where you use a machine that spins the eggs while you decorate eggs with magic markers. Nikki and Mary boiled up eggs and the residents took on the task of decorating them. Western Cooperative Credit Union visited the Manor later in the afternoon, bringing baskets of goodies to share with the residents. Tammy, Kay and Kay’s grandchildren visited going room-to-room. They brought with them the Easter Bunny, so a lot of pictures were taken. They bring so much fun with them and the residents love the hugs from the littles.

April 16 - The community van took our morning shoppers downtown on Wednesday for groceries and general shopping. Bingo was held in the afternoon with First Lutheran Church. Jim and Ruthann were our hosts. Karen was the lucky blackout winner and strawberry shortcake was served after the games.

April 17 - Exercises were held at 10:30 Thursday morning, with Vera filling in for Mary. Making a quick donut trip for our

fundraiser, Mary returned with 55 dozen doughnuts that were sold. Bobbie, Sheryl, Darla, Barb and Jean frosted and packaged the doughnuts, so they were ready for pickup on Friday. An Easter party was held in the activity room at 2 p.m. We played card bingo, and the prizes were tiny Easter baskets filled with goodies. All the residents won at least one basket and enjoyed an Easter-themed parfait before heading to their rooms.

April 18 - Friday is Hair Day. This week’s hair volunteers were our Wibaux gals. Our Community Easter Egg Hunt was held at 10 a.m. We had such a good turnout for the event. Everyone gathered in the activity room to sign in and hear the details and then they dispersed. We were lucky enough to have volunteers who helped hide the eggs all around the Manor grounds. It took a couple of hours to get all the eggs hid, and it took about 10 minutes for the kids to find them. Our doughnut fundraiser also ended on Friday. All pre-orders were picked up by noon that day. Deacon Don held Stations of the Cross in the afternoon. Devotions were held in the evening with Pastor Maxted, Bev and John.

April 19 - Happy Birthday wishes went out to Dee on her special day. Dee spent the weekend with her son in Dickinson, enjoying the viewing of The

Chosen, and rumor has it she loves German chocolate cake that was made especially for her big day. Reading Hour was Saturday afternoon with Bonny filling in for Jo. Bonny brought her raisin cookies that she shared with her listeners.

April 20 - Happy Easter! Marie celebrated Easter with double the fun, because this year her 88th birthday and Easter landed on the same day. Marie and Don went to Golva for the Easter Mass at St. Mary’s. Following Mass, they were invited to their son’s house (Perry’s) for breakfast. Following breakfast, they joined a large group of the Maus families for an Easter potluck dinner. Colleen spent the holiday weekend in Colstrip/ Forsythe at her son, Tyler’s home. Lois spent the weekend in Dickinson at her daughter-in-law’s. Clara and her daughter attended Easter Mass Sunday morning. Tody spent the day at her nephew’s place, just outside of Belfield. Delores spent the day at her daughter, Sue’s home in Sentinel Butte. Karen spent the day in Wibaux, starting at her sons’ house and then joining the Bacon clan for dinner. Carol entertained her son, Paul.

It was a busy week that ended great. Hope you all enjoy the blessings of this season! Have a wonderful week!

## A Step Back in Time

**100 Years Ago**  
*Sentinel Butte Review, April 24, 1925:* A petition has been circulated in Sentinel Butte during the past week, the petitioners asking that a curfew ordinance be put into effect here. Youth carousing around on the streets at all hours of the night is a poor way of disposing of this excess energy. *Red Hills News:* Ted Vaughn had a runaway with a disc last week and was run over. Particulars were not given to the editor of these items as to how badly he was hurt. The Oldis, Chandler and Oech schools had a spelldown with Miss Minnie Zook coming out on top. *North Pole News:* C.S., Arvid and Guy schools had a spelling match with Ruth Edwards taking first prize and Ruth Trollope 2nd. Camel cigarettes 20¢, The Butte Drug & Jewelry Co., Sentinel Butte.

**75 Years Ago**  
*Golden Valley News, April 27, 1950:* Coming entirely unexpectedly was the death of Mrs. Joe Dietz of rural Sentinel Butte, who succumbed six hours after her infant son was born at St. Joseph Hospital in Dickinson. Infant son Thomas passed away later that evening. Survivors include her husband and 12 children. Mrs. Dietz, the former Grace Marie Wassman, was born at Sentinel Butte in 1912, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Wassman. *Notice:* Sealed bids for materials for the construction of a fire hall in Golva, ND. Inquire with the village clerk, Genevieve Schrom. Uninvited student crashes through the storm and regular window at Beach High, scattering glass. The rooster pheasant was DOA! Matt Lardy is named valedictorian and Miss Lois Honnold salutatorian at the upcoming graduation at Sentinel Butte High School to be held May 26. What was looking like another dry spring after weeks of high winds and dust storms took on another aspect Sunday, with a gentle rain turning to wet snow Monday.

**50 Years Ago**  
*Golden Valley News, May 1, 1975:* Nancy Uecker, 41, wife of Hettinger cattle buyer Ted Uecker, drowned last Thursday in a swimming mishap at Acapulco, Mexico. Mr. Uecker is well-known here, having served as American Legion baseball coach in Beach and as an official at various athletic events in the area. Ivan Nicholson of the Bismarck office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation was in Beach last Wednesday to assist in the investigation of recent break-ins in Beach. At least five local homes were entered the night of April 18. *Letter to the Editor:* I am enclosing a check for \$5.50 for another years subscription to the G.V. News. I started my subscription to the Beach paper back in May 1908, when I came to Beach and bought a half section of land in the Burkey area. I recall walking in nearly knee deep snow when we got off the afternoon train on May 21, 1908. C.O. Waldman.

**25 Years Ago**  
*Golden Valley News, May 4, 2000:* There is nothing left of a toilet destroyed by a pipe bomb planted in the southeast boys bathroom at Beach High School on Friday, April 28th. The door was blown off the stall and pieces of porcelain blown about the room. Superintendent Charles Soper and Principal Brandt Gaugler were away from the premises during the 11:20 a.m. explosion. School board members expressed their opinion that the school should have been evacuated immediately after the explosion until a thorough search of the entire facility had been conducted, instead of the students being released at the end of the school day at 3:15 p.m. Beach area bowling leagues have finished up the 1999-2000 winter leagues with potluck supper and moonlight bowling. Taking 1st place in Town-n-Country League was Golva Co-op consisting of Lori Howard, Holly Dahl, Joanne Tescher, Tracey Streitz, Sheryl Fisher and Eileen Goodijohn. Friday Night Mixed League 1st place winners were Lowman Lodge with Ray Chaska, Bill Lowman, JoAnn Lowman and Judy Ridenhower. Thursday Night Mens were the Firelights with Doug Lauf, Delbert Easton, Bart Rohan and Duane German. Thursday Coffee League with Schmeling Po’ Farm earning 1st place with Sherri Schmeling, Tess Heinaman and Carolyn Weaver.

By Troy Tescher

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