

The Last Word™

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Somebody made some history of their own in Pennsylvania

From September 7 to 10, we went on a fact-finding mission in the wilds of northern Pennsylvania!

To paraphrase an old Pennsylvania tourism slogan, we found that people had made history of their own by trashing bathrooms. We camped at Ole Bull State Park. It was reported that a toilet in a men's restroom there had pee-soaked toilet paper draped across the seat. One afternoon, we had lunch at a picnic area along a highway, and the beethoom there was also hilariously in shambles: There was pee all over the floor in front of the toilet, and the lock on the door was broken.

We had dinner one evening at a restaurant that had a large, white dog roaming about the eating area. There was also a group of elderly customers loudly cussing. One other evening, we ate at a Chili's that reportedly served iced tea that tasted like Band-Aids.

On the final night of the trip, we lodged near Johnstown. We woke up to discover that water had backed up into the bathtub at the motel. Some have actually attributed the filled tub to an "idiot" using the shower without opening the drain. But I didn't see Marco Rubio barging in and using the shower. Besides, this trope can be debunked by the fact that the bathroom was used in the middle of the night and the tub wasn't full then.

Also, I think I got stung by a bee. A bug flew at me on a small walkway and hit me above the eye. I thought it was only a fly, but it stung afterward.

Biddle gibzz!

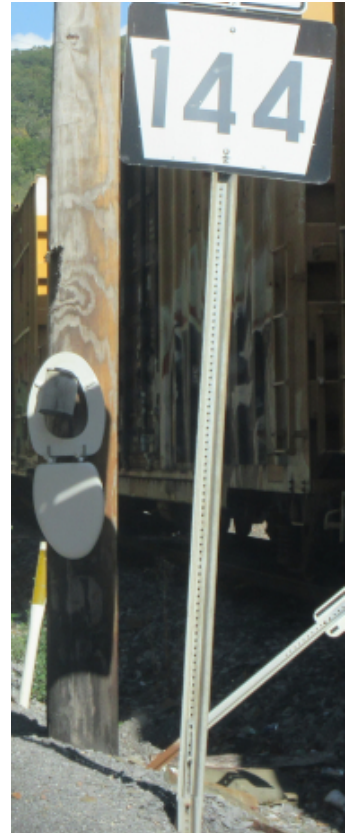
Plop goes the glasses!

I went to the Saturday installment of the recent Oktoberfest in Cincinnati. As you know, we call it Ploptoberfest, because people always put things in the toilets. *Always*.

Sometime that afternoon, I used one of the port-o-poopers there, and I noticed that someone had deposited a broken pair of eyeglasses into the toilet bowl. These glasses were of the Jimmy Dore style that's so popular now. These specs leered at all comers from the glorious trenches of the dumper. As a bonus, there was a complimentary Pepsi bottle next to it. Or maybe it was an insulting Pepsi bottle.

Celebrity look-alikes also abounded at this festival. These included George Michael (from when he had short hair and a beard) and Alan Hale Jr., best known as the Skipper on *Gilligan's Island*. The Skipper look-alike is one of the funniest celebrity look-alikes I've ever seen, because he looked *exactly like him* and was visible for many minutes as he was talking to some folks a few feet in front of me. Maybe he was actually Tim Walz.

Later, on the Serpentine Wall as a '70s cover band was playing, a woman spilled almost an entire Diet Coke onto a plate of food—thereby



wosting both.

We still need to counter the plague of cashless vendors. The rate of vendors that still accepted cash seemed to be much better than it was at Taste of Cincinnati this past May, but still far worse than it was at last year's Ploptoberfest, when cash still ruled. The proliferation of cashless booths means the agenda of the far-right World Economic Forum and 3CDC hovers over our public events. This prohibition against cash stymied revelers' efforts to obtain water in the blazing sun, so if they had suffered heatstroke, that would have been a hefty lawsuit against 3CDC.

The plopped eyeglasses will be remembered forever. Perhaps the most noteworthy Ploptoberfest plopping so far this decade was in 2023 when someone plopped the lid of a tub of Blue Bonnet margarine. Miss Blue Bonnet gazed upward at restroom goers. If the spectacles had been plopped onto Miss Blue Bonnet to make it appear as if she was wearing them, that would have been even funnier!

Introducing the People's Land Bank!

Tonight while the lights are shining and the microphone is on, we're pleased as pee to introduce something new: the People's Land Bank!

It's not a bank like Fifth Third or Fort Thomas-Bellevue Bank where you can go in and open a savings account. It's not a spank bank, so you can't spank yourself silly. It's not a piggy bank, so Ronald Reagan can't send agents into your bedroom in the middle of the night to break it open because a deceased relative owes back taxes. (The Reagan regime actually did that once.) Rather, the People's Land Bank is an attempt to identify all public land in the Cincinnati area.

Why? Because you need it.

In the last decade, I won a settlement in a small claims suit I filed. But we know there were worse culprits in this case than the defendants, and the worst offenders bobbed above the law's reach. These included government departments who we knew were guilty but whose guilt we would never be able to sufficiently prove in court. I believe in John F. Kennedy's quote, "Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country." Yet I still need to be made whole for local agencies' past sins.

Public land is a resource for the people. And around here, it's scarce. But the People's Land Bank is being used in conjunction with our mapping project to help map the public land the area has.

According to common law, all navigable waters are public. In states in our area, all other flowing, perennial waters are also public. But the People's Land Bank covers dry land, and we use several sources to determine what land is public.

Common law says beaches below the high water mark are public, but that's largely moot around here. One source that we use to wade through the madness is the USGS shapefiles of "protected areas." We glean areas that are under public ownership from these files. Other sources include websites run by local counties and public GIS departments. Most local counties have this data online in the form of parcel records. We parse out parcels owned by cities and counties. In addition, we include land that is not part of any parcel, as that land is made up of rights-of-way and other territory that is officially owned by nobody. That land is simply...there.

