



The Rez Of The Story

f Life And Mousetraps

Vince

TWO EAGLES

BY VINCE TWO EAGLES

Hau Mitakuepi (Greetings My Relatives),

A friend, Catherine Alexandra, sent this story and I thought it to be important to all who are members of the human family so I am paying it forward to my readers. It is entitled, "The Mousetrap Story." Catherine posits the notion that, "The goal of 'cultural competency is beyond 'tolerance,' beyond 'compromise' could it be friendship?" Hold on to that thought while you read the following story:

A mouse looked through the crack in the wall to see the farmer and his wife open a package. "What food might this contain?" the mouse wondered — he was devastated to discover that it was a mousetrap.

Retreating to the farmyard, the mouse pro-claimed the warning: "There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!"

The chicken clucked and scratched, raised her head and said, "Mr. Mouse, I can tell this is a grave concern to you, but it is of no consequence to me. I cannot be bothered by it.

The mouse turned to the pig and told him, "There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!" The pig sympathized, but said, "I am so very sorry, Mr. Mouse, but there is nothing I can do about it but pray. Be assured you are

The mouse turned to the cow and said, "There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!" The cow said, "Wow, Mr. Mouse. I'm sorry for you, but this is no skin off my nose."

So the mouse returned to the house, head down and dejected, to face the farmer's mousetrap alone. That very night a sound was heard throughout the house — like the sound of a mousetrap catching its prey. The farmer's wife rushed to see what was caught. In the darkness, she did not see it was a venomous snake whose tail the trap had

 $\overline{\mbox{T}}$ he snake bit the farmer's wife. The farmer rushed her to the hospital and she returned home with a fever. Everyone knows you treat a fever with fresh chicken soup, so the farmer took his hatchet to the farmyard for the soup's main ingredient. But his wife's sickness continthe clock. To feed them the farmer butchered the pig.

The farmer's wife did not get well; she died. So many people came for her funeral: the farmer had the cow slaughtered to provide enough meat for all of them. The mouse looked upon it all from his crack in the wall with So the next time you hear someone is facing a prob-

lem and think it doesn't concern you, remember — when one of us is threatened, we are all at risk. We are all involved in this journey called life. We must keep an eye out for one another. Consider telling this story to anyone who has ever helped you out and thank them for being there. Our lives are woven together for a reason; one of the best things to hold on to is a friend...

Tillie Olsen, the American writer and human rights activist who lived from 1912 to 2007, once wrote, "... he yearned to package for each of the children, the grandchildren, for everyone, that joyous certainty, that sense of mattering, of moving and being moved, of being one and indivisible with the great of the past, with all that freed, ennobled. "In childhood we glimpse the dear con-

nectedness of life. The delicious sense that life is a grand adventure mustn't be put away with our roller skates or high school diplomas; it remains as true for us today as it was when we first sniffed freedom and greatness in the air.

"Life holds so much! Every morning we can open a package of 'that joyous certainty.' Each day, as we trace our paths, we're connected with all that has gone before, and all that is presently in the world, and we are preparing for the future. Yes, we matter; we matter enormously, each one of us as much as any other; our unique and precious consciousness matters above all things

"The part we play touches all of life. Sometimes we choose to join our personal strength with others'; sometimes we act alone. But we are [all] part of the whole, linked by our lives and our choices to all the others on earth, as they are linked to us.

Hechetuado! (It is so!)

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

More Unanswered Questions ...

BY LEONARD PITTS JR.

Tribune Media Services

What happened to Chavis Carter? It is a pregnant question, potentially even an explosive one. Carter died of a gunshot wound to the temple on the last Saturday in July, but the question

about his death has only grown louder and more urgent since then. It is beginning to gather national attention. So we need an answer soon, either so that suspicions can be put to rest and some imperfect peace achieved, or so that suspicions can be validated and some equally imperfect justice sought. The problem is, there are two possible answers to the question, and neither one of them makes much sense.

What happened to Chavis Carter? The official story is that the 21-year-old African-American man was with two other people when they were detained by police in Jonesboro, Ark. The other two were released, but when the officers searched Carter, they found marijuana. He also had an outstanding

warrant. So they searched him again, handcuffed him and put him in the back of their car. As police were preparing to leave, they smelled smoke. They opened the car and found Carter slumped over, covered in blood, dying from a bullet wound to his temple.

The police say he committed suicide. Last week, the department released a video purporting to show how a man handcuffed in a backseat could shoot himself. The explanation might be easier to buy if the man's name was Houdini, but even if you accept the possibility, it doesn't answer all the questions this episode raises.

How do police search a man twice, find a baggie of pot, but miss something as obvious as a handgun? How did Carter, whose mother says he was left-handed, shoot himself in his right temple? Why would he do it?

Of course, the other theory — that police killed him raises its own questions.

If you were going to kill a suspect, would you do it while he was handcuffed in the back of your own car? Wouldn't you concoct a more plausible scenario? And

This encounter would have been nothing new for either the police or Carter. What could have made either of them cross that line?

