

## The Press &amp; Dakotan

THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861

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## OPINION

Climate Change  
And Listening

Climate change was at the forefront of Pope Francis's talking points during his recent sojourn to America. He made the case to take action on the manmade causes of climate change while speaking to a joint session of Congress and addressing the United Nations. This is no surprise, since this pope has made this a cornerstone issue of his papacy thus far.

It's also no surprise that some politicians who take a different view on climate change are telling people, in effect, to just ignore the that man behind the curtain.

As stated above, Pope Francis didn't simply pick up on this issue for his American trip. He published an encyclical earlier this year in which he the effort to address climate change a moral imperative for our civilization. That placed him at the forefront in this discussion

No matter, he is still not qualified to talk about it, or so says Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush. A climate change skeptic — even in light of how the matter imperils his own state of Florida in regards to rising ocean levels — Bush dismissed the pope's call for action by noting that Francis is "not a scientist, he's a religious leader."

Of course, Bush (who is not a scientist, either) and others like him also have trouble listening to the vast majority of scientists who issue the very same warnings about climate change that Pope Francis does.

People like Bush fall back on the defense that theories on climate change and mankind's role in it are "not settled science." This implies that there is a deeply divided debate within the scientific community about the issue.

However, a frequently-cited study was done a few years ago that surveyed peer-reviewed papers published between 1991 and 2011 about the climate issue. The results found that 97 percent of papers stated that humans are a chief cause of global warming.

This overwhelming majority of opinion was affirmed last week when a report in the journal *Scientific Research Letters* found that 92 percent of more than 700 biophysical scientists surveyed are convinced human-caused climate change is occurring. The study concluded: "There is a general consensus among biophysical scientists across the United States that (1) climate change is occurring, (2) humans are contributing to it, and (3) climate science is a trustworthy, mature and credible discipline. Scientists who continue to claim otherwise are operating outside of the consensus, not just of climate scientists, but also of scientists as a whole."

As Stuart Carlton, the lead author of last week's study, told the *Washington Post*. "The debate that is going on about the existence of climate change is noise. What people should be discussing, the policy issues that people should be evaluating, are what to do about climate change."

So, when people like Bush say we shouldn't be listening to the likes of Pope Francis or, presumably, the 93 to 97 percent of the scientific community warning about climate change, it makes one wonder why we are listening to people like Bush on this dreadfully important issue in the first place.

kmh

## CORRECTION

In Friday's "We Say" column, it was incorrectly stated that the Sept. 19 train accident took place in Yankton County. The accident took place in Bon Homme County. We apologize for the error.

## OUR 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/.

## IN HISTORY

## By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, September 29, the 272nd day of 2015. There are 93 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:** On September 29, 1965, President Lyndon Johnson signed the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965, creating the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts; during the signing ceremony, the president said the measure would create an American Film Institute.

**On this date:** In 1789, the U.S. War Department established a regular army with a strength of several hundred men.

In 1829, London's reorganized police force, which became known as Scotland Yard, went on duty.

In 1907, the foundation stone was laid for the Washington National Cathedral.

In 1910, the National Urban League, which had its beginnings as The Committee on Urban Conditions Among Negroes, was established in New York.

In 1938, British, French, German and Italian leaders concluded the Munich Agreement, which was aimed at appeasing Adolf Hitler by allowing Nazi annexation of Czechoslovakia's Sudetenland.

In 1943, General Dwight D. Eisenhower and Italian Marshal Pietro Badoglio signed an armistice aboard the British ship HMS Nelson off Malta.

In 1955, a one-act version of the Arthur Miller play "A View From the Bridge" opened in New York. (Miller later turned it into a two-act play.)

In 1962, Canada joined the space age as it launched the Alouette 1 satellite from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. The musical "My Fair Lady" closed on Broadway after 2,717 performances.

In 1975, baseball manager Casey Stengel died in Glendale, California, at age 85.

In 1982, Extra-Strength Tylenol capsules laced with deadly cyanide claimed the first of seven victims in the Chicago area. (To date, the case remains unsolved.)

In 1990, the Washington National Cathedral, begun in 1907, was formally completed with President George H.W. Bush overseeing the laying of the final stone atop the southwest pinnacle of the cathedral's St. Paul Tower.

**Ten years ago:** John G. Roberts Jr. was sworn in as the nation's 17th chief justice after winning Senate confirmation. New York Times reporter Judith Miller was released from 85 days of federal detention

after agreeing to testify in a criminal probe into the leak of a covert CIA officer's identity. Three suicide car bombs exploded nearly simultaneously in Balad, a mostly Shiite town north of Baghdad, killing some 60 people.

**Five years ago:** Anti-austerity protests erupted across Europe; Greek doctors and railway employees walked off the job, Spanish workers shut down trains and buses, and one man rammed a cement truck into the Irish parliament to protest the country's enormous bank bailouts. Actor Tony Curtis, 85, died in Henderson, Nevada.

