

# The Press & Dakotan

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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  
kristina.tunink@yankton.net

**CLASSIFIED ADS**  
Extension 108  
tera.schmidt@yankton.net

**NEWS DEPT.**  
Extension 114  
news@yankton.net

**SPORTS DEPT.**  
Extension 106  
sports@yankton.net

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Extension 119  
ar@yankton.net

**NEW MEDIA:**  
Extension 136  
beth.rye@yankton.net

**COMPOSING DEPT.**  
Extension 129  
kathy.larson@yankton.net

**MANAGERS**  
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**OPINION**

## A Baltimore Mom Takes A Stand

Of all the things we've witnessed from the Baltimore riots — and given the excessive coverage provided by cable television news channels, the nation's eyeballs have seen countless such images — one image has struck a chord more than any other: a single mother of six smacking her teenage son as he was about to participate in what amounted to a riot. This sight of Toya Graham slapping her son into retreating from the scene has become a viral sensation, in part perhaps because it touches on something — and, arguably, the one thing — that everyone can identify with in this combustible episode: a mother taking a stand when a child is on the verge of getting into trouble. She's being hailed as a hero by many people because her actions appeal to us on the most intimate and personal terms. She was providing "tough love" in a tough situation. She can be heard on a video of the episode saying: "What's wrong with you? Get over here! Do you hear me?"

Predictably, she has also been criticized for taking such physical action against her child. While that argument may hold up in some more pedestrian situations, her response within the context of the angry hostility unfolding in Baltimore may have been the actions spurred by fear and desperation more than an emotional urge to deliver some smack on a child.

Beyond that, there are divided takes on the Baltimore situation. Some people look at the Baltimore riots and see decades of racial frustration boiling over because of the death of a black man — in this case, Freddie Gray — in police custody. Others may look at this chaos and see an overreaction and yet another effort to portray the police as the "bad guys."

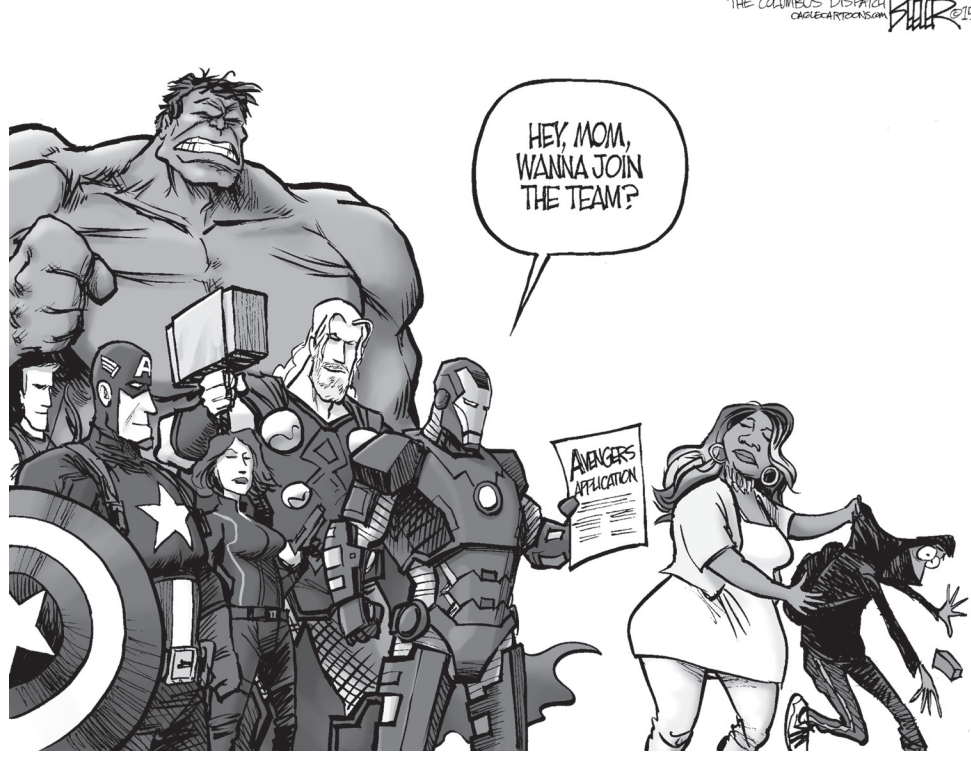
But one shouldn't miss why she says she did it. Speaking to CBS, Graham said, "That's my only son and at the end of the day, I don't want him to be a (another) Freddie Gray."

