



Requiem For Yesterday

BY LEONARD PITTS JR.
Tribune Media Services

How fitting that Richard Blanco chose the sun. A 44-year-old poet raised in Miami, the first Cuban-American and the first openly gay person ever to deliver a presidential inauguration poem, he used the earth star to frame his composition, "One Today," at Monday's ceremony before the U.S. Capitol. Blanco found poetic significance in tracing the many disparate American lives, the truck drivers and school-children, the waitpersons and accountants, upon whom it sheds light during its daily trek across the sky.

But there's another reason Blanco's choice made sense. The dawn is the symbolic beginning of the new day and thus, the symbolic end of the old.

Keep that in mind as people parse Barack Obama's second inaugural address. Keep it in mind as they debate What It All Means that he has adopted a more combative stance toward Republicans in Congress, that he sang the praises of liberal values, that he apparently became the first president in history to take a stand for — or even mention — gay rights during an inaugural address. Keep it in mind as Republicans piously declaim Obama's failure to seek common ground with them, conveniently forgetting that every time over the last four years the president reached a hand out to them, he drew back a nub.

Keep it in mind, because Blanco was, perhaps, righter than he knew when he invoked an inclusive new American dawn, with its implied farewell to an exclusionary American yesterday.

Indeed, a collective shiver climbed through some of us when the president invoked places made sacred by the freedom crusades they saw.

"We, the people," he said, "declare today that the most evident of truths — that all of us are created equal — is the star that guides us still; just as it guided our forebears through Seneca Falls, and Selma, and Stonewall."

There was more to that passage than sibilant alliteration. There was also a reminder that there was nothing



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ing predestined about this American dawn, that we come to it by way of struggle and blood, courage and vision. Yesterday, 1848, at Seneca Falls in New York, 300 people convened to advance the radical idea that women are fully equal human beings. Yesterday, 1965, at Selma, in Alabama, African-Americans had their bones broken and bodies bloodied to put forward the radical idea that they were American citizens who deserved the right to vote. Yesterday, 1969, at The Stonewall Inn, a bar in Greenwich Village, gay people rioted and protested to drive home the radical idea that they had the right to be left the hell alone.

These are some of the yesterdays that have made up this today. And as much as Obama's speech was a political document, it was also a needed statement of principle at a time when some of us seem determined to repeal progress, a time when battles about women's rights, voting rights and gay rights have again become — or in the case of gay people, remain — as fresh as tomorrow's headlines. Indeed, much of the Republican Party's appeal — this was starkly clear in last year's campaign — boils down to an implicit pledge to restore yesterday.

To which the best response may be a hymn the civil rights marchers once sang: "Ain't gonna let nobody turn me around." Wish though they will and try though they might, the GOP will not roll back change. One hopes they will finally get that clear.

The president's inaugural address drove nails into the coffin of a dead era when progress and power, rights and right were reserved for those who were male, those who were white, those who were straight. It remains to be seen what actions he will put to his words, what new forms of obstruction his political opponents will take.

But the message itself was clear. We stand together in the promise of a new dawn. And yesterday is gone.

Leonard Pitts is a columnist for the Miami Herald, 1 Herald Plaza, Miami, Fla., 33132. Readers may contact him via e-mail at lpitts@miamiherald.com.

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New Rules And Old Memories

BY KELLY HERTZ
kelly.hertz@yankton.net

I left the sports world for news in the mid-1990s, which now seems like a completely different age. There was no Internet component to deal with back then; consequently, there was no social media and no video broadcasting at our disposal. It was a much more basic time journalistically, and the art of covering a game was a fairly wide-open practice. No holds were barred, and everyone was welcome.

But new times and technologies have created new attitudes.

In Thursday's *Press & Dakotan*, Dave Bordewyk of the South Dakota Newspaper Association discussed the ongoing tug of war some schools and organizations are having with the media in regards to sports coverage, particularly with the latest technological tools.

He noted, for instance, that the Pierre school district has signed an exclusivity agreement with a local radio station that forbids the Pierre newspaper from broadcasting a high school game on its website — even though it wouldn't prevent a Yankton media outlet, for instance, from webcasting a Pierre-YHS contest. Also, he mentioned that the Sioux Falls school district has forbidden the local daily newspaper there from doing a web broadcast of any football or basketball games, again due to a contractual pact with another media outlet.

