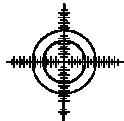


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YOOPER SCOOOPER

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Serious Times Require Serious and Contemplative Men

God always seems to put good people in the right place at the right time. It would seem to an impossibility that the Founding Fathers of the United States of America would have all been born, lived in the New World and converged together to fulfill their destiny by enabling the birth of our nation. Time and time again we can think of people who were capable of great things when the need was the greatest. Abraham Lincoln, Harry Truman and Winston Churchill, Ronald Reagan, Pope John Paul II, Mother Teresa, Margaret Thatcher and Tony Blair are a few people that stand-out. None of them were without their faults, but were called upon to perform their duties and did so efficiently, effectively and honorably.

Here in the United States we have several issues that will remain unresolved when the next president takes the helm on January 20, 2009. Terrorism has been pushed-back to the 1980s, but will rear its ugly head again and again, especially if any nation is perceived as being wimpy targets. We cannot forget that terrorists wear burkes like their women folk and have little fortitude when it comes to facing their opponents face-to-face. The challenge that these wimps will only take a stand against other wimps is laid at the feet of those who are responsible for building their nation's political representation.

Domestically we are facing incremental thefts of our liberties, sovereignty, health care system, political authority and individualism. We are losing a significant portion of our taxes to fund programs for people who are here illegally. Our borders are excessively porous and have been intentionally left as porous as a sieve by those wanting to slowly eliminate our national identity. The progressives have been successful at erasing property lines, controlling private land and blurring our national boundary lines.

Billions of our industrial dollars have left the U. S. to go to China, India, Pakistan and other foreign countries. The progressives have been systematically transitioning the United States to a service-based economy as the industrial goods are shipped into the U. S. to be sold to citizens who have unwittingly supported the arming and training of other progressive communists in China.

It is very certain that if China were a free nation based on the philosophy of capitalism and espousing liberties for their people, they would be thee super power of the world. As it is our national education system is mediocre at best, thanks to the teachers' unions who have helped decrease the accountability for teachers and in-turn dissolved the expectations and standards among the students. Take away our metal and wood shop classes, just like most of the progressives have done, and we're sunk.

The Shining City on the Hill is only a slight shimmer today. Few candidates have stated any type of clear vision, promoted optimism, and waved the flag in a patriotic fashion. Our veterans are losing significant funding as our representatives throw more money into various social agendas, including the education system.

In our modern society we have several new terms like multi-tasking and time-management. It is quite sad that those who are campaigning are incapable of discussing more than a few key issues at one time. What is most serious is that for the most important job in the world, as far as our country is concerned, candidates are limited to 60 second sound-byte answers and 30 second rebuttals. None are asked the really tough questions and few are challenged on their deviant ideologies. The big problem is that by February 1st, 2008, we will only have two candidates vying for the presidency and any third party candidates will be considered as non-contending insignificants by the media.

The bitter truth is that we are a sinking ship of wonder and prosperity. This is the 21st Century yet most of America has reverted into a pre-Great Depression mentality. Once again we find our economy on the verge of collapse, we continue to embrace social failings, have little concern about others, especially those who could have been born, and we find it easier to ignore all. God still awaits our call.

Tourism is not an Industry; The Delusions of the Service-based Economy

God-bless our hotel/motel, restaurant, and souvenir shop owners. They are there when we need them and most do their best to keep their businesses clean and efficient. But, when you spend the night in a hotel/motel, you can turn the television around, check the labels on the bedding, flip over the lamps and look at the other enmities and you'll discover few, if any, are made in the USA.

The automobiles that take to and fro are made from raw materials and parts from other countries and assembled in the USA. Good old blue-jeans are made in Mexico or Costa Rica of US materials. Even the American flags that are sold at Wal-Mart are made in China.

Tourism is not really an industry. It does not draw on our raw materials, require any of our natural resources (except for toilet paper) or actually manufacturer anything except maybe a few hours or days of enjoyment.

If we can't understand the basics of what an industry truly is, then we may as well consider prostitution and politics as industries.

Simply put, we had the bronze age, iron age, and the industrial revolution where products were produced to advance agriculture, manufacturing and transportation. We are now in what most consider the information, communications and computer age. It is unlikely we will tout and eventually remember the service-based age.