And trust us, we're 10 steps ahead of most local counties if they try to hoard this data so we can't access it. We don't know how long this will hold up, because we're practically a one-man band, and official agencies are bigger operations that may have a vested interest in denying us public data, even though we pay for it with our tax dollars. But for now, enjoy the show!

Complaints from the far right notwithstanding, parcels are owned by whoever the local property valuation administrator says. We reported last year that a few soreheads on Facebook tried to argue that a city-owned lot was actually owned by the Kent Lofts luxury apartment building that is blocks away from it. Armed with information from the PVA's website, we patiently tried to correct this fable, but they still insisted it was a private lot.

How is public land shown on our maps? For a long time, we had been trying to depict public land, but it was very piecemeal. As we roll out the People's Land Bank, our maps will show public land using green crosshatching...





This project also reveals that some ostensibly private developments are actually on public land. Some of these are also federally “protected areas.” An example is Dayton’s Manhattan Harbour disaster...



Of course, some of our public land might as well be on the moon. Or worse, completely surrounded by busy Interstates, which you’d have to run across to access the land...



In addition to providing other resources, the People’s Land Bank is a shot across the bow against the area’s housing shortage. As the media wanted to erect a statue to honor 3CDC’s CEO—which they *seriously did* want to do—3CDC purchased an apartment building and said that a cancer

patient who was in hospice had only 30 days to vacate, even though he was still covered by his lease. Then 3CDC kept the building vacant for at least 7 years. Intentionally creating scarcity in housing is an example of the manipulation of the market that has left so many people homeless.

The People's Land Bank is a tool to reclaim not only land but also your life. Bank on it!

Tuning in to Iowa radio takeover

If you read online forums about radio, it's inevitable that sooner or later, you'll run into some paid troll who insists the FCC can't block the sale of a radio or TV station—even though that's the FCC's *job*, and it used to do this very thing. The Communications Act of 1934 says stations must use the airwaves in the “public interest, convenience and necessity.” This means the FCC has the power to reject the sale of a station if the buyer does not meet the public interest.

Yet the droids who say the FCC can't stop a sale fall suspiciously silent when you note that the FCC actually *forced* a Dallas radio station to be sold to a religious group in 1988. We ran a story on that in 2018. It turns out there's a similar story in Iowa—but it took 40 grueling years to consummate.

This Iowa outlet broadcast on the lower part of the FM band where most noncommercial stations are clustered. It gained a predominantly Black audience. The station was around for only a few years before the Reagan regime began opposing it because it helped defuse police misconduct. The government audited the station over a grant it had received to first go on the air. Though a controversial figure had been involved in the station's founding, he had no involvement in the station's over-the-air content by the time this was taking place.

The FCC battled the station for several years. Keep in mind that this was a standalone station. The board that owned it did not own any other stations. iHeartMedia—the old Clear Channel—owns almost 900 stations across the country, and the FCC doesn't do a thing to them. Religious broadcaster EMF owns over 1,000—none of which offer any local content—and the FCC won't go after them either.

Let's break it down: EMF has over 1,000, iHeart has almost 900, and this Iowa entity had *one*. Guess who the FCC went after?

The Republican Congress of the 1990s continued the Iowa inquest, which led to the station finally losing its license. By then, it was rare indeed—almost unheard of—for the FCC to revoke a station's license. Yet it did so in this case.

Less than a year later, the FCC authorized a new station for that frequency. The board that operated it vowed to fill the gap left by the old station's demise. Pay attention to that promise. It's very important to this story.

Meanwhile, between the closure of the old station and the debut of the new station, some of the people from the old outlet started a pirate station to fill the void. The FCC quickly shut it down. But by that time, consolidation in the radio industry was taking place in Ernest—with big corporations gobbling up hundreds of stations apiece—and the FCC refused to do a damn thing about that. Who were the real pirates? iHeart and EMF never would have been allowed to own nearly as many stations under the regulations before then.

For commercial enterprises like iHeart, federal and state antitrust laws should also come into play. There were some weak rumblings about using antitrust laws to stop radio consolidation in the late 1990s, but since then, it's been crickets. In a quarter-century, not a single state has acted, let alone the federal government. Also, since the government classifies even noncommercial broadcasting as “commerce” when it suits the purpose at hand, broadcasters that are ostensibly noncommercial like checkbook clergy “ministries” should also be subject to antitrust rules. You can't tell the states they can't regulate interstate commerce and then expect a supposedly noncommercial entity to be considered “commerce” only for the purpose of freeing them from station ownership caps.

Now, about the replacement station's pledge to fill the gap caused by its predecessor's shutdown. This station kicked along for a long time. But in July, it decided to sell to American Family Radio—a far-right religious outfit founded by the late Rev. Donald Wildmon. AFR already owns almost 200 stations, which feature very little local content.

The FCC is refusing to do its job of making sure the station is owned by an entity that lives up



to the promise of providing local content. One of the FCC's most basic charges is to ensure a diversity of voices in radio and TV. Instead, it just rubber-stamps every transfer to big owners. As a general rule, the worse an owner is, the more stations they amass. That's why we have zero. In fact, many years ago, the FCC went after *us*, as you may recall.

A 40-year campaign has finally concluded in victory for the far right. Again. When the far right embarked on its totalitarian crusade to remake all of society in its mold, they weren't kidding. Even if a task takes 40 years, they will stick to it. And the media is happy to help—their recent wokewashing notwithstanding.

For all the controversy surrounding the original Iowa station, today's major broadcasters are at least as guilty. Stations today not only broadcast extreme views without giving opponents equal time, but also air outright hate speech. Recently, Brian Kilmeade of Fox News endorsed murdering the homeless. He advocated "involuntary lethal injection or something. Just kill 'em." Kilmeade's exhortation was followed by 2 mass shootings against homeless camps in Minneapolis several days later. One of the 13 victims died. Major media outlets have also catatonically cheered some of the most brutal dictatorships on the globe.

