

The Press & Dakotan

THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861

Yankton Media, Inc., 319 Walnut St., Yankton, SD 57078

CONTACT US**PHONE:**

(605) 665-7811

(800) 743-2968

NEWS FAX:

(605) 665-1721

ADVERTISING FAX:

(605) 665-0288

WEBSITE:www.yankton.net**SUBSCRIPTIONS/****CIRCULATION**

Extension 104

mike.hrycko@yankton.net**CLASSIFIED ADS**

Extension 108

tera.schmidt@yankton.net**NEWS DEPT.**

Extension 114

news@yankton.net**SPORTS DEPT.**

Extension 106

sports@yankton.net**ADVERTISING DEPT.**

Extension 122

sales@yankton.net**BUSINESS OFFICE**

Extension 119

ar@yankton.net**NEW MEDIA:**

Extension 136

beth.rye@yankton.net**COMPOSING DEPT.**

Extension 129

kathy.larson@yankton.net

* * *

MANAGERS

Gary L. Wood

Publisher

Michele Schievelbein

Advertising Director

Tonya Schild

Business Manager

Michael Hrycko

Circulation Director

Tera Schmidt

Classified Manager

Kelly Hertz

Editor

James D. Cimburek

Sports Editor

Beth Rye

New Media Director

Kathy Larson

Composing Manager

Kristina Tunink

District Manager

* * *

DAILY STAFF

Melissa Bader

Cassandra Brockmoller

Brandi Bue

Rob Buckingham

Caryn Chappelar

Randy Dockendorf

Jeannine Economy

Jordynne Hart

Jeremy Hoeck

Sarah Lynde

Shauna Marlette

Robert Nielsen

Diana Smallwood

Cathy Sudbeck

Sally Whiting

JoAnn Wiebelhaus

Brenda Willcuts

* * *

Published Daily**Monday-Saturday**

Periodicals postage

paid at Yankton, South

Dakota, under the act of

March 3, 1979.

Weekly Dakotan

established June 6, 1861.

Yankton Daily Press and

Dakotan established April

26, 1875.

Postmaster: Send

address changes to Yankton

Daily Press & Dakotan,

319 Walnut, Yankton, SD

57078.

* * *

MEMBERSHIPS

The Yankton Daily

Press & Dakotan is a

member of the Associ-

ated Press, the Inland

Daily Press Association

and the South Dakota

Newspaper Association.

The Associated Press

is entitled exclusively

to use of all the local

news printed in this

newspaper.

* * *

SUBSCRIPTION**RATES****(Payable in advance)***CARRIER DELIVERY**

1-month..... \$12.09

3 months..... \$36.27

6 months..... \$72.53

1-year..... \$135.09

MOTOR ROUTE*(where available)*

1 month..... \$14.51

3 months..... \$43.53

6 months..... \$87.05

1 year..... \$139.14

MAIL IN RETAIL*Trade Zone*

1-month..... \$16.93

3 months..... \$50.79

6 months..... \$101.57

1-year..... \$148.82

MAIL OUTSIDE**RETAIL TRADE ZONE**

1 month..... \$19.35

3 months..... \$58.05

6 months..... \$116.09

1-year..... \$186.33

* Plus applicable sales tax

*for all rates***OPINION OTHER VIEWS**

Replacing Nebraska's Death Penalty

LINCOLN JOURNAL STAR (March 6): One of the reasons that support for the death penalty is eroding was evident at last week's legislative hearing on the latest attempt to replace the death sentence with a sentence of life in prison without possibility of parole.

Some family members of murder victims say the seemingly endless appeals in death penalty cases traumatize them again and again, and give unwarranted notoriety to the killer.

Miriam Thimm Kelle's brother was murdered by cult leader Michael Ryan almost 30 years ago.

Without the death penalty, Kelle said, Ryan would more likely have spent the past three decades in obscurity.

Her family should be united in memory of her brother, Kelle said. Instead it is divided between those, like her, who want the penalty changed to life without parole and those who still hope to see him executed.

That may never happen. Ryan has terminal brain cancer. Kelle said he may not survive the year. "He's going to cheat the executioner," said Sen. Ernie Chambers, who introduced LB268 to replace the death penalty.

There was a time when the death penalty was an issue that divided liberals and conservatives.

Now there is considerable support among conservatives for doing away with the death penalty, as shown by the fact that seven Republican state senators are co-sponsoring Chambers' bill.

The conservative argument against the death penalty is rooted in the view that government is too prone to error, too arbitrary and too inefficient to apply such an irreversible sanction.

There's little doubt that the government's effort to use the death penalty is costly. Study after study has shown that death penalty cases are more costly. The average cost of an execution in Nebraska is estimated to be \$15 million, according to Nebraskans for Alternatives to the Death Penalty.

