

# The Press & Dakotan

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OPINION

## Keystone: It's Time To Decide

It's time for President Barack Obama to finally make a decision on TransCanada's Keystone XL pipeline. While acknowledging the need for research by the State Department, the fact is this decision is overdue. However, the president has tap-danced around officially making that decision — mostly out of political calculations. The decision needs to be made, one way or the other, because this project has turned into a polarizing political monster that, arguably, far outweighs its impact one way or another. The stage appears set for a showdown. Congress passed a bill authorizing the controversial project last week, and the president has threatened to veto the measure. Also, the Nebraska Supreme Court effectively removed a major hurdle with a ruling that would allow the pipeline to proceed. (Fittingly with this murky issue, a majority of the justices actually believed an earlier decision that let the pipeline process proceed was wrong, but since this matter involves a constitutional issue, a super-majority of justices was needed to overturn the decision. So there's that.) There has been little doubt that Obama seems to oppose the project, given the nature of his comments. Thus, it's time to put the cards on the table. The thing is, this project may ultimately be much ado about very little, other than the fact that it allows politicians to grandstand and environmental adversaries to have at one another. According to the *New York Times*, many experts say the pipeline that would deliver Canadian oil sands product from Alberta to the Texas Gulf Coast would have little impact on climate change conditions. After all, the oil is being produced (and already having its environmental impact) in Alberta, and the pipeline would do little to magnify that threat.

Likewise, the project would probably have very little economic impact on this country. Construction would generate perhaps a few thousand short-term jobs, but the final, permanent impact will be only a couple hundred jobs at best — a negligible effect. (If the Yankton area's own experience with a TransCanada project can in any way serve as a model, then we should know what we'll see and what we won't see.)

And even if Obama vetoes this congressional plan, it doesn't necessarily mean he won't OK the project down the line (although, as we said, it seems unlikely).

There are also issues of transport, as in the pipeline versus railroad transportation, which is becoming increasingly tight and confounding.

So, the sound and fury tied to all this are more distraction than anything else.

"The political fight about Keystone is vastly greater than the economic, environmental or energy impact of the pipeline itself," states Robert N. Stavins, an environmental economist from Harvard. "It doesn't make a big difference in energy prices, employment or climate change either way."

However, besides the political grandstanding opportunities, the issue's limbo does cast a lot of people in a wilderness of uncertainty. That includes lawmakers, ranchers and other landowners, tribes and states.

So, let's get on with this matter. Frankly, it has become more of a tool for divisive political attacks than a decisive economic or environmental engine. That's creating more damage than anything this project seems capable of bringing to the table.

kmh

### ONLINE OPINION

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

LATEST RESULTS:

Have falling fuel prices impacted your driving habits?  
No.....82%  
Yes.....18%  
TOTAL VOTES CAST .....283

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 construed as an accurate representation or scientific measurement of public opinion.

CURRENT QUESTION:

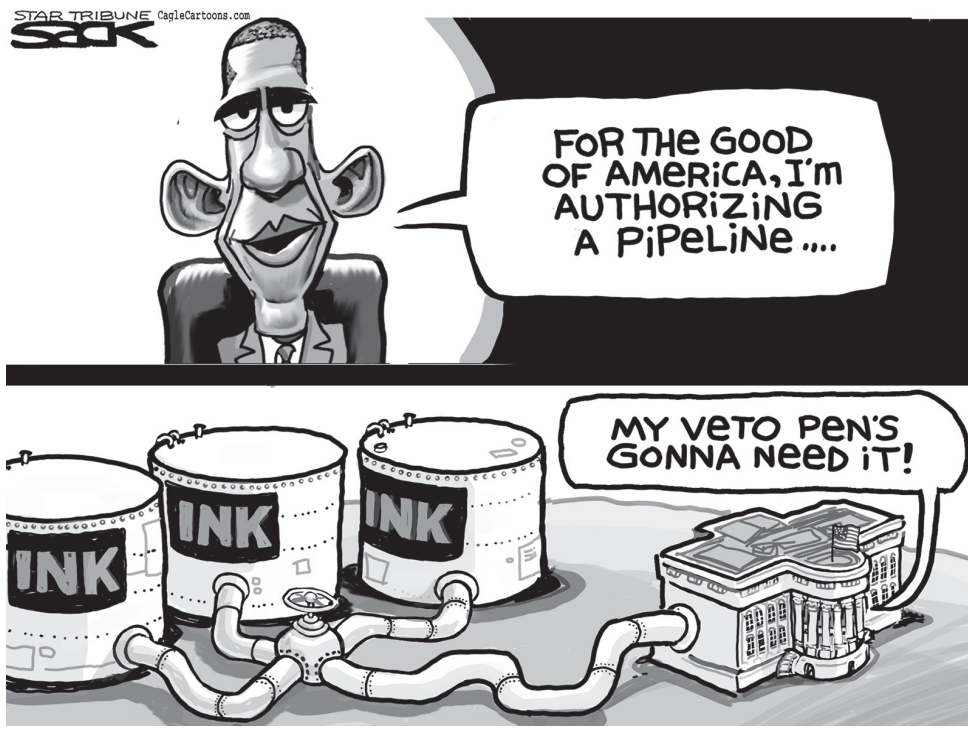
Would you support expanding video lottery in South Dakota in order to supplement the state budget?  
To cast your vote in the PRESS & DAKOTAN'S Internet poll, log on to our website at www.yankton.net.