I realize that the above paragraph is like talking to a brick wall. It's like how there were a couple times in 8th grade when I got in trouble for something that should have been considered minor, but the nun who served as principal wouldn't accept my plea that it was in response to an assailant's aggression, so I was the only one who got punished. Similarly, the government jousts with a small Iowa station for years but let big broadcasters that did things that were far worse go unpunished. Worse, they allowed that frequency to eventually be taken over by AFR, which was one of the offending entities.

AFR also led a boycott against the comic book *Archie*—in 2012. Real futuristic.

The far right is aggressive and combative and will stop at nothing short of total control.

Winnie-the-Pooh doesn't know what to do...Got video games stuck on his nose...

A bunch of people shoplifted stuff! They're gonna get caught by a cop with big sideburns! Or maybe not.

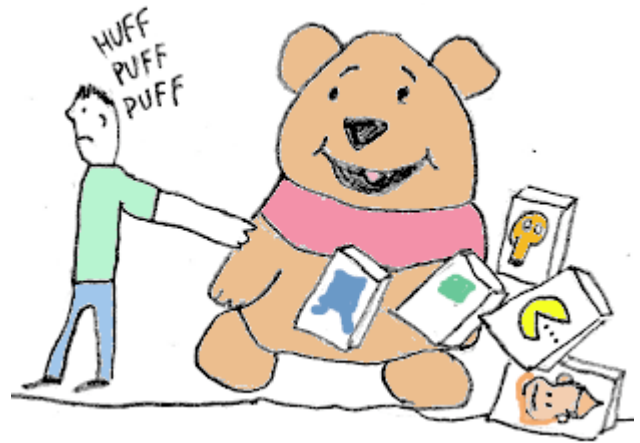
Anyway, we've scoured the public Internet for some rapid-fire stories about weird things or weird ways people shoplifted. They must be weird or something.

Someone posted that when they were about 7, they shoplifted a Snickers bar. Their dad caught them and made them take the half-eaten candy bar back to the store. Then the store owner pretended to cry! The young candy thief was then banned from the store for a whole week. Oh no! Not a whole week!

Another person stole a fidget spinner. An anonymous Facebooker in Tennessee witnessed 2 separate acts of shoplifting at a Walmart checkout line during one visit. The first man stole a box of trading cards. The second pilfered some phone cards. The witness reported these thefts to customer service, but the customer service woman not only let them go but actually explained to the thief how to use the phone cards. A 12-year-old was banned for life from a mall for stealing Magic: The Gathering cards every day for an entire summer. A thief at an auto parts store got his cart full of goods to the checkout lane when he said he needed to throw up. That was just a ruse to aggressively take the cart out of the store without paying. An employee tried to block him, but he still managed to get away with an 80-pound floor jack.

A Toys "R" Us employee said a guy removed a Winnie-the-Pooh plush chair out of its box, filled it with about 100 video games, and tried running out the door with it. It was so heavy he had to leave it behind. But he accidentally left his cellphone in a cart. So the employees used it to make a bunch of expensive calls. A few days later, the would-be shoplifter came back to retrieve his phone. Imagine the look on his face when he got the phone bill!

A woman stole a half-gallon bottle of whiskey from a liquor store by hiding it under her skirt. Another would-be thief tried stealing an artificial Christmas tree from a store, but it broke off in the door. Another passed out when she tried stealing a frozen turkey by hiding it under her hat. People



kept trying to steal bottles of wine from Target, but they were usually caught because of the bottle shapes in their pants. Sometimes they tried getting away and left a trail of broken wine bottles. A duo of thieves managed to steal *every pair* of Nike shoes from a Kohl's.

A 5-year-old shoplifted a dictionary. One commenter said he stole a bunch of bubble gum when he was 5, and he used that story as a basis for a rant against "socialism." A 68-year-old woman was caught stealing a candy bar, pencils, bobby pins, men's cologne, children's socks, Tic-Tacs, a *Reader's Digest*, and more—all in one incident. She also had a half-full bottle of vodka with her. A college student was falsely accused of stealing from a bookstore—but later hired to work at this store by the same guy who made the accusation. That idiot claimed not to remember the episode. An auto parts store employee said headlights were shoplifted so frequently that an empty headlight package would be found at least once per day.

One person said they once went to a Walmart and saw a woman wearing Old West garb being stopped by guards. It turned out that under her huge skirt, there were 2 children each holding a toaster. A retail worker said they saw people try to steal a 55-inch TV—and predictably fail miserably. The culprits tried putting it in their trunk, but it was too big, and the trunk wouldn't close all the way. So an employee grabbed on to the TV that was hanging out of the trunk as the getaway car drove away. Of course, she dropped the TV because it was so big—thereby decimating a brand new TV—but at least the thieves didn't get their TV. Another commenter gave an elaborate story about a group of 4 thieves trying to steal over 30 polo shirts from JCPenney. Sadly, it was 2002, not 1983. A huge fight with loss prevention personnel ensued. The thieves' clothes fell off in the process, and they ran naked through the store in front of a huge crowd of customers. A few months later, 3 of them actually came back to the store and tried doing the same thing again. A raid of the shoplifters' homes found rooms filled to the ceiling with stolen merchandise.

An employee of a Woolworth's saw a man steal underpants by shoving them in the front of his pants. A feller stole a TV from a store by taping a receipt from a box of tissues to it. A pair of shoplifters managed to steal 5 canoes from a store in Minneapolis. A shoplifting gang stole 40 pairs of designer jeans because a store was dumb enough to display them on a table right out in front.

