

The Last Word™

Issue #623

Read The Online Lunchpail at oninelunchpail.blogspot.com
Support The Last Word at ko-fi.com/bandit73

August 2026

Someone made a mess in the doctor's restroom

It was July 9, and I goed to the doctor yet again. That's about all I ever do these days. Going to the doctor isn't as bad as it was 5 years ago, but it's not exactly recreation either. It's not nearly as fun as it was 10 years ago, when it was outright fantastic.

Anyway, when I was in the waiting room, some woman tried using the restroom. But she discovered it was locked.

She poked around the waiting room a bit before disappearing behind the door to the examining rooms. Then I heard one of the nurses tell her, "I had to close it because somebody made a mess."

Somebody had trashed the beethoom!

The method by which they did so was unknown. Might it be a plopping?

Whodunit? Whytheydunit? Whentheydunit? Willtheydunitagain?

Because the main lavatory was closed, the patron had to use the one that was off of the examining rooms.

If there was a plopping, what got plopped? Since this is sort of an all-in-one clinic, it could be any sort of medical equipment, including a stethoscope, some Band-Aids, a dentist drill, or maybe even a proctoscope. Hopefully, if it was a tongue depressor, they won't use it again. Or maybe it was household waste like an entire copy of the *Yakima Gazette* from 1994 or a dog toy that stopped squeaking because it got a hole in it. What about a car battery?

Maybe there was no plopping, and the whole episode stemmed from just a big piece of poo-poo.

The Ru Crew must get on the case!



Smile! You're not on Flock camera!

It's been a rough month for the far right in Newport.

The city seemed all set to expand its Flock Safety pilot program and enter into a contract to purchase a full supply of these hated spy cameras. But a couple weeks ago, Newport suddenly decided to get quit of Flock entirely, remove the cameras it had, and not move ahead with buying new ones like it had planned.

This decision came after feedback from the public about Flock was entirely negative and the pilot cameras showed poor results. The city also cited new developments in Fourth Amendment law. But they're actually more like old developments. It's the same Fourth Amendment we've always had. All that has happened is that courts have reaffirmed that the type of detailed data collected by Flock is subject to safeguards against warrantless searches.

They might be considered new developments because it's actually a big story that the Fourth Amendment is being respected—even though it should be the default state of things.

A quick Flock opinion study

A couple weeks ago, someone made a post that was critical of Flock cameras in a Bellevue-themed Facebook group. Facebook has been letting these posts slide lately, which is surprising, considering Facepoo's tendency to delete posts that disagree with the approved narrative. In any event, we wanted to use that thread as sort of a study of how city residents feel about Flock fascism.

Among the folks who participated in that thread, 11 were critical of Flock, and only 7 were supportive. And that's in a venue that usually gets a lot of trolls who support the city's authoritarian regime. There's been a special effort to recruit Flock apologists, and it still wasn't enough.

Best all, of the 7 who supported Flock, 5 purported to not even live in Bellevue or have any connection with the city. One other was of unknown residence. The only one who appeared to live in Bellevue held a highly paid professional position at a powerful institution in the area. This individual was not some average worker or pavement-pounding people's advocate. This underscores how—just like with the authoritarian COVID response—Flock tyranny has much more support by the rich than by the working class.

In addition—and this is no less important—one of the 5 Flock defenders from outside the city made comments in their replies that were frankly racist.

The social club of Flock apologia is peopled primarily by two forces: professionals and racist professionals. All it needs to complete the stool is chest-beating war hawks, and I bet it has those too.

To be a fly on the wall of those who are coordinating the propaganda effort to support Flock. We don't need to be told that we shouldn't be surprised there's a coordinated campaign, because we've known for years about things like this. We've known for a long time that churches organized a campaign to post Tea Party talking points online, and we heard that from its own congregants, so it's hard to surprise us. This campaign was infuriating. Without a doubt, it helped contribute to the policy disasters we've seen in this decade.



Club for Growth clubs Social Security

As part of our shift to investigative reporting and our fusion with The Online Lunchpail, we at **The Last Word** are probing yet another new far-right assault on Social Security.

This attack is courtesy of Club for Growth president and right-wing former Indiana congressman David McIntosh and Club for Growth board member and former Ohio Secretary of State and Treasurer Ken Blackwell. Blackwell's office was responsible for losing countless provisional ballots during the 2004 "election." The Club for Growth ran ads in the 2016 primary that criticized Donald Trump as too liberal, after McIntosh praised Marco Rubio as a "real deal" candidate. Now the pair has offered an op-ed—which has been copiously reprinted by major news outlets—that laughably argues against a proposal to shore up Social Security.

The article's arguments are so mindless and elitist that we almost thought we had stumbled upon Stormfront by mistake. The piece assails a popular bipartisan plan by Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Massachusetts) and Sen. Bernie Moreno (R-Ohio) to remove the Social Security payroll tax cap. The uniparty is insufferably bad the rest of the time, but one of few major positive initiatives with bipartisan backing elicits unbelievably inane criticism that gets immediately stovepiped by the media. Imagine that!

Right off the bat, McIntosh and Blackwell try claiming that Social Security is welfare. But it's clear they don't even know what welfare *is*. They sniff that removing the salary cap "turns an insurance program into a welfare scheme, reducing a worker's contributions to just another tax on income, with no guarantee anything comes back." That would mean it's the *opposite* of welfare. But even their underlying claim is inaccurate, as the proposal is designed to make sure contributions come back instead of disappearing in the D.C. abyss.

Equally nonsensical is the duo's claim about who fuels the economy. That paragraph makes you wish your face melted before you had the displeasure of reading it. Blackwell and McIntosh write, "This new tax hits hardest the people who power Ohio's economy. By stacking the uncapped payroll tax on top of the top income-tax rate, many small-business owners will be crushed by Bernie's new tax." For one thing, anyone who would have to pay more under the plan to lift the tax cap is—by definition—not a small business owner but a big business owner. It's like how last month we noted that small business did not benefit from the Contract with America. For another, these big business moguls are not "the people who power" any state's economy. The economy is powered by customers. Without

us little ol' customers, no business could survive.

The praise of big business magnates by McIntosh and Blackwell is the same bullshit argument that portrays billionaires as “job creators.” The *real* job creators are us little peeps who buy goods and services. Billionaires mostly get rich off others’ work. By contrast, when average people have more buying power, they can spend it, which leads businesses to hire more employees to meet demand.

Many of our most opulent are actually *destroying* jobs. We’re talking about private equity and hedge fund managers who invest in companies only to pad their own coffers.

Does anyone actually believe that billionaires create more jobs than working-class people? I think I’d rather not exist than be that dumb.

The plan by Warren and Moreno is designed to stop Social Security from being slashed again if the trust fund runs low. What would it be like for Social Security to not pay the full amount of what you’re owed after you paid into it? Imagine if you have a bank account for 50 years, and then when you need to withdraw your money from it, you’re told that 30% of your money isn’t there. You find that the bank squandered your dough on wars and on giving it to customers who already had more. Social Security isn’t an FDIC member like banks are. Social Security not paying benefits would be like when banks failed during the Great Depression. Our grandchildren will someday tell their own grandkids about it, just like how our grandparents taught us about the Depression. It would be even more like the Home State Savings Bank collapse of 1985, as the instigator of that crisis moved to Florida where the state shielded him from creditors. The senators’ proposal is supposed to make sure Social Security covers what it owes you by making the rich pay their fair share like you do. Why is anyone paying Social Security taxes if the money isn’t going to be there when they retire? People have already been forced to delay retirement by 2 years.



The Club for Greed reminds us of Boss Hogg laughing as he opens his lockbox full of ill-gotten cash. And—to the surprise of nobody who reads us—the media is happy to mollycoddle their upward redistributionism by repeating their ridiculous nonsense.

Rosco, you dang dodobrain, you did it again!

Sign, sign, everywhere a sign

I attended Bishop Brossart High School in Alexandria from when I was enrolled as a freshman until I was a sophomore, and—as you know—it was an unmitigated disaster from week one. I pleaded, I begged, I implored, and nothing was done about it.