Police Chief Michael Yates admitted to CNN that his officers' story was "definitely bizarre and it defies logic at first glance." But he said it was corroborated by a dash cam and by witnesses. Neither the

footage nor the witness accounts have, at this writing, been made public. They should be. Meantime, the FBI is investigating, which is a welcome development. One hopes authoritative answers will

soon follow. Because for African-Americans, the abiding fear is that this is just the latest installment of a sordid narrative that ties Chavis Carter to Rodney King, beaten nearly to death by police on a street in Los Angeles.

And Abner Louima sodomized with a stick at a police station in Brooklyn. And Amadou Diallo shot 41 times by po-

lice while reaching for his wallet in a vestibule in the Bronx. And Arthur McDuffie, dying of police-ad-

ministered skull fractures at a hospital in

Leonard

PITTS

And Sean Bell in Queens and Oscar Grant in Oakland and Kenneth Chamberlain in White Plains and Kathryn Johnston in Atlanta and Jeffrey Gilbert in suburban Washington and Henry Glover in New Orleans and all the other African-Americans wrongly, disproportionately brutalized and killed over the years by police who seem to equate melanin with the forfeiture of basic human rights.

That pattern of misbehavior degrades a critical tool of effective police work: the public's trust. Which comes back to bite them — and us — when authorities are put in the position, as they have been in Jonesboro, of asking for the benefit of the doubt.

They must understand that that narrative casts a long shadow. So there is one h-l of a lot of doubt.

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YOUR LETTERS

We Are A Team!

Flora Knodel, Yankton

In all aspects of life we are players of a team — be it a family, church, city, or business unit. God has blessed us all with different positions. Owners are a unique part, as without their backing and financial support the team does not exist. Without managers, players and spectators the team would not be successful.

Yankton "tax players" cannot be self-sufficient. We need facilities like a sports complex to attract outside spectators to spend their dollars in our city. These and our local spectators keep us all in the game. New and existing businesses, recreational venues and events bring visitors and new residents to our city. The dollars generated lessens the tax burden for current and future resi-

As a "fixed-income tax player," I support progressive ideas. This may require a tax "opt-out," but it will benefit our city now and for years to come. The dollars generated will help support our schools and other tax supported entities. Without outside revenue, most of the local "tax players" cannot afford the dollars needed to sustain our needs.

We all love a good game. Let's take our positions. Throw out the ball and they will come!



THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861 Yankton Media, Inc., 319 Walnut St., Yankton, SD 57078

OPINION | OUR VIEW

School's Are Open: **Driver Safety Needed**

chools are opening or have opened throughout the region for the new year, and that means there is more danger lurking along road-

You know that old tune, sung every year by schools, the media and various organizations.

But with each passing year, this message becomes a bit more pressing. We are a nation of increasingly distracted drivers, and anything that pulls our attention away from the business at hand — or, the business that might suddenly run out onto the street while you're driving by — can be a

It's also important to remember that such safety precautions are, figuratively as well as literally, a two-way street. It is essential for parents to drill it into their children to be on the lookout when they are crossing a street or

To an extent, the issue addressed here today is all a matter of habit. It's been a long summer for motorists — a season of stop-and-go traffic, overly hot cars and the pressing desire to get to where you are going as soon as you can. We haven't had to deal with schools and safety zones since last spring, and we've probably gotten out of the habit.

But there are also those aforementioned distractions. Smartphones can create dumb motorists if those drivers aren't careful. And with each new generation of smartphones, there are seemingly more opportunities to do something reckless. A lot of warnings about such behavior are aimed at teens, but more adults are falling into this habit, too. That's why the caution for safe driving becomes even more imperative: There are always new gadgets that can lure your attention anywhere but on the road.

One danger area is near a school bus. You all know (or at least you should) about stopping for a bus when it's loading or unloading kids, but you also need to give the vehicle ample room. The National Safety Council (NSC) says that the area 10 feet around a school bus is where children are mostly likely to be hit. So give buses a wide berth.

The same basically goes anytime you see kids near an intersection. The

NSC calls children "the least predictable pedestrians," and it's wise to keep

Parents must take some initiative, too, in keeping their kids safe when they become busy pedestrians again. There are the familiar rules about crossing a street only at a crosswalk and looking both ways. But another big rule is the same on that applies to motorists: Give a wide berth and expect the unex-

And here's yet another rule for motorists and young pedestrians: Just slow down. If everyone takes their time and is mindful of their environment, the streets can be a safer place.

As we said, these rules seem old and obvious — so much so, in fact, that they are easy to forget and easy to foul up. As this new school year starts, each of us should commit ourselves to taking those old, musty rules to heart, to pay attention, to watch out and to slow down. You just might be saving a life

ONLINE OPINION

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

LATEST RESULTS:

Which political party	do	think	wo	uld	do	a t	etter	' job	with	the	Med	dicare	issue'
Republicans													45%
Democrats													35%
Neither													16%
Not sure													49
TOTAL VOTES CAST .													
The Press & Dakotan I.													

only of those who choose to participate. The results should not be construed as an accu-

CURRENT QUESTION:

Do you think the government should temporarily waive the ethanol mandate as a way to hold down the price of food items?

