

From: [The Vasbys](#)
To: [i](#)
Subject: Lincoln High Newsletter - 9/15/11
Date: Thursday, September 15, 2011 12:48:10 PM

Lincoln High Newsletter

Editor's notes:

Sending out the newsletter somewhat early today. Getting three teeth pulled this afternoon and don't know if I'll feel like doing much of anything after that.

We've had smoke from the Boundary Waters fire drifting down from Northeast Minnesota this week. Strange sight and smell!

I looked out the window Sunday night and saw: **The last firefly** - He managed to spread his wings and got a foot or two in the air before settling back to the ground, plaintively blinking ever slower to an unknown mate who may or may not have seen his desire.

This week's topics:

1. **There's a full moon tonight.** Folklore says that it's the coldest time of the month. Guess that's about to be true here in WI with a cold front coming through tonight and a high in the 50's forecast for Thursday. **What other "full moon" stories have you heard?** Is it true that hospital ER's are really busy during a full moon?

2. **What do you do with gizzards?**

3. **Things that are better in foreign countries than here in the US.**

4. **Carhop "window tray" mishaps.**

5. **Stories that your Grandparents told.** Editor's maternal grandfather was into genealogy in a big way and I heard him tell stories about how one of my ancestors, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harvey_Rexford_Hitchcock was one of the first missionaries in Hawaii. I think he might have been "fictionalized" in James Mitchener's book - *Hawaii*. What stories did you hear from your grandparents?

and responses:

Things better in foreign countries:

Licorice in Australia. It's soft and full-flavored, coming close to a chocolate liquor.

Judy (Hanneman) Vasby jvasby@wctc.net <http://www.hometowncandy.com/licorice-kookaburra.htm>

Leslie (Wolfe) Fitz lfitz@sjrnc.net writes:

Between sophomore and junior year, I worked at the A & W in Rapids – on roller skates. I've never been

known for my grace or balance, but I did know how to roller skate. It was my very first job other than babysitting. I tried hard and I wanted to be successful so badly – but after more than one mishap of root beer floats landing in the laps of drivers and then another tumble where I landed “flat on my face” the manager very kindly said to me: “You’re a lovely girl and we wish it had worked out. We’ll be happy to give you a reference.”

I was devastated, as only a 16 year old girl can be – but got another job at a girl’s summer camp near Eagle River – which was such fun and a better income.

I’ve used this story numerous times to encourage others when they have ‘fallen flat on their face’ – especially my own children and grandchildren. And, I’ve had many laughs over it as I get the mental picture of surprised customers with ice cream in their laps on a hot and humid day in central Wisconsin!

Phoebe (Sund) Badeer pbadeer1@optimum.net writes:

I remember 9/11 painfully well, as my husband had a detached retina operation that very day, and I stayed glued to the TV while he was in surgery! We live in Long Island and I worked with people who were affected by the attack. Our daughter-in-law walked over the Brooklyn Bridge that day to get home to Plainview, N.Y. I just viewed newly released photos of the attack, and it's still horrific to revisit that tragedy. We all need to observe the 11th by prayer, raising our flag and honoring all those heroes and their families!

In regards to that big Northern Minnesota fire, we can smell the smoke and fire, all the way down here in Northern Illinois, (about 1 hour south of the Wisconsin border..) Amazing Have never seen that happen here before in all the years we have lived here...

Arianna came out of school today and asked what was burning....

Don & Donna Rehman zakons@comcast.net

Norm Arendt njarendt@tds.net writes:

A very good article on Islam

http://www.standeyo.com/NEWS/11_Faith/110912.Islam.explained.pdf

On Mon, Sep 12, 2011 at 10:19 PM,

Hi Friends,

On the ten year anniversary of the 9/11 attack, I am sending you an essay I wrote shortly after the attack. It was published in the Wisconsin State Journal. It is about 1.5 pages, so not too long. Make sure to read to the end, you will get goose bumps.

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Unjust Peace?

