

# The Last Word™

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## Liar, liar

It's not a good idea to lie. When you lie, you have to remember the lie. When you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything except the truth.

Liars change their stories a lot. And Bellevue officials are changing their story about the Flock camera that was posted outside my window in retaliation for me exposing Flock.

For months, they denied the camera even existed. This denial was laughable, as everyone could see the camera in plain sight. Yet we were actually expected to believe it. It's like the tale about the emperor with no clothes. But why wouldn't people believe it? People have been forced to believe some incredibly idiotic shit in the past few years.

Now the city has changed its story completely. And they did it stupidly too! Somebody contacted the city about the camera, and the city said it *does* exist but was actually placed by Dayton, and Bellevue didn't approve it. This is despite the fact that it's 4 houses inside Bellevue, and it's on a lamppost that belongs to the city of Bellevue, which is on a sidewalk that also belongs to the city.

So Bellevue officials are saying they don't even control what city property is used for?

When asked whether Dayton is sharing its ill-gotten Flock data with Bellevue—assuming it was Dayton that posted the camera—the city refused to answer. This seems to violate transparency laws. That's in addition to the constitutional violations involving the camera itself.

Since the city was caught lying about the camera's existence, why should we believe them now when they say it was posted by another city?

If a prosecutor changed their story like that when prosecuting a defendant, any judge in their right mind would laugh the case out of court.

Sometimes you'll hear someone talk about how somebody lost one of their belongings and then changed their story as to how it was lost. When that happens, you can't help but think they actually stole or sold it. If they can't keep their story straight, can they really be trusted not to steal? That's what city officials are like. They changed their story on the Flock camera, so you have to assume they act in bad faith on other matters too.

After all, this is the country that hired Mick Mulvaney for one of its most powerful government positions, so what can we expect?

## Fishing video is a good catch

We've found another YouTube video that's going to go down in history like the one where the movers crushed the tea set and got water all over the antique comic books. (If they had instead crushed the comics and gotten water on the tea set, it wouldn't have ruined them. The sitar was probably out of luck either way though.)

In the clip we're profiling today, a fisherman on a boat on a Michigan lake kept getting harassed by a boat full of spoiled teenagers...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=neOqvo7OvjA>

We don't need to specify that this is a public lake. The lake is a flowing, navigable water—not a pond of standing water—so it's automatically public. Sometimes you hear about pay lakes, but some



are actually public but charge a fee to fish at, and others are actually standing water so they may be privately owned. Even public lakes have regulations on fishing, but there's no indication that the fisherman in this video was defying these rules. Several people on Reddit have said pay ponds in their area were poaching fish from public lakes to restock the pond, but the teens in the above clip were just as self-righteous as the most unethical poachers.

So we've established that it's a public lake, and that the fisherman was allowed to fish there. The ridiculousness begins at 1:20 when the youths begin yelling at the man that he's not allowed to fish. They keep on arguing with him, and the man says, "Get the dick out of your ear and you might be able to hear."

The teens come back later, and one of them laughably declares that his dad owns the whole 1,000-acre lake. Then the fisherman decides to call the police. That's because the teenagers were illegally interfering with a lawful activity. This is particularly applicable to fishing, as the kids made so much noise that they were scaring away the fish.

It took over an hour for the sheriff's department to show up, because it wasn't a "priority call." But when they finally appeared, at least they dropped the hammer.

The teenagers in this video acted like the spoiled brats who I had dealings with many years ago. These entitled imps ran their mouths, but said nothing of value. Someone replied to the clip on YouTube, "I'm a retired teacher, and this is why so many teachers teach a year or two and quit. Imagine dealing with these idiots every day, all day long." Another person said of the teens, "Another out of stater buys a house on a lake and they think the lake came with it." Someone said the laws in Alabama are tougher, and if the teens acted like this there, "that entire boat full is going to jail for the night."

The funniest part is that the kids acted like they knew the law on fishing but then later admitted that they don't even know what a conservation officer is.

Wait! There's more! The fisherman also posted another video, in which he describes the aftermath of the incident...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SZTabqYBz5I>

He revealed that the teens' mom tried making excuses for the bratty youths' conduct, so the conservation officer vowed to pay them a visit. The fisherman said the teens' behavior constituted "a day ruined." The magic word! But he didn't dance around and say, "Keek! Ruin!"

That the fisherman was right in this case might not have helped in some jurisdictions. For example, another feller posted a video that said Lafourche Parish, Louisiana, aggressively prosecutes people for fishing even in public waters. Authorities there bow to big landowners who think they own adjacent navigable waters, even though the law says otherwise. An older article said sheriff's deputies in that parish (county) accused a fishing group of "trespassing" even though they were on public waters, and later showed up at a fisherman's home in another parish to harass him about the event, block his driveway, and threaten him with arrest. The article said the fishing trip was "ruined." The magic word again!

Exurban land barons didn't understand working-class city dwellers, but now most of the working class has been forcibly evacuated from the cities by gentrification land grabs. Now suburban land tycoons are just as belligerent to working-class rural residents.

## Brought to you by the letter 'P' (a blast from the past)

The business of peeing off bridges is business. Or peeing off bridges. Or something.

Anyway, we're cleaning out a folder full of items from 2003 we never got around to. This stack of worries included one particular day that had gobs of items, including a piece about how the Bush regime was enlisting the Taliban to help fight its wars. But there was also a story that had something to do with bodily functions and *Sesame Street*. About the only thing missing was cereal box prizes or



ruined baseball cards.

In Farmington, Connecticut, a 17-year-old boy was accused of urinating off a bridge known as the Big Bird Bridge. Police say the urine hit a passing motorist who had an open sunroof.

The youth was charged with several counts that ranged from third-degree criminal mischief to second-degree breach of almighty peace.

The span was called the Big Bird Bridge because someone had spraypainted “Big Bird” on it decades earlier—an apparent tribute to the flightless *Sesame Street* avian.

