

# The Press & Dakotan

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Yankton Media, Inc., 319 Walnut St., Yankton, SD 57078

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**OPINION**

## Antibiotics And Meat Production

An interesting new battle could be looming for cattle producers, and it may be coming from an unlikely but potentially persuasive source.

A new report from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) is calling for an end in what it says is the overuse of antibiotics in farm animals. The authors of the report claim that such overuse or misuse of antibiotics is contributing to the rise in antibiotic-resistant bacteria, which is in turn creating a growing health hazard.

The report calls the growing presence of antibiotic-resistant bacteria in meat "a significant public health threat."

How significant? According to the Centers for Disease Control, 2 million Americans fall ill with infections caused by antibiotic-resistant bacteria each year, with an average of 23,000 people dying from these infections.

Meanwhile, the World Health Organization on Monday called antibiotic resistance a "global health crisis," creating a rise in "superbug" the are immune to antibiotic medicine.

Farmers are being targeted because beef producers are one of the leading users of antibiotics. According to CNN, most of the antibiotics sold in the U.S. in 2012 weren't sold for human use: About 80 percent of it was used for animals — and 60 percent of these drugs are the same kind used to help humans.

But the antibiotics are not employed in agriculture simply for health reasons. The AAP report notes that farmers give antibiotics to cattle not only to help sick animals but also to promote animal growth. Attempts have been made by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to curb this latter use, but, as the AAP report notes, "because the lines between disease prevention and growth promotion are not always clear, the current FDA policy may allow drug manufacturers to continue using ambiguous language on labels of antibiotic drugs."

In reality, this concern is not particularly new, given the FDA's established protocol. But stronger calls to address the matter could have a more direct impact on beef production in this country.

It may also influence meat marketing, as more stores and restaurants are already labeling meat that contains no antibiotics.

This effort is at the precautionary stage at this point. Apparently, the FDA's attempts to place a curb on this use was sufficiently vague enough to not cause much worry among beef producers.

But as concerns over antibiotic resistance and its impact on public health grow, it's reasonable to assume the farming industry will fall under more pressure to enact change. And that is usually a prelude to more stringent federal mandates.

How soon this happens — or even if it will happen — is unknown, but as the worries over antibiotic resistances continue to escalate, the inevitability of an impact on farming procedures seems clear.

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**IN HISTORY**

**By The Associated Press**  
Today is Wednesday, Nov. 18, the 322nd day of 2015. There are 43 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:** On Nov. 18, 1865, Mark Twain's first literary success, the original version of his short story "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County," was first published in the New York Saturday Press under the title "Jim Smiley and His Jumping Frog."

**On this date:** In 1883, the United States and Canada adopted a system of Standard Time zones.

In 1886, the 21st president of the United States, Chester A. Arthur, died in New York.

In 1928, Walt Disney's first sound-synchronized animated cartoon, "Steamboat Willie" starring Mickey Mouse, premiered in New York.

In 1936, Germany and Italy recognized the Spanish government of Francisco Franco.

In 1942, "The Skin of Our Teeth," Thornton Wilder's Pulitzer Prize-winning allegory about the history of humankind, opened on Broadway.

In 1959, "Ben-Hur," the Biblical-era spectacle starring Charlton Heston, had its world premiere in New York.

In 1964, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover described civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. as "the most notorious liar in the country" for allegedly accusing FBI agents in Georgia of failing to act on complaints filed by blacks; King denied making such a claim.

In 1965, Henry A. Wallace, who had served as vice president during President Franklin D. Roosevelt's third term of office, died in Danbury, Connecticut, at age 77.

In 1978, U.S. Rep. Leo J. Ryan, D-Calif., and four others were killed in Jonestown, Guyana, by members of the Peoples Temple; the killings were followed by a night of mass murder and suicide by more than 900 cult members.

In 1985, the comic strip "Calvin and Hobbes," created by Bill Watterson, was first published. (The strip ran for 10 years.)

In 1999, 12 people were killed when a bonfire under construction at Texas A-and-M University collapsed. A jury in Jasper, Texas, convicted Shawn Allen Berry of murder for his role in the dragging death of James Byrd Jr., but spared him the death penalty. American author and composer Paul Bowles died in Morocco at age 88.

In 2000, actors Michael Douglas and Catherine Zeta-Jones were married in an extravagant wedding at The Plaza hotel in New York City.

**Ten years ago:** The Republican-controlled House spurned a call for an

immediate pullout of troops from Iraq in a 403-3 vote hastily arranged by the GOP that Democrats denounced as politically motivated. Suicide bombers killed more than 50 worshippers at a pair of Shiite mosques in Iraq. Eight months after Robert Blake was acquitted at a criminal trial of murdering his wife, a civil jury decided the actor was behind the slaying and ordered him to pay Bonnie Lee Bakley's children \$30 million. Tropical Storm Gamma formed off the coast of Central America. Character actor Harold J. Stone, 92, died in Woodland Hills, California.