As retired Lincoln police Capt. Jim Davidsaver said in a Local View in the *Journal Star* last year, "The United States Supreme Court has dictated capital cases must be handled differently, so they are especially complicated and time consuming.

"The millions of dollars we've spent on the death penalty would have been much better invested in more police officers, additional resources or training for our current officers. The cheaper, more intelligent alternative for our state is life without the possibility of parole. Repealing the death penalty does not mean we are 'soft' on crime. It means we are smart on crime." Davidsaver also submitted written remarks to the Legislature.

The arguments in favor LB268 are objective, factual and overwhelming.

On more than one occasion in recent years, a majority of state senators has supported replacing the death penalty with a sentence of life in prison without parole, only to be defeated by a filibuster or a veto. The *Journal Star* editorial board hopes this is the year the majority prevails.

ABOUT THIS PAGE

The View 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 on current topics. Questions regarding the Views page should be directed to Kelly Hertz at kelly.hertz@yankton.net.

IN HISTORY**By The Associated Press**

Today is Monday, March 16, the 75th day of 2015. There are 290 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On March 16, 1915, the Federal Trade Commission, created in 1914, began operations.

On this date: In 1521, Portuguese navigator Ferdinand Magellan reached the Philippines, where he was killed by natives the following month.

In 1751, James Madison, fourth president of the United States, was born in Port Conway, Virginia.

In 1820, President Thomas Jefferson signed a measure authorizing the establishment of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York.

In 1926, rocket science pioneer Robert H. Goddard successfully tested the first liquid-fueled rocket in Auburn, Massachusetts.

In 1935, Adolf Hitler decided to break the military terms set by the Treaty of Versailles (wehr-SY) by ordering the rearming of Germany.

In 1945, during World War II, American forces declared they had secured Iwo Jima, although pockets of Japanese resistance remained.

In 1965, peace activist Alice Herz, 82, set herself ablaze on a Detroit street corner to protest the Vietnam War; she died 10 days later.

In 1968, during the Vietnam War, the My Lai (mee ly) Massacre of Vietnamese civilians was carried out by U.S. Army troops; estimates of the death toll vary between 347 and 504.

In 1974, the Grand Ole Opry House opened in Nashville with a concert attended by President Richard Nixon and his wife, Pat.

In 1984, William Buckley, the CIA station chief in Beirut, was kidnapped by Hezbollah militants (he was tortured by his captors and killed in 1985).

In 1985, Terry Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent for The Associated Press, was abducted in Beirut; he was released in December 1991.

In 1990, two movies that sought to capitalize on the lambada dance craze, "Lambada" and "The Forbidden Dance," were released the same day.

Ten years ago: A jury in Los Angeles acquitted actor Robert Blake of murder in the shooting death of his wife, Bonny Lee Bakley, four years earlier. (A civil court jury later ordered Blake to pay Bakley's

four children \$30 million, an award that an appeals court subsequently cut in half; Blake has declared bankruptcy.) A judge in Redwood City, California, sent Scott Peterson to death row for the slaying of his pregnant wife, Laci. Norway's Robert Sorlie won his second Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race in one of the closest races in years.

Five years ago: Attorney General Eric Holder told a House Appropriations subcommittee that Osama bin Laden would never face trial in the United States because he would not be captured alive. (The al-Qaida leader was shot dead by Navy SEALs in Pakistan in May 2011.) Lance Mackey won the 1,100-mile Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race to become the first musher in the event's 38-year history to win four consecutive races.

One year ago: Crimeans voted to leave Ukraine and join Russia, overwhelmingly approving a referendum that sought to unite the strategically important Black Sea region with the country it was part of for some 250 years. Mitch Leigh, 86, a successful advertising jingle writer whose attempt at writing for a Broadway show became the instant, celebrated hit "Man of La Mancha," died in New York.

Today's Birthdays: Comedian-director Jerry Lewis is 89. Country singer Ray Walker (The Jordanaires) is 81. Movie director Bernardo Bertolucci is 74. Game show host Chuck Woolery is 74. Singer-songwriter Jerry Jeff Walker is 73. Country singer Robin Williams is 68. Actor Erik Estrada is 66. Actor Victor Garber is 66. Actress Kate Nelligan is 64. Country singer Ray Benson (Asleep at the Wheel) is 64. Rock singer-musician Nancy Wilson (Heart) is 61. World Golf Hall of Famer Hollis Stacy is 61. Actress Isabelle Huppert is 60. Actor Clifton Powell is 59. Rapper-actor Flavor Flav (Public Enemy) is 56. Rock musician Jimmy DeGrasso is 52. Actor Jerome Flynn is 52. Folk singer Patty Griffin is 51. Movie director Gore Verbinski ("Pirates of the Caribbean" films) is 51. Country singer Tracy Bonham is 48. Actress Lauren Graham is 48. Actor Judah Friedlander is 46. Actor Alan Tudyk is 44. Actor Tim Kang is 42. Rhythm-and-blues singer Blu Cantrell is 39. Actress Brooke Burns is 37. Actress Alexandra Daddario is 29. Rhythm and blues singer Jhene Aiko is 27. Rock musician Wolfgang Van Halen is 24.