Tourism is a very important component of our culture. It advances our thoughts on how important freedom is and in our travels we learn about our nation and her people. But we cannot expect a Wal-Mart employee to buy from Target, Menard's and Econo Foods and then travel to other cities to stay in Motel 8s and dine-out at McDonald's while sustaining our economy. That system doesn't work well.

In tourism, if the season permits, those who own the businesses are prosperous while their employees eek out a minimum wage. Despite the promotion of a service-based industry by the progressives, minimum wage earners are not investors nor buyers of health insurance.

Why Are Gas Prices So High? By Phyllis Schlafly

July 5, 2000: The biggest issue on the highways and byways of America is the high price of gasoline at the pump, in some areas higher than \$2 per gallon. Who's to blame? Is it a presidential campaign issue?

Al Gore, struggling to pull himself up from bad polls numbers, is trying to blame George W. Bush because (a) he's from Texas, (b) he once ran an oil exploration company, and (c) he has received some (perfectly legal) contributions from oil companies. Gore's charges simply don't stand up.

If we want to play that game, Gore is the vulnerable one. He and his late father received much money and many financial favors from Occidental Petroleum and its founder Armand Hammer, a notorious friend of the bosses of the former Soviet Union, and Gore still controls \$500,000 in Occidental stock.

Gore may even be happy about the rising gas prices. He made clear in his book "Earth in the Balance" that he wants to rid the world of the internal combustion engine.

The real place to levy the blame is OPEC, the 11-country oil cartel (plus Mexico) that conspired to raise the price of oil. OPEC is a criminal price-fixing conspiracy and, if its members were reachable by U.S. law, its sheiks would be in jail.

OPEC is not selling us oil at free market prices. It has monopolized the oil market by engaging in illegal practices that are exactly designed to kill off the competition.

However, OPEC is part of the global economy that we've been told is the wave of the future. OPEC is part of Clinton's plan to "integrate our economy" with other nations and to seek interdependence with other countries in the new global market, and that includes being dependent on foreign oil.

Clinton just failed to advise us of the price of his plan.

There isn't any shortage of oil in the Middle East. The OPEC rulers don't even need to drill any more wells. All they need to do is turn the spigots to increase or decrease the flow of oil, which is exactly what they've been doing.

In 1997 they opened the faucets wide to increase the flow of oil and drive oil prices down to historic lows. That had exactly the effect they planned: it discouraged U.S. investors and drillers from exploration, U.S. production was cut back and 30,000 Americans lost their jobs.

Now, in 2000, OPEC turned the faucets down in order to decrease the flow of oil and drive up the price. So Americans, whose domestic production has been curtailed, are paying extra tribute to the OPEC sheiks to the tune of tens of billions of dollars a year.

Some politicians, at both the congressional and state levels, are toying with the idea of cutting or suspending some of the taxes on gasoline. That would affect only a small part of the big gasoline price increase and, anyway, why let a criminal cartel stop us from repairing our roads?

These countries owe us. Don't you remember? We went to war in 1991 to save Kuwait from being taken over by Saddam Hussein. U.S. ships and planes are defending Saudi Arabia today.

In 1994 the U.S. taxpayers bailed out Mexico with \$50 billion. Then, we organized a \$40 billion bailout of Indonesia. Most of these countries are still getting handouts from our foreign aid program and from those alphabet-soup global lending rackets.

"Ingratitude, thou marble-hearted fiend," spoke the Bard. And George Washington warned us, "There can be no greater error than to expect or calculate upon real favors from

nation to nation. It is an illusion which experience must cure, which a just pride ought to discard."

But maybe there is more behind this story than just greed and ingratitude. In looking into the causes of the oil price increase, Congress should start by investigating what could turn out to be the biggest scandal of the scandal-ridden Clinton Administration.

This is the published news report that OPEC oil ministers quietly told national security advisors on Capitol Hill that the oil production cutbacks, which is the cause of the price increases, were made at the request of the Clinton Administration. How's that again?

Can it really be true that the Clinton Administration asked OPEC to institute cutbacks in order to raise the price of oil? What could possibly be the motive of such duplicity?

