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OPINION

A Despicable But Familiar Attitude

There's been a self-serving argument made by some people lately that we now live in a "post-racial" America — that with, say, the election of Barack Obama as president, matters of race are no longer significant factors in the national dialogue. Thus, it is apparently an excuse to no longer have such discussions or worries.

But then there are people like Donald Sterling, the owner of the National Basketball Association's Los Angeles Clippers, who has demonstrated why the preceding paragraph has little basis in reality.

An audio recording released this past weekend featured a man who is allegedly Sterling criticizing his mistress/girlfriend (who is part black and part Mexican) after she posted an Instagram photo of herself with Magic Johnson, who is black. In the recording, the voice who would be Sterling told the woman that he doesn't want her to bring black people to "his games."

If this recording is verified, it only confirms what is already known about Sterling, who is widely regarded as one of the worst owners of a sports franchise anywhere. (As one blogger on a Clippers' site posted, "We've all done our best to ignore the racism and stupidity this man has evidenced over the years.")

His alleged comments and attitudes are both despicable and grossly hypocritical. More than 70 percent of the NBA's players are African American, and the league enjoys immense support from a minority fan base, all of whom feed Sterling's wealth. Also, his Clippers (who are finally winners after decades of Sterling-managed ineptitude) are coached by the revered Doc Rivers, who is black.

The outcry over Sterling's alleged remarks has been immediate and widespread, ranging from players and fans to President Obama himself.

Unfortunately, the words they condemn are sadly familiar, and they only scratch the surface of a racial cancer that still festers in the American soul.

Sterling's matter is a bit complicated. He has a well-earned reputation of racial controversy. He was sued in 2005 over allegations that he discriminated against black and Hispanic tenants in some of the housing properties he owns. He settled in that suit, as well as a lawsuit that made similar allegations in 2009. And yet, this is the same Donald Sterling who was scheduled to receive a second Lifetime Achievement Award from the Los Angeles chapter of the NAACP in May. The chapter has since canceled the event.

(As an aside, when assessing this latest incident, one must wonder just how and why this recording was made. A lawsuit has been filed by the Sterling family against the girlfriend, identified as V. Stiviano, claiming embezzlement. It is alleged that Stiviano vowed to "get even" for the filing of the lawsuit. That's all intriguing detail, but isn't particularly relevant to the attitudes that Sterling has long harbored. Still, there seem to be few angels tied to this incident.)

Unfortunately, for every person like Sterling who spews (allegedly, to give him some benefit of the doubt) this kind of stupidity and is publicly damned for it, there are so many others who harbor such private thoughts in their hearts. It may not even be a majority of us, or anywhere near it, but it only takes a few of these individuals, unmoved and unrepentant by their bigoted mentality, to keep the fires of hate burning.

If Sterling was indeed the voice on that recording, he should be punished to the fullest extent of the NBA's bylaws, for he is an embarrassment to the league and anyone who follows it. Honestly, he should even be stripped of ownership, although it's unclear how that can happen given the league's current rules.

But no matter what, this episode still shows that the dream of a "post-racial" America is just that — a dream that is further from reality than some of us would dearly wish to believe.

kmh

ON THIS DATE

By The Associated Press
Today is Tuesday, April 29, the 119th day of 2014. There are 246 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On April 29, 1974, President Richard M. Nixon announced he was releasing edited transcripts of some secretly made White House tape recordings related to Watergate.

On this date: In 1429, Joan of Arc entered the besieged city of Orleans to lead a French victory over the English.

In 1798, Joseph Haydn's oratorio "The Creation" was rehearsed in Vienna, Austria, before an invited audience.

In 1861, the Maryland House of Delegates voted 53-13 against seceding from the Union. In Montgomery, Ala., President Jefferson Davis asked the Confederate Congress for the authority to wage war.

In 1913, Swedish-born engineer Gideon Sundback of Hoboken, N.J., received a U.S. patent for a "separable fastener" — later known as the zipper.

