



Pathways Of Prejudice

BY VINCE TWO EAGLES

Hau Mitakuepi (Greetings My Relatives),
 In 1967, Rod Serling wrote in the *Los Angeles Times*: "I happen to think that the singular evil of our time is prejudice. It is from this evil that all other evils grow and multiply. In almost everything I've written there is a thread of this: a man's seemingly palpable need to dislike someone other than himself."

Do we really need to dislike someone some one other than ourselves? For what reason do we think we need to be prejudiced? Is it an attempt to elevate ourselves above our own miserable self-assessments or to perpetuate our own racist ideologies? Is it taught by our family and reinforced by a bigoted community? Do we learn to discriminate in this country's educational systems as a means to "Americanize" everyone? And once having learned the folly of such a practice why is it so hard to let go of being prejudiced?

The Psychology of Prejudice as described on the website UnderstandingPrejudice.org links stereotypes to prejudice and discrimination as follows: "Stereotypes are not only harmful in their own right; they do damage by fostering prejudice and discrimination. After all, if encyclopedia readers are led to believe that Black people have intellectual limitations, why spend time and money educating Black children? As used here, 'discrimination' involves putting group members at a disadvantage or treating them unfairly as a result of their group membership. More specifically, 'personal discrimination' refers to acts of discrimination committed by individuals (e.g., a manager who refuses to hire Jewish employees), whereas 'institutional discrimination' refers to discriminatory policies or practices carried out by organizations and other institutions (e.g., an anti-Semitic immigration policy)."

These practices I believe are deeply embedded in the fabric of so called "American culture." So pervasive is racism in this country's (yes, still) founding principles that outgrowing these archaic notions and change is going to take time. We need to be patient with ourselves while doing all that we possible can to eradicate this scourge from our society.

While being a racist may somehow "fulfill" man's need to "dislike someone other than himself," as Rod Serling has

put forward, it is no fun on the receiving end, I assure you. Being treated in such a matter is not only damaging to one's sense of self-worth; some victims never recover from such cruelty and are saddled with the affects their whole lifetime.

Can there be any wonder why many Native people resent the encroachment of European people into their lives for generations now? To quote Article 22 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: "Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including, inter alia, in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security..."

The Declaration goes on to say in Article 23: "Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In particular, indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programmes affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programs through their own institutions."

Discrimination serves no purpose when it is used to oppress other people and it definitely doesn't serve the oppressor. I have heard that the loss of one's humanity may be even greater for the one who carries the whip than for the one who must bear the sting of it. I wonder about that. Do the deterioration statistics bear this out? Does the oppressor suffer from Delayed Stress Syndrome, or increases in degenerative diseases, or poverty and poverty born issues as a direct result of their oppressive behavior? Do oppressor societies have to face the steady decline in community standards of security and well-being?

Perhaps it is true that the oppressor suffers right along with the oppressed, but in different ways. If it is true, you would think man would have abandoned oppression as a means to relate to his fellow human being a long time ago. The use of oppression apparently remains a powerful tool to suppress and oppress the defenseless — just look at recent headlines in our newspapers.

We definitely have a long way to go, but it is also true we have come a long way. Let's keep going the way of peace. And now you know the rez of the story. Doksha (later) ...

toughed out is asinine. Would you tough out diabetes? Would you tough out cancer?

It is a statistical matter of fact (one in five of us suffers mental illness in any given year, said the president) that this touches many of us. So I suspect I am not the only one who has stories he cannot tell and names he cannot call.

On behalf of those unnamed people, our family members and friends who daily struggle with crippling disorders they did not cause and do not deserve, let us call Munro's writing what it is: cruel sanctimony.

If his name sounds familiar, it is because last year, he made news for heckling the president during a Rose Garden address. Though ostensibly a "reporter," Munro was shown in photographs with his hands in his pockets and neither notepad nor tape recorder in evidence.