A police official said that the occupants of the car at first didn’t know the liquid was pee, but they “realized within a few moments that the liquid had a foul odor that smelled like urine.”

It is unknown what became of this case. However, some online chatter reveals that the “Big Bird” graffiti is still there and has been in place since the early 1970s. The town is not allowed to remove the graffiti because it has received protected historic status. The Big Bird Bridge has even become the span’s official name.

That’s cooperation!

## Microsoft doesn’t know what “support” means

Microsoft recently announced it would end support for Windows 10. But (as Donna Summer would say in the days shortly after *Electric Company* music fell out of fashion) who do they think they’re fooling? Who do they think they are?

Fact is, Microsoft doesn’t support Windows 11 either. When we talk about *support*, we mean showing people how to fix problems they have with a product. Microsoft offers nothing.

Windows 11 lately has been plagued by a problem that switches open folders to the desktop. It happens so much that your machine is often unusable. And they have no answers for it at all. There is a fix to keep it from doing this every time you insert or remove an external drive, but it still does it at other times at random. And Microsoft won’t do shit about it.

The Microsoft Community boards have been revamped but are just as worthless as ever—and harder to use. As usual, their suggestions don’t work. The only difference is that they haven’t resorted to their “reinstall Windows” canard yet for this issue. Instead, now you just get ignored completely when you point out that their “fixes” for this problem don’t work.

Now Windows 11 has introduced a new problem. The screen frequently goes black except for one or two windows that are open, and the cursor can’t be moved. The Task Manager doesn’t work when this happens. Predictably, the cat has Microsoft’s tongue, and Microsoft has offered no solutions. An online comment said it’s a corrupt screen driver and recommended downloading a new driver. This works anywhere from a few minutes to about a day before the old, faulty driver automatically reinstalls itself.

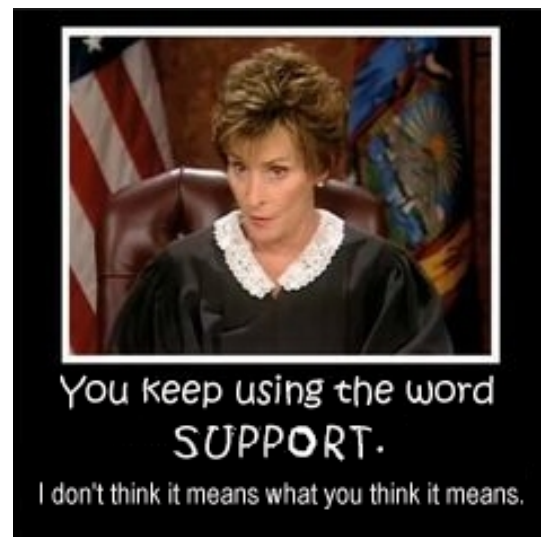
Microsoft doesn’t need to end support for Windows 11, because it’s never offered support to begin with.

## Bipartisan 1% whining as sure as death and taxes

Taxes in the United States are actually not very high—especially for the 1%. It’s ridiculous—sometimes even offensive—to claim they are.

The rich have iPhones, satellite TV, and 60-inch TV screens. We have the “yacht rock”, but they have the yachts. All of what they have is paid for by working people—who often pay a bigger percentage of their earnings in taxes than the wealthy do. A report from 2017—when Matt Bevin wanted to expand Kentucky’s sales tax to *all* food—said the richest 1% of Kentuckians paid only 0.8% of their income in sales taxes, while the poorest 20% paid 5.5%. The rich get tax breaks like the Trump tax law, capital gains tax cuts, and Kentucky’s gutting of its progressive income tax.

When I went to a public high school, I went to school with kids who were desperately poor. It was like what you think of when you think of the Great Depression—but 60 years later. Some lived in a



housing project and didn't even have a landline phone, let alone a cellphone. I knew a family that lived on a houseboat on the Licking River a few years before that who didn't have a phone or a car.

How is it that anyone can claim billionaires are an oppressed class?

It's gotten worse and worse almost nonstop for 45 years. The richer billionaires get, the more they gripe about how rough they have it. They're like a baby who keeps crying, "More more more cookie!" And people keep feeding them.

Increasingly, it's not just the Republicans to blame for this upward redistribution of wealth, but also the Democrats. In the past couple years, the Democrats have actually become very good at identifying solutions that will benefit the people – and then doing the precise opposite.

Recently, the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services discontinued a supplemental benefit that some patients received with their health plan. This benefit helped cover basic food items. You might be asking what idiot in the Trump regime cut off this benefit. But you might want to rephrase that question. If something as bad as this had happened 35 years ago, you could just assume the Republicans were behind it. But now you actually have to check to see which party did it.

Spoiler alert: It was the Biden regime. Last December – conveniently after the election – someone in the Biden White House put out a notice that this benefit must be discontinued by the end of this year. The notice said the government had no money to pay for it.

So it has money to pay for overseas military misadventurism and bailouts for banks and airlines – but not benefits for workers, which workers paid for with their tax dollars.

A policy enacted by Biden's babysitters is indistinguishable from what you'd expect from Trump's babysitters. The elimination of supplementary benefits is courtesy of the same personal curators who got Biden to pardon Anthony Fauci and commute the sentence of "cash for kids" judge Michael T. Conahan.

