


“ILL SEEN, ILL SAID”

The Processing of Community Conflict Through Local Media Web Forums

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No racism problems? That's simply denial

DAILY TIMES

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Trust is a tough thing to earn and although things are greatly improved, frankly speaking, the city of Farmington in its efforts to battle racism hasn't earned all the trust it still needs to earn. The city's Community Relations Commission is trying to decide how to improve attendance and participation at its meetings in light of low turnouts and few complaints filed with the entity. Likewise for the Navajo Nation and its commission under a similar mandate to hear and address charges and complaints of racial or other types of discrimination. Observers who claim that race and diversity relations in Farmington are greatly improved from what existed in years past are correct; they are. However those living in apathy, denial or ignorance would like to argue that there is no need for the Community Relations Commission or no need for special efforts by the city because there is no racism issue still in Farmington. Nothing can be further from the truth. Creating these types of community commissions was a step in the right direction. So, if problems exist, why aren't people voicing concern to the commission and thus the city? For one thing, it took the city nearly two years to create the commission. That showed the public that it simply wasn't a priority. Since the commission's creation, support of it can be called questionable at best. There is little advertisement or promotion in advance of the meetings other than media coverage, and it is hard to criticize the lack of attendance by the public when too many of the commission's own members fail to show, as is now common practice. Much of the public is unaware of the commission's scope of authority. What can be accomplished by taking time and the courage to speak in a public forum? That answer is not always evident to those most likely to be the people in need of attention. From the flip side, what protects people who have false accusations filed against them? The Community Relations Commission is not a cure-all entity, nor was it intended for such. Its primary function was intended to be service as a platform for residents to voice their concerns and have confidence someone was listening with sincerity. Those dedicated members of the commission looking for solutions deserve a special thanks for their efforts, including new ideas to meet in more informal settings such as over coffee or to create more exposure for the commission with appearances at public events. That shows who is dedicated to making a difference. Racism still exists in Farmington and on the Navajo Nation. All one needs to do for proof of that is to read the online Topix discussion forum that can be found at daily-times.com. Almost every topic seems to include someone's racist comments, which spark never-ending rebuttals. "I personally don't feel that discrimination is a large problem," city councilor George Sharpe recently said in a public meeting. It may be a much-improved issue, but racism both in Farmington and on the Navajo Nation nonetheless does remain an issue. Any case of someone feeling hatred or unfair treatment from discrimination is one too many, and Farmington should aspire to zero tolerance for racism, not just an improvement. Likewise for the Navajo Nation. It's an ongoing fight, and thank you to those who continue the fight. A good community is one spelled with unity.

Solution Spokane, WA |#3

If it is true that there is indeed racism in a particular area, why frequent it...stay away. I do. Simple as that, there are other places that would love your presence and your money.

uKnOmE Shiprock, NM |#4

Thank you and amen!

Northern ojobwe Bemidji, MN |#5

dont let anyone take over on any Indian land, blacks and mexicans have made it way up here already. There are glad when we dont do anything about racism.

Taxpayer

Albuquerque, NM #6

Jade wrote:

Do we really need another one of these?

Apparently the DT feels that we do. The DT needs endlessly to stir the pot and create more tired threads about racism. Controversy sells papers and the DT needs business. They can sell more 50 cent papers this way, all under the guise of good journalism. How magnanimous of them.

Taxpayer Albuquerque, NM |#7

Northern ojobwe wrote:

dont let anyone take over on any Indian land, blacks and mexicans have made it way up here already. There are glad when we dont do anything about racism.

Your post is rich with unintentional humor.

Convert Jacksonville, FL |#8

Sallaam

Maybe they need to watch this:<http://www.youtube.com/watch...>

FlawedLogic

|#94

A Thinker wrote:

This idea of "reverse discrimination" is ludicrous.

Racism is the belief that race accounts for differences in ability, character, etc. of people based upon race and that a particular race is superior to another, and PART of that definition involves discrimination based solely upon race.

Discrimination is the power to exercise racism.

*It is impossible for the minority race that is a victim of racial discrimination to exercise reverse discrimination, because **THE MINORITY RACE DOES NOT HAVE THE POWER TO EXERCISE THAT RACISM.***

I'm not saying that there are not racist attitudes among all races, cultures, ethnicities; I'm saying that minority races do not have the power to be discriminatory

. So, get off this "reverse discrimination" whine. It can't happen.

Can the slave be "racist" and/or racially discriminatory to his/her "master"?

Your copying of the social science text applies in the classroom, however, the reality of the situation is different. The "minority" group exerts definite power through public perception by tagging an opponent with the term "racist" when they encounter opposition to their political objectives.(e.g."You don't agree with my viewpoint because you are a racist.") If the minority group wants more handouts in the form of unemployment money, car money, rent money, loan money, etc. and anyone voices an opposing opinion, they are branded with the moniker of "racist" and are put in a defensive status that has nothing to do with the topic at hand. Branding by the minority costs them nothing and they glean a great deal of public sympathy. In summary, the minority can and does use reverse discrimination as a tool to achieve their political objectives.

haha

United States

|#98

Gallup, NM

If White Conservative families can teach their children on respect for different culture other than their own, I think there would be gradual change about race in the future.

joe dirt

Blanding, UT

let me said some thing to all the whites you have been trespassing this land for over 300 years

I'm white and I have navajos be racist! so maybe you need to re-think your statement.. as for whites trespassing on this land for 300 years. I dont think you or your people own this land.. if it wasnt for us, you wouldnt have a car to drive drunk in!!! or goverment cheese...for that matter..

JhonFromChickenStreet
Albuquerque, NM

|#120

I lived in Lancaster, Tx (Dallas suburb) in the mid 90's for 4 years. I never experienced racism from the White, Blacks, or Mexicans. However, I heard a lot of racism directed to the Blacks and Mexicans from the Whites. I remember thinking "If Farmington had as many Black people as there were Navajos. The Biligaana's would even acknowledge the Navajo drunks as a problem. They'd be too busy worried about the Blacks selling crack to their children. They'd be too worried about Black dudes impregnating their daughters. They'd be too worried about their sons getting shot in drive by shootings, etc..". Farmington is so isolated from the outside world that they forget the bigger social problems that plague our nation's cities. I would love to see Officer Shawn Scott try to get away with shooting a Black dude in the city. Heck, the Black Panthers, Rev. Al, Rev. Jessie, and the NAACP would make a media circus out of the trial. So Biligaana's please: QUIT BEING SO RACIST!!!

A Thinker
Bloomfield, NM

|#122

"Blacks do this; Navajo do that; Mexicans do another; Asians do yet something else" ...and on and on. Racial stereotyping is rampant here. You know, "whites" are guilty of all the things that are so ignorantly attributed to other races. The difference is that a "white" person with racist tendencies fears the "black" person selling drugs much more than he/she fears the "white" person doing the same thing. "White" person fears the "navajo" who is publicly drunk than he/she fears the "white" public drunk.

That is simply a part of a racist mentality.

Many people fear that which simply LOOKS different from them.

|#150

Cursor Maniac

My son married a Navajo woman and she is a wonderful person. We love her and she has raised my two grandchildren to be productive, well mannered and all around good kids. I have to question the hate to hope that someday I will understand it. It breaks my heart to think that there are those who would hate my grandchildren simply because they look and are part Indian. What can be done to change these hate filled hearts?

I share your concern for your grandchildren. It doesn't appear to be a problem in the public schools locally, due to the diverse ethnicity. Yet, in some establishments there is a certain look or feeling I get when accompanied my one or more of my grandchildren. I am not paranoid, just on red alert. I immediately let it be know that they are with me, probably with a what's it to you attitude. Since being blessed with these grandchildren, I have become more aware of racism in the SJC.

