

THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

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OPINION

Remembering World War I

With so much news of warring and death now in our headlines — and with the wounds of our own recent/current wars still throbbing — it's worth it today to remember the somber anniversary of the first truly modern war.

Monday marked the 100th anniversary of World War I, which at the time was known as the Great War and, later, the "War to End All Wars." The fuse of this epic conflagration was actually lit a month earlier when Austria-Hungary's Archduke Ferdinand was assassinated in Serbia. That murder unleashed a series of diplomatic and military events that led to Austria-Hungary invading Serbia. This brought in Russia and Germany, followed by France and Great Britain. America would join the fight almost three years later. Ultimately, 9 million soldiers died, but the total number of war dead is estimated anywhere from 16 million to 40 million.

It was the first modern war in that it introduced a flourish of new weapons — new tools in the ghastly harvest of death. World War I saw the debuts of airplanes fighting in the skies and submarines creeping through the seas. It introduced great armored vehicles lumbering across battlefields and wireless communication coordinating attacks. There were huge cannons that could lob shells at targets that couldn't even be seen by the artillerymen. The war also featured the use of chemical weapons that were appalling in their deadly efficiency. It all amounted to a wholesale expansion of slaughter. (None of this includes the influenza pandemic that in 1918 spread from the battlefield trenches to practically every corner across the globe, leaving death in its mysterious wake.)

After 100 years and with all the combatants now gone, it might seem that World War I is an ancient and irrelevant matter best consigned to history classes. But in fact, we still live with the war. It was a domino which, once felled, created extraordinary consequences that impact our lives here to this hour.

First and foremost, of course, it set the stage for World War II. Defeated Germany was saddled with harsh sanctions that crippled the nation economically. In the resulting social and political tumult, the seeds of fascism took root and Adolf Hitler — a veteran of that first World War — became the primary architect of the second global conflict, with the first war always serving as a motivation.

During World War I, the foundation of the Cold War, which dominated most of the 20th century, was put in place. Russia saw two revolutions in one calamitous year and the birth of the Soviet Union. That communist rule ultimately produced the partitioning of Europe and generations of global tensions. The Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, but its memories still linger like old ghosts that refuse to die. Look to the Ukraine for proof.

War-scarred Europe was redrawn, with old empires vanishing and new countries emerging. The Middle East was also shaken up, with the borders for nations like Syria, Iraq and Palestine formed or aligned under foreign rule after the fall of the Ottoman Empire. Obviously, these decisions settled nothing, as we still see today.

World War I thrust the planet into an age of industrial warfare that killed millions and it sowed the seeds for more unrest and death to follow. We are still living with the aftermath, and the story is far from over. The anniversary of this momentous war deserves to be remembered, as it remains the flawed template for the world we have now.

knh

ONLINE OPINION

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

LATEST RESULTS:

Should the Minnesota Timberwolves trade Kevin Love?
I don't care 67%
Yes, if the deal is right 25%
No, he should stay put 8%
TOTAL VOTES CAST 224

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 believe the drilling technique known as "fracking" causes earthquakes?

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

ON THIS DATE

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, July 29, the 210th day of 2014. There are 155 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History: On July 29, 1914, transcontinental telephone service in the U.S. became operational with the first test conversation between New York and San Francisco. Massachusetts' Cape Cod Canal, offering a shortcut across the base of the peninsula, was officially opened to shipping traffic.

On this date: In 1030, the patron saint of Norway, King Olaf II, was killed in battle.

In 1588, the English attacked the Spanish Armada in the Battle of Gravelines, resulting in an English victory.

In 1890, artist Vincent van Gogh, 37, died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound in Auvers-sur-Oise, France.

In 1900, Italian King Umberto I was assassinated by an anarchist; he was succeeded by his son, Victor Emmanuel III.

In 1921, Adolf Hitler became the leader ("fuhrer") of the National Socialist German Workers Party.

In 1948, Britain's King George VI opened the Olympic Games in London.

In 1957, the International Atomic Energy Agency was established. Jack Paar made his debut as host of NBC's "Tonight Show."

In 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the National Aeronautics and Space Act, creating NASA.

