



The Rez Of The Story

Consider This Perspective

BY VINCE TWO EAGLES

Hau Mitakuepi (Greetings My Relatives),
Often Native people are confronted with the non-Indian sentiment that asks the question, "When are Indian people going to quit living in the past and move on?" Sherley Anne Williams, an African-American poet, novelist and professor of English literature at the University of California at San Diego, puts it like this, "I want somehow to tell the story of how the dispossessed become possessed of their own history without losing sight, without forgetting the meaning or the nature of their journey."

Suppose it were you, Mr. Non-Indian? Suppose one fine day in autumn of the year (let's say in the fine month of October), you chanced upon some people who seemed strange to you not only in dress but in language and manner as well. Ostensibly, they presented themselves as having come from a different place that had become crowded and life had been reduced to mere struggle and only rarely an occasion for celebration of the gifts life had to offer them. You pitied them, and the talk among your people was to help them along particularly knowing that a harsh winter would be arriving soon enough.

That first winter passed and after a while, the strangers began to learn from you and your people how to flourish in this new place you have called home for countless generations. Soon more of the strangers arrived, and then more came — at first like a trickling stream which later turned into a raging torrent like a mighty river with no end in sight.

So you react, you have to start trying to limit the influx but you are overwhelmed. Before you know it, they have taken over vast tracks of territory that they agreed would not be settled and would keep future settlements out of. Without much warning, these settlers have become very powerful in terms of their military strength and have now begun to wage an all-out war to possess your territory and subjugate your people. Colonization has begun. You have been captured and relocated to a new territory unfamiliar to your people but to be your new home none the less.

You are restrained from talking the American language and most began speaking the new tongue. To



Vince TWO EAGLES

make sure that the new generation falls into line with the new order, your children are forcibly removed from you and your family so that they can be properly indoctrinated. You are under the complete control of the strangers who were once a mere visitor.

Some of your people react to imposed survival by assimilating into the new order so as to blend in and not draw attention lest they be ridiculed for the way they look, or talk or think. Some resist by protesting from a never-ending and bottomless pit of anger and resentment, and they lapse into a constant loop of bitterness that begins to take its toll on your people. Violence is a new way of life among your people where none existed before the strangers came. Your families have been torn apart and left devastated and dysfunctional. Some of your people have given up and have lapsed into alcoholism and drug abuse as a means to cope with it all.

You have been forbidden to exercise your inherent right to pray to a higher power as you understand him; in fact, it has been made illegal for your people to practice their religion. Instead, you have been taught — as have your children — to worship in the way of the strangers. The elders of your people, having remembered the old ways of prayer, have taken to hiding the practice of the old religion lest they be discovered and punished. The strangers have enacted laws and developed policies that continue to oppress and shape the way you make decisions about your families and your people. So you eventually learn the ways of the colonizers so that you can fight back with their words and laws. But the game is fixed and the strangers can change (an often do) the rules of the game whenever it is to their advantage to do so.

What little lands your people have left are guarded by the fox (called trust responsibility) who make no overtures to include you in the decision-making process and disregard your right to free and informed consent.

And the list of transgressions goes on and on and then one day you hear those famous words, "When are you and your people going to stop living in the past and move on?"

And now you know the rez of the story.
Doksha ...

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 allowing abortions in cases of rape?
Yes71%
No23%
Not sure6%
TOTAL VOTES CAST578

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 idea of the City of Yankton hiring an events coordinator/retail recruiter?
To vote in the *Press & Dakotan's* Internet poll, log on to our Web site at www.yankton.net.

• Exploitative filmmaking at it's fear mongering worst ... Garbage ... Thread-bare ... Hate Wrapped in Fancy Language ... Republicans should be embarrassed this movie will be attributed to your party ... An amazing pile of lies ... Laughably terrible ... See it on Fox News ... Pure Political Propaganda ... Do not waste your time and money on this propaganda ... Awful film by a reactionary right wing con artist.
So, it seems that if you enjoy the vilifying of president this is the movie for you. Otherwise, save your money.

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OPINION | OUR VIEW

Kudos To Congress! A List Of Achievements

The 112th Congress probably deserves derision for its incredible non-performance these past two years. When the lawmakers left Washington Saturday to go home for campaign season, it marked the earliest time since 1960 that Congress had decided to leave D.C. prior to an election — during which, of course, many of these politicians who have made the 112th so memorably useless will now be asking voters to return them to their jobs. Good luck with that. (Of course, since incumbents have an incredibly high rate of re-election success, the luck probably isn't needed.)

