

# The Press & Dakotan

THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861

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## OPINION

# Rockin' Ribfest And The Weather

Unfortunately, Yankton's Rockin' Ribfest and the weather didn't have the best experience together. It resulted in the 2015 edition of the event being cut short this past Saturday.

But during the six hours or so that it did last, it unveiled a lot of promise and it showed that the organizers had learned some valuable lessons from last year's reboot, which turned into an unexpectedly huge success.

However, the weather ultimately was the dominant factor. With lighting flashing and storm warnings bubbling up all around Yankton, organizers chose to suspend the event at about 6:30 p.m. and to eventually cancel the appearance by the headline act, Hairball, at about 8:30 p.m. It was a disappointing end to what had otherwise been a very good day. (One could argue, though, that the only thing that was even more disappointing was how little rain was received in Yankton during Saturday's storminess.)

What came to mind with this turn of events was something that may or may not be applicable to the situation, hailing from Yankton's own past.

When Riverboat Days started out in the mid-1980s, it grew quickly, and eventually, organizers decided to have a headline musical act perform at the event. These headliners included the likes of singers Jerry Jeff Walker and B.J. Thomas. This became a staple of the Riverboat Days schedule.

But one year in the early 1990s — as would inevitably happen with any outdoor festival event — the weather intervened, as rains washed out the headline concert. We can conclude that this resulted in a financial loss for the Riverboat Days organizers. For whatever reason, that was basically the end of the headline concert portion of the summer festival. Perhaps the rainout was the cause of this; perhaps not. We can only consider what happened thereafter.

This happened to Riverboat Days at approximately the same point of development where Ribfest is now, so that's one similarity to bear in mind.

But it's even more important to remember the differences.

By the time of the rained-out concert, Riverboat Days had blossomed into the three-day festival it is now and already had myriad events going for it. It's not at all unlikely that organizers saw that they could do without the headline concert and still endure, which the festival clearly has.

On the other hand, Ribfest is called "Rockin'" for a reason: Music is an integral component of its presentation. In fact, Ribfest was moved from its confining downtown birthplace to spacious Memorial Park in order to set up a larger stage that could draw bigger headline acts.

Hopefully, such thinking isn't going to change. Ribfest saw huge success last year with it, and it appeared to be on its way to another great year before the weather interceded.

There were a lot of good things about this year's Ribfest: more vendors created shorter lines waiting for food, the large video screen broadcast the performances to a much broader area and helped organizers communicate with the crowd, and additional portable toilets were embraced by many as a great relief (in more ways than one). These were smart adjustments to a strong product.

Issues with the Mother Nature are nothing new for Ribfest — that's why the event was moved from September to June in the first place — but hopefully, the event can weather this year's problem and come roaring back bigger and even better in 2016.

knh

## ONLINE OPINION

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

### LATEST RESULTS:

Would you support the construction of a highway bypass for the east side of Yankton?

Yes.....68%  
No.....23%  
Not sure.....9%

**TOTAL VOTES CAST .....317**

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 doing away with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)?

To cast your vote in the **PRESS & DAKOTAN'S** Internet poll, log on to our website at [www.yankton.net](http://www.yankton.net).

## IN HISTORY

### By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, June 9, the 160th day of 2015. There are 205 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:** On June 9, A.D. 68, Roman Emperor Nero committed suicide, ending a 13-year reign.

**On this date:** In 1870, author Charles Dickens died in Gad's Hill Place, England. In 1911, Carrie (sometimes spelled "Carry") A. Nation, the hatchet-wielding temperance crusader, died in Leavenworth, Kansas, at age 64.

In 1915, guitarist, songwriter and inventor Les Paul was born in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

In 1934, the first Walt Disney animated cartoon featuring Donald Duck, "The Wise Little Hen," was released.

In 1940, during World War II, Norway decided to surrender to the Nazis, effective at midnight.

In 1943, the federal government began withholding income tax from paychecks.

In 1953, 94 people died when a tornado struck Worcester, Massachusetts.

In 1954, during the Senate-Army Hearings, Army special counsel Joseph N. Welch famously asked Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy, R-Wis., "Are you, Senator, a member of the Communist Party?"

In 1969, the Senate confirmed Warren Burger to be the new chief justice of the United States, succeeding Earl Warren.

In 1973, Secretariat won the Belmont Stakes, becoming horse racing's first Triple Crown winner in 25 years.

In 1985, American educator Thomas Sutherland was kidnapped in Lebanon by members of Islamic Jihad; he was released in November 1991 along with fellow hostage Terry Waite.

In 1994, a fire destroyed the Georgia mansion of Atlanta Falcons receiver Andre Rison; his girlfriend, rap singer Lisa "Left Eye" Lopes, admitted causing the blaze after a fight, and was later sentenced to probation.

