

THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861 Yankton Media, Inc., 319 Walnut St., Yankton, SD 57078

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views

PAGE 4

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# **OPINION** What's Unfolding In Missouri

t's hard to watch what's happening in Ferguson, Missouri. But it should be harder still to turn away. The drama that has unfolded there in the week-plus

since an unarmed black teen was gunned down by a white police officer has brought so many emotions to our national center stage.

Maybe the real problem is that we allow those emotions — and the angry issues attached to them — to fade away with time and weariness

It's hard to watch because, at times, the scenes we've witnessed from this St. Louis suburb have been so reminiscent of the images of, say, Cairo when unrest in Egypt was exploding a couple of years ago. Back them, we could take remote comfort in the fact that such violence and upheaval were transpiring on the other side of the world.

But not this past week. It's happening in America. It's happening in the Midwest.

Beneath it all, however, lurks old issues that go back centuries. Our struggle with race in America has never truly gone away. We suppose ourselves to be more advanced and more enlightened

about the subject. And we as a nation may actually believe it. But then there's a spark. Then comes an individual who is

killed, perhaps with skin color as a motivating factor, and it all roars back again - a grim reminder of what we used to be and, in some minds, what we still may be.

In Ferguson, we've seen police respond in almost military fash-ion against those protesting the murder of 18-year-old Michael Brown, who was unarmed when he was shot at least six times after a confrontation with a law enforcement officer. This killing rubs off on others, fairly or unfairly.

We've seen not only protesters but also looters who plunder businesses owned by the very people they profess to represent. This also rubs off on others, fairly or unfairly.

There was also the curious revelation, offered by the Ferguson police, that Brown was the suspect in a store robbery that occurred minutes before the confrontation with the police officer. The release of this information, along with the surveillance video, comes off as an attempt to somehow justify the shooting. If that's the case, it's backfired and has caused more anger. As one peaceful protester put it, if Brown really was a suspect in a robbery, he should have been apprehended, questioned and/or arrested not executed. The robbery is not the real point, especially since the officer in question reportedly had no knowledge of the robbery when he confronted Brown.

The real issue goes beyond this past week, beyond Ferguson, beyond the police and the protesters.

And it's really about America.

It's about how this nation deals with race relations. It's about where we think we're at on this issue — and it's

about where we really are.

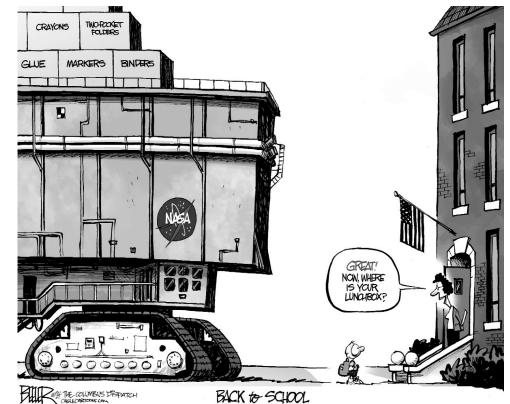
And that should be a very pressing matter to consider right now

kmh

# SPEAK UP!

Share your thoughts with us. Write to the PRESS & DAKOTAN on a topic of the day or in response to an editorial or story. Write us at: Letters, 319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078, drop off at 319 Walnut in Yankton, fax to 665-1721 or email to views@yankton.net.

# ON THIS DATE



The Rez Of The Story **The Pursuit Of Rights** 

# **BY VINCE TWO EAGLES**

Hau Mitakuepi (Greetings My Relatives), Joseph Bruchac is a Native writer and story teller from the Abenaki nation who once wrote, "There are many people who could claim and learn from their Indian ancestry, but

because of the fear their parents and grandparents knew, because of the past and present prejudice against Indian people, that part of their heritage is clouded or denied."

Don L. Coyhis, author of "Meditations with Native American Elders, writes, "There are many injustices done to Native people. Sometimes I wonder, why am I connected to the past injustices done to Indian people? Why am I so angry about the past? The Elders say our ancestors are alive within each of us. Therefore, I may experience anger and resentment inside of me because of the injustices done to them. The way I get rid of these past feelings is to forgive. It may be necessary to even learn to forgive the unforgivable.'

I think Coyhis hit upon a common thread of sentiment among Indian people. The question remains, however, how does one forgive and let go of a sordid history without sacrificing accountability?

Čonsider the following taken from Hazelden's Meditation Series: "Our progress along the path of human growth is measurable by the exercise we encourage of our forgiving spirit. Each time we harbor a resentment toward another we block our own growth.

"Preoccupation with a troublesome situation or persons prevents our responding to the thrill and possibilities of the moment. Stepping out of the flow of events to stay stuck on an old hurt guarantees us a stifled existence. Forgiveness of self and others frees us, frees our spirit to soar ahead. And we'll do so with a glad heart.

