

HYDE PARK

Got something to share with fellow Democrats?
Now's the time and here's the place!

Occasional Virtual Soap Box

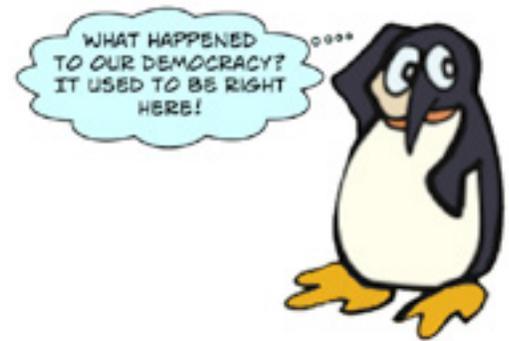
October 12, 2021

Caveat Lector!

I don't swear nearly as much as a kid in middle school or a twice-impeached ex-presidential grifter, but I am on occasion a bit of a potty-mouth.

Inside

Penguin calls, "Horse pucky!"
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Speaking of Social Media.
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If you hear this...

"Let me be perfectly clear."

"Obviously..."

"Of course..."

"I'm sure..."

"73.6%..."

think this:

"Being clear doesn't make it either true or honest."

"Neither obvious nor necessarily true."

"Not in the least bit certain."

"Maybe, but that doesn't mean I'll be sure."

"Liars often use specificity to sound authentic."

Note

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Feature

Penguin calls, “Horse pucky!”

Wayne Dickson



I read somewhere that...	
	Wait! Where exactly did you read this?
I don't remember. But it said...	
	Wait! Who exactly said this?
I don't remember. But it said that Democrat projects and policies will lead to socialist autocracy.	
	OK. So someone whose name you don't remember said in a place you don't remember that Democratic projects and policies will lead to autocratic socialism. <i>Which</i> projects and policies?
<i>All</i> of them!	
	Like building roads, bridges, tunnels, high speed rail? Providing food, health care, education, living wages, safe working conditions, worker empowerment, fair taxes, retirement, maternity/paternity leave, and so on?
Yeah. Those!	
	Those benefits are available only in socialist nations?

No, but so what?	
	OK. Let's try a different approach. Maybe it's the people proposing these projects and policies you don't like. Which people in politics do you especially dislike, and which do you admire.
That's easy! I don't like those socialists Alexandria Octavia-Cortez and Bernie Sanders. I deeply admire Vladimir Putin.	
	After she graduated from college AOC worked as a waitress and bartender while seeking a permanent job. Sanders was a Member of the House before being elected to the Senate. What was Putin's job before he went into politics?
He was a colonel in the KGB.	
	In other words, he was a spy working for the Communist government of America's most dangerous enemy.
But he's a very tough guy, you have to admit!	
	Ah! Now I get it. You don't really care about America. You hate democratic Socialists and anything they want to do. But you love dictatorial Communists and anything they want to do. Glad we got that clear.

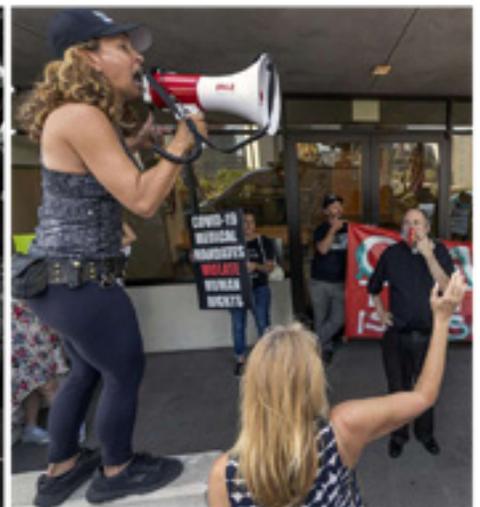
Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose.

Desegregation to vax & mask protests...

The best lack all conviction, while the worst

Are full of passionate intensity.

—W.B.. Yeats, "The Second Coming"



Feature

Questions from Françoise...

Danielle Neetz, a friend of Françoise

Dear Republicans:

You didn't object when...

