



“In a mad world, only the mad are sane.” ~ Akira Kurosawa

Desperate Times Call for Desperate Measures - You'll Find Some Suggestions Here

January 10, 2018

WASHINGTON, DC ~ *Armed Freedom*

On February 28, it will be 35 years since the final episode of the TV series M*A*S*H. Its 11-year run was an extended riff on the importance of finding a way to stay sane in an insane world.

Oh, how we need it now! Ours is not the world of the Korean conflict, which sent troops repeatedly up Pork Chop Hill only to suffer tremendous casualties time after time. That the hill was of no strategic or tactical value defined the madness war always is. The members of the **Mobile Army Surgical Hospital** (in the TV series *and in real life*) often kept themselves sane by indulging in lunatic antics and absurdist humor.

Although different, our times are equally mad and, for our own sakes, *we would do well to take a page from the M*A*S*H hand-book*. So this edition *begins* with a look back.

Some of the extensive cast included the snarky Dr. Hawkeye Pierce and Dr. B. J. Hunnicutt, bunkmates in their tent called “The Swamp”; “straight-laced” Dr. Frank Burns who nonetheless always tried to put the make on Nurse Margaret “Hot Lips” Houlihan, and who together, when



L to R: Burns, Houlihan, Pierce, Blake, Hunnicutt, Mulcahy, O'Reilly, Klinger. See MASH episodes on: **Hulu, SundanceTV, AMC, TV Land, WGN America.**

caught in the act, mutually feigned moral outrage toward their discoverers; Pvt. Radar O'Reilly, boyish company clerk and ace radio man who at first clung to his Teddy bear; Lt. Francis Mulcahy, the camp's Roman Catholic chaplain who struggled to feel useful, sometimes putting himself at great risk to prove it; Lt. Col. Henry Blake, goofy, laid-back, surgeon and commanding officer of the 4077th, who was more skilled at maintaining morale than making tough military decisions; the periodically appearing Dr. Sidney Freedman, an Army psychiatrist who, within a few hours, humorously accomplished miraculous cures, more than once saying to the O. R. staff: "*Ladies and gentlemen, take my advice: pull down your pants and slide on the ice*"; and Cpl. Maxwell Klinger, always competent in the O.R., but who, by dressing in drag and other zany ploys, hoped to qualify for a Section 8 discharge (mentally unfit for service.) Unable to end the war them-selves, these motley fools did their wacky best *in order to keep themselves sane while pursuing their healing mission*. So might we all!



Therefore, we present an **Appalachian nonsense song** to be sung (freely) to the beginning stanzas of *Dixie*. Most of these lyrics can be found on Jerry Garcia's 1993 album, *Not for Kids Only*. Really. Get together with others and, as John Wesley advised (as leader of an 18th century societal revolution), **sing lustily!** (Sure: in multiple keys - as you are able.) The fact that you'll have to go to Page 2 for the rest of the lyrics will only add to the fun.

A HORSE NAMED BILL

I had a horse and his name was Bill
 When he ran, he couldn't stand still
 He ran away, one day
 And also, I ran with him.

He ran so fast that he could not stop
 He ran into a barber's shop
 And fell exhausted with his eye teeth
 In the barber's left shoulder.

I went out into the woods last year
 To hunt for beer and not for deer
 I am, I ain't
 A great, sharp-shootress.

NONSENSE CONTINUED PAGE 2

M*A*S*H & STAMP THE MADNESS OUT OF YOUR SYSTEM!

NONSENSE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Now at shooting birds, I am a beaut
And there isn't a bird that I can't shoot
In the eyes, in the ears, in the teeth,
Or in the finners.

In Frisco Bay there lives a whale
And she eats pork chops by the bale
By the hatbox, by the pillbox, by the
Hogshead, and by the schooner.

She loves to laugh and when she
smiles
You just see teeth for miles and miles
And tonsils, and spareribs,
And things too fierce to mention.

I went way up in a balloon so big
The people on earth looked like a pig,
Like a mouse, like a caddydid
Like flyses and like fleases.

The balloon turned up with its bottom
side higher,
And it fell on the wife of a country
squire.
She made a noise like a dog hound,
Like a steam whistle and like dynamite.

Oh, what could you do in a case like
that?

What could you do but **stamp on your
hat,**

Or on your toothbrush, or your
mother,

Or anything else that's helpless?

What else, indeed, **could you stamp
on?"** you may ask. Or not. Do we
have a GREAT suggestion for you!

**Take courage, denizens
of this mad world!**

**See the following Op-Ed
on what to Stamp next!**

How to Stamp Out Money's Corrupting Influence on Our Democracy and Its Elections

January 10, 2018

WASHINGTON, DC ~ *Armed Freedom
and Guest Columnist, Will Rogers*

Just ten days shy of the first
anniversary of Trump's inaugura-
tion, the situation in our country is
sufficiently critical that the words of a
revolutionary from 40 years ago need
to be kept in mind:

"I think we have to go all out. I think
that this situation absolutely requires
that a really futile and stupid gesture
be done on somebody's part."¹

I'm *all for* that kind of foolishness, but
the zany idea to be presented here *is
actually achievable!* I hope YOU'LL go
"all out" in implementing it.

