

The Last Word™

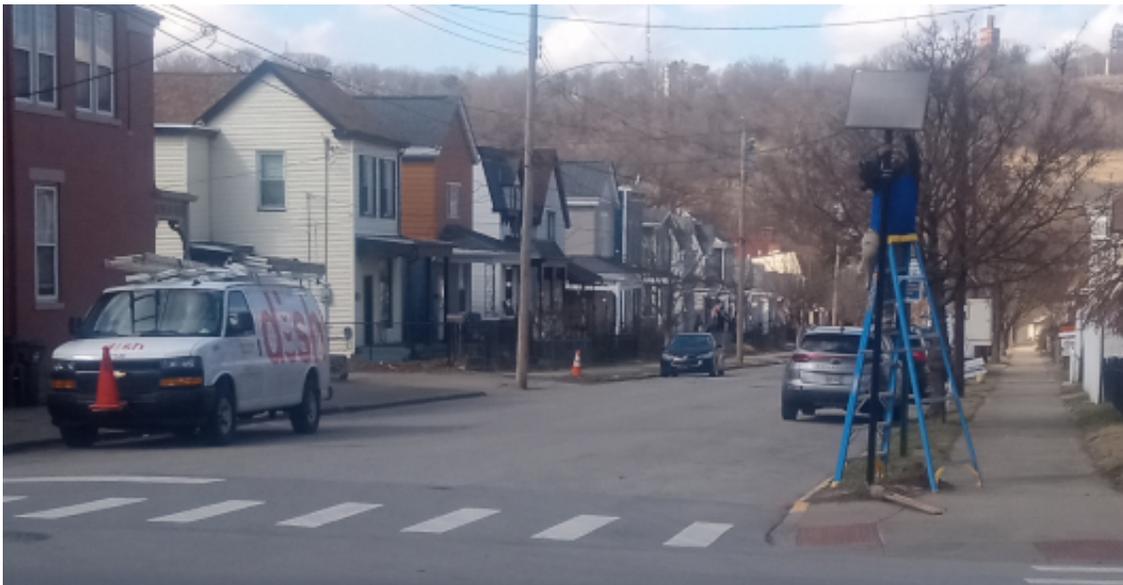
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What the Flock?!

Like all the censors, racists, and academics we've lambasted, city "leaders" in Bellevue must have a humiliation fetish. They're such gluttons for punishment that they posted *another* Flock spy camera aiming at my apartment in further retaliation for our criticism of the Flock program—and acted like they wouldn't be exposed for it like they were for the first one.

Back on February 27—just after our previous ish was published—we detected something strange in the neighborhood...



That very photo should be expanded into a mural at the National Fascism Museum. Here we see a man who appears to be from Dish Network installing a new Flock camera—which is aimed at my front porch. Now I can't sit on my porch and read, because there's a Flock camera staring down at me. Thus, it appears as if the first two Flock cameras posted in Bellevue are the two that are aimed right at my building. As you know, the city posted the first one in retaliation after we criticized the initial Flock rumblings.

We assumed Dish needed something to do like install Flock cameras, as nobody subscribes to Dish anymore (as if many people did to begin with). But an online thread says Dish actually hires independent contractors, who are often the same ones hired by Flock. This exchange said technicians in Dish vans were recently seen installing Flock cams in New Orleans. Just to help fill this page, we should point out that this comes after the former mayor of New Orleans enacted new COVID mandates as late as 2022 and then refused to obey them herself. Earlier, a critic of the mayor said her COVID totalitarianism and retaliatory behavior "ruined" the city's efforts to bring back tourists. The magic word!

As for Bellevue, we also got this photo of the Dish van we saw installing the Flock camera. The van looked like it had a bunch of junk piled on top of it that would just fall off on the highway and dismember all comers...



I stuck around for a while as the Dish bloke would occasionally pop out of his van like a groundhog and fiddle with the camera he was installing, but it eventually got boring. All the while, the van was idling and polluting the air.

In some areas, Flock rents trucks and adds their own logo. Someone posted a photo online of a Flock truck in Georgia illegally parking on a wooden boardwalk at a park and caving it in. Also, if the cameras read only license plates, why was a camera being installed on a trail where people don't drive?

Meanwhile, how is it not national news that Bellevue would post two Flock cameras to spy on an independent writer in retaliation for him speaking out against Flock cams? On the other hand, when you consider the atrocious quality of America's major news companies, it shouldn't be too surprising that the story is swept under the rug. Our major media is a disgrace.

Now the only way people can avoid getting spied on by Flock is to never drive a car and to blow a huge bubble with bubble gum that bursts and completely covers their face so the camera can't see through the gum.

Cavalcade of Bazooka and Gulf

The Cavalcade of Customs is a showcase of classic cars that comes to Cincinnati Convention Center each year, and we were there for this year's event! The "things to do" column in *CityBeat* ignored it, because classic cars are considered too plebeian for their pretentious yuppie readership.

The only year this car show was ever canceled was last year. That was because the city displayed such sloth in renovating the convention center. Even during COVID, the Cavalcade of Customs wasn't canceled. In fact, the only Cavalcade that took place during the pandemic apparently went on almost as normal, as videos of the event show people smiling their asses off throughout.

Before this year, the only time I went to the Cavalcade of Customs was when I was about 7 or 8, when we went to see Boss Hogg. When I was in high school, there was a Cavalcade that supposedly went completely off the rails. I'm not sure what happened, but maybe some kids at school were just mad because they couldn't get in the cars and throw things at people.

A couple years ago, I found an online post implying that several male former schoolmates used to show up at the Cavalcade each year and prostitute themselves. I wouldn't be mentioning this except that they were such assholes at school.

When I attended this year's Cavalcade, I couldn't figure out what the recent renovation of Cincinnati Convention Center entailed. It looked like it had hardly changed at all. The city, county, and state spent almost \$300 million renovating the convention center and closed the facility for over a year, costing the city needed tourist revenue, yet very few changes were found. It appeared as if one room had different decor from what I remembered though. I recently read an article that said patterns like

the old decor are common on Greyhound buses because these patterns hide vomit stains, so perhaps they served the same purpose at the convention center.