Translation: She didn't want to have him end up in police custody and then have something "happen" to him.

That should be sobering to us all. The mother who was caught with an outburst of discipline that everyone applauds was not administering that discipline simply because her child was behaving dangerously, but also because he was potentially putting himself in lethal danger.

Whether that serves as a commentary on what the black culture in this country faces in some locales is up to you. But it would seem a telling remark, and one we should all consider with some genuine reflection. We can applaud her actions, but we must also understand her fears. That's probably one of the keys to unlocking the real solutions to situations like Baltimore; Ferguson, Missouri; and other recent social flashpoints where anger has exploded.

kml



**The Rez Of The Story**

## The Story Of Cotton

BY VINCE TWO EAGLES

Hau Mitakuepi (Greetings My Relatives), Please record this week's column as one of those FYI articles I do from time to time to eradicate the notion by non-Indian Americans and others that we are not the ignorant savages they once depicted us to be. We can now look forward to some nicer weather where we won't need to be stumbling around ice patches under a heavy load of layer clothing and winter parkas as we go about our daily errands of checking our mail, picking up some groceries or whatever.

We abandon our protective garb for more lighter fabric clothing such as cotton T-shirts and the like. This week's column can be characterized as one of "did you know?"

Native people were using cotton prior to European contact and here according to Keoke and Porterfield is its story.

"Cotton is a plant that produces a mass of fiber around the seeds; this fiber is used to make textiles. American Indians domesticated a variety of cotton indigenous to the Americas in the Tehuacan Valley of what is now Mexico and on the eastern slope of the Andes in what is now Peru between 3500 and 2300 B.C. This occurred independently from cotton domesticated in the Indus valley of what is now India in about 3000 B.C. Cotton was not cultivated in Egypt until about 700 B.C.

"Archaeologists have found 7,000- to 8,000-year-old Peruvian mummies wrapped in cotton textiles. Some believe that wild cotton was used for clothing in Peru as early as 10,000 B.C. These were made by a people known as the Chincheros. They estimate that as much as 10 percent of the land under cultivation in Peru was devoted to cotton growing. The plant was used primarily for textiles, but it was also a source of oil and food, and in some cases it was considered medicine. Recent research has shown that cottonseeds are high in antibiotics.

"The Maya, who's culture arose in about 1500 B.C. in what are now Mexico and parts of Mesoamerica, grew cotton in household garden plots as well as village fields. They developed extensive trade in woven cotton goods throughout Mesoamerica. The Aztec, whose empire was established in what are Mexico and Mesoamerica in about A.D. 1100, valued cotton so highly that they used it.... as a form of money. The Maya also made mat-



Vince TWO EAGLES

tresses from cotton.

"American Indians in the Southwest began growing cotton sometime after 1500 B.C. The earliest woven cotton found in that region comes from New Mexico and has been dated to about A.D. 700. Using the process of seed selection, these southwestern people developed a variety [of cotton] that has the shortest growing season of any variety in the world.

"Indians grew cotton from the Rio Grande in the south to Hopi country in the north. The Zuni planted it in irrigated gardens and hand watered it as well. They were experts at separating the fiber from the bolls by flailing them between blankets.

"During colonial times in what would become the United States, planters in the South began growing indigenous cotton in the hope that it would replace the tobacco that

quickly depleted soil nutrients. Cotton did not become a viable cash crop until seeds from a variety with long, fine fibers from the Bahamas were introduced to Georgia. This variety was called Sea Island cotton because it grew best along the sandy coastline and on Georgia's Sea Islands. These seeds are believed to be of the same type that Columbus brought back to Spain from his first voyage in 1492. With the invention of the cotton gin in 1793, the tedious and time-consuming job of removing cottonseeds from the fiber by hand was mechanized. By 1803 southern planters were growing \$10 million worth of cotton annually. This increased each year until the economy in the South became dependent on cotton.

"At the start of the 20th century, a cross of Egyptian and American cotton was introduced to the Southwest. Seeds were selected, and eventually a superior long staple variety, which came to be called Pima cotton, was developed. Its name came from the Pima (now known as Akimel O'odham) Indians, descendants of the Hohokam, who helped raise the cotton on a U.S. Department of Agriculture farm in Sacaton, Arizona. Ironically, their own traditional cotton fields had become almost completely supplanted by the introduction of sheep to the area by early colonizers."

