



The Hancock County Democrat

Hancock County Democratic Party

Those Crazy Conservative Christians

A letter to the Editor of the Courier by Bruce Workman

I used to be amused when conservative Christians used old testament verses to justify their inherent biases. Now that those biases have turned to bigotry and hate, my amusement has turned to anger. One should be extremely careful when reciting specific old testament verses to justify anything. I may have an advantage as I have read the entire thing. I do not claim to remember it verbatim. The “begats” would be overwhelming, but there were many memorable oddities and inconsistencies. Leviticus 18:22 says that a man lying with a man as with a woman is an abomination. An abomination? It seems like Jesus would have mentioned something that heinous, but he did not. There is no mention of women lying together; does that mean lesbians get a pass?

Exodus 21:7 allows for selling one’s daughter into slavery, providing one realizes the standard 6-year term limit for males does not apply. Since I have not seen any auctions recently, I fear some budding entrepreneurial fathers may be missing out on financial opportunities.

If you should find yourself in an altercation with another man and his wife attempts to grab your genitals in defense. Deuteronomy 25:1-12 states that you may cut off her hand either immediately or at a later date. It is best to keep the Buck-knife sharp just in case.

Numbers 5:11-31 states that a woman suspected of adultery should be made to drink a mixture of holy water and dust from the tabernacle floor. If she does not become ill, she is deemed innocent, but if she gets pain in the belly, she is guilty. So, if any of you Christian women are ever thinking of straying, it would be best to volunteer to clean the church floors first.

You “upright” conservative Christians seek the same kind of bias confirmation in your Bible as you do in your news. If you would just admit that you are not acting on behalf of any religion, but are merely bigoted and hateful deplorables (yes, I used the word intentionally) then we would all be better off.



Do Not Divide Us	2
The Corona Virus is Still Spreading	2
Andy Borowitz	5
Quality Candidates	6
Trump is a Moron and a Criminal	7
Coming Attractions	8
Putin’s Puppet	9
Hancock Democrats Page	

Do Not Divide Us

Bruce Workman

As sure as early humans learned that it was easier to spot lurking predators by walking upright, they also discovered that there was safety in groups. We are naturally programmed to seek safety and comfort in being with others. This is especially true in times of danger or crisis. One of these crises has also had the unfortunate effect of adding danger to our refuge. Due to the pandemic, our instinct to seek comfort in the community is a perilous path.



Luckily, we now have technology that was unavailable during the 1918 pandemic. We can at least view our community in real-time. Sure, we still lack the warmth of a welcoming hug or the comfort available in the human touch, but we can see and hear each other and that has to be enough to maintain our sanity.



We have also been confronted with the unjust and inhumane treatment of black men, women, and children by our nation’s police. The urgency for action has superseded the need for social isolation for many of our friends. We need each other now more so than at any time in our history. We need a leader who will bring us together to face the perils that confront us.

Instead, we get the Orange Ape named

Trump. His only election is to get reelected and postpone his days in court and enrich himself for as long as possible. Where we get calm assurance. We get hysterical rants. We get denial that the pandemic even exists. We get incompetent and dangerous medical advice. We get more lies and attempts to divide us.

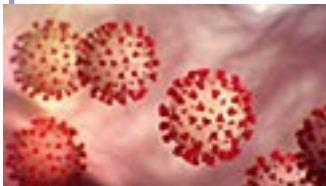
Since I am in a high-risk group for respiratory infections, I can only support my brothers and sisters in the street from a distance. I require a proxy who can protect these people and heed their concerns. What I have instead is a narcissistic demagogue who only seeks to appease his base of deplorable racists. Using his puppet, Bill Barr, he unleashes a gang of thugs on peaceful protestors. He chastises local leaders for not using similar tactics. He seeks to further divide us.

We will survive this, but to get well we need to excise the tumor named Trump along with his band of malignant cysts in the Senate. Yes, we will survive and much like the villagers rebuilding the community after the dragon has been slain, we will work together to undo the damage done by the monsters. It will be a laborious process, but we can do it if we stick together.

The Coronavirus Is Still Spreading

John Cassidy The New Yorker

Back in March, when the coronavirus pandemic was getting going in earnest in the United States, Martin Wolf, the chief economics commentator for the Financial Times, summed things up in a pithy manner. “The coronavirus seeks only to replicate,” he wrote. “We seek to halt that replication. Unlike the virus, humans make choices.” Three months on, we are seeing the results of these choices.



