

SUNFLOWER SEEDS



Next Pig-Out:

Saturday August 1st, 12:45pm. B&C Creations, Old-Town.

Guest Speaker and outdoor gathering:

Saturday, August 8th, 12:30pm. Bill Cather's retreat.

Kansas Sunflower Mensa Virtual Meetings:

Times: 12:30 PM CST. Every week on Saturday.

Alternate zoom meeting times may be in place after other posted events.

Join us at the on-line **Zoom Meeting**: (cut and paste the following address)

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72081034487?pwd=aWdKUStzbEVhNktjRzF0VEYxQTISQT09>

Meeting ID: 720 8103 4487

Password: 8T0Jrt

Detail regarding events are on page – 3.

July 2020, Volume – 48, Issue # 7

Kansas Sunflower Mensa Newsletter



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This publication is intended for mature, intelligent audiences and content herein may not be appropriate for some minors.

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Editors comment:

I must apologize for this and the last several issues having come out late in the month. The ongoing assault on our right of free choice (COVID crisis) is making returning to some sense of normalcy extremely difficult. No one, myself included, is immune from the frustration and accompanying depression that is inculcated by the unfolding of events out of our control. With this said, I will continue to endeavor to persevere, and make every effort to keep our humble publication extant and hopefully interesting.

Pig Out details as follows:



**B&C Creations
Restaurant**

**355 N
Washington
Wichita, KS**

Saturday

**Aug. 1st,
12:45pm.**

B&C Barbeque serves Old Town Wichita with the best Barbeque buffet in the area. A local favorite since 1996.

Our BBQ won the 1993 Grand Champion Barbeque award and has received numerous other awards. Carey Maurer, the BBQ chef will make sure you don't go away hungry. B&C Barbeque is laid back spot for a great meal at a great price.



Lunch is served Monday through Saturday, 11:00am through 2:00pm with carry-out available until 5:00pm.

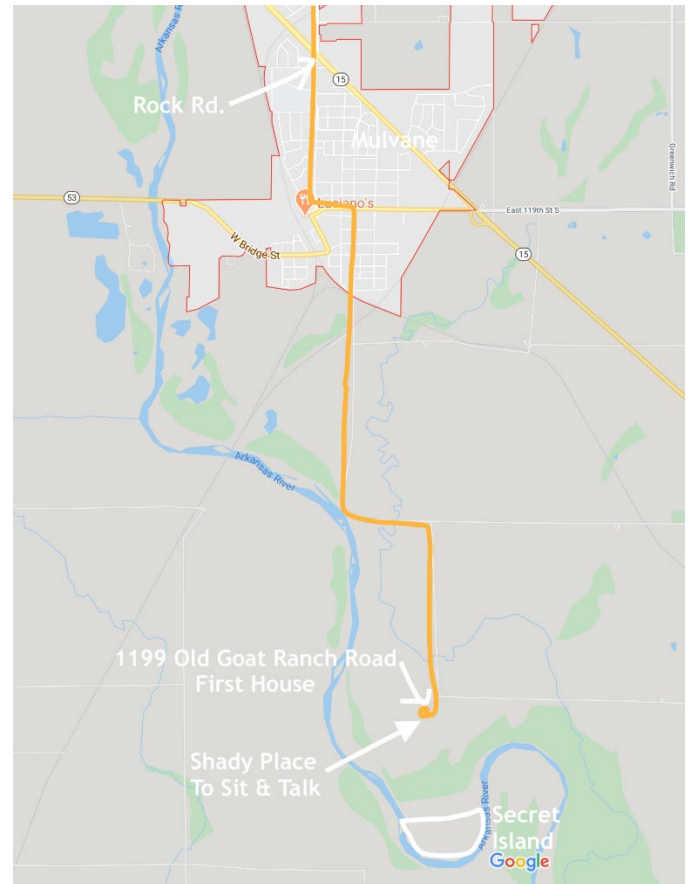
Guest Speaker and Mensa Gathering:

Our first guest speaker in many months will be the lawyer and environmentalist Bill Cather, who is also active in the Sierra Club. The gathering will be on his private land, located directly south of Mulvane, on the sandy shores of the Arkansas river. Please bring your own folding chairs, drinks, and munchies. We will be getting together out of doors so plan accordingly. There may also be a short nature hike involved for those who would like to see the flora and fauna of the Arkansas river bottoms.

Address: 1199 Old Goat Ranch RD, Mulvane.

