

ABOUT Thomas Friedman : https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Friedman

<https://digital-collections.columbuslibrary.org/digital/collection/p16802coll7/id/4442/>

ABOUT Howard Hop-along-Cassady
: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Howard_Cassady

RE: NYTimes **Title:**

“Who Can Win America’s Politics of Humiliation? - Trump or Biden?”

SOURCE: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/08/opinion/biden-trump-humiliation.html>

“...The Times is committed to publishing a diversity of letters to the editor. We’d like to hear what you think about this or any of our articles. Here are some tips. And here’s our

email: letters@nytimes.com ...” * :: For readers of The International New York Times: nyletters@nytimes.com::Editorial Page Editor: editorial@nytimes.com::Book Review: books@nytimes.com::Magazine: magazine@nytimes.com ::Metro: metro@nytimes.com ::Sports: sports@nytimes.com ::Travel: travelmail@nytimes.com

SENT to New York Times Editors: **DATE: 9-18-2020**

Dear Mr. Friedman - and your New York Times Audience, Thank You for your opinion stated in your recent writing: **“Who Can Win America’s Politics of Humiliation? - Trump or Biden?”**

I offer a reply and refinement of your advice - to candidates Biden and Harris. I am a retired professional writer.*

And because, I was born and grew up - in Central **Ohio** AND Green Bay **Wisconsin** - Mr. Biden AND Ms. Harris may want to also consider my thoughts. My idea should be titled:

"The Politics Of Success and Practicality"

In fact, Thomas [Mr. Friedman], we grew up in the same time period - however the places were different.

(I read your Wikipedia page – cited above.)

You were born in 1953. I was born - ten months later - in 1954.

I am the daughter of a small business owner [a Scotch/Irish carpenter] - from Columbus, Ohio [Milo G. Cassady, Sr.] My father's brother [Pearl Cassady] was the father of a Heisman Football Trophy winner (1955) - Howard 'hop-along'-Cassady.

Born in 1902, My father died on October 31, 1964 - from a disease - that was in the process of identification - at that time.

[Mesothelioma] * *

Because he "hung wall paper", painted, rebuilt and customized - on "remodeled surfaces" - his work involved considerable exposure to asbestos particles - on a daily basis. My father performed the work - and, hired other men - as needed. My maternal uncle was a "plumber". And, another uncle was an "electrician".

Thomas, both of us attended elementary through high school during the "Cold War". You are **Jewish**. I attended - and was baptized in a "**Church Of Christ**" congregation. As you may know, after Christians are baptized - we can get into heaven - so long as we observe the Ten Commandments thereafter - which,

you are (also) familiar with these "commandments" – but, from the Jewish perspective.

During the USA Cold War period - Public School Aptitude testing [processes] - I was identified (at a young age) as having an "ability" - of sorts. The report (of this “ability”) agitated my mother. My older sister had been encouraged to advance two grades - related to her testing results - and, this "experiment" was a disaster.

So, after this testing report - and perhaps, because of the "Women's Liberation Movement" (also) - I was often selected to participate - in activities - with "smart boys". These same boys often pretended to "like" me - because of who my cousin was. In fact, I only met my cousin one time. You may know - Howard remained famous - and admired - his entire life. He died in 2019.

The forgoing events and facts resulted - in my participation - on a "Field Trip" - to Columbus, Ohio's Defense Supply Center offices [DSCC] - circa 1970 - where a “computer” was dis-assembled into boxes - in a large room.

We gazed upon the boxed dis-assembly - from a doorway.

Somehow, our leader was permitted to take a box [that contained a portion of the processing "core"] back to our classroom - at Columbus, Ohio's - Central High School. Our mathematics teacher, Mr. Leaf, task us to "write code" [letters and symbols] that would make the computer pieces accept the symbol input and display a correct answer - on a "display

device". Although, a girl - I recall [that] I understood - and succeeded - as a part of the "mostly boys" - team.

Unbeknownst to the boys -- my success, in part - was related to the fact [that] I had been my father's "adding machine" - before - he became very sick - and died - in 1964.

