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OPINION OTHER VIEWS

Alcohol Sales On Campus Needs Study

RAPID CITY JOURNAL (Oct. 29): The idea of college and drinking might seem redundant to some as rituals involving alcohol have been part of the higher-education experience for decades. Yet at the same time, it has been illegal since at least 1939 to sell alcohol on a college campus in South Dakota.

Now, however, the Board of Regents is looking into the pros and cons of bringing more cheers to the college experience. The board has appointed a task force, which includes representatives of the six state universities, to embark on a fact-finding mission to help determine if the Legislature should be asked to change the law and allow universities to tap into a new revenue source.

The universities also have been asked to conduct their own studies to determine how much revenue could be earned from alcohol sales, how the sales would be licensed and where it would be most appropriate to sell alcohol.

Janelle Toman, the communications director for the Regents, is the chair of the task force. She told the Rapid City Journal last week the task force is looking at only allowing alcohol sales at sporting events, concerts, plays, lectures and art exhibits. No one, she said, is advocating opening bars on campus.

Those who support the idea say allowing colleges to sell alcohol at football and basketball games, for example, would make the schools more competitive when recruiting students while pointing out that state schools already have policies that allow drinking at tailgate parties before football games.

But as South Dakota School of Mines & Technology President Heather Wilson acknowledges, alcohol sales are "a difficult issue for a university." In fact, the sale of alcohol on a college campus raises a number of important questions that must be addressed.

Who is liable if a student gets intoxicated at a campus event and injures himself or others or worse yet is involved in a fatal accident? Who will be held responsible if alcohol is served to a student who is not 21 years old, the legal age to drink in South Dakota? Will legalizing the consumption of alcohol on campus encourage students to drink more often? And, finally, where will the money earned from alcohol sales go? Will it be earmarked to benefit students directly or wind up in the general fund?

There's no question that drinking has been and always will be part of the college experience and certainly there is some merit to the idea that students are better off having a beer or two in a more controlled environment than during happy hour at a downtown bar on their 21st birthday. Nonetheless, the state of South Dakota needs to proceed with caution when considering if this is in the best interests of students.

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, Nov. 9, the 313th day of 2015. There are 52 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Nov. 9, 1965, the great Northeast blackout began as a series of power failures lasting up to 13 1/2 hours left 30 million people in seven states and part of Canada without electricity.

On this date: In 1620, the passengers and crew of the Mayflower sighted Cape Cod.

In 1872, fire destroyed nearly 800 buildings in Boston.

In 1918, it was announced that Germany's Kaiser Wilhelm II would abdicate; he then fled to the Netherlands.

In 1935, United Mine Workers president John L. Lewis and other labor leaders formed the Committee for Industrial Organization (later renamed the Congress of Industrial Organizations).

In 1938, Nazis looted and burned synagogues as well as Jewish-owned stores and houses in Germany and Austria in a pogrom that became known as "Kristallnacht."

In 1953, Welsh author-poet Dylan Thomas died in New York at age 39.

In 1967, a Saturn V rocket carrying an unmanned Apollo spacecraft blasted off from Cape Kennedy on a successful test flight.

In 1970, former French President Charles de Gaulle died at age 79.

In 1976, the U.N. General Assembly approved resolutions condemning apartheid in South Africa, including one characterizing the white-ruled government as "illegitimate."

In 1988, former Attorney General John N. Mitchell, a major figure in the Watergate scandal, died in Washington at age 75.

In 1989, communist East Germany threw open its borders, allowing citizens to travel freely to the West; joyous Germans danced atop the Berlin Wall.

In 1999, with fireworks, concerts and a huge party at the landmark Brandenburg Gate, Germany celebrated the 10th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Ten years ago: Three suicide bombers carried out nearly simultaneous

attacks on three U.S.-based hotels in Amman, Jordan, killing 60 victims, and wounding hundreds. Oil executives testified before Congress that their huge profits were justified, but got a skeptical reaction from lawmakers. Carolina's Erik Cole became the first player in NHL history to be awarded two penalty shots in one game. (Cole scored on the first, helping the Hurricanes defeat Buffalo 5-3.)

Five years ago: Continuing his Asia tour, President Barack Obama flew from India to Indonesia, his home for four years of his youth. Former President George W. Bush officially kicked off the release of his memoir, "Decision Points," with a book-signing in Dallas. A special prosecutor cleared the CIA's former top clandestine officer and others of any charges for destroying agency videotapes showing waterboarding of terror suspects, but continued an investigation into whether the harsh questioning went beyond legal boundaries. Seattle's Ichiro Suzuki won his 10th straight Gold Glove, tying the AL record for Gold Gloves by an outfielder shared by Ken Griffey Jr. and Al Kaline.

