

IN KEVIN'S WORDS

Knowing everything



Kevin Holten

Do you know everything? Yes, I know, that's a silly question. After all, none of us can possibly know everything. And yet, we often act like we think we do.

All you need to do is look online at the comments made by people reading various articles, especially those that have to do with politics. That's when people become experts on topics they probably know little about. And apparently, they mistake opinions for facts.

I mention this because I'm about to tell you about a few things that I'm pretty sure you don't know about or even think about.

For example, as you may know, coins in America now display the slogan "In God We Trust". However, that was not always the case. Instead, the slogan on the first coins was "Mind Your Business", which was the one suggested by Benjamin Franklin.

In fact, that was the slogan on coins until the advent of the Civil War

when it was changed to "In God We Trust" because of a major increase in religious sentiment.

Here's another one for you: Do you know which fruit can bounce? It's cranberries. And why? Because cranberries contain four air pockets, allowing them to not only float in water, but bounce when dropped on a hard surface.

And did you know that there is an Unclaimed Baggage Center in Scottsboro, Ala., that is the nation's only retailer of lost luggage? That's right. You see, the store has contracts with all the major airlines and buys unclaimed bags and their contents, after there has been what they call a 90-day intensive search for the owner.

Of course, some of that luggage has some interesting things inside. For example, one had a shrunken human head from the Amazon. Another had a camera from the Space Shuttle, and another had a 40.95-carat Emerald appraised for \$25,000.

Today the 50,000 square store boasts more than one million visitors a year from all over the world, making it one of Alabama's most popular tourist attractions.

And do you know how the invention of the

tea bag took place? Like many things, it was a mistake.

You see, back in 1904, an American tea trader named Thomas Sullivan shipped tea samples to Europe in little silk pouches so they wouldn't get mixed up during the voyage. And when the recipients got them, they mistakenly dipped the bags into boiling water, and the tea bag was born.

And are you familiar with the actress by the name of Julia Roberts who, for example, starred in the movie Pretty Woman with Richard Gere? Well did you know that Martin Luther King Jr. once paid her hospital bill? Fact is, back in 1967, King and his wife Coretta covered the cost of Julia Roberts' hospital birth.

It turns out Roberts' parents couldn't afford the bill, and the Kings' gesture was a heartfelt payback. You see, Julia's parents ran a theater school in Atlanta and welcomed the King children as students when they had trouble finding a place that would accept them because they were Black.

Now, the source of all these tidbits is Reader's Digest. And if you knew these things maybe you do know everything. But I wouldn't bet the house on it.

After all, as philosopher Socrates once said, the only true wisdom is in knowing you know nothing.

Public Notice

NOTICE OF LEASING STATE SCHOOL LANDS
The Board of University and School Lands will Conduct Surface Lease Auctions in the following Counties:

- | | |
|-----------|----------|
| Benson | Divide |
| Dunn | Eddy |
| Griggs | Logan |
| McHenry | McIntosh |
| McKenzie | McLean |
| Mountrail | Oliver |
| Pierce | Rolette |
| Slope | Williams |

Auctions will be held in person at location in the County Seat. Refer to the advertisement in the official county newspaper or the public lease auctions schedule posted on the Department of Trust Lands' website for auction dates, times, locations, & list of tracts offered.

Auctioneer will read specific requirements at the auction. The information contained in this advertisement may be revised prior to the auction upon further review by the North Dakota Department of Trust Lands. The Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

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PARKER'S PERSPECTIVE

For the first time ever, Spring Break is a bummer



Gaylon Wm. Parker

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It's funny, the things we anticipate ... and it's a pity when they come up short of expectations.

Like when your favorite team gets the number-one draft pick and he turns out to be a bust or that ride you looked forward to at the theme-park wasn't quite as thrilling as advertised. That's not to say people should withdraw from all hope and anticipation – those emotions can make us much more passionate and energetic – but sometimes it's wise to temper our enthusiasm in the interest of caution.

With the Beulah Miners being the only regional team to win a state title this year – through a 49-48 win over Central Cass on March 21 – I got to thinking about all the dreams held by our LOCAL athletes, but I'm sure they're just as happy a team from the west-side of the state won the North Dakota Class A State Tournament in lieu of seeing a squad from the Fargo or Grand Forks areas raise the trophy. That said, I'm sure they all envisioned, "What might have been," if their fortunes could have turned west as well.

So, after all that was said and done, area

schools got a chance to go on "Spring Break," and it made me reflect on the fun we had in Florida during that timeframe. When you get to be my age, there's a lot to ruminate over or look-back-on-and-smile, but THEN I learned that "Spring Break" was only two-days-long.

Ugh ... I mighta felt worse for the students than I did over those postseason losses. Spring break was a week-long thrill-ride in the Sunshine State, during which time I mostly just slept at home for a few hours when I was an upper-classman during the brief spells I wasn't sitting on the beach or in a boat. We went everywhere we could and packed as much fun into those nine days, I will tell you that.

But two-days and a weekend? That was just unfair ... like being brought an appetizer in a restaurant and the waiter telling you they ran outta the lobster that should have been with your entrée. I was told that we had too-many snow-days this winter, therefore the break was cut short, but that excuse didn't make me feel any less sympathetic.

Meanwhile, if there is any one thing I bang on about in these columns it's that we must roll with the punches and accept circumstances. "Change is the only constant in life," they say, so perhaps that alleviates the disappointment, but it stings just a little, no? It only happened to us once (a break being cut short over Christmas one year, as I recall, because we had too-many "hurricane days" the previous season), so I guess I understand the dilemma. Sure, there's a little

tradeoff in the snow-day element, because at least you can go outside and play ... and trust-me: You ain't playing outside during a storm. Hurricanes are long spells of boredom in-between a ton of work before and after they blow through your town. I been through plenty of them, including Hurricane Katrina, and after they're gone you don't get a moment's rest.

Naw, I still felt bad for these young people to have a truncated "Spring Break," but I wouldn't even know what a snow-day was like had I never left Florida. One commonality to both circumstances, though, is how easily people recover after these sorts of letdowns. The kids were back in school on Monday after a couple-few days off and life returned to normal.

Yes, the weather got a little cold in the meantime, but that's just the death-throes of the winter season in action, so now the student-athletes can get ready for spring and summer sports like baseball, softball, track & field and golf. Not as exciting as basketball – nor as fast-paced – but perfect for the time-frame-in-question with their leisurely pace and individual disciplines.

I guess, even-more, everybody's on the glidepath to ACTUAL Summer Break (and there's NOTHING like a North Dakota summer), so all is not lost. We just keep-on-keeping-on, and hope the future is everything we expected. At least here in The 701, I don't have anymore "hurricane days" in my future ... that's all in the past, and I'm not disappointed one tiny bit.



photo | Gaylon Wm. Parker

Massive storm surge from Hurricane Katrina moves toward the Gulf Coast in 2005.

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