- during the election campaign, you heard Donald Trump say he likes to grab women “by the pussy.”
- it was revealed he cheated on his wife with both a porn star and a *Playboy* model, paying the porn star \$130,000.00 to buy her silence.
- he mocked a disabled man at one of his rallies.
- he stood before the cameras and said; “Russia, if you're listening, I hope you're able to find 30,000 emails that are missing.” And the Russians responded *that very day* with stolen emails.
- it was confirmed that the basis for a *Trump Tower* meeting was a total fabrication, having nothing to do with adopting *Russian* children, and everything to do with swinging the election.
- it was revealed that Trump himself floated the lie about adoptions from *Russia*.
- it was confirmed that his campaign staff had met with *Russian* agents over 150 times, after claiming they had never met..
- it was revealed that the Trump campaign declined to inform the *FBI* about the *Russian* advances.
- it was revealed that Trump's campaign manager gave internal data on four key battleground states to agents working for Putin.
- the Trump campaign admitted to accepting *Russian* offers to help him defeat *Secretary of State* Clinton.
- after the election, he kicked the *American* media out of the *Oval Office* and handed two *Russian* spies classified data entrusted to him by one of our allies.
- he stood before the *CIA's Memorial Wall of Stars* at *Langley*, saying nothing about the agents who had given their lives in service to the nation, but telling lie after lie about himself and the election.
- he emerged from a *Helsinki* meeting and sided with the *Russian President*, rejecting the findings of our own combined intelligence agencies.
- at a *G-20* meeting he met privately with Putin without an interpreter, telling the press what was discussed was “none of their business.”

- he kicked his *AG* out of the room and asked the *FBI Director* to let *National Security Advisor* Michael Flynn off the hook for lying about his contacts with *Russian* agents.
- he fired that *FBI Director* for declining to let Flynn off the hook.
- *Special Counsel* Robert Mueller said he couldn't prove a criminal conspiracy, largely because so many of Trump's staffers lied during their interviews, and because Trump himself refused to submit to a live interview.
- in his report, Mueller cited no fewer than ten instances of the president himself obstructing justice: a criminal offense.
- his violations of the emoluments clause were revealed.
- unnecessary stopovers by military air crews at Trump properties in Scotland were revealed.
- he put tariffs on everyone from China to Turkey, raising prices for Americans, hurting millions of others around the world, and shaking the stock markets.
- he gave agribusiness \$26B in compensation for their losses due to his tariffs.
- he channeled \$3.6B in *Pentagon* appropriations to his useless wall, the one he insisted *Mexico* would pay for.
- he called out against "Islamic terrorism" on multiple occasions, but never once against terrorism by white nationalists.
- he forcibly separated little children from immigrant parents who were legally seeking asylum.
- he confined those children to chain-link paddocks.
- the *Trump Foundation* misappropriated \$500,000 from a children's cancer charity and funneled the money directly to groups that were connected to Trump's adult children.
- he got caught trying to blackmail the president of *Ukraine* into smearing a likely *Democratic* challenger, Joe Biden, in an elaborate extortion scheme that undermined the national security of both the US and Ukraine.
- his Chief of Staff admitted to it, and said, "Get over it. We do that all the time."

So here's my question for you: What about any of the above do you believe entitles you to call yourselves "patriots?" In anything other than today's bizarro-world, you wouldn't even make the rank of American. When this nightmare ends, we'll remind you of just how patriotic you were during these days.

Feature

Bully, threaten, extort.

Wayne Dickson

An old joke.

Many readers of this newsletter, perhaps most, will be familiar with the old lawyers joke: When you're presenting a case...

- If the facts are on your side, argue the facts.
- If the facts are not on your side, argue the law.
- If neither the facts nor the law is on your side, stand up, wave your arms, shout, stomp your foot, and pound the table.



Loonies at public hearings etc.

I've often wondered about the behavior of the current generation of loonies identifying themselves as "*Republicans*" or "conservatives." I asked *Twitter* for suggestions, but received not a one from any of my followers. (That in itself is interesting, and I'll explore it in a separate article.) For now, though—left to my own resources—I'll suggest that the old lawyer joke provides a clue.

The anti-democratic (small d) creeps who show up for meetings of city councils or school boards do not have the facts on their side. They often *think* they do. But, if pressed, they'll end up having to respond the way Rudy Giuliani did at his deposition in a suit against him brought by *Dominion*:

"In terms of eyes-on information about Dr. Coomer, we've got some media reports that you generally described and then you looked at some *Facebook* postings that you described?" Giuliani was asked during the Aug. 14 deposition.

Giuliani said he couldn't recall which platform he viewed the posts on.

