

tx citizen

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Letters to Jen and Sammy From an Indignant Electorate

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for the NB/SM Metroplex!

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Wherein we learn
why liberals always
seem to get the moral
high ground against
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1ST WORD

"Looks like we picked the wrong case to blame on Republicans..."

Well, the letters are coming in both fast and exceptionally furious.

District Attorney Jennifer Tharp and her Chief Felony Prosecutor's statements to Texas Monthly about why the office chose not to prosecute the attempted murder/savage beating/terrorism inflicted on a New Braunfels local are getting national attention, and the story isn't going away. We covered this one in the July issue of the TX Citizen; if you missed it, check it out in the "Back Issues" section of txcitizen.com. (Seriously. Totally worth it. It's the one with the bunny on the cover.)

In short, they refused to charge on the aforementioned crimes because the victim was transgender. This is not hyperbole. They came out and said it, and blamed their willful inaction on "conservative" Comal County juries. As one might expect, actual conservatives are not having any li'l bit of it.

Enjoy.

\m/

Mike Reynolds
Publisher/Editor-in-Chief

My letter is in regards to the unwillingness of DA Jennifer Tharp and Chief Felony Prosecutor Sammy McCrary to charge Cameron Wright with assault against Aliah Hernandez, which occurred in December 2014. I believe justice was denied Ms. Hernandez based on a prejudiced idea that justice would not come from the largely conservative jurors of Comal County; I count myself as one of those people. Justice is justice, wrong is wrong, and right is right. You



did not do your jobs and you basically confessed that in Texas Monthly magazine. I did not vote for you, Ms. Tharp, during the current election cycle, I voted for one of your GOP opponents and I will make sure that more and more people are made aware of the fact that it depends on what type of victim you are before you can truly get justice in Comal County. Mr. McCreary, please do not speak for us conservatives in this town because we are people who believe in the rule of law, the Constitution and many of us believe in the Bible which teaches of true justice. You both should be ashamed, and if Ms. Hernandez brings a federal civil rights case against the DA's office I pray she wins.

LT - New Braunfels

I just finished reading your article about the attack on the transsexual and I am sick to my stomach. I am a lifelong Reagan Republican. I supported Miss Tharp both financially and with my vote during the last election. I have never voted for a Democrat but I will support the next person to challenge Miss Tharp no matter the party. If we have sunk this far as a society I fear for the very soul of our country. Every innocent human life deserves defending, even those of people we disagree with. Miss Tharp, you have brought shame upon Comal County, and worse yet tried to make it the fault of me and my fellow conservatives. Justice for all is a conservative value and I will continue to defend it even if you will not.

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Continued on page 5.



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Continued from page 3.

There's big difference between rightly thinking gays shouldn't get married and wrongly should get beaten to a pulp. Learn it.

CT - New Braunfels

DA Jennifer Tharp, resign and get off the taxpayer payroll.

AK - New Braunfels

Every time I drive by that Wursthfest sign with your happy little dancing face on it, I want to throw up and never go to Wursthfest again. You ruined it. (Editor's Note: It's the banner on Elizabeth Dr, between the railroad tracks and the Wursthfest mural.)

LW - New Braunfels

I guess Wursthfest doesn't like queer money.

RM - Seguin



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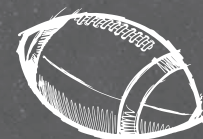
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Fri 8.3