In New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts,

and other states that were hit hard by the virus early on, and where lengthy lockdowns were introduced, the number of infections and deaths has fallen sharply, and continues to fall. On Thursday, for example, New York City reported just eighty-four new cases and six deaths. But in some parts of the country where the virus spread less widely to begin with, and restrictions on movement were relaxed earlier, case numbers are now rising, and raising alarms. (continued on page 3)



Coronavirus (continued)

Relative to the huge number of infections, hospitalizations, and deaths that the hardest-hit states saw in April and May, the absolute numbers in these places remain relatively small. But we have learned from terrible experience how these numbers can spike when the virus starts spreading through a community.

On Wednesday, Texas, one of the states that reopened parts of its economy earliest, reported the highest number of new infections it has seen in a single day: 2,153. On Friday, Florida, another early reopener, also reported a record number of new cases: 2,581. The Republican governors of each state insisted there was no reason to be alarmed, but local officials challenged this complacency. Lina Hidalgo, the county judge for Harris County, Texas, which contains Houston, pointed to record hospital admissions and evidence of community transmission rather than concentrated outbreaks, such as those associated with retirement homes and food-processing plants. "I want the reopening to be successful. I want the economy to be resilient. But I'm growing increasingly concerned that we may be reaching the precipice of a disaster," Hidalgo said, on Thursday, as she unveiled a new system of coronavirus threat levels. She also pleaded with residents to social-distance, wear masks, and remain vigilant.

In Arizona, another emerging hotspot, Doug Ducey, the Republican governor, said that worries that the state's hospital capacity was about to be exhausted had been exaggerated. But with the number of cases and the rate of positive tests in the state having both risen sharply in the past couple of weeks, local health experts warned that the trend was deeply worrying. "I agree with [Ducey] that we have hospital capacity today and probably we will next Friday," Will Humble, the executive director of the Arizona Public Health Association, told the Arizona

Republic. "If we don't change course and put in some simple interventions now, it might not be that way on July 4."

As of Saturday morning, according to Johns Hopkins University, more than two million Americans had been infected by the coronavirus, and 114,752 had died. An interactive feature maintained by the Times identified twenty-three states and territories where the number of new cases is rising, twenty-two where it is falling, and eight where it is remaining more or less the same. In a press briefing on Friday, top officials from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said that it was too early to say whether the rising case numbers in some places heralded the outbreak of a second wave, but Robert Redfield, the agency's director, said, "the situation is unprecedented and the pandemic is ongoing." Jay Butler, the C.D.C.'s deputy director for infectious diseases, said that if the number of infections rises dramatically, "more extensive mitigation, such as what was implemented in March, may be needed again."

In some parts of the country, local officials have already hit the Pause button on reopening their economies. On Thursday, Kate Brown, the Democratic governor of Oregon, another state that has seen a spike in cases, placed a seven-day hold on further reopenings, to give health experts time to study what is driving the rising number of infections. In Utah, where infection numbers and the rate of positive tests have both risen from a low level, Governor Gary Herbert, a Republican, extended existing guidelines for another week and issued new safety precautions that emphasized social distancing and the wearing of face coverings. "What we're saying is, this is serious," Herbert said.

(continued on page 4)

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Coronavirus (continued form page 3)

One looming problem is that in many of the places where the situation seems most perilous, such as Florida, Arizona, and Texas, the governors are Trump-supporting Republicans who championed reopening early and are highly reluctant to change course. Florida’s governor, Ron DeSantis, said on Friday that he wasn’t concerned about the rising number of infections, because broader testing meant that many of the people testing positive were in younger age groups and were therefore less likely to end up in the hospital. But the Miami Herald reported a rise in the number of COVID-19 patients who were being hospitalized in Miami-Dade County.

Another major issue is the chronic lack of leadership from the White House. For the past few weeks, Donald Trump has tried to ignore the virus and shift attention elsewhere—to the reopening of the economy, to the sporadic violence that accompanied the first wave of protests after the killing of George Floyd, and, this past week, to his determination to preserve the names of military bases named after heroes of the Confederacy. Trump still refuses to wear a mask. He rarely meets with his medical advisers. He has downgraded the White House coronavirus task force, which is now meeting just twice a week, according to Politico.

Next Saturday, Trump will hold a mass rally in Tulsa, Oklahoma—an event that will breach the public-health guidelines issued by the C.D.C. Indeed, the President’s campaign is already trying to absolve itself from any liability for infections that result from the rally, although legal experts say this will be difficult. On Saturday morning, Trump delivered a commencement address at West Point, in New York, where the graduating cadets, who had been summoned back from their homes across the country, were carefully quarantined for two weeks so that they didn’t infect one other or any of the V.I.P.s in attendance. He talked about how the U.S. Army, during its long history, had helped win battles against slavery and Communism, and, more recently, helped fight a virus “that came from a foreign land called China.”