The Cavalcade also provided some unexpected hilarity when I saw a rack where they appeared to be selling miniature cars in the Hot Wheels size range...



That photo shows that one of the vehicles they were selling was a van with the logo for Bazooka – a bubble bustin’ brand of gum.

There was also this...



Like any brand of bubble gum, Gulf Oil is also fodder for comedy, largely because of the mid-1980s commercial where the Gulf logo rotated like a key in a car’s ignition and zoomed away in an uproarious spectacle. When I first saw that ad, I burst out laughing, and I never looked at Gulf the same way again. Here they appeared to be selling a Gulf-branded pickup truck.

Even as we fight corporate excess, many of the things we buy still come from corporate empires. Big movie studios aren’t really even in the business of *making* movies but *licensing* them. Google doesn’t make money from being a search engine but rather as a giant ad server. At least that wouldn’t be as bad as **The Last Word** being taken over by a private equity firm. If that ever happens, you *know* society is done!

‘Some Like It Hot’ patron turns up the heat

As Homer Simpson would say: “Plays. Plays!”

Live theater tends to be marketed toward people of a higher economic status, so it's yet another topic that we—as a populist zine—use only sparingly. But it's always a barrel of baste when patrons of a play talk about other audience members making noise. And the public Internet has once again come through.

Someone posted that they went to see the musical *Some Like It Hot* on Broadway, and the event was spoiled by noisy guests. They said a group of 6 or more patrons who sat behind them “ruined the first act for us in a big big way.” The magic word! This group crinkled popcorn bags for over an hour. Even the actors on stage could hear the noise.

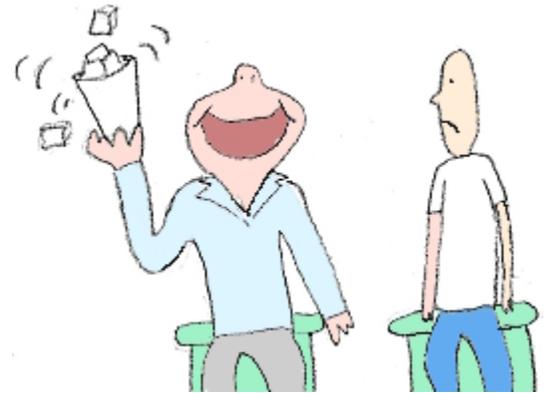
The group also kept loudly talking during the play, prompting the complainant to say, “Shut up!” Finally, this commenter changed seats—along with other patrons who were fed up with the noise. One of the others actually found that post online and replied, “The second act was so much more enjoyable away from those assholes.” The noise emptied an entire row.

Another person said they went to see this same play, and a man next to them kept shaking a cup of ice the whole time. Another commenter said a guest decimated a Harry Potter-themed play by crumpling a bag throughout. Yet another respondent said “audiences are getting worse and worse.” Somebody else inquired, “Are these people really spending a couple hundred dollars to hear themselves (and their own group members) chew and crinkle bags?”

One person said they went to see a play, and a woman in the audience spilled hot chocolate on the floor. The hot chocolate flowed down to the front rows and ruined patrons' purses. Another theatergoer said a couple disrupted *Hamilton* by loudly munching potato chips: “I spent over \$400 on theater tickets to listen to people eat snacks.”

Someone in another thread said she went to see *Romeo And Juliet* on Broadway, and somebody ripped a nice, loud fart that lasted 10 seconds during the most dramatic part of the closing monologue.

Plays got ruined by patrons' unruly—if not hilarious—behavior.



A cop kept saying the magic word

Many of the costliest and deadliest crimes in the land are “behind the scenes” crimes by big companies—like wage theft, industrial pollution, and disobeying building codes. But it's mostly smaller crimes by individuals that are dealt with by patrol officers. Police bodycams are operated by cops themselves, so they usually don't even pick up crimes by police. Almost everything they pick up is minor crimes committed by the public.

This means that, although very few institutional crimes are caught on camera, the public Internet is rife with bodycam footage of civilian crime. It's like the TV series *Cops*. By contrast, footage of board rooms where executives collude to dump arsenic in the river isn't a big ratings winner.

This brings us to this clip we found on YouTube...

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

That video includes cops. And it includes the magic word.

The clip deals with an incident at a hotel. It appears as if a woman on a family vacation was being noisy and disorderly, which kept other guests awake. The popo appeared, and they lowered the boom.

One customer said the woman spent “hours and hours” just “yelling and screaming.” A cop who spoke in a tinny drawl began lecturing the offender's husband. The officer warned that “a whole bunch of people in this hotel” were having their vacations dashed to detritus and “the last thing they want to do is have their vacation ruined by” the noise. Ruined! The magic word!

A few minutes later, the cop told the disorderly woman, “You are ruining other people's vacation.” The woman then started yelling and was arrested, apparently for disorderly intoxication in a public place.

The cop returned to the room and repeatedly told the woman's husband, “We're not gonna

tolerate this.” That’s one of these phrases like “at the end of the day” that you always see being used by police officials being interviewed in news stories. “You have already ruined enough people’s vacations,” he said. The magic word again! “You can’t come to a hotel and do the shenanigans ‘cause you ruin other people’s vacation.” That’s another funny word: *shenanigans*.

Best all, the bald cop near the end was chewin’ bubble gum! He didn’t bubble. But he was chewin’ bubble gum!

Yay! More money for war propaganda!

Right-wing activists have been pumping dark money into propaganda and rallies supporting the illegal, genocidal war in Iran.

These same political vandals have a history of cozying up to neo-Nazis who spread ableist propaganda on talk radio and online. While there have been very few public events supporting the war, the media has been flush with right-wing propaganda cheering on the conflict. These pro-war talking points have been coordinated by washed-up Tea Party agitproppers, Bush goons, and other members of the “I hate America” crowd. In addition, some of them have cavorted with Holocaust deniers or have been linked to Chinese Communist Party influence campaigns.

What they’re depending on is whipping up political support to dig in on this war. Judging by polls, this seems unlikely to work. But you never know. During the run-up to the 1991 Gulf War, a possible war with Iraq was unpopular at first, but it became popular after the media cheered it on.

It’s a shame that right-wing millionaires don’t spend their ill-gotten loot on worthy causes instead of squandering it on dark money campaigns to fund warmongering propaganda. Not like we expected any good from them.

