

**From:** [The Vasbys](#)  
**To:** [Bill & Shirley \(Black\) Hartley](#)  
**Subject:** LINCOLN HIGH NEWSLETTER - 4/1/21  
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This week's topics:

1. How did you choose your children's names?
2. What's something funny that one of your kids did while they were growing up?
3. What happened on the best day of your life?
4. Are there any fun events or activities you're looking forward to?
5. Memorable April Fools' day?
6. Working on anything exciting lately?
7. Cataract replacement lenses - Happy with them? Single vision or bifocals?
8. Hormone replacement - Testosterone, estrogen replacements working?
9. Go skiing or skating this winter? Where? No problems?
10. Easter plans?

and responses:

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Geno Hafermann - [genehafermann@charter.net](mailto:genehafermann@charter.net)

Our oldest daughter was named on short notice because 2 weeks before she was born, our chosen name of Chelsea was used by a neighbor for their new dog. And based on my wife's size we thought maybe twins were coming (no pre-birth ultrasound) and we wanted names that went together so we had decided if there were 2 girls they would be Tiffany and Tabitha. When only one girl came out, we chose Tiffany mostly because of the possible nicknames (Ti, Tiger, Tiffy) that we liked. And Tiffany went well with Hafermann. Her middle name is Joy partly because I like that name as it was the name of a HS girl who was the first ever to ask for my autograph after a UW Glee Club concert at her school. The second daughter my wife picked out her first name of Holly that she had always liked. Her middle name of Brook (no trailing e) was selected because she was conceived while we were up in northern MN where we enjoyed fishing for brook trout (and now she often tells her audiences that she was named after a fish).

Best Day of my life so far was when I married my second (and last) wife, Pat.

Memorable April Fool's would be about 5 years ago. I had prostate surgery and as I recovered from having a catheter in for a while, I needed to wear Depends to deal with some leaking. At this point my wife and I had decided we both got better sleep in separate bedrooms. Anyway I realized that I didn't have a problem with leaking at night, so on March 31 I didn't wear Depends to sleep and everything was fine and I had no accident. But with the next day being April 1, that morning I went to bring my wife her morning coffee in bed (which I have done every day for 15 years) and I said "I have good news and bad news. The good news is that I didn't have to wear my Depends last night. The bad news is that I pissed all over the bed." And Pat was like "Oh no! And I just changed the sheets yesterday." And I said "April Fools".

I'm always working on projects. Lately it has been converting old home movies, photos, slides, and cassette tapes into digital files. And in my workshop I'm working on maintenance of the water feature for our big stone birdbath and building a support platform for a new freestanding heater for our porch.

Since I hurt my right leg last May, I haven't felt comfortable skiing anymore. If it continues to heal, I may try some CC skiing next winter, but the thought of falling again scares me.

We will be celebrating Easter Brunch with my bonus daughter and her husband and in-laws as well as one bonus son. And I have been recording Easter music with my BRC men's group and that will be played during Easter services at Salem UCC in Verona. This will be the first service with some masked people allowed in the

church, but without hymn singing or live music.

Hoping to get out to CA to visit kids and grandkids sometime soon now that we are vaccinated. But the idea of flying is still a bit scary to me.

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Kaaren (Berg) Brehmer - [kaarenknits@solarus.net](mailto:kaarenknits@solarus.net)

1. Our son is Mark Thomas. My mother always wanted a son Mark and got 6 daughters instead so we named her first grandchild Mark. One of my younger sisters married a Mark and named her son Mark so we ended up with lots of them. Our daughter is Anne Kaaren. My grandmother was Anna but was always called Anne. We used our names for their middle names, my godparents had done that with their children and we thought it was a nice thing to do.

4. I am looking forward to being able to move back to our summer home in Boulder Junction in 6 weeks.

7. We have both have had cataracts for several years. The doc says there is no need to do anything yet. He is very cautious with me because I had Lazik surgery 20 years ago and my mother had lost most of her vision to macular degeneration. We both wear glasses and I rely on cheaters when I read.

10. It will be just the 2 of us here on Easter. Both kids go to the in laws. He will go to mass, I will watch on tv. We are hoping for good weather so we can at least get out for a walk. We did buy a ham slice and a couple of sweet potatoes for dinner.

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Len Ironside - [ironside.len@gmail.com](mailto:ironside.len@gmail.com)

Regarding last week question about jobs. I never had a job I didn't like. Paper route. No big money, but great customers. Grunt man for Scot Buchanan ( Mid State Electric), worked hard, but treated well. Bouncer at Buzz's and Little Joe's in Point, loved interacting with customers. Even the problem ones. Taught school in Wausau for four years. ( starting salary was \$5700 a year) . Went back to Rapids for used car business with brother. Loved the independence. Went into new car dealership. Loved it. The interaction with employees and customers was what I lived for. It was where I went to play. Never really had a job I did for the money. Loved all of them for different reasons.

