

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

---

2011:

Madame Secretary of State, Ms Hillary Clinton, about "real news:"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5zW4AKrOlak>

2007:

We now live in a society run for and by the very 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 an even larger percentage of us cannot afford complete health insurance. We sat by as manufacturing and then services were "outsourced," leaving us the low paying jobs.

2002:

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. Plants take in air, use one molecule and breathe out another, the oxygen that I need to survive. On and on and on: a sustainable planet. My life totally depends on other life to live.

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 (excuse my language).

2004:

Received my yearly bill for auto insurance. Have been with the same company for more than a dozen years. Drive maybe 5000 miles a year. Most days my little car sits under its tent. Over time have reduced coverage but some insurance is required in this state. I now have the minimum required. Every year 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 government, 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.

2010:

This caught my attention; the byways of science.

**"Eating Beef in Pregnancy Linked to Reduced Sperm in Adult Sons"**

Much more important is that raising beef adds tons of CO<sub>2</sub> to the atmosphere.

In 2007, some people said, **Two double aught seven**

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

2008:

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.

All years:

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

2011:

When we talk about oil, or poverty, or global warming, our very first reaction is,

What can I/we/the government do to change this?

We are completely conditioned to change what does not please us.

But we cannot imagine changing our needs (wants), changing how we live, changing ourselves

Most people feel (more than think) they could not exist without a cellular (mobile) phone, or without a car, without television, without a microwave oven, refrigerator. Without airplanes, without computers. We are sure that without electricity our world would literally collapse.

What would we do without bombs and automatic weapons? How could we fight a war—and we assume that it is inevitable that we always must and will fight another war—without robots, un-manned flying machines, to do the bombing for us?

We can no longer think rationally about doing without.

I lived through a five year war in an occupied country when all that we had imagined essential melted away very rapidly. I know for a fact that if/when we have to we will magically rediscover that we can and will do without all the things we thought we could not do without.

Yes, life goes on without electricity, without phones, cars. Without supermarkets to buy food, without oil to heat a house in winter. We can live without the kind of food we are told is best for us. We survived — not easy, not healthy, not always.

Without lights we discovered the magic of a flame from a wick floating in a bit of oil. One of us would read or tell a story, the others listened. Close together, to stay warm. We survived. And that is what life is about.