

The Press Dakotan

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OPINION

Post-Pipeline: Shifting Gears

There's one good thing (at least one ... depending on which side of the issue you're on) that can be taken from the scuttling of the Keystone XL pipeline project last Friday. We can now focus our attentions more on the overall issue of climate change and its impact on our planet, rather than grapple over a project that really figured to be a small player in the scheme of things.

As we stated in this space last week prior to President Obama's announcement, the Keystone pipeline was not going to spell environmental doom for the planet, nor was it going to be the sprawling shovel-ready economic stimulant that proponents have argued it would be.

Even without the pipeline, the Alberta tar sands are going to be harvested, marketed and, for lack of a better word, burned. The demise of Keystone doesn't change that.

Also, the State Department analysis of the project reported that while the project had the potential to create up to 42,000 jobs, they would have been only temporary positions. The actual figure for permanent, full-time jobs was placed at about 50.

According to FiveThirtyEight.com, counties along the pipeline would have seen an increase in revenue, but the overall economic impact of the project would have been quite small for the U.S. economy.

All this belies much of the hand-wringing reaction dished out by proponents of the project since last week, who sound as though Obama murdered a golden goose.

So, let's dispense with this symbolic episode and concentrate more on overall climate issues, which are becoming more pressing as the years pass and the future grows warmer.

A key environmental item actually did occur last week when New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman issued subpoenas to petroleum goliath ExxonMobil after evidence came forth that the company had misled its stockholders and consumers (or, in broader terms, the world) about the impact of climate change. It was reported earlier this fall by InsideClimate News, a Pulitzer Prize-winning web-based operation, that Exxon (as it was once known) knew as far back as 1977 about the impact of petroleum on the climate, but it used a well-funded campaign of disinformation to keep this knowledge under wraps and delay efforts to address the issue.

According to *The New Yorker* magazine, last week's headlines are part of an increasingly effective environmental effort that has finally captured the momentum in addressing the impact of fossil fuels on the climate. There is also an economic logic tied to it: The world has five times as much carbon in its fossil fuel reserves as can be safely burned. These "stranded assets" are causing some investors to change their minds, according to *The New Yorker*: "... (Portfolios and endowments worth a total of \$2.6 trillion in assets have begun to divest from fossil fuels. The smart money is heading elsewhere.)"

And there is hope in this area because alternative energy sources, such as solar and wind, are becoming bigger and more accessible players in the energy field. Also, the efforts to increase energy efficiency are having an increased impact on America's overall consumption. While the transition away from a fossil fuel-based culture may take us decades, the journey appears to be well under way.

There's no one answer to addressing the climate change issue. While killing Keystone probably has some symbolic weight to it, much more must be done than embracing symbolism. And that's going to take getting enough people on the same page in realizing a problem that must be addressed now.

kmh

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 Tuesday, Nov. 10, the 314th day of 2015. There are 51 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History: On Nov. 10, 1975, the U.N. General Assembly approved a resolution equating Zionism with racism (the world body repealed the resolution in Dec. 1991). The ore-hauling ship SS Edmund Fitzgerald mysteriously sank during a storm in Lake Superior with the loss of all 29 crew members.

On this date: In 1775, the U.S. Marines were organized under authority of the Continental Congress.

In 1871, journalist-explorer Henry M. Stanley found Scottish missionary David Livingstone, who had not been heard from for years, near Lake Tanganyika in central Africa.

In 1919, the American Legion opened its first national convention in Minneapolis. In 1925, actor Richard Burton was born Richard Walter Jenkins in Pontrhy-dyfen, Wales.

In 1938, Kate Smith first sang Irving Berlin's "God Bless America" on her CBS radio program. Turkish statesman Mustafa Kemal Ataturk died in Istanbul at age 57.

In 1942, Winston Churchill delivered a speech in London in which he said, "I have not become the King's First Minister to preside over the liquidation of the British Empire."

In 1951, customer-dialed long-distance telephone service began as Mayor M. Leslie Denning of Englewood, New Jersey, called Alameda, California, Mayor Frank Osborne without operator assistance.

In 1954, the U.S. Marine Corps Memorial, depicting the raising of the American flag on Iwo Jima in 1945, was dedicated by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in Arlington, Virginia. In 1969, the children's educational program "Sesame Street" made its debut on National Educational Television (later PBS).

