

Elephant Talk

Plano Republican Women

TFRW Region No: 3 Senate District No: 8

July 2020

President's Byline



The following is the speech I gave at our July general meeting. Since most of our members could not attend the meeting, I made it my President's message for this month's newsletter.

The last time I was with you all America was doing amazingly well. We had the lowest Black and Hispanic unemployment in recorded history. Woman's unemployment was the lowest in over 50 years. Wages, manufacturing jobs, and labor participation were all up. Then the plague came and America came to a screeching halt. In true American fashion we rose to the challenge to get through COVID-19, and then all hell broke loose when one police officer used deadly force against an unarmed black man.

Never letting a crisis go to waste, Marxist/Communist took off the masks they were hiding behind so they could take over. These Marxists, who called themselves protesters have looted, rioted, tore down statues, vandalized historical monuments, and have taken over city blocks in Seattle. They have a catchy slogan, Black Lives Matter, but the organization with that same name wants to take over America and turn it into a Marxist Utopia. Don't believe me, here are the facts.

The founders of Black Lives Matter Global Network, are all self-proclaimed Marxists. They are calling for the end of the family. On the organization's website it says, "*We disrupt the Western-prescribed nuclear family structure requirement by supporting each other as extended families and "villages" that collectively care for one another, especially our children...*" This idea comes right out of the Communist Manifesto. In Chapter two of it Marx and Engels call for the abolition of the family. That way children could be raised by the collective, village, or state. Now you maybe wondering why Communists would want to destroy the family. Simple, you can't be loyal to the collective if your loyalty and allegiance is to your family.

This is also the reason that Marxists attack religion and faith in G-d. To quote a very famous Jewish man, you cannot serve two masters. Therefore, Marxists must get rid of religion. One of the buildings Black Lives Matter rioters and ANTIFA (who are also Communists) attacked was historic St. John's church across from the White House. Also, during COVID Democrat leaders forced the closing of houses of worship. Some would not even allow churches to hold services in their parking lots while people sat in their cars.

Another way the Marxists are attacking this nation is by going after our Monuments and our history. Remember in 2008, Michelle Obama said we must change our history. Marxists know that whoever controls our past controls our future. So, they destroy confederate statues, a monument to black union soldiers, statues of Frederick Douglas, and white abolitionists. It does not matter who the monument is of or to. The purpose of destroying it is to control our past so they can control us.

The 1619 project is another example how Marxists are attacking our history. This project by a NY Times writer is nothing but another distortion of history to claim that America was founded on racism. Therefore America is rotten to the core and must be destroyed as we know it. As I speak they are putting the 1619 project in schools.

Another way these Marxists are attacking us is through cancel culture. Express any idea, thought, or belief that the collective does not like and you will be attacked, boycotted, or fired.

Lastly these Marxists are promoting the idea that everything that is American is racist, bad, or white culture. Here are just a few things they claim are aspects of white culture. Rugged individualism, the family, the scientific method, work before play, hard work ethic, anything Judeo-Christian, respect authority, delayed gratification, protect property, and competition.

In this issue:

Presidents Message	1
August Meeting	2
July Photos	3
Americanism By Anne Logan	4-5
Political Cartoons	6
Legislative Report	7-8
Why This Revolution By Victor Hansen	9
Educational Glue By: Jeff Minick	10
July Photos	11
Nonconformity Quotes By: Dorothy Sayers	12-13
Socialist Used Teachers By: Alex Newman	14-16
My America By Brent Graves	17
Political Cartoons	18
American Culture By: Catherine Wang	19-20
Obamacare Unlawful By: Ken Paxton	21
Sponsors	22-24
Happy Birthday	24
PRW Officers	24
Member Form	25
Meeting Location	26



Calendar of Events

August Meeting
August 18th

August Meeting



Next PRW Meeting:

Tuesday, August 18, 2020

Guest Speaker

Mr Jon-David Wells of *The Wells Report*

In a 45 year career, Jon-David Wells has had an impressive professional success; garnering number one ratings in all major dayparts in 5 different formats. He is also a freelance columnist for the For Worth Star Telegram and the Arlington Voice.

The first edition of The Wells Report happened on September 11, 2001. The world changed and The Wells Report reported the story. "For 5 straight hours, I heard my neighbors and fellow Americans cry out in pain, fear and anger. None of us were ever the same again." Jon-David had seen the way the media bias turned the news into a political tool and decided he would not have any part of that epic dishonesty. He would tell the Truth. "Truth Spoken Here" became the motto of the show and the true north of what he reports each day on 1160AM KBDT from 2PM -5PM.

**Location : Saltgrass Steakhouse Plano East
3320 North Central Expressway, Plano, TX 75074**

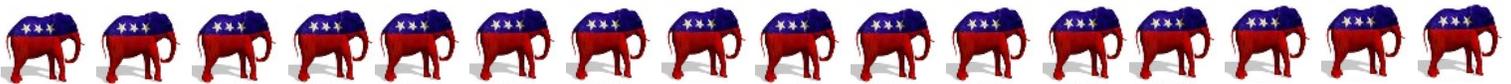
Time: 11:15 am: Arrive and check-in, 11:30 am: Meeting, Lunch & Program

Lunch is available for **\$25.00** with RSVP, cash or check payable to PRW on arrival
RSVPs for lunch must be made by 5 pm Friday, March 13th, 2020

RSVPs to attend without lunch may be made up to 5pm the Monday before the Tuesday meeting
We welcome guests and visitors to our General Meeting. Members, please bring a friend!

To RSVP send an email to: rsvp@planorepublicanwomen.org

Include your name in your email and specify whether you will/will not be having lunch



President's Byline Continued . . .

Ladies, we are under attack and we must stop Marxism from taking over our nation and Texas. One way we can do that is to make sure Donald Trump and every Republican candidate on the ballot wins in November. It does not matter if you don't like how a candidate gives a speech. It does not matter if you don't know him or her. It does not matter if you don't like how he or she voted on one bill. We cannot risk losing this election to the Democrat - Marxist left. We also can't risk winning by a thin margin again. We must win by double digests so, the Democrats know we will never embrace Marxism and TX will never be a blue state.

So, go out and volunteer for Victory 2020 at headquarters. Phone bank, write post cards to your neighbors to vote Republican. Educate your friends. Do everything you can to get people to vote for every Republican on the ballot. America, liberty, freedom, and our very way of life are all at stake this November.

Jennifer Groysman
president@PlanoRepublicanWomen.org

PRW July Meeting Photos





AMERICANISM REPORT

BY ANNE LOGAN, AMERICANISM CHAIR

July Tributes

Did you know that there is a special designated day or a national holiday for every day of the month of July? Many days have several tributes. Listed below are some that might not be familiar to you.

- **America the Beautiful**

The stirring anthem “America the Beautiful” turned 125 in July. The song’s lyrics are the words of a poem written by Katharine Lee Bates, who was an English professor at Massachusetts’ Wellesley. In 1893, while on a trip to Colorado, Bates visited Pikes Peak and was struck by the view.

Inspired, she finished her poem during the trip, but didn’t publish it until two year later. The first version appeared on July 4, 1895.

For awhile, “America the Beautiful” was sung to the melodies of various folk tunes. But it was a hymn titled “Maternal” composed in 1882 by Samuel A. Ward, that became the most common music for Bates’ lyrics and is still used today.

- **I Forgot Day—July 2**

Gaye Andersen of DeMotte, IN. created this day.

I Forgot Day, by definition, is not a day to remember. So, just what are you forgetting? Can you even remember? Is it important? Hopefully, not.

- **National Motorcycles Day—July 10**

Dairyland Insurance, the sponsors of this holiday, encourage all motorcycle riders to hold and participate in charitable events that include riding your cycle.

Did You Know? There are over 7.1 million motorcycles on the road in the United States.

- **Different Colored Eyes Day—July 12**

Jeanne Quinn, the creator of this day says it's "a good day to celebrate the uniqueness of people.... especially those with different colored eyes!"

It recognizes an eye condition called Heterochromia. People who have this trait, have two *different* colors of eyes. One eye may be brown, while the other is blue. Famous people who have Heterochromia include David Bowie, Jane Seymour, Max Scherzer, and Christopher Walken.

Theme Song: *Don't it Turn Your Brown Eyes Blue?* Honorable Mention: *Brown Eyed Girl* and *Green Eyed Lady*.

