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OPINION | OTHER THOUGHTS

A New Perspective On Pipeline Safety

LINCOLN JOURNAL STAR (July 14): With 50 people now presumed dead in the fiery derailment of a train carrying crude oil in Canada, the terms of debate over the Keystone XL pipeline have

Previously, opponents of the pipeline have focused attention solely on the safety record of pipelines.

Now the tragic incident at Lac-Megantic in Quebec has drawn attention to the safety record of alternative methods for transport-

It seems clear that pipelines as a general rule are safer.

In April, months before the explosion of oil tank cars incinerated much of the small Canadian town north of Maine, Charles Ebinger, director of the Brookings Institution's energy security initiative, told Bloomberg News a denial of Keystone XL would "undoubtedly" result in more spills by trains.

The evidence is so overwhelming that railroads are far less safe than pipelines," Ebinger said.

The Association of American Railroads said railways record spills 2.7 times more often than pipelines, Bloomberg reported. In defense of the rail industry, the association pointed out that pipeline spills typically are four times larger than rail releases. But a crucial factor is that rail lines often run through towns

and cities, while pipelines generally avoid populated areas. In its environmental statement, the State Department this

spring said denial of the Keystone XL pipeline would not prevent development of Canada's oil sands.

For those who accept that as a given, the question of whether hauling crude by rail or truck poses a greater safety risk has taken on a new urgency. Although both pipelines and railroads deliver 99 percent of their products without problems, according to Bloomberg, neither mode of transport can be made 100 percent risk-free.

In North America, only 9,500 carloads of oil were moved by rail in 2008, according to the Wall Street Journal. Last year, the number had jumped to 234,400 carloads.

The Keystone XL is designed to carry about 830,000 barrels per day. Without the pipeline, shipments of Canadian crude would increase by 42 percent by 2017, according to the Canadian investment bank RBC Capital Markets.

In a recent comment, President Barack Obama said his decision on whether to approve the pipeline would hinge on whether it would "significantly" increase greenhouse gas emissions.

But it would surprise no one if the devastating fireball in Lac-Megantic also factored into his decision.

OUR LETTER POLICY

The PRESS & DAKOTAN encourages its readers to write letters to the editor, and it asks that a few simple guidelines be followed. ■ Please limit letters to 300 words or less. Letters should deal with a single subject, be of general interest and state a specific point of view. Letters are edited with brevity, clarity and newspaper style in

In the sense of fairness and professionalism, the PRESS & **DAKOTAN** will accept no letters attacking private individuals or busi-

■ Specific individuals or entities addressed in letters may be given the opportunity to read the letter prior to publication and be allowed to answer the letter in the same issue.

■ Only signed letters with writer's full name, address and daytime phone number for verification will be accepted. Please mail to: Letters, 319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078, drop off at 319 Walnut in Yankton, fax

Dolly spun into a hurricane as it

headed toward the U.S.-Mexico bor-

der European Union foreign ministers

agreed to toughen sanctions against

Zimbabwe's President Robert Mu-

gabe to pressure him to share power

with the opposition. Actress Estelle

Getty died in Los Angeles at age 84.

One year ago: President Barack
Obama made a quick trip to Colorado

to meet with families of those gunned

down in an Aurora movie theater and

to hear from state and local officials

about the shooting that left 12 people

dead and dozens more injured. The International AIDS Conference

opened in Washington, D.C., with the

goal of "turning the tide" on HIV. Fifteen people were killed in South Texas

when a pickup truck ran off the road

and hit trees about 90 miles southeast

of San Antonio. Bradley Wiggins be-

came the first British cyclist to win the

Tour de France, Ernie Els won his

fourth major championship in an as-

tonishing finish, rallying to beat Adam Scott in the British Open when the Australian bogeyed the last four holes.

Licia Albanese is 100. Former Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., is

90. Actor-comedian Orson Bean is 85.

Fashion designer Oscar de la Renta is 81. Actress Louise Fletcher is 79.

Rhythm-and-blues singer Chuck Jack-

son is 76. Actor Terence Stamp is 75.

Game show host Alex Trebek is 73.

Singer George Clinton is 72. Actor-

singer Bobby Sherman is 70. Former Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas,

is 70. Movie writer-director Paul Schrader is 67. Actor Danny Glover is

67. Singer Mireille Mathieu is 67

Brooks is 66. Rock singer Don Henley is 66. Movie composer Alan Menken

is 64. Singer-actress Lonette McKee

is 60. Jazz musician Al Di Meola is 59. Actor Willem Dafoe is 58. Rhythm-

and-blues singer Keith Sweat is 52.

