

Daily NEWS 7-30-09

...to say how people read the entire poll before digesting the health care headline. The result is a flawed perception of what the American public really wants. The folks may indeed support Uncle Sam paying some heavy medical bills, but this poll is not a reflection of anything other than a New York Times deception.

By the way, CBS News also had its name on that poll.

As a media guy who wants accurate information, that kind of stuff tees me off. As soon as the pollsters learned that most of the respondents were Obama people, they should have thrown out the results. But the Times ardently favors national health care and a huge federal government. So the con played out.

The most frustrating part about this is that nothing can be done. The Times has an ombudsman, but he's a joke, and no outside agency has any power over the paper. It can pretty much do what it wants, and does.

It is true that the Times and some other media outlets, most committed left, are on the brink of bankruptcy. The liberal papers say the Internet is to blame, and that's partly true.

But the folks are beginning to understand that the informational fix is in. What good is "all the news that's fit to print" if the news is bogus?

The Times might want to poll that question.

(Bill O'Reilly is an author and Fox News commentator. His syndicated column runs Tuesdays in the Daily News.)

technologies and dirty fuel.

The ACES bill would establish a hard cap on global warming pollution that would reduce U.S. emissions by 17 percent below 2005 levels by 2020, by 42 percent by 2030, and by 83 percent by 2050.

Charles McCall
West Bend

Let kids grow up

As the West Bend library dispute drags on and attention grows, the children Ginny Maziarka and other misguided naysayers mean to protect have gotten lost, and are probably being harmed in the process, but not for the reasons presented by either side thus far.

I freely add that I'm gay, which has proven inconsequential on nearly all accounts, but which plants me firmly on an obvious side of this issue, even if I've come to love a comfortable distance from a hometown that is clearly not very accommodating to people like me. When I think about the issues over moving, banning, burning or contradicting books with gay themes, I'm put in mind of my own troubled adolescent years as a gay teen in West Bend.

This is nothing short of a wretched town for a gay kid to grow up in; it is wildly conservative with a general mentality stuck somewhere in decades past. I overheard gay jokes and slurs throughout my years at West Bend East, even from teachers occasionally. And for a troupe of hopelessly ill-informed parents to suggest that gayness can somehow be corrected by some books or by moving others is downright dangerous to kids like me who are probably more terrified than ever to come out or merely come to terms with their own sexuality.

I read many of the books originally under question at the library, and some of them are quite good. They helped me feel comfortable with myself and to see that there were a few stories out there I could relate to, even in West Bend. If you want to protect the kids, let them grow up being comfortable with themselves and knowing that whoever they are their hometown isn't going to turn against them or their lifestyle.

Matthew Straub
Madison

Let's look at health care costs

It is that time of year again where all the talk is bud-

Section 19.31, Wisconsin Statutes

"In recognition of the fact that a representative government of the American type is dependent upon an informed electorate, it is declared to be the public policy of this state that all persons are entitled to the greatest possible information regarding the affairs of government and the official acts of those officers and employees who represent them.

"Further, providing persons with such information is declared to be an essential function of representative government and an integral part of the routine duties of officers and employees whose responsibility it is to provide such information."

The Daily News is proud to support this policy.

HOTLINE

Contact your state legislators in Madison using the toll-free Wisconsin Legislative Hotline: 1-800-362-WISC.

TOWRITE

The Daily News welcomes letters to the editor. We require that letters be no more than 300 words in length, legibly written or typed, that the author sign the letter and that a telephone number and address be included where the author can be reached. Only letters including the name of the writer will be published. Letter writers are limited to one letter per month. We reserve the right to edit for length, libel and content in poor taste. Letters should be mailed to 100 S. Sixth Ave., West Bend 53095, faxed to 262-338-1984 or e-mailed to dailynewseditorial@conley.net.

Today's Inspiration

He who guards his mouth and his tongue keeps himself from calamity.

- Proverbs 21:23

The state budget decreases state funding for some school districts and municipalities. Granted, in many cases, the "decreases" are merely a decrease in the amount that they expected to get and not a true decrease, but we can expect local governments and school districts to jack up taxes under this excuse.

The budget also does a number of things that will guarantee tax increases at the local level. For example, as a nod to the teachers' unions, it eliminates the Qualified Economic Offer. The QEO is essentially a guaranteed 3.8 percent overall compensation increase for teachers, but it forbids a union strike if the offer is at least a 3.8 percent increase. By eliminating it, we can expect larger compensation increases with the nod from pliant arbitrators for teachers in years to come. This is one example of many in this budget that will screw Wisconsin's taxpayers for years to come.

Once Gov. Doyle signs the budget (I have little hope that he will substantially improve it), we must all immediately look to our local officials to hold the line of spending and taxes. Times are tough for everyone and the state is going to make it tougher on the citizens. Any local official worth a warm bucket of spit will recognize the situation and champion fiscal restraint.

Wisconsinites are getting slapped every time the turn around by job losses, tax increases, pay freezes, cost increases and everything else under the sun. If local officials can't reflect their neighbors' pain in their votes, then they need to move aside.

(Owen B. Robinson, a West Bend resident, is a blogger who publishes at www.bootsandsabers.com. His column runs Tuesdays in the Daily News.)