### IN HISTORY

**By The Associated Press**  
Today is Tuesday, Jan. 13, the 13th day of 2015. There are 352 days left in the year.  
**Today's Highlight in History:** On Jan. 13, 1915, a magnitude-7 earthquake centered in Avezzano, Italy, claimed some 30,000 lives.  
**On this date:** In 1733, James Oglethorpe and some 120 English colonists arrived at Charleston, South Carolina, while en route to settle in present-day Georgia.  
In 1794, President George Washington approved a measure adding two stars and two stripes to the American flag, following the admission of Vermont and Kentucky to the Union. (The number of stripes was later reduced to the original 13.)  
In 1864, American songwriter Stephen Foster died in poverty in a New York hospital at age 37.  
In 1883, the Henrik Ibsen play "An Enemy of the People" was first performed in Christiania (Oslo), Norway.  
In 1898, Emilio Zola's famous defense of Capt. Alfred Dreyfus, "J'accuse," was published in Paris.  
In 1941, a new law went into effect granting Puerto Ricans U.S. birthright citizenship. Novelist and poet James Joyce died in Zurich, Switzerland, less than a month before his 59th birthday.  
In 1962, comedian Ernie Kovacs died in a car crash in west Los Angeles 10 days before his 43rd birthday.  
In 1964, Roman Catholic Bishop Karol Wojtyla (the future Pope John Paul II) was appointed Archbishop of Krakow, Poland, by Pope Paul VI.  
In 1978, former Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey died in Waverly, Minnesota, at age 66.  
In 1982, an Air Florida 737 crashed into Washington, D.C.'s 14th Street Bridge and fell into the Potomac River after taking off during a snowstorm, killing a total of 78 people; four passengers and a flight attendant survived.  
In 1990, L. Douglas Wilder of Virginia became the nation's first elected black governor as he took the oath of office in Richmond.  
In 2000, Microsoft chairman Bill Gates stepped aside as chief executive and promoted company president Steve Ballmer to the position.  
**Ten years ago:** Major League Baseball adopted a tougher steroid-testing program that would suspend first-time offenders for 10 days and randomly test players year-round.  
**Five years ago:** Haitians piled bodies along the devastated streets of their capital a day after a powerful earthquake, while in Washington, President Barack Obama pledged an all-out rescue and relief effort. During the first hearing of the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission, top Wall Street bankers apologized for risky behavior that led to the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression, but still declared it seemed appropriate at the time. Rhythm-and-blues singer Teddy Pendergrass died in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, at age 59.  
**One year ago:** A shooting at a Wesley Chapel, Florida, movie theater left Chad Oulson, 43, dead; retired Tampa police captain Curtis Reeves, 71, is accused of killing Oulson during what authorities said was an argument over Oulson's texting just before a showing of the movie "Lone Survivor." Two Fullerton, California, police officers who were videotaped in a violent struggle with a homeless man, Kelly Thomas, during an arrest were acquitted by a jury in Santa Ana of killing him.  
**Today's Birthdays:** Actress Frances Sternhagen is 85. TV personality Nick Clooney is 81. Actor-comedian Charlie Brill is 77. Actor Billy Gray is 77. Actor Richard Moll is 72. Rock musician Trevor Rabin is 61. Rhythm-and-blues musician Fred White is 60. Rock musician James Lomenzo (Megadeth) is 56. Actor Kevin Anderson is 55. Actress Julia Louis-Dreyfus is 54. Rock singer Graham "Suggs" McPherson (Madness) is 54. Country singer Trace Adkins is 53. Actress Penelope Ann Miller is 51. Actor Patrick Dempsey is 49. Actress Traci Bingham is 47. Actor Keith Coogan is 45. TV producer-writer Shonda Rhimes is 45. Actress Nicole Eggert is 43. Actor Michael Pena is 39. Actor Orlando Bloom is 38. Meteorologist Ginger Zee (TV: "Good Morning America") is 34. Actor Julian Morris is 32. Actor Liam Hemsworth (Film: "The Hunger Games") is 25.  
**Thought for Today:** "I am tomorrow, or some future day, what I establish today. I am today what I established yesterday or some previous day." — James Joyce (1882-1941).