Actress Joanna Going is 50. Actor Rob Estes is 50. Folk singer Emily

Saliers (Indigo Girls) is 50. Actor John

Leguizamo is 49. Actor-comedian David Spade is 49. Actor Patrick Laby-

orteaux is 48. Rock musician Pat Badger is 46. Actress Irene Bedard is

46. Actor Rhys Ifans is 46. Actor Colin

Ferguson is 41. Rock musician Daniel

Jones is 40. Singer Rufus Wainwright is 40. Actress Franka Potente is 39.

Actress A.J. Cook is 35. Actor Keegan

Allen ("Pretty Little Liars") is 26. Actress Selena Gomez is 21.

give away is the only love we keep." — Elbert Hubbard, American author

(1856-1915).

Thought for Today: "The love we

Actor-comedian-director

Today's Birthdays: Opera singer

International AIDS

ON THIS DATE

By The Associated Press Today is Monday, July 22, the 203rd day of 2013. There are 162

Today's Highlight in History: On July 22, 1943, American forces led by Gen. George S. Patton captured

Palermo, Sicily, during World War II. On this date: In 1587, an English colony fated to vanish under mysterious circumstances was established on Roanoke Island off North Carolina

In 1796, Cleveland, Ohio, was founded by General Moses Cleaveland. In 1893, Wellesley College profes-

sor Katharine Lee Bates visited the summit of Pikes Peak, where she was inspired to write the original version of her poem "America the Beautiful."

In 1916, a bomb went off during a Preparedness Day parade in San Francisco, killing 10 people.

In 1933, American aviator Wiley Post completed the first solo flight around the world as he returned to New York's Floyd Bennett Field after traveling for 7 days, 18 and 3/4 hours.

In 1934, bank robber John Dillinger was shot to death by federal agents outside Chicago's Biograph Theater, where he had just seen the Clark Gable movie "Manhattan Melo-

In 1942, the Nazis began transporting Jews from the Warsaw Ghetto to the Treblinka concentration camp. Gasoline rationing involving the use of coupons began along the Atlantic

In 1946, Jewish extremists blew up a wing of the King David Hotel in Jerusalem, killing 90 people. In 1963, Sonny Liston knocked out

Floyd Patterson in the first round of their rematch in Las Vegas to retain the world heavyweight title. In 1975, the House of Represen-

tatives joined the Senate in voting to restore the American citizenship of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee. In 1983, Samantha Smith and her

parents returned home to Manchester, Maine, after completing a whirlwind tour of the Soviet Union. In 2011, Anders Breivik massacred 69 people at a Norwegian island

youth retreat after detonating a bomb nearby Oslo that killed eight others in the nation's worst violence since World War II. Ten years ago: Saddam Hussein's

sons Odai and Qusai were killed when U.S. forces stormed a villa in Mosul, Iraq. Months after her prisoner-of-war ordeal. U.S. Army Pfc. Jessica Lynch returned home to a hero's welcome in

Elizabeth, W.Va. Five years ago: Tropical Storm

FROM THE BIBLE

Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work. 2 Timothy 2:21. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis



Exploiting Trayvon Martin

O'REILLY

BY BILL O'REILLY Creators Syndicate

think about it.

Although they may not realize it, some supporters of the dead teenager Trayvon Martin are actually exploiting him, using his death to advance their own personal agendas. That is very disturbing when you

After the acquittal of George Zimmerman, one loon out in San Francisco justified some mob-driven property damage, saying: "We have to grow a new society. A people society. Not one where Wells Fargo, the Federal Reserve, all these big banks. We need a whole new system!"

A protester in D.C. said: "We don't get democracy. We get capitalism. We get white supremacy.'

And then there was race. Radical priest Michael Pfleger in Chicago told his congregation: "We are not in a post-racial area. In fact, racism has a second breath in America today and (with the verdict) it got new oxygen.

So, if you believe the fringe, the reason Zimmerman was found not guilty by a jury of six women is that they are racists who want big business to dominate the country.

Makes sense to me. And then there are the grievance folks. Talk-radio host Tavis Smiley told ABC News that it is open season on black men in this country. According to Smiley, the Zimmerman verdict is "just another piece of evidence of the incontrovertible contempt that this nation often shows and displays for black men."

At the top, President Barack Obama used the verdict to call for stricter gun control measures. And Attorney General Eric Holder

told the nation that Florida's "Stand Your Ground" law should be repealed. All of this was said in the name of a Florida teenager who died unnecessarily.

The truth is that cynical opportunists often use tragedies to their advantage. For me, the

death of Martin and the subsequent prosecution of Zimmerman were lessons in confrontation, not anything

We live in a country where citizens must understand that intense personal interactions can lead to disaster. I can't tell you how many times I have wanted to confront somebody who was doing something wrong in my presence. But I simply can't. There are legions of sleazy lawyers lined up to attack the affluent in court. If you have money, these parasites will find a legal way to harm you. Just fighting nuisance suits can

cost tens of thousands of dollars. And then there are the unstable folks who will do you physical damage. Road rage, verbal assaults, threats — you have to walk or drive away. It is far too risky to confront the perpetrator and "work it out."

