

# THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

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**OPINION | OUR VIEW**

## Pope Francis Talks About Economics

There was nothing surprising in Pope Francis's criticism last week of economic inequity. However, what surprised many people was that he pointedly cited the supply-side economics approach that wealthy nations embrace as a problem, not as a solution.

In a 50,000-word statement on global poverty and inequity, Francis specifically criticized a cornerstone of conservative economic thought in this country.

"Some people continue to defend trickle-down theories which assume that economic growth, encouraged by a free market, will inevitably succeed in bringing about greater justice and inclusiveness in the world," the pope wrote in his papal statement. "This opinion, which has never been confirmed by the facts, expresses a crude and naive trust in the goodness of those wielding economic power and in the sacralized workings of the prevailing economic system."

He added: "Meanwhile, the excluded are still waiting." It was a rousing, stunning and refreshing stand against the "idolatry of money" that has produced an "unjust international system in which 'King Money' is at the center."

This has produced some curious reactions from some high-profile American conservative opinion-makers. Former vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin called Francis's remarks "kind of liberal," a claim for which she has since apologized. (Translation: The remark was intended as a criticism.) Radio host Rush Limbaugh was more frank, claiming, "This is just pure Marxism coming out of the mouth of the pope."

Their outrage is interesting. It's interesting because Francis has been a champion of the poor since becoming pope in March. Indeed, he chose the name Francis after St. Francis of Assisi, the Italian saint who embraced a life of poverty, and he has made other headlines for numerous austere choices in his papal lifestyle.

It's also interesting because what Francis declared echoes the words of 1 Timothy 6:10, which states: "For the love of money is the root of all evil ..."

Indeed, Francis referred to such unrestrained capitalism as "a new tyranny" and warned that the failure to address the matter can have grave consequences.

"Just as the commandment 'Thou shalt not kill' sets a clear limit in order to safeguard the value of human life, today we also have to say 'thou shalt not' to an economy of exclusion and inequality," he wrote. "Such an economy kills."

The consequences cannot be tolerated, he said. "As long as the problems of the poor are not radically resolved by rejecting the absolute autonomy of markets and financial speculation and by attacking the structural causes of inequality," Francis wrote, "no solution will be found for the world's problems or, for that matter, to any problems."

Francis has been unafraid to challenge several old-guard notions during his brief tenure, and last week's statement certainly falls in that line. His pronouncement was not intended as a criticism of wealth or profit. Instead, it was an admonishment of economic systems that reward wealth with more wealth while at the same time ignore poverty and the resulting social injustices.

And in that, there is hope — and a prayer. "I beg the Lord," he added, "to grant us more politicians who are genuinely disturbed by the state of society, the people, the lives of the poor." An answer to that prayer is where change really begins.

kmh

**ONLINE OPINION**

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

**LATEST RESULTS:**

**Do you think the Obama administration will ultimately approve the Keystone XL pipeline project?**  
No . . . . . 53%  
Yes . . . . . 47%  
**TOTAL VOTES CAST . . . . . 299**

The Press & Dakotian Internet poll is not a scientific survey and reflects the opinions only of those who choose to participate. The results should not be construed as an accurate representation or scientific measurement of public opinion.

**CURRENT QUESTION:**

**Do you do volunteer work for any group or organization?**  
To vote in the Press & Dakotian's Internet poll, log on to our website at www.yankton.net.

**ON THIS DATE**

**By The Associated Press**

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 3, the 337th day of 2013. There are 28 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:** On Dec. 3, 1984, thousands of people died after a cloud of methyl isocyanate gas escaped from a pesticide plant operated by a Union Carbide subsidiary in Bhopal, India.

**On this date:** In 1810, British forces captured Mauritius from the French, who had renamed the island nation off south-east Africa "Ile de France."

In 1818, Illinois was admitted as the 21st state.

In 1828, Andrew Jackson was elected president of the United States by the Electoral College.

In 1833, Oberlin College in Ohio — the first truly coeducational school of higher learning in the United States — began holding classes.

In 1910, Mary Baker Eddy, the founder of Christian Science, died in Chestnut Hill, Mass. at age 89.

In 1925, George Gershwin's Concerto in F had its world premiere at New York's Carnegie Hall, with Gershwin at the piano.

In 1947, the Tennessee Williams play "A Streetcar Named Desire" opened on Broadway.

