

THREE THINGS: WAVES OF STUPIDITY

[NB: Check the byline, thanks. /~Rayne]

Scrolling through my social media feed Wednesday I noticed wave after wave of incredible stupidity. Of course there's a lot of stupid out on the internet, so much wrongness there's an xkcd cartoon for those of us who can't help but point at the trash fires burning online.

But Wednesday's exceptionally bad piles of idiocy are worth noting because they're indicative of trends.

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Jesus Christ, this woman is a moron AND she's a doctor. Proves not everyone who earns a doctorate should be trusted with sharp objects or your life.

Testimony going off the rails now.

Tenpenny is claiming there is metal in the vaccine that causes forks to stick to your forehead. She saw videos of it on the internet, you see

Also promoting the 5G cell phone network vaccine theory. This is the anti-vaccine "expert witness"

pic.twitter.com/sPpuAqmHba

– Tyler Buchanan (@Tylerjoelb) June 8, 2021

Magnetism, I has it. Now that I'm vaccinated all the metal in my house is clinging to me – even brass keys which aren't conductive. ~eye roll~

Watch as this nurse – a health care professional who must have attended secondary education and passed a state licensing exam – demonstrates before the same state legislative hearing how COVID has increased her magnetism.

Wow. An anti-vaccine nurse in Ohio tried to prove the Vaccines Cause Magnetism theory in an state legislative committee. The demonstration did not go to plan pic.twitter.com/0ubELst4E8

– Tyler Buchanan (@Tylerjoelb) June 9, 2021

Lady, take a fucking shower. It's sweat and skin oils causing small objects to stick to you.

What an incredible waste of government personnel hours. Expect more of this kind of idiocy as long as it's profitable for these hacks to monetize their wretchedness while spreading this ignorant disinformation.

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Two words should tell just how bad this next bit of stupid is: Louie Gohmert.

Rep. Gohmert has become a synonym for brain-sucking vapidty if you aren't already familiar with this elected representative's cred. But he really outdid himself today.

ORBITS: Rep. Louie Gohmert (R-TX) asks whether the Forest Service or the BLM can alter the orbit of the moon or the Earth in order to fight climate change during a House Natural Resources hearing pic.twitter.com/yYi0yi2cMZ

– Forbes (@Forbes) June 8, 2021

Bet he also believes Superman could stop or reverse time by flying fast enough around the earth in the opposite direction of its rotation.

Gohmert tried to correct what he felt was a misunderstanding, but...

What was conveniently left out under the ellipses: <https://t.co/NTAAbzA3me> pic.twitter.com/akXQKUJg8c

– Louie Gohmert (@replouiegohmert) June 9, 2021

We knew what you meant the first time, Gohmert. Voters in TX-01 need to catch the clue train in 2022 and elect someone with a few more watts upstairs.

Best analysis of Gohmert's question in this thread:

If you **did** want to alter the earth's orbit, it would not be that hard to do.

You'd simply knock Pluto out of its orbit to swing by Jupiter, suck some of its momentum off, then swing by Earth to impart a bit of that momentum, speeding it up and thus making it orbit farther

– Anosognosiogenesis (@pookleblink) June 9, 2021

The last tweet in the thread is perfection.

Until voters get fed up with this kind of moron representing them, we can expect more Gohmert-ish output from the likes of Representatives Boebert, Cawthorn, Gaetz, Gosar, Greene, so on. What a pity they all belong to the same political entity which has apparently abandoned science.

~ 1 ~

Remember all the posts this site has written in praise of investment firm BlackRock? That would be zero if you're a newbie here which is in line with most sites on the left.

The firm may have begun to clue in that climate change and a lack of diversity are eating into their investment performance, but that's not a shift to the left – it's an acknowledgment of facts and science.

For some reason this Ohio GOP senate candidate believes The Left – just say it, Vance, the

Democratic Party – in particular are big supporters of BlackRock:

Blackrock is pursuing an investment strategy that will make it harder for young Americans to own homes. The Left will ignore this, because Blackrock has committed to “racial audits” and other diversity BS. <https://t.co/lgtb3xSl09>

– J.D. Vance (@JDVance1) June 9, 2021

Vance, the author of *Hillbilly Elogy*, attacks Democrats instead of focusing on the problem which is plaguing Ohio homebuyers. No doubt he’ll do the same thing if he’s elected – avoid confronting the financial investment sector from which he’ll expect campaign donations while crabbing about the political party which has swept up problem after problem created by lousy GOP tax policy.

As I’ve noted before, lower wage workers can’t afford housing when prices skyrocket due to investment bankers buying single family and other residential housing. Don’t like increasing wages? Get the investment banks out of single family housing and revisit policy toward investment banking in multi-family housing.

