

THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

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OPINION | OTHER THOUGHTS

Police Should Wear Body Cameras

CHICAGO TRIBUNE (Sept. 16): Police in Ferguson, Mo., got new equipment recently. No, not an M1 Abrams tank — body cameras that record interactions with citizens.

Good idea. Had Officer Darren Wilson been wearing one when he encountered 18-year-old Michael Brown, Ferguson might not have been rocked by angry and sometimes violent protests that captured the attention of the world. It would have been much simpler to determine how Brown's fatal shooting happened — or the shooting might not have happened at all.

Police cameras, you see, have a way of altering the behavior of both cops and civilians. Both tend to behave better when they know there will be a video record of what they do. One California town found their introduction reduced complaints against police by nearly 90 percent. Police are less likely to brutalize citizens, and citizens are less likely to make false accusations of abuse.

Since the Ferguson shooting, interest in these devices has soared. New York City is putting them on 60 officers in a test. Los Angeles has a pilot underway already. The police chief of Washington, D.C., hopes to introduce them as early as Oct. 1. Police Chief Daniel Oates of Aurora, Colo., whose department uses and likes them, predicts, "Within five years, every cop in America is going to be wearing a body camera."

In Chicago, only about 60 percent of squad cars have dashboard cameras. By contrast, all Illinois State Police vehicles have video and audio recording equipment.

But Chicago is ready to dabble with body cameras. The Chicago Police Department will launch a pilot project to equip some officers with wearable recorders. Details are being worked out with police unions and the Cook County state's attorney's office.

Why does Chicago need this technology? Consider police Cmdr. Glenn Evans, who has been charged with aggravated battery and official misconduct for allegedly shoving the barrel of his service weapon into the mouth of Rickey Williams, who is now 24. Williams, who has sued Evans and the city, says Evans also put a stun gun to his groin and threatened to kill him.

Had Evans and the other cops present that day been wearing cameras, it would be far easier to establish whether he is innocent or guilty. As it is, it took a lab analysis that found Williams' DNA on his gun to persuade prosecutors to indict Evans — who had been kept on duty, over the recommendation of a police review board, by Chicago Police Superintendent Garry McCarthy. For that matter, video footage would have come in handy in assessing the 14 citizen complaints against Evans between 2001 and 2006 — none of which led to disciplinary action.

If Evans was at fault in those incidents, it would have been valuable to have the evidence to prove that. If he was wrongly accused, it would have been helpful to document that he behaved appropriately. But without video, it's often hard to be sure.

Losing the Williams lawsuit could be expensive for the city. The Better Government Association says Chicago has averaged more than \$50 million a year in settlements, judgments and legal costs in police misconduct cases over the last decade. Money for body cameras is a shrewd investment, bound to save huge sums.

There are privacy issues, of course, in recordings of citizens who may not want the footage to become public. Police departments have to store and archive the material. Police have to resolve if the cameras would be on constantly or could be flipped on only when a stop is made. But minor challenges like these are no reason to reject the technology.

It's good Chicago is stepping up. The question for the Police Department is no longer, "Why would you equip your officers with body cameras?" It's, "Why wouldn't you?"

THE VIEWS PAGE

■ The **PRESS & DAKOTAN** Views 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 to the editor on current topics. Questions regarding the Views page should be directed to Kelly Hertz at views@yankton.net.

ON THIS DATE

By The Associated Press
Today is Thursday, September 18, the 261st day of 2014. There are 104 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On September 18, A.D. 14, the Roman Senate officially confirmed Tiberius as the second emperor of the Roman Empire, succeeding the late Augustus.

On this date: In 1759, the French formally surrendered Quebec to the British.

In 1793, President George Washington laid the cornerstone of the U.S. Capitol.

In 1810, Chile made its initial declaration of independence from Spain with the forming of a national junta.
In 1927, the Columbia Phonograph Broadcasting System (later CBS) made its on-air debut with a basic network of 16 radio stations.

In 1931, an explosion in the Chinese city of Mukden damaged a section of Japanese-owned railway track; Japan, blaming Chinese nationalists, invaded Manchuria the next day.

In 1947, the National Security Act, which created a National Military Establishment, went into effect.

In 1961, United Nations Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld was killed in a plane crash in northern Rhodesia.

In 1964, Irish playwright Sean O'Casey, 84, died in Torquay, England. The situation comedy "The Addams Family," inspired by the Charles Addams cartoons, premiered on ABC-TV.

In 1970, rock star Jimi Hendrix died in London at age 27.
In 1975, newspaper heiress Patricia Hearst was captured by the FBI in San Francisco, 19 months after being kidnapped by the Symbionese Liberation Army.