Of course, sometimes you must stand your ground — but not often. Zimmerman was told by a 9-1-1 operator to stay in his car. He did not. Disaster followed. It didn't have to hap-

Exploiters of the Martin case should be ashamed. For everyone else, there is one huge lesson: Avoid confrontation if you possibly can. No good can come of it.

Veteran TV news anchor Bill O'Reilly is host of the Fox News show "The O'Reilly Factor" and author of the book "Pinheads and Patriots: Where You Stand in the Age of Obama.

From The Mouths Of Children

BY LEONARD PITTS JR.

Tribune Media Services

Sometimes, the directness of children is unsettiing.

They just have this way of making things plain. I am thinking of a 10-year-old white boy I met in Montgomery, Ala., in 1995. My late colleague Michael Browning and I were driving across the South, visiting battlefields of the Civil War and the Civil Rights Movement. We filed five days of reports — learned, eloquent dialectics deconstructing the Gordian knot of race.

But we never cut as close to the Leonard meat of the matter in all our thou-**PITTS** sands of words as that little boy did in just a few when we told him what we were writing about. Appalled, he said, "No fair you have to do this because you're this color and you have to do that because you're that color. No fair.

His indignation felt, well ... childish. "No fair?" That's what you say on the playground when somebody is hogging the swing. It's what you say when big brother won't let you have a turn playing video games. Is that really what you say about this great betrayal of America's promise, this ugly bloodstain on America's flag? Can something so complicated really be reduced to words so simple?

Well, as it turns out ... yes. Sometimes, the directness of children is

And that brings us to Malala Yousafzai. She is, you recall, the Pakistani schoolgirl shot in the head by the Taliban last year for the "crime" of advocating education and equal rights for women and girls. In an authentic miracle, she not only survived, but recovered. A few days ago, she addressed the United Nations in New York and said this:

We are really tired of these wars. Women and children are suffering in many ways in many parts of the world.'

Mind you, she said other things. She said we must advance women's freedoms. She said education should be every child's right. She said we must stand together and be brave.

All in all, it was a remarkable speech. But at day's end, what encapsulates it all for me was that statement about war — not the words of

it so much as the fact of it, the idea of this child — she'd turned 16 that day — standing before the assembled nations of this warring world saying. We are tired of all the fighting.

Sometimes, the directness of children is challenging.

Hearing Malala's words, I feel as I felt 18 years ago. I want to tell her that these are lovely sentiments, but she is too young to understand this sort of thing. How do you advance women's freedoms in societies where women's subjugation is regarded as holy writ? How do you win universal education when so many tyrants depend on universal ignorance for their power? How do you encourage people to stand and be brave when there are so many inducements to sit and be scared? How do you say "Stop

fighting" and expect the world to listen when war is such a useful and profitable thing?

And it's funny. Those observations have the odd distinction of being logical, realistic, indisputable and yet, wholly unsatisfying.

Sometimes, the directness of children is

confounding. And it can be burdensome, too. It forces you to confront realities you'd as soon not confront, see truths you'd as soon not see. It has a way of cutting through complexities the way you do cobwebs in a room that has been too long shuttered and dark. You find yourself thinking maybe the automatic rejection of children's directness says more about you than it does about them. Maybe it says that "logical," "realistic" and "complicated" have become words you use to anesthetize your own hope, embalm your own

'We are really tired of these wars" says the child who was shot in the head — and lived. And you realize, well, heck, I am tired of them,

Sometimes, the directness of children is haunting.

This is one of those times.

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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YOUR LETTERS

Monumental Help Becky Leapley, South Yankton, Neb.

Director, Corps of Discovery Welcome Center Corps of Discovery Welcome Center on Highway 81 south of Yankton would like to recognize Yankton Monument for being such an outstanding customer service business!

We needed some bricks engraved and were waiting for another business to return our call. They did not return the call, so at the last minute Karen at Royal Sport Shop got me the information about Yankton Monument which is located on Douglas St. right behind Royal Sport Shop. Yankton Monument got our bricks engraved overnight, in time for our Fourth of July Brick Dedication Ceremony. Not only did they rush the order, they delivered them from Sioux Falls the very next day!

After being a business owner and being very strict about customer service in my businesses, I would like to give a huge kudos to Yankton Monument for having OUTSTANDING customer service and easing my stress level! Please support our local Yankton businesses! Their prices ARE competitive and the owners have a vested interest in our town! Keep our tax dollars here in Yankton! Again, thank you for your outstanding customer service!