

# The Last Word™

Issue #554

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## Dronin' on about lost drones!

Let's travel back in time to those heady days of October 2018! This fanzine of freedom will *never* top its late 2010s quality, and that month's ish kicked off with some exciting stories of people losing drones! One person said their dad lost a brand new "luxury drone" in a river. Another said their drone was lost when they flew it into a prison.

But drones keep getting lost, and there's No End In Sight For The Foreseeable Future™! Hint: If you want to search for informative or interesting articles about any topic, you'll usually have better luck with DuckDuckGo than Google, since Google these days usually just shoves established media articles to the top.

One fella said he was "completely devastated" because he lost a brand new drone. But he did find the battery after a 5-hour search. Apparently, the drone dropped the battery from 340 feet up. Someone sure got a good bump on their noggin! A commenter on that thread apparently crashed his new drone into a lighthouse off the Portuguese coast. The drone was "a great Christmas gift", but now it was gone. He later found a propeller, which may have been from the drone. Because AlterNet isn't based in Portugal, it probably didn't come from a helicopter hat.

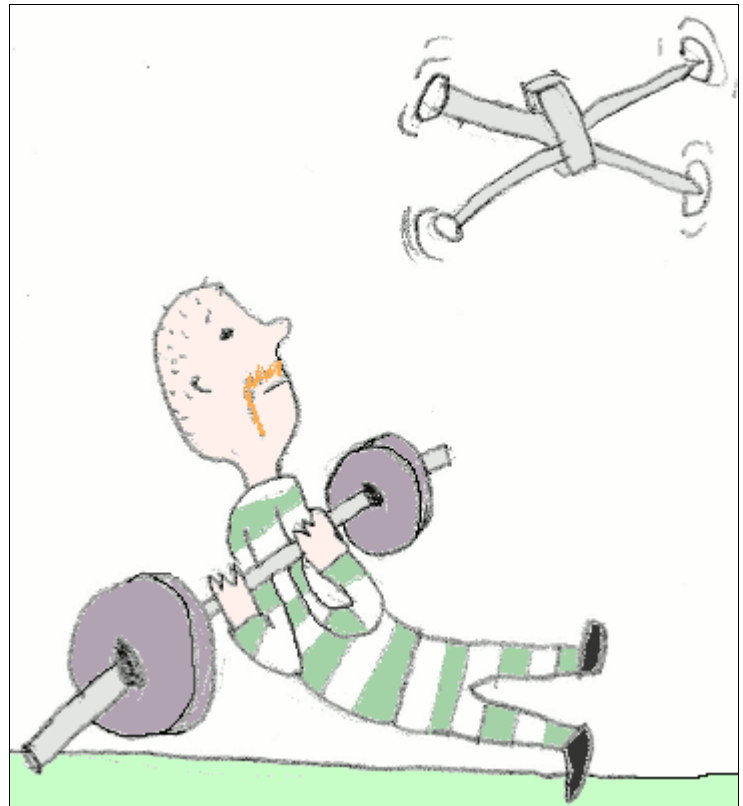
The Coast Guard lost a \$26,000 drone off the North Carolina coast during a training exercise recently. The drone's battery went dead a mile offshore. Why didn't they use a fresh battery? Officials said they could have landed the drone on one of their boats, but letting it crash into the Atlantic Ocean was considered safer, for some reason. An Internet commenter channeled Deon Estus and lamented, "Such a waste."

Another guy recently lost his new drone when the wind carried it away. Further down in that thread, he conceded, "Isn't looking good for my drone..." Another person said they lost their brand new drone "by flying it backwards." The drone became lodged 30 feet up a tree in a swamp where nobody could reach it. Another sank their week-old drone into a river. "I LOVED that drone," they cried. One respondent said he lost his new drone down England's White Cliffs of Dover.

One person said his new drone was destroyed on its very first flight when it lost connection. It was in flight for only 30 seconds and made it only 90 feet before the drone smashed into a tree and tumbled over 100 feet to the ground. After posting about this mishap on an online message forum, this commenter was accused of somehow abusing the drone, prompting him to respond that "all I've gotten is a bunch of flak and thinly veiled accusations of me not being truthful as to what occurred. Not sure if this the result of fanboyism or something more nefarious."