'The act of forgiveness lightens whatever burden we may be carrying. Forgiveness heals the soul; it energizes the spirit. It makes possible our forward movement once again."

minds. We, quite obviously cannot do anything to change history but what we can do is change the way we perceive it. This is where true power lies. Perception is everything.

Forgiving is a choice we can make just as hanging on to things is a choice we make. It's up

to us as individuals and as a people to decide. Do we give our brothers the benefit of the doubt as we move into the future or do we condemn them as well as ourselves to a destiny contaminated with the dysfunctional notions of the past?

And what of accountability? Are forgiveness and accountability mutually exclusive ideas? I am convinced at this juncture of my life that true forgiveness does not involve sweeping history under the proverbial rug thereby disregarding and disrespecting its lessons. Instead, I think it is necessary to face our past through the lens of truth and with a brave heart filled with courage.

To do less would be to ignore our responsibility to our fellow human beings. I believe that redress of grievance is part of the process that allows us to let go. A wrong remains a wrong until and unless justice is done. The formula for seeking justice must be born of the conversation between victim and victimizer. This conversation has been going on for sometime now but in a very low key manner.

Article 39 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples bears witness to this ongoing conversation which states, "Indigenous peoples have the right to have access to and prompt decision through just and fair procedures for the resolution of conflicts and disputes with States or other parties, as well as to effective remedies for all infringements of their individual and collective rights. Such a decision shall give due consideration to the customs, traditions, rules and legal systems of the indigenous peoples concerned and international human rights.

Experience teaches us that we as Indian people must claim and pursue these rights. We must hold our leadership to their obligation to seek

Vince

**TWO EAGLES** 

Sally Whiting JoAnn Wiebelhaus Brenda Willcuts Jackie Williams

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By The Associated Press Today is Tuesday, August 19, the 231st day of 2014. There are 134 days

left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On August 19, A.D. 14, Caesar Augustus, Rome's first emperor, died at age 76 after a reign lasting four decades; he was succeeded by his stepson Tiberius

On this date: In 1812, the USS Constitution defeated the British frigate HMS Guerriere off Nova Scotia during the War of 1812, earning the nickname "Old Ironsides."

In 1814, during the War of 1812, British forces landed at Benedict, Maryland, with the objective of captur-

ing Washington, D.C. In 1918, "Yip! Yip! Yaphank," a mu-sical revue by Irving Berlin featuring Army recruits from Camp Upton in Yaphank, New York, opened on Broadway.

In 1934, a plebiscite in Germany approved the vesting of sole executive power in Adolf Hitler.

In 1936, the first of a series of show trials orchestrated by Soviet leader Josef Stalin began in Moscow as 16 defendants faced charges of conspiring against the government (all were convicted and executed).

In 1942, during World War II, about 6,000 Canadian and British soldiers launched a disastrous raid against the Germans at Dieppe, France, suffering more than 50-percent casualties.

In 1955, severe flooding in the northeastern U.S. claimed some 200 lives.

In 1964, The Beatles opened their first full-fledged U.S. tour as they per-formed at San Francisco's Cow Palace

In 1974, U.S. Ambassador Rodger P. Davies was fatally wounded by a bullet that penetrated the American embassy in Nicosia, Cyprus, during a protest by Greek Cypriots.

In 1976, President Gerald R. Ford won the Republican presidential nomination at the party's convention in

Kansas City. In 1980, 301 people aboard a Saudi Arabian L-1011 died as the jetliner made a fiery emergency return to the Rivadh airport.

In 1991, Soviet hard-liners made the stunning announcement that Pres-ident Mikhail S. Gorbachev had been removed from power. (The coup attempt collapsed two days later.)

Ten years ago: Democratic presidential nominee John Kerry fought back against campaign allegations of exaggerating his combat record in Vietnam, accusing President George W. Bush of using a Republican front group "to do his dirty work." Google began trading on the Nasdaq Stock Market, ending the day up \$15.34 at \$100.34. Carly Patterson won gymnastics' premier event at the Olympics in Athens, becoming the first U.S.

woman to win the all-around title since Mary Lou Retton in 1984.

Five years ago: Suicide bombers struck Iraq's finance and foreign min-istries, killing more than 100 people. Four members of an elite Army special operations unit were killed when their helicopter crashed on a Colorado mountain during a training mission. Don Hewitt, the TV news pioneer who'd created CBS' "60 Minutes," died at his Long Island, New York, home at age 86.

One year ago: Olympian runner Oscar Pistorius was indicted in Pretoria, South Africa, on charges of mur-der and illegal possession of ammunition for the shooting death of his girlfriend, Reeva Steenkamp, at his home on Valentine's Day 2013; Pistorius has maintained he'd mistaken her for an intruder. A train ran over a group of Hindu pilgrims at a crowded station in eastern India, killing at least 37 people. Actor Lee Thompson Young, 29, was found dead in his North Hollywood home.

