

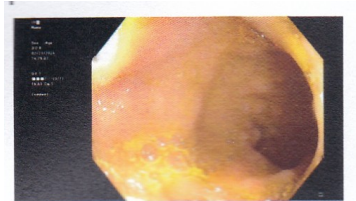
The Last Word™

Issue #593

March 2024

The colonoscopy will not be televised

Remember the commersh for *Time* magazine where the guy says, “This — *this* is a magazine!”? Well, this — *this* is the inside of a colon...



Friday, February 23, will go down in history for the most historic occurrence since someone drove their car for 2 blocks down the street backwards. Can you guess what it was?

I HAD A COLONOSCOPY!!!!!!!!!! But I didn't televise it like Jimmy Kimmel did with his.

Yet the only thing of interest that was found was internal hemorrhoids. When you're dogged by hemorrhoids at social gatherings, it is customary to chant, “H...H...H...” (like the letter H) as in the Bert and Ernie skit where an H appears on their TV. The recent finding means I get to do this.

Naturally, because it was a day ending in y, I came home from this event to find my place was burglarized again. Imagine that!

The disappearing beering!

Three years ago was the heyday of Snap Map. With just a few keystrokes, we could find beer flowing freely on college campuses far and wide. Not every school was so lucky, of course. But for some students, college was still college — at least to some extent.

Even at our local Polar Plunge in February 2021, people beered.

But now I haven't even seen a single drop of brew being imbibed in a couple months. We're in an era of puritanism unparalleled in modern America. In November, a Louisville neighborhood voted 61% to 39% to go dry — banning sales of all alcohol. Now there's a bill in Tennessee that would have completely banned sales of cold alcoholic beverages including beer statewide.

If this version of the bill had passed, Tennessee would have been the only one of the 50 states to ban cold beer. A few states ban cold beer sales by grocery stores, but those states at least allow it in liquor stores. The bill would also strictly limit how much you could drink in bars and restaurants.

The purported reason for the bill is to reduce the risk of car crashes. But has prohibition ever stopped car crashes before? Legislators never get to that part.

Lawmakers are now saying they've removed the cold beer ban from the bill. But the bill had already shifted the window of discourse toward prohibitionism — as if this window could get any more reactionary lately.

There are certain cities that have unusually strict alcohol laws. Oxford, Mississippi — a city that



appears to have had authoritarian policies on various matters in recent years—legalized cold beer sales only a few years ago. We're sure Oxford isn't the worst city though. In fact, many states including Kentucky have whole counties that are dry. The fact that other places may be just as bad doesn't give a city or county a constitutional right to be exempt from being exposed.

Puritanism and prohibitionism define the social counterrevolution that has been foisted upon us lately. College communities may be worse than America overall, because today's colleges aren't what they were 30 years ago. Remember, the theocracies in Iran and Afghanistan were ushered in largely by student movements. Not all American campuses are party pads. Many schools today have been beset by a growing authoritarianism that actually sounds somewhat theocratic. They're not the liberal outposts they claim to be. The authoritarianism in America and elsewhere in the 2020s is as right-wing as 1,000 Rush Limbaughs.

The de-Cline of society

I have over a billion 300 million trillion 300 million stories about the pied pipers of poologgery who have long menaced Campbell County. And now I'm too old to try to be properly compensated, so now these narratives are getting blasted out for free.

Their far-right harassment campaign wasn't limited to school. Those responsible for it opted to drag it into public places, onto TANK buses, and into my home. This was a conscious choice they made. I didn't make them do it.

Occasionally, people would fight back. Once when I was about 11, a group of 7 usually mild-mannered kids beat up a neighborhood waster who I knew from Cline Middle School, because they got tired of his shit. I wasn't there, and I don't know all the details, but it had to have been quite a sight!

But then there's an incident that took place not at school or in a public place but in my home. Not in the yard. Not on the porch. *Inside* my house. It happened when I was about 12 or 13. One of my former classmates—from Cline, again—decided to pay me a visit. I don't know why my folks let him in the house. I had already told them he was bad news, but he was allowed in anyway.

