



## 'Iyeska': The Axe Of Truth

BY VINCE TWO EAGLES

Hau Mitakuepi (Greetings My Relatives), "Iyeska" is a Dakota word that literally translates to "they speak the white," meaning an Indian person who speaks English. The word has been loosely translated to mean someone who is a half-breed (half Indian and half Caucasian).

On the positive side of the ledger, an Iyeska was looked to as a translator in treaty negotiations or other communications between Indian and Euro-Americans where a translator was called for.

On the negative side, Iyeskas were not entirely trusted by either whites or Indians and so many "breeds" lived in the margins of reservation life in the early years. Belonging to neither race entirely and alienated by both, it must have been a hard existence.

I just finished reading my newfound friend's book by the title of "Iyeska." Ray Cook, Opinion/Editorial Editor, Indian Country Today Media Network, offers the following about "Iyeska": "Any serious student of Native American journalism, diplomacy, and human rights will at some time in their studies come across the name Chuck Trimble. Chuck is one among only a few dozen Native intellectuals and visionaries who served as camp crier, strategist and journalist during one of the most turbulent, dangerous and focused times of contemporary Native affairs. How close we have, as a people, come to the brink of annihilation only a few people have seen. Chuck is one of them. And, he faced it with all the courage, humor and focused strength of conviction that the times required."

I found Chuck's writing delightful in spite of the fact there were things in the book about boarding schools and inter-generational trauma I personally disagreed with. He is a man of conviction, there is no doubt, but beyond that, I thank my Koda (friend) Chuck Trimble for having the courage to tell the truth about the times he lived in historically and in modernity. His work's contribution to the annals of human literature in general and to the annals of Native literature in particular are classic. "Iyeska" will be the topic of many a conversation in the years to come.



Vince  
**TWO EAGLES**

The author was "born and reared on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and as a member of the Oglala Lakota Nation. He is principle founder of the American Indian Press Association in 1969, and served as executive director of the National Council of American Indians from 1972 to 1978."

I think Mr. Trimble is among the more important writers of our times. I read his column with relish and anticipation. I don't always agree with him as I said earlier, but one cannot help but admire his candor and consistency. Telling the truth is not always an easy affair — it seems there are those among us who would rather that the light of truth remain dim so that they can continue their dance of deceit and slight of hand. Transparency is the new watch word of our time and Chuck has a working knowledge demonstrated in his writing.

"Iyeska" will hold the readers interest and cover a wide variety of subject matter including life on the rez, boarding school issues, Native press, victim hood, politics, and humor to name a few. Each subject is given the same straightforward attention with Chuck wielding the same axe of truth throughout each chapter.

The notion that one's degree of blood is in direct proportion to one's degree of Indianess is a weak and dying one. Charles Trimble demonstrates that. His understanding of rez life and the bigger issues Native people face are second to none. "Iyeska" is a gift to the people and my hope is that it will be treated as such.

Barbara Grizzuti Harrison who was an American journalist (1934-2002) once wrote: "Our awesome responsibility to ourselves, to our children, and to the future is to create ourselves in the image of goodness, because the future depends on the nobility of our imaginings."

I think the author of "Iyeska" delivers the nobility Ms. Harrison is eluding to and also that the responsibility that excellent journalism calls for should be considered a hallmark of Chuck's present and future writing. Keep on keeping on, Koda, and thank you for your mind!

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

## Another Victim Of Black Blindness?

BY LEONARD PITTS JR.  
Tribune Media Services

Call it black blindness. It is a kind of myopia that afflicts some of us — too many of us — whenever we gaze upon a dark-skinned man. It causes some of us — too many of us — to see things that are not there, and to miss things that are. Sometimes, it is fatal.

Such was the case for Amadou Diallo, the African immigrant who died in a hailstorm of gunfire in 1999 after police mistook his wallet for a gun.

We cannot yet know if black blindness was the cause of death for Jordan Davis, a 17-year-old black kid who was killed the night after Thanksgiving. But there is reason to suspect it was. Davis was shot by a 45-year-old white man, Michael David Dunn, who says he saw a rifle. At this writing, police have recovered no such weapon.

