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From: The Vasbys [kvasby@smallbytes.net]
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To: Undisclosed-Recipient;
Subject: Lincoln High Newsletter - 9/25/14

Lincoln High Newsletter

New reader:

Diane Robinson Boudreau (Charlie) - craftyone47@yahoo.com

This Week's Topics:

1. Remember your first day at school?
2. Mental health and closing "insane" asylums
3. Has the EPA gone too far? Toilets, light bulbs, appliances
4. NOAA says this was the hottest summer ever - EVER! - Somebody is lying. Who?
5. Did you ever lose your parents or a child while you were shopping or at a fair, etc?

and responses:

Roger Fritz - fritzcat11@yahoo.com

The EPA and Global Warming. You hit two of my hot buttons. Both suffer from the same problem. Initial beneficial fixes have been used as excuses for letting the nut jobs advocate for almost anything. Correcting sewage dumped directly into rivers, Superfund sites, release of freon into the atmosphere, unlined landfills, nitrous oxide and sulfur discharges from coal plants, etc. have all been good fixes. Stoppage of the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository, delaying the Keystone pipeline, closing all coal fired power plants, carbon dioxide sequestration, etc have unintended negative consequences that far outweigh the ill perceived benefits.

There is way too much emotion and way too little comprehensive discussion of the facts followed by useful action. The Sept 20-26 "Economist" for example, rightly points out that replacement of the Hydroflourocarbons (HFC'S) for refrigeration would do far more than the misdirected and very expensive war on carbon dioxide. (In the mid 80s HFCS were developed to stop depletion of the ozone layer by chloroflorocarbons (CFCS). HFCS gases are "extremely potent...causing thousands of times more warming per molecule than carbon dioxide" and are among the fastest growing greenhouse gases.)

Candace Caylor - klorkatz@att.net

1. I do remember and have told this to some of my classmates. My first day was in Miss Iverson's kindergarten class at Irving School. There was one little boy who cried-- actually sobbed-- and sat on Miss Iverson's lap for a great part of the day. I thought that was so funny because I liked the first day and couldn't figure out what was wrong with him.

2. Programs to help mentally ill people are a mess. I don't even know where to begin on the subject. A major issue involves our inability to commit those who are a danger to themselves and society. It's a thin line between institutionalizing them against their will, therefore taking away their rights, or committing them to protect themselves and society. There have been too many mass murders-- at schools, shopping centers, work places, movie theaters, etc. And almost all were committed by people who were mentally ill and exhibited obvious signs before committing their acts.

3. In one word-- yes.

4. Overall I think the climate is changing. The shrinking of the icebergs cannot be denied. However, the change would occur with or without human intervention. Changes happened before we were on this earth and they will always happen. I think we do contribute to the problem even if it is in a very minute way.

Paul Harshner 1965 - jensam@hotmail.com

My suspicion is that you and I may not have sufficient scientific knowledge to have a cogent discussion of global warming efficacy or lack thereof... clearly, I do not. Due to my deficits in the geophysical sciences, I must approach this potentially deadly issue with a modicum of objectivity. Bias and presupposition could literally be fatal if demonstrated to be false. Our fate, either way, is in the hands of politicians who by definition desire to achieve or maintain power. The reality of this political overlay begs conspiracy theories, appeals to faulty intuitions and blatant deception. For the future of my grandchildren, I will choose to let the preponderance of peer reviewed, scientific research speak to the subject and go with the greater probabilities. Science academies across the planet are speaking in relative concert. May we decipher truth through the cacophony of noise... our planet's well-being may hang in the balance.

Don Wylie - dwylic@chorus.net

On #4 - NOAA says this was the hottest summer ever - NOAA also says on their home page that the continental US temperatures averaged very close to normal and England and Austria reported cool summers. These articles are written by different people/scientists.

Surface temperature measurements use to be regarded as poor indicators of climate change since the measuring stations are influenced by city growth and other things that are not meteorological. Satellite ocean temperature measurements also have to be corrected for atmospheric attenuation of Infrared radiation which amounts to a 2-10 degree addition to the measurements. This is bigger than the climate change signal. Sea Level height data also has been corrected for land elevation movements (yes over the 170 year record many coastal stations have risen a few inches) and the corrections are as big as the reported sea level changes.

Bottom line is that this stuff is nowhere as accurate or proven as the climate alarmists think they are.

I actually believe that our climate is warming and the better evidence is in melting glaciers, sea ice cover at the poles and records of ice cover on lakes. These records don't have to be corrected. But they also don't prove that the warming is caused by CO2 and/or people. Climates have always changed and they had larger changes before the industrial revolution.

On #2 - One flew over the Cuckoo's Nest - this is also a description of Madison.

Seriously, the Sheriff of Dane County (where Madison resides) has bluntly stated that he needs jail facilities equipped to handle the many mental ill he has to arrest every week. The mental health system has put them on the streets and many of them get into trouble so they have to be arrested. His incarceration system is designed to handle criminals and is not suppose to be part of our health care system. But his department has become a mental health facility by default.

He also used to be able to ship the worst mental cases across the lake to the state's Mendota Mental Hospital. He can't do that anymore so he has to drive the 150 miles to the Winnebago Mental Hospital north of Oshkosh.

This is life in the 21st century.