**Today's Birthdays:** Actor L.Q. Jones is 87. Actress Debra Paget is 81. USTA Eastern Tennis Hall of Famer Renee Richards is 80. Former MLB All-Star Bobby Richardson is 79. Actress Diana Muldaur is 76. Rock musician Ginger Baker (Cream, Blind Faith) is 75. Singer Johnny Nash is 74. Actress Jill St. John is 74. Actor and former U.S. senator Fred Thompson is 72. Singer Billy J. Kramer is 71. Country singer-songwriter Eddy Raven is 70. Rock singer Ian Gillan (Deep Pur-ple) is 69. Former President Bill Clinton is 68. Tipper Gore, wife of former Vice President Al Gore, is 66. Actor Jim Carter is 66. Actor Gerald McRaney is 66. Rock musician John Deacon (Queen) is 63. Actor-director Jonathan Frakes is 62. Political consultant Mary Matalin is 61. Actor Peter Gallagher is 59. Actor Adam Arkin is 58. Singer-songwriter Gary Chapman is 57. Actor Martin Donovan is 57. Pro Football Hall-of-Famer Anthony Munoz is 56. Rhythm-and-blues singer Ivan Neville is 55. Actor Eric Lutes is 52. Actor John Stamos is 51. Actress Kyra Sedgwick is 49. Actor Kevin Dillon is 49. Country singer Lee Ann Womack is 48. TV reporter Tabitha Soren is 47. Country singersongwriter Mark McGuinn is 46. Actor Matthew Perry is 45. Country singer Clay Walker is 45. Rapper Fat Joe is 44. Olympic gold medal tennis player Mary Joe Fernandez is 43. Actress Tracie Thoms is 39. Country singer Rissi Palmer is 33. Actress Erika Christensen is 32. Pop singer Missy Higgins is 31. Actress Tammin Sursok (TV: "Pretty Little Liars") is 31. Country singer Karli Osborn is 30. Olympic silver medal snowboarder Lindsev Jacobellis is 29. Actor J. Evan Bonifant is

29. Rapper Romeo is 25. Thought for Today: "Well done is quickly done." — Caesar Augustus, Roman emperor (63 B.C.-A.D. 14).

## FROM THE BIBLE

And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations. Mark 13:10. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

Clearly energy spent in hanging on to the past is ill spent. It has been said that all of human history, including our own personal history, is nothing more than an illusion — it exists only in our

# YOUR LETTERS

# **Building Anew!** Stephanie Siebrandt, Yankton

Yankton County 4-H Youth Development Programming Assistant

Have you heard or do you know about the South Dakota State Fair's Capital Campaign? Volunteers are raising funds for a new 4-H Exhibit Hall on the State Fairgrounds for 4-H members to utilize year-round. The new building will be built at the location of what was 4-H Clover Hall.

4-H Clover Hall was demolished fall 2013 with the help of in-kind labor from the City of Huron, Beadle County and Barti Metal Company, which saved \$130,000 in expenses. This generous team was not able to come on multiple occasions, so the facility was demolished at once.

With the help of volunteers statewide, about 75 percent of the \$4 million goal has been reached. Community leaders and 4-H Clubs have been working to raise funds for their new exhibit hall. The exhibit hall has been named the Nordby Exhibit Hall for 4-H, Youth and Community due to a generous \$1 million gift provided by Huron philanthropist Earl Nordby. When the building is finished, it will house 4-H public speaking competitions, Special Foods, performing arts activities and display exhibits during the State Fair. The facility will also be used year-round for 4-H events and learning sessions, and will serve as a statewide "home" for 4-H members. The exhibit hall will be available for conventions, fairgrounds events and receptions year-round, as well.

If you would like to donate, you have some options:

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justice for the people. Forgiveness is truly a choice we cannot ignore any longer. And now you know the rez of the story. Doksha (later) ...

# **Online Opinion**

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

#### LATEST RESULTS:

How closely are you following the rioting in Ferguson, Missouri? 12%

very inde
Off and on
Never heard of it
Very closely
TOTAL VOTES CAST
The Press & Dakotan Internet poll is not a scientific
survey and reflects the opinions only of those who
choose to participate. The results should not be con-
strued as an accurate representation or scientific meas-

#### **CURRENT QUESTION:**

urement of public opinion.

Are you ready for school to start? To vote in the Press & Dakotan's Internet poll, log on to our website at www.yankton.net.

 You can visit www.sdstatefairfoundation.com to donate online.

• Or, send your gift to the South Dakota State Fair Foundation, 890 3rd Street SW, Huron, SD 57350.

If you or your extended family donate \$1,000 or more, you will be able to have your family's name engraved on a brick in an area near the new exhibit hall.

Many families are commemorating their family's multi-generational involvement in 4-H or participation at the state fair. Please call the state fair Office at (605) 353-7340 to learn more!

### NEBRASKA

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