A 7-year-old purloined a toy Spider-Man cellphone from Walmart. One commenter said he went to the restroom at a Walmart and saw that a young boy had taken a package of perfume in there and was stealing the bottle from it. Best all, this commenter was a cop. A teenage employee of a Target saw 2 young men stealing underwear. It later turned out that this was some sort of dare that was common at Notre Dame University, which was near the store.

A worker at a clothing store saw a teenage girl cut holes in perfectly good shirts that she was trying to steal. An employee of Blockbuster Video saw a man enter the store with a garbage bag, fill it with gobs of movies right in front of everyone, and walk out without paying. The employee was too shocked to stop him.

An online forum for Walgreens employees is rife with surprise-ending stories. A manager of a Walgreens drugstore said someone stole some Clorox wipes—but left the package. This means they must have shoved a wet handful of wipes in their pocket. Another Walgreener said somebody emptied a bottle of detergent into their own container and just left the bottle on the shelf. Still another employee of that chain said they went to clean a restroom and found 2 empty packs of Neosporin on the floor and an opened pack of Golden Oreos on the toilet rim with several cookies missing.

Another Walgreens employee said someone crawled through the coolers into the back office and stole whole boxes of cigarettes. Also at this store, people kept shitting in the aisles. Another worker at this chain said someone stole an ice cream popsicle from a 6-pack in the cooler. The other 5 popsicles were left to melt all over shelves elsewhere in the store. Still another employee said someone stole a



single piece of gum from a pack. That's not even enough to bubble with! Another Walgreener said someone stole the box for some trash bags, but not the bags.

Walmart workers also have their own message board. One employee of that embattled chain said a shoplifter was dumb enough to wear his work uniform from his workplace right across the street. Another Walmarker said a couple got caught shoplifting, and it turned out they both had restraining orders against each other. They were jailed for violating these orders.

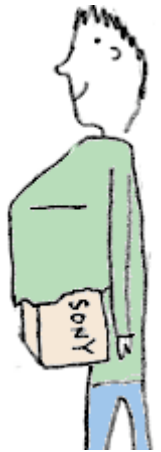
One Walmart shoplifter spent over 2 hours filling her cart with \$700 of random items. Then she spent an hour at a Subway inside the Walmart, sitting there and shaping a roll of plastic wrap into a makeshift bag for the goods she was about to pilfer. When she was caught, the woman—who was about 40—called up her daddy. Then the dad harangued store employees over the phone for not letting his daughter steal hundreds of dollars in goods. The shoplifter then called her mommy before being taken to jail.

A group of thieves tried to steal Pokémon cards from Walmart by hiding packs in different places around the store and walking out with them one by one. Another would-be shoplifter was caught hiding Pokémon cards inside luggage they tried to buy. Another offender committed fraudulent returns, and when she was caught, she wet her pants in the hopes they'd let her go. Another wore a heavy jacket on a hot summer day in an attempt to steal boxed sets of DVD's of *The Simpsons*.

One commenter said people kept trying to steal batteries from Kroger. When they realized they were about to be caught, they ran to the restroom and flushed the batteries down the toilet. This ruined the store's pipes. Another commenter said a diminutive schoolmate tried stealing an oversized VCR from a store by putting it under his sweater. He was caught because he suddenly gained a "rectangle torso."

Another commenter admitted to having once stolen scissors from a store to open packaging for an item they stole from a different store. Another said they stole Chap Stick from Walmart to "stick it to those corporate assholes." One shoplifter stole gobs of "performance enhancers" and put all the empty boxes in the toilet. Someone who worked at a Kroger said someone opened a 50-pound bag of dog food in the store, dumped out the dog food, and filled the bag with fine steaks. Someone else admitted to stealing the prizes from cereal boxes in stores. Another person said they worked at a store that sold hot pies. One night, a drunken thief tried to steal a freshly baked, piping hot pie by hiding it in his pants. That didn't end well. Three men were recently arrested for allegedly stealing almost \$1,300 worth of bubble gum from a Walgreens in Miami. One of the men allegedly grabbed numerous packs of gum off the shelves and simply walked out of the store.

"Stealstealsteal!" people did declare.



Delta flies right into more embarrassment

The pendulum may be swinging back in the world of Big Business. In the past few years, they've often displayed performative "progressivism" and pretended to be the social justice champions that they're not. Now they may be going back to chest-beating right-wing ultranationalism. Maybe the money is starting to flow that way again.

Recently, Delta Air Lines borrowed a page from the Google rulebook by "updating" its official manuals and documents to refer to the Gulf of Mexico as the "Gulf of America." This follows Donald Trump's widely mocked "directive" that no respectable outfit pays any heed to.

Delta says it's following an FAA mandate. This is flat-out incorrect. The gulf's name change did not go through the proper procedure, and most of the gulf is not even within U.S. territorial waters. The U.S. can't dictate names of international waters or the territorial wawa of other countries. The International Civil Aviation Organization, which governs international air travel, still calls it the Gulf of Mexico. Even Wikipedia says the only entity obligated to call it the "Gulf of America" is the executive branch of the U.S. government—not even Congress or other parts of the government.

Delta still has a near-monopoly at the Cincinnati airport. We should hope that the airport board takes action to nibble away at Delta's autarchy now that the airline has taken a political stance. By granting a near-monopoly to a company that takes political positions, taxpayers are essentially forced to fund political activity. But the airport board hasn't done much useful since it was stacked with Tea Party operatives. Even without the latest scandal, the board should have taken steps to ensure more competition. The board damn sure didn't fight the federally imposed COVID totalitarianism of several

years ago, even though the airport is not federal property. For a movement that claimed to be for limited government, Tea Party financiers sure loved their COVID lockdowns.

Unlike the corporate establishment, we maintain a commitment to progress and equality—instead of chasing money.