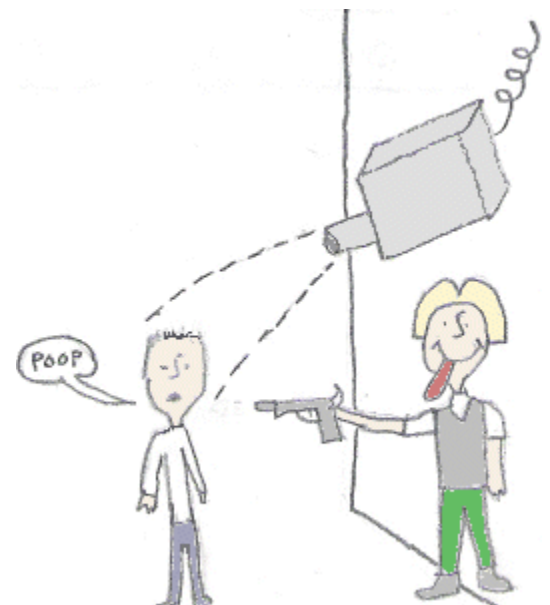
Followers of this small coeducational Catholic school have periodically threatened to have the entire People’s Universe taken down because we’ve exposed the school so much, but it’s not like we’ve made up anything we’ve said. The truth is an absolute defense. The Transformers phone call, the harassment, the book bills—it’s all real. But free speech has usually managed to prevail—so far. *So far*.

Don’t like it? You can always leave the country. Or you can sue us—and then leave the country. No judge with a brain would rule against us though, because we have facts on our side.

Play stupid games, win stupid prizes.

After writing about the fascism of Flock Safety’s AI-powered spy cameras in the Dayton, Ohio, school system last month, we knew we needed to expand our investigation to Brossart. In 2007, we reported on how Brossart—a trendsetter for everything bad—bragged of being the first school in the whole country to install an advanced network of surveillance cameras both inside and outside its buildings. It consisted of live feeds that linked directly to police vehicles. This was a direct ancestor of Flock.

This occurred after gangs of Brossart students were caught firing BB guns that resembled Glock pistols at local residents. They



tried to make the guns look real by coloring the orange tips black. But this episode wasn't actually *at school*.

Brossart is a private school, but public schools in the Campbell County Schools planned to copy Bro\$\$art's surveillance network—making Campbell County the first public school district in the country with this program.

Because Brossart pioneered the deepest school surveillance network available in 2007, we tried to probe whether it now has Flock. That search reached a dead end, but we were just as mortified by what we did find. We used Google Street View to inspect the premises, and came upon photos of Brossart from 2024. That was the year of Amendment 2. That was a proposed amendment to the Kentucky Constitution that was voted upon by voters that would have allowed the state to give taxpayer money to private schools. The measure was defeated 65 to 35%—handily losing each and every one of Kentucky's 120 counties. (The margin was very similar in every county.)

This measure actually would have violated the U.S. Constitution's mandate for separation of church and state.

I went to a couple of Catholic schools that were very political. In fact, efforts to pass laws like Amendment 2 were already part of their bread and butter over a generation ago. I know this, because a teacher at one of these schools once complained to the class about how horrible it was that private schools weren't getting taxpayer funds. But in 2024, Brossart took things to a new level.

The Google photos reveal at least 4 "Yes on 2" signs on school property. Were the signs posted by the school? Would it make a difference, considering they left the signs up long enough for Street View to see them? In fact, one of these signs was directly under a stationary sign for the school offices.

This is a colossal problem in the eyes of the law. A federal law called the Johnson Amendment takes a dim view of tax-exempt nonprofit organizations taking positions on elections. Among such nonprofits are religious bodies—and Brossart is under the auspices of the Diocese of Covington.

We're using the word *nonprofit* loosely, as I still remember the bills Brossart sent me for books and locks and the ridiculous bill I got for failing to sell raffle tickets (which is like if you send your family a bill because nobody purchased items you gave them to sell at their yard sale). Whatever the weather, nonprofits aren't supposed to be allowed to take electoral positions and keep their tax-exempt status.

It's hard to see how the school can deny the facts of the case—namely, that it had "Yes on 2" signs on its property. The Street View pictures are a smoking gun. It's also hard to see how posting the signs didn't run roughshod over the Johnson Amendment. What's the school going to say to try to get us taken down, considering the Street View photos are visible in plain sight?

The Johnson Amendment has been under attack by the far right for years. A hate group called the Alliance Defending Freedom has urged clergy to violate this law outright. What's striking is that the ADF is a legal advocacy organization, yet it condones lawbreaking. We haven't forgotten that President Biden's Education Secretary Miguel Cardona also encouraged lawbreaking when he urged schools to not open as normal after the COVID pandemic even in states that required it. But that doesn't justify the ADF encouraging people to break a different law.

In 2025, the IRS decreed that religious bodies may directly endorse political candidates without losing their tax-exempt status. However, this goes completely against the Johnson Amendment. The IRS doesn't get to make up its own laws.

Also, the Catholic Church does not allow church funds to be spent on electoral campaigns even if it's legal. But another local diocesan institution appears to have openly campaigned recently for a particular Republican candidate. We discovered this without even looking for it. We wouldn't have found it if someone now employed by this organization hadn't provoked us decades ago. Memories are long, and it's fascinating how some people expect us to quickly forget injustices.

It's easy to say the IRS might want to hear about Brossart and other church-run organizations taking electoral stances, but the IRS refuses to follow the law. Recently, the IRS ousted its acting chief counsel because he warned against violating a federal law barring senior officials' involvement in audits. Although his earlier lobbying efforts had favored powerful interests, he has now lost his job because he urged the IRS not to break the law. Anybip, this article highlights our treatment of separation of church and state. We've become sadly accustomed to church and state being one and the



same, as we've endured so many public policies that imposed religious beliefs on the public. Because America isn't doing separation of church and state anymore, when will churches and diocesan schools start paying taxes like everyone else?

They were creeps...They were weirdoes...

A concert got ru.

It happened back in 2022 at Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles. The show was by a band called the Smile, which includes a couple members of Radiohead, the act that gave us hits like "Creep." Shrine Auditorium gets absolutely terrible reviews, much of it because of staff abusing patrons. Fans said the band's music was fine — but creeps and weirdoes filled much of the audience.

Someone posted that the show had "one of the worst concert crowds I have ever experienced." Audience members kept "berating and screaming at" folks who were dancing to the music. People kept getting kicked out for no apparent reason. Evidently, a couple was ejected for kissing.

Several people said the venue itself was falling apart. It had bad acoustics, and their seats were broken. Somebody said this concert hall "sucks shit", and someone else said the people harassing other guests "ruined the vibe." The magic word!



Los Angeles in this decade has become a party pooper of a city. Someone noted that if you went to a concert in Nashville and yelled at people for dancing, "you'd be laughed at." L.A. has become like what Cincinnati was like when the Damn Yankees of all people were hounded out of town.

Someone in a thread about other concerts talked about staffers at Shrine Auditorium falsely accusing them of bringing in some sort of contraband and taking them aside for a half-hour, causing them to miss much of the show. The venue never apologized. Somebody replied, "If artists care about their fans, they'll catch wind of the straight up harassment aimed at the guests and choose a different venue."

Naturally, Shrine is also cashless. It also got a bad review because the urinals wouldn't flush. Another review said Shrine had poor accessibility for guests with mobility limitations.

The rise of bad venues truly undermines the spirit of American ingenuity.

It's back to square one for ruined board games

You love it when we talk about board games getting ru. Among stories we glean from the public Internet about things getting ruined, board games rank up there with comic books, sports cards, and records. They get destructed stupidly. The main drawback though is that they're usually games we've never heard of because these are newer stories, and we're more familiar with older games. In any event, now we've found yet more stories, so (as a Bicentennial bookmark said) read on!

One person said an unspecified airline permanently lost their suitcase that they had just filled with gobs of brand new board games. There are the usual stories about urinating cats and spilled beer or 7-Eleven Big Gulp drinks. One person found 3 of their games ruined in a single cat vomiting incident. One commenter said their elderly pa threw away their old role playing games by mistake. Another said their brother's Wayne Gretzky rookie card got thrown out by their mom.

It seems like we wrote once before about a pig getting in someone's house and ruining their Risk game, but this batch of stories relates an almost identical incident. A person said that when they were a teenager, their folks started raising pigs, and one day, the pigs got into the house and "absolutely destroyed" their Risk game. The board was ripped to shreds, and the cards were eaten or caked in mud. One person said they loaned a game to a friend, and it was returned with one-third of the parts missing: "I was furious." Another commenter drove away with a game on the roof of their car, and not a single piece was found.

