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OPINION

Oklahoma City In A Post-9/11 Age

Perhaps the obsessive nature of our post-9/11 universe can best be illustrated by how much attention that we, as a nation, generally DIDN'T devote to the 20th anniversary of the Oklahoma City bombing this past weekend.

To be sure, there was attention paid to that terrible event back in 1995, when 168 people, including 19 children, were killed and more than 600 were injured in a shocking act of domestic terrorism. Up until 9/11, this event was the single deadliest terrorist attack on U.S. soil, and it was treated as such when it happened.

But judging from the general national conversation, the anniversary seemed more like a recollection of echoes from a long-ago time that only moderately resonates today.

This isn't true, of course, but we have changed a lot since that awful morning 20 years ago. And amid those momentous changes—and after all the grieving we have endured from other events and other re-iterations of our thinking—it may be somewhat understandable that we see Oklahoma City in a more secondary light.

But what we should not forget now—so many years, so many wars and so many funerals later—is that Oklahoma City was an earth-shaking event for this nation. We saw the images of twisted debris and shattered mourners. We were heartbroken. We were angry. In many ways, it was an emotional dress rehearsal for the hell storm of Sept. 11, 2001.

When word of the Oklahoma City attack began spreading on the morning of April 19, 1995, there was instant speculation that the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building was possibly the work of foreign entities. Middle Eastern terrorism had long been a talking point in our national security, and there was a reflexive tendency to immediately cast suspicion in this direction.

But that suspicion evolved quickly, and for many Americans, Oklahoma City was a terrible introduction to the threat of domestic terrorism and militant anti-government sentiment. It brought the 1992 Ruby Ridge standoff to the forefront, and rekindled the events of the 1993 Waco siege, which, precisely two years before, saw the fiery end of the Branch Davidian group. These two events cited by convicted OKC bomber Timothy McVeigh as a motivation for his attack on the federal building. The 1995 incident brought militias into the forefront of national conversation, and for the remainder of the 1990s, militia groups were a top security concern for this country.

But then came 9/11, which returned our focus to international terrorism and Muslim extremists. The ghosts of Oklahoma City faded away amid our shifting priorities.

However, the concerns over domestic unrest must never recede. The issues, no doubt, are still there, still fueled by a militant distrust of the government and, in some cases, festering racial differences. The threat must never be dismissed; after Oklahoma City, it still cannot be overlooked nor has it any right to be forgiven.

We live in a world of constant threats, and in such a climate, we must never forget those threats that also come from within our own borders. Like the ache still felt by the survivors of the 1995 attack, that hard lesson from Oklahoma City still rings true.

kmh

ONLINE OPINION

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

LATEST RESULTS:

Do you think Tom Daschle would consider running for the U.S. Senate in South Dakota in 2016?
No.....57%
Yes.....27%
Not sure/don't care.....16%
TOTAL VOTES CAST.....307

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 Adrian Peterson will be playing for the Minnesota Vikings next season?
To cast your vote in the PRESS & DAKOTAN'S Internet poll, log on to our website at www.yankton.net.

IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press
Today is Tuesday, April 21, the 111th day of 2015. There are 254 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On April 21, 1975, with Communist forces closing in, South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu resigned after nearly ten years in office and fled the country.

On this date:
In 1649, the Maryland Toleration Act, providing for freedom of worship for all Christians, was passed by the Maryland assembly.

In 1789, John Adams was sworn in as the first vice president of the United States.

In 1836, an army of Texans led by Sam Houston defeated the Mexicans at San Jacinto, assuring Texas independence.

In 1910, author Samuel Langhorne Clemens, better known as Mark Twain, died in Redding, Connecticut, at age 74.

In 1918, Baron Manfred von Richthofen, the German ace known as the "Red Baron," was killed in action during World War I.

In 1930, a fire broke out inside the overcrowded Ohio Penitentiary in Columbus, killing 332 inmates.

In 1940, the quiz show that asked the "\$64 question," "Take It or Leave It," premiered on CBS Radio.

In 1955, the Jerome Lawrence-Robert Lee play "Inherit the Wind," inspired by the Scopes trial of 1925, opened at the National Theatre in New York.

In 1960, Brazil inaugurated its new capital, Brasilia, transferring the seat of national government from Rio de Janeiro.

In 1977, the musical play "Annie," based on the "Little Orphan Annie" comic strip, opened on Broadway, beginning a run of 2,377 performances.

In 1980, Rosie Ruiz was the first woman to cross the finish line at the Boston Marathon; however, she was later exposed as a fraud. (Canadian Jacqueline Gareau was named the actual winner of the women's race.)

In 1992, Robert Alton Harris became the first person executed by the state of California in 25 years as he was put to death in the gas chamber for the 1978 murders of two teen-age boys, John Mayeski and Michael Baker.

Ten years ago: A commercial helicopter contracted by the U.S. Defense Department was shot down by missile fire north of Baghdad; 11 people, including six American bodyguards, were killed in the crash while a surviving Bulgarian pilot was gunned down by insurgents. Army Sgt. Hasan Akbar was convicted by a

military jury at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, of premeditated murder and attempted murder in an attack that killed two of his comrades and wounded 14 others in Kuwait. (He was later sentenced to death.) Zhang Chunqiao, one of the Gang of Four that terrorized China during the Cultural Revolution, died at age 88.

