

The Sensationalist: #6

10/19/22

"Teach why before you teach how"



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Sonnet II

Henry Levitt

Forgetting seems all too fitting,
For any ordinary face, but hers,
Caught me completely unwitting;
This much beauty seldom occurs.
Her eyes, clever and concealing
Radiate celestial fire.
Supple lips, ever-appealing,
And confidence to inspire.
My gaze happens her passing grin,
And flurrying dove wings excite
Passion, timid-tainted within.
Now wishing for courage tonight
 To approach this heavenly belle,
 O' but for nerves I cannot quell!

James Hooker

James Hooker





WARNING



The Drones are multiplying.

You may be next.

**How to spot a Drone: earbuds in and staring down at handheld device. Unaware of external world. They are experimental technology controlled by big tech.*

***Warning brought to you by The Sensationalist Magazine*

The Perfect Revolution

Henry Levitt

Preface

Allow me to preface this essay by declaring that I am not a gung ho supporter of outright revolution; I believe that all options should be exhausted before attempting such an extreme response to remedy the broken current state of affairs. Reform is always the golden standard of fixing a system within a political and economic paradigm before abandoning the paradigm altogether. Furthermore, to achieve reform, non-violent tactics ought to always be used. Now I do recognize that non-violence cannot always be effective in forcing reform, so I will concede that there are always exceptions to this rule. A prominent example I default to is the Women's Suffrage movement--especially in the United Kingdom. When a group is essentially locked out of the main avenue to spark reform, militant tactics, within reason, can be justified to raise awareness, garner support, and demonstrate the frustration of what I and many others consider to be a massive injustice. Of course, many other militant protests occurred in modern history such as those surrounding the Civil Rights movement of Black Americans and other marginalized groups in the latter half of the 20th century. Much can be justified as oftentimes symbolic violence is the only way to bring grave injustices to the forefront of politics in order to force reformation. And while reform is often effective, it is not a panacea. I would like to outline a hypothetical revolution in this essay--a revolution I consider to be perfect as it occurs instantly, peacefully, and totally.

The Perfect Revolution

The Perfect Revolution is an idealized concept of how to completely overthrow an existing government without violence and with widespread support. Essentially there are three stages: setting the groundwork, delegitimizing the current regime, and forming a new government. I would once again like to stress that these are highly idealized steps and most likely not possible in our imperfect world, hence the title of "The Perfect Revolution".

Step One: Setting the Groundwork

This is the step requiring the most time and effort of the revolutionaries and can be extremely varied depending on the unified goal of the revolution, available technology, and political landscape. Due to these reasons I will explain this step in a broad context because there are a multitude of ways in which the groundwork can be set. Even still, there are important aspects that are ubiquitous within The Perfect Revolution.

The first among these (in no specific order) is that there must be clear leaders. These figures must be public and well known to the populace of the given region. This step is important in order to help keep the movement unified and establish a new, well-supported government with leaders whom the people follow. While it is possible for the leaders of the revolution to not be the first leaders of the new government, it is both unlikely and unwise in order to maintain support in the fragile early stages.

The second aspect of setting the groundwork is that there ought to be a universally accepted constitution. This treatise would be public knowledge and include input and/or approval from all individuals who support the delegitimization of the old government. After a nationwide approval process, this

constitution will serve as the new basis for government rule. The new constitution should aim to right the wrongs of the old government and prevent future injustices that the old regime performed, both implicitly and explicitly; the constitution is the promise of a new nation.

Finally, and perhaps most crucially, majority support is needed. And not just a simple majority; in order for the revolution to be successful, virtually all citizens must desire to overthrow the current government. A vast majority of these citizens must also support the new constitution. Furthermore, in order for the revolution to be a smooth and peaceful transition, it is necessary that many appointed and elected officials also support the new constitution and/or the aims of the revolution as a whole. This will help to prevent government violence against the revolutionaries. The objection may arise as to why the offending laws or constitution would not be amended by elected officials who support the cause--especially if virtually all citizens stand behind them. My response to this is that the demands of the people may be incongruous with the current constitution, impossible to instate within the current governmental paradigm, or a new government may be necessary to represent the people accurately. Even when a vast majority of the population supports the new government and constitution, it is critical that all citizens abide by and follow the system of the current government until the new constitution is ratified. This means paying taxes, following laws, voting in elections, etc. If all of this is followed faithfully, then a peaceful and successful revolution will be possible.