- **Cow Appreciation Day—July 15**

Our appreciation for cows can be expressed in many ways. Some websites suggest you go out and give a cow a big hug and/or a kiss.

Or have an ice cold glass of milk. Add chocolate syrup, if you prefer. Then, fire up the grill, and cook some burgers or a steak. And, don't forget to get your fill of cheese. Sorry, goat cheese is not allowed today.

- **Junk Food Day—July 21**

For some of us, every day is Junk Food Day. For the rest of us, National Junk Food Day is an opportunity to guiltlessly eat your favorite junk food.



AMERICANISM REPORT

BY ANNE LOGAN, AMERICANISM CHAIR

Continued from Page 4

Dietitians will tell you that junk food is any food that contains little nutritional value. We also include foods that are high in salts, fats, and sugars. In other words, junk food is all that tasty stuff that the dietitians, and Mom, say is bad for us.

On Junk Food Day, you get to eat anything you want. Eat any amounts that you want, too. Tomorrow, however, it's back to a healthy diet.

Please Note: Junk food may be hazardous to your health. After all, mom knows what's best for you. Do so at your own risk.

- **National Day of the Cowboy—July 25**

National Day of the Cowboy was created in 2005 to preserve the role and contributions cowboys and cowgirls made to the western heritage and history of our country. Every year on this day, the NDOC gives recognition awards to individuals, organizations and projects that contribute to the preservation of both pioneer history, and the promotion of cowboy culture.

Shortly after the Civil War, cowboys and cowgirls began to appear in America's heartland and the wild west. They were largely ranchers and ranch hands, raising cattle, horses and other animals. Cowboys herded them across the plains to feed the animals, and ultimately to slaughterhouses to feed a growing American population.

It was a wild and often lawless time. In the absence of the rule of law, Cowboys developed their own code to live by, known as the "Cowboy Code of Conduct" or the "Cowboy Code of Ethics". They were simple and logical rules of behavior. The rules could readily apply at any time, even today.

- **Cowboy Code of Conduct**

Live each day with honesty and courage.
 Take pride in your work. Always do your best.
 Stay curious. Study hard and learn all you can.
 Do what has to be done and finish what you start.
 Be tough, but fair.
 When you make a promise, keep it.
 Be clean in thought, word, deed, and dress.
 Practice tolerance and understanding of others.
 Be willing to stand up for what is right.
 Be an excellent steward of the land and its animals

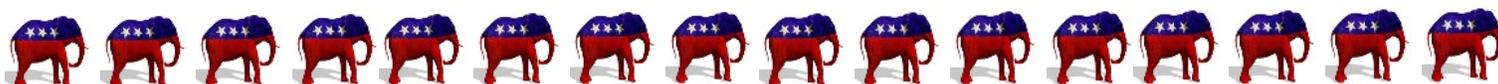
- **Mutt's Day—July 31**

Mutts deserve their day in the spotlight, as much as a pure breed. If you own a mutt then you know this day is for you.

By definition a mutt, sometimes called a "Half-breed", is a dog that is of mixed breed. They come from two to several breeds. Purebred owners, and sometimes the public in general, view them as lesser in many ways. Mutt owners know better. They value the diversity and uniqueness of their mutts. Sure, a mutt doesn't carry the expensive price tag that a purebred with papers has on its head. To the mutt owner, however, the mutt is invaluable. In addition, mutts don't walk around needing to prove anything. You won't see them strutting around any dog shows trying to prove they are the best.

To all mutt owners spend the day relaxing and doing all the things you and your dog like to do. Do so with both of your chins held high. For your mutt is worth a million bucks!

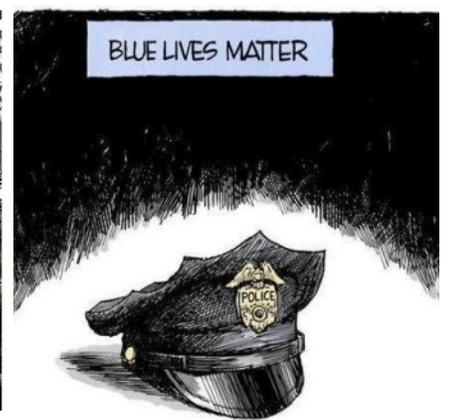
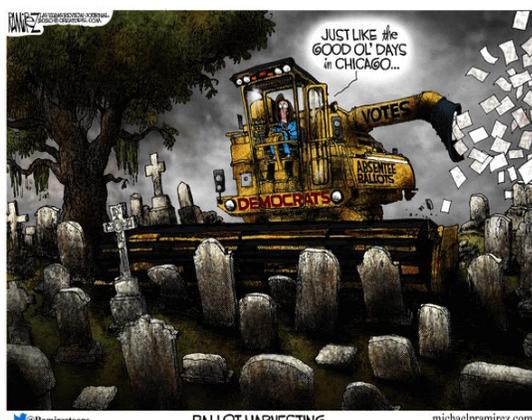
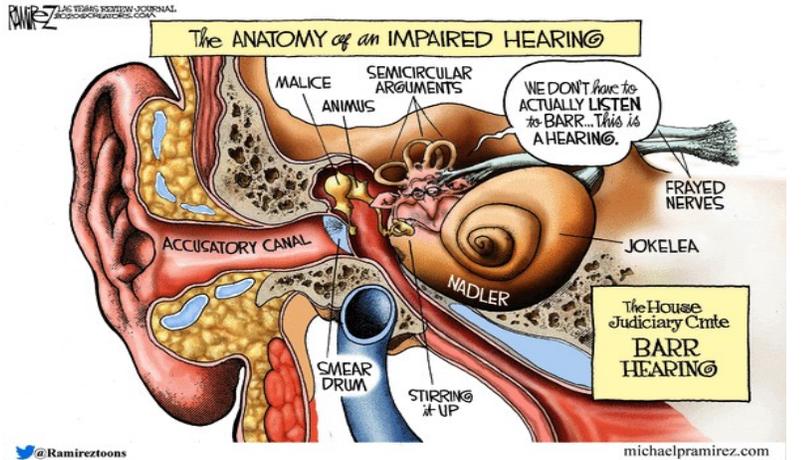
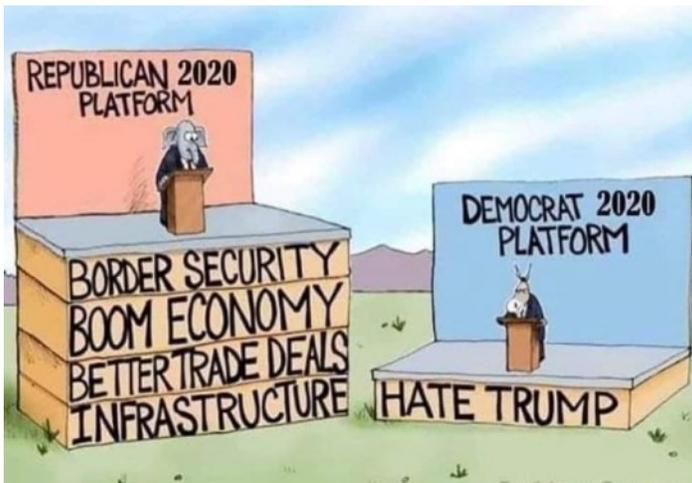
I hope you enjoyed July! Everyday was a day to celebrate!



Political Cartoons



History lesson





Legislative Report

How the HEALS Act compares to the HEROES Act

Published Thu, Jul 30 2020 –CNBC

Senate Republicans unveiled the Health, Economic Assistance, Liability Protection and Schools, or HEALS, Act, Monday night, their starting point for negotiations for the next coronavirus relief bill. Included in the HEALS Act are provisions for another stimulus check, more money for small businesses and liability protections for companies that bring workers back to the office during the pandemic.

The HEALS Act comes months after House Democrats introduced the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions, or HEROES, Act, their coronavirus stimulus wishlist. While the HEALS Act would cost around \$1 trillion, the HEROES Act clocks in at \$3 trillion and includes provisions for hazard pay for essential workers and housing relief, among other measures not included in the Senate's bill.

Now, Congress will negotiate and try to strike a balance between the two bills. Here's a rundown of some of the main similarities and differences between the HEALS Act and HEROES Act.

