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PRESS & DAKOTAN

OPINION | OUR VIEW

Favre's Memory And The Damage Done

There's a disturbing irony in the fact that former National Football League quarterback Brett Favre, who will be forever remembered in the universe of professional football, made headlines last week for forgetting something. But that forgotten something touches on a much larger problem.

During a radio interview, Favre admitted that he could not remember his daughter playing youth soccer one summer. It was made in indirect reference to the impact of concussions on football players, particularly at the professional level where large, fast athletes slam into one another like battering rams, sometimes creating neurological damage in the process.

"I think after 20 years, God only knows the toll," Favre told a Washington radio station last week after the St. Louis Rams reportedly contacted him to see if he might be interested in bolstering the team's depleted quarterback ranks. According to an article on the NBC News website, Favre, who played with a very reckless and self-sacrificing style was sacked 525 times in his career, more than any other quarterback in NFL history.

"This was pretty shocking to me that I couldn't remember my daughter playing youth soccer, just one summer," Favre said. "... So that's a little bit scary to me. For the first time in 44 years, that put a little fear in me."

Favre's admission has struck a chord with a lot of people, even though his story is not a worst-case scenario.

For that, you should turn to someone like former NFL linebacker Junior Seau, who killed himself last year with a gunshot wound to his chest, a wound that left the brain intact. A subsequent autopsy found evidence in his brain tissue of chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), a progressive degenerative brain disease.

Or they could consider the case of former NFL safety Dave Duerson, who in 2011 also killed himself with a gunshot wound to the chest. In his suicide note, he asked that experts study his brain for damage caused by years of rugged football play.

Or they might consider the \$765 million settlement this past summer that the NFL made with thousands of former players who filed a lawsuit accusing the league of not disclosing the possible long-term effects of concussions on players. Those effects can include memory loss, CTE, Parkinson's disease, dementia and more.

It's a real-life horror story as these athletes risk their well-beings for wealth and glory — and for our adulation. But so many of these athletes never achieve great fame or riches; some of them now are nearly broke and without medical insurance, and they face a long, desperate road into a bleak night.

One of the criticisms of Favre's admission, as well as with the lawsuit filed by the players, is that these athletes knew exactly what they were getting into when they stepped into the violent football arena. But that's not completely fair. It wasn't so long ago that a player's concussion was treated only as a short-term inconvenience, not as the seed of long-term issues. And if the NFL was indeed withholding information from the players, it stands as a reckless and destructive omission that places the product over the humanity that generates it.

The larger question is, what can be done to safeguard players? Steps have been taken to improve helmets and change rules to promote safety, and new protocols have been set up to deal with players with head injuries. But none of these things can completely eliminate the risk of head injuries in football, where the players are becoming bigger and faster.

And none of this should overlook the risks of head injuries in other sports like basketball, where collisions happen with unprotected players who are also bigger and faster than ever.

Favre's anecdote, which may be a red flag of something deeper, puts a fresh face on this issue, but not necessarily a new one. However, if it serves as a means to a better end and a better outcome for these athletes, it is an important step.

kmh

ON THIS DATE

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Oct. 29, the 302nd day of 2013. There are 63 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Oct. 29, 1929, Wall Street crashed on "Black Tuesday," heralding the beginning of America's Great Depression.

On this date: In 1618, Sir Walter Raleigh, the English courtier, military adventurer and poet, was executed in London.

In 1787, the opera "Don Giovanni" by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart had its world premiere in Prague.

In 1901, President William McKinley's assassin, Leon Czolgosz, was electrocuted.

In 1923, the Republic of Turkey was proclaimed.

In 1940, Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson drew the first number — 158 — in America's first peacetime military draft.

In 1956, during the Suez Canal crisis, Israel invaded Egypt's Sinai Peninsula. "The Huntley-Brinkley Report" premiered as NBC's nightly television newscast.

In 1960, a chartered plane carrying the California Polytechnic State University football team crashed on takeoff from Toledo, Ohio, killing 22 of the 48 people on board.

In 1966, the National Organization for Women was formally organized during a conference in Washington, D.C.

In 1967, Expo 67 in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, closed after six months.

In 1979, on the 50th anniversary of the great stock market crash, anti-nuclear protesters tried but failed to shut down the New York Stock Exchange.

In 1987, following the confirmation defeat of Robert H. Bork to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court, President Ronald Reagan announced his choice of Douglas H. Ginsburg, a nomination that fell apart over revelations of Ginsburg's previous marijuana use. Jazz great Woody Herman died in Los Angeles at age 74.

In 1994, gunman Francisco Martin Duran fired more than two dozen shots from a semiautomatic rifle at the White House. (Duran was later convicted of trying to assassinate President Bill Clinton and was sentenced to 40 years in prison.)

In 1998, Sen. John Glenn, at age 77, roared back into space aboard the shuttle Discovery, retracing the trail he'd blazed for America's astronauts 36 years earlier.