The wealthy OPEC sheiks don't need additional money, but the increase in the price of oil on the world market immensely benefits debtor nations such as Russia, Mexico and Indonesia. They are now able to start paying back some of their overdue loans to important Western bankers.

The American people have gotten very tired of taxpayer bailouts of corrupt foreign regimes that enable powerful U.S. investment bankers to collect on their foolish foreign loans. Raising the price of oil that we pay to foreign producers is a devilishly clever scheme to give the big fellas another subsidy from the U.S. taxpayers.



Phyllis Schlafly

Phyllis Schlafly wrote in 2000: <http://www.eagleforum.org/column/2000/july00/00-07-05.shtml>



Lansing: Governor Granholm and the state legislators have pondered additional cuts. Since they had already taken the Fire Marshal services out of the State Police, it was obvious that one of the crucial responsibilities of law enforcement agencies, patrol, should be the primary focus on budget cuts. The budget cuts embraced by the Democrats jeopardizes the safety of citizens by cutting law enforcement and corrections. Cuts were also made for critical services, particularly those programs used by people who are unable to afford alternative services. There wasn't any noticeable discussions coming out of Lansing regarding the cutting of the Fist-Husband's office, staff and incidental expenses, nor was there a discussion about cutting up the Governor's credit card. If you like what the modern liberal progressive Jennifer Granholm did to Michigan, you'll love what the modern liberal progressive Hillary Clinton will do to the nation!

GOD, GUTS AND GUNS; How to Maintain a Nation

National maintenance requires citizens to take up the control and authority over their government from time-to-time. Additionally, the citizenry must accept the responsibility for dictating their nation's moral direction.

After the tax increase in Michigan, some of the resourceful residents of Michigan came together on the Capitol steps to present the State's progressives with a tea bag. In Chicago a group of creative people protested tax increases proposed by the Chicago City council by dumping bottled water into the Chicago River.

It doesn't take any fortitude to protest a war during a military funeral of a fallen serviceman, or do desecrate the Vietnam Memorial Wall in DC, or even urinate on the gravesites of those who had given their lives to protect America, but it does take guts to stand-up for all citizens.

So far the revolution has been somewhat silent. The conservatives across America had been very quiet over the decades while their liberal counterparts protested anything and everything as they supported the establishment, a different mantra from the protests of the 60s.

What seems to happen within many nations is that the whacks take over the asylum and even have a chance to enjoy their reign before they're removed by the enlightened, mature patriotic citizens. These conservatives at times may respond on time to save their nation; but most other times their nation has to fall on its face before a more traditional, wise and proven direction is taken. Conservatives are only sold bad goods once. While they have aligned themselves with the GOP, there is no certainty that the those running are conservatives.

In 2008 there will most likely be a mass reaction to the extremely poor management practices of those elected to office. While America's tofu-eaters hoist their candidates onto their narrow shoulders, deliberative analysis will be transpiring within the souls of the conservatives.

Conservative Americans are not prudish. They have their political philosophies honed by historical knowledge and realize that there is nothing more dangerous than a political coup invoked by progressives. The challenge will be to meet one coup with another, and more substantial coup.

God, guts and guns have brought this nation to the plateau of international regard and has effectively saved us for unexpected attacks, until the 1990s.

<http://westhorpwordpresscom.wordpress.com/2007/06/20/in-michigan-heres-how-boston-tea-party-is-lived-out-in-2007/>

<http://www.chicagodefender.com/page/local.cfm?ArticleID=9983> - <http://www.americansforprosperity.org/index.php?state=mi>

<http://www.rightmichigan.com/story/2007/4/18/152022/009>

<http://www.mitaxpayers.org/> - <http://www.michiganvotes.org/RollCall.aspx?ID=237062> - <http://www.constitutionpartymi.net/>

If the Politicians were Serious . . .

If the politicians were serious, American citizens would have a 100% deduction for the costs of health care insurance, health care, eye care and glasses, dentists visits, and prescription medications.

If the politicians were serious, special taxes, such as Social Security and Medicare taxes, would be 100% deductible. This is especially true since Congress imposed a retroactive tax on Social Security income, essentially taxing the working class twice.

