

# THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

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**OPINION**

## Ebola In The US: The Real Worrry

**T**he Ebola crisis that has officially reached American shores is a cause for concern but not for panic. It is worrisome not so much because of what it will do going forward but more because of the manner in which the story has unfolded to this point.

America's anxiety level about the virus reached new heights late last week when a case of Ebola was officially diagnosed in the U.S. — the first such case diagnosed here. The victim was a Liberian man who recently visited the African nation and tested positive for the disease in Dallas. This cued up trepidation from coast to coast, with some people bracing for a plague to sweep across the country, leaving death and tragedy in its bleak wake.

Never mind that this isn't the way Ebola works. Unlike, say, viruses that are airborne or plagues that spread through fleas, Ebola is a virus that can only be transmitted by direct contact. It's the kind of contact that is much more traditional in West Africa, where the virus is currently rampaging out of control. For instance, the *Washington Post* over the weekend cited this example: "Some West Africans believe that the day you die is one of the most important days of your life. The final farewell can be a hands-on, affectionate ritual in which the body is washed and dressed, and in some villages carried through the community, where friends and relatives will share a favorite beverage by putting the cup to the lips of the deceased before taking a drink." Indeed, *National Geographic* reported that dead bodies of Ebola victims are highly infectious, and the more deaths there have been, the more people have become infected after such funerals.

So, social custom has played a driving role in turning the Ebola outbreak in Africa into an epidemic.

What should be more disconcerting here the slow response that has been demonstrated by world health officials to the crisis. That response has let the virus get out of control and allowed for hundreds of deaths.

The *Post* noted that it took the World Health Organization (WHO) more than four months to declare the outbreak an emergency — by which point it was past the point of containment. Budget cuts and the loss of top minds were cited as reasons for the slow response.

Meanwhile, West Africa was unprepared for there outbreak due to years of civil war and persistent, crippling poverty, both of which conspired to decimate local health systems. The *Post* reported that some health workers had never seen the Ebola virus before, and then grew overconfident when the epidemic seemed to fade in some rural areas before it showed up with a vengeance in some large cities. As the virus accelerated, some health workers fled the areas of infestation, thus allowing the epidemic to accelerate.

Clearly, some of the medicines needed to combat this virus are calm minds, clear visions and decisive actions. These elements arguably have been missing at times in this deadly episode, which has turned this Ebola beast into a monster.

So, while we should indeed be concerned about Ebola, especially to what it is doing to souls in West Africa, we should also be alarmed by the steps that weren't taken or were discarded along the way. This is a question of proactive strategy serving as the best defense, and right now, what we are seeing might be classified as a failure — and not terribly reassuring for whatever else may come down the pike next.

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**ON THIS DATE**

**By The Associated Press**

Today is Tuesday, Oct. 7, the 280th day of 2014. There are 85 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:** On Oct. 7, 1954, Marian Anderson became the first black singer hired by the Metropolitan Opera Company in New York. (Anderson made her Met debut in January 1955 playing the role of Ulrica in Verdi's "Un Ballo in Maschera.")

**On this date:** In 1777, the second Battle of Saratoga began during the American Revolution. (British forces under Gen. John Burgoyne surrendered 10 days later.)

In 1849, author Edgar Allan Poe died in Baltimore at age 40.

In 1858, the fifth debate between Illinois senatorial candidates Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas took place in Galesburg.

In 1929, former Interior Secretary Albert B. Fall, one of the main figures of the Teapot Dome scandal, went on trial, charged with accepting a bribe from oil tycoon Edward L. Doheny. (Fall was found guilty and sentenced to a year in prison; he served nine months. Doheny was acquitted at his own trial of offering the bribe Fall was convicted of taking.)

In 1949, the Republic of East Germany was formed.

In 1960, Democratic presidential candidate John F. Kennedy and Republican opponent Richard Nixon held their second televised debate, this one in Washington.

In 1979, Pope John Paul II concluded his weeklong tour of the United States with a Mass on the Washington Mall.

In 1982, the Andrew Lloyd Webber-Tim Rice musical "Cats" opened on Broadway. (The show closed Sept. 10, 2000, after a record 7,485 performances.)

