

Hoax and Reality

National Public Radio was not suggesting a revolution when it posted tweets on Independence Day. Based on past practice of reading the US Declaration of Independence, NPR tweeted with 140 characters at a time, the Declaration. It caused many people to respond that NPR was promoting a revolution. Most of us recognize this part of the Declaration “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” However a few lines later the Declaration has “But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.” A couple sentences later “The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States.” This is followed by a list of what the King of Great Britain has done to the colonies. Now if this appears to be revolutionary, it’s because it was. Everyone should take time to read the Declaration. Thank you, NPR for creating this discussion. This is reality.

Also many of you probably received a Facebook post telling you to ignore a friend request from Jayden K Smith. It warns you that he is a hacker and if one of your friends accepts his friend request, you will also be hacked. This message is a hoax.

However, one should always be careful when replying to friend requests. If you do not know the individual, perhaps you should not accept. If a request on Facebook, e-mail, Twitter and any other social media appears to be strange, please check it out before forwarding the messages. Snope.com is the site I use to verify such messages.

While I’m on the topic, forming an impenetrable Cyber Security unit with Russia is, in my opinion, a terrible idea. As IT Director at MSUM, our campus team was very concerned about the security of our system. We would never include hackers in planning our campus security. We, as a Nation, should not either.

Now for some good news! On Saturday 1 July, Sweetie Bev and I joined about 20 other people for a presentation by Darren Thompson at the Rourke Art Museum. It was one of the best presentations I’ve heard in many years. He talked about Native American history and culture supported by flute music. My opinion is that he not only presented the best of his people, but he presented the best of all people. It is what the Declaration of Independence means by stating “that all men are created equal”. This is reality.