Step Two: Delegitimizing the Current Government

In order to successfully delegitimize the current government, a superior level of organization is necessary. Once the leaders of the revolution gauge that the movement has garnered virtually unanimous support, they should choose an upcoming election to demonstrate the population's dearth of support for the current government. During this election, no one should vote. Members of the revolution should work the polls, however, so that the option to vote is available. The purpose of this is to prove that no citizen endorses the current government even though the option to do so is available. Additionally, no member of the revolution should prevent anyone from voting or hinder their ability thereof. The fact that all avenues to participate in the election remain open yet no one does will effectively delegitimize the current government on its most basic level of popular sovereignty. If no citizens consents to sustaining the authority of the state, then the state is effectively abolished as there is no entity more powerful than the masses.

Step Three: Forming a New Government

Now that the old government has been abolished, the citizens can now ratify the new constitution and elect its leaders. As soon after the old state's election, or even perhaps concurrently, the revolution should hold its own election or referendum. Ideally, the leaders of the Revolution will set a threshold of support needed for the new constitution to be ratified. This is essentially the test of popular sovereignty. The entire process should involve as many denizens' consent in order for the new government to be considered legitimate. Once the new revolution is ratified, The Perfect Revolution will be complete--all without a drop of blood.

Conclusion:








Obviously The Perfect Revolution is more a concept than a guide to a peaceful revolution. It is meant to invoke the ever-present and often obscured idea of popular sovereignty; that a government is only legitimate because a majority of individuals support it. And while The Perfect Revolution is not practical in real life, it has far-reaching implications about the political power we all have when we come together over a common goal. The Perfect Revolution also stands as the golden standard of non-violence that all political reforms and revolutions should aspire to in order to cause as little harm to others as possible and maintain political legitimacy.



Ranking My Favorite Types of Vandalism

(Video)

Henry Levitt

S		
A		
B		
C		
D		
E	 	
F		

- 7) Destruction of Property
- 6) Arson
- 5) Theft
- 4) Graffiti
- 3) Defacement
- 2) Eco-vandalism/ecotage
- 1) "Bestowal"

Habit

Sanaa Wright

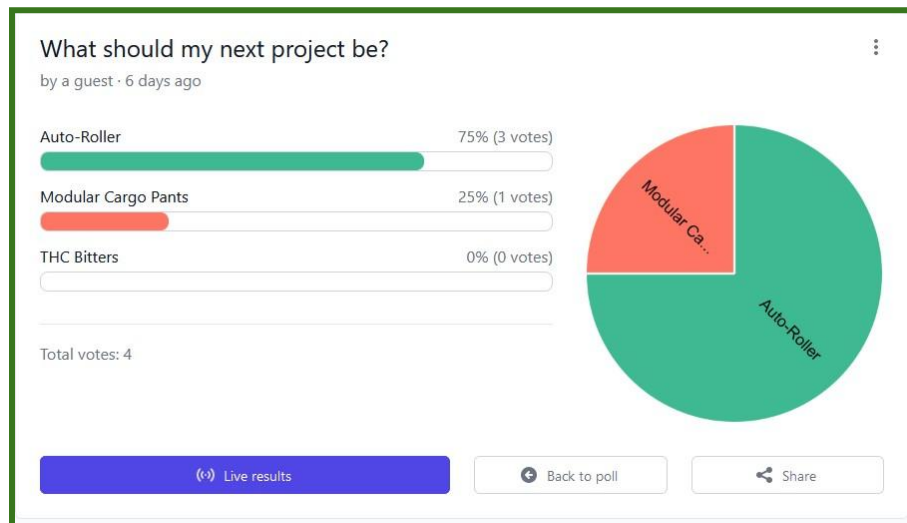
The world sleeps
I meant to
It's 2 am
I wanted to wake up early
I don't want to be here
I don't want to sleep
I don't want to not want to

Do anything these days
I don't do anything these days
At my age the greats were great
Or well on their way
I was called lazy from a young age
For sitting around and being a little kid
So I feel I've had nothing
And done nothing

Life is patterns
And habits that repeat themselves
And bad habits that stay
That stay
Like sinful addictions
Like staying awake at 2am
The world sleeps tonight
The world wakes up when I fall
Back
Asleep
Some habit I've got to break

THE POINTLESS PANTS PROJECT (P.P.P.)

