

THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

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OPINION

Banning Pet Bans: The Right Course

One of the more emotional issues that's been floating through the government halls in Pierre this winter appears set to end up right where it needed to be. Those emotions are attached to Senate Bill 75, which would prohibit communities from enacting their own bans on specific breeds of dogs. In most cases, these bans target pit bulls, which have a reputation for being particularly aggressive canines. The bill has passed both the Senate and House, and now awaits the governor's signature.

Opponents of the measure say it should be up to the communities to decide how it should deal with such situations. That is a very good point, although it's one that doesn't always have a lot of traction in Pierre, it seems.

Supporters say it prevents communities from singling out any one particular breed — and, as a consequence, the owners of said breed — and instead puts an emphasis on personal responsibility. In other words, it should be up to pet owners to make sure that their pets do not become problems. (The law would still allow communities to issue regulations that apply to all breeds.)

Ultimately, the latter argument seems to be the more prudent approach — although it's a close call.

This is an emotional matter in part because people can unleash (so to speak) some very personal feelings for their pets. And pit bull owners, who have probably felt targeted in recent years because of concerns about the breed, are quite likely very sensitive to such efforts that specifically take aim at their dogs.

Some animal experts say that any breed of dog can become vicious, and it's really up to the owners to make sure that it doesn't happen. If that's the case, a law banning a breed would be overreaching.

But the desire of local officials to defend their right to set the rules of law within their own communities is understandable. In this case, there are about a dozen towns in South Dakota that have breed-specific laws on their books. These will likely be nullified if the measure is signed into law by Gov. Dennis Daugaard. Local officials will, however, be able to pass laws regarding animals that are not breed-specific.

While dog owners are probably happy with this legislation's progress, it should be noted that the measure really puts a heavier onus on them to ensure that their pets are behaved and controlled. And that is certainly where the responsibility must belong.

Thus, the ban on bans, if you will, is the soundest choice to make. What happens hereafter is up to the pet owners. In a way, that's the ultimate level of local control — or in this case, local influence — on an issue.

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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 mind.

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

■ 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 to 665-1721 or email to views@yankton.net.

ON THIS DATE

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, March 12, the 71st day of 2014. There are 294 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On March 12, 1664, England's King Charles II granted an area of land on the East Coast of present-day North America known as New Netherland to his brother James, the Duke of York.

On this date: In 1864, Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant assumed command as General-in-Chief of the Union armies in the Civil War.

In 1912, the Girl Scouts of the USA had its beginnings as Juliette Gordon Low of Savannah, Ga., founded the first American troop of the Girl Guides.

In 1914, American inventor George Westinghouse died in New York at age 67.

In 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt delivered the first of his 30 radio addresses that came to be known as "fireside chats," telling Americans what was being done to deal with the nation's economic crisis.

In 1934, a 6.6 magnitude earthquake shook much of northern Utah along with parts of Idaho, Montana, Nevada and Wyoming.

In 1938, the Anschluss merging Austria with Nazi Germany took place as German forces crossed the border between the two countries.

In 1939, Pope Pius XII was formally crowned in ceremonies at the Vatican.

In 1951, "Dennis the Menace," created by cartoonist Hank Ketchum, made its syndicated debut in 16 newspapers.

In 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson won the New Hampshire Democratic primary, but Sen. Eugene McCarthy of Minnesota placed a strong second.

In 1989, some 2,500 veterans and supporters marched at the Art Institute of Chicago to demand that officials remove an American flag placed on the floor as part of a student's exhibit.

In 1994, the Church of England ordained its first women priests.

In 2003, Elizabeth Smart, the 15-year-old girl who'd vanished from her bedroom nine months earlier, was found alive in a Salt Lake City suburb with two drifters, Brian David Mitchell and Wanda Barzee, who are serving prison terms for kidnapping her.

Ten years ago: Marcus Wesson, the domineering patriarch of a cultlike clan he'd bred through incest, surrendered to police who found the bodies of nine of his offspring, all but one minors, at their home in Fresno, Calif. (Wesson was later convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to death.)

Five years ago: Disgraced financier Bernard Madoff pleaded guilty in New York to pulling off perhaps the biggest swindle in Wall Street history. The Iraqi journalist who'd thrown his shoes at President George W. Bush received a three-year sentence. (Muntadhar al-Zaidi ended up serving nine months.) Insurance broker Willis Group Holdings announced that Chicago's Sears Tower would be renamed Willis Tower. Lindsey Vonn became the first American woman to win the super-G season finale at the World Cup finals in Are, Sweden. Philanthropist Leonore Annenberg died in Rancho Mirage, Calif. at age 91.

