

John's Worldly Ramblings

4.21



FU: Volume II
Electric Boogaloo

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FU, Nancy Grace

I don't usually quote (or watch) Keith Olbermann, but Nancy Grace is the worst person in the world. Not just today: every day.



There are three incidents that I can point to that have brought me to this theory, but not among them is Nancy Grace getting numerous facts wrong in her autobiography about the 1979 murder of her fiancé. One would be tempted to infer that the errors were included in the book to support her television image.

One would assume the details about the murder of Grace's fiancé are details she would know, especially since she was a prosecuting attorney before becoming a talking head. But whatever.

Here are the three incidents:

1. In 2006 Grace interviewed a young mother named Melinda Duckett shortly after her 2-year-old son went missing. Grace was aggressive in her questioning of Duckett, intimating (or flat out saying) Duckett knew more about her son's disappearance than she admitted. I'm sure this made for compelling television especially when you consider Duckett killed herself the day after taping the interview, but before the interview aired.

- The fact is that no one knows what happened to the missing boy. Parents are usually suspects in the disappearance of their child as normal investigative procedure, but guess who isn't a police detective? You don't need to guess; you already know.
2. Also in 2006 you may recall the scandal where a stripper accused three lacrosse players from Duke of rape. It turns out that the allegations were untrue. But, of course, Grace doesn't wait for little things like facts to get in the way of the bullshit she spews out of the gob she calls a mouth. She was so confident in the guilt of the lacrosse players that she joked on air one day asking one of her reporters for the stats. He began reading off stats from a lacrosse game. She interrupted him saying she wanted the rape stats. Here's how I know this was a stupid and fucking unfunny attempt at a joke: who asks for rape stats? What are they? They don't exist. If the joke was funny, I could forgive her. I think the point she was trying to make was that during the investigation, the accused men were still playing lacrosse for Duke. The day the case was dropped Nancy Grace did not appear on her program and her fill-in announced the news of the dropped charges. Classy.
 3. Remember Elizabeth Smart? She was that kid who was kidnapped from her bedroom in Utah back in 2002. She was held captive for nine months during which she was raped frequently before she escaped. Well, yet again in 2006 (busy year for Grace) Elizabeth Smart appeared as a guest on Grace's show to talk about a sex offender bill for which she was trying to raise awareness. Here's the interesting part of the transcript:
NANCY GRACE: Elizabeth, do you think that the members of Capitol Hill heard your voice today? What did you tell them?
ELIZABETH SMART: I just said that I think this bill is -- you know, is very important and that nobody -- nobody should have to go through, you know, what I went through. And you know, nobody deserves to be hurt like that, and that if this bill were to pass, I think it would just make America such a more -- such a safer place. You know, I really think it would make a difference.
GRACE: Elizabeth, I remember when you first went missing and literally hundreds of people were out looking for you. Now we know you were being held captive not very far away from your home at all. Did you ever hear people calling out your name, trying to find you?
SMART: There was one time.
GRACE: At that moment, did you want to scream out, "Here I am, help me?"
SMART: I mean, of course. Who wouldn't?

GRACE: At that moment, when you knew people were looking for you, your parents were there. They were trying to find you. How did that make you feel?

SMART: You know, I didn't know how big it was. And it was -- it was good to know people were looking for me, but I -- I felt so far away, you know, I just -- it didn't really connect at that time. And you know, and I think that...

GRACE: And you were such a little girl, Elizabeth. I mean, you were just 14 years old.

SMART: Yeah.

GRACE: It's hard to expect a little 14-year-old girl to react the way an adult might imagine they would react under those circumstances. You were afraid, I assume.

SMART: ...Yeah.

GRACE: Did your kidnappers tell you they would hurt you or your family if you tried to get away?

SMART: Ah, you know, they did. And I really am here to support the bill and not to go into what -- you know, what happened to me, what the whole -- like, what is in my past because I'm not here to give an interview on that. I'm here to help push this bill through.

GRACE: And I want you to push the bill through and I want people to hear your voice. When we take a look back, there's a shot of Elizabeth Smart, and here she is, four years later. And frankly, it's a miracle that she was ever found. You know, a lot of people have seen shots of you wearing a burqa. How did you see out of that thing?

SMART: You know, I'm really not going to talk about this at this time. I mean, that's something I just don't even look back at. And I really -- I really -- to be frankly honest, I really don't appreciate you bringing all this up.