Stimulus checks

HEALS Act: The HEALS Act provides for another economic impact payment, at \$1,200 per individual earning up to \$75,000 and \$2,400 for couples earning up to \$150,000, plus \$500 per dependent. It uses the same formula as the first payment, except that it does not put a cap on the age of dependents for the extra \$500 payment as the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, or CARES Act, did.

HEROES Act: The House's bill tweaks slightly the formula from the CARES Act, the first coronavirus relief bill. Individuals earning up to \$75,000 and couples earning up to \$150,000 would still receive \$1,200 or \$2,400, respectively, but would also receive \$1,200 for dependents (up to three per household). Additionally, immigrants with taxpayer identification numbers, not just those with Social Security numbers, would qualify for a payment.

Unemployment insurance

HEALS Act: The Senate's bill proposes cutting enhanced UI from \$600 to \$200 per week through September (the \$600 benefit expired this week). Starting October 1, the \$200 will be replaced with a payment covering 70% of a worker's previous wages, when combined with regular state benefits. The method of calculating the 70% replacement wage could vary by state, but will be capped at \$500 per week.

HEROES Act: The Democratic bill keeps enhanced unemployment insurance at \$600 per week through January 2021. It also extended how long gig workers, independent contractors, part-time workers and the self-employed can be eligible for benefits from December 2020 in the CARES Act through March 2021.

Housing relief

HEALS Act: The Senate's bill does not call for an extension of the federal eviction moratorium that expired last week. It does earmark \$3.3 billion for already-existing housing vouchers, but housing advocates say \$100 billion in rental assistance alone is needed.

HEROES Act: The HEROES Act allocated \$100 billion for rental assistance programs and extended the eviction moratorium for one year following the enactment of the bill. Additionally, it provides \$75 billion to prevent mortgage defaults and property foreclosures for homeowners.

Child care investments

HEALS Act: The Senate GOP designated \$15 billion for child care, including \$5 billion to child-care providers and \$10 billion for "back to work child-care grants," which would help some providers pay for the extra costs of re-enrolling children during the coronavirus pandemic.

HEROES Act: The House's bill earmarks \$7 billion for child care through the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), a fund typically used to subsidize child care for low-income families with children under age 13. Under the new legislation, child-care providers would apply for emergency assistance for expenses related to the coronavirus, as well as extra cleaning supplies and personal protection equipment for staff.

Hazard pay

HEALS Act: The HEALS Act does not provide hazard pay for essential workers.

HEROES Act: The HEROES Act would establish a \$200 billion "Heroes' Fund" to provide hazard pay to some essential workers in the form of a \$13 per hour pay premium on top of the workers' regular pay.

Student loans

HEALS Act: The GOP plan cuts student loan repayment options to two from nine: Borrowers would choose from a standard repayment plan or an income-driven repayment plan. Federal student loan borrowers would also be able to continue to defer payments past October 1, 2020 if they have no income.

HEROES Act: The HEROES Act extends the CARES Act's suspension on interest and payments for most people with federal student loans through September 2021. It also expands the pause to all federal student loans.



Legislative Report

CARES VS. HEROES VS. HEALS ACTS: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

	CARES (from March)	Heroes (Democratic)	HEALS (Republican)
Total cost of stimulus package	\$2.2 trillion	\$3 trillion	\$1 trillion
Stimulus check maximum payment amount	\$1,200 to single filers earning under \$75k per year, \$2,400 for joint filers under \$125k. Reduced \$5 per \$100 of income above limits.	Same as CARES.	Same as CARES.
How much stimulus money you get for dependents	\$500 for dependents, 16 and under. College students, 24 and under, are not eligible.	\$1,200 for dependents, maximum of three.	\$500 for dependents, no age limit.
Enhanced unemployment benefit	\$600 per week in addition to state benefits.	Same as CARES.	Initially \$200 per week. Then up to \$500 per week to match 70% of lost wages when added to state benefits.
How long enhanced unemployment lasts	Expires July 31.	January 2021 for most workers, through March 2021 for gig workers, independent contractors, part-time workers and self-employed.	\$200 per week bonus through September. Then 70% matching of lost wages. Extends expiration of federal benefits until Dec. 31.
Paycheck Protection Program	Allocated \$659 billion total in forgivable loans for small businesses, who must use 75% on payroll to be eligible for forgiveness. \$130 billion remains, but expires Aug. 8.	Expands eligibility, eliminates 75% payroll requirement and extends application period to Dec. 31.	Injects another \$190 billion into the PPP fund, expands eligibility and allows businesses to request a second loan. Eliminates 75% payroll requirement and expands approved uses of funds for loan forgiveness.
Employee tax credit	Tax credit on 50% of up to \$10,000 in wages.	Increases tax credit to 80% of up to \$15,000 in wages.	Increases tax credit to 65% of up to \$30,000.
Bonus for employees who start new jobs or are rehired	Does not address.	Does not address.	There could be a return-to-work bonus of up to \$450 per week for unemployed workers who secure a new job or are rehired.
Eviction protections and moratorium	Bans late fees until July 25 and evictions until Aug. 24 on properties backed by federal mortgage programs (Fannie Mae, etc.) or that receive federal funds (HUD, etc.)	Expands to cover nearly all rental properties in the US, extends eviction moratorium an additional 12 months, allocates \$200 billion for housing programs and another \$100 billion for rental assistance.	Does not address.
School reopening	Does not address.	\$58 billion for grades K-12, \$42 billion for higher education.	\$70 billion to K-12 that open for in-person classes, \$29 billion for higher education, \$1 billion to Bureau of Indian Education, \$5 billion state discretion.
Liability protection from coronavirus illness	Does not address.	Does not address.	5 year liability shield to prevent schools, businesses, hospitals, from being sued over coronavirus-related issues.
Coronavirus testing	Does not address.	Does not address.	\$16 billion.

Why This Revolution Isn't Like the '60s

By Victor David Hanson, July 23, 2020 for The Daily Signal

In the 1960s and early '70s, the U.S. was convulsed by massive protests calling for radical changes in the country's attitudes on race, class, gender, and sexual orientation. The Vietnam War and widespread college deferments were likely the fuel that ignited prior peaceful civil disobedience.

Sometimes the demonstrations became violent, as with the Watts riots of 1965 and the protests at the 1968 Democratic convention in Chicago. Terrorists from the Weathermen (later called the Weather Underground) bombed dozens of government buildings.

The '60s revolution introduced to the country everything from hippies, communes, free love, mass tattooing, commonplace profanity, rampant drug use, rock music, and high divorce rates to the war on poverty, massive government growth, feminism, affirmative action, and race/gender/ethnic college curricula. The enemies of the '60s counterculture were the "establishment"—politicians, corporations, the military, and the "square" generation in general.

Leftists targeted their parents, who had grown up in the Great Depression. That generation had won World War II and returned to create a booming postwar economy. After growing up with economic and military hardship, they sought a return to comfortable conformity in the 1950s.

A half-century after the earlier revolution, today's cultural revolution is vastly different—and far more dangerous.

Government and debt have grown. Social activism is already institutionalized in hundreds of newer federal programs. The "Great Society" inaugurated a multi-trillion-dollar investment in the welfare state. Divorce rates soared. The nuclear family waned. Immigration, both legal and illegal, skyrocketed.

Thus, America is far less resilient, and a far more divided, indebted, and vulnerable target than it was in 1965.

Today, radicals are not protesting against 1950s conservatism but rather against the radicals of the 1960s, who as old liberals now hold power. Now, many of the current enforcers—blue-state governors, mayors, and police chiefs—are from the left. Unlike Democratic Chicago Mayor Richard J. Daley in the '60s, today's progressive civic leaders often sympathize with the protesters.

The '60s protests were for racial assimilation and integration to reify Martin Luther King Jr.'s agenda of making race incidental, not essential, to the American mindset. Not so with today's cultural revolution. It seeks to ensure that racial difference is the foundation of American life, dividing the country between supposed non-white victims and purported white victimizers, past and present. In the '60s, radicals rebelled against their teachers and professors, who were often highly competent and the products of fact-based and inductive education. Not so in 2020. Today's radicals were taught not by traditionalists but by less-educated older radicals.

Another chief difference is debt. Most public education in the 1960s was bare-bones and relatively inexpensive. Because there were no plush dorms, latte bars, rock-climbing walls, diversity coordinators, and provosts of inclusion, college tuition in real dollars was far cheaper.

