

Harszenksi  
AC2622 C-Yard  
P.O. Box 409060  
Ione, CA 95640

Comment Reply ID #n6e8  
(New Normals)

5-27-20

Blog 1660

"mtroy", thanks for the transcription! I always appreciate it so much when someone takes the time to do that for me. I'm glad you liked my comments on "new normal"... I guess all I was really trying to say is that I think we've become way too quick to adopt phrases like "new normal", which we apply to conditions that clearly aren't normal at all, yet. They're just temporary adjustments. To me, a "new normal" is like what happened with air travel after 9-11, everyone getting permanently used to taking off their shoes and letting strangers feel them up in public in a somber search for excess shampoo volume and key-chain bottle openers that looked a bit too "knifey". A real "new normal" might be the almost overnight shift around 2008 in the average person's attitude toward talking on a cellphone while driving (before most states had laws on it, nearly 100% of drivers would talk freely while driving and never gave it a second thought; after most states had laws, the people in the car next to you might flip you off for holding a phone to your ear). A "new normal" would be openly smoking marijuana in public; calls to CPS or 911 because a neighborhood 5<sup>th</sup> grader comes home to an empty house after school each day for 3 hours; animals on airplanes; and seeing our friendly local police officers sporting heavy body armor and cruising around in monstrous surplus military vehicles. I really don't think it's fair to ~~equate~~ those enduring new social realities with the wearing of masks or, especially, <sup>with</sup> not leaving our homes for a critical period while a particularly nasty ~~disease~~ is going around.

I dunno, maybe it's just me, but I can't see labelling something as "normal" until it's safe to assume we'll be seeing & doing it for a long, long, long, indefinite time to come. This one's gonna pass, I'm pretty sure. Historically abnormally destructive wild fires, hurricanes, and droughts are probably with us to stay, on the other hand. Just sayin'.