

The Last Word™

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Tone policing, 2024 style

We live in a ridiculous society.

It's mighty rich to see demands that we tone things down from those who have spent so many years—*decades*—spewing bile. They're part of a blob that has talked smack about everyone, spread idiotic lies, started brawls, and distributed software attacking private citizens without provocation. These selfish narcissists have seamlessly stepped up from localized squabbles to editorializing with their goofy ideas in front of the whole world. It's because nobody ever told them no and made sure it stuck.

They try to get college students expelled and service workers fired because they called someone a poo-poo head on Rumble, yet they say and do things that are far worse. If I said something that hurt their delicate feelings, it's usually because they earned it. As an intelligent person would say: Play stupid games, win stupid prizes.

Here's a guarantee: If we keep up our tough stance against this shit, we're going to keep being ratted on and finding our online posts deleted. Meanwhile, those who fight us and tell us to tone it down will continue to harass everyone and get away with it. That's been the story for years.

But guess what? When we fight back, we get better results than when we used to sit back and take it. So we're gonna keep fighting back like we have been. Cope.

Censors, censors everywhere and not a drop to drink

The Supreme Court's misrule in *Murthy v. Missouri* has opened the floodgates of censorship even wider than before.

This recent right-wing ruling, whose majority opinion was written by far-right Justice Amy Coney Barrett, has essentially gutted the First Amendment by allowing the government to covertly coerce social media sites into deleting content they disagree with—even verifiable facts. It's impossible to follow the ruling's "logic." It was framed as a ruling based on standing, but because it was called *Murthy v. Missouri*, the plaintiff was actually Vivek Murthy. So he was really the party who lacked standing—not those who were censored.

Immediately after the ruling, Facebook dug in on its stifling of dissent. Right away, one of my posts was deleted by Facebook because of my opinion. It didn't even come close to violating any of Facebook's stated rules. It was merely an inquiry about when the city of Bellevue would start obeying the Americans with Disabilities Act and reopen the sidewalk that was closed when the Fifth Third building caved in. This collapse has left a pile of rubble on the sidewalk for weeks, and the city has refused to hold the developer accountable or make sure the mess is cleaned up. My post used not a single profanity.

Given the ableism of some high-ranking officials in the Biden administration, the deletion of this post has the White House's fingerprints all over it. After all, this is the administration that hired Miguel Cardona, and—judging by some of his extremist statements, which are so far beyond anything that would have been acceptable 5 years ago—Cardona hasn't exactly been a friend to disabled people.

I'm fully aware that President Biden is not running the show. The ongoing government censorship is being executed by others in his administration. It always was.

My experience isn't the only example of the expanding censorship. Right after *Murthy v.*



Missouri, Facebook also doubled down on other censorship, which points more suspicion at White House officials. This alone might not show with 100% certainty that the government has stepped up *this* social media censorship campaign—it's only 99%—but it does absolutely confirm that a broad effort to censor political speech does exist. This is despite the fact that Facebook has refused to go after posts that did indeed cross what should be considered a reasonable threshold.

This is actually at the point where it's not just an issue of government censorship but likely an antitrust violation too. But with the government censoring people, and with its antitrust division hardly ever used, we can't expect anything to be done about that.

Google is guilty too. Another writer says that—immediately after the Murthy decision—Google Groups removed some of her content. An “external report” had flagged this content. The deleted content consisted only of a few texts linking to Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s debate event. It was deleted after only a half-hour. (When CNN illegally coordinated with the Biden and Trump campaigns and excluded Kennedy from its debate—despite him having met the qualifications to appear—Kennedy held his own debate in which he responded to the “approved” debate in real time. Kennedy's event got more viewers than the CNN version.)

It turned out that Google was also monitoring private groups so they could block other posts about Kennedy's debate.

Google of course did not reveal who was behind the “external report.” We again suspect a poopy talon of the government.

This is while Google is allowing China to use American artificial intelligence technology.

And TikTok—which is owned by the Chinese Communist Party—is banning users for criticizing Vice-President Harris's right-wing record.