"I don't remember if it was *Facebook*. Those social media posts get all one to me," he said.

“Facebook, Instagram, Twitter,” he added. “I think it was *Facebook*.”

Asked if he viewed anything else, he said: “Right now, I can’t recall anything else that I laid eyes on.”

https://www.huffpost.com/entry/maddow-rudy-giuliani-election-conspiracy_n_6153fc44e4b099230d1c714c

He went on to add that he didn’t follow up to see whether they were actually true. “I didn’t have time for that,” he whined.

Nor do the blustering creeps have the law on their side. They love to pontificate about

“*Constitutional* rights.” But the fact is they wouldn’t recognize the *Constitution* if it crawled up and bit them on the patootie.

So, with no other resources to call on, their only option is to stand up, wave their arms, shout, stomp and pound the table. And shouting, they will attempt to bully, intimidate, and extort the response they want. After all, threatening to kill someone is a lot easier than having to learn something about medical science, the law, or logic and rhetoric. They offer no genuine argument because they are incapable a formulating one that would be valid and convincing.

Speaking of social media...

Through the years I’ve had a couple of social media accounts, I know. The only two I’m aware of or use right now are *Twitter* (@babbino) and *Substack*.

I was OK with *Facebook* for a while, mostly because it allowed me to keep in touch with former students. *Facebook* is a truly evil force in our society, though, and I finally canceled my account in about 2015 or so. Tried again for a bit—protected by a VPN—but have now canceled for good. *Instagram* (owned by *Facebook*) is equally as evil, but more in terms of its destructive effect on young people than politics.

Tik-Tok is headquartered in Communist *China* and is permitted by *China* to operate. ’Nuf said!

Twitter? We all know the terrible evil inflicted on individual persons and the nation’s social fabric by Trump via *Twitter*. But he’s off *Twitter* now, and I find it a reasonably comfortable place to maintain intelligent

conversations. At my level of traffic trolls & time-wasters are pretty easy to spot and then block.

I also maintain my own blog, *Scarabus*—have since 2004! I was attacked by malware and have had to recreate the blog from scratch. It’s not yet back to full functionality.

Back to *Facebook*, though. For many people, *Facebook* (and perhaps email) *is* the internet. This is true for many members of the *Volusia County Democratic Party*, of course.

The more we learn, *e.g.*, from the recent whistleblower, the more clear it becomes that this is a deeply bad thing. I hope experts at the clubs, caucuses, and *DEC* will consider weaning people away from Zuckerberg and onto blog pages on their own websites.

It’s not hard to do, and you can have more than one blog page per site to serve special interests.

Whoops!

Regarding that social media thing...

As Ron Ziegler, Press Secretary for “Tricky Dick” Nixon, used to say, “That previous statement is no longer operative.” My account with *Twitter* has been canceled. Let me explain.



You’ll remember Allen West, who left *Florida* and moved to *Texas*, where he is running now for governor. Having remained unvaccinated (what a shock!) he has now been infected with the Delta variant of COVID-19 (what a further shock!). At first he had insisted he would not go to the hospital but would instead self-medicate with some of the usual MAGA favorites. (Will the shocks never cease!) He’s gone to the hospital now, racking up a bill of over \$100,000 thus far, not to mention occupying a bed needed by others.

A longtime Internet friend tweeted a news clip about this, adding a brief comment. I replied by saying I would recommend to West that he follow Trump’s advice about drinking bleach, combining it with Tucker Carlson’s advice about stuffing livestock dewormer up his posterior.

A MAGA troll probably complained. In any event, *Twitter’s* algorithms were not amused. My account was canceled, with the explanation that I had violated their rules in recommending that someone do harm to himself. (My account was canceled rather than merely suspended because this was my third violation of the same rule—each time making what I thought was an obvious joke that was treated as a serious recommendation, I might add.)

In appealing the ruling, I noted that the advice was not mine but that of the then *President of the United States* and of the now most highly rated talking head of the *Fox News* network. I also noted that while it is difficult (though not impossible) to create algorithms able to distinguish obvious jokes from serious intent, I trusted that their human employees would be able to do so.

Appeals are usually answered within a few days, though it may take longer. I do not expect to be reinstated. I can’t really complain. Although my suggestion was tossed off as an obvious joke, it was in bad taste and I should not have made it. So it goes on the planet *Tralfamador*.

