

May 24, 2017 - VILE AND VIOLENT DEMS

The coarsening of our political life has become breathtaking. Noah Rothman writes on the potty mouth democrats. Pickerhead might run for office as a Dem. Mrs. Pickerhead pointed out the language requirement is filled.

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... It's not just the Democratic Party's political professionals who are rebranding themselves provocateurs to meet the measure of the populist moment. The liberal activist class is gearing up to make their case to the public by harassing lawmakers and scaring voters to death. Politico reported on Tuesday that Democratic protesters are preparing to lay down in the streets, ship the ashes of the dead to GOP lawmakers who voted to repeal ObamaCare, and to stage mock funerals for the unwitting constituents of Republican congressmen and women. "We can't win based on the merit of our ideas," confessed the proprietor of a liberal super PAC, "but rather on the way in which we deliver that message." Some might call that an admission against interest.

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John Hinderaker says the craziest Dems are the California ones.

The Democratic Party is far gone in hate, but who do you suppose are the most lunatic Dems of all? The California Democrats are obvious candidates and, sure enough, their state convention yesterday concluded with a chant: "Fuck Donald Trump!" led by California Democratic Party chairman John Burton.

AP reporter Jonathan Cooper records the moment of infamy:

Outgoing Dem chair John Burton: "all together now: fuck Donald Trump." While crowd holds up two middle fingers. pic.twitter.com/mDvgkhY7uY

— Jonathan J. Cooper (@jjcooper) [May 20, 2017](#)

There is a lot more at [Gateway Pundit](#), and various videos are circulating. What I want to point out is the [Associated Press's restrained response](#) to this outbreak of Democratic Party insanity. The AP headlines: "California Democrats take aim at Trump, GOP Congress." I guess that's one way of putting it. ...

Even the Sacramento Bee, one of the house organs of the CA Dems, is disgusted.

[Steve Hayward](#) posts in Powerline.

One of the very best analyses of the group dynamic of the Left came from Tom Bethell and Joe Sobran years ago, when they referred to the Left as "The Hive." Like bees or ants, the Left simply goes into action in a coordinated and instinctual fashion, without need to meet and plan. Naturally the mainstream media is a chief nest of The Hive, and it buzzes constantly on behalf of liberalism.

Hence California's Bee newspapers—the Sacramento Bee and the Fresno Bee (both long time McClatchy properties)—are appropriately named nodes of conventional liberalism. You could rightly think of them as the Bee Hive. Normally you'd never pay any attention to their house editorials. But the Fresno Bee editorial page over the weekend took note of the spectacle of the recent California Democratic Party convention and found it was even too much for them:

Which of the "D" words would you use to characterize the actions of California Democrats at their state convention in Sacramento over the weekend? Disgraceful? Deplorable Dysfunctional?

Sadly, there's no wrong answer here. ...

[Federalist OpEd](#) on the growing violence of the left.

Something is wrong with the American Left. The recent spate of violent protests on college campuses has been well-documented, but the violence and intolerance championed by left-wing student activists is beginning to creep off campus and into mainstream public life.

The reason for this is straightforward enough: although progressives pride themselves on their putative tolerance and diversity, the imperatives of leftist politics are fundamentally illiberal. Justice imposed through power is the philosophical foundation of the political left, and when earnest progressives become convinced the only avenue to power is violence, their tolerance quickly falls by the wayside. Consider a few recent events, none of which involved college protesters but all of which were marked by threats of violence.

Ahead of a town hall meeting this week in Virginia's fifth congressional district, Republican Rep. Tom Garrett received a series of disturbing threats—not just against him but also his wife and family, even his dog. One message said bluntly, "This is how we're going to kill your wife."

As a result, the town hall event was heavily guarded, with uniformed and plain-clothes security lining the walls and scattered throughout the 300-seat room.

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... It's not just angry mobs at town halls. On Wednesday, an editor at the Huffington Post called on his fellow leftists to stalk Republicans: "They should be hounded by protesters everywhere, especially in public—in restaurants, in shopping centers, in their districts and yes, on the public property outside their homes and apartments, in Washington and back in their homes states."

Last week, senior Newsweek writer Kurt Eichenwald—who, let's be honest, seems a little off—said he wants every Republican who voted for the American Health Care Act to have a family member come down with a serious illness, lose their insurance, and die. For good measure, he added that he also wants them "to be tortured." ...