One person said they lost a whole game with expansions as a kid when their mom threw it

away because they left it out on the floor instead of putting it away. The game would now “be worth a fortune.” A commenter had just gotten a new game and put it on the roof of his car. He forgot it was there until he was driving down the highway and saw in his rear view mirror the box lid and all the cards flying away. One commenter loaned a brand new Monopoly game to roommates for a vacation trip, and it was returned in shambles.

One poster said they prided themselves in keeping their games in tiptop condition. One day, they discovered that a game they had as a kid was selling for \$300 in good shape. But they drove home and found the game pieces were mostly missing or broken. It turned out that their sister had let kids she was babysitting ruin this and other games. One person said a baggage handler for Delta deliberately destroyed their carry-on bag that contained a valuable game. Another commenter said a bag of turkey that they had taken out of their freezer leaked all over a game and completely demolished it. Another said that a friend went to a bonfire conducted by fundamentalists where “Satanic” items were burned, and he tried to impress a girl he liked by burning a perfectly good game.

A commenter bought a brand new game, and the very first time they played it, a player dropped a card on the floor and their dog promptly chewed it to pieces. One person said a sparkling new game was spoiled by a termite infestation. Another said they had just sleeved all the cards for a game when a friend’s dog jumped up on the table and chewed up the cards.

A person said their parents threw away a game that they loved as a kid. They replaced it when they were in college, and then they joined the military. While they were gone, their parents threw the game away again—and somehow sold their truck without permission and replaced it with a motorcycle, even though they didn’t know how to ride one. Another commenter said all the cardboard pieces of a game fell out of a box into a laundry basket and went through the washing machine. One said that 2 games were stolen from their bag at a ski lodge. Another said a leak in an upstairs apartment ruined an “exquisitely beautiful” hand-carved chess set from Prague. Another said a friend’s rare Magic: The Gathering cards were demolished when rain leaked into his rental car trunk.

One person said a girlfriend placed a candle in a box with some games, and it melted all over them: “I remember that my original copy of Witch Hunt and Chez Geek were ruined.” The magic word! Someone’s dog hid a half-eaten mango under a game. The mango rotted and destroyed the game. A commenter said their brother peed all over a game they had. Another said his mom threw away all his Magic: The Gathering cards because a friend of hers told her the game was linked to devil worship. All told, those cards would be worth over \$20,000 now. One person mentioned a 9-year-old nephew who barged into a room and spilled a beverage all over a brand new *Buffy The Vampire Slayer* game as people were playing it —ruining it. Another individual said they went to a coffee shop where some folks were playing a board game, and someone spilled coffee all over the game. A huge argument ensued as the coffee sloshed all over the board.



A commenter went on an international flight and found that somebody at the airport got into their luggage during the trip. Their prescriptions were stolen, and someone had cut open the box of a board game they had brought along and spilled all the pieces in the suitcase. When an overseas traveler to the U.S. got to the Newark airport, a TSA agent removed a board game from their backpack, held the box upside-down, and dumped the pieces all over the floor.

Board games were ruined.

My hometown is in the news for something good

Highland Heights, Kentucky! My hometown!

Highland Heights doesn’t get a lot of good press. There’s been some major scandals among elected officials in recent years, and NKU isn’t exactly the dynamo that we have a right to expect—unless you like being talked down to or being skeeped at for “clustering.” In the 2010s, the city was one of the more progressive among local communities for antidiscrimination ordinances, but that was just a rare burst of forward-thinking energy.

But now more good vibes are coming to town.

As in other local cities, several AI-powered Flock cameras have been sighted in Highland Heights. The origin of them was mysterious and speezo. No local government or police agency would own up to posting them. However, reports now indicate that the one at the south end of I-471 was posted by Highland Heights Police—conveniently not in a spot where it would have ever caught anyone who attacked us. But a few weeks ago, someone on the public Internet reported that someone had sprayed orange paint all over the lenses of cameras found in the city.

This rendered the cameras wastage bastage.

Somebody responded to that post, “Hell yeah I didn’t know Highland Heights was cool.”

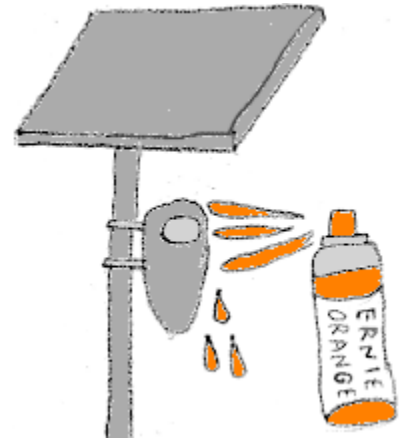
This is much better than pieing a stop sign.

Meanwhile, we know the cameras aren’t just tracking license plates. In other communities, the cameras have been found at nature trails, public swimming pools, reproductive health clinics, preschools, children’s gyms, and other places that are not roadways for cars. The cameras track people’s faces to keep tabs on them, and they also use flawed AI models to link them with completely disinterested parties.

There have been a couple recent incidents in which Flock cameras were credited with catching motorists who committed hit-and-runs that had tragic consequences. However, the idea that Flock caught them has been debunked. Media reports were flat-out wrong, as it turned out that the locations of these incidents conveniently had no Flock cameras nearby. In Florida, an innocent woman was jailed for a hit-and-run that she had nothing to do with, because of Flock’s screw-up. She spent almost 2 weeks in jail, though she was nowhere near the crime when it took place. And a Cleveland pastor who has championed Flock has been found to be on the payroll of the reelection campaign of the city’s mayor.

Also, in New Bern, North Carolina, 2 men were seen on video chopping down a Flock camera that had just been installed. Police asked for tips, but people kept sending in names like Batman and Robin. Houston cops asked for tips after 4 Flock cams were cut down, and the tips said things like, “The cameras are succumbing to heat exhaustion.” Officials in Auburn, California, are panicking because someone threw most of the city’s Flock cams into a canal. In the meantime, a Florida community is adding AI-powered cameras to garbage trucks so it can detect construction materials in household trash, so residents can be accused of making unapproved home renovations. This is while new data centers are approved just for the asking.

The cameras in Highland Heights are (keek!) ruined.



School flunks First Amendment test

If there’s one thing that needs to be exposed, it’s the sad state of our schools. **The Last Word** was almost like a school newspaper for local schools that didn’t have one. (It’s weird how most schools had one except ours—yet again putting us at a disadvantage in life.) If you’ve seen recent footage from inside America’s schools, you’ll notice that most schools don’t even look like schools anymore. They look like jails. The offices are fortresses that have a whole wall full of TV screens, and most disciplinary matters are handled by police roaming the halls.

But this story is about the official response to exposure like this.

A newspaper in New Jersey titled *New Brunswick Today* published surveillance video on YouTube of a local high school that showed a student bringing in a BB gun. Then the school district sued the paper to try to force it to remove the clip. And a county judge actually ruled in the district’s favor.

This is government censorship and an outright affront to the First Amendment’s protection of freedom of the press.

This is like an incident not long ago when the city of Clarksdale, Mississippi, sued a local newspaper to try to force it to retract a critical editorial—and the court actually sided with the city. These episodes are like if all of our former schools sued us for all the critical statements we’ve made even though there were witnesses to the events we recounted.

In the New Jersey case, school administrators blocked the footage just to protect their own

tattered reputations. Their lawsuit wasted an untold amount of taxpayer dollars. The ruling in the schools' favor also represents a form of prior restraint against news reporters. Such restraint can silence news outlets before they can even defend themselves.

New Brunswick Today originally posted the footage to show that the school was misleading the public about threats to the school community. The BB gun was an airsoft device that did not fire fatal ammo. It was essentially a toy. It had a lot less potential for serious injury than the things we experienced when we were in school.

Under the court's order, not only was the video deleted, but the paper is barred even from writing about it.

For the record, this is not an incident where privacy laws apply to the paper. Those laws apply to schools, not journalists. We recall an incident some years ago in which a major, nationally known newspaper published the school records of a young homicide victim in an effort to make him look bad. The paper got the records when the school released them in violation of federal privacy laws. Nobody dared to question the school or the paper. Under the law though, the real burden is on schools. If anyone broke privacy laws in the New Jersey case, it was the school. The school also didn't carry out its responsibility to be transparent to families about the underlying incident.

Schools have no business accusing reporters of violating privacy laws after schools allowed my permanent record to follow me around when it wasn't even relevant. When I was in college, my record somehow went back at least to middle school. What about my privacy?

I get attention

In 1990, the slogan for IGA grocery stores was "I get attention." One of my contemporaries at the time said that was IGA's tagline because he got attention when he was caught shoplifting there. He said that when he was caught, he said, "I really do get attention at this store!"

