

Bogus Holocaust Analogies

by Jeff Davidson

Following President Trump's decision to shore up control at our porous southern border, a popular Leftist blogger essentially said (paraphrased): This situation is going to become more extreme and justifiably so. We dwell in extreme times. The harm being done to each of us by the Trump Administration is extreme.

As such, we do not feel that Trump administration officials ought to be able to live their lives in peace and affluence while they inflict serious damage on significant portions of the U.S. population. Being unable to comfortably visit restaurants and attend gatherings is merely the minimum baseline. These administration officials, who are merrily shoving America down the road to fascism and white nationalism, are simply delusional if they do not believe that the backlash is going to become much worse.

ON THE ROAD TO FASCISM?

"Merrily shoving America down the road to fascism and white nationalism?" Could those on the Left be any more hyperbolic? Or any more misinformed?

On June 27, 2018 several news source corroborated that Black support for President Trump is rising: "Current approval of 16 percent is 8 points higher than the 8 percent of black voter support that Trump received on Election Day 2016. Amazingly, it is 9 points higher than the black vote presidential candidate Mitt Romney received in 2012."

Also at the close of June, 2018, a Harvard CAPS/Harris poll revealed something that pollsters called "astonishing." President Trump's approval rating among Hispanics "soared a staggering 10 points" in one month.

INSANITY RULES

If you're on the Left, perhaps some self-reflection is in order. Do you believe that the groups above are too stupid to know better? If you're Caucasian, do you speak for minorities? Do you believe Donald Trump supports Aryan Nations, considering that his daughter Ivanka converted to Judaism and married a Jew, and that from this marriage, Trump has three Jewish grandchildren?

Did you show any concern when President Obama separated adults and children at the border in much greater numbers (actually many times that of Trump) and to much worse conditions? Or, are you simply insanely biased?

If you are diametrically opposed to the

current Administration's attempt to resolve the immigration problem in general, and the border crisis in particular, here are questions to consider:

1. When people arrived 100 to 130 years ago, no aid was supplied from the rest of the country, but now we are to pay for all who step foot in the U.S.?

2. Should we open our borders to anyone?

3. Does everyone who we allow into the U.S. receive welfare, food stamps, and HUD Section 8 Housing?

4. We are \$21 trillion in debt and counting, with both parties at fault. Should we hit U.S. citizens with a special tax assessment of, say, \$5000 a year and then allow everyone who wants to enter our country do so, and hope this money will cover the multi-millions who show up?

5. The heart-wrenching pictures, initially circulated by Big Media this summer, were actually from the Obama era in 2014. Did you protest then? Did you compare Obama to 'Hitler'? If not, why not then, under Obama? Did you make other absurd analogies to World War II concentration camps (and thereby thoroughly disrespect the roughly 15.6 million people who perished in concentration camps)?

6. If even one child is being transported by human slavers or drug runners and we leave them together, are you taking responsibility for what they might do to the child?

7. The vast majority of the country agrees it is the parents' fault for bringing the children. Can you see that they aren't all racists but, perhaps, have a more balanced view?

8. Thousands of U.S. citizens have died at the hands of people who shouldn't be here. Do you have any sympathy, at all, for any of them?

9. Do you have any plan to slow down illegal immigration, or are you too emotionally charged to have a rational discussion?

MIRACLES HAPPEN OCCASIONALLY

Perhaps when you actually think through the points above, you might adopt a broader point of view. It is unlikely, but miracles can happen. Regardless, it's time to leave your liberal plantation for at least a couple hours a week.

Jeff Davidson of Raleigh is a regular contributor to Chatham County Line. He is "The Work-Life Balance Expert", the premier thought leader on work-life balance issues. Jeff is the author of 65 books, among them Breathing Space, Dial it Down, Live it Up, Simpler Living, 60 Second Innovator, and 60 Second Organizer. Visit www.BreathingSpace.com.

A Senseless War

by Barry Reece

Two major media events have recently focused our attention on the Vietnam War. One is the documentary series written and produced by Ken Berns and Lynn Novick for PBS, "The Vietnam War." The other media event is the Vietnam War Commemoration that marks the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. The Secretary of Defense prepared the Commemoration objectives and the online description of this program was approved by the Pentagon. This war was one of the most divisive and controversial events in American history. The Secretary of Defense and Pentagon staff members prepared Commemoration objectives and scheduled major activities.

Critics of the Burns/Novick documentary and the Vietnam War Commemoration note that legal and political justification for US intervention in Vietnam is minimal. The Commemoration has been described as the Pentagon's effort to sanitize and mythologize the Vietnam War. To counteract the Pentagon pro-war information, Veterans For Peace has developed the Full Disclosure report. The report explains that the United States exhibited little concern for the lives of Vietnamese civilians. General William Westmoreland adopted a policy of treating civilians like armed combatants if they were living in an area under long-term control by the Viet Cong. An estimated two million Vietnamese civilians were killed and another 5.3 million were injured. About 11 million became refugees in their own country.

The My Lai massacre is often cited as an example of civilian suffering in Vietnam. Over a four-hour period members of the Americal Division's Charlie Company, 1st Battalion methodically slaughtered more than 500 unarmed men, women and children. The commanding officer who planned the operation, Captain Ernest Medina, told the soldiers prior to the massacre to "Kill everything in the village." The My Lai slaughter would be repeated in dozens of villages throughout Vietnam, yet the official military policy was "United States Army has never condoned wanton killing or disregard for human life."