In addition to being involved with countless labor abuses in China, the CCP also buys cobalt from mines in the Democratic Republic of the Congo that abuse child laborers and dump waste in local water supplies. This cobalt is used in Chinese factories to make batteries for smartphones sold in America, as the U.S. not only allows offshoring of American jobs but also refuses to require that companies that make goods sold in America follow even basic labor rules at overseas sites. For many years, America's rulers have often cared more about the profits of CCP-owned enterprises than about American families. In brief, the U.S. government is pro-CCP and has been through perhaps most of my adult life.

Maddeningly, online vandals who crossed what a reasonable person would consider a proper threshold of online conduct have been coddled by numerous parties—including Facebook. They were defended under the guise of free speech. But those who defended them are generally the folks who also defend the government's secret program of social media censorship. There was a period a quarter-century ago when I was bombarded with harassing online messages. Nobody did shit about it. They called that free speech. But if it'll stop the current government censorship campaign, bombard me a million times more!

A shoplifter bubbled

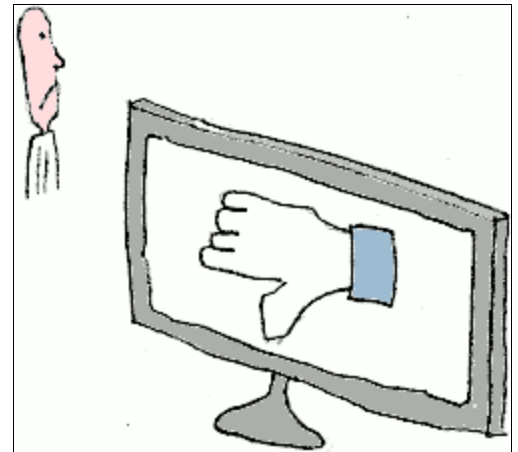
On April 6, 2022, officers saw a shoplifter bubble.

We've run several stories about people shoplifting bubble gum. It almost seems like just *one* story, because the modus operandi is usually the same. They came, they saw, they bubbled.

In this YouTube video, however, a shoplifter did not steal beegie, but she did bubble...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3AAQ89R2Ct0>

Here's a rundown of that video in case you're afraid a newspaper vending machine might release a trail of fire ants. Police respond to a Florida mall about a disruptive young woman in a



clothing store. At first, no allegations of shoplifting are evident. Then the theft alarm goes off, and cops catch up with the young woman at a Foot Locker shoe store across the hall.

It is at Foot Locker where she bubbles. Fast-forward to about 3:40. It is then that she blows a bub. And she has a weird technique. Something about the bubble looks flimsy and odd. But it's funny nonetheless.

The ensuing battle spills out into the wide corridor. At about 10:35, there's more gum-related news. The subdued suspect seems to be spitting her gum onto the floor. Then she tries picking it back up using her nose, and the gum dangles there. Somehow, she gets gum in her hair, and she asks the police to remove it.

She is found to have 7 clothing items from 3 different stores in her shopping bag.

There should be a spin-off of *Cops* called *Gum Cops*, which focuses entirely on gum-related incidents. There should be a *Gum Court* too.

At least this time, a member of the public appears to have committed an actual crime. Sometimes the system does screw up and go after actual lawbreakers. So this is different from when I was menaced by police for "trespassing" at the Steely Dan Library or for crashing a George W. Bush fascist rally. Those incidents were the fault of the system, not me.



Tonight I'm sittin' alone, pickin' up porn...

In the immortal words of Nelson Muntz: *HA-HA!!!*

It's hard to believe that politicians in 2024 are worked up again about what consenting adults do in the bedroom. Or maybe it's not so hard to believe, considering the democratic backsliding that has defined the decade. It's like how Oregon has restarted the failed drug war.

But there's a workaround for some of their prudishness, so pay very close attention.

Kentucky recently passed a law designed to completely block online pornography. Both major parties are guilty of passing it. This law requires porn sites to make users upload a photo ID to verify that they're at least 18, but the real aim of the law is to keep *adults* from viewing porn. Lawmakers know most sites do not have the technology or bandwidth to properly verify these photos, and it's inconvenient for most people to upload their photo.

