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Nanny State just doesn't work

The Nanny State is not working in Oklahoma and there is scientific research that shows it is a waste of resources.

A report by Adam Schaeffer of the CATO Institute shows that even though Oklahoma is one of the top states in preschool programs, any progress is short-lived.

“Oklahoma’s achievement scores on National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP, also known as the nation’s report-card) suggest that the state’s universal preschool program is at best ineffective and at worst harmful to student achievement,” Schaeffer reports.

The Nanny State initiative began in Oklahoma like most liberal social programs – with good intentions. The idea was to catch preschoolers at an early age and give them food, instruction and direction – assets usually provided by parents – and a better start in life.

What it really does is undermine the role of the nuclear family, foster a dependence on government programs and indoctrinate young minds with liberal dogma.

And any academic gain is lost by the third or fourth grade.

The effort started by extending kindergarten to a full day. Liberal educators wanted the funding from having 5-year-olds for eight hours rather than just four.

Then it leaped to K-4, a kindergarten for 4-year-olds. There is talk of K-3 and some of the most radical proponents of the Nanny State want to start with babies just a few weeks after birth.

Poor children need help. They need good food and they need a basic education. They don't need to be ripped from their family at a tender age and indoctrinated by liberal educators.

And this social strategy doesn't work.

Trouble for the downtown arena

The Tulsa Talons are ready to bolt for San Antonio.

The minor league arena football team is looking to move up to a better league.

After getting a sweetheart deal on rent from Tulsa's downtown arena, the Talons wanted a sweeter deal.

They aren't going to get it and it looks like the move is inevitable.

The downtown crowd that has been crowing about the success of the new arena are strangely quiet about this

apparent loss of an “anchor tenant.” They don’t care about the real expenses of running an unnecessary arena – they just care about the appearance that it is making money.

Losing the Talons will probably help the bottom line of the arena because the subsidy was so heavy.

Mayor Kathy Taylor is trying to lure the WNBA to Tulsa. That’s a financial train wreck waiting to happen.

While Oklahoma City built an arena and got an NBA team, Tulsa is supposed to settle for the unpopular WNBA version. The teams in that league get heavy subsidies from the NBA yet attendance is so poor that several teams have already folded.

Tulsans hardly support the men’s teams at TU or ORU. What makes anyone think they will support professional women’s basketball?

Again, the bottom line is appearance, not fiscal reality. The WNBA could be another minor league team underwritten by the city to fill in space for an arena we didn’t need to build.

When Houston built a new arena in 2003, it had contracts with professional men’s basketball, professional hockey and other contracts that guaranteed the arena would be used more than 150 times a years.

Creative accounting made the first year of Tulsa’s arena look like a winner. The hope is that it really will stay in the black financially – but don’t count on it.

Adult stem cell breakthrough

Once again, science catches up with common sense.

A new technique using adult stem cells is being employed by British surgeons to repair damaged hip bones.

Dr. David Prentice, senior fellow for life sciences at the Family Research Council, said the procedure has been successful without destroying human life.

“They mix the adult stem cells with a little cleaned, ground-up bone,” he said, “clean out the bad place in their own bone, put it back in, and they’ve got patients that are walking out of the hospital not needing a hip replacement.”

Adult stem cells are treating dozens of diseases and conditions, but the same can’t be said for embryonic.

“Embryonic stem cells,” Prentice said, “are nowhere near treating any patient for any condition.”

The Obama Administration and pro-abortion liberals have been screaming for funding for embryonic stem cell research.

Embryonic stem cell usage requires the destruction of a human being. It is immoral to those who believe in life at conception. It is a practice that could lead to the fertilization of embryos just for the purpose of research.

Pro-abortion advocates want this issue so they can justify destruction of human being shortly after conception.

But once again, science triumphs over liberal thought.

Many people have been helped by adult stem cells which can be taken without loss of innocent life.

That's the course of morality, common sense and science.

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