

The Delray Democrat

Birds Aren't Real, and Other Conspiracies¹

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I always considered myself a bit of a conspiracy buff. I don't think Lee Harvey Oswald killed Kennedy. I don't think James Earl Ray acted alone in killing Martin Luther King. I know enough about the "Project for the New American Century" to suspect that the Bush/Cheney administration might not have done all it could to prevent 9/11, since that gave them the excuse they needed to attack Iraq, which was their main goal.

But I'm in the minor leagues compared to today's conspiracy mongers. The first one, the pre-Trump one, is that climate change is a hoax. There are two variants of this belief. One is that the earth isn't getting warmer at all, that somehow the measurements have been faked or we don't have a real historical record. The second variant is that the earth is getting warmer but that it's just a natural cycle; this assumes that the climate scientists, geologists, and other scientists who have spent their lives studying Climate Change neglected to include natural cycles in their calculations. Considering that we all know about ice ages, this is a pretty tough sell.

Occam's razor — the principle that when facing multiple solutions to a problem, the simplest one is usually correct — comes into this. Adding whole layers of actions to something that can otherwise be easily explained doesn't make much sense. And I'll add my own corollary — the more people involved in a conspiracy, the more likely someone is to spill the beans.

Both Climate Denier variants conclude that somehow huge numbers of scientists and every world government except ours have conspired with China to fake climate change so that they can undermine America's economy. My conspiracy beliefs require that only a few key participants are/were in on the fix. The idea that virtually every scientist on earth is lying so that they can somehow get a payoff requires a rather insane belief in people being able to keep their mouths shut.

We all have to believe someone. I didn't personally see Neal Armstrong step on the moon, I did see video but that could be faked. However, many scientists said that it happened and more importantly, Walter Cronkite and David Brinkley told me that it happened. This is why the destruction of the belief in the "Mainstream Media" has had such a devastating impact.

I never liked the Mainstream Media. I thought they slanted the news to fit a corporate agenda, namely the agenda of the people who owned the media. That slanting would mainly be to uphold the power of corporations. But even given that, there was some measure of integrity. They didn't simply lie about things, they might cover or not cover some event, or view the news in a certain light, but they didn't make things up. Finding myself defending the MSM is almost as weird as

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finding myself defending the FBI and CIA.

The erosion of decades of trust began with conglomerates buying the networks and placing the news divisions under the “entertainment” divisions of corporate media. News was once an act of responsible corporate behavior, you get the airwaves and you could fill them with pap but the news was a sacred responsibility. Ratings were important, but the reporters and anchors still had gravitas. Once they were just another entertainment show designed to maximize ratings, quality had to suffer.

Still, how do you get from there to believing that Hillary Clinton was running a Satan worshipping cannibalistic pedophile sex ring out of a pizzeria in Washington, DC? Or that JFK Jr. is alive and will be Trump’s running mate?

But the biggest nut-show isn’t any of these—it’s the lie that the election was stolen. I always thought that the federal government should have more say over how elections are run, at least for federal offices. But having various systems in different states, even different counties, does provide a level of protection since it’s difficult to hack into different systems or get someone to compromise them. Stealing that election meant being able to change the vote in multiple counties and states, many run by Republicans. The initial big “steal” video showed election workers taking out a box of ballots, as if there was something unusual about that. There are a lot of ballots, they have to be transported somehow.

Then we have the lawsuits, and the courts all found nothing even though many judges were Republican appointees, even Trump appointees. Occam’s Razor says given the complexity of managing all that as opposed to the simple answer that more people voted for Biden, the answer is simple.

So their core beliefs are that an evil pedophile child- eating group, consisting of just about everyone who isn’t QAnon, runs the planet. Donald Trump, who boasts of grabbing women by their private parts, is here to save us from sex offenders. Obama is Satan. The military will remove Biden and install Trump.

I don’t know how to deal with people who simply don’t live in reality. And there are so many that it’s scary. I’m not a psychiatrist, I don’t know how to explain this, and I don’t know how to deal with this.

If you don’t know about “[Birds Aren’t Real](#),” please look it up and prepare to laugh, and perhaps, cry.