

views

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#### **CONTACT US**

PHONE: (605) 665-7811 (800) 743-2968 NEWS FAX-(605) 665-1721 ADVERTISING FAX: (605) 665-0288 WEBSITE: www.yankton.net

SUBSCRIPTIONS/ CIRCULATION Extension 104 jim.gevens@yankton.net CLASSIFIED ADS Extension 116 tera.schmidt@yankton.net NEWS DEPT. Extension 114 news@yankton.net SPORTS DEPT. Extension 106 sports@yankton.net ADVERTISING DEPT. Extension 122 sales@vankton.net

**BUSINESS OFFICE** Extension 119 ar@yankton.net NEW MEDIA:

Extension 136 beth.rye@yankton.net COMPOSING DEPT.

Extension 129 kathy.larson@yankton.net

\* \* \*

MANAGERS Gary L. Wood

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## **OPINION**

# **Ethanol Faces A Changing Future**

re we entering the "post-ethanol" era?

An article in Tuesday's Press & Dakotan may have inferred as much to some people. It noted that voters in Iowa, where the first-in-the-nation presidential caucus will be held in a few weeks, are no longer clinging to a candidate's stand on ethanol as a litmus test for their electoral preferences. In fact, the candidate who, according to some polls, currently leads the Republican field in Iowa, Ted Cruz, has been outspoken in his opposition to the government mandate to blend corn-based ethanol into the nation's fuel supply. As the article noted, this might have been a fatal stand as recently as four years ago, but it seems to be having little impact this time around.

And if ethanol can't be a political difference-maker in Iowa, what does that say for its additive's future?

Once upon a time, ethanol was seen as the ideal product for rural America. Blending ethanol into the nation's fuel supply could help Americans reduce their reliance on foreign oil by stretching the supply and curbing the overall consumption. Utilizing corn for the production of ethanol could allow part of the nation's large harvest to be diverted to renewable energy, thus shoring up corn prices elsewhere. And ethanol was advertised as being cleaner burning than straight fossil fuels, thereby having environmental benefits. Thus, ethanol addressed several issues at once. It was perfect.

But that bright promise has been attacked by shadows in recent

Ethanol has numerous critics, and not just because of the renewable energy mandate. Hunger advocates criticize the diversion of corn to energy use when it could instead by used to feed people in need. Even environmental proponents who once championed ethanol are now questioning its benefits. Ethanol has also been hurt by circumstance. Automobiles are now more fuel-efficient, which has led to an overall drop in energy consumption in this country. Also, as you may have noticed, gasoline prices are very low, which virtually negates any cost savings once enjoyed with ethanol-blended fuel. Another development, as Tuesday's article noted, is that, in Iowa, there are fewer small farmers raising corn as big farming operations produce the crop; thus, fewer

people in Iowa are actually involved in corn production. Despite all that, however, it would be premature to write off the muscle and potential of ethanol.

The ethanol industry still has considerable value and clout. According to the Farm Futures website, the USDA is seeing a "significant jump" in ethanol exports to China thanks to trade junkets that have cultivated these markets. And U.S. motorists are still consuming it, too, which means they are using ethanol. According to Ethanol Producer.com, it's expected than ethanol consumption will rise from 905,000 barrels a day this year to 918,000 barrels a day in 2016. So, that doesn't look like an industry in decline, by any means.

Still, one gets the sense that the business of ethanol is at a crossroads. It will not vanish for it has far too many uses, but the landscape in which it operates is changing. How the industry changes with it and promotes its territory will be key to ethanol's future - and by extension, crop producers who benefit from it.

kmh

## 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 Wednesday, Dec. 30, the 364th day of 2015. There is one day left

Murkowski was officially named winner of Alaska's U.S. Senate race following a period of legal fights and limbo that had



# **Point Of View**

# The Man Who Called For The Sioux's Extermination

BY TIM GIAGO (NANWICA KCIJI) InsideSources.com

When the movie "The Wizard of Oz" was released in 1939, it was indeed a wonder. It was an exciting children's fantasy movie with vivid colors, great songs and it was a movie with a message, but should this movie be tainted by the genocidal sins of the man who wrote "The Wizard of Oz," L. Frank Baum?

