

# The Delray Democrat

## June's Outbox<sup>1</sup>

*June S. Neal*

The verdict against Donald Trump is a win for America's sense of integrity and justice.

Yet, these crimes were in accord with Donald Trump's lifelong history of cheating, grifting and lying. He has been found liable for sexual abuse. He paid \$25 million for duping thousands of people out of millions with his phony Trump University, and \$2 million for misusing funds from his own charity.

In an unprecedented conflict of interest, Trump made \$160 million from foreign countries while he was president.

But his greatest crime is that he's a traitor to the American people. He took Vladimir Putin's side against our own intelligence agencies that found Russia had interfered with the 2016 election. On January 6, he incited a crowd of zealots to stop the certification of a presidential election.

As FDR said of the attack on Pearl Harbor, our January 6 is "a date which will live in infamy." I hope Trump supporters will now consider their duty to their country.

**June S. Neal, *Sun-Sentinel*, June 2, 2024**

Thanks to Scott Maxwell for calling out book banners who never read the books ("Flori-duh: 'Florida school board bans book about book bans,'" June 16). But I doubt that even reading would make much difference, since their arguments show they simply don't understand literature. Passages about sex and gender identity make them clutch their pearls, but so do racism, immigrants' struggles — anything that portrays "the other" as worthy of respect.

Many are not acting as parents, but as political operatives.

The evidence of their extremism is the call to remove Mark Twain's "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn." Huck's only "thirteen or fourteen," on his own, but informed by the white slave society he ran from. He's befriended Jim, a runaway slave who has been like a father to him. When authorities near Jim's hiding place, Huck

must choose whether to expose him; he's been taught that not doing so is a grave sin. Then this child makes one of the greatest moral decisions in American literature: "All right, then, I'll go to hell."

In our political climate of cowardice and malleable *morality*, *young people need such literature*

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<sup>1</sup> [The Delray Democrat](#), June 2024, page 7.

*more than ever.*

Florida students are graduating with gaping holes in their literacy. Suppression of important books is educational malpractice. It removes the tools that develop learning's most important goal: critical thinking.

This propaganda-driven censorship is part of an existential threat to replace our democracy with straight, white Christian nationalism. We saw the results of Germany's experiment.

**June S. Neal, *Orlando Sentinel*, June 17, 2024**