Last week I asked you, the reader, to vote on my next project. As you can see, the results are overwhelmingly in favor of the automatic joint roller. However, this will not be my next project. You see, democracy doesn't really exist. It's just a fickle agreement between the entities in power and the people who they pretend to represent. And because I am the one in power and pretend to represent your interests, I also get to snatch that democratic "power" away from you like a racoon snatches handfuls of bird seed from a bird feeder and shoves it in its unrelenting maw. Though I will not be doing the latter, I am in fact in possession of a sizable amount of bird seed.



I have decided that my next project will be modular cargo pants or "The Pointless Pants Project" (P.P.P. for short). By the end of the project, I will have constructed a pair of pants with velcro strips running horizontally and vertically enabling specially constructed pockets to attach in a variety of places. Essentially, the user will be able to choose between different types of pockets and place them anywhere they please.

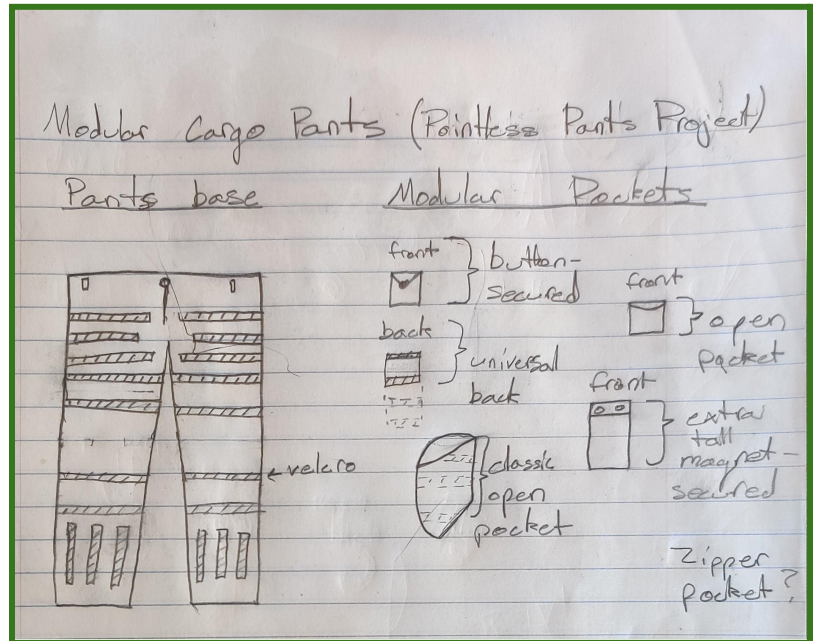
The user can construct different, unrecognizable styles everyday and never be called out for wearing the same pants two...or three...or four days in a row. The real utility, though, is when many people are all wearing modular cargo pants. Users can swap pockets (and their contents) with ease. Instead of emptying the contents of the pants, they can simply trade one pocket, perhaps containing radish seeds, for another pocket, maybe containing ginkgo nuts (the possibilities are endless!).

You may be thinking, "this is the opposite of pointless!" and "this is the best idea I've ever heard!" But before I can accept your praise (thank you!) I must reveal something about this project: only one pair of pants will ever be produced. Not only that, but I will also be patenting the idea so that modular cargo pants cannot legally be produced for 20 years. This is to ensure that the pants remain pointless perpetually perhaps provoking prodigious profit.

In all seriousness though, I want to ensure the pants remain pointless to always remind me that not everything must have a purpose, a sort of *memento iocosi* if you will.

I will also be partaking in a fashion show on November 13th in which I will strut down the runway wearing a pair of P.P.s and another confidential outfit...

Here is a rough sketch of the P.P.P.:
I will have to learn how to use a sewing machine, construct each pocket, attach velcro, etc. but I'm willing to do it all!



This has been The Sensationalist: #6

"I am 97.5% certain that the hot water spigot in the dining hall is contaminated with heavy metals. That may explain some things."