



The Rez Of The Story

Racism, Poverty And Laughs

BY VINCE TWO EAGLES

Hau Mitakuepi (Greetings My Relatives), Will Rogers once said that we should all: “Do the best [we] can, and don’t take life too serious.” On that note, I know I’ve been known to take myself a little too seriously and my subject matter a bit too seriously as well (I always thought that’s what columnists do) — but never again I tell you, never again! If my feeble, but well meaning, attempts at humor fall short, I apologize in advance (if that’s even possible). And if I should inadvertently sting someone’s sensibilities about political correctness, I don’t mean to. The adroit humorous observations, OK, yeah, I mean it — but it’s the inadvertent ones I refer to.

So, did you ever wonder why racists like to share their particular brand of racism with those who aren’t necessarily interested? We get the what, right? It’s because they view themselves as superior to others and that ostensibly includes those of a similar racial background. It’s the why that is of particular interest to many of us who just don’t get it!

Is it because racists (who become bigots at that point) need recreation, too? They obviously are having fun during their drive-by verbal attacks because you can hear them hoop and holler, and laugh as they hurriedly drive off. And sometimes (although they don’t know it), they can be very polite in their “humorous offerings.” For example: suppose you’re a Native walking down the street with an African-American friend of yours and the drive-by racial slur is about one’s racial affiliation so they hurl the N-word at both of you and include the “proper” category of N you happen to be. Thus if they say, “Hey you F—g, black N and you F—g prairie N then you know that the racial slurs are meant for both of you. Thus, my friend and I don’t have to equivocate about who gets to punch the guy’s lights out should we ever meet up with him. It was meant for both of us, so we can “enjoy” a little tortle, maybe sometime in the future, over such an incident. But suppose they hurl the slur but without the “prairie” or the “black” before they use the wonderful N-word? How are my black friend and I going to know who should respond? Yes, I know, it isn’t such a good thing to be punching anyone’s lights out, but how about at least a small punch? Just one — and it could be a supervised punch by some local authority charged with such a duty.

Could not this possibly eliminate the need for further



Vince TWO EAGLES

violence? You have a drive-by verbal assault victim and the perpetrator settle the problem with one punch — justice is served with lowered law enforcement costs, all in one decision. It’s a win-win for everyone.

I kid the perp and law enforcement.

And what about the federal government with all its backward Indian laws and policies? As Will Rogers would say, “This country has come to feel the same when Congress is in session as when the baby gets hold of a hammer.” In other words, when the federal government gets ready to enact another federal law, which is of course for the Indian’s own good, it’s like being in a bad “Batman” movie. Batman and Robin always get surrounded by the bad guys and the fighting begins: Pow! Sock! Hit very hard! And so the story goes. In the eyes of the federal government, we Indians are up there on the bad-guy list with every known bad guy that ever lived. Remember the “only good Indian is a dead Indian” approach to policy making? Brought back, somehow, from the brink of extinction, Native people now endure getting “beat up” unilaterally every time Congress contemplates the future fate of Indian people. Scarcely knowing what’s good for themselves, the federal government gets to decide the legal fate of many Native people. It may not be funny, but it sure qualifies for the absurd category, wouldn’t you say?

And what of the forced poverty of many Native people? Now there’s a real barrel of laughs. Don Harold, a famous American humorist and writer (1889-1966), once wrote: “Poverty must have many satisfactions, else there would not be so many poor people.” It’s always satisfying to know you won’t have to worry about an electrical fire after the power company shuts off the power for non-payment. It’s always satisfying to see your children go to bed hungry because at least they’ll be sticking to that diet you’ve been meaning to put them on as your family’s contribution to curb childhood obesity. And how satisfying could it not be to live in a junked-out car? I mean, one would not have to worry about buying tires or fixing flats all the time, or buying oil or even putting it through the car wash or having to worry about insurance premiums all the time. And the list of poverty satisfaction goes on and on ad nauseum as you experience the many freedoms poverty promises.

Do you remember the old saying it hurts only when I laugh? So stop making me laugh!

And now you know the rez of the story. Doksha (later) ...

Paid Sick Days Work For Workforce

BY ANNE MICHAUD

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Places around the country with any labor union strength at all — New York City among them — are passing paid sick day laws. By October 2015, nearly a million additional New Yorkers in the city will be guaranteed paid sick leave, and it will be against the law to fire a worker for calling in sick.

Portland, Ore.; San Francisco; Washington, D.C.; Seattle and Connecticut have recently enacted similar measures, and Democrats in the House of Representatives are talking about a national law.

The New York bill is a result of years of debate and expert testimony about workers’ rights and employers’ costs. Yet, in all, very little has been said about an underlying cause of sick days — that is, sick children. The rise in the number of working parents and single-parent homes has meant that the common childhood cold, flu, earache or strep throat has inserted itself into the workplace. For this reason, sick-day protection is an idea whose time has come.

“Workers will no longer have to choose between their jobs and their health or their children’s health,” one labor leader, Stuart Appelbaum, told the media after the New York City Council reached an agreement.