I was working in the den when he showed up. He immediately started his trash talk and escalated from there. A brawl quickly ensued, and he shoved me down onto an armchair.

Only in Bizarro World are people allowed to show up in someone's home, start a fight for no apparent reason, assert it's a constitutional right, and see this behavior normalized by the community. The policy of rewarding wrongdoers while punishing victims who fight back is like how a man got life in prison for fighting back against a home invasion. That case seems to have opened the floodgates for convictions of others who also fought back against home invasions. There are enough cases like this now that it's hardly even news anymore. In one case, the prosecutor agreed to drop the charges against the burglars if they testified against their victim. Crime pays nowadays.

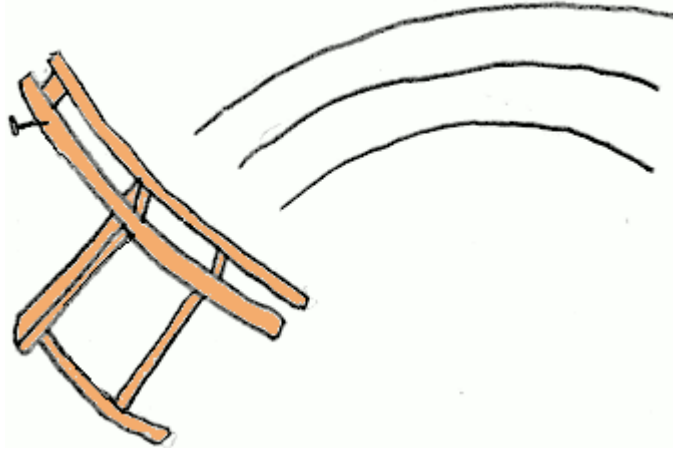
You may laugh at those of us who remember life before the fight in my den, but America was a safer place before then. Kids still played outside, and you could still walk to IGA without getting shot.

As this brawl continued, I picked up a wooden chair and threw it at the attacker. The chair almost hit him, and he darted out of the house. I cut my hand on a nail sticking out of the chair—which was 100% his fault for starting this fight. I haven't seen him since, except I think I saw him once at a shopping center, but he didn't see me.

That time frame saw some of the first major signs of a foul trend that has gripped modern America. Compliance tests and bootlicking have replaced merit and accomplishments. Great work used to be celebrated and rewarded. In more recent years, however, society has instead revolved around what is in effect a strict social credit system.

This doesn't even touch on the Cancel County Schools' book bannings lately.

It seems like everybody's brain has turned to commercial putty.



Did an idiot violate HIPAA because a person bubbled?

Disclaimer: I'm not 100% sure if the offender in this story truly violated HIPAA. It might take a *whole army* of lawyers to figure that out. It would be like determining whether the Homestead Act lets you keep a book you borrowed from your school library if you get expelled while you have it checked out and you're unable to return it within 5 years.

Anystink, back in 2021, a strange video appeared on YouTube. Yet the circumstances surrounding it are weirder than the clip itself. The video consists of a woman thrice blowing bubbles with bubble gum as she views her smartphone in the waiting room of a doctor's office. In the caption below it, the uploader of this clip complains that the woman isn't wearing a mask. He gripes that everyone is wearing masks "except for this lady who decided it was a great place to blow bubbles with her gum"...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d0rdfOU5u3s>

In other words, some moron was angry that someone bubbled without wearing a mask, so he snuck a video of her and posted it on YouTube for millions to see.

Not in 2020. Not in January 2021. In *September 2021*.

By then, I had already been on 6 barefaced road trips since the pandemic started, and it was 9 months after COVID vaccines were released. This wasn't March 2020, when our "leaders" kept trying to justify lockdowns by saying they didn't know anything yet about COVID. (They actually knew enough not to issue lockdowns, but they did it anyway.) After vaccines came out, mandates were supposed to end. Mandates continue today in some venues in spite of vaccines, but I hold everybody I deal with to their word instead of letting them dig in.