I've asked my good friend down in the
Capitol's Statuary Hall, Will Rogers, to
explain it to you . . . along with some
of his pithy thinking on the subject.
As you may know, Will is something
of an authority on money in politics.
(*To wit:* it was he, and not Mark
Twain, who said, "America has the
best politicians money can buy.")

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Thanks for this great opportunity,  
Freedom! I've often said that 'a fool  
and his money are soon elected.' But  
until now, I didn't expect it would  
apply to *our president!*

It's always taken money to run for  
office, but in the 2012 elections, if  
you total up the money spent by  
outside groups, candidates, polit-

ical parties and Political Action  
Committees over *6 billion dollars*  
was spent putting people into  
office. That's the highest expendi-  
ture of any US election in history!

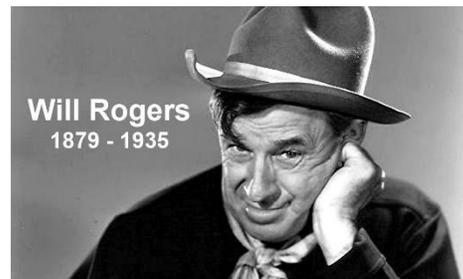
Why, 'politics has become so ex-  
pensive that it takes a lot of money  
even to be defeated!'

Now, the reason for all that money  
pouring into politics is due to a  
decision made by those nine folks  
across the street in the Supreme  
Court. To be fair, it was only five of  
'em, but that was enough.

In 2010, they decided – are you  
ready for this? – they decided that  
*corporations are people* and there-  
fore had the right to free speech!  
Further, they ruled that *money is  
free speech!* Since the first amend-  
ment right to free speech is not to  
be infringed upon, corporations  
*could* therefore spend however  
much they wanted in advocating for  
candidates running for office.

Well, all I know is what I read in the  
papers,' but any fool can tell you:  
*that* decision is flat-out stupid.

It doesn't even pass the bathroom  
test! Reflect on that a bit: there's a  
"Men's Room" an' a "Women's  
Room," and in some places, people  
are getting' all het-up over which  
bathroom LGBTQ folks should be



Will Rogers  
1879 - 1935

<sup>1</sup> "Otter" in the 1978 movie, *Animal House*.

## MONEY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

required to use. But that's a real big stupidity issue for some other time.

I've been around quite a bit, and I've yet to see a bathroom with a sign on the door that says "Corporations." But if corporations are people, you'd think they'd need one. And as rich as they are, surely they'd have *a fine one!* Maybe a gold-plated one like Mr. Trump has in his Tower. Wow! Somehow, though, it fits.

I'm not alone in thinkin' corporations aren't people. Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens wrote the dissenting opinion in that 2010 *Citizens United* case. Here's his conclusion:

"A democracy cannot function effectively when its constituent members believe laws are being bought and sold. . . . At bottom, the court's opinion is thus a rejection of the common sense of the American people, who have recognized a need to prevent corporations from undermining self-government since the founding, and who have fought against the distinctive corrupting potential of corporate electioneering since the days of Theodore Roosevelt. It is a strange time to repudiate that common sense. While American democracy is imperfect, few outside the majority of this court would have thought its flaws included a dearth of corporate money in politics."

I agree but would put it more directly: 'sometimes people deserve a high five - in the face - with a chair.'

That decision's the worst thing that's happened to our country in a long time. But 'sometimes the worst thing that happens to you may be the best thing for you if you don't let it get the best of you.'

And, let's face it, 'there's nothing as easy as denouncin'. It don't take much to see that something is wrong, but it *does* take some eye-sight to see what will put it right again.'

Well, I've found some folks with 20/20 vision. You'll know they're really good folks the minute you taste their yummy ice cream. Yep, Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield, the *people* at the head of their corporation, want to *get the corrupting influence of corporate money out of politics.*

(Actually, I think they love corporations a lot. They just want to make it so corporations don't have to cross their legs and do a dance on account of there's no bathroom for 'em.)

To accomplish this, they want to pass what would be the 28<sup>th</sup> amendment to the U. S. Constitution. The amendment would say:

- Money is not free speech, and
- Corporations are not people

Earlier, Freedom told you that this is actually doable an' she's right! As of now, 19 states and 800 communities have passed resolutions calling on Congress to support such an amendment. Nearly 200 members of Congress support it. Ben and Jerry say: "An amendment is no longer a reformer's pipe dream; it's a viable solution to the problem."

So, how can YOU contribute to advancing this amendment and puttin' things right again? Remember that last verse of *A Horse Named Bill* that was printed in **red**? It was all about *stampin'.* **Stampin'** on your

hat, your toothbrush, your mother, an' everything else that's helpless.

