

# HYDE PARK

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

Submit contributions to [wayne@looking4light.com](mailto:wayne@looking4light.com).

Occasional Virtual Soap Box

December 3, 2021

A man is walking home from the office one afternoon. As he turns the corner of his street, just two blocks from home, he is confronted by a fierce chimera.

"I am going to ask three questions," the chimera says. "If you answer correctly, you will be granted your fondest wish. If not, you will be destroyed."

"Question one: What is the capital of North Dakota?" "Bismarck," the man says.

"Correct. Question two: What was your mother's maiden name?" "Jones," the man says.

"Correct. Question three: Do I exist?" "Yes, obviously," the man says.

*Alternative ending A.* "Wrong! I am a pre-Classical mythical beast!" Like lightning the great jaws flash, severing head from body as cleanly as a laser.

*Alternative ending B.* "Wrong! I'm simply a figment of your imagination!" Like lightning the great jaws flash, severing head from body as cleanly as a laser.

Moral: Fantasies that exist only in the fevered imaginations of Q-ANONAMAGAS are just as real as those that exist in the realm of substance and are in many ways even more dangerous. They cannot be countered by citing facts and logic.



Wayne's blog: <https://looking4light.com/scarab/>.

Back issues of *Hyde Park* can be found there.

## Note

The content of this newsletter has not been approved by the Volusia County D.E.C. Each item is the responsibility of its author. Questions and comments are welcome. Direct them to [wayne@looking4light.com](mailto:wayne@looking4light.com).

*To unsubscribe, email [volusiadem@gmail.com](mailto:volusiadem@gmail.com)*

*Paid political advertisement distributed by Volusia County DEC independently of any candidate or committee.*

# Feature

## American Media: always looking for the dark lining behind the silver cloud.

Wayne Dickson

### Media's Biden Bias

In his daily newsletter, Robert Reich emphasized one of the reasons 2022 might very well go down in history as the year when *American* democracy died:

Roughly 70 percent of Americans now rate the economy as bad (with *nearly half of Americans and political independents blaming Biden for inflation*, according to a recent Washington Post-ABC poll).

The truth, of course, is that the *American* economy is good, not bad. For example, we are seeing the lowest rate of unemployment in decades.

Yes, we are experiencing inflation. But the cause of the inflation is Donald Trump's pandemic, which caused both pent-up demand and breakdowns in the supply chain. Everything President Biden has done and wants to do will dampen the inflation, not exacerbate it.



As Magdi Semrau writes in *Alternet*:

[T]he decoupling of the president's approval and his agenda is unprecedented in modern American politics....

So what's going on?

...

First, we have to understand the media environment, including our own role as news consumers. The press should not be presidential cheerleaders. Its job is to critically relay facts and analyses. That said, the media and media consumers are subject to a *level of negativity bias that can drive public perception in irrational directions.*

Humans are more likely to engage with negative information.... Crucially, social science *research has shown that disproportionate negative coverage actually shapes human perception in a way that does not match the political reality.* This has real consequences for voters' decision-making in a democratic society.

Multiple polls have indicated Americans' have only a sparse understanding of the *Build Back Better* bill. When the bill still stood at \$3.5 trillion dollars, one

October poll from *CBS News* indicated that *Americans* had heard most about the price tag (59 percent) and tax increases (58 percent).

***[Incidentally, one should add that the 58% remember only that tax increases are proposed—not that those increases would affect only those who have more than \$400,000.00 per year in taxable income.]***

In contrast, only 46 percent had heard about universal pre-K and only 40 percent had heard about *Medicare* coverage for dental, vision and hearing, as well as lower *Medicare* drug prices.

It's tempting to think of those who vote *Republican* these days as being as stupid or looney as **this guy**:



*Casey Cusick*

At about 8 a.m. on a Thursday morning in late June, FBI agents in tactical vests appeared at the front door of Casey Cusick, a 36-year-old *Christian* evangelical pastor, in *Palm Bay FL*.

Cusick, vice president of *Global Outreach Ministries* church, was charged with violent entry and disorderly conduct on *Capitol* grounds and other violations in connection with the Jan. 6 assault on the *US Capitol*.

Months later, recording a podcast while awaiting trial, Casey Cusick reflected on how his father had noted before Donald Trump was elected that *1 Corinthians 15:52* says, “In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: the trumpet shall sound.”

To Casey Cusick and his father, the word “trump” couldn’t be a fluke of translation.

“Now, you can’t tell me that it’s coincidence that the last president was Donald Trump,” Cusick insisted. “And here we go reading the scripture right here where it says, ‘The last trump for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.’”

Sorry, brother Casey, but actually I can and will tell you it’s a coincidence. It’s a coincidence that in a letter to members of a religious congregation in ancient *Corinth* some guy named Paul used a *Koine Greek* word that would be translated 1600 years later in a country that didn’t yet exist into a language that didn’t yet exist as a now obsolete homonym for

the name of a guy who hadn't yet been born in a country that didn't yet exist, on a continent said Paul didn't know existed.