GRACE: I'm sorry, dear. I thought that you would speak out to other victims. But you know what? I completely understand. A lot of victims don't want to talk about it and don't feel like talking about it. Let's talk about the bill. To Senator Hatch. Senator Hatch...

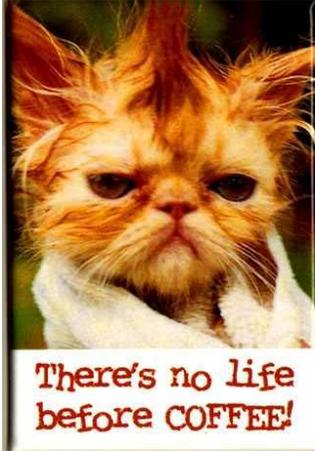
Here's a link to the interview: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=am0uJkRSMNw>.

I considered adding commentary throughout the transcript above, but it's long enough without my two cents. Besides, I feel I can sum up: what a patronizing piece of shit Nancy Grace is. I ignore YouTube comments, but 59gion hit it right on the head: "I usually don't condone violence but someone should shoot [Grace] in the face."

Here's a novel idea: why doesn't she just report the news without commentary? Fuck you, Nancy Grace; it's a wonder you ain't got flies in your mouth.

FU, People Who Say, “Don’t Talk to Me Until I’ve had My Coffee”

I’m not a morning person. And I usually dislike morning people. But just as bad as morning people are fucking coffee drinkers. While I don’t drink coffee, I can still relate to the attitude they have.



But... the next person who says, “Don’t talk to me until I’ve had my coffee,” is going to get punched in the fucking eye. Okay? It’s not cute. It takes more effort to say that than a simple, “Fuck off.” Shit, at least I can respect someone for telling me to fuck off.

“Ooh, I haven’t had my coffee yet. I can’t talk to you yet. I’m soooooo sleepy.” *YAWN*

Well, I’m not quite alert yet today, but I’m still making the effort. How the fuck did you manage to get to work if you haven’t had coffee yet? Apparently driving three thousand pounds of metal and plastic and glass isn’t nearly as taxing as saying, “Good morning,” or, “Morning,” or even, “Hi,” to a coworker.

Here’s a modest proposal for you coffee fiends: get one of those shirts with Velcro on the front so you can quickly change the patch you adhere to your shirt. Before you’ve had your coffee, you can wear one that says *Need Coffee*, or something equally adorable. After your coffee you can swap it out with one that says *Safe to Approach*.

FU, Ghost Hunters

So, there have been, like, four shows about people who hunt ghosts. This would make more sense if ghosts were real... but they’re not.

What’s so captivating about these highly trained teams who go into a house and watching them stumble around in the dark while they pretend that every breeze is the spirit of the deceased?

And what’s with the night vision? I’m sure this is how the people who invented night vision envisioned it would be used. It’s like a celebrity porn video without a celebrity... or the porn.

I saw a commercial for one of the shows recently where the ghost hunter was taunting a spirit in an attempt to make it show itself or make itself known. I haven't seen the episode, but here's how it ends (**spoiler alert**): nothing happens.



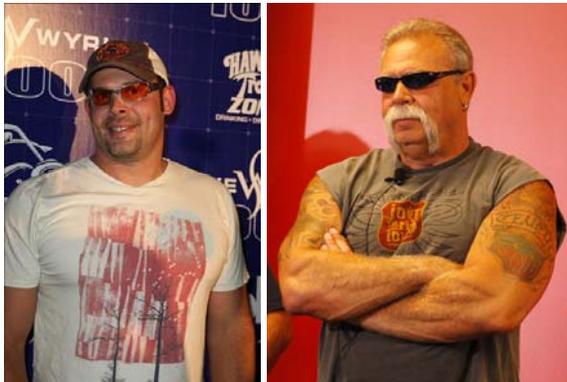
(I was informed the spoiler alert is supposed to go *before* the spoiler.)

If you want to make a movie about ghosts, that's fine. You want to write a book about ghosts, that's okay too. But if you're going to make a reality series about something, it's usually best to pick a topic that exists in reality.

Fuck you, Ghost Hunters. Go back to searching for Nessie.