In 1982, the newly finished Vietnam Veterans Memorial was opened to its first visitors in Washington, D.C., three days before its dedication. Soviet leader Leonid I. Brezhnev died at age 75.

In 1990, the movie comedy "Home Alone," starring Macaulay Culkin, premiered in Chicago.

In 2004, word reached the United States of the death of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat at age 75 (because of the time difference, it was the early hours of Nov. 11 in Paris, where Arafat died).

Ten years ago: A suicide bomber killed some three dozen people at a Baghdad restaurant frequented by police. Elen Johnson-Sirleaf, a former finance minister of Liberia, claimed victory in the country's presidential election. Chris Carpenter of the St. Louis Cardinals won the

National League Cy Young Award.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama cut short his visit to his childhood home in Indonesia because of an ash cloud from Mount Merapi, and flew to South Korea for an economic summit. French President Nicolas Sarkozy's reform raising the retirement age from 60 to 62 became law, a victory for the conservative government and a defeat for unions that had waged massive strikes and street protests. Miranda Lambert received three Country Music Association Awards on her 27th birthday, including album of the year; Brad Paisley was named entertainer of the year. Movie producer Dino De Laurentiis, 91, died in Beverly Hills, California.

One year ago: President Barack Obama, at the start of a visit to Beijing, announced that the United States and China would start granting visas to each other's citizens valid for up to a decade. A suicide bomber set off explosives at a school in northern Nigeria, killing at least 48 students in the latest attack by suspected Boko Haram militants. Chicago White Sox first baseman Jose Abreu was a unanimous winner of the AL Rookie of the Year award and New York Mets pitcher Jacob deGrom was voted NL Rookie of the Year.

Today's Birthdays: Film composer Ennio Morricone is 87. Blues singer Bobby Rush is 81. Actor Albert Hall is 78. Country singer Donna Fargo is 74. Former Sen. Saxby Chambliss, R-Ga., is 72. Lyricist Tim Rice is 71. Rock singer-musician Greg Lake (Emerson, Lake and Palmer) is 68. Actress-dancer Ann Reinking is 66. Actor Jack Scalia is 65. Movie director Roland Emmerich is 60. Actor Matt Craven is 59. Actor-comedian Sinbad is 59. Actress Mackenzie Phillips is 56. Author Neil Gaiman is 55. Actress Vanessa Angel is 52. Actor Hugh Bonneville (TV: "Downton Abbey") is 52. Actor-comedian Tommy Davidson is 52. Actor Michael Jai White is 51. Country singer Chris Cagle is 47. Actor-comedian Tracy Morgan is 47. Actress Ellen Pompeo (TV: "Grey's Anatomy") is 46. Actor-comedian Orny Adams is 45. Rapper-producer Warren G is 45. Actor Walton Goggins is 44. Comedian-actor Chris Lilley is 41. Contemporary Christian singer Matt Maher is 41. Rock singer-musician Jim Adkins (Jimmy Eat World) is 40. Rapper Eve is 37. Rock musician Chris Joannou (Silverchair) is 36. Actor Bryan Neal is 35. Actress Heather Matarazzo is 33. Country singer Miranda Lambert is 32. Actor Josh Peck is 29. Pop singer Vinz Dery (Nico & Vinz) is 25. Actress Zoey Deutch is 21. Actress Kiernan Shipka is 16. Actress Mackenzie Foy (Film: "Twilight") films is 15.

Thought for Today: "Not doing more than the average is what keeps the average down." — William M. Winans, American clergyman (1788-1857).

FROM THE BIBLE

Strive to enter through the narrow door. Luke 13:24. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.



The Rez of the Story

A Human Focus On Being Thankful

BY VINCE TWO EAGLES

Hau Mitakuepi (Greetings My Relatives), Imbedded in the Dakota cultural perspective is the notion about being thankful — of course meaning being imbued with the "state of thankfulness." This subject is of particular importance because of the holiday "Thanksgiving" coming up on the 26th of this month. I wanted to be one of the Native columnists who remind Americans annually about the true history behind the so-called "spirit" of the holiday — but not this week.



