

The Press & Dakotan

THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861
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We Say

First Words



swinging, damning the partisanship in no uncertain terms: "The people despise us all. And why is this? Because we're not doing our job. We're not doing the primary things that the people sent us here to do." He added that lawmakers "have allowed short-termism and the sound-bite culture to invade this chamber, and to reduce so many of our debates to fact-free zones." He offered some solutions, the most striking and constructive being this: "This is not a call for less fighting, but for more meaningful fighting." The speech apparently made quite an impact and was discussed at length on MSNBC's "Morning Joe." Let's hope the lawmakers themselves decide to listen.

Monumental



ahead of schedule and is holding a final fundraiser — a pancake breakfast — this Sunday. Luken Memorials of Yankton, crafted the memorial, an outstanding piece of work. The Springfield monument — and the others located throughout our region — provide a fitting tribute as we observe the upcoming Veterans Day.

Tanks A Lot



There is a lot of personality in Yankton's downtown area; we must come up with ways to capitalize on it.

Stage Fright



and entertainment in our culture. Candidates have been appearing on entertainment shows for years. Hillary Clinton made a cameo on "SNL" just a few weeks ago. In 2008, John McCain turned up on "SNL" on the eve of the election (mostly to play off Tina Fey's memorable Sarah Palin impersonation), and Barack Obama has made cameos, too. (It's become a weird tradition, going back to at least 1968 when then-presidential hopeful Richard Nixon appeared on "Rowan and Martin's Laugh-In" to utter the classic line: "Sock it ... to me?" Look it up on YouTube.) But this week's "SNL" ups the ante by having a candidate actually HOST the show. Forget questions of unfairness or balance: This just feels unseemly, emphasizing the increasingly showbiz nature of our politics.

ONLINE OPINION

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

LATEST RESULTS:

Have you ever been injured in an automobile accident?

No.....66%
Yes.....34%
TOTAL VOTES CAST.....228

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:

Do you think some individuals convicted of petty crimes should be given the option of donating blood to a local blood bank in lieu of paying a fine?

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 Friday, Nov. 6, the 310th day of 2015. There are 55 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Nov. 6, 1860, former Illinois congressman Abraham Lincoln defeated three other candidates for the presidency: John Breckinridge, John Bell and Stephen Douglas.

On this date: In 1632, King Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden was killed in battle.

In 1854, America's "March King," John Philip Sousa, was born in Washington, D.C.

In 1861, Confederate President Jefferson Davis was elected to a six-year term of office.

In 1928, in a first, the results of Republican Herbert Hoover's presidential election victory over Democrat Alfred E. Smith were flashed onto an electric wraparound sign on the New York Times building.

In 1934, Nebraska voters approved dissolving their two-chamber legislature in favor of a nonpartisan, single (or "unicameral") legislative body, which was implemented in 1937.

In 1944, British official Lord Moyne was assassinated in Cairo, Egypt, by members of the Zionist Stern gang.

In 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower won re-election, defeating Democrat Adlai E. Stevenson.

In 1962, Democrat Edward M. Kennedy was elected Senator from Massachusetts.

In 1977, 39 people were killed when the Kelly Barnes Dam burst, sending a wall of water through Toccoa Falls College in Georgia.

In 1984, President Ronald Reagan won re-election by a landslide over former Vice President Walter Mondale, the Democratic challenger.

In 1990, about one-fifth of the Universal Studios backlot in southern California was destroyed in an arson fire.

In 2012, President Barack Obama was elected to a second term of office, defeating Republican challenger Mitt Romney.

Ten years ago: An overnight tornado killed 25 people in southwestern Indiana.

In a clear jab at Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, President George W. Bush, in Brazil, called on Latin Americans to boldly defend strong democratic institutions. French President Jacques Chirac promised arrests, trials and punishment in the wake of urban unrest that had spread to central Paris.

Five years ago: President Barack

Obama opened his 10-day Asia trip on a somber note in Mumbai, India, where he memorialized victims of devastating terror attacks two years earlier, declaring, "We'll never forget." A Yemeni judge ordered police to find Anwar al-Awlaki, a radical U.S.-born cleric, "dead or alive" after the al-Qaida-linked preacher failed to appear at his trial for his role in the killing of foreigners. (Al-Awlaki was killed in a U.S. drone strike in the mountains of Yemen on Sept. 30, 2011.)