There were seven children - in my immediate family. Thus, being selected - to perform the duty of adding and subtracting the numbers - he wrote down on a yellow legal pad - related to "costing" and "quoting" - each "job" considered - was an honor - I cherished.

My father even placed me onto a tavern's "bar stool" - one time - and announced - to his beer drinking friends [that] I was his "straight A student".

So Thomas, when I saw the television commercials - that YOU - no doubt - also saw :

"To get a good job - Get a good education" - the words landed on me - with special significance – [that is] through a filter - of being “selected” - from my numerous brothers and sisters - who also wanted my father's cheery attention.

Specifically, (I knew) my father chose me - because, I could do something - [that] he needed done. I was a reliable "adder" and "subtractor" - AND, a “check” - on his calculations. I could sit still and be quiet - AND, I was pleasant. I was often simultaneously task - to watch my younger brother and sister. Which, adding and subtracting columns of numbers – while being distracted – by younger siblings – also, teaches one diligence and concentration.

In 1971, when, I informed my mother [that] I “wanted to go to college” - although, I was already a part-time clerk at a Union grocery store - in Columbus, Ohio - She replied: "Honey - only rich people go to college. Our people do not go to college." And, when Columbus, Ohio’s “Central High School” informed my mother [that] I was selected to receive a scholarship - to a Michigan State college, my mother firmly told me: "We have to refuse!"

She explained, the 'scholarship' - only covered the cost of the classes. My practical mother pointed out [that] I would need a place to stay - clothes to wear - and, food to eat. "Which, we do not have any money for this. ... "

Moreover - she explained: "Susie, I cannot give you things [that] I did not 'do' for the others. They will hate you - and me." Born in 1916, my mother (one of thirteen children) had been “raised” in the Franklin County [Ohio] Children’s Home.

We refused the scholarship. I was married - and pregnant - when I was 18 (in 1972).

But, in 1978, when I divorced - my first husband – who was ten years older than me. He had - an MBA degree from Ohio State University - I got a second chance.

Residing in Green Bay, Wisconsin - at the time - related to his current employment - the **University of Wisconsin** - Green Bay Campus [UWGB] accepted me [at the urging of a local Community College Professor] and, awarded me a "financial aid" package - with a "Work-Study" award. I was

employed - as a waitress - in the Green Bay area - at the time – ONLY because, no "Union" "clerking" jobs were available.

My child's father pleaded with me - during the divorce legal proceedings - to "*give him custody*". As a practical matter - I did. Which (this) - in 1978 - was very unusual. In fact, the women - that I "waitressed" with - scorned me – immediately.

I also recall - in a conversation - after our divorce papers were "final" - the child's father (then, my Ex-husband) spit at me - and, said: "*You b**** - YOU 'gave up' your child - so, [that] YOU could be with a man!*" Surprised by his uncomplimentary and **new** attitude - I hung up - but, not before threatening him - [that] - "... if he ever came to harm me - I would let my boyfriend loose - to kick his ass. ..." [- for Joe Biden]

In fact, Thomas I "gave up" physical custody of my female child - so [that] I could get a "Good Education" - so, [that] I could be more than a "waitress" - so that ...

And, in 1978 - this meant taking college classes related to Engineering , Math and Science. The STEM acronym did not exist yet.

Which, these classes - to perform well in - were very time consuming and very difficult - for me. Wisconsin was [and is] the "Dairy State" - and, many of my class-mates - had come from dairy farms - and, private Catholic Schools. Some of my classmates were Native Americans. I got to meet a Green Bay Packer football player [Mr. Clarence Williams and his wife Icy] - in the Sears department store one day - but, there very few black people in Green Bay. The IBM and Digital Equipment

Corporations - had built a new computer facility - at the UWGB campus - and, I was a perfect fit - for the related and computer intensive classes. This “fit” (apparently) was related to my "ability" - previously discovered - in the Public School testing program.