In 2004, Osama bin Laden, in a videotaped statement, directly admitted for the first time that he'd ordered the Sept. 11 attacks and told America

"the best way to avoid another Manhattan" was to stop threatening Muslims' security.

Ten years ago: International organizations continued their exodus from Iraq in the wake of car bombings in the capital and attacks against coalition troops. A powerful geomagnetic storm walloped the Earth, knocking out some airline communications but apparently causing no large power outages or other major problems. Opera star Franco Corelli died in Milan, Italy, at age 82.

Five years ago: A 6.4-magnitude earthquake in southwestern Pakistan killed at least 215 people. Nearly 50 hours after Game 5 started but was stopped by rain, the Philadelphia Phillies finished off the Tampa Bay Rays 4-3 in a three-inning sprint to win the World Series for the first time since 1980.

One year ago: Superstorm Sandy came ashore in New Jersey and slowly marched inland. It swamped lower Manhattan with a 13-foot surge of seawater, devastated New Jersey coastal communities and left more than 8 million people without power. The storm and its aftermath would kill more than 100 people in the United States.

Today's Birthdays: Bluegrass singer-musician Sonny Osborne (The Osborne Brothers) is 76. Country singer Lee Clayton is 71. Rock musician Denny Laine is 69. Singer Melba Moore is 68. Musician Peter Green is 67. Actor Richard Dreyfuss is 66. Actress Kate Jackson is 65. The president of Turkey, Abdullah Gul, is 63. Actor Dan Castellana (The Simpsons) is 56. Country musician Steve Kellough (Wild Horses) is 56. Comic strip artist Tom Wilson ("Ziggy") is 56. Actress Finola Hughes is 54. Singer Randy Jackson is 52. Rock musician Peter Timmins (Cowboy Junkies) is 48. Actress Joely Fisher is 46. Rapper Paris is 46. Actor Rufus Sewell is 46. Actor Grayson McCouch is 45. Rock singer SA Martinez (311) is 44. Musician Toby Smith is 43. Actress Winona Ryder is 42. Actress Tracee Ellis Ross is 41. Actor Trevor Lissauer is 40. Actress Gabrielle Union is 40. Olympic gold medal bobsledder Vonneta Flowers is 40. Actress Milena Govich is 37. Actor Jon Abrahams is 36. Actor Brendan Fehr is 36. Actor Ben Foster is 33. Rock musician Chris Baio (Vampire Weekend) is 29. Actress India Eisley (TV: "The Secret Life of the American Teenager") is 20.

Thought for Today: "It may be necessary temporarily to accept a lesser evil, but one must never label a necessary evil as good." — Margaret Mead, American anthropologist (1901-1978).

FROM THE BIBLE

He went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison. 1 Peter 3:19.
Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis



The Rez of the Story

Perceptions And Image

BY VINCE TWO EAGLES

Hau Mitakuepi (Greetings My Relatives), In its Nov. 4 issue, *Time Magazine* ran a very short blurb that said, "Washington Redskins owner Daniel Snyder is under pressure from Native American groups and others to change the moniker his club has used for more than 75 years." The piece almost made fun of the notion that anyone who is offended by the NFL's use of a racial caricature to make millions of dollars and bothers to even bring it up is wasting America's precious time.

I know the issue has been discussed by many of the media's political and sport pundits but I didn't see them interview any Native people about this issue. In fact, Daniel Snyder said that the "majority" of Native people don't take offense to their use of the word "Redskins." So I was wondering where he got his information from? Was there a survey or a least a questionnaire that went around Indian Country and the rez and I missed it? I've asked others here in Indian Country if they ever were approached in any way to solicit their opinion on this subject and no one said anything about being asked their opinion.

It's like saying that the majority of Black people don't mind being called the "N" word, let alone it being used to further an exploitive, multimillion dollar enterprise by non-Black people; who are so arrogant and secure in their racism as to even bother to listen when they are told their usage of such a term is offensive.

Jack Utter in his book entitled "American Indians: Answers To Today's Questions" tells us, "Stereotypes applies to American Indians over the past 500 years show that Native people have been variously defined as innocent children of nature, subhuman demons, untrustworthy thieves, noble savages, bloodthirsty murderers, royal princesses, human curiosities, unfeeling stoics, natural-born warriors, innately inferior humans, shiftless wanderers, vanishing vestiges of the stone age, wild animals, oppressed and promiscuous 'squaws,' lazy parasites, incompetents, devil worshippers, completely democratic egalitarians, loyal 'Men Friday,' born bearers of wisdom, magical healers, depraved drunkards, born mystics, automatic knower's of nature, threats to female virtue, supernaturals, fa-



Vince
TWO EAGLES

vored 'pets' of the government, the enemy, racist 'white bashers,' the antitheses to 'civilization,' and the bearers of a holy message to mankind. Throughout history, it seems American Indians have been routinely regarded as almost anything but true-to-life men, women and children who are as individualistic and human as any other people on earth.