One commenter said they lost their drone in the ocean—North Carolina again!—even though the battery was still at pretty good strength. They were trying to photograph their family during a beach trip, and caught a brief glimpse of the drone falling from the sky. Another lost their drone off the coast of Bali, and DJI said the drone was out of warranty—even though it was brand spanking new. The state of Michigan lost a drone when the drone was attacked in midair by a bald eagle. The drone was being used to study erosion. It was later found at the bottom of Lake Michigan. A media report said technicians were set to examine the drone to see if the incident "ruined the video." The magic word!

All those drones, wastage bastage!



## All sorts of neet poo goes on down in the 'Nati!

Wow, I'm getting all the ladies lately!

As I said last month, I'm under no contractual obligation to write about each Roads Scholaring event here. I'm sure my union has my back on this—unless it's one of these corrupt, reactionary unions that (like the corporations they're supposed to be fighting against) has cheered the job-killing lockdowns. But I'm going to regale you with my recent nighttime Scholaring on the Ohio side of the river!

It was late at night on Thursday, November 19—World Toilet Day to you and me! The clock was striking 10 PM, and I braved the fall winds for a little bicycle jaunt about Cincinnati...



As the evening blasted along and approached midnight, things hopped more and more! The roads were unusually busy, and groups of people young and old gathered on street corners and sauntered into convenience stores!

As the cool winds whipped, I sped past a woman hanging out on Madison Road, and she smiled widely at me!

A small percentage of people I saw still hadn't completely freed themselves from the throes of panic, but by and large, the night belonged to coolsters! Nighttime is the right time for Scholaring in the 'Nati!

## **Gentrification ruins another Bellevue neighborhood**

Ask the local gentry and they will say it's elementary—that Bellevue would rubber-stamp a luxury housing development.

Gentrification is like Bellevue's official religion lately, and it's ruining the city. Now the city has approved yet another gentrification land grab, and it may be even worse than other recent projects. This project will obliterate the Shady Terrace mobile home park and replace it with 74 luxury houses.

So where are Shady Terrace residents supposed to go? Away, according to city officials. A media report says all mobile homes will be "transitioned out" before the new construction starts.

This project will not provide a tax base for Bellevue schools, as it's one of few places in the city that's in the Campbell County school district instead. It's not as if either school system has a great record anymore. The Bellevue school district has refused to reopen as normal, and has provided excuse after excuse as to why. As a result, many Bellevue children aren't even enrolled in any school, not even online learning. They've just treated fall as an extended summer vacation. Fun in the sun is always nice, and everyone knows I staunchly oppose year-round school, but I never said summer break has to last into December. That doesn't excuse other local school districts that are also refusing to return. If you want your kids to attend school, how far do you have to travel? For its part, Campbell County Schools' incompetence has been legendary for at least 40 years, so we can't assume it's improved now.

For a school district to justify charging taxes, it needs to provide the services we expect.

Gentrification in Bellevue has attracted a selfish elite that makes all the decisions for what is otherwise a working-class city. It is not a democracy. They complained to school officials about Pop-Tarts—apparently because they thought Pop-Tarts might scare younger children. They demanded the city close its entertainment district even after Kentucky allowed bars to reopen. Unusual for Bellevue lately, the city did not cave on that. But on most issues, policy and enforcement have been outsourced to these fretful patricians.

Ya know, this zine has given plenty of warning about this for the past 27 years, so don't say I didn't warn you that we could someday wake up in an America we don't recognize. Is this what people wanted?

## **Seeing red about Quebec "red zones"**

After months of official lies, you have to fight back!

Recently, Quebec's right-wing government posted a webpage outlining restrictions that apply in "red zones"—areas of the province that are presumably hit hardest by coronavirus. It's little different from a full lockdown. In fact, it may be worse. One thing is clear: Just for Shits & Smiles & Giggles & Laughs, officials are going out of their way to make every agency, business, or social activity completely inoperable. But it's unclear if anyone has actually followed these rules, or if a bunch of faces got laughed in.

It ranks right up there with California's instruction that nobody should sing on Thanksgiving—which nobody follows (and which drew criticism from Justine Bateman).

Here's the cool part. The bottom of the page asked, "Was the information on this page useful to you?" I clicked on "no." Below that, the page asked, "Did you encounter any problems while navigating?" I replied, "Yes, I have a big problem with fascism."