Thought for Today: "The only joy in the world is to begin." — Cesare Pavese, Italian novelist (1908-1950).

FROM THE BIBLE

But if they had stood in My council, then they would have proclaimed My words to My people. Jeremiah 23:22. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.

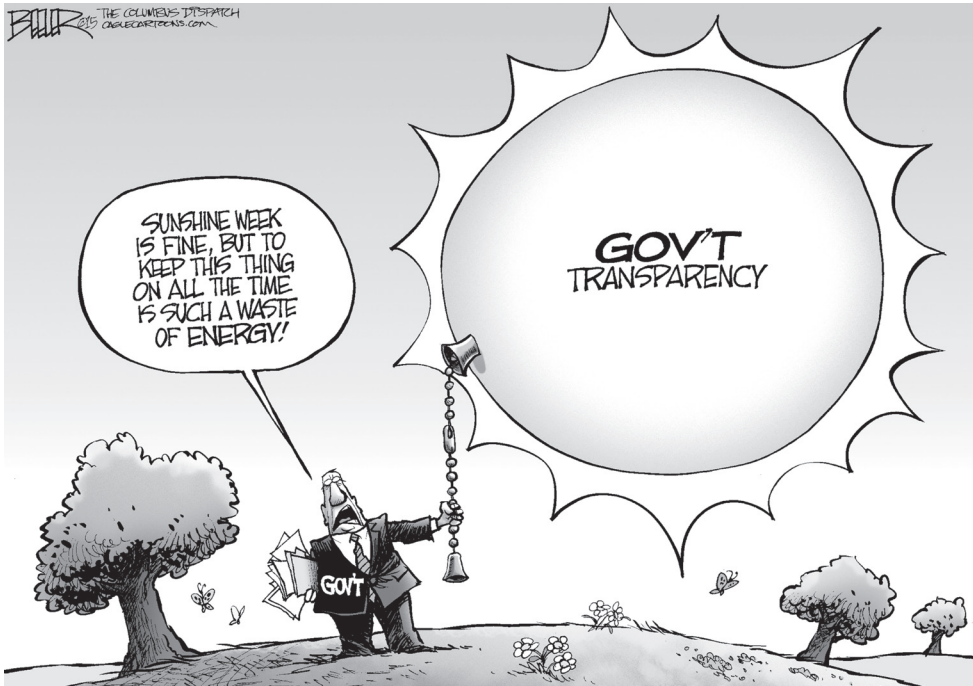
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**Skating Success****Pam Erickson, Yankton**

On behalf of the Yankton Figure Skaters, I want to express my sincere thanks to all the skaters, parents, coaches and volunteers that helped make our end-of-season performance a success: "If you can Dream it, you can do it!" (Words from Walt Disney). Many long hours went into creating this production and the figure skaters did an awesome job. I am so very

proud of all of them for their hard work and the many hours they put in working on their routines.

Thanks again to everyone who made the performance a success and for the support of the community for Yankton Area Ice Association.

If you are interested in learning more about the ice programs that YALA has to offer, please visit the website at www.yanktonice.org.

**Capitol Notebook**

SD Transgender Fight And Public Meetings

BY BOB MERCER

State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — Until two years ago, few people in South Dakota including news reporters paid consistent attention to one of the most important boards in our state.

But the grinding battle that took place in the Legislature in recent weeks over transgender athletic policy showed why everyone might want to keep abreast of the South Dakota High School Activities Association.

Last year, over a sequence of two public meetings, the SDHSAA discussed and adopted the policy. If a student believes she or he is of the opposite gender, there is now a process for the student to request approval to play as the other gender.

The initial story I wrote for newspapers ran April 23. I thought there would be a public stir. Nope.

The board came back at its June meeting and adopted the policy on a 4-1 vote. Because there was overwhelming silence in the wake of the April meeting, I reported the vote as a brief at the end of a long roundup of items from the June board meeting.

In late fall or early winter, I received a call from a legislator asking about the policy.

I could tell something was now stirring. When the legislative session opened in January, two bills aimed at curtailing the policy came from Rep. Jim Bolin, R-Canton.

