

# ...Angry...

A Growing Trend Globally

by Kat Rowoldt

There's no question. People are getting angry.

## EXAMPLE ONE:

As I am writing this, the anger is spilling over in Charlottesville, VA. A posting on Facebook by a gentleman who lives in another state, was showing two photos side-by-side. One was a lone black woman standing with a line of police officers confronting her, though she appears to be not presenting a threat.



I'm guessing the second photo was from an event in Charlottesville the night before. This crowd of white people did not show any police force in it. Today's reality is very different than the calm gathering that night. The comment on Facebook was "a line of cops to one woman of color and NO cops to a slew of white supremacists in 2017. Praying for our country. Hate is wicked." My Facebook connection had shared it and wrote, "Double standard much?"

The lone comment below the post said, "so sad." Replied with, "it really is, Auntie."

The first photo looks photo shopped to me because the four officers standing in front of the lone black woman are in a very unnatural stance based on her posture, plus she is not dressed like a protestor, but in a nice outfit. [\*\* I have an update on information on this photo. Please see comment at the end of this article.] The second photo, appears to be a group of white people around possibly a confederate soldier statue, holding torches for light, but no violence in the photo.

I don't know anything further about the photos or what they truly are. What I do know, is that the posting presented like it was, is leading the viewer to perceive that a real injustice is happening between the races. This is how FAKE NEWS is created and circulated.

I commented and said something along the lines of, “if you are referring to Charlottesville, VA today, the TV footage I have been watching has shown lots of police trying to regain control against the white nationalists. There is now one dead and nineteen injured. Our country needs lots of prayer and a new heart.” I said that it is “something along the lines of,” because when I went back to it, to look at things again, my comment had been deleted. Why? To what end? To silence another viewpoint or perspective? I had shot a quick picture of my TV screen to show the police fighting the white people who were being so violent. I was considering sharing that photo with him.

The person who posted the photos is a man of color who serves in the ministry. I am a white woman. I hate to think I was deleted because of my color or even what I had said. Stirring the hate pot is wrong, regardless of what color you may be.

Our country's past is filled with lots of wrongs, things that did divide the races, and even challenged the very fabric of our country, but we must remember that 620,000 men, mostly white, died in the Civil War to decide the question of slavery. As a result, slavery was abolished. The generations today cannot be held accountable for what happened over a hundred-fifty years ago. There are black people in America today who never had slavery in their heritage, and there are white folks who never even moved to America until the 1900's. I'm married to a second-generation American. His family didn't arrive until the 1930's.

Today we must work to come together as one and build the society that we want our children and grandchildren to enjoy. Until we can accept the fact that we cannot change our past, we can only change our future, we will never be able to successfully move ahead.

**EXAMPLE TWO:**

North Korea! I think Kim Jung-Un may find that he has pestered, and tested, and worn out his antagonism button with America. We are getting really angry - and we are ready to address this issue as needed. Enough said.

**EXAMPLE THREE:**

Another group of angry people can be found inside the Capitol in Austin, Texas. People are fed up with the Speaker of the House, Joe Straus, from stalling and preventing the work the Governor requested from being completed. A movement is growing to “Oust Straus!” Counties are circulating and voting on a referendum stating they have “No Confidence” in Straus as Speaker. The footage of how he is treating his fellow Representatives is appalling and really hard to believe, but seeing is believing. How can someone stand before their peers and treat them like he is doing?

**EXAMPLE FOUR:**

Here in San Angelo, a group of people gathered on the Courthouse lawn to say they are fed-up with their property taxes being raised in the manner they have been, and they wanted our State Senator and Representative to know. They collected names of taxpayers who wanted this to stop. When they completed their rally at the Courthouse, they walked across the street and delivered those names to the offices of Senator Charles Perry and Representative Drew Darby.

**EXAMPLE FIVE:**

Here in Tom Green County, the County Commissioners Court is planning to raise property taxes .03 cents per \$100 of property value. They say the County is on the verge of "bankruptcy!" caused by so many capital murder trials. Since we are in such good, sound, fiscal condition, let's give our elected officials a 2% raise, while only giving our County employees at 1.5% raise just because. This is NOT the year to increase salaries when you are stating that we are on the verge of insolvency. How crazy is that?

**EXAMPLE SIX:**

Citizens of the City of San Angelo aren't happy either. Why do so many people not realize that what the City Council does affects all of us? It astounds me. People never show up at the City Council meetings until it finally starts yanking at their billfold, lands in their neighborhood, or God-forbid, it's a dog topic.

There is a smattering of citizens who are starting to pay a bit of attention to the City Council and they are mad as hell. The two topics I'll address for now are: a special class of people, and water.

Most people who don't work for the city are not getting pay raises again this year. The lucky few who do, will probably find their increase wiped out by the huge increases in medical insurance. My family falls into that category. Unfortunately, until our folks in DC can do a miracle and get health insurance under control, we are all watching our monthly net incomes decrease from year to year.

Yet our city employees not only want, they EXPECT at least a 3% increase, maybe even 5%, because they should be paid within 95% of what other city employees are being paid across the state. Why? They don't live in Midland or Wichita Falls. Add to that, their strange notion that increases in health insurance should not be borne by them, but by somebody else. Last year the police gave up their pay increase so the city employees would not have to pay more per month for their health insurance. Crazy!!!

Why are city employees a PROTECTED CLASS of people? I'm sorry. But as a taxpayer, one who pays their salary, why should I adjust and endure reality, and

they should not? Their salaries should be compared to San Angelo citizens. Of course then, maybe we'd see some salary roll-backs.

Bottom line: the city budget needs a very close examination. We need to cut, prioritize, remove some fluff, and live within our means. I loved hearing our new Mayor challenge the various department heads to bring to the table how they could improve their departments, challenge them on the numbers they were bringing to the table, and guiding the Council to prioritize what is really needed.

...and then there's water!

How can the city even consider rehiring the same research firm we paid \$800,000 to last year to look for other water resources? They want another \$547,000 to do it all again? What could have changed in that year? Did God create another water source that they can now bring to the table? All they brought to the table last time was the Toilet-to-Tap mess. Who's being paid under that table? This is ridiculous. Isn't that what the Tri-City coalition is supposed to be doing - looking for water? We pay into that bottomless pit quarterly. This just doesn't pass the smell test.

I hope citizens will turn out Tuesday morning at 8:30 to express their dislike and disapproval of some of the things on the agenda. We need to hold our Council representatives accountable. If they are voting for frivolous spending, allowing the city employees to be a protected class of people, and not listening to their constituents, then they need to go. Maybe a few recalls will be in order in the coming months. They are supposed to be working for us, not against us!!!

Until next time....

*Kat Rowoldt*

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Update on Photo: One of my readers sent me this information. He works in the field of advertising and understands photo shopping. Here is his input to me:

"The photo of the black woman is not Photoshopped, and as someone who works in that program every day, I never thought it was.

It is a Reuters photograph taken by Jonathan Bachman. It was taken on Saturday, July 9, 2016 after the Baton Rouge Police Department ordered protestors to clear a road.

The woman is 28-year-old nurse Ieshia Evans who decided to take a stand and get arrested. There were many other witnesses to the event.

Just getting you up to speed on what was happening when that photo was taken and why it is legitimate. Or maybe you still think it is fake. Reality seems a fungible commodity on the far right and left today."