Baum and Adolf Hitler had one thing in common: both called for the extermination of a race of people; Hitler the Jews, and Baum, the Sioux people of South Dakota.

In an editorial written six days after 300 Lakota men, women and children were massacred at Wounded Knee on Dec. 29, 1890, Baum wrote in the Aberdeen Saturday Review, "Having wronged them for centuries we had better, in order to protect our civilization, follow it up by one more wrong and wipe these untamed and untamable creatures from the face of the earth.

Baum followed that editorial with another. He wrote, "The whites, by law of conquest, by justice of civilization, are masters of the American continent, and the best safety of the frontier settlements will be secured by the total annihilation of the few remaining Indians. Why not annihilation? Their glory has fled, their spirit is broken, their manhood effaced; better that they die than live the miserable wretches that they are.'

Fifty years later, another man set out to "annihilate" a race of people. Adolf Hitler did manage to exterminate 6 million Jews before the roof caved in on him. Hitler also wrote a book called "Mein Kampf." In the book he wrote, "Was there any form of filth or profligacy, particularly in cultural life, without at least one Jew involved in it? If you cut even cautiously into such an abscess, you found, like a maggot in a rotting body — often dazzled by the sudden light — a Kike."

There is no difference in their message. Both



about a fantasyland in the Bavarian Alps. And further suppose that the book was then made into a movie that was highly acclaimed. Would the fact that Hitler wrote the book and that he also called for genocide against the Jews diminish the popularity of the movie?

There are probably a plethora of answers to these rhetorical questions. Could it be that the

lives of the Jews were more important than the lives of the Indians? After all, the Indians stood in the path of Manifest Destiny and therefore it was God's will that they be removed or eliminated. That makes it all right in the minds of most Americans of that day.

But no matter how you cut it, genocide is genocide. If you read the words as written by L. Frank Baum, and then read them again, his words are no different than those of Hitler when he called for the annihilation or extermination of the Jewish race.

There are those who would say it is only a movie and the politics of the author are not important. But those Sioux people, people like my grandparents who were alive then, and who were named for extermination by the author, would get no small comfort from seeing the works of this genocidal editor so embellished.

No one in America can better understand the correlation of the words of Adolf Hitler and those of L. Frank Baum, than the Lakota (Sioux) people.

If journalists of America cared about fair play they would at least investigate and report on the genocidal proclamations of Mr. Baum. I wrote about him on the front page of USA Today in December 1990 and I did not see one follow-up by any other media. Would the media let this scoundrel hide in obscurity simply because he wrote a wonderful book that became a lovable movie? Or does the fact that he called for genocide against a people even matter?

Tim Giago, an Oglala Lakota, is the retired

Rachel Frederick Jeremy Hoeck Nicole Myers Robert Nielsen Diana Smallwood David Stephenson Cathy Sudbeck IoAnn Wiebelhaus Brenda Willcuts Alissa Woockman

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in the vea Today's Highlight in History: On

Dec. 30, 1940, California's first freeway, the Arroyo Seco Parkway connecting Los Angeles and Pasadena, was officially opened.

On this date: In 1853, the United States and Mexico signed a treaty un-der which the U.S. agreed to buy some 45,000 square miles of land from Mexico for \$10 million in a deal known as the Gadsden Purchase.

In 1865, author Rudyard Kipling was born in Bombay, India.

In 1905, the Franz Lehar operetta "The Merry Widow" premiered in Vienna. In 1922, Vladimir I. Lenin proclaimed the establishment of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, which lasted nearly seven decades before dissolving in Dec. 1991.

In 1936, the United Auto Workers union staged its first "sit-down" strike at the General Motors Fisher Body Plant No. 1 in Flint, Michigan. (The strike lasted until Feb. 11, 1937.)

In 1954, Olympic gold medal runner Malvin G. Whitfield became the first black recipient of the James E. Sullivan Award for amateur athletes.

