

VIEWPOINTS

The Best Way ...
to support a team

By Alan Dale
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There are so many types of teams.

Be it in the sports arena or in a place of business to your local neighborhood crew of guys and/or girls, they come in all shapes and colors.

Teams are essential to the betterment of societies or simply a small community.

Teams are a group of people who share a common interest, a primary goal.

Sure, everyone within that team may have individual hopes and dreams that can derive from the hope for success of the team, but the team's goal is always what should come first. At least it should.

When I watch sports – and I do that plenty – I am amazed with how many of today's teams just seem to lack that 'get it' factor.

Either they fight too hard to prove their loyalty or they battle too little to make teammates feel great about themselves.

The middle ground is the best kind because it is fair, it is balanced, and usually the most truthful.

Teams don't just consist of the players and the coaches, but the fans, office workers, and anyone else attached to the results a team collects.

In light of recent events I can only shake my head ("smh" for you cool, social media types) at the zealous nature of some teams.

During the World Cup this summer I was aghast at how classless the Uruguayan soccer fans and players rallied around a multiple-violent offender in Luis Suarez. Once again his chompers got the best of him as he bit another opponent on the pitch.

When he made the excuses he did – too ridiculous to ever be repeated in our print – I found it worse that the team would go about telling everyone they could find that Suarez was a victim of negative, media bias, and soccer world envy.

Huh? Dude, the goof bit a player for the third time in front of a world audience. Bias? He's a rabid dog who belongs in a kennel, earth to Uruguay.

Then we have the Ray Rice situation.

Why did it take a horrendous video to come out for fans and players to finally get it and go "Gee, Ray might

be a bad dude."

Ya think? How do those fans feel after giving Rice a standing ovation during preseason practice knowing they saluted a domestic abuser? Watching the film gives me the feeling that it wasn't his first offense.

But hey, the original two-game suspension sounded sane, so what do I know right?

Now of course he's been jettisoned by his team and the league.

But what about how his team? His fans, his teammates, his coaches? It was all about protecting their teammate.

It should have been about protecting his wife.

To be the ultimate teammate one must not lie. One must be straight to the point and never embarrass the other in front of the public.

It may be one thing to call out a team error because you all share in that, but I never understood teammates who called out an individual's mistake in front of a crowd of fans, or a boss who chides a worker in front of others.

A teammate doesn't stoke an ego either. Why lie and not be straight to see your teammate continue to fail because you won't be straight with them? How can a teammate take offense to being corrected with the hopes of simply improving? If you were perfect the team would be perfect – which it probably isn't – and your business would probably be killing it – which most, aren't.

Finally, you never leave your team in the middle of battle. Even if it is winning easily or struggling, you stay to the end. You show support and make sure you are there through all the good and bad times. That can only buoy those that are in the spotlight to know your support is unconditional. That means the occasional "How are you doing" texts or emails or watching a game past half time.

Teams are individuals who see the others' successes as bigger for yourself than the person succeeding. You also feel the pain of their failure more than they do themselves.

Maybe if we felt that pain of failure we would see more success stories and less Ray Rices?

Because then the team would rise and do the right thing.

Wouldn't it?



Experience to payoff young area writers

By Heidi Kronaizl
For the Plain Talk

If there is one thing I have learned in my journalism classes, it is that experience pays off.

It doesn't matter in the journalism field if I have straight A's and "know" how to write ... I have to prove it.

I got my start with journalism in high school. During my senior year at Vermillion High School, I had the honor of being the student editor of the VHS yearbook and *Red And White News*, also known as the *R.A.W. News*.

Taking pictures, writing and telling students' stories were some of the greatest moments of my high school career; all to capture the memories and preserve the moments spent.

Not only did the J-Crew put out a

weekly news sheet and yearbook ... we were good at it. VHS has been awarded as "the best yearbook in the state" at the High School Press Awards for the last three years running.

Now, the journalism program at VHS no longer exists. This program pushed me and gave me the fire in my belly that I needed to pursue my journalism career. It gave me my first experiences as a journalist and gave me the knowledge to help me land jobs with SDSU's newspaper, *The Collegian*, an internship with South Dakota Public Broadcasting and writing for yours truly, *The Plain Talk*.

Joining the J-Crew helped students discover if journalism is a path they would like, or not like to pursue.

As it deeply saddens me that there

is no longer a program at VHS, not all is lost. *The Plain Talk* is pushing to create a section for teen writers to publish their writing on high school news, politics, entertainment and a variety of other topics.

This is not limited to students of Vermillion, but also of area towns.

By writing for the *Teen Gazette*, students can learn basic journalism skills and network with other students.

As a Vermillion citizen and journalism enthusiast, I encourage you to support and read the *Teen Gazette*.

Be the support students need to pursue their journalism skills or to even try something new.

Give students the chance that their school district may not be able to provide by promoting the local paper, the new section and its growth.

REVUES

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talented students a chance to be able to create a career path at an earlier age like I was able to do."

The hope is to bring in an editor, a photography editor, a sports editor, and an opinion editor. All the work would be voluntary in the early stages, but Dale said that the hopes would be to eventually create a stipend for the editorial staff and the correspondents.