### FROM THE BIBLE

Behold, the Lamb of God. John 1:29. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.



### The Rez Of The Story

## Redundant Racism

BY VINCE TWO EAGLES

Hau Mitakuepi (Greetings My Relatives), In the Jan. 19 issue of *Time*, Daniel D'Addario is a featured writer on a piece entitled, "Making Selma History." In his article, D'Addario highlights the new film "Selma" which is directed by Ava DuVernay. The film is due to open nationwide this month.

A significant quote from Daniel's article lends itself to opening this week's column. The writer penned, "The challenges the Selma protesters faced, the movie suggests, weren't rooted in the sort of racism that could be argued away when rhetoric makes people see reason. They were baked into the political system."

Case in point. *The Wagner Post* has featured "Rog's Rod & Nimrod" for many years, written by a local resident Roger Wiltz. Roger's column could just as well be entitled, "Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About Hunting and Fishing." His is a well-written column about the subject matter he writes about. However, in his most recent column entitled, "Do you smell? Take it from me. We all do," he has once again revealed a side of him that isn't even slightly appreciated by this Native person — nor does it sit well with other folks in our community (Native and non-Native alike). Let's be clear, I am a strident supporter and defender of our First Amendment rights under the U.S. Constitution; however, free speech clearly requires some thoughtfulness and carries a clear mandate to be responsible for one's words.

Roger's column about scent control relates to hunting. In the middle of the article (seemingly unrelated), he begins: "Speaking of scent, remember Louis L'Amour's western novel 'Hondo'?" It was John Wayne's favorite. In fact, Wayne played the lead role in the 1953 movie version. ... Anyway, Hondo had to deal with keeping himself alive in a country full of fearsome Apache Indians. To do this, he paid two young Indian boys to whip a puppy. The pup associated the beating with Indians, and grew up to hate Indians. That dog went everywhere Hondo went. If the dog caught scent of Indian, it growled. Pavlov would have loved this variation of his classical condition."

He goes on to say, "Before an Indian version of Al Sharpton thinks I'm inferring that Indians have body odor, we all do. If an Indian has me



Vince TWO EAGLES

whip a pup, he'll growl when white folks are present. Hondo might be fiction, but my psychology studies tell me that A'Amour's thinking was reasonably accurate."

A seemingly innocuous scenario such as Roger's is unfortunately "baked" into the local mentality of some non-Indians and only serves to ignite and fuel already problematic race relation issues in our community and beyond.

So why make such comments in the first place? What on earth does the apparently odious odor of Indians have to do with hunting? The Indian version of Al Sharpton, where are you when we need you?

This "Hondo" character that Roger Wiltz and John Wayne admire so much seems to be suffering from chronic bouts of cruelty. Why hire children (Hondo's first mistake by today's standards) to deliberately beat an innocent puppy so that he could "teach" the puppy to "protect" Hondo from what amounts to marauding (roaming around willy-nilly to steal stuff and

attack people)? The truth is more akin to resistance to the onslaught of European land grabbers, and the genocidal practices of the U.S. government and its citizens at the time. To teach an animal to hate Indians because of how they smell erroneously suggests that all Indian people smell alike. Hate to break it to you, Roger, and your buddy John Wayne, but we definitely do not all look alike nor do we all smell the same.

And speaking of Al Sharpton, *Frontpage Magazine*, an on-line periodical, carries an article written by John Perazzo entitled, "Sharpton Is Right: Racism Is Rampant," which goes a bit like this: "Perhaps it's time to finally concede that Al Sharpton, Jesse Jackson and their fellow civil rights crusaders have apparently been correct all along: 'There is indeed a whole lot of racism in America that just won't go away.'"