In 1965, Ferdinand Marcos was inaugurated for his first term as president of

the Philippines. In 1979, Broadway composer Richard Rodgers died in New York at age 77. In 1989, a Northwest Airlines DC-10,

which had been the target of a telephoned threat, flew safely from Paris to Detroit with 22 passengers amid extra-tight se-

curity. In 1994, a gunman walked into a pair of suburban Boston abortion clinics and opened fire, killing two employees. (John C. Salvi III was later convicted of murder; he died in prison, an apparent suicide.) In 1999, former Beatle George Har-

rison fought off a knife-wielding intruder who'd broken into his mansion west of London and stabbed him in the chest (Michael Abram was later acquitted of attempted murder by reason of insanity.) In 2006, Iraqis awoke to news that

Saddam Hussein had been hanged; vic-tims of his three decades of autocratic rule took to the streets to celebrate.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush, unhappy with Congress for not per-manently extending the USA Patriot Act, signed a bill renewing the anti-terrorism law for a few weeks. Tropical Storm Zeta formed in the eastern Atlantic Ocean; it was the 27th storm of a record-breaking hurricane season. Five years ago: Republican Lisa

### FROM THE BIBLE

But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?" Exodus 3:11. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.

lasted longer than the write-in campaigr she waged to keep her job. Former Israel of people. President Moshe Katsav was convicted of raping an employee when he was a Cabinet minister (he is serving a seven-year sentence). Top-ranked Connecticut's record 90-game winning streak in women's basketball ended when No. 9 Stanford

outplayed the Huskies in a 71-59 victory at Maples Pavilion. Bobby Farrell, 61, of the pop-disco group Boney M, died while on tour in St. Petersburg, Russia. Veteran U.S. diplomat Barry Zorthian, 90, died in Washington. One year ago: President Vladimir Pu-tin's chief political foe, Alexei Navalny, was convicted along with his brother, Oleg, in a fraud case widely seen as a vendetta

by the Kremlin, triggering one of Russia's boldest anti-government demonstrations in years. Luise Rainer, a star of cinema's golden era who won back-to-back Oscars but then walked away from a glittering Hollywood career, died in London at age 104

Today's Birthdays: Actor Joseph Bologna is 81. Actor Russ Tamblyn is 81. Baseball Hall-of-Famer Sandy Koufax is 80. Actor Jack Riley is 80. Folk singer Noel Paul Stookey is 78. TV director James Burrows is 75 Actor Fred Ward is 73 Singer musician Michael Nesmith is 73. Actress Concetta Tomei is 70. Singer Patti Smith is 69. Rock singer-musician Jeff Lynne is 68. TV personality Meredith Vieira is 62. Actress Sheryl Lee Ralph is 60. Actress Patricia Kalember is 59. Country singer Suzy Bogguss is 59. "Today" show co-host Matt Lauer is 58. Actress-comedian Tracey Ul-Iman is 56. Rock musician Rob Hotchkiss is 55. Radio-TV commentator Sean Han-nity is 54. Sprinter Ben Johnson is 54. Actor George Newbern is 52. Movie director Bennett Miller (Film: "Foxcatcher") is 49. Singer Jay Kay (Jamiroquai) is 46. Rock musician Byron McMackin (Pennywise) is 46. Actress Meredith Monroe is 46. Ac-tor Daniel Sunjata is 44. Actress Maureen Flannigan is 43. Actor Jason Behr is 42. Golfer Tiger Woods is 40. TV personalityboxer Laila Ali is 38. Actress Lucy Punch is 38. Singer-actor Tyrese Gibson is 37. Actress Eliza Dushku is 35. Rock musi-cian Tim Lopez (Plain White T's) is 35. Actress Kristin Kreuk is 33. Folk-rock singer-musician Wesley Schultz (The Lumineers) is 33. NBA player LeBron James is 31. Pop-rock singer Ellie Goulding is 29. Pop-rock musician Jamie Follese (Hot Chelle Rae) is 24.

Thought for Today: "The meek shall inherit the earth — if that's all right with you." — Author unknown.

called for the genocidal extermination of a race

Then why is L. Frank Baum so loved while Hitler so eternally hated? Suppose the book "Mein Kampf" was actually a children's book

publisher of Native Sun News and Indian Country Today newspapers. He can be reached at unitysodak1@vastbb.net. He wrote this for InsideS ources.com.