Beyond those examples, I also know there are rules now that prohibit journalists from using social media to post real-time scores during state tournament contests until there are natural stoppages, like quarter breaks. However, this rule doesn't apply to anyone else in the stands at those events, nor it doesn't prevent us from having someone sit here at the office, listen to a game on the radio and fire off tweets as a contest rolls along.

As another example, the photos we shoot at athletic events are posted on our "Spotted" website for people to peruse and possibly purchase. However, we're forbidden to display anything at a tournament game that promotes this — once more because of a contractual agreement made by the activities association with a photo service. Our sports people can't even wear shirts with the "Spot-



Kelly HERTZ

ted" logo on them to state tournament contests.

All this injects a cold, corporate feel into what was once a warm ritual of hometown athletic coverage. Maybe it's appropriate in this age. Or maybe it's overkill.

This awkward state of affairs is the impetus behind Senate Bill 119, just introduced in Pierre. It says that all media shall have equal access to covering high school athletic events — a practice that has admittedly gotten more complicated with the evolution of technology. It's true that newspapers now have the ability to broadcast via the Web, which in theory may cut into radio and television's turf. But those latter media also delve into what was once the newspapers' domain — radio stations post photos and written stories on their websites, for example — so it would seem like a technological wash in the end.

The new restrictions implemented by some schools and organizations are rigging the game, so to speak. These entities are selling exclusivity agreements, which are tying the hands of media organizations that now have new tools for providing broader coverage and, by the way, greater exposure. It also hits the fans, who cannot get all the coverage they believe their teams deserve.

In a way, it could be argued that these new restrictions are based on antiquated thinking, for they are not keeping in step with the new methods that media can now use.

I understand the desire of some schools to sell game rights and generate extra income, but doing so by hurting the ability of local media to cover their local teams in the fullest manner possible inflicts a disservice upon (in no particular order) the media, the participants and the fans.

That's not the way this game used to be played.

All that the media are asking is to let everyone have an even shot at things and to do the jobs we've always done, even if we are utilizing new technologies in the process to do it. The hometown fans expect nothing less from their hometown media. It's a symbiotic relationship that these new restrictions are unintentionally undercutting. And that's a shame.

You can follow Kelly Hertz on Twitter at twitter.com/kelly_hertz

YOUR LETTERS

Drone Impacts

Fred Bender, Yankton

I appreciated your editorial in the Jan. 23 edition of the *Press and Dakotan* regarding use of drone aircraft by our military. I think there are at least two additional issues regarding this practice that should be evaluated by all citizens.

Much has been written during the past 10 years regarding the limited impact of our recent and current wars on the general population and a resulting lack of concern and attention by citizens who are not directly affected by service in the military or the service of family members. The use of drones, while

seeming advantageous to our losses and casualties, separates us from the reality of war. And the more distant that experience is for the majority of citizens, the more likely we are to purposefully be disinterested and give tacit approval. This raises an ongoing moral issue.

Secondly, while it does not yet comprise space warfare, it does represent yet another innovative means of killing people we see as enemies, much as nuclear weapons did. Now we are trying to keep that genie, if not in a bottle, out of reach of additional countries. Yet each new "improved" weapon eventually becomes available to everyone, or at least every government with the purchase price.

THE PRESS & DAKOTAN



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OPINION | WE SAY

A Long Life



happy one as she remains alert and active. It's a great lesson for people of all ages.

Nervous Outlook



Connectivity



THUMBS UP to a number of South Dakota connections at Monday's inauguration of President Barack Obama. The luncheon featured South Dakota bison raised near Rapid City. The parade included Sioux Falls native Fred Ellwein commanding the U.S. Army Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps, along with the Northern State University "Marching Wolves" of Aberdeen — including area students — making their second inauguration appearance in eight years. And the television coverage included the insights of Yankton and Pickstown native Tom Brokaw, who has witnessed a number of presidents throughout his career as NBC News anchor and other high-profile positions.

The Union Label



courages singers of all ages, as young as high school freshmen, to participate and give the new group a solid foundation on which to build a tradition.

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.

ONLINE OPINION

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

LATEST RESULTS:

Should Congress extend the federal debt limit?

No62%
Yes34%
Not sure4%
TOTAL VOTES CAST572

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 Yankton is doing enough to promote river tourism?

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 Friday, Jan. 25, the 25th day of 2013. There are 340 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Jan. 25, 1863, during the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln accepted Maj. Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside's resignation as commander of the Army of the Potomac, and replaced him with Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker.