If the politicians were serious, those special programs paid for through an imposed tax, such as Social Security, Medicare, highways and bridges (gas), etc., would have administrative costs paid for out of the general fund, leaving the special tax untouched except for its specific purpose.

If the politicians were serious, they would view the Constitution of the United States as a restrictive instrument that confines the powers and authority of the government; not a tool to permit an imposition and control of the people.

If the politicians were serious, citizens would be permitted to have their 6.2% Social Security tax, and the matched employer's 6.2% tax, put into a private retirement account. The private account should also be willed to survivors with no tax burden.

If the politicians were serious, borders would be protected and violators would be punished to the fullest extent of the law, incarcerated and lose any hopes to ever obtain a work permit or be considered for citizenship.

If the politicians were serious, no banking institution could rank you, insurance companies could not charge you based on your income and no government entity could dictate what you do with or on your own land as long as there is no violation of a health code.

If the politicians were serious, they would eliminate the privately owned Federal Reserve Bank and put the U. S. dollar back under the gold, silver and precious metals standard.

If the politicians were serious, there would be a truth-in-advertising requirement for politicians and PAC-sponsored advertisements. Only truthful statements and substantiated allegations could be made and be civilly actionable.

If the politicians were serious, only individual contributions would be permitted; no PAC funds, corporate money or other money given by any organization, including Party committees.

If the politicians were serious, all products advertised would have to state where the product is made and all products would be required to display a country of origin label on the face of the package and on the shelf next to the price.

If the politicians were serious, interests earned on savings under \$10K would not be taxed.

If the politicians were serious, most of the goods and services currently provided by the government would be provided by private citizens or companies. This includes health departments, DNR biologists, contracting out administrative services and numerous other considerations.

If the politicians were serious, their push for a fairness doctrine would be limited to only government-funded corporations, like Public Radio and PBS.

If the politicians were serious, the ACLU would not be given taxpayers' money to sue the taxpayers or their government.

If the politicians were serious, no elected or appointed person would be immune from prosecution or law suit and there would be no such thing as diplomatic immunity beyond the borders of property used to house or office diplomats.

If the politicians were serious, education would be completely left to the parents; they chose their board of education, the board of education hires, evaluates and fires teachers and the teachers choose the curriculum, text books, and the hours of instruction.

Fight Back! By Max Adams

Our ports are under the authority of just about every country but ours and they are jammed with imported goods that we are expected to buy even though much of this imported food, clothing, medicines and children's toys are toxic.

Our borders are so porous as to be practically nonexistent. Instead of being run by WE the People, our country is being run by huge global corporations.

The State is promoting Michigan as a great place for corporations to set up shop by pointing out that Michigan has many of what we used to call "communities filled with hard working families", but which are now simply referred to as "work clusters". How dehumanizing is that?

Our border patrol agents and even a sheriff's deputy have gone to prison for trying to do their job of stemming the flow of drugs pouring into this country and trying to stop an invading force of about 20 million illegals screaming for "THEIR rights" to everything we've spent our lives working for. The Mexican military has even crossed our border, armed to the teeth, and our Commander of Thieves didn't say a word in protest.

The new cry is freedom from religion, not freedom of religion and the flag wavers for this cause are the ACLU (Anti-Christian League United, I guess it stands for). We are told that nothing is right or wrong; that we should welcome diversity in all aspects of our lives. Our children are being indoctrinated anything and everything that thousands of

our countrymen have died to protect us from.

Our constitution is rapidly turning into a historic document that doesn't really mean expected to buy even though much of this imported food, clothing, medicines and children's toys are toxic.

Our mainstream news media feeds us our approved bit of pabulum for the day – nothing too substantive, though, as the Elites, as they prefer to call themselves, know that we won't be able to understand much of substance, simple folk that we of the unwashed masses are. To safely walk among us, they've even begun special inoculations to protect themselves from diseases of the commoners. Dehumanizing isn't it?