In 1967, surgeons in Cape Town, South Africa led by Dr. Christiaan Barnard performed the first human heart transplant on Louis Washkansky, who lived 18 days with the new heart. The 20th Century Limited, the famed luxury train, completed its final run from New York to Chicago.

In 1979, 11 people were killed in a crush of fans at Cincinnati's Riverfront Coliseum, where the British rock group The Who was performing.

In 1980, Bernadine Dohrn, a former leader of the radical Weather Underground, surrendered to authorities in Chicago after more than a decade as a fugitive.

In 1992, the first telephone text message was sent by British engineer Neil Papworth, who transmitted the greeting "Merry Christmas" from his work computer in Newbury, Berkshire, to Vodafone executive Richard Jarvis' mobile phone.

**Ten years ago:** A U.N. tribunal convicted and sentenced a radio news director and a newspaper editor to life imprisonment for their role in promoting

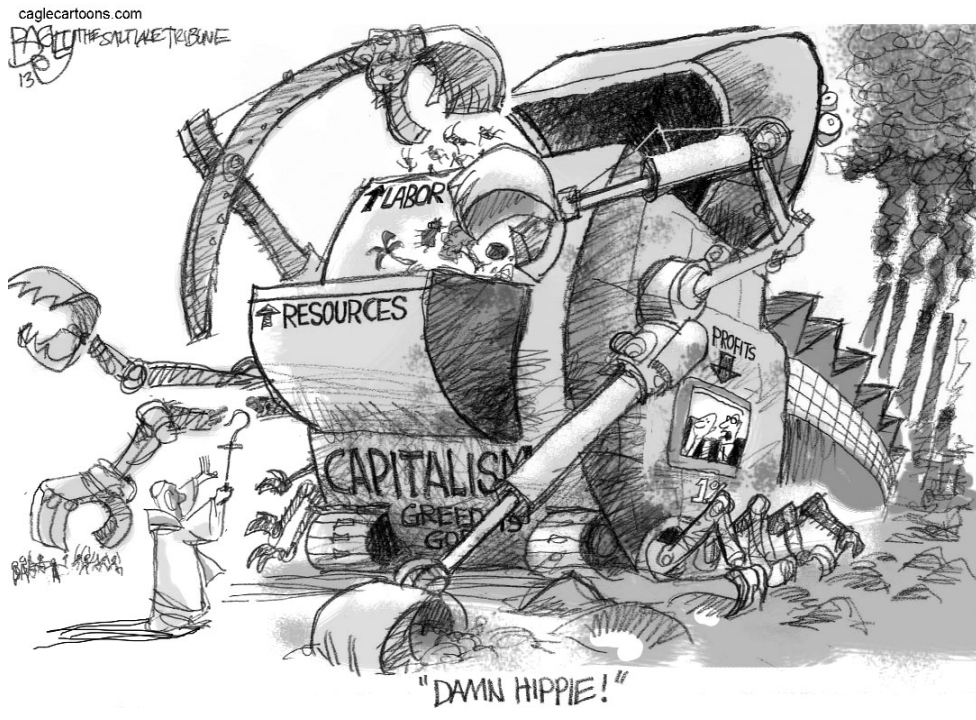
the 1994 Rwandan genocide. British actor David Hemmings died on a Romanian movie set; he was 62.

**Five years ago:** President-elect Barack Obama selected New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson as his commerce secretary. (However, Richardson withdrew a month later when it appeared his confirmation hearings would be complicated by a grand jury investigation over how state contracts were issued to political donors; Gary Locke ended up being appointed.) Theological conservatives upset by liberal views of U.S. Episcopalians and Canadian Anglicans formed a rival North American province.

**One year ago:** The White House rejected a Republican proposal to avert the "fiscal cliff," a plan that included \$800 billion in higher tax revenue over 10 years but no increase in tax rates for the wealthy. A U.S. defense official said Syria had been moving its chemical weapons components in recent days; President Barack Obama warned Syria's Bashar Assad that if he were to use those weapons against rebels fighting his country's military, "there will be consequences." Palace officials announced that Britain's Prince William and his wife Kate were expecting their first child.