Still, this Congress, which left an immense agenda of important items in limbo when it left town, did manage to accomplish *some* things, and it would be unfair to condemn these lawmakers without giving a nod to a few of their accomplishments.

• What is being castigated as the most divisive Congress in generations did manage to generate a near-consensus across the country in terms of a job performance rating. In a Gallup poll last February, this Congress mustered a measly 10 percent approval rating, breaking the old mark of 11 percent set last December. According to the *Washington Post*, this prompted Sen. Michael Bennett of Colorado to put together a list of things that, through the years, had polled better in Gallup surveys than this Congress. The list included the IRS (40 percent, 2009), lawyers (20 percent, 2011), Richard Nixon when he resigned the presidency in 1974 (24 percent) and British Petroleum during the 2010 gulf spill (16 percent).

• Senate Democrats managed to avoid putting forward a budget for a vote during the session — a remarkable feat given the tenor of these economic times. A budget would at least given the nation an idea of a blueprint and a starting point for discussion.

• House Republicans courageously voted to repeal the Affordable Care Act a total of 33 times. In each instance, it was a non-starter because it could never get past the Senate or the president, but that didn't stop congressmen from tapping the idea again and again and again and again and again ...

Meanwhile, if an alternative health care proposal to replace Obamacare was put forth or passed by the House GOP, no one ever heard of it — and it sure didn't happen 33 times.

• Congress accomplished a first by overseeing the U.S. having its credit rating downgraded for the first time in history. Standard & Poor's did this not because of the nation's deficit or debt, but because congressional inability to show some financial sanity in negotiations. "The downgrade reflects our view that the effectiveness, stability and predictability of American policymaking and political institutions have weakened at a time of ongoing fiscal and economic challenges," S&P officials declared.

• Congress did nothing to address the solvency of the postal service, but it did pass at least 60 bills to rename post office buildings. During the 112th Congress, these measures accounted for 17 percent of all the legislation passed as of the August recess, according to ThinkProgress.org.

• In the final week — with things like the farm bill, the transportation bill, a federal shutdown and the so-called "fiscal cliff" looming large squirming in limbo — the 112th Congress closed out business by passing some other measures, as related by The Associated Press. Senate Democrats pushed through a vote on a sportsmen's bill designed to aid the re-election chances of Sen. Jon Tester of Montana. House Republicans passed the Stop the War on Coal Act, a fiercely anti-environmental measure aimed at hurting President Obama's reelection efforts in coal-producing states. And the Senate passed a resolution — non-binding, of course — reaffirming U.S. efforts to stop Iran from developing a nuclear weapon.

With that, the 112th fades into the campaign fog. It is scheduled to return to work Nov. 6, after the election, to presumably tackle all the big issues it has left burning on the stove. Perhaps it's best to send them home early. At least it saves us the pain of having to watch so much well-paid, blustering, partisan inertia in inaction.

kmh

TODAY IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Sept. 25, the 269th day of 2012. There are 97 days left in the year. The Jewish Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur, begins at sunset.

Today's Highlight in History: On Sept. 25, 1789, the first United States Congress adopted 12 amendments to the Constitution and sent them to the states for ratification. (Ten of the amendments became the Bill of Rights.)

On this date: In 1513, Spanish explorer Vasco Nunez de Balboa crossed the Isthmus of Panama and sighted the Pacific Ocean.

In 1690, one of the earliest American newspapers, *Publick Occurrences*, published its first — and last — edition in Boston.

In 1775, American Revolutionary War hero Ethan Allen was captured by the British as he led an attack on Montreal. (Allen was released by the British in 1778.)

In 1904, a New York City police officer ordered a female automobile passenger on Fifth Avenue to stop smoking a cigarette. (A male companion was arrested and later fined \$2 for "abusing" the officer.)

In 1911, ground was broken for Boston's Fenway Park.

In 1919, President Woodrow Wilson collapsed after a speech in Pueblo, Colo., during a national speaking tour in support of the Treaty of Versailles.

In 1932, the Spanish region of Catalonia received a Charter of Autonomy (however, the Charter was revoked by Francisco Franco at the end of the Spanish Civil War).

In 1957, nine black students who'd been forced to withdraw from Central High School in Little Rock, Ark., because of unruly white crowds were escorted to class by members of the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division.

In 1962, Sonny Liston knocked out Floyd Patterson in round one to win the world heavyweight title at Comiskey Park in Chicago. "The Longest Day," 20th Century Fox's epic recreation of the D-Day invasion, based on the book by Cornelius Ryan, had its world premiere in France.