But now I got attention for posting on Facebook about Bellevue's need for some competition for Kroger. Lately, Kroger has failed to carry even some of the most basic food items. (More on that later.) So I made a short post about how the friendly neighborhood Krogie-Wogie needs a competitor.

And it elicited a reply that was hilariously stupid. You're gonna laugh!

My post read simply...

"Bellevue should get an IGA or a Meijer."

Here comes the reply. Are you ready for it? Here it is...

"Government run stores don't work."

Seriously, someone said that.

That guy thinks Meijer and IGA are government-run!

This ranks up there with fly-by-night financial research companies that have been spamming social media sites about how they think it's actually bad if prices for housing and services drop.



Covington gets ICEd

The Last Word wants to know why Covington allows ICE to patrol its streets.

On July 7, we were on Garrard Street and saw an Immigration & Customs Enforcement vehicle zipping down a side street—possibly 13th. It was being driven by a man who was masked like a bank robber.

Considering the fascism and murders by ICE that have unfolded this year, why does Covington allow ICE within its boundaries? ICE is not welcome in any neighborhood where we reside, because "we the people" are the boss. So why do Covington officials permit it?

This is something we're investigating, but it's already known that city officials have recently supported ICE. Last year, Covington Police infamously arrested anti-ICE protesters on the Roebling

Suspension Bridge—even though Tea Party backers were never arrested for their protests. Whether any laws were broken, one thing is clear: Covington is selectively enforcing the laws.

Also last year, there were reports that a Covington family disappeared after being taken away in a suspicious black van that was widely believed to be an ICE vehicle. The city has seen perhaps multiple incidents like this.

Like gentrification and the criminalization of the homeless, these events represent authoritarian, fascist impulses that have enveloped Covington and other urban areas.

Major northern Kentucky media won't cover this horror, because they're afraid of alienating Republican county officials throughout the area. We already alienated them in 1993, so we don't have to worry about that. We've alienated the Democrats too, but they earned it just as much as the Republicans did.

The media blackout isn't entirely limited to northern Kentucky, as stories about ICE are national in scope—much like House Speaker Mike Johnson running his Nazi mouth all the time. But many Republican officials at the county level weren't actually elected, as they were allowed to run unopposed.

Through its own recent actions, ICE has forfeited the privilege of us tolerating it. We stand with the Constitution—not ICE.

Project 2029 B.C.

The uniparty eugenicists are at it again.

Project 2025 was bad enough. That was a policy document by the far-right Heritage Foundation—almost all of which was bad. One of very few good things in it was its plank that the Department of Homeland Security be dismantled—which of course is one of few things in it that hasn't taken place.

Now the Democrats are answering with their own manifesto: Project 2029.

And it's starting out bad.

The party has released its first major proposal from this document. If the Democrats want to be a credible opposition, what do you think their first proposal should be? Universal healthcare? Reviving Voting Rights Act enforcement? Restoring Social Security? Accountability for the failed COVID lockdowns? A ban on gentrification and data centers? Ending the overprescription of psychotropic drugs? Lifting the fascist Citizens United ruling? Halting illegal wars?

Sadly, it's none of those things.

Instead, their first proposal is—drum roll, please—federal laws to ban kids under 16 from using social media and to ban cellphones from schools.

Seriously. That's their priority.

The unconstitutional social media ban isn't designed to protect children. It's designed to keep tabs on adults' lawful activity, as even adults would have to prove their ages to use social media. And does barring phones from schools really need a federal law? That's like passing a law against chewing bubble gum in class. (They'd probably support that too.) The purpose of state laws that we've seen to ban phones in schools isn't even to maintain good order, but to make sure nobody can record misconduct by school officials.

While the uniparty demands tracking who uses social media, they refuse to do what really should be done, like pass laws to limit online advertising that targets children. They also refuse to pass laws to protect privacy of people of any age. This includes making sure they can't be tracked when they share video links, and allowing them to delete old posts so Google can't make money off of them. Google used to permit this, but they got rid of this feature so their index could be "complete"—even though they won't even index current blogs. Google doesn't care about completeness at all. Facebook also violated users' privacy when it began showing how many people were on their friends list after they opted to hide that information. Facebook did not tell people that they were removing the option to hide it—which is breach of contract.

With Project 2029, the Democrats are essentially writing a right-wing Republican platform. However, their model legislation does contain such insight as this: "The term 'know' or 'knows' means to know or should have known." Thanks for clearing that up, idiots.

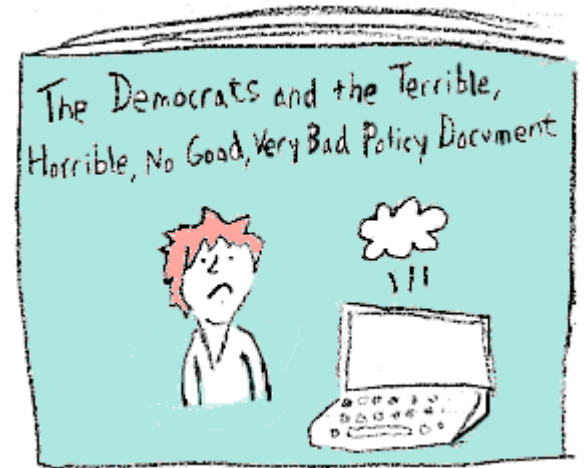
Naturally, the first Project 2029 policy initiative is staunchly backed by some of the usual



suspects, including American Federation of Teachers president Randi Weingarten, a thoroughly miserable human being who helped keep schools closed for years in the early 2020s. Ironically, she actually authored a book titled *When Fascists Fear Teachers*, even though the multiyear school closures were among the most fascist policies in modern times.

Authoritarians don't like it when people are allowed to think for themselves, and they elevate powerful institutions over the will of the public. They feared teachers who tried to make sure schools opened as normal once it was clear that the danger was no worse than in normal times. They even got teachers punished for trying to run a normal classroom. Teachers in Ohio, Tennessee, and Mississippi were suspended. Instructors in Oklahoma were fired, and their superintendent accused them of "moral turpitude." You can only imagine how children and parents were treated.

The Democrats today are like the quitter in life who plays in the basement all day and constantly complains about some perceived slight from 15 years ago. Or worse, they're like the Republicans. After some of their actions, if they want support from us, they're boned. Maybe they'll call us something really awful like "class reductionists."



Houston, we have a problem

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 1975 may be the most widely disobeyed law since Prohibition, but this story is one of few in which an offending school system is actually being investigated for violating it.

Things haven't been easy for students in the Houston school system. In 2021, the school board voted against a proper reopening after the COVID pandemic—despite a Texas law requiring it. In 2023, the statewide education agency took over the school district, but the situation can best be described as "same shit, different assholes." It was then that the district fired dozens of librarians, closed school libraries, and replaced them with "discipline centers."

Now—perhaps surprisingly—the federal government is investigating Houston's broken school system because of its plan to illegally segregate disabled students from the rest of the student body. The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights opened its probe because IDEA requires schools to allow students with a disability to attend school alongside their peers as much as possible. Houston's plan would limit students with disabilities to only a handful of schools throughout town and force most to travel a much longer distance to go to school.

This isn't even the first act of noncompliance by the Houston school system against laws on disabled education. Back in 2020—before the state takeover—Texas officials found the district practiced "systemic and widespread" violations of such laws. Now the state has also found that the district violated IDEA by unilaterally changing a student's individualized education plan. Before any of this though, Texas was admonished because it illegally placed a cap on how many students in each district could get services under IDEA.

With the current state of the federal government, don't assume it will effectively probe other offending school districts. That it is investigating Houston schools is a rare blip of sanity. After all, the Trump regime's budget proposed a 35% cut to the office that launched the investigation.

This story also highlights the limitations of IDEA. What IDEA really needs is civil or even criminal penalties. Civil penalties can be made retroactive, as provisions against *ex post facto* laws only apply in criminal law. By far, the most common violations of this law involve segregating students. Also, if students are still in school when they turn 18, they're supposed to get a say in their individual education plan, but schools often deny this right. All these years of malicious lawbreaking by school districts has resulted in perhaps millions of children growing up and facing life at a severe disadvantage. It's not enough to merely tell schools they can't exclude students. There has to be accountability too.

Kroger cuts the cheese

Remember Operation KroGum? Operation KroGum was all the rage when people couldn't find bubble gum at Kroger, which stopped them from bubbling.

Now we need to have Operation KroCheese.