Well, they had to ask.

## Some kid kept misbehaving in high school

Kids should act up at school more. No revolution has ever been won by good behavior. The squeaky wheel gets the grease!

I went out of my way to misbehave at school on an increasing basis when I was a junior and senior in high school. I've been looking at one of my "diaries" from that era, and it's a beaut! (I also came across the account of one of my Fourth of July bonfires, where we burned an old hockey puck and a spoiled box of Sociables.) I can't condone rulebreaking when it becomes unethical, but most violations I saw by students were no more unethical than the conduct of school officials. I also can't encourage smoking. However, I do want to give you a taste of what our school environment was like.

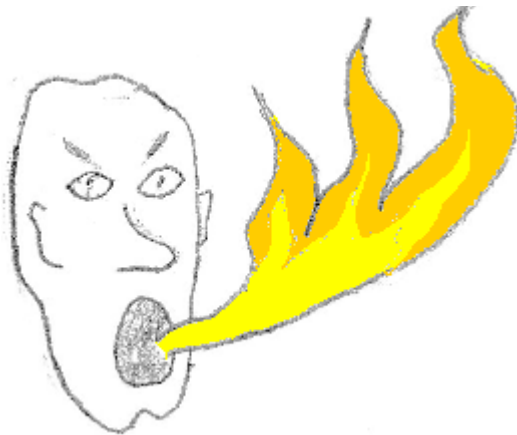
One day, the teacher took us to the public library so we could look up unfamiliar words contained in a poem, because all the dictionaries in the classroom had been ripped to shreds. The poem was antiquated in both its age and its ideas. One of my classmates snuck off to the restroom to smoke. When he emerged from the bathroom, he exclaimed, "Somebody died in there!"

One other time, that student got yelled at for wearing a ball cap in class. So he got mad at the teacher, grabbed her cigarettes out of her desk, and walked out of class for the rest of the day—taking the teacher's cigarettes with him.

But perhaps the most legendary incident involving this student took place that May. The classroom had an educational U.S.A. Trivia board game. I don't know of anyone eating game pieces like what happened with the jigsaw puzzles. The board had a map of the United States, and each state was one space. You would move your piece forward after correctly answering a question printed on a card. One day, this student lost at a game of U.S.A. Trivia. So he pitched a fit!

He ranted. He raved. He yelled, screamed, and hollered! Somebody dedicated their life to designing that game, and my schoolmate chose to not learn a damn thing from it! There's a lot to unpack here, but there's strong feelings on all sides. For the rest of the day, my classmate threatened to attack the student who defeated him. At the end of the day, he went across the street to the public library in the hope of accosting the winner. He kept pacing back and forth on the ramped walkway in front of the library with an angry scowl on his face. But this school didn't do much to instill good reading habits, so it's unlikely that anyone from our class was going to use the library after school.

How adult contemporary.



## A bunch of cool shit happened at the University at Buffalo

Snap Map has been useful lately for unearthing college hijinks, and the State University of New York at Buffalo is no exception!

It seems that a couple guys who lived in a dorm on campus recently got busted by their resident assistant for "having girls over." Then they posted a video of themselves on Snap Map jumping on a bed and making noise. Another Snap Map item reveals that someone spilled a bunch of plastic spoons all over the place on an outdoor walkway.

These events took place in the state of New York, the Empire State.

Also, somebody painted a giant penis on a parking lot at the University of Idaho. Students threw ice cubes in the cafeteria at Montana State. Snap Map also revealed a Van Morrison look-alike relaxing inside a Boston restaurant. Best all, at least 13 residences surrounding UW-Madison hosted wild and crazy Halloween parties, one of which drew at least 91 revelers. The *Wisconsin State Journal* reported on this and acted like it was a crime. But most people don't care what a newspaper that vocally supported Joe McCarthy thinks, so the news has been met

with a collective “so?”

## I like...When they bubble really loud tryin' to tell you what they know...

In our May ish (right after my pulmonary embolism and suspected heart attack), we asked ourselves what ‘80s hit song is most evocative of blowing bubbles with bubble gum. The answer was clear: “Give It Up” by the Steve Miller Band. The melody, arrangement, and production are absolutely perfect to bubble by.