**Five years ago:** President Barack Obama rallied former diplomatic and military chiefs from both parties to pressure reluctant Republican senators into ratifying a nuclear weapons deal with Russia. (The Senate ratified the treaty the following month.) General Motors stock resumed trading on Wall Street, signaling the rebirth of an American corporate icon that had collapsed into bankruptcy and was rescued with a \$50 billion infusion from taxpayers. Felix Hernandez of the Seattle Mariners was chosen the AL Cy Young Award winner.

**One year ago:** Several feet of lake-effect snow paralyzed the Buffalo, New York, area on a wintry day when temperatures fell to freezing or below in all 50 states. Israel vowed harsh retaliation for a Palestinian attack on a synagogue in Jerusalem that left five people dead.

**Today's Birthdays:** Actress Brenda Vaccaro is 76. Author-poet Margaret Atwood is 76. Actress Linda Evans is 73. Actress Susan Sullivan is 73. Country singer Jacky Ward is 69. Actor Jameson Parker is 68. Actress-singer Andrea Marcovicci is 67. Rock musician Herman Rarebell is 66. Singer Graham Parker is 65. Actor Delroy Lindo is 63. Comedian Kevin Nealon is 62. Pro Football Hall of Fame quarterback Warren Moon is 59. Actor Oscar Nunez is 57. Actress Elizabeth Perkins is 55. Singer Kim Wilde is 55. Rock musician Kirk Hammett (Metallica) is 53. Rock singer Tim DeLaughter is 50. Actor Romany Malco is 47. Actor Owen Wilson is 47. Actor Dan Bakkegaard is 47. Singer Duncan Sheik is 46. Actor Mike Epps is 45. Actress Peta Wilson is 45. Actress Chloë Sevigny is 41. Country singer Jessi Alexander is 39. Actor Steven Pasquale is 39. Rapper Fabolous is 38. Actor Nate Parker is 36. Flapper Mike Jones is 35. Actress/comedian Nasim Pedrad is 34. Actress Allison Tolman (TV: "Fargo") is 34. Actor Damon Wayans Jr. is 33. Actor Nathan Kress is 23.

**Thought for Today:** "Few people can see genius in someone who has offended them." — Robertson Davies, Canadian author (1913-1995).

**FROM THE BIBLE**

Stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high. Luke 24:49. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Loan Questions**

**Randy Gleich, Yankton**  
I have watched the Yankton County Commission online video of its meeting on Oct. 20 and encourage all to watch.

I feel it is necessary to point out that Commissioner Freng did bring up a good point on "how the loan will work." Some of the details are: The loan is up to \$6 million. The county does not get a check for \$6 million, but as bills are received, the bills have to be sent to state Department of Transportation (SDDOT) for approval; if the bill is approved, then Yankton County will be reimbursed for its expense.

There is no assurance that the bill/expenditure will be approved by SDDOT. If Yankton County

commissioners commit to an arrangement like the "engineering survey" and it is rejected by SDDOT, Yankton County will be held liable for the bill. It would make common sense that some "subject to approval by SDDOT" provision should have been included with this contract before Eisenbraun starts to do the survey work.

The other point is the contract dollar amount was awarded without going through a "bid" process. Yankton County spends money on high-dollar equipment purchases and storm sirens that was only \$100,000 but required bids for such a project. So why in the world would it not take bids on a \$773,000 project is beyond me.

I know ... it is on borrowed money ... so who cares?



Leonard Pitts Jr.

## The City Of Light

BY LEONARD PITTS JR.  
Tribune Content Agency

"I believe the light that shines on you will shine on you forever ... though I can't guarantee there's nothing scary hiding under your bed." — "Father and Daughter" by Paul Simon.

My wife has a bad knee and isn't much for long walks, so that night after the Chunnel train had brought us over from London and we set out on foot from the hotel to do some exploring, I wasn't expecting to go far. Maybe a block, maybe two.

I have no idea how far we actually went, but I know it was a lot further than a couple blocks. I kept asking if she was okay. Marilyn kept assuring me that she was and wanted to keep going.

She was enraptured, as was I. Walking through Paris was like walking through magic. We went down a fairytale street, paused on a bridge overlooking the Seine to watch the glass-topped dinner cruises plying the water, ended up at the Place de la Concorde, looking west along the Champs-Elysees. In the distance the Arc de Triomphe glowed.

Some cities disappoint you. Some cities you visit and that thing they are known for, that thing people come from around the world to experience, turns out to be exaggeration, myth or mirage. In the '70s, I used to feel sorry for tourists who came to Hollywood (which has since been largely redeveloped), only to find that the fabled film capital was little more than office buildings, souvenir shops and street corners where prostitutes gathered six deep.

But Paris is exactly what they say. Paris is, in reputation and in fact, the City of Light.

So I suppose we ought not be surprised that it now finds itself under attack from the forces of shadow.

By now, you've already heard all you can stand — and then some — about the series of coordinated terrorist assaults by ISIS that left well over a hundred people dead on Friday. By now, you have already wept or prayed or vented your fury or wondered aloud what this world is coming to or simply stood mute in the face of humankind's seemingly bottomless capacity for savagery.



Leonard PITTS

I almost called it animalism, but that's an insult to animals. They, after all, kill to feed or defend themselves. Only human beings kill for beliefs — in this case, a twisted, fundamentalist strain of Islam.