Bike lane closure costs bakery lots of dough

Several projects in the People’s Universe have touched on the nationally infamous closure of the popular bike lane of the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge north of San Francisco. Those who closed the lane acted out of sheer malice. In other words, they’re bad people. Now the poop is in the pudding of what a bad idea it was.

A bakery near one end of the bridge says this closure is hurting business. Sales at this bakery have declined by more than half since the bike lane closed. Customers who used to travel to the bakery by bike now cannot access the business.

The bakery may be forced to close as a result. Another small business is about to be destroyed by greed, Gavin Newsom’s right-wing corruption, officials’ malign intent, and the fossil fuel industry. (And yes, we’re using the term *right-wing* correctly.)

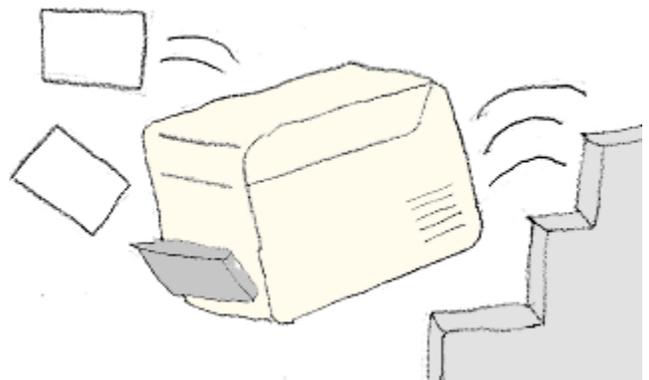
In addition, the experiment of closing the bike lane has failed to improve traffic flow for cars – despite what was promised.

They’re grrrrross!

Because this is a day ending in “Newt Gingrich is a fascist”, it’s time to reduce our backlog of weird school stories we found online. Everything we do, we do it for you, so let’s get going!

One online commenter said that when they were in school, a student was seen eating dry Frosted Flakes straight out of the box on the playground. Then he peed in the box. He continued eating the cereal after peeing in it. At one elementary school, a student peed in a Ziploc bag and kept chasing classmates all over the field with it. He grew up to become a drug dealer. Then he got caught reselling used lottery tickets. One commenter listed several weird incidents, including the time a student burned a textbook in front of the teacher. This pupil also pushed a printer down a flight of steps.

A 6th grader got caught beating his meat in the movie theater when the class went to see a Transformers movie. A student at another school tied a string to a toy car and threw it out the window



of a school bus as it was zipping down a freeway. One school had a “mad pooper” who “would shake it down his pant leg daily and leave it in a different spot in the class all the time.” It took 6 months to catch him. Another student shit in urinal, walked into class, and yelled, “I shit in the urinal!” One high school had a student who kept shitting on toilet seats. Everyone knew who was doing it, and “the janitors hated him.” A 7th grader kept meowing in class and saying there was a cat inside the wall. The teacher believed him, and the maintenance crew made a big hole in the wall just to look for a cat who didn’t exist. One student brang a rat to school and it got loose in the lunchroom.

At yet another school, a student wrote “poo” on the wall using feces. The principal called an emergency assembly about it, but the culprit was never caught. Another student ate books. Another made his own tattoo gun, gave himself a tattoo on his wrist, and decided he didn’t like it. So he cut off his skin and carried it around with him. Another student ate a urinal cake. He also once found a dead bird, put it in his mouth, and ran around with it.

A 1st grader “peed in class”, leaving a puddle of urine under his chair for the rest of the day. A 3rd grade child smeared shit all over a window in the classroom. Another youngster ate boogers and vomited on a textbook just because he didn’t want to do schoolwork. Another stored a fish head in his locker for weeks, thereby stinking. Another shit in a schoolmate’s bookbag. An elementary schooler ate only carrots for months in the hopes he would turn orange. Another crapped in his own hand and hid it in his desk.

An elementary school girl kept asking for people’s teeth to “collect.” She carried the teeth around in a plastic container until she lost it in 5th grade. Later, in middle school, she kept following people in the hallway and playing “their theme song” on a flute. When she was a high school freshman, she kept hiding in tuba cases.

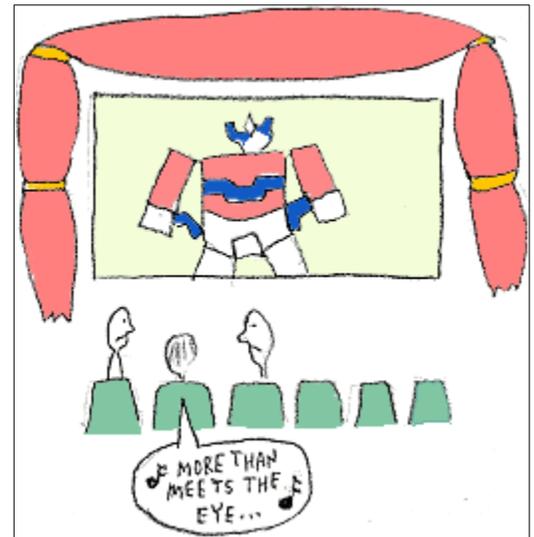
One student sewed her hands together in gym class. At another school, a student shit on the floor in the gym changing room while people were in there changing. One student tied himself to his chair with his shoelaces, crawled under his desk, and began eating his notebook. Another ate toilet paper each day for lunch. Another threw up all over a teacher’s overhead projector. Another extracted a piece of raw lasagna out of his underpants, ate a piece of it, and offered the rest of it to everyone else.

A grade school student kept stupidly bragging that he owned a bunch of missile silos and nuclear warheads. When he got to high school, he made a GeoCities page where he threatened Bill Clinton, so the Secret Service came to school to investigate him. When the Secret Service left, he said they left because he beat them up.

Another student kept farting in class and asking people to rate the stench on a scale of 1 to 10. Another brang in a jar full of earwax for show-and-tell. A 5th grader took a pellet of feces from the rabbit cage in the classroom and put it in his pocket. A student shit on the restroom floor “and skated around the bathroom in it.” He was expelled immediately. Another put blades of grass on printer paper, rolled them up, and smoked them—because that’s what he thought “smoking grass” meant. One student did all sorts of weird things, which included painting the principal’s car brown.