If our rulers didn't want me writing about this, they should have thought twice. After I fought against school uniforms, how did they expect me to react? Now I'm going to be on their case until I'm 6 feet under—and maybe even after that. As Laura Kelly would say, "Too bad."

The video received several negative comments against the uploader, because the woman seen in the clip wasn't doing anything wrong. Some pointed out that the uploader was a "creep" and a "weirdo" for filming the woman in a medical facility without her knowledge or permission.

HIPAA protects patient privacy. Was HIPAA violated too? Me providing a link to the video doesn't violate HIPAA, because knowing HIPAA was the uploader's responsibility.

If it was a news video of a protest or a regular street scene, none of these things would be troublesome. But it was a doctor's office.

In response to one of the negative replies, the uploader brags that he considered confronting the woman—thereby becoming a mask vigilante, if you will. It gets sillier. Later in this exchange, the uploader says, "I was in the doctors office for a testosterone shot because my wife is divorcing me and this woman is basically begging for a confrontation about masks."

Bubbling is "begging for a confrontation"? The woman never said a word.

So far, this issue of this zine has dealt with a juvenile delinquent who thought he had a right to start a fight with me in my den, and a YouTuber who thinks he can enforce a national dress code by secretly filming violators. Plus, ridiculous CIA talking points keep inspiring book bannings and weird legislation. Sounds like we're not the crazy ones.



More YouTube fascism

The federal government has forfeited the privilege of me treating it with the presumption of

innocence. The cool thing about being a person is that we're allowed to enjoy constitutional rights. Our people-only constitutional rights club doesn't protect governments or corporations. The only right governments have is to poop in their pants.

These days, if something you post on certain major social media sites is taken down, you can bet your bottom dollar the federal government is behind it. Remember the Twitter Files? Sadly, my once-great Democratic Party is missing in action on this. Don't let your paddle hit you on the way out, Dems.

A couple weeks ago, I came face to face with what I strongly suspect was yet another instance of the government and a social media site colluding to censor content. This time, it was nothing to do with COVID, Big Pharma, the war in Ukraine, or the Reagan regime's dope dealing. This incident occurred on Google-owned YouTube. YouTube removed a comment I made because I opposed a bill that would slash SNAP benefits.

Ten years ago, similar comments on YouTube did not appear to be removed. There's no other explanation for removal of the recent comment other than it falling victim to the government's ever-expanding social media censorship program.

Murthy v. Missouri can't be decided soon enough. It's hard to see how this ruling won't be 9-0, but I would have said the same about many other cases in recent years, and they turned out to be 5-4 for the wrong side. When the First Amendment is at stake, strict scrutiny should apply. Bunk like the "role model effect" shouldn't. You might be flabbergasted beyond description that no Democratic public officials joined the initial complainants in bringing this case, but it's their party, they can lose if they want to. If the Democrats won't fight for those who defend SNAP, that should be the party's problem and nobody else's. It's bad enough that they focus on the absolute dumbest shit imaginable, but actually being on the wrong side is worse.

Once it is ascertained that I was a victim of government collusion with YouTube, I sure hope I receive some sort of remedy. But don't bet on that. I never was compensated for the AdSense money I'm owed – simply because my case was just barely outside the time period covered by the class action suit.

We're not hamming it up about spoiled ham

In addition to Operation KroGum, maybe it's time for Operation KroHam!

A few weeks ago, I went to the friendly neighborhood Krogie-Wogie and bought some prepackaged ham from the deli aisle. When I opened it a few days later, I was in for a rude awakening. I noticed the ham was not the usual pink but rather was gray.