# 2016: What To Expect

#### **BY WILL DURST** CagleCartoons.com

It's hard to believe, but we're on the brink of another presidential election year. Let us pray. Every quadrennial, the American political process plays out as a big-top carnival sideshow featuring moral contortionists, ethical geeks and fat sweaty white guys teetering on slack media wires.

Fortunately, we Americans have become as resilient to this format as fourth-generation cockroaches are to watered-down insecticide. To show how familiar, we here at Durstco have compiled a political forecast of what to expect over the coming year. Clip and save. All dates are approximate. Your mileage may differ.

FÉBRUARY 1, 2016: The results of the Iowa Caucuses are dismissed by non-winning candidates as an irrational political stunt, much like a game of musical chairs without the music. And no chairs

FEBRUARY 9, 2016: Some type of victory in the New Hampshire primary, moral or otherwise, is claimed by no fewer than seven candidates

MARCH 1, 2016: Super Tuesday. So called for the quantity of primaries, not the quality.

MARCH 11, 2016: A rumor about a lowpolling politico having an affair with an aide is revealed to be a last-ditch cynical attempt to humanize him.

MARCH 20, 2016: A flag factory in New Jersey bans all photo-ops by Presidential aspirants in an attempt to get some work done.

APRIL 16, 2016: Ronald Reagan is reported to be in a Swiss spa getting transfusions of Keith Richards' blood. "Draft Reagan" groups spring up in 37 states.

APRIL 29, 2016: A New York Times poll says 40 percent of the American public sees a need for a third party

APRIL 30, 2016: Ben Carson announces he will run as a third party candidate.

APRIL 31, 2016: A USA Today poll says 43

percent of the American public sees a need for a fourth party.

JULY 18, 2016: In Cleveland, the Republican National Convention outlines a platform that proposes hunting the homeless for food.

JULY 22, 2016: After the Republican National Convention, the conservative wing accuses the nominee of selling out the party. Cleveland cab drivers express disgust.

JULY 25, 2016: In Philadelphia, the Democrats float a platform that endorses good and condemns bad.

JULY 26, 2016: Due to pressure from large donors, the platform is watered down.

JULY 30, 2016: After the Democratic National Convention, the liberal wing accuses the nominee of selling out the party. Philadelphia Uber drivers express dismay.

AUGUST 2016: Absolutely nothing happens in August and it is reported upon at great length

OCTOBER 4, 2016: The Vice Presidential debate is beaten in the ratings by a Weather Channel special on topsoil. Two days later, the DEA rules it illegal to stream a recording of it while driving

OCTOBER 19, 2016: No Presidential candidate personally appears at the final debate. Instead, spin-doctors give detailed answers as to how the candidates would have responded if particular questions were asked in a certain way

**NOVEMBER 8. 2016:** In a concerted effort not to encourage these hypocritical tools, the public stays away from the polls in record numbers

NOVEMBER 9, 2016: The losing party's Vice Presidential nominee calls the election an aberration and fires an opening shot kicking off the 2020 campaign. The collective national groan registers a 4.2 on the Richter scale.

Will Durst is an award-winning, nationally acclaimed columnist, comedian and margarine smuggler.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# **Poor Choices**

#### Sheila Wek, Freeman

I am sending this email regarding a photo on the front page of the Nov. 2 issue of the Press & Dakotan. The photo I am referring to is of two kids "burying their friend in a corn pit" as is stated in the caption. The only visible part of the child being buried is his

mouth, nose and eyes. His friends are sprinkling more corn over him. He could easily inhale kernels of corn and choke.

First of all, I cannot believe why the United Way would use a corn pit as a fun activity for Halloween. Secondly, I cannot believe that the Press and Dakotan would print the photo. We live in a farming community and we teach our children to stay away from and out of corn piles because of the dangers involved.

Also, the community recently lost a young man due to a grain bin accident. I can't imagine his family's thoughts and thoughts of others who've lost loved ones in grain bin accidents when they saw this photo and also that children were encouraged to play in the corn.

I felt the need to express my feelings regarding it.