A student opted to “shit his pants and mush it around on the seat.” The whole classroom had to be evacuated and disinfected. One student put a photo of a penis in a PowerPoint presentation he had to give, but he tried to make it visible for only 0.001 second—like a subliminal message. But he put it at the very end, so it stayed visible when the presentation was over. Another student kept eating spiders, and he grew up to become a right-wing politician. An elementary schooler climbed onto the roof after school was out for the day and shit in the ventilation system. A 5th grader used to wipe boogers in his desk, let them dry for a few days, and eat them during class. A 3rd grader ate every book she was assigned for class “like string cheese.” A duo of 8th graders drew penises on all the pictures of people in the pamphlets that were going to be handed out in health class. The teacher gave the class an angry lecture about it.

Yet another student threw a pocket full of mashed potatoes at the ceiling. It remained stuck there for at least 2 years. He also put pubic hair in his own gas tank. Another student put a paper bag over his head, set it on fire, and sang “Iron Man.” Another got up in the middle of class, sat on the heater, farted, and let the heater spread the scent throughout the room. An elementary school young’un would eat his lunch money every day. A high school student delayed an “important” standardized test by making cricket sounds for a half-hour. A teacher posted that a quart-sized jar of shit was once found



in the boys' restroom. Another student hid under a desk and urinated on a hairbrush. Another opened a Coke bottle with his butt. Another shit his pants, wiped his ass with his hand, and smeared it under a table because "bathrooms are for losers." Another ate 2 shirts. At yet another school, someone kept shitting in a trash can in a restroom. The school launched a detailed investigation to catch the transgressor.

One student was known for particularly bad behavior throughout elementary and middle school. One day in middle school, he soiled his pants but "didn't think anything of it until a piece of turd rolled out his sweatpants into the hallway." He also twice got caught playing with himself in class. He was finally expelled after he urinated in a bottle in the middle of class.

Alexander And The Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day it is not.

People keep getting fired for opposing Iran war

This is one of the many ways America is completely out of luck.

It might not affect me as much because I'm older now, and – against astronomical odds – I've always survived each crisis. But the future for most younger people is pretty much over.

Here's what's been going on. Somebody will post something online critical of the illegal war in Iran. They don't use their work account to post it. They post it from home, and the post has absolutely no connection with work at all. Then some right-wing hall monitor type will complain to the person's employer and get them fired or suspended without pay.

Just for having the "wrong" opinion.

This isn't new at all. It went on during the Iraq War certainly. But it seems to get worse all the time.

You'd probably think the right-wing influencers aren't *completely* wrong if you saw some of their blurbs during COVID, but we've got a leg up on them on that issue too. We fought against lockdowns and mask mandates right from the giddy-up. Some of their accounts weren't even *started* until 2021 – the year after the stupid began. Plus, we're still demanding accountability years after they've abandoned this push. Whose hat is truly brighter?

Now, back to the Iran war. The social media wardens also somehow get the offending poster's congresscritter involved to try to further investigate the statements in question. Said congressperson is usually part of the same political guild that has promoted endless military misadventurism. The congressmoron is also endorsed by the state's political "leaders" even of a different party – who in turn were face-deep in COVID totalitarianism.

Meanwhile, the labor union that's supposed to represent the fired or suspended employee is nowhere to be found. Much of America's labor leadership is out there rollicking with the World Economic Forum instead of representing workers. These days, some union presidents sound exactly like scabs. The WEF in turn hosts some of the same political figures referenced above. (That's in addition to the WEF telling the public they have to eat bugs and trying to intentionally release ticks that inflict food allergies on people. No, we're not making this up.)

In other words, our entire political leadership is ultimately made up of the same web of people who all do the same things.

Imagine if political and labor figures had tried protecting Social Security, worker rights, and healthcare instead of investigating workers who oppose the Iran "mission."

You also have to consider that the offending language used by the penalized workers was provoked. After our "leaders" continuously, mechanically, and systematically did the wrong things, they don't get to complain that their precious fee-fees are hurt by people calling them out on it. Forty-five years of this buildup of malign public policy is enough. I remember when people thought 5 years was enough, and now it's 45. Unbelievable. Simply unbelievable that it's been allowed to go on for so long.

The America we once knew is dead.

Nobody flocked to this pro-Flock rally

Leave it to the Bay Area to host what may be the only pro-Flock rally ever in the history of the universe. It's like the March for Billionaires they had in February. Yes, that was a serious event and not a parody. Its webpage exhorted, "Billionaires get a bad rap. But most of them make our lives much

better.”

However – like the embarrassing March for Billionaires in San Francisco – the pro-Flock protest in Richmond, California, drew only a handful of people. One source counted all of 7. But what this mob lacks in public support they make up for in the amount of horsepower fueling their shit-caked mouths. Unfortunately, this was enough to affect public policy. The city’s 116,000 other residents were no match for 7 right-wing loudmouths who have lots of money and clout – some of whom don’t even live in the city.

The aim of the event was to encourage Richmond City Council to extend its contract with Flock Safety and reactivate its AI spy cameras. Among those in attendance were the mayor of Milpitas, a councilman from Fremont, the head of a group representing large businesses, and self-consecrated “safety advocates.”

This was after the city shut off its Flock cams because of an idiotic “system configuration error” that allowed federal and other police agencies to search its database, which violated the city’s stated policy and state law and resulted in a class action suit against Flock.

The aforementioned Fremont councilman has a history of extremism. One online post called him a “vile human being” even before the recent protest. He was accused of homophobic comments before he was on council. While on council, he has consistently voted against affordable housing and has mocked another member’s son for being homeless. He also reportedly claimed Martin Luther King Jr. “paid for sex.”

The heckler’s veto came through for the bullies – as it often does. After the rally, Richmond City Council voted to extend the Flock contract through the end of the year. In Richmond, California, 7 > 116,000.

This is yet another situation that represents a mindset that is not recognizably democratic or in line with American constitutional law. The Bay Area today has the same atmosphere that we recently attributed to the nation’s airports. The region has nothing in common with most of the rest of America outside of a few sheltered suburban blobs.

