



It's The Same Old Hate

BY LEONARD PITTS JR.
Tribune Media Services

This is for Vanessa in South Florida. She emailed me a few days ago after spotting a bumper sticker that read: 2012 Don't Re-Nig. "Honestly," she wrote, "I don't know how to process my outrage, so I'm handing it off to you. I know that President Obama's race has always been an issue to many people, and perhaps I live a relatively sheltered life in Democratic-leaning Broward County, but I'm still stunned by the sentiment. I'm even more stunned, naive though that may be, by the fact that some people believe it's appropriate to flaunt that sentiment — and that it's not a source of shame."

Vanessa, I'm afraid I'm not nearly as shocked as you. After all, the sentiment that bumper sticker expresses has been part of the Obama narrative since before he took office.



Leonard PITTS

Some of us grapple with a sense of racial and cultural dislocation, the jolting sensation in a changing nation, that their prerogatives as white people, assumptions so ingrained as to have never previously required the slightest thought, are now in question. They want "their" country back. As the great satirist Randy Newman sings in a new satirical ballad:

*"I'm dreaming of a white president
Just like the ones we've always had
A real live white man who knows the score
How to handle money or start a war."*

But for others of us, it's not anything so nuanced as a sense of dislocation — just the same old hate as always.

Either way, the world has changed enough that one cannot openly express such things. So instead, it gets hidden in oblique language, false controversies and putative "jokes."

But Vanessa — when one in four Americans thinks there's some mystery over the president's birthplace, while Mitt Romney (son of a man born in Mexico) and John McCain (born in the Panama Canal Zone) face no such scrutiny; when tea partiers denounce health-care reform as "reparations," when Rep. Lynn Westmoreland calls Obama "uppity," then-Rep. Geoff Davis

calls him "boy" and Rep. Joe Wilson yells out, "You lie!" during a presidential speech; when Rush Limbaugh says Obama's election means it's open season on white kids; when Obama is called a terrorist, a "food stamp president" and a "Chicago thug" — why should "Don't Re-Nig" come as a surprise? It's just the next logical step.

One cannot openly express one's hate — right up till the day one can. Though even then, one may have to delude oneself.

When he was asked about that bumper sticker, Billy Smith of Ludowici, Ga., who manufactured it with his wife, Paula, told a reporter: "We didn't mean it in a racist way." The driver of that car would likely have said the same. But they do not lie for our benefit. They lie to conscience — and to self.

So this is the paradigm of our age — self-delusion on the one hand, a guy trying to govern on the other, while hemmed in by race, defined in crude, stereotypical imagery, yet unable to fight it, talk about it, or even admit he sees it, for fear of compromising his effectiveness, being dismissed as, God forbid — "an angry black man."

Yet we hope our way forward anyway.

There hangs in the White House this photo of the president bowing to allow a little black boy to touch his head. The 5-year-old, his brother and his parents were in the Oval Office with Obama and the boy had a question. "I want to know if my hair is just like yours," he said, so softly Obama had to ask him to repeat himself. He did, and Obama invited him to see for himself. The boy hesitated.

"Touch it, dude!" the president said.

The boy did. "So, what do you think?" asked Obama.

"Yes," said the boy, "it does feel the same."

That child's name is Jacob. And Vanessa, while some of us are dreaming of a white president, well, it's likely Jacob has some new dreams of his own.

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The U.S. Has No Energy Policy

BY BILL O'REILLY
Creators Syndicate

So there I am, pulling into a gas station in my town, and Tarek is smiling. He owns the station, and right now he's charging me \$4.25 a gallon. American motorists may not be better off than they were four years ago, but Tarek certainly is.

When President Barack Obama took office, the average price for a gallon of regular gas was \$1.84. That means gas prices have more than doubled on Obama's watch. But why?

The primary reason is that the system is rigged. Oil companies watch the worldwide speculation market, and if the traders are bidding the price of oil up because Iran misbehaves or something, up goes the pump price. When the speculators sell short, the price of gasoline drops, but not nearly so much as it jumped. That cycle is repeated a few times a year.

Then there's OPEC, which raises prices every time the United States pumps dollars in the economy. Last week, the Fed released \$23 billion into the marketplace, hoping the cash would spur lending by the banks. The oil sheiks well understand that flooding the zone with currency devalues the worth of the dollar, so they raise their prices to get more greenbacks in the hope of keeping their staggering profits stable.

Another reason Americans are getting hosed at the pump is that President Obama loathes the fossil fuel industry and does everything he can to inhibit production. He stopped the oil pipeline from Canada, makes ocean drilling very difficult and taxes the hell



Bill O'REILLY

out of traditional energy. Of course, the folks pay the taxes.

Obama is a green guy, and his administration has invested about \$100 billion of taxpayer money in clean energy projects. In theory, that sounds good.