And resourceful people that we Americans are, we've found the perfect solutions to these inconvenient little problems: Change the channel if something makes you uncomfortable. Stick your head in the sand so you don't see what's happening in our schools. Continue buying those potentially unsafe imports and rationalize by saying that "there's nothing of value made in this country anymore". Rationalize your loss of freedoms guaranteed

under our constitution, too, by saying "it's for the children's sake". The government loves that one, too. When they take your property right out from under you, it's said to be "for the sake of future generations".

We The People are the ones giving this country away and we can't blame anyone but from grade school through college to accept ourselves, not even the current administration.

If this country is to continue as it was conceived to be, then WE The People need to take it back. Go to the Church of your choice with your family on Saturday or Sunday morning because you can. Make it politically correct to stand up for what you believe.

Quit buying the imports! Can't find an American made product that you wish to purchase? Look harder. Look in second hand stores. Get on the Internet and find out what company employing American workers makers that product your looking for. Maybe you don't even need it. Christmas time is just around the corner. What a great time to let those global corporations know who really runs this country! Hit 'em right in the bottom line, which, of course, is the pocket! Use some of that Yankee Ingenuity we used to be so famous for!

Learn to do things for yourself again. Learn to cook, learn to sew, learn to garden, learn to manage your time. Maybe you and a neighbor can do some bartering with the skills you each have and help each other.

"I haven't the time," you say! That doesn't wash. If our sons and daughters can die to protect our rights for us and future generations, then the very least we can do for them is to stand on our own two feet and help ourselves. ~MA

Editor's Note: Max is right on; we have become a nation of citizens that are not self-reliant. If you're an elder and have talents, like how to fix things, grow a garden, etc; teach a youngster.

U. P. FLAVOR OF THE MONTH

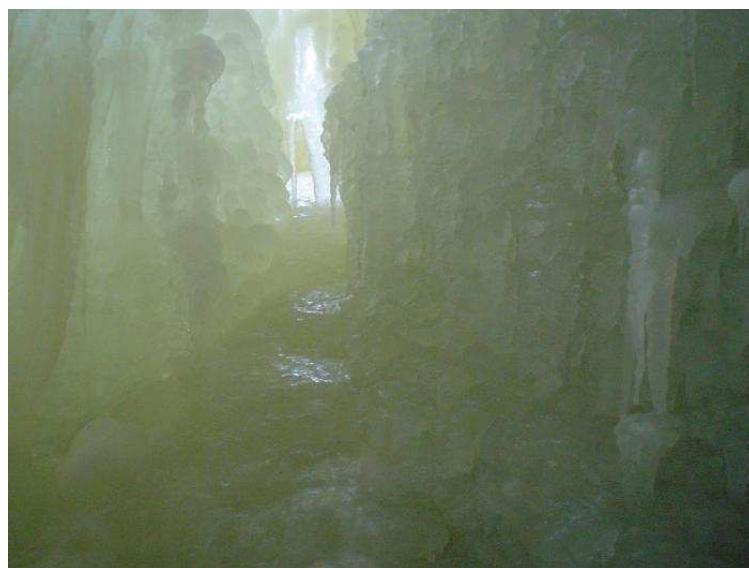
Eben Ice Cave

The photograph at the left was taken by Betsy Ely, the news director at WOLV 97.7/K-Bear 102.3/WCCY 1400 AM out of Houghton, Michigan. She is an excellent freelance photographer as well and more of her photos can be seen at the links below.

<http://gallery.pasty.com/bitsybetsy/albuz66/glow2.jpg.html>

<http://gallery.pasty.com/bitsybetsy/>

<http://gallery.pasty.com/main.php>



Getting MI Driver's License Is No Problem for Illegals C. J. Williams

The national news now points out that Michigan is one of only seven states in the nation that still issues driver's licenses to illegal aliens. Whether they be Mexicans hoeing Farmer McGregor's beans, Honduras manicuring milady's lawn, or sand-country terrorists training to fly planes, if they're illegal they can still get a driver's license in the Great Take State or in Hawaii, Maine, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, and Washington.

Not only does Michigan allow illegal aliens squatting in the Great Take State to purchase licenses, it also allows illegal aliens hiding out in other states to get Michigan driver's licenses, too. This means that "undocumented immigrants" Jose E. Menace, Manuel Labor and Osama Bin Sneakinin, who currently reside in New Jersey where illegals aren't issued licenses, can wind their way to Michigan, declare their intent to live in the state, pick up a license, and drive back to New Jersey or any state of their choice, providing they can afford the gas or steal enough to get anywhere in their go-mobile.