Which made it hard to see how he was "reporting," and suggested he was less a member of the Fourth Estate than another ideologue playing dress-up, a fresh emblem of political divisions so broad they can no longer be bridged. So broad that even things we once all agreed upon — for example: reporters don't heckle presidents during speeches — can no longer be taken for granted.

But what the ideologue playacting at journalism either does not know, or does not care, is that this is not a game. There is a real-life consequence to spreading ignorance about matters of health. As the military deals with record suicide rates, one shudders to think of the soldier, afflicted with post-traumatic stress disorder, who will read Munro's scribbles and feel affirmed in his belief that seeking help is somehow unmanly. As our parks fill with the homeless mentally ill, one sighs at the thought of some daughter reading this and believing her dad chose to be that way.

These are our people, said the president, and we should support them. Self-evident truth. Plain vanilla. And Lord have mercy. Even that's controversial now.

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OPINION | OUR VIEW

How Do We Balance Freedom, Security?

If nothing else, the recent reports that the National Security Agency (NSA) has been collecting domestic data from American telephone calls, online missives and credit card transactions must force the people of this nation to face two questions: What kind of security do we really want in this digital, post-9/11 age? Also, how much oversight should we demand from those who oversee our security?

The leaks revealing that the NSA (with the blessing of a surveillance court) is collecting metadata — which can be defined literally as data about data — from Verizon mobile communication users has stirred outrage among civil libertarians, and perhaps rightfully so. It shatters the feeble illusion we may own that our privacy in this prying age is somehow still sacred.

But the news should also sound vaguely familiar if you have been following the history of domestic security since the 2001 terrorist attacks.

Back in 2006, the NSA was revealed to be tracking what the Mother Jones website described as "tens of millions of Americans' phone calls using data provided by AT&T, Verizon and BellSouth."

Also, it's been revealed that the PRISM program, which has been thrust into the glare of this controversy, has been harvesting data from Internet sites since at least 2007, although the program's existence became public only last week.

In fact, governmental intrusion into our private lives was given a fertile lease with the passage of the Patriot Act in the wake of the 9/11 attacks. These laws greatly expanded the government's surveillance authority. While it was generally conceived to target the electronic communications used by terrorists — and who couldn't be for that? — it could never work without sorting through all types of communications to pinpoint the suspect lines. Any person who thought otherwise when the Patriot Act was passed was looking at the situation behind a blindfold.

But even before the Patriot Act was signed, the NSA was secretly authorized by President George W. Bush to track suspected terrorists by scrutinizing domestic communications without seeking warrants. These "warrantless wiretaps" defied the 1978 Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act and were declared illegal several years later.

The thing is, did we mind? In the wake of 9/11, did we object that such steps were being taken to defend our security from unthinkable breaches? While some people certainly did, a great many anxious Americans dismissed it all as the price we had to pay to safeguard this nation.

Politically, it's been easy to be a critic of these tactics. Back in 2007, then-presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama had the luxury to promise (without providing specifics) that he would give the NSA the tools "to track and take out the terrorists without undermining our Constitution and our freedom." But last week, now-President Obama was singing a different tune: "You can't have 100 percent security and then also have 100 percent privacy and zero inconvenience."

So, what kind of defense do we want this nation to have? What the NSA is reportedly doing, roughly speaking, is collecting phone numbers and matching them against other phone numbers to detect unusual patterns. It's hard to imagine that these agents are eavesdropping on every one of the millions of phone calls and emails sent each year. However, what we can imagine often pales to what reality can produce.

But is it acceptable? Do we dare declare our privacy sacred and, thus, let our defenses down? Or do we sacrifice some measure of our freedom to secure our freedoms in general? Could we genuinely tell the victims of the next terrorist incident that we truly did all we could do?

The biggest question may be in terms of oversight, because this kind of technological security is gravid with possibilities for abuse. Thus, we do know that while some lawmakers are criticizing these recent revelations, it's also true that members of Congress have been briefed about these operations. But according to Bloomberg News, Congress has twice in the last two years rejected amendments that would have required more government disclosure on the scope of such surveillance efforts.

Even if we are comfortable with reasonable surveillance, we must never, ever be comfortable with allowing it to run unchecked.

This ongoing debate surely summons the ghost of George Orwell and his nervously prophetic dystopian novel "1984," but it also revives a famous thought by Benjamin Franklin: "Those who would give up essential Liberty, to purchase a little temporary Safety, deserve neither Liberty nor Safety." However, we are discovering in this age that a balance is needed: a balance of privacy and security, a balance of government operation and governmental oversight. We must find those proper counterweights in order to decide how best to defend America and to defend the privacy of Americans.

kmb

TODAY IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press
 Today is Tuesday, June 11, the 162nd day of 2013. There are 203 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History: On June 11, 1963, in one of the most shocking images of the Vietnam War era, a Buddhist monk, Thich Quang Duc (thik kwang duk), set himself afire on a Saigon street to protest the government of South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem (noh deen dyem). (The scene was captured in a Pulitzer Prize-winning photograph taken by Malcolm Browne of The Associated Press.)

On this date: In 1509, England's King Henry VIII married his first wife, Catherine of Aragon.

In 1770, Captain James Cook, commander of the British ship Endeavour, discovered the Great Barrier Reef off Australia by running onto it.

In 1776, the Continental Congress formed a committee to draft a Declaration of Independence calling for freedom from Britain.

In 1913, football coach Vince Lombardi and opera singer Rise Stevens were born in New York City.

In 1919, Sir Barton won the Belmont Stakes, becoming horse racing's first Triple Crown winner.

In 1938, Johnny Vander Meer pitched the first of two consecutive no-hitters as he led the Cincinnati Reds to a 3-0 victory over the Boston Bees. (Four days later, Vander Meer refused to give up a hit to the Brooklyn Dodgers, who lost, 6-0.)

In 1942, the United States and the Soviet Union signed a lend-lease agreement to aid the Soviet war effort in World War II.

In 1962, three prisoners at Alcatraz in San Francisco Bay staged an escape, leaving the island on a makeshift raft; they were never found or heard from again.

In 1971, the year-and-a-half-long occupation of Alcatraz Island in San Francisco Bay by American Indian activists ended as federal officers evicted the remaining protesters.

In 1977, Seattle Slew won the Belmont Stakes, capturing the Triple Crown.

In 1987, Margaret Thatcher became the first British prime minister in 160 years to win a third consecutive term of office as her Conservatives held onto a reduced majority in Parliament.

In 1993, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that people who commit "hate crimes" motivated by bigotry may be sentenced to extra punishment; the court also ruled religious groups had a constitutional right to sacrifice animals in worship services.

Ten years ago: A suicide bomber killed 16 victims in a Jerusalem bus blast; two Israeli rocket strikes against Hamas fugitives killed 11 Palestinians in Gaza City. Houston's Roy Oswalt, Pete Munro, Kirk Saarloos, Brad Lidge, Octavio Dotel and Billy Wagner combined for the first no-hitter against the New York Yankees in 45 years, winning 8-0. Pioneering broadcast journalist David Brinkley died in Houston at age 82.

Five years ago: President George W. Bush, during a visit to Germany, raised the possibility of a military strike to thwart Tehran's presumed nuclear weapons ambitions; Chancellor Angela Merkel joined Bush in urging further sanctions against Iran if it failed to suspend its nuclear enrichment program. For his part, Iranian leader Mahmoud Ahmadinejad called Bush a "wicked man." Four Boy Scouts were killed when a tornado hit the Little Sioux Scout Ranch near Blencoe, Iowa.

One year ago: Testimony began in the trial of former Penn State assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky, accusing of sexually abusing 10 boys over 15 years. (Sandusky was later convicted and sentenced to at least 30 years in prison.) Rafael Nadal won his record seventh French Open title, defeating Novak Djokovic 6-4, 6-3, 2-6, 7-5. The Los Angeles Kings won their first NHL championship, beating the New Jersey Devils 6-1 in Game 6 of the Stanley Cup finals. Ann Rutherford, 94, the demure brunette actress who played Scarlett O'Hara's youngest sister in "Gone With the Wind," died in Los Angeles.