Gore township – 37.42836N x 97.23097W

The property is easy to find. Take K15 South of Wichita, through Derby and proceed about 3 more miles to Mulvane. Go South to Rock Road, turn right and head straight South. Go about 10 blocks and turn left at 119th, and go East about 5 blocks, turn right on Central. Turn East about 3 miles where the road veers East. This will be E 130th AVE N. Go East a half mile, turn right on N Old Goat Ranch RD and go to 1199. The driveway is located at the end of the road where it curves east. Look for parked cars and potentially dazed Mensans.





Heartland Mensa Region 7



In this month of our national Independence Day it is appropriate to point out that we are living in an Age of Heroes. We have had heroes all along, of course -- the Founding Fathers and Mothers, the military who defend the country we have built, the first responders who run toward danger to protect the rest of us.

Less lauded but still crucial is another group of heroes -- parents, teachers, caregivers, and others who take on responsibility for nurturing and supporting people who for whatever reason cannot handle the challenge themselves. These heroes may not risk bodily damage, but the emotional toll can be devastating. It says something positive for our society that we have so many in this group.

But in the past few months we have come to recognize yet another category of heroism. From maintenance and transportation staff to the entire farm-to-table supply chain workforce, these people have quietly continued their tasks in the face of COVID-19, with or without protective measures in place. Without their brave efforts our cities and economy would have been weakened far more than they have been.

Those three categories together comprise a significant fraction of our population. In my opinion, there is a lesson there that our country has been too slow to learn. Humans got where we are because we are a societal species. The Western Frontier closed a century ago. Even the legendarily reclusive "mountain men" had to come into town occasionally for medical care or supplies they just could not produce on their own. In the past few months, our distress with social distancing and our burgeoning activity on social media clearly tell us just how much we want/need to interact with other people.

Like it or not, we are all part of society. Moreover, the smooth functioning of our society depends on our collaboration. I am not arguing an absolutist position here -- cooperation leaves plenty of room for competition and individual liberty (how best to organize the economy is a separate discussion). But I do think we need official and explicit recognition of the fact that what I do affects you and what you do affects me.

Here is my modest proposal -- let us rename the Fourth of July as National Interdependence Day.

~~ Rich



A response by Randy Hamilton:

I so enjoy it when Jesus People (I could use a few other nouns there, but I would like to see this get printed) "Cherry Pick" bible verses to make their "points." The article in the June Seeds got me started because I have my own "special" verses.

Anyone who has ever heard of McCarthyism from the early 1950s and wondered, as I have, what the heck? Because Communism just amounts to a philosophy as far as I can tell. Anyhow, in Acts 4:32-35 you will find the exact same philosophy. They sell everything, pool it, and distribute it based on "need." So, where do they get buyers? Unicorns: Found in Deut. 33-17 and TEN more verses. PI equals 3 in two verses. Need I say more? No math in this book.

One can stop the sun in the sky to continue a battle (they loved to fight back then, but never remembered the "Thou shalt not kill" bit.) Slaves: Proper slave beating instructions appear in Luke 12:47-48. I have never understood why any black or partly black person would embrace this religion. Nor any women given the total lack of women's rights portrayed therein. Numbers may have the worst stories with Moses and his "soldiers" killing, stealing, kidnapping, and raping.

"Loving" Jesus: Luke 19:27 "But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay them before me." Sounds like a big bully to me but keep reading: Matt 10: 34 "Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I come not to send peace, but with a sword." Verse 35 continues: "For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her- mother in law." 36: "And a man's foes shall be they of his own household." And still more bullying in verse 37: "He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me." Not at all the "nice guy" that the faithful talk about.

Again, the bullying PLUS murder by JC at John 15:6 "If a man abides not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into, the fire, and they are burned." The evil old Spanish Inquisition perpetrators certainly believed in that verse. JC reinforces this at Luke 14:26 "If any man come to me, and HATE NOT his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he can't be my disciple."

Whew! In addition to the excessive use of commas, I would say that this bully has an extremely high opinion of himself.

It looks to, me that ego problems have existed a long time. Also, it appears that he lost his watch and forgot to "return. Which reminds me that whenever my dad had to wait on someone too long, he would say, "They are slower than the second coming."

More of my favorite verses give the same information several times. Matt 7:7-8, 18:19-20, 21:21-22, and Mark 11:24-25 ALL tell us that you can have ANYTHING you want, including throwing mountains into the sea, by just ASKING in prayer. If the, the Caterpillar Company and many others would have no business. Do you want a road or a tunnel? Just get a believer to ask for it and POOF! Too bad prayer does not work because I would like about ten billion dollars tax free, anyone want to help me out here?