One year ago: The citizens of Berlin released almost 7,000 balloons into the night sky, many carrying messages of hope to mark the 25th anniversary since the fall of the wall that had once divided their city.

Today's Birthdays: Baseball Hall of Famer Whitey Herzog is 84. Baseball Hall of Famer Bob Gibson is 80. Actor Charlie Robinson is 70. Movie director Billie August is 67. Actor Robert David Hall is 67. Actor Lou Ferrigno is 64. Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, is 63. Gospel singer Donnie McClurkin is 56. Rock musician Dee Plakas (L7) is 55. Actress Lon Overman is 46. Rapper Peps (Salt-N-Pepa) is 46. Rapper Scarface (Geto Boys) is 45. Blues singer Susan Tedeschi is 45. Actor Jason Antoon is 44. Actor Eric Dane is 42. Singer Nick Lachey (98 Degrees) is 42. Rhythm-and-blues singer Sinqo (Dru Hill) is 37. Country singer Corey Smith is 36. Actress Nikki Blonsky is 27. Actress-model Analeigh Tipton is 27.

Thought for Today: "We must be free not because we claim freedom, but because we practice it." — William Faulkner, American author (1897-1962).

FROM THE BIBLE

Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. Luke 13:5. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A d'Vine Time

Sheila Kuchta, Yankton
Executive Director, Avera Sacred Heart Foundation

This year marked the eighth anniversary of Simply d'Vine — Avera Sacred Heart Foundation's food and wine tasting event to support cancer patients served by the Avera Cancer Institute Yankton. Thank you to the hundreds of sponsors, food and drink vendors, businesses and individuals that donated cash or auction items to support our Oct. 23 event. You made this year's Simply d'Vine a great success!

Nearly 400 people came out to help bring hope and healing to cancer patients when they need it most. Because of your

generosity, patients will receive help with transportation and lodging if they have to travel for treatment, educational classes and other support; complimentary massages and wellness classes; fitness consultations and discounted wellness memberships; as well as patient and family financial assistance.

We also want to thank volunteers throughout the community and the Avera family who committed time and talent to make Simply d'Vine possible. You are such an integral part of our success.

We are fortunate to live and work in a community full of wonderful, generous souls! I hope to see many of you on Friday, Oct. 21, 2016, for the ninth annual Simply d'Vine.



Capitol Notebook

Is There More To Come In Platte Case?

BY BOB MERCER

State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — State Attorney General Marty Jackley hasn't yet told the whole story about the Westerhuis slayings.

There remains the text message at 11:30 p.m. on Sept. 16.

He revealed the text occurred.

He didn't reveal who sent it or who received it.

Nor did he reveal what the text said.

The text wasn't something focused on by the citizens who filled the Platte community center for the meeting with Jackley on Tuesday afternoon.

News reporters there didn't seize on it, either.

But in the days since then, the text seems to be a key piece of the story.

The text is somehow proof to Jackley that Scott Westerhuis hadn't yet returned to his home south of Platte as of 11:30 p.m. when the text was sent and received.

Emergency responders arrived at 5:51 a.m. to a massive fire.

We did learn many other important, broader things from the attorney general's news conference/community meeting.

Investigators could see the results: Six people dead, all by shotgun, and the shotgun within about three feet of the body of Scott Westerhuis.

But they couldn't say precisely what happened. They also couldn't say who actually committed the killings.

They tried but couldn't say with certainty who started the fire, how it began and how it moved so destructively through the entire house.

They did have an indication from a trained detection dog that accelerant might have been a few feet from the body of Scott Westerhuis.



Bob
MERCER

They also know where the bodies of his wife, Nicole Westerhuis, and their four children were found after the fire.

The family members lay amid the charred bedsprings in the areas below the two boys' separate bedrooms, and below the master bedroom for Nicole and the two daughters.

Investigators found six 12-gauge shotgun shells that had been fired in the immediate vicinities of those three spots in the house.

They found a 12-gauge shotgun near the body of Scott Westerhuis in the area below what had been the kitchen.

In the shotgun was a spent round still in the chamber and a live round in the gun's magazine. Investigators presumed he lit the fire and shot himself before the blaze spread.