Jack Sultze - jsultze@verizon.net

1. My first day of school was first grade at Two Mile School. No kindergarten on our side of town.

2. I am a fan of Ronald Reagan but one of the things he didn't get right was the defunding the National Institute of Mental Health. His intentions were good – get the Federal government out of it and send block grant money to the states. Problem was, the states were allowed to use the money as they saw fit. Mental health services suffered and hospitals closed. What we have today is the result. Should they be reopened? I think, yes. The mentally ill in our prisons should be institutionalized for a period of time, not determined by a judge but by a mental health professional. There should be no homeless people on the streets. The mentally ill (for instance, the guy who attacked the White House – AGAIN) or drug addicted among the homeless (most, I imagine) should be institutionalized and provided treatment. Those who have simply fallen on hard times and end up living in their cars or drug infested hotels, many of them who have children, should be provided decent housing and assistance to transition them back into being productive citizens.

3. The EPA has done many good things but now has definitely gone too far. The problem is, once they have completed the necessary work, like cleaning up polluted rivers and dramatically improving air quality, they still had massive staffs of people. They went about busying themselves to justify their existence. Here is a huge body of unelected people with independent authority to regulate industry and our lives, with the power to levy huge fines for non-compliance with their rules.

4. Global Warming: Didn't they change that to "Climate Change" when it was discovered that the globe isn't warming? One of the most significant scams of recent times, maybe of all time.

Chuck Hinners - Chuck@crgfinancialconsulting.com

HOWE SCHOOL KINDERGARTEN WEST SIDE CLASSROOM MORNING SESSION

September 2, 1952

Bill Heilman and I were in the same class.

We did not walk to school that day as we would many times in the ensuing 13 years.

Our teacher was Etta Lowrey--Miss Etta to us.

She lasted until she got married and then was replaced by Miss Altenburg who managed to survive the first year with us.

The East Side class was taught by Miss Gasparetti

Several classmates that we can remember who disappeared were:

Susan Bream

Tom Heath

We had our own bathroom in the classroom

We had recess in our own playground without the east side class

We brought oil cloth to put on tables

We brought smocks to wear while finger painting

We brought rest mats to take naps on

We played farmer in the dell daily

We got chocolate flavored goiter pills once a month.

At the end of the year we had to take the "first grade test". We got to go into a classroom with desks. The test was administered by Mary Rowley who was the curriculum coordinator for the school district. Phoebe Sund's dad Clarence would take over for her in 1956 when Rowley retired. Rowley handed out answer sheets and huge black Wearever # 10 pencils. She instructed us to listen to each question as she read it. Then we were to mark the answer on the sheet, but only after she said "Do it!"

Tom Prebbanow and I walked home some days. He talked about going down manholes, though I'm not sure either of us ever did.

He died way too young at 27, only 21 years out of Kindergarten

Editor's note: I had the same weekly topics for my Fort Atkinson Alumni Newsletter. One response came from Dave Keene, past president of the NRA, and I thought I should include it here:

Dave Keene (63) - dkeene@washingtontimes.com

2. In the seventies and eighties this country essentially closed down hospital treatment for the severely mentally ill because of concerns over abuses within certain facilities, over commitment and other problems. The "plan" was to replace these facilities with neighborhood treatment centers. The problems with the existing facilities were real although the panic may have been overblown. The problem was that the next step never happened.

The mentally ill were simply turned loose and today make up much of our "homeless" population as well as a significant portion of those who commit suicide and are involved in violent criminal activity. They either go untreated or unmonitored. To the extent that they receive treatment it is often a result of their incarceration in our jails and prisons which are far better at incarceration than treatment. It is a fact that in today's America there are more men and women who have been diagnosed as severely mentally ill in our jails and prisons in every state than in all the private and public treatment facilities in the states.

It isn't that we as a society don't spend money combatting mental illness, but that the money we spend is spent on folks who are essentially having a bad day rather than on those who need treatment and the government even funds advocacy groups that claim there is no such thing as mental illness. The result is that those who truly need help don't get it.

I had to become familiar with this problem during the years I spent as an officer of the NRA because most "mass" shootings are perpetrated not by criminals, but by people suffering from severe mental problems and most of those who have been involved in such incidents have been recognized by someone (the Rhode Island State Police in the case of the DC Naval Yard shootings, a gun dealer in the case of the Virginia Tech shootings and a gun range owner in the case of the Aurora, Colorado theater shootings). In each case nothing was done and the consequences were tragic. Nothing was done because, frankly, little could be done.

In the mid nineties, the NRA complained that those who'd been diagnosed as potentially dangerously mentally ill were not being included on the so-called NICS register used for background checks by gun dealers. At that time 23 states were refusing to report the names of such people even though the law then and now lists those so diagnosed as prohibited from purchasing firearms. Senator Bob Dole and then Congressman Chuck Schumer tried to fix this by requiring the states to report them, but Senator Edward Kennedy stopped them from doing so in the name of the rights of the mentally ill. He said at the time that he would not countenance the demonization of the mentally ill by prohibiting them from purchasing firearms unless firearms were simply banned for all citizens.

Things are a little better now, but the lobbying groups fighting any restrictions on the severely mentally ill are as active as ever. After the Sandy Hook school shootings, officials of the American Psychiatric Association called to condemn our use of the word "crazy" to describe the shooter.

We responded by saying that we couldn't think of a more polite way of describing him because he was, in fact, crazy.

50 shades of gray

He was in ecstasy - a huge smile on his face as his wife moved forwards then backwards, forward then backward, again and again.

She moved back and forth, back and forth, a little to the right, a little to the left. She felt the sweat building on her forehead, between her breasts, trickling down the small of her back. She was getting near the end...her heart pounding, her face flushed, she moaned softly at first, then louder and louder.

Totally exhausted, she screamed and then shouted, "OK, OK, you smug bastard, so I can't parallel park, you go ahead and do it."