Oma Gruene's
SECRET GARTEN
SlyFoot Family
6pm

THE PHOENIX
SALOON
Junior Nash
5pm
Mustard!
9pm

POWERPLANT
April Hall
7pm

Riley's
TAVERN
Matt Harlan
6pm
Big John Mills
9pm



Drew Moreland & Neon Hustle
8pm

Geronimo VFW #8456
The Geezer Band
6pm

Gruene Hall
Jackie Venson
8pm

Happy Cow
Christian Sparks & the Beatnik
Bandits
8pm

River Road Ice House
Matt & the Herdsmen
8pm

Sat 8.4

Oma Gruene's
SECRET GARTEN
Vagabonds
2pm
Chris Duarte Group
6pm

THE PHOENIX
SALOON
Jason Kane & the Jive
9pm

POWERPLANT
TX Outlaws
7pm

Riley's
TAVERN
Rochelle & the Sidewinders
9pm



J Abram Band
9pm

Billy's Ice House
LC Rocks
8pm

Gruene Hall
Eastside Kings
1pm
Kevin Galloway
9pm

Happy Cow
Cottonwood Crows
8pm

Moonshine & Ale
Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along
8pm

River Road Ice House
Wade Bowen
w/ Copper Chief, Shea Abshier
8pm

Sun 8.5

Oma Gruene's
SECRET GARTEN
The Band of Silver & Gold
2pm

THE PHOENIX
SALOON
Jeffrey Ryan Vaughn
3pm
Lucas Taylor
7pm

Geronimo VFW #8456
Glen Collins & Alibi
3pm

Gruene Hall
Peterson Brothers
12pm
Mike Zito
5pm

Old River City Café
Ryan Waguespack
6:30pm

Mon 8.6

THE PHOENIX
SALOON
Rodney Hayden
6:30pm

Gruene Hall
Rusty Martin
7pm

Tues 8.7

Billy's Ice House
Clever Name Band
8pm

Geronimo VFW #8456
Justin Trevino, Myra Rolan, Zac
Clifton
7pm

Gruene Hall
Two Ton Tuesday
8pm

Wed 8.8

THE PHOENIX
SALOON
Open Mic w/ Billy Roy
8:30pm

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Riley's
TAVERN

Tex Porter Band
8pm

Old River City Café
Monte Good
6:30pm

Thu 8.9

Oma Gruene's
SECRET GARTEN

Jam Night
6pm

THE PHOENIX
SALOON
Modern Day Jesters
7:30pm

POWERPLANT

Buddy Vargas
6pm



Texas Two Lane
8pm

Gruene Hall
Grouchy Like Riley
8pm

Vino en Verde
Brett Cline
8pm

Fri 8.10

Oma Gruene's
SECRET GARTEN

Chris Taylor & the Setting Sons
6pm

THE PHOENIX
SALOON

Larry Dial
6pm
DJ Maverick
9pm

POWERPLANT

Howlin' Waters
7pm

Riley's
TAVERN

Mark Jungers
6pm
Squeezebox Bandits
9pm



Roadside Libby
8pm

Gruene Hall
Radney Foster
8pm

Happy Cow
Highway Hypnosis
8pm

Moonshine & Ale
Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along
8pm

Old River City Café
TBA
6:30pm

River Road Ice House
Bag of Donuts
8pm

Sat 8.11

Oma Gruene's
SECRET GARTEN

Soft Serve
2pm
Brother Wives
6pm

THE PHOENIX
SALOON

Lon*Duk*Don
9pm

POWERPLANT

Derek Vera
7pm

Riley's
TAVERN

Bastard Sons of Johnny Cash
9pm



Tequila Black
9pm

Billy's Ice House
Clever Name Band
8pm

Gruene Hall
Landry & Company
1pm
Dale Watson
8pm

Moonshine & Ale
Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along
8pm

River Road Ice House
William Clark Green
8pm

Sun 8.12

Oma Gruene's
SECRET GARTEN

The Homebodies
2pm

THE PHOENIX
SALOON

Nate Guthrie
3pm
Lucas Taylor
7pm

Geronimo VFW #8456
Paul Sanchez & Wrangler
Country
3pm

Gruene Hall
Bret Graham
12pm
The Legendary Pete Anderson
5pm

Old River City Café
Ryan Waguespack
6:30pm

Mon 8.13

THE PHOENIX
SALOON

Rodney Hayden
6:30pm

Tue 8.14

Riley's
TAVERN

Troy Stone Band
8pm

Geronimo VFW #8456
Jam Session
3pm

Gruene Hall