**Ten years ago:** President George W. Bush defended the USA Patriot Act, saying it had made America safer and should

be made permanent. Italian aid worker Clementina Cantoni was freed after having been held hostage more than three weeks in Afghanistan.

**Five years ago:** The U.S. and its allies scored a long-sought victory by pushing through new U.N. sanctions over Iran's nuclear program, punishments Tehran dismissed as "annoying flies." The Chicago Blackhawks won their first Stanley Cup in 49 years, as Patrick Kane's overtime goal delivered a 4-3 win over the Philadelphia Flyers in Game 6.

**One year ago:** In a wide-ranging review, the Veterans Affairs Department said more than 57,000 U.S. military veterans had been waiting 90 days or more for their first VA medical appointments, and an additional 64,000 appeared to have fallen through the cracks, never getting appointments after enrolling and requesting them. Five American special operations troops were killed by a U.S. airstrike called in to help them after they were ambushed by the Taliban in southern Afghanistan. British comedian Rik Mayall, 56, died in London.

**Today's Birthdays:** Comedian Jackie Mason is 87. Media analyst Marvin Kalb is 85. Actor Joe Santos is 84. Former baseball manager and player Bill Virdon is 84. Sports commentator Dick Vitale is 76. Author Letty Cottin Pogrebin is 76. Retired MLB All-Star Dave Parker is 64. Film composer James Newton Howard ("The Hunger Games" films) is 64. Mystery author Patricia Cornwell is 59. Actor Michael J. Fox is 54. Writer-producer Aaron Sorkin is 54. Actor Johnny Depp is 42. Actress Gloria Reuben is 51. Gospel singer-actress Tamela Mann is 49. Rock musician Dean Felber (Hootie & the Blowfish) is 48. Rock musician Dean Dinning is 48. Musician Ed Simons is 45. Country musician Shade Deggs (Cole Deggs and the Lonesome) is 41. Bluegrass singer-musician Jamie Dailey (Dailey & Vincent) is 40. Actress Michaela Conlin is 37. Actress Natalie Portman is 34. Actress Mae Whitman is 27.

**Thought for Today:** "It's innocence when it charms us, ignorance when it doesn't." — Mignon McLaughlin, American journalist (1913-1983).

## FROM THE BIBLE

*From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. James 3:10. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.*



## The Rez Of The Story

# The Margins Of History

BY VINCE TWO EAGLES

Hau Mitakuepi (Greetings My Relatives), The president of Kosovo, Atifete Jahjaga, said: "Democracy must be built through open societies that share information. When there

is information, there is enlightenment. When there is debate, there are solutions. When there is no sharing of power, no rule of law, no accountability, there is abuse, corruption, subjugation and indignation."

In his book entitled, "Lies My Teacher Told Me," author James W. Loewen tells us:

"Our situation is this: American history is full of fantastic and important stories. These stories have the power to spellbind audiences, even audiences of difficult seventh-graders. These same stories show what America has been about and are directly relevant to our present society. American audiences, even young ones, need and want to know about their national past. Yet they sleep through the classes that present it.

"What has gone wrong?  
"... the teaching of history, more than any other discipline, is dominated by textbooks. And students are right: the books are boring. The stories that history textbooks are predictable; every problem has already been solved or is about to be solved. Textbooks exclude conflict or real suspense. They leave out anything that might reflect badly upon our national character.

"Textbooks almost never use the present to illuminate the past. The present is not a source of information for writers of history textbooks.

"Conversely, textbooks seldom use the past to illuminate the present. They portray the past as a single-minded morality play. "Be a good citizen" is the message that textbooks extract from the past. "You have a proud heritage. Be all that you can be. After all, look at what the United States has accomplished." While there is nothing wrong with optimism, it can become something of a burden for students of color, children of working-class parents, girls who notice the dearth of female historical figures, or members of any group that has not achieved socioeconomic success. The optimistic approach prevents any understanding of failure



Vince  
**TWO EAGLES**

other than blaming the victim. No wonder children of color are alienated. Even for male children from affluent white families, bland optimism gets pretty boring after eight hundred pages."

One-sided and ostensibly overdone history (in terms of time spent) also leaves those of us who are descended from Indigenous Nations totally left out of the picture unless we are willing or compelled to don our respective "Indian costumes" for tourists. We cease to exist after "Custer's Last Stand" or "Wounded Knee." We have been relegated to the margins of the history taught to American students. We are nothing more than the citations of author's resources in the back of books. If we no longer exist (at least in the manner prescribed for historical relics) then we no longer matter. Our suffering at the hands of "history" is irrelevant to today's conversation and we are necessarily left out of the democracy equation which is supposed to be inclusive (at least in theory).

Inclusivity is nothing more than a thinly veiled mockery (if not honestly employed) of the best democracy can offer. Inclusivity does not mean that everyone becomes like everyone else in thought or point of view. One doctrine fits all doesn't work. If we are all expected to think alike doesn't that sound a lot like North Korea?