In 1945, during World War II, American soldiers liberated the Dachau concentration camp. Adolf Hitler married Eva Braun and designated Adm. Karl Doenitz president.

In 1946, 28 former Japanese officials went on trial in Tokyo as war criminals; seven ended up being sentenced to death.

In 1957, the SM-1, the first military nuclear power plant, was dedicated at Fort Belvoir, Va.

In 1968, the counterculture musical "Hair" opened on Broadway following limited engagements off-Broadway.

In 1983, Harold Washington was sworn in as the first black mayor of Chicago.

In 1992, rioting resulting in 55 deaths erupted in Los Angeles after a jury in Simi Valley, Calif., acquitted four Los Angeles police officers of almost all state charges in the videotaped beating of Rodney King.

In 1993, Britain's Queen Elizabeth II announced that for the first time, Buckingham Palace would be opened to tourists to help raise money for repairs to fire-damaged Windsor Castle.

In 2011, Britain's Prince William and Kate Middleton were married in an opulent ceremony at London's Westminster Abbey.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney met behind closed doors with the September 11 commission; afterward, Bush said he'd told the panel his administration tried to protect America from terrorists as warnings grew before the devastating attack of 2001. A national monument to the 16 million U.S. men and women who'd served during World War II opened to the public in Washington, D.C. Internet search engine leader Google, Inc. filed its long-awaited IPO plans. The last Oldsmobile, an Alero, rolled off the line

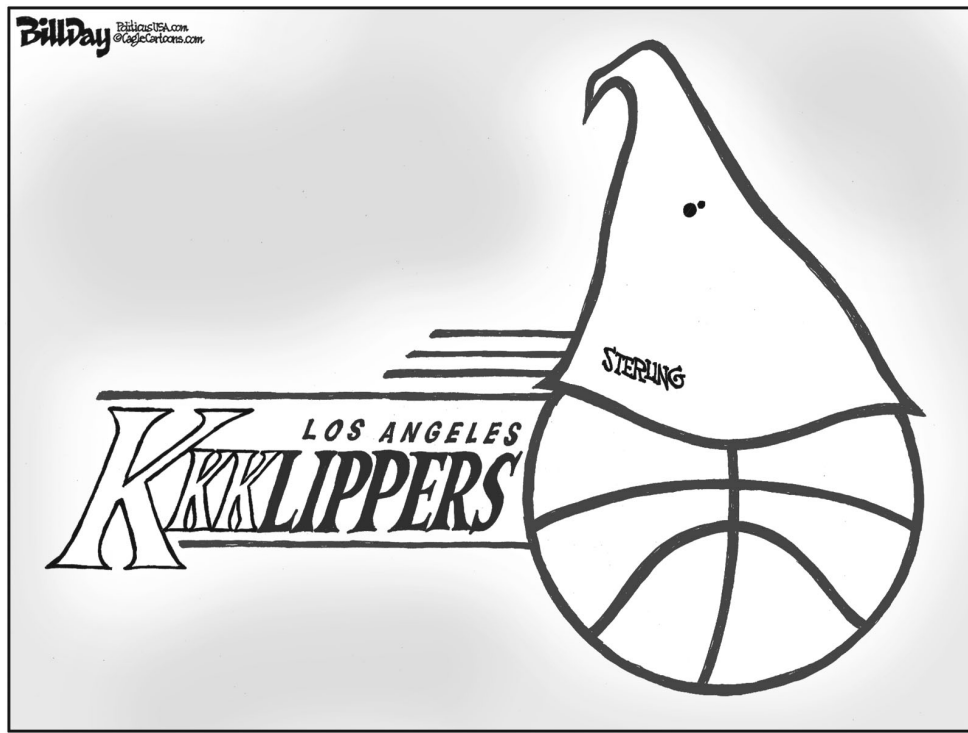
at the Lansing Car Assembly plant.

