

**From:** [The Vasbys](#)  
**To:** [Bill & Shirley \(Black\) Hartley](#)  
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This week's topics:

1. Expectations for the fall and winter for ourselves and our nation?
2. After the Afghanistan withdrawal, can we redeem ourselves in the eyes of the world? How?
3. Where have settled you for your retirement years, and why there?
4. Encounters with sweat bees? Or any other bees? Stung?
- 5 Lots of pine cones this year! Harsh winter ahead? Your thoughts and experience.
6. Annoying weeds in your yard or garden you can't seem to get rid of? What?
7. Most amazing thing about God's Universe is?
8. Your memories of 9/11?

9. Ever feel you were in an alternate universe or dimension? When?

10. Whatever else. Maybe a topic for next week?

and responses:

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Tom Schneider '65 - [thomaspschneider@gmail.com](mailto:thomaspschneider@gmail.com)

Where have you settled for your retirement and why there?

1st of all, greetings to my former classmates (LHS 65). After 21 years in the Milwaukee DA's office as the Deputy DA, then 8 yrs as the United States Attorney for Eastern Wis, and then 20 years as head of COA Youth & Family Centers (a social service nonprofit organization serving 10,000 low income children and families annually in Milwaukee); I retired this past December 31st.

Although I have lived in Wisconsin my entire life, I have never been a fan of winter. So my wife and I purchased a great condo in Bonita Springs, Florida; established residency; enjoy the warm weather Oct through mid April; and play lots of tennis, pickleball and biking.

And from May through September we enjoy our home in Mequon (just north of Milwaukee). Great friends, view of the lake, and of course more tennis, pickleball and biking.

Best wishes to all.

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Roger Fritz - [fritzcat11@yahoo.com](mailto:fritzcat11@yahoo.com)

#3: We retired in 2012 to Union Hall, Virginia. We liked the Lake (Smith Mountain Lake) and the mid-Atlantic climate (not cold Wisconsin winters nor long hot summers). The area is mostly woods and farms and full of friendly people.

#7: I have no idea how something can be created from nothing. Where and how did it get started? The size of it and evidence that it is still expanding, plus the vast amounts of time life can be proven to have existed on earth. The whole thing makes us humans seem pretty trivial.

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

EXPECTATIONS FOR OURSELVES AND OUR NATION -- Not very positive from my perspective. Our federal government is out of control. The Biden administration is proposing TRILLIONS in spending that we don't have. It has closed the Canadian border due to concerns over Covid, while at the same time opening the southern border to a million unvaccinated Covid infected Mexicans and Latin Americans, including drug dealers and other criminals. They're being bused all over the USA. Thousands of Americans are dying. Hospitals are again being overwhelmed by Covid victims, yet the liberals opened our southern border to Covid carriers for strictly political purposes. What next do they have in store for us?

AFTER AFGHANISTAN CAN WE REDEEM OURSELVES IN THE EYES OF THE WORLD? -- We don't owe the rest of the world anything! We saved the world from Hitler, Hirohito, and communism. What more do they expect from us? We went into Afghanistan for all the right reasons. Four different presidents had the opportunity to get us out with honor. They all failed. Unfortunately, the worst of the four was in charge when we pulled out. He really botched it! The rest of the world may question our choice of a leader showing signs of dementia, but any possible redemption must be directed to American eyes only. His resignation would be a step in the right direction. To hell with the rest of the world.

WHAT EVER ELSE -- On a more positive note. On August 15th we loaded the camper on the pickup and left Idaho headed for a wedding in Wisconsin on the 20th. Merry's Class of '65 reunion was also in the plan. We took our time and arrived in Wisconsin Rapids on August 18th. Due to the closing of the paper mill we expected to find the place of our birth a gloomy town with boarded up businesses and empty streets. What a pleasant surprise we found. The community may not be booming, but is holding its own primarily due to the influx of people and outside money. A world class golf resort has been developed near Rome, just south of town. More significantly, Wisconsin Rapids, like so many other Wisconsin towns its size, has been discovered by people who are tired of the expense and chaos of big city life.

I visited the Farmers Market at the west end of the Grand Avenue bridge and witnessed lots of festivity and smiling faces, hardly something you'd expect in a community that had just lost its biggest employer. In talking to a number of vendors and patrons I repeatedly heard the same story. They were ecstatic about leaving Chicago, Milwaukee, Madison, and even California for a serene slower

paced life in a friendly town on the Wisconsin River. What took them so long?

After 12 days we headed back to Idaho with smiles on our faces. Our hometown is gonna be OK!

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

Books will be written about what went wrong in Afghanistan. Our military personnel who died there are heroes. The hope that America could change the male-dominated Afghan culture for the better was a myth. American troops kept a "lid" on the Taliban for 20 years. Afghan women had some rights while our troops were there, but I agree with those who say 20 years was long enough. The Russians were there for 10 years, and they got out too. It was time for us to let the Afghans work out their own problems. We will have other terrorists to fight in other countries.