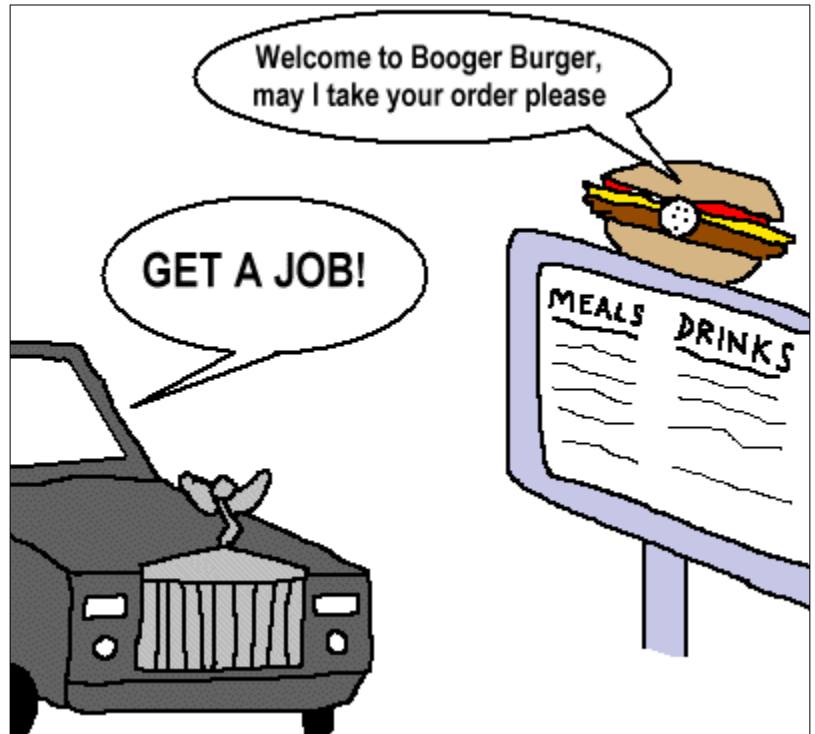
It isn't just those benefits. It's SNAP too. During the recent government shutdown – which the Democrats predictably caved on – the Supreme Court overturned a lower court ruling and said SNAP benefits had to stop. When you saw that headline, you may have checked to see which Republican Justices supported this ruling. But it actually wasn't the court's Republicans. It was Biden appointee Ketanji Brown Jackson.

This shouldn't be too surprising. Jackson – along with many of the court's Republican appointees – had not only ruled in favor of the Biden regime's right-wing censorship of social media sites, but also said something particularly ridiculous during that trial. She expressed worry about "the First Amendment hamstringing the government in significant ways in the most important time periods." Well, yeah, that's what the First Amendment is *supposed* to do. It's a safeguard against government overreach. At least it used to be. It's not supposed to be weakened just because of a national emergency.

The Democratic establishment today is not indifferent to SNAP, Social Security, and Medicare, but downright hostile.

The actual market for whining about how rough life is for billionaires consists of approximately 12 people. Unfortunately, all 12 of them are media executives, so we've had to sit through 30 years of this whiny bullshit. Some people have policy stances we disagree with but at least we get it. It doesn't give anyone the right to blockade constitutionally protected activity, but at least we get the underlying stance, even if we disagree with it. But as for policies that deliberately harm poor and working-class people just for Grins & Smiles & Giggles & Laughs, we don't get that at all. That's fascism.

Yet – unbelievably – I'm called "kind of a conservative" or a "right-wing Trump supporter" for voting for Jill Stein, supporting lowering the retirement age back to 65, fighting Big Pharma goons, and





pointing out how bad conservative and Trumpist policies are.

Meanwhile, the public needs to find a smart lawyer to challenge the Biden administration's cuts to supplemental benefits. Under what law did this take place? This sounds like as much of an abuse of executive power as any. But there's also a case to give the former President a pass and instead sue overseas dictatorships and bomb makers that stole the money that belongs to the people. This action may need to be taken in state court rather than federal, but good luck finding a state with the guts to stand up against a succession of bad federal regimes. Through their stunning failure to enforce antitrust laws against monopolies in the broadcasting industry, they've proven how spineless they are.

## Rod Roddy mentioned bubble gum

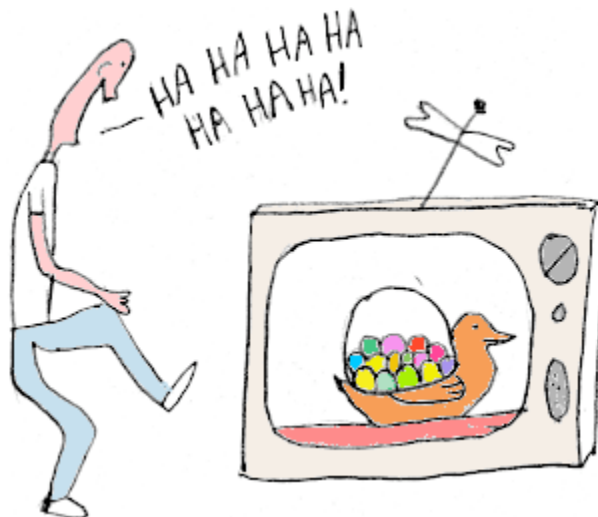
Remember *The Price Is Right*? The late Rod Roddy was the announcer on *The Price Is Right* for years. And he once sent the whole country pounding on the floor with laughter by uttering two little words.

It happened during the episode that first aired on January 10, 1989. That was the same day someone shit on the bathroom floor at Brossart. I couldn't be in two places at once, so I couldn't laugh at both events at the same time, as the restroom at school didn't have a TV. If I'd known beforehand that *The Price Is Right* would have been so funny that day, I could have feigned illness and stayed home to watch it, but then I would have missed out on the shit on the floor.

Decisions, decisions!

Actually, I was likely ill enough that day that I should have stayed home from school regardless, but I was forced to go to school anyway. I got sick about 30 times that year. That day was a few weeks before my George Washington Weekend was infamously spoiled by salmonella.

That *Price Is Right* installment hit its stride when a contestant went up on stage to play Bonus Game. Among the 4 smaller prizes on the board, the very first was – wait for it – a gumball machine...



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2erw26YEaG8>

This small machine was part of an exquisite bronze-plated sculpture of a duck. Rod announced that it "comes with a supply of Carousel bubble gum."

Hear that? Bubble gum! Rod called it *bubble gum*! He didn't just call it gum, but *bubble gum*. That makes it a zillion times funnier than it otherwise would have been.

I bet furniture repair companies made a mint in the days afterward from viewers laughing so hard that they broke their easy chair.