It's none of anybody's damn business what adults view, as long as the content only includes consenting adults. I thought this was one issue—*one issue*—that may have been finally settled. But nooooo!

When this zine started, some of the most salient issues were economic justice, student concerns, and fighting against false imprisonment. But opposing government censorship of material that was constitutionally protected—even sexually oriented content—was also a major founding cause. Priggishness and soak-the-poor economics had been woven into each other as a broad right-wing equipage, and opposition to this package was a major political bloc.

After the Kentucky law passed, some porn sites announced they would be blocking access in Kentucky. The sites were unable to follow the new law in a manner that didn't seem unwieldy. Kentuckians who try to access these sites are now faced with a message saying it's blocked in this state. It's like living in North Korea where you're not allowed to pull in TV and radio stations from outside the country. Of course, America did the same thing to shortwave stations during the 1991 Gulf War, so the Kentucky blockage isn't completely new to Americans.

I'm assuming everyone who is reading this is at least 45, so I don't think it's a problem to tell you that you can bypass Kentucky's porn filter—for free. You can just log on to PlainProxies and access your favorite porn sites from there. This seems to work. It's pretty funny that we can bypass the Frankfort Taliban as easily as we can. Our legislators aren't as smart as they think they are.

I don't usually view porn sites, but I had to find a way to bypass such capricious censorship. I'm just doing my job. Any job is worth doing well, and even as I drift into the twilight of life, I will do my job as well as possible.

How is it even possible to block a site based on geographic location? When the Internet first became popular, it was more peer-to-peer. It didn't rely on centralized equipment as much. Those who

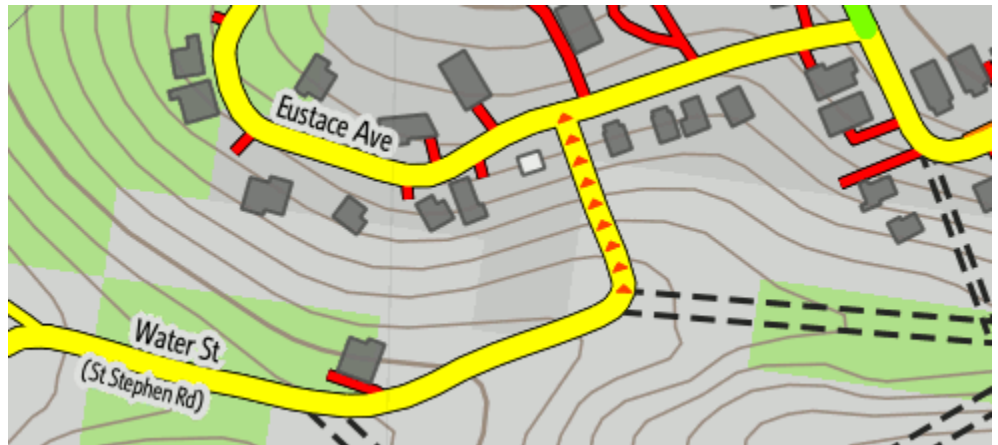
bawled hell out of me for tracking down the location of people who harassed me online are usually the same folks who think it's A-OK to pinpoint your location to block you from accessing legally protected sites.

Let it sink in how ridiculous it is that lawmakers have gone back to policing what adults read in private. It's mighty funny though that there's an easy workaround.

Water Street sign doesn't hold water

Marking public roads as private is right up there with the phantom stop signs! And we've found an example in Campbell County.

Let's take a drive west-southwest down Eustace Avenue in an unincorporated residential area just southwest of Fort Thomas. Easy does it! Let's travel a few houses down the street and look to the left.



There's a small street there descending a hill called Water Street. The most recent Google Street View photo—from last October—shows a bit of an anomaly. There is a sign blade at Water Street declaring it's a "private drive" and "no trespassing." That sign is new since the previous photo, which is from 2013—hardly ancient history.

But that street is not private. The surrounding parcel is private just as many other properties are, but the roadway itself became public when it was dedicated. It would have to be public by necessity. Ever since construction of I-275 ruined the neighborhood, this is the only way to access the rest of Water Street or homes along it. Can people be ticketed for trespassing just for trying to reach their own home?