I highly recommend the site www.evilbible.com because it has hours of reading for the curious discussing even more atrocities, wrong science, outright lies, and a partial listing of the over 600 verses that state the opposite of over 600 other verses. If I had a math book with 600 contradictions in it, I would also throw it away.

In Defense of being American & White.

I have known many people who support white people more than people of other races. Never have I seen them call themselves "White Supremacists."

That is a label that is attached to them by their enemies.

For that reason, it is hardly necessary to defend it. Yet I will attempt to do so. Here are three reasons why "White Supremacism" is somewhat justified.

1. Most everyone thinks their group should run things. That is normal. The Democrats think they should rule America. The Republicans think they should. Christians probably think it should be them. Perhaps Blacks or Jews think it should be them. That may be foolish, but it is normal. Thus, it may not be justified, but it is normal that Whites would think they should run America.

2. The population of America is predominantly White. In the early 1800s citizens were almost entirely White (Blacks and Indians were not citizens). Today it is less so.



Thus, America being run by Whites is proper, as China being run by Chinese, Japan being run by Japanese, and France being run by French, is proper.

3. Whites generally do a good job of running things. If you think Blacks should run our country, look at Haiti or Zimbabwe, or at almost any nation in Africa. None of those countries are run well. For example: Blacks have about eight times the income in White run countries as they do in countries run by Blacks. If you think the Jews should run America, notice how the Palestinians are treated.

Or look at the Soviet Union, which was run almost entirely by Jews. No one lived well there and about 50 million citizens were executed.

Note how many non-Whites are trying to move into White countries compared to the number trying to go the other way. Also, consider that if these immigrants succeed in dominating those nations, they will become more like the nations they left. They will not like that. By: Gordon Bakken

A Puzzle by Igor Ponomaryov:

A casino dealer took two playing cards, wrote on the face of each a non-negative integer between 0 and 13 at random (the numbers do not have to be the same), and gave each card face down to an elderly couple from California, one to the wife and one to the husband. Neither of the spouses could see the other's number, nor could communicate its own number to anyone. The dealer proposed the following gamble to the couple:

"I can share with you that the sum of values of the two numbers each of you received is either 13 or 10. Can you guess what it is, following certain rules?"

"I will ask each of you, in turns, what the sum of your numbers is, and you can respond in the following ways:

- Any one of you can decline to answer, in which case the I will proceed to ask the other spouse the same question and, if no answer follows, I will return with the same question to the previous person, and so on.
- Any of you can guess the total value incorrectly, in which case both of you will lose the \$200 the casino has collected from you as a deposit, and the game will terminate immediately.
- Either of you can guess the total value correctly, in which case you will get the deposit back plus a \$100 jackpot from me".

"The game will terminate after I have asked the question 20 times in a row with no answer, and you will lose the deposit."

Can the spouses win the jackpot with certainty no matter what numbers each received? They are both rational people, and each knows that the other spouse is rational.

Eat More Chocolate by Bill Barnett.

Mankind has pondered the meaning of life as long as there has been mankind. Womankind too. In the Hitcher's Guide to the Galaxy the answer to life is 7.

My friend is worried about my being too near a 5G tower, as if 3G and 4G were not bad enough. She even sent me a picture of where the towers are near my house. Another friend is worried about me getting nano disease from all the nanobots the government is releasing into the environment. Someone he knows got nano disease and was extremely sick, it could not have been the coronavirus because that is only a government plot.

Another friend warned me about the Democrats and how they are stealing our freedom through a deep state conspiracy. Funny, I do not belong to an organized political party, I am a Democrat. That heard of cats could not organize anything, much less a conspiracy. I like herds of cats, they will accept anyone, even me. He also thinks we should not wear masks because that is how the Democrats steal freedom. I will wear mine, just for him. Another friend told me how everything would be better if we did logical things. Do not tell anyone, he is the only sane person I know. I had to remind him that humans are not logical.

The guy with the Democrat conspiracy theory (LOL) also informed me very sternly that I have no superior powers of intellect or knowledge. Hmmm, I just did a verbal IQ test and scored 139 SD15. That is my weak point. My math IQ is 1.5 sigma higher and special analysis is more. Maybe IQ score are a conspiracy too. They are just score on a test. Most believable conspiracy theory here. At least I am good at tests. IQ is a conspiracy.

Another person warned me about how the Jews are taking over the world. That is good. I know a few Jews. I like them. We can rule!

Disrespect Nazis, racists, and hate speakers, that would be a good conspiracy for me. Let us meet in secret and make a plot. I can do that. Call me on my secret agent phone. At least it would be fun slamming them.

I found the meaning of life. I am going to eat more chocolate.



Face masks: The new Burqas?