Wind power, solar energy, electric cars — all would make the planet cleaner and the sheiks poorer. The problem is that the technology is not developed yet. The president knows that but tilts at windmills anyway.

In truth, the USA does not have an energy policy. The Department of Energy apparently has a giant dartboard, and whatever alternative energy industry is hit that day gets money. The bankrupt Solyndra solar company cost the taxpayers more than \$500 million. Other failed green enterprises have added to the incredible national debt, as well.

A few people are riding around in electric cars — something that infuriates Tarek — but not many. Those automobiles are generally expensive, and the plug-in stuff is complicated. American society is largely driven (sorry) by easy, convenient products. Risking electrocution in a rainstorm while firing up a Prius might hold some folks back.

Finally, there may be big trouble ahead at the gas station. If Israel attacks Iran over nukes, worldwide oil prices will explode, as well. \$8 a gallon? Could happen.

Veteran TV news anchor Bill O'Reilly is host of the Fox News show "The O'Reilly Factor" and author of the book "Pinheads and Patriots: Where You Stand in the Age of Obama."

Special thanks to area businesses that contributed plants for our sale: Diane Dickes (Diane's Greenhouse, Fordyce, Neb.); Jay Gurney (Yankton Nurseries LLC); Cindy Nelsen (Garden Gate, Mission Hill); Kristy Bothwell (Rosewood Greenhouse, Vermillion).

Also a special thanks to all the individuals who donated plants and other garden items for our plant sale.

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OPINION | OTHER THOUGHTS

Duty Of Schools: Report Abuse Allegations

OMAHA WORLD-HERALD (Sept. 17): Need to learn chemistry? Look to a teacher.

Need to investigate a possible crime? Call a cop.

One of the most alarming failures a school system can commit is to not report allegations of sexual abuse of a student to the proper authorities. That is a fundamental obligation in protecting the safety of children.

There may be a risk that an individual could be falsely accused. Allegations do not automatically mean guilt. But it is up to the justice system to answer those questions.

There is no reason for any school system to fail to notify law enforcement, let alone make excuses for such a failure. Investigations into such allegations need to be handled by law enforcement officers who are trained to do that. Recent action by the Nebraska State Patrol sent this message clearly, again.

This case involves the school system in Maxwell, a community about 14 miles east of North Platte. The Patrol has ticketed three school officials — the head wrestling coach, the high school principal and the superintendent — on misdemeanor charges of failing to report child abuse or neglect.

If witnesses are being truthful, a young Maxwell wrestler was held down by several teammates and sexually assaulted last year at a wrestling camp in Kearney.

The school officials, through their lawyer, say their own investigation determined there was no reasonable cause to believe the student had been abused and that they followed school policy and state law.

State Patrol Lt. Lynn Williams has said the investigation is ongoing and that there is the potential for more victims to emerge and additional arrests or citations.

Omaha unfortunately had a similar experience when a police investigation led to seven felony charges against a teacher — now ex-teacher awaiting trial — at a middle school. Omaha Public Schools conducted an internal investigation rather than report the allegations to authorities.

OPS policy has now changed. An employee must alert law enforcement within 24 hours after a student alleges sexual misconduct by teachers or staff members, and school officials no longer will try to determine whether an accusation is "reasonable" before reporting it.

The obligation of a school system is to contact authorities. School administrators are not trained investigators. They are not experienced or skilled interrogators of accused persons, witnesses and victims. They are not skilled at gathering evidence. Law enforcement authorities are trained and experienced in protecting not only victims but also the rights of the accused.

In the Maxwell case, that lesson again has been underscored by Nebraska law enforcement authorities.

It's a lesson no school system should ignore.

OUR LETTER POLICY

The **PRESS & DAKOTAN** encourages its readers to write letters to the editor, and it asks that a few simple guidelines be followed.

- Please limit letters to 300 words or less. (During political campaigns, letters related to the campaign may be limited to 150 words.) Letters should deal with a single subject, be of general interest and state a specific point of view. Letters are edited with brevity, clarity and newspaper style in mind.
- In the sense of fairness and professionalism, the **PRESS & DAKOTAN** will accept no letters attacking private individuals or businesses.
- Specific individuals or entities addressed in letters may be given the opportunity to read the letter prior to publication and be allowed to answer the letter in the same issue.
- Only signed letters with writer's full name, address and daytime phone number for verification will be accepted. Please mail to: Letters, 319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078, drop off at 319 Walnut in Yankton, fax to 665-1721 or email to views@yankton.net.

TODAY IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press
Today is Monday, Sept. 24, the 268th day of 2012. There are 98 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Sept. 24, 1890, the president of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Wilford Woodruff, wrote a manifesto renouncing the practice of polygamy, or plural marriage (the manifesto was formally accepted by the Mormon Church the following month).