Commentary

Shock-Jock Democrats

Democrats are projecting competence by swearing.

by Noah Rothman

If you can't be persuasive, be interesting. If you're neither persuasive nor interesting, try to be funny. And if all of that fails, just be provocative; at least your audience will remember you. For Democrats, all else has failed. They've giving up on being compelling, coherent, or even just entertaining. In a desperate, spastic flail to capture your attention, Democrats have settled on a tactic: shock.

Democrats have internalized a caricature of the GOP as a group of aggressive vulgarians, one that they are mimicking in exaggerated fashion with the expectation that they will be rewarded at the polls. Toward that end, Democrats in Congress forged new precedents in obstructing the will of the executive branch, including a doomed filibuster of a Cabinet nominee. Democrats have nurtured their base's darkest impulses in this effort by indulging, among other conspiracy theories, the notion that Donald Trump is an illegitimately elected president. Most pathetic, the Democratic Party seems to be pantomiming Donald Trump by imitating his most boorish behavior if only to get a rise out of anyone who happens to be paying attention.

A New York Magazine profile of obvious 2020 hopeful Kirsten Gillibrand featured the esteemed gentlewoman from New York unleashing cascade of profanity upon her interlocutor. Her interview included "one 'f***,' two 'f***ings,' one 'bulls***,'" and a variety of other lesser but equally crude expletives, according to Politico's Alex Caton. At a public event, while sitting across from several former speechwriters for Barack Obama, California Senator Kamala Harris (another likely 2020 candidate) castigated Representative Raul Labrador for claiming that

Americans do not die for want of health insurance. "What the f*** is that?" she remarked. Her audience roared and ate it up.

Republicans "don't give a s*** about people," barked newly elected Democratic National Committee Chairman Tom Perez in an attack on the GOP's approach to health-care reform. Perez employed similarly salty language to attack the Trump White House's spending proposals. "They call it a skinny budget," he said. "I call it a sh***y budget." Representative Beto O'Rourke can often be seen weaving the occasional "s****" into stump speeches as he prepares to challenge Senator Ted Cruz. "Mr. President: If there was a wiretap at Trump Tower, that means a fed judge found probable cause of crime which means you are in deep s***," tweeted Representative Ted Lieu, whose garment-rending online persona has attracted a devoted following of hysterical liberals.

Once is sui generis. Twice is a coincidence. Forty-seven times is a campaign. Democrats are quite clearly doing their best to not just generate ink but to speak above the din of opportunistically panic-stricken liberals. These are not the first Democrats to appeal to crass profanity in a contrived effort to burnish their populist credentials. As Howard Fineman chronicled for Newsweek in 1991, former Iowa Senator Tom Harkin tried to position himself as "the angry man at the end of the bar" by denouncing the "bulls****" of the Reagan-Bush era's economic record. Harkin miscalculated. When virtually all major media outlets were regulated for decency, almost no one could broadcast those remarks. The proliferation of media outlets outside the FCC's jurisdiction has changed the Democratic Party's calculation.

It's not just the Democratic Party's political professionals who are rebranding themselves provocateurs to meet the measure of the populist moment. The liberal activist class is gearing up to make their case to the public by harassing lawmakers and scaring voters to death. Politico reported on Tuesday that Democratic protesters are preparing to lay down in the streets, ship the ashes of the dead to GOP lawmakers who voted to repeal ObamaCare, and to stage mock funerals for the unwitting constituents of Republican congressmen and women. "We can't win based on the merit of our ideas," confessed the proprietor of a liberal super PAC, "but rather on the way in which we deliver that message." Some might call that an admission against interest.

That is, however, a more honest assessment of the Democratic Party's predicament. In the electorally unenviable position they are in and lacking a positive agenda, Democrats can only oppose. When that message of blanket opposition gets stale, break the emergency glass; get vulgar, project anger, and, above all, be uncompromising. Democrats would probably cite apocalyptic Republican rhetoric in the early years of the Obama administration as precedent, and they'd not be entirely wrong. The Democratic Party's shock jock persona is, however, their own invention.