Insurance? Come on; let's get real! When illegals engage in identify theft in order to get a driver's license in the first place, do you think they follow the rules for obtaining insurance to make their vehicle road legal or pay the fine when they're ticketed for no proof of insurance? And when accidents occur, which they invariably do, who ultimately pays through the nose for higher premiums so auto insurance companies can continue to make a profit from their con game? The legal citizens, do, that's who!

In reality, it's been over six long years since the events of 9-11-01 brought home the horrible threat that illegal aliens pose to the American people, and though our porous national borders were brought into the limelight at that time, our Washington Congressmen and women have done absolutely nothing to staunch the flow of illegals into our country.

And, while Michigan could have by now joined forty-two other states that have taken matters into their own hands and refused to cater to illegals by giving them driver's licenses, our state legislature chose not to clamor for the enactment of HB 5497 and opted, instead, to protect migrant workers and Michigan's second largest industry - the farm industry - which is quite dependent on truck loads of those willing to do jobs Americans won't do and belly up to the government entitlement trough while doing them. In 2001, it was believed that at least 50% of Michigan's migrant workers were illegals, but instead of taking matters into their own hands, our state legislators are still wringing their hands almost seven years later.

At the prodding of Candice Miller, who was Michigan's Secretary of State from 1995-2003 before she became a U.S. Representative, Rep. Lauren Hager (R-Port Huron) introduced House Bill 5497 on December 12, 2001. HB 5497 would have required a person to be a citizen or legal "resident alien" in order to receive a Michigan driver's license. The proposed bill would also have authorized the Michigan Department of State to report to an appropriate federal agency if it had reasonable cause to believe that a driver's license application contained information that an applicant was an illegal alien.

After much political posturing and brou-haha about Secretary of State employees becoming spies for the federal government, all measures taken through HB 5497 to ensure that illegal aliens wouldn't be welcome at the Secretary of State's office with vehicle title in hand fell by the wayside under the shadow of Attorney General Frank Kelly's 1995 opinion #6883.

That opinion disallowed Michigan's Secretary of State to refuse illegal aliens driver's licenses because, in essence, neither federal nor Michigan statutes precluded an illegal alien from establishing residence in Michigan. According to Kelly, "the courts (at that time) have consistently ruled that illegal aliens, who are persons protected from arbitrary state action by the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, may meet state residency standards."

In typical Democrat fashion, Attorney General Kelly's interpretation of that clause appears to have been quite liberal in that the 14th Amendment's "Equal Protection Clause" isn't intended to provide "equality" among individuals or classes of people, but only "equal application" of the laws.

To refresh your memory, Section I of Amendment XIV, the only section that might possibly have any bearing on illegal aliens, reads:

"All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States, nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

Nowhere in that amendment are the words "illegal aliens" found and it should be quite clear that the pertinent "equal protection clause" wasn't intended to stretch our imaginations far enough to believe illegal aliens, lawbreakers themselves, should be given driver's licenses, as well as safe harbor in our Michigan cities. Merely intending to reside in the state or simply residing in

the state for 30 consecutive days, as proof of that intention, shouldn't cut it.

In light of New York Governor Spitzer's recent plan to give driver's licenses to illegals in his state, attention is once again being drawn to Michigan and its liberal attitude toward "undocumented workers".

Like three barn cats in a hissing contest, Gov. Granholm, U.S. Rep. Candice Miller and Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land are now spitting at one another and attempting to claw their way out of the blame game. Miller is challenging Granholm to denounce the practice of giving licenses to illegals and Granholm is denouncing Miller for handing out such licenses during the time Miller was Secretary of State, regardless of the fact that she did try to do something about it for many years. And Ms. Land, who seems to be a very nice person, is protecting her turf and has no choice other than to wait for the federal REAL ID Act to kick in.

