

THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861

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OPINION | WE SAY

Wise Selection



THUMBS UP to the announcement by Mount Marty College that it will be bringing Sr. Simone Campbell to its Yankton campus Sept. 12 to deliver the Benedictine Lecture. She will give a presentation called "Health Care and the Poor" in Marian Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Campbell is a religious leader, attorney and poet with extensive experience in public policy

and advocacy for systemic change, and is widely known for her lobby efforts on issues of peace-building, immigration reform, healthcare and economic justice. When we think of Benedictine values, Campbell certainly fits the bill.

Busted



THUMBS DOWN to the approximately 20 arrests made during Riverboat Days weekend for driving under the influence. While we don't begrudge people for having some drinks and enjoying time with family and friends during the festive weekend, it's disappointing to see how many people didn't put plans in place to get home safely. Driving while im-

paired can quickly turn a celebratory weekend into a tragic one. Fortunately, that was not the case this year. As always, we encourage everyone to drive responsibly.

Building For The Future



THUMBS UP to the start of construction on the \$3 million Avera Science and Nursing Complex at Mount Marty College. The renovation of the Old Library and former Mount Marty High School building began last week after a "ground blessing" ceremony. Completion of the first phase is scheduled for August 2014, with the second phase started upon com-

pletion of the first phase. The project will provide a new home for science and nursing students currently studying and working in Bede Hall, constructed in 1936. It's truly an investment in MMC students and in the sciences and health care for the entire region.

Warm Thoughts



THUMBS UP to the recent arrival of warm and humid weather in the area. Yes, that does sound kind of crazy especially after last year. But most weather and agricultural experts agreed that the hot weather was precisely what the area's crops needed after a relatively cool and wet summer. (Yankton unofficially recently went almost one

month without hitting its normal high temperature.) As of late last week, much of the corn and soybeans in the region were behind normal in their development because of the lack of a few fiery days to give them a boost. Hopefully, the recent warming will do the trick. Now, if we can only hope that it doesn't linger TOO long ...

ONLINE OPINION

The results of the most recent Internet poll on the Press & Dakotan's Web site are as follows:

LATEST RESULTS:

Do you s tences in fe				to sc	ale ba	ck ma	ndatory	-minimum s	sen-
No									.52%
Yes									.44%
Not sure									4%
TOTAL VO	TES CAS	Γ							245
The Pres	s & Dakot	an Inter	net no	ll is n	ot a so	ientific	survey a	and reflects t	he

opinions only of those who choose to participate. The results should not be con-strued as an accurate representation or scientific measurement of public opinion.

CURRENT QUESTION:

Should the U.S. consider boycotting the 2014 Winter Olympics in Russia? To vote in the Press & Dakotan's Internet poll, log on to our website at www.yank-

ON THIS DATE

By The Associated Press Today is Friday, Aug. 23, the 235th day of 2013. There are 130 days left

Today's Highlight in History: On turned-hostage-taking began in Stockholm, Sweden; the four hostages ended up empathizing with their captors, a psychological condition now referred to as "Stockholm

On this date: In 1305, Scottish rebel leader Sir William Wallace was executed by the English for treason. In 1775, Britain's King George III

proclaimed the American colonies to be in a state of "open and avowed rebellion. In 1858, "Ten Nights in a Barroom," a play by Timothy Shay Arthur

about the perils of drinking alcohol, opened in New York. In 1912, actor, dancer, director and choreographer Gene Kelly was born Eugene Curran Kelly in Pitts-

In 1913, Copenhagen's Little Mermaid statue, inspired by the Hans Christian Andersen story, was un-

veiled in the harbor of the Danish cap-In 1914, Japan declared war against Germany in World War I. In 1926, silent film star Rudolph

Valentino died in New York at age 31. In 1927, amid protests, Italian-born anarchists Nicola Sacco and

Bartolomeo Vanzetti were executed in Boston for the murders of two men during a 1920 robbery. In 1939, Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union agreed to a non-aggression treaty, the Molotov-Ribbentrop

Pact, in Moscow. In 1944. Romanian prime minister Ion Antonescu was dismissed by King Michael, paving the way for Romania

to abandon the Axis in favor of the Al-In 1960, Broadway librettist Oscar Hammerstein II, 65, died

Doylestown, Pa. In 1982, Lebanon's parliament elected Christian militia leader Bashir president; however, Gemayel Gemayel was assassinated some three weeks later

Ten years ago: Former priest John Geoghan, the convicted child molester whose prosecution sparked the sex abuse scandal that shook the Roman Catholic Church nationwide, died after another inmate attacked him in a Massachusetts prison. All-Star baseball player Bobby Bonds, slugger Barry Bonds' father, died at

Five years ago: Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama introduced his choice of running mate, Sen. Joe Biden of Delaware, before a crowd outside the Old State Capitol in Springfield, III. Two foreign journalists, Canadian Amanda Lindhout and Australian Nigel Brennan, were kidnapped near Mogadishu, Somalia; both were freed after 15 months in captivity. At the Beijing Olympics, the United States won gold in the women's and men's 1,600-meter relay track events. The U.Ś. women's basketball team beat Australia 92-65 to win a fourth straight gold medal. Angel Matos of Cuba and his coach were banned for life after the taekwondo athlete kicked the referee in the face following his bronze-medal match disqualification.