The result was that 1960s student radicals graduated without much debt and for all their hipness could enter a booming economy with marketable skills. Today's angry graduates owe a collective \$1.6 trillion in student loan debt—much of it borrowed for mediocre, therapeutic, and politicized training that does not impress employers.

College debt impedes maturity, marriage, child-raising, home ownership, and the saving of money. In other words, today's radical is far more desperate and angry that his college gambit never paid off.

Today's divide is also geographical in the fashion of 1861, not just generational as in the 1960s. The two blue coasts seem to despise the vast red interior, and vice versa.

Yet the scariest trait of the current revolution is that many of its sympathizers haven't changed much since the 1960s. They may be rich, powerful, influential, and older, but they are just as reckless and see the current chaos as the final victory in their own long march from the '60s.

Corporations are no longer seen as evil, but as woke contributors to the revolution. The military is no longer smeared as warmongering, but praised as a government employment service where race, class, and gender agendas can be green-lighted without messy legislative debate. Unlike the 1960s, there are essentially no conservatives in Hollywood, on campuses, or in government bureaucracies.

So the war no longer pits radicals against conservatives, but often socialists and anarchists against both liberals and conservatives.

In the '60s, a huge "silent majority" finally had enough, elected Richard Nixon, and slowed down the revolution by jailing its criminals, absorbing and moderating it. Today, if there is a silent mass of traditionalists and conservatives, they remain in hiding.

If they stay quiet in their veritable mental monasteries and deplore the violence in silence, the revolution will steamroll on. But as in the past, if they finally snap, decide enough is enough, and reclaim their country, then even this cultural revolution will sputter out, too.

Victor Davis Hanson is a classicist and historian at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University, and author of the book "The Second World Wars: How the First Global Conflict Was Fought and Won." Email him at authorvdh@gmail.com.

'The Educational Glue That Binds

BY JEFF MINICK

In 1988, E.D. Hirsch's "Cultural Literacy: What Every American Needs to Know" became a bestseller.

In this book, Hirsch argues that when we fail to pass along certain pieces of core knowledge to our young people—the dates for World War II, the poetry of Emily Dickinson, the meaning of sayings like "Touché!" or "tempest in a teapot"—we may produce readers, but they will be culturally illiterate.

The book contains more than 5,000 bits of information everyone needs to know to meaningfully engage with our culture.

In Chapter I of "Cultural Literacy," Hirsch recounts some dismaying stories of bright students who nevertheless were culturally ignorant: the pre-law student who thought that Washington, D.C. was in Washington state; the Latin student who believed Latin Americans spoke Latin; the many students who had no idea who Thomas Jefferson was or when the Declaration of Independence was signed.

And that was more than 30 years ago.

Hirsch later went on to found the Core Knowledge Foundation and edit and publish a series of books for elementary school students: "What Your Kindergartener Needs to Know," "What Your First Grader Needs to Know," and so on.

These books regale their readers with all sorts of information about history and literature, science and mathematics, art and music. Here, parents and children can find a wealth of what Hirsch called the fundamentals of education.

In "What Your Sixth Grader Needs to Know," for example, we find poems by Wordsworth, Poe, and Dunbar, stories about the Trojan War and Julius Caesar, a section of sayings and their meanings, several histories, a beautifully rendered visual arts section, and much more. Many adults will also learn things from this presentation of core knowledge. For instance, I had never heard of the African American artist Henry Ossawa Tanner or his warm, sweet painting, "The Banjo Lesson."

In his introductions to these books, Hirsch gives three reasons for the necessity of core knowledge.

1. Commonly shared knowledge makes schooling more effective. Here, he makes the point that third-grade students coming together from different second-grade classrooms or different towns often don't share the same relevant knowledge, and the teacher must, therefore, impart information some of the students already know.

2. Commonly shared knowledge makes schooling more fair and democratic. When all the students who enter a higher grade share a common education—all having a grasp of American history or some of the mechanics of poetry for example—"then all the students are empowered to learn." In a Core Knowledge program, both rich and poor children have the same base knowledge and they can all build upon that knowledge.

3. Commonly shared knowledge helps create cooperation and solidarity in our schools and nation. Here Hirsch recognizes the diversity of America and the value of different cultures, and argues that a classroom that includes knowledge of many cultures and that has a core curriculum "gives all students, no matter their background, a common foundation for understanding our cultural diversity."

In his lengthy but worthwhile online essay "A Sense of Belonging," Hirsch reinforces this last point with these words:

"The federated American idea continues to be, as Abraham Lincoln said, the 'last best hope on earth.' The 'disuniting of America' has been an unfruitful effort. The individualism of our schools coupled with the divisive anti-nationalist pieties of the recent past have encouraged polarization and helped make our internal politics tribal rather than federated. Our elementary schools need to stop abetting that ominous trend and instead become the first line of defense against them."

With our schools shut down, perhaps now is the time for American parents and teachers to revisit Hirsch and his ideas about core knowledge, and take a long look at the educational principles he advocates. We might encourage our schools, especially our elementary schools, to add more of this essential core knowledge to their curricula and to build on that knowledge from one year to the next.

In doing so, students might actually possess the information Hirsch views as so critical.

If nothing else, parents can purchase Hirsch's series of books and use them in the home. The stories, poems, history lessons, art, music, and science should appeal to the young people in our lives and make up for any of the alleged educational deficits school closures may be causing.

"Hitch your wagon to a star" is one of the "Sayings and Phrases" in "What Your Sixth Grader Needs to Know." When we share these books with our children and grandchildren, when we give them the basic building blocks of our culture, we are helping them do that very thing.

Jeff Minick has four children and a growing platoon of grandchildren. For 20 years, he taught history, literature, and Latin to seminars of home-schooling students in Asheville, N.C. Today, he lives and writes in Front Royal, Va. See JeffMinick.com to follow his blog. This article was originally published on Intellectual Takeout.

PRW July Meeting Photos



21 Nonconformity Quotes to Help You Resist the Crowd

The author Dorothy Sayers (1893-1957) once observed that one of the downsides of the modern age is that humans are ill-equipped to resist an endless onslaught of messaging (the "incessant battery of words, words, words.")

Literacy had expanded but the tools of reason, logic, and deduction were being lost even as humans were being exposed to mass media and near-constant advertising.

In a turn of phrase that would have made Doctor Strange proud, Sayers wondered if the conditions of the modern world had made humans "susceptible to the influence of advertisement and mass propaganda to an extent hitherto unheard of and unimagined."

Sayers wrote those words in 1947, a year before George Orwell's own dark premonitions on propaganda and control were published in his classic work *1984*.

Sayers and Orwell were onto something, but the uncomfortable truth is that mass media has only amplified since their time. The average American today spends close to four hours a day "reading, listening to or simply interacting with media" on computers, tablets or mobile devices, one recent study found. For tweens, the figure is even higher: 4.5 hours. For teens, average screen time is higher still: 6.5 hours a day.

The inundation of media poses a threat to one of the essential qualities that makes humans human: individuality. To be fair, the individual has *always* struggled to survive the herd (to paraphrase Kipling); but in many ways mass media make this quest even more difficult. Today we're endlessly bombarded with messaging, imagery, and ideology fighting for our attention, minds, and wallets.

We're told what shows to watch and what books to read and which characters are problematic. We're told what ideas and messages are okay, and which must be suppressed, expunged, or modified. We see which celebrities are punished for which transgressions.

For many it's exhausting, confusing, and anxiety-inducing. Perhaps the worst part is that many individuals feel they have no choice but to follow the herd.

"The psychology of crowds is a fascinating thing," Claire Lehman, the editor of Quillette recently observed. "Because most people are conformists, it seems pretty clear that once a certain number of ideologues take hold in an organisation or society, a tipping point is reached & the herd just follows along."

Few today would deny this a challenge. It often seems the world today is one big, senseless crowd. But it's important to remember a key truth: we don't have to march to the beat of the crowd's drum.

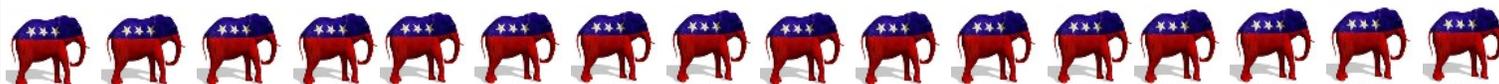
Here are 21 quotes on conformity and nonconformity that reveal the struggle to and the importance of remaining free in our own minds.

