

THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

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OPINION | OUR VIEW

Egypt Struggles With Democracy

The images from Egypt danced across American television screens on the eve of our own Independence Day: Scenes of delirious triumph twisted in the streets of Cairo as Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi was removed from power by the military. It ended his year of rule that seemed to herald a new age of despotism on the ancient banks of the Nile. The street mobs were celebrating amid the joyous prospect of change.

Of course, if you hadn't been paying attention too intently and/or had just stumbled across the images on a cable news network last week, you might have thought they were clips from two years ago when Egyptians took to the streets and another ruler was pulled from power.

This time, the images we saw — reflective of the change that is again sweeping Egypt — raise more questions than answers, and perhaps more concerns than hopes.

Frankly, what we saw last week was unexpected culmination of a democratic process that had been planted in Egypt when Hosni Mubarrak was brought down in 2011. That dramatic event did indeed sow the seeds of democracy in that pivotal Middle Eastern nation, and last summer the Egyptian people went to the polls and chose their destiny.

The problem is, they chose Morsi, the man they just removed by what could fairly be described as a military coup.

Is this how Egypt is to deal with change from now on? Morsi was a controversial choice as Egypt's fifth president. He had strong ties with the Muslim Brotherhood, a group that had once been banned in Egypt and that has questionable militant slants. He temporarily gave himself unlimited powers of state last November, which drew widespread condemnation. Ultimately, he was criticized for not having addressed Egypt's major problems and for not working with other factions within the government to solve those problems.

Eventually, the people took to the streets. Last week, the military issued a 48-hour ultimatum demanding that Egypt's political parties find a way to begin addressing the concerns of the people. They didn't, and Morsi was ousted.

Perhaps this is a good thing for Egypt. Perhaps it's not. The question is, is this the way democracy is going to work in that nation? Is the military the only true power that exists in Egypt now?

This is why the U.S. has been terribly careful in its reaction to the situation in Egypt. While officials here had their issues with Morsi, they cannot approve of the means by which this has happened.

And given how vital Egypt is to any peace process in the Middle East, it's a disconcerting development. It reflects an inherent instability in the democratic foundation there. It also suggests the only practical course for ruling Egypt is by military blessing and/or centralized oversight.

It puts the U.S. in a difficult situation, and it all ultimately flies in the face of the grandest notions of the Arab Spring. Egypt's reality may be a sobering example of how difficult "the will of the people" is to harness when democracy is applied to such a situation.

kmh

THE VIEWS PAGE

The **PRESS & DAKOTAN** Views 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 to the editor on current topics. Questions regarding the Views page should be directed to Kelly Hertz at views@yankton.net.

ON THIS DATE

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, July 9, the 190th day of 2013. There are 175 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On July 9, 1943, during World War II, the Allies launched Operation Husky, their invasion of Sicily, with nighttime landings of American and British troops; a full-scale incursion by sea began in the small hours of July 10. (More than a month later, the Allies secured the island from the Axis.)

On this date: In 1540, England's King Henry VIII had his 6-month-old marriage to his fourth wife, Anne of Cleves, annulled.

In 1776, the Declaration of Independence was read aloud to Gen. George Washington's troops in New York.

In 1816, Argentina declared independence from Spain.

In 1850, the 12th president of the United States, Zachary Taylor, died after serving only 16 months of his term. (He was succeeded by Millard Fillmore.)

In 1896, William Jennings Bryan delivered his famous "cross of gold" speech at the Democratic national convention in Chicago.

In 1918, 101 people were killed in a train collision in Nashville, Tenn. The Distinguished Service Cross was established by an Act of Congress.

In 1938, Supreme Court Justice Benjamin Cardozo died in Port Chester, N.Y., at age 68.

In 1953, the MGM movie musical "The Band Wagon," starring Fred Astaire and Cyd Charisse, had its world premiere at New York's Radio City Music Hall.

In 1962, pop artist Andy Warhol's exhibit of 32 paintings of Campbell's soup cans opened at the Ferus Gallery in Los Angeles.

In 1974, former U.S. Chief Justice Earl Warren died in Washington, D.C., at age 83.

In 1986, the Attorney General's Commission on Pornography released the final draft of its report, which linked hard-core porn to sex crimes.

In 1992, Democrat Bill Clinton tapped Tennessee Sen. Al Gore to be his running mate. Former CBS News commentator Eric Sevareid died in Washington at age 79.

Ten years ago: The Bush administration defended the war against Iraq, saying that information on Saddam Hussein's alleged illicit weapons programs was solid even though one of President George W. Bush's claims — that Iraq had sought uranium from Africa — was based on faulty evidence.