So often, our public discourse about work and family concerns the upper echelon: Can new mom Marissa Mayer, chief executive of Yahoo, really “have it all”? Stay tuned! This shift in focus to a benefit that potentially affects a broader swath of parents in retail, restaurant, hotel and other service jobs is welcome.

People who work with children know how often parents must choose between work and staying home with a sick kid. Recent advice to day care centers warns about the “drop and go” syndrome. Some parents leave a child with a caregiver and run out the door before it’s noticed that the

child is ill. Some parents give their child a dose of medicine to ease symptoms just long enough to sneak him or her into school or day care.

This can’t be good for public health. Kids in groups spread illness among themselves, then return home and infect their parents — who in turn go to work and expose their co-workers and customers. What kind of sick way is that to run a healthy planet?

A friend of mine works from home when her infant son is sick. But she’s well aware that not everyone can do that. And so, she worries about bringing him to the day care center even when he is well. He might catch something.

A better option would be child care for kids who are too sick to be in regular day care. But it’s very hard to make these work financially. Most day care in the United States is supplied by people who take children into their homes, according to the Census Bureau. Were an operator to convert to sick care, the caregiver could charge higher rates. But he or she could go weeks without a client dropping off a sick child. There’s also the liability of dispensing medications, and dehydration and other medical problems.

A physician in Arizona last year announced the opening of two “get well child care” centers. They are run in conjunction with a preschool, so the income is steadier. Still, they won’t take children with measles, mumps, hepatitis, chickenpox or flu in its early, most infectious stage.

The new sick day laws are a sign of the times. Industrial production and factory jobs at one point in our history led to laws limiting the workday to eight hours and banning child labor. Sick day standards are simply one more way to shelter the nation’s families.

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YOUR LETTERS

The Way It Was

Jim Peters, Dell Rapids

I would like to publish a correction to the Associated Press story: “Arrest of man prompts change in bag limit law.” (*Press & Dakotan*, March 25)

In regards to getting my license back, the story said: “State wildlife officials say Peters is likely out of luck, citing the fact that the measure is not retroactive and pointing out two previous limit violations by the Dell Rapids man.”

This was inaccurate. It should read, “Peters said he is aware of the other two days in question. On Sept. 22-23 he said officers observed him pull more than his limit of fish out of the water. However Peters released enough fish to get his bag within the legal limit.”

There were no tickets written or no warnings given. Only one violation was given, which was on Sept. 24, 2012, when I caught 21 of 30.

This is the way it was.

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 proposed bipartisan immigration reform package?
No59%
Yes25%
Not sure16%
TOTAL VOTES CAST227

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 significant gun control legislation will pass Congress?

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

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OPINION | OUR VIEW

Medical Field Copes With Social Media

As social media continues to grow — and increasingly infiltrates most every element of society — the problems and misperceptions that come with it also increase.

This is particularly true in the medical field, which has compelled some medical groups to address the issue. These efforts illustrate both the strengths and weaknesses of the medium.

For instance, the American College of Physicians last week published an article addressing “Online Medical Professionalism,” which addressed what it called the increasing popularity of medical information and communication over the Internet, noting: “There has been little policy or guidance on the best practices to inform standards for the professional conduct of physicians in the digital environment.” Among other things, the article urges doctors to not “friend” patients on Facebook, to exchange text messages with patients sparingly and to make clear to patients that email exchanges of personal information also carry the dangers of lost privacy.

Broader concerns were reported in an online article from *Forbes* magazine in which the writer, David Shaywitz, discussed other fears held by the medical community about bad online information. Many physicians, the article said, are becoming frustrated when patients confer with “Dr. Google” to self-diagnose their maladies; the article noted that 25 percent of Google searches for headaches “reportedly discuss brain tumors, even though such a diagnosis would be exceptionally uncommon.”

The article noted concerns of patients in turn transmitting bad or inappropriate information to others, as well as physicians receiving or transmitting bad information.

There are also concerns that physicians may become addicted to online interactions and mobile media. Some medical facilities, the *Forbes* article reported, have placed strict restrictions of doctors checking their cell phones when they should instead be seeing their patients or making their rounds. (If you’ve ever gone to a public place with friends who sit down and immediately whip out their phones to check for messages instead of actually engaging in conversation, you might have a good idea of what this is all about.)

These concerns address two issues. One of them certainly is the expansion of social media and how both physicians and patients use this powerful medium. However, the other may well be how the medical establishment actually views the growth of the electronic phenomenon, and how much resistance there may be to it. While praising some of the concerns expressed by medical professionals, he also noted: “I also suspect many senior physicians are struggling — not always successfully — to envision a world that operates in a very different way, at a very different speed, and in a very different style than that to which they’ve grown accustomed.”

To be sure, there are real concerns. Online information, while usually stressing that the patient should consult a doctor on issues, often lists all the medical possibilities attached to a symptom instead of gauging them for a specific situation, thus creating anxiety. Also, the prospect that doctors might sacrifice personal interaction with patients, and vice versa, is a legitimate worry and a real possibility. The articles also noted that doctors’ reputations could come under attack from patients who can post criticisms online; again, without knowing the background of the case or the motives of the patient, it can lead to serious problems.

