



“Get off my lawn”

*Thoughts on current events while driving
around in my car.*

May 25, 2023

I haven't written a “Get off my lawn” for a while, I've been in a pretty good mood. But I'm all out of gummies and bourbon again so off we go.

As always, the opinions expressed below are mine only, and always subject to change. The picture above represents my mood when I'm writing this column.

Old people in charge

So, I'm an old person. I'll be 66 in July. But I had the sense to retire. You know who doesn't? Politicians. Over half of the Senate is older than 65. Four of the nine Supreme Court justices are over 68. Over 25% of Congress and 20% of the nation's Governors are over 70. Biden is 80. Trump is 76. Grassley 89, Sanders 80, McConnell 80. All running for re-election. Diane Feinstein is 89, coming off a debilitating battle with shingles. She won't step down. Can we not pass a mandatory retirement age? These are the folks making the decisions that affect the American people, whose median age is 38. How's that working out?

Young people without a clue.

Actual quotes from discussions with young people (13-45) in the last few months.

- “How do we know we landed on the moon? Were you there?”
- “Shakespeare wasn't a real person. That stuff is all made up.”
- “I don't believe in giving feedback, nobody listens anyway.”
- “Why anyone would read a history book is beyond me. Sooooo boring.”
- “Anything that happened before I was born I don't have any use for.”
- “This political stuff doesn't affect me.”
- “I don't need to know how to write. We have Chat GPT.”

Maybe it's a good thing that the old folks are still in charge.

Saturday Night Live Music

After watching/listening to a particularly heinous music performance on SNL the other night, I looked up the latest rankings of the 664 musical guests on Saturday Night Live since 1976. (<https://www.ranker.com/list/snl-musical-guest-list/ranker-music>)

Current top ten:

1.Lizzo 2.Rosalia 3.Charli XCX 4.LCD Soundsystem 5.Katy Perry 6.Rodney Ricch 7.Billie Eilish 8.Saweetie 9.Taylor Swift 10.Ed Sheeran.

Rankings of other prominent SNL musical guests:

12.Young Thug 23.Bad Bunny 35.Megan Thee Stallion 166.Bob Dylan 187.The Rolling Stones 300.Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers 306.Elton John 328.Paul McCartney 347.Prince 600.Billy Joel.

The times they are a changing and a hard rain is gonna fall.

School Board Candidates

A candidate for school board came to the door last month. Wanted my vote. After she told me how much she cared for kids, wanted them safe, and wanted to put “traditional values back into our schools” I had a few questions.

Me: “Did she vote for Trump?” Her: “Yes, and I will again.”

Me: “I notice you’re wearing a cross. I really want to understand how you, a Christian, can vote for a man with his morals, ethics, and values for president?” Her: “He has certain skills.”

Me: “Would you allow this type of person to be a teacher in the schools you would represent?” Her: “Certainly not.”

Me: “Should we teach religion in public schools?” Her: “We need to get Jesus back in our schools.”

Me: “So you’re not for the separation of church and state?” Her: “Not in our schools I’m not.”

Me: “Where are you on guns?” Her: “I’m all for school safety, but it’s not really about the guns. I feel we should have armed marshals at all schools and bullet proof windows.”

Me: “Well, you’re O-3 on the issues that are important to me.” Her: “So can I count on your support?”

This is who is on our school boards, and making decisions for our children’s schools. This is what happens when voter turnout in school board elections is less than 10% nationwide. Any surprise our schools are a mess?

Priorities

So we have WW3 brewing in the Ukraine. Climate change is upon us. Artificial intelligence is a real threat. Our roads and bridges are crumbling. The working class is squeezed like never before, mass murders happen every day, and homelessness is skyrocketing. What are we debating the most in this country? Banning books, criminalizing abortion, regulating gas stoves, cancelling Mickey Mouse, which bathroom transexuals should use, who's supporting Pride Week, defunding PBS, kids at drag shows and Bud Light cans. And we wonder why all of our kids are on Tic-Toc. Hell, I'd also rather watch Zach King's Tic-Tok cake illusion (2.2 BILLION views) than Ron Desantis speak about the evil of Disney World.

Debt Ceiling Debate.

The country is 100 trillion dollars in debt and Speaker McCarthy and President Biden are bogged down in determining budget cuts that amount to .10% of the Federal Budget. That's akin to my wife and I arguing about cutting the 99 cents we pay a month for Hulu in order to make ends meet.

Baskin Robbins.

I just wanted an ice cream cone after a day of driving 100 miles roundtrip to see the grandson sit on a bench at his baseball game because the coach is an idiot. Stopped at a Baskin Robbin's where they still claim they have 32 flavors. On this particular visit they were out of all flavors except strawberry swirl. I hate strawberry swirl. We drove home and I had a cookie.

Thanks Baskin Robbins for inspiring this column!

I think I need another marijuana miracle.

"That's all I'm sayin'"

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