

The Delray Democrat

Forget January, and Take Heart¹

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You may have noticed that there was no January 2025 issue of The Delray Democrat. We took a pause to recover from the election, deal with the attendant as well as some personal grief, and prepare for the next two years.

I am now taking heart from an excellent op-ed by the always informative Ezra Klein last weekend: Don't Believe Him. Klein explains that the onslaught of actions mounted by Trump in the opening weeks was intended to leave the media and the public breathless. Announced in 2019 by Steve Bannon, it has certainly had that effect, but as Klein points out, it is actually counterproductive.

He summarizes a conversation “with someone who knows how the federal government works about as well as anyone alive. I asked him what would worry him most if he saw Trump doing.” He told Klein what would most worry him is if Trump “went slowly,” focusing on acts that would make him more popular and the opposition weaker while building toward the midterms.

Instead Trump has done the opposite, taking unpopular acts that have energized the opposition. Klein quoted a post by a federal employee reacting to Trump's buyout offer:

I'll be honest, before that email went out, I was looking for any way to get out of this fresh hell. But now I am fired up to make these goons as frustrated as possible.

Another is the fact that Democrats just flipped a state senate seat in a district that Trump had just won easily. And since the column published, Trump has already delayed imposing the tariffs on Mexico and Canada that he'd announced to great flurry. He's begun to walk back his proposal to occupy the Gaza Strip and forcibly relocate two million Palestinians.

Klein's point is that Trump is weak and is proceeding in a way that will only make him weaker. Our task is to we recognize that Trump does not have the power he claims to have:

He is trying to overwhelm you. He is trying to keep you off-balance. He is trying to persuade you of something that isn't true. Don't believe him.

¹ [The Delray Democrat](#), February 2025, page 6.