

## Denial, the Last Frontier

As a kid growing up, I believed Alaska was the last frontier. Either through some cereal box or other contest I was given a deed for one square foot of Alaska. I felt like I had been given a piece of heaven. In 1969 the last frontier (space) was conquered with our landing on the moon. Years later the vastness of our oceans became the final last frontier.

Recently, I have come to another undiscovered frontier. This frontier is attacking the very fabric of our civilization and if it is not properly handled, I see the end to everything that is good and proper.

The frontier, the enemy knocking at our back door is DENIAL. Denial is defined as ignoring reality, or any particular statement or allegation not seen as being true. Harmful denial is closing our eyes to what is true, what is true to reality, the experts and common sense.

Examples of truthful denials are running rampant in our world and especially in our country today.

The Holocaust

Global warming

Hatred running rampant in our country for Asians and Blacks

Unhealthy weight gain among our youth

Pesticide run off ruining our water supply

Materialism, militarism, and consumerism

Watching our local newscasters today we try to giggle our way through pain. Denying our crime problem, our drinking problem,

our drug problem, our fears of death, our denial of election results, our mistrust for the educated and denying common sense will just set us all adrift.

We all are challenged to be more authentic, more open, more honest with ourselves. Overcoming our denials will take a lot of work, a lot of self- perspective, a lot of reading, a lot of meditating or praying and a willingness to let go of our self-destructive prejudices.

I will turn 83 this month. My Bjork-Shiley aorta heart valve has long extended its life by twenty some years , and death is sooner than later. Because of my faith I do not fear death, nor should anyone else however I fear if our persistent denials about our past and our present continues our waters will no longer sustain life, our air will be useless and if gone unchecked civil war will come with a vengeance to our country.

Denial is our last frontier and may we all have the courage, the wisdom, and the faith to conquer our misguided thinking.

Peace to all,

Dennis Siebert