But we’ve found another minor ‘80s chart entry that may be a good runner-up in that category: “I Like” by Men Without Hats.

I remember hearing this song on WCLU in a waiting room when I was 10. The radio was supposed to be on Warm 98, but I switched it to good ol’ 1320 because I was in a rockin’ mood! The Men Without Hats song has a jolly, circus-like keyboard sound somewhat reminiscent of Miller’s tune. Think back to the ‘80s and you can imagine a person—perhaps a neighbor or maybe a complete stranger at a festival—listening to this song, dancing around in dungarees or parachute pants, and pumping up a big ol’ bub the size of their head!

As the pastime of public bubbling bips along with gusto, I need to drag out my laptop and blare an MP3 of this song so the entire neighborhood dances in the street and bubbles along!

You’re probably thinking “Ooh Ooh Song” by Pat Benatar also fits in here somehow.

Also, “I Like” by Men Without Hats is not to be confused with “I Like To” by Men At Work. Nor is it to be confused with a parody of Tom T. Hall’s “I Love” that was sung by a guy who sounded like Oscar the Grouch.

## Dodgers fans didn’t dodge this party!

I didn’t pay a smidgen of attention to the World Series this year until fans of the victorious Los Angeles Dodgers partied!

When I was a sophomore in high school, some kid in my religion class kept passing notes. One of the notes said, “Kenny Rogers hates the Dodgers.” He also passed around a note that said, “Kenny Loggins laid a log right outside of Boss Hogg.” But in L.A., people *love* the Dodgers!

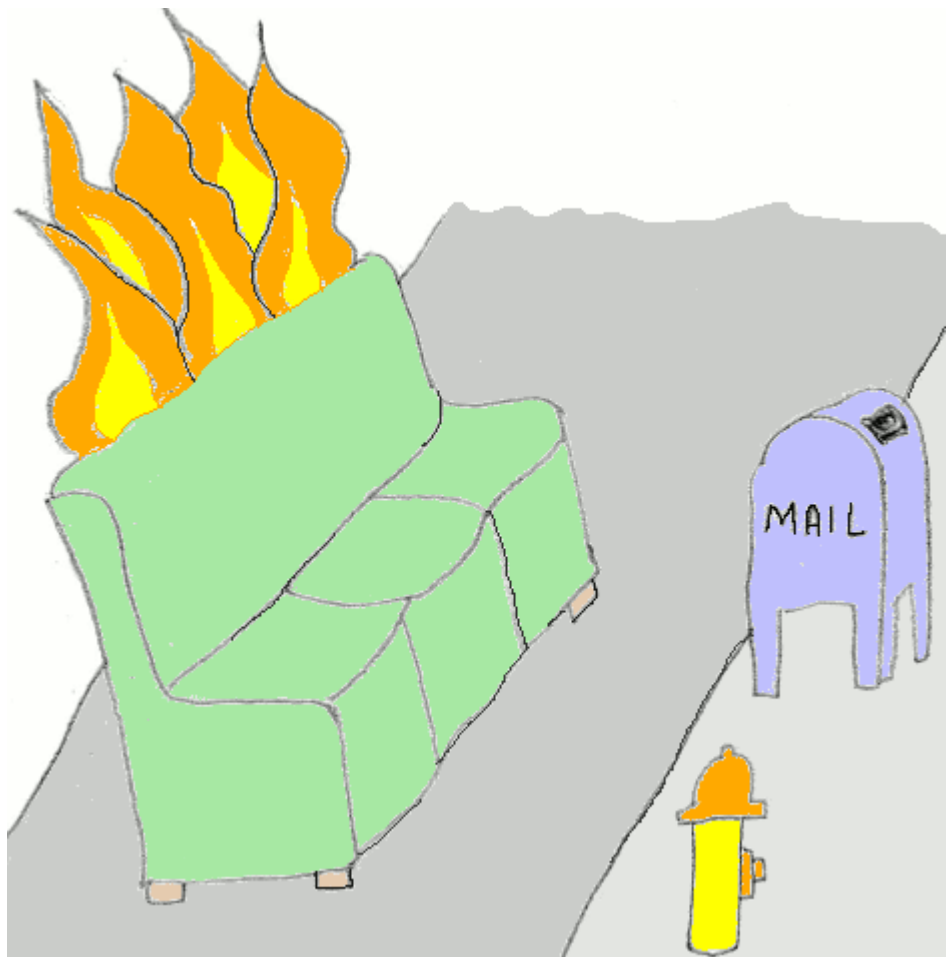
After the Dodgers won the 2020 World Series over the Tampa Bay Rays (who had changed their name from the Devil Rays because the old name offended religious zealots), fans all over the L.A. area celebrated in the streets! They even went to downtown Los Angeles, and news photos showed that social distancing flapped straight out the window! Cars spun in the streets, and fireworks were detonated!