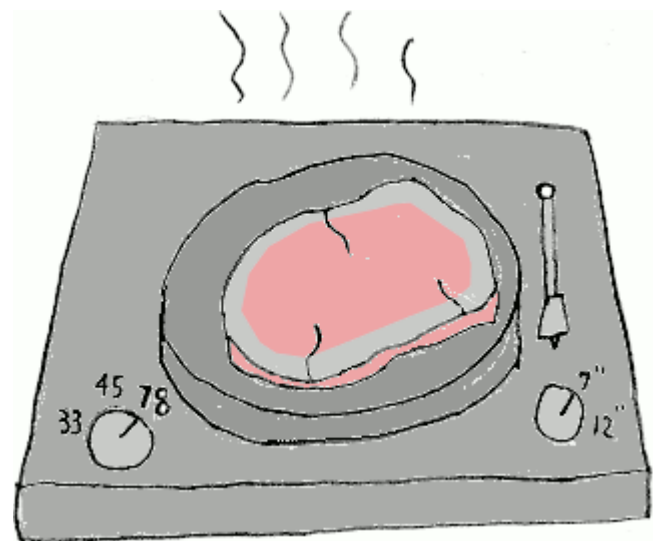
When I inspected the side of the container, my eyes detected another anomaly. The expiration date was in September of last year – when you were raking leaves and smuggling beer into Riverfest!

Here's the best part. There have been times since last September when this Kroger had none of this kind of ham whatsoever. That means the ham was placed on the shelf *after* it had already spoiled.

I'm sure this store didn't hoard rotting ham in the stockroom to be unleashed later. It might stink. What obviously happened is that the ham spoiled on the shelf at a different Kroger location, so the corporate decision makers at Kroger sent it to our local store.

Wait! There's more! I brang the stale ham back to the store and got my money back. By that time, the ham was stinking. I looked at a different selection of ham in the coolers along the back aisle. I noticed a pack of ham there was rotten, spoiled, and rancid. I bet it was also hauled there from another location.

Why is Kroger brass picking on our particular location? There are plenty of Kroger stores in



neighborhoods full of clean-cut, neatly pressed, goody two shoes, financially secure drones. Instead, Kroger picks on its store in a working-class area. For years, comments have appeared online saying that Kroger ships food to the Bellevue store when it spoils at other locations.

The corporate suits are ruining grocery shopping. Gathering at grocery stores is one of the closest things we have to recreation around here. It beats almost any amusement park. And it's being taken away from us bit by bit. I'm sure it will get worse if the government rubber-stamps the proposed Kroger/Albertsons merger. Naturally, the *Cincinnati Enquirer* ran a right-wing guest editorial supporting this merger. Because we have "government by Gannett"—in which the *Enquirer* and its sibren have almost single-handedly gotten bad public policies enacted—the merger is all the more likely to be approved.

Something happened at the Cavalcade of Customs

We've all seen the family vlogs on YouTube where kids react with magnified joy over ordinary tasks. The video shows a family in their car, and a parent says, "Guess where we're going? The post office!" A wide smile forms on their child's face, and the child erupts in cheers.

I recall a special occasion in my childhood for which I similarly exploded in happiness. One morning when I was about 7 or 8, my mom told me that we were going to attend a major cultural event that evening. I received one hint: We would use the newly built I-471 to get there. I soon figured out that we were going to the Cavalcade of Customs—where Boss Hogg was going to appear.

Seeing Boss Hogg was one of the highlights of my youth. But it's the only time I ever remember attending the annual Cavalcade of Customs. One year when I was in high school, I heard from some pals at Brossart that the event that year went completely haywire. It was around the same time as some unrelated incidents involving the school: Some Brossart kids threw a tantrum and trashed the basketball court because the school's team lost a game, and another riot erupted at the basketball homecoming dance because people didn't like the music.

This brings us to the story of one of my former schoolmates. He didn't attend Brossart, but I went to school with him at other schools, including Cline. This isn't the same hooligan who attacked me in my den, but he was still one of the worst people I've ever had the misfortune of dealing with. Even when I went to Brossart, I encountered him on TANK and school buses.

