

Where have all the toilets gone?

Created Date	@Jan 10, 2021
Link	https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/1J6dqdD5Hqnl2OahLDUfFg
Reader	 Ze Fu
Score / 5	
Status	Finished

The urinal is political

- ▼ urinal
小便池、男厕所、
尿壶
urine 尿

Long time passing

YESTERDAY'S **OUTRAGE** often slips away quietly. In 2016 a North Carolina law requiring **transgender(ed) people** to use the toilet of their birth sex **upset the nation's stomach**. Companies **pulled out** of **ventures** in the state, sports leagues called off games and rock stars cancelled concerts. The law was **repealed** and replaced with one which prevented state and

- ▼ outrage
a feeling of anger and shock
愤慨，义愤
- ▼ transgender(ed) people
变形人
- ▼ venture
冒险
- ▼ repeal
If a government repeals a law, it causes that law no longer to have any legal force.

- ▼ upset the nation's stomach
让全国人民感到不安
- ▼ pull out
退出
- ▼ enact legislation
颁布法令

local agencies from regulating who uses which toilet in public buildings, but **barred** local governments from passing non-discrimination laws blocking private businesses from doing the same. On December 1st that ban expired, meaning that local governments in North Carolina can **enact legislation** to prevent discrimination against **LGBT** people.

废除，废止，撤销
(法律)

▼ bar ... from ...

bar 除了有酒吧的意思，还有禁止的意思

LGBT是女同性恋者 (Lesbian)、男同性恋者 (Gay)、双性恋者 (Bisexual) 与跨性别者 (Transgender) 的英文首字母缩略字。

Thus closes another chapter in the politics of the toilet. The story is a long one. In the 1950s and 60s **civil-rights protesters** **decried** “whites only” **latrines**. An Oakland **assemblywoman**, Margaret Fong Eu, took a sledgehammer to a toilet wrapped in chains outside the state capitol in 1969 to protest against pay

▼ civil-rights

公民权

▼ protester

抗议者 / protest v.

▼ decry

谴责

▼ latrine

公告厕所

▼ assemblywoman

(美国的) 州众议院女议员

▼ undue burden

undue 不适当的
burden 负担

▼ grab bar(s)

扶手栏

toilets in public buildings, arguing that they placed an **undue burden** on women because urinals were often free. Activists poured fake urine over the steps of Harvard's Lowell Hall in 1973 demanding "potty parity", the equitable distribution of male and female toilets. **Grab bars** in bathrooms were among the demands of the disability protesters who occupied a federal building in San Francisco for 26 days in 1977.

The **feminist** fight against pay toilets, and a campaign by a student group, the Committee to End Pay toilets in America, led to many states banning pay toilets in the 1970s. **Vandalism and the cost of upkeep shut down many public ones.** Discussions about public toilets assume they are still widely available, according to Taunya Lovell Banks, of the University of

▼ feminist
a person who believes in feminism, and tries to achieve change that helps women to get equal opportunities and treatment
女性主义者；女权运动者

▼ Vandalism and the cost of upkeep shut down many public ones.

故意破坏行为和维持费用使许多公共场所关闭。

Maryland, but “free or low-cost public toilets operated by government have largely disappeared”, and access to toilets in government buildings has been reduced since the Oklahoma City Bombing and 9/11.

So **those caught short** must duck into a local business and awkwardly ask for relief. “Restrooms are for customers only” signs mean it often takes a penny to spend a penny, creating a barrier to the poor. Where public urination is **criminalized**, the homeless may have no option but to risk arrest by going in public places. In some states, this can land them on the sex-offender registry. Closures of toilets during covid-19 have only added to the problem.

▼ criminalize
定.....为犯罪

▼ those caught short
手头很紧、贫困

The lack of accessible toilets has public-health consequences. Holding water for too long can

▼ defecate
to pass the
contents of the

▼ constipation and
hemorrhoids
便秘和痔疮

lead to urinary-tract infections, and failure to **defecate** can lead to **constipation and hemorrhoids**. This can be difficult for workers who lack easy access to toilets, such as taxi drivers, and disproportionately affects women, who need to go more frequently. No toilets also means no soap. An outbreak of hepatitis A linked to the lack of toilets led to the death of 20 and the hospitalisation of hundreds in San Diego in 2017.

bowels out of the body
排便

Public toilets are costly to install and maintain, and can attract undesirable behaviour. But spurred on by America's homelessness crisis, some cities are answering the call. **The right to urinate might not be up there with the right to vote, but having it guaranteed would be a relief.**

小便（免费使用厕所）的权利可能不像投票权那么重要，但有了保障就会让人松一口气。