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OPINION OTHER VIEWS

Tuition Hike Latest Jolt To Education System

RAPID CITY JOURNAL, Rapid City (April 5): We are all aware of the funding challenges facing our state public education system where school districts are finding it increasingly difficult to find and retain teachers willing to work for the lowest pay in the nation.

At the same time, the state is facing challenges with its higher education system that should raise concerns, as well.

The Board of Regents recently raised tuition 5.8 percent for the state's six public universities, which means students will pay an average of \$456 more for college next year. Overall, the average tuition will climb from \$7,925 to \$8,380, which ranks the state third of eight nearby states for in-state college students' costs.

The regents' decision came on the heels of a survey that revealed one-third of college students who earned teaching degrees had taken jobs outside of the state. To be more specific, 260 of 770 graduates took their diplomas and left the state, according to the survey by the School Administrators of South Dakota.

In the case of many teaching and other graduates, they leave college with a student loan debt that is among the highest in the nation.

According to a 2014 report from The Institute for College Access & Success, that state ranks second highest in the nation with 75 percent of its students graduating and they have an average debt of \$25,750.

Jack Warner, the Board of Regents executive director, defended the tuition hike as "reasonable and understandable" for colleges confronted by increasing costs and a desire to offer competitive salaries to faculty and administrators.

What Warner seems to be overlooking is that students and their families also are facing increasing essential costs at a time when incomes remain relatively flat in most of South Dakota.

A teacher fresh out of college, for example, can expect a base pay of \$31,676 a year from the Rapid City School District, which won't go far if you have a \$25,000 student loan to repay.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard and state lawmakers need to find a way to invest more money into public and higher education. It simply is not possible for local school districts, especially in rural and lower-income counties, to find more money for their schools, and we can't continue to expect our college students to continue going further in debt if we want them to stay in South Dakota.

ABOUT THIS PAGE

The View page provides a forum for open discussion of issues and interests affecting our readers. Initialed editorials represent the opinion of the writer, but not necessarily that of the PRESS & DAKOTAN. Bylined columns represent the view of the author. We welcome letters on current topics. Questions regarding the Views page should be directed to Kelly Hertz at kelly.hertz@yankton.net/.

IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press
Today is Monday, April 13, the 103rd day of 2015. There are 262 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On April 13, 1965, 16-year-old Lawrence Wallace Bradford Jr. was appointed by New York Republican Jacob Javits to be the first black page of the U.S. Senate.

On this date: In 1613, Pocahontas, daughter of Chief Powhatan, was captured by English Capt. Samuel Argall in the Virginia Colony. (During a yearlong captivity, Pocahontas converted to Christianity and ultimately opted to stay with the English.)

In 1742, Handel's "Messiah" had its first public performance in Dublin, Ireland.

In 1743, the third president of the United States, Thomas Jefferson, was born in Shadwell in the Virginia Colony.

In 1861, at the start of the Civil War, Fort Sumter in South Carolina fell to Confederate forces.

In 1912, the Royal Flying Corps, a predecessor of Britain's Royal Air Force, was created.

In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt dedicated the Jefferson Memorial in Washington D.C. on the 200th anniversary of the third American president's birth.

In 1958, Van Cliburn of the United States won the first International Tchaikovsky Competition for piano in Moscow; Russian Valery Klimov won the violin competition.

In 1964, Sidney Poitier became the first black performer in a leading role to win an Academy Award for his performance in "Lilies of the Field." Patricia Neal was named best actress for "Hud"; best picture went to "Tom Jones."

In 1970, Apollo 13, four-fifths of the way to the moon, was crippled when a tank containing liquid oxygen burst. (The astronauts managed to return safely.)

In 1975, the President of Chad, Francois Tombalbaye (tahn-bahl-BAH'-yeh), was killed in a military coup.

In 1986, Pope John Paul II visited the Great Synagogue of Rome in the first recorded papal visit of its kind to a Jewish house of worship.

In 1992, the Great Chicago Flood took place as the city's century-old tunnel system and adjacent basements filled with water from the Chicago River.