Incidentally, the partisan preference of the pandemic industrial complex may be inching back to the Republicans. Several legislators of this discredited faction recently stopped caucusing with the Democrats or have switched to the Republicans outright. This is also a good time to ask again: If lockdowns and mandates work so well, why did nobody push for them before 2020? This has never been answered. These particular lawmakers also weaponized identity politics in their push for tighter COVID restrictions, acted as if lax policies were discriminatory, blasted the people of their respective states, and absurdly declared that mask mandates were no different from speed limits. This was followed by media apologia that cited false information or countries that actually had very few mandates. Just recently, a writer who defended the legislators' authoritarian COVID stance demanded repealing part of the Bill of Rights in response to a different matter. At least now these lawmakers are moving toward the party where they would have belonged before the propellerhead realignment of 2020.

A constable discussed bubble gum busting

As in Kentucky, constables in Texas are elected officials who have law enforcement powers. It's like being both a cop and a politician.

You think of politicians and police officers as serious types, so it's hilarious when they talk about bubble gum. It's even funnier when the person serves the role of *both* a politician and a cop. And the hilarity is magnified a zillion times when they talk about people *blowing bubbles*.

Recently, there was a fair in Texas that included a bubble gum blowing contest. A local constable served as a judge for it. He told a local newspaper that contestants would "try to blow a bubble and spit the gum out."

HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! AN ELECTED OFFICIAL TALKED ABOUT PEOPLE BLOWING BUBBLES WITH BUBBLE GUM!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

The constable also noted with a laugh that folks were picking gum off the dirty ground and chewing it.

An elected judge also served as a judge for the contest. He hopped around measuring the width of each bub.

In my day, nobody ever spit their gum out when they were bubbling. People bubbled with care. Every bub was blown with purpose for maximum laughter.



A piece of the Aktion

Disability benefits are Social Security.

Did you know that?

Social Security doesn't include only retirement. Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) are also Social Security. They're administered by the Social Security Administration. *That means they're Social Security, dammit!* Understand? If something is run by the SSA, it's Social Security!

It's not welfare. Even if it was, that's no excuse to slash these programs, as the government has been doing for decades. But the greater point is that disability benefits are part of Social Security. Recipients pay for it with their tax dollars.

We bring this up because the media is—once again—on one of its increasingly frequent crusades in which they insist over and over again that Social Security is welfare. They think that repeating this claim makes it true. This right-wing canard has particularly dangerous implications.

This fiction is designed to bolster efforts like Donald Trump's proposal to disappear the homeless and so-called "mentally ill." Like the cuts to Social Security, Trump's order was taken directly

from Nazi Germany's playbook.

For starts, it refers to "vagrancy" as if the term has a legal definition. In reality, however, vagrancy laws were effectively thrown out by a unanimous Supreme Court ruling in 1972. It also demands using "civil commitment" to shuffle the homeless into "long-term institutional settings." That's actually a form of imprisonment without a trial, and it was ruled unconstitutional in 1975—again unanimously.

The order is strikingly similar to Aktion T4, an order issued by Adolf Hitler that sent Germany's disabled and "mentally ill" to psychiatric "hospitals", where they were killed. Some 300,000 people died in this mass murder campaign. In addition to eugenics, one of the reasons for the campaign was to keep money from being spent on those who were killed, as they would no longer need to be supported. This is comparable to today's austerity regimes—as well as the COVID lockdowns. Locking down society during COVID was designed in part to kill off people who received disability benefits for conditions that on their own had low rates of mortality. Much of that was to be accomplished by preventing loved ones from visiting, leading to neglect.

Our rulers have tried to appoint themselves as God by deciding who should live so their bloated coffers aren't drained.

After Aktion T4 was issued, it went on to be applied more broadly—to homeless people, alcoholics, and prostitutes.

Trump's recent directive also orders the Department of Justice to reverse federal and state judicial rulings that limit involuntary commitment. But reversing judicial rulings isn't something the executive branch is supposed to be able to do.

Meanwhile, the recent federal budget slashes hundreds of billions of dollars from Medicaid and SNAP. This will reduce access to medical care and cause poor nutrition and death. Homeless shelters will be forced to close as well.

Demonizing Social Security is part of this systematic plan of oppression.

Nazi Germany similarly inspired Singapore's Destitute Persons Act of 1989. This law essentially criminalizes the homeless by letting police nab any person who "is unable to give a satisfactory account of" themselves. The homeless may be sent to "welfare homes" to perform involuntary servitude. Those who venture outside these homes without permission are subject to 6 months in prison. Yet this law has failed to stamp out homelessness, which is as much of a crisis in Singapore as it is in America.

We live in an era of totalitarianism, and it's backed by a self-ordained body of professionals and elites and spread by overseas dictatorships looking to expand their empire. It is imperialism against the democratic world.

We must bring back the America of our youth, build even better from it, and ostracize those who maliciously stand in our way. They are bad, bad people.



Boots and boots and more stolen boots!

Stores aren't the only places where people say, "Stealstealsteal!" The public Internet has also yielded wads of stories about folks stealing strange items from other venues.

One person said someone stole their aunt's stool sample off her porch after it was left for a medical van to pick up. Another said a neighbor put dead skunks in some Amazon boxes to be taken to a disposal site later, and someone stole the boxes, thinking they contained something valuable. Another said she threw away a sleeping bag that her 130-pound dog had ruined by peeing on, and a woman was seen stealing it from the trash.

Someone who worked at a Long John Silver's in the 1970s said a couple managed to steal the restaurant's gallon jug of vinegar. Somebody tried to steal a giant gumball machine from an Albertsons grocery store and spilled all the gumballs onto a rainy parking lot, causing the colors of the gumballs to wash off onto the pavement. Another commenter admitted to stealing dozens of motivational posters from their middle school. Another said a high school pal managed to steal a menu from a Denny's restaurant. He grew up to become a preacher.