FU, People Who Wear Sunglasses Inside

Nothing says "I have no interest in what you have to say" more than someone who wears sunglasses inside. Case in point: the duo of douches, Paul Senior and Paul Junior, from "American Choppers."



Have you ever seen these guys go into a meeting with a client? Why any company would want to hire a guy who comes to a meeting in a graphic t-shirt with cut off sleeves, a walrus mustache and sunglasses is so far beyond me, it may as well be in the next solar system.

I'd have more respect if the company just admitted, "Well, we can spend \$100,000 dollars on a bike and essentially get an episode or two of free advertisement and brand awareness because these emotionally challenged bullies have (actually, had) their own television show." But they don't. They give some horseshit answer about how the two companies share many of the same characteristics and the brands are a good fit with one another.

Think about it. Why do you wear sunglasses? To block the brightness of the sun so you can see more clearly. Well, what happens when you go inside? You take them off. Trust me, those aren't Transitions lenses.

If you can't see someone's eyes, there's a barrier of mistrust. This is why knights used to raise their face shields as they passed each other. This is why your mom wanted you to take your cap off when you came inside. It's simple courtesy.

The big idiot from OCC doesn't have it and neither does his dildo son.

Fuck you, morons.

...If you're playing poker, you don't need to take them off.

FU, 2012



The fact that there is actual, real hysteria among both individuals and whole groups of people about the end of the world is baffling and amusing to me. Does anyone remember Y2K? What about any of the other predicted ends of the world that have come and gone, remember those? Don't give me any shit about the earthquakes in Haiti and Chile. Yes, they're tragic and horrible, but let's not pretend those quakes didn't happen along known and active fault lines.

There are two very simple and related ways to prove that the end of the Mayan calendar does not the end of the world predict.

1) The Mayan calendar ends on December 21, 2012, not because it's a prophecy of doom, but because it's a calendar: every calendar ends. Your wall calendar ends on December 31st of this year. The world's not going to end then. When computer programmers first wrote the code for dates, they used only the last two numbers of the year to save space. In a lot of ways that calendar ended on December 31, 1999. Similarly UNIX system time stores time as an integer that will roll over in early 2038. When it does, it may cause problems with some calculations. Point is: the world won't end because of it.

Imagine if you were wiped off the earth today and hundreds of years later an explorer happened upon your house and found your refrigerator calendar. They might think, "My God, this person believed the world was going to end in nine months so he must have sacrificed himself," if that explorer were an idiot

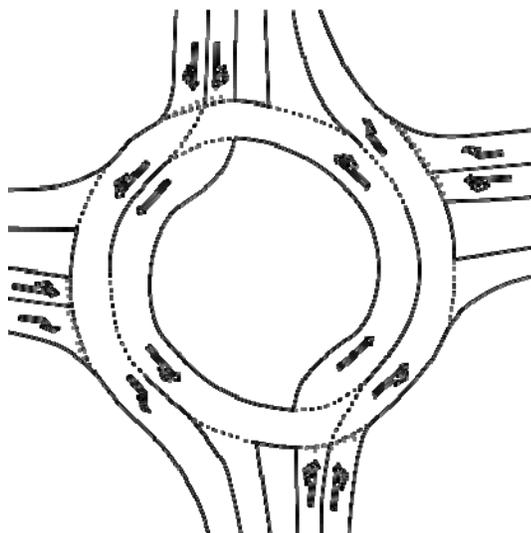
2) The Mayan calendar ends on December 21, 2012. That is the winter solstice, the date when the Earth's axis tilt is farthest away from the sun. It's the shortest day of the year, blah blah. Sounds like a good time to end the year, yes? As the days begin to grow longer, a new year begins. Hey, let's build a calendar around it. All calendars end, right? We'll end ours on December 21. The only reason we think of January 1 as the first day of the New Year is because it's Roman tradition. Jews, Muslims, Chinese and other eastern peoples still celebrate the New Year according to their own traditions. Most of them just happen to fall around the change of seasons.

By the way, the Mayan calendar being very complicated and not based on time keeping methods most people understand doesn't actually end on December 21, 2012. That is simply the first day of their 14th b'ak'tun. A b'ak'tun is a period of about 394 years. Think of it as a new refrigerator calendar for the Mayans; unfortunately they're not around to put it up.

So relax, and fuck all this 2012 hysteria.