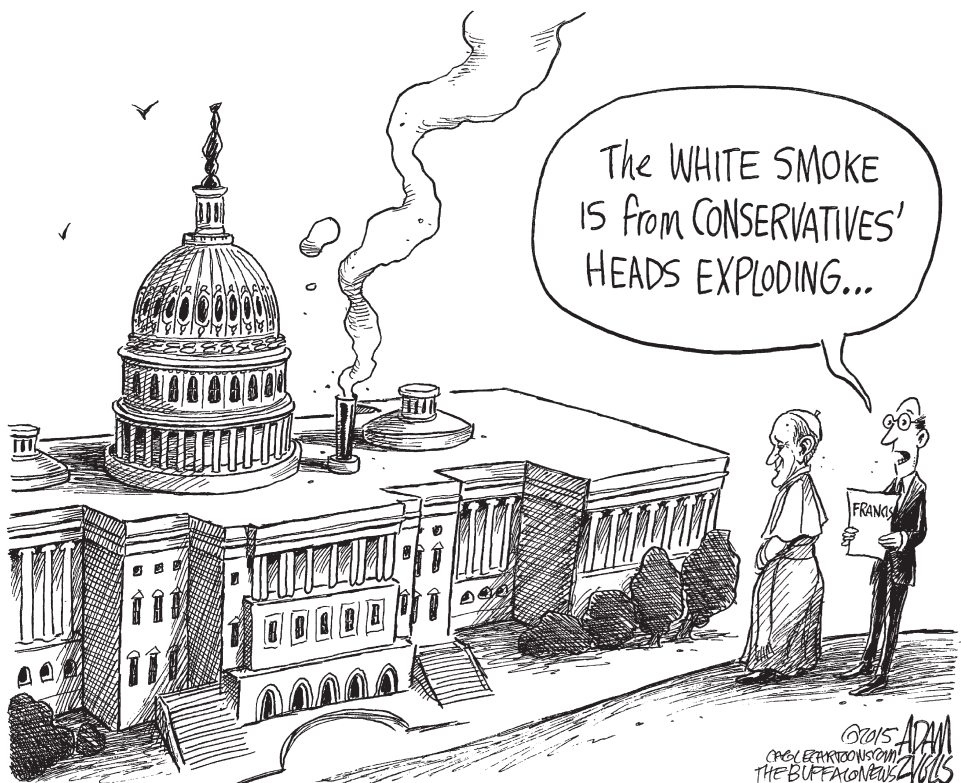
**One year ago:** In a blistering speech to the United Nations, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned that Hamas and the Islamic State group were "branches of the same poisonous tree," both bent on world domination through terror, just as the Nazis had done. Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai was sworn in as Afghanistan's new president, replacing Hamid Karzai in the country's first democratic transfer of power since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion toppled the Taliban.

**Today's Birthdays:** Conductor Richard Bonyngne is 85. Writer-director Robert Benton is 83. Singer Jerry Lee Lewis is 80. Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., is 73. Actor Ian McShane is 73. Jazz musician Jean-Luc Ponty is 73. Nobel Peace laureate Lech Walesa, the former president of Poland, is 72. Television-film composer Mike Post is 71. Actress Patricia Hodge is 69. TV personality Bryant Gumbel is 67. Rock singer-musician Mark Farner is 67. Rock singer-musician Mike Piner is 67. Country singer Alvin Crow is 65. Actor Drake Hogestyn is 62. Broadcast journalist Gwen Ifill is 60. Olympic gold medal runner Sebastian Coe is 59. Singer Suzzy Roche (The Roches) is 59. Comedian-actor Andrew "Dice" Clay is 58. Rock singer John Payne (Asia) is 57. Actor Roger Bart is 53. Singer-musician Les Claypool is 52. Actress Jill Whelan is 49. Actor Luke Goss is 47. Rock musician Brad Smith (Blind Melon) is 47. Actress Erika Eleniak is 46. Rhythm-and-blues singer Devante Swing (Jodeci) is 46. Country singer Brad Cotter (TV: "Nashville Star") is 45. Actress Emily Lloyd is 45. Actress Natasha Gregson Wagner is 45. Actress Rachel Cronin is 44. Country musician Danick Dupelle (Emerson Drive) is 42. Actor Alexis Cruz is 41. Actor Zachary Levi is 35. Country singer Katie McNeill (3 of Hearts) is 33. Rock musician Josh Farro is 28. Actor Doug Brochu is 25. Singer Phillip Phillips is 25. Actress Clara Mamet is 21.

**Thought for Today:** "Nobody knows enough, but many know too much." — Marie von Ebner-Eschenbach, Austrian author (1830-1916).

## FROM THE BIBLE

*But they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:31.* Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.