By: Klaus Trenary

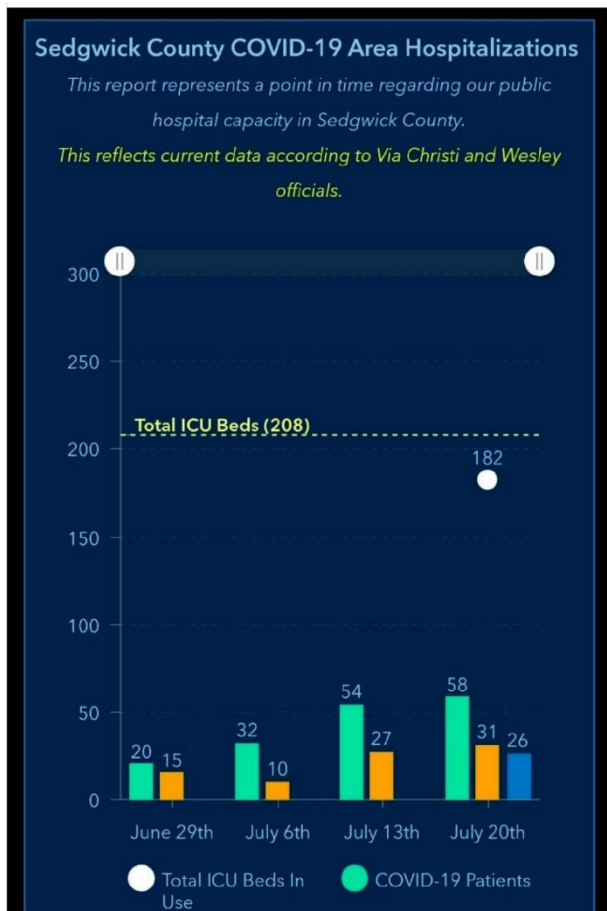
I am reminded of a conversation with a confidant of mine who is an English professor with liberal if not somewhat feminist views. Her attitudes about personal freedom can in no way be construed as being conservative. A year ago, if I would have broached the idea that she and all other women would be required to don specified face wear in public, she would have come unglued. Frenzied lamentations of conspiracy, societal manipulation and Orwellian dystopias would have rung out through the night.

Recently, the city of Wichita has mandated the public use of face masks, under threat of punishment by fine or imprisonment. This misguided policy is causing much dissention among those who think and ponder other possible courses and eventualities.

It is indeed strange that the same rationale for subjugating the public that was proffered by Muslim extremists is now spouted ad nauseum by American politicians and the media. "Ignore the facts, we know what is best for you. These rules are for the public good and the pain and suffering you will endure is for your own best interests. You will thank us later."

The situation seems somewhat analogous to that in Afghanistan when the Taliban invaders required masks and regulated attire to be worn by all people and especially women, lest they be fined, brutalized, and jailed. Wichita males now fare slightly better in that instead of avoiding arrest by wearing full beards, they must simply don the same humiliating mini burqas as the women folk.

Multiple studies have shown that the non-surgical grade masks available to the masses offer limited protection against the inhalation of most viruses. The only meaningful utility offered is if the wearer is actively infectious and coughing or sneezing. It should be noted that anyone that is that sick in the first place has no business being in public. The comparison has been made that using these masks for protection against viruses is like keeping dust out of your house with a screen door.



What I find odd is that now she and so many others are unrestrained passengers on the careening “wear a face mask bandwagon” that at best offers more blind hope than real protection.

The **plebeians** and even some learned people blithely follow whatever regulations are forced down their gullets by whatever authority figure happens to rule. Yes, it may be the law, but is it right, well thought out, just and prudent. Not so many generations ago it was legal to beat your wife senseless if she sassed you, and to string up your slave if he was bold enough to disobey. How will the future judge our actions, our society and us?

Where does the average person go for news and information? The television that is run by what appears to be ruthless Shylocks that present only those “facts” that will sensationalize and bring in more viewers and ultimately higher profits. How warm and fulfilling it is to be thought of as, and treated like, nothing more than a mindless side of beef with a charge card. Profit before humanity should be vilified not lauded.

Are we entering a dark age of naked narcissism, complacency and blind adherence to ideals imposed on us by the avaricious few? Is it moral and right that they have control over everything we see, hear, read, and ultimately think?

No longer are the power elite forced to be satisfied with the subjugation of just their own peoples. Now a new powerful tool will be wielded, a sure and certain pretense that will bring every human on the planet under the thumb of one ideology if not one tyrant.