Kroger has gotten so bare that we can't even find something as basic as cheese there anymore. This isn't some exotic cheese we're talking about. This is a mainstream product like refrigerated cheddar spread. Spread cheddar is completely gone from the Kroger in Bellevue. Until recently, they usually had 2 different brands. Now there's zero. We even asked, and they said they no longer carry any brand of spread cheddar.

Let this sink in. You can't get cheddar cheese anymore.

Cheddar cheese, of all things. One of the most basic food staples around.

We found one of the brands at the new Kroger in Newport that's much further away, but who knows how long it will last there? The new store is so disorganized that it's not exactly a very promising experience. Plus, by the time you get home from there, anything that belongs in the refrigerator will probably boil. There are no other supermarkets that are closer than the nearest Krogie-Wogies, and no other stores within range that are likely to have this type of product. (We know from experience that some such stores don't even sell products that might be suggested by the store's name. For instance, we noticed United Dairy Farmers didn't even carry the kind of milk that Kroger is regularly out of, even though the store has "dairy" in its name.)

Not long ago, Kroger also discontinued its widely praised store brand shampoo. Among shampoo we could find in stores, it was the only kind we could even use, because other brands smell bad. Because of this, we now have to send away for all of our shampoo. Do we need to have Operation KroPoo too?

This is like living in the tundra where everyone has to order everything from catalogs because there's no stores. Imagine living in one of the top 30 metropolitan areas in the nation and having to *order* most of your groceries. Then again, this probably wouldn't even be an issue if not for other factors, which were all part of the long-running plan, a fact that absolutely burns us up. It would also be less of a problem if 10th Street would be fixed so it would be easier to get to Newport Pavilion and inspect Target, or if they'd just fix the Monmouth Street underpass so we could try Aldi. But we all know anything that far away is not for us hoi polloi.

What we'll likely have to do is buy a blender and make our own cheddar spread. The public Internet is rife with recipes for it, and at least you can still buy the ingredients—for now. At the current rate, don't expect that to last forever.

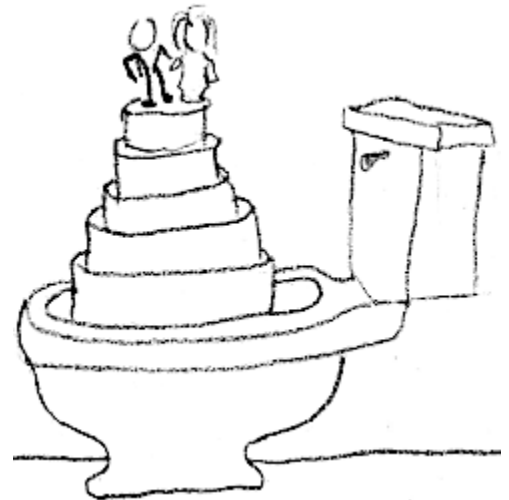
More weddings got ru

Remember that 700-page cache of stories of ruined weddings we collected from the Internet? We're still going through those.

A Florida couple's wedding went roodledy-doodledy in a big way. They booked a venue in Key West well in advance. But on the day of the wedding, the couple and all their guests drove for hours to Key West and found the venue was closed. The bride was understandably angry. She then decided they would be married at the pool at their hotel—and they were. But it was in full view of unrelated guests who were using the hotel pool—making for an awkward wedding.

At another wedding, a drunken man completely dropped his pants and exposed himself during the speeches. The wedding wasn't ruined for the marrying couple though, because they thankfully didn't notice. At yet another wedding, the bride's aunt got drunk and disrupted the best man's speech by yelling, "Get naked!" She also tried starting a fight with a bartender.

There are a few stories about people objecting to the wedding at the "speak now" part. Unfortunately, some of these objections were fueled by guests' bigotry or religious extremism. Sometimes though it was for other reasons. On one such occasion, a woman in the crowd yelled that the groom owed her child support. The whole event pretty much fell apart then. One couple feared that



the bride's mom, who refused to attend the wedding, might suddenly show up and object. So they printed a detailed program listing the exact time that each part of the ceremony would take place – and switched it all around to fool the mother. At another wedding, the groom's parents objected because they simply didn't like the bride, and the wedding was actually canceled. The couple wound up getting married sometime later.

One wedding was ruined when a toilet full of shit got clogged and it overflowed. In another case, the groom was arrested only a few hours before the \$40,000 wedding, while guests were already on their way. The reception somehow went on without him. At yet another wedding, the bride's parents threw a tantrum because they weren't seated at the head table, so they got up and left and flew straight home. One woman said her Las Vegas wedding was destructed by a series of misfortunes. First of all, her neighbor decided to invite herself. The bride decided to just let her take wedding photos, but she only took pictures of herself. Then, at the wedding dinner, the neighbor stole a plate from the restaurant.

A woman posted about how she was surprised when she had her wedding and hardly any of her new husband's family showed up. Later, she discovered that her new mother-in-law had intentionally ruined the wedding by calling up everyone beforehand and telling them it was canceled. Another woman said that during her reception, she learned that her new hubby's family – who were religious fanatics – had been insulting her behind her back throughout the ceremony. The family then threw a fit because the reception included dancing and alcohol.

One person said they worked at a wedding where the groom discovered the bride had been screwing around but remained quiet about it through the ceremony. He finally revealed it during his reception speech, which included a PowerPoint presentation. This presentation started out with romantic music and photos but ended with pictures taken by a private detective of the bride frolicking with a man who happened to be one of the groomsmen, who had also been in a relationship with one of the bridesmaids. That was the end of the reception – which the bride's family had taken out a second mortgage to pay for. Then the groom left with the aforementioned bridesmaid.



A reception was destroyed when the groom – who was a big jerk – got drunk, threw up, passed out, and had to leave. He had previously bragged about his "perfect weeks" in which he slept with a different woman every night. That's like how when I was in high school, I called it a "perfect week" if somebody acted up at school each day. One wedding was demolished when the groom was caught having sex with a woman who was not his new wife in the bushes during the reception. One wedding DJ said the couple never showed up at all, and none of the other participants or guests knew where they were. There was even a Katy Perry cover band scheduled as a surprise for the bride, and they just left without performing. The bridesmaids and groomsmen all changed into regular clothes.

A wedding was ruined when the priest launched a 45-minute sermon against the couple because they already had a child before getting married. The reception was likened to a funeral. During one reception, the groom suddenly wheeled out 22 pots of cocaine – one for each table. The bride didn't know beforehand. The venue threw everyone out.

A caterer recounted working at a very expensive wedding involving two prominent New York families. The couple and everyone else got drunk, and a huge brawl ensued. The groom's mom accused the caterer of "ruining" the "big day" all because some hors d'oeuvres were a few minutes late. Then she announced she wasn't "going to pay a penny" for the service – as if all these caterers and chefs were free. This caterer also worked at George Soros's wedding. One of the main dishes was imported lobster tail, but the chefs forgot to cook it. They decided to just serve it raw in the hopes nobody would notice.

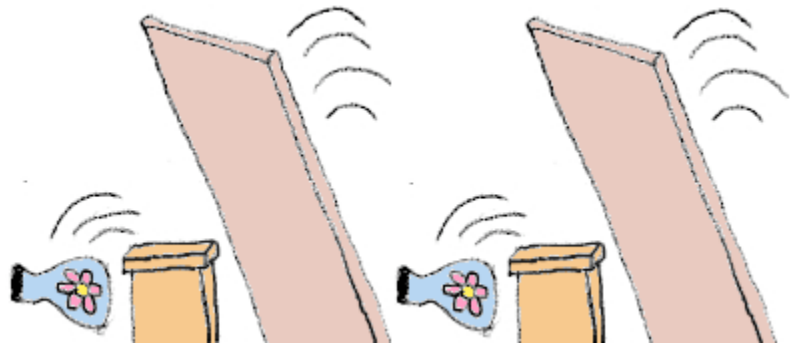
One person said that when they were 6, they ruined the wedding of their mom's best friend. They were outside playing with other kids when they just decided to dial 911 on the pay phone in the lobby for no reason. Practically the entire police department showed up and stopped the event. At one wedding, the bride's dad hated the groom so much that when the rice was being thrown, he loudly asked, "Where are the rocks?" The entire event was a disaster. A wedding ceremony that was shown via Zoom was ruined when someone watching kept making nasty comments. Finally, the bride strolled over to the webcam and said, "We can hear everything you've been saying, and what you've been

saying isn't good."