However, a young woman - with a small child - was not permitted in the quiet "computer code -entry console room" - stationed just beside the IBM/DEC main-frame “computer systems housing area” - with a raised floor - under which numerous cables ran.

In fact, Thomas - I not only heard the enthusiastic promotions - related to a "good education" **equals** "good job" - **I believed** the "struggle" to obtain a college degree - related to science and computers - was "worth it".

I avoided “easy business classes” – which, my Ex-husband had taken – at OSU. And, despite my Ex-husband’s expressed opinion (above) – **THIS** is 'WHY' I gave "physical custody" - of my five-year-old female child (to her biological father).

In fact, a Judge, had previously ordered [that] my child's father was required to pay me "child support" But I knew [that] it was not enough - to live day-to-day AND pay the required "baby-sitter" - while I attended classes AND did my class assignments.

Added to [the fact] that - his mother - a retired Crooksville Pottery worker - offered to help him - with the urgent need - of a babysitter – giving him physical custody – **was practical.**

And - whereas - some aspects - of the required college classwork - were VERY difficult (for me) - It was quickly confirmed [that] I excelled at making mainframe computers 'do' what I wanted them to do.

That is - calculating, printing reports, designing algorithms - was - compared to my peers - relatively easy (for me). My mind just worked in the required way. In fact, I earned my college work-study award - by "programming" the UWGB computers - for my Professors ("crunching" their experimentally collected data - for the National Science Foundation)- AND, assisting other students - to understand data processing techniques. I finished automating the school's remote weather station - by, attaching scientific probes - for temperature, air pressure, etc. to a "data logging instrument" - which (then) "dropped" the data (via tapes) to the school's main-frame computers. A (male) student had begun the project - won the NSF Grant - and, then left. My results satisfied Wisconsin Senator Proxmire - and, the school was NOT cited - for his "Golden Fleece" award - or, required to return the NSF funds.

Through this, I learned [that] - WHAT we (Thomas) - YOU and I - had been indoctrinated in:

"To get a good job - get a Good Education" - was ONLY partially correct.

I learned [that] to be really good - at doing something - you must ENJOY doing it. Specifically, I could "think like a computer" and "design" algorithms - but I learned [that] what I really enjoyed "doing" - was describing HOW something worked. In fact, this is very different - than making an algorithm. Good

Software Technical Writers describe HOW the software works and WHAT it is suited for. They appreciate limits and variables.

In fact, I had witnessed - my first husband - who possessed an MBA Degree - from Ohio State University - **compete** with many other candidates - for "jobs" - and often fail - to get the job offer. I witnessed - during the time of our short marriage (1972-1978)- his "high quality" MBA Degree - did NOT result in a job - that, he cared for. He complained - and, was dissatisfied often - with the jobs he did obtain. He "settled", was anxious (as you say) - and, he was angry. Perhaps he was "humiliated" too - as YOU and your friend point out. He found solace with his peers. I wrote about the Jerry Falwell "Moral Majority" phenomenon (in a UWGB paper - 1981). Based on this, I see similarities in the "White Supremacy" movement - we are experiencing today: the anger and the frustration.

Moreover, despite his formal education, my Ex-husband was (also) ignorant - of fundamental truths; that I, although ten years younger - knew. You see, I was fortunate - to "grow up" with black people - in inner city Columbus, Ohio. Integration (in some circumstances) was encouraged - and, some of us even got to be friends. James M. and Debbie D. (both black) - were the smartest people in my class. My angry, little, white, Ex-husband - from Crooksville, Ohio - had never been around black people - until, he came to Columbus - to attend school (at OSU). He literally feared black people - based, only - on his ignorance - of them. And, he presumed his fancy "MBA" - along with his white skin - was a "ticket" - of sorts - to success.

However, the job market did NOT need what he offered - and,

the “competition” - just created frustration in him. **Thus, opposed to what you hypothesize - he had a college degree;** Yet, he was “angry” – related to his perceived reasons – and rationalizations – of why others were succeeding – over him. He was unhappy – because of bad choices – [that] he had made.