In 1967, an accidental rocket launch aboard the supercarrier USS Forrestal in the Gulf of Tonkin resulted in a fire and explosions that killed 134 servicemen.

In 1974, singer Cass Elliot died in a London hotel room at age 32.

In 1981, Britain's Prince Charles married Lady Diana Spencer at St. Paul's Cathedral in London. (However, the couple divorced in 1996.)

In 1994, abortion opponent Paul Hill shot and killed Dr. John Bayard Britton and Britton's bodyguard, James H. Barrett, outside the Ladies Center clinic in Pensacola, Florida. (Hill was executed in September 2003.)

Ten years ago: Sen. John Kerry accepted the Democratic presidential nomination at the party's convention in Boston with a military salute and the declaration: "I'm John Kerry and I'm reporting for duty."

Five years ago: Microsoft and Yahoo announced a 10-year Internet search partnership under which Bing would replace Yahoo Search, as the companies agreed to take on the overwhelming dominance of Google in the online advertising market. Federal authorities arrested more than 30 suspects, including doctors, in a major Medicare fraud bust in New York.

One year ago: The U.S. launched a fresh bid to pull Israel and the Palestinians into substantial negotiations with a dinner meeting in Washington hosted by Secretary of State John Kerry. The FBI said authorities had rescued 105 young people and arrested 150 alleged pimps and others in a three-day sweep in 76 cities.

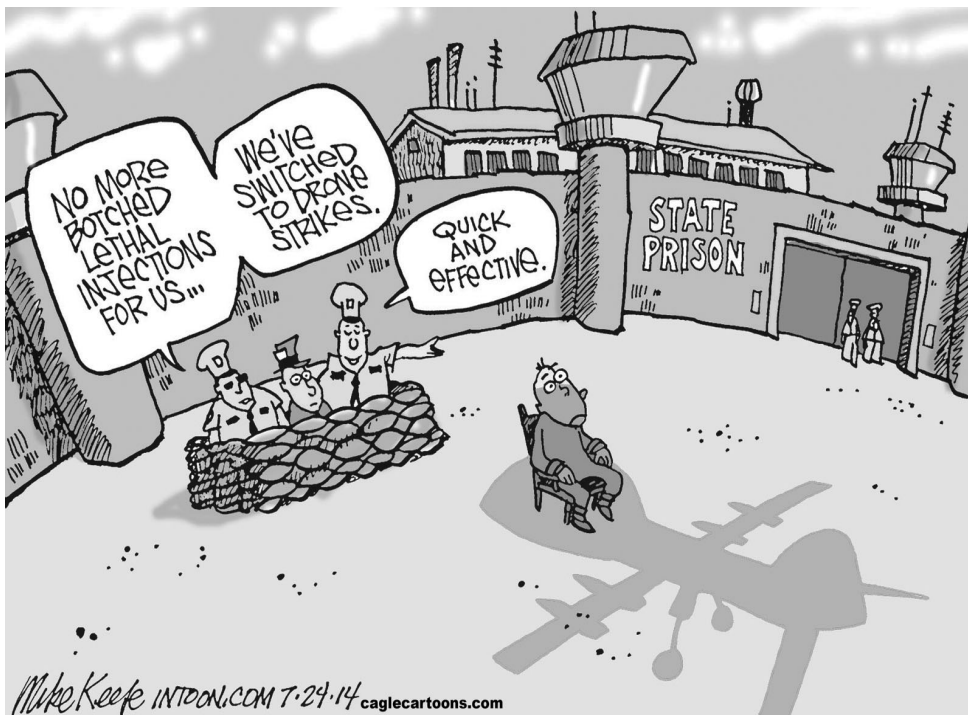
Today's Birthdays: Comedian "Professor" Irwin Corey is 100. Actor Robert Horton is 90. Former Sen. Nancy Kassebaum-Baker is 82. Actor Robert Fuller is 81. Former Sen. Elizabeth H. Dole is 78. Actor David Warner is 73. Rock musician Neal Doughty (REO Speedwagon) is 68. Marilyn Tucker Quayle, wife of former Vice President Dan Quayle, is 65. Actor Mike Starr is 64. Documentary maker Ken Burns is 61. Style guru Tim Gunn (TV: "Project Runway") is 61. Rock singer-musician Gedly Lee (Rush) is 61. Rock singer Patti Scialfa (Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band) is 61. Olympic gold medal gymnast Nellie Kim is 57. Actor Kevin Chapman is 52. Actress Alexandra Paul is 51. Country singer Martina McBride is 48. Rock musician Chris Gorman is 47. Actor Rodney Allen Rippey is 46. Actor Tim Omderson is 45. Actor Ato Essandoh is 42. Actor Wil Wheaton is 42. Rhythm-and-blues singer Wanya Morris (Boyz II Men) is 41. Country singer-songwriter James Otto is 41. Actor Stephen Dorff is 41. Actor Josh Radnor is 40. Hip-hop DJ/music producer Danger Mouse is 37. Actress Rachel Miner is 34. Actress Allison Mack is 32. Actor Matt Prokop is 24.