Five years ago: Pope Benedict XVI promised "church action" to confront the clerical abuse scandal. Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger was suspended for six games for violating the NFL's personal conduct policy. (Commissioner Roger Goodell handed down the punishment after prosecutors decided not to bring charges in a case involving a 20-year-old college student who'd accused Roethlisberger of sexually assaulting her.) Juan Antonio Samaranch, 89, who'd served as president of the International Olympic Committee for 21 years, died in Barcelona, Spain. Former Nuremberg prosecutor Whitney Harris, 97, died in Frontenac, Missouri.

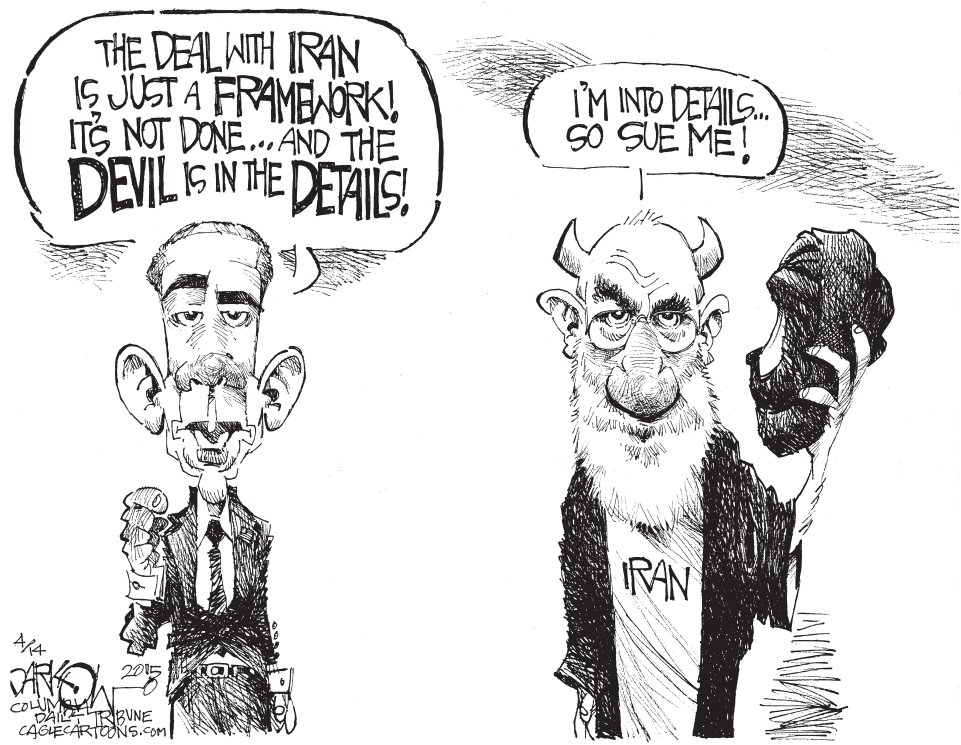
One year ago: More than 30,000 people defiantly ran the Boston Marathon a year after the deadly terrorist bombings; American Meb Keflezighi won the men's race in 2:08:37 while Kenya's Rita Jeptoo successfully defended her title, finishing in a course-record 2:18:57. Win Tin, 85, a prominent journalist who became Myanmar's longest-serving political prisoner after challenging military rule, died in Yangon.

Today's Birthdays: Britain's Queen Elizabeth II is 89. Actress-comedian-writer Elaine May is 83. Actor Charles Grodin is 80. Actor Reni Santoni is 77. Singer-musician Iggy Pop is 68. Actress Patti LuPone is 66. Actor Tony Danza is 64. Actor James Morrison is 61. Actress Andie MacDowell is 57. Rock singer Robert Smith (The Cure) is 56. Rock musician Michael Timmins (Cowboy Junkies) is 56. Actor John Cameron Mitchell is 52. Rapper Michael Franti (Spearhead) is 49. Actor Toby Stephens is 46. Rock singer-musician Glen Hansard (The Frames) is 45. Actor Rob Riggle is 45. Comedian Nicole Sullivan is 45. Football player-turned-actor Brian White is 42. Rock musician David Brenner (Theory of a Deadman) is 37. Actor James McAvoy is 36. NFL quarterback Tony Romo is 35. Actor Terrence J is 33. Actress Gugu Mbatha-Raw (Film: "Belle") is 32. Actor Christoph Sanders is 27. Rock singer Sydney Sierota (Echosmith) is 18.

Thought for Today: "I am a great believer in luck, and I find the harder I work the more I have of it." — Stephen Leacock, Canadian economist and humorist (1869-1944).

FROM THE BIBLE

Pour out your heart like water before the presence of the Lord! Lift your hands to Him for the lives of your children. Lamentations 2:19.
Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.



The Rez Of The Story

A List Of Influential Native Americans

BY VINCE TWO EAGLES

Hau Mitakuepi (Greetings My Relatives), *Time* magazine recently published their 100 Most Influential People List for this year. Unless I missed it, there were no Natives included in their list, so I thought it might be appropriate to offer a few names of my own.