**Today's Birthdays:** Movie director Jean-Luc Godard is 83. Singer Jaye P. Morgan is 82. Actor Nicolas Coster is 80. Actress Mary Alice is 72. Rock singer Ozzy Osbourne is 65. Actress Heather Menzies is 64. Rock singer Mickey Thomas is 64. Country musician Paul Gregg (Restless Heart) is 59. Actor Steven Culp is 58. Actress Daryl Hannah is 53. Actress Julianne Moore is 53. Olympic gold medal figure skater Katarina Witt is 48. Actor Brendan Fraser is 45. Singer Montell Jordan is 45. Actor Royale Watkins is 44. Actor Bruno Campos is 40. Actress Holly Marie Combs is 40. Actress Liza Lapira (TV: "Don't Trust the B---- in Apartment 23") is 38. Actress Lauren Roman is 38. Pop-rock singer Daniel Bedingfield is 34. Actress Anna Chlumsky is 33. Actor Brian Bonsall is 32. Pop/rock singer-songwriter Andy Grammer is 30. Actress Amanda Seyfried is 28. Actor Michael Angarano is 26. Actor Jake T. Austin is 19.

**Thought for Today:** "There is a way to look at the past. Don't hide from it. It will not catch you if you don't repeat it." — Pearl Bailey, American entertainer (1918-1990).



## The Sacred Sweat Lodge

BY VINCE TWO EAGLES

Hau Mitakuepi (Greetings My Relatives), This is part one of two parts about the very Sacred Sweat Lodge. According to CNN and NBC news reports, James Shore of Milwaukee and Kirby Brown of Westtown, N.Y. expired from this world on Oct. 9, 2009. They were at a Arizona retreat some 20 minutes from Sedona in attendance at a "sweat lodge" ceremony where an additional 19 people were injured, one still in critical condition. At nearly \$10,000 per person for a week's retreat with James Arthur Ray, these folks who were affected for the rest of their lives are indeed hard to imagine.



Vince TWO EAGLES

A "sweat lodge" or "steam room" is used by many people in many parts of the world for medical reasons and for personal hygiene. According to Keoke and Porterfield, who co-authored, "American Indian Contributions to the World," American Indians in Mesoamerica built steam rooms that were attached to their houses and used them both for daily bathing and for health purposes. The steam room was so integral to Aztec life that the houses in the Aztec capitol city of Tenochtitlan each had a bathhouse. (The Aztec Empire was established in what is now Mexico in about A.D. 1100). North American Indians used sweat lodges — covered, dome-shaped structures for the same reasons.

The Maya, whose culture arose in what is now the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico in about 1500 B.C., called their steam rooms temascal. The Aztec built similar steam rooms. They made a fire inside the structure to heat rocks. When the rocks were red hot, water was sprinkled over them.

The Aztec used the steam room and Therapeutic Touch, or message, before prescribing any medications or performing surgery. Because heat is a good vasodilator (an agent that dilates the blood vessels), it improves circulation and dilates the pores in the skin so that toxins are more easily flushed out by perspiration. Aztec women took a steam bath immediately after they had given birth. The baby was bathed immediately after being born as well, a practice that continued for the rest of their lives.

Indians throughout North America were also aware of the therapeutic value of moist heat. Indigenous people who lived in the area of present-day Virginia used the sweat lodge for many disorders and health problems. These included sore muscles, arthritis, rheumatism and chills. Great Plains Indians also used sweat lodges. They built the fire to heat the rocks outside and brought the rocks into the lodge when they were sufficiently hot.

## The Technology Of Nature

BY BILL O'REILLY  
Creators Syndicate

ANGUILLA, British West Indies — So here's the setting: the warm azure water of Maundy's Bay sliding up and down bright soft sand. In the distance, the islands of St. Maarten and Saba can be seen. The blue sky above is dotted with huge white clouds that bob along propelled by a warm breeze. It doesn't get any better than this.

Yet on the beach, some human beings barely look up at the incredible vista. Their machines envelope them like Venus flytraps. They are texting, emailing and chatting with folks somewhere else on Earth.

Welcome to our brave new world. H.G. Wells wrote a book called "The Time Machine," in which most humans were reduced to a trance-like existence, ruled by bad guys called Morlocks. You should read this book, because we are rapidly heading in that direction. By the way, the Morlocks were cannibals.

Texting is addictive. Once you get emotionally involved with constant external stimulation assaulting your brain, it is hard to stop looking at your machine every two minutes. Without rapid-fire words appearing on a screen, you feel bored, not part of the action. It really doesn't matter what is being sent to you; the fact that words are flashing in front of your eyes is hypnotizing.