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Dick Trudeau Wis Rapids LHS '64 - [dickmerry77@hotmail.com](mailto:dickmerry77@hotmail.com)

OTHER TOPICS -- I recently had an experience that may be of value to some readers of this newsletter.

About 10 days ago I loaded up my ATV and Brittany Spaniel Sophie for a ride in the remote high desert sagebrush country of Southern Idaho. After a long day of fresh air, hiking, and riding I was in the process of loading the ATV onto my pickup when I suddenly became disoriented and lost consciousness. I don't know how long I was out, but when I came to my senses, I found myself slumped over the handlebars of my ATV. My head hurt, I was nauseous, and I couldn't walk without holding onto something. Scared the crap out of me! My predicament was made worse by the fact that I was out of cell phone coverage and it was unlikely that anyone would be coming by anytime soon. It took quite an effort to get my ATV loaded and headed back to civilization about 60 miles away. It was a fight to stay conscious on the way to the closest emergency room.

After 5 hours in the emergency room, two EKG's, two blood tests, two bags of intravenous fluids, and endless questions from nurses and a doctor I received my diagnosis. No heart issues, no stroke, I was DEHYDRATED. It made sense. Other than a cup of coffee that morning, I hadn't had a drop of liquids all day. I had plenty of water for my dog, but I was never thirsty myself. In fact, I seldom drink water. A cup of coffee in the morning, some milk on my cereal, some liquid to wash down my meals and that's it.

I wouldn't bore you with this story except that a little research reveals that my case is quite common, although not necessarily so severe. Three fourths of us don't drink enough water. We may get by with a little light headedness, feeling weak, tired or thirsty, but we blame it on something else. I always thought my thirst would dictate when I need water, but the fact of the matter is when you're thirsty you've waited too long. Our bodies are 60% water, with the brain and heart 73% water. They need replenishment.

In short, drink more liquids. It's good medicine, doesn't require a prescription, and has only one side effect, remedied with a trip to the bathroom. It's better than a trip to the emergency room.

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Toni Weller Olsen - LHS '64 - [tonicrafty@gmail.com](mailto:tonicrafty@gmail.com)

5. April Fool's Day - My husband Larry was born April 1, 1945. His late mother always thought it was great that Easter Sunday fell on April 1 that year. It's only happened a few other times since 1945. I used to bake a lot when my sons were young but had gotten out of the habit once they grew up. So today I tried my baking skills by baking a rich chocolate cake for Larry's birthday. The cake turned out fine, but I made a total mess in the kitchen. I dropped some eggs on the floor and had powdered baking chocolate all over the counter.

Nice thing was that I bought a new heavy-gauge aluminum cake pan by NordicWare--made in America! Yes some things are still made here.

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Linda White Sullivan '64 - [lasully@aol.com](mailto:lasully@aol.com)

The longer I walk down this road called life the more annoyed I seem to get. Why? Because the Left is way too loudly opinionated while the Right is way too silent. The Left seems hell bent on only their opinions counting and, by God, they are going to shout anyone down who even tries to confront them. Well, at least for the next few minutes, I'm going to counteract that.

There was a remark, at the end of a classmates submittal to last weeks newsletter, that really ruffled my feathers. That remark was highlighted by what the respondent found offensive on the weeks suggested topics. Her remark was as follows: "This newsletter would be much more fun and interesting if such divisive questions were eliminated."

I think most of us, if not all minus one, are in awe that Kent has the interest and wherewithal to not only put out our newsletter but one for his high school and yet another on military highlights. Just the thought of it sounds exhausting. It can't be easy coming up with topics for discussion week after week, year after year.

The Editor is the Administrator of this newspaper. I don't recall him asking any of us for our opinion on whether we think this newsletter is, or is not fun and, or overly divisive. Classmates who subscribe and contribute to the newsletter make it speak for itself.

Kent does ask for occasional input on topics but he comes up with 99% of them himself which are mostly followed and always enjoyable to read. Seems over the years he's gotten many, many accolades and no criticism until last week.

"Thank you" Barb Thalaker for being so willing to share your thoughts with us, in

last week's newsletter, on just what offends you. Please allot me a fraction of your time to share with you what offends me.

I personally find offensive the lifestyle you and your "wife" are living.

I find it offensive that transgender people are now idolized instead of being institutionalized.

