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Challenging truth and common sense

By Steve Bakke  November 1, 2022



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A depression era stage play is the origin of the popular term, “gaslighting.” It implies manipulating people’s minds by expecting them to disregard what their eyes and ears are telling them. The economy, energy, Russia, China, a porous border, and important elections are staring us down. Finding answers among all the political gaslighting is difficult.

“Look, the border is secure!” insists Homeland Security Secretary Mayorkas. We’re supposed to divert our “lying eyes.” Annually, millions of illegal immigrants are crossing our uncontrolled Mexican border. And the number of “getaways” is approaching one million during 2021-2022. In the midst of the chaos, record levels of lethal illegal drugs enter the U.S. undetected.

A common-sense attempt to employ a border wall/barrier as part of the solution was foolishly discontinued by the current administration. Unused materials lay rusting on the ground. A barrier provides a tool for establishing order and control of cross-border traffic. It slows down, stops, or influences illegal crossings. And it improves the ability of border officials to react effectively.

A wall isn’t an end in itself, however. It’s just one part of a border security system, alongside technology and other observation techniques. “But they’ll just use ladders” a friend assures me. Believe me, there’ll be no effective “storm the bastille” moments at the border. Who are they kidding?

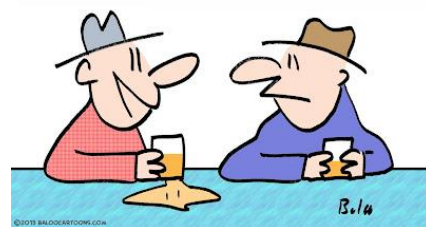
The current administration demonstrates dangerous impatience by attempting to replace fossil fuels before identifying some assurance of affordable and effective alternatives. Common sense and many experts tell us that the infrastructure necessary to support our fleet of “planes, trains, and automobiles,” can’t be accomplished in time for the promise of achieving “100% electric vehicles by 2035.”

Establishing the necessary battery manufacturing and charging infrastructure is wishful thinking, partly due to the currently unpopular “dirty mining” operations necessary for raw materials. Consequently, we are dependent on China as the world’s largest supplier of rare earth minerals. What could go wrong with that scenario? Green, dependable, and safe, but politically incorrect, nuclear power may be the only answer.

Title IX legislation, and later the Equity in Athletics Disclosure Act in 1994, gave women's rights a consequential lift. We've been diligently working to comply ever since. The expressed purpose of the decades long effort was to be sure women athletes had equitable access to participating in competitive athletics at the college level. That's plain and simple - or so it seemed.

Very recently, progressive elements in our society created chaos by redefining who can compete in women's athletics. The current administration decided that the original legislation didn't get it right. In 2021, sheepishly bowing to misguided pressure, President Biden issued Executive Order 14021 which guaranteed educational environments would be discrimination free, "including sexual orientation or gender identity." This reversed President Trump's order that Title IX would apply to biological sex only. The Department of Education has committed to enforcing that order.

Legislative hearings weren't held, and gender issues are far from being adequately researched and understood. Nevertheless, the administration pulled off the most egregious gaslighting incident I'm aware of. Biological men who identify as women are now eligible to compete in women's athletics associated with educational institutions. This is a disastrous setback for hard-fought women's rights.



"The best part about being a hypocrite is that you can still denounce hypocrisy."

There are many more active challenges to truth and common sense: the fictitiously titled "inflation reduction act" with its obscure cramdown of green legislation; economic policies devoid of essential supply-side stimulation; impatience of legislators crying for immediate "feelgood" solutions without proper analysis of the gun violence problem; characterizing legitimate voting and ballot controls as voter suppression; frontal assault on energy independence; patently false charges that republicans will take away Medicare and Social Security; President Biden's insistence that our economy is "strong as hell"; dangerous law enforcement and criminal justice reform; and many more.

A "perfect storm" is gathering, resulting from mixing foolish "fixes" and hidden agendas with serious problems. Bad ideas create societal and economic malaise because they place heavy millstones around Americans' necks. Permanent harm is being caused, and those in charge are blind to it.

President Reagan was referring to this type of foolishness when he warned America: "The nine most terrifying words in the English language are: I'm from the government, and I'm here to help."