

CRUMBS -- or, remembrances of times past -- or, bits & pieces unfinished

We now live in a society run for and by the rich, and we all seem to accept an economy that is organized strictly for the rich and powerful, we the people get the crumbs. A steadily growing percentage of the american people cannot afford health insurance, and many of us cannot afford complete health insurance. We sat by as manufacturing and then services were "outsourced," leaving us the low paying jobs.

two and a half million imigrants (illegal)

The air I breathe has been breathed by millions, trillions of beings, animals, plants, before it comes to me. Like a winter soup, the same pot sits on the stove gets warm and cold as the stove does. And each day we take a few cups out, and put left over tidbits and water in. The plants take in the air, use the one and breathe out the other, which is the part of air that I need, and so on, endlessly in a sustainable world. We, humans, are the genius who invented non-biodegradable stuff.

Smart, and a clear sign that we are too stupid to wipe our own asses

4/4/'07.

Lament of an old, old man

Received my yearly bill for auto insurance. Have been with the same company for a dozen years, or more. Don't drive much any more, maybe 5000 miles a year or less. Most days my little car sits under its tent. Over time have reduced coverage, because it got too expensive, but some insurance is required in this state; I now have the minimum required. The bill comes with pages and pages of explanation, each year the same. Added this year the usual "privacy" statement. Get those things from banks almost monthly. Don't read them any more. It's all the same. The company says they respect my privacy, but. The but is that they, of course, have information about me and my income, that is available to other banks, the goverment, and who knows how many other agencies and individuals. And therefore, very probably available to smart computer geeks who know how to peek into other people's computers.

5/22/'07

Random headlines on a day in 2007

Eating Beef in Pregnancy Linked to Reduced Sperm in Adult Sons

Children Unfazed During Manila Bus Siege

Iran Standoff Plagues Oil Prices

Gallery Director May Resign Over Chocolate Jesus Exhibition

Climate Report Maps Out 'Highway to Extinction'

Two double aught seven

(*aught* means either 'anything at all', or 'zero')

China-based writers for Wall Street Journal oppose Murdoch bid

Wednesday 07.04.07

Private Contractors Outnumber US Troops in Iraq

Bush Outsourcing Intelligence to Private Contractors

Homeless in Paradise

America, Land of 371 Billionaires and 3.5 Million Homeless

December is a time of multicreedal spirituality

Hello sun,
you haven't been around for a while.
Welcome sun,
I've missed you, despite my skin.
But sun,
one thing: don't stay away
so long again!

6/28/06

2/18/'07

You know your empire's crumbling when the World Health Organization ranks your healthcare system 37th 'best' in the world, just above Slovenia, and just below Costa Rica. (And far below Colombia, Cyprus, Saudi Arabia and Morocco.)

I am an immigrant, I came to the U.S when I was 28. I knew the things that one learns in history and geography in school. I knew the names of the states, and perhaps could have pointed them out on a map. I knew rivers, capitals, something about the economy: what was produced, what was imported. And I knew that the United States were created in a rebellion against an English King in the late 18th century--not long ago at all, when you have an Asian and European mind set. And I knew that the streets in America were paved with gold, and that everybody could be a millionaire. Of course I did *not* know what Americans were like. Growing up in a small town in Indonesia I had often been the only white in my classrooms, but I had never experienced the kind of deep down racial separation that I found here. That was a shock that I still find hard to explain. How could modern, educated, smart people who had just saved the world in an awful war, be so... prejudiced?

9/8/'07

The world today is owned by the extremely rich. Extreme Muslims are fighting each other, and extreme Christians, whose champion is the extreme president and his even more extreme vice-. And while that is going on all over this planet extreme cities are bulding with more and more people (now half the world's population lives in cities), and the pressure of the extreme human reproduction continues to force countless species of non-humans to evaporate.

We train our soldiers to be killers and then we are surprised when they turn out to be killers.

Change used to be something that happened to us. A dry summer, a wind storm, an accident that disabled a father of ten children, aunt Jenny won the lottery. Today change is a verb. It is something we do. She changes the color of her hair. He changes his career. The books that are most eagerly bought by young and old are how-to books: how to effect change in your environment, in your town, in yourself. In the U.S. the most popular kind of cosmetic surgery is breast imple-mentation; in Brazil it is breast reduction. Advertising--which pays for our enter-tainment--not only creates new needs, but also changes our wants into needs.

When we talk about oil, or global warming, the very first reaction is, What can I/we/the government do to change this. We are totally conditioned to change what does not please us.

But we can no longer imagine changing our needs (wants). Most people would feel (more than think) they could not be without a cellular phone (mobile phone as it is called in other parts of the world), or without a car, without an iPod, without television, microwave oven, refrigerator. Without air-planes, without computers — without electricity our world would fall apart. What would we do without bombs and automatic weapons? How could we fight a war -- and it is inevitable that we always will fight another war -- without robots, un-manned flying machines, to do the bombing for us?

1/3/09