Let it be said that Native People do matter and that the issues they are faced with everyday have been placed at their feet by history. How can anyone assume that Native people choose poverty and disenfranchisement as a way of life. To do so is a best the product of plain old every day ignorance and the worst wholly racist.

Let me say to indigenous people, hold your head up high where ever you go, you have done nothing wrong but make no mistake, the Euro-Americans are not prepared to fully face some of the true history of this country. My brothers and sisters, take your future into your hands in spite of historical wrongs and move forward into the future and claim your rightful place beside the rest of humanity. It is time!

And now you know the rez of the story.

Doksha (later) ...

# Casting Call: Who Can Play A Mixed-Race Role?

BY MICHELLE MALKIN

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Let's set aside whether Cameron Crowe's new movie, "Aloha," is a good or bad movie. Whatever the flick's merits or demerits, it has inadvertently helped expose the arbitrary, capricious and ridiculous demands of militant identity politics.

After getting hammered by ethnic mau-mauers, director Crowe issued an apology this week for casting actress Emma Stone as the character "Allison Ng" in his Hawaii-centered rom-com.

Stone is the alabaster-skinned, green-eyed, red-haired beauty who played Spider-Man's sweetheart, Gwen Stacy.

"Ng" is a fictional Air Force fighter pilot of Chinese, Hawaiian and Swedish descent.

Native Hawaiians wanted a Native Hawaiian cast in the role. Mixed-race advocates wanted a mixed-race actress such as Olivia Munn (who is of Chinese, English, Irish and German descent) cast in the role. Asian-Americans wanted an Asian-American cast in the role.

*Entertainment Weekly's* Chris Lee, who identifies himself as "Chinese-American/French-Canadian," declared: "I'm not buying Emma Stone as an Asian-American."

Guy Aoki, president of the Media Action Network for Asian Americans, which bills itself as "the only organization solely dedicated to monitoring the media and advocating balanced, sensitive and positive depiction and coverage of Asian-Americans," huffed: "It's so typical for Asian or Pacific Islanders to be rendered invisible in stories that we're supposed to be in, in places that we live. ... We're 60 percent of the population (in Hawaii). We'd like them to reflect reality."

Feeling the heat, Crowe issued a "heart-felt" apology to all who felt this was an odd or misguided casting choice.

Crowe explained that he wrote the Ng character to be a "super-proud one-quarter Hawaiian who was frustrated that, by all outward appearances, she looked nothing like one. A half-Chinese father was meant to show the surprising mix of cultures often prevalent in Hawaii. Extremely proud of her unlikely heritage, she feels personally compelled to over-explain every chance she gets. The character was based on a real-life red-headed local who did just that."

It doesn't matter to the p.c. bullies that "Ng" was modeled on a real person. For the bean-counters, all that matters is the incessant demand



Michelle  
**MALKIN**

for racial and ethnic entitlements, parcels and partitions.

While they accuse their adversaries of intolerance and bigotry, it's the self-appointed Definers of Racial and Ethnic Authenticity who strike me as the most narrow-minded of all. Why do they get to decide and define "diversity"? Why do they get to pick which racial and ethnic beans matter more?

The conflict is of particular interest and

intrigue to me because of my own multiethnic family. My parents are from the Philippines with an ample dose of Spanish blood. My husband's family hails from Russia and the Ukraine. My kids have been mistaken for Hispanic, Hawaiian, Vietnamese and more. Who should decide how they identify themselves? Or what roles they should play?

The voices protesting the Stone casting are the same types who carped that multiracial Fred Armisen wasn't black enough to portray multiracial Barack Obama. Why not turn the question on its head: Would a black SNL actor be white enough to play Obama?

And they're the same types who threw an international temper tantrum over producer Cameron Mackintosh's casting of English actor Jonathan Pryce as the Eurasian pimp in "Miss Saigon." I'll never forget how the *Los Angeles Times* described the Byzantine demands of one Asian-American grievance group, which dictated that Pryce's role be instead filled by an actor of "mixed Caucasian and Asian heritage," and that "if no suitable mixed-blood Eurasian actor could be found to do it, then the role should go to an Asian actor (as opposed to an Asian-American one), 'because in terms of culture,' they argued, 'an Asian actor would be closer to the psyche of the character.' Barring that, they wrote, an Asian-American actor would be 'the third best choice.'"

How pathetic to see the movie industry reduced to another self-pitying social-engineering vehicle for the most unimaginative dullards of identity politics. And how little has changed. *Entertainment Weekly's* Lee carped that accepting Stone as Ng "requires a certain suspension of disbelief and no small amount of magical thinking."

Isn't that what all art, high or low, requires of its audience?

Michelle Malkin is author of the new book "Who Built That: Awe-Inspiring Stories of American Tinkerpreneurs." Her e-mail address is [malkinblog@gmail.com](mailto:malkinblog@gmail.com)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR