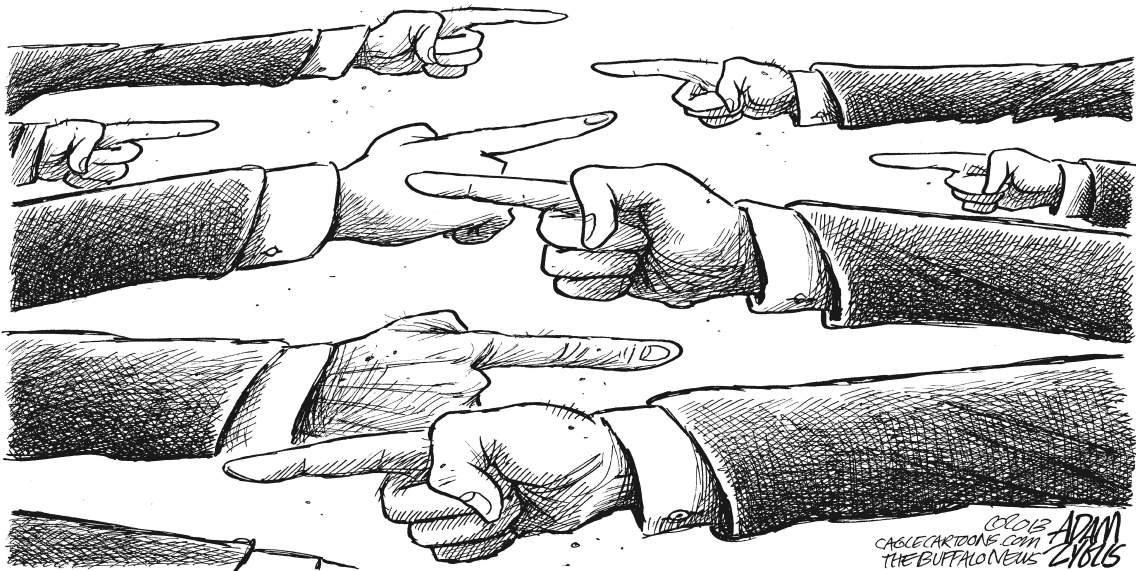


Reaching Across the Aisle...



The Rez Of The Story

They Claim To Be Chiefs ...

BY VINCE TWO EAGLES

Hau Mitakuepi (Greetings My Relatives), Leadership is a curious thing, an idea really, but it is certainly not universal when it comes to understanding it or using it. Case in point:

It has become a relatively recent phenomenon in Indian Country for individuals to seemingly out of the clear blue declare themselves to be “hereditary chief.” Because they believe that their grandfather was a chief, it therefore automatically makes them a chief as well.

Among other problems (like perpetuating stereotypes) that arise from this practice, the notion that chieftainship can be derived from ancestral lineage alone resembles too closely the aristocracies of Europe (king, queen, prince and princess) where the primary purpose of these aristocracies served to keep land holdings, wealth and political power in the family. Is this what is behind all the recent “chief grabbing” going on here in Indian Country?

I normally do not like to air family laundry out for public inspection, however, these bogus self-appointed con artists traveling across the country misrepresenting themselves as “chiefs” either for monetary gain or other purposes prey upon you, the unsuspecting public — and that casts a shadow on all Indian people. We are law-abiding, responsible citizens (the vast majority of us, anyway) like everyone else, but we have a few loose cannons out there conning people.

If you suspect such an individual may be bogus, first of all do not give them money! You can contact the tribe they say they are “chief” of to verify their claims or you can obtain a list of federally recognized tribes from the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs.

If it was ever a practice among Dakotah (Sioux) people to recognize hereditary chieftainship (which I seriously doubt), the practice clearly doesn’t apply anymore in modern times. Why? The practice of democratically elected leadership here in Indian Country is here to stay, in my opinion. This allows “everyone” (women, too) the chance to aspire to public service. The mere “assignment” of so-called “chieftainship” according to lineal descent is archaic



Vince TWO EAGLES

(if it were ever practiced among Dakotah people) and utter nonsense, in my opinion.

The very word “chief” should serve as a clue as to the fraudulent nature of self-proclaimed leaders.

