

THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861

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OPINION | WE SAY

Well Stated



THUMBS UP to University of South Dakota President Jim Abbott's message during his 18th annual "State of the University" address. The Board of Regents won't release the latest enrollment figures until next week. However, Abbott noted USD has seen its enrollment rise the last five years. USD continues to do well with graduate enrollment, and the Vermillion campus continues to see a transformation with new buildings. In addition, USD is ready to launch its \$250 million campaign. However, Abbott was also frank about the challenges facing USD in terms of undergraduate recruitment and retention, campus diversity and teaching students in a digital age. But as he noted, "Challenges are opportunities."

Historic Celebration



THUMBS UP to the event held today (Friday) on the Mount Marty College campus, kicking off the year-long celebration of the 125th anniversary for the Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls. Today's event includes Mass celebrated by Bishop Paul Swain, a program featuring Christian entertainer Chris Padgett, a picnic lunch and historical exhibits and tours. The kick-off coincides with the anniversary of the death of Bishop Martin Marty, the diocese's first bishop, who had strong ties to Yankton, MMC and the Benedictine Sisters at Sacred Heart Monastery. The quinquennial will honor the past, including the early settlers and Native American history and culture, while also looking ahead to the future.

Like



THUMBS UP to the tweak on Facebook's News Feed that addresses the problem of seeing days-old posts on the platform and showing the user what they want to see by their interests. The update now shows everyone the right content at the appropriate time. The update will also give Facebook users Feeds priority to posts that tie in with their trending list. This means that when a friend or page you are connected to posts about something that is currently a trending subject, that post is most likely to appear higher up in the users feed. The other part of the update is that the users News Feed will determine the timeliness of posts. The update will take into account the rate at which people are liking or commenting on a post and look at when people are choosing to like, comment and share the post. With this new update, Facebook will deliver its users what they want to see when they should see it.

End Play



THUMBS DOWN to the quiet demise of an audio pioneer. While Apple was holding its characteristically press conference to herald the arrival of the iPhone 6 and the iPhone 6 Plus, it discreetly (i.e., without so much as a press release) discontinued production of what is now called the iPod Classic, the direct descendant to the original iPod, the revolutionary MP3 music player that changed the way we listen to music on the go. That first device was introduced in 2001 with a 5-gigabyte hard drive and the iconic "clickwheel." The iPod became an institution, and it was so successful that it spawned smaller mutations (with frustratingly less storage space) featuring more fun uses and touch screens. But now the Classic is no more, taking with it its unmatched 160-gigabyte drive and its devotion to its original mission: playing music (although the Classic could play videos). The iPod did more for mobile music listening than the Walkman did in the 1980s. It has finally been retired, but it will be dearly missed and should be fondly remembered.

ON THIS DATE

By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, September 19, the 262nd day of 2014. There are 103 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On September 19, 1777, the first Battle of Saratoga was fought during the Revolutionary War; although British forces succeeded in driving out the American troops, the Americans prevailed in a second battle the following month.

On this date: In 1796, President George Washington's farewell address was published.

In 1881, the 20th president of the United States, James A. Garfield, died 2 1/2 months after being shot by Charles Guiteau; Chester Alan Arthur became president.

In 1934, Bruno Hauptmann was arrested in New York and charged with the kidnap-murder of Charles A. Lindbergh Jr.

In 1945, Nazi radio propagandist William Joyce, known as "Lord Haw-Haw," was convicted of treason and sentenced to death by a British court.

In 1957, the United States conducted its first contained underground nuclear test, code-named "Rainier," in the Nevada desert.

In 1959, Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev, visiting Los Angeles, reacted angrily upon being told that, for security reasons, he wouldn't get to visit Disneyland.

In 1960, Cuban leader Fidel Castro, in New York to visit the United Nations, angrily checked out of the Shelburne Hotel in a dispute with the management; Castro ended up staying at the Hotel Theresa in Harlem.

In 1964, the family TV show "Flipper," about a dolphin adopted by a Florida family, premiered on NBC.

In 1970, the situation comedy "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" debuted on CBS-TV.

In 1985, the Mexico City area was struck by a devastating earthquake that killed at least 9,500 people.

In 1989, a Paris-bound DC-10 belonging to French airline UTA was destroyed by a bomb over Niger, killing all 170 people on board. (A French court later convicted six Libyans in absentia for the bombing; Libya agreed in 2004 to pay \$170 million in compensation, although it stopped short of acknowledging responsibility.)

In 1994, the medical drama "ER" premiered on NBC-TV.