Any time a future faction sees benefit in suppressing the populous, the dread “virus card” will be played. How many and how soon will the frightened and obedient be quietly herded into line. Such societal changes can be manifest quickly, efficiently and on now even on a global level. Never in the history of our species can every man woman and child on the planet be brought under the same yoke, and in a matter of days. The deranged dreams of World domination that have pervaded the souls of so many mad men over the eons, can now finally come to pass. Will a World resplendent in billions of **Capite censi**, willing puppets for the amusement of the new self-chosen will be our ultimate fate?

The amplified stratification of an already horribly fractured **Hoi polloi** only puts increasing strain on the tenuous concept of common civility. Currently, on top of every other myriad of distinctions that delineate the in-group from the out-group we have a significant new schism developing. Thanks to COVID, we can split ourselves into two new disparate groups, the stoics, and the grovelers.

It does not take much imagination to figure out that the ‘grovelers’ are those people who are cautious if not overly so. They embrace fear and hope, obeying every rule and are obedient without question.

The ‘stoics’ are of course suspicious if not antagonistic to authority, or of any limit to their freedoms and view the perceived threat as wildly overblown. They eschew the concept of hope preferring direct and independent action.

Emotions are high on both sides and incidents of real violence are not far off. The damage done by the wanton hysteria, the enormous financial costs incurred, the unforeseeable long-term social and psychological harm done by this experiment in social manipulation is spiraling wildly out of control. It may well be the straw that finally breaks the back of Human civilization as we know it.

Definitions:

Capite censi – The lowest strata, or dregs of Roman society. Now a derisive term meaning the lowest state of humanity, who wallow in a basic but empty existence devoid of any higher reasoning, appreciation of beauty or intelligence.

Plebeians – In ancient Rome, one of the crowds, a faceless number, someone of abject mediocrity. Once foreigners and slaves, they were eventually elevated to relative equality after hundreds of years of struggle.

Hoi polloi – In ancient Greece, the commoners, the masses, or simply the people. They are born, they reproduce and finally die, never having made any salient impact on the future.

A Response by: Mike Dickson.

Let us tickle the old brain pan & see what we find when we dissect the piece about a new Constitutional Amendment

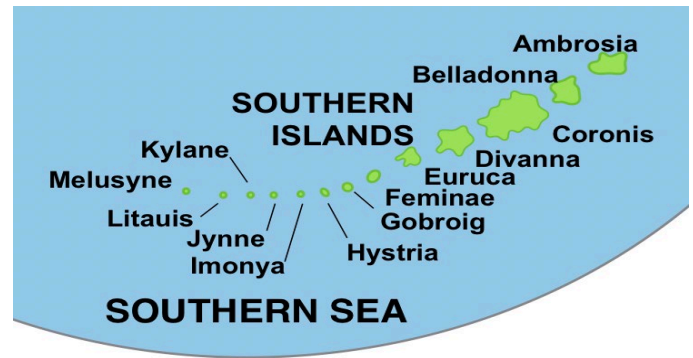
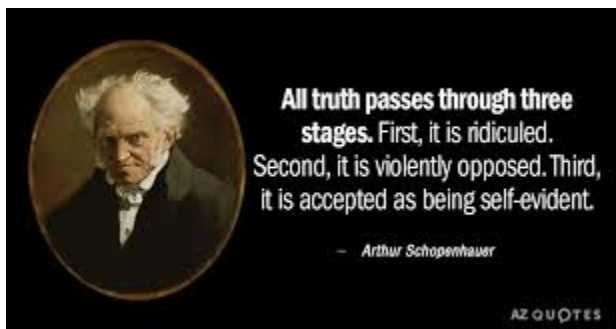
Paragraph 1 "I question if it accurately reflects modern Americans' opinion of how our gov't should work." How it works or does not has little bearing on the document written well over 200 years ago.

My guess is that refers to Your Version without regard to anyone else having any input. Thanks to the foresight of providing for amendments, we have some changes. For those not up to date, we no longer keep others as slaves & I've heard even WOMEN can vote since the 20's. Why is that?

Paragraph 2 "The Constitution states what the Federal Gov't is allowed to do." WELL, the Preamble also states why the document was written: "to form a more perfect union, provide for the general Welfare, etc. What one leaves out is as important as what one includes. Those who do not include all the necessary parts might be suspected of luring the unwary into a misinterpretation more favorable to Their version of reality. When even learned Supreme Court Justices can argue on either side, I am not Inclined to accept a one-sided version based on "authority" of a 3rd persons view. It would be foolish to do so.