In 1985, Palestinian gunmen hijacked the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro in the Mediterranean. (The hijackers, who killed Jewish American tourist Leon Klinghoffer, surrendered two days after taking over the ship.)

In 1989, Hungary's Communist Party renounced Marxism in favor of democratic socialism during a party congress in Budapest.

In 1991, University of Oklahoma law professor Anita Hill publicly accused Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas of making sexually inappropriate comments when she worked for him; Thomas denied Hill's allegations.

In 2001, the current war in Afghanistan started as the United States and Britain launched air attacks against military targets and Osama bin Laden's training camps in the wake of the September 11 attacks.

**Ten years ago:** President George W. Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney conceded that Saddam Hussein had no weapons of mass destruction as they tried to shift the Iraq war debate to a new issue, arguing that Saddam was abusing a U.N. oil-for-food

program. Two bombs exploded at a gathering of Sunni Muslim radicals in Multan, Pakistan, killing some three dozen people. Cambodia's King Norodom Sihanouk abdicated because of poor health. Austrian writer Elfriede Jelinek won the Nobel Prize in literature.

**Five years ago:** A top Italian court overturned a law granting Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi immunity from prosecution, allowing trials for corruption and tax fraud to resume in Milan. (Berlusconi was later convicted of tax fraud relating to the purchase of TV rights to U.S. films on his Mediaset network; the corruption trial ended with a court ruling that the statute of limitations had run out.) Americans Venkatraman Ramakrishnan and Thomas Steitz and Israeli Ada Yonath won the Nobel Prize in chemistry. Fashion and celebrity photographer Irving Penn died in New York at 92.

**One year ago:** The partial federal government shutdown lingered, rattling markets in the U.S. and overseas while a gridlocked Congress betrayed little or no urgency toward resolving the impasse. Americans James Rothman and Randy Schekman and German-born researcher Thomas Suedhof won the Nobel Prize in medicine for discoveries on how proteins and other materials are transported within cells.

**Today's Birthdays:** Retired South African Archbishop and Nobel Peace laureate Desmond Tutu is 83. Comedian Joy Behar is 72. Former National Security Council aide Lt. Col. Oliver North (ret.) is 71. Rock musician Kevin Godley (10cc) is 69. Actress Jill Larson is 67. Country singer Kieran Kane is 65. Singer John Mellencamp is 63. Rock musician Ricky Phillips is 63. Actress Mary Badham (Film: "To Kill a Mockingbird") is 62. Actress Christopher Norris is 61. Rock musician Tico Torres (Bon Jovi) is 61. Cellist Yo-Yo Ma is 59. Gospel singer Michael W. Smith is 57. Olympic gold medal ice dancer Jayne Torvill is 57. Actor Dylan Baker is 56. Recording executive and TV personality Simon Cowell is 55. Rock musician Charlie Marinkovich (Iron Butterfly) is 55. Country singer Dale Watson is 52. Pop singer Ann Curless (Exposé) is 51. Rhythm-and-blues singer Toni Braxton is 47. Rock singer-musician Thom Yorke (Radiohead) is 46. Rock musician-dancer Leeroy Thornhill is 45. Actress Nicole Ari Parker is 44. Actress Allison Munn is 40. Rock singer-musician Damian Kulash is 39. Singer Taylor Hicks is 38. Actor Omar Benson Miller is 36. Electronic musician Flying Lotus (AKA Stephen Ellison) is 31. MLB player Evan Longoria is 29. Actress Holland Roden is 28. Actress Amber Stevens is 28. Actress Lulu Wilson is 9.

**Thought for Today:** "If your contribution has been vital, there will always be somebody to pick up where you left off, and that will be your claim to immortality." — Walter Gropius, German-American architect (1883-1969).

**FROM THE BIBLE**

Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry. 2 Timothy 4:11. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

**NATIONAL NEWSPAPER WEEK**

A GOOD NEWSPAPER...  
IS A NATION TALKING TO  
ITSELF - ARTHUR MILLER



**The Rez Of The Story**

## A Cause To 'Celebrate'?

**BY VINCE TWO EAGLES**

Hau Mitakuepi (Greetings My Relatives), October marks one "holiday" that needs to be stricken from the proverbial record as a day to "celebrate."