The gumball machine was valued at \$100, which was big bucks in 1989. So Carousel must have been mighty good gum. But bubble gum connoisseurs say they don't remember this brand of beegie. However, the brand name might not have been prominently displayed. The gumballs look like the kind that filled gumball machines back then, which you could blow humongous bubs with.

One day around that time, a student brang a gumball like that onto the school bus and shoveled it into his mouth. A schoolmate expressed disgust at the mere existence of a piece of "ball gum" of such size.

The *Price Is Right* contestant won every other prize in Bonus Game including the big prize – a spa – but not the gumball machine. So no bubble gum busting for Laura!

Did I make the right decision by going to school that day? Bubble gum is slightly edged out in the humor category by people shitting on bathroom floors. But in order to see shit on the floor, I had to go to school, which was at Brossart – thus negating the edge that the shit on the floor had.

## Flock goes full Nazi because they weren't stopped

In my America, we don't discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, economic level, religion, sexual orientation, gender, disability, or any other such characteristic. Equality should be a value that we all share as a society. It's the only way to get along.

But tell that to Flock Safety and its conspirators. Now it turns out that over 80 police agencies across America have been using Flock cameras to target the Romani people. We warned that Flock might be deployed disproportionately against some groups, yet Flock fascism continued, and nobody stopped it. After all, fascist is as fascist does.

Recent logs revealed that these agencies have used Flock to profile and promote negative stereotypes against Romani people. Comments by law enforcement agencies on Flock logs are full of references to the Roma and the term “gypsy” — a term widely considered derogatory to the Roma. Most of these comments do not even mention a suspected crime. Authorities were simply profiling people based on their ethnic group.

These inquests were shared with thousands of other police departments that also use Flock, and it appears that none of them objected to these discriminatory searches.

A particularly noxious offender is Grand Prairie, Texas. This department used a special feature Flock has that identifies vehicles that appear to be traveling together and conducted repeated searches for “gypsy.” The sheriff’s office in Lake County, Illinois, conducted searches for a “gypsy scam.” Police in Irvine, California, conducted at least 8 searches for “Roma” as part of an apparent ethnic profiling effort. Authorities in Fairfax County, Virginia (again) searched for “Roma crew burglaries.” The department continued to defend its discriminatory practices when reporters contacted them.

Flock is also being used to go after Black people. Numbers from Oak Park, Illinois, show that a disproportionate number of motorists stopped because of Flock data were Black.

Boutique “progressives” who claim to champion rights of marginalized people but won’t do a damn thing have fallen suspiciously silent. That’s because these fair-weather “progressives” support Flock. They’re a priesthood of elites who don’t care at all about injustice.

In many religious congregations, not once will you ever hear clergy deliver a sermon against racism. Leaders of one congregation that I’m familiar with (though not a member of) let the mask slip when they confided that they fed the homeless only because it was good public relations. They privately mocked the homeless and said they weren’t truly deserving of the church’s help, and unleashed various mind-blowing acts of cruelty against others. I also overheard that this ministry hired congregants to post Tea Party propaganda online. It was absolutely maddening.

Ministries such as this often attract a following of conservative professionals who hold important posts in many of the community’s other institutions. This cadre of elites is absorbed in their own world. All their prayers are for members of their own congregation — never for world peace or an end to poverty.

The political elite is just as bad as the checkbook clergy. They never talk about poverty, and when they talk about racism, this talk is only performative. Big talk, no action.

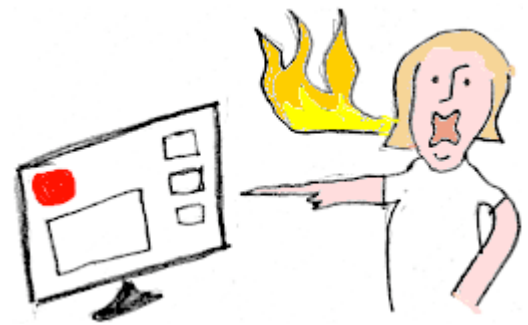
## Yo-ho-ho and a bottle of dumb

Even in 1987, you could already tell someone was an incel if they sat behind their computer screen all day and threw around bogus accusations of “piracy.” It was and is a battle cry of the lifeless blowhard. “Get a real modem! <g><g><g>”

There have been websites from time to time that allow folks to download videos off YouTube. There’s nothing illegal about downloading amateur videos from YouTube for personal use that are not formally copyrighted. Thus, there’s certainly nothing illegal about those websites. **Nothing.** If someone misuses a site to download copyrighted material and sells it, that’s not the website’s problem.

Real pirates certainly aren’t going to use a website like that. They write their own software to do their dirty work. Some of the biggest pirates are operations run by the Chinese Communist Party that steal the contents of books and accuse the real authors of copyright infringement. If these pirates want to steal videos or music, they’re not going to fart around on websites that sporadically come and go. The biggest pirates now are AI bots that steal content from websites, and nobody does a damn thing about those.

But incel is as incel does. Recently, one of the busier downloading sites misappeared and was replaced with a message that began, “This site has been shutdown for copyright infringement.” It continued, “Stream-ripping sites that turn licensed streams into free downloads are illegal.”



No they're not. The websites themselves are not illegal. Again, they *could* in theory be used for illegal activity, but to ban the sites for that reason would be like if they made your fist illegal because you could punch somebody in the face.

The message was sponsored by the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry, a global parasol group that includes the RIAA. The RIAA has ripped off artists far more than people downloading from those sites have. Because of the RIAA buffoons, most revenues from recorded music go to the record labels instead of anyone who makes music. The RIAA and other IFPI members represent big record companies – not artists.

In another article, the IFPI boasts that it took over the domain names of 12 such sites after an enforcement action in Vietnam. We're unfamiliar with Vietnamese copyright laws, but why would a single country's laws apply in every other country?

The claim that sites like this are illegal is laughable. Tee-hee. Hee-hee-hee. Hear that? We're laughing at it right now! This is as ridiculous as the claim that the audio editing software Audacity is illegal for kids under 13.