"Powers not delegated to the US by the Constitution are reserved to the States" Yeah, right, except many powers exist today that were never foreseen when the document was written. Much time is spent negotiating which, & to what degree are the proper domain of Fed vs State. (Who do you think has the right to decide where to bury nuclear HazWaste? Last I checked it would have to be in a state. And a county. And a township. Lots of citizens with rights to consider. Which is why it is STILL undecided Since Bush 43's illustrious reign. Seems there are superseding powers, but all the big players can't reach Agreement. It's a cinch the locals will only be allowed to scream NO for a short time once those whose voices count are in lockstep.

Continued on page - 9 of the extended electronic version.



Chapter IV - The Southern Sea Expedition

Maarieda, September 35, 0004

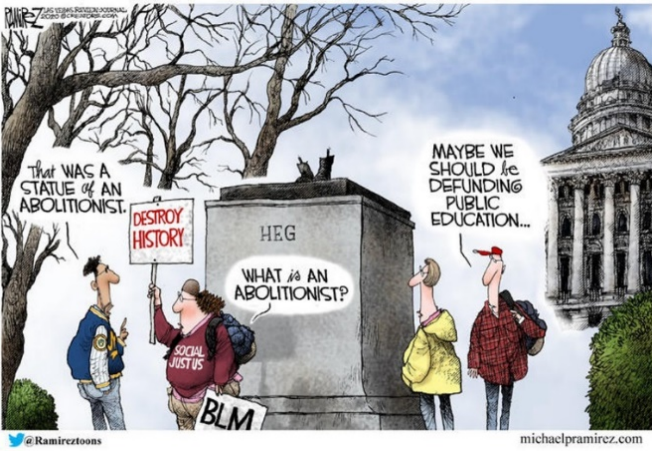
It was almost the southern spring and time for another exploration trip. This year they were going to explore the Southern Islands which were located between the Great Ocean and the Southern Sea in the Eastern Hemisphere. The Southern Islands are a chain of islands crossing half of the hemisphere with mild to cold temperate climates due to a warm ocean current. The Southern Sea froze in the southern winter but had no permanent ice cap as the ice melted in the southern summer. Most of the islands had freezing temperatures.

It would be a new experience for the young people to experience the end of a real winter. They would fly to the large island and take small boats from there. It was not storm season and they could travel safely in small boats. There was now enough weather data to predict storm seasons in the oceans. The southern hemisphere was warmer due to the orbit of Maarieda being more elliptical and the fact that aphelion was in the northern summer, the opposite of Earth. The large mass of Dianna and larger distance to their moon than Earth's moon also added mini seasons to the weather as the planet moved closer and further from its star every forty-two days. The eclipses also threw in a wild card on the weather with one day a month in the shade of Dianna.

James called everyone into the big meeting room.

"Time to check all systems and gear." said James. "This is a longer trip than last year, and we will be in different areas. The trip last year was successful, not only in getting data about the planet, but in training the young people. We will divide into three groups with one group heading east, one heading west and one staying on Coronis. We will visit as many islands as possible. There are thirteen major islands. The plan is to visit seven of them and the schedule will change as necessary. Sam will take two boats and head west. I will explore the main island. Bob will take two boats and head east. We will be there for two Diannas."

Continued on page - 10 of the extended electronic version.



Mike Dickson Article Continued:

#5 Interface with foreign nations. Apparently, that includes war powers without Congressional Approval.

Since 9-11 the oversight was given to the Executive Branch. The need for approval by Congress for any action over 90 days is no longer binding, by default. Congress couldn't find an extra roll of toilet paper in 90 days unless they were due for a recess or it made the other party look lame.

#10 Punish Treason. One man's freedom fighter is another man's traitor. Careful how you describe someone's actions, you may be in the hot seat next, explaining your behavior. Typically, the right vilifies the left. The left disagrees with the right but has better sense than to play the Traitor word game.

#11 Postal Service. Now that the freeloader bulk mailers run much less thru the Postal Service, the right, up to its old tricks, has decided they ought to be able to Privatize it. Most citizens find it useful; their attitude is: we make you look bad by forcing you to include in your budget cost a future 75 years of retirement costs, call you a net loss, & try to sell you off.

Businesses usually look ahead 5 years, don't pretend 10 is predictable. To us our Libertarian buddies say: we know you paid for it, we know it is something you want to keep, but we're doing you a favor clearing up a mess you aren't smart enough to realize is in front of you. This way private enterprise can milk you for what the market will bear, we're making you more efficient, & you know we are benefitting you with better gov't, cutting costs. I've been around a barnyard before. I know the smell of BS when it is flung. Now you know the connection between right wing & Libertarian.

