

Freedom's View

A Commentary on Government from Atop the Capitol

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"THE GREAT AMERICAN ECLIPSE IS FINALLY HERE"

TODAY'S WASHINGTON POST HEADLINE (ABOVE) SAYS IT ALL

August 21, 2017

WASHINGTON, DC ~ *Armed Freedom*

"Hey ya, Freedom, looky here!" I recognized that Oklahoma drawl and, sure enough, it was Will Rogers down in Statuary Hall commenting on today's WaPo headline about the solar eclipse crossing all of this great¹ country today.

"Ya know," Will continued, "my buddy Mark Twain once said, 'we have the best government money can buy.' 'An he was right! Why, today, politics has become so expensive that it takes a lot of money even to be defeated! I reckon that's why we're in 'clipse now. Course, every 'clipse has a beginnin' and an end. An' here in DC, we're only gon' be 'bout 80 percent in the dark, but that's plenty enough if you ask me."

"Will," I replied, "I can always count on you to give me a fresh perspective! I just wish the air up here was half as fresh. *Something* sure stinks to high heaven." "Maybe it's comin' from the White House, Freedom. Hamlet was right when he said that somthin's rotten in Denmark, though he got the wrong country. Want me to go check it out?"

¹ It really is a "great" country, in spite of what Trump has done to it. The yeast is rising and will once again make our politics palatable.

"That would be wonderful, Will, but I think it's closer. Even Nat, the blue rooster down on the roof of the National Gallery is holding his nose. It could be very rotten fish, so check out the wharfs on Maine Avenue?"



A little while later, Will returned.

"It wasn't at the wharfs. It was at the U. S. Botanical Garden. Seems like one of them "corpse flowers" bloomed late Saturday. I talked to Bill McLaughlin, their curator of plants, an' he said that 'Vlad the Impaler' was in 'flaccid decline' yesterday but still stinkin' up a storm. In years past, I'd have been surprised that a huge throng had come to get up close an' personal with it. But ever since Trump drew his huge campaign crowds, well Bill said there were three of 'em an' they might be even bigger than old Vlad



who stands 7 ½ feet! So I guess you won't get much relief real soon, Freedom. Sorry."

"Great reporting, Will. But just like you said about being in our present eclipse, the rotten stench will eventually pass, too. I can hardly wait!" "Me, too!" he said as he left.

Next, I contacted Thomas Jefferson over at his memorial by the Tidal Basin. Tom was a citizen astronomer in his day and, using an equatorial telescope, observed the partial solar eclipse of September 17, 1811. "Hi, there, Freedom!" he said in greeting. "It looks like the entire United States is getting totally mooned today."



"Everyone's a comedian!" I smiled.

TRUMP MOONS AMERICA COAST-TO-COAST

Mooned FROM Page 1

"Thanks. I do have my moments. Seriously, though, the entire country is getting mooned today. In spite of his deserved popularity, thanks to the play about him by Lin-Manuel Miranda, Alex distrusted the electorate and wanted a monarchical president. So does Trump. He likes authoritarian leaders who moon the governed: folks like Putin and Louis XIV."

"I know Putin, Tom, but who was Louis XIV?" "He liked being called *le roi soleil*, The Sun King. He was so full of himself that his subjects whispered that light even shown out of his ass! No wonder Trump likes him. You don't suppose Trump has any Sun King costumes in his White House quarters, do you?"

"I seriously doubt it, Tom. Not even Trump would do that. . . . Although, tonight he's going to address the nation about his new Afghanistan policy. We'll have to tune in to see."



It was then that Will joined us in this weirdly informative conversation and Tom was the first to greet him.

"Hey, Will! We were just talking about the president's address to the nation tonight and I was about to make a wager that Trump would appear in the Oval Office dressed as the Sun King. What do you think?"

"You guys have too much time on your hands. I like that! I always say that there are three kinds of men: the one that learns by reading; the few who learn by observation; and the rest, who have to pee on the electric fence for themselves. I think Trump is, in that way, close to the American people who elected him."

"Yowzaa, Will! Those might be considered fighting words to about 63 million people," Tom replied.

"Well, people who fly into a rage always make a bad landing, Tom. I wish Trump himself knew that. I also wish he'd remember that it isn't

what we don't know that gives us trouble, it's what we know that ain't so. As for what he'll say tonight, if we're lucky he'll just say that diplomacy is the art of saying 'Nice doggie' until you can find a rock."

And with that, Tom and I each laughed. Glad you joined us, Will!

HOW TO TELL IF TRUMP'S BACK-SIDE IS LIKE THAT OF LOUIS XIV

1. Take a pin and punch a small hole in the dot ●
2. During Trump's Oval Office address, hold the pinhole in front of the TV.
3. Cut out the blank square below on the dotted line and hold it up as a screen.
4. If Trump is like Louis XIV, you won't feel the Bern, but you might see the glow.



IN OTHER NEWS . . .

For the 37th year in a row, patrons at the Mugs Away Saloon in Laguna Niguel, CA stepped outside to moon the passing Amtrak trains. And in



Chicago a "flash mob" did the same to Trump Tower,

proving once more that paybacks, Your Solar Highness, are indeed hell.