The REAL ID Act will, in part, require all states to use proof of citizenship for obtaining a driver's license, but when such proof can be bought on the street, the Act will likely resolve nothing. Additionally, while it's thought that it will kick in on May 11, 2008, there's already opposition and some portions of the Act have been put off until Dec. 31, 2009. In fact, at least 17 states have passed legislation opposing it and at least 21 other states, Michigan among them, have similar bills pending.

A resolution against REAL ID proposed by Rep. Espinoza (D-Croswell) has already passed the Michigan House and Sen. Jim Barcia (D-Bay City) has proposed a similar resolution in the Senate. While they're singing the old "Michigan is Broke" song and claiming the state can't afford to implement REAL ID, it should be noted that the areas of Michigan these gentlemen represent are heavily dependent upon migrant workers.

On a more positive note, Rep. David Agema (R-Grandville) proposed HB 4881 on June 7, 2007 to establish that only citizens or resident-alien with "lawful status" would be allowed to get a Michigan driver's license and to limit the forms of identification accepted from resident aliens to non-foreign documents (i.e. Social Security cards) and/or official passports or visas.

Like the previous proposal made by Rep. Hager in 2001, HB 4881 has been referred to the House Transportation Committee chaired by Hoon-Yung Hopgood (D-Taylor), and while the wringing of hands continues in Lansing, thousands more illegal aliens will continue to pad the Granholm administration's coffers through the purchase of driver's licenses, plates, and vehicle registration fees. ~CJ

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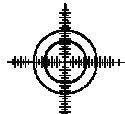
RECOMMENDED LINKS

DISCLAIMER—KOA STATEMENT

The Yooper Scooper is a private newsletter to be exchanged among friends and like-minded individuals via the internet or through a hard copy printed at personal expense. Even though Democrats can campaign from the pulpit while conservative ministers have to remain silent with threats of being removed from their non-profit status by the Democrats, the freedom of speech still has meaning and relevance among the people. We would like to take this opportunity to stress that if you take offense to the content of this newsletter you are probably indeed a descendent from monkeys. As for the rest of us, we hold the truths of God, Creationism, Free Will, the Ten Commandments and the Constitution close to our hearts and within our souls.

~ J. C. Powers, Editor

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Firearms deer season. Yoopers' official holiday season. A season of companionship and celebration. Deer camp is more than just a title, it's a way-of-life. The food, the card games, the jokes, the smell and warmth of wood heat, real maple syrup for pancakes and jerky made from deer taken from the previous hunting season, all blending into two short weeks or a couple of weekends of purely American activities.

What's UP? By J. C. Powers

But, with all that happens and is shared by those who hunt or just enjoy the companionship of camp during the hunting season, there is a lot more to this Yooper tradition. No experience equals that of being in the north woods during the change of seasons. The great outdoor journey from warm days to crisp nights, to even crispier dawns and twilights, lets all those who live and love the experience to understand their roots.

The tranquility of silence with the occasional lyrics of a chickadee or peep of nut hoppers to remind the hunters of the code of nature, the woods and edges of the fields in the UP seems to provide more cleansing of the soul than a full confession. The reality is that when it comes to family and friends, there is no other commodity more precious.

God has offered all Americans the blessings that go well beyond the ability to understand by those who have no concept of faith or love. The warmth that fills the heart when given pause to contemplate those around us is more than just a feeling, it is a rejuvenation.

The consuming pride that separates those who enjoy freedom from those who have to rely

on the generosity of a government has helped the United States of America become the shining city on the hill; a land to flee to, not from—a model for other nations pursuing the establishment of their own republic; a nation built on the foundations of the Bible, the deep belief in a Divine Creator and sense of individual liberties.

The aspirations of every citizen, whether grandiose or simple, can be achieved without the permission of a government agent. Some may be obtained with a government grant that requires compliance with what bureaucrats perceive as accountable and honorable.

The very idea that an entire citizenry is free to walk alone in the woods, to carry weapons, and to engage in activities that are the same as those done by pre-Columbus ancestry should give us all a sense of who we really are; simply a nation filled with grateful, sincere, honest and hard-working people. We cannot more accurately define ourselves than by those little pleasures that bring us such joy as friends and family.

All that was, was; all that is, is.

Please have a Blessed Thanksgiving. ~JCP