

TRUMP EDITION: WHAT IS AND WHAT SHALL NEVER BE

Anybody who thinks this is all cut and dried as Bragg makes it is a dope. To what extent we shall see.

NFL PLAYOFF FOOTBALL IS BACK, AND WE'RE GONNA GET IN TROUBLE TRASH TALK

It has been a hell of a fun first few months, er week, of 2021. So, with no further adieu, lets get to the ball.

HOW MANY COVID-19 DEATHS IS RON DESANTIS HIDING?

Ron DeSantis fired Rebekah Jones, who developed and managed the Florida database for COVID-19 deaths on May 1, just as he "reopened" the state. Since her departure, the number of deaths reported has dropped even though the reported number of new cases per day has been reported as steady. Floridians are now confronted with relying on a database that may well have been manipulated when they are trying to make life and death decisions that depend on accurate information.

THE FABULOUS EMPTYWHEEL MUSIC BLOG: SETTING THE SCENE

We have done live music for a couple of weeks, now let's set the scene with the greatest music documentaries.

US "JOB CREATORS" NEGATE THE HUMANITY OF WORKERS

In the US, "job creators" just can't grasp the idea that workers are humans who need food and shelter during the time that, through no fault of their own, they can't work. The idea of paying workers to do nothing simply never can be entertained, even if it literally means life or death.

IS IT RUSSIAN OR IS IT REAL?

Is It Russian Or Is It Real?

This is a question only humans with a sentient brain can answer. An equation that clearly leaves out Matt Taibbi, Senators Graham and Kennedy (not to be confused with the good

Senator Kennedys). This Kennedy is an assclown.

So, when you decide what the Russians are doing, constantly, to our elections and democracy, and you should be doing exactly that, ponder this: The Russians and their former bloc can mimic and project almost everything. As the United States heads into 2020, there needs to be an awareness as to exactly how good countries that wish to damage the very basis, i.e. Constitutional, basis that the US is founded on.

Oceans and borders protect the "Homeland". That long ago became a falsehood that is dangerous to hold on to. And when one particular political party is doing so, in the face of every ounce of their past beliefs, you have to wonder why.

For the record, the musicians on the title cut are Leonid & Friends. If you think that only American music is being taken this competently (and Leonid and Friends is every bit as good as post Terry Kath Chicago), you are fooling yourself. It is about the elections, not the music. Leonid et. al have HiWatts, Marshalls and whatnot. That is not important, how they have American democracy in the balance is what is important.

ALEX MOONEY'S HILARIOUS SELF-OWN

When Matt Gaetz's stormtroopers stormed the access point to the SCIF yesterday, Representative Alex Mooney (R-WV) provided the most hilarious evidence of how he violated the prohibition against recording even in the hallway that accesses the more secure portion of the SCIF.

THE [ANDREW] LUCK OF THE DRAW

It seems as if both Marcy and Jim White (where has that guy been lately?) are harshing on me for some Trash Talk. So, off we go!

The Florida Gators seem to have won a football game. Over other Florida men, the crossfire Hurricanes. Of Miami. That was Mr. White's concern.

Marcy wants me to talk about the Patrick Chung case. I will likely come back to that later, when there is more information available. Like departmental reports and search warrant affidavits (if there are any!). For the meantime, there are serious questions as to the propriety of the actions of the Belknap County, of New Hampshire, officials in entering Chung's house, not to mention searching it without belief there was a suspect inside and ongoing crime being committed. It is, for now at least, hard to see how they could have thought that. We shall see, but there are some serious questions needing to be asked and answered on this one.

And, then, the Luck ran out. Of Indy. From the great Gregg Doyell of the IndyStar:

Indianapolis Colts quarterback Andrew Luck announced Saturday night he was retiring, and for a moment he couldn't breathe. He was crying. He was catching his breath and apologizing.

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Luck was booed off the field Saturday night when the Colts played the Chicago Bears in the third preseason game, the news of his retirement breaking on Twitter during the second half. The fans who stuck around, they booed Luck off the field. And he heard it.

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Even so, Luck sounded like a man at peace, a man who has stared into the abyss and turned away. Football, once his favorite hobby, the source of such childlike joy, had become his dark place. He said he had been thinking about retiring for about 10 days, calling it "a moment of clarity" when the idea finally started to take shape. He said he'd been tired.

