

May 30, 2016
Hooped

I give up. North Dakota is hooped. Hooped is a term we use here instead of the 'F' word. Your choice for Congressman is either a completely corrupt Democrat who already has sex scandals brewing, complete with his nudie texts to a judge, whose marriage he broke up--- or a Republican, who tonight was on the stage introducing Donald Trump.

Trump, the guy with multiple bankruptcies, under investigation for his Trump University Scam, (possibly others) and who has offended every ally we have in the known world... a man who sincerely knows nothing about government and who wants to 'hire' a Vice President who'll 'do all the jobs Trump doesn't want to do' In other words, the hard stuff.

Sorry if you have so many ignorant rednecks out there that you can't bring yourself to vote for anything but a man who would make the USA a laughing stock because you don't want to vote for the most qualified candidate, Hillary, that has ever run for the job in the past 50 years, but you are part of the problem.

And with Cramer endorsing Trump, I just can't get behind him anymore or take him seriously. He's the only rep I have seen do any work towards saving the children, but with this move I have become completely cynical on him.

So, vote for whichever you want, neither will do you much good, unless Hillary is the winner, in which case, vote for Cramer because he won't be supporting Trump in the White House and can do less damage.

I just wish Dems had put up a better, more qualified candidate for Congress. I've been waiting on that in North Dakota for 20 years now. Let me know how it turns out. I count on nothing.

You have to decide which devil to dance with. I don't envy you one bit.

Hit & Run

A little boy from Newtown, I'm told about age 3 to 5 yrs. , was visiting with relatives in St. Michaels when he was mowed down by a drunk driver. She then fled the scene, but everyone recognized her and her vehicle.

Folks, this has to stop. I don't know how, but it has to stop. If the Tribal Council was not so corrupt for the past 30 years, maybe the millions of dollars it gets from government grants could build decent homes, schools and clinics and yes, even rehab.

Maybe there would be less drunk/stoned/drugged out of their minds driving on the rez if the BIA had cops that were willing to arrest family and friends and Tribal Courts that would prosecute them instead of a wink and a nod, turning a blind eye.

People would be less apt to do this if they thought there were laws and rules to be enforced. But the rez is run like a private club, where those who belong to certain circles get away with drug dealing, drunk driving, stealing, embezzling, human trafficking, baby selling, and murder.

So, as tragic as this latest dead child is, and as heartless as it is for the driver to run like a coward while the child lay dying, it is alas, typical.

Those who try to make rules and laws apply in their community are not supported by those in power or authority higher up the chain, especially at the Federal Level.

The Federal level is all about putting on a show, not fixing anything. It's about protecting their political alliances and having a source of unaudited funds to flow into their bank accounts and campaigns.

There's a whole lot of back scratching going on between Federal Agents, Politicians and Tribal power brokers, throughout Indian Country. And then a child is hit and run and it isn't even news.

In that mire of lawlessness you will find every vice and every human flaw you can think of. You will also find, as I have, the bravest, most compassionate, hardest working people who are, despite all that is ugly and broken, to save their families, save their communities, save their culture. You never hear of them because if you knew their names, you'd be attending their funerals. The Good People are the ones in danger on the rez. The Good People and the Children.

Not Broken

I used to think the system was broken. I realize now that it's not broken, but it is over run with corruption. The system just needs more sunlight and people with integrity need to be supported as they work through the muck and mire to make it better for everyone.

Your support of Robin's House, the safe house for women and children seeking refuge from abusive relationships, is a huge step in that direction. I can't tell you adequately how much every donation of money, supplies or air miles or whatever you come up with, I can't tell you how it uplifts and encourages those who are putting so much of their lives into helping ease the pain and suffering.

The air miles also help with trips to move people out of the area, or to get our people to hearings in Congress. Hearings that can fight bad laws, create better laws. Hearings that can tell the stories of those who cannot speak for themselves, or whose battles have left them gone from this world.

The Spirit of The People is not broken. It's rising up. Each of us doing our part, big or small, is connecting to that light that gets brighter and that source that makes us stronger.

Politics and Government are not perfect. Far from it. Sometimes you get to choose between good choices, sometimes a bad and a good choice, sometimes, between a rock and a hard place. But we stay involved, and we become more involved.

We are the antidote to the cancer of corruption. Those who pull away because they can't find the perfection they require, help no one. The pursuit of perfection is how we abandon ourselves and our communities, by rejecting everything that's only a little better because it's not good enough.

We have to choose how we engage. Do we arrive at the battles emptyhanded because we couldn't get the exact right rock, sword weapon we wanted? Or do we arrive with marbles, rocks, a few broken knives, some string, and build what we need from what we gathered on this journey?

Those who choose not to fight because they think this is not their battle, shut up. No one wants to hear from you and your selfishness. We have work to do.

It's Not Your Life

One last word on drinking and drugging and other destructive behaviors. I understand addictions. They are a sickness. I don't think addicts should be arrested for being addicted. I think they should be helped and healed and allowed to become a constructive part of their communities.

But if you are drinking and drugging and arguing "It's my life and I can do what I want!" to anyone that tries to tell you it's a problem, you're wrong. Everything you do affects everyone around you, just the way everything those you grew up around did, affected you. It's how we're designed.

Don't do this stuff and don't hurt yourself without realizing that it is affecting others.

That woman who hit and ran killing that little boy while she was drunk or drugged, affected his life and she didn't even know him.

We all need each other in this life. We do. We have got to find a way to help each other to heal, and to be stronger, and we can only do that if we can support those who are making the efforts to heal themselves and those who are helping others to heal.

It's where we begin or where we end, depending on whether we think we do or don't matter to those closest to us and to those we have never met.

We matter. You matter. Addiction is not your fault, nor is it something you can fix on your own. You didn't get hooked on your own, you had those around you leading you to it. You can't get well on your own, you need those who will help bring you to it.

And then you have to drink from that well. There is life in that water. It flows through all of us.

It's not your life, it's our life. You have gifts you will never know about and we will never share if you don't survive and thrive in this world. What you have learned to overcome is of greater value than you can realize until you use your experiences to lead others out of their darkest days and into the light.

Nothing is wasted.

The more you survive, the more you know and the stronger you are. The more you overcome, the stronger you are and the more you know and you are needed in this world, more than you will ever know, because without you, those bridges won't be built, that light won't shine and so many others will not find their way because the chain of life is broken.

You are a part of the chain that connects us all to each other, and which connects us to this world, all that is good and bad in it. It's up to you to choose your giving and that only comes by you first choosing to survive and then choosing to heal and then finding and following that flicker of light, that spark of fire, that leads you to your greater strengths.

Take whatever time you need to grieve in this life. Embrace the sorrow for that is proof that you are connected to the best part of this world: Love. Without powerful love there is no grief. Those who cannot grieve, cannot find that light and will never know the powerful connection to greater forces therein.

Forgive me, I babble.

You know where to find me.

~Cat