When I was in college, I heard that he had begun prostituting himself on the streets of Newport. I don't think that was just a tall tale. I heard this from an old Cline classmate who I don't think would just make up stuff.

Now the plot thickens! I found an online post that strongly implied that the former classmate who prostituted himself in Newport also did so in Cincinnati at the Cavalcade of Customs for several years. Is this twist in the story believable? Believe! Evidently, he's not even the only former Clinester who did so.

I wasn't even looking for any information about him. I just accidentally stumbled upon this post.

As the *Dukes Of Hazzard* theme would say: I guess he was makin' his way the only way he knew how. But that's just a little bit more than the law will allow.



What's in your wallet? It might not be much if you use Capital One

Here's more newses the media loses. We can't depend on the media to investigate consumer scams like this.

This is a fair warning if you have a credit card from Capital One. In recent months, Capital One has stopped e-mailing monthly statements to customers. This isn't just a case of Outlook prefiltering legitimate e-mail while allowing spam to get through – although Outlook does do exactly that. Capital One simply no longer sends you a statement.

The reason for this is to trick people into missing payments, meaning they have to pay a late fee later.

How do we stop this crap from hap? Watch Capital One like a hawk. Not a Hulk, but a hawk. Log on to their website each month to see your statement instead of waiting for an e-mail they won't bother to send. Stay a step ahead of their scam.

Also, forget about trying to contact Capital One about it. Their website has what is supposedly a live help chat, but it's just a robot. If you ask why you haven't received your statements, you'll just get an automated answer that has nothing whatsoever to do with your question.

Capital One is now trying to buy Discover, so now Discover customers have to BOLO too. Count on the government to rubber-stamp this takeover.



Cruise news we can't use!

Ruined vacation cruises are a topic we must cover very, *very* sparingly. Cruises are well above our economic level. We're not made of money. What are we? MoveOn? So we usually don't write about cruises except to make fun of the spoiled baby who whined that an entire cruise was ruined because ESPN went out. There are exceptions though.

There have been lots of grave injustices throughout history, and there still are. A decimated cruise pales in comparison to those. Still, such injustices shouldn't be the yardstick we should use to judge if something else is good or bad. Humanity should be better than that. Bad is still bad, and the bar should be higher. Consumer protection should be taken seriously, and if a cruise line falls well short of what it promised, we shouldn't let it slide, even if those who were deceived are doing fairly well themselves. Consumer interests should outweigh corporate interests any day, and victims of fraud *won't* be doing so well if these scams continue.

In recent years, cruises offered by Norwegian Cruise Line have been going awry – usually because the cruise fails to fulfill the itinerary. There are sometimes valid reasons – such as weather – for skipping stops on an itinerary. Much of this is at the captain's discretion. When you pay for a cruise, you're actually paying for just the ship itself, which is really just a "floating hotel." But a line has to be drawn when a cruise line knows ahead of time that it won't fulfill items on the itinerary that it advertises, and waits until after vacationers have paid for the cruise to announce it. There's a difference between sudden weather-related changes and not disclosing existing changes until it's too late to cancel.

I think that's exactly what Norwegian did for an Antarctic cruise a few weeks ago. After tourists got on the ship in Buenos Aires to embark (arf-arf!) on this voyage, they learned that the cruise was essentially gutted. Obviously, it was way too late for them to cancel. Instead of letting passengers see mainland Antarctica as advertised, the cruise would only graze a few islands well off the coast.

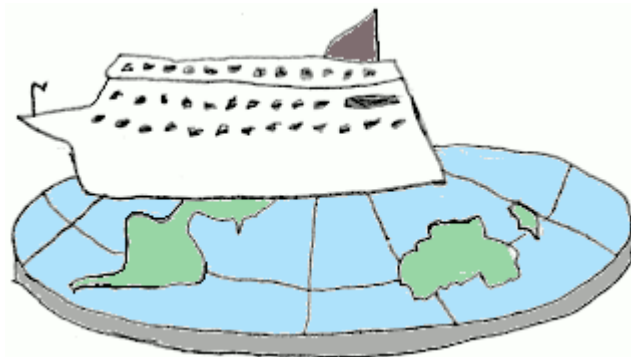
This outraged many tourists. They had purchased this cruise just because it focused on Antarctica. This was such an exotic location that they'd never have another chance to see it. And Norwegian ripped the heart right out of this outing by canceling the most anticipated item on the itin.