Businesses are still going to have to respond to the suppression of wages over the last couple decades; some of the wage increases are merely catch-up. Food service, hard hit by the pandemic, may respond earliest and pass the cost immediately onto their customers.

Chipotle Mexican Grill has hiked menu prices by roughly 4% to cover the cost of raising its workers’ wages. <https://t.co/ba3L5Wkm8e>

– NBC News (@NBCNews) June 9, 2021

But at some point shareholders need to ask themselves why they are paying so much for

executives when they aren't the frontline facing customers. With Standard & Poor index members' median CEO compensation reaching \$13.7 million this past year in spite of the pandemic, executives have raked in the cash during the pandemic; they can afford to yield a few million in compensation in order to assure worker retention through pay increases to living wage level.

Betting Vance won't say anything about the inequity of executives' compensation being too busy trashing Democrats to expend any wattage on systemic problems and solutions. He's still unable to grasp the true root causes of poverty just as his hillbilly memoir revealed.

I can hardly wait for another year and a half of this crap while he runs for Ohio's open senate seat.

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There was plenty more stupid where that came from, but the stuff is toxic and one can easily overdose. Let's hope Thursday is a little smarter.

THREE THINGS: EFF THESE EFFING EFFERS

That mealy-mouthed compromised weasel Lindsey Graham spent a lot of time whining on the Sunday talk show circuit this weekend.

Somebody out there has the dirt on Graham. *Just. Spill. It.* Find a vehicle to do the job, get yourself clear, and let it rip because all of us, Democrats and Republicans alike, are going to spend too much time mopping up Lindsey's alligator tears if his personal problem isn't addressed out in the open.

He wouldn't be doing all this whining about

Democrats and backstabbing his own party if he was hidey-holed trying to lick his wounds. It's not like he's got anything to lose in 2022 or 2024 because he was just re-elected, goddamn it all.

Just. Spill. The. Dirt. Lance the festering boil animating Graham. Back up the truck, press DUMP, and run like hell.

~ 3 ~

Until somebody gets smart and dumps the dirt on Graham, we need to regroup and get in gear for 2022. We can't lose the Senate or we'll end up with two years of stagnation and worse. If the last two years were bad, an economic depression making the 1930s look like a piece of cake could result from the GOP taking the Senate again.

Here's the targets of our offense:

State	Class III	Cook PVI	Age Now	Open	'2018 Moscow	Convict Trump
Pennsylvania	Pat Toomey (R)	Even	59	Open	N	Y
Wisconsin	Ron Johnson (R)	Even	65		Y	N
Florida	Marco Rubio (R)	R+02	49		N	N
Iowa	Chuck Grassley (R)	R+03	87		N	N
North Carolina	Richard Burr (R)	R+03	65	Open	N	Y
Ohio	Rob Portman (R)	R+03	65	Open	N	N
Arizona	Mark Kelly (D)	R+05	56		N	Y
Georgia	Raphael Warnock (D)	R+05	51		N	Y
South Carolina	Tim Scott (R)	R+08	55		N	N
Alaska	Lisa Murkowski (R)	R+09	63		N	Y
Missouri	Roy Blunt (R)	R+09	71		N	N
Indiana	Todd Young (R)	R+09	48		N	N
Louisiana	John Kennedy (R)	R+11	69		Y	N

Kansas	Jerry Moran (R)	R+13	66		Y	N
Alabama	Richard Shelby (R)	R+13	86	Open	Y	N
South Dakota	John Thune (R)	R+14	60		Y	N
Arkansas	John Boozman (R)	R+15	70		N	N
Kentucky	Rand Paul (R)	R+15	58		N	N
North Dakota	John Hoeven (R)	R+17	63		Y	N
Idaho	Mike Crapo (R)	R+19	69		N	N
Oklahoma	James Lankford (R)	R+20	52		N	N
Utah	Mike Lee (R)	R+20	49		N	N

These are all the GOP seats up for re-election or open in 2022, sorted by their Cook Partisan Voting Index rating. The strongest rated GOP are at the bottom, the weakest at the top.

There are three columns identifying which seats are open, which of these GOP senators went to Moscow on July 4 in 2018, and which ones voted to convict.

Sen. Shelby, one of those who went to Moscow, is 86 years old. He's likely retiring due to age; it's not clear why Putin would have ensured he was invited unless he knew something about Shelby not obvious to us. But Shelby is the likely ceiling on Cook PVI at R+13.