One year ago: First lady Michelle Obama consoled relatives of worshippers gunned down at a Sikh temple in suburban Milwaukee. Lance Armstrong chose not to pursue arbitration in the drug case brought against him by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, setting the stage for his Tour de France titles to be stripped and his name to be all but wiped from the record books of the sport he once ruled.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Vera Miles is 83. Actress Barbara Eden is 82. Political satirist Mark Russell is 81. Pro Football Hall of Famer Sonny Jurgensen is 79. Actor Richard Sanders is 73. Ballet dancer Patricia McBride is 71. Former Surgeon General Antonia Novello is 69. Pro Football Hall of Famer Ravfield Wright is 68. Country singer Rex Allen Jr. is 66. Singer Linda Thompson is 66. Actress Shelley Long is 64. Actor-singer Rick Springfield is 64. Country singer-musician Woody Paul (Riders in the Sky) is 64. Queen Noor of Jordan is 62. Actor-producer Mark Hudson is 62. Actor Skipp Sudduth is 57. MLB All-Star pitcher Mike Boddicker is 56. Rock musician Dean DeLeo (Army of Anyone; Stone Temple Pilots) is 52. Tejano singer Emilio Navaira is 51. Country musician Ira Dean (Trick Pony) is 44. Actor Jay Mohr is 43. Actor Ray Park is 39. Actor Scott Caan is 37. Country singer Shelly Fairchild is 36. Figure skater Nicole Bobek is 36. Rock singer Julian Casablancas (The Strokes) is 35. NBA player Kobe Bryant is 35. Actress Joanne Froggatt is 33. Actress Annie Ilonzeh is 30. Dance musician Sky Blu is 27. Actress Kimberly Matula is 25.

NBA player Jeremy Lin is 25. Thought for Today: "The chains which cramp us most are those which weigh on us least." — Anne Sophie Swetchine, Russian-French author (1782-1857).

FROM THE BIBLE

Knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scriptures comes from someone's own interpretation. 2 Peter 1:20. Portals of Prayer. Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis



A Different Brain Drain

Kelly

BY KELLY HERTZ

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When I was kid, there was an intriguing public-service TV commercial that promoted the importance of physical fitness. The commercial, set in the distant future. showed a human being reduced to a bodiless head on a television screen that was lugged around by a robot. "Scientists say, 'What you don't use, you lose," a narrator intoned, implying that inert humans in this future had allowed their bodies to deteriorate away, reducing us to brains that ponder and theorize. Then, however, the robot wanders off, leaving the human head to call out for help because nothing was there to transport him.
As it turns out, the actual future

HERTZ has rendered that fake future oddly ironic. Instead of losing our bodies from the lack of use, growing numbers of young people may be losing certain brain functions for similar reasons.

Earlier this summer, a South Korean study noted the rise of "digital dementia" among younger generations — specifically, people who have grown increasingly reliant on (and addicted to) technology to perform various tasks, play games and essentially think for them.

The problem, according to researchers, is that the heavy use of technology tends to develop only the left side of one's brain, leaving the right side — which is generally tied to concentration and memory — underutilized and underdeveloped. This has produced an alarming increase in young people having memory loss issues that, in some cases, are not unlike those of people who have suffered head injuries or psychiatric illness.

While this effect can happen to tech users of all ages, the study noted, it more dramatically affects children because their brains are still developing.

This study was brought to mind by a U.S. survey released earlier this month that found that millennials (those ages 18-34) are more likely than those ages 55 and older to forget things such as what day it is, where they put their car keys or (and this is what the report said) did they take a bath or a shower that day. i ne U.S. report placed much of the blame for this situation on stress (and I can attest to the impacts of stress on one's memory, especially

around deadline), but it did note that multitasking created by the incessant use of technology contributes to that stressful environment.

