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Inside Track

Government Seizes “Trans” Child in Montana



(Thomas Northcut/Getty Images Plus)

On January 29, feminist website Reduuxx related the story of Krista and Todd Kolstad in Glasgow, Montana, whose mentally ill daughter, “Jennifer” (not her real name) — who claimed she was “non-binary” and wanted to be called “Leo” — was taken from them by the state as they would not allow her to “transition.”

The trouble began in August 2023, when the 14-year-old girl mentioned suicide in school, and was then taken to the hospital after falsely telling Montana Child and Family Services (CFS) social workers on a home visit that she had tried to commit suicide. While in the hospital, Jennifer told doctors about her “transition.” Almost immediately, hospital personnel began encouraging “gender affirming” care, and refused to honor the parents’ disciplinary beliefs, such as restricting junk food and phone and television time.

Although the Kolstads agreed to place Jennifer in a mental hospital, the authorities wanted to send her to a facility in Wyoming. “On August 22, Krista and Todd were told that Jennifer was next in line for a bed in Billings, Montana. But hours later that same day, [they] were called and informed Jennifer would be moved to Wyoming,” noted Reduuxx. Worried that Wyoming would permit Jennifer to undergo surgical mutilation without their consent, the Kolstads told authorities they needed answers to some questions before agreeing. A few minutes later, though, CFS and police showed up at the Kolstad residence to remove Jennifer. She was taken to Wyoming the next day.

Although Jennifer was returned to Montana in September, she was placed in a group home. Then, on January 19, CFS seized legal custody for six months. “We were told that letting Jennifer transition and live as a boy was in her ‘therapeutic best interest’ and because we aren’t willing to follow that recommendation, the court gave CFS custody of Jennifer for six months.... CFS is now going to place Jennifer in the care of her birth mother in Canada, who has never really been [part] of her life,” Krista told Reduuxx.

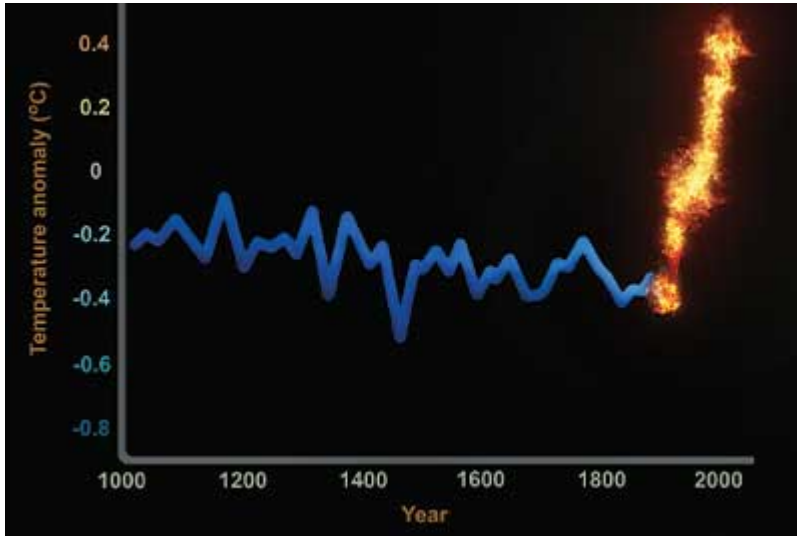
— *R. Cort Kirkwood*



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Michael Mann Wins “Hockey Stick” Defamation Case



(RapidEye/Getty Images Plus)

A jury awarded \$1 million to controversial climate scientist Michael Mann, according to a February 9 Associated Press article. Twelve years ago, Mann sued two conservative writers for drawing parallels between Pennsylvania State University’s investigation into Mann’s involvement in the 2009 Climategate scandal and the school’s investigation of a convicted child molester.

In 1998, while a Penn State professor, Mann published the now-infamous “hockey stick” graph depicting skyrocketing global temperatures beginning in the mid-20th century. It was used by the UN to set environmental policies around the world, and was featured in Al Gore’s oft-debunked 2006 movie *An Inconvenient Truth*. However, the graph was harshly criticized by Mann’s scientific contemporaries, and Mann refused to publish his original data for peer review.

In response to the Climategate scandal, Penn State investigated Mann’s work, and exonerated him. However, in 2012, aerospace engineer Rand Simberg published a column claiming the university engaged in a coverup to protect Mann from scrutiny regarding the graph. He compared the school’s investigation to its coverup of the scandal regarding Jerry Sandusky, a football coach who was convicted of sexually abusing young boys. The FBI discovered that the university had concealed Sandusky’s crimes.

