

The world is going crazy

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The world is going crazy and I can prove it. Things are going every which way at once. To illustrate this phenomenon, I offer the following (in an oddly appropriate mish-mash manner).

A hot topic in political circles is the concept of asking millionaires to pay more taxes. Here's a test for you. Which President of the United States said this: "We're going to close the unproductive tax loopholes that allow some of the truly wealthy to avoid paying their fair share. In theory, some of those loopholes were understandable, but in practice they sometimes made it possible for millionaires to pay nothing, while a bus driver was paying 10 percent of his salary, and that's crazy. Do you think the millionaire ought to pay more in taxes than the bus driver or less?"

If you guessed the liberal Barack Obama you would be wrong. If you guessed Ronald Reagan, the patron saint of conservatives, you would be right. If you want video proof of this odd couple saying the exact same thing go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cgbJ-FsliKA>.

Millionaires who will not have to worry about paying more taxes are NFL football players. This is because, as reported by Sports Illustrated, "by the time they have been retired for two years, 78 percent of former NFL players have gone bankrupt or are under financial stress..."

What this means is that as you watch the Detroit Lions

on Monday Night Football in a couple of days eight of the 11 Lions' starters will be dead broke in just a few years. Their tax worries will be over.

Of course, they may have fared better if they had paid attention in school. That is, of course, unless they were in the Detroit school district. Apparently, parents in that district see no need for their children to attend classes. On the first day of this school year only 55 percent of the district's students showed up for class.

Governor Snyder's answer to this was to hire former Kansas City superintendent John Covington, to the tune of \$1.5 million and a \$175,000 signing bonus, to lead Detroit out of the wilderness. Good luck with that. Four days after Detroit's opening day non-attendance, the state of Missouri revoked the accreditation for Kansas City's schools for failure to meet performance standards.

Oh well, I guess if education fails, some of these kids could attempt to turn their lives around by joining the military. The only glitch is that, according to the Pentagon, there are around 20,000 troops that are currently being paid but who are physically or mentally unfit for duty. It takes on average



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about 400 days to process a soldier out of the service, Pentagon officials told USA Today, and until that backlog of 20,000 is gone the Army cannot replace them. Some snafu, eh?

OK, so those are some big things that are crazy, but what about small things that, when piled one on top of another, just add to the craziness?

Crayola has just come out with an

iPad app that your child can use to color pictures electronically. Obviously, first you need a \$700 iPad. Then you buy the app for \$29.99. Under this plan, then, it will only cost you \$730 for your child to color pictures. Or, and I may risk ridicule for being an old fogey, you could buy the big box of actual Crayola crayons (64 colors with a built in sharpener) for \$4.99 and a paper coloring book for \$1. I might also note that it's really difficult to display your child's artwork by hanging your iPad on the refrigerator.

If you do go to store to buy actual crayons, you may want to avoid New York. Starting last Wednesday a new policy by the Department of Motor Vehicles went into effect. New drivers no longer have to prove they can see in order to obtain a license. According to Re-

uters News, all applicants will have to do is "swear they can see." Vision tests will no longer be required.

Don't worry, if you get mowed down by a driver who can't see there's a company in Alabama that knows what to do with your ashes — blast them to kingdom come. Have your next of kin send your ashes to Holy Smoke (www.myholysmoke.com) and the folks there will load the ashes into shotgun shells. Then your loved ones can fire away in your honor.

Ah, but not all is lost. Amidst all the gloom of this craziness occasionally a sliver of sunshine sometimes makes it to earth. In a column back on Aug. 27 I told you about a political organization that was trying to change the way we elect our presidents. I told you that the goal of Americans Elect (americansselect.org) was the nomination a non-partisan ticket selected via an Internet convention. Further, their plan was to get this ticket on the ballot in every state. This whole scenario is so radically different than how things have been done in the past many people scoffed and called it a pipe dream. Well, I'm happy to report that Americans Elect has been formally certified to appear on the Michigan ballot for the 2012 presidential election. Sometimes craziness has an antidote.

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