It wasn't just this cruise. Stories abound on the public Internet about Norwegian also pulverizing other cruises. Somebody said that before they left on a cruise, they tried to book a private excursion at a stop in the Dominican Republic. The excursion operator wouldn't book it, because they already knew the ship was going to skip that stop. This customer then asked Norwegian about this stop, and the cruise line insisted the cruise would stop there. But when passengers got on board, they

were told that the cruise was indeed skipping it.

Another commenter said a cruise on Norwegian that was supposed to include the Madeira islands skipped that stop because of port congestion—even though that ship would have been the only one at the port that day. A tourist on a Baltic cruise said Norwegian took them to the wrong port. The cruise line then had the nerve to say it was the tour operators' fault that all the excursions in town were canceled—even though they were actually canceled because the ship was in the wrong city.

What about that recent Antarctic cruise? It appears that the body that regulates Antarctic tourism had enacted lower speed limits for cruise ships, so the cruise wouldn't have had time to see the mainland. But Norwegian had known since 2021 that the order would be in effect—and advertised the unmodified itinerary anyway. Plus, there would have been time if Norwegian had adjusted other parts of the schedule instead. Passengers were so angry at Norwegian's deception that they staged a revolt on the ship. Hundreds banded together to confront guest services.



Also, Internet access on the ship was so bad that we can only suspect that Norwegian was throttling access so people couldn't contact the media. That didn't work though, as the mutiny quickly made the news. Even *Good Morning America* covered it. I guess *Good Morning America* was able to fit this item between their idiotic stories that defended requiring new mothers to wear masks during childbirth.

Norwegian isn't the only offender. The *Good Morning America* report said MSC Cruises recently shifted an itinerary from the Bahamas to Canada. That's a mighty big change considering most of the activities depended on warm weather.

It also turned out that Norwegian told the media that they had sent out an e-mail about the change to the Antarctic cruise beforehand—but this was a flat-out lie. People didn't discover the change until they found a letter about it in their rooms on the ship.

Our commitment to consumer protection is unassailable. Exposing scams like that by Norwegian Cruise Line is what consumer advocacy is all about! Admittedly, however, this item would have been one of the top stories in this zine if the victims were poorer. The main point here though is that consumer protection involves going after big corporations for ripping people off. During COVID, a for-profit group that falsely claimed to be a consumer advocacy organization demanded Colorado institute a second lockdown. How does that shield consumers? It doesn't. Lockdowns are the exact opposite of consumer protection. Luckily, Colorado didn't cave.

A web page about records warns...

"Records sometimes develop cracks without apparent reason. ... These cracks are due to static stresses set up in the material during manufacture. The actual cause is most likely to be faulty temperature control. As they develop some time after manufacture the loss generally has to be sustained by the purchaser, which is not as it should be. It would be interesting to hear what the leading manufacturers have to say about it."

The record makers probably sound like Norwegian Cruise Line.

Good grief! Peanuts plot thickens!

As you know, one of my goals in life has been to unearth a hilarious '90s *Peanuts* strip in which Charlie Brown's pen leaked and he yelled, "Rats!"

I think we've finally found the pot of gold at the end of the *Peanuts* rainbow! But it wasn't from the '90s.

A website of *Peanuts* strips has the comic from October 7, 1980. This installment is exactly what I remember. A frustrated Charlie suddenly tilts his head back, opens his mouth wide enough to devour Manitoba, and declares, "Rats!" It was as uproarious as you might imagine!