Based solely and unscientifically on my own observations, I might add that another abetting

issue to "digital dementia" is the fact that many people no longer have to concentrate for extended periods of time. Television played an early role in whittling down our attention spans, but recent technological developments — ranging from the Internet and video games to social media have mightily eroded them. The most compelling example of that now is Twitter, which has managed to condense the world and our ability to express and ingest information down to puny 144-character blocks.

Conspiring together, they are training us to be hit-and-run thinkers – unaccustomed and, ultimately, unable to focus on one matter for an extended period of our harried time.

Perhaps what's needed (besides addressing those rampant stress issues) is the promotion of mental fitness, just as physical fitness has been encouraged in schools and in everyday life. Senior citizens know a thing or two about this: There are many kinds of memory builders recommended to improve brain activity among the elderly, and chances are they could work on the younger "digital dementia" prospects, too. These methods could range from doing crossword puzzles on a regular basis to something more serious and drastic like actually reading books — and I mean relatively engaging tomes that aren't brimming with photos that break up text that's edited down to concise synopses geared for shorter attention spans. We probably need quite the opposite of that.

In other words, we need to begin re-developing our mental muscle because what we don't use, we really do lose.

There's another old saying that history students live by: "Those who forget the past are condemned to relive it." In this case, we can brutally edit the sentiment down to this: "Those who forget are condemned." That's a message some of us need to remember, if we can, in order to work our way out of this growing, self-inflicted haze.

You can follow Kelly Hertz on Twitter at twitter.com/kelly_hertz

YOUR LETTERS

A Slam Dunk!

Yankton Homeless Shelter Board of Directors The Yankton Homeless Shelter would like to thank the Yankton community for its support of our dunk tank at Riverboat Days this

year. Because of local assistance and our gracious volunteers that sit in the dunk tank, we had another successful year.

A special thanks to our volunteers who assisted us in running the dunk tank and to the RBD board of directors who work all year to put on this event.

We look forward to seeing you all again next vear!

Loving Your Neighbor

John Sternquist, Yankton

This is in response to a recent letter to the editor (*Press & Dakotan*, Aug. 12) in which the author was quite sure that Jesus would reject our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters. I am not a biblical scholar; however, I did go to Sunday school and recall that Jesus addressed

this very issue in an oblique fashion. When asked about the Commandments, He responded with "love the Lord with all your heart and your neighbor as yourself." When pushed to describe "your neighbor," He issued the parable of the Good Samaritan. Briefly, a man was mugged and left at the side of the road. Several "religious people" saw the man but passed by on the other side of the road. A Samaritan, who Jewish people saw as inferior, stopped and helped the beaten man.

I think Jesus today would substitute the beaten man for the poor, the mentally challenged, gay, lesbian, Native American or anyone who is "different." They are all our "neighbors."

When Jesus asked the questioner who did the right thing, the querier responded "the one who showed mercy." Jesus said "go and Unfortunately, I fear that the author of the

letter would be like the "religious people" and

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 views@yankton.net.

move to the other side of the road. I pray that I won't.

Weiland Thanks Yankton

Rick Weiland. Sioux Falls U.S. Senate Candidate

I want to thank the people of Yankton for the incredibly warm welcome I received when I visited your community.

I wish there were a more personal way than this open letter for me to return the favor, because your kindness to a stranger, one who is a candidate no less, really affected me.

Something my wife, Stacy, said when I wondered why folks like you are being so warm, when the news you have to watch on TV is so angry, really struck me. "They're just reminding you what we learned growing up in Madison, and with our five kids," she said. "Angry doesn't work."

That's what you know in Yankton, but they don't understand in so many other places these days: "Angry" divides people. "Angry" makes people stupid. "Angry" sets us against one another, and cripples everything we try to do together.

It doesn't matter whether it's 10 people working on a project, 535 people in Congress, or 300 million Americans. When we get along, we get ahead. When we are angry with one another, we do not.

That's what South Dakota still knows, and why I want to thank you in Yankton for the reminder.

PRESS & DAKOTAN LETTER POLICY

The PRESS & DAKOTAN encourages its readers to write letters to the editor and asks that a few simple guidelines be followed.

■ Please limit letters to 300 words or less. Letters should deal with a single subject, be of general interest and state a specific point of view. Letters are edited with brevity, clarity and

newspaper style in mind. ■ In the sense of fairness and professionalism, the PRESS & DAKOTAN will accept no letters attacking private individuals or businesses.

■ Specific individuals or entities addressed in letters may be given the opportunity to read the letter prior to publication and be allowed to answer the letter in the same issue.

■ Only signed letters with writer's full name, address and daytime phone number for verification will be accepted. Please mail to: Letters, 319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078, drop off at 319 Walnut in Yankton, fax to 665-1721 or email us at views@yankton.net.