The altercation began with an argument in a gas station in Jacksonville, Fla. Dunn had pulled in so his girlfriend could go to the convenience store. In an SUV next to him were Davis and three other teenagers playing their music too loudly. Dunn told them to turn it down. An argument ensued. Dunn's attorney, Robin Lemonidis, says the teenagers peppered him with obscenities and insults. Then, she says, Davis poked a rifle through an open window, threatened her client and began to open the door of the SUV. Dunn reached for his pistol, she says, and came up firing. The SUV peeled out. Dunn kept shooting at it because, his lawyer says, he feared the teenagers might come back after him.

"There is no racial motivation here whatsoever," she told The New York Times. But even if you buy that, Dunn's story still has holes in it you could drive a shot-up SUV through.

Consider: someone's got a gun trained on you, about to shoot, yet you have time to reach for your glove box, open it, unholster your own weapon, as Lemonidis says her client did, and bring it up? Not even Little Joe Cartwright was that fast on the draw.

Then there's the fact that afterward, Dunn and his girlfriend went to a hotel. You've been threatened, you had to

shoot to save your life ... and you go to a hotel? You don't alert authorities about this SUV full of dangerous kids roaming the streets?

Dunn, says Lemonidis, did not realize he had killed Davis until he saw the news the following morning. Yet, he still did not contact authorities, instead driving home to Satellite Beach, Fla., about 175 miles south, intending to turn himself in to a neighbor who has law enforcement ties. Police, who had gotten his license plate number from witnesses, soon arrived to arrest him.

So Dunn's story is shaky without the overlay of race.

With it, with the obvious comparisons to the killing of Trayvon Martin, one can only wonder if black blindness has not claimed yet another victim. That is a danger all over the country, but particularly in Florida, whose misbegotten Stand Your Ground law essentially licenses any citizen to use deadly force against any other citizen so long as the first citizen claims he or she felt threatened.

Sure enough, Lemonidis is considering just such a defense for her client.

The frightening thing, if you are a young African-American man, is that you know nothing makes some folks feel more "threatened" than you. Nor do you threaten by doing. You threaten by being. You threaten by existing. Such is the invidious result of four centuries of propaganda in which every form of malfesance, bestiality and criminality is blamed on you.

In such an environment Florida's law inevitably becomes a potential "Get Out Of Jail Free" card for anyone who shoots a young black man. So this death, besides being a tragedy for the grieving family of one boy, is a sobering reminder for the family of every boy who looks like him.

And until or unless there is a definitive answer, they — we — must ponder with heartsick urgency one simple question:

What did Michael Dunn really see? And why?

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# THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

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

OPINION | OUR VIEW

## Holiday Lighting: A Brighter Idea

The holiday season has returned — a time that glows with a spirit of good tidings.

That metaphor of brightness is an old one and quite familiar to everyone. It touches upon the light of the season that shines in the darkest time of the year.

However, that literal light isn't necessarily apparent in Yankton, which forces us to revive a familiar complaint of the holidays: a criticism of the city's holiday lighting.

Yankton's lighting is a fairly dim affair at best. We lack the kind of large, bright, overhanging lights that other communities, including many that are much smaller than Yankton, finance and build with pride.

For Yankton, this is a wasted opportunity.

It should be pointed out that, while it's not exactly a pressing issue on the level of, say, the city's water supply or recreational needs, the issue of holiday lighting is a matter of showcasing the community. These bright, glittering displays draw in crowds from out-of-town to see the spectacle, and in a community this size, that can add to the economic boost associated with the holidays.

Instead, Yankton generally seems to embrace the darkness.

There have been some exceptions, however.

An effort to add some new street-type lighting a few years ago — after some complaints were made about the lack of seasonal decorations — produced a few more lights along Broadway that may have been welcomed but were generally barely noticed.