In 1984, retired U.S. Air Force Col. Joe Kittinger became the first person to complete a solo balloon flight across the Atlantic Ocean as he landed in Italy, four days after leaving Maine.

In 1994, tennis star Vitas Gerulaitis, 40, was found dead in the guest cottage of a friend's home in Southampton, New York, of accidental carbon monoxide poisoning.

Ten years ago: A divided U.N. Security Council approved a resolution threatening oil sanctions against Sudan unless the government reined in Arab militias blamed for a killing rampage in Darfur. Hollywood divorce lawyer Marvin Mitchelson died in Beverly Hills, California, at age 76. Pioneer adult filmmaker Russ Meyer died in Los Angeles at age 82. Miss Alabama Deirdre Downs was crowned Miss America. Pop singer Britney Spears married her fiancé, dancer Kevin Federline, in a surprise ceremony. (The couple divorced nearly three years later.)

Five years ago: Tens of thousands of protesters rallied in defiance of Iran's Islamic leadership, clashing with police and confronting state-run anti-Israel rallies. Writer-editor Irving Kristol, known as the godfather of neoconservatism, died at 89. The final episode of "Guiding Light" aired on CBS, ending a 72-year run on radio and television.

One year ago: Syrian President Bashar Assad, in a Fox News Channel interview, said a United Nations report finding "clear and convincing evidence" sarin nerve gas was used in Syria painted an "unrealistic" account, and denied his government had orchestrated the attack. Former heavyweight boxing champion Ken Norton, 70, died in Las Vegas.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Jimmie Rodgers is 81. Actor Robert Blake is 81. Former Sen. Robert Bennett, R-Utah, is 81. Actor Fred Willard is 81. Actor Eddie Jones is 80. Gospel singer Bobby Jones is 76. Singer Frankie Avalon is 74. Actress Beth Grant is 65. Rock musician Kerry Livgren is 65. Actress Anna Deavere Smith is 64. Basketball Hall of Fame coach Rick Pitino is 62. College Football Hall of Famer and retired NFL player Billy Sims is 59. Movie director Mark Romanek is 55. Baseball Hall of Famer Ryne Sandberg is 55. Alt-country-rock musician Mark Olson is 53. Singer Joanne Catherall (Human League) is 52. Actress Holly Robinson Peete is 50. Rhythm-and-blues singer Ricky Bell (Bell Biv DeVoe and New Edition) is 47. Actress Aisha Tyler is 44. Racing cyclist Lance Armstrong is 43. Opera singer Anna Netrebko is 43. Actress Jada Pinkett Smith is 43. Actor James Marsden is 41. Actress Emily Rutherford is 40. Actor Travis Schuldt is 40. Rapper Xzibit is 40. Comedian-actor Jason Sudeikis is 39. Actress Sophia Brown is 38. Actor Barrett Foa is 37. TV correspondent Sara Haines is 37. Actress Alison Lohman is 35. Actors Brandon and Taylor Porter are 21. Actor C.J. Sanders is 18.

Thought for Today: "It's my rule never to lose me tempo till it would be detrimental to keep it." — Sean O'Casey (1880-1964).

FROM THE BIBLE

In Your book were written, every one of them, the day that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them. Psalm 139:16. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis



Kindle's Korner

'Handwriting Without Tears' Comes To YSD

BY DR. WAYNE KINDLE

Yankton School District

I am sure most folks can recall getting a handwritten letter in the mail from a family member or friend. There is something special about seeing your name handwritten on the front of an envelope and knowing inside is also a handwritten letter to read.

As we all know, technology has played a significant role in changing the course of not only letter writing, but written communication overall. While technology does have its advantages — such as legibility, spell checking and efficiency — handwriting is still an important part of teaching and learning.

The Yankton School District considers handwriting a valuable skill for students to be taught, practiced and used in everyday life. For some students, handwriting can be a challenge. A young child can also be so frustrated that it brings tears to their eyes and a sense of anxiety.

This past August, several of our Preschool, Junior Kindergarten, Kindergarten and Special Education Teachers were offered additional training in "Handwriting Without Tears." This special program has been used in Pre-school and Junior Kindergarten for a number of years in the Yankton School District. However, due to the success shown we have expanded the program into our Kindergarten classrooms beginning this fall.

Why Handwriting Without Tears?

Children who have mastered handwriting are better, more creative writers. The earlier we teach children to master handwriting, the more likely they are to succeed in school, and write with speed and ease in all subjects.

By playing, singing and building letters, students develop the important skills they need to print words, sentences and paragraphs. Children learn to print using hands-on materials and developmentally appropriate activities.

Our teachers use fun, engaging and developmentally appropriate instructional methods to enable children to master handwriting as an automatic and comfortable skill. The result truly is handwriting without tears!