On this date: In 1789, Congress passed a Judiciary Act providing for an Attorney General and a Supreme Court.

In 1869, thousands of businessmen were ruined in a Wall Street panic known as "Black Friday" after financiers Jay Gould and James Fisk attempted to corner the gold market.

In 1929, Lt. James H. Doolittle guided a Consolidated NY-2 Biplane over Mitchel Field in New York in the first all-instrument flight.

In 1934, Babe Ruth made his farewell appearance as a player with the New York Yankees in a game against the Boston Red Sox. (The Sox won, 5-0.)

In 1948, Mildred Gillars, accused of being Nazi wartime radio propagandist "Axis Sally," pleaded not guilty in Washington, D.C. to charges of treason. (Gillars, later convicted, ended up serving 12 years in prison.)

In 1955, President Dwight D. Eisenhower suffered a heart attack while on vacation in Denver.

In 1957, the Los Angeles-while Brookly Dodgers played their last game at Ebbets Field, defeating the Pittsburgh Pirates 2-0.

In 1960, the *USS Enterprise*, the first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, was launched at Newport News, Va. "The Howdy Doody Show" ended a nearly 13-year run with its final telecast on NBC.

In 1963, the U.S. Senate ratified a treaty with Britain and the Soviet Union limiting nuclear testing.

In 1976, former hostage Patricia Hearst was sentenced to seven years in prison for her part in a 1974 bank robbery in San Francisco carried out by the Symbionese Liberation Army. (Hearst was released after 22 months after receiving clemency from President Jimmy Carter.)

In 1981, four Armenian gunmen seized the Turkish consulate in Paris, killing a guard and holding 56 hostages for 15 hours before surrendering.

In 1991, kidnappers in Lebanon freed British hostage Jack Mann after holding him captive for more than two years. Children's author Theodor Seuss Geisel, better known as "Dr. Seuss," died in La Jolla, Calif., at age 87.

Ten years ago: British Prime Minister Tony Blair asserted that Iraq had a growing arsenal of chemical and biological weapons and planned to use them, as he unveiled an intelligence dossier to a special session of Parliament. Gunmen stormed a Hindu temple in the western Indian state of Gujarat, killing some 30 worshippers.

Five years ago: Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad questioned the official version of the September 11 attacks and defended the right to cast doubt on the Holocaust in a tense appearance at Columbia University in New York. United Auto Workers walked off the job at GM plants in the first nationwide strike during auto contract negotiations since 1976; a tentative pact ended the walkout two days later. Two kidnapped Italian intelligence operatives were rescued in a NATO-led combat operation in western Afghanistan, two days after they went missing. As many as 100,000 anti-government protesters led by Buddhist monks marched in Yangon, Myanmar.

One year ago: Russian President Dmitry Medvedev proposed Vladimir Putin as a presidential candidate for 2012, paving the way for Putin's return to office four years after he was legally forced to step aside. NASA's dead six-ton Upper Atmosphere Research Satellite fell to Earth, 20 years after being deployed from the space shuttle Discovery.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-singer Herb Jeffries is 101. Actress Sheila MacRae is 88. Rhythm-and-blues singer Sonny Turner (The Platters) is 73. Singer Barbara Albrit (The Angels) is 72. Singer Phyllis "Giggs" Albrit (The Angels) is 70. Singer Jerry Marsden (Gerry and the Pacemakers) is 70. News anchor Lou Dobbs is 67. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Joe Greene is 66. Actor Gordon Clapp is 64. Former U.S. Rep. Joseph Kennedy II, D-Mass., is 60. Actor Kevin Sorbo is 54. Christian/jazz singer Cedric Dent (Take 6) is 50. Actress-writer Nia Vardalos is 50. Country musician Marty Mitchell is 43. Actress Megan Ward is 43. Singer-musician Marty Cintron (No Mercy) is 41. Contemporary Christian musician Juan DeVevo (Casting Crowns) is 37. Actor Justin Bruening is 33. Olympic gold medal gymnast Paul Hamm is 30. Actor Kyle Sullivan is 24.

Thought for Today: "The easiest way to get a reputation is go outside the fold, shout around for a few years as a violent atheist or a dangerous radical, and then crawl back to the shelter." — F. Scott Fitzgerald (born this date in 1896, died 1940).

FROM THE BIBLE

So that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast to the Lord." 1 Corinthians 1:31. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

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YOUR LETTERS

Plant Sale A Success

Bob Neibergall, Yankton
For the Missouri Valley Master Gardeners

The Missouri Valley Master Gardeners would like to thank all who purchased plants at our annual plant sale at the Territorial Capitol Building on Saturday, Sept. 8. The proceeds will be used for educational outreach projects.

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