Thought for Today: "A country can be judged by the quality of its proverbs." — German proverb.

FROM THE BIBLE

The prayer of a righteous person has great power. James 5:16.

Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis



The Rez Of The Story

Setting An Example

BY VINCE TWO EAGLES

Hau Mitakuepi (Greetings My Relatives),
The Irish novelist Laurence Sterne once wrote: "Respect for ourselves guides our morals; respect for others guides our manners." And David Greenwell, the author of "Shield of Thunder" writes: "Nothing of real worth can ever be bought. Love, friendship, honor, valor, respect. All these things have to be earned."
So how does one earn these things? "Sitomani ob washteya ipi ichiye" in the Dakotah language means to be in good relationship with all things. To treat other sentient beings with kindness and love is to truly respect their value as living things and who have the same rights as we human beings do to exist without interference and with balance.



Vince TWO EAGLES

I recently received a call from an elder who lives in Pierre expressing his concern about those who claim to have "Native Pride" in themselves but who do not act accordingly. He talked of those who get "high" on pot and "drunk" on alcohol, and then victimize their own people and compromise the safety and security of their neighborhoods and communities. To him and many elders who tend to agree with him, these so-called "native priders" (we'll call them) make a mockery of themselves and their people when they act like idiots: out for themselves and not thinking of anyone else but their own selfish desires. They seemingly have no idea that their conduct affects others like a ripple effect thus the whole community becomes victimized by these criminals.

So what is respect again? It is all about conduct, my caller and I agreed upon. It is about our regard for the thoughts, feelings and rights of others. Respect is about practicing compassion in our contacts with others; about not wanting to hurt or bring harm to another living thing (does not include our need to nourish ourselves and our families or to protect the same from harm in my opinion).

When using illegal substances like pot or abuse alcohol or other drugs, we bring trouble to ourselves and those around us: our children, partners, aunts, uncles, grandparents and neighbors. Why would we want to do that? Why would we deliberately cause others to suffer? Do we like others to hurt us or cause us trouble with the law and with our communities or other fam-

ily members? And when we do these things, why are we surprised when we get arrested and put in jail as consequences for our actions? If we do not care for others, why would we expect them to care about us?

This world may not be perfect (and it sure falls short of that sometimes); nevertheless, the general rule of life is that we get what we give. We teach others how to treat us by the way we treat them. So how do we want other people to treat us — with disrespect and cruelty? Do we want others to trust us? If we do, then we have to conduct ourselves with honor. This means keeping your word. When you say you are going to do something, do it! If you make a promise, keep that promise — even to yourself! If you see someone needs help; don't wait to be asked: Roll up your sleeves and get in there and help.

Do you want to have a good neighbor? Then be that which you want for yourself — be a good neighbor. Don't let one piece of trash that belongs to you ever get in your neighbor's yard. Keep your yard clean and kept up. If you see litter on the street, pick it up and throw it in the garbage can; don't wait for someone else to do it. Set the example by your conduct. The best way to teach others is to do that which you yourself want them to learn. We might have the best words in the world, but if we fail to practice them ourselves, why would we expect others not to follow our lead?