## Flock fuxxup again

Flock fascism has been on the march in Colorado.

Recently, a sergeant from the Columbine Valley Police Department came to a woman's home and harassed her, claiming that a Flock camera caught her stealing a package from someone's porch.

The sarge wouldn't let the woman see the Flock footage in question. He also refused to view the footage from the woman's dashcam that showed that she was somewhere else when the theft occurred. The cop bragged to the woman that the case "is a lock. One hundred percent. No doubt."

Anyone accused of a crime is supposed to be considered innocent until proven guilty. But in this case, the woman was considered guilty and had to prove she was innocent. When video of the theft finally emerged, it was found that the real offender bore very little resemblance to the accused.

This was yet another failure of artificial intelligence. AI misidentified a thief, and the wrong woman was accused of stealing the package. As AI makes life worse, everybody's electric bill is soaring to pay for it—and they're losing their homes to illegal land grabs carried out by corporate utility monopolies to build AI data centers. It's a lose-lose. We're losing money, land, and jobs, but at least we get accused of crimes we didn't commit in return.

An equally important point is this: Even if "studies show" that a policy works, if it's unconstitutional, you don't do it. On the other hand, this may not matter, because we can't think of any credible studies that show that an unconstitutional policy works.



## Another myth on education law debunked

We have a record of advocacy for laws to protect students from ableist discrimination, and IDEA and the ADA fit our aims. Unfortunately, our schools have a record of disobeying these laws – or, perversely, using them for the precise opposite of what they were intended for.

We periodically need to debunk myths about these laws, as we do about other subjects such as Social Security. Recently, a right-wing editorial was stenographed in the media that urged phasing out Social Security and claimed that Social Security was never meant to be used as a retirement savings account. That claim is false, as Franklin D. Roosevelt said it was for exactly that. If Social Security isn't where seniors' retirement income comes from, what are they supposed to do? Are 80-year-olds supposed to go dig ditches? The op-ed writers must own stock in Myoflex. Another right-wing myth that's appeared lately says that when Social Security started, most people who paid into it were never actually supposed to get anything from it. If that was the case, why does it even exist? What's the point of paying for something and not getting anything from it?

I just don't understand how a few loudmouths got it into their head that Social Security isn't supposed to support you throughout your retirement. Any American who has lived since Social Security began was taught that's what it was for. But just in the past few weeks, all my social media feeds have become bombarded by people (possibly bots) who absurdly insist otherwise.

Anybip, we've seen a myth posted online lately about how laws like the ADA and IDEA handle special education. These posts correctly say parents have a right to have their kids placed in a regular classroom instead of a special school if it's more beneficial. But they say that if they exercise this right, their children lose the protections from discrimination that the law gives them.

That part is incorrect. If you have a right, you can't be punished for exercising that right. That's what a right *is*. Imagine if the First Amendment was followed by an extra sentence that read, "However, anyone who exercises these rights may be subject to penalties." If a right carries a penalty, it's not really a right.

If IDEA and the ADA actually said that exercising a right outlined in these laws forces you to forfeit the laws' protections, that would render a significant portion of these laws useless. IDEA in particular would be little more than a piece of paper.

It's not known where people got the misconception that exercising your rights under these laws forces you to give up protections. Some folks truly believe it. If that's what they think, they're not really lying, because they don't know they're wrong. That's more than what we can say about some people, who *attack* parents because they won't give in to schools' special ed demands. In one online thread, one of these right-wing reactionaries linked to a website run by an organization that was sued for conspiring to run a criminal racket.

If the parents cave to schools' pressure, the kids will probably be posting online 20 years from now about how schools neglected their needs. That is, if they don't fall into poverty and end up dying young first.

## The shame of the cities

We live in a fascist era. It's as if Occupy Wall Street, the civil rights movement, and even the American Revolution never happened. After all, right-wing venture capitalist Peter Thiel admitted in 2012 that he wanted to "reassess the last 200 years."

The rot of broken windows policing is becoming more apparent all the time, yet its purveyors are always doubling down.

America's cities are on the same path as New York in the 1990s under failed Mayor Rudolph Giuliani. After Giuliani seized power, a blind man was robbed on Times Square, and his guide dog was kidnapped. The city's slums bred a subspecies of rat that was immune to poison. At the time, something similar happened in Cincinnati – another pioneer of broken windows policing – as rats were crawling up through toilets of houses. So much attention was paid to small crimes that major crimes and health hazards were swept under the rug.

We're way past that point now. You can point to Cincinnati, but other cities have become worse. Cincinnati has a rot that extends through the mayor's office, the city manager's office, 3CDC, and even law enforcement. As the city enacts illegal youth curfews and limits Red Bike, major crimes are overlooked. Police couldn't even find needed information on suspects in serious crimes. Their database revealed one suspect had a parole violation, but officers could not get any details. What kind of database is this? Is it just a 6-year-old pounding on a Speak & Spell's random letter button?

Other cities have outdone Cincinnati. One of the most rapidly declining cities in America today is Washington, D.C. The real influence in city policy rests with rich right-wingers who have moved into the city from the suburbs, gentrified it, and ruined it. Perhaps the most notorious of these nobodies talks a lot but says nothing, yet she has the ear of city officials. Recently, she posted a tirade on Twitter about how terrified she was of a group of teenagers hanging out. When people pointed out that the teens were committing no crime, she replied, "The intent behind my post was not to claim an 'active crime in progress.'" Then what was the problem? If nobody was committing a crime, why was she complaining?

Someone actually agreed with that reply by saying people hanging out "makes the neighborhood less attractive in terms of real estate." *Who cares???* That's an argument only a gentrifier could love. Another respondent said "some form of corporal punishment may help" – though again, the youths did nothing wrong. At least 2 idiots replied with explicitly racist statements about the teens.

The influencer who started that thread is a crime troll – a person who builds their identity around authoritarian approaches to any real or made-up crisis, exaggerates small crimes, and plays up incidents that aren't crimes at all.