We are also seeing the medical profession struggle with this age of expansive, instantaneous communication. Frankly, most every other industry is, as well, but in the medical field, this can be truly serious and damaging business. It can also be a lost opportunity to greatly improve communication between doctors and patients, but not at the expense of personal interaction. Again, it’s a balancing act that other sectors of society are facing, as well.

Ultimately, the answers here are going to be found with patients and doctors working together to find the best way to communicate and to diagnose, which aren’t always the same thing. Both the doctor and patient must understand that. And that’s where the real work must begin.

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SPEAK OUT!

Share your thoughts with us. Write to the **PRESS & DAKOTAN** on a topic of the day or in response to an editorial or story. Write us at: Letters, 319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078, drop off at 319 Walnut in Yankton, fax to 665-1721 or email to views@yankton.net.

TODAY IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, April 16, the 106th day of 2013. There are 259 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History: On April 16, 1963, Martin Luther King Jr. wrote his “Letter from Birmingham Jail” in which the civil rights activist responded to a group of local clergymen who’d criticized him for leading street protests; King defended his tactics, writing, “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

On this date: In 1789, President-elect George Washington left Mount Vernon, Va., for his inauguration in New York.

In 1862, during the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln signed a bill ending slavery in the District of Columbia. The Confederacy conscripted all white men between the ages of 18 to 35.

In 1879, Bernadette Soubirous, who’d described seeing visions of the Virgin Mary at Lourdes, died in Nevers, France.

In 1912, American aviator Harriet Quimby became the first woman to fly across the English Channel, traveling from Dover, England, to France in 59 minutes.

In 1917, Vladimir Ilyich Lenin returned to Russia after years of exile.

In 1935, the radio comedy program “Fibber McGee and Molly” premiered on NBC’s Blue Network.

In 1945, U.S. troops reached Nuremberg, Germany, during the Second World War.

In 1947, the French ship *Grandcamp* blew up at the harbor in Texas City, Texas; another ship, the *High Flyer*, exploded the following day (the blasts and fires killed nearly 600 people). Financier Bernard M. Baruch said in a speech at the South Carolina statehouse, “Let us not be deceived — we are today in the midst of a cold war.”

In 1962, Bob Dylan debuted his song “Blowin’ in the Wind” at Gerde’s Folk City in New York; Walter Cronkite succeeded Douglas Edwards as CBS-TV’s principal anchorman.

In 1972, Apollo 16 blasted off on a voyage to the moon with astronauts John W. Young, Charles M. Duke Jr. and Ken Mattingly on board.

In 1996, Britain’s Prince Andrew and his wife, Sarah, the Duchess of York, announced they were in the process of divorcing.

In 2007, in the deadliest shooting rampage in modern U.S. history, student

Seung-Hui Cho killed 32 people on the campus of Virginia Tech before taking his own life.

Ten years ago: The Bush administration lowered the terror alert level from orange to yellow, saying the end of heavy fighting in Iraq had diminished the threat of terrorism in the United States. During a visit to a fighter jet factory in St. Louis, President George W. Bush called for lifting economic sanctions against Iraq. Michael Jordan played his last NBA game with the Washington Wizards, who lost to the Philadelphia 76ers, 107-87.

Five years ago: The Supreme Court upheld the most widely used method of lethal injection, allowing states to resume executions after a seven-month halt. Pope Benedict XVI was welcomed by President George W. Bush as only the second pope to visit the White House and the first in 29 years. Mathematician-meteorologist Edward Lorenz, the father of “chaos theory,” died in Cambridge, Mass., at age 90.

One year ago: A trial began in Oslo, Norway, for Anders Breivik, charged with killing 77 people in a bomb and gun rampage in July 2011. (Breivik was found guilty of terrorism and premeditated murder and given a 21-year prison sentence.) The Associated Press won a Pulitzer Prize for investigative reporting for documenting the New York Police Department’s widespread spying on Muslims, while the Philadelphia Inquirer was honored in the public service category for its examination of violence in the city’s schools; for the first time in 35 years, no Pulitzer for fiction was given.

Today’s Birthdays: Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI is 86. Actor Peter Mark Richman is 86. Singer Bobby Vinton is 78. Denmark’s Queen Margrethe II is 73. Basketball Hall-of-Famer Kareem Abdul-Jabbar is 66. Ann Romney is 64. NFL coach Bill Belichick is 61. Rock singer-turned-politician Peter Garrett is 60. Actress Ellen Barkin is 59. Rock musician Jason Scheff (Chicago) is 51. Singer Jimmy Osmond is 50. Rock singer David Pirner (Soul Asylum) is 49. Actor-comedian Martin Lawrence is 48. Actor Jon Cryer is 48. Rock musician Dan Rieser is 47. Actor Peter Billingsley is 42. Actor Lukas Haas is 37.

Thought for Today: “Chaos is the score upon which reality is written.” — Henry Miller, American author (1891-1980).

FROM THE BIBLE

He died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for Him who for their sake died and was raised. 2 Corinthians 5:15. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

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