One commenter said they learned how their parents' wedding was ruined when they found an old clipping from the police reports of their local newspaper. The best man told the preacher to "go to hell", and a guest passed out Xanax in the restroom. The reception culminated in a huge fistfight. Another wedding went awry for many reasons. First of all, some very conservative family members became upset when they discovered the bride was already pregnant. The couple also had a falling-out with the photographer, who then didn't show up. The groom's dad had purchased a new car for the couple but took it back when he found out about the pregnancy. Then the dealership wouldn't take it back, because he had damaged it. He blamed the damage on the groom, though he had never touched it. Then police showed up because the groom's dad got in a fight with strangers at a neighboring venue. The bride also insisted on having her dog with her as she walked down the aisle, and the dog "leaked poo" down the aisle.

A woman said that after she ordered the dress for her wedding, it became lost. It finally arrived 3 hours before her rehearsal, and it was too short. She and her fiancé had booked a golfing club as a venue—but the club was demolished a week before the wedding and they had to find a new place for it. The day before the wedding, the baker she had hired to make the cake called and said she couldn't do the cake. So the bride had to buy an "inedible" cake from a grocery store. When she got back from the rehearsal, she found that her dog had eaten her custom-made wedding shoes. On the day of the wedding, she woke up with appendicitis. The wedding went on, but the band that the couple had hired never showed up—and took their money. The bride's sister got drunk and got in a fight.

A person said that when they were 7 or 8, they went to a family wedding where they had a race with other kids in the lobby of the venue. All the kids crashed into the wall—which was actually just a flimsy partition. The wall caved in, which knocked over and broke all the vases. It also fell onto other partitions, breaking the vases behind those. It was like a row of dominoes. The venue ended up billing the couple thousands of dollars for the damage.



Another commenter said a family wedding was dampened by a variety of misfortunes. Perhaps most notably, the groom's family inexplicably took the "lovely wedding book" outside and got "the gorgeous satin cover" covered with grass stains. What did they do, play football with it? They also spilled coffee all over it.

Someone said they worked at a wedding that was conducted at a high-end country club. The wedding cost a whopping \$200,000—and it was nonrefundable. A huge brawl broke out, and many arrests were made. The bride took it in stride and threw a wild party for her family and friends the next day. Still another wedding was ruined when someone got drunk and threw feces at the ceiling fan. And a couple that wanted to be wed at sunset on a lake failed to account for the end of Daylight Saving Time when they sent out the invitations—so they got married in the dark. One wedding was ruined because the caterers never showed up. They had gone to the billing address instead of the venue.

Mikhail Baryshnikov's Stories From My Childhood it is not.

Someone put the 'poo' in 'pool'

We have an account on Nextdoor, but we don't use it. It's like a yuppie Topix.

However, we still get e-mails when people post there. A few weeks ago, someone made a funny.

We sometimes visit the Ziegler Park pool in Cincinnati on the 3 days per year when it doesn't rain, and there's been a couple times over the past few years when there's been a "fecal incident." We went a couple weeks ago, and somebody threw up in it. But someone posted on Nextdoor about a different pool...

"The Prospect Point pool is closed. A child defecated in the pool."

That means they pooped.

A person chewed used gum and someone blamed Will Ferrell

Let's talk about gum. You know, that stuff people blow mean bubbles with.

A weird thing, gum is. But you laugh every time it's mentioned, and we're happy to oblige!

Back in 2022, someone posted a story about gum in an online forum about parenting. This person said their 6-year-old daughter kept grabbing chewed wads of gum off sidewalks and chewing them...

"I really don't know what to do anymore.

"This is the fourth time I discovered her peeling the old chewed out gum from the pavement and started chewing on it like no problem. ...

"I am so disgusted beyond words. This is the fourth time now. I don't know why or what to do anymore.

"Any tips? I'm about to scream."

Somebody naturally blamed it all on Will Ferrell.

They said that in the movie *Elf*, Will "picks gum off street poles and things and eats them." This commenter said the child must have been inspired by seeing this.

Someone recommended the educational series *Brainchild*, as it has a few episodes about germs. The problem is that it's on Netflix, which nobody has.

This story is funny because it is.

Soccer league kicks around websites

Authorities in Spain are breaking the Internet.

Recently, the Spanish government—a wholly owned subsidiary of the far-right World Economic Forum—thought it could privatize the public Internet. Officials gave La Liga—the country's biggest professional soccer league—the power to police the Internet for alleged piracy of its soccer games. And it's been every bit the disaster you might fear.

Hundreds of thousands of legitimate websites have been knocked offline each weekend by La Liga as "collateral damage." These sites were not involved in piracy at all. Many were small, independent businesses. Others were nonprofits or even government agencies. The owner of a shop that sells collectible knives recounted losing an \$800 sale because a customer tried visiting his website, only to be told La Liga had blocked it. The site goes down every weekend.

La Liga accomplishes this by blocking entire sets of IP's—which reels in sites known to be legitimate along with those that might remotely be suspected of piracy. It is estimated that almost 6% of the world's biggest websites have been blocked. You can only imagine how smaller sites were afflicted.

This dates back to a 2024 ruling by a Spanish court that said La Liga could require ISP's to block IP addresses. Even if La Liga was some type of government agency—which it isn't—letting it require ISP's to block addresses would be a tyrannical concept. As it stands, however, the equivalent in the U.S. to what La Liga is doing would be if, say, the NFL or the NBA had the power to order T-Mobile or Spectrum to block sites that had nothing to do with pirating sporting events. Of course, Zoomtown would have probably just blocked them without being told.

It gets worse. La Liga has also threatened to sue organizations for daring to complain if their website is blocked. This even includes the Royal Spanish Academy, the official regulating body of the Spanish language.

While AI bots steal copyrighted content from websites and Google makes money off of old posts that are either copyrighted by others, forged, or stalker bait, La Liga and the government of Spain



sound like a bulletin board blowhard from 1987 who thought there was a pirate hiding under every bed.

Putting the deuce in produce

The Last Word wants to know why there is *human shit* on our produce.

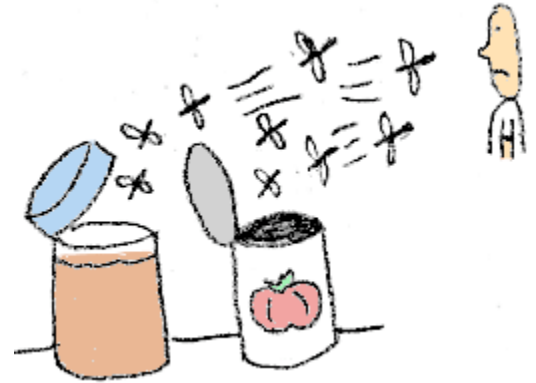
It's probably because things like that happen in third world countries like the United States.

Countless people across the country have recently fallen ill to a parasite called cyclospora that causes diarrhea that lasts for weeks. The exact source isn't known, but past outbreaks were found to be caused by human feces on fruits and vegetables available in stores and restaurants. The feces came from contaminated irrigation water.

Factory farms are using people poop as fertilizer.

And it's being dismissed as normal.

Contamination of our food supply isn't entirely new. There are reports from decades ago about food companies' filthy processing methods. The FDA actually permits one rodent hair per 100 grams of peanut butter, so a single jar is allowed to contain up to 5 hairs. Raisins are permitted to contain 10 whole insects per 8 ounces, and canned tomatoes may contain 2 maggots per can. Regulators say they allow these defects because it's too hard to eliminate them. They can make AI videos of a horse blowing a bubble, but they can't keep maggots out of our food? But the problem has clearly gotten worse, as reports of food-borne illnesses have increased markedly over the years.



Let's bid goodbye to these bidding wars

If you're 65, you may remember getting your first apartment after high school for \$150 a month, right after you got a new job at the factory up the street.

If you're 53, you may recall getting your first apartment during college for \$250 a month, just after you got a new job at the store across town. You lamented how hard your life was compared to that of your cousin who was 12 years older.

If you're 25, you may have recently answered a Zillow or Craigslist ad for an apartment that cost \$1,500 a month, after you lost most of college and cycled through 3 starter jobs in 6 months. Then you paid the \$60 application fee, found that the rent had suddenly jumped to \$1,800, and didn't get the apartment.

Several years ago, we learned that home sales were now being subject to bidding wars. This had been going on for a long time in much larger cities where techies were moving in. But it eventually came to our area, and it artificially jacked up house prices for home buyers. This greed-driven gambit was also egged on by the media. Now it's afflicting apartment rents too.