City officials in D.C. have responded by toughening nightly youth curfews to begin at 8 PM in some parts of town. The mayor announced that “we” enacted the new rule, but there was no “we” about it. She should have said “I”, not “we.” The public had no input.

To the surprise of nobody, it’s been a disaster. A video showed D.C. police harassing young people at a transit station and using the curfew to target Black teens.

It appears as if D.C. has also reintroduced corporal punishment in its schools, as parents have recently made numerous complaints to police about the practice.

We’re in a period of democratic backsliding to a degree that’s never been seen before. This even includes issues that have backslid less than others. Federal and state officials are even restarting the failed war on drugs. States (particularly Oregon) are rolling back progressive policies of the 2010s that loosened ineffective, draconian drug laws, and the federal government has just banned hemp THC products. The THC prohibition was introduced by Mitch “The Glitch” McConnell. The mayor of Cincinnati also recently ordered most Metro buses to stop serving Government Square because of “illegal drug activity.” That sounds straight out of 1996. The order was probably on printer paper with perforated edges.

Meanwhile, the biggest crimes go unpunished. You hear a lot about shoplifting, but all told, wage theft costs Americans far more money than shoplifting does. Most acts of shoplifting involve only inexpensive items, and even when you add up all of these acts, it’s a drop in the bucket compared to wage theft. Wage theft is usually committed by large businesses, which have enough clout to avoid getting in trouble. And, a few years ago, while New York harshly punished private behavior, the city practically stopped prosecuting building code violations, which led to a fire that killed 17 people.

Here is your score: zero correct, 10 wrong!

## Using our sleuthing skills for something really important

As the song from *The Electric Company* said: I’m a funny guy!

I’m also a common sense guy. I live for old public service scare films, and one of my favorite puzzles to exercise the mind is to try to pinpoint exactly where they were filmed.

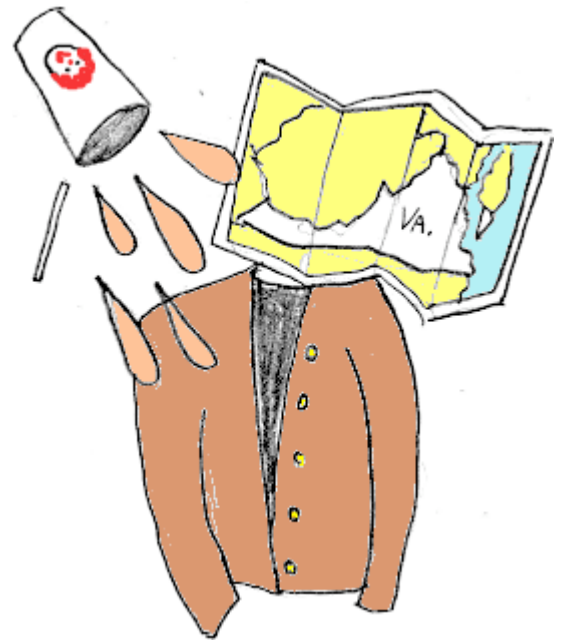
You may remember that I tracked down the site of an old film about a hi-fi breaking a man’s favorite records to a house in Detroit. We later drove past that home during a 2017 fact-finding mission. Now the biperoony continues.

A 1982 episode of an educational show dealt with a teenage girl who wosted her parents’ credit card by buying a designer jacket and ruining it the first time she wore it by spilling a milkshake on it. It’s one of the funniest scare films I’ve found. I’ve figured out where the house in this clip was. I’m talking about the home where the girl gets skeeped at by her mom, who looks like Jill Stein. The house is on Glenbrook Road in Mantua, Virginia.

You might recall that there was also an old black-and-white film about a young man who receives a bad conduct discharge from the military. His life is essentially over. He yells at everyone, his fiancée dumps him, and a factory refuses to hire him. I’ve figured out his abode was on a curvy part of Cambridge Road in Royal Oak, Michigan.

Another common site of old scare films seems to be Lawrence, Kansas. I’m guessing that’s where a film on shoplifting where the store manager resembled my 5<sup>th</sup> grade principal (complete with big sideburns) was made. I’m surprised he didn’t have a big paddle in his office! I’m also pretty sure a film about teenagers buying beer was filmed in Lawrence.

Whatever the weather, they don’t make scare films like they used to.



## More school bull

Time to do those finger exercises and page through another batch of school stories we found on the public Internet. Make sure you’re doing the right finger exercises – unlike many of the students in

these stories.

One commenter said a student beat his meat to My Little Pony pictures he found on Google. At another school, a student was expelled for peeing in a hot frying pan in home ec. Another commenter admitted to throwing their high school history teacher's stapler out the window every day from the top floor. The teacher always blamed the previous class.

At yet another school, a boy kept wiping a booger on a girl's jacket every day because he thought she would like him for it. Elsewhere, a student "ate his entire cursive workbook over the course of the year." Another student at that school kept telling everyone that he wrote a popular movie that came out before he was even born.

Another commenter said a schoolmate set his own pants on fire, urinated on the vending machine, brang a mouse to school in his pocket, "drew penises on every available surface", and did various disgusting things. Another student downed Ex-Lax on a dare and shit his pants in class. Another kept calling up every other student in the school and leaving voicemails consisting of nothing but meowing. He also kept carrying a broken space heater in his backpack. Another pupil suddenly got up in class and peed on the floor right next to the teacher's desk.

A high school senior beat the living shit out of a bully who smashed his expensive calculator. Good! At one small school, a teacher refused to allow a student to use the restroom. So this student walked out of class without permission to go to the bathroom and returned with a big smile. Nobody thought anything else of it until a "crisp log" was found on the floor in the hallway in front of the restroom. The principal had to come along with a pooper scooper to clean it up: "Watching a fully grown adult in a suit clean up a fresh turd was a core memory of my schooling experience." The offender was expelled. At a school in Minnesota, a high school junior got away with repeatedly pooping on the bathroom floor for an entire year. The school kept making announcements asking for tips as to who was doing it.