First of all, chief is a European word and concept. The dictionary defines chief as: 1. the leader of a body or organization; head, highest in rank; 2. the principal or most valuable part; most important. Chief is a word and concept taken directly from the shelves of Hollywood mythology. Second and more importantly is the fact that the Dakotah word for a leader is Itancha, meaning literally “spokesperson,” not chief.

The European model of leadership is based upon the centralizing of political power structured much like a pyramid and therefore can accommodate the notion of an “in charge” chief. In traditional Dakotah ways, the Itancha is merely a spokesperson selected for a specific period of time or for a specific task. These Itanchas were usually elders held in high esteem by the people because of their exemplary lives and the body politic was understood to be structured like a circle. Potential Itanchas were called out to the center of that circle (a high honor, to be sure) and asked to speak for the people. The public trust remained with the people at all times.

Thus, be forewarned that if you choose to misrepresent your status within the Nation (Oyate) as a “chief,” hereditary or otherwise, you will bring dishonor upon yourself, your family and risk the good standing of the people, as well. Is misrepresenting yourself worth all that?

Do we want to be represented by members of the Nation who may not be members in good standing (which means leading a life of good example, sober, not a criminal not a con man)?

Do we want representation that (by any other words) would be called a dictatorship because your rise to power is based solely on genetics and not ability? I think not, and the vast majority of Native people (based upon personal interviews) agree with me.

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

Of Woodward And Of Sperling

BY KATHLEEN PARKER

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WASHINGTON — To the world beyond the Beltway, it might not mean much that Bob Woodward of the famed Watergate duo went public with his recent White House run-in.

This would be an oversight.

It also may not mean much that the White House press corps got teed off when they weren’t allowed access to President Obama as he played golf with Tiger Woods. This, too, would be an oversight.

Though not comparable — one appeared to be a veiled threat aimed at one of the nation’s most respected journalists and the other a minor blip in the scheme of things — both are part of a pattern of behavior by the Obama administration that suggests not just thin skin but a disregard for the role of the press and a gradual slide toward a state media.

This is where oversight can become dangerous.

Understandably, everyday Americans may find this discussion too inside baseball to pay much mind. Why can’t the president play a little golf without a press gaggle watching? As for Woodward, it’s not as though the White House was threatening to bust his kneecaps.

Add to these likely sentiments the fact that Americans increasingly dislike the so-called mainstream media, sometimes for good reason. Distrust of the media, encouraged by alternative media seeking to enhance their own standing, has become a useful tool to the very powers the Fourth Estate was constitutionally endowed to monitor. When the president can bypass media to reach the public, it is not far-fetched to imagine a time — perhaps now? — when the state controls the message.

To recap: Woodward recently wrote an op-ed for The Washington Post placing the sequester debacle on Obama’s desk and accusing the president of “moving the goal posts” by asking for more tax increases.

Before the story was published, Woodward called the White House to tell officials it was coming. A shouting match ensued between Woodward and Gene Sperling, Obama’s economic adviser, followed by an email in which Sperling said Woodward “will regret staking out that claim.”

Though the tone was conciliatory, and Sperling apologized for raising his voice, the message nonetheless caused Woodward to bristle.

Again, Woodward’s kneecaps are probably safe, but the



Kathleen PARKER

challenge to his facts, and therefore to his character, was unusual given Woodward’s stature. And, how, by the way, might Woodward come to regret it? Sperling’s words, though measured, could be read as: “You’ll never set foot in this White House again.”

When reporters lose access to the White House, it isn’t about being invited to the annual holiday party. It’s about having access to the most powerful people on the planet as they execute the nation’s business.

Inarguably, Woodward has had greater White House access than any other journalist in town. Also inarguably, he would survive without it. He has filled a library shelf with books about the inner workings of this and other administrations, the fact of which makes current events so remarkable.

Woodward, almost 70, is Washington’s Reporter Emeritus. His facts stand up to scrutiny. His motivations withstand the test of objectivity. Sperling obviously assumed that Woodward wouldn’t take offense at the suggestion that he not only was wrong but was endangering his valuable proximity to power.