Students from

Vermillion, Gayville-Volin, Irene-Wakonda, Alcester-Hudson, Beresford high schools and in outlying towns in Nebraska are encouraged to pursue an opportunity with the *Teen Gazette*.

Requirements include two letters of recommendation, a letter of permission to work by a parent/guardian and some clips of the prospective students' work.

No previous experience is required.

For more information contact the *The Plain Talk & Broadcaster Press* at 605-624-4429.

GREEKS IN THE HOUSE

Along with *The Plain Talk's* plans to launch a *Teen Gazette*, it also expects to do something similar with the University of South Dakota's Greek system.

The PT is in talks with USD Greek life with the aim to begin *The Greek Revue* magazine. It would be dedicated to discussing all aspects of the fraternity and sorority life on the USD campus.

It would consist of news, sports, entertainment, commentary, and house reports regarding Greek life at USD.

Back in college Dale and three other college students ran a similar product as a large-numbered page monthly magazine and found the experience very beneficial.

"I believe the same can be done here, but in small doses to start off," Dale said. "The hope is for a minimum of four pages on a bi-weekly basis. If it takes off then we can see where we will go from there."

Dale plans to have meetings with members of Greek life administration in hopes of getting *The Greek Revue* prototype launched in the next few months.

'Is there a doctor in the house?'

"I was not predicting the future. I was trying to prevent it."

- Ray Bradbury, American novelist, short story writer, essayist, playwright, screenwriter and poet

Not one to wager on the future or try to guess what's going to happen next,

I am quite confident in foretelling outcomes in a few certain areas.

With the start of the 2014 NFL football season, take, for example, the

Cleveland Browns, my husband's lifelong one and only favorite team. The Browns to Brian are a family tradition embedded with a generational loyalty that only knows one thing, and that is to root for the Dog Pound, no matter what.

Even so, over the years after pouring millions, no billions, of dollars into new players, new coaches and new management teams, updated and new facilities, the Browns, I predict, won't come out of their 35-year slump until they address what's really ailing them.

For quite some time now, as I have watched this

physically muscular group of players in the prime of their lives fumble and fall all over the field to the advantage of opposing teams, I've concluded there's something seriously wrong.

The culprit of the team's demise could be a number of things, including a crisis in leadership, starting at the top with owner James Arthur "Jimmy" Haslam III and working its way down to the water boy or girl.

I predict that until the Cleveland Browns address the dysfunctional behaviors within their club, they won't be winning a championship anytime soon.

My recommendation is to do something and do it quickly, like signing up for the TV reality show "Undercover Boss" or inviting Dr. Phil to the locker room, practice field and front office.

Anyone of these would be a good starting place to unlock the mystery of perpetual losing for a team

MY STORY YOUR STORY



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whose fan base is among the most loyal in the USA. In fact, the Browns owe it to their fans to get healthy.

Speaking of unlocking mysteries, I predict that in the near future we will not use keys to lock or unlock, open or close, enter or exit, start or turn off

anything. Instead, all access to our vehicles, boats, houses, safety deposit boxes - you name it - will be powered by voice commands, pushbutton passwords or DNA touchpad identification technology.

In the more distant future, a similar thing will happen in how we verbally communicate insofar as our spoken words. They will be replaced by an electronic mental telepathy beamed via digitized transmitters and receptors implanted in our brains, or so I predict.

Because today we have answers to everything in the world at our fingertips, I agree with the prediction of

Sugatra Mitra, professor of education technology in the School of Education, Communication and Language Sciences at Newcastle University, England.

Mitra believes that eventually there won't be a need for classroom teachers or classrooms, for that matter, and all learning will take place on our own via the internet.

When it comes to knowledge, I think most of us have forgotten how to use the kitchen table. With more and more Americans eating their meals on the run, in their cars, in front of their TVs or at their favorite fast food restaurants, most of us today hardly ever sit and break bread together at tables in kitchens or dining rooms.

Because of this, I predict all such tables will become obsolete.

Along with tables will go saying grace before meals or maybe that's already gone.

But what do I know?

SOURCE: "Unstoppable Learning," NPR's TED Radio Hour
http://www.npr.org/2013/04/25/179010396/unstoppable-learning-show
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LETTER TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Plain Talk encourages its readers to write letters to the editor, and it asks that a few simple guidelines be followed.

Please limit letters to 300 words or less. Letters should deal with a single subject, be of general interest and state a specific point of view. Letters are edited with brevity, clarity and newspaper style in mind.

In the sense of fairness and professionalism, the Plain Talk will accept no letters attacking private individuals or businesses.

Specific individuals or entities addressed in letters may be given the opportunity to read the letter prior to publication and be allowed to answer the letter in the same issue.

Only signed letters with writer's full name, address and daytime phone number for verification will be accepted. Please mail to: Letters to the Editor, 201 W. Cherry St., Vermillion, SD 57069, drop off at 201 W. Cherry in Vermillion, fax to 624-4696 or e-mail to david.lias@plaintalk.net.