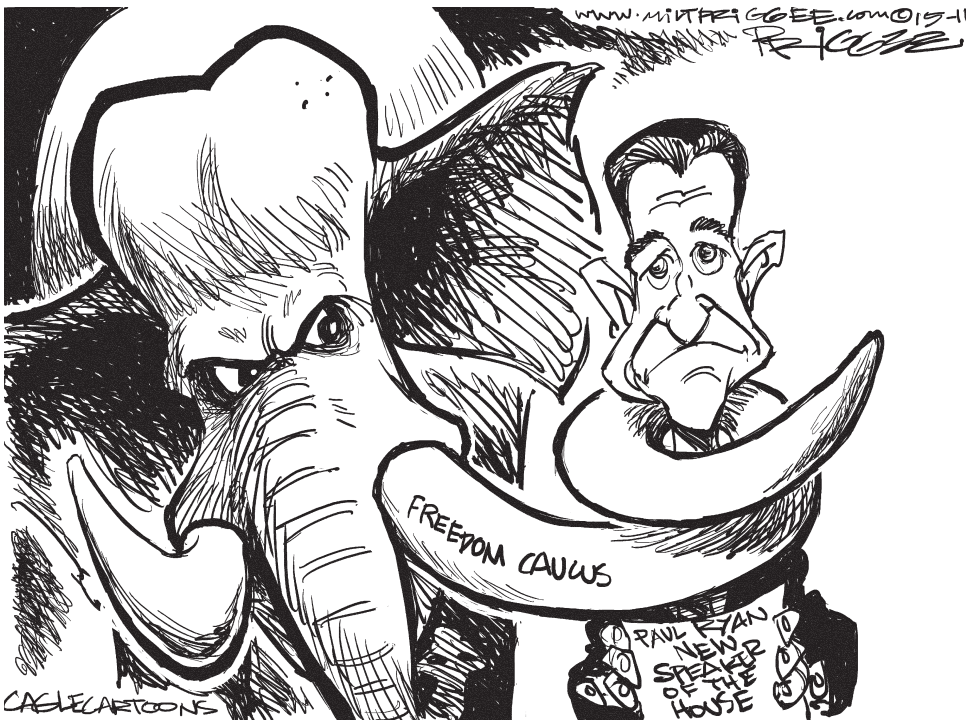
One year ago: The march toward same-sex marriage across the U.S. hit a roadblock when a federal appeals court upheld laws against the practice in four states: Ohio, Michigan, Kentucky and Tennessee. (A divided U.S. Supreme Court overturned the laws in June 2015.) Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reassured Jordan's King Abdullah that he would not yield to increasing demands by some members of his center-right coalition to allow Jews to pray at a Muslim-run holy site in Jerusalem.

Today's Birthdays: Actress June Squibb is 86. Country singer Stonewall Jackson is 83. Singer Eugene Pitt (The Jive Five) is 78. Singer P.J. Proby is 77. Country singer Guy Clark is 74. Actress Sally Field is 69. Pop singer-musician Glenn Frey (The Eagles) is 67. Singer Rory Block is 66. Jazz musician Arturo Sandoval is 66. TV host Catherine Crier is 61. News correspondent and former California first lady Maria Shriver is 60. Actress Lori Singer is 58. Actor Lance Kerwin is 55. Rock musician Paul Brindley (The Sundays) is 52. Education Secretary Arne Duncan is 51. Rock singer Corey Glover is 51. Actor Brad Grunberg is 51. Actor Peter Deluise is 49. Actress Kelly Rutherford is 47. Actor Ethan Hawke is 45. Chef/TV judge Marcus Samuelsson is 45. Actress Thandie Newton is 43. Model-actress Rebecca Romijn is 43. Actress Zoe McLellan is 41. Actress Nicole Dubuc is 37. Actress Taryn Manning is 37. Basketball player Lamar Odom is 36. Actress Patina Miller (TV: "Madam Secretary") is 31. Actress Katie Leclerc is 29. Singer-songwriter Ben Rector is 29. Singer-songwriter Robert Ellis is 27. Actress Emma Stone is 27. Actress Mercedes Kastner is 26.

Thought for Today: "The illiterate of the future will not be the person who cannot read. It will be the person who does not know how to learn." — Alvin Toffler, American writer-futurist (1928-).

FROM THE BIBLE

Stay dressed for action ... like men who are waiting for their master to come home. Luke 12:35-36. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.



An Orphan Holiday

BY KELLY HERTZ

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I have the feeling that Veterans Day is up for grabs, mostly because the original reason the holiday was created has arguably become a moot point.

And for that reason, I must say this, mostly because I feel I owe it to some people.