I have a bad feeling about this

A short time ago in a galaxy not so far away, some *Star Wars* memorabilia got ru.

The public Internet recently yielded a story about a whole collection of *Star Wars* toys getting destructed when some laundry soap leaked into the bin where they were stored. The post was titled “Been saving these *Star Wars* figures since I was a child. A jug of laundry detergent leaked into the bin and ruined them.” The magic word again! At issue was a near-complete set of mint-condition *Episode I* figures.

They were stored in a container that happened to be resting below an unopened bottle of detergent that sprang a leak.

Somebody replied saying their Thomas the Tank Engine trains got destroyed by being left out in the rain. Another person said their mom ruined most of their baseball cards by placing them in a room that had an attic fan that pulled in too much humidity.

In another thread, someone said they kept their *Star Wars* collection in a storage unit, but the unit caught on fire because someone was making meth in a unit next to it.

In yet another exchange, a commenter said he would order rare unopened *Star Wars* figures off eBay, and the seller would always cut and fold the boxes so he could fit them in the box to ship them. Another buyer ordered a rare *Star Wars* item in the original box – which the seller ruined by sticking the shipping label on it. One collector lamented, “It’s so sad when sellers cut corners on shipping and an item that has survived for 45 years is suddenly destroyed by a lazy and disrespectful seller.”

One person said someone broke into their storage unit and stole almost all the figures from their vintage Space Case collection. The thief also shredded a banner from a store display from when the original *Star Wars* trilogy was rereleased.

Another person posted photos of the aftermath of a drunken friend destroying their entire



collection of assorted *Star Wars* memorabilia.

Instead of memorabilia, they ought to call it destroyabilia – because people keep destroying it.

Rub-a-Dub-Dub, this toy was a flub

Every so often, you want to lose yourself in *Sesame Street*. Not the *Sesame Street* of today, in which we've woken up in a *Sesame Street* we don't recognize, but the ol' Ses that we grew up with.

In my day, we had *Sesame Street* toys that were usually pretty good, but there was one that left me unimpressed. I've touched on it before, but here's details, my friends, details. It was called the Rub-a-Dub Printer Magic Picture Maker.

Produced by the Colorforms people, the Rub-a-Dub Printer let you make imprints of *Sesame Street* characters on paper. We've found some photos of it online. It came in a box emblazoned with a festive drawing of Ernie, Cookie Monster, and Bert showing off pictures made with this toy. Bert was nailing some of the pictures on the wall, and Cookie Monster was decked out in a striped smock with a front pocket.

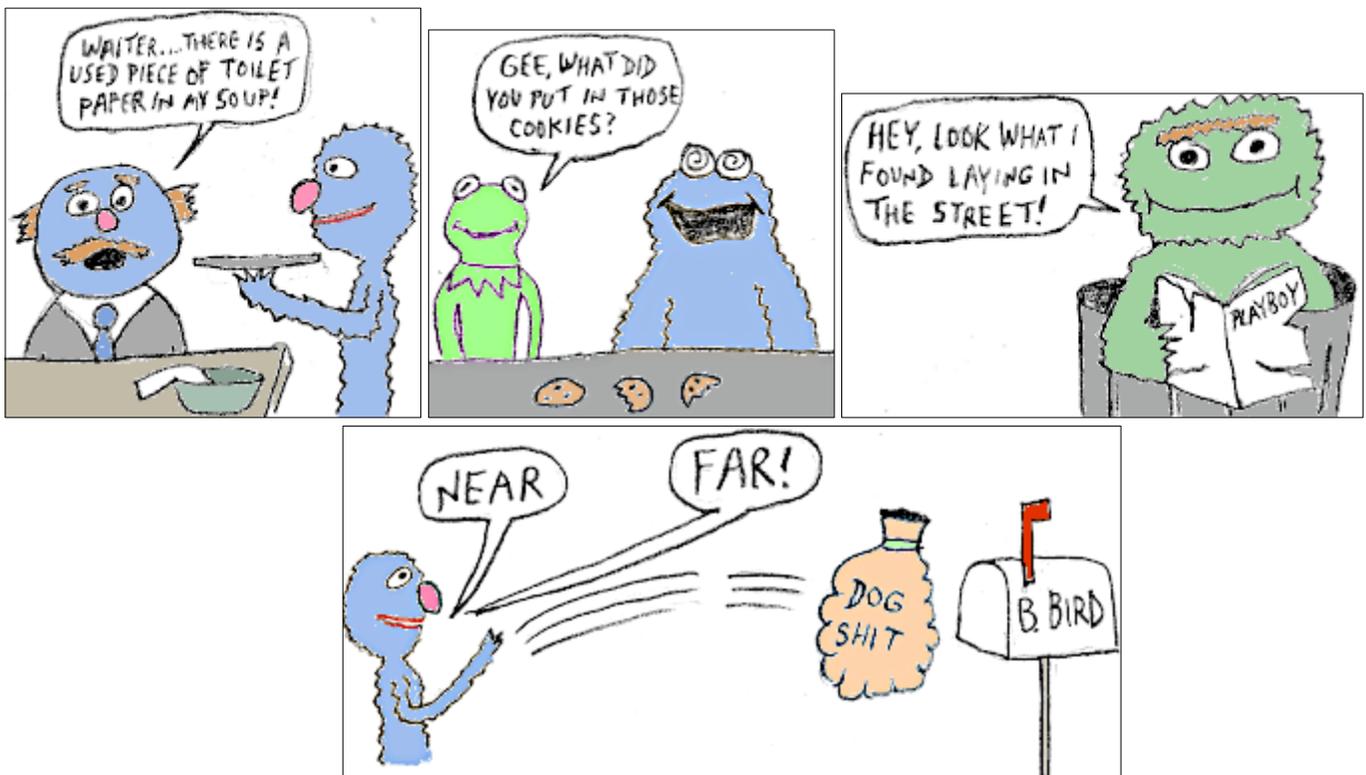
The box reads, "Create your own Sesame Street pictures with No-Mess Magic Printers. Just a rub of the coloring stick and Muppets appear like Magic!" It included "18 Magic Printers" and "6 coloring sticks."