Folks also danced in East Los Angeles! Cops let the celebration continue, as one police official said, “We didn’t want to ruin anybody’s party.” The magic word! Ruin!

Even at Dodger Stadium, about 1,000 cars gathered for a drive-in party during the game!

For once, I actually have to give credit to an article on a Gannett news site for not bringing up the pandemic or blurting out a phone number for people to snitch on those who violated social distancing.

At Michigan State University, football fans recently celebrated a win over the University of Michigan by setting fire to a couch in the middle of the street. Hundreds of revelers—including students—gathered around the burning sofa!





Also, although perhaps millions of Americans celebrated in the streets over the election result, you may notice that our tone was a bit muted. It's like the book *Fortunately*: Fortunately, Donald Trump lost. Unfortunately, Joe Biden won. I didn't vote for either one, because I couldn't find my propeller cap. On the other hand, if the celebration had come to Bellevue, I would have shown up just to party—not because I cared about the result of the worst election campaign in modern times. Presidents change but the enemy remains!

## Another person spit gum everywhere

The bubble gum spitting game is such a time-honored pastime that I need to regale you with another story of it!

Back when I was 16, I hung out with some classmates in a grassy area. There was a girl who was chewing contraband bubble gum. She didn't bubble. But she was chewing bubble gum! She worked that gum like a gummer (as an intelligent person would say).

As her back was turned to me, I saw the wad of beegum tumble out of her mouth and into the grass! Then she mumbled something about gum that I couldn't hear.

It's unclear exactly what happened. I suspect she tried to blow a bub, but the gum was too stiff. So it's best that it was discarded. What good is gum if you can't blow bubbles?

This was also perhaps only weeks after I visited the air traffic control station at the airport. This is notable because there was a Care-Free gum commercial right around that time that was set in such a facility and one of the air traffic controllers bubbled.

## A Cabbage Patch Kids wallet almost got wasted

Recently, my amazing business partner sent me yet another of her fun little stories, as she was resting on her sofa just being chill.

Back when she was in elementary school—many years ago—my bizbud was the proud owner of a pink Cabbage Patch Kids wallet. Her hard-working folks probably bought it for her to teach her the virtues of thrift that she follows to this day.

One day, she brang the wallet to school to show it off to all her pals. It probably had a couple dollars in it for lunch money, because that's really what the billfold was for, and maybe even a stick of gum. As class slogged on, she whipped the wallet out again. Then she did a hilarious thing. She held the wallet to her mouth and began opening and closing it—like a beak. I keep thinking of the Roman Holliday video where a band member did that with a menu at a diner.

But the teacher was having none of this tomfoolery. She stomped over, violently grabbed the wallet, and threw it in the garbage can—with all of its contents.

Sadly, my bizbud didn't get a chance to retrieve the wallet for the rest of the day, as the trash can was well guarded. And she didn't tell her parents about the incident when she got home, because then she'd have to confess that she used the wallet for a low-budget Big Bird imitation. But later the phone rang. It was the teacher. The instructor informed my bizbud's parents that my bizbud had thrown away a perfectly good Cabbage Patch Kids wallet.

Huh?

That sounds like the typical distorted logic schools always used. The teacher's argument was probably that my bizbud had "caused" the wallet to be thrown away when she used it as a beak. It's like the "Look what you made me do!" defense.

The next day, the wallet was waiting for my bizbud. It had been fished out of the garbage can and seemed to be as good as new. But when she got it back, she found that what little money that had been in there was now missing. This prompted her parents to complain to the school, but naturally, the school refused to do anything about the teacher stealing the money.

Why, that means a grown-ass adult committed a crime and got away with it.



