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To: Bill & Shirley (Black) Hartley
Subject: Lincoln High Newsletter 8/24/17

LINCOLN HIGH NEWSLETTER

This week's topics:

1. What did you think of the solar eclipse?
2. Ever jump to a conclusion? Good or bad results?
3. Ever accidentally leave the cat out of the bag?
4. Should we be taking down Confederate statues?
5. Remembering Jerry Lewis.
6. Gym class memories
7. Most romantic evening you can remember
8. Ever been housebound?
9. Ever break a bone as a kid? Fall out of a tree?
10. Whatever else.

and responses:

Toni Weller Olsen - LHS '64 - tonicrafty@gmail.com

1. The solar eclipse - My husband Larry was pretty excited about it. He had ordered a bunch of eclipse glasses online (the right kind). Here in Reno, NV we had an 83% eclipse. It was like the dark before the storm if you just stood outside, but looking through the glasses you could see the sun looking like a sliver. Kind of like looking at a crescent moon, but it was the crescent sun! Several of our neighbors were strolling around during the eclipse, and Larry gave away several pairs of eclipse glasses. The ones he ordered have the eclipse date printed on the side as well as the actual path of the eclipse. A nice keepsake.

4. Confederate statues - I may regret giving my thoughts on this one because so many divisive topics turn into hateful comments. But here goes. After living in north Florida for 42 years (just south of the Georgia border), I have more empathy for those Southerners whose family members fought and died for the Confederacy than if I had never lived in the South. Slavery was a cruel institution and the Civil War was a tragedy. Total estimates of those who died on both sides are over 500,000. Trying to remove all Confederate statues seems like erasing our American history. That's not a good idea.

Marcie [Basler] Ortscheid '65 - marcie.ortscheid@ki.com

When I was in 3rd grade I was trying a trick ride on a horse by throwing my leg over and riding with one foot in the stirrup and I slipped and broke my wrist, I think I was more embarrassed than hurt. But I sure was proud of the cast on my arm.

Don Wylie - dpwylie@wisc.edu

The eclipse was great. Looks like the majority of the country saw it with clear skies or saw it through light cirrus clouds. If you want to see more, check out the two web sites below. The first is a U-tube post of the weather satellite's view of the shadow crossing the USA. The 2nd is the same satellite's view but it covers the oceans too. It's a little clearer than the first sequence.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GNPAvxJPCm0>

ftp://ftp.ssec.wisc.edu/ABI/kaba/RGB/loops/GOES-16_FD_ECLIPSE_ENH_2017_08_21_233_2000_.mp4

The 2nd is 1.3 Mbytes that will download to your computer after clicking.

This is the 3rd partial eclipse I've seen. The others were in 1970 and 78. But the difference this time is the availability of cheap viewing glasses. For the other's I had to settle for peeks through a photographer's camera that had a blocking lens and use the pin hole in a piece of cardboard. Lots of groups bought large quantities of those glasses and were passing them out in Madison.

The pin hole method didn't work in Madison because we had light cloud cover which dulled the shadows so we missed seeing the crescent shapes. I've seen them before and it's an unusual experience.

Roger Fritz - fritzcat11@yahoo.com

#1 Here in SW Virginia the solar eclipse was just another overcast day. Glad I didn't buy special glasses.

#4 What happened to the MIDDLE of all the current issues? The press loves to put up the extremes, but that is not where the lasting answers are. Leave the statues, grave stones, street names and all the rest alone unless they are challenged by some thoughtful democratic process. I love history and we need to know about how we got here. Most of the left - right nuts are not interested in making things better. This emotional crap gave us Stalin, Castro and Hitler.

Dick Trudeau LHS '64 - dickmerry77@hotmail.com

SOLAR ECLIPSE -- The path of totality passed through Idaho just a few miles north of us. The day before the big event Merry and I loaded up the camper and drove 30 miles on a gravel road to the exact center of the path of the total eclipse on a ridge at 5000 feet elevation. We went to sleep that night alone and woke up with about 25 neighbors. Our secret place wasn't so secret after all. Amazingly, two Astrophysicists from California pulled into our camp spot and shared our coffee and chairs waiting for the sun and moon to do their thing. I amused them with my accounting-mind questions. How did the sun and stars get to be? Why doesn't the sun burn out? Who lit it in the first place? I pretty much knew the answers, but it made them feel good to flex their Cal Tech muscles by dropping such terms as "the big bang theory", "fusion" and such.

The most exciting part of the eclipse was a few moments before "totality" (I lived 71 years without using that word and now I'll never have to use it again!) When it finally took place panic set in. How do I use the next 2 minutes most efficiently? Do I use the naked eye? Get a video? Observe the darkness around me? It turned out the best way to appreciate the total eclipse is to use binoculars. If the naked eye is good, binoculars make it 10 times better. When it ended we felt quite a let down. That's it! No instant replays, no re-does.

On the way home I couldn't help but think about the "big picture". The planets, moons, stars, universe, galaxies, black holes, religion, etc. I've thought about these things in the past with no hard and fast answers. Thanks to cold beer however, I know there is a God!

EVER JUMP TO A CONCLUSION -- Yes. RESULTS -- Always bad!

BROKEN BONES -- Broke my wrist sledding down the Howe School hill. Shattered the knuckle of my right index finger thanks to an Eric Sydanmaa curve ball.

Editor - kvasby@smallbytes.net

1. What did you think of the solar eclipse? - Well, since it was overcast, there wasn't much to see. I was in the barbershop at the time and it looked like it was getting dark enough to rain.

5. Should we be taking down Confederate statues? Heck no!
They are part of our history and the liberals are having a great time trying to rewrite it.

Letter to the Editor

Randy Cox wi9cox@gmail.com wrote to Madison Mayor Soglin

So you want to take confederate memorials out of the Camp Randall cemetery? What about the headstones at each grave of those who opposed the union? Are you going to destroy each one of them and put them in the landfill? I know your radical liberal past. I am a Vietnam vet and you are the one who would have liked to spit on me when I came home? I find it troubling that anyone would put you in office. Very shameful that Madison has to live with you, I don't. Have a nice day.

If you'd like to send Soglin a message, go to: <https://www.cityofmadison.com/mayor/contact/index.cfm>