Numerous online posts describe the process. People see an ad for an apartment, they fill out the online application and pay the fee, they go over to look at the apartment, and are told that the rent has gone up from what was advertised. They say this has happened with multiple apartments. It turns out that someone else has also applied but offered to pay a higher rent—touching off a bidding war. Usually, the prospective tenant offering a higher rent is a highly paid professional looking for a second or even third or fourth home.

Housing is a necessity, but they treat it like an episode of *The Price Is Right* or buying a broken Amaze-A-Tron on eBay.

In brief, the ad doesn't even show the right rent. The rent turns out to be more than what the ad showed.

These bidding wars are a manipulation of the market. The public needs to find a smart lawyer who knows how to use antitrust or other laws to fight it. We also need to have stronger laws against bidding wars for home sales and apartment rentals. Having a bubble gum blowing contest to see who gets the apartment would be fairer than having a bidding war.

Old story from Old Dominion elicits radio silence

How can you tell if someone is a blithering idiot? It's if they say, "Radio stations are not museums."

That's one of their standard replies when people aim to prevent heritage stations from being gobbled up by big corporations or phony ministries that plan to gut the station's programming and identity and replace it with a satellite feed with no local elements.

Part of the FCC's job is to ensure a diversity of voices in radio and TV. This notion of diversity fits with a traditional progressive ideal. It doesn't mean some groups should be pitted against others. Rather, it means what it says. We are all equal.

It also means the FCC can block a sale of a TV or radio station. Lots of paid trolls on the Internet insist otherwise. But they fall silent when you point out that the FCC under Ronald Reagan actually *forced* a Dallas radio station to be sold to a religious group.

But did you know the states can also block station sales? Indeed they can. This factoid also exposes yet another instance in which elites use whatever argument suits the purpose at hand. When states began dropping out of the popular Aid to Families with Dependent Children program of old, the punditocracy gloated until their faces flew off. (The offending states and their apologists used a lot of Nazi-inspired rhetoric to back up their stance against AFDC—just as those who want to cut off Social Security disability benefits do today.) The Affordable Care Act calls for Medicaid expansion in every state in the union, yet some states—led by Democrats and Republicans alike—still have not carried it out. Because of these states' malice or negligence, many folks earn too much money to be covered by Medicaid but not enough to be covered by the ACA. This is despite the fact that healthcare is a right.

Lately, a bipartisan group of state attorneys general has—quite rightly—sued to block the illegal merger between Nexstar and Tegna, two of the biggest owners of TV stations (and also among the most right-wing). So—even when we're talking about station sales—states are supposed to have some power.

Here's an old story that illustrates state powers perfectly. This involved a UHF station in Fredericksburg, Virginia, in the mid-1970s. When the station's owners announced they were selling the station, this brang the attention of Virginia's State Corporation Commission. The commission noted that the station was having financial problems, and it blocked the sale. The commission eventually allowed the sale to proceed, but only after a strict hearing.

The station's license was later canceled by the FCC after the prospective buyer didn't submit complete financial information. When the station went off the air, it couldn't even afford paper for its teleprinter.

Another exercise of state sovereignty regarding broadcasting: In 1964, voters in California approved a referendum that banned over-the-air TV stations from being a paid subscription service. And in 1998, Vermont State Police planned to arrest FCC agents who tried to raid an unlicensed radio station. A town official also told the station to notify the town if the agents came back after being chased away, as the agents would be outside their jurisdiction.

The airwaves are a public trust. But the latest complaint by the trolligentsia is that licensed radio and TV outlets are being oppressed by rules that require them to operate in the public interest. Man, that's so oppressive! Somehow we don't think Amnesty International is going to rush to the aid of big broadcasters on this.

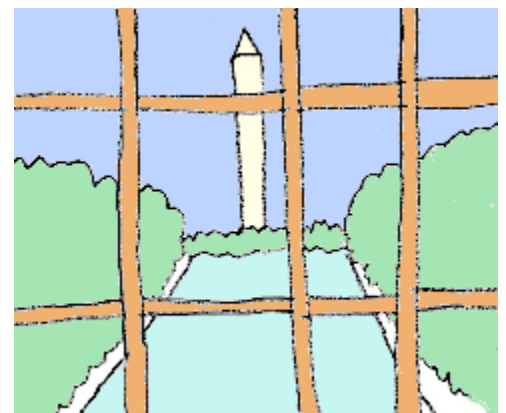
National maul

So no statehood then? Got it!

The National Mall fireworks for the nation's 250th birthday were a bust, and only 90% of that was Donald Trump's fault.

Most of the rest was because of the tyrannical decrees of D.C. officials. This was the first Fourth of July celebration at the National Mall where fireworks spectators were required to go through "TSA-style security." Anyone who went between viewing areas had to go through security again. All 3 people who attended must have been disappointed.

This is even worse than what Riverfest does—by far—and even



Riverfest didn't sink to its current depths until maybe a decade ago. There was one year when authorities at Rip-off-fest hassled a young woman for bringing in a soft drink from Frisch's, but even that wasn't TSA level. It was a bit worse than angry school principal level, as it was a so-called festival, not a school. But it still wasn't TSA level. We smuggle in soda every year and make it through without being frisked.

The standard we should really be using is Riverfest before the mid-1990s. Before then, you could get into Riverfest without having anything inspected at all, so why was the National Mall fireworks any different? During the Bicentennial celebration 50 years ago at the National Mall, people moved freely in and out, as there wasn't even any fencing. They were allowed to bring coolers and food. That event drew an estimated one million spectators.

For 2026, however, the D.C. police chief boasted that fireworks visitors saw "things you don't typically see during a July 4th." This underscores the irony of celebrating freedom by turning much of the city into an open-air prison.

In addition, people were encouraged to arrive early to get through security, but weren't allowed to bring lawn chairs, umbrellas, or coolers—during one of the worst heatwaves in years. We hope there were enough medical tents, as people couldn't cool off from being in the heat for hours on end. Sunscreen was reportedly banned too.

The inspections and bans prompted an online commenter to ask, "Is there a reason people are still going?" Thankfully, not many did. It was also noted that the chair ban violated the Americans with Disabilities Act.

This story is a big deal. It's not something minor like a single pothole or a teacher confiscating a candy bar. It represents the burgeoning failures—which have burgeoned more and more for 45 years—of the security state. It also shows the bottomless autocracy of the gentrification state. Our "leaders" are not the best and brightest. They're really just hate-filled nobodies on an authority kick. They like bossing everyone around instead of displaying real leadership. We shouldn't forget which of our public officials handed us orders instead of doing even a single thing to improve our lives.

As we at **The Last Word** expand our investigative reporting, the People's Universe has its own dream team of legal eagles to lay out the laws to combat this tyranny.

Outlook gobbles and gugs

Here's more news you can use!

For years, we battled Outlook over it losing our incoming e-mails—until we finally stopped using Outlook for that reason. Microsoft Community was worthless at solving it. They kept saying it was because our inbox was full—though it wasn't. They kept saying to check our spam folders—but the missing e-mails weren't there either. We tried telling them their "solutions" didn't work, and they still kept offering the same "solutions." Microsoft also initially denied filtering e-mails before they reached users' accounts—only to admit it later. So they lied when they denied it.

That was a few years ago, but we recently wanted to know if Outlook was still losing e-mails without a trace. Guess what? It is.

We wanted to reactivate our PayPal account, but it was linked to our old Outlook address. When we tried having PayPal send e-mails to that Outlook account, which we could still access, they never came through.

Other people have reported that Outlook is still losing their e-mails too. They also reported that the only messages they get in their Outlook account are spam. Someone suggested renaming the junk folder to "Inbox" and renaming the inbox to "Junk" so e-mails would end up in the right folders. But that wouldn't work either, because Outlook filters out legitimate e-mails before they even reach your account. The only e-mails not filtered out are spam.

Microsoft has begun blaming users' ISP's—which everyone knows is bull, as Outlook accounts aren't through your ISP. We had this problem with Outlook over the course of several different ISP's.

Just a couple weeks ago, someone posted that their Outlook account has been losing e-mails for years "with no solution in sight." They said this "should be illegal if you call yourself an email service." It started when this user stopped receiving important e-mails from entities like their local electric utility. Then they tried to finance a loan and Outlook lost the e-mail from the bank.