Five years ago: Citing new DNA

tests, prosecutors cleared JonBenet Ramsey's parents and brother in the 1996 killing of the 6-year-old beauty queen in Boulder, Colo. Massachusetts Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, battling a brain tumor, walked into the Senate to cast a dramatic vote in favor of long-stalled Medicare legislation. Iran test-fired nine missiles, including ones capable of hitting Israel. Gunmen stormed a guard post at the U.S. consulate in Istanbul, Turkey, touching off a firefight that killed three police officers and three assailants.

One year ago: Facing sagging jobs numbers, President Barack Obama sought to recast the November election as a fight over tax fairness, urging tax cut extensions for all families earning less than \$250,000 but denying them to households making more than that. The remains of 6 U.S. airmen lost over Laos in 1965 were laid to rest in a single casket at Arlington National Cemetery. Detroit's Prince Fielder became only the second player, after Ken Griffey Jr., to win multiple titles in the All-Star Home Run Derby, thrilling the crowd at Kauffman Stadium with eight splash shots into the right-field fountain and beating Toronto's Jose Bautista 12-7 in the final.

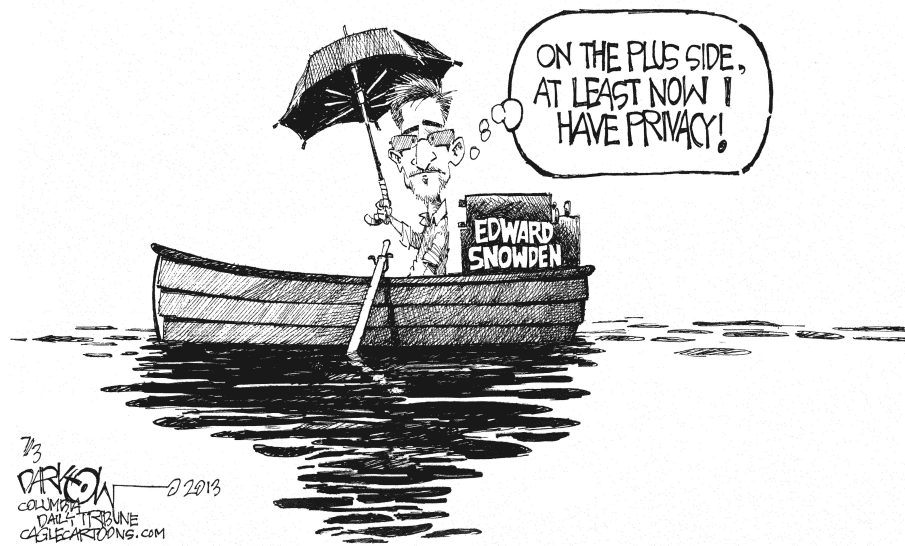
Today's Birthdays: Actor-singer Ed Ames is 86. Former Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld is 81. Neurologist and author Oliver Sacks is 80. Actor James Hampton is 77. Actor Brian Dennehy is 75. Actor Richard Roundtree is 71. Author Dean Koontz is 68. Football Hall-of-Famer O.J. Simpson is 66. Actor Chris Cooper is 62. TV personality John Tesh is 61. Country singer David Ball is 60. Rhythm-and-blues singer Debbie Sledge (Sister Sledge) is 59. Actor Jimmy Smits is 58. Actress Lisa Banes is 58. Actor Tom Hanks is 57. Singer Marc Almond is 56. Actress Kelly McGillis is 56. Rock singer Jim Kerr (Simple Minds) is 54. Actress-rock singer Courtney Love is 49. Rock musician Frank Bello (Anthrax) is 48. Actor David O'Hara is 48. Rock musician Xavier Ruef (Buckcherry) is 45. Actor Scott Grimes is 42. Actor Enrique Murciano is 40. Musician/producer Jack White is 38. Rock musician Dan Estrin (Hoobastank) is 37. Country director Fred Savage is 37. Country musician Pat Allingham is 35. Actress Megan Parlen is 33. Rhythm-and-blues singer Kiely Williams (3lW) is 27. Actor Mitchel Musso is 22. Actress Georgie Henley is 18.

Thought for Today: "Invest in the human soul. Who knows, it might be a diamond in the rough." — Mary McLeod Bethune, American educator and reformer (1875-1955).

FROM THE BIBLE

Then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. Genesis 2:7. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

THE MAN WITHOUT A COUNTRY



The Rez Of The Story

A Highway To Insight

BY VINCE TWO EAGLES

Hau Mitakuyepi (Greetings My Relatives), The primary editor of the Oxford English Dictionary, James Murray, once wrote: "... my work was so long so little appreciated that I learned not to care a scrap for either blame or praise."