Five years ago: During a prime-time news conference marking his 100th day in office, President Barack Obama said that waterboarding authorized by former President George W. Bush was torture and that the information it gained from terror suspects could have been obtained by other means. The World Health Organization raised its alert level for swine flu to its next-to-highest notch. Twin car bombs ravaged a popular shopping area in Baghdad's biggest Shiite district, killing at least 51 people.

One year ago: Opening statements took place in Los Angeles in a wrongful death lawsuit brought by Michael Jackson's mother, Katherine Jackson, against concert giant AEG Live, claiming it failed to properly investigate a doctor who'd cared for Jackson and was later convicted of involuntary manslaughter in his 2009 death. (The jury determined in October 2013 that AEG Live was not liable.) Syria's prime minister, Wael al-Halqi, narrowly escaped an assassination attempt when a bomb went off near his convoy in Damascus. NBA veteran center Jason Collins became the first male professional athlete in the major four American sports leagues to come out as gay in a first-person account posted on Sports Illustrated's website.

Today's Birthdays: Poet Rod McKuen is 81. Actor Keith Baxter is 81. Bluesman Otis Rush is 79. Conductor Zubin Mehta is 78. Disgraced financier Bernard Madoff is 76. Pop singer Bob Miranda (The Happenings) is 72. Country singer Duane Allen (The Oak Ridge Boys) is 71. Singer Tommy James is 67. Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., is 64. Movie director Phillip Noyce is 64. Country musician Wayne Secrest (Confederate Railroad) is 64. Comedian Jerry Seinfeld is 60. Actor Leslie Jordan is 59. Actress Kate Mulgrew is 59. Actor Daniel Day-Lewis is 57. Actress Michelle Pfeiffer is 56. Actress Eve Plumb is 56. Rock musician Phil King is 54. Country singer Stephanie Bentley is 51. Actor Vincent Ventresca is 48. Singer Carnie Wilson (Wilson Phillips) is 46. Actor Paul Adelstein is 45. Actress Uma Thurman is 44. Tennis player Andre Agassi is 44. Rapper Master P is 44. Actor Darby Stanchfield is 43. Country singer James Bonamy is 42. Gospel/rhythm-and-blues singer Erica Campbell (Mary Mary) is 42. Rock musician Mike Hogan (The Cranberries) is 41. Actor Tyler Labine is 36. Actress Megan Boone (TV: "The Blacklist") is 31. Actress-model Taylor Cole is 30. Actor Zane Carney is 29. Pop singer Amy Heidemann (Karmir) is 28. Pop singer Foxes is 25.

Thought for Today: "An intellectual hatred is the worst." — William Butler Yeats, Irish poet and playwright (1865-1939).



The Rez Of The Story

Rights And Treaties

BY VINCE TWO EAGLES

Hau Mitakuepi (Greetings My Relatives), April is Magaokada wi (Moon when the geese go home). If you were out and about the rez for the past several weeks, you'd know that this is true. Here, then, in this the Moon when the geese go home, is the conclusion of my three-part discussion of "treaties." I sincerely hope you have found this series informative and has helped you gain some perspective.

The true measure of understanding is increasing your perception and perspective. Do not hesitate to contact me or write to the editor of this paper about your concerns concerning treaties. So... where do we go from here?

Here, from "The State of Native America," as edited by M. Annette Jaimes, are some stirring words about the road ahead by Rebecca L. Robbins (Standing Rock Sioux, Ph.D., Publishing Consultant). Her characterization of contemporary Indian thought is indicative of many Indian people's sentiments.

"Nothing can completely compensate American Indian nations for their experience at the hands of the United States over the past 200 years. Nothing can undo the legacy of the wars of extermination and dispossession the United States has waged against native peoples. Nothing can truly mend the damage done to indigenous societies by the systematic liquidation of their best leaders, the sustained and intentional suppression of their cultural and economic structures, the imposition of alien forms of governance and legal codes. There is no taking back the unrelenting trauma and suffering undergone by generations of native people forced to live in squalor as the wealth of their assets poured into the coffers of their oppressors. Nor can the extent of the lies, the seamless web of mendacity [dishonesty] and duplicity, to which Euroamerica has subjected Native America since the first European 'boat person' set forth in this hemisphere ever be retrieved. Probably, not even the damage done to the very treaty-guaranteed land that has been so ruthlessly stripped from native nations can at this point be fixed. Things will never be as they might have been.