I do not for one minute think that their's is a final statement about who we truly are here in our community, state or the country. Racism is a state of mind based on stereotypes and bad information about those different than ourselves. So let's stop being so casual and flippant about what we say — after all, innocent children and puppies might be listening.

And now you know the rez of the story. Doksha (later) ...

### Leonard Pitts

## Terrorists: 'The End Of Satire'

BY LEONARD PITTS JR.  
Tribune Content Agency

Dear Terrorists:  
OK, you win. We surrender.  
Never thought I'd say that, but then, I never thought I'd see gunmen burst into the offices of a satirical magazine as happened last Wednesday in Paris. Never thought I'd see 12 people killed — most were employees, two were police officers — because a magazine published provocative cartoons mocking extremist Islam.

Here in the United States, as in France, as in pretty much every free place on the globe, we've cherished this crazy idea that people should be free to say whatever they darn well please. We have particularly believed in the power of humor, not simply as a means of expression, but as a way of puncturing the powerful and pricking the pretentious, of defying those who seek to make us fear.

But the bloodshed at Charlie Hebdo magazine forces us to realize the error of our ways. So I am here to announce that you have achieved your goal. From this moment on, no one on the planet — the entire planet, do you hear? — will ever, ever, ever again make fun of you. This is The End of Satire.

So you'll hear no more cracks about Osama bin Gotten.  
No one will ever again say you're full of Shiite. And you won't have to hear anyone sing, "Bomb bomb bomb, bomb bomb Iran" to the tune of an old Beach Boys song.

I even hear Jon Stewart is quitting "The Daily Show" to host a program on The Food Network, specializing in New Jersey cuisine. Mad magazine is going out of business and its famed mascot, the infidel Alfred E. Neuman, just became the latest journalist beheaded by ISIS. Bill Maher is teaching religious studies in Mississippi, Lewis Black is practicing Zen Buddhism and Stephen Colbert now claims "Stephen Colbert" was nothing more than a character he played.

You know, this isn't easy for us. In America, we have a tradition, stretching from Mark Twain to Will Rogers, to Dick Gregory to Norman Lear to the aforementioned Jon Stewart, of using hu-

mor to make trenchant political points. Probably, the French have a similar tradition.

But we finally get what you're saying: Allah don't play that.

And not just Allah. Back in December, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un threatened "merciless" retaliation over "The Interview," a (by all reports) silly comedy about two idiot American journalists who are asked to assassinate him. The FBI says a devastating cyberattack on Sony Pictures, which released the film, originated in that hermit kingdom.

Take all that in conjunction with the 2006 riots after publication of cartoons depicting the Prophet Muhammad, the 2010 threat of a fatwa against "South Park," a 2011 firebombing at *Charlie Hebdo* and last year's crackdown on Bassem Youssef, host of an Egyptian version of "The Daily Show," and one thing becomes clear:

While we've fought forces of corruption, hypocrisy, totalitarianism and terror with reason, sanctions, humanitarian pleas and even violence, it turns out that what they really hate is when you laugh at them.

So, OK, message received. We won't laugh at you again, ever, ever, ever. You win.

Indeed, I propose a new law: One may no longer place one's tongue in one's cheek under penalty of death. I'm also voting Boko Haram for school board. And from now on, no more pork on my fork. Do you know where I can get a deal on a burqa for my daughter? The one I'm pulling out of college immediately? Oh, and you'll be happy to hear I'm growing my beard out and I've ordered my wife to grow one, too, just to be on the safe side. She says she can't, but I'll bet 40 lashes will make those follicles of hers think twice about their defiance.

Yes sir, satire is dead, and you killed it. Trust me. From now on, we will treat you only with the respect you deserve.

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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### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Warm Thoughts

**Fernande Bitsos, Yankton**  
*Ex-Peace Corps Volunteer*  
This is in regards to Jim Van Osdel's letter "A Matter of Warmth" (*Press & Dakotan*, Dec. 26). As a senior companion of South Dakota for seven years, I have senior and handicapped clients who live in those so-called "inadequate" apartments claimed by your commentaries.

Many of my senior clients not once ever complained of lack of heat or air conditioning. I visit them once or twice a week, enjoy taking them shopping, to their medical appointments, coffee shops, played Scrabble, cross-words with some of them in "warm or cool air" comfort.

You must be very bored to blame your "progressive" nightmares that give you the urge to write such comments.