Ten years ago: Hu Jintao became the undisputed leader of China with the departure of former President Jiang Zemin from his top military post. Militants decapitated three hostages believed to be Iraqi Kurds in a videotape that surfaced hours after Iraq's prime minister said that January elections would be held on schedule. The United States suffered its biggest Ryder Cup loss in 77 years as it lost to the Europeans, 18 1/2 to 9 1/2. "The Sopranos" won best drama series at the Emmy Awards while "Arrested Development" won best comedy series. Country singer Skeeter Davis, 72, died in Nashville.

Five years ago: Russia said it would scrap a plan to deploy missiles near Poland after Washington dumped a planned missile shield in Eastern Europe. Art Ferrante, 88, half of the piano duo Ferrante and Teicher, died in Longboat Key, Florida. (Lou Teicher had died in 2008 at age 83.)

One year ago: Signaling a dramatic shift in Vatican tone, Pope Francis said in a published interview that the Roman Catholic church had become obsessed by "small-minded rules" about how to be faithful and that pastors should instead emphasize compassion over condemnation when discussing divisive social issues such as abortion, gays and contraception. A Texas appeals court tossed the criminal conviction of former U.S. House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, saying there was insufficient evidence for a jury in 2010 to have found him guilty of illegally funneling money to Republican candidates. Hiroshi Yamauchi, 85, who ran Nintendo for more than 50 years, died in central Japan.

Today's Birthdays: Author Roger Angell is 94. Host James Lipton (TV: "Inside the Actors Studio") is 88. Actress Rosemary Harris is 87. Former Defense Secretary Harold Brown is 87. Actor Adam West is 86. Actor David McCallum (TV: "NCIS") is 81. Singer-songwriter Paul Williams is 74. Singer Bill Medley is 74. Singer Sylvia Tyson (lan and Sylvia) is 74. R&B singer Freda Payne is 72. Gaffer Jane Blalock is 69. Singer David Bromberg is 69. Actor Randolph Mantooth is 69. Rock singer-musician Lol Creme (10cc) is 67. Former NFL running back Larry Brown is 67. Actor Jeremy Irons is 66. Actress Twiggy Lawson is 65. TV personality Joan Lunden is 64. Singer-producer Daniel Lanois is 63. Actor Scott Colomby is 62. Musician-producer Nile Rodgers is 62. College Football Hall of Famer and former NFL player Reggie Williams is 60. Singer-actor Rex Smith is 59. Actor Kevin Hooks is 56. Actress Carolyn McCormick is 55. Celebrity chef Mario Batali is 54. Country singer Jeff Bates is 51. Country singer Trisha Yearwood is 50. Actress-comedian Cheri Oteri is 49. News anchor Soledad O'Brien is 48. Rhythm-and-blues singer Espranza Griffin (Society of Soul) is 45. Celebrity chef Michael Symon is 45. Actress Sanaa Lathan is 43. Actress Stephanie J. Block is 42. Rock singer A. Jay Popoff (Lit) is 41. "Tonight Show" host Jimmy Fallon is 40. TV personality Carter Oost-erhouse is 38. Actress-TV host Alison Sweeney is 38. Rock musician Ryan Dusick is 37. Folk-rock singers-musicians Tegan and Sara Quin are 34. Actor Columbus Short is 32. Rapper Eamon is 31. Christian rock musician JD Frazier is 31. Actor Kevin Zegers is 30. Actress Danielle Panabaker is 27.

Thought for Today: "He who is unable to live in society, or who has no need because he is sufficient for himself, must be either a beast or a god; he is no part of a state." — Aristotle, Greek philosopher (384 B.C.-322 B.C.).

FROM THE BIBLE

Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips! Psalm 141:3. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis



War As A Rule

BY KELLY HERTZ

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Autumn is nearly here, and there's talk of war in the air. These two items aren't related, other than they both now seem to be regular events, dictated almost by clockwork: an unsurprising gathering darkness.

The war talk this time is aimed at a new enemy called ISIS or ISIL or the Islamic State — whatever those individuals are collectively called. These are bad people, without question. And with every murderous blow they deliver upon nonbelievers, with every video-recorded beheading they transmit across the planet, they rally (to varying degrees) more nations and more people against them. It's painfully clear that they just for war, which seems a fittingly insane description.

And we will likely give ISIS what it wants. In fact, we already are. Once upon a time — say, in the winter of 1991 — this would have been an occasion for great, passionate debate and a lot of national soul-searching. Back then, the idea of war was a leap into a terrifying abyss. It was talked about and prayed over for weeks, until this momentous thing was finally unleashed.

Now, it's just a thing, with no adjectives attached to reflect our feelings because sentiments on the subject have become so worn down by years of fighting.

We don't even know what we want to call this latest foray. Last week, officials in the Obama administration said we weren't at war with ISIS on one day, then the next day said we were. That lack of official certitude seems to present us with the damning fact that war has become a matter of semantics.