Here is my 2015 list of the 10 most influential Natives for the last several decades here in Indian Country.

I thought about the criterion that would be best applicable to creating such a list; and that would be those Native folks in my neck of the woods who helped not only create conversation in their respective fields of endeavor but through their on-going activity help sustain those conversations over the years. These are individuals I think would fill out such a list — perhaps you have one of your own. My list of influential Indian people does not necessarily mean that they were always agreeable to everyone with their views but through their tenacity and personally held convictions nevertheless influenced history in some way in my humble opinion.

For his column about and for Native issues, the list has to begin with Mr. Tim Giago. According to Wikipedia, he founded the *Lakota Times* on the Pine Ridge reservation — the first Native-owned and operated newspaper. "In 1992 he went national and changed his paper to *Indian Country Today*. Giago sold the paper in 1998 but later founded the *Lakota Journal* which he sold in 2009." I first became aware of Tim's writing when he worked for the *Rapid City Journal* in 1979.

My list has to include the one and only Russell Means. Wikipedia reports that "he became the most prominent member of the American Indian Movement after joining the organization in 1968. He began his acting career in 1992 appearing in numerous films, including 'The Last of the Mohicans.' He released his own musical CD." His notoriety was international.

I include the current owner and editor of *Lakota Country Times*, Connie Smith whose influence is not only local, regional, national but international as well because of her well established weekly newspaper. Her notoriety



Vince TWO EAGLES

will be legendary in the coming years.

My fourth pick would be Jr. LaPlante, who was the first cabinet level Secretary of Indian Affairs here in South Dakota. He recently left that position to pursue his law career and beyond. His shoes will be a challenge to fill no doubt.

Then the list would not be authentic without my old friend Floyd Westerman. He was most remembered by many in his role as Ten Bears in "Dances with Wolves," but I will always remember his unique singing voice (that rich baritone) and activist career as most outstanding and influential over the years he was here among us.

I think Severt Young Bear had a significant influence on the Pow Wow circuit for his outstanding humor, knowledge of traditional Lakota culture, was fluent in the Lakota language and his singing group "The Porcupine Singers" is legendary as well.

The list would not be complete without Charmaine Wise carver for her vigilance regarding treaty and United Nations issues. Her unique focus on uranium mining issues is invaluable. She will always be remembered for her untiring efforts.

Gene Thin Elk, for his groundbreaking work in alcoholism treatment called "The Red Road" (focusing on Native philosophy and its usefulness as a treatment tool), also makes my "Ten Most Influential Natives" list. His annual gathering of "Red Roaders" as they are referred to throughout Indian Country, is a classic conference experience.

Sharon Asetoyer who is director of The Women's Resource Center in Lake Andes, is on my list too. Her pioneering work with battered women and other women's health issues in Native Country does not go unnoticed either. Her advocacy for Native family is commendable.

I would round out my list of the 10 most influential Native people of the last half-century with Dr. Craig Howe for his outstanding work on the historical document describing the Seven Council Fires of the Great Sioux Nation as a curriculum guide is also more than worth mentioning.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hurting Our 'Legacy'?

Marlys Schuster, Mitchell

An open letter to Gov Dennis Daugaard: You should be ashamed and the youth of this state deserve an apology from you. What were you thinking? YOU WEREN'T.

Is it easy or hard for you to talk out of both sides of your mouth? Out of one side you say "We need to keep our youth in South Dakota." Out of the other, you are discriminating those under 18 with \$1 less than the voters voted for minimum wage. How do you process this as not age discrimination?

At this same time the younger workers have to have a drivers license which raised from \$20 to \$28. To get to work they have to purchase gas. You raised this 6 cents a gallon more. They need a car to get to work. You raised the cost of the license.

They are trying to save for their education and tuition costs went up. After this YOU are thinking they don't deserve minimum wage?

Get out your Bible (if you have one) and read Matthew 20:1-16. There is a lesson you probably never heard of about treating laborers the same.

I am a great-grand mother so my children and grandchildren do not fit into the job discrimination law you signed. BUT when someone in your

power treats our youth so disrespectfully it angers me. They are our tomorrow. They are our legacy. I love them dearly.

Great Farm Visit

Beadle Elementary Staff and Students

The Beadle Elementary students are appreciative and thankful for the opportunity to learn more about agriculture through the generosity of Chris and Cindy Nelsen and their family. Beadle students toured the Nelsen Farm on March 30-31 and April 1.

The students rotated through four stations at the Nelsen farm: 1) livestock & 4H animals, 2) identifying seeds & planting activity, 3) greenhouse visit including farmer's market information, 4) farm equipment display & discussion.

The field trip was possible thanks to sponsors who either provided employees to help facilitate the visit or monetary donations to cover expenses. Thanks to the following sponsors: First Dakota Bank, First National Bank, Cortrust Bank, Hubbs Agency, Koletzky Implement, Mark's Machinery, National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Yankton County 4-H, Master Gardeners, Farm Credit Services of America and the Fred Haar Co.

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