- "The individual has always had to struggle to keep from being overwhelmed by the tribe. If you try it, you will be lonely often, and sometimes frightened. But no price is too high to pay for the privilege of owning yourself." - **Rudyard Kipling, 1935** (this quote is often misattributed to Nietzsche)
- "Conformity is the jailer of freedom and the enemy of growth." - **President John F. Kennedy, 1961** address to the United Nations
- "I don't give a damn what others say. It's okay to color outside the lines." - **Jimi Hendrix (1942-1970)**, musician
- "It is easy in the world to live after the world's opinion; it is easy in solitude after our own; but the great man is he who in the midst of the crowd keeps with perfect sweetness the independence of solitude." - Ralph Waldo Emerson, *Self-Reliance* (1841)
- "Rebel children, I urge you, fight the turgid slick of conformity with which they seek to smother your glory." - Russell Brand, *My Booky Wook*, 2008
- "Heresy is another word for freedom of thought." - Graham Greene (1904-1991), author
- "Not all those who wander are lost." - J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Fellowship of the Ring* (1954)
- "For nonconformity the world whips you with its displeasure." - Ralph Waldo Emerson, *Self-Reliance* (1841)
- "The opposite of bravery is not cowardice but conformity." - Dr. Robert Anthony, *The Ultimate Secret to Total Self-Confidence*
- "Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, it is time to reform (or pause and reflect)." - Mark Twain, notebook (1904)
- "All progress has resulted from people who took unpopular positions." - Adlai Stevenson, Address at Princeton, 1954
- "Go your own way. Question everything. Accept nothing. Accept no dogma, no cant. There are too many people walking around thinking they're sacred cows, and they're only half right." - Rosie DiManno (b. 1956), Canadian journalist

21 Nonconformity Quotes to Help You Resist the Crowd

Continued from Page 12

- “I think the reward for conformity is that everyone likes you except yourself.” - Rita Mae Brown (b. 1944), author
- “Every generation laughs at the old fashions, but follows religiously the new.” - Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862)
- “It is the individual only who is timeless. Societies, cultures, and civilizations—past and present—are often incomprehensible to outsiders, but the individual's hungers, anxieties, dreams, and preoccupations have remained unchanged through the millennia.” - Eric Hoffer (1898-1983), moral philosopher
- “Perhaps, if one wishes to remain an individual in the midst of the teeming multitudes, one must make oneself grotesque.” - Salman Rushdie, *Midnight's Children*
- “If I decide to be an idiot, then I'll be an idiot on my own accord.” - Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
- “It is very nearly impossible to become an educated person in a country so distrustful of the independent mind.” - James Baldwin (1924-1987), author
- "Our wretched species is so made that those who walk on the well-trodden path always throw stones at those who are showing a new road." - Voltaire (1724-1788)
- “Only a very small number of people are truly evil. But a very large number of people are conformists. To prevent evil on a mass scale it's more important for us to ward against our own instinct to conform with the crowd than it is to worry about anything else.” - Claire Lehman, founding editor of *Quillette*
- “Somewhere ages and ages hence: Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—I took the one less traveled by, And that has made all the difference.” - Robert Frost, “The Road Not Taken”



Political Action Hours

Remember to send in your Political Actions Hours.

You can use our website to send them in. www.planorepublicanwomen.org .

Anything you do that is political or helps Republicans win elections counts.

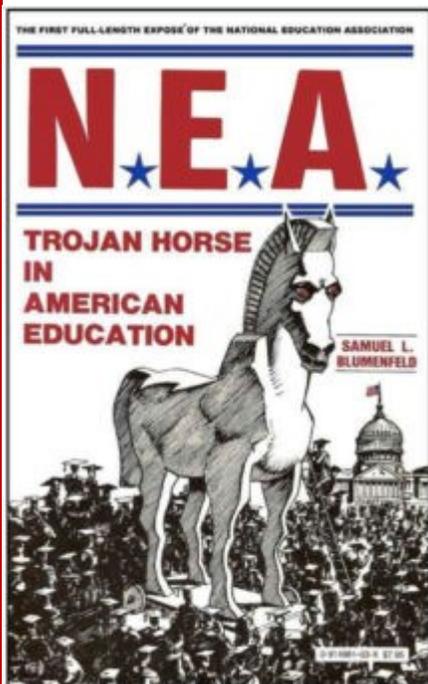
You can find a detailed list of what counts as hours on
our website and in your directory.

How Socialists Used Teachers Unions Such as the NEA to Destroy Education

ALEX NEWMAN November 19, 2019 Updated: May 20, 2020

Commentary - This article is part 8 in a series examining the origins of public education in the United States.

When examining the hydra that is the collectivist “education” establishment that dominates public schools in the United States, among the most important tentacles have been the teachers’ unions—especially the National Education Association (NEA).



Book cover – NEA: Trojan Horse in American Education

Along with other leading unions, the NEA and its affiliates at the state and local level played a leading role in transforming American education into the dangerous disaster that it has become. The extremism has been getting progressively more extreme for more than a century now. But it’s not new by any means.

The destructive role played by the NEA is so serious, and so widely understood, that in 2004, even then-U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige described the union as a “terrorist organization.” But in reality, the NEA has done far more damage to the United States than a simple terrorist organization ever could.

Consider that terrorists merely kill individuals, even if sometimes in large numbers. But the NEA and its allied unions have helped to practically kill a nation—the greatest, freest nation that ever existed. While terrorists destroy human bodies, the NEA has worked to destroy human minds and human freedoms.

For at least a century, the NEA, founded in 1857 as a professional association, has barely bothered to conceal its leadership’s affinity for communism, collectivism, socialism, humanism, globalism, and other dangerous “isms” that threaten individual liberty. Nor has the union shied away from vitriolic attacks on the United States, the free-market system, Christianity, the family, or educational freedom.

Perhaps the most important exposé ever written on the NEA was the 1984 book “NEA: Trojan Horse in American Education” by Dr. Samuel Blumenfeld. Packed with examples and references, Blumenfeld’s book proved that, contrary to popular mythology, which holds that the NEA’s extremism is a more recent phenomenon, the union’s leaders have been radicalizing teachers against America for a century or more.

Since being overtly taken over by progressives early in the 20th century, “the NEA has subjected its members to an unrelenting hatred of capitalism and an unceasing, uncritical benevolence toward socialism,” wrote Blumenfeld.

But even before that, it was bad. “From 1857 to the present, the NEA has worshiped two gods: Horace Mann, a statist, and John Dewey, a socialist,” Blumenfeld continued, referring to the two most important figures in the hostile takeover of “education” by government. This series on education has dealt with both of these subversives extensively.

By 1900, the NEA, which was lobbying for federal involvement in education, was largely insignificant. Even though there were an estimated half a million public school teachers in the United States at that time, the NEA had well under 2,500 members. Once the “progressives” took firm control, though, it became a sort of “ministry of education” seeking to dictate and control education policy nationwide.

Replacing Liberty With Collectivism

Once progressives were totally in control of the NEA leadership, a story detailed in Blumenfeld’s book, there was no longer any inhibitions in openly promoting the triumph of collectivism over liberty using the school system.

At the annual NEA meeting in 1934, Willard Givens, who would soon be appointed executive secretary over the union, laid out the agenda.

“Many drastic changes must be made,” Givens declared. “A dying ‘laissez-faire’ must be completely destroyed and all of us, including the ‘owners’, must be subjected to a large degree of social control. ... The major function of the school is the social orientation of the individual. It must seek to give him understanding of the transition to a new social order.”

He also called for nationalization of all sorts of industries, to be operated for the benefit of “the people.”

Of course, socialist and humanist “education reformer” John Dewey had been advocating the emergence of a “new social order,” socialist in orientation, since at least the early years of the 20th century. And in 1932, Dewey, almost universally regarded as the founding father of America’s public education system, became the “honorary life president” of the NEA.

The very next year, Dewey and some of his cohorts would draft and sign the first Humanist Manifesto, a bizarre religious document brazenly rejecting God while shamelessly embracing collectivism and socialism. This totalitarian religion would eventually be advanced throughout America in de-Christianized public schools.