Ten years ago: A defiant Eric Rudolph pleaded guilty to carrying out the deadly bombing at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics and three other attacks in back-to-back court appearances in Birmingham, Alabama, and Atlanta. Contract worker Jeffrey Ake was shown at gunpoint on a videotape aired by Al-Jazeera television, two days after he was kidnapped near Baghdad. (His fate remains unknown.)

Gymnast Paul Hamm (hahm) received the 75th Sullivan Award as the nation's top amateur athlete.

Five years ago: World leaders concluded a 47-nation nuclear security conference in Washington, endorsing President Barack Obama's call for securing all of the globe's vulnerable nuclear materials within four years, but offering few specifics for achieving that goal. First lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden paid a surprise visit to Haiti, the scene of a devastating earthquake three months earlier.

One year ago: The head of the United Nations' expert panel on climate change said the cost of keeping global warming in check was "relatively modest," but only if the world acted quickly to reverse the buildup of heat-trapping gases in the atmosphere. Three people were shot to death at two sites in suburban Kansas City; suspect Frazier Glenn Miller, a white supremacist, was allegedly targeting Jews (none of the victims was Jewish). Thirty-six people were killed when a bus slammed into a broken-down truck in Veracruz, Mexico. Bubba Watson won the Masters for the second time in three years.

Today's Birthdays: Movie director Stanley Donen is 91. Former Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell, R-Colo., is 82. Actor Lyle Waggoner is 80. Actor Edward Fox is 78. Actor Paul Sorvino is 76. Rhythm-and-blues singer Lester Chambers is 75. Movie-TV composer Bill Conti is 73. Rock musician Jack Casady is 71. Actor Tony Dow is 70. Singer Al Green is 69. Actor Ron Perlman is 65. Actor William Sadler is 65. Singer Peabo Bryson is 64. Bandleader/rock musician Max Weinberg is 64. Bluegrass singer-musician Sam Bush is 63. Rock musician Jimmy Destri is 61. Singer-musician Louis Johnson (The Brothers Johnson) is 60. Comedian Gary Kroeger is 58. Actress Sandra Santiago is 58. Sen. Bob Casey Jr., D-Pa., is 55. Rock musician Joey Mazzola (Sponge) is 54. Chess grandmaster Garry Kasparov is 52. Actress Page Hannah is 51. Actress-comedian Caroline Rhea is 51. Rock musician Lisa Unger is 50. Rock musician Marc Ford is 49. Reggae singer Capleton is 48. Actor Ricky Schroder is 45. Rock singer Aaron Lewis (Staind) is 43. Actor Bokeem Woodbine is 42. Singer Lou Bega is 40. Actor-producer Glenn Howerton is 39. Actor Kyle Howard is 37. Actress Kelli Giddish (TV: "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit") is 35. Actress Courtney Bredon is 34. Pop singer Nellie McKay is 33. Actress Allison Williams is 27. Actress Hannah Marks is 22.

Thought for Today: "Happiness is not the absence of problems but the ability to deal with them." — Charles Louis de Montesquieu, French philosopher (1689-1755).

