**Apathy**

**The definition of ambivalence is watching your mother-in-law drive over a cliff in your new Cadillac. *(David Mamet)***

**There is no comparison between that which is lost by not succeeding and that which is lost by not trying. *(Francis Bacon)***

**They are selling bumper stickers now with nothing on them. These are for those who do not want to get involved. *(Jim Ockley)***

**I have a very strong feeling that the opposite of love is not hate -- it's apathy. *(Leo Buscaglia, in Love)***

**You can’t make a hit with the bat on your shoulder. *(Rev. Andy Kress, in Creative Life Church newsletter)***

**Who Cares? Scientists announced today that they have discovered a cure for apathy. However, no one has shown much interest in it. *(George Carlin)***

**The 113th Congress is on course to pass less legislation than any Congress in history. So far, it's passed only 49 laws. The "Do Nothing" Congress denounced by President Harry Truman in 1947 passed 906 laws. *(Politico.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, December 6, 2013)***

Democracy, like love, can survive any attack – save neglect and indifference. *(Paul Sweeney, in The Quarterly)*

**I don’t know what apathy is and don’t care. *(The PassTime Paper)***

**The world is a dangerous place. Not because of the people who are evil, but because of the people who don’t do anything about it. *(Albert Einstein)***

It is the greatest of all mistakes to do nothing because you can do only a little. Do what you can. *(Sydney Smith, author)*

**Penn State University scandal: Let’s not get too sanctimonious, said David Brooks in The New York Times. It’s easy to tell ourselves that if we’d been in Joe Paterno’s shoes, or Mike McQueary’s, we would have turned our good friend Jerry Sandusky over to the cops. The uncomfortable truth, however, is that throughout the history of human evil, from the Holocaust to Abu Ghraib to Bernie Madoff’s Ponzi scheme, only a handful of people ever try to intervene, while the vast majority find ways to deceive themselves about what’s happening. *(The Week magazine, November 25, 2011)***

**He hurts the good who spares the bad. *(Publilius Syrus)***

**Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that really matter. *(Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.)***

**Meetings are indispensable when you don’t want to do anything. *(John Kenneth Galbraith)***

**Mistrust the man who finds everything good; the man who finds everything evil; and still more the man who is indifferent to everything. *(Johann Kaspar Lavater, Swiss Theologian)***

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**There is nothing harder than the softness of indifference. *(Juan Montalvo, essayist)***

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**Amateur marathon runners are slowing down. The median U.S. marathon finish rose 44 minutes from 1980 to 2011. Running experts blame "performance-related apathy" among Millennials who think competing and racing against the clock isn't cool. *(The Wall Street Journal, as it appeared in The Week magazine, October 4, 2013)***

**In every presidential nominating contest so far except for South Carolina’s, GOP turnout has fallen from what it was four years ago, including a drop of 14 percent in Florida, 26 percent in Nevada, and 58 percent in Missouri. Analysts blame lukewarm enthusiasm among voters for the GOP field, and the avalanche of negative ads, which tend to depress turnout. *(Los Angeles Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, February 24, 2012)***

**Jerry Sandusky’s reign of terror is finally over, said George Diaz in the Orlando Sentinel. Last week, the former Penn State assistant coach, 68, was convicted on 45 counts of sexually molesting 10 young boys in a charity he founded, and will very likely be sentenced to spend the rest of his life in prison. But the jury’s quick and emphatic verdict left one major question unanswered: How could Penn State officials spend more than a decade ignoring “the most despicable crime in the history of college football”? There’s really no mystery, said Howard Bryant in ESPN.com. Allegations that Sandusky was molesting children go back to 1998, but weren’t reported to the police because they would have damaged the image of Penn State’s football program and its sainted coach, Joe Paterno, who died earlier this year. “No community likes to challenge its false notions of itself,” and in Paterno’s Happy Valley, no one wanted to admit they had a monster in their midst. *(The Week magazine, July 6-13, 2012)***

**Apathy over the rights of children: What do the Irish have against children? asked Andrew Madden. For the past two decades, report after report has exposed in damning detail how thousands of children were abused – beaten, molested, raped, tortured – in church and state institutions in this country. Yet “after all we have learned about our appalling failure to protect and listen to children,” only one out of three Irish voters “found the five minutes it would have taken” to cast a ballot on the constitutional amendment to protect children’s rights. The amendment – which requires that children’s testimony be heard in cases that affect them and that allegations of abuse be independently investigated – did pass, by 58 percent to 42 percent. Ireland’s institutions, at least, have begun to change: No longer does the Catholic Church have near-absolute authority over most public education and public health services for children, and the government has ended its “unquestioning deference to the church, which facilitated much neglect and abuse of children.” But what of the people? The “shamefully low turnout” to pass the constitutional amendment shows that when it comes to suffering children, there are “many people in this country who are still all too happy to turn a blind eye.” *(The Week magazine, November 23, 2012)***

**In any moment of decision the best thing you can do is the right thing, the next best thing is the wrong thing, and the worst thing you can do is nothing. *(Theodore Roosevelt)***

Those who choose not to empathize enable real monsters. For without ever committing an act of outright evil ourselves, we collude with it, through our own apathy. *(J. K. Rowling)*

**The sins of omission are those sins we should have committed, but haven’t. *(Rev. Patrick Berryhill)***

**Love me or hate me, but spare me your indifference. *(Libbie Fudim)***

Standing in the middle of the road is very dangerous; you get knocked down by the traffic from both sides. *(Margaret Thatcher)*

**Between the great things that we cannot do and the small things we will not do, the danger is that we shall do nothing. *(Adolph Monod)***

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**Yes, it's true the United States has the lowest voter turnout of any country worldwide -- except Botswana. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The share of registered voters who cast ballots in last week's midterm elections was an estimated 36.6 percent -- the lowest since 1942. In Texas, where a new voter ID law went into effect, voter turnout dropped to 33 percent, down from 38 percent in 2010. *(FirstLook.org, as it appeared in The Week magazine, November 21, 2014)***

**About 100 million eligible voters elected not to cast a ballot in this year's presidential election, according to turnout estimates from the U.S. Elections Project. About 132 million did vote -- by percentage, the lowest turnout since 1996. *(The Washington Post, as it appeared in The Week magazine, November 25, 2016)***

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**At least when you hate you’re involved and interested in another person. But when you are indifferent you aren’t thinking at all. You are rejecting life. *(Jack E. Addington)***

**The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference. And the opposite of life is not death, it's indifference. *(Elie Wiesel)***

**Nothing was ever done so systematically as nothing is being done now. *(Woodrow Wilson)***

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