I've inserted two of the newest Democratic senators in the table, noting their state is rated R+5. This should tell us that every single seat at R+5 to Even is highly gettable with solid organizing on the ground. If you live in one of these states, you should be looking into helping as soon as possible. Those two Democrats, Kelly and Warnock, also need help; they won a special election, but must now fight for the Class III seat for the full six-year term.

Every one of the GOP senators who went to Moscow is vulnerable. Moscow wouldn't have invited them if they weren't either compromised, soft and could be compromised, or whatever psychographic

and demographic data Putin's data trolls had pulled together indicated these seats would trend left *long before the pandemic*.

Louisiana, for example, is increasingly non-white, its population become less white and more non-white at a rate of 1/4% per year. In 2018, the state was 58.4% non-Hispanic white. COVID may have stemmed some of that shift by way of Team Trump's passive genocide by neglect, but that still means 41.6% of the population is non-white. Strong, effective organizing like that in Georgia this last election season could make Louisiana gettable, and it could explain why Moscow reached out to Sen. Kennedy.

Iowa is gettable for other reasons – the damage Trump did to farmers with his unnecessary trade war, Chuck Grassley's decrepitude, a strong Democratic candidate pipeline, to name a few. What Iowa will need, though, is to get its act together with regard to its primary process. DNC's new chair Jaime Harrison may be looking into this early rather than later to assure smooth sailing into 2022.

Speaking of Harrison, all those other less-gettable seats shouldn't be ignored. Harrison appears ready to reinstitute a 50-state strategy leaving no seat uncontested. Kentucky, for example, shouldn't be ceded because it's rated R+15 and McConnell just won re-election there; if Charles Booker was interested in running against Rand Paul, he could stand a decent chance of winning, let alone make Paul work hard for his seat.

Pick a race or two. Get engaged early. Figure out how to help. Do not let the fascist GOP believe it has a chance at continued minority rule.

~ 2 ~

A new conservative party may soon emerge, consisting of more traditional conservatives who identified as Republican and are not Trump supporters.

.@EvanMcMullin, Executive Director of Stand Up Republic, and more than 120 former GOP officials have discussed forming an Anti-Trump third party. He tells @Lawrence that the Republican response to the events of January 6 was the impetus for that meeting.

<https://t.co/u0nNeR4oKx>
pic.twitter.com/2Cg17s2xHW

– The Last Word (@TheLastWord) February 12, 2021

This is a good move; I hope these folks do all the right things, getting their party formally established and organized in all 50 states. Could these folks peel away a few centrist Democrats? Possibly. But they're more likely to fragment the power of the existing GOP.

We'd also be closer to a multi-party model than we have been, preventing a far more fascist entity like the Party of Trumpism from taking control of any branch of government.

Many Democrats have been upset about House Speaker Pelosi's remarks saying this country needs a strong Republican Party:

During a press conference with House managers after Trump's second impeachment trial, Nancy Pelosi said: "I think our country needs a strong Republican party. It's very important."
pic.twitter.com/aPbxgxDLYd

– USA TODAY (@USATODAY) February 13, 2021

But I wonder if what she really meant was a the country needs a strong party which believes in a republic – a democratic republic – giving a subtle nod to McMullin and the other breakaway Republicans who are interested in a pro-democracy conservative party.

Consider the timing of her remarks made on Saturday, while McMullin discussed the potential new party on Friday.

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Of all the whining that pasty, soft-handed, slack-assed Graham did this weekend, this pissed me off the most.

Lindsey Graham suggests Kamala Harris will be impeached if Republicans take back the House next year
pic.twitter.com/J680r4k1la

– Aaron Rupar (@atrupar) February 14, 2021

Right, asshole. You want to impeach the first Black-Asian woman VP because she supported First Amendment-protected peaceful protests against racist police brutality while she was a senator? Or are you really just eager to impeach Harris because she's Black-Asian, woman, and a VP like you will never be?

Go ahead and try it, whiner. You're only giving every American who is non-white and/or woman impetus to organize even harder to get out the mothertrucking vote.

I really do hope there's a new pro-democracy conservative party ready to run for Lindsey Graham's seat in six years. I'd even donate money to them to see them make him whine even harder.

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If you're inside the polar vortex, I hope you're able to stay warm. Reduce your electricity consumption as much as you can tolerate it to keep the load on the grid down. This web site is cheesy looking but it has some decent pointers about keeping warm. If you're not in the vortex, do some emergency preparedness work because we don't know with certainty how this or the next vortex will pan out.

And for dogs' sake, stay off the road if at all possible if you live where snow and ice are rarities.

Oh, and double mask to protect against the newer highly-transmissible UK version of COVID.