Vince TWO EAGLES

In the spirit of Thanksgiving or more precisely "being in the state of thankfulness," let me share this bit of prose authored by a Native American writer, poet, and attorney from Terre Haute, Indiana, Max Ehrmann, who according to Wikipedia is widely known for his now famous "Desiderata" (Latin — "things desired"). Mr. Ehrmann's poem has helped me to sustain a positive outlook and by sharing it I sincerely hope it will do the same for you. "Desiderata" goes something like this:

"Go placidly amid the noise and haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible without surrender be on good terms with all persons. Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even the dull and ignorant; they too have their story. Avoid loud and aggressive persons, they are vexations to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain and bitter; for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself. Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans.

"Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time. Exercise caution in your business affairs; for the world is full of trickery. But let not this blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals; and everywhere life is full of heroism.

"Be yourself. Especially, do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity [dullness] and disenchantment it is perennial [enduring] as the grass. Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth. Nurture

strength of the spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with dark imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness. Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself.

"You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees and the stars; and whether or not it is clear to you, the universe is unfolding as it should.

"Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be, and whatever your labors and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life keep peace with your soul.

"With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be cheerful. Strive to be happy."

I know from experience that my efforts to further the narrative about the "Native American Story" puts me at risk for plunging into the destructive lure of negativity and hopelessness. Our story, however convoluted, is still, and forever must

be, included in the written pages of human history. As a writer sometimes submerged in the researching of the sordid detail of America's treatment (past and present) of its Native population I never-the-less find it necessary to rely on the peacefulness one finds in remembering to be thankful in living each and every day.

The lessons learned from being in a state of thankfulness are enormous. In addition to the nice big turkey and all the trimmings to share with your families this year, teach yourself, each other, your children, and your grandchildren to not be so concerned with what they don't have but with what they have. Especially, be mindful of our relationships in our lives. I am convinced that this is the well where from we draw our strengths, courage, and other attributes that will sustain us to follow the "Red Road" (the road of success, happiness and good health) as we Indian people say. I know its early, but heartfelt nevertheless—have a happy, safe and thankful holiday season everyone.

And now you know the rez of the story. Doksha (later) ...

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Thank You For Serving'

Preston R. Olson, Bridgewater
Chef de Gare, The Society of 40 Men and 8 Horses
(40 and 8), Grand du South Dakota Voiture 180

I'm a veteran who served in the U.S. Navy during the beginning of the Vietnam War, the Lebanon and Berlin Crisis. There were no "Thank You for serving" when we came home, but I still remember the "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans" homecoming the weekend of Sept. 16, 2006, in Pierre along with the dedication of the Vietnam Memorial, which approximately 40,000 attended.

I also attended the World War II Memorial and the Korean War Memorial dedications in 2001 and 2004, respectively, and was honored to speak at the dedication of the Lake Norden Veteran Memorial dedication. On their wall of area veterans are the names of my three brothers and me. Visiting these sites brings back many memories, good and bad.

Veterans Day is Nov. 11, the day we thank our veterans for protecting the freedom we enjoy — and take for granted. Many Americans don't realize the sacrifices so many Americans have made, their lives and property lost from the American War of Independence in 1775 to the Afghanistan War today.

I was in Sioux Falls recently and, while putting fuel in my vehicle, a young Native American boy came over to me after reading a 40 x 8 sticker on my vehicle and said "Thanks for your service." He handed me a \$5 bill and said enjoy a cup of coffee. This sixth grader and his family live in Rosebud on the Rosebud Reservation. His mother came over and we visited, and she also thanked me. I thanked

Poll Results

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

LATEST RESULTS:

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?

No	53%
Yes	40%
Not sure	7%
TOTAL VOTES CAST	263

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 support sending U.S. ground troops into Syria?
To cast your vote in the PRESS & DAKOTAN'S Internet poll, log on to our website at www.yankton.net.

them and drove off with a tear in my eye, as I greatly appreciated their "thank you" and will remember those few minutes forever.

May we always remember that "The true soldier does not fight because he hates what is in front of him, but because he loves what is behind him."

When you lay your head down on your pillow tonight, thank God for the freedom you enjoy and the veterans that protect it, and ask God's protection on all who serve our country across our world. A quote from Kitty Werthmann I remember very well: "After America there is no place to go."

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/.