Today, cotton serves as a fiber, animal feed, and food crop. More than 75 percent of the people in the world wear cotton clothing... and the beat goes on. And now you know the rez of the story. Doksha (later)...

**ONLINE OPINION**

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

**LATEST RESULTS:**

**Do you support the establishment of a rail authority for Yankton County?**  
Yes.....41%  
Not sure/don't care.....32%  
No.....27%  
**TOTAL VOTES CAST.....213**

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 the construction of a wind farm within sight of where you live?**  
To cast your vote in the PRESS & DAKOTAN'S Internet poll, log on to our website at www.yankton.net.

**IN HISTORY**

**By The Associated Press**  
Today is Tuesday, May 5, the 125th day of 2015. There are 240 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlights in History:** On May 5, 1945, in the only fatal attack of its kind during World War II, a Japanese balloon bomb exploded on Gearhart Mountain in Oregon, killing Elsie Mitchell, the 26-year-old pregnant wife of a minister, and five children: Dick Patzke, 14; Jay Gifford, 13; Edward Engen, 13; Joan Patzke, 13; and Sherman Shoemaker, 11. Denmark and the Netherlands were liberated as a German surrender went into effect.

**On this date:** In 1821, Napoleon Bonaparte, 51, died in exile on the island of St. Helena.  
In 1862, Mexican troops defeated French occupying forces in the Battle of Puebla.

In 1865, what's believed to be America's first train robbery took place as a band of criminals derailed a St. Louis-bound train near North Bend, Ohio; they proceeded to rob the passengers and loot safes on board before getting away.

In 1915, musical film star Alice Faye was born Alice Leppert in New York.  
In 1925, schoolteacher John T. Scopes was charged in Tennessee with violating a state law that prohibited teaching the theory of evolution. (Scopes was found guilty, but his conviction was later set aside.)

In 1934, the first Three Stooges short for Columbia Pictures, "Woman Haters," was released.

In 1955, West Germany became a fully sovereign state. The baseball musical "Damn Yankees" opened on Broadway.  
In 1961, astronaut Alan B. Shepard Jr. became America's first space traveler as he made a 15-minute suborbital flight aboard Mercury capsule Freedom 7.

In 1973, Secretariat won the Kentucky Derby, the first of its Triple Crown victories.  
In 1981, Irish Republican Army hunger-striker Bobby Sands died at the Maze Prison in Northern Ireland in his 66th day without food.

In 1985, President Ronald Reagan kept a controversial promise to West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl by leading a wreath-laying ceremony at the military cemetery in Bitburg.

In 1994, Singapore caned American teenager Michael Fay for vandalism, a day after the sentence was reduced from six lashes to four in response to an appeal by President Bill Clinton, who considered the punishment too harsh.

**Ten years ago:** Tony Blair won a historic third term as Britain's prime minister, but his Labor Party suffered a sharply reduced parliamentary majority. "Precious Doe," a slain girl in Kansas City, Missouri, was identified after four years as 3-year-old Erica Michelle Marie Green. (Harrell Johnson was later convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison without parole; Erica's mother, Michelle Green, pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and received a 25-year term.) Michael Jackson's lawyers opened their successful defense in his molestation and conspiracy trial.

**Five years ago:** Preliminary plans for a mosque and cultural center near ground zero in New York were unveiled, setting off a national debate over whether the project was disrespectful to 9/11 victims and whether opposition to it exposed anti-Muslim biases. Three people, trapped in an Athens bank torched by rioters, died during a nationwide strike against the cash-strapped Greek government's harsh austerity measures.

**One year ago:** A narrowly divided Supreme Court upheld Christian prayers at the start of local council meetings. Philadelphia guard Michael Carter-Williams won the NBA's Rookie of the Year Award.