In 1978, 144 people were killed when a Pacific Southwest Airlines Boeing 727 and a private plane collided over San Diego.

In 1981, Sandra Day O'Connor was sworn in as the first female justice on the Supreme Court.
In 1992, the Mars Observer blasted off on a \$980 million mission to the Red Planet (the probe disappeared just before entering Martian orbit in August 1993). A judge in Orlando, Fla., ruled in favor of Gregory Kingsley, a 12-year-old seeking to "divorce" his biological parents.

Ten years ago: American schoolchildren escaped a rebel-held Ivory Coast city that was under siege as U.S. special forces and French troops moved in to rescue Westerners caught in the West African nation's bloody uprising. Tropical Storm Isidore drenched the Gulf Coast.

Five years ago: Warren Jeffs, the leader of a polygamous Mormon splinter group, was convicted in St. George, Utah, of being an accomplice to rape for performing a wedding between a 19-year-old man and a 14-year-old girl. (The conviction was later overturned by the Utah Supreme Court; prosecutors ended up dropping the charges, since Jeffs is serving a life sentence in Texas in a separate case.) Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, addressing the United Nations, announced "the nuclear issue of Iran is now closed," and indicated Tehran would disregard Security Council resolutions imposed by what he called "arrogant powers." Japan's lower house of parliament elected Yasuo Fukuda prime minister.

One year ago: Declaring they'd been detained because of their nationality, not their actions, Joshua Fattal and Shane Bauer, two American hikers held for more than two years in an Iranian prison, returned to the United States. Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah decreed that women would, for the first time, have the right to vote and run in local elections due in 2015. Wangari Maathai, 71, the first African woman recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, died in Nairobi.

Today's Birthdays: Broadcast journalist Barbara Walters is 83. Folk singer Ian Tyson is 79. Rhythm-and-blues singer Joe Russell is 73. Former Defense Secretary Robert Gates is 69. Actor Josh Taylor is 69. Actor Robert Walden is 69. Actor-producer Michael Douglas is 68. Model Cheryl Tiegs is 65. Actress Mimi Kennedy is 63. Actor-director Anson Williams is 63. Actor Mark Hamill is 61. Basketball Hall of Famer Bob McAdoo is 61. Polka bandleader Jimmy Sturr is 61. Actor Colin Fries is 60. Actor Michael Madsen is 54. Actress Heather Locklear is 51. Actress Aida Turturro is 50. Actor Tate Donovan is 49. TV personality Keely Shaye Smith is 49. Basketball Hall of Famer Scottie Pippen is 47. Actor Jason Flemyng is 46. Actor Will Smith is 44. Actor Hal Sparks is 43. Actress Catherine Zeta-Jones is 43. Rock musician Mike Luze (Drowning Pool) is 41. Actress Bridgette Wilson-Sampras is 39. Actress Clea DuVall is 35. Actor Chris Owen is 32. Rapper T.I. is 32. Actor Van Hansis is 31. Actor Lee Norris is 31. Singer Diana Ortiz (Dream) is 27. Actress Emmy Clarke ("Monk") is 21.

Thought for Today: "History is too serious to be left to historians." — Iain Macleod, British politician (1913-1970).

FROM THE BIBLE

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. John 10:27. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

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YOUR LETTERS

Poker Run A Success

Patty and Larry Hojem, Yankton

Thank you to all the organizers of the benefit poker run for Larry Hojem, and to all the people who attended. We would also like to thank everyone for their support during Larry's surgery and hospitalization. We feel so blessed to have you all in our lives.

Movie 'Reviews'

Charles Snyder, Apple Valley, Minn.

In a recent letter (*Press & Dakotan*, Sept. 19), Brad Butzlaff wrote, "To get the actual facts, regarding this election, I suggest all voters watch the movie '2016: Obama's America.'"

I know nothing about the movie, but suspected by the movie's title that this was an attempt by Mr. Butzlaff to influence voters to vote the right way, that is Republican.

From the movie reviews it was obvious that depending on their political leanings, the reviewers either loved it or hated it. What follows are some titles that I selected from the reviewers' comments:

• Compelling ... The truth is again unveiled ... Objective & Very Informative ... A Great Job Busting Liberal Bubbles ... Excellent Movie ... Excellent well articulated film ... We should have had this information before 2008 ... Sobering content — Revelation ... Excellent investigative documentary ... "Obama's America" is terrifying . Why not exposed in 2008? ... The left hates it, which means it is a complete success!

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