

BETWEEN THE LINES

# Minnesota dead last? Whoda thunk it!

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While Minnesota sports franchises seldom achieve world-class status in various sports venues, there are some obvious exceptions. The Minnesota Twins with two World Series, and the Minnesota Lynx with several championships. Ok that's enough Minnesota Sports bashing.

The other day I was reading my copy of the *AARP Bulletin*, and to my surprise I found that Minnesota was ranked dead last in a national statistic! Whoa — in most things related to livability including tops in health care, general quality of life rankings at or near the top of the list.

Well it seems that Minnesotans are ranked last in how it treats some of its senior citizens. If you live and work in Minnesota as a person who is on Social Security and you are forced to leave your job, there is something that is called "Social Security offset" laws.

According to the story in the *AARP Bulletin*, a 67 year-old man from Rochester, reluctant to keep working because of an underlying health condition, learned he qualified for unemployment insurance with a doctor's note.

Not so fast! After applying he discovered that Minnesota would count a portion of his monthly Social Security income of \$1,900 against his unemployment aid, effectively reducing it to zero.

He went from having additional money to be able to do some extra things to hav-

ing barely enough to cover monthly expenses.

According to AARP the pandemic has brought to light this little-known longstanding provision in state law that reduces unemployment benefits for certain sidelined workers, who also receive Social Security.

Well, Best Friend and I would fit into that group that could be affected by this law. It affects about 137,000 senior workers. I am not sure if it affects younger disabled workers or not

However, help may be on the way as there is an effort backed by AARP Minnesota to end that practice. Proponents say that's necessary to help older Minnesotans collect their full unemployment benefits if they lose their jobs.

According to DFL representative Jim Davnie of Minneapolis, it is a matter of fairness and respect for older workers. Davnie is writing the legislation. Minnesota is the only state to have not repealed the Social Security offset laws. Hopefully this legislation will pass this session to help older workers get their fair share.

I only drew unemployment for about two and a half months after getting discharged from the Air Force in 1965, Best Friend has never drawn unemployment.

On the plus side of things, on the same page there were two things noted that Minnesota was number one in. Minnesota's national care ranking for long-term care services and supports is number one! In the last election Minnesotans had the highest percentage of voters at 80 percent!

Of course, we Minnesotans always knew that even though I was born in California. Stay Safe! Wear masks and get vaccinated Have a great week and do good!

STORIES FROM THE BATT CAVE

# Playing football against the Steel Beams

There are two kinds of people — those who were born in March and those who wish they had been.



My birthday is on St. Urh o's Day every year.

Making another trip around the sun gives me cause to reflect upon what I've learned during this wonderful life. Goals are adjusted.

Life is a series of things you didn't expect. Back in the used to be when I was as smart as I'd ever be, school was winding down for the year. There was a popular advertising slogan for a cigarette saying LSMFT meant "Lucky Strike Means Fine Tobacco." At the terminus of a school year, it meant "Lord Save Me From Teachers." It was chills, spills and thrills as we finished lunch in the school's cafeteria and rushed outside. Kids were antsy to get to summer.

We played football at noon recess, if I dare call it recess for high school. It was a game without rules, which eliminated the need to circumvent the rules as is done in the NFL. It was a brief game — recess pieces.

Perry Haugen was a couple of years older than me. He was in senior high, I was in junior high. We tried to stay in harm's way, so the game was played on the school lawn, sidewalks, streets and student parking lot. The teachers parked their cars in a lot at a secret location. The game was touch football, but

there were no officials, which meant we were on the honor system, which meant, as I'd mentioned earlier, there were no rules. We hadn't run it by the legal department, but we figured we weren't doing anything wrong unless someone yelled at us.

I had no helmet, no glasses and no brains. The play called by the quarterback (Perry) was for everyone to go long. I ran as far as I could and Perry threw the ball as far as he could fling it. It was a perfect spiral. A thing of beauty. I gave 110%. That's not true. I gave 54.7%, but I grabbed the football with grace and elegance in the middle of the street and would have done one of those idiotic celebratory dances in the end zone, but I didn't get the chance. I hit a steel beam being hauled by a tractor-trailer rig and I dropped the ball. That beam and its long protrusion from the end of the trailer had appeared out of nowhere. I hit the overhanging portion of the beam with my head. Witnesses swore the clang sounded like a blacksmith's hammer hitting an anvil. That steel beam became the center of my universe.

Teachers and coaches had told me I needed to set the bar high. I never knew what they meant until that moment. I'd set the bar about head high.

The trucker didn't touch his brake lights, likely unaware he'd prevented a touch-down. When he delivered the beams, the recipient examined the load and I imagined him saying, "There's part of an eyebrow on one beam. Did

you hit a cow?" That led to a long discussion on whether cows had eyebrows. It was a lengthy discourse because there was no Google back then.

Friends offered adjectives, but Perry took me to see Doc Olds. We walked there while I held a hankie to my wound. Doc put stitches in my eyebrow. He told me to stay away from steel beams and sent me back to class.

The legend is that my ancestors were buried with their heads above ground because they outlasted marble. I'd head-butted a steel beam and lived.