Two Ton Tuesday
8pm

Wed 8.15

THE PHOENIX
SALOON

Open Mic w/ Billy Roy
8:30pm

Riley's
TAVERN

Tommy Alverson
8pm

Gruene Hall
The Georges
7pm

Old River City Café
Monte Good
6:30pm

Thu 8.16

Oma Gruene's
SECRET GARTEN

Jam Night
6pm

THE PHOENIX
SALOON

Modern Day Jesters
7:30pm

POWERPLANT

Asa Keese
6pm

Riley's
TAVERN

Johnna Mae
8pm



Emmerson Biggins
8pm

Gruene Hall
Bob Appel Band
7pm

Moonshine & Ale

Live Band Karaoke
8pm

Vino en Verde

Brett Cline
8pm

Fri 8.17



Lesti Huff Band
6pm

THE PHOENIX SALOON

Junior Nash
5pm
Ryan Quiet
9pm

POWERPLANT

Jeff Wood
7pm

Riley's TAVERN

Pepper's Blues
6pm
The Rewinders
9pm



Jesse Stratton
8pm

Gruene Hall

Hayes Carll
8pm

Happy Cow

Slim Bawb & the Fabulous
Stumpgrinders
8pm

Moonshine & Ale

Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along
8pm

Sat 8.18



Highway Hypnosis
2pm
The Percolators
6pm

THE PHOENIX SALOON

Natalie Rose Band
9pm

POWERPLANT

CLOSED

Riley's TAVERN

Aaron McDonnell
9pm



Kim Meeks
9pm

Gruene Hall

Hayes Carll
9pm

Happy Cow

The Revs
w/ The Lawless
9pm

Moonshine & Ale

Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along
8pm

Sun 8.19



BareFax
2pm

THE PHOENIX SALOON

Jeffrey Ryan Vaughn
3pm

Lucas Taylor
7pm

Geronimo VFW #8456

Monte Good
3pm

Gruene Hall

Hot Texas Swing Band
5pm

Old River City Café

Ryan Waguespack
6:30pm

Mon 8.20

THE PHOENIX SALOON

Rodney Hayden
6:30pm

Tue 8.21

Comal Country Music Show

KC Hall
David Lewis, Gabriel Galvan,
Priscilla Speed
7:30pm

Gruene Hall

Two Ton Tuesday
8pm

Wed 8.22

THE PHOENIX SALOON

Open Mic w/ Billy Roy
8:30pm

Riley's TAVERN

Mike Ethan Messick
8pm

Gruene Hall

Wilkinson's Quartet
7pm

Old River City Café

Monte Good
6:30pm

Thu 8.23



Jam Night
6pm

THE PHOENIX SALOON

Scott Boddicker
5pm
Modern Day Jesters
7:30pm

POWERPLANT

Broken Arrowz
6pm

Riley's TAVERN

Colton O'Neill
8pm



Meyer Anderson Band
8pm

Moonshine & Ale

Live Band Karaoke
8pm

Vino en Verde

Brett Cline
8pm

Fri 8.24



Stray Dawg & the Wolves
6pm

THE PHOENIX SALOON

Larry Dial
5pm
Sonny Wolf
8:30pm

POWERPLANT

TBA
7pm

Riley's TAVERN

Shelley King
8pm



Jeremy Egg Band
8pm

Gruene Hall

Van Wilks
8pm

Sat 8.25



Tex Atras
2pm
3 Man Front
6pm



PHOENIX SALOON AUG EVENTS

Friday 8/3

Junior Nash 5pm
Mustard! 9pm

Saturday 8/4

Jason Kane & The Jive 9pm

Friday 8/10

Larry Dial 6pm
DJ Maverick 9pm

Saturday 8/11

Lon*Duk*Don 9pm

Friday 8/17

Junior Nash 5pm

Saturday 8/18

Natalie Rose Band 9pm

Friday 8/24

Larry Dial 5pm
Sonny Wolf 8:30pm

Saturday 8/25

Folk Family Revival
w/The Mismatch 9pm

Friday 8/31

Junior Nash 5pm
Uptown 9pm

THE PHOENIX SALOON

FRIDAY 8/3
BIG JOHN MILLS 9PM

SATURDAY 8/4
ROCHELLE & THE SIDEWINDERS 9PM

FRIDAY 8/10
SQUEEZEBOX BANDITS 9PM

SATURDAY 8/11
BASTARD SONS OF JOHNNY CASH 9PM

FRIDAY 8/17
THE REWINDERS 9PM

SATURDAY 8/18
AARON MCDONNELL 9PM

FRIDAY 8/24
SHELLEY KING 8PM

SATURDAY 8/25
SCOTT H BIRAM 9PM

FRIDAY 8/31
BETH LEE & THE BREAKUPS 9PM

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Folk Family Revival
w/ The Mismatch
9pm