FROM THE BIBLE

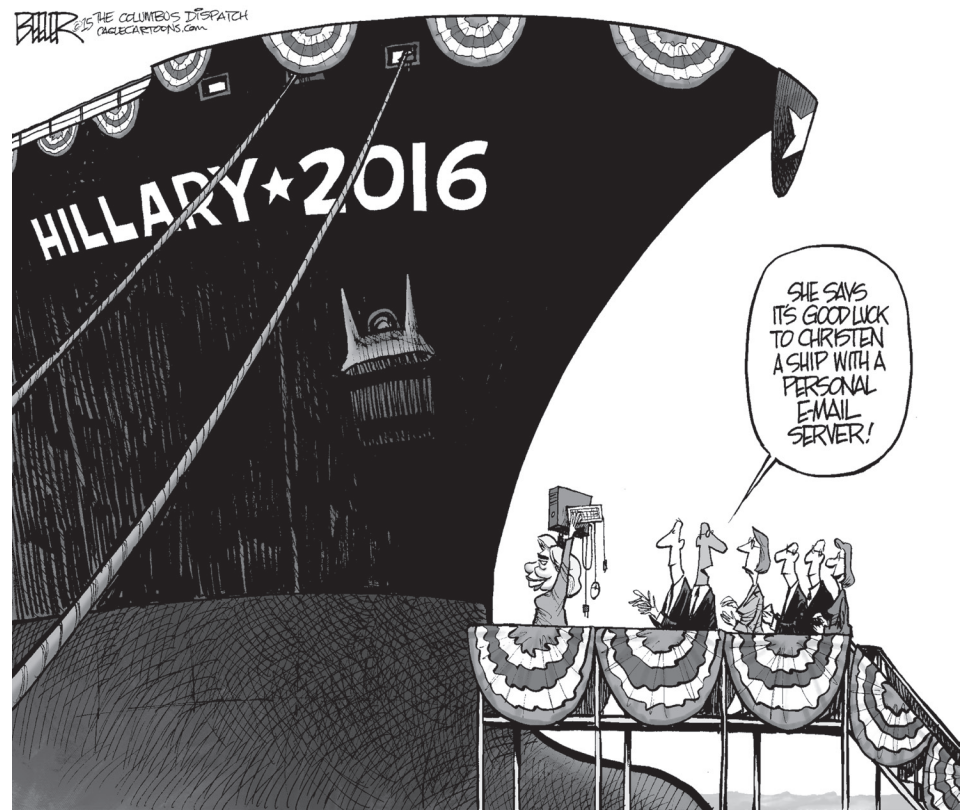
Fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying of my hands, for God gave us a spirit not of fear by of power and love and self-control. 2 Timothy 1:6-7. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Cancellation Notice?

Michael B. Stama, Yankton
The South Dakota state motto is "Under God, the People Rule." I choose to recognize these words as referring to the total population of our wonderful state. Apparently, our state legislators don't understand their place. This motto makes no reference to the "people's representatives." The people voted by referendum for a minimum wage of \$8.50 period. That action clearly

spelled out the will of the people as 55 percent affirmed the referendum. The losing side fumbled with 45 percent.
Against that backdrop, a majority of state legislators, as well as our governor, have little respect for this political instrument.
Why have a referendum in the first place if the farmer-dominated Legislature canceled out the "vote of the people?"



Scott: Just Another 'Isolated Incident'?

BY LEONARD PITTS JR.
Tribune Content Agency

"... You foolish and senseless people, who have eyes, but do not see, who have ears, but do not hear." — Jeremiah 5:21

So here we are with another isolated incident.

That, at least, is how the April 4 police killing of 50-year-old Walter Scott will play in those conservative enclaves where the notion that there is such a thing as systemic racism is regarded as deluded and absurd. Those enclaves will not, of course, be able to claim innocence for now-fired North Charleston, S.C., police officer Michael Slager. As cellphone video captured by a passerby makes brutally clear, Slager repeatedly shot the fleeing, unarmed African-American man in the back after a traffic stop.

They will likewise find it difficult to defend a police report that claims officers administered CPR to the dying man. The video shows them doing no such thing. Finally, they will find it problematic to support Slager's claim that he shot Scott after the suspect seized his Taser. The video shows Slager picking up a small object and dropping it near Scott's body, fueling strong suspicion that he planted the Taser.

The video, in other words, will make it impossible to deny Slager did wrong. But conservatives will dispute with vehemence the notion that the wrong he did has larger implications.

Indeed, Bill O'Reilly of Fox "News" has already invoked misleading statistics to assure his audience that "there doesn't seem to be, as some people would have you believe, that police are trying to hunt down young black men and take their lives."

In other words, move on, nothing to see here.

We ought not be surprised. It is only human that a Bill O'Reilly would want to think of himself and of the culture in which he has flourished as decent and good. To acknowledge that there is bias in that culture is to put oneself into an unenviable moral squeeze: One must either bestir oneself to say or do some-



Leonard PITTS

thing about it – or else stop thinking of oneself as decent and good.

It is easier simply to deny the bias, to say that what is, is not. Small wonder that's the default position of conservatism on matters of race: Absent burning crosses and pointy white hoods, nothing is ever racism to them. And the more fervently one denies self-evident truth, the more emotionally invested one becomes in doing so.