I find it offensive that our newly installed government (D) is going to allow induction of military personal ,whose only reason for signing on the dotted line, is to garner themselves a (surgical) pair of testicles or hooters at the taxpayers expense. That is not only offensive, it's insane.

I find it offensive that people, like yourself, keep downgrading the hardworking taxpayers, and military personnel/veterans, of this country. They are the ATM Machines who always end up paying for all of your "lifestyle" bullshit. My father served in the National Guard, my husband served in the USAF and our youngest son is retired from the US Army. He was deployed to the Middle East three times. His wife and family never asked for a nickle from anyone during any deployment! They all paid their full share of taxes, on time, and to the letter of the tax laws. So you can better understand the tax structure, in this country, military personnel pay their fair share of taxes It's the ILLEGAL aliens who don't.

I found it offensive that your vocalization of the so-called "wealthy" were not sharing their bounty equally with the great unwashed, of this country, and the rest of the world. I don't recall seeing any headlines of you handing over, or even sharing, your portion of the Thalacker's bountiful Estate to any charitable organization. Surely a bounty of that size would have, at least, hit the front page of WR Daily Tribune. "LHS GRAD DOES GOOD!"

This one really offends me. I find it so far out of the boundaries of offensive I'll have to again, put it in the column of insanity. It is total insanity that your mindset, community, and side of the isle, thinks it's just fine and dandy having full grown men standing, with their feet facing the toilet, in a women's bathroom while, at the same time, the female in the next stall is so young she can't even get her tiny little feet to reach the floor yet. Insanity and perversion all mixed into one.

Don't even get me started on how offensive I think abortion is. Left leaning females believe their body is theirs to do with, as they see fit, even if it includes the murder of inconvenience. Well, we'll just see who's right or wrong on that one on Judgement Day.

I don't mind telling you Lefties that I'm getting increasingly offended, and damn

sick and tired, of being labeled a Racist because you think I dislike you just because you happen to have dark skin. I've got a news flash for you. I'd dislike you just as much if you were white. If I chose to dislike you it's because you're an ass, not because of the color of your skin.

I'm offended when a group of friends goes out for dinner and, after ordering, one of the friends says, "Did you hear the joke about what the Rabbi said to the Muslim?" Oh my God, now you and your whole table of friends, are Xenophobes! Get a friggin' life.

I found it offensive, and another case of total insanity, to pick on Mr. Potato Head and Dr. Seuss. I can't wait until your contingency has a total melt down because Donald Duck doesn't wear pants.

I'm finding it increasingly offensive that more and more college age females either can't find themselves a man or, just plain don't have enough to do. So, they are now on a rant to emasculate the entire male population by labeling them all Misogynists. Most (white) guys haven't even realized (yet ) they are half way down the road to extinction.

Let me sum up your Left side of the isle verses the Right side of the isle. The Right side pretty much thinks the LGBTQIA Community is basically a perverted array of life style choices and misfits. However, we love family members and friends who are within that community and, by-in-large, we keep our thoughts, feelings and beliefs to ourselves and know Our Lord will sort it all out later. No parading down Broadway in high heels with hairy legs, coconut shell boobies and purple hair. No vagina costumes, no signs and no shouting. The Left loves to compartmentalize everyone, on the Right, by labeling them as racists, homophobes, xenophobes and misogynists. In that very same breath they claim to be on a higher humanitarian plain than the rest of us. They spew their hatred for everyone, and anyone, who disagrees with them on signs, while marching up and down the streets, dressed like escapees from One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest.

On a closing note. If you Holier-Than-Thou's wish to save the planet from your new up-and-coming interest, of global warming, try keeping your mouths shut a bit more to prevent the further emission of so much hot air.

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Want to see some old copies of the newsletter??

<http://www.swch-museum.com/collections/digital-library/lincoln-high-newsletter/>

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## In Memoriam



Kenneth G. Tork, age 73, of Stevens Point (Town of Linwood), WI passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at Aspirus Riverview Hospital.

Services will be at 4:00 P.M. on Sunday, March 28, 2021 at Herman-Taylor Funeral Home in Wisconsin Rapids. A time of visitation for relatives and friends will be from 1:00 P.M. until the time of service at 4:00 P.M. on Sunday at the funeral home.

Ken was born May 4, 1947 in Wisconsin Rapids to George and Alice (Kitowski) Tork. He graduated from Assumption High School in 1965. He served his country in the United State Air Force. He married Vicki O'Shasky on December 3, 1971 at St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church in Rudolph.

Ken worked for the family business, Tork Trucking and Excavating, in Wisconsin Rapids until his retirement.

More at: <https://www.taylorfuneralhome.net/obituary/Kenneth-Tork>