(Published as a guest column in the Wisconsin State Journal)

“...they burned all the meeting places of God in the land....and there is no one among us who knows how long. How long, O God, is the foe to scoff?” Psalm 74

It will surprise no one that Madison’s progressives have chosen to respond to the terrorism arising from radical anti-Western Islamists with anti-war teach-ins, peace rallies, and a forest of yard signs that plead for peace and generally decry conflict of any sort—all under the rubric of “social justice.” But, the only ones who should take solace in such facile sentiments are al-Qaeda and Islamist fascists in general. The thing missing from such displays is a sense that these perennial pacifists have actually considered the evil that is responsible for aggression against innocent civilians. It is easy to proselytize for peace and justice, especially when one is far removed from the very thing which disrupts the peace; however, peace is not always just.

One hopes that today’s peaceniks can learn about authentic justice from a liberal German theologian who, only days before the end of WWII in Europe, was executed by the Nazis. Before the war began, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who was a vocal opponent of the National Socialist Party, was, nevertheless, an ardent pacifist who, like Gandhi who he admired, preached that there was no justification for any war. For Bonhoeffer, even a defensive war was sinful because it meant killing fellow humans who were created in the image of God.

Yet, this pacifist was executed precisely because he rejected such naïve pacifism and chose to participate in the underground resistance against the Nazis. He even helped in a failed conspiracy to assassinate Hitler.

How does a committed pacifist, a man of God, justify his support of an underground war effort and an assassination attempt?

A decisive turning point in Bonhoeffer’s thinking occurred on November 9, 1938, about a year before WWII began. On this night, as the German police and others stood by watching, Nazi Brown Shirt terrorists wrecked and looted Jewish homes, shops and synagogues. In the end, 92 Jews were killed, 20,000 arrested, 267 synagogues burned and 7500 businesses destroyed. From the broken glass left in the streets of Germany and Austria’s major cities, this night of terror became known as *Kristallnacht*.

Yet, in the face of this evil, there *still* were those who favored appeasing the Nazis in order to satisfy their naïve proclivity for peace above all else. Some pacifists even suggested that people should try to “understand” Nazi terrorism as a fulfillment of God’s curse on the Jews. In other words, these pacifists perversely believed that in order to preserve the peace, the roots of Nazi terror was to be *understood*, not *confronted*. This reckless stand is too reminiscent of today’s pacifists who, like their predecessors in 1938, are reluctant to condone fascist terror, which today emanates from the Islamist movement and al-Qaeda.

Today, like in the months leading up to WWII, understanding and appeasing evil will not lead to real peace, but it will embolden the terrorists. Bonhoeffer recognized this truth. After *Kristallnacht* he could no longer ignore Nazi evil. Neither should we ignore similar evil today. To do so, Bonhoeffer believed, leaves one stained with a shared responsibility for the terror that will be committed because we failed to confront evil.

In his book, *Ethics*, that was published posthumously, Bonhoeffer explained the moral imperative that led him away from the naïve position that views peace simply as the absence of conflict and toward a peace that is sometimes worth fighting for. He concluded that to not support a military response against the Nazis would represent "... irresponsible cowardice and a flight from reality." Bonhoeffer came to understand that the principle to which he was morally obligated was not "peace above all", but peace through justice—that is, a justice that requires one to make a vigorous stand against evil rather than tolerate the presence of that evil.

On 9/11 in 2001, our own "*Kristallnacht*" left glass and rubble strewn in the streets of New York City, Washington, D.C. and the Pennsylvania countryside. Today's pacifists will be measured by their response to the evil that motivates such terror against innocent people. Do we tolerate and try to "understand" Hitlers, Husseins and bin Ladens in the world in order to avoid conflict, whatever the cost? Or, like Bonhoeffer, do we recognize our obligation to stand against evil in order to enjoy peace that is just?

According to his best friend, student and biographer, Eberhard Bethge, Bonhoeffer did not often make notes in his Bible. But, after he was told about the terror of *Kristallnacht*, he wrote the date in the margin of Psalm 74 in his Bible, which is quoted at the beginning of this article.

Following the European custom of putting the day before the month, his notation for November 11 read "9/11".