A private religious school in Michigan had a one-seater restroom in each class. One day, a girl went into this lav and found a real mess. "There's shit everywhere!" she exclaimed. At another school, a student brang in a wet diaper as a science experiment. An 8<sup>th</sup> grade science class had an experiment involving growing a bean sprout, and one student poked a hole in the shell of an egg and put the sprout through it. It caused a fungus to grow that stunk up the whole room. Another kid used to swallow thumb tacks.

A student shit on a paper towel, took it over to a sink in the classroom, and put the paper towel in the sink. Another stole a teacher's hat and peed on it. A youngster in 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> grade smeared shit all over the wall outside a classroom when he was sent to stand in the hall. A student brang in shit in a bag and splattered it on walls. A 7<sup>th</sup> grader made brownies that were filled with Vaseline. A student at another school was caught shitting in his own locker. Another commenter said a classmate laid down next to the heating vent, found a cookie covered with ants in it, and ate it. At one Catholic school, there was a girl who not only smeared shit on the restroom wall but also tried to flush herself down the toilet and ended up flooding the bathroom so badly that it flowed into the hallway.

One person said that in middle school, a classmate picked his nose and chewed the resulting booger throughout a presentation he had to give in front of the class. A student brang in bastepaste to look at under the microscope. Another student would chew bubble gum and save the used wads until the last day of school, when he threw the chewed gum at walls and schoolmates. Another brang vodka to school, drank it straight from the bottle in the cafeteria, and was expelled. Another accidentally fell in the toilet because he was standing on it while trying to remove a ceiling panel. Still another shit in a garbage can right in the middle of class. Another fished used tissues out of the trash and ate them.

One student pulled the fire alarm at school, got caught, and had a custom shirt made that said, "I did not pull the fire alarm." In math class one day, this same feller kept pulling apart cigarettes and eating the tobacco. A 6<sup>th</sup> grader at another school "shit his pants everyday on purpose to get a reaction out of people." Another kid kept shitting in library books and putting them back on the shelf.

At still another school, a student taped his ruler to his face in class and sat there like that the whole hour. Another student shit in a tuba. Another hid lunchmeat behind the file cabinets each day until it stunk up the school. At another school, a student took up living in a janitor's closet and made it



into his own apartment. When he got caught, he moved into the gym instead, and a parent complained about it at school board meetings. After that, the student started a concession stand in the hallway and also decorated jeans. Parents complained about those acts too after one of them found her kid's jeans painted with the Run-DMC logo.

An elementary school child had a case of explosive diarrhea on the slide on the playground. He took his pants off and slid down the slide as he was doing his business. Elsewhere, a 4<sup>th</sup> grader shit under a slide at recess. A 7-year-old shit on the carpet in class. Another commenter said a student was running toward the restroom, and shit fell out of his pants leg in the hallway. Then he picked it up and put it in his pocket. A 4<sup>th</sup> grader shit in a urinal, picked it up, and threw it on the ceiling. A 5<sup>th</sup> grade girl sneezed all over her hands and wiped it all over her desk. A 6<sup>th</sup> grader licked the filthy lights on a school bus.

Another student ate all the keys from a computer keyboard. Also, on a class trip to Washington, D.C., he lost his shoe in the Potomac River and tried to retrieve it using a stick. Another pupil urinated in bottles and saved them in her locker all year. A 6<sup>th</sup> grader "pooped his pants and tried to hide his underwear in the desk." He went on to later join the Army and became a chaplain stationed in Korea. A high school sophomore in Australia had acne that started bleeding, so he used the blood to color a picture in a textbook. A student got suspended for supergluing a hash brown to a schoolmate's back and for participating in a water balloon fight involving condoms. Another took a cow liver from the biology lab onto the school bus and threw it onto the windshield of a car at a red light.

A high school junior failed a test because he cheated. To retaliate against the school, he hid in the restroom until everyone went home for the day. Then he smeared shit all over the door to the classroom. He was expelled. A 2<sup>nd</sup> grader crapped on his own desk during a quiz. A student ate a smashed grape off the floor in the hallway. Another ate a Troll doll and later vomited it back up during class.

*Read All About It!* it is not.



## Contract with America still Nazi after all these years

Cue the waltzy beat and start singing in Newt Gingrich's ugly face about what a piece of shit he is. His history of fascism goes back decades before he became the first major American commentator to endorse COVID lockdowns.

Someone pointed out that—other than restoring the retirement age back to 65—one of the "absolute lowest-hanging fruit" in public policy would be to make student loans dischargeable in bankruptcy again like they used to be.

Why aren't they dischargeable now? Is it because it bips?

The George H.W. Bush thugocracy limited the ability to discharge student loans. Later, the George W. Bush reign of terror enacted an infamously terrible bankruptcy law that limited all sorts of personal bankruptcies. One of the regime's excuses was that people were "abusing" bankruptcy laws—though this claim was a right-wing hoax, like the welfare abuse hoax of the 1990s or the media's "squatting" hoax today. But in between those malicious acts came the Higher Education Amendments of 1998.

That act has Newtzi's shit-caked fingerprints all over it. It made it so federal student loans couldn't be discharged in bankruptcy at all unless it met a very strict criterion that was almost impossible to meet.

Why was this enacted? Congress in 1998 set out to harm people. Congress enjoyed it.

Let me tell you, if I was President in 1998, I would have told Congress to pound sand. It was unambiguously one of the worst Congresses in history, in addition to one of the most unpopular.

Now—as the cloud of sawdust that is replacing the Department of Education says the government will no longer recognize some degrees or fields of study—some folks are vowing to fight back. Because of that new rule, some Americans with student loans who are in these fields are saying they will no longer recognize their debts, and will refuse to pay them. Fair is fair. If their degree isn't recognized, why should they pay a debt that they incurred to get their degree?

Why should people have to take on huge loans for a degree that the government promptly

devalues?