It wasn't magic at all. The "Magic Printers" were just small, rectangular plastic plates with embossed outlines of Muppets. The "coloring sticks" were what we usually call "crayons." All you'd do is put a plate under a sheet of paper and rub a crayon over it. You couldn't really make "your own Sesame Street pictures", as the picture was just what was on the plate.

Believe it or not, one of these is selling for \$43.99 on eBay. Another version that looked almost identical had 24 plates instead of 18.

I had this toy when I was a young'un, but I only remember playing with it once. I'm a guy who likes challenges, and this toy was too simple and unsophisticated. I was reminded of it recently when I saw a few posts about a toy called Fashion Plates, which let budding fashion designers use the Rub-a-Dub concept and mix and match plates. It was like how incels today use paint programs to cut and paste parts of photos they've downloaded so they can make a spank bank. People who had Fashion Plates posted that their bratty sibs kept losing the plates.

Instead of the pictures from the Rub-a-Dub set, here's some *Sesame Street*-themed pictures that weren't on any of the plates that are a lot more interesting...



Yet more Flock fascism

Sometimes it takes a surprising face to put a stop to a big layer of bullshit. It's like how Thomas Massie has done more than almost anyone else to try to halt the illegal Iran war and the Epstein cover-up.

We represent the flip side of this. For several years, up until at least as recently as a few months ago, we've called out another tentacle of bullshit—largely represented by the burgeoning Kimilsungism in academia and other influential fields. As they were so elitist to begin with, it really wasn't a stretch for them to jump from right-wing elitism to wokewashed branding. When I called them out, longtime readers privately said to me, *"Thank you!"* They wanted to do it themselves, but they were worried about fraying alliances.

Wokewashing isn't as big as it was a few years ago, but it still goes on. The performative "left" has taken to destroying entities who aren't able to present their side, and they do it on grounds that the public wasn't properly apprised of. It also speaks volumes that they let other parties slide.

This story is proof positive that we did proper all along. It's yet another involving the fascism of the Flock spy cameras. As it was revealed that police in Virginia are refusing to abide by a new state law that limits how the cameras can be used, the excuses are ramping up. A new study shows that police departments in the Hampton Roads area disproportionately set up cameras in predominantly Black neighborhoods and near a historically Black university. It became impossible to drive in or out of the university without having your car logged by Flock.

Some miles up the road in Richmond, Virginia, extensive Flock apologia can be found among people who claim to be activists against gun violence. They support expanding Flock coverage even after the 99 cameras there failed to prevent a mass shooting.

There are reasons we largely set aside certain ideas. Over 30 years ago, we were asking why something couldn't be done about the seemingly limitless proliferation of guns. But that was before we noticed shootings were increasing in proportion to the amount of psychotropic drugs being prescribed. Instead of expanding Flock, which has failed in Richmond, we should stem the rise in psychotropic druggings—a trend that has worsened unabated for decades. Prescriptions for Ritalin—which was vastly overprescribed to begin with—even quadrupled in the first decade of the 21st century.

But it's the Hampton Roads experience that shows that you should never underestimate the racism and selective enforcement that drive much of the campaign to spy on the public.

A suit got ruined by gum

Airlines in the U.S. are pretty much hopeless, but our friends north of the border aren't completely safe. The public Internet has yielded an entire page full of stories about a major Canadian airline destroying passengers' belongings.

It started with a story of a flight attendant spilling water all over someone's laptop—ruining it. People replied saying they had good luck using Canadian small claims courts to get companies to pay for things they destroyed, though they once had to sic bailiffs on a defendant to enforce the verdict. However, a few inexplicably defended the airline. (It's strange how you never meet people in person who defend airlines over negligence like this, yet you always see defenses like this online. Maybe I just hang out with a weird crowd—so weird that they actually have common sense.)

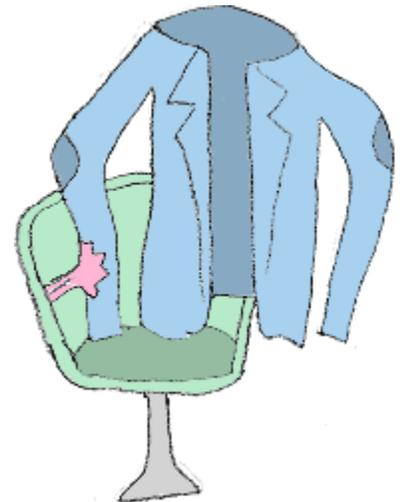
One person said they were on a flight, and wine got spilled all over them. Another said someone vomited on a family member's shoes, jacket, and luggage during a flight. Another said Coke got spilled on their laptop.

Then we saw it.

The gum story.

This time, it was a different Canadian airline. This commenter said, "I've had a suit ruined by gum someone stuck to the side of a seat." The gum was not discovered until the plane landed. "It was ground into the wool."

A suit was "ruined by gum"! Hear that? *Ruined by gum!* You know, that stuff people blow bubbles with. Or at least they used to. Public bubbling was making a comeback in the early 2020s,



because all other recreation was shut down, but do people still bubble at all now (except when there's a connection to baseball)? Or are they afraid of bubble gum?

Defending the indefensible

At least these stories were posted somewhere other than the *New York Post*. The *Post* might represent the biggest decline of any media organization in history. In 200 years, it went from Alexander Hamilton to Rupert Murdoch. Hamilton founded the paper, and it was once a respected publication. But in 1976, it was taken over by Murdoch's right-wing News Corp. It has the only website we can think of where commenters almost unanimously praise airlines—even when airlines do something clearly illegal. Not only that, but almost every comment throws in some Nazi invective, some of it encouraging violence. USA Today Co.'s newspapers at least got rid of their comment features, so the Nazis can't backslap each other there.

Journalism was invented to serve the people—not entitled influencers and paid trolls. No corporation has a constitutional or natural right to gobble up every news outlet in sight. In a democratic republic, we have antitrust laws. Corporations are not supposed to be special and privileged above the people.

State and federal antitrust laws need to be pressed into service to break up press monopolies like News Corp. and USA Today Co.—not to mention the monopolies in broadcasting.

A person peed on a bunch of stuff at some Airbnbs

Airbnb ought to be renamed to Air-pee-n-pee.