## People didn't wear masks at the CMA Awards

Slowly but surely, we're seeing cracks in the Unified Command's misrule. Don't think it's just one party behind all the recent misgovernment. If you're a follower of one major party, it's too easy to just point fingers at the other. When I first registered as a Democrat, I didn't know that being expected to stovepipe AT&T propaganda

or support Donna Shalala's vanity congressional career would be part of the deal.

I'm on several Internet forums that oppose coronavirus lockdowns and other "mitigation" measures that don't work. One of these forums—Reddit's popular "LockdownCriticalLeft"—is explicitly designed to be left-leaning, but the others appeal to dissenters of all political guilds. One of them has a regular thread for positive things you've seen in life, and someone posted that they watched the Country Music Association Awards on TV and it was almost like what you'd see in a normal year. One of the highlights was that there were "no masks anywhere in sight."

It shouldn't be big news that people owned the posh crowd in front of millions of viewers, but it is. Usually, when we hear the phrase "no masks anywhere in sight", it's some media talking head complaining about bare faces in classrooms or eating in restaurants. But this time, it was used in a positive context. I saw an article that said recent lockdowns would have been considered human rights violations if they had been in place before the pandemic. But it's a simple concept: If lockdown culture would have been a human rights violation before, that means it still is. To think the pandemic justifies human rights violations is like when George W. Bush accused opponents of having a "September 10<sup>th</sup> mentality." This also got me thinking how other TV shows and commercials are filmed these days. I was watching the telescreen and noticed that most shows and ads have unmasked actors, reporters, and members of the public clearly within 6 feet of each other.

But other than that, lockdown culture is embedded in our media. To put it bluntly, this crap has got to stop. Not just stay-at-home orders but also other forms of the "new normal" that the elitist media gaslights us into accepting.

In the past few decades, those who fought against a corrupt system have included...

**1980s:** hackers, headbangers, and punkers

**1990s:** random coolsters and more punkers

**2000s:** more random coolsters

**2010s:** Occupy and labor activists

**2020s (so far):** *people who go to the grocery without a goddamn mask!*

Of course, some of the 2020s fighters are the same fighters of past decades, but lockstep acceptance of the "new normal" shows how low society has sunken. If you were living 40 years ago, you may remember people straight-up blasting turgid narcissists and confidently sweeping forward like a badass. Nobody does this in 2020.

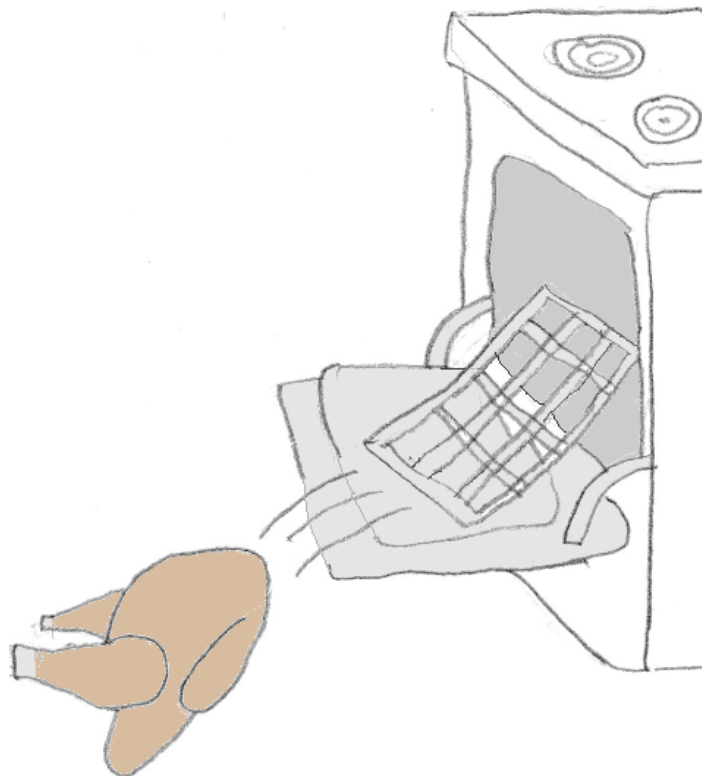
"New normal" apologists have ridiculous, overblown perspectives that might seem hilarious if this wasn't actually real. They shame people who have legitimate concerns over the civil liberties violations of lockdown culture. Let it sink in just how absurd all of this is. I'm just glad I lived long enough to see this unfold, because now nobody can claim that I would have supported this if I hadn't died (like they do with some deceased celebrities).