FU, Roundabouts

I don't know when the governing bodies of our municipalities decided that a roundabout



was a better solution to manage intersection traffic than traffic lights or stop signs, but these fucking things are popping up everywhere. I understand in Sedona they removed every traffic light in favor of roundabouts.

Here are the alleged benefits to roundabouts over traffic lights and stop signs (and my comments in blue).

Accidents are less severe because they occur at slower speeds and at less severe angles than head on or ninety degree collisions. Have I ever told you I almost got t-boned by some fuck from Michigan in a roundabout in Illinois on the way to BGR's bachelor party? Had I not slammed on my brakes (and my horn) I can assure you, it would have been an ugly scene.

Roundabouts make u-turns easier and legal for traffic, including larger vehicles. This isn't so much of an advantage as it is a slightly padded benefit. It's like they said, "What we need is another excuse to justify roundabouts," and some chump in the back said, "It makes u-turns easier." Ever if it is a legitimate reason, who gives a shit about fucking glass?

The center island of the roundabout can be landscaped to look pretty. Again, who cares? Personally, I like to see what's going on where my car is heading before I get there rather than look at trees and flowers. And another thing, I don't know about where you live, but where I live the city is so strapped for cash they stopped mowing the grass in medians. The tall grass is a hazard for drivers. The last thing my city needs is more grass to cut.

There are several benefits to a roundabout's lack of traffic light use: it takes less time to get through a roundabout (unless you've ever tried to go through a busy roundabout), energy savings due to not having street lights (unless you factor in the additional gas being used if a roundabout is busy to the point it's at a standstill for several minutes), and drivers can focus on other drivers and pedestrians instead of traffic lights or signs (unless you have field of vision obstructing plants in the center island or the confusing nature of a roundabout makes you uncertain which lane you need to be in so you don't miss your turn [or non-turn, aka going straight]; and let's not forget a pedestrian who has to cross more lanes of traffic without the benefit of cars that have to stop or WALK indicators).

There may be some situations that call for a roundabout, but I don't see any benefits. Because roundabouts require all traffic to slow down, it makes no sense for a busy intersection to put one in. Here's another issue: what about road repairs? When they have to patch the road and you're coming up to the roundabout, how are you supposed to be able to tell which lane is blocked? It would just cause more delays.

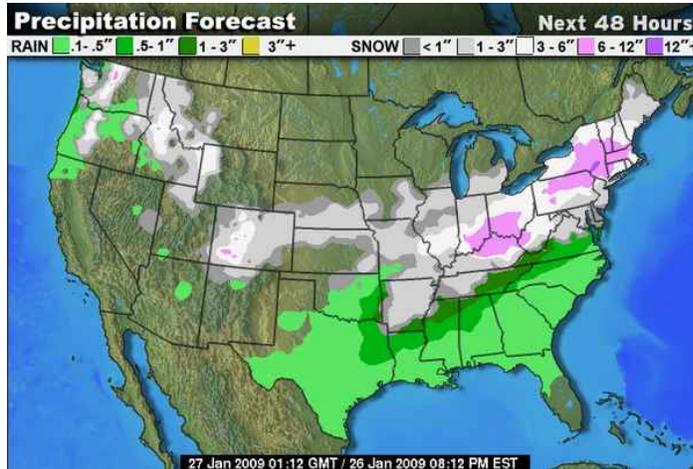
What if I just want to turn left? I have to travel 270 degrees of a circle instead of simply being able to turn left?

Navigating a roundabout might get easier when you get used to them, but they aren't all identical which means each roundabout could be different, which means instead of turning left, right or going straight, you are going to need to know which lane to be in and where the exit to the roundabout is, preferably before you get there, otherwise the likelihood of an accident increases.

What is this, fucking Europe? Roundabouts are stoopid.

FU, Winter Storm Warnings

I would like to know when a winter storm is on its way. I admit, despite the mean things



I said about John Malan last time, that I live in an area that is probably harder than, say, Hawaii to accurately predict weather. I mean, this picture is a good example. See how the belt of snow just creeps into southeast Wisconsin? If it moves a little further to the south, we'd get none; if it moves a little north, we'd get more snow. So I do have sympathy,

just not much.

And here's why: between winter storm warnings, winter weather advisories, winter storm watches, thundersnow, wind chill advisories, blizzard watches, blizzard warnings, freezing snow advisories, lake-effect snow, and warnings of [shudder] drifting snow it seems hardly a winter day goes by without some type of warning being issued.