In Pensacola, Florida, a 31-year-old woman allegedly urinated on a bunch of things at 2 Airbnb rentals. Arrest documents say the items peed on at one unit included a record player, a typewriter, a TV, a toaster, a coffee maker, a bed, a rug, a fireplace, and many fine chairs. At the other unit, a vase and some rugs found themselves peed on.

Damages totaled to \$5,355.

The owner of the rentals reportedly found a video on an adult website of the guest urinating on these items.

Felony criminal mischief charges loom.

And then there's the Airbnb where guests smashed a life-sized Monopoly board with golf clubs and broke into an arcade game.

They finally admit Ritalin is dangerous but they don't care

Big Pharma's long-lasting online cheering section isn't even trying to hide it anymore. There's never been any accountability before, so sure, why not?

Not long ago, an online post appeared asking if ADHD drugs such as Ritalin can cause heart attacks and strokes. We've seen studies for decades showing that this is true, but online trolls have always denied it. The post rightly asked why it's even permitted for these drugs to be prescribed to children.

Something about the replies is different this time. Instead of denying outright how dangerous these drugs are, some Big Pharma apologists instead actually acknowledged it but insisted it doesn't matter.

You see, these drugs are classed as stimulants, even though nobody who is forced to take them feels stimulated by them. The effect is more like a depressant. The greater point here is that if its chemical properties are that of a stimulant, the drug can increase your heart rate.

Here's where things get bonkers. Somebody replied saying, "Stimulants might kill me at some point. They've also allowed me to finish school and hold down a job, which is something I would not have been able to do sans stimulants. I will take fewer years with a higher standard of living vs more years at a much lower standard of living."

Think if they had said that about an illicit drug instead of an approved ADHD drug.

We can write that off as a matter of choice, but some of us didn't get a choice. Another reply said, "I'd rather live to 70 with medication than 80 without." I was prescribed ADHD drugs starting around the age of 11. I didn't choose to take these drugs and lose 10 years of my life. That choice was made for me.

Can I take early retirement at 52 now? Maybe I can get full retirement when I'm 55 like Goosesteppin' Greg Bovino did.

One respondent did admit that the reason these drugs are given to children "is because of MONEY!" No truer bubs were ever bubbled, but Big Pharma defenders kept digging in.

One post acknowledged, "Yes, ADHD medication may cause heart attacks, strokes, high blood pressure and sudden death." But this post also said that ADHD itself can "cause car accidents, accidental death, unemployment, homelessness, imprisonment and reckless behaviour." And I bet hyperkeratosis can cause spontaneous human combustion. I'm sure the person's next post was a warning against watching TV in the dark or kicking basketballs.

Their official narrative is that ADHD is a fatal condition. They claim it's so fatal in fact that drugs that cause heart attacks and sudden death are less dangerous. The terminally online are a strange breed.

What would they say to people who were drugged as children, did not consent to it, and got 10 years shaved off their life by these drugs? Sadly, we think we know the answer. Their answer would likely be, "Get over it," or, "Suck it up, buttercup." These bombastic catastrophists are narcissistic bullies who have no conscience.

What's really important here is that they actually admitted Ritalin and other ADHD drugs are dangerous – which they had long denied – but sadly, they don't care.

Right-wing federal judges threw out the class action Ritalin lawsuits in the early 2000s, and their reasoning was ridiculous. A few lawyer websites today say it might be possible for adults who were drugged as children to file individual malpractice suits on the grounds that they and their parents were not informed of the dangers of the drug first. Perhaps this can become a class action, or legislators can set up a fund for victims that can be paid for by ending tax handouts to drug companies.

Ritalin is a modern equivalent of thalidomide for pregnant women in the 1960s or lobotomies in the 1950s – in that it was an approved practice that became discredited. The difference is that Ritalin is still used despite being discredited.

Do you have to let it mangle...

There are reasons why nobody uses WebMD anymore.

WebMD has "MD" in the name, so You Might Think it would be a good source of health information. But the People's Universe has blackballed it as a source for articles or serious information since 2019, when we discovered that the site was endorsing sending teenagers to abusive residential programs to treat technology addiction. The site later helped play up harmful myths that proliferated during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We've noticed strong similarities between programmies and COVID disastrists. They have the same narcissistic, authoritarian personality type. They use some of the same wording, being particularly fond of the word *therefore* when introducing the latest punishment they're foisting on everyone. They use the same staccato hand-waving gesture. Their actions are the same too. It's always "just 2 weeks", and then 2 weeks later, it's "just 2 more months." It's *exactly the same*.

Here's another stance that appeals to the same brand of narcissists – and WebMD is also playing it up. Not long ago, WebMD added an article titled "What To Know About Malingering." The piece seemed to honor the absurd notion that people are pretending to have a medical condition just to get a benefit from it. This fits in with the far-right canard that falsely accuses people of faking disabilities so they can receive Social Security.

Why is a medical site talking about "malingering", which isn't even a medical condition? WebMD even says there are "laboratory tests" for "malingering." But, because it's not a medical condition, it's hard to see how any doctor can ever diagnose it and expect to be taken seriously. Even Wikipedia says that "malingering is not a medical diagnosis."

At minimum, WebMD is playing right into the far right's hands. The media playing up this spectacle has already led war veterans with PTSD to be denied VA benefits. It was also fodder for ultraconservative goofs like Dr. Sally Satel who have openly accused vets of faking PTSD. Satel apparently began this crusade to gloss over injuries caused by the Iraq War. That was also at the same



time the Bush regime was lobbying Congress to slash military pensions and medical care even as it was arguing in favor of new war spending.

Nobody can find a single instance of someone feigning a chronic condition and successfully receiving Social Security for it. For years, the Internet has been rife with paid trolls who insist this is a frequent occurrence—but no proof has ever been provided. On the other hand, some conditions are hard to conclusively prove. Thus, if a person claims to have such a condition, we'd believe them unless an accurate test can prove otherwise.

Even among the civilian population, there are circumstances that are so full of soul-smashing shame and terror—some of it lasting for years—that PTSD is sure to occur. Anyone who would deny or downplay it can go to hell.