A feller tried to steal an ATM from a convenience store in the middle of the night by plowing his truck into the store and dragging the ATM away using a chain. But all he accomplished was tearing off his bumper. He was caught because his license plate came off with his bumper.

Someone said that when they were a teenager, their so-called best friend came over on New Year's and stole their brand new PlayStation they had just gotten for Christmas. Underwear was stolen too. Another commenter said a thief stole one boot from a pair of work boots. Not both boots—just one. Another thief stole a stack of 10 blank DVD's that had very little value—yet ignored the \$400 camera that was sitting right next to it. One commenter said someone stole a bunch of cans full of feces from the Grand Canyon that were set out to be picked up by a waste company. Somebody else said someone stole a Vanilla Ice CD from them that they were using as a coaster.

A thief broke into a car and stole the owner's wallet full of cash and credit cards. The items were feared gone for good, but a year later, police raided the thief's home over a different crime and found the wallet just sitting there. After stealing the wallet, the culprit had just let it sit in his living room for a year.

People stole.



Northwest ad gets smoked

Even though it seems like almost everything these days is banned, some of the most unhealthy and dangerous activities seemed to hang on for quite a while.

You'd think smoking on airplanes would have been banned at least 50 years ago. At least one fatal plane crash took place when a cigarette ignited fumes in a restroom. As far back as I can remember, many businesses and public buildings quite rightly prohibited smoking. Who needs to be around all that secondhand smoke, which causes many of the same diseases as firsthand smoke? Yet it wasn't until 1988 that a federal law banned smoking on U.S. domestic flights under 2 hours. Only in 1990 did the ban expand to all domestic flights under 6 hours. It wasn't until 2000 (!) that the ban was extended to all other commercial flights to, from, or within the U.S.

It seems like pretty much everything else was already banned by 2000. It wasn't as bad as today's anti-smiling laws, of course, but still pretty bad. Some airports in Florida had made it illegal for shops to sell chewing gum. Dialup bulletin boards had been raided despite hosting no illicit activity. And the RIAA had already begun stickering records in 1985.

You couldn't listen to stickered albums or chew gum, but you could smoke on airplanes? What kind of society was this? By the time we first had smoking bans on airlines, the recording industry was already 3 years deep in censorship. If nothing else, this shows lawmakers' *priorities*. They were more worried about a list of 15 "dirty" songs than they were about airliners being vectors of lung cancer. They stuck their noses where it didn't belong by deciding what records you could buy, but they wouldn't protect people from being exposed to cancer.

It was necessary to discuss this inconsistency to introduce this vignette about a certain old commercial on the topic. In early 1988, before the law against smoking on planes took effect, Northwest Airlines became the first U.S. airline to ban smoking. Northwest ran a very bizarre and confusing TV ad touting this new rule...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jHdyXJ8-mf8>

I remember seeing that commersh back in 1988. I was just as mystified by it when I was a high school freshman as you are today.

In that ad, a man lights up a cigarette on a flight—and everyone *claps*? Shouldn't people be mad?

If they're actually applauding a smoking *ban*, why is their fellow passenger allowed to get away with puffing away right behind them? I know the pilot can't just stop the plane in midair and throw him off, but can't the flight attendant do something like smash a pie in his face?

Northwest's ad agency must have been smoking something when they made that ad!

Another tidbit on this topic that fits into one of our perennial themes: An online post says the FAA requires airplane restrooms to have ashtrays even though smoking is banned. That's to keep

passengers who disobey the smoking ban from putting out their cigarettes on the toilet paper and starting a fire.

Paula Hawkins wosted food (a poopysim)

Let's take a jaunt back to the bubble gum bustin' year 1981. Soft rock acts like Kim Carnes and Jim Photoglo dominated the radio airwaves. TV was ruled by the short-lived sitcom *Maggie*, known for the shocking amount of blood in a scene in which a character was punched in the face. And Florida languished under far-right Sen. Paula Hawkins.

Hawkins committed a major gaffe that actually did get a little bit of media coverage. For many years, America has faced many Nazi-inspired plans to cut food aid. The more these proposals pass, the more their backers demand proposals that are even more extreme. It's like the kid who is allowed to keep grabbing cookies, shovels them into their mouth like a slob, and then cries, "Want more cookies!" In 1981, Hawkins held a luncheon that served expensive sirloin steaks, rolls, pie, and other goodies to Senate colleagues and other government and business figures. The main point of this event was for Hawkins to complain that the poor were receiving too much food assistance. She demanded stiff prison sentences for those she thought were gaming the system.

Everyone noticed the irony of someone serving such expensive meals to millionaire senators and executives while griping that the poor were eating too well. But there's another aspect of the incident that got almost no coverage: Not all the chairs at the event were filled, yet there was a full steak dinner at every chair. Far more meals were prepared than the number of people who were invited.

So most of those fine steaks and pies went wastage bastage. As the "Don't waste your money" guy would say, Paula Hawkins *wasted food*! And it was on the taxpayers' dime.

The fact that this detail got practically no coverage is what makes this a poopysim.