He assumed, in other words, that Woodward would not do his job. This was an oversight.

This is no tempest in a teapot, but rather the leak in the dike. Drip by drip, the Obama administration has demonstrated its intolerance for dissent and its contempt for any who stray from the White House script. Yes, all administrations are sensitive to criticism and all push back when such criticism is deemed unfair or inaccurate. But no president since Richard Nixon has demonstrated such overt contempt for the messenger. And, thanks to technological advances in social media, Obama has been able to bypass traditional watchdogs as no other has.

More to the point, the Obama White House is, to put it politely, fudging as it tries to place the onus of the sequester on Congress. And, as has become customary, officials are using the Woodward spat to distract attention. As Woodward put it: “This is the old trick ... of making the press ... the issue, rather than what the White House has done here.”

Killing the messenger is a time-honored method of controlling the message, but we have already spilled that blood. And the First Amendment’s protection of a free press, the purpose of which is to check power and constrain government’s ability to dictate the lives of private citizens, was no oversight.

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difficult to write about mental illnesses without encountering them:

The error in Point 1 becomes apparent by substituting “blacks.” You intend something specific, you offer a generalization.

The error in Point 2 has occurred many times in history. Again, to reveal the error, substitute “the” Blacks. Point 3 is a truism. Every demographic is more likely to be victims of a violent act than perpetrators.

The language above (and in several other instances in this article) diminishes a very diverse demographic to a simplistic one. That may not be the intent of the writers and speakers, but it is the intent of the language.

THE PRESS & DAKOTAN



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OPINION | OUR VIEW

Sequestration: A Matter Of Principle

A headline on the Reuters news service website over the weekend tells the tale of the moment: “Congress faces irate constituents after big cuts.” Good.

The sequester stalemate has resulted in \$85 billion in budgetary cuts across the board. The cuts are or will be hitting defense, social services, infrastructure, health care and so on. They are imperiling the economy’s gathering momentum, may put thousands of people out of work and could inflict economic damage that may take months to overcome, or so we’re being told.

We’re also being told that no one wants these cuts — not the lawmakers and certainly not the public.

And yet, here we are, getting precisely what no one wanted.

So it’s no surprise that the public is displeased.

It could be argued that the configuration of the cuts that are now being inflicted on so many areas and services are almost secondary in importance.

What is really aggravating a lot of people, it seems, is the principle of the situation.

We have needlessly inflicted this mess upon ourselves. Many months ago, the White House and Congress agreed to an artificial deadline to motivate lawmakers to reach a genuine deal. As writer Derek Thomson noted at The Atlantic website: “The sequester wasn’t designed to be a good law. It was designed to be such a bad law that Congress would feel compelled to replace it with another one.” Alas, those lawmakers didn’t take the bait, you might say.

And the public is letting them have it.

“They want to kill us all,” Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) said in assessing the mood of his constituents.

Sen. Thomas Carper, D-Delaware, reported that his wife asked him, “Why can’t you guys get your act together? Do you know what people think of you guys?”

It really is the principle of the thing that angers us most these days.

Many of us consider this nation to be the greatest on earth, in part because we have a long history of overcoming our differences for the sake of the greater good. We do have showdowns and ultimatums at times — we always have — but we’ve always found a way to move forward.

It seems now that we have lost our way, perhaps intentionally. According to a variety of reports, both sides may see political gain in a prolonged, dragged-out stalemate, figuring it will cause damage to the other side.

Never mind the damage it is causing to the rest of us.

And that’s the point. Where are the real priorities of these lawmakers? Where are their real allegiances?

Those are pressing questions, especially with the specter of a government shutdown looming later this month.

This has become an insane game. Congress is now catching hell from its constituents, as it should. And if anything, as the obstinate stalemate staggers on, the people should keep turning up that hellish heat. This idiocy cannot go on.

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 support the expansion of background checks for gun purchases?	
Yes	63%
No	34%
Not sure	3%
TOTAL VOTES CAST	
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 support the U.S. policy of using drones to target Americans who may be traitors?

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, March 5, the 64th day of 2013. There are 301 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History: On March 5, 1963, country music performers Patsy Cline, Cowboy Copas and Hawkshaw Hawkins died in the crash of their plane, a Piper Comanche, near Camden, Tenn., along with pilot Randy Hughes (Cline’s manager).