Health Talk: 'Of  
History and Medicine'

BY VINCE TWO EAGLES

Hau Mitakuepi (Greetings My Relatives),

This time of year is when many Native people have gathered medicines throughout the millennia. Even today our people continue to utilize ancient medicinal plants, herbs and techniques to treat illness.

Here is one of those FYI's brought to you by Emory Dean Keoke and Kay Marie Porterfield co-authors of "American Indian Contributions to the World."

"Medicine is the science of diagnosing, treating and preventing diseases. It is also concerned with maintaining health. American Indians were sophisticated healers, relying on a number of botanical drugs that remain in use today, including guaiacum, ipecac, kaolin and quinine. Guaiacum is used as a stimulant, diaphoretic, antiseptic, diuretic, antitussive and to treat inflamed mucous membranes of the throat. Ipecac is used to control poisons by causing vomiting. Kaolin is an upset stomach remedy. Quinine is used to treat malaria. Indians of both North and Mesoamerica routinely used antibiotic medications. The plains Tribes of North America used antiviral medications as well.

"Aztec physicians were specialists in area such as obstetrics, the ears, and dentistry. Aztec eye specialists performed cataract surgery. Indigenous physicians of the Americas demonstrated extensive anatomical knowledge and understood how to set bones, treat wounds, prevent infections, as well as perform complicated surgeries such as arthrocentesis [surgery to remove fluid from the knee joint].

"Father Bernardo Sahagun wrote of the duties of the Aztec physician in (General history of the things of New Spain): 'The true doctor... is a wise man; he imparts life. A tried specialist, he has worked with herbs, stones, trees and roots. His remedies have been tested; he examines; he experiments, he alleviates sickness ...' The medical practices he described were well established before European contact and stand in sharp contrast to the limited understanding of Europeans who until the late 1700s were generally ignorant of the cause of disease. They held that illness was divine punishment for sins,

Vince  
TWO EAGLES

and because of this view, the sick often went untreated in Europe. Most advanced European physicians adhered to the teachings of Claudius Gale, an ancient Greek physician (ca. A.D. 130-200) who believed that illness was caused by an imbalance of bodily fluids, or humours, as these fluids were called. When doctors in Europe gave medical assistance, their treatments of choice most often were bleeding, vomiting, purging, and blistering. Although they used botanicals to treat illnesses, they often combined them with ingredients such as blood, dung, and urine. Beginning in the 1600s they added metals, such as lead and arsenic, to their medications, doing their patients more harm than good. Bloodletting, harsh emetics, and blistering (burning the skin until it blistered), were also standard treatments in Europe.

"European colonists quickly learned on American Indian remedies. Many Indian botanical medicines were adopted into the U.S. Pharmacopoeia, a list of available drugs sanctioned by the medical community. By the beginning of the 1800s, non-Indian botanical or herb doctors began using herbal remedies learned from the American Indians to treat patients. As support of their practice, they pointed to the discovery of quinine as a treatment for malaria and digitalis, a heart medicine the Indians derived from foxglove. Non-Indian enthusiasm for Indian cures led to the creation of patent medicines. Nevertheless, Benjamin Rush [1745 to 1813; Physician and Founding Father of the U.S.], convinced that bloodletting worked, refused to believe that anything of benefit could be learned from American Indians. "We have no discoveries in the materia medica to hope for from the Indians in North America," he wrote in 1774. "It would be reproach to our schools of physic, if modern physicians were not more successful than the Indians even in the treatment of their own diseases." His opinion ran counter to reality.

"Historian Fraser Symington, comparing non-Indian and Indian medical practices in the 1600s, wrote in The Canadian Indian: "The Iroquois excelled in their treatment of wounds, fractures and dislocations, and their herbalists provided a great fund of knowledge to Europe." And now you know the rez of the story. Doksha (later) ...

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Great Golf Outing

## The Yankton High School Adult Booster Club

We would like to thank all the participants who played in the Booster Club golf tournament on Saturday, Sept. 19, at Fox Run Golf Course. It was a beautiful day for golf and the course looked great. A very large thank you goes out to the businesses and individuals who sponsored a hole or donated a pin prize to the tournament.

We would like to thank Ace Hardware, Amy and Paul Eichfeld, Berkley Motors, Yankton High School Booster Club, Burger King, Chasity Feser, Collision Center, Concrete Materials, Conkling Distributing, CornBorn, Corp of Engineers, Crofton Golf Course, Dakota Archery, Dakota Beverage, Farm Credit Services, Ferrel Gas, First Dakota National Bank, First National Bank, Fox Run Golf Course, Gerstner Oil, Gramps, Hanson-Briggs Advertising, Hillcrest Country Club, Home Federal, Jason Tramp Construction, Jim Tramp Construction, JJ Benji's, KPI-JCI, Koletzky Implement, Larry's Heating and Cooling, Manitou, Mark's Machinery,

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