Kids are the most vulnerable to the embrace of the machines. Children today don't really watch TV anymore. I mean, they still sit in front of the set, but they are texting while they're watching. They are multitasking. Thus, their concentration is divided and much is missed, and

Indians living in what is now Canada built similar sweat lodges. The Kwakiutl, a Northwest Coast tribe, used the sweat bath for localized pain and when the nature of a disease could not be determined. The Apache, Zuni, Navajo (Dineh) and other Southwest tribes used steam baths for similar reasons. Many American Indians continue the practice today.

According to Dr. Virgil Vogel, an expert on American Indian medicine, a member of the Lewis and Clark expedition became so disabled from chronic back pain, joint stiffness and rheumatism that he could not move. The party stopped and built an Indian-style steam bath for him after all the European treatments failed. After drinking horse mint tea and taking steam baths, he recovered completely.

The sweat lodge — or Inipi, as we call it in our dakotah language — is a vital part of our ceremonial life. In fact, it is central and pivotal to the other aspects of our traditional way of prayer. It is difficult to talk of these things in a forum like a newspaper column so I will quote some of the information contained in the pages of Joseph Epes Brown's book, "The Sacred Pipe." He quotes Black Elk in his account of the Seven Rites that traditional Dakota's practice among them of course is the sweat lodge ceremony.

"The rite of the onikare (sweat lodge) utilizes all the Powers of the universe: earth, and the things which grow from the earth, water, fire, and the air. The water represents the Thunder-beings who come fearfully but bring goodness, for the steam which comes from the rocks, within which is the fire, is frightening, but purifies us so that we may live as Wakan-Tanka wills, and He may even send to us a vision if we become very pure.

"When we use water in the sweat lodge we should think of Wakan-Tanka who is always flowing, giving His power and life to everything; we should even be as water which is lower than all things, yet is stronger even than the rocks.

"The sweat lodge is made from twelve or sixteen young willows, and these, too, have a lesson to teach us, for in the fall their leaves die and return to the earth, but in the spring they come to life again. So, too, men die but live again in the real world of Wakan-Tanka, where there is nothing but the spirits of all things; and this true way of life we may know here on earth if we purify our bodies and minds, thus coming closer to Wakan-Tanka, who is all purity."

Next week, we will discuss further the meaning of the willows, the construction and proper way of conducting the Inipi ceremony. It is hoped that by sharing some of what we believe, as traditional Dakota people, the tragedy at Arizona might possibly be avoided in the future.

Doksha (later) ...



Bill O'REILLY

not only on the tube, but also in life. Nature is a brilliant teacher. But how can you learn if you can't even sit on a beautiful beach without playing with a machine? Forget about thinking. No time for introspection. Nope. There are messages that have to be answered. Stuff is happening and must be acknowledged.

There is no question that communication and information flow are enhanced by the high-tech gizmos. Instantly, we can engage anyone in the world if we have their cyberspace information. But again, if we allow the machines to dominate us, we will miss out on real life, which, in order to be fully absorbed, needs to be seen and heard. Machine distractions prevent that.

When I tell children that they are far too dependent on their gizmos, they do not deny it, but they really don't care. This is their real life: texting about trivial things, listening to numbing music on their private headphones. The machines block everything out; you create your own little trivial world.

Socrates once said, "The unexamined life is not worth living." I concur. The world is a fascinating, difficult place, and in order to take full advantage of what the planet has to offer, we need to see and hear natural things.

That is if you don't want the Morlocks to get you.

Veteran TV news anchor Bill O'Reilly is host of the Fox News show "The O'Reilly Factor" and author of many books, including the newly released "Killing Jesus."

**YOUR LETTERS**

**Vendor Blender Thank You**

Jessica Woerner, Melissa Pavlish, Denise Taggart, Lori Stephenson, Lisa Irwin, Steph Tamisiea, Krystal Lohf & Mary Strom SHS Vendor Blending Committee  
Thank you to everyone who attended Sacred Heart School's fifth annual Vendor

Blender on Nov. 16. It was a huge success, and a wonderful variety of items were collected for the SHS Gala in April.

Also, a huge thank you to our fantastic vendors and volunteers, including MANY parents, teachers and staff!

We hope to see you again next year!

**FROM THE BIBLE**

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness." Genesis 1:26. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis