

**May 27, 2013**  
**The Future**

In the future, because of the past & the present, there will be medical breakthroughs in cancer research. A new cancer test for pancreatic cancer has been developed. It's faster, thousands of times more accurate and costs a fraction of the ones they have today. It was developed by a 15-yr old boy.

We will also be able to recharge our cell phones and other batteries, in seconds, rather than hours, because of an innovation invented by an 18-yr old girl.

These are young people who were allowed to reach their full potential. Can you imagine what they will accomplish in the next year? The next decade?

And they are not alone. They are the generation we are counting on to clean this mess, make our lives better, end our diseases, and fix all that we have broken.

They are no different than kids anywhere else, including the Rez. The only difference is that the kids on the rez have more obstacles to overcome. They have a corrupt system that robs them of their education, decent food, decent housing and their money.

They live with the knowledge that they can be raped, beaten up, murdered. They have watched family and friends die young. Addiction is all around them. Instead of being nurtured to reach their full potential, they are weighted down, knocked down, and betrayed by their tribal government, State, and Federal Government.

The parents, social workers, teachers, foster parents who fight for these kids, are ignored, ridiculed, threatened, harassed and threatened.

It's not an accident. This doesn't "just happen". It is by design. It is with the full knowledge and cooperation of every government official who turns their back, looks the other way, and then lies to the public saying that things are being taken care of.

Nothing is being taken care of.

The future is being squandered while Hoeven brushes off a constituent's concerns about why not one of the child rapists on the rez has been arrested, not one child rescued, by telling them that "The BIA is handling that."

The same BIA that arrests a mother for filing rape charges, and sends her 13-yr old daughter to a detention facility out of state for being raped, but that allows the

38-yr old rapist, who happens to be the nephew of the Tribal Chairman, to shrug it off as if he was the victim. Purdon likes to say on that one in particular that "There are two sides to every story." But yet, he won't tell us that compelling 'other side', the rapist's side, that justifies his ignoring that rape, along with the child rapes that grow weekly, only a fraction of them finding their way to the Mandatory Reports issued by Thomas Sullivan's office, not ONE of which has been followed up on by the mandated protocols. Not one.

Can you imagine what the kids on the rez could do if they had even the slightest chance of not being beaten up, raped, robbed, or murdered? Can you imagine what it would be like if they lived in houses that were not moldy, where roofs don't leak, where walls aren't broken?

Can you imagine what changes would be possible if the money for the education, the programs and the housing actually went to those programs instead of into the pockets of the criminals who run the tribe?

What if these babies had decent food, safe homes, and didn't have to live with predators that teach them they are nothing more than meat, another mouth to feed, so earn your keep, rape?

What if, just say it's possible, the Good People of Spirit Lake could count on a just system? A system where the victims were protected instead of the predators? A system where, if you report a rape, you are not the one arrested? Where if you report a crime, it is investigated? Can you imagine how different the future would be if we actually made the elected and the appointed accountable to the laws that are supposed to define us as 'civilized'?

None of that exists on the rez now. Why? Did Indians screw themselves up? Are they lazy? Are they stupid? Or have they been systematically abused by Agents, Agencies, and Authorities that created an environment that encourages only corruption, discourages any integrity? Who benefits from keeping American Indian Communities broken, addicted, intimidated, under-educated? Do the resource extraction companies like sweetheart deals where they pay off a couple of lazy, corrupt officials and in turn they get to take all the oil, timber, minerals they want? What if for a few more 'incentives' they get to dispose of their toxic wastes any way they feel like? In the rivers? In the landfills? Who's going to look? You? Me? Out of sight, out of mind.

We trust our government to keep us safe. We have laws designed to keep us safe... or so we think. But if those laws are not enforced, are we safe? If entire communities are kept in a perpetually damaged state so that we can, all of us, be ripped off by billionaires who light their cigars with the money they steal from Indians, from our Resources, our Lands and our waters... all of us are losing.

We are all being robbed. We think it's just the Indians. We think that's not our problem, but it is.

The one thing we are being robbed of the most, is the future. We don't have the best possible future because we have the worst possible present. We are all being held back by that.

### **Murder Is Easy**

Dustin Jackson's murder was so brutal, so extreme, it reminded many of us about how brutal and extreme Eddie Peltier's murder was 30 years ago.

Clifford Monteith was arrested. The family was assured that "We have enough to file murder charges on him." I assume that was due to witnesses' statements, evidence gathered at the scene, etc.

Funny how evidence has a way of disappearing around the FBI out there. We've talked about how FBI Agent Trout ordered the destruction of evidence at the scene of the two murdered DuBois children.

Funny how 'witnesses' suddenly disappear or recant or won't talk....

Funny how suddenly, with no explanation, "We don't have enough to charge Clifford Monteith with anything so we're dropping all the charges."

He's free now. Just like the murderers before him.

Free to murder again.

Yeah, the kids in that place can only dream of a safe home, with no violence or addictions. They can only dream of not being raped, battered, abused. They can only dream of a time when their funds are not stolen from them while the USAG's office just shrugs their shoulders, and then goes and has lunch with those who stole the money.

Other kids can dream of how to cure cancer, make batteries charge in seconds, devise ways to repair what pollution has damaged, fix our economic system, create new buildings, accelerate our space program....

But the kids on the rez, they have US ATTORNEY Timid Purdon, protecting the criminals that abuse them, rob them, mistreat them.

We have Timid Purdon lying to us about things being dealt with. We hear his

whining that there are two sides to every story about a 13-yr old girl being raped and that's why there's no charges.

We also can feel good about ourselves as we make donations to charities that see the suffering in other countries and want to fix that. We want to help. But we don't want to believe that the horrors that need our help, are here, in our own backyard.

We don't want to face the fact that those we have elected, and those they have appointed, are protecting the abuse and sickness that takes place in Indian Country, but which affects each and every one of us, with diseases like cancer, we have no idea how we got it. We don't see the chemicals going into the rivers, the toxins into the air, the carcinogens being dumped into the landfills....

We only see very rich men who don't pay their taxes, and who have very expensive lunches with politicians, who tell us that everything is being handled. Politicians who tell us the BIA is dealing with it.

The Future is being robbed from us by stealing it from the children who would invent it for us.

The present is being stolen from us as our family, friends, loved ones die from diseases that never should have been, and cures that never see the light of day, locked in some child's nightmares of everyday life.

Pick up your phone, call them. Keep calling them. Keep demanding answers. Email them. Demand answers. Demand to see proof that they are doing their job. Real proof. Smooth talk is cheap. Keep faxing them. Keep showing up on their doorsteps.

Don't quit. The Future is ours only if we fight for it now. We know what is possible. We've seen it. If we want to have it, we must stand up for the children who will bring it to us. All of them.

You know where to find me.

~Cat