TwoShoes

|#151

Want to live a long time? Just Marry a Navajo Woman, and live on the Rez. It will sure seem like a long time!
haha

JhonFromChickenStreet

|#153

TwoShoes wrote:

Want to live a long time? Just Marry a Navajo Woman, and live on the Rez. It will sure seem like a long time! haha

Yeah right!!! Many will take that advice,leaving the rest of us Jhonz without a suitable spouse. The only ones left would be the single mothers with 3-6 kids,working at Mustang and a broke down car(and a thick Rez accent to boot). Please don't encourage these Biligaana's to take our women.

sam

Albuquerque, NM

|#221

there is NO misunderstanding on my part, Stinker Thinker..
Im Native American, 45 years old, Army veteran and Grandpa too..
I have been living with all this HATRED and RACISM all MY life..
I have had it with that CRAP and am doing something about it now..
Thats WHY I'm here..

A Thinker wrote:

<quoted text>

If you would read my posts, you would see how you misunderstood what I was saying. My point is that when whites complain about being discriminated against, it's ridiculous because those in power cannot be the victims of discrimination. It's a stupid argument from overly sensitive whites who feel no one should criticize them.

Carson

Denton, TX

|#223

I for one am proud to be white, white, white, white, white, white!

Alvin P

Albuquerque, NM

|#224

Jade wrote:

Do we really need another one of these?

Awww c'mon now. Stop whining....ya grape stomping, spear chucking, tortilla slapping, camel riding, blinkity blank blank! Hurling racial slurs is as American as apple pie!

A Thinker

Bloomfield, NM

|#293

Its up to us wrote:

So sad! I read all these posts and it's nothing but a vicious circle of assumptions and name calling. Racism exists and yes it is very sad but it's all what we make it and we can all continue the ugly name calling and pointing fingers or except that it exists and realize that it always will. There is nothing we can do about the mean hateful people in the world. But we can change our attitudes. As long as we fight it like this, it's always going to exist in our 'individual lives'. Everyone has posted words which are equally just as mean and discriminating which doesn't make any of one you any better. This is what is wrong with the world today. I personally never felt any 'racism' towards the few that are being accused on this post. We are all using that term a little to lightly here(San Juan County)and therefore it exists in your world!! We all need to see that we are all human and God's children, we are all special in a "different way" but also equally. We need to teach our children that for they are the future!!

Platitudes. Pollyanna personified.

Time to wake up and smell the roses.

Why has your solution never, ever worked? That's why LAWS have been necessary....laws that address the problems of race and gender bias and discrimination.

JhonFromTotahStreet

Albuquerque, NM

|#1558

Melanie Thinker wrote:

<quoted text>

Merry Christmas!

Please stick to the topic. Racism against the Dine not only pretains to F-Town but all of San Juan Co. Yesterday, I was medically treating lonely,old Biligaana woman in Flora Vista when she grunted "The Idians are spreading that Swine Flu, makes me wonder if they check all Indian nurses who do home vists." I simply replied "If you feel uncortable about this Navajo doing your home visit, please let my D.O.N. know immediatly." She snorted "If I do that,they won't have any RN's coming over to treat me. They'll just send me to a nursing home. I don't want that." Knowing that I got under her skin I went in for the kill "Well you should have your childern or grandkids take care of you. Our company will train a family memeber to care for you as a CNA." Defeated, she shrugged her shoulders and said in tears"I ain't got no one who wants to do that. No one wants to work now days. I'm all by myself. No one loves me.." I fulfilled by 1 hr duty listening to her compalin about her son,and left. I registered my compalint to my DON,and left to Aztec to endure more racism from 4 other Biligaana patients. Thankfully they kept their opinions to themselves....

