

THE PRESS & DAKOTIAN

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OPINION | OTHER THOUGHTS

Here's Why UND Retired 'Sioux' Logo

ABERDEEN AMERICAN NEWS (May 21): There is a reason why many people are offended by the team name "Washington Redskins."

No matter how many times racial slurs are recast as "paying tribute," knuckleheaded fans always remind us the real meanings of these names and logos.

Take the University of North Dakota students who used the school's former "Fighting Sioux" Indian head logo on T-shirts bearing the inscription "Siouxper drunk." The shirts, apparently, were worn for an annual spring student party, according to the Associated Press.

If any graphic sums up the racial meaning of these team icons, it's got to be this T-shirt.

In some ways, UND is lucky. The "Fighting Sioux" logo and nickname are being phased out after a contentious battle. So no longer will the university condone offensive stereotypes — or, at least, they won't look as hypocritical when they punish students for taking the iconography to its extreme.

In a world where Donald Sterling owns an NBA team and skin color is still considered a costume for D.C. sports fans, the problem in North Dakota is no surprise.

OUR LETTER POLICY

The PRESS & DAKOTIAN 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 & DAKOTIAN 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 Tuesday, May 27, the 147th day of 2014. There are 218 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On May 27, 1937, the newly completed Golden Gate Bridge connecting San Francisco and Marin County, California, was opened to pedestrian traffic (vehicles began crossing the next day).

On this date: In 1896, 255 people were killed when a tornado struck St. Louis, Missouri, and East St. Louis, Illinois.

In 1929, Charles A. Lindbergh Jr. married Anne Morrow in Englewood, New Jersey.

In 1933, the Chicago World's Fair, celebrating "A Century of Progress," officially opened. Walt Disney's Academy Award-winning animated short "The Three Little Pigs" was first released.

In 1935, the Supreme Court struck down the National Industrial Recovery Act.

In 1936, the Cunard liner RMS Queen Mary left England on its maiden voyage to New York.

In 1941, the British Royal Navy sank the German battleship Bismarck off France, with a loss of some 2,000 lives, three days after the Bismarck sank the HMS Hood.

In 1942, Navy Cook 3rd Class Doris "Dorie" Miller became the first African-American to receive the Navy Cross for his "extraordinary courage and disregard for his own personal safety" during Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor.

In 1944, Jean-Paul Sartre's existentialist play "Huis clos" (known in English as "No Exit") was first performed in Paris.

In 1962, a dump fire in Centralia, Pennsylvania, ignited a blaze in underground coal deposits that continues to burn this day.

In 1964, independent India's first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, died.

In 1985, in Beijing, representatives of Britain and China exchanged instruments of ratification for an accord returning Hong Kong to Chinese control in 1997.

In 1994, Nobel Prize-winning author Alexander Solzhenitsyn returned to Russia to the emotional cheers of thousands after spending two decades in exile.

Ten years ago: Mustafa Kamel Mustafa, a Muslim cleric, was arrested in London and accused of trying to build a terrorist training camp in Oregon. (Mustafa, also known as Abu

Hamza al-Masri, was extradited to the United States in the fall of 2012; his trial began in New York in April 2014.)

Five years ago: President Barack Obama announced more spending for renewable energy after touring a large field of solar panels at Nellis Air Force Base, near Las Vegas. Gunmen detonated a car bomb in Lahore, Pakistan, killing about 30 people and wounding at least 250.

One year ago: The European Union decided to lift an arms embargo on the Syrian opposition while maintaining all other sanctions against President Bashar Assad's regime after June 1, 2013. U.S. Sen. John McCain, a proponent of arming Syrian rebels, quietly slipped into Syria for a meeting with anti-government fighters. A coordinated wave of car bombings tore through mostly Shiite areas of Baghdad, killing dozens.

