

The Delray Democrat

Short Cuts¹

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Envy, Fear, and Clickbait

The engine that drove the frenzy to force Biden to step down was fueled by envy, fear, and the quest for clickbait. Biden has done more good with fewer votes to spare than any Democratic president of this or the last century.

That breeds envy from those in the Obama administration who mocked him when he was vice-president and pushed him to drop out in 2016. It breeds fear in Republicans who don't want to see him finish the job.

Always Look on the Bright Side of Life 🎵🎵🎵

I know it must be a disappointment to *The New York Times* that it's a coronation rather than an open convention with the promise of the clickbait from dozens of articles reporting on the race to the nomination mere months ahead of the election that will determine whether the Republic will hold. But look on the bright side.

If you're forced to get your clickbait by reporting on the greatest threat to our Republic since the Civil War, you can be part of the struggle to save it instead of another media outlet monetizing our descent into neo-fascism.

Projection as a Psychological and Political Tool

Republicans are masters of projection, a defense mechanism that relieves psychological pressure by attributing one's own unacceptable behavior and urges to another. Republicans accuse Democrats of stealing elections through *voter fraud* because *they* steal elections through *voter suppression*. The former is virtually nonexistent while the latter is ubiquitous and very effective.

Projection also serves prophylactically as a political tool. Donald Trump's claim that Biden is mentally unfit is a form of pre-inoculation against the same claim being directed at him, a charge that has far greater basis in reality.

Our Duty to Immigrants

America bears responsibility for the fact that so many Latinxs are leaving the homes their families inhabited for generations to brave a dangerous journey to a country where they receive a hostile and heartless reception from many of the descendants of earlier waves of immigrants.

NAFTA is responsible for displacing millions of small farmers in Mexico who couldn't compete with America's Big Ag, aided by giant government subsidies. For example, Archer Daniels

¹ [The Delray Democrat](#), July 2024, page 6.

Midland has received [subsidies](#) totaling nearly half a billion dollars and \$2.5 trillion in loans and guarantees.

Finally, we can expect—and bear a responsibility to accept—the climate refugees who will be arriving as their countries become uninhabitable thanks to the fact that America has poured [more greenhouse gases](#) into the atmosphere than any other country

News As Entertainment

We can date the moment news started to devolve from a public service into bread and circuses. It began with Rupert Murdoch's purchase of the *New York Post*, turning a liberal New York City tabloid into a scrofulous rag.

At first, the established corporate media treated Murdoch as a country bumpkin. Then he showed them how much money could be made from broadcasting sensationalist nonsense masquerading as “news.” His program “A Current Affair” was so successful that it was almost immediately copied by old money media. CBS launched *Hard Copy*,” which one documentary dubbed, “The National Enquirer on TV.”

A Current Affair's original host Maury Povich was asked years later whether that was a “good thing,” and he said, “for me personally it was a great thing.”

How the Media Elects Presidents

Bill Clinton played the sax while George H.W. Bush didn't know the price of broccoli

Al Gore was stiff while you could enjoy a beer with George W. Bush

Barack Obama has a charisma and cool that even media favorite John McCain couldn't match (he would have been president if Hillary had beaten Obama in the primary).

Trump was a pathological liar, a huckster, and a serial bankrupt, but no one in the craven, clueless corporate media thought he could win and, in the [words](#) of the subsequently disgraced CBS Chair Les Moonves, “The money is rolling in.”