To celebrate what? The "discovery" of America?

Here from the perspective that many Native people hold to be their own is what I believe, and the record shows to be the case, is another side that explains why we should be repealing this so called holiday rather than celebrating it. When will America learn that her greatness is about being able to tell the truth, but more than that, using the power of conversation to not only set the record straight but to honor that truth and decide to stop perpetuating historical and ongoing wrongs.

Eric Kasum, founder and CEO of the Imagine Institute (a think tank for peace), puts the issue rather succinctly:

Once again, it's time to celebrate Columbus Day. Yet the stunning truth is: If Christopher Columbus were alive today, he would be put on trial for crimes against humanity.

Why do we honor a man, who if he were alive today, would almost certainly be sitting on Death Row awaiting execution?

Here's the basics. On the second Monday in October each year, we celebrate Columbus Day. We teach our school kids a cute little song that goes: "In 1492, Columbus sailed the ocean blue." It's an American tradition, as American as pizza pie. Or is it? Surprisingly, the true story of Christopher Columbus has very little in common with the myth we all learned in school.

Columbus Day, as we know it in the United States, was invented by the Knights of Columbus, a Catholic fraternal service organization. Back in the 1930s, they were looking for a Catholic hero as a role-model their kids could look up to. In 1934, as a result of lobbying by the Knights of Columbus, Congress and Presi-



Vince  
**TWO EAGLES**

dent Franklin Roosevelt signed Columbus Day into law as a federal holiday to honor this courageous explorer. Or so we thought.

There are several problems with this. First of all, Columbus wasn't the first European to discover America. Second, Columbus wasn't a hero. When he set foot on that sandy beach in the Bahamas on October 12, 1492, Columbus discovered that the islands were inhabited by friendly people, peaceful people called the Lucayans, Tainos, and Arawaks. Writing in his diary, Columbus said they were a handsome, kind and smart people. He noted that the gentle Arawaks were remarkable for their hospitality. "They offered to share with anyone and when you ask for something, they never say no," he said. The

Arawaks had no weapons; their society had neither criminals, prisons nor prisoners. They were so kind-hearted that Columbus noted in his diary that on the day Santa Maria was shipwrecked, the Arawaks labored for hours to save his crew and cargo. The native people were so honest that not one thing was missing.

Columbus was so impressed with the hard work of these gentle islanders, that he immediately seized their land for Spain and enslaved them to work in his brutal gold mines. Within only two years, 125,000 (half of the population) of the original natives were dead.

Shockingly, Columbus supervised the selling of Native girls into sexual slavery. Young girls of the ages 9 to 10 were the most desired by his men. In 1500, Columbus casually wrote about it in his log.

Kasum's blog entitled: "Columbus Day? True Legacy: Cruelty and Slavery" certainly pulls no punches, nor should it. For the full blog you can go to his blog site on the Internet for the full and sordid story about this so called American hero. It is time we change this travesty.

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

**YOUR LETTERS**

**A Good Sense Of Security**

**Gail Sohler, Yankton**

Past owner of *Stockmen's Livestock Market*

At the age of 18 years old I was mentored by a bank owner Jim Lloyd. At the time his bank was called American State Bank -Yankton.

If Jim were still alive today, he would say to keep up with the latest technology and cutting edge equipment. He also said don't forget traditional methods of operation. I am an old school guy, I place the value of a handshake over that of deal-striking email. I have to meet face to face.

It's about building relationships and people having confidence that you know what you are talking about and that you can perform. This formally has been a solid core for many successful people.

Mr. Lloyd stressed to be very straight forward, you do not have to give a big sales spiel. He was very up front and honest about what issues we may have or not going to have. A few satisfied customers lead to a word of mouth campaign. This old school style has allowed many young business people, ranchers, farmers and employees to hold their own through the years. After 58 years, it is the best advice I had in my life.

People that are blessed with patience and common sense seem to get to the top of the ladder the easiest way.

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**FREEDOM OF THE PRESS: It's Your Right To Know!**