Assassination Nation

Donel Arrington

University of California, Northridge

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.humboldt.edu/toyon

Recommended Citation

Arrington, Donel (2019) "Assassination Nation," Toyon Literary Magazine: Vol. 65 : Iss. 1 , Article 34.
Available at: https://digitalcommons.humboldt.edu/toyon/vol65/iss1/34
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—