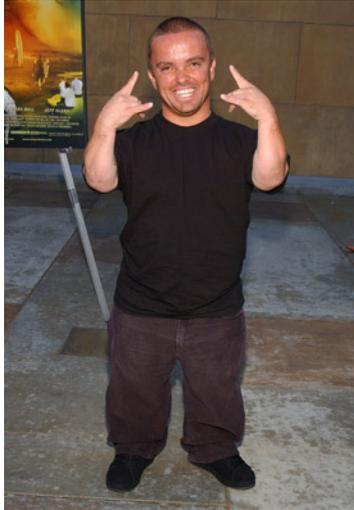
This year we were bracing for a storm that was going to drop between eight and twelve inches of snow... over 48 hours. To the credit of meteorologists, they were pretty close with their predictions, but a foot of snow over two days doesn't call for maps on the corner of the TV screen, rolling radar images, interruptions for updates and tension-filled theme music.

A foot of snow over two days has a name, and its name is Winter. This is exactly the weather you should come to expect between the months of November and March, unless you live in one of the freak states. I don't know what the hell is wrong with people who are caught unprepared for snow during winter. And not even a first snow, but like, snow in January, after snow is already on the ground.

By all means, tell me about a foot of snow falling over two days during the weather forecast. By all means, interrupt my programming if a belt of lake effect snow suddenly appears and is going to drop three inches of snow in two hours. You know the story of the boy who cried, "Wolf"? That's a lesson for more than just events involving wolves.

Fuck you, winter storm warnings.

FU, Midgets



I think midgets are creepy. There are several television shows about them, as well... but

they exist. There's the family of little people and the one normal-sized kid, there's the tiny couple, there's something about little people's first baby or something. I haven't seen one episode of any of them. I change the channel when the commercials for the "Little People, Big World" show comes on because the father's voice is like listening to a miniature George Lucas. It annoys me to no end.

I don't find anything I've heard about the shows interesting or captivating, but I will watch Wee-Man kick himself in the head all day long – that's right, buddy, you're cool.

I don't think I have achondroplasiaphobia, but to be fair, I've never met a midget. so I guess I wouldn't know for sure. I've met some short women and some short guys, but not midget-short.

My real issue with midgets is their claim that the word "midget" is not only derogatory, but that it is the equivalent of the word "nigger." It's not the equivalent. It's not the same, not even close. It's not even the equivalent of "mick."

You know what I'd be interested in seeing? A TV show about giants. Imagine the clip show at the end of season one with a montage of all the times they banged their heads into door frames and on ceiling fans. Get the Emmy ready.

Fuck you, midgets.

FU, Suze Orman

I could just do a "FU: Talking Heads" Rambling about all the ass hats on cable news shows I despise (Except Erica Hill; I love her), but that would get repetitive. But, I have one more this time...

I always knew there was something I didn't like about Suze Orman. At first, I thought it was her bullshit advice. I don't watch her show, but one day I happened to stop on it while a concerned

caller asked for assistance with her financial situation. The caller told Suze that she and her husband simply didn't have enough money. Suze's professional advice was this: make more money, spend less money, or do both. Seriously, that's not a direct quote, but that's exactly what her advice was. Stick that thumb up your own ass, Suze.



I now know what makes her worthy of this list, and it's not the black leather jacket she occasionally sports to look rebellious. She has a deal with FICO, a credit report agency whose credit scores are considered useless by many financial experts. She instructs her callers and viewers to check their FICO scores, and only their FICO scores, to proactively avoid financial troubles. In my opinion, this is a worse breach of trust than the market manipulations, hedge fund involvement, and general lack of research in

recommending stocks that Jim Cramer from "Mad Money" is alleged to have been a part of. How anyone could trust a loudmouth fuck like Jim Cramer in the first place is merely a curiosity to me, but I can understand how Suze could engender trust with her matter-of-fact, no-nonsense financial advice. But a financial adviser who has a deal with an iffy financial company that could be to the detriment to her audience?... C'mon, man!

FU Karl Rove



I don't have a problem with Karl Rove in a political sense beyond the issues I have with all politicians. No, my problem with Karl Rove is his fat, formless, pasty, pale, smug, douchey, doughy face and his beady, evil eyes.

Fuck you, Karl Rove.

-John