POWERPLANT

Choo Cha Booch
7pm

Riley's TAVERN

Scott H Biram
9pm



Knotty Grove
9pm

Billy's Ice House
Tejas Brothers
8pm

Gruene Hall
Flat Top Jones
1pm
James McMurtry
8pm

Happy Cow
Broken Arrow
8pm

Moonshine & Ale
Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along
8pm

Sun 8.26

Oma Gruene's SECRET GARTEN

Adam Johnson
3pm

THE PHOENIX SALOON

All Mixed Up
3pm
Lucas Taylor
7pm

Riley's TAVERN

Ace Pepper
4pm

Geronimo VFW #8456
Tom Teboe
3pm

Gruene Hall
Slim Bawb
12pm
The Georges
5pm

Mon 8.27

THE PHOENIX SALOON

Rodney Hayden
6:30pm

Tue 8.28

Riley's TAVERN

Troy Stone Band
8pm

Wed 8.29

THE PHOENIX SALOON

Open Mic w/ Billy Roy
8:30pm

Riley's TAVERN

Brent Warren
9pm

Gruene Hall
The Georges
6pm

Thu 8.30

Oma Gruene's SECRET GARTEN

Jam Night
6pm

THE PHOENIX SALOON

Modern Day Jesters
7:30pm

POWERPLANT

Buddy Vargas
6pm

THE WATERING HOLE
Cactus Country
8pm

Gruene Hall
Sophia Johnson
8pm

Vino en Verde
Brett Cline
8pm

Fri 8.31

Oma Gruene's SECRET GARTEN

Broken DuckFeet
6pm

THE PHOENIX SALOON

Junior Nash
5pm
Uptown
9pm

POWERPLANT

Derek Vera
7pm

Riley's TAVERN

Joel Hofmann Band
6pm
Beth Lee & the Breakups
9pm



Painted Pony
9pm

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FREEMAN ON SPORTS

WITH BRANT FREEMAN

As a freelance broadcaster and husband to a teacher and father to a 7-year-old, I've spent A LOT of time with my family this summer, which I want to stress, is great. I can go days or weeks a time without seeing them when the sports I cover are in season, so getting to spend time with them nearly every day is far better than the alternative.

However...

No one told me just how hard parenting would be. Having been a parent for seven years, you would think I would've learned this by now and you would be wrong. Molding a child into a future productive member of society is EXHAUSTING. Maybe it's *because* she's 7, but it feels as if every day this summer has led to me uttering a number of phrases such as: "stop asking for more", "yes, we have to leave now", "please do something the first time I ask you to", "no, you can't have another Nutella sandwich" etc. Those of you who are stay-at-home parents year-round or have more than one child deserve a freaking medal.

The school year is almost here however, and I will soon be starting my new season of coverage, so I will be relieved of my 24-7 parenting duties soon. Also, I hear raising girls is much easier once they become teenagers so I'll be in the clear in six short years. DON'T TELL ME DIFFERENT. On to the month in review...

NFL: July is now over which means *checks calendar* it's August which also means that the beginning of the football season is right around the corner. As someone who covers both high school and college football, I'm as amped up as anyone this time of year, but it sure would be nice if the NFL could start getting things right.

From the abysmal way that the national anthem protests have been handled, to overkill of the product (please let Thursday Night Football die), to the bizarre manner in which players are punished for off-the-field behavior, the NFL just can't seem to get out of its own way. I write a lot about the NBA in this column because it's a fun league to discuss and analyze and that's even WITH the overlord

Golden State Warriors a mortal lock to win the next 13 NBA championships.