## Rulebreakers flips the bird

Many of you who have read this zine in the past few years know that I've come up with an idea for a new brand of bubble gum called Rulebreakers. The marketing campaign would show people chomping this gum in places where gumming is frowned upon. Best all, this brand of beegum would not be loaded with ingredients that limit the size of the bubbles you can blow—making it even cooler.

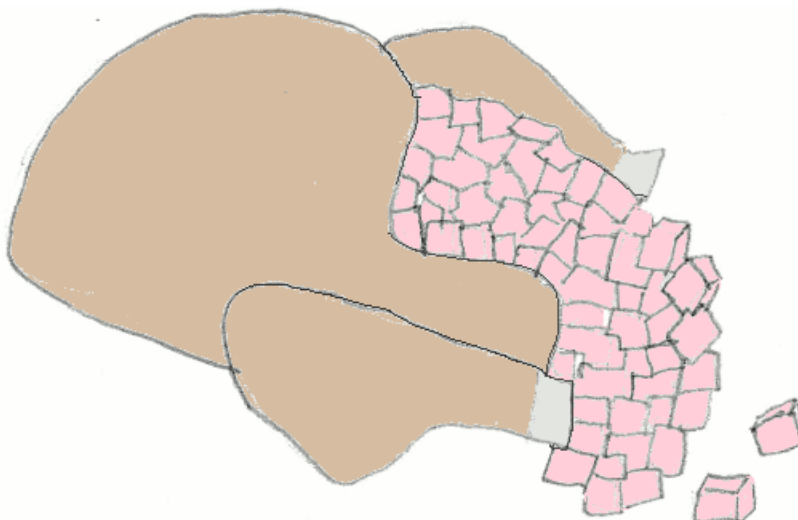
But just before Thanksgiving, I came up with a Rulebreakers commercial that doesn't focus on violating orders but rather breaking a tradition just out of necessity. This commersh would show a grandmotherly old woman opening her oven to reveal a beautiful Thanksgiving turkey that she's ready to serve to her fam. But she pulls the rack from the stove out too far so it slopes down at a 45-degree angle, causing the juicy bird to slide down and onto the stony floor—thereby wosting it. However, the filming of this ad would use a plastic turkey, so a real turkey doesn't get ruined.

The family gathers around the ruined turkey, lamenting, "Oh no! What do we do?!" Then a light bulb goes off in their heads, and they bust out the Rulebreakers!



We see family members bringing bowls of Rulebreakers out from another room, smiling their asses off as festive music starts to play! Then we see them blowing some mean bubs! Everyone young and old is bubbling!

As the commersh ends, we see a shot of the turkey stuffed with many pieces of this delicious beegee!



## Glasses got covered with gum and the magic word got used

Even in these trying times, A Person Chewed Gum And Thought It Was Funny.

It's a barrel of guffaws when people ruin their eyeglasses. What better way to spoil your specs than by blowing a huge bubble with bubble gum that bursts and covers the lenses?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j68AO42GfRs>

Here's a synopsis of that video in case you're afraid a copy of *Ranger Rick* will fly out of the screen, grow arms, and strangle you. In this half-hour extravaganza, a young woman stuffs 4 pieces of pink Dubble Bubble into her mouth and starts goin' to town! She proceeds to bubble. At 2:27, she starts to puff out a bub bigger than her head! When the lamp reflects in the bubble, you start hoping that the orb bursts on the lamp, thereby wasting it. Rather, it pops and covers her glosses.

After breaking into laughter over the destructed glasses, she declares, "I'm not gonna be able to wear my glasses, you all, I'm gonna ruin them." Ruin! The magic word! This amazing, mellifluous word was used in conjunction with eyeglasses being demolished by bubble gum! Who could ask for more?

She then holds up the gum-caked spectacles and says, "I will not ruin those glasses for you." Uh, you already ruined them!

After putting her glasses away, she bubbles some more. Usually, after the bub busts, she does a little dance or breaks out in uncontrollable snickering. Later, she adds a fifth piece to her quid of beegee.

Glasses got ru.