The shape of parcels there is hokey. The property that supposedly includes the street also seems to include half of the neighbor's shed. Can the neighbor be charged with trespassing for using their own shed?

Somebody just within the past 11 years decided to post a sign marking a public street as private—even after that stretch of road saw open, notorious, and public use throughout the previous 40 years since it was built.

Just recently, a court ruled that a billionaire venture capitalist in California can't block access to a public beach. He tried using a gate and armed guards. Blocking Water Street would be just as legally impermissible.

This is different from the small stretch of street in Bellevue where a resident posted a sign declaring it's a private street and construction trucks are banned. While that too is a public street, it was high time for the trucks to be banned, as the trucks had been tearing up Bellevue streets to serve projects that actually harmed the city. At least this sign appears to be aimed only at construction companies instead of the public. So if a resident took matters into their own hands by posting that sign, tough luck.

Water Street is also known as part of my route to the Threemile Creek tunnel where I almost drowned, which caused me to subsequently drag mud throughout the Shell convenience store nearby.

For those who think gum

Ever blow a bubble with bubble gum filled with Pepsi?

I have vague memories of people doing things like this. These recollections were recently dredged up when I again searched for the gum commercial with a cartoon of George Washington bubbling. I was reminded of the Pepsi bubs when I stumbled upon a video titled "Trapping Burp Gas

in Bubble Gum.”

It seems that one time, maybe 25 years ago, someone submitted a guest article here saying that some woman blew a bubble that was full of Pepsi. From what I recall, she took a big gulp of Peps and then bubbled—enabling the Peps to fill the bub.

I have an even more elusive memory of actually seeing some woman do this, except I’m not sure if it was Pepsi. It might have been some other bev such as Hawaiian Punch or beer. I seem to remember that she bubbled and then pulled the bub out of her mouth as it was still inflated and full of beverage. She waved it around for the whole wide world to ogle (beep).

It’s possible this event never even happened, and I’m just thinking it did because of the power of suggestion. It’s like how I saw a radio survey that included “Fool Moon Fire” so I keep thinking I heard this song on our car radio in my school parking lot in 4th grade. This might not have occurred, as I usually took the school bus then. But it likely did occur, as the oldsters had to drive me home on the many days I got detention when I was blamed for the school’s many screw-ups. It’s possible that I never saw someone fill a bubble with Pepsi but I began believing I did because of that guest piece. This memory is just too fuzzy to know for sure.

There are some things that I remember clearly enough that I know they happened—even if everyone denies them. There are some things that everyone insists happened in my presence—or that I caused—but I can say for sure I didn’t see or do them. Historical negationism looms large among naysayers. Some would call it revisionism, but that word is usually misused. *Revisionism* means reinterpreting historical accounts, but *negationism* means distorting or denying historical events outright. Saying that certain things that I witnessed didn’t occur is poor scholarship.

These negationists are like the neighborhood kid you knew when you were 9 who was always arguing, being wrong about everything, and saying “nuh-uh!” and “yuh-uh!” Those kids seem to have grown up to become governors, school superintendents, and public health commissioners. The only way the aforementioned negationists are different is that they haven’t called anyone an “Ernie-and-Bert-butt” yet.



A person said something bad with food dripping out their mouth

This is another story that proves my hat is brighter than some might claim. It’s so meta!

The world is—sadly—full of bigotry and falsehoods. I want no part of that. I haven’t wanted any part of it in the 31 years I’ve been publishing this zine. I’ve never said anything in this zine that even *suggested* bigotry. I’ve also never knowingly printed anything here that was false, unless you count things that were clearly intended as a joke. These are principles, not hobbies.

I wish I had the energy to gather up all our past issues. I’ve always mixed serious and humorous pieces, and there were some humorous items where I was just sporting with some of the



buffoons I had to deal with then. You had to be there. They asked for every bit of this humiliation and then some.

People used to say the name of the TV show *You Asked For It* was inspired by what an angry parent might say to a child after punishing them. I even ran an article on that once, replete with an illustration of Jack Barry spanking Rich Little for knocking *The Joker's Wild* off the air. If *You Asked For It* had come along later, you might think the name was inspired by what we might say to our adversaries after making fun of them here.

