

THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861

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OPINION | WE SAY

The Lights Of Hope



THUMBS UP to the candlelight vigils that were held in Yankton this week to shine lights on two very important issues. On Monday night, the annual vigil to promote mental health awareness was held at Mount Marty College's Marian Auditorium, and featured a performance by Mike Berkson and Tim Wambach of "Handicap This!", which looks at cerebral palsy but also confronts issues of depression and suicide. On Wednesday night, the annual Domestic Violence Candlelight Vigil was held at Dakota Theatre and included a talk by author and activist Victoria Crompton-Tetter, whose teenage daughter was killed her ex-boyfriend. Fittingly, both vigils illuminated problems that lurk in every community. Efforts to cast some revealing light in those sadly dark corners are important to everyone, not just the victims.

Bountiful Friends



THUMBS UP to the family and friends who gathered Thursday for a harvest bee benefiting the late Dennis Halvorson of Irene. Around 50 persons worked 400 acres of beans, finishing the task ahead of schedule. The neighborly gesture isn't the first provided for the Halvorsens, as others planted crops last spring and plan to return in about two weeks to complete the corn harvest. As family members said during the harvest and lunch, it's those acts of kindness that make living in this part of the nation so special.

The Great Pumpkin



THUMBS UP to the Yankton Minimum Unit (YMU) detachment of Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield, where three inmates raised more than 1,000 pumpkins that were delivered this week to area schools and other sites. Last year's drought devastated the prison's garden, but this year's record harvest has generated about 20,000 pounds of pumpkins and another 30,000 pounds of other produce for area non-profit agencies. This week's delivery of pumpkins produced another prize — beaming smiles of youngsters who each received their own orange orb. Botanists may argue we're wrong, but we call it living the gourd life.

Taken By Storm



THUMBS DOWN to the continued devastation following last week's storms. Up to four feet of snow has left western South Dakota, particularly the Black Hills area, still without power in some areas. In addition, livestock producers are faced with the gruesome and heart-breaking task of finding and disposing of tens of thousands of dead cattle. Relief efforts are further complicated by the partial federal government shutdown and the lapse of the federal farm bill. And to the south and east of us, many area residents suffered death and destruction from the tornadoes and other storms that struck southeast South Dakota, northeast Nebraska and other regional sites. Wayne, Neb., was hit by an EF4 tornado that skirted the east fringe of the community; if it had come through just two or three blocks to the west, the story there might have been a lot grimmer. These are trying times, and may they all soon find relief.

ONLINE OPINION

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

LATEST RESULTS:

Who would support in a hypothetical South Dakota U.S. Senate race between Mike Rounds and Rick Weiland?

Rounds	42%
Weiland	39%
Not sure	19%
TOTAL VOTES CAST		284

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.

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CURRENT QUESTION:

Have you or anyone you know ever been the victim of domestic violence?

To vote in the *Press & Dakotan's* Internet poll, log on to our website at www.yankton.net.

ON THIS DATE

By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Oct. 11, the 284th day of 2013. There are 81 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Oct. 11, 1962, Pope John XXIII convened the first session of the Roman Catholic Church's Second Vatican Council, also known as "Vatican 2."

On this date: In 1779, Polish nobleman Casimir Pulaski, fighting for American independence, died two days after being wounded during the Revolutionary War Battle of Savannah, Ga.

In 1811, the first steam-powered ferryboat, the *Juliana* (built by John Stevens), was put into operation between New York City and Hoboken, N.J.

In 1862, during the Civil War, Confederate forces led by Gen. J.E.B. Stuart looted the town of Chambersburg, Pa.

In 1890, the Daughters of the American Revolution was founded in Washington, D.C.

In 1910, Theodore Roosevelt became the first former U.S. president to fly in an airplane during a visit to St. Louis, Mo.

In 1932, the first American political telecast took place as the Democratic National Committee sponsored a program from a CBS television studio in New York.

In 1942, the World War II Battle of Cape Esperance began in the Solomon Islands, resulting in an American victory over the Japanese.

In 1958, the lunar probe Pioneer 1 was launched; it failed to go as far out as planned, fell back to Earth, and burned up in the atmosphere.

In 1968, Apollo 7, the first manned Apollo mission, was launched with astronauts Wally Schirra, Donn Fulton Eisele and R. Walter Cunningham aboard. The government of Panama was overthrown in a military coup.

In 1984, space shuttle Challenger astronaut Kathryn Sullivan became the first American woman to walk in space.

In 1986, President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev opened two days of talks concerning arms control and human rights in Reykjavik, Iceland.

In 1992, in the first of three presidential debates, three candidates faced off against each other in St. Louis, Mo. — President George H.W. Bush, Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton and businessman Ross Perot.

Ten years ago: A team of 18 doctors at Children's Medical Center Dallas

began complicated separation surgery for 2-year-old conjoined twins from Egypt; the successful operation was completed in 34 hours. Clerks for three major supermarket chains in Southern California began a 4 1/2-month strike after negotiations with store officials broke off. Ivan A. Getting, a Cold War scientist who conceived the Global Positioning Satellite system, died in Coronado, Calif., at age 91.