Believe it or bip, someone actually defended Outlook: "Can you really call yourself an 'IT Professional' and use a free email service, and then complain when that free service doesn't live up to

your expectations.” Uh, if a company advertises a service that works, it should work. Other free services work. And free accounts are not truly free, because users are already paying for an online account and the energy to use it. That reply essentially acknowledged that Outlook is terrible, but acted as if nobody should expect any better.

Somebody else correctly noted, “Outlook is garbage and getting worse.” Another person said they recently ditched Outlook because it lost the e-mail containing their TurboTax download link. They called up TurboTax’s support line, and the receptionist said the exact same thing happened to her.

One guy posted in Microsoft Community that Outlook was losing all his e-mails, and the official response said in part that “the issue may be related to your email provider’s spam filters.” Uh, his e-mail provider was Outlook, idiots.

Maybe people need to start pieing each other again.

Yet more weddings got ru! Can you believe that?

Our stash of ruined wedding stories needs to be relieved some more, so here’s another batch. It’s not as bad as the constipated backlog of news events that has piled up for 30 years because things keep getting worse and nobody stops it, but we don’t want to still be going through these wedding stories from the shuffleboard court.

A person said they and their partner went to a wedding reception in a hall that was across the street from a police station. A guest got drunk, made a spectacle of himself, and got in a fistfight. The venue’s owner called the police, and the cops made everyone leave 3 hours early. Another person said they knew a man who was marrying a woman who claimed to have terminal cancer. They raised money for the wedding through charitable donations. On the way to the wedding, there was an accident, and the woman was grievously and permanently injured. It was while she was at the hospital that it was discovered that the couple had completely fabricated the cancer diagnosis so they could someday sell their story of having been miraculously cured by prayer.

One wedding was ruined because the venue had a sewage leak in the ceiling that created “a beautiful brown waterfall” onto the cake. The venue had a spare room but refused to move the event there. Then they had the nerve to ask the couple if they still wanted to use the cake after it was coated with sewage.

A wedding that was supposed to have 50 guests was spoiled when the venue reduced its capacity to 25 just a few days before the event. The bride insisted on making all the cuts to the guest list from the groom’s side. This resulted in fights between the two families in the ensuing days. The bridesmaids all bowed out, and everyone who showed up for the reception just moped around. One person said they went to a friend’s wedding on the friend’s grandparents’ property. During the reception, the drunken grandpa found the bride’s mom screwing a man who was not her husband on the grandpa’s bed, so he shut the power off and chased all the guests away on an all-terrain vehicle.

One feller said he was a groomsman at a wedding where the groom’s parents were very religious and conservative. During the reception, the bride announced she was 3 months pregnant. The stunned silence from the groom’s family was so hilarious that the groomsman burst out laughing. The parents stormed out of the venue. They refused to speak to anyone who was in the wedding ever again.

One person posted that a young man who had just inherited his family’s multimillion-dollar business got drunk and crashed his expensive sports car 4 weeks before his wedding. He and the prostitute in the car weren’t injured though. His fiancée publicly defended him—until the wedding. When she didn’t show up for the ceremony, someone went to the couple’s house and found that she had left and taken everything with her.

Someone posted that at her sister’s wedding, the venue divided the room into two smaller rooms with a thin divider. During the wedding, the party on the other side crashed through the divider, fell onto the table, and broke it. A groomsman’s tux was ruined too. A person who worked at a wedding hall offered several stories. In one of them, the bride’s grandfather refused to leave when the reception was over, and he ripped his shirt open and screamed at the top of his lungs.

A commenter posted that his girlfriend invited him to her ex’s wedding—which was awkward enough. The wedding was 2½ hours away by air. During the reception, she loudly told the groom, “We literally have been fucking for the past 2 days since we’ve seen each other!” She was escorted out, but later she started “ruining the hall.” At another wedding, state police arrested the best man because he had been a fugitive for 10 years. It turned out that his girlfriend had tipped off the cops. At another

wedding, the groom was arrested for fighting and possession of cocaine – and he was a cop!

One couple arrived at a restaurant for their reception, and they found it was empty. There was no food, no band, nothing. It turned out that a jealous coworker of the groom called the restaurant while pretending to be the bride and canceled the reception. A wedding was almost ruined because the bride's dad was "a gigantic asshole." Because he wouldn't act right, his brothers and cousins had to drag him away. After that, everybody had a good time. Another commenter said that when she was 7 or 8, she was appointed as a junior bridesmaid for her aunt's wedding. About 10 minutes before the event, she threw up all over her aunt's dress. Then she threw up on the floor, and her aunt slipped in it. Then her cousin threw up too. This delayed the ceremony by more than an hour.

There was a wedding scheduled where the groom had recently converted to the bride's religious denomination. Just before the wedding, the priest told the groom the event would be canceled if he couldn't recite the Ten Commandments. He recited them, but not in order, so the priest called off the wedding. The couple didn't get married until months later – when the bride converted to the groom's former denomination.

The invites for one small wedding said no kids under 16 and urged formal attire. And it was in a very fancy venue. But right in the middle of the bride's vows, a woman wearing a t-shirt and sweatpants suddenly showed up with her 3 small children. All 3 of the kids were in the midst of "a massive temper tantrum." Some folks would have taken such a disruption in stride, but the bride was genuinely offended, and the wedding had to be stopped. That went on to be the key thing she remembered of the ceremony.

A wedding on a Hawaii beach was officiated by the bride's sister. She wore a Hawaiian shirt and kept the ring in a front pocket until the ceremony. But the ring fell out of her pocket and into the ocean, never to be found. Another wedding was ruined when two of the bride's brothers got in a fight with each other. One of the brothers bit off the other's finger and spit it into an ice bucket.

One person posted that when they were growing up, their dad married an abusive woman and had the ceremony at a park. The kids' grandma knew how abusive the bride was, so during the ceremony, the grandma bailed and took the kids to a nearby amusement park instead. It was fun for the kids, but it ruined the entire event for the dad and his new wife, as pretty much the whole family had disappeared for the reception.

During one ceremony, the groom's ex barged in and tried attacking the bride. As security chased her out, she knocked over vases and the cake. The couple opted to postpone the wedding until the next week. There was another wedding where the groom took Xanax and drank heavily beforehand. He vanished during the reception, and groomsmen later found him naked in a bed at the house that was rented for the event. Someone posted that they were supposed to photograph a wedding, but they got no info about it for 4 months – not even the location. Finally, on the day of the wedding, they found 7 missed calls on their phone and discovered they had missed the ceremony. They got to the reception as it was in progress. Then they tried mopping up a spilled drink, but made an even bigger mess, and the groom's mom slipped in it.

In a story that made the national news, a Florida couple tried hosting a 2-day wedding party at a mansion they didn't have permission to use. The owner caught them and called the police. At another wedding, the best man locked himself in the women's restroom the whole time because his dad bragged along the woman who he was cheating on his wife with. Another wedding was dampened because the venue had lost its liquor license just hours before, and the DJ failed to show. At yet another wedding, the bride's brother snuck into the office of the banquet hall and faxed messages to the hall's clients that said, "I ate your mom's ass."

The Clyde Frog Show it is not.

Court case brews over plane seized for beer

The world today is cool because we're always told how free it is even while people have their property confiscated for things that nobody even thought were crimes.

The U.S. Supreme Court plans to hear the case of a private pilot from Alaska whose plane was seized because a passenger bragged unopened beer on a flight to a dry town.

The incident happened in 2012, believe it or not – not the Prohibition era. The pilot tried to fly a customer from Fairbanks to the village of Beaver. For reasons unknown, state police inspected this private flight before it took off. Cops found that the passenger had included a 6-pack of Budweiser in

her bags of groceries.

Because of this, the pilot and the passenger were both charged with knowingly transporting an alcoholic beverage into a dry community, a misdemeanor. Under Kentucky law, you may transport alcohol for personal use and private events into dry counties. Alaska, however, makes a crime out of what isn't even an offense in Kentucky. As part of the punishment, the pilot's plane was confiscated.

He took his case to the Alaska Supreme Court. The Alaska Attorney General's office fought him tooth and nail. Outrageously, the state court ruled against him.

Now he's going to the U.S. Supreme Court, arguing that seizing the plane violates the Eighth Amendment's protection against "excessive fines."

We all know the quality of U.S. Supreme Court rulings lately is in the dumper, so it's unclear how this will end. A more important argument might be that the Alaska law on transporting alcohol is ineffective at accomplishing whatever aims it supposedly has. Courts keep gutting laws that accomplish their goals and actually have a legitimate public interest, so how can they keep defending laws that have no positive effect?

Copyright © 2026. All rights reserved.