Our dedication to facts and tolerance is no joke, and this commitment puts to shame some of the entities we've had to deal with. This story took place at the dreaded Bishop Brossart High School, but it's not about the school itself or even one of the usual suspects who peopled it. The dumbtagonist was actually one of my pals, but in the adult world, it's hard to be friends with people who say some of the things they say. I trust that he's grown and matured since then.

One day, this student was eating, so this was likely at lunch. Another student did something that offended him. I think he walked past and slapped him on the back to try to make him swallow his food or something like that. The first student became angry and ejected the food he was chewing onto the table. It wasn't a projectile spitting. He just opened his mouth and let gravity do the rest. As the food was dripping out of his mouth, he blurted out a slur against the second student. It was the same word Thom Brennaman used that got him kicked off the airwaves. I'd go into more detail if I was posting this zine on Substack, which has fairly lax rules, but we try to tone things down for other venues.

This sort of talk was and is pretty common, but that doesn't make it right. It might be quoted in articles after somebody else said it—as Wikipedia does—or used by fictional characters. But this event involved a real person who wasn't quoting someone else. I seem to recall a small piece early in this zine's run in which similar language was used by a fictional character who was a composite of some Republican fratboys, but people back then got the joke. Nobody would get it now. Everyone knew this language was from a fictional person being portrayed negatively—not something that represented our own views. The character was like if Archie Bunker had gone to college. Tolerance is a principle we take very seriously. Plus, that piece wasn't written to be very sophisticated. It was written to make fun of fraternities and sororities, and I'm not even sure if our main edition even ran this piece in its original form. I probably just gave a few copies of the original to people I knew and tidied it up for the main release.

This zine had to give up on sophistication before it even started. That's because we've had to use less advanced equipment, and haven't had access to much input from other folks. This is largely the fault of schools, politicians, and others who colluded to destroy people's lives.

In addition to the food spitting, I recall another particular incident from when I was in high school. I was on the school bus one morning, and the culprits were a gang of elementary school kids who went to a different school. One of them hurled a racial slur toward an older student. In fact, I think it was a brand new slur strung together from existing pejoratives. The student who was targeted wasn't saying or doing anything at all. Even if he was, it wouldn't justify the racist talk. The type of talk that was spoken that morning was un-American. I truly doubt the offending group of grade schoolers in this incident has grown and matured, because they were brats all along.

These days, trust fund babies form committees just to find things to get offended at. They do things like demand removal of statues of Abraham Lincoln because he signed the Homestead Act. But Honest Abe is far less offensive than some of the things people said and did at school.

We strive for a society built on human dignity instead of prejudice. Unfortunately, the world is now approaching a level of disgrace never before seen in human history.

Contract on Kentucky

The Kentucky "education" system has got to be one of the most politically charged establishments in America, and among the most abiding of World Economic Forum fundamentalism.

Here's another reason not to go back to college in Kentucky—or even start. It appears that in



2018, the state's universities and community colleges ditched their attempt at open enrollment—such as it was. They didn't really have open enrollment even before then. Even if you graduated high school, you couldn't just apply and be accepted. You had to have a good academic record. Now it's worse still, because if you had less than a 2.5 GPA in high school, you're forced to sign a "learning contract."

This is a list of specific academic goals and tutoring requirements, and it also requires you to participate in a financial literacy program. I'm not against teaching financial literacy, but it's condescending to single out particular students for it. They make it sound like it's their fault they lost the zip code lottery and grew up in a bad school district. Instead of properly attributing a student's academic record to their high school's incompetence, our colleges say it's because the student doesn't know how to manage money. This is yet another example of schools refusing to accept responsibility.

This is based solely on your high school GPA. If you transfer from another college, and you did better there than in high school, your college GPA doesn't count. Even if you graduated high school 50 years ago, your GPA is etched in stone. These rules do not appear to have any exemption for students who went to high school a long time ago. That's almost like requiring a high school senior who is ready to graduate that they have to go back to kindergarten.

I know firsthand it wasn't this bad in 1992. Those who say these changes are necessary can wipe those smug smirks off their mugs now.