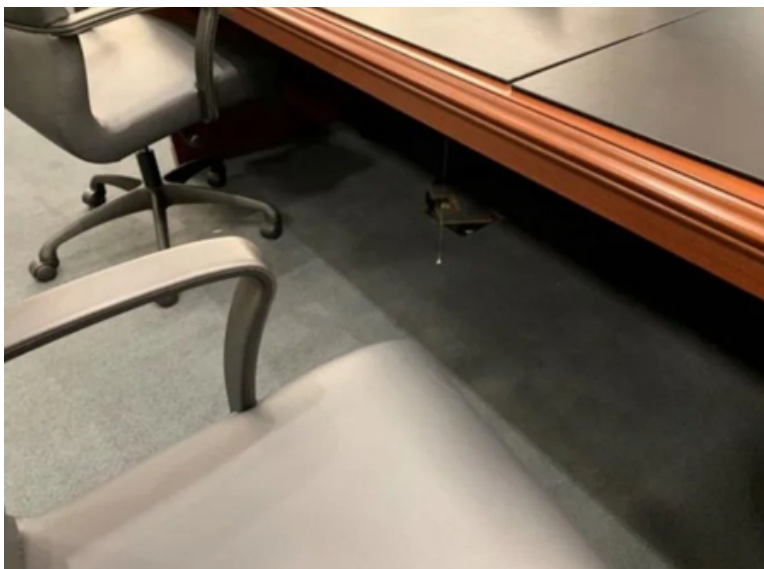
The people of Florida had their say on Hawkins's fascism when she went on to lose her reelection bid in a landslide. Although most of the media missed a key detail about her ill-fated luncheon, the media back then didn't prop up right-wing charlatans nearly as much as they do today.

Bubble trouble in federal court

Gum is hilarious shit, man! Shit isn't hilarious gum, but gum is hilarious shit!

You may know that when I was in middle school, someone stuck fluorescent green gum under a table in the school cafeteria, and the knee of my brand new pants got stuck in it. Now this incident has seen a repeat...repeat...repeat.

It happened at a federal courthouse in Florida. In the courtroom of U.S. District Judge T. Kent Wetherell II, someone stuck bubble gum underneath a table. It was discovered when a federal prosecuting attorney got gum stuck to her skirt when she brushed her leg against it. After that, some of the beegee continued to dangle about a foot from the underside of the table...



Whodunit? Whytheydunit?

Court staffers figured out that the gum was stuck there during a hearing earlier that day, as there had been no other hearings in that room for days before, and the gum was still fresh and bubbleable.

A plaintiff in that case later confessed. The judge forwarded this confession to the attorney whose skirt was ruined so restitution could be worked out.

The judge also issued an order that began, "I have served as a judge for over 23 years. I have never had to write an order like this, and I never dreamed that I would have to do so." He warned that "if anything like this happens again, I will come up with sanctions that are commensurate with the schoolchild-nature of the violation."

This also reminds me of Channel 9's old *Juvenile Court* TV series, in which actors recreated real juvenile court cases. In one episode, a teenage girl got skeeped at by Judge Paul Trevor for chewing gum in court. She then appeared to be sticking the gum under the table. She was in court because—among other things—she had been accused of attacking her mom with a butcher knife. Her defense was that it was actually a butter knife.

Like a good neighbor, our rapid-fire stories are there

To stop you from breaking your brain, we've amassed more rapid-fire stories of weird behavior in schools that we found on the Internet—which is public, after all.

One online commenter said that when they were in elementary or middle school, their school held a huge assembly because numerous kids kept standing on top of the toilets and pooping and peeing all over the floor. To stop what the principal called "shit and piss" on the floors, teachers were required to keep a log of every student who used the restroom.

A 6th grader at another school kept a booger collection in his desk on a post-it note. The collection was the size of a baseball by the end of the school year. A school bully climbed over a spiked fence in gym class and caught his testicles on the spikes. A group of students from a boarding school went on a class trip to see a movie, and on the way back, they mooned people out the bus window. Some kids at another school placed a bottle of urine in the ceiling. Two years later, some other kid found it and drank it.

A high school student climbed into the ceiling, stuck his head out in a classroom, and began singing the 1960s *Spider-Man* theme. As a senior prank, students were going to show up to their school at 6 AM, remove the desks from the classrooms, and put them in the hallways. Instead, a bunch of them broke into the school at 2 AM, which tripped the alarm. Police found numerous high school seniors peeing in the halls, smoking marijuana, and smearing Vaseline on lockers. Sixty-four were arrested.

For months, a student used to inexplicably yell out names of insurance companies in the middle of class. Another student cut his own hair during class and ate it. A group of 7th graders told a classmate they would pay him to climb onto the roof of the school and shit on a skylight overlooking a hallway. At the end of 8th grade, it still wasn't cleaned up, so everyone who walked through the hall for over a year had to see it.

One particular middle schooler was responsible for a litany of interesting behavior. He once brang a tube of toothpaste to school for his lunch. He ate it by smearing it all over his hands and licking it off. He once tried to warm up a cookie by setting the school's microwave oven for 99 minutes. The oven caught on fire. He once tried to pee over a bathroom stall wall into a urinal. When this failed, he peed all over the walls. He kept hiding food in the ceiling panels in the locker room. The whole ceiling had to be replaced because of all the mold that grew. And he left chocolate milk in a locker over summer vacation, which exploded and caused the entire school to stink for the whole year.

A student set a soap dispenser in a restroom on fire and was dumb enough to boast about it. At another school, a group of 5th graders kept taking turns shitting on floors and other funny places in the restroom. Finally, one of them shit on a paper towel and placed it in the sink like a hammock. Elsewhere, a student ate dog shit on a hot dog bun for \$50. Also, he ate a hunk of peanut butter that



was stuck on a wall for a month, but he did that for free. He grew up to become a successful lawyer. Another student would wipe his ass and put the used toilet paper in his pocket. Sometimes, it fell out. Another cut the pockets out of his pants so he could play with himself during class while the class was watching *Bill Nye The Science Guy*.

Another student defecated in a puzzle box during indoor recess. A group of high school seniors went to Disney World for their class trip, back when the park had an adults-only nightclub. A student snuck into the club by jumping off a dock and swimming there. He took dry clothes with him in a backpack so nobody would notice. At another school, an 8th grader found a disgusting website. One Friday, just before school dismissed for the weekend, he went to the computer lab and set a computer to print 99,999,999,999 copies of that site. Over the weekend, it printed as many as the paper and ink supply would allow. The first teacher who showed up the next Monday was in for a shock! After the ink was replenished, the computer would not allow the job to be canceled, so it kept printing out more. It took a week to fix, and nobody was allowed to use the lab for the whole week. The culprit was suspended from school for 2 weeks and had to pay for the wasted ink.

