

March 6, 2010
Sickness

From the Rez:

When people abuse pain killers the Spirit Lake Health Center and the Mercy Hospital in Devils Lake keep track of who shows up and pretends that they are in severe pain. These two orgs. generate a list of these people and they are denied any pain killers after that. This causes the people who are severely addicted to move to other communities and start the same cycle again.

This person was one of them, Sisseton first then Fargo, but eventually they run out of places to seek medication and all the clinics in Indian country become aware of them. This whole dynamic has caused the people who need pain medication legitimately, for a short period all manner of problems. This also caused the IHS Doctors to be wary of prescribing any kind of narcotic for pain for anyone, regardless of the reasons like: broken bones, dental patients etc. So when this goes on or anything else it shows that it affects the whole community, just like the ban on certain animals.

The people who do not take care of their animals and let them run loose in the community cause a whole situation for people who do take care of their animals.

You cannot condemn one breed of animal because of the owners neglect but that is how it was handled here. In the first place the police do not cite the owners of dogs who are not chained up. These dogs are running all over the reservation and going into other people's yards.

This creates a danger to the children who walk to school or anyone that uses the bike path. They need to start taking these people to court and make them accountable. Only then will this business of allowing animals to run free and unattended, hungry and digging and scattering garbage all over the community, stop.

There is no law enforcement here, on both sides of the street here there are two vans parked in the road. No one stops and tells them this is an accident hazard and that they will need to make arrangements to park these vehicles off the street.

I do not know if these people are connected that makes them immune to the police dept but I watch it everyday.

There are people who are running the Elderly program who say that the age of an elder is 62 and that it should not be 55. There are too many of

the people that I have known who died long before they reached the age of 55, and too many who died at the age of 55.

The person pushing this is a woman who drank her whole life away and did nothing for her children and now she is sober after her life is over and she is still handing out advice to everyone.

The kind of person who runs around demanding respect but never did anything to deserve it.

I will write again when I hear anything about the latest death in our community and the new laws that they tell people about after the fact.

They need a referendum vote for the people to change any law we have, but they try and make laws based on their own desire or belief, like they are the only ones who count.

The woman the writer was talking about that died was: ([Read here](#)>> (March 21, 2010) for the Corrections to Margie Herald's passing. The information about her below is misleading)

There was a death of one of the Spirit Lake residents a woman by the name of Margie Herald, so it will be in the paper, she died in Fargo. It seems like a lot of the Spirit Lake residents go to Fargo only to die there, it must be a Mecca for the homeless over there for Spirit Lake, Sisseton and the other reservations nearby.

Addiction is a Sickness

We know addiction is a sickness. You get it from your community. Yet, those who have it are not treated as if they are sick, they are treated as if they are criminals.

Stray dogs do what they can to survive. They offend us with their behaviors. But we should not blame them. They are victims of our neglect. But we are offended, so we blame them for being neglected and committing crimes. They scare us.

Crimes do come from this sickness. Addicts will steal, prostitute themselves, even sell their children to feed their addictions. Those are the crimes that come from this sickness. Addicts are the Human Stray dogs in our midst. They scare us. They scare themselves.

If we invested even a fraction of our Tax Dollars into rehab, clinics, and making sure that every addict had a place to go to heal, we would not be facing this crisis, watching it escalate all these decades.

Attack the Sick People!

“The War On Drugs” is a horrible policy. It does nothing to help those who fall into addiction. It makes them criminals. It fills our prisons instead of building our hospitals. It makes a mistake and ignorance a lifetime of futility.

It makes those who have become addicted through deliberately misleading information from Pharma Companies, people who were prescribed addicting drugs and told they were not addicting, and then dumping those people onto the streets when the addictions took hold of them, criminals.

Even before they commit a crime, they are considered criminals. They become secrets from their own families, friends, jobs. They lose any sense of control over their own lives and they are thrown into punishment rather than treated for their sickness.

Our deliberate indifference leaves them stranded and even less able to help themselves. This while government spends, without blinking, billions on wars, and gives endless grants to Pharmaceutical Companies so that they can then overcharge us for medications, mislead us as to what the side effects, detrimental as they may be, are for us.

We spend billions arming our DEA to go and kick in doors, arrest drug dealers, who are then released on laughable bonds, within hours. The DEA then has secrets that no one in the public is to learn about until it is too late and the damage is done.

Instead of attacking the sick, why not attack the sickness?