In conclusion, our students in Pre-Kindergarten, Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten are taught Handwriting Without Tears and students in grades 1-5 are taught using the Zaner-Bloser Method. Beginning in the third grade, these students begin using cursive writing.

WORKING WITH LOCAL CONTRACTORS

At the Nov. 12, 2013, school board meeting,

YOUR LETTERS

One True Faith

LaDawn Remington, Yankton

I don't consider myself to be an expert in world religions, but as a born-again Christian, I must defend my faith in the Bible which testifies that there is only one true God, who created heaven, earth and all that there is.

Buddhism's founder, Siddhartha Gautama was born into royalty in India around 600 B.C., and later abandoned his life of wealth and affluence to pursue so-called "enlightenment" as an ascetic monk. However, as is true of every person, at the end of his life he DIED.

A Buddhist believes in Karma and reincarnation, and that nirvana is the end of existence, not just the end of reincarnation. Buddhists strive to reach nirvana by letting go of the impermanent physical world in which we all live. They believe the universe is one big void. Many/most believe that the only way to escape the inevitable suffering of this world will be when they completely cease to exist (after being reincarnated until they get it right).

The Bible assures us that our life and existence is eternal, that God has a purpose for our life: no voids, no living over and over trying to be a better person in the next life, no ceasing of existence, no nirvana.

The Bible tells us in Genesis that God created everything to be perfect. But because of Adam's free choice to sin, we all inherit a sin nature which separates us from God. Because of His great mercy and love, God sent His only Son Jesus to pay the penalty for our sin

the Yankton School Board approved a \$2.87 million Design Build Project, which provides facility upgrades in all six school buildings. In addition, approval was given to finalize an application for a \$1 million no-interest loan from the State of South Dakota, payable over a five-year period. The YSD did receive the loan and it was used for the Design Build Project.

A number of local Yankton contractors were awarded bids for the majority of the project:

- Electrical — L&S for Yankton Middle School, Beadle, Lincoln, and Stewart
- Plumbers (Mechanical & Domestic) — Fejfar Plumbing for Beadle, Lincoln, and Stewart
- Sheet Metal — Kaiser Heating and Cooling for Yankton High School, Yankton Middle School, Beadle, Lincoln, Stewart, and Webster
- General Construction — Wellf Construction for Yankton Middle School breezeway, wall openings/patching at Yankton Middle School, Beadle, Lincoln, Stewart, and Webster, Roof structural support for Yankton High School Auxiliary Gym A/C unit; Schremp Masonry; Floor To Ceiling; Johnson Roofing; Dahlin Drywall; Ron's Auto Glass

On behalf of the Yankton School District, I want to commend our local contractors for their excellent work on this very important project. The contractors kept us on target for the first day of school and our students/staff have appreciated the upgrades in the buildings throughout the school district. An additional thank you to other contractors involved in the Design Build Project.

PRESENTATIONS

As superintendent, I would be happy to visit with you personally or speak to your group/organization. I am also willing to host your group at our Administration Building or one of our school buildings. I would also come to your facility or meeting place.

Since taking my new position as superintendent, I have spoken to several groups throughout our community and have hosted groups at our Administration Building. Please feel free to contact me at 665-3998 to arrange a time to visit. I can also be contacted using my email at wkindle@ysd.k12.sd.us

Let's have a terrific year!

Henry Ford stated, "Coming together is a beginning. Staying together is a process. Working together is a success."

Dr. Wayne Kindle is superintendent of the Yankton School District.

through His death and resurrection. The only way to be saved from our sin is to personally acknowledge our sinful condition, and place our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ alone for the gift of eternal life. That's it.

A person cannot adhere to both Christianity and Buddhism because of their antithetical beliefs. One is trusting in a LIVING GOD, while the other follows a dead man. KNOW what you believe and who you serve. Eternity is forever. Where will you spend it?

Wonderful Concert

Carol Perry, LaVista Nebraska

My friends and I came to the concert event at the WJ Ranch near Yankton on Sept. 6. How wonderful it is that they put on these concerts each year. We are all originally from Syracuse, Nebraska, but we drove in from Omaha that night to attend this show.

We thoroughly enjoyed the evening and the hospitality. It was such a fun night. The concert was great and the atmosphere was perfect. I thought it was so fun when we pulled into the driveway and they were parking cars by horseback. I only wish I would have taken some pictures of that before I went into the building! We hope to keep coming back each year now that we know about these great concerts!

Thanks again to everyone responsible for a great night in the country. Those are the best! We hope to see you next year!

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." — The FIRST AMENDMENT to the U.S. Constitution

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS: It's Your Right To Know!