Higher education has become merely a product. But they apparently don't want most people to buy—and I'm happy to oblige. My goodness, have they gotten ridiculous! And the federal government is glad to encourage this silly nonsense and wastefulness.

All of this is from universities that claim to respect inclusion and equality but won't implement services to investigate hate crimes. Their claims to liberality are just for show. Their other actions in recent years show they don't really give a shit about inclusion.

You can't write stupider fiction than reality.

'Outsiders' project no outsider to bubble gum

Actor Glenn Withrow—who played Tim Shepard in the film adaptation of *The Outsiders*—is one of few famous people from Highland Heights. And everyone knows Highland Heights has 4 food groups: Dubble Bubble, Bubble Yum, Bazooka, and Hubba Bubba.

So there's no better substance for sculpting an *Outsiders*-themed model than bubble gum!

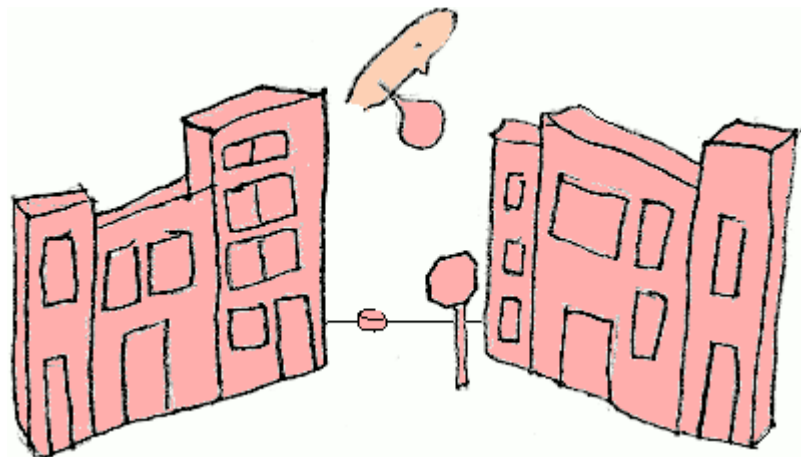
Someone on the public Internet said that when they were growing up, they won a contest in which they received a "lifetime supply" of Bubble Tape. It consisted of about 12 boxes of gum. Some folks would use up that "lifetime supply" in a day, but the cooltagonist in this story got sick of this beegie right quick.

So they used it for a group project for school where they had to make a model of the town from *The Outsiders*.

The entire model was sculpted from chewed Bubble Tape. Nothing but!

That's like in 5th grade when we had to "brainstorm" things to make sculptures of Egyptian pyramids from. Suggestions included bubble gum, toilet paper, and cake mix.

The Outsiders actually took place in Tulsa, but they should remake the movie and have it set in Highland Heights just so there could be bubble gum everywhere.



Homeschooling boom flushes away toilet troubles

There aren't as many ploppings in schools as there used to be, because there aren't as many kids attending regular public or private schools as there used to be.

Over the past few years, America has seen record numbers of homeschoolers. It was reported that there were 2 counties in Virginia where 1 in 5 schoolchildren were homeschooled. We don't have anything against homeschooling, as long as there are sufficient rules in place to stop obvious abuses. But homeschoolers face much discrimination. There are municipal ordinances like daytime youth curfews that suppress homeschoolers more severely, and some turgid blowhards have demanded that public libraries ban homeschool families.

Schools in some states and cities have become so troubled that even some major cities now have only a handful of students in public schools.

School officials in New Haven, Connecticut, recently said that there were 248 work orders for vandalism between July 2023 and this March—many of them for restrooms. This includes a toilet that was completely ripped from the floor. But a school spokesman said it isn't necessarily students—or teachers—who are committing the vandalism. The reason for that is that there just aren't as many kids in the schools as there used to be. Groups from outside the school use the school buildings during evenings, weekends, and the increasingly brief summer break. So it's just as likely that the vandalism is being committed by people involved with these organizations.

It's kind of like the college party that borrowed the music room at St. Joe's and placed a big pile of condoms under the lid that covered the keys of the piano so the condoms all fell out when the music teacher opened it.

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