He gave vent to a powerful groundswell of opposition to the policy.

The Legislature came within two ayes of approving one of them.

It would have declared the policy void and dictated to the SDHSAA that birth certificates (or a physician's examination report that lists gender) must be followed for gender-specific activities such as sports teams.

Leonard Pitts Jr.

Political Likes And Dislikes

BY LEONARD PITTS JR.

Tribune Content Agency

This is for Gigi, who can't figure out why I don't like Bill Maher.

Gigi, a reader in West Palm Beach, wrote me last week noting that I agree with the star of HBO's "Real Time with Bill Maher" on most political issues. Yet I have, on previous occasions in this space, expressed distaste for him. "I just don't understand," wrote Gigi, "why you profess to dislike someone who is so like-minded. It baffles me."

Me, I don't see the contradiction. To whatever admittedly imperfect degree you can judge character from a television performance, I find Maher smarmy, self-satisfied, condescending and just plain nasty. Besides which, his use of coarse, sexist vulgarisms to describe Sarah Palin and of an offensive term to describe her special-needs child a few years ago strike me as far beyond the pale, whether as comedy or as political analysis.

That said, Gigi's letter intrigues me less for its unspoken assumption that we should flock toward people with whom we agree than for the obvious, albeit equally unspoken, corollary: We should avoid those with whom we disagree.

Her bafflement tracks with the findings of a 2014 Pew Research Center study. It found that partisan animosity has increased significantly in the past 20 years, the right moving further right, the left, further left, and with the result that people now largely prefer to make their lives in echo chambers where their beliefs reverberate without challenge. Half of all "consistently conservative" respondents told Pew it's important for them to live in a place where most people think like them. Forty-nine percent of their liberal counterparts said most of their friends share their views.

Indeed, to a great degree, political identity now serves the same function in the public mind as racial identity — namely, as a fundamental and immutable marker of character and worth. To put that another way: Would you want your daughter to marry one? Twenty-three percent of consistent liberals say no, they would not want to see an im-

**Bob****MERCER**

There are five lessons, at least.

First, the SDHSAA should publish a public notice of its meetings and its proposed rule changes, even though that's not legally required because it isn't a public agency.

Legislator and lobbyist alike claimed they didn't know about the policy when it was being considered.

The SDHSAA was created in state law in roundabout way. School districts were given permission by the Legislature to have the association. But it's not a state agency.

Second, the SDHSAA should ask South Dakota Public Broadcasting to record the digital audio from the meetings and post those archives on SDHSAA's Internet site.

SDHSAA took a big step in the past year by webcasting the audio live. The next step should be allowing the audio to be heard afterward too, just like the Legislature.

Third, school officials need to be sure that the SDHSAA information packets are shared among the people in their school systems, whether public school districts or private schools.

Then the school officials can offer their perspectives and attend SDHSAA meetings as necessary.

Fourth, the Associated School Boards of South Dakota could send a representative across town to SDHSAA meetings. Legislators wondered why that isn't happening.

Fifth, news organizations need to give the public more information from SDHSAA.

The SDHSAA's board and staff were trying to protect schools. The transgender discussions and decisions took place in open meetings that were essentially empty.

They undoubtedly will hear from more of you now.

mediate family member marry a Republican. Thirty percent of consistent conservatives feel the same about the idea of a Democrat in the family.

Look, I get it: we argue — and we have to, and we should — over momentous things.

This is not a call to paper over critical political differences with false harmonies of Kumbaya. For the record, I doubt I could share a bus shelter in the rain with such conservative icons as Sean Hannity, Ted Cruz or Ben Carson. Drenching would be much preferable to five minutes with any one of them. But, as with Maher, that represents a judgment less of politics than of perceived character.

In this era, unfortunately, that's a distinction without a difference. My problem is that I came of age in another era, that I remember the likes of Bob Dole, Gerald Ford and George H.W. Bush, men with whom I could

— and did — have sharp political disagreements without feeling obliged to personally dislike them or to disparage their patriotism or decency.

Having been shaped by that era, I persist in believing party does not equal character, nor ideology, identity. I feel no imperative to like you because I agree with you. Or to dislike you because I don't.

Granted, that is an outdated and minority view, but I hold to it, largely because I can't see how the alternative solves anything except the need to argue. If a political opponent is defined as unalterably misanthropic and irredeemably evil, then all politics is doomed to fail. Politics, after all, is the art of compromise. You don't compromise with monsters.

No, you compromise with people like yourself, who have wants, needs and fears like yourself, though they see the world through a different lens. That's a truth lost to this loud and polarized time. As is this:

Disagreement is not a reason to stop talking. Truth to tell, it's a reason to start.

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.

© 2015, The Miami Herald