Now, don't get too self-righteous. Remember, we are all human and therefore fallible. We make mistakes. We were all young and foolish at one time, and even in their age, I see elders who should know better make mistakes. Maybe it is a good thing to forgive one another for being human. I'm not saying that we stop holding others to account for their conduct; we should and we must in order to get along. It's part of respect to have a society where those who want to live outside of honorable conduct will face consequences for their choices.

If you are an elder and see something going on that's wrong in your family or community, say something about it. Band together like my friend in Pierre is doing with other elders and let those who choose to be lawless and thoughtless beware for a change.

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

Selfies In Auschwitz — And Why It's Just Plain Wrong

BY LEONARD PITTS JR.

Tribune Content Agency

In a place haunted by ghosts, on a thoroughfare of the damned, standing upon ground once watered by blood, Breanna Mitchell lifted a camera to take her own picture. She smiled a sunshine smile.

And the Internet exploded. The image the Alabama teenager captured of herself at Auschwitz, an earbud in one ear, has gone viral in the month since she posted it on Twitter. She's been harshly criticized.

She's been called vile names. And yes, she's endured that act of lazy person's terrorism, the Internet death threat.

Mitchell insists she is unbowed. She explained in a video interview for something called "TakePart Live" that she wouldn't do anything differently because she didn't mean any harm.

The photo, she says, was meant to honor her father, who passed his love of World War II history on to her. It was taken on the anniversary of his death.

Mitchell's attitude toward her international notoriety is probably best summed up in a tweet she posted July 20: "I'm famous y'all."

Ahem.
I don't generally use this space to beat up teenagers for doing regrettable things. Doing regrettable things is pretty much your job description at that age and I've always felt you should be free to go about that job without the spotlight of media attention.

But what Mitchell did seems to demand a few words. Especially since she's not the only one doing it. To the contrary, we learn that it has become quite the modern "thing," people clowning, sticking out their tongues, lifting thumbs up, grinning like loons in somber and sacred places. They've done it at Auschwitz, at the New York memorial to the victims of 9/11, at the American cemetery at Normandy, at the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, at grandmother's funeral.

Nor is it just kids who are doing it. To the contrary, there exists a photo of a certain 52-year-old president of the United States grinning for a selfie with British Prime Minister David

Cameron, and Danish Prime Minister Helle-Thorning Schmidt (both 47) at last year's memorial service for Nelson Mandela. First lady Michelle Obama sits apart from them wearing a somber, funeral-appropriate expression that says clearly, "I don't know these people."

Look, I understand this is not exactly a federal crime. And yes, I get that people take pictures of themselves in order to place themselves in a context. It is a way of saying, "I was there." Nothing wrong with that. I've done it myself.

But this whole thing of mugging for cameras in inappropriate places feels viscerally ... wrong. It suggests a cluelessness, a shallowness and an incapacity for reverence that have come to feel like the signature of these times. It suggests a lack of home training and a surplus of narcissism that have come to feel ubiquitous. For all her professed love of World War II history, Breanna Mitchell bespeaks a fundamental lack of respect for, and comprehension of, that history when she poses at Auschwitz — death place for nearly 1.1 million human beings — like she thinks she's at Epcot.

That should not even have to be explained. But social media have rewritten the social contract and apparently what once did not need explaining now does — to kids and, worse, to their parents. More's the pity.

Do we take nothing seriously? Is nothing so awful or so awesome as to make us look up from our own lives? Is no place so hallowed or holy that we would never think to use it as a stage upon which to showcase the fizzy wonderfulness of our own selves?

Apparently not.

When you take a picture of yourself grinning and mugging at some sacred place, it diminishes the place and sends a message that has become too common: This is all about me.

And you know what? It isn't.

Leonard Pitts is a columnist for *The Miami Herald*, 1 Herald Plaza, Miami, Fla., 33132. Readers may contact him via e-mail at lpitts@miami-herald.com.

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YOUR LETTERS

Amen!

Shirley Fournier, Yankton

In response to Tom Welter's letter "Maligning The Facts" (*Press and Dakotan*, July 17):

Mr. Welter, AMEN AND AMEN! You are absolutely right on. Thank you for your letter and having the courage to speak the truth. I would like to add that we bring our country back to God; it is in God We Trust.