There was also an effort started a decade ago to add lighting at Riverside Park along Levee Street. Through several years, this lighting display grew larger and more elaborate, and it seemed to attract good crowds. However, the display was abruptly ended a couple of years ago, in part because it was left to the same people to work with it each year and in part because of occasional problems with vandals. We've heard rumors that there may be an effort to revive this project, but we shall see what transpires.

Also, allow us to note again (as we first did last Friday) that the lighting in the downtown district has stepped up this year, thanks to the wrapping of lights around numerous trees. It does add a nice luster to the area for the season.

But so much more could be done. Yankton is a vast canvas of possibilities, from upper Broadway to the downtown district, Meridian Bridge and Riverside Park. It could take on a special holiday glow that could draw a lot of curious eyes.

Of course, one big issue with such lighting is the cost. It's not an inexpensive matter to, for instance, come up with lights that could stretch across Third St. in the downtown district. Nor, as another example, would it be cheap to deck out Meridian Bridge for the holidays.

This screams out as a year-round fundraising project for many sources, both public and private. Governing bodies could certainly facilitate such projects but should not be expected to shoulder the brunt of the cost involved in a lighting plan.

What's probably needed is a civic committee that can take the reins of the matter and steer it for several years. And make no mistake, it would take a few years for Yankton to build up its holiday lighting. But that could be part of the excitement for the public as new elements are added each December.

Such a project would make the community much more attractive in the holiday season, when shoppers are looking for excuses to go to a destination. Yankton has the opportunity; it simply must be willing to pursue it.

kmh

## TODAY IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 4, the 339th day of 2012. There are 27 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:** On Dec. 4, 1619, a group of settlers from Bristol, England, arrived at Berkeley Hundred in present-day Charles City County, Va., where they held a service thanking God for their safe arrival. (Some suggest this was the true first Thanksgiving in America, ahead of the Pilgrims' arrival in Massachusetts.)

**On this date:** In 1619, settlers from Bristol, England, arrived at Berkeley Hundred in present-day Charles City County, Va.

In 1783, Gen. George Washington bade farewell to his Continental Army officers at Fraunces Tavern in New York.

In 1816, James Monroe of Virginia was elected the fifth president of the United States.

In 1912, Medal of Honor recipient Gregory "Pappy" Boyington, the Marine Corps pilot who led the "Black Sheep Squadron" during World War II, was born in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

In 1918, President Woodrow Wilson left Washington on a trip to France to attend the Versailles Peace Conference.

In 1942, U.S. bombers struck the Italian mainland for the first time in World War II. President Franklin D. Roosevelt ordered the dismantling of the Works Progress Administration, which had been created to provide jobs during the Depression.

In 1965, the United States launched Gemini 7 with Air Force Lt. Col. Frank Borman and Navy Cmdr. James A. Lovell aboard.

In 1978, San Francisco got its first female mayor as City Supervisor Dianne Feinstein was named to replace the assassinated George Moscone.

In 1984, a five-day hijack drama began as four armed men seized a Kuwaiti airliner en route to Pakistan and forced it to land in Tehran, where the hijackers killed American passenger Charles Hegna.

In 1991, Associated Press correspondent Terry Anderson, the longest held of the Western hostages in Lebanon, was released after nearly seven years in captivity. Pan American World Airways ceased operations.

In 1992, President George H.W. Bush ordered American troops to lead a mercy mission to Somalia, threatening military action against warlords and gangs who were blocking food for starving millions.

In 1996, the Mars Pathfinder lifted off from Cape Canaveral and began speeding toward Mars on a 310 million-mile odyssey. (It arrived on Mars in July 1997.)

**Ten years ago:** United Airlines lost its bid for \$1.8 billion in federal loan guaran-

tees, a major setback to the nation's second-largest air carrier in its efforts to avoid bankruptcy. Supreme Court justices heard arguments on whether federal laws intended to combat organized crime and corruption could be used against anti-abortion demonstrators. (The Court later ruled that such laws were improperly used to punish abortion opponents.)