"Still, if things cannot be set exactly right, they can at least be made better. Native North America can at last be accorded its fundamental human right to self-determination. This need not be understood as meaning that each and every indigenous nation will automatically secede, becoming a sovereignty separate from the United States. Rather, it means that their intrinsic right to do so must be acknowledged,



Vince TWO EAGLES

formally and unequivocally, by their colonizers. Only from this position — free from a dominating power unilaterally precluding certain of their options for its own reasons — can any nation 'freely determine its political, social and economic destiny,' and hence the nature of its mode of governance. Viewed in any other way, the term 'self-determination' is at best meaningless, at worst a subterfuge meant to mask its exact opposite, the continuation of a relationship between colonizer and colonized.

"Altogether, despite the hurdles which remain to be cleared, the prospects for a revitalization of American Indian self-governance and other aspects of self-determination are in many ways brighter than they have been since the conclusion of the 'Indian Wars.' The cycle of our prolonged battle for bare survival — a resistance to extinction by the sacrifices of Tecumseh and Osceola, Crazy Horse and Geronimo, Rupert Costo and Popavi Da, Anna Mae Aquash, Russell Means and Dennis Banks — may be coming to a much overdue conclusion. Those of us who are indigenous to this land must now accept the responsibility of seizing every opportunity and doing the hard work necessary to achieve the potential for liberation they created. No less must non-Indians — regardless of their race, gender, ethnicity, sexual preference or the story of how they got here — accept the responsibility of assisting us to succeed [trust responsibility]. For only in this way can we transcend the bitter legacy we have mutually inherited, forging instead a new heritage of respect, cooperation and freedom. And only in this way can we transform the America that is into the America that could be.

"We have got to keep the conversation going toward reconciliation and redress of grievance. We cannot sweep history under the rug nor can we afford the disintegration of our collective humanity by dwelling on it either.

"Finally, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples passed by the UN Human Rights Council, June 29, 2006 says, 'Indigenous Peoples have the right to the recognition, observance and enforcement of Treaties, Agreements and other Constructive Arrangements concluded with States or their successors and to have States honour and respect such Treaties, Agreements and other Constructive Arrangements. Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as to diminish or eliminate the rights of Indigenous Peoples contained in Treaties, Agreements and Constructive Arrangements.'"

And now you know the rez of the story.
Doksha ...

YOUR LETTERS

Thank You!

Todd Larson, Yankton Sertoma Club President

The Yankton Sertoma Club would like to say "Thank You" to the large number of community members who attended our March 28 "Women's Night-Out Event." This is one of the club's large fund-raising efforts that happen each year.

Besides this event being a great time for community members to socialize with friends, eat, drink and play card games, all the proceeds are given back to local organizations as they make funding requests to the Sertoma Club each year. Approximately \$14,000 in funding requests are made yearly and through the years, the Yankton Sertoma Club has given back more than \$500,000 to the Yankton community.

Without the community's support of this event and generous people purchasing tickets (even if they could not attend), these contributions to make Yankton a better place to live, work, and play would not be possible. The Ser-

Online Opinion

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

LATEST RESULTS:

Would you support the legalization of industrial hemp for commercial use?
Yes 65%
No 31%
Not sure 14%
TOTAL VOTES CAST 357

The Press & Dakotian 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 the missing Malaysia Airlines jetliner will ever be found?

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

toma Club appreciates your generosity and again say a big "Thank You" to those who purchased tickets.

YOUR D.C. LAWMAKERS

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FROM THE BIBLE

By grace, Ephesians 2:8. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

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