A student locked all the faculty out of the office and caused the intercom to play the Beastie Boys' "(You Gotta) Fight For Your Right (To Party!)" nonstop until they were able to get in. At yet another school, a student filled a condom with shit and tied it to the flusher handle of a toilet. Elsewhere, a student showed up to the homecoming coronation wearing royal attire, including a crown. He proclaimed that he had been chosen as homecoming king—instead of the insufferable prep who had actually won. Another brought a bag of his own urine to science class to use as fertilizer for the plants in class.

Another student peed behind a teacher's desk and rolled a battery in a piece of paper and told the vice-principal it was marijuana. Then he swallowed the battery. Another scholar ate a plastic ruler. Another ate rubber bands dipped in hot sauce, and another ate a Wet One. A high schooler threw up into one of his textbooks.

A college student wanted to use the student services office to send an e-mail to the entire student body inviting them to a wild party. When they wouldn't let him do it, he spent hours copying every student's e-mail address from the printed directory and sending them all a bulk e-mail. When students replied, it went to everyone else too. It created so much useless e-mail that it knocked the campus e-mail system offline completely.

A girl used a protractor to carve a picture of Scooby-Doo into her leg during class. A middle schooler threw a desk out of a 2nd story classroom into a courtyard. A middle-aged kindergarten teacher preserved animal carcasses in glass jars in the back of the classroom, and one day, a child threw the jars at a kid who was picking on him. The mess stunk up the room for months. Another student kept peeing on a school bus seat. Another locked themselves in a locker and meowed for an hour. A 5th grader accidentally flung a gigantic booger onto a schoolmate's pants during class, wiped it off, and ate it.

A student tried to solder his fingers together in electronics class. Another celebrated the last day of school by shitting on the locker room floor. Another ate bird crap off a leaf—then ate the leaf. Another put Jell-O in a drinking fountain. A high school junior kept wearing his underpants on the outside of his trousers. Another high schooler kept clogging the bathtub-shaped urinals with the urinal cake, filling them with pee, and playing in them. Two different students played with themselves in one class and said it was to "rejuvenate" themselves. A student at another school used a squirt gun to shoot urine at bullies. Good for him! A 3rd grader stored shit wrapped in toilet paper in his own desk. Another student ate a calculator for \$50. Another could bring up loogies of any color by swishing together batteries and tissue paper of the desired color in his mouth. Another mixed orange juice with lithium from a battery in the middle of English class and created a huge cloud of smoke.

A private high school was the home of enough antics to fill a whole book. One student there was suspended for selling a hard drive containing a terabyte of gay porn. He was caught because he boasted about how much money he made. A group of students there was busted for filling a hand drying machine in a restroom with buttered peas and turning the vent upwards. These same pupils kept throwing plates down a stairwell that nobody used, leaving the broken dishes to be discovered months later. At another school, a student piled up all the toilet paper in a restroom and set it on fire. A 7th grader at another school set toilet paper on fire and threw it down the hallway. At yet another school, a student ate the caulk off the windows in science class. Elsewhere, a kid threw mashed potatoes at the ceiling during lunch, causing the potatoes to stick to the ceiling. Another student found a used pouch of tobacco on the ground, chewed it, and swallowed it. A high school freshman ate a

condom during French class.

According to one commenter, “Some maniac would take shit and smear it on the walls, the mirror, the sink, everywhere in the boys bathroom.” It went on every day for weeks. Finally, this phantom pooper stuffed feces inside the automatic dryer. This caused the school to station a police officer outside the restroom at all times, but it kept happening anyway. Another student shit inside the cover of a lamp at their school and left the light on over the weekend. This stunk up the whole school and forced classes to be canceled for 3 days. On an 8th grade class trip to Washington, D.C., a kid superglued everything in the hotel room. He glued the TV remote to the nightstand. He glued the phone to the table. At another school, a group of kids completely filled the pencil sharpener in the classroom with peanut butter. Another student ate the brake levers from a bully’s bicycle. A high school freshman at another school showed up in a bird suit, declared it was “Big Bird Thursday”, and made bird sounds all day.

Sesame Street it is not. Actually, maybe it is!

Teaching assistant arrested for stinking up school

As the proverb goes, if you start to think, make a stink. Now a teaching assistant at a high school in Florence, South Carolina, has been accused of doing *literally* that.

Over the course of almost a month, a wafto-like odor was filling the school, which made several students and teachers ill. A surveillance video reportedly showed that a 32-year-old teaching assistant was the feller. The video showed him spraying something into the air. Although he claimed it was lemon hand sanitizer, authorities say it was actually a spray designed to mimic the stench of feces.

He was arrested on charges of malicious injury to property and disturbing a school. The school said the incidents caused expenses of over \$55,000 to inspect its air conditioners. The school also had to have its gas lines inspected.

What’s a mere mortal to do? Stink?

Illinois city flocks away from Flock

Even in cities that have rejected it, Flock Safety doesn’t know when to zip its lip.

Not long ago, the city of Evanston, Illinois, took the rare step of terminating its Flock contract. That was after it was found that Flock was sharing data with federal agencies in explicit violation of state law. Bellevue placing a Flock camera right outside my window in retaliation against me is also illegal, but that’s another story.

Now Flock has reinstalled its spy cameras—without Evanston’s permission. The city has sent a cease-and-desist notice to Flock.

Yet all of this was after Evanston was among the first places to have Flock cameras. That figures, considering the city’s horrible record on civil liberties in the early 2020s. Yes, even worse than most other American cities at the time, if you can possibly imagine that.

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