Thus, every incident that illustrates the racism of our system, every statistic that quantifies it, every study that proves it, becomes just another "isolated incident." There is never an accumulation of evidence pointing toward an irrefutable, irredeemable conclusion. They are a thousand trees, but no forest, a million raindrops, but no storm.

Rodney King, Amadou Diallo, Abner Louima? Isolated incidents. Oscar Grant, Eric Garner, Tamir Rice? Isolated incidents.

Sean Bell, Levar Jones, Trayvon Martin? Isolated incidents.

A study co-authored by law professor David Baldus, a 1991 study by the San Jose Mercury News, a 1996 report from the National Criminal Justice Commission, a 2000 study co-sponsored by the Justice Department, a 2004 report by The Miami Herald, a 2010 book by reporter Joseph Collum, all documenting profound and pervasive racial bias in the justice system? Isolated incidents.

Sometimes, you have to wonder at our conservative friends: Where is conscience? Where are intellectual integrity and moral courage? Where is simple, human decency?

Because if you are a decent person, you are up in arms right now. You are demanding solutions – not making excuses.

And if you are not up in arms yet, then pray tell: how many more "isolated incidents" do you need? How much more obvious must this be? How many more bodies will it take?

Leonard Pitts is a columnist for The Miami Herald, 1 Herald Plaza, Miami, Fla., 33132. Readers may contact him via e-mail at lpitts@miamiherald.com.

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Capitol Notebook

Leader's Passing Means Challenge Over Past, Future

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — Mike Jandreau, the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe chairman whose trademark was an ever-changing baseball cap bearing an ever-latest message, died on Good Friday afternoon.

Meaning to the timing could be attached by those raised in the Catholic Church, as Mike was. It is the day of the crucifixion.

At age 71 when he passed, Mike Jandreau had been chairman for most of his life. He won his first election to tribal council in 1972. He never lost again. He was elected chairman 18 times.

His critics claim he stole some of those victories. Some of those critics also claim he might have misdirected millions of dollars.

Such was the allegation by a non-government organization called Human Rights Watch that issued a report last winter.

That report delivered on its intent of chilling perceptions of him.

In the hours, and then days, after Mike's death, there normally might be statements from South Dakota's three members of Congress.

None came. The governor responded to an inquiry from The Associated Press. But he didn't issue a news release or request that flags be lowered.

Yet many hundreds of people filled the community center at the community of Lower Brule on Thursday afternoon for the funeral.

The streets bear the names of historic American Indian leaders such as Gull.

It is a place apart, without a state highway. Mike Jandreau knew, whatever economic opportunity would come the way of the Lower Brule people, it would need to be of their initiative.



Bob MERCER

After South Dakota voters legalized poker, blackjack and slot machines for Deadwood in 1988, soon the Golden Buffalo casino rose at Lower Brule.

During his long chairmanship, the tribal government purchased back land along its side of the Missouri River and opened a tribal ranch.

There came the popcorn farm and the buffalo interpretative center, the hunting opportunities for non-tribal people and the propane gas center.

Mike Jandreau believed in self-sufficiency and self-determination for tribal people, and especially for his tribe's people.

He convinced then-Gov. Bill Janklow to agree to placing land at the western edge of Oacoma in federal trust.

The original dream was to put a casino and tourist center at the I-90

exit. Janklow told Jandreau he wouldn't agree to a casino, however, because it was outside the established boundary of the reservation.

After Bill Janklow died, Mike Jandreau tried anyway.

The Oacoma community gave it the cold shoulder, for a variety of reasons. Current Gov. Dennis Daugaard holds the same position.

Seeking the new casino site in spite of the agreement on the trust land puzzled people. The explanation came while driving back from the funeral.

The speed limit on BIA 10 is 55 mph. It is that bad.

At night, it is 35 mph. When the road becomes SD 1806, it is smooth and well made, a straight 65, all the way to US 83 at Fort Pierre.

Those two stretches of the same road, and their speed limits, say a lot.

Now the struggle begins at Lower Brule, over the future and over the past.