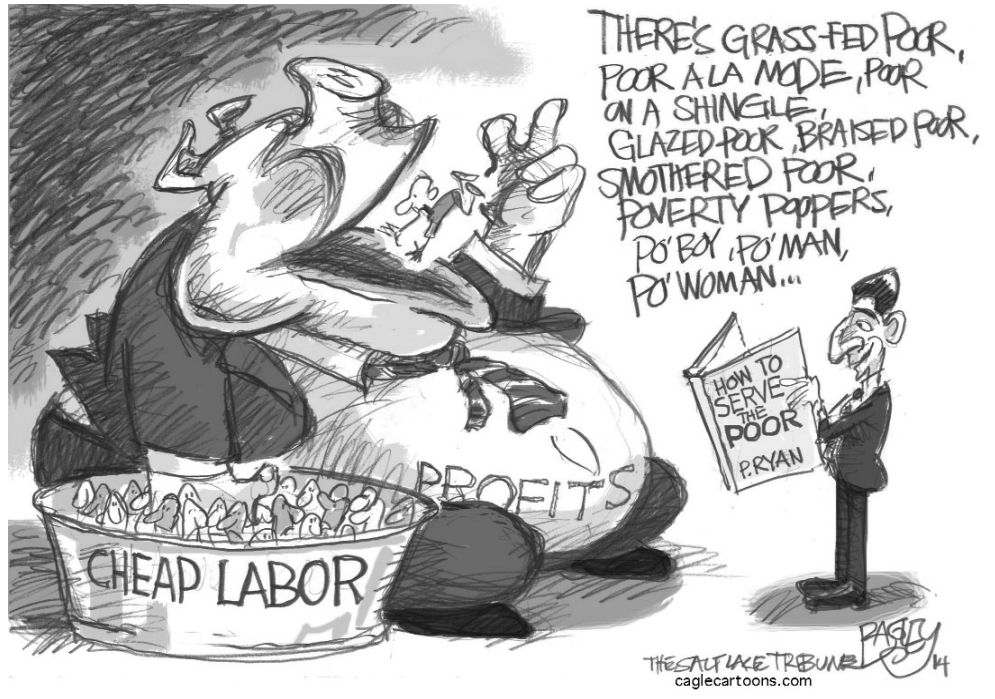
One year ago: Black smoke poured from the Sistine Chapel chimney, signaling that cardinals had failed on their first vote of the papal conclave to choose a new leader of the Catholic Church. Richard Beasley, a self-styled street preacher, was found guilty in Akron, Ohio, of murdering three down-and-out men who'd been lured by bogus job offers posted on Craigslist. (Beasley was later sentenced to death.) Mitch Seavey, a 53-year-old former champion, won the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race in nine days, 7 hours and 39 minutes to become the oldest winner of Alaska's grueling test of endurance.

Today's Birthdays: Playwright Edward Albee is 86. Politician, diplomat and civil rights activist Andrew Young is 82. Actress Barbara Feldon is 81. Broadcast journalist Lloyd Dobyns is 78. Singer Al Jarreau is 74. Actress-singer Liza Minnelli is 68. Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney is 67. Singer-songwriter James Taylor is 66. Former Sen. Kent Conrad, D-N.D., is 66. Rock singer-musician Bill Payne (Little Feat) is 65. Actor Jon Provost ("Lassie") is 64. Author Carl Hiaasen is 61. Rock musician Steve Harris (Iron Maiden) is 58. Actor Jerry Levine is 57. Singer Marlon Jackson (The Jackson Five) is 57. Actor Jason Beghe is 54. Actor Courtney B. Vance is 54. Actor Titus Welliver is 53. Former MLB All-Star Darryl Strawberry is 52. Actress Julia Campbell is 51. Actor Aaron Eckhart is 46. CNN reporter Jake Tapper is 45. Rock musician Graham Coxon is 45. Country musician Tommy Bales (Flynnville Train) is 41. Actor Rhys Coiro is 35. Country singer Holly Williams is 33. Actor Samm Levine is 32. Actor Jaimie Alexander is 30. Actor Tyler Patrick Jones is 20. Actress Kendall Applegate is 15.

Thought for Today: "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader." — John Quincy Adams, American president (1767-1848).

FROM THE BIBLE

I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me — just as the Father knows me and I know the Father — and I lay down my life for the sheep. John 10:14-15 NIV. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis



The Rez Of The Story

Considering Conflicts

BY VINCE TWO EAGLES

Hau Mitakuepi (Greetings My Relatives), Jan Schakowsky, who is a U.S. Representative from the state of Illinois, once said: "There is a lot that happens around the world we cannot control. We cannot stop earthquakes, we cannot prevent droughts and we cannot prevent conflict, but we can know where the hungry, the homeless, and the sick exist, then we can help."

In recent times, we have been faced, as a global society, with the conflict in the Ukraine and the so-called "Syrian Crisis" in the Middle East. Obviously, the underlying reasons for these conflicts and others like it around the world are convoluted. The bits and pieces about their unfolding stories carried on the nightly news and in our local papers tell the story of a people who struggle desperately for freedom from oppressive governments and aggressive responses to the people's discourse.