The United States also engaged in herbicidal warfare in Vietnam. Between 1962 and 1971 our planes sprayed nearly 20 million gallons of Agent Orange in Vietnam, eastern Laos and parts of Cambodia. The large-scale use of chemicals contributed to widespread famine leaving hundreds of thousands of civilians

malnourished or starving. This powerful herbicide contains the deadly chemical dioxin. Over 40,000 US soldiers who were exposed to Agent Orange have filed disability claims with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Memories of the Vietnam war still prompts anguished debate and condemnation. It is easy to be overwhelmed by the tragedy of this senseless war. However, we must not forget the bravery displayed by so many US soldiers. Honor the warrior, not the war. Max Cleland, Vietnam veteran and former US senator, said, "Within the soul of each Vietnam veteran there is probably something that says "Bad war, good soldier". The names of 58,256 men and women are carved in the granite of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The following poem pays tribute to the war casualties.

The Wall

We were wrong, terribly wrong.

Robert McNamara

Visitors stand in silence—sharing

grief and pain. War casualties

etched in polished granite.

1959 2

1960 5

1961 16

Each year the numbers grow, row

after row. Young lives cut short.

1966 6,144

1967 11,614

1968 16,589

A girl stops, gently touches the

name of the father she never met.

Tears flow freely.

Leaders in Washington are not moved

by sentimentality. Vietnam casualties

are acceptable losses.

It was a long war

A tragic war

An unwinnable war

Barry Reece is a Chatham resident. He served in the Iowa National Guard and the US Army, and is an active member of Veterans For Peace, Vietnam Veterans Against The War, and Peace Action.

In support of Commissioner James Crawford

I first met Commissioner James "Jim" Crawford and his wife Maureen 27 years ago. I had just graduated from Indiana University and arrived in Chapel Hill with my girlfriend, Ellen, who was starting graduate school in the History Department at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Jim was the Past President of the Graduate Student Association and full of energy and ideas. I remember how he and Maureen welcomed us to their modest grad student home, which was a trailer many miles west of Carrboro somewhere off of Old Greensboro Highway.

We shared stories and laughter and were bound together over our love for college basketball, college football, and an intense desire to question the status quo and make a positive difference in our lives.

We were penniless Gen-Xers with the intense desire to discuss the issues of the day, and learn from each other with the hope to see real change happen in our community and our country.

Since then Jim and I have had our ups and downs and we've both served in public office. That's where I learned the real value of the three W's when evaluating a political candidate: 1. Who is the candidate? 2. Why is the candidate running for office?, and 3. What will the candidate do for the voters?

To that end I had the pleasure of attending the launch for Jim's re-election campaign a

few months ago at Chatham Cider Works, the small business that Jim runs with his wife. Maureen welcomed the guests with a speech that tells a lot about Jim and why he deserves your vote this fall.

"Thank you all for coming. I'm Maureen, Jim's wife, and our family welcomes you.

"Our daughter Elise is here as well.

"I'd like to tell you a little bit about Jim, some of the personal story of who he is and why he cares about the things that he does. Chatham has been good to our family, and Jim wants to make sure that everyone who lives here has the same experience.

"Jim is from a very small town in Pennsylvania. It's a town where the loudest sounds were the recorded church bells at the corner Lutheran church and the sound of trucks coming in and out of the local family-owned grocery store. In the winter, the hills behind his house are full of the sounds of snowmobiles. People in this small town have a strong sense of place.

"Jim's family were farmers and factory workers. His parents often worked swing shifts and two jobs to take care of their family. Living this way is stressful, and it takes its toll. His parents separated, and his dad raised the kids. And then tragedy struck, and his father died of a heart attack when Jim was just 15. The kids largely fended for themselves, and they relied on the help of government services that

are designed to help young people in need. Jim and his siblings knew the stigma of needing food stamps or free lunches, and how turning to these things is never anyone's first choice.

"Jim took this experience with him when he went to college. He was the first in his family to go to college, where he studied American History and decided to become an academic. He learned about America and the pushes and pulls in our society and the role of democratic institutions that are the fundamental backbone of our American experience.

"He went on to teach at North Carolina A&T, a historically black university. Many of Jim's students were also the first in their families to go to college. But they carried the added weight of being young people of color, figuring out what role they would play in our society and in the world of work.

"And so these are the experiences that inform Jim's work as a commissioner. He understands how deeply people are connected to their physical place, to the land and their environment. He knows that good jobs and fair wages impact not just people who earn them, but their families too. He knows that education is life changing, and he knows that it's the responsibility of everyone who has a voice to make sure that populations who don't always have an equal voice get heard.

Jim understands that policy and public investment are critical to fairness, and at



the end of the day, that's why he's a Democrat. That's why you're Democrats. You're all fighting for the same beliefs, and to guarantee that these are the beliefs that will guide our country and make it a place that we're proud to live in.

"And without further ado, let me welcome Jim!"

Thank you, Maureen. You eloquently touched on why my family has remained friends with you and Jim for almost 30 years and why we'll vote to re-elect Jim Crawford for County Commissioner.

Randolph Voller, former Mayor of Pittsboro

REACH

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to care for each other, to understand, forgive, and serve one another. We are here to have love for every person born on earth." Furthermore she states "I learned that we must love our enemies— let go of anger, hate, and bitterness, and with the refusal to forgive. These things destroy the spirit. We will

have to account for how we treat others."

Eadie was transported through the light and learned a great deal until she was returned to earth, desiring terribly to return to the beauty and peace of the spirit world. Years later as she wrote this book she remembered her Saviors message. "We are to love one another, I know that. We are to be kind, to be tolerant, to give generous service. I know that greater joy will come to us through love than in any other way."

Books about the spirit world do not always contain the exact same details but all emphasize the power of God's love and our role in living our lives in the great power of the Golden Rule!

This is my final article in this paper. I will continue reading and I hope you do too! Please continue reading for mental and spiritual health. I have over 200 articles on my website.

Always remember to live in love!