And it's no accident it was Paris. Like New York City 14 years ago, it was a representational target. New York stands for American power and Sept. 11 was meant to spit in the eye of that power. Paris stands for light and the events of Nov. 13 sought to eclipse the glow — not simply the glow of beauty and romance, but also of enlightenment and hope.

Paris has always been a beacon of such things. That may have been part of the reason Adolf Hitler ordered the city destroyed when his troops were driven out in 1944. It may have been part of the reason Gen. Dietrich von Choltitz disobeyed the order.

The quote at the top of this column is from a song not about terror, but about a father's love for the bright light that is his daughter and his promise to be there for her in a world of uncertainty and threat. But though they were not crafted for this moment, the words feel apropos to it.

No, it is not monsters hiding under the bed by which civilization is menaced. But it is monsters just the same, forces of savagery, ignorance, hatred, fundamentalism and extremism striking from corners where light does not reach. And no one can guarantee perpetual safety against such threats.

But we can strike back hard when they come, as France is doing now. In the long run, though: It isn't bullets and bombs these monsters fear the most, hate the most, or that hurts them the most. No, that which lurks in shadow despises light — and well it should. Light reveals bankrupt ideologies for the failures they are. Light draws people together. Light gives courage. And light gives hope.

So Vive la France!  
And shine on.

Leonard Pitts is a columnist for *The Miami Herald*, 1 Herald Plaza, Miami, Fla., 33132. Readers may contact him via e-mail at [lpitts@miamiherald.com](mailto:lpitts@miamiherald.com)

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## Is Hillary Ready For ISIS?

BY DICK POLMAN  
CagleCartoons.com

If Hillary Clinton hopes to sell herself as a foreign policy whiz and credible commander-in-chief, she'll need to perform better than she did this weekend in response to the Paris attacks.

What we wanted to hear from Hillary, in Saturday night's debate, was a substantive strategy for stopping ISIS. We know what the Obama administration and its allies are doing, but clearly it's not working too well. So what would she do differently, and more effectively? We never got an answer.

When she was asked whether the Obama team (including her) had underestimated ISIS, she replied: "Well, John I think that — we have to look at ISIS as the leading threat of an international terror network. It cannot be contained, it must be defeated. There is no question in my mind that if we summon our resources, both our leadership resources and all of the tools at our disposal, not just military force which should be used as a last resort, but our diplomacy, our development aid, law enforcement, sharing of intelligence in a much more - open and cooperative way — that we can bring people together."

Note that she never answered the question. Moderator John Dickerson followed up by asking again whether the Obama team has underestimated ISIS - but again she didn't answer it. Instead she heaped general blame on Iraq and Syria "and the region itself."

But in the midst of her responses, she did address the Obama administration's current ISIS strategy: "It cannot be an American fight. And I think what the president has consistently said - which I agree with - is that we will support those who take the fight to ISIS. That is why we have troops in Iraq that are helping to train and build back up the Iraqi military, why we have special operators in Syria working with the Kurds and Arabs so that we can be supportive. But this cannot be an American fight, although American leadership is essential."

I had problems with that. She basically endorsed the current strategy that doesn't seem to be working well, instead of proposing something substantively different. It's conceivable that she does have new ideas, and that she's hiding them for the

moment because she doesn't want to risk a public breach with Obama that would tick off antiwar Iowa Democrats, but that's the most charitable spin I can offer. Mostly because her overall responses lacked clarity.

Later, moderator Dickerson zapped her with a tough question: "You gave a speech at Georgetown University in which you said that it was important to show 'respect even for one's enemy. Trying to understand and in so far as psychologically possible empathize with their perspective and point of view.' Can you explain what that means in the context of this kind of barbarism (in Paris)?"

"I think with this kind of barbarism and nihilism — it's very hard to understand other than the lust for power, the rejection of modernity, the total disregard for human life, freedom or any other value that we know and respect," Hillary answered, in a response that was probably more revealing than she intended.

Translation: She's flummoxed by this enemy. Not the best credentials for an aspiring commander-in-chief.

Fortunately for her, the competition is worse. Bernie Sanders, in his opening remarks, gave Paris and ISIS a grand total of two sentences — before segueing into our "rigged economy" and its "millionaires and billionaires." Soon after, he basically said that even though ISIS is bad, global warming is worse. And as for Martin O'Malley, he was self-contradictory and vaporous.

As for the Republican frontrunners, I won't bother to parse their weekend bromides. Foreign policy scholar Ben Carson talked about putting "boots on the ground," and Donald Trump said Paris wouldn't have happened if the concert-goers and cafe habitués had packed heat. Indeed, none of the Republicans (except Lindsey Graham, who's polling at zero percent) have foreign policy experience, and none of them have a clue what to do differently on the military front.

All told, Hillary has plenty of time to prove her international credentials are real - and not just lines on a resume.

Dick Polman is the national political columnist at *NewsWorks/WHYY* in Philadelphia ([newsworks.org/polman](http://newsworks.org/polman)) and a "Writer in Residence" at the University of Philadelphia. Email him at [dickpolman7@gmail.com](mailto:dickpolman7@gmail.com).