But seriously, we can't allow clowns like this to distract us. Think instead about voters who are both sane and of roughly average or better intelligence. They've been reading and hearing nothing but negative things about the economy, the *Build Back Better* bills, the *President's* performance, and the values and ambitions and of *Democrats* like us. Would it really surprise you if voters like that were to choose *Republicans*?

Can you yourself cite specific examples of...

- our economy's strength?
- provisions of the President's pandemic relief initiatives?
- provisions of the so-called "bipartisan" infrastructure act?
- provisions of the remaining part of the proposed legislation?

---

## Can they be serious?

Twice impeached, twice loser of the popular vote Donald Trump and his Q-ANONAMAGA bullies are continually complaining about being treated unfairly. Can they possibly be serious?

You bet your bippy they can! This like so much else was foreseen by George Orwell. Remember Napoleon the Pig from *Animal Farm*?

And can you cite specific evidence to support your answers? Yeah. Accusations are easy. Refutation shouldn't be necessary, but it is. We all need to get serious and start doing our homework.

**Here's** a good place to start:

More than five and a half million Americans out of work in January found jobs by November. In the same period, the jobless rate fell from 6.3 to 4.2 percent, a drop of one-third. Jobless claims in November hit a 52-year low. Real GDP growth for 2021 is expected to be 5.9 percent. (Between 2000 and 2019, real GDP growth stayed lower than 3 percent.)

Biden's temporary child tax credit, which provides direct cash payments to poor families, cut child hunger rates from 30 percent to 21 percent. That's 2 million fewer kids who went hungry.

ALL ANIMALS ARE  
EQUAL, BUT SOME  
ANIMALS ARE MORE  
EQUAL THAN OTHERS!

If you're convinced that you're "more equal" than others, then you have to believe that it's unfair for you to be treated the same as others. You should be treated better!

# Feature

## Inside the Beltway hagiography

Wayne Dickson

The aphorism “*De mortuis nil nisi bonum dicendum est*” (“of the dead say nothing but good”), commonly expressed in that *Latin* version, seems to have originated in classical *Greece*; but the sentiment it expresses continues to persist. I’m OK with that in general, but in respect to politics I think it can be dangerous.

Every normal human being combines both positive and not-so-positive qualities. Sometimes the former prevail, sometimes the latter. Sometimes very good people will do bad things, and vice versa. It’s important that we see our leaders whole and in realistic terms.

Consider John McCain, for example, beginning with his career in the *U.S. Navy*. Rumors about his flying skills continually dogged him:

Some say McCain “lost” five planes, others that he “crashed” five planes. All offer this alleged “fact” as evidence that he was a bad pilot. All are incorrect.

McCain did lose two *Navy* aircraft while piloting them. One crash was found to be McCain’s fault, the other due to an engine failure of undetermined cause. A third was destroyed on the deck of the carrier *U.S.S. Forrestal* when a missile fired accidentally from another plane hit either the plane next to McCain’s or, less likely, his own aircraft, triggering a disastrous fire that killed 134 sailors and nearly killed McCain. A fourth plane was lost when he was shot down over

*North Vietnam* on a bombing mission over Hanoi.

A fifth alleged “crash” turns out to be a misinterpretation of a flight accident that did not result in the loss of the aircraft. McCain admitted to causing that incident through “daredevil clowning” but returned safely. [He cut through the cable of a mountain cable car.]

—[FactCheck.org](http://FactCheck.org)

In point of fact, his flying skills were rated very highly by his superior officers.



Then there were the stories about McCain the POW. He was referred to as the “*Hanoi* songbird,” accused of having revealed key information to the *North Vietnamese*. The truth is that McCain was a genuine hero. He was badly injured when his plane crashed; he was badly tortured by the *North Vietnamese*; and he did remain in custody rather than accepting an early release that would have had great propaganda value for his captors.

[Disclosure: My brother-in-law was an *Air Force* pilot who was shot down and killed on a bombing mission at *Hanoi*. My brother was almost shot down while a crewman on a *C-130* locating convoys heading south along the *Ho Chi Minh Trail*.]



Thor (59-0490) an AC-130A gunship on the ramp at Ubon, Thailand. This aircraft was shot down near Pakse, Laos on December 21, 1972. Photograph taken by, and copyright (1972, 1996) of, Frank Morachino.

*This was an earlier version (C-130 vs. C-130A) of the airplanes on which my brother flew, and this was the base from which he flew. One of his planes, crewed by his friends, was shot down the week after he left Thailand.*

The reason why McCain left the *Navy* and went into politics is a bit trickier. Both his father and his grandfather had been much admired *Navy Admirals*, and McCain expected to be next in line. *The New York Times* (great reporters, frequently not-so-great editorial policies) published that he had been told he would be promoted. His fellow *Naval* officers insist this could not have happened, that those who knew him and his career doubted he would ever be promoted.

As a senator, McCain's skills, hard work, and policy positions were generally respected. His

ethics? Not so much. His involvement with *ENRON's* Ken Lay (on whose private jet he used to fly to *Caribbean* vacations) was highly suspect, and he was one of the notorious "*Keating 5*." In respect to that last, however, please note that though his fellow senators condemned his poor judgment, they did not censure his behavior.