A Choice Between Force and Healing

We launch crop eradication programs in this country and in others. The cost is billions.

Yet, the addictions continue to lure in more addicts. The increase in addicts alone, must tell us that we are fighting this the wrong way, and spending our resources, time, money, tax dollars and the lives of our agents, in a very unproductive way.

The drug problem is not diminishing, it has been steadily growing. That alone should label this whole 'war on drugs' a failure. It has become instead, a war on our own people. A war on our addicted brothers and sisters. A war on their babies. A war on our economy. A war against our own future well-being.

Instead of spending countless billions ruining the environments of other nations and getting people on both sides killed, why don't we spend just a fraction of that money on building and staffing places of healing? Why not clinics? Why not rehabs?

Why not spend the time, the money and the effort into healing those who are addicted? Is it because we are loathe to spend money on healing? We prefer, as a civilized society, to arm agents, imprison sick people? Do we, as a nation, prefer to go into other nations and poison their lands to eradicate the supply?

Why not deal with the root of the problem? The addiction. If we cure the addicts, if we heal the addicts, if we give them someplace to go when they realize they have made a mistake, instead of criminalizing them and imprisoning them— instead of throwing them away, instead of condemning them to a life time (however short that may be) of addiction and crime, would that not essentially, end the profit and the market for these drugs?

As it is now, the market continues to grow. It grows to accommodate the growing numbers of addicts and the broadening landscape of their addictions. Heroin, Cocaine, marijuana, pills, bath salts, glue, fumes of every sort... Does it even seem reasonable, even if we became a total police state such as was Communist Russia in the 40's-80's, that we could even begin to stem the tide of addictions through force rather than through healing?

We cannot. Russia had it's highest addictions during its time of greatest force. Force does not stop addiction. Treatment does.

Discarding Human Beings

But we, as a nation, are loathe to treat the sick. It goes against everything we as a society are taught to do. We are taught that those who fall are weak. That they did it to themselves. That they do not deserve our help. Somehow, this makes us feel better about ourselves.

I look around the rez, and I see that we are throwing away people. We are discarding Human Beings as if they are trash.

They may have become addicts, and they may have committed crimes, but they never stopped being Human Beings. They never stopped being our Brothers and Sisters. We just stopped recognizing them. We throw them away. Not realizing, we throw ourselves away.

I look around at our nation. I see we are unwilling to spend any money on helping one another to heal. We are, however, not in the least adverse to bombing other nations, destroying their environments, throwing away our soldiers when they return addicted and spiritually torn to pieces by what they have seen and done in wars. Wars we created to feed the Profiteers we admire, who have the power of our money, to fight us.

We have it backwards. We are doing it wrong. It shows on the rez. But nobody looks on the rez. Nobody looks at Indian Country.

If we did look, we would clearly see what is in fact, in store for us.

For those whose arguments against helping their fellow Human Beings is an anathema, and they justify it by saying: *"Why should I be forced to pay for someone else's mistakes?"* As if being selfish is a high achievement in Civilization, Society, or as a Christian. They wear their lack of compassion, their disconnect from others, like a badge of honor.

The answer is simple. Sooner or later, one way or another, we all pay for each other. Our money goes into wars, and our money goes into “Wars on Drugs” and we pay. When our house is robbed, our loved ones murdered by a desperate addict, we pay. When someone goes to prison instead of rehab, we pay even more.

We are already paying. Why not get our money’s worth? Why not pay to make things better instead of making things worse?

OR, are we, as was prophesized so long ago, ‘become confused and destroying instead of building’. Is Killing really more appealing than healing? Is Killing really more worth paying for than is healing?

We can still pursue high value drug dealers. I am not saying not to. I’m saying that they will be less wealthy, less able to arm against us, if we remove their customers through healing. Presently, drug cartels can better arm themselves, than can the military in their countries. We are paying for that. Our neighborhoods are declining into ghettos. We are paying for that.

Healing will keep the money here, at home. Healing will enable us to be more creative, more productive and better able to help one another. Healing will give us strength to defend ourselves against all enemies—foreign and domestic.

Force only makes us less able. Less able to recover. Less able to help one another. Less productive. Less creative. More fearful.

But fear has been the tool of cynical, toxic politics for millennia. Fear is how we are controlled.

I suppose the first question is this: Are we willing to stop scaring ourselves long enough to regain our strength through healing and compassion?

You know where to find me.

~Cat