Veterans Day, originally called Armistice Day, was established by many nations to commemorate the end of what was initially called the Great War or the World War (although it ultimately needed a number attached to it to set it apart from a subsequent World War that devoured our lives). Armistice Day was set aside to commemorate the signing of the war-ending peace pact that took effect on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918.

This was an extraordinary moment in the course of humanity. (On Nov. 11, 1918, the *Press & Dakotan* ran three different front pages, each one changing as the information came in, to proclaim the news to its war-weary readers.) World War I was a nightmare unlike anything humanity had ever endured, and its ending was a cause for both celebration and mourning. It remained so for many years thereafter. For instance, Yankton held major community programs that were broadcast live on radio to the area and, given WNAX's extraordinary reach in the 1920s and '30s, across much of the Midwest. This newspaper didn't publish on the holiday into at least the 1960s. Schools everywhere dismissed for the day; some still do so. And almost every town had some kind of program at which people could remember and reflect.

But now, it seems like an orphan holiday. There are some compelling reasons for that, not the least of which is the fact that the World War I warriors are no longer here to remind us of what that hell on earth was like, once upon a time. There are precious few souls left who can even vaguely remember those days. And with that, we have genuinely lost something.

There are still remembrances tied to Nov. 11, of course, but they mostly honor other things now — although that's not a bad thing, really. We've had many wars since World War I (the "War to End All Wars" which failed to prevent World War II), and they have manufactured many more veterans and too many honored dead. From Pearl Harbor to Saigon,

from Baghdad to Inchon, we have countless reasons to honor those who have fought and died for us.

However, this November opportunity has also been demoted in some minds to simply being a day off from work or school, or an excuse to get an early jump on holiday shopping.

And frankly, the establishment of Memorial Day in May has stolen some of the special spirit of Veterans Day, which — as a day created to remember a war that no one can recall firsthand anymore — now feels redundant.

So, Nov. 11 seems more like a day to forget, not a day to remember.

But forgetting is not a comfortable option for me, because, as I said, I feel I owe it to some people I've met and known. There were World War I soldiers that I interviewed in the early days of my career who shared some of their tales. I had relatives

who fought in the war, and they brought home artifacts such as a ceremonial German spiked helmet and American doughboy helmets (I recall playing with these as a kid), as well as a blood-splattered handkerchief pulled from the body of a German soldier. Others who grew up in those days told me stories of what life was like here in this very divided German-American homefront. They remembered it; they lived it; they knew people who died in it. And I owe it to them to remember, even now.

So there. That being said, the mantle of this orphaned holiday must be passed from the ghosts of the Great War to newer generations, but I don't believe the old ghosts would mind too much. Times change and reasons reinvent themselves, and at least there are still important things worth fighting for, dying for and defending to the last. That was the very brutal point of that ancient war and the armistice that we celebrated for so long. And that point has endured, thanks in no small part to those ghosts.

We need to keep those reasons in mind each Veterans Day. Remember the ghosts, if only for a moment, then remember those who have carried on the legacy to this very day. The old soldiers are long gone, but what they did for us is still here and — like all sacrifices in all wars — should never be forgotten, even when there's no one left to tell the tale.

Follow @kelly_hertz on Twitter.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

An Early April Fool's Day?

Chris Svarstad, Yankton

Just the other day, I was given an email from the Yankton County GOP about their September meeting. At that meeting they had Chad Krier the field director of the South Dakota Chapter of the billionaire Koch Brothers shadowy shell group "Americans for Prosperity." The email had one catchy line: "Don't disclose donors. Leave it up to the Koch Brothers." It's become abundantly clear that they believe in secrecy over honest transparency, they believe that money is free speech. "Economic freedom for it, regulation against it" was another catchy phrase.

These two mogul multi-billionaires are so eager to force their own will upon the American people, that they'll do it even in the face of their own hypocrisy, which has already been established sometime ago. I'm beginning to think April Fool's Day arrived early. It's a fool's errand for the Koch Brothers to think they can use their money to frighten people, or to brainwash the whole country. They're spending lots of money to try to do that. They've spent hundreds of millions of dollars maligning Medicaid expansion. They're trying to use their immense wealth to buy their way around the laws and regulations of this nation, to make themselves even richer. Everything they do is so selfish, so self-centered.

Republicans hardly need the RNC anymore, which decade after decade was their main funding tool for the party. Not any longer. The Koch Brothers take care of that. Who's prosperity is being plotted in these calculating schemes? It is "Americans for Prosperity" to some people: the very rich. Their so called

P&D LETTER POLICY

The **PRESS & DAKOTAN** invites its readers to write letters to the editor. We ask 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 us at kelly.hertz@yankton.net.