(Of course, this isn't really new. The Korean War wasn't an officially declared war — a police action that some sources still stubbornly refer to as the Korean "conflict" — and neither was the conflagration in Vietnam. However, if you ask veterans of those two conflicts what they were all about, they would probably tell you tales that would convince you that the events in questions were wars by every measure.)

However, these political word games reflect the public's own weary ambivalence about another war. A poll I saw this week showed a majority of people didn't think President Obama's bombing strategy against ISIS was tough enough, but a majority were also opposed to sending in troops to deal with the situation. Which leaves us where?

But in some ways, it doesn't matter anymore whether or not we call this a war. We know what it is.

It's life in the 21st century. War is no longer an extraordinary event that disrupts our society. Part of the reason may be

that we see it as another reason to "send in the drone," a detached and antiseptic way to wage war, in part because we don't have to face the consequences at the target sites. To be sure, there are still those who lobby passionately for and against war, but many of us have heard it all too many times now to see it as just one more chapter in a familiar book.

I still recall — reflexively, I suppose — with the broad mindset wrought by the World War and Cold War eras. Wars used to call for all-out commitment and sacrifice, and they summoned up a vast range of emotions, from hot patriotism to cold dread.

In many ways, the Gulf War of 1991 was a turning point in that mentality. When coalition forces finally unleashed their aerial fire on Iraq to ignite that war, it produced waves of dread across this nation, thanks in part to cable television news. I remember my own queasy nervousness as I watched the war start on CNN. Across

the country, there were sharp spikes in reports of anxiety attacks and depression as people became transfixed by every minute detail of the war. But just six weeks later, it was over. We rejoiced. More than that, though, we changed. We saw that war could be a contained exercise, not waged on the grand scale of the old days.

This concept changed again in 2001. Wounded and angry after the 9/11 attacks, we went into Afghanistan several weeks later, and we've been warring ever since.

War has become the rule, not the exception, of our existence. Now, with ISIS practically begging the U.S. and the rest of the world to come get some, we look ready for yet another round.

And it feels so wearily normal. Our old world — one in which the word "peace" (that is, the peace of a cemetery) had genuine currency — seems oddly disconnected from our world now.

There's a lot to curse about war, much of it so indescribably brutal that one doesn't want to even contemplate the details. But one item that stands out in particular on the list of indictments is that we now seem numb to the prospect of war. We're tired of it, to be sure, but we're also resigned to waging new campaigns to meet the next threat that takes aim at us. We no longer freak out about war. We have learned to live with it.

This could be seen as proof that Gen. William Sherman was right: War is all hell. So much so that we simply accept it now as a fact of life, which in some ways may be a worse hell than anything Sherman ever imagined.

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

YOUR LETTERS

Political Discourse

Michael F. McDonald, Yankton

It seems mighty remarkable that the publisher of the *Press and Dakotan* chooses to enforce a policy of little to no political letters to be published in the paper the very same day (Sept. 9) that a story concerning the details of South Dakota's "Whitewater" case of Richard Benda is published. I find Mr. Woods' policy to be pretty much of a "modest Proposal" — i.e., let's just kill local political speech from the area newspaper instead of Irish babies — with the exception that Jonathan Swift was being satirical in his proposal that England should gather up all the Irish babies of 1729, kill them and eat them, Mr. Woods is being literal — kill political speech in his newspaper unless he can make a profit from it.

Knowing that Mr. Woods has a strong connection to the YAPG folks, I have found it interesting how the bent of the stories in regard to the NAPA junction scenario have seemed to suggest that our county commissioners and county boards have failed to be compliant with the underlings of the Cargill corporation. I certainly hope that those county commissioners running for re-election are not required to pay the *Press and Dakotan* to clear up any misconceptions or inadvertent exclusions that may have been created by the stories that have propagandized the YAPG bent of the *Press and Dakotan* if those commissioners find it necessary to qualify their actions — while serving the people of Yankton County — in our local newspaper.

PRESS & DAKOTAN LETTER POLICY

The **PRESS & DAKOTAN** encourages its readers to write letters to the editor and asks 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.

Online Opinion

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

LATEST RESULTS:

Do you support the U.S. plan for taking military action against ISIS?
Yes 71%
No 18%
Not sure 11%
TOTAL VOTES CAST 278

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 think a firearms training class should be offered in schools?

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

The city of Yankton has for too long been subjected to "Chamber of Commerce" government when it comes to city government — electing nine "at large" candidates does not provide all of the Yankton neighborhoods with representation, but it does a mighty fine job of representing the business community. I certainly hope that this ploy of limited local political speech is not a successful attempt to assist YAPG in controlling county government as well as city government. I wonder what Benjamin Franklin would have to say about this.

■ 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 views@yankton.net.