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

TODAY IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Aug. 21, the 234th day of 2012. There are 132 days left in the

Today's Highlight in History: On Aug. 21, 1912, the Boy Scouts of America named its first Eagle Scout, Arthur Rose Eldred of Troop 1 in Rockville Centre, N.Y. On this date: In 1609, Galileo Galilei

demonstrated his new telescope to a group of officials atop the Campanile in Venice. In 1831, Nat Turner led a violent slave

rebellion in Virginia resulting in the deaths of at least 55 white people. (He was later executed.)
In 1858, the first of seven debates be-

tween Illinois senatorial contenders Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas took

In 1878, the American Bar Association was founded in Saratoga, N.Y.
In 1911, Leonardo da Vinci's "Mona

Lisa" was stolen from the Louvre Museum in Paris. (The painting was recovered two years later in Italy.)
In 1940, exiled Communist revolution-

ary Leon Trotsky died in a Mexican hospital from wounds inflicted by an assassin the

In 1959, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed an executive order making Hawaii the 50th state.

In 1961, country singer Patsy Cline recorded the Willie Nelson song "Crazy" in Nashville for Decca Records. (The record-

ing was released in October 1961.) In 1972, the Republican National Convention opened in Miami Beach. In 1987, Sgt. Clayton Lonetree, the first Marine court-martialed for spying, was

convicted in Quantico, Va., of passing secrets to the KGB. (Lonetree ended up serving eight years in a military prison.) In 1991, the hard-line coup against Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev col-

lapsed in the face of a popular uprising led by Russian federation President Boris N. In 1992, an 11-day siege began at the

cabin of white separatist Randy Weaver in Ruby Ridge, Idaho, as government agents tried to arrest Weaver for failing to appear in court on charges of selling two illegal sawed-off shotguns; in the resulting shootout, Weaver's teenage son, Samuel, and Deputy U.S. Marshal William Degan Ten years ago: President George W.

Bush told reporters at his Texas ranch that ousting Iraq's Saddam Hussein was "in the interests of the world" but indicated the

United States was in no hurry. Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien announced he would not seek a fourth straight term, and would step down in 2004. A jury in San Diego convicted David Westerfield of kidnapping 7-year-old Danielle van Dam from her home and killing her. (Westerfield was later sentenced to death.) Five years ago: Hurricane Dean struck

Mexico's coast as a Category 5 storm. The postwar Iraqi tribunal trying former Saddam Hussein aides opened its third proceeding, putting former Defense Minister Ali Hassan al-Majid, known as "Chemical Ali," and 14 other men on trial. Space shuttle Endeavour, with teacher-astronaut Barbara Morgan aboard, safely returned to Cape Canaveral, Fla.

One year ago: Euphoric Libyan rebels raced into Tripoli and took control of the center with little resistance as Moammar Gadhafi's defenses collapsed and his fourdecade regime appeared to be crumbling. In a statement from Martha's Vineyard. where he was vacationing with his family, President Barack Obama called on Gadhafi to acknowledge reality and step down.

Today's Birthdays: Former football player Pete Retzlaff is 81. Actor-director . MeÍvin Van Peebles is 80. Playwright Mart Crowley ("The Boys in the Band") is 77. Singer Kenny Rogers is 74. Actor Clarence Williams III is 73. Rock-and-roll musician James Burton is 73. Singer Harold Reid (The Statler Brothers) is 73. Singer Jackie DeShannon is 71. Football Hall of Famer Willie Lanier is 67. Actress Patty McCormack is 67. Pop singer-musician Carl Giammarese is 65. Actress Loretta Devine is 63. NBC newsman Harry Smith is 61. Singer Glenn Hughes is 60. Country musician Nick Kane is 58. Actress Kim Cattrall is 56. College Football Hall of Famer and former NFL quarterback Jim McMahon is 53. Actress Cleo King is 50. MLB All-Star pitcher John Wetteland is 46. Rock singer Serj Tankian (System of a Down) is 45. Actress Carrie-Anne Moss is 42. MLB player Craig Counsell is 42. Rock musician Liam Howlett (Prodigy) is 41. Actress Alicia Witt is 37. Singer Kelis is 33. TV personality Brody Jenner is 29. Singer Melissa Schuman is 28. Olympic gold medal sprinter Usain Bolt is 26. Actor Cody Kasch is 25. Actress Hayden Panettiere is 23. Actor RJ Mitte (TV: "Breaking Bad") is 20. Thought for Today: "Paradoxical as it

may seem, to believe in youth is to look backward; to look forward we must believe in age." — Dorothy L. Sayers, English author (1893-1957).

FROM THE BIBLE

Choose this day whom you will serve ... But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD. Joshua 24:14. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

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