And consider, I experienced, [that] even though my B.S. degree - from UWGB - was titled "BS Environmental Sciences AND Communications" - I was selected – at my graduation in 1982 - to work for the NCR Corporation - because of the practical knowledge [that] I had gained - in programming computers;

AND, I had created a document [that] explained - HOW - THE SYSTEM [that] I had invented - for the "Automated Weather Station" worked. The NCR [Cambridge, Ohio E&M site] **needed** humans - who could explain HOW the "ETS-B Retail Systems platform" - NCR had created - worked. HOW it could be manipulated (by independent programmers) and customized - for each unique retail environment.

BOTTOM LINE: What I knew HOW to do was "needed" - by the NCR Corporation. They did not care **what** my 4-year Bachelor of Science degree title said. The decision to offer me a job - was based on the "End User Manual - for the Automated Weather Station" - that, I enthusiastically displayed – at my interview. In fact, NCR offered me (to start) **more** annual salary - than I had calculated - I would need to survive. AND, I liked my job!

NCR expected me to put in 40 hours per week; however, because I was slow – and, did not care to hurry in my work - I

put in much more "clock time" - than, they required – to meet “deadlines”. And, I did it without requesting additional pay.

Days turned into weeks - then months. I fell in love with the NCR Systems Maintenance - Technical Illustrator. We married in 1983 – and, have been together since. AND Thomas, I have seen - what I experienced - soon after graduating from UWGB - repeated over and over again - in four decades.

America's Employers need "humans" - who can do the job.

Thus, Americans should learn WHAT is needed and required - AND educate themselves - accordingly - to perform the tasks - they enjoy. Attending a four-year college (with well-equipped laboratories and computers)- enabled me to experience and become informed - in areas [that] I had no knowledge of - but became acquainted with. Required “electives” broadened me further. **For example**, I was able to investigate “DNA-hybridization techniques” - using *Drosophila* - and, liquid nitrogen - in-situ. UWGB Professors watched me - every step of the way. They answered my questions. AND, I wrote a research report. It described WHAT I had done - AND, why I had done it. I used this knowledge – in my “Woman-Owned” business: Hans & Cassady, Inc. – and, we helped to make textbooks – for American College Scientific Disciplines: Chemistry, Genetics, Physics, etc.

As a business owner [1987- 1996] - who hired people (when needed) - I know [that] America's employers WILL choose "Americans FIRST" - because - as a **practical** (and legal) matter - this makes sense.

However, if Americas high technology employers NEED Electrical Engineers - who know microprocessor Signal Integrity constraints - to design simulation systems - THEY must be enabled to bring these people to America (as needed) - without concerns - these "New Americans" will be harassed, manipulated - or persecuted. And, American Universities - should be encouraged to teach the skills [that] will be needed tomorrow - using teaching techniques - from all over the earth.

Surely, if Americans can be encouraged (and coached) to leap in the air - to catch a football - while simultaneously endangering themselves - [Then] Americans can be taught to solve quadratic equations – in *Euclidean Space*, create algorithms AND participate in civil discussions - about climate change, new integration efforts - AND systemic racism.

Thomas, let's encourage Joe Biden and Kamala Harris to tell Americans:

**LEARN WHAT THE AMERICAN JOB MARKET NEEDS
- AND, BE IT.**

From an American - with a BS degree in Environmental Science - who never worked for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

I am, Susan Marie Neuhart (nee Cassady)

REFERENCES:

***... NEW YORK TIMES EDITORS! – YOU ARE NOT AT LIBERTY TO SHORTEN MY SUBMISSION. YOU MAY OFFER YOUR SUGGESTIONS – FOR EDITS – UTILIZING MY PERSONAL EMAIL: SusanCN@hansANDcassady.ORG**

- I do NOT use a telephone – and, (as a carpenter’s daughter) I prefer to place my communications and any agreements – EXCLUSIVELY in writing.

* * In fact, a researcher wanted my father’s body (Corpus delicti) for “on-going” research – however, my mother (in her grief) refused. She railed at the “requestor”- in her fury.

[END]