Today's Birthdays: U.S. Rep. Charles Rangel, D-N.Y., is 83. Actor Gene Wilder is 80. Comedian Johnny Brown is 76. International Motorsports Hall of Famer Jackie Stewart is 74. Singer Joey Dee is 73. Actress Adrienne Barbeau is 68. Rock musician Frank Beard (ZZ Top) is 64. Animal rights activist Ingrid Newkirk is 64. Rock singer Donnie Van Zant is 61. Actor Peter Bergman is 60. Pro Football Hall of Famer Joe Montana is 57. Actor Hugh Laurie is 54. TV personality Mehmet Oz, M.D. ("Dr. Oz") is 53. Singer Gioia (JOY-ah) Bruno (Exposé) is 50. Rock musician Dan Lavery (Tonic) is 47. Country singer-songwriter Bruce Robison is 47. Actor Peter Dinklage is 44. Country musician Tai Anderson (Third Day) is 37. Actor Joshua Shroet is 35. Christian rock musician Ryan Jackson is 33. Actor Shia LaBeouf is 27.

Thought for Today: "A successful man is one who can lay a firm foundation with the bricks others have thrown at him." — David Brinkley (1920-2003).

Mental Health Becomes An Issue?

BY LEONARD PITTS JR.
 Tribune Media Services

I cannot write this the way I want. Doing so would invade the privacy of too many people. But I can't be silent, either.

Last week, you see, President Obama spoke before a conference of mental health advocates at the White House. It is necessary, he said, to remove the stigma of mental illness and make sure "people aren't suffering in silence," that they know they are not alone, but are supported by the rest of us as they face this challenge.

It would seem a plain vanilla thing to say. But in this endless era of smash-mouth politics, nothing is plain vanilla anymore.

So one Neil Munro, a "reporter" for the right-wing Daily Caller website, duly took exception. Under the headline, "Obama urges public to use government mental-health programs," Munro in essence accused mental health professionals of making up illnesses. "In recent decades," he wrote, "the professionals have broadened the definition from severe, distinct and rare ailments, such as schizophrenia and compulsive behavior, to include a much wider set of personal troubles. Those broader problems include stress and sadness, which are medically dubbed 'anxiety' and 'depression' by professionals."

Munro was having none of that. "Americans," he wrote, "have typically responded to stress and sadness by urging stoicism, hard work, marriage, prayer and personal initiative. ..."

In other words we were self-reliant. We toughed it out.

And if I could write this the way I want, I would tell you in detail about a friend who was self-reliant. She toughed it out. Right up until she shot herself.

If I could write this the way I want, I would gather people I know who suffer from the types of diseases Munro finds "real" — dissociative identity disorder, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia — and I'd let them describe for you the stigma that attaches even to those sicknesses. The notion that mental illness — any mental illness — should be



Leonard PITTS

YOUR LETTERS

Generous Act

Carol M. Ferguson, Tyndall

The June 2, my daughter, Rita Gall; son, Tom, and I were having lunch at Perkins Restaurant on W. 41st St., Sioux Falls. We were relieved to have Tom doing well after surgery on Memorial Day. Imagine our surprise when we found that some generous person had paid for our meal. We didn't know, and couldn't find out, who had been so generous on our behalf. It will be with your generosity in mind when I can do the same for another family.

We thank you and appreciated your kindness.

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 the City of Yankton should further investigate the possibility of building a new water plant outside of Riverside Park?

Yes57%
 No28%
 Don't care15%

TOTAL VOTES CAST203

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:

Should the Washington Redskins change their nickname? To vote in the *Press & Dakotan's* Internet poll, log on to our website at www.yankton.net.

FROM THE BIBLE

There are also many other things that Jesus did. John 21:25. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

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