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Power Line

Who Are the Craziest Democrats of All?

by John Hinderaker

The Democratic Party is far gone in hate, but who do you suppose are the most lunatic Dems of all? The California Democrats are obvious candidates and, sure enough, their state convention yesterday concluded with a chant: "Fuck Donald Trump!" led by California Democratic Party chairman John Burton.

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California's elected Democrats had tough words for President Donald Trump and the GOP Congress on Saturday, urging their party's fired-up activists to work against the 14 Republicans in the state's congressional delegation.

"Tough words"?

Senator Kamala Harris came out with this mind-numbingly stupid observation, but then, mind-numbingly stupid is what it takes to get elected to the Senate in California. Cf. Barbara Boxer.

U.S. Sen. Kamala Harris, often mentioned as a potential candidate for president in 2020, accused Trump of putting "Russia first, America second."

The reckless Ms. Harris is of course secure in the knowledge that no reporter will ever ask her what, exactly, President Trump has done for Russia. But this is the real point:

In a sign of the vigor of the party's distaste for the president, outgoing party Chair John Burton, a longtime Democratic lawmaker and powerbroker known for his blunt and profane manner, extended two middle fingers in the air as the crowd cheered and joined him.

"F— Donald Trump," he said.

Now, just imagine how the AP would have reported on a state Republican convention that concluded in middle-finger-raised chants of "Fuck Barack Obama!" Do you think that would have been described as "a sign of the vigor of the party's distaste for the president"? No, I don't think so, either. California's Democrats have gone insane, but how far behind is the Associated Press?

Powerline

CA Dems Too Much for the Bee Hive

by Steven Hayward

One of the very best analyses of the group dynamic of the Left came from Tom Bethell and Joe Sobran years ago, when they referred to the Left as “The Hive.” Like bees or ants, the Left simply goes into action in a coordinated and instinctual fashion, without need to meet and plan. Naturally the mainstream media is a chief nest of The Hive, and it buzzes constantly on behalf of liberalism.

Hence California’s *Bee* newspapers—the *Sacramento Bee* and the *Fresno Bee* (both long time McClatchy properties)—are appropriately named nodes of conventional liberalism. You could rightly think of them as the *Bee Hive*. Normally you’d never pay any attention to their house editorials. But the *Fresno Bee* editorial page over the weekend [took note](#) of the spectacle of the recent California Democratic Party convention and found it was even too much for them:

Which of the “D” words would you use to characterize the actions of California Democrats at their state convention in Sacramento over the weekend? Disgraceful? Deplorable Dysfunctional?

Sadly, there’s no wrong answer here.

The state party that brags about leading the “resistance” to President Trump only succeeded in demonstrating to independents and Republicans across the nation that Democrats don’t have their house in order.

For starters, John Burton, the party’s outgoing state chairman told delegates on Saturday, [“Now, all together, F— Donald Trump!”](#) and followed with a two-handed, middle-finger salute to our nation’s 45th president.

We would not have been surprised if delegates down on the floor had dropped F-bombs and flipped off Trump. Try as party leaders might to script convention events, delegates are a bit like cats – impossible to herd. . .

Besides being disgraceful, deplorable and dysfunctional, the California Democratic Party is hypocritical, too. How many times have state Democratic leaders called out Trump for his early morning Twitter rants? How many times have they criticized the president for his name-calling? Too many to count.

Unfortunately for the Democrats, the hyperventilating didn’t end with Burton.

RoseAnn DeMoro, as always full of fury at establishment Democrats, riled up members of her California Nurses Association and led them on yet another march, this time to the Sacramento Convention Center. There, they [booed Democratic National Committee Chairman Tom Perez](#) and many others deemed uncut from the socialist Bernie Sanders mold.

If Democrats hoped to bring anyone new into the fold of “resistance,” they failed miserably. . .

When you’ve lost the *Bee*, perhaps it’s a signal that The Hive may be coming apart.

The Federalist

The American Left Is Talking Itself Into Violence

The recent violence that's marked our college campuses is seeping into the rest of society, and the vast majority of it comes from the intolerant Left.

by John Daniel Davidson

Something is wrong with the American Left. The recent spate of violent protests on college campuses has been well-documented, but the violence and intolerance championed by left-wing student activists is beginning to creep off campus and into mainstream public life.