I had suspected that whoever is in charge of archiving *Peanuts* had suppressed a '90s strip, but

now it looks like the real culprit is one of our regional newspapers. I *know* I saw that strip in the '90s when I had my old apartment. I'm pretty sure I wrote about it on my website soon after I started it. This means the newspaper ran a 1980 strip instead of the new strip they were supposed to run that day.

That sounds like something the *Cincinnati Post* would have done if the new strip contained something controversial. But I'm not 100% sure it was the *Post*. I'm only 99% sure. It's possible I also bought one of the major newspapers hauled in from somewhere else in Kentucky that day because I saw it had an interesting article. But those papers at the time were not nearly as censorious as Cincinnati media were. These days, Kentucky's top newspapers are little more than propaganda leaflets that use their front pages to cheer and encourage extremist policies. But back in the '90s, the press had more folks who appreciated what journalism is supposed to be about.

On the other hand, newspapers created clutter, so why buy extra papers? Newspapers were to be read and immediately discarded, unless we wanted to cut out an article to save. The whole process was swift. The huge portfolio full of slick, full-color ads that came with the *Cincinnati Post* on Saturdays was put in the bonfire bag without even being opened. It's like how you go to the bathroom when TV commercials come on.

I also suspect the *Post* of suppressing a *Peanuts* strip because I remember a separate incident in which I know it refused to run a comic because of its content. I think that was when *Doonesbury* ran a series dealing with Dan Quayle's connections to drug lords.

Another incident in which *Doonesbury* was suppressed: In 2005, pro-war right-wingers got one of the printers that printed color Sunday comics to stop printing *Doonesbury*. This caused the Sunday strip to be dropped by most of the papers that got it from that printer. The only exception was an Alabama paper, which was forced to run it in black-and-white.

But how controversial can *Peanuts* possibly be? *Peanuts* was carefully worded so that nobody who has ever lived in the history of the universe could possibly be offended by it. Even a fart was called a "rock snake." If the *Cincinnati Post* refused to run a *Peanuts* strip, that would have been like when Channel 12 wouldn't air *New Year's Rockin' Eve* because it was too much for them to handle. One Sunday in 1988, Q-102 deleted a "Long Distance Dedication" from *American Top 40*. I found out years later that the letter was from a man writing about his record collection—a completely inoffensive subject. The record he dedicated was "Power Of Love" by Laura Branigan—a completely inoffensive song. The *Post* skipping a *Peanuts* installment would have been like that.

Aaugh!



Returning ruined toys no child's play

Unscrupulous toughs have been buying toys just so they can take the parts they want and returning the rest for a refund.

I found a thread on the public Internet from someone who was angry that somebody had purchased a Hot Wheels track, kept the toy cars that came with it (which were not available elsewhere), and returned the rest of the toy to the store. The store was none the wiser and issued a full refund. The magic word was used in the post's title: "This could've been some kid's Christmas morning getting ruined by a nonworking toy." The commenter recommended that the scammers at least replace the cars with different cars so the toy could at least be used.

Somebody replied saying that people had been buying Lego sets, keeping some of the figures that were included, and returning the remainder of the set. Another respondent said they see toy packages torn open all the time at Target.

Buyer scams aren't the only threat to the spirit of American ingenuity. Bungling by big retailers is of course a problem too. On another website, someone said he ordered a battery-powered toy car off Amazon that was advertised for \$89. But Amazon charged him \$393. When he tried to return the car

after being overcharged, Amazon said they couldn't take the car back because it was a "hazard." Then why did Amazon sell it?

Back in those heady days of 2019, we regaled you about a YouTube video in which a man ran valuable baseball cards through a paper shredder. Now we've found a clip in which someone demolishes perfectly good toy cars in a metal shredder. Some of the cars were brand new...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=waByXV1qpOk>

The police van put up a good fight but it was ultimately futile.