Karen Casey and Martha Vanceburg have added: "It's instructive to look at important figures of the past. So many have fallen into utter obscurity, and people who were quite obscure are now seen as important. Who remembers newspaper columnists or best-selling writers of forty years ago? Yet at the time, their names were on everyone's lips."

"We have an idea that life has speeded up, that history has accelerated, in that we live faster now than people did in the past. But this is a function of the media; the experiences we hear about are other people's experiences. We know more, sooner, about more people; we know when royal babies are born and when border wars are fought. But these events have always occurred, and have always totally engrossed those who are immediately concerned. Their true import for the world, history must discover."

FYI — for instance, did you know that North American and northeast culture were using asphalt (that's right, the substance we use to build modern highways here in America and around the world) long before our contact with European cultures? As a matter of fact, co-authors Emory Dean Keoke and Kay Marie Porterfield, who co-wrote "American Indian Contributions to the World," tell us this about asphalt: "The lowest grade of crude oil is asphalt. Brownish black in color, it is solid or semi-solid. Evidence exists that cultures east of the Missouri River were using it as a water-proofing agent as early as 8,000 B.C. The Chumash or southern California used and traded asphalt so extensively that some archaeologists have deemed them to have an 'asphalt culture.' The tribe obtained the asphalt from the area known as the La Brea tar pits located in what is now the Los Angeles area. The oil there had been formed by the action of pressure and time on marine plankton deposited millions of years earlier. According to scientists, the

petroleum took about 40,000 years to migrate to the surface. Asphalt was formed naturally when the lighter, more volatile substances such as kerosene evaporated.

"Caulking for canoes was one of the most important uses for the substance. The Chumash crumbled dry asphalt and heated it in a stone vessel, mixing it with pitch to make a sealant. This was then thickened with red ochre. The mixture was poured onto the boat's surface from soapstone ladles. The Chumash spread it on canoes with willow-bark brushes and scraped the excess off with bone scrapers. When boats needed to be recaulked, a hot stone was applied to melt the seam.

"The Chumash also used asphalt to seal long-necked baskets that they used as water containers. They coated the insides by filling them with pebbles that they had dipped into hot asphalt and then shaking the basket. They used asphalt to coat the exterior of these baskets as well. The Chumash also used asphalt to plug up the holes in abalone shells so that they could be used as dishes, and as a glue to fasten spear points and arrow points to shafts. Just as the ancient Sumerians of the Middle East had done, the Chumash independently discovered how to use the substance to glue shell inlay as a decoration on stone, bone, and wood. Asphalt was in such high demand among other West Coast tribes that the Chumash traded it for goods such as soapstone, salt, fur, and food.

"Most of the asphalt used today is a byproduct of petroleum distillation. It is used to line reservoirs and swimming pools as well as surface roads. The use of asphalt for road surfaces did not begin in the United States until 1870. In the mid-1960s highway engineers discovered that when asphalt was blended with 18 percent rubber, another American Indian invention, the new substance provided increased resistance to melting in hot weather and cracking in cold weather."

So the next time you see road crews out and about you can thank Native peoples for having the intelligence and ingenuity to show the world how to properly repair our road system among other things.

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



Vince TWO EAGLES

YOUR LETTERS

A Commendation

Bonnie Whatling, Yankton
I've always been proud of the fact that I had three brothers that were in law enforcement. Retired State Trooper Dennis (Whitey) Jensen, Retired State Trooper David Jensen and Retired Officer Jim Jensen who spent over thirty years as a police officer for Yankton.

Last Saturday I had just parked my car as I was getting out and noticed a police car parked behind me and an officer coming. I asked him if I was speeding and he said, "No, is this your car?" and I said, "Yes." He said, "Do you know your license plates are expired?" All I could say was "WHAT?" and then he said "Can I ask you 'mam' why you're not wearing your seat belt?" I told him I had a stent put in my left leg and sometimes when it's bothering me I don't wear the seatbelt.

I went back to his car to give him the information he needed and when he was done he said, "I know you didn't intentionally drive with your license expired and if I give you a ticket for this, it's \$125. So I'm just going to give you a ticket for the seat belt violation which is \$25 and I assume you won't be doing any more driving until I get the license plate up to date. I told him I couldn't get the car

Online Opinion

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

LATEST RESULTS:

Do you view NSA leaker Edward Snowden as a traitor?
Yes 49%
No 36%
Not sure 15%
TOTAL VOTES CAST 432

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:

Do you agree with the Supreme Court's decision that declares a key portion of the Voting Rights Act unconstitutional?

To vote in the Press & Dakotan's Internet poll, log on to our Web site at www.yankton.net.

home and in the garage fast enough. My first ticket in more than 60 years of driving.

Police officers are too often criticized so I want to thank Officer Rothenberger. As I told you that day, "You deserve to wear that badge."

YOUR D.C. LAWMAKERS

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