

## Late Start...Today...Protesters...Philadelphia - City of Brotherly Love

All, I got a late start on the column. Truth be told, it's January 24, 2026 and it is 12:59 AM. This happened for a very simple reason.

### Today...

My plan for today, that is the 23rd, was to not venture out for anything except a brief appointment with a doctor. Well, once outside and on the road, despite the fact that it was -11°F, I decided to run several errands. One thing led to another. And I found that I was away from home until about 4 PM. By that time, I realized that I'd accomplished everything that I wanted to do that day. Plus, more. I attribute this very minor accomplishment to the Willis & Geiger parka I was wearing. *Toasty.*

Below is a creation of Mark McGrath, who cleverly created an image of me as I would've been dressed for today. It is an AI image. I was surprised by how closely everything resembled Black River Falls. The parka is just about the same as the one that I was swaddled in today. The only exception is that the hood on mine does not have any fur. [Note: While I am the writer of this column, I should acknowledge the fact that we now have two illustrators – my sister, Dale Artis Hackerman and Mark McGrath, my friend since 1960. This is a delightful development.]



### The late afternoon...

On getting home, I decided to unwind by watching *FROM*. After about to choose episodes I found myself nodding off. So, I decided to take a nap. It was supposed to be a short refresher nap. Instead it turned into five hours of solid sleep. And by the time I got up it was midnight. But I felt great and ready to do the column.

The lesson for me is that cold weather can be exhausting. There's no reason to overdo it when the weather is brutal (-15°F at the moment here).

### Protesters...

Thousands of people showed up to protest the activities of ICE in Minnesota. When one considers the weather, there is no doubt that the people who showed up were dedicated to expressing themselves. Of course, there are going to be people who will say that they were paid demonstrators. Possibly some of them were incentivized with cash. But the greatest incentive was this photograph of Liam Ramos, who was shipped off to a Detention Camp with his father.

The details regarding the entire matter conflict. We've heard what the witnesses have said and we have heard what ICE and VP Vance have said. But the only thing I can feel reasonably sure of is that a five-year-old child was likely traumatized.

Incidents involving children and deportation activity are common enough for ICE to have a plan when children are involved in such situations. Seems kind of stupid and thoughtless, even cruel, for this likely traumatization of a child not to be foreseen. Or is it intentional? I hope not.

### **Philadelphia – City of Brotherly Love...**

In an attempt to induce historical amnesia the administration is mandating the removal of anything that might be an unpleasant reminder of aspects of American history that are not very savory. Most recently the National Park Service removed a and exhibit in Philadelphia. *The Guardian* provided the following:



Philadelphia is taking legal action against the Trump administration following the National Park Service's decision to dismantle a long-established slavery-related exhibit at Independence National Historical park, which holds the former residence of George Washington.

What on earth does this accomplish? No idea. If this trend continues our American history books will start out with... "Once upon a time..." Without a "they lived happily ever after" at the end.

First yawn...

Until tomorrow...

Ken

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