Let's look at another senator, Bob Dole. Like McCain, Dole was a genuine war hero. He was so badly wounded while fighting in Italy at the very end of *World War II* that he lost total use of one arm and recovered only partial use of the other. Dole was a successful senator, and a very strong and effective Majority Leader. However...



He had a very caustic, nasty, and often cruel wit. A mild **example**:

"There they are - See No Evil, Hear No Evil and Evil." - upon seeing, respectively, former presidents Jimmy Carter, Gerald Ford and Richard Nixon together at the *White House*.

## DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF VOLUSIA COUNTY

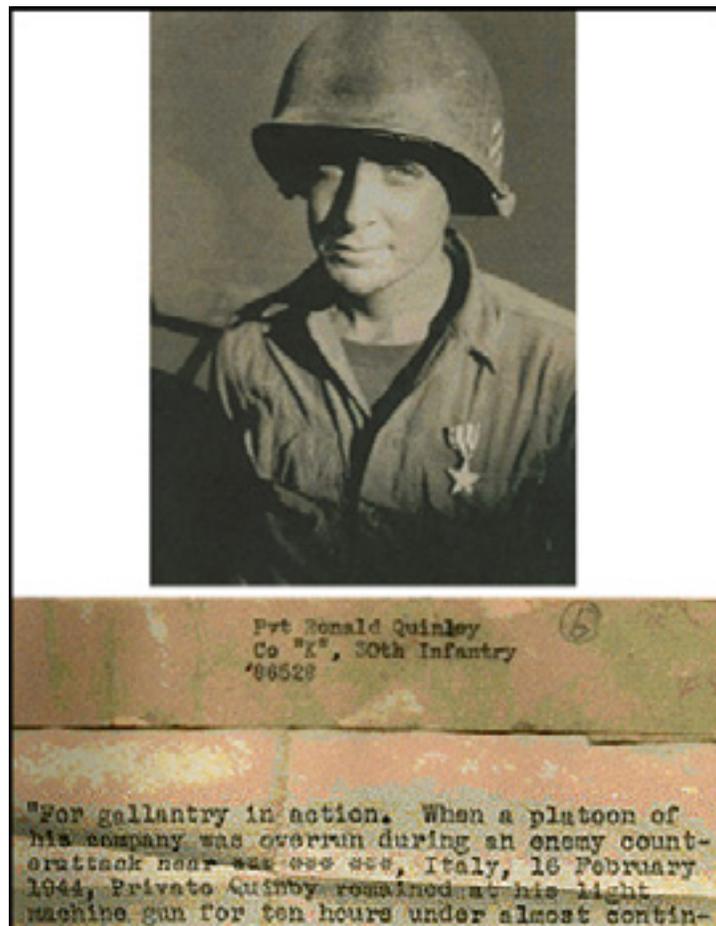
I have to admit that I used to admire a lot about Dole (though of course that didn't extend to his political ideology). The turning point came right after the 1996 presidential election, which Dole lost to Bill Clinton. He said on camera that he intended to do his utmost to see that Clinton's presidency failed.

That seemed totally wrong to me—immorally so—still does! If a president fails, then the nation fails. We all should do our best to see that every presidency is successful. To do otherwise is equivalent to throwing bombs at the person holding the tiller of a small lifeboat in which you're both floating in the middle of the ocean.

If a president is pursuing good policy, we should support it. If a president is pursuing bad policy or exhibiting bad behavior, we should oppose it. But we need the presidency itself to prevail.

By the way, if Dole's words sound familiar, that's because they were echoed almost verbatim by Mitch McConnell on the night before Barack Obama's inauguration. And we've seen where that's taken us.

[More disclosure: The teenaged uncle after whom my brother Ronald and I are named won the *Silver Star* while fighting in *Italy* during *World War II*. One week after receiving the award, he was killed by *German* artillery.]



# Feature

## Another way we must make sure Dems get credit!

Alex Henderson

AlterNet

### 'Blatant hypocrisy': CNN's John Avlon slams Republicans taking credit for Biden's COVID relief package — after voting against it

Alex Henderson • December 15, 2021



“Paul Gosar is at it again,” Avlon told CNN viewers. “No, not threatening AOC or calling members of the FBI and DOJ traitors or boycotting speeches by the Pope — no, this is a different sin of blatant hypocrisy. You see, Gosar is doing a victory lap for delivering federal cash to his constituency: specifically, COVID-19 relief funds that will be used to clean and provide relief for the Kingman, Arizona airport. In a press release, Gosar called it critical funding, essential to maintaining safe and reliable air service to the community. What he failed to mention is that he voted against the

legislation that made it possible: the American Rescue Plan Act.”

Avlon continued, “In fact, he slammed it, saying: This bill is not about COVID relief, it is about funding Democrats’ pet projects, the American people should be furious — and calling it a Democratic spending bonanza. Well, which is it, congressman? A socialist spending scheme, or critical funding? But Gosar understands that he can vote no and still score the dough.”