How Socialists Used Teachers Unions Such as the NEA to Destroy Education

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Continued from Page 14

Dewey, who visited the Soviet Union and wrote articles extolling the brutal tyranny's supposed virtues, was interested in education primarily to promote his totalitarian "ideology" and his pseudo-theology. And even though he was adamant that Christianity must not be taught in schools, he was totally fine with religion—his religion—in the classroom. In fact, he believed it was essential to creating the "new social order."

"Our schools ... are performing an infinitely significant religious work," he wrote in his 1907 essay "Religion and Our Schools." "They are promoting the social unity out of which in the end genuine religious unity must grow. ... [D]ogmatic beliefs ... we see ... disappearing. ... It is the part of men to ... work for the transformation of all practical instrumentalities of education till they are in harmony with these ideas."

From the 1920s onward, this sort of quack religious, political, and educational nonsense and propaganda from Dewey filled the pages of the "NEA Journal." Among other ideas, Dewey's writing in the NEA's flagship publication, which reached more teachers than any other, constantly extolled the virtues of collectivism and the mass-murdering Soviet system while demonizing the United States and traditional American education.

Dewey was especially warm to the Soviet indoctrination program masquerading as an "education" system, his essays in the NEA Journal and other publications such as the *New Republic* revealed. And yet, because of clever word games, many Americans remained oblivious to the danger. One of the ways Dewey's propaganda on behalf of tyranny was so effective was that he deceived readers by using the words "democracy" and "socialism" interchangeably.

Dewey was so wrapped up in Soviet intrigue that, before becoming honorary president of the NEA, he served as vice president and one of the original directors of the American Society for Cultural Relations with Russia. This Soviet dictatorship-created organization in the United States founded in 1927 was primarily involved in sending students, professors, and teachers to the Soviet Union for communist indoctrination, and bringing Soviet "experts" to the United States to train American educators.

Unsurprisingly, the NEA was always willing and eager to work with "unions" in slave states of Eastern Europe and Latin America, including the phony unions created by the Soviet regime. That was despite harsh criticism from Soviet dissidents and even the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), another major teachers' union that differed in important ways from the NEA.

The most frequent writer in the NEA Journal throughout the 1930s and 1940s was socialist Stuart Chase. "It is no longer a question of collectivism versus individualism, but of what kind of collectivism," Chase wrote in the NEA's official propaganda organ after calling for the U.S. government to take over agriculture, banking, credit, and more.

In a 1956 interview with the *Los Angeles Tidings*, former teacher and Communist Party defector Bella Dodd dropped a bombshell. "The Communist party whenever possible wanted to use the Teacher's Union for political purposes," she said, adding that the communists in the union were all in favor of Dewey-inspired "progressive" education. "Most of the programs we advocated, the NEA followed the next year or so."

Taking Collectivism Global

In addition to spreading its collectivist poison in the minds of children across the United States through public schools, the NEA also waged an effective campaign to spread the indoctrination system worldwide. Indeed, the union was among the first organizations to openly promote the idea of a global "board of education" to control every school on the planet.

As far back as 1920, the NEA created its so-called International Relations Committee. The ostensible purpose was to help build "world understanding." But the real agenda soon became crystal clear to anyone who was paying attention.

Responding to the formation of a formal U.S. government alliance with the ruthless Communist Party dictatorship enslaving the Soviet Union, NEA Journal chief J. Elmer Morgan wrote an editorial for the publication called "The United Peoples of the World."

Among other demands, supposedly to "keep the peace and insure justice and opportunity," Morgan said "we need certain world agencies of administration." Those planetary governing agencies should include a global "police force" and a world "board of education," Morgan opined.

To bring about that global "board of education," the NEA set up the "War and Peace Fund" to collect donations in 1943. Similar schemes took place in Europe among the education establishment. Eventually, these efforts culminated in the creation of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 1946, an organization that will be addressed in an upcoming article in this series.

In a 1946 editorial in the NEA Journal headlined "The Teacher and World Government," Morgan was again shilling for global government, and again advocating that these subversive ideologies be forced on captive school children through indoctrination.

"In the struggle to establish an adequate world government, the teacher has many parts to play," Morgan wrote, calling on teachers to "prepare

Continued on Page 16

How Socialists Used Teachers Unions Such as the NEA to Destroy Education

ALEX NEWMAN November 19, 2019 Updated: May 20, 2020

Continued from Page 15

the hearts and minds of children” for the looming global collectivist regime. “At the very top of all the agencies which will assure the coming of world government must stand the school, the teacher, and the organized profession.”

Later that same year, Morgan boasted of the “achievements” toward world government that the “organized teaching profession” had already made. And to this day, the NEA continues to play a key role in the ongoing globalization and internationalization of progressive indoctrination posing as an educational system.

More Federal Power, War on Competition

Even before it was peddling the idea of a global education system to bring about global government, the NEA led the battle to get the federal government involved in education—and then to constantly expand that power under whatever pretext might be effective. Indeed, from the very beginning, the NEA worked to empower Washington over the nation’s schools, in clear violation of the U.S. Constitution and its 10th Amendment.

More than a century ago, the NEA also began lobbying Congress for federal funding of education. NEA bosses knew that with federal aid comes federal control. They finally succeeded in 1965 with the passage of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. From there, the next stop was the creation of a cabinet-level Department of Education, an NEA wish that President Jimmy Carter granted the union in exchange for its critical support.

NEA bosses often get their way in government, even if it takes a while. That is because the NEA has been a well-oiled lobbying machine for decades. For one, by collecting dues from millions of members, the NEA and its state affiliates are able to pour endless resources into the campaign coffers of politicians. And by prodding its members to vote a certain way, write letters, and even protest, it can keep the politicians it gets elected in line indefinitely.

With almost 3 million members today, the NEA is the largest labor union in the United States. It has pumped well over \$100 million into federal political campaigns since the early 1990s alone. And data from the Center for Responsive Politics show that more than 97 percent of that money went to Democrats. The tiny donations to Republicans virtually all went to the most liberal among them. Similar trends exist at the state and local level among NEA affiliates.

Today, the NEA is still trying to quash competition, seeking onerous restrictions on private schools and even waging a war on homeschooling families. In 1988 and the years following (amended in 2006 to the current version), the NEA adopted a resolution that formalized its hatred of families operating outside the government system.

“The National Education Association believes that home schooling programs based on parental choice cannot provide the student with a comprehensive education experience,” the union declared.

Of course, not all of the millions of NEA members agree with the totalitarian ideologies and ideas peddled by the union’s leadership. But until recently, at least, in many states, they were required to be members, forced to fund political campaigns and extremist views that they may have vehemently disagreed with. Thankfully, Illinois child support specialist Mark Janus sued and won, ending compulsory union dues. But many teachers still don’t realize they don’t have to fund the extremism of the NEA and its affiliates.

There may be more bad news yet to come for the NEA, which is becoming increasingly radical with every year that passes. This writer has it on good authority that some significant scandals involving NEA leadership may be revealed in the months ahead.

Either way, an objective look at the history of these tentacles on the education-establishment hydra reveals a monster that is interested in gaining power and smashing freedom—not educating children. It’s time for teachers, parents, and the taxpayers who fund it to speak out loudly.

Alex Newman is an award-winning international journalist, educator, author, and consultant who co-wrote the book “Crimes of the Educators: How Utopians Are Using Government Schools to Destroy America’s Children.” He also serves as the CEO of Liberty Sentinel Media and writes for diverse publications in the United States and abroad.

Views expressed in this article are the opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Epoch Times.

MY AMERICA

By Brent Graves

Circa 1982ish, I'm a 10-year-old single man on the prowl at the National Finals Rodeo in Oklahoma City. Now I gotta tell you, I was putting my best foot forward sporting a feather hat band that likely cost 7 chickens their winter coat, my satin jacket, cabover truck hat pin, and my genuine 100% bronze alloy Heston commemorative belt buckle from 1979 (proved it wasn't my first rodeo). I had just thrown back my 4th Pepsi Challenge of the evening (I informed those Commies that Coke was better every time) and proceeded towards the family's 12th-row season ticket seats when I saw her. She saw me too, she gave me a crooked grin and a wink. She was a gorgeous redhead in a red sequin dress. Now I figure she has spent a lifetime of regret for being too fearful to approach the 62 pounds of a future stud (hey I ain't dead yet, could still happen) that I'm sure made her weak in the knees. I've always been a cool cat around the ladies, always let them chase me, makes them appreciate the catch. I made my wife chase me for 13 whole seconds (she doesn't run fast) the night we met. I had to steal her watch to get her to but the fact is, she chased me. I digress.