As the United States and its allies try to formulate an effective response to these conflicts, I cannot help but disagree with part of Rep. Schakowsky's sentiments — the part about not being able to "prevent conflict."

Of course, we can contribute to preventing conflict. I understand about natural disasters being unstoppable and, to the extent that a given natural disaster might be a contributing factor in fostering human conflict (like the unfair distribution of disaster relief), it remains true that we cannot control nature's unpredictability — nor her fury. But we can react with a thoughtful, measured response — our response being totally under our control.

So how is conflict preventable? Conflict is preventable if those who seek to resolve it practice what they preach. Perhaps having differences of opinion with our fellow relatives is inevitable, it's how we respond to those differences that will illicit the difference between loss of life on one extreme to peaceful co-existence on the other. The act of being mediators or peace making establishes the example for others to follow and I think in that way helps to prevent future conflict.



Vince TWO EAGLES

Another way to prevent conflict is through education. Ignorance is a major factor that contributes to severe conflict. With the advent of what we now have termed "the social media," getting information to people gets a lot easier and farther reaching, and can have profound impact on people's response to conflict.

So where (you might ask) am I going with this?

Abraham Lincoln once said: "The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise with the occasion. As our case is new, so we must think anew and act anew."

My relatives, we have conflict right here in our own backyard with a capital C. Conflict that is not going to go away by wishful thinking, ignorance or neglect. Those of us who bear the brunt of the conflict have been relegated to the margins of history as an afterthought to the relevance of the so called "American Dream."

Vine Deloria, Jr. co-author of "American Indians, American Justice," along with Clifford M. Lytle wrote: "American Indians seem an enigma to most other Americans. The images portrayed in the movies, whether of noble Redman or bloodthirsty savage, recall the stereotypes of western history. Newspaper stories dealing with oil wells, uranium mining, land claims and the occupation of public buildings and reservation hamlets almost seem to speak of another group altogether, and it is difficult to connect the two perceptions of Indians in any single and comprehensible reality. Literature on Indians provides no clues to understanding the present or remembering the past. Much contemporary literature is a thinly disguised romanticism that looks at Indians as the last and best spiritual hope for a society disheartened and disorganized."

We are all in this together. Any conflict resolution will only come from collaboration, not isolationism. Constructive dialogue is the beginning; hiding things under the rug only perpetuates the differences and leads to nowhere.

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

Point Of View

Questionable 'Development'

BY MICHAEL McDONALD

Yankton

This is in response to Kelly Hertz's recent column, "Arrested Development" (*Press & Dakotan*, March 7)

• Let's take a good look at the Napa Junction proposal. You state in your column that the grain terminal Dakota Plains proposes to build there "glows with potential." Kelly, it is my understanding that this grain terminal is going to be pretty the same thing that exists just west of Worthing (along I-29) and just south and east of Elk Point (also situated along I-29). I don't see much development going on at either of those two sites, and they have been there for several years.

What makes the YAPG folks think that the Napa Junction site will see this "glowing development"? If there isn't much development occurring at either of these sites along the I-29 corridor, I just don't think that Yankton County is going to see much development at its proposed grain terminal either, especially seeing that it will be situated north of SD Highway 50 instead of being situated near a US Interstate highway system.

• Secondly, in regards to YAPG's contention that if Yankton County does not act on this project,

it will be placed in a neighboring county: I don't think YAPG understands the railroad and construction logistics that Napa Junction offers but are unavailable in Bon Homme and Clay counties. Bon Homme County is just too far west to take advantage of the rail traffic that makes Napa Junction so attractive to Dakota Plains, and the most probable site for building a grain terminal in Clay County has a huge aquifer underneath it and makes it unsuitable for building such a site.

• Third: The funding. Why should the county taxpayer be asked to establish a TIF to help fund this project? Seems to me that if this project actually does "glow with potential" that those members of the YAPG who run financial institutions should be "chomping at the bit" to offer Dakota Plains favorable lending terms so that they might take on the project.

The bottom line is that Dakota Plains should not be allowed to make/save some serious money using a governmental financing policy that is supported by my tax dollar. Knowing how many times over the years I have been told by our local bankers what a "poor risk" I was, I would be interested in finding out how good of a risk this Dakota Plains project might be.

emergency vehicle operations course, train closely with the police service dogs, learn to operate firearms with care at the shooting range and learn skills that will help you on and off the law enforcement field. The academy is a week long in June open to young folks entering or just finishing their senior year of high school.
Call the highway patrol or Google South Dakota Highway Patrol Youth Trooper Academy.

YOUR LETTERS

A Learning Opportunity

Sgt. Brad Millard, Yankton
South Dakota Highway Patrol
Every summer the South Dakota Highway Patrol (SDHP) and American Legion host the Youth Trooper Academy. Do you think a career in law enforcement is right for you? Do you believe you have what it takes to succeed with trooper training? During the week, you'll learn precision driving techniques on the

YOUR D.C. LAWMAKERS

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