Hopefully, there's a little less talk and a lot more action on this. Some folks have a way of prying defeat from the jaws of victory, so don't hold your breath.

## **An idiot said something stupid**

You know that we've supported projects to fight racism, and we buy the assertion that racism is a public health crisis. But this doesn't give a license for some clown to say something completely idiotic about the matter.

Considering our strong record, we resent some of the attacks that are out there. If someone posted such attacks on a venue we control, we'd tell them to get out. Just leave. Get lost. But when they post it elsewhere, we just have to keep an eye on it.

We monitor several Reddit boards for signs of totalitarianism. You probably know the topics.

To make a long story short (but no less stupid), somebody in a particularly moronic thread said, "Individualism is a part of white supremacy."

Let that sink in.

Someone actually made a serious claim that one of the balancing characteristics of a liberal democratic society represents "white supremacy." Individualism and collectivism are not always at odds with each other but rather produce an equilibrium in our social contract. Each is cozily woven into the other. This contrasts with corporatist and other authoritarian systems.

Individualism means maximizing personal liberties. A system without individualism is contrary to human aspirations, goals, and independence.

This view isn't selfish. It's social science.

And it *damn sure* isn't racist. Quite the opposite. The Bill of Rights is colorblind.

Much of the media and academia today try to spread the idea that basic freedoms are the stuff of heedless cowboys and that societies without protections for these liberties are morally and intellectually superior. They're in the ru-zone that blends right-wing pro-punishment themes, progressive branding, and North Korean-style *juche*. This is the same realm as school superintendents who have banned Halloween in the past few years.

Not only was that thread making false accusations of racism, but someone also charged that respect for basic liberties is "a hallmark of antisocial personality disorder."

The obstructionists in that thread have led lives of privilege because of their high economic level. Do they even hear themselves?

This is a scam being carried out by social media totalitarians who see the world through a haze, and it has to stop. There should be committees in Congress and state legislatures to probe antidemocratic activities like this – much as actual white supremacists should also be investigated. One thing in particular that needs to be investigated is what the source of funding for all of this is. (After the 2018 midterm, congressional "leaders" promised an investigation into white supremacists, but all they did was spend a few minutes just asking easy questions.)

It's unbelievable how social media totalitarians act. Unbelievable. How dare they badmouth people who have done the right thing their whole adult lives.

## **What Spectrum does with the money that flies up its rectum**

Each month, as you know, more money flies up Spectrum's rectum. Spectrum has a monopoly on Internet service in many locales. We don't count Altafiber, because its predecessor – Zoomtown – blocked websites based on content, which defies net neutrality regulations. By default, we have to assume Altafiber does too. (The blocked sites had no illegal content.)

As we're forced to pay exorbitant rates for Spectrum's service, Spectrum uses its revenues to try to get everyone to sign up for its service, which they already have because it's a monopoly. In the past couple months, Spectrum has had a few salespeople stationed inside Kroger in Bellevue to accost the store's customers. Not long ago, they tried selling me service that I already have. When I told them how much I was paying, the man gave me a phone number where I could supposedly haggle with Spectrum for a lower rate, but that didn't work.

Now things have gotten even poopymore. A week or two ago, I went to Krogie-Wogie and was confronted again, this time by a different man from Spectrum. It wouldn't have bothered me if he was



stationary. But instead, he followed me over to the pharmacy counter where I had to pick up a prescription. He kept trying to sell me Spectrum service while I was at the counter getting my prescription taken care of. When I was done there, he still followed me and tried to sell me service that I already had.

You can argue this isn't a *total* disaster, because at least it keeps salespeople employed. But when I say I don't want to buy services I already have, I mean it. I mean it like a dictionary. A big, thick unabridged, no less. I mean it like a 2-volume set that needs its own shelf at the library.

It's poor form for Spectrum to have its salespeople follow folks around in grocery stores like this, especially after they've made it clear they're not buying the product.

What are people supposed to do? Pop?

## There goes the neighborhood

Mister Rogers is mad!

It wasn't a beautiful day in the neighborhood once back in 1972 when Mister Rogers got a parking ticket...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f6YQMqIGNtU>

You'd think ol' Fred would never even cut a tag off a sofa, but that segment on *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood* shows he wasn't always a perfect angel. During his opening song, he angrily fiddles with a piece of paper. It turns out it's a parking ticket.

"I'd like to take this ticket and rip it up!" he declares, baring his chompers.

Mister Rogers had parked in front of a parking meter without putting money in it. He rushed into a drugstore to get the right change. But it was too late.

Our favorite TV neighbor has to go to court alongside all the roughs. The judge is a stern guy. He comes down hard on defendants who disobey motorcycle helmet laws or park in front of bus stops. But through it all, Mister Rogers perseveres!

He was let off the hook, and the neighborhood once again became neighborly.

Ridiculously, I went through his hometown of Latrobe, Pennsylvania, during September's fact-finding mission, and we couldn't find a parking meter that didn't require an app. That would be enough to turn Mister Rogers into Oscar the Grouch any day.



*Mister Rogers statue in Latrobe, Pa. He wants you to be his neighbor.*

## First Church of Censorship strikes again!

The FCC is mad because a noncommercial low-power FM station in Hollywood, Florida, authorized for 100 watts was found to be broadcasting with over 1,000 watts.

Alrighty then. What about the companies that own hundreds of stations, many of which broadcast with 50,000 or 100,000 watts? When is the FCC going to do anything about those? Before the 1990s, no company was allowed to own that many stations.

The National Association of Broadcasters has urged the FCC to continue to limit low-power FM's to 100 watts—even though the NAB represents companies that own multiple stations that use up to 1,000 times that power.

The states are AWOL. To the best of our knowledge, not a single state in the union has initiated antitrust proceedings against big broadcasting firms that control numerous stations in a single market. But when *one* low-power noncom gets above 100 watts, the whole world ends. That's like if Eli Lilly & Company uses 60,000 drones to make an ad that obstructs an observatory's telescope, and then accuses a single 60-watt LED light bulb of causing climate change.