That's partly why this so frustrating, the NFL offers something the NBA can't: parity. Great teams one year can go south the next and vice versa with the exception of the New England Patriots and Cleveland Browns respectively. Conversely, the NBA is predictable in terms of contenders, yet, the NFL isn't nearly as enjoyable to observe. The NBA can be exhilarating to follow from the regular season to the playoffs to the off-season, while the NFL is only as good as the games are. Which, by the way, is why the hype for pre-season NFL football is SOOOOOO overblown: the games are just awful.

I'll be the first to admit that I'm a hypocrite as I will gladly tell my family to leave me alone for 20 Sundays out of the year and watch the Tennessee Titans go 7-9 for the rest of eternity. I play fantasy football. I subscribe to NFL Sunday Ticket. But that list of people, the "invested" fan, is becoming slightly smaller each year. Yes, we will continue to watch because we love football, but the NFL can rely on that level of dedication for only so long.

NBA: When I wrote my column last month, I actually sympathized with Kawhi Leonard and his demands to be traded (he was still a Spur at the time), believing his desire to be sent to Los Angeles was about "going home" and pro athletes have every right to come and go as they please, whether that's through free agency or a trade request. Not long after I penned that column, some of the behind-the-scenes stories started coming out: the influence of Leonard's family, just how aloof he had been with his teammates and the franchise and just how poorly handled the entire situation had become.

I will say this: I have no desire to boo him upon his return to San Antonio when Toronto makes its annual visit to the AT&T Center. I'll say this about Leonard: for the seven seasons he was a Spur (save for this past season), he was magnificent. From a Draft Day steal in 2011 to his Finals MVP run in 2014 to his rapid ascension among the NBA's truly elite, he was

incredibly fun to watch. Spurs fans should be thankful that he kept that championship window pried open a little bit longer than it was supposed to be.

That said, the manner in which he got himself shipped out of San Antonio was as crappy as possible. Hiding from Spurs staff members while rehabbing in New York? Informing the team you were ready to return by a certain date and then changing your mind on the date YOU said you would be ready? Not letting the team rule you out for the season, a move that would allow the Spurs and their fans to stop wondering if you were coming back?

The quiet demeanor that made Leonard so endearing and so perfect for a franchise like the Spurs suddenly became frustrating because no one knew how he truly felt until it was too late. Based on the reports that started surfacing as trade talks intensified, Leonard had made up his mind about the Spurs organization long ago but by the time the team realized it, they could no longer maximize his value in a trade. That the Spurs got a four-time All-Star, Olympian and All-NBA caliber player in Demar DeRozan (along with prospect Jakob Poeltl and a protected first round draft pick) is pretty impressive.

Players like Kawhi Leonard don't come around very often and it would be a miracle if the Spurs somehow acquire another one like him down the road. Leonard could easily return to MVP-like form and win more titles with Toronto or the Lakers or the Clippers (provided he does ultimately bolt for LA), and if so, good for him. It stinks to lose a player like that but given all that's happened the last 12 months, it was clear his time in San Antonio was over. Now it's time to embrace DeRozan, Poeltl and whomever the draft pick becomes next year, and see how much longer the Spurs remain competitive in a ridiculously loaded Western Conference.

Until next month...

Brant Freeman is a seasoned local sportscaster, delivering the goods as a reporter for major pro and collegiate sporting events in the greater San Antonio area for over a decade.

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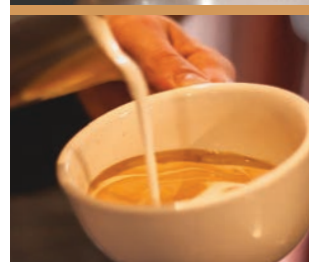
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KELLY COLBY

Social Media's Existential Crisis

REPRESENTING BLUE AMERICA
DAVID HIMMEL

This week the two primary social media companies (Facebook and Twitter) took devastating hits in the stock market. Both have also been in the news recently for apparent bias against conservative voices. While one did not cause the other, they are related issues in that they will require changes at both companies if those companies are to maintain a substantial hold on the market without government interference.