People who get Social Security for a disability are likely to be physically and financially unable to engage in many forms of recreation. Because of the illusion of consensus created by the media and right-wing troll farms, they're also not even *permitted* to have anything even resembling a good time, however limited it may be. That's because it will be used against them as "evidence" that they're not disabled. America's disabled are treated as wards of the state.

The Goons 'r' bad enough

This story evokes comparisons to Campbell County of the 1980s and 1990s. Yet the scandal in this piece continued in the 2020s. Plus, it did receive some media coverage, so it wasn't completely swept under the rug.

This article is about a criminal racket called the Gilbert Goons. It plagued the area around Gilbert, Arizona. Authorities ignored the Goons completely—until they took things much too far.

This gang was made up of rich, spoiled teenagers who lived in posh subdivisions—like many of the Campbell County gangsters. For years, they terrorized the whole city. Ultimately, in 2023, members of the Gilbert Goons showed up outside a costume party in the neighboring town of Queen Creek, ran after a high school sophomore who was leaving the event, and beat him to death.

Then they bragged about it.

This was the first homicide ever recorded in the history of Queen Creek.

Only when this murder took place did more people acknowledge the gang's existence. But some folks had known about the Goons for a long time. The *Arizona Republic* detailed 7 violent attacks by the Goons, and many others were soon found, bringing the total to 95. Even then, a Gilbert police official tried to downplay this thuggery. One of the attacks even took place in the parking lot of an In-N-Out Burger.

Some of the Goons involved in the murder outside the costume party were found to be living in a gated community with mansions that often featured their own athletic courts. This reinforced the knowledge that participants' wealth had saved them from punishment before.

The Goons weren't even the first gang like this in Gilbert. In the late 1990s, there was a very similar thug operation there called the Devil Dogs. The *Arizona Republic* reported in 2000 that these kids had "fat allowances" and "nice cars." The Devil Dogs kept starting fights at a Taco Bell and yelling racist slogans, and they even broke a young man's skull. When this victim pressed charges, his answering machine became full of messages consisting entirely of barking. Instead of calling the police over the repeated assaults, the restaurant kept calling church officials. When authorities finally became aware of the attacks, they didn't do much about them. Several Devil Dogs were prosecuted for the aforementioned attack, but local school officials wrote letters urging courts to go easy on them. A former mayor even defended the assault, saying, "They acted like jocks are supposed to act."

One city council member said he was forced to keep quiet about the Devil Dogs, because if more people knew about them, "it would hurt economic development."

In other words—as in Campbell County—gangland violence was normalized by the community.

It eventually turned out that the Devil Dogs were part of a giant drug ring that was selling drugs for infamous Mafia figure Sammy Gravano. One wonders what the Campbell County criminals were up to. They had to have had some pretty deep connections for them to menace the community for so long and get away with it. Not once were the Campbell County hoodlums ever charged.

Not long ago, police finally labeled the Gilbert Goons as a criminal street gang. SWAT teams were even deployed to nab members. There was also a lawsuit against Gilbert police and a local school

district for not doing enough to stop the attacks before it was too late.

Later reports reveal that students switched schools just to get away from the Gilbert Goons, yet the Goons somehow found out right away and got associates at the new schools to attack them there. In addition, one of the Goons was the son of a school principal.

In Arizona, northern Kentucky, and many other places, young people who participate in these criminal rackets are usually not distressed by the status quo. They're typically of such high status that they've never been held accountable for anything in their whole lives. They've always been given everything they wanted. There's a tiny percentage of them around here who didn't have *that* much money, but what they lacked in wealth, they must have had in clout. The question becomes, who did they have pull with? They have must have been cozy with some larger criminal enterprise.

As the Arizona saga played out, it showed how the major political parties share blame. It used to be that the Republicans drew all the psychopaths, but now the Democrats are just as bad. In response to the costume party murder, a bill was introduced in the state legislature to make assaults of one person by groups of 3 or more a felony. It was previously only a misdemeanor. The bill received widespread public support. It passed out of committee along party lines—but it was the Democrats who voted no. This bill went on to be signed into law, but not without a lot of hand wringing by Third Way elites.

It's nice to know the Democrats have become the party of organized violence. But it's not like we were going to vote for Gavin Newsom anyway, so at least they didn't lose a vote they hadn't already lost with their COVID fascism and their racist online tirades after the 2024 election.

Gangland violence like that discussed here should not be tolerated in society. Authorities should throw the book at offenders. At minimum, these hooligans have no business in a regular classroom—especially since schools illegally exclude students who pose no threat at all. It's astonishing how we've seen schools do the *precise opposite* of what they should do—again and again, for years and years.

One of the Campbell County ringleaders who was in elementary school in the 1980s—and who apparently didn't even live in Campbell County—is now openly retired. Overall, the scandal in northern Kentucky isn't as salient as it once was. We're nearing a time when participants locally should be studied as strange historic curiosities. They wasted their lives on an incredibly idiotic crusade of violence and personal destruction.

Grab a seat as we talk about airline seats

We've pledged to cover airline stories only sporadically, because frequent air travel is outside the affordability range of our readership. But, despite most of our readers flying very infrequently, we manage to field a surprising number of complaints about a particular example of airline greed.

According to these elegies, airline seats have gotten smaller and smaller. Then the airlines have the nerve to charge passengers more if they don't fit in one seat.

The fact that seats have gotten smaller is confirmed by photos and videos from airplanes over the years.

One comment said part of the problem is that airlines just assume every passenger is dangerously underweight, so they only need small seats. But they probably don't actually assume it. They probably know that's not the case, but just want an excuse to overcharge passengers. We've actually found videos made by people who are actually quite thin being forced to pay extra because they don't fit in one seat.

If people have become too overweight, this is partly the airlines' fault for supporting COVID lockdowns, which was the leading contributor to obesity. It may seem counterintuitive that the airlines supported lockdowns, but they didn't mind, because we all know what's coming sooner or later, and we'll be on the hook for it. Here's a hint: It rhymes with "jail snout."

Canada has made it illegal for airlines to charge more for passengers if they need an extra seat, but the United States lags. Yet here's another law or regulation we should also pass: State or federal lawmakers or regulators should require airlines to have bigger seats. This is one of many ways that officials should intervene against airline greed and bring back control over how airlines treat their customers.