Today's Birthdays: Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Herman Wouk is 99. Actor Christopher Lee is 92. Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger is 91. Former FBI Director William Sessions is 84. Author John Barth is 84. Actress Lee Meriwether is 79. Musician Ramsey Lewis is 79. Actor Louis Gossett Jr. is 78. Rhythm-and-blues singer Raymond Sanders (The Persuasions) is 75. Country singer Don Williams is 75. Actor Bruce Weitz is 71. Singer Cilla Black is 71. Motion Picture Association of America Chairman Christopher Dodd is 70. Singer Bruce Cockburn is 69. Singer-actress Dee Dee Bridgwater is 64. Actor Richard Schiff is 59. Singer Siouxsie Sioux (The Creatures, Siouxsie and the Banshees) is 57. Rock singer-musician Neil Finn (The Finn Brothers) is 56. Actress Peri Gilpin is 53. Actress Cathy Silvers is 53. Comedian Adam Carolla is 50. Actor Todd Bridges is 49. Rock musician Sean Kinney (Alice In Chains) is 48. Actor Dondre Whitfield is 45. Actor Paul Bettany is 43. Rock singer-musician Brian Desveaux (Nine Days) is 43. Country singer Jace Everett is 42. Actor Jack McBrayer is 41. Rapper Andre 3000 (Outkast) is 39. Rapper Jadakiss is 39. TV chef Jamie Oliver is 39. Alt-country singer-songwriter Shane Nicholson is 38. Actor Ben Feldman is 34. Actor Michael Steger is 34. Actor-singer Chris Colfer is 24. Actor Ethan Dampf is 20.

Thought for Today: "Sixty years ago I knew everything; now I know nothing; education is a progressive discovery of our own ignorance." — Will Durant, American historian (1885-1981).

FROM THE BIBLE

Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in Your book were written ... the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them. Psalm 139:16. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

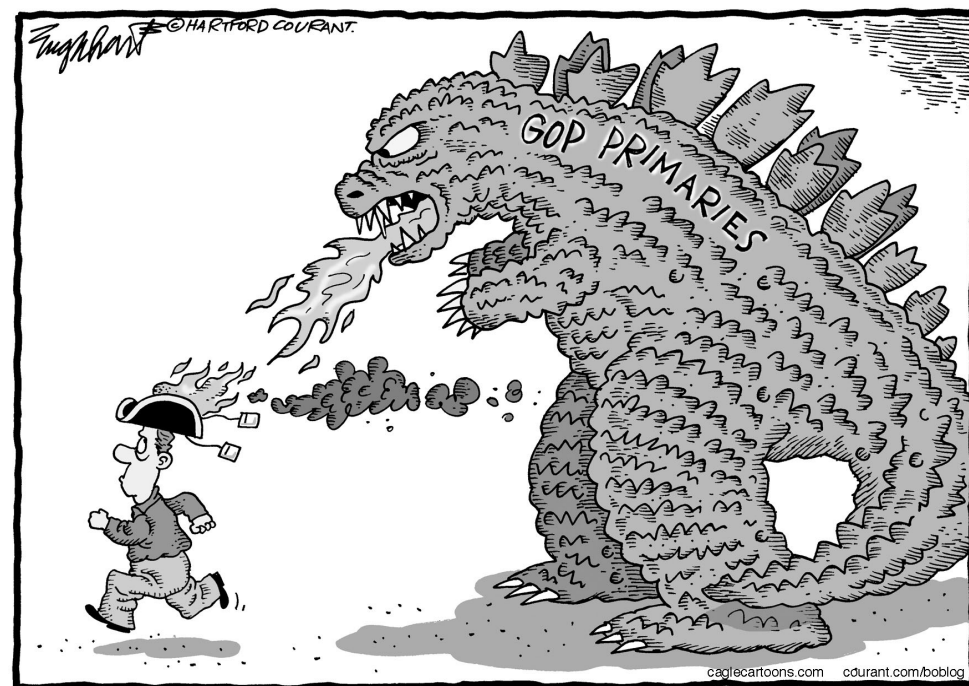
YOUR LETTERS

A Bold Move

John Magnuson, Yankton
You may have noticed the news item recently that Republican governor of Tennessee, Bill Haslam, signed a law to provide free community college for every HS graduate in the state. Funding will come from state lottery proceeds. This is expected to raise the number of Tennesseans with a college degree from 33 percent to 55 percent, and to increase personal incomes correspondingly.