Political commentator Mark Steyn reprinted Simberg’s column. Mann sued both journalists, accusing them of libel and the “intentional infliction of emotional distress,” and claiming their actions had affected his career and reputation.

Although the jury determined that Mann was not harmed, they awarded him \$1 million in punitive damages. Attorney John Hinderaker, president of the think tank Center of the American Experiment, explained that Mann’s attorney admitted the political motivation in the case. “He said that the jury should award punitive damages so that in the future, no one will dare engage in ‘climate denialism,’” Hinderaker wrote.

In other words, the award is not just to punish the defendants, but to warn anyone else who might ever again dare to challenge the global-warming narrative.

Both Simberg and Steyn have said they will appeal.



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— *Rebecca Terrell*

Michigan Officials Call for Registry of Homeschooled Children



(LSOphoto/Getty Images Plus)

Michigan officials are calling upon state lawmakers to enact a mandatory state registry of all homeschooled children in Michigan.

The Mackinac Center for Public Policy reported on January 26 that Michigan state officials — including Attorney General Dana Nessel, the state House and Senate Education Committee chairs, the State Board of Education, and State Superintendent Michael Rice — have criticized homeschooling and called for stricter government regulation and oversight over homeschooled students and their parents.

The motivation for these attacks was the arrest in December of two couples in Clinton County for “allegedly abusing and financially profiting from foster and adopted children.” Because the families homeschooled the children, officials are broadly attacking all homeschooling and parents seeking alternatives to government schools. Attorney General Nessel alleged that homeschooling had contributed to the couples’ actions. State Representative Matt Koleszar (D-Plymouth), chair of the House Education Committee, decried Michigan’s homeschooling laws and claimed that “abusive parents are taking advantage of [the absence of a homeschool registry] to avoid being found out.”

In January, Superintendent Rice sent a letter to state legislators asking them to enact legislation requiring parents to register their homeschooled children with the government, something parents currently are not required to do. “Having a record of all children enrolled in [homeschools] would provide an understanding of the children not currently enrolled in any learning environment,” Rice wrote.

A mandatory homeschool registry would be a major step toward government intrusion into the homes and daily lives of families, and would enable government to later impose additional restrictions on families who homeschool.

Government schools today are failing to truly educate children, and, as a result, record numbers of parents are pulling their children out and pursuing homeschooling and private schools that uphold American values. Marxist-influenced individuals and groups are seeking to eliminate homeschooling and force parents to send their children to government schools, where they can be easily indoctrinated with



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Marxist ideology. The Michigan Legislature would be wise to avoid meddling in the homeschooling trend, and to instead get government out of education altogether.

— *Peter Rykowski*

Sports Blog Deadspin Sued for Defamation



(fabioderby/Getty Images Plus)

The *New York Post* reported on February 7 that the family of an American Indian boy falsely accused by a sportswriter of wearing “blackface” and learning “hate in the home” has sued the writer and his publication.

In their suit, Raul and Shannon Armenta allege that Carron Phillips, a writer at the sports blog Deadspin, defamed both nine-year-old Holden Armenta (H.A.) and his family.

Holden had worn a traditional Indian war bonnet and painted his face red and black at a Kansas City Chiefs game on November 26, 2023, and was televised by CBS for a few seconds. The following day, Phillips wrote a piece at Deadspin titled “The NFL needs to speak out against the Kansas City Chiefs fan in Black face, Native headdress.” The suit alleges that the article “asserted that H.A. was ‘in Black face’; that he was ‘doubling up on the racism’; and that [he had] found a way to hate Black people and the Native Americans at the same time.”

According to the lawsuit, “The Article ... claimed that H.A.’s conduct of wearing blackface and a Native American headdress, and the NFL’s failure to ‘speak out against it,’ indicated that the league was failing ‘to stop racism and hate from being taught in the home’ — a clear accusation that Raul and Shannon taught H.A. to hate Black and Native American people out of a racist animus. The Article also implied that H.A.’s innocent costume was even worse than America’s racist past.”

Deadspin subsequently published three “updates,” which, the lawsuit states, constituted “a backhanded and revisionist non-apology that left [the original article’s] core allegations unchanged.” When the Armentas demanded a retraction — Holden wasn’t wearing blackface (red and black are the Chiefs’ colors), his parents did not teach him “racism,” and the Indian boy does not hate his own people — Deadspin threatened them with “‘the possibility of paying our legal fees’ should they elect to file a legal claim to vindicate their and their son’s rights.”



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The Armentas' lawsuit, filed February 6, seeks unspecified damages to be determined at trial.

— *R. Cort Kirkwood*



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