Another video in this series shreds items like perfectly good protractors, paintbrushes, tacks, pens, pencils, duct tape, and yarn. The shredding of a marker coats the blades with black ink. The caption for the clip reads, "If you think we could have given this garbage to somebody please consider to educate yourself how charity works"...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=opDHuF7c1DY>

Yet another of these videos shreds a stuffed Cookie Monster...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JGTSD-PaFwx>

Somehow, I don't think the store is going to take those toys back.



Stink MTV

When TV gets toilety, you pay attention.

I remember a reality show on one of the over-the-air networks that was set in a high school. The whole show was about a toilet overflowing. That was it. That was almost the entire show. I remember the water seeping into the hallway as students took cover.

TV people must love toilets. They insert references to feces when you least expect it. An example comes to us from MTV back around 1985-86. Back then, MTV used to air a top 100 music video countdown at the end of each year. They also had a top 100 of "all-time" to celebrate their 5th anniversary in 1986. MTV's definition of "all-time" was the 5 years they had been around, which seems particularly absurd. If "all-time" included only the past 5 years before now, the history of the universe would only go back as far as the release of the Mueller report.

Each of these countdowns lasted hours, and I remember watching them. I recall something very strange happening during one of them. It was between commercials or maybe at the end of an ad break.

When there were technical difficulties, it was hard to tell whether it was Storer Cable or MTV. This was when Storer had its broken low-pass filter and MTV had that "klop klop klop!" during ads. It was also when WCLU sounded like it was using a rusty pull tab from a soda can as a stylus for its turntables, so radio was afflicted too. But, about one-third of the way through one of these countdowns, something occurred that appeared to be entirely MTV's doing. After a commersh, the screen went dark. There was an unusually long silence. The suspense was mounting! Then—without warning—a man was heard yelling, "Poop!"

That really happened!

Maybe the man was trying to make his own automation tone, like the one that other cable channels used back then, or like the chime that always came before *All In The Family* that sounded like the Facebook notification tone.

Unfortunately, I can't prove it occurred. Recently, I found some of the MTV top 100 shows from that era on YouTube and inspected the parts of the broadcasts where I thought it would have taken place. I came up empty. They were probably taped off a cable system that ran local ads over the important proclamation.

Or maybe Storer territory was a separate country that got a different MTV feed.

People are still jamming your radio

Not enforcing reasonable government regulations means regulations effectively have no meaning.

I remember when I used to listen to the radio and a mysterious Mr. Patches-like hum would occasionally appear in the background. I just assumed the interference came from a nearby business.

Remember, this was in the late '80s, when radios were generally of better quality and the FM band wasn't as crowded. Whatever the weather, the interference was a smoking gun that someone had a device that was breaking FCC rules.

Guess what? After 35 years, it's still going on. In fact, it's worse. Someone on the public Internet says somebody is running a device in their nabe that completely obliterates a hefty chunk of the FM dial and all of the AM dial. Not like anyone else will notice, because nobody else listens to the radio anymore because the industry has self-destructed so disastrously, but that's beside the point.

It was speculated that the FCC won't step in and stop this interference unless cellphones are affected too. If it's only broadcast radio or TV that are affected, they simply won't care. They sent their vans all the way from Detroit to shut down Tantrum 95.7, which didn't interfere with anyone, but they won't go after businesses that run machinery that wipe out much of the dial. The FCC won't even do anything about FCC-licensed stations jamming other FCC-licensed stations in what is supposed to be the other stations' coverage area. The stations doing the jamming often broadcast outside their assigned frequency. If you're in Bellevue, try listening to certain Cincinnati FM stations. Notice that for some stations, you must have your antenna at a perfect angle, or else you'll pick up other stations, which are assigned to a different frequency.

That's not to mention the stations that created interference by being audible through your computer speakers.

I've been on the case for 35 years, and I haven't forgotten! Covering this topic brings back fond memories of hearing "I Won't Back Down" while setting up my very first Fourth of July Environmentally Sound Bonfire. That song title describes my approach to this subject.

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