**Five years ago:** Defending his credibility, President George W. Bush said Iran was dangerous and needed to be squeezed by international pressure despite a U.S. intelligence finding that Tehran had halted its nuclear weapons program four years earlier. The intelligence report on Iran figured in a Democratic debate on National Public Radio as rivals assailed front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton for voting in favor of a Senate resolution designating Iran's Revolutionary Guard a terrorist organization. Pimp C (Chad Butler), a rapper with the Texas hip-hop group Underground Kingz, was found dead in a hotel room in Los Angeles; he was 33.

**One year ago:** Prime Minister Vladimir Putin's party hung onto its majority in Russia's parliamentary election, but faced accusations from opponents of rigging the vote. Rafael Nadal recovered from a terrible start and beat Juan Martin del Potro of Argentina 1-6, 6-4, 6-1, 7-6 (0) to give Spain its fifth Davis Cup title. After going more than two years and 26 tournaments without a victory, Tiger Woods won the Chevron World Challenge. Former Hewlett-Packard chairwoman Patricia Dunn, 58, died in Orinda, Calif.

**Today's Birthdays:** Actress-singer Deanna Durbin is 91. Game show host Wink Martindale is 79. Pop singer Freddy Cannon is 76. Actor-producer Max Baer Jr. is 75. Actress Gemma Jones is 70. Rock musician Bob Mosley (Moby Grape) is 70. Singer-musician Chris Hillman is 68. Musician Terry Woods (The Pogues) is 65. Rock singer Southside Johnny Lyon is 64. Actor Jeff Bridges is 63. Rock musician Gary Rossington (Lynyrd Skynyrd; the Rossington Collins Band) is 61. Actress Patricia Wettig is 61. Actor Tony Todd is 58. Jazz singer Cassandra Wilson is 57. Country musician Brian Prout (Diamond Rio) is 57. Rock musician Bob Griffin (The BoDeans) is 53. Rock singer Vinnie Dombroski (Sponge) is 50. Actress Marisa Tomei is 48. Actress Chelsea Noble is 48. Actor-comedian Fred Armisen is 46. Rapper Jay-Z is 43. Actor Kevin Sussman is 42. Actress-model Tyra Banks is 39. Country singer Lila McCann is 31. Actress Lindsay Felton is 28. Actor Orlando Brown is 25.

**Thought for Today:** "Many are called but few get up." — Oliver Herford, American author (1863-1935).

## FROM THE BIBLE

Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem. 2 Kings 22:1. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

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## YOUR LETTERS

### The Bouncing Ball

Joanna Thomson, Bloomfield, Neb.

I am amazed at the people that will only listen to, and only believe, FOX News and the bouncing rubber ball — the same two that are laughing at them all the way to the bank.

FOX News is an admitted extension of the Republican Party owned by Rupert Murdoch, who is still in hot water in Britain. FOX is a carnivorous mammal known for its cunning. It symbolizes cunning, stealth and solitude — also, a deceitful person. (Check all the definitions for fox.)

They claim that any other media is too liberal to even listen to. It just might make them question what they are hearing from FOX and the rubber ball.

Let's just check some of this myth out. General Electric, a huge donor to the Republican Party, PACs and candidates, owns NBC and CNBC. So, their reporters must answer to the owners, and they tend to lean very much to the right.

CNN is owned by parent company Time Warner, and the U.S. news channel is a division of the Turner Broadcasting System, a staunch and heavy Republican donor. Again, very right leaning, yet straighter reporting.

Then, there is the neutral PBS. General Electric, along with Microsoft (another Republican owned company), owns the most liberal of news organizations, MSNBC.

### Online Opinion

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

#### LATEST RESULTS:

Do you think Sen. Tim Johnson will run for re-election in 2014?  
 No . . . . . 57%  
 Yes . . . . . 35%  
 Not sure . . . . . 8%  
**TOTAL VOTES CAST . . . . . 486**

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:

Should South Dakota lawmakers prioritize education when addressing the budget surplus?

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

So, what is the excuse for listening and only believing FOX and The Ball. Is it because they are saying what you want them to say, instead of the "Rest of the Story?"