The announcer came over the PA and introduced a young Oklahoma native to sing the National Anthem. It was her! The Sissy to my Bud, the Frog to my Bandit. The chick that let me get away just minutes earlier, she had gone to great lengths to find me in the crowd.

She began to sing. The Color Guard from Fort Sill presented the colors to the mid arena. The horses were banging in the bucking chutes in perfect rhythm. Every able body was standing, every hat off, every baby sushed. My life was changed forever. I can't fathom that there's an angel in heaven that could sing it better. Francis Scott Key could never have imagined such a pure sound. The hair stood up on my neck, the chills shot down my spine, a tear began to sneak out of my eye. I was hooked. I was hooked on a country that can put that girl from Oklahoma and those lyrics in a Rodeo arena and make grown men well up. A nation that could do this had to be better than great.

To this day, I'll hear the National Anthem and my first words are "they ain't Reba" I suspect nobody does it better and I'll fight anyone that desires to argue the fact. Now kids, if you've never experienced Reba McEntire singing the National Anthem at the National Finals Rodeo in Oklahoma City, with Winston cigarette banners hanging over the arena, while Ronald Reagan is the president you will never understand **MY AMERICA!**

If you've never seen 13,000 (mostly white) cowboys and cowgirls stand to their feet and cheer on Charlie Sampson, a black cowboy (with a broken face at the time) riding hard in the 10th round to win the world championship, you will never understand **MY AMERICA.**

If you've never heard Bob Tallman interact with Leon Coffee while a Dodge truck is picking up yellow Coors (The Banquet Beer) barrels before Donnie Gay gets on the first bull of the evening you'll never understand **MY AMERICA.**

If you've never heard Glen Smith preach and Paul Tierney give his testimony on a cold December Sunday morning back behind the roping box while praying to God that the red-headed filly that sang the National Anthem last night would stop by to sing How Great Thou Art, you don't know **MY AMERICA.**

I must admit, I don't really understand the America we have today. I must assume that those who reside within our borders and despise this land have never experienced **MY AMERICA**, if they had they would surely love her too.

MY AMERICA is worth saving, it's worth fighting for and by evidence of all the white crosses in Arlington Cemetery, it is worth dying for too. I wouldn't give a bucket of dirty creek water for the America some desire, but I'd give 10 years off the end of my life for the chance to revisit **MY AMERICA** back in 1982, the chance to soak it one more time, the chance to appreciate it in the moment.

I've shared **MY AMERICA**, my memories, a little bit about what makes me a proud American with you. I hope you'll take a moment and share your AMERICA with all of us. Maybe if we tell others about our America, they'll see the light.

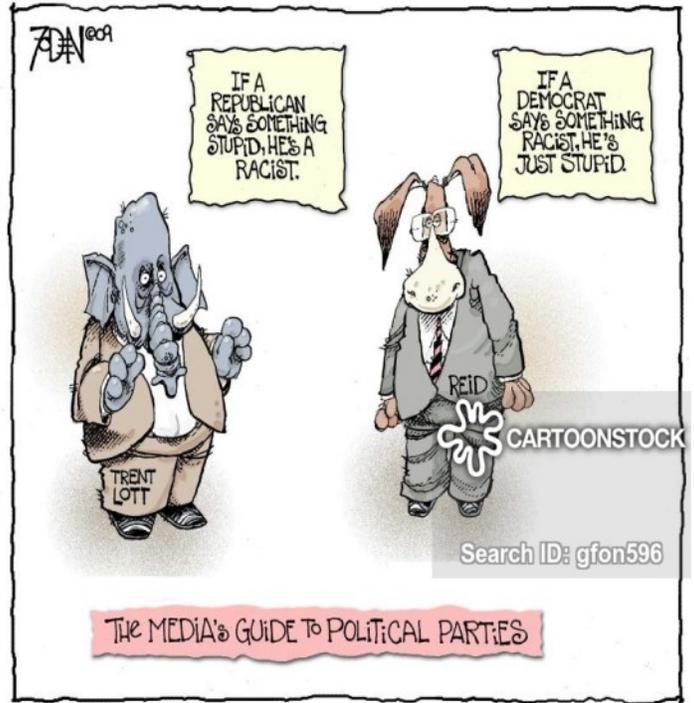
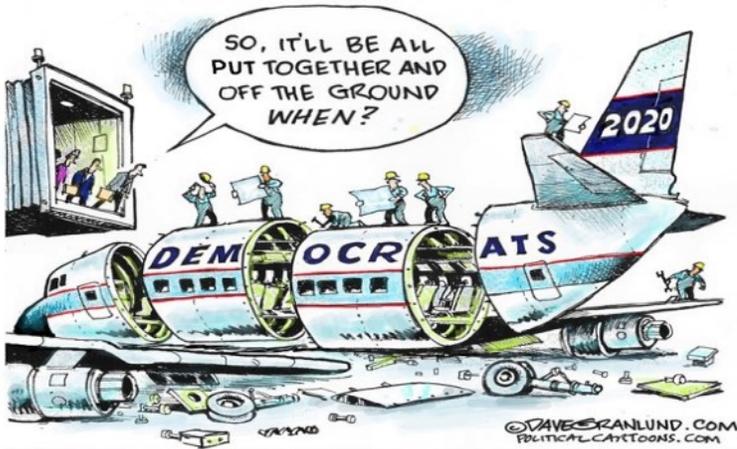
God Bless America (and Reba)

Picture Credit: Dunno, stole it off the internet. Obviously everyone at the NFR in 1982 was as enamored with Reba as I because not a single soul took a picture with their phone that night and posted on Facebook.

PS: any sporting outfit (NFL, NASCAR, PRCA, etc) that desires to substitute or ban the National Anthem can go straight to Hell on a fast train, but they won't be using my money for the ticket.

Note: I was emailed this by a PRW member and I felt it had to be in July's PRW Newsletter. I also "bolded" My America, etc. I truly miss this America. We are at a crossroads in this country. LIBERTY IS ON THE LINE! What are you willing to do to preserve it!!!! Catherine Gibb

Political Cartoons



Karen Siegemund on the Fight to Preserve American Culture

BY CATHERINE YANG

Karen Siegemund has experienced her share of political activism, from her movement to “Rage Against the Media” and its biased or untruthful reporting, to serving as president of the American Freedom Alliance (AFA), to becoming a national story overnight when she received a letter saying her teaching contract wouldn’t be renewed because of her remarks in defense of Western civilization.

She certainly seemed primed for a political life, with a father who grew up in Hitler’s Berlin, and having worked with the Navy during the Cold War. But Siegemund, initially a scientist, says her fight has never been a political one, but a cultural one. “Standing in defense of Western civilization—how shocking that that’s a partisan issue. But it is. This is the one that shocks me more than anything,” said Siegemund, who heads AFA from Southern California, where she is based. “With AFA, we’re not a political organization but everything we do does relate to the culture.”

It actually all started when she first realized what children today are reading. “It was indoctrination, pure and simple,” she said.

Broadening Horizons

Following the end of the Cold War, Siegemund traded developing sonar systems for continuing studies. She wanted to study international relations to delve into history and war and diplomacy so she could understand how that had all happened.

And then she had a dream.

“I literally had a dream where I was back at my old school,” Siegemund said. She was teaching an evening seminar that helped the students put together all of the lessons from different subjects they had learned about during the day. She woke up and realized she wanted to do just that, and reached out to many schools in her area with a list of the wide range of subjects she could teach.

“I got a call the next day and became a math teacher; math and Latin were the first two things,” Siegemund said.

“What I wanted to do was broaden the world for kids,” she said. “After 20 years as a scientist, teaching is a completely different thing, but I loved it so much—it was making the world bigger for kids.” Whether she was teaching math, Latin, French, or science, she would apply the lessons to real-world cases, put things in historical context, and make connections across subjects.

But early on, Siegemund noticed there was something missing in schools.

Eighth-graders at the middle school where Siegemund taught would put together a presentation to give before the whole school every year, and it was a wonderful project in concept.

But one presentation stood out.

“One little boy, he stood up there, he had a beautiful PowerPoint—and everything he said was wrong,” Siegemund said. “He stood up there and spoke very well, but factually was completely incorrect.