Five years ago: President George W. Bush and foreign financial officials, meeting at the White House, displayed joint resolve in combating the unfolding financial crisis. Austrian far-right politician Joerg Haider, 58, was killed in a car accident. Composer and arranger Neal Hefti, who wrote the themes for the movie "The Odd Couple" and the TV show "Batman," died in Toluca Lake, Calif., at age 85.

One year ago: Vice President Joe Biden and Republican opponent Paul Ryan squared off in their only debate of the 2012 campaign. The two interrupted each other repeatedly as they sparred over topics including the economy, taxes and Medicare.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Earle Hyman is 87. Former U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry is 86. Actor Ron Leibman is 76. Actor Amitabh Bachchan is 71. Country singer Gene Watson is 70. Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., is 63. Rhythm-and-blues musician Andrew Woolfolk is 63. Actress-director Catlin Adams is 63. Country singer Paulette Carlson is 62. Actor David Morse is 60. Actor Stephen Spinella is 57. Pro Football Hall of Famer Steve Young is 52. Actress Joan Cusack is 51. Rock musician Scott Johnson (Gin Blossoms) is 51. Comedy writer and TV host Michael J. Nelson is 49. Actor Sean Patrick Flanery is 48. College Football Hall of Famer and former NFL player Chris Spielman is 48. Actor Luke Perry is 47. Country songwriter Todd Snider is 47. Actor-comedian Artie Lange is 46. Actress Jane Krakowski is 45. Rapper U-God (Wu-Tang Clan) is 43. Rapper MC Lyte is 42. Figure skater Kyoko Ina is 41. Actor/writer Nat Faxon is 38. Singer NeelNa Lee is 38. Actress Emily Deschanel is 37. Actor Matt Bomer is 36. Actor Trevor Donovan is 35. Actress Michelle Trachtenberg is 28. Golfer Michelle Wie is 24.

Thought for Today: "When a friend speaks to me, whatever he says is interesting." — Jean Renoir, French movie director (1894-1979).

FROM THE BIBLE

God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you. Colossians 1:27. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis



Michael Reagan

Governing By Tantrum

BY MICHAEL REAGAN

CagleCartoons.com

"Waaaaa! You're not playing fair!"
"Waaaaa! You're going to bankrupt America!"
"Waaaaa! You guys started it!"

The crybabies in Washington are at it again. Arguing, name-calling and throwing heated rhetoric around like "extortion" and "blow the whole thing up," our so-called leaders are acting like out-of-control little kids in a sandbox.

They haven't begun hitting each other over the head with chairs or waving weapons around on the Senate floor, but give them time.

It's government by tantrum again. It's government by threat and scare tactic and selective shutdown of federal programs.

It's government by and for the people in government, instead of government by and for the people who elected them.

It's the petty, partisan kind of government we've been getting for too long and the kind we can't afford and don't deserve.

And it's time for the bums in Congress and the president to quit trying to score political points over the debt ceiling, and start acting like responsible adults.

The House and the Senate need to get their legislative acts together.

They need to pass the 13 appropriations bills like they're supposed to, negotiate their differences in conference committees and then do the job they were elected to do — pass the darn legislation.

We all know Washington is not going to let the U.S. government default on Oct. 17, so let's cut with the fear mongering and rhetoric.

All it does is make the markets fearful. It makes investors fearful. It makes retired people fearful.

By delaying and dithering and crybabbling, our so-called leaders in Washington have made everyone in America nervous — and angry.

Kelly Hertz

A Long Time Running

BY KELLY HERTZ

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The new movie "Gravity" has bowled over critics and fans alike, and if you've seen it, you probably know why. The special effects, particularly in 3D, are arguably the finest ever put to film. They are wrapped around a storyline that's simple and pretty good (though not great) played out by charismatic actors (Sandra Bullock and George Clooney) on a cosmic stage. Director Alfonso Cuarón's film, which opens with a single 14-minute tracking shot that defies description, is simply a mesmerizing experience.

But here's something else I enjoyed about "Gravity": It's just 91 minutes long.

That makes it a refreshing outlier in the flickering universe of modern film. In an age when a blockbuster movie clocking in at the two-hour mark is considered "breezy," any major film — unless it's an animated kids movie — coming in at 91 minutes is practically unheard of. So, it felt odd to see "Gravity's" end credits pop up before I reached my obligatory cinematic threshold when I look at my watch and wonder how long the movie I'm attending is going to stagger on. "Gravity" beat me to the punch.

There was a time when a movie's length was a serious, even overriding, financial consideration. In the early days of film, it was believed that people might be willing to sit in the dark for only so long before they started getting restless. This held true when one- and two-reel short films became more common, as well as later when going to a movie involved sitting through an entire menu of programs, with news reels and cartoons, perhaps even a "B" movie to precede the main attraction. (The "B" films, sometimes referred to as programmer movies, often ran just 60-70 minutes in length. Brevity was the soul of the bottom line.) Also, an extremely long film meant it couldn't play as often during a day of continuous screenings at a theater, which in turn cut into its box office harvest. I saw this concern expressed as recently as the 2005 remake of "King Kong," which at 3 hours and 7 minutes, was a weary marathon (especially for those of us who went to a midnight showing of the thing, which in turn made "Kong" something I saw before breakfast).