One could imagine how a similar law could benefit South Dakota. Free college tuition would be more effective than a tax cut and could double the number of college grads. Not only would such a law make South Dakota more competitive in a changing world, it would increase state GNP over time and vastly improve our lives.

What parent doesn't struggle with sending their children to college or simply gives up because it's too expensive? Can you imagine the number of children gifted academically that don't go to college because of money? Wouldn't this be awesome, if our leaders would do this for our kids? For all you gamblers out there who think you can win your money back, maybe our great state could give some back by helping our kids. We need more engineers and more professionals of every stripe to make our great state even greater. We know our state has money from selling lotto tickets and from taxing gambling. What better use could there be for a portion of this money? We spent it and we should get it back! Let's think progressively like Tennesseans and do something bold and beautiful! Just imagine the possibilities!



Capitol Notebook

Hunting Resort Bags Win In Tax Dispute

BY BOB MERCER

State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — Dick Cheney, our nation's previous vice president, was known to hunt pheasants on occasion at Paul Nelson Farm near Gettysburg.

Paul marketed his complex as the highest quality available for pheasant hunting.

Current prices range from \$4,995 apiece for a party of six or more, to \$6,795 for a single hunter.

Those cover lodging, three days of hunting with guides and dogs, with five birds per day and free use of shotguns and other related services.

Also included are food and beverages and unlimited shotgun shells to use in the field and on the clays range.

Those facts became important when the state Department of Revenue came calling for an audit.

Those facts became important again when the South Dakota Supreme Court ruled in favor of Paul Nelson Farm on Thursday.

Paul Nelson Farm paid sales tax on the packages. The court ruled the resort didn't owe \$17,405.15 of use tax and interest for food, non-alcoholic beverages and ammunition.

Use tax is one of the most confusing and confounding pieces of South Dakota's tax system. Disputes over use tax crop up year after year in the Legislature.

The Paul Nelson Farm case is a good example of the mind-swirling logic behind the use tax.

Sales tax is simple. You buy something to consume or own, and the seller remits sales tax to the Revenue Department.

Use tax isn't simple. You buy something to use for your business, and you are supposed to remit the use tax — at the same rate as the

sales tax — to the Revenue Department.

That is, unless you plan to resell the item. Then you don't pay tax on the purchase. You collect and remit sales tax from the next purchaser.

In the instance of Paul Nelson Farm, the argument by the Revenue Department was that food, non-alcoholic beverages and ammunition were purchased for use by the business.

Therefore, Revenue determined, the use tax applied. Paul Nelson Farm naturally contested this finding.

The business lost before an administrative hearing officer. The business won partially on its next appeal.

Circuit Judge Patricia Devaney decided use tax didn't apply to the food but did to the non-alcoholic beverages and ammo.

The Revenue Department appealed her ruling to the state Supreme Court. There the business won and Revenue lost on all three.

Chief Justice David Gilbertson wrote the 5-0 decision.

"The items were purchased for resale to Paul Nelson Farm's customers in the regular course of business," he said, noting that control and possession of the items by the business didn't meet the definition of use in state law.

Two justices didn't participate. Lori Wilbur's late husband, Brent, was a very good friend of Paul Nelson and was an attorney at the May, Adam, Gerdes and Thompson law firm that represented the business since its 1997 incorporation.

Retired justice Judith Meierhenry took her spot. Wilbur had succeeded Meierhenry.

The other justice who didn't take part was Steve Zinter, who had friendships in the case. Circuit Judge Susan Sabers took his spot.

The question now: Will the Legislature consider the definition of use tax in 2015?