“So I talked to the head of the school and said, ‘You know he just stood up there and told a hundred kids a whole bunch of stuff that’s wrong, so now it’s not only he who did this wrong thing, but he’s presented this to a hundred kids who now know this wrong stuff as fact,’” Siegemund said.

“And her response to me was: ‘Yes, but did you see how great his PowerPoint was? I’m sure he was so proud of how he spoke. He had confidence, he had charisma, he opened with a joke. It was a great thing for him.’”

Content Matters

After Siegemund earned a master’s degree in international relations, she wanted to delve into how identities are formed around the world. For her doctorate, she started with the question of how national identities are formed during adolescence, but it quickly turned into something else.

“The original plan was, I was going to look at the music, books, entertainment that American kids are exposed to and compare it to the same thing that French kids are exposed to,” she said. “Then I started reading the American books that were written for adolescents, and went to my advisor and said, ‘You just can’t even believe what all is going on here.’”

She ended up doing her dissertation on [education](#) and American culture.

Since American culture is fluid and mobile compared to many other cultures, Siegemund expected to find media that would help adolescents navigate this time of identity development. What she found instead was that books written for young adults were largely devoid of content or meaning, and books for girls especially pushed the message that sexual identity is their only value.

Worse, these books are often promoted by schools and libraries. Siegemund asked why, and the response was that kids seem to like it, and at least they’re reading.

“It was allowed because kids are supposed to read because reading is good. But they’d forgotten why reading is good,” Siegemund said. It felt to her that students were being robbed of great literature for the most arbitrary reasons while misguided educators celebrated, instead of realizing they were undermining so much good they could be doing.

Karen Siegemund on the Fight to Preserve American Culture

BY CATHERINE YANG

Continued from Page 19

“This is what kills me the most—it robs kids of access, and appreciation, and love of some of the greatest things that mankind has ever created. And I think that’s theft,” she said. “In my research that I did for my dissertation, among those [small number of] kids who had read ‘The Odyssey’ ... it was their favorite book.”

Still, at this time, Siegemund hadn’t thought of any of her research as being part of the political realm, much less connecting it to the left’s “long march through the institutions,” a topic AFA held a conference about in 2019. She wrote the dissertation from a place of compassion for the kids, and as an educator herself, and it wasn’t until the 2008 elections that she noticed again that great delivery mattered more to people than content, and the things she cared about really did exist in the political realm.

American Freedom Alliance

In 2010, Siegemund was visiting California when she first encountered AFA, and when she moved there in 2013, she became good friends with then-President Avi Davis. His sudden death in 2015 shocked the community, but those who were involved rallied to keep AFA alive.

The organization has a mission to uphold Western values and ideals, chief among them freedom, and stands against global governance and biased media. And while it’s not a conservative group by design, Siegemund says it just happens that the issues the AFA cares about happen to be those that conservatives rally around.

“People donate to political candidates and that’s all well and good. But without the culture, without people being made aware of issues rather than just candidates, it’s very hard to move forward,” she added.

The group holds events literary cafes and conferences on topical issues, such as a recent event about China on March 1.

Siegemund would like to expand AFA events, do trips, and get more involved in education because so many things really circle back to it.

“Kids at the high school level are so profoundly ignorant. As long as that keeps happening, we’re just going to have to keep fighting the same fight,” she said. “The indoctrination is at every level, it’s in the skills, it’s in the content. It’s in the attitude. It’s in the very air.”

She is deeply concerned for students who, in addition to being robbed of great thought, are taught from a young age that they should be ashamed of themselves and their country, as well as the damage that does to their still-forming identities.

Optimism and a Way Forward

Siegemund says nearly everything she does ties into her AFA work, except perhaps when she attends local classical concerts.

“I go to the Hollywood Bowl for Beethoven and Tchaikovsky,” she said. “There’s thousands and thousands and thousands of us at the Bowl, thousands. The first bar of the National Anthem, no one announces anything, every single person stands up, every single person puts their hand over their heart even though that’s not what you have to do with the national anthem.

“And we sing! And I sit next to people from all over the world, and they stand. It’s one of the most moving things ever,” she said.

“Then, for a couple of hours, we are immersed in the most magnificent music. It’s breathtaking. Magnificent,” she said. “And for the entire time, you cannot hear a pin drop in the audience. Nothing. It’s silence. It’s reverential. It is love. We are all bonded there together in such appreciation of this beauty, and it’s miraculous.

“You can’t believe that the world that you’re living in all the rest of the time is so different from this. It is such a respite. It is so magnificent,” Siegemund said.

As an afterthought, she said perhaps that does tie into being a conservative, after all.

“As a conservative, one thing we need to take a little bit more time and doing is celebrating beauty, because it’s beauty that we’re losing, along with all kinds of other things. But if we can uplift beauty, I think that in itself is helpful,” she said.

“So engaging in the fight in the culture, yes, there’s schools and Hollywood and all of that. But just celebrating beauty, celebrating great art, going to those museums, going to those concerts is such a great way to be positive and to bring about positive change. How you celebrate beauty can inoculate, I think, against the destructive forces,” Siegemund said.

She is optimistic about the fight because more and more people seem to be joining. While California is known to be a very left-leaning state, she notes that some of the most outspoken conservative voices are also based right in Los Angeles.

Meanwhile, Siegemund doesn’t want to fall into the trap of failure of imagination. Her father was born in Berlin in 1928, and no one in the 1930s could have imagined the regime to come, and history tells us clearly that unimaginable horrors are possible.

“So I do take it as my personal mission and with AFA to prevent that from happening,” she said.

“People need to know, people need to be aware, people need to especially be cautious because tyranny and totalitarianism don’t come in with a bang, they come in with baby steps of eroding freedoms and we’re seeing that.”

Declare Obamacare unlawful in its entirety: Texas attorney general

States can and will do better than the ACA: Opposing view, Ken Paxton -Opinion contributor, June 30, 2020 for USA Today

The COVID-19 pandemic is one of the most devastating public health emergencies this country has witnessed during the past 100 years. States across our great country are taking different approaches to combat the spread of the virus, learning from one another's experience to find the best path forward.

That's the genius of our Constitution: It enshrines federalism and allows states to solve problems in ways that work best for them. And that tells us how health care should be regulated — not top down, by bureaucrats in Washington, D.C., but at the state level where citizens' voices can best be heard.

In my ongoing fight against the Affordable Care Act, I have asked the U.S. Supreme Court to declare Obamacare unlawful in its entirety. At the heart of Obamacare is an individual mandate commanding Americans to purchase health insurance that Washington bureaucrats deem suitable.

The Supreme Court upheld that mandate in 2012 because it included a tax penalty for noncompliance, and Congress has the power to tax. In 2017, however, Congress eliminated that tax penalty — meaning the individual mandate at the center of Obamacare is unconstitutional.

Congress declared in the text of the law that the individual mandate is the centerpiece of Obamacare. Without the unlawful mandate, the rest of the law cannot stand.

Obamacare has failed, and the sooner it is invalidated, the sooner each state can decide how best to regulate health care and protect those with preexisting conditions.

California's needs are very different from Montana's, and Massachusetts is in a different situation than Texas. Yet Obamacare is a one-size-fits-all approach. Obamacare has resulted in expensive, low quality health insurance that restricts access to care.

When Obamacare is struck down once and for all, states can get back to crafting tailored policies that address the needs, and conform with the values, of their own residents. This includes protecting preexisting conditions. States can and will do better.

Ken Paxton is the attorney general of Texas.

Pray for President Trump



I want you to stop for just a minute and look at this picture.

I was moved to tears today just thinking about the weight that he must be carrying. I only have my family that truly depend on me day in and day out. Even with so few, my anxiety level at times is out the roof and I feel like the weight of the world is on me.

I know when he signed up for this role, he was willing to take on whatever, but the magnitude of what we're experiencing has got to be paralyzing. Maybe it is, maybe it isn't but can you imagine? I sat and wondered how he must be dealing with it all.

When it's quiet and his head finally hits a pillow after he's been on his feet all day, press conference after press conference...

Does he cry? Is he even able to sleep? Is he scared? Can he shut his mind off?

When I look at our President, I want to see him the way God sees him and I want the Lord to use him for His glory!

Whether he's making you proud or not, I'm urging you to look at this photo and ask the Lord to soften your heart to him, lift him up in prayer. He needs them. He's carrying the weight of the world.

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Lunch is \$25 payable to PRW (Cash or Check) at the door.

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