**THAT'S where YOU come in!** You can literally help **stamp out corporate money** by using rubber stamps an' stampin' your money. *An' it's legal, too!*

In 2012, Ben and Jerry launched the Stamp Stampede: a grassroots campaign mobilizing people across the country to stamp messages on American currency in support of passing this constitutional amendment to Get Money Out of Politics. They promote stamping through the distribution of rubber stamps, public stamping activities and national tours in their Stamp Mobile. Their rubber stamps include messages, such as: "**Money is not free speech,**" "**Not to be used for bribing politicians,**" "**Corporations are not people; amend the Constitution,**" and "**The system isn't broken, it's fixed.**"

There are already over 75,000 stampers. Assuming each one stamps *just one* dollar bill that's half-way through its useful life, it will be passed along almost 1,000 times for a total of almost **75 million** pairs of eyes seeing the message!

If YOU stamped just 20 dollar bills a month for a year, 24,000 would see it!

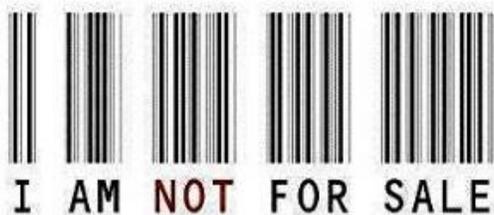
So please, folks, learn more by visiting Ben and Jerry's website:

**[www.StampStampede.org](http://www.StampStampede.org)**

As I've said before, 'everything is changing. People are taking their comedians seriously and the politicians as a joke.' Take *me* seriously, folks, an' let's **Stamp Out That Corrupting Money!** Thanks!  
~ Will Rogers



FOR USE WITH YOUR STAMPING PARTIES, COURTESY OF:  
[www.FreedomsView.org](http://www.FreedomsView.org)



[www.StampStampe.org](http://www.StampStampe.org)

## The Two Purposes for Which We Stamp

1. We need a 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution declaring that:
  - Money is not speech
  - Corporations are not people.
2. We need for Congress to pass the Voting Rights Advancement Act that would:
  - Modernize the pre-clearance formula to cover states with a history of discrimination
  - Ensure last-minute voting changes won't adversely affect voters
  - Protect voters from the types of voting changes most likely to discriminate against any citizen
  - Improve voting rights protections

Each dollar bill you stamp will be used by over 875 people during its lifetime, twice that if your bill is brand new. That's a lot of eyes looking at what you've stamped on it. Slowly but surely, it helps get the message out to the citizenry in support of these purposes. Yes, stamping bills with these stamps is completely legal. Yes, stamping bills helps! And . . . you and your friends can make it fun!

***READ MORE ABOUT IT ON THE BACK!***

17 states have passed ballot resolutions calling on Congress to propose such an amendment and 150 Members of Congress have expressed support. Moreover, recent polling shows that 80% of Americans – Democrats and Republicans – support an amendment. The last time there was this much support for a constitutional amendment was in 1971 when Congress proposed and the states ratified the 26<sup>th</sup> amendment lowering the voting age to 18.

### **A NEW AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION**

The 2010 Supreme Court ruling, *Citizens United*, has gotten a lot of attention lately and for good reason. Unlimited donations by billionaires and corporations to super PACs have drowned out the voices of ordinary Americans.

The candidate with the most money wins 94% of the time so politicians care a lot about getting their hands on the moolah. In 2012, over \$7 billion dollars was spent in federal elections alone, and behind that spending was an army of 13,000 lobbyists and 90,000 Washington insiders in the business of influencing our government. When politicians have to pay more attention to them to get elected and stay in office, our government ceases to represent us. And that's not how our democratic republic is supposed to work.

Not all the Supremes agreed in the *Citizens United* ruling that made corporations people, and that, as people, they had the right to free speech . . . and money was speech. ". . . corporations have no consciences, no beliefs, no feelings, no thoughts, no desires. Corporations help structure and facilitate the activities of human beings, to be sure, and their 'personhood' often serves as a useful legal fiction. But they are not themselves members of "We the People" by whom and for whom our Constitution was established."

~ Supreme Court Justice Stevens, January 2010

### **VOTING RIGHTS**

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was a landmark piece of federal legislation that prohibited racial discrimination in voting.

The 2013 Supreme Court ruling, *Shelby County v. Holder*, dismantled portions of the Voting Right Act of 1965 (Section 4(b)) that required certain states and local governments with a history of voter suppression to obtain permission before changing election laws.

We need to restore the Voting Rights Act to stop discrimination, then we need to pass laws that make it easier for people to vote. Such reforms might include:

1. Make Election Day a Federal Holiday
2. Support Automatic Voter Registration
3. Support Same-day voter registration

**(SEE EXAMPLES OF STAMPED BILLS ON NEXT PAGE)**