The reason for this is straightforward enough: although progressives pride themselves on their putative tolerance and diversity, the imperatives of leftist politics are fundamentally illiberal. Justice imposed through power is the philosophical foundation of the political left, and when earnest progressives become convinced the only avenue to power is violence, their tolerance quickly falls by the wayside. Consider a few recent events, none of which involved college protesters but all of which were marked by threats of violence.

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As a result, the town hall event was heavily guarded, with uniformed and plain-clothes security lining the walls and scattered throughout the 300-seat room.

Earlier this month, Jennifer Carnahan, the new chairwoman of the Minnesota Republican Party, received a torrent of racist hate mail and at least one threat of physical violence that forced her from her home for a weekend. Carnahan, who is Korean-American, was targeted after publically apologizing and calling for the resignation of those responsible for an offensive image posted to the 7th Congressional District Republicans Facebook page.

It didn't matter that Carnahan didn't post the image, or that she did everything right. The folks sending the hate mail called her racist, and threw a few racial epithets directly at her for good measure.

Last month, left-wing activists in Oregon caused the cancellation of the 82nd Avenue of Roses Parade by threatening to drag "fascists" off the parade route—and by fascists, they meant the Republican Party of Multnomah County. In an email, the activists warned, "we will have two hundred or more people rush into the parade into the middle and drag and push those people out as we will not give one inch to groups who espouse hatred toward lgbt, immigrants, people of color or others."

Leftist Intolerance Invites A Breakdown Of Civility

For a long time, the mainstream media has treated conservatives as intolerant, even bigoted, for their views on gay marriage, abortion, and a host of other hot-button cultural issues. But now, faced with the spectacle of rioting college leftists, even the mainstream media is coming around to the realization that liberals are not as tolerant as they think. In fact, recent psychological research suggests they are not any more tolerant than conservatives.

Jonathan Haidt, a psychologist at New York University, told *Politico* in a recent article that, "Nowadays, as the right sees it, the left has won the culture war and controls the media, the universities, Hollywood and the education of everyone's children. Many of them think that they are the victims, they are fighting back against powerful and oppressive forces, and their animosities are related to that worldview."

Conservatives are also combatting a growing level of hostility in public life. Since Trump's election, much of it has come from the Left. At another town hall this week, Rep. Tom MacArthur, a New Jersey Republican, tried to explain his thinking on the GOP health care bill to angry constituents. MacArthur, who authored the amendment allowing states to apply for a waiver to opt out of some health insurance requirement, knows something about preexisting conditions. His daughter died of health complications when she was 11. The cost of her care was more than \$1 million. MacArthur was in the room when she was taken off life support.

When he tried to talk about this, the crowd shouted "Shame!" When he said, "I put my head to my daughter's chest and listened to her die," they erupted. One person yelled, "Other babies will die without care, too!" Another jeered, "Did you have money for her care?" Someone suggested MacArthur, "Write a book."

It's not just angry mobs at town halls. On Wednesday, an editor at the Huffington Post called on his fellow leftists to stalk Republicans: "They should be hounded by protesters everywhere, especially in public—in restaurants, in shopping centers, in their districts and yes, on the public property outside their homes and apartments, in Washington and back in their homes states."

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The Way We Use Social Media Is Exacerbating the Problem

How has it come to this? No doubt, leftist ideology invites a kind of intolerance that leads to violence, as we've seen. But this tendency is exacerbated by a breakdown of civility fueled by social media. Would we see the kind of brutal, cutthroat behavior that's marked the crowds at these town halls if those people had not inured themselves somewhat to it?

And where might they have done that? Where would they have practiced the kind of no-holds-barred political debate that impels them to throw off the pretense of decorum and shout down their congressman? Or threaten him?

They—and all of us, really—are learning to behave this way on social media. Just as the violence on campus gradually seeps out into the streets and town halls, so too does our violent and intolerant rhetoric online eventually manifest in the real world. That so much of it is now coming from the political left is not an accident.

With every Facebook post and Tweet, every demonstration and boycott, they have talked themselves into it. It's going to be difficult, maybe even impossible, to talk them out of it.

CHECKING IN ON THE DEMS

TO SEE IF THEY'VE CALMED DOWN YET

I GUESS NOT

A NARRATIVE FOR ALL SEASONS



SPRING



SUMMER



FALL



WINTER



Love seeing these lasting friendships

