

The Delray Democrat

Obese Turtle v. Mexican Rapists, Fine Neo-Nazis, and Fat Ugly Woman¹

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After Trump's temper tantrum about non-existent election fraud, Anderson Cooper, normally the most staid and decorous presence on CNN, let loose:

"That is the president of the United States. That is the most powerful person in the world. And we see him like an obese turtle on his back flailing in the hot sun, realizing his time is over."

Cooper later apologized. "... I regret using those words because that's not the person I really wanna be. It was in the moment, and I regret it." I know, I know...journalists don't have the luxury of letting loose. I know that better than most, having written hundreds of political stories, literary reviews and consumer law columns for three newspapers, guest columns for others and major feature stories for NE (formerly Northeast) Magazine. When you're writing about child slave labor or an innocent man prisoned for years, it's really hard not to scream.

I wish Cooper had not apologized. Let's juxtapose "obese turtle" with the daily effluent from Trump's mouth: Mexican rapists, "fine" neo-Nazis, the ridicule of the disabled, and every vulgarity against women ever coined. Wanted: More Moral Outrage.

Remember, Trump escorted Racism to the ball and threw a political tarp over the bodies of the Covid-19 victims to protect his re-election.

Fortunately, many TV anchors and print columnists switched from labeling Trump's "untruths" to "lies." Millions of Democrats and Independents jumped into battle and worked liked never before to get Biden and Harris elected.

Yet too many of these good and decent people are self-flagellating over what Trump has wrought, using an all-inclusive "we." The letters to the editors in this Sunday's major papers were Exhibits A-Z. "We must face what we have done." "We have to accept our failures." One idiot actually wrote that the worst of Trump's detritus is the "rudeness" we've adopted. Really?

Who the hell are "we?" "We" are not responsible for this man's ascension. The onus is on the MAGA hat folks who gathered in rallies without masks, endangering the nation, and who cheered his slurs against minority groups. And on those legislators and government leaders who fouled their oaths of office. When we play the collective guilt game, we reduce the culpability of those who supported him.

This "we" is nothing more than Moral Equivalence as Therapy—and it's dangerous. It blurs the lines between right and wrong, decency and immorality: distinctions that are our only weapons against reversion to primitivism.

¹ *The Delray Democrat*, November 2020, p. 2.

The presidency was re-captured, but the next battle has been joined. Biden and Harris face the worst social, public health, and economic crises since FDR, with a civil war bubbling way too close to the surface.

We've got to help now more than ever.

First, publicly call out anyone – whether from the moderate or progressive wings of the party – who engages in the blame game, something that the media is already actively encouraging. Biden and Harris already face a Herculean task getting anything accomplished for America with Chief Obstructionist McConnell in charge of the Senate. They don't need Democrats reverting to their circular firing squad.

Second, campaign for Democratic-sponsored legislation and policies with the same zeal demonstrated during the election process.

Third, if any medium distorts the Democrats' efforts, tell its advertisers you won't buy their products.

Fourth, work to cleanse Florida of the current governor and Republican state legislators, the real criminals who denied the most fundamental right of voting to thousands of returning citizens.

The road back to We the People is going to be very long and very hard.