

The Delray Democrat

What We're Reading¹

David Kurtz, [‘Do Something’ Is Not A Plan Or Wise Counsel Or A Way Out](#), *Talking Points Memo*: “The greatest of these limitations is that much of political journalism is divorced from policy and the substance of politics. It’s the horserace coverage, the who’s up and who’s down, the who’s in and who’s out. And no matter how complex the topic, or carefully balanced the various competing public interests are on a given issue, or how long the history of tackling the issue in a substantive way, once it enters the realm of political journalism it goes through a reductive process that distills it to whether it’s good or bad politically. Does it help or does it hurt? And if it hurts, what are you going to do about it?”

“Once you’re in the lane occupied by political journalists, there are certain rules, customs, and expectations that subsume everything else. You’re in our lane now and you’re going to play by our rules. If all you know is politics, everything gets reduced to a craven political calculation. Actually, it’s worse than that. If all you know is political journalism, then it gets reduced to the political journalist’s projection of what politics is, what winning looks like, and who’s losing under that particular contrived set of calculations.”

Paul Krugman, [The Matrix of Consumer Discontent](#), *The New York Times*: “What we see right away is that claims that Americans are much worse off than the official numbers say fail across the board. If consumers were really hurting on average, they wouldn’t be spending so freely. They wouldn’t be telling pollsters that their personal finances were in good shape. They wouldn’t be upbeat about their own state’s economy. And if things were really bad, you’d expect them to be bad for Democrats as well as for Republicans.”

Heather Cox Richardson, [Letters from an American](#): For the radical extremists who have taken over the Republican Party, getting rid of the modern government that regulates business, provides a basic social safety net, promotes infrastructure, and protects civil rights is now gospel as they try to replace it with Christian nationalism. But that active government remains popular.”

¹ [The Delray Democrat](#), July 2024, page 10.