"I feel exhausted," he said, sounding very much that, "and quite tired."

This is stunning. And it changes the AFC calculus dramatically. Good for Andrew Luck. He has always seemed like a cerebral chap, and if he thinks it is time to move on, then it is time to move on. That is truly gutsy though.

So, there are two musical selections today. The first is, in honor of Andrew Luck, The Luck Of The Draw by the incomparable Bonnie Raitt. Along with early (think Derek And The Dominoes era) Eric Clapton, and Lowell George of Little Feat, Bonnie is as kick ass of a slide guitar player as I have ever seen in my life. She is so good.

And, the second is the Stones. They are still Rolling.

And in just over 24 hours from now, Mrs. bmaz and I are going to be visiting with the Glimmer Twins, and the other Stones. Because if the Stones are in town, you go. And they are not some over the hill geriatric second level casino act, they still absolutely kill. The attached video is from 2006. A tour I saw, though here as opposed to at Copacabana Beach with half a million people in Rio. I wish I had flown down to Rio. Because, damn, that looked like some serious fun.

JEFF FLAKE'S "INVESTIGATION" IS A PREDICABLE TRUMPIAN SHAM



This was about the easiest thing in the world to predict. Jeff Flake issues some

hollow self indulgent bullshit to make himself look like the last great reasonable man, and it is all garbage being run as cover for a complicit Trump White House and weak Senate Republicans (and at least one faux Democrat) desperately and cowardly seeking any fig leaf possible to allow them to put a craven, partisan, angry and drunkard historical sex offender on the United States Supreme Court for the next three to four decades.

If you thought that was just hyperbole previously, read this from NBC News and chew on it:

Instead of investigating Swetnick's claims, the White House counsel's office has given the FBI a list of witnesses they are permitted to interview, according to several people who discussed the parameters on the condition of anonymity. They characterized the White House instructions as a significant constraint on the FBI investigation and caution that such a limited scope, while not unusual in normal circumstances, may make it difficult to pursue additional leads in a case in which a Supreme Court

nominee has been accused of sexual assault.

The limited scope seems to be at odds with what some members of the Senate judiciary seemed to expect when they agreed to give the FBI as much as a week to investigate allegations against Kavanaugh, a federal judge who grew up in the Washington DC area and attended an elite all-boys high school before going on to Yale.

Yes, of course Trump and McGahn are limiting the scope and time of this "investigation". It was always going to be a sham, and that is why it was always so absurd that the SJC Minority, and other Dems, not to mention the ridiculously ever gullible national press, bought off on this idiocy. It was an own goal that they set themselves up for and are now being collared by.

This is a fraud being perpetrated on the American public. The media needs to take the time and do their own investigation, the "FBI" one is a sham being manipulated by the sex criminal led and protecting, White House.

I honestly don't know who is more clueless in what was up with this ruse....the national media as to the forever sucker play of "the last honest Republican, Jeff Flake"....or the Democratic cheerleaders that thought this was anything other than a sham fig leaf cover play. Both are pathetic. This was obvious from the first second Flake uttered the words "limited" and "one week or less".

PT Barnum said that a sucker is born every minute. A LOT of them were born yesterday. Didn't have to be that way, but that is the stupidity of DC politics, and press coverage thereof.

ABOUT THAT STYX THING, A RE-THINKING

Had a busy day yesterday and then came to the stark understanding that a significant contributor to this blog had included a Styx Grand Illusion video in a post. I am hoping you can imagine my dismay! I still have not recovered.

I just....I cannot....even. Despite the ill video, the post was great and spot on. But, damn, that video. And placing that earwig junk in the minds of not just me, but countless others. Unforgivable.

Here is the real deal, from the time when Styx actually was more than bubblegum cheese. Midnight Ride. Currently WordPress is not allowing me to post it at the top where I want it, and normally would, but will do so at the bottom of this post.

There was a Styx period where they were okay, if not very decent. It was LONG before Grand Illusion, which is simply, and truly, horrible. The attached song Midnight Ride was from the James Young era, this is a live version off of the original on Equinox, before the pop rock crap of Dennis DeYoung and Tommy Shaw took control of a decent band. That was a long time ago. And if you want some more off of Equinox, go UTube Lonely Child and Suite Madame Blue.