They know Scott Westerhuis was coming back that night from Takini school near Howes. The trip between Takini and Platte takes four hours on the road.

They know where he made six cell phone calls along the way going to Takini in the morning and five calls returning from Takini that evening and night.

The last at 8:24 p.m. was to Nicole. Investigators tried to fill in blanks. They didn't find any indications someone else took part.

The conclusion settled on Scott Westerhuis.

Abductive reasoning occurs when there isn't proof to know something for certain. Incomplete evidence offers only a likely explanation.

People wanted hard answers Tuesday. The attorney general said, "We haven't answered every question but in some investigations you can't."

The full story about the text would answer one of the public's questions.

Whether it would matter remains unknown.

Who's Burning Those Black Churches? Oh.

BY MICHELLE MALKIN

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Here we go again: another liberal narrative burned to a crisp.

Over a two-week period in October, an arsonist targeted seven churches in the St. Louis area — including several in Black Lives Matter protest hotspot Ferguson, Missouri.

The *Atlantic* magazine, invoking the "long history of terrorism against black churches in America," lamented that the crime spree had been "slow to get the same attention" in the local and national media as another string of church arsons that occurred earlier this summer.

Reminder: Several of those hyped hate crimes against "black churches" had been committed by black suspects; a significant number of the "black churches" were, in fact, white churches; and the complex motives behind the crimes included mental illness, vandalism and concealment of the theft.

Reminder: The same hypertentivators who stoked fears about this summer's church incidents had also stoked hysteria about the 1990s black church arson "epidemic" that fell apart under scrutiny and ended with *USA Today* admitting that "analysis of the 64 fires since 1995 shows only four can be conclusively shown to be racially motivated."

Undaunted, agitators did their best to fan the flames over the latest alleged wave of race-based black church burnings in October. On Twitter, social justice activists resurrected the #WhosBurningBlackChurches hashtag. "Black churches are burning again," Oklahoma State University professor Lawrence Ware lamented in Counterpunch. The far left propaganda outfit U.S. Uncut concluded unequivocally: "Racists in Ferguson Burn Down 5 Black Churches in 9 Days."

Except, they didn't. Again. Last week, police charged 35-year-old David Lopez Jackson, who is black, with setting two of the fires. "Forensic evidence linked him to the fire on Oct. 18 at Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 1011 Theobald Street," the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* reported, and "video of his car near New Life Missionary Baptist Church, 4569 Plover Avenue, links him to the fire there on Oct. 17, police Chief Sam Dotson said." Jackson is a suspect in the other fires and ad-



Michelle
MALKIN

ditional charges are pending.

The arrest follows another black church hate crime spree-gone-bust in my adopted hometown of Colorado Springs. In late June, after a pair of churches received menacing notices ("Black men, be aware, you are the target," read one), black suspect Vincent Broughton admitted to posting the ugly signs.

And yes, Colorado Springs is also the home of the January 2015 NAACP office bombing that wasn't.

The smoke-blowing never ends. In Texas last week, a professor who cried "racism" against police officers was exposed as a fraud when dashcam video showed the cops politely asking her to move to the other side of the street while exercising — so she wouldn't get run over.

In Berkeley, California, this week, high school and University of California students cranked up the protest machine and walked out of classes en masse over dubious "KKK" messages discovered on a school library computer. The texts threatened a "public lynching," used the n-word, and referenced a hanging in a backyard.

Of course, suspicion is warranted: Almost a year ago, Berkeley students similarly exploded after effigies of blacks hung from nooses appeared on the UC campus. It turned out they were hung by a "Bay Area collective of queer black and PoC [People of Color] artists" to raise awareness.

Unrepentant race hustlers go bonkers when advised to approach these alleged hate crimes with caution. Anyone showing an iota of skepticism or journalistic responsibility is branded a bigot or collaborator. If you're a racial or ethnic minority who expresses doubt or hesitation, you're a sellout or Uncle Tom/ Aunt Tomasina.

This is nuts. There's a long, shameful trail of hate crime hoaxes exploiting racial division in America that can no longer be whitewashed by the media and academia. The real sellouts are the phonies and fraudsters "of color" who must manufacture racism for attention, clicks and career advancement while victims of all backgrounds pick up the pieces.

Michelle Malkin is author of the new book "Who Built That: Awe-Inspiring Stories of American Tinkerpreneurs." Her email address is malkinblog@gmail.com.