"As the matter of stereotyping by Indians, it obviously occurs among many. In the term 'them-and-us' scenario necessary for stereotyping to take place, the 'them' is the 'White Man.' Naturally, this omits the millions of Hispanics, African Americans, and Oriental Americans who will jointly constitute the majority of American society in the 21st century. The stereotypical view which many Indians have of White society is that it always has the flaws. It is guilty of racism, historical injustices, continued legal injustices, environmental pollution, introduction of

alcohol and the death penalty, culture crushing genocide, the killing of Native religions, etc. Typical of stereotyping, there is frequently little room for someone defined as a 'White Man' to have individuality separate from the massed wrongs of the past and present. Whatever is wrong with the 'White' society is perceived as not being part of Native culture. This allows Indians to maintain claims of moral superiority over the majority race.

"One has to admit to an overwhelming amount of historical and often continuing motivation for Indian stereotyping of the 'White Man.'"

The Lakota scholar, Vine Deloria (1970, p. 44), however, has thoughtfully criticized stereotyping by Indians and other minorities: "They must not fall into the same trap by simply reversing the process that has stereotyped them. Minority groups must thrust through the rhetorical blockade by creating within themselves a sense of 'peoplehood.' These are words of wisdom for everyone."

We are all in this world together as brothers and sisters (relatives), so the more effort we take to get to know each other better and stop hurting each other with our stereotypes (Washington Redskins), it will be a better world no doubt. Hetchetwado (It is so)!

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

Is The Tea Party Over?

BY BILL O'REILLY

Creators Syndicate

The tea party is on the run. New polls say less than 25 percent of Americans now view the movement favorably. That is a stunning turnaround, because in the fall of 2010, the tea party achieved huge victories in congressional races all across the country.

So what happened? Unlike the far-left Occupy Wall Street movement, the tea party does not embrace violent tactics or infringe on the rights of the folks. Also, it is not a centralized force; its leadership goes state by state. There is no national spokesperson or party headquarters. The tea party is simply a loose description of local activism driven by Americans who want smaller government and more self-reliance.

That sounds like what the Founding Fathers had in mind, does it not?

But now the tea party finds itself with an image problem, and there are two primary reasons for this.

First, the media. Generally, the national press embraces a progressive vision that is at odds with tea party beliefs. In addition, many journalists and celebrities don't know any tea party members, who tend to be regular folks who don't hang out in swank places. I think it's fair to say the media look down on Americans who embrace religion, gun rights and conservative values. So media outlets demonize the tea party all day long, calling it racist, stupid and, worse, unsophisticated!

The second reason for the decline of the tea folks is the right-wing media, which generally loves the party. Many in this crew are rhetorical bomb throwers who use personal attacks to slant



Bill
O'REILLY

der and libel those with whom they disagree. Calling President Obama a communist, a Muslim and a fraud (birth certificate) is cheap. And independent-minded Americans know it.

While the majority of tea party citizens do not use defamation, some of those who claim to represent them do. It's the same thing on the left. Some progressive commentators are so hateful that they damage their own cause. Hate is hate no matter what ideology you embrace.

The fascinating thing here is that I believe most Americans support the tea party philosophy of freedom and local control. But that message has been lost in the heat of political battle.

The only way the tea party can resurrect itself is to coalesce around a strong leader. There has to be a central message delivered by someone with charisma, a person who is reasonable and persuasive. The movement has been damaged both inside and out. Only a very intense public relations campaign could turn the tide.

I don't think that will happen. It would take millions of dollars in TV ads and organizational infrastructure for the tea party to negate the national media's contempt. And that kind of big-money operation goes directly against that which the tea party people aim to be: a citizen movement that operates independent of party structure.

Americans do like to party. And someday we the people will wise up and regain power over our lives. Hopefully, at least some of us will remember who started that movement.

Veteran TV news anchor Bill O'Reilly is host of the Fox News show "The O'Reilly Factor" and author of many books, including the newly released "Killing Jesus."

YOUR LETTERS

Hunger In The Heartland

Randy Gleich, Yankton

Did you know: South Dakota has 104,445 people on food stamps or 13 percent of our population. In Nebraska: 182,149 or 10 percent; in Iowa: 442,004 or 14 percent. The source for this is the USDA, updated Sept 2013.

Is there something wrong here. Goodness, we are in farm country.

Our government needs to get priorities straight. Are we that stupid that we can't fix simple problems? What have our elected officials been doing the last few years? Raiding the cookie jar!

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 Yankton should form a non-governmental sports authority to coordinate its recreational needs?

No 44%
Yes 42%
Not sure 14%
TOTAL VOTES CAST 171

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 Bo Pelini will return as Nebraska's football coach in 2014?

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