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Assassination Nation

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Assassination Nation

Donel Arrington

It's just 50 years
since they murdered
Bobby Kennedy
and
Martin Luther King, Jr.
for trying to help the poor
the brown
the oppressed
workers
victims of war.

And people wonder why things are
the way that they are
why homeless camps and
foreclosures?
medical bills
police shootings
school shootings
mental health crises
epidemic addiction
rape
of bodies
and land?

Why corporations get tax cuts
and bonuses
while school lunch,
music, education, and
hunger programs get cut.

How nobody really gives
a shit unless they're hurting

feeling pain, the strain of
economic insecurity.

People wonder why—
say it's 2018, aren't
we supposed to be
past this by now?
'I can't believe
that this could be
happening'—

Nazis in the street?
KKK viral tweets?

Not knowing your own
recent history
is as lazy as it
is dumb.

If we're to become "woke"
we've got to first wake up to
and remember the past—