Perry walked with me back to school. He wasn't heartbroken about missing a class. I appreciated him. I entered the building with a shaved eyebrow, wound and stitches hidden under a bandage. It was difficult to keep it a secret. Perry left me with the nurse and I told her my story. I was as uncomfortable as Roy Rogers in an English saddle as I mumbled my version of the events, leaving out as much detail as possible.

When I got home, my father gave me some advice. It was something like, "Don't be stupid just because you know how."

To spare me from myself, I became a free agent in the noon-hour football games.

It's important to have goals. My goal had been to become the west coast distributor for hijinks and snark, but after this incident, my goal was to avoid head-butting steel beams.

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# Do your children make you curse?

Dr. Glenn Mollette

Kirk Dewayne Franklin is an American choir director, gospel musician, singer, songwriter, and author. He is best known for leading urban contemporary gospel choirs such as The Family, God's Property, and One Nation Crew. He is a beloved and influential figure in the gospel music world.

Instagram exploded recently with an audio of the famed gospel singer Franklin berating his 32-year-old son. The son posted the audio of the verbal exchange between he and his father. The audio was a profanity laced call that included his father the elder Franklin threatening to break his son's neck.

According to the elder Franklin there has been a 14-year rift between he and his son. Many counseling sessions and the family's attempts at trying to resolve the conflict have apparently remained unsuccessful. For many years according to reports his son has avoided family dinners, holidays and other gatherings. National television and various

media outlets reported Franklin saying, "Recently, my son and I had an argument that he chose to record. I felt extremely disrespected in that conversation, and I lost my temper. And I said words that are not appropriate. And I'm sincerely sorry to all of you. I sincerely apologize," Franklin said.

Good Morning America, The Washington Post and various other national media sources have reported this story which is a sad personal family drama. For many years this tension has been a difficult rift for this very famous family. It's unfortunate that the adult son chose to play it out on social media which has now become national news.

Many families have struggles and no one is perfect, including Kirk Franklin. He proves once again that most people have a breaking point and it's never pretty when it happens. Most of the time it's the people who we love the most and do the most for who have a way of flipping our switch. We often can take a lot from strangers and casual

acquaintances because we really don't care that much what they think or even what they say. However, when it's a child who you have invested your entire life into stomps on your heart then emotion and passion have a way of taking over. As Franklin proves, words may be said that are later regretted.

It's unfortunate that even the best of people have feelings and words that can come out so ugly. Where do they come from? Ugly words often come from unresolved hurt and pain that have become toxic. Poison is deadly. We allow poison to be bottled up deep in our hearts. In verbal altercations like the Franklin's the bucket falls deep into the well of the heart and sadly what comes up is the pain and poison of past hurts that have been unresolved. We all have to guard our hearts and what we allow to take root. None of us need anything that might spring up to hurt us and others.

Let's pray for the Franklins. Most families have had moments not scripted for the national spotlight.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

I guess I will never understand what makes a Socialist-Democrat tick or what makes them think they are the all mighty, superior thinkers. Yes Dennis, the election is over but just remember one very important thing, 75 plus million "registered" American citizens voted for Pres Trump. So when you though shade at Dr. Cassel you're shading 75 million Americas. Just a small heads up, almost 65% of Westbrook voted legally for Pres. Trump.

Now lets just take a small snap shot of your man Eiden. So far he has canceled the Keystone pipeline, made it so boys who think they are girls can play girls sports, opened our Southern boarder to a massive crisis, stop construction on the boarder wall, sent troops back to the Middle East, totally lied about Pres Trumps readiness of the Covid vaccine, can't speak without a cheat sheet. How about the price of gas now that energy killing Eiden is at the helm. Wait till it hits \$4 per gallon this summer. Here is a good one, how about the 1.9 trillion covid relief bill where only 9% is for covid itself. Pelosi getting here 130 million for a tunnel and Schumer's 60 million for a bridge, the Twin Cities getting 805 million to repair the burn out. It's all about the covid right, not! Its all about Democratic-Socialist pork!! Put America deeper in dept and relying on big government. Here is a big one, 39%

purposed capital gains tax.

What about all those poor WHITE farmers that are not going to get any loan forgiveness unlike their fellow non white farmers who are getting 120% of their loans paid off. Sucks to be white in the new Socialist America. Finally, your buddies on the left with their cancel culture, axing poor "Mr Cat in the Hat". That should make you proud being's your a former English teacher. What a joke! You canceled Peter Pan, Huck Fin.

I am going to get my popcorn ready for March 25th to watch Captain Space Case give his first live press conference. I wonder who will have their finger on the live feed button when he starts to stare into the camera looking for his teleprompter. How many questions are going to be approved in advance. "Give me a break man I just got here",

48 years ago. Ever wonder why he refers to VP Harris as President Harris, crickets.

Small side bar, CNN, your favorite hate Trump news outlet, 6 weeks ago had 3.3 million viewers. As of Wed the 17th viewing has fallen off by 58%. So much for the Most Watched Trusted News. They should put more coverage on CUOMO (pervert), their ratings might rise. Oh but CNN can't do that because Cuomo is a Democrat and they don't eat their own.

Jim Schmidt

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