**Today's Birthdays:** Actress Pat Carroll is 88. Former AFL-CIO president John J. Sweeney is 81. Saxophonist Ace Cannon is 81. Country singer-musician Roni Stoneman is 77. Actor Michael Murphy is 77. Actor Lance Henriksen is 75. Comedian-actor Michael Palin is 72. Actor John Rhys-Davies is 71. Actor Roger Rees is 71. Rock correspondent Kurt Loder is 70. Rock musician Bill Ward (Black Sabbath) is 67. Actress Melinda Culea is 60. Actress Lisa Eilbacher is 58. Actor Richard E. Grant is 58. Former CBS News correspondent John Miller is 57. Rock singer Ian McCulloch (Echo and the Bunnymen) is 56. NBC newsmen Brian Williams is 56. Rock musician Shawn Drover (Megadeth) is 49. TV personality Kyan Douglas is 45. Actress Tina Yothers is 42. Rhythm and blues singer Raheem DeVaughn is 40. Actor Vincent Kartheiser is 36. Singer Craig David is 34. Actress Danielle Fishel is 34. Actor Henry Cavill is 32. Actor Clark Duke is 30. Soul singer Adele is 27. Rock singer Skye Sweetnam is 27. Rhythm-and-blues singer Chris Brown is 26.

**Thought for Today:** "Some of us think holding on makes us strong; but sometimes it is letting go." — Hermann Hesse, German-born Swiss poet and author (1877-1962).

**FROM THE BIBLE**

As soon as [Moses] ... saw the calf ... [his] anger burned hot. ... He took the calf that they made and burned it with fire and ground it to powder and scattered it on the water and made the people of Israel drink it. Exodus 32:19-20. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**A Successful Run**

**Bruce Schild, Yankton**  
President and Race Director, Riverratt Run or Bike Committee

The Riverratt Run/Bike event for 2015 was held April 25 at Riverside Park in Yankton. It was a successful event with more than 300 runners and bikers signed up this year, even with temps in the 30s to 40s with strong east winds. The committee received numerous comments from runners near and far about the friendly community they encountered and the beautiful course.

Most runners dreaded the uphill climb at Chalkstone Hill and the wind, but once they were done, admitted that the hill gave the course character and the wind wasn't controllable.

The Riverratt Committee would like to thank the following sponsors to which this event couldn't be possible without their contributions:

- Level one sponsor — John A Conklin Distributing.
- Level 2 Sponsors — KK93, KYNT1450, KDAM 94.3, KVHT 106.3, ESPN Radio 1570, Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan and 605 Running of Sioux Falls.
- Level 3 sponsors — Modern Woodman Insurance and Ace Hardware.
- Level 4 Sponsors and Sponsors in Kind were: The Yankton Best Western Kelly Inn, Chestermans Bottling of Yankton, Olson's Pest Control, First Family Chiropractic of Vermillion, Soil Works of Yankton, Hy-Vee and Wal-Mart of Yankton, Williams Septic Service of Avon, Lewis & Clark Recreation Area and Resort, All Season Power Sports, Bolter Printing, Verizon Wireless of Yankton, JJ Benji's Screen Printing and Interbake of North Sioux City.

We would also like to thank the City of

Yankton, County of Yankton, South Dakota Dept. of Transportation and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for their cooperation and having such a beautiful trail system to host our event.

The Yankton Area Athletics Assoc LLC dba Riverratt Bike/Run is a non-profit LLC, which benefits the Yankton Science Club, (Science Olympiad Teams), Yankton High School Track Club, South Dakota Army National Guard/Bravo Battery 1/14th FA MWR of Yankton and the Center for Senior Meals on Wheels in Yankton. A results link is available at riverrattmarathon.com/.

**Bypass Issues**

**Carie Schneider, Yankton**  
We already have a bit of a bypass in Yankton already. Take Highway 50 west all the way up and around where it joins Summit Street. Continue past the duck pond and hospital to Ninth Street. Take a left onto Ninth. Keep going past West City Limits Road. Congrats, you found Highway 314, and that joins directly up (again) with Highway 50.

But in reading these interesting ideas about a bypass, no one has yet to mention how much revenue Yankton would lose if trucks went around town. I know for me, 99 percent of the time, on my way to Sioux Falls or Sioux City, I drive directly around Vermillion, and therefore, don't spend a dime there.

There has been, on more than one occasion, a semi pulled up in the vicinity of the restaurant where I work, and there's revenue for Yankton. Anyone stop to think about THAT?

Maybe in considering a bypass, stop trucks going through and around town, and conduct a survey of sorts asking if they had planned to spend money here: lunch at a local "eat-um-up," hotel maybe, pick up supplies at Hy-Vee or Walmart?

**ABOUT THIS PAGE**

The View page provides a forum for open discussion of issues and interests affecting our readers. Edited 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/.