#12 "Tax or borrow money." What constitutes money? Is it still money if it has no backing, or a different backing than the framers knew of back when they composed the document? Constitutional scholars have gotten a lot of mileage out of this for Decades. If you don't know what "Not Worth a Continental" means, look it up. Caution: A valuable history lesson may be forced on the unwilling.

The tax part: Sorry, Charlie - no part of tax as meant at the document's writing has anything even vaguely resembling the hundreds of pages of rules now used to promote the lobbied for vested interests that just accidentally happen to work against the interests of the small time citizen without sizable holdings

(Some seem to see a conflict between the have's vs have nots)

The war surtax was started about 1913. It was complete at 2/3 of one side of an 8 & 1/2 by 11 sheet of paper, & by most historians accounts was too good a chestnut to let go of for the plans our 'best & brightest' had in mind for the country's future.

The only question was how to make it benefit the crony style, politically connected, & have the common masses foot the bill. After all, if you're smart enough to figure this out, who's to say you weren't meant to be the leader. (POGO used to call that the art of talknophysical assumacy. The Irish call it blarneys) To be fair, some rates as high as 91% of unprotected profit were in effect up till about Eisenhower's era. Also, outrageous. But the rich, with lobbyists & lawyers can afford to have tax codes rewritten without concern for anything but their objective of maintaining an outsize share of power thru monetary influence. Where they are, & how they got there is not accidental.

--"Nothing allows the FED to provide insurance". WELL... Nothing disallows it from putting in place instruments to perform services as deemed commonly beneficial to the citizenry in general. I may not agree with waste, fraud, & abuse; but do not try & convince me insurance for health as a service is not a desired plus when compared to insurance as a profit model business, when the expected profit is the reason for existence. It does not wash. I don't even agree that large portions of standard protocols are necessarily good medicine due to Big Pharma influence on medical training & the FDA. I don't have to.

Regardless, serving all in the way they would be if treated equally should be a goal to strive for unless you believe human life has value only based on bank accounts. WE ask that such goals be part of rights as citizens, much as such services are provided in many other developed countries. You say we are the best in the world. Prove it. Your model is some must die, but if you take the profit away, what is our incentive to care? I say we CAN do better. If you don't understand, there is no point recommending an ethics course. Maybe a heart doctor to check for a pulse.

We have the Right to request these things because we say so. Only at the FED level can change be evenly spread, instead of piecemeal, while the populace is at the mercy of quick buck medicine practices, because 'they can practice free enterprise, & we must not stand in their way.' That is so one-sidedly lopsided against justice it is laughable. No need for explanation. The argument dies of it's own dead weight.

--"How could the Constitution be changed? We could do something as simple & extreme as saying: The States are hereby dissolved. All power formerly belonging to the States is hereby given to the FEDERAL GOV'T." Just exactly WHO is this WE? No One or group has that authority. Citizens, through a certain# of States MAY convene a CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION. One small group assuming it's way to dissolution of the old order is defined as Secession. It was tried once at horrible cost.

The legal method is by agreement of all parties. I have seen no evidence of enough effort amongst sane politicians, economists, & citizenry to suggest serious movement in that direction. This is a call to retreat to a chance for a New Autocracy. Most of the right claim to abhor such (unless they are in charge, the whole point of the exercise to begin with, in my view}

Your milder step of FED Law, passed by 50% of the states, is still an excuse to cram unagreed upon law on others unnecessarily. The action of an autocrat, & not befitting a free people.

We are a NATION by definition. It is semantics. None of us consented to this. We were born into someone else's definition. STATES are also an entity by definition. Before anyone tries by words to change the governance of citizens, stakeholders, etc, you need permission from those involved. These Definitions may be words; but if you try to twist them without our consent, you may learn the meaning from the original Latin of the term "tort". Somewhere outside a courtroom.



Maarieda Epic Continued from page – 8:

It was eight days until Lisa's fifteenth birthday. They planned a party for the whole day. As youngest she got special attention. She was always the party planner, being sure everyone's birthday was recognized, and they felt special. This time she would get the party and did not have to plan it.

The terraforming had not started there except for one agribot on Coronis, the large island and a few trees on Ambrosia, the northernmost island. On Coronis, being the largest island, the agribot had barely begun and failed after a year. For the southernmost islands they would try what worked on Artica, spreading grass seed from the shuttle. On the others they would have an agribot start planting seeds. They also had seedlings to plant, part of the forest experiments where they were living on New Germania.

"We leave first thing in the morning." said James.

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As they crossed the great ocean there was nothing but water in sight. Looking down they could see the blue atmosphere with white swirling clouds below. Above was the blackness of space. And on the curved horizon was Dianna, their blue and green moon with white at the polar regions. It looked much brighter without the thick atmosphere in between them.