Blockbuster movies are generally longer now because many studios feel the need to create spectacles, cramming in as much special effects and action as they can to entice the audiences through the gates. There is also the need to justify the ticket prices that consumers are forking out.

YOUR LETTERS

The Party Of Responsibility?

Brian Engebretson, Yankton

As a Republican, I am confused by a few things my political leaders are doing about the health care law.

Personal responsibility is one of our party's core beliefs. No, we should not need laws for people to be responsible, but there are countless laws just for that reason. The law requiring people who may use health care to have insurance is no more unreasonable than a law requiring people to have auto insurance who may have a traffic accident. Requiring people to have these types of insurance protect the finances of the responsible people.

Most people do not remember what the president signed what into law. Who remembers who

One reason the D.C. crowd can't lead is because they're so politically spineless. They can't decide how to vote on anything important without reading a poll. I bet they don't pick a tie to wear until they've consulted Gallup.

But leadership is not looking at polls. Leadership is leading.

My father was a leader. He went through six government shutdowns under Tip O'Neill. But Ronald Reagan led, and we came through the 1980s with a growing economy that benefitted all Americans.

We need leaders in Washington. We don't need whiners. We don't need fear-mongers.

We don't need poll-watchers and wimps who can't make a principled vote on issues of national importance like the debt ceiling, the budget or Obamacare.

If no one has the courage to stand up and lead in Washington, maybe we should default.

Maybe we need to show the rest of the world that America has finally hit bottom.

Maybe we should admit that we've finally become Europe or Greece. That we've finally become the United States of California.

All because we lack leadership.

As far as I can tell, most of the people in the United States are completely fed up with all the B.S. in D.C.

I think they'd agree with me that starting today the message from all of us to our federal politicians should be, "Get the job done or resign — all of you."

Michael Reagan is the son of President Ronald Reagan, a political consultant, and the author of "The New Reagan Revolution" (St. Martin's Press). He is the founder of the email service reagan.com and president of The Reagan Legacy Foundation. Visit his websites at www.reagan.com and www.michaeltoreagan.com. Send comments to Reagan@caglecartoons.com. Follow @reaganworld on Twitter.

This isn't really a fresh philosophy: Some of the longest movies in history were made in the early days of film when certain marathon offerings were marketed as epic events. D.W. Griffith's sprawling and controversial 1915 Civil War saga "Birth of a Nation" clocked in at 3 hours, 12 minutes in an age when "full-length" movie films were generally half that running time. But even that was a relative sprint: A 1925 silent version of "Les Misérables" was one minute short of six hours long (a 1934 version came in at 5:05, so you can't really complain about the 2012 musical's 2:38 clocking) and the 1927 French epic "Napoleon" ran 5:30 and was so vast that it required three screens to capture all its effects.

For me, the king of long movies is the 1939 box office behemoth, "Gone With The Wind," which ran an exhausting 3:42 and included an intermission, as numerous epics did for many years.

Lengthy movies are far more commonplace now. Consider such time stretchers as "Titanic" (3:15), "Avatar" (2:58), the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy (the first two running just a minute or two under 3 hours, with the finale going 3:21), "Lawrence of Arabia" (3:47) "Ben-Hur" (3:32), Schindler's List (3:15) and the "The Right Stuff" (3:13). More typical in terms of running time — and thankfully so, I suppose — are 2013 hits like "Iron Man 3" (2:10), "Star Trek Into Darkness" (2:12) and "Man of Steel" (2:23).

However, none of these can hang with the all-time epics for consuming time, the champion being a 2011 Finnish experimental film called "Modern Times Forever," which lasted an astonishing 240 hours, or 10 days. (How many free large-soda refills would that come to?)

But more does not always mean better. While lengthy subjects could suggest deep plotting, it more often points to flabby storytelling and too many extravagant bells and whistles to cover up the gaping holes.

Thus, in the long and the short of it, I really appreciate "Gravity's" brief 91-minute flight. It defies current efforts to pack more into each movie offering, and it did so while serving up an epic experience.

The funny thing is, as movies get longer, the filmmakers seem to have less and less time for plot development. It's a paradoxical issue that someone in Hollywood should really look at — if they can find the time.

You can follow Kelly Hertz on Twitter at twitter.com/kelly_hertz/. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net/.

signed the minimum drinking age law? No one calls the E.P.A. "Nixon's environmental plan." No Medicare user says "leave your hands off my L.B.J. care." The unfunded, Medicare prescription plan is not called "Bush's plan to stop seniors from buying prescriptions by mail order from Canada, providing a wind fall of large profits for big pharma's plan." The Iran-Contra scandal was not called the "Reagan-selling illegal arms deal" for a reason.

Sadly by calling it Obamacare, we just immortalized him.

The Constitution is another of my Republican beliefs. Love it or hate it, like any law it can only be changed by the legislative process as outlined in our Constitution. If the law is changed any other way, it would go against the very being of being a Republican.