Yei Cheii
Shiprock, NM
|#1654

Jesus Christ wrote:

Racism is alive and well in Farmington. I'm surprised we don't have a more visible KKK chapter. I know Aztec has their membership in the hundreds. Just look at the local gunshops in Farmington, they practicely say "WHITES ONLY". Everytime I go to the gun stores, they just look at me as if I walked in by accident, thinking that since my skin is brown or I appear tobe Native, I am not welcomed to do business there. I guess they are afraid of a strong-willed Native wanting to purchase a gun, as if Natives are not allowed to own guns in Farmington. We should run these racist businesses out of town, since they are un-American. We should arm every Navajo in the city limits so that all these racist pricks like George Sharpe can urinate on themselves. Goerge Sharpe is too scared of Natives that is why he said it was not an issue, too scared about Native getting their rights and standing up for them with a gun, some good old American butt kicking! God Bless America for letting us Natives buy lots guns! We need some assault rifles for young All-American Natives>

damn RezNeck! Go back to the hills and shoot at some prairie dogs with your BB gun.
clllaaaay.. oodiishni!!!

Francis Clarke
Albuquerque, NM
|#1857

TotalStreetJhon wrote:

<quoted text>

The one from LA is like all pro Dine',but living in LA. Probably gave up her traditional Dine' life on the rez,got pregnate to a Biligaana and eneded up in LA. Now she's talking like she's the "Annie Wuaneka" of the DT forumn while sipping on Starbucks latte',and bragging to her Jewish friends at the spa that she's 100% pure JHON straight from Manulito's loins. Meanwhile,us Jhons here in Totah struggle to fight the real fight for the betterment of society's future and our childeren. I get so tired of "Apples" from off the rez playing "wannabe",when us struggling Jhonz have to be Navajo here in F-Town. PS,my address says Albquerque,but that's cause Qwest is my Internet provider.

Why do you "have" to be here in F-town. Nobody's holding a gun to your head. Move. Then you can also be an apple and play wanabee with your jewish friends. What's the matter, you scared to move away from the rez's umbilical cord? Scared you can't make it on your own?

BTW, if you insist on referring to white people as biligaana's while you call us racist, then I'll call you a rez-pig. That's a fair exchange.

TotahStreetJhon
Albuquerque, NM
|#1868

Francis Clarke wrote:

<quoted text>

Why do you "have" to be here in F-town. Nobody's holding a gun to your head. Move. Then you can also be an apple and play wanabee with your jewish friends. What's the matter, you scared to move away from the rez's umbilical cord? Scared you can't make it on your own?

BTW, if you insist on referring to white people as biligaana's while you call us racist, then I'll call you a rez-pig. That's a fair exchange.

Oink.Oink. Why would I wanna move? I make 83K a year as a traveling R.N. About 6 months ago the oil trash were saying that I wouldn't have a job when the oilfields stop producing and the layoffs begin. Hah!! I'm busier now, then I was last year(76K), taking care of patients on and off the REZ! I'm the only nurse willing to go thru blinding snow to Igancio to help a pot-bellied Ute just because the Durango R.N's refuse to drive in snow. I don't know of any RN willing to accept an "on call" emergency to Lake Valley at 3 AM on a Sat. night. Go ahead call me a rez pig, but it's probabaly me that's going to save your life one day.

“In the basic assumption of **fight-flight**, the group behaves as though it has met to preserve itself at all costs, and that this can only be done by **running away from someone or fighting someone or something**.

In fight, the group may be characterized by aggressiveness and hostility; **in flight**, the group may (engage in) activities that serve to avoid addressing the task at hand. The leader for this sort of group is one who can **mobilize the group for attack, or lead it in flight.**”

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wilfred_Bion#Basic_assumptions

“something is unavoidably lost by the very act of verbalization. The loss must be compensated by the capacity for containment, tolerance of frustration, and ability to maintain the tension necessary to issue further free associations (...)

(...) minus K or mis-representation ability of the human being, expressed by the Sophists and later denounced by Voltaire, makes language an effective tool to be used for finalities of deception and evasion. (..) In groups it is used when a fight/flight basic assumption is prevalent.

Paulo Cesar Sandler: The language of Bion: A Dictionary of Concepts; Karnac 2005