The problem is this: Social media companies have always maintained that they are simply platforms for their customers, and because of this they hold no responsibility for the content from those users. From the outset, though, these companies have tinkered around the edges with content, and more recently, they have found themselves in a vicious cycle of trying to please their most vocal critics on the left. This has created a level of bias in the platforms that belies their argument that they're not responsible for content.

Television media sources faced a similar problem of content bias, but competitors like Fox News provided an alternative for audiences years ago (remember the audience is not the customer here but the product). In addition, television media takes responsibility for the content they

provide. They face both legal oversight and the prospect of losing audience if content is too objectionable.

Social media companies have had the best of both worlds for longer than they probably should have. In a perfect world, online content would be totally up to the provider; they would neither receive protection from the government, nor find themselves hampered by it. Unfortunately, we don't live in that world. Facebook and Twitter (and any other company that becomes large enough to attract government attention) will have to choose between being an unbiased platform for all users or being a media content provider, responsible for the nature of that content.

The best possible answer for those of us who use these platforms is to intervene before the government does. Seek out services that you like, and stop using those you don't. We often feel trapped by the menu we're offered, but the truth is you have the power to order a-la-carte. Every time you go online, pick what you view in the same way you do when you turn on the TV or go to the movies, and when there's nothing good on, pick up a book. That's the power of the market, and it's always preferable to government solutions.

This is a first, dear colleague. You and I agree on something. Social media is most certainly facing an existential crisis.

Facebook and Twitter, for the most part, do seem to kowtow to the vocal critics of the Left. But it's not because social media companies have liberal agendas. It's because the Left is better at the guilt and shame game. The Left is your Jewish mother. The Right is your youngest uncle who still lives with your grandparents and never learned to control his emotions. Guilt and shame are powerful weapons, and if the Right loaded its canons with guilt and shame instead of pure anger and frustration, they'd deliver a better payload. And there's a good chance Facebook and Twitter would kowtow to them. Facebook especially.

These companies are anything but liberal. You wouldn't catch Facebook and Twitter wearing #BLM t-shirts while listening to NPR in a protected sanctuary for bees and unicorns because they're as capitalistically savvy and cruel as any one of the robber barons of yore.

You're right when you say that we are "not the customer here but the product." These

platforms are using us to create a marketplace of their own design—dare I say, in their own image. They're playing God. Mean, manipulative Old Testament God. Facebook and Twitter were both caught being used as tools by Russia to influence the 2016 election. It doesn't matter which side the influence was benefitting. It matters that we got hosed. Everyone who fell for the trolling and the, quite literally, fake news (see Pizzagate) is a rube. Facebook and Twitter didn't bother to oversee the content because, as you stated in so many words, they're not in the business of providing content, they're in the business of giving all us doltish cogs a platform to be as dumb as we like.

Most importantly, they're in the business of making money. They do this by taking dollars from anyone and everyone, including Russian trolls, and by selling off our information—interests, likes, demographics, stories and videos we click on...

Facebook has been campaigning hard to lull us into thinking that it's a trustworthy place. Never again will it be the victim of a Russian election prank. No longer will it harvest our information before turning

right around and using it against us. Well, I'm not buying it. From the start, Facebook has been self-serving. Zuckerberg created it to get girls, not to change the world. That world domination stuff came later. Despite the tongue lashing he got on Capitol Hill, he doesn't feel bad about anything, other than getting caught. And now Facebook will do whatever it can to not get caught again.

Here's where we disagree. Facebook isn't shaping up for the liberal cause. It's shaping up so it can stay in business. It'll find new ways to manipulate us as we scroll past our friends' and enemies' posts liking and angry-facing all along the way.

If social media is going to retain its influence and control over us, it's going to have to find a way to not relinquish that influence and control. Liberal or conservative, it doesn't matter. These platforms don't care about our political leanings, only that those leanings allow them to farm us for money. And if the Right wants a better position on the auction block, it needs to get better at the guilt and shame game. I'll grant you that the Left isn't always right but, in this arena, it's far more effective.



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