



Goodness of America

A Surprising Encounter

Jason White, a dentist from Lubbock, Texas, told today.com that he and his friends stopped at Busboys and Poets in Washington, D.C., for lunch on Monday, January 23 before catching a flight home. They had been in D.C. to watch President Trump's inauguration.

Busboys and Poets is known for promoting political activism and social justice. Many of the customers in the restaurant were wearing Women's March pins, in support of the anti-Trump "Women's March." When the men walked into the establishment, they feared that they might be out of place, particularly since one of the men was wearing a pro-Trump Make America Great Again hat.

"We started getting looks," White, 37, told today.com. "I told my friend, you need to take your hat off. I don't want people to think we're coming in here to flaunt our Trump stuff. We're just coming here to have lunch."

They were greeted by their waitress, a young black woman named Rosalynd Harris, who had attended the Women's March and is not a supporter of the president. She treated the men in an incredibly friendly manner. "She started laughing when we said we were from West Texas and she said, 'I can tell you're from the South,'" White said. "I said, 'What's your favorite thing on the menu?' She said the avocado panini is delicious, and I love avocado, so I got that.... It was a relief for both of us. This was just lunch."

He explained, "We interacted like regular human beings, not white, not black, not Trump supporter, not black waitress."

White was so touched by the hospitable treatment he received from the waitress after fully expecting to experience tension and rude treatment that he left her a \$450 tip on their \$72.60 bill, in honor of Trump being the 45th president. White also wrote a note on the tip: "We may come from different cultures and may disagree on certain issues, but if everyone would share their smile and kindness like you ... our country will come together as one people."

The story went viral after the restaurant posted a picture of the receipt on Twitter.

Harris was understandably surprised and touched by the extremely generous tip. She called their encounter a "beautiful story." "This definitely reshaped my perspective. Republican, Democrat, liberal are all subcategories to what we are experiencing," she said. "It instills a lot of hope."

Give and Take

A restaurant owner in Dallas has started a program in front of her restaurant that allows people to take or donate jackets and other outerwear to help others in need.

Emilia Flores placed a banner in front of her restaurant that reads: "Are you cold? Take one. Do you want to help? Leave one." Underneath the banner is a rack of coats.

Flores told WFAA, the ABC affiliate in Dallas, that she believes this will allow people who need a coat not to be embarrassed by having to ask. "I thought it was a good idea to provide a space for people to do something for somebody else, and for people who needed something to come and get it without



Written by [Staff](#) on March 6, 2017

Published in the March 6, 2017 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 33, No. 05

feeling embarrassed about it,” she explains. “They don’t have to ask for charity. They don’t have to ask for something. They just come and pick what they need and leave.”

Sadly, the rack was stolen four times last year, reported WFAA, but that has not stopped Flores from continuing with her efforts. What’s more, she has inspired other area businesses to do the same, CBS DFW reported.

“I think people are hungry for ways to be kind and generous,” said Flores. “I didn’t know if it would catch on but it has.”

An Incredible Sacrifice

Kiersten Miles is a young college student from Wall, New Jersey, who thought nothing of giving up an organ to save the life of a baby whom she had known for just a short few weeks, reported the *New York Daily News*.

Miles was hired to serve as a nanny for nine-month-old Talia Rosko in June 2016. Rosko was born with a rare liver disease that had the potential to be deadly if not treated within the first few years of her life. She needed a transplant if she was to live to see her second birthday, according to her doctors.

Miles was curious about the process of organ donation and decided to get tested to see if she was a match for Talia. It turned out she was, and it did not take long for her to decide to move forward with donating a portion of her liver.

After a 14-hour surgery at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia in January, Miles and Rosko are both happy and healthy.

“After going through the entire process from start to finish, I would 100 percent do it again. I think it’s very important (that) people know exactly what they are volunteering to do and what the recovery is like, but it’s such a small price to pay in comparison to saving a life,” said Kiersten.

Salaries for Charity

An October fire at El Moro Spirits and Tavern in Durango, Colorado, forced its owners to close its doors, but rather than allow their workers to lose their regular wages, restaurant management decided to continue to pay their employees to volunteer for local causes until they could return to their jobs at the restaurant.

“We impressed upon them that the community here has embraced us since we opened our doors, so it only makes sense to have some reciprocity there in terms of giving back to the local nonprofits,” said general manager David Woodruff.

A number of local organizations benefited from the generous offer of El Moro’s management, including La Plata County Humane Society, Sexual Assault Services Organization, Wolfwood Refuge, and programs for individuals with developmental disorders, the *Christian Science Monitor* reported.

The company’s generosity paid off, as 36 of the 42 staffers that worked for the restaurant at the time of the fire returned to work when the restaurant reopened at the end of January. “Keeping that staff around is a big testament to this company, and it’s a real honor to be a part of it,” said assistant general manager Lucas Hess.

— Raven Clabough



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