On this date: In 1770, the Boston Massacre took place as British soldiers who’d been taunted by a crowd of colonists opened fire, killing five people.

In 1868, the Senate was organized into a Court of Impeachment to decide charges against President Andrew Johnson, who was later acquitted.

In 1933, in German parliamentary elections, the Nazi Party won 44 percent of the vote; the Nazis joined with a conservative nationalist party to gain a slender majority in the Reichstag.

In 1934, the first Mothers-in-Law Day celebration and parade took place in Amarillo, Texas.

In 1946, Winston Churchill delivered his “Iron Curtain” speech at Westminster College in Fulton, Mo.

In 1953, Soviet dictator Josef Stalin died after three decades in power. Composer Sergei Prokofiev died in Moscow at age 61.

In 1960, Cuban newspaper photographer Alberto Korda took the now-famous picture of guerrilla leader Ernesto “Che” Guevara during a memorial service in Havana for victims of a ship explosion. Elvis Presley was discharged from the U.S. Army.

In 1970, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons went into effect after 43 nations ratified it.

In 1979, NASA’s Voyager 1 space probe flew past Jupiter, sending back photographs of the planet and its moons.

In 1982, comedian John Belushi was found dead of a drug overdose in a rented bungalow in Hollywood; he was 33.

In 1983, Country Music Television (CMT) made its debut with the video “It’s Four in the Morning,” performed by Faron Young.

In 1993, Palair Macedonian Airlines Flight 301, a Fokker 100, crashed after taking off from Skopje Airport, killing 83 of the 97 persons aboard.

Ten years ago: In a blunt warning to the United States and Britain, the foreign min-

isters of France, Germany and Russia said they would block any attempt to get U.N. approval for war against Iraq. Thousands of students around the U.S. walked out of classes to protest a possible war. A suicide bus bombing in Haifa, Israel, killed 17 people, including an American teenager. A Kuwaiti policeman was sentenced to 15 years in prison for a 2002 attack that wounded two U.S. soldiers on a Kuwaiti desert highway. Comedian George Miller died in Los Angeles.

Five years ago: John McCain, having sewn up the Republican presidential nomination, got a White House embrace from President George W. Bush, who praised the Arizona senator’s “incredible courage and strength of character and perseverance.”

One year ago: President Barack Obama and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met at the White House, where Obama urged pressure and diplomacy to prevent Iran from getting a nuclear bomb while Netanyahu emphasized his nation’s right to a pre-emptive attack. As-sailants waving the battle flag of al-Qaida gunned down 25 policemen in the western Iraqi town of Haditha. Songwriter Robert B. Sherman, 86, who’d collaborated with his brother Richard on such movie musicals as “Mary Poppins” and “Chitty Chitty Bang Bang,” died in London. “Lipstick Killer” William Heirens, 83, died in Chicago after serving more than six decades in prison.

Today’s Birthdays: Actor James Noble is 91. Actor James B. Sikking is 79. Actor Dean Stockwell is 77. Actor Fred Williamson is 75. Actress Samantha Eggar is 74. Actor Michael Warren is 67. Actor Eddie Hodges is 66. Singer Eddy Grant is 65. Rock musician Alan Clark (Dire Straits) is 61. Actress-comedian Marsha Warfield is 59. Magician Penn Jillette is 58. Actress Adriana Barraza is 57. Rock singers Craig and Charlie Reid (The Proclaimers) are 51. Rock musician John Frusciante is 43. Singer Rome is 43. Actor Kevin Connolly is 39. Actress Jill Ritchie is 39. Actress Jolene Blalock is 38. Actress Eva Mendes is 38. Model Niki Taylor is 38. Actor Sterling Knight is 24. Actor Jake Lloyd is 24.

Thought for Today: To force opinion is like pushing the magnetized needle round by brute strength until it points to where we wish the North Star stood, rather than to where it really is.” — Dorothy Canfield Fisher, American author and essayist (1879-1958).

FROM THE BIBLE

They asked Him to show them a sign from heaven. Matthew 16:1. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

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