"When can we explore Dianna?" asked Terri.

"That is a long way from anything we can do now." replied James.

"But we could get there." said Terri. "Sally said it is possible for a shuttle to get there."

"Possible, but not realistic for now." said James. "There is too much to do here. And we don't even know if we could breathe there."

"Sally said there is enough air to survive." replied Terri.

"Maybe." said James. "At sea level, maybe. Some day we will explore Dianna. It may require supplemental oxygen and pressure suits to travel into the highlands. Most of the land is well above sea level. We have a lot to do here and it is all new."

"Someday. Humph! Sally and I will go there someday." said Terri.

The shuttle hovered over Coronis, a green and red island of endless moss and lichens with a small forest and smaller grassland. Like New Germania the forest was doing well and the grass barely surviving against the moss. The main volcanic peak was long dead with a rock cone above the mossy slopes and a bright red lake in the middle of the caldera. There was snow around the top and a patch of ice on a small lake near the top. Near the southwest shore was an active volcano. Recently it had been flowing into the sea.

A couple of clicks off the shore volcanic gas was bubbling out of the sea. There was more volcanic activity on the southwest end of the island chain. All the islands here were volcanic in the past. When the kids studied the islands, they imagined a paradise like the Hawaiian Islands.

“Look, it is paradise!” exclaimed Lisa. “And they have snow. I see it in the mountains. And they are not too tall to climb.”

“You live in a paradise.” said Sam. “We will explore as much as we can here, including the mountains.”

“And climb the volcano!” said Lisa.

“No, probably not.” said Sam. “There is a reason the lake in the caldera is red and nothing is growing near the top. It may be toxic. It does not freeze, so at least it has some kind of minerals in it. And there may be toxic gas coming from the caldera. We will send a drone to take samples. The same with the volcanos on the shore. The drone goes first.”

The shuttle landed on a smooth rocky area near the northern shore. The kids rushed the door and ran across the rocks and into a sea of tall grass disappearing and returning playing chase and hide and seek. Bob stayed in the shuttle. He needed to study the new weather data.

When they finally came back James said: “We will build a shelter here. The rocks are good building material. That is project one. Then we will be off to explore.”

“More construction.” said Doug. “Always more construction. We need to explore.”

“Yeah, we need to explore.” chimed in all six teens.

“And you need patience.” laughed James.

“You always say that.” replied Doug.

“Correct.” stated James. “Now get to work.”

Soon the agribots were cutting stone into blocks. Others were grinding limestone into powder and cooking it to make cement. Michael and Sam were surveying the area while the others were organizing supplies from the shuttle and the agribots. Lisa and Terri went to explore the shoreline.

It was late afternoon and the blocks were beginning to be ready. There was a tiny pile of freshly ground limestone ready to cook. It was a small fraction of what was needed, but the agribots would work all day and night and not stop until they were done. Terry and Lisa were coming back from exploring the shore.

“We found seashells.” said Terri as she held them up for all to see.

“And a coconut.” said Lisa as she dropped the coconut on the ground.

“It’s good to see something is taking root here. That is the first ocean life we have found except one dead shrimp.” said Sam.

“Where did you find the coconut?” asked James.

“It washed up on the shore.” replied Lisa.

“We need to study the ocean currents some more.” replied James.

“And everything else.” replied Sam. “I will look at the weather charts and see what they say. And ask Bob. He has been putting together data on global climate and ocean currents.”

“Let’s get the tents up.” said James. Quickly they set up four white geodesic dome tents. One was for equipment and the others were for sleeping.

“Dinner is ready.” said Kristy. “It is in the big tent.”

Everyone crowded in for the meal. They were all now used to vegetarian food. Except for shrimp on the ship it was all the teens knew. The few animals they had were being raised for populating the planet. As it was about to rain the agribots brought the ground limestone into the tent and continued to grind away. Everyone ignored them.

“It will take about a week for the agribots to get the building materials ready.” said James. “We can start exploring the local area tomorrow. Michael, take Linda and Lisa and travel the other way along the shore. Kristy and I will head inland. Sam, take Doug and Terri and check out the forest. See if there are any trees we can use as lumber.”

“I talked to Bob.” said Sam. “The ocean current travels from east to west across the north shores of the islands. The coconut probably came from Ambrosia. The north side of the island is semi tropical and coconut trees were planted there at the first landing. The current may be strong in places so do not get too far out into the water until we know. The coconut probably will not grow here or there would be trees here now.”

It had been a long day and they were all ready for sleep and an exciting tomorrow.

The story goes on in August...