Bob
MERCER

Treating Veterans, Illegals

BY MICHELLE MALKIN

Creators.com

A government that fails to secure its borders is guilty of dereliction of duty. A government that fails to care for our men and women on the frontlines is guilty of malpractice. A government that puts the needs of illegal aliens above U.S. veterans for political gain should be prosecuted for criminal neglect bordering on treason.

Compare, contrast and weep:
In Sacramento, Calif., lawmakers are moving forward with a budget-busting plan to extend government-funded health insurance to at least 1.5 million illegal aliens.

In Los Angeles, federal bureaucrats callously canceled an estimated 40,000 diagnostic tests and treatments for American veterans with cancer and other illnesses to cover up a decade-long backlog.

In New York, doctors report that nearly 40 percent of their patients receiving kidney dialysis are illegal aliens. A survey of nephrologists in 44 states revealed that 65 percent of them treat illegal aliens with kidney disease.

In Memphis, a VA whistleblower reported that his hospital was using contaminated kidney dialysis machines to treat America's warriors. The same hospital previously had been investigated for chronic overcrowding at its emergency room, leading to six-hour waits or longer. Another watchdog probe found unconscionable delays in processing lab tests at the center. In addition, three patients died under negligent circumstances, and the hospital failed to enforce accountability measures.

In Arizona, illegal aliens incurred health care costs totaling an estimated \$700 million in 2009.

In Phoenix, at least 40 veterans died waiting for VA hospitals and clinics to treat them, while government officials created secret waiting lists to cook the books and deceive the public about deadly treatment delays.

At the University of California at Berkeley, UC President Janet Napolitano (former secretary of the Department of Homeland Security) has offered \$5 million in financial aid to illegal alien students. Across the country, 16 states offer in-state tuition discounts for illegal aliens: California, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Kansas, Maryland, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, Utah and Washington. In addition, the Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher Education, the University of Hawaii Board of Regents and the University of Michigan Board of Regents all approved their own il-

legal alien tuition benefits.

In 2013, the nation's most selective colleges and universities had enrolled just 168 American veterans, down from 232 in 2011. Anti-war activists have waged war on military recruitment offices at elite campuses for years. The huge influx of illegal aliens in state universities is shrinking the number of state-subsidized slots for vets.

In 2013, the Obama Department of Homeland Security released 36,007 known, convicted criminal illegal aliens, according to the Center for Immigration Studies. The catch-and-release beneficiaries include thugs convicted of homicide, sexual assault, kidnapping and thousands of drunk or drugged driving crimes.

The same Department of Homeland Security issued a report in 2009 that identified returning combat veterans as worrisome terrorist and criminal threats to America.

In Washington, Big Business and open-border lobbyists are redoubling efforts to pass another massive illegal alien amnesty to flood the U.S. job market with low-wage labor.

Across the country, men and women in uniform returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan have higher jobless rates than the civilian population. The unemployment rate for new veterans has spiked to its worst levels, nearing 15 percent. For veterans ages 24 and under, the jobless rate is a whopping 29.1 percent, compared to 17.6 percent nationally for the age group.

A Forbes columnist reported last year that an Air Force veteran was told: "We don't hire your kind."

And last December, Democrats led the charge to reduce cost-of-living increases in military pensions — while blocking GOP Alabama Sen. Jeff Sessions' efforts to close a \$4.2 billion loophole that allows illegal aliens to collect child tax credits from the IRS, even if they pay no taxes. The fraudulent payments to illegal aliens would have offset the cuts to veterans' benefits.

America: medical and welfare welcome mat to the rest of the world, while leavings its best and bravest veterans to languish in hospital lounges, die waiting for appointments and compete for jobs and educational opportunities against illegal border-crossers, document fakers, visa violators and deportation evaders. Shame on us.

Michelle Malkin is the author of "Culture of Corruption: Obama and His Team of Tax Cheats, Crooks and Cronies" (Regnery 2010). Her e-mail address is malkinblog@gmail.com.