

ELMO'S FORCED MARRIAGE

Elmo's Twitter rants since he purchased the company seem to be as much about loathing that we all saw him make an epically shitty business deal as they are about rolling out a viable plan to keep Twitter afloat.

ON CONSPIRACY

Conspiracy is in the news today, but it is more complex than being let on.

AFTER WAILING THAT NO ONE WAS REPORTING ON THE HUNTER BIDEN LAPTOP, GLENN GREENWALD IS NOW WAILING BECAUSE BEN COLLINS DID

Glenn Greenwald has spent weeks wailing because no one at big media outlets was reporting on the Hunter Biden laptop. Ben Collins, in summing up his recent reporting noted he had done just that.

Glenn's response to was to call him a fraud because he did that reporting at NBC.

I guess it wasn't reporting he was really after.

THE FABULOUS EMPTYWHEEL MUSIC BLOG: LITTLE RICHARD

Little Richard was everything. If it wasn't Chuck Berry, it was Richard Wayne Penniman. The definition of rock and roll.

WE DON'T DO THAT

Go read this article by David Roth at the Columbia Journalism Review, it is brutally true. Here is a taste, but do read the whole thing:

It all happened in the way that decline generally happens in American culture, which is one anxious, hopeful, cynical capitulation at a time. We have compressed and corroded and finally collapsed what used to be the core of a publication—its relationship with its readers, and the basic notion that one should not make it hard for them to read.

It goes without saying that everyone involved is perpetually maxed-out and stressed and scrabbling for a dwindling and finite amount of money in an arbitrary and artificially constricted ad economy that runs on wobbly, untrustable, and easily manipulated data. (A friend who works in advertising operations described the work as “a game of catching falling knives.”)

In the last half-decade, ads have rapidly migrated from the sides and top

of the page into the actual text. This is the result of pressures created by the transition from desktop computers to mobile devices. The ads need to get seen on a screen with no margins.

The ads that stalk you down the page reflect advertisers' demands that their ads remain "in view." And all the clammy unbidden video stuff is exactly as desperate as it looks. Not many people will watch video ads if given any choice in the matter. Taking choice out of the equation helps a lot.

Some sites have deliberately made the experience of reading them for free more assaultive, in order to bully readers into buying subscriptions. For the price of a small monthly indulgence on your end, it can all go back to normal and your laptop's fan can finally turn off.

And then take a look at the site/forum you are currently reading on, Emptywheel. There is no infinite scroll. There are no ads, pop up or otherwise. There is nothing but....content. And it is free. If you have a few extra shekels or rubles, consider throwing them Marcy's way (there are all kinds of links for this on the right margin). It helps. And thank you to all who come here.

YEVGENIY PRIGOZHIN CONTINUES TO TROLL BOTH ONLINE AND IN THE COURTS

I suspect the real purpose of a lawsuit that one of Yevgeniy Prigozhin's company's filed against

Facebook for cutting it off is to set up an attack on Facebook within Russia.

MUELLER TO YEVGENIY PRIGOZHIN: SURE YOU CAN HAVE DISCOVERY ... IF YOU COME TO THE UNITED STATES TO GET IT

Mueller has sent a key message to Yevgeniy Prigozhin. He'll only share discovery with him if he shows up to the US to be arrested before he receives it.

YET MORE PROOF FACEBOOK'S SURVEILLANCE CAPITALISM IS GOOD AT SURVEILLING — EVEN RUSSIAN HACKERS

After Robby Mook tried to fact check Mark Zuckerberg yesterday, Alex Stamos provided more details about what Facebook saw of Russian hacking in real time yesterday.

FACEBOOK CUTS OFF CAMBRIDGE ANALYTICA, PROMISES FURTHER INVESTIGATION

The news that Facebook has finally cut Cambridge Analytica off from its data is far more momentous, in my opinion, than the firing of Andrew McCabe. Here's why.

IN TWO SO-CALLED FACT CHECKS OF FACEBOOK, NYT FORGETS EVERYTHING IT KNOWS ABOUT INDICTMENTS

NYT twice tried to fact check Facebook VP for ad sales Rob Goldman. Both times they confused what Mueller put in the Internet Research Agency indictment for the whole universe of IRA Facebook trolling.