On this date: In 1533, England's King Henry VIII secretly married his second wife, Anne Boleyn, who later gave birth to Elizabeth I.

In 1787, Shays's Rebellion suffered a setback when debt-ridden farmers led by Capt. Daniel Shays failed to capture an arsenal at Springfield, Mass.

In 1890, reporter Nellie Bly (Elizabeth Cochrane) of the *New York World* completed a round-the-world journey in 72 days, 6 hours and 11 minutes. The United Mine Workers of America was founded in Columbus, Ohio.

In 1915, Alexander Graham Bell inaugurated U.S. transcontinental telephone service between New York and San Francisco.

In 1936, former Gov. Al Smith, D-N.Y., delivered a radio address in Washington, titled "Betrayal of the Democratic Party," in which he fiercely criticized the New Deal policies of President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In 1947, American gangster Al Capone died in Miami Beach, Fla., at age 48.

In 1949, the first Emmy Awards, honoring local Los Angeles TV programs and talent, were presented at the Hollywood Athletic Club.

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy held the first presidential news conference to be carried live on radio and television.

In 1971, Charles Manson and three women followers were convicted in Los Angeles of murder and conspiracy in the 1969 slayings of seven people, including actress Sharon Tate. Idi Amin seized power in Uganda by ousting President Milton Obote in a military coup.

In 1981, the 52 Americans held hostage by Iran for 444 days arrived in the United States.

In 1993, a gunman shot and killed two CIA employees outside agency headquarters in Virginia (Pakistani national Mir Aimal Kansi was later tried and convicted of the shootings, and executed). Sears announced that it would no longer publish its famous century-old catalog.

In 1998, Pope John Paul II ended his historic journey to Cuba.

Ten years ago: NASA launched a spacecraft into orbit to measure all of the radiation streaming toward Earth from the sun. Serena Williams survived an error-filled match to beat elder sister Venus 7-6 (4), 3-6, 6-4 to win the Australian Open for her fourth straight major championship. Marcus Allen, Elvin Bethea, Joe DeLamielleure, James Lofton and Hank Stram were elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Five years ago: President George W. Bush urged Congress to quickly pass an economic stimulus package void of extraneous spending, saying only quick action would kickstart the sputtering economy. Democrat Dennis Kucinich (koo-SIH-nich) abandoned his presidential bid to focus on a tough race for re-election to Congress.

One year ago: U.S. military forces flew into Somalia in a nighttime helicopter raid, freeing an American and a Danish hostage and killing nine pirates. U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords of Arizona returned to Congress to officially tender her resignation a year after she was shot and severely wounded in her home district. First lady Michelle Obama and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, along with celebrity chef Rachael Ray, announced new guidelines for more healthful school meals during a visit with elementary students in Alexandria, Va.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Gregg Palmer is 86. The former president of Georgia, Eduard Shevardnadze, is 85. Actor Dean Jones is 82. Country singer Claude Gray is 81. Movie director Tobe Hooper is 70. Actress Leigh Taylor-Young is 68. Actress Jenifer Lewis is 56. Actress Dinah Manoff is 55. Country musician Mike Burch (River Road) is 47. Rhythm-and-blues singer Kina is 44. Actress China Kanter is 42. Actress Ana Ortiz is 42. Musician Matt Odmark (Jars of Clay) is 39. Actress Mia Kirshner is 38. Actress Christine Lakin is 34. Rhythm-and-blues singer Alicia Keys is 32. Actor Michael Trevino (TV: "The Vampire Diaries") is 28.

Thought for Today: "There is no such uncertainty as a sure thing." — Robert Burns, Scottish poet (1759-1796).

FROM THE BIBLE

And He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ. Ephesians 4:11-12. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

CONTACT US

PHONE:
(605) 665-7811
(800) 743-2968
NEWS FAX:
(605) 665-1721
ADVERTISING FAX:
(605) 665-0288
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Published Daily

Monday-Saturday

Periodicals postage paid at Yankton, South Dakota, under the act of March 3, 1979.
Weekly Dakotian established June 6, 1861. Yankton Daily Press and Dakotian established April 26, 1875.
Postmaster: Send address changes to Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, 319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078.

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The Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan is a member of the Associated Press, the Inland Daily Press Association and the South Dakota Newspaper Association. The Associated Press is entitled exclusively to use of all the local news printed in this newspaper.

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