Trump’s appearance in the Hudson Valley represented a remarkable spectacle. While the next generation of military leaders was behaving responsibly, their Commander-in-Chief was confirming, once again, that he has largely abandoned the fight against COVID-19. The virus doesn’t know anything about that, of course. As Martin Wolf noted many deaths ago, it just tries to replicate. And it will keep doing so until it is eradicated.

It sure doesn’t appear to be over



Source (worldometer)



Trump Boasts That He Has Much Higher TV Ratings Than Lincoln **Andy Berkowitz The New Yorker**



Photograph by Evan Vucci / AP / Shutterstock

WASHINGTON (The Borowitz Report)—In his latest attack on the nation’s sixteenth President, Donald Trump boasted on Saturday that his television ratings were “much higher” than Abraham Lincoln’s.

“If you put my TV ratings side by side with Lincoln’s, there’s no comparison,” Trump told Fox News. “Honest Abe would want me to be honest about it, and, honestly, his ratings were terrible.”

Trump argued that Lincoln’s television rat-

ings were especially poor “when you consider that he didn’t have to compete with Netflix and Amazon, like I have to.”

“Abraham Lincoln had zero competition and he still couldn’t get a decent number,” Trump said. “He might have been O.K. at some other things, but he was a total loser on TV.”

Theorizing about Lincoln’s poor ratings performance, Trump mused that “it might have been the beard.”

“If you put my TV ratings side by side with Lincoln’s, there’s no comparison,” Trump told Fox News. “Honest Abe would want me to be honest about it, and, honestly, his ratings were terrible.”

Trump Puts Nation on Alert for Terrorists Posing as Peaceful Seventy-Five-Year-Olds **Andy Berkowitz The New Yorker**



Photograph by Brendan Smialowski / AFP / Getty (Story continued on page 6)

Berkowitz 75-year old Terrorists (continued)



Announcing that he was putting the nation on a “double-red threat level,” Donald J. Trump warned the American people on Tuesday to be on the lookout for terrorists posing as peaceful seventy-five-year-olds.

“One of these terrorists was already identified by the police in Buffalo,” Trump said. “They may be coming to your town next.”

Trump listed some “telltale signs of Antifa,” in order to help Americans identify septuagenarian terrorists in their midst.

“If the person appears to be seventy-five or older, with white hair and a peaceful demeanor, call the authorities immediately,” Trump said.

He warned that Antifa terrorists are infiltrating American society “everywhere,” even on Zoom.

Quality Candidates

The Hancock County Democrat

I recently saw a comment on the party’s Facebook page asking, “Where are the quality candidates?” I found that to be an excellent question; the answer to which I can only guess. My suppositions may offend some..

In the last weeks of November 2019, I went to the Hancock County Board of Elections to obtain a copy of the applications to be a candidate for every local office on the 2020 ballot. I was naïve and excited. I thought we might get a slew of Democratic candidates. I called some folks I thought would be good candidates, I mentioned the applications on the website, and I may have even asked to have something posted on Facebook. I received some answers along the lines of ‘Been there, done that and don’t want to again.’ I almost felt like I was trying to recruit recent parolees for a bank heist. Other than those few responses, I received no interest in any of the spots. I checked my internet connection, sent test emails, and even asked my son to call me so I could test my phone. No technical problems were discovered..

I knew I would not be a good candidate. My newness to the area made me woefully



Bruce Workman

unaware of most of the local issues. I never intended to run, but I believed someone would step forward later and the deadline was approaching, so I agreed to be a placeholder candidate. Ron DeCooman was present when I informed our Chair, so he was also asked. I believe he agreed not out of any desire to be County Commissioner, but only his intention to be helpful.

Nobody ever came forward to take the place I was holding and the lack of response to my early fundraising efforts caused me to reconsider. My email resulted in a contribution from a former candidate, a generous donation from my brother, and a “maybe later” reply from someone I know from my days with the Logan County Democrats. Other than those it was complete silence. There were no ‘maybe later’, or ‘it’s early’, or ‘can’t afford to now’ replies. Even a Magic 8-Ball will reply “Ask again later.” I did not bother with any systems checks this time. I was at this point that I finally said to myself, “I never signed up for this” and decided I was done.

(continued on page 7)



Quality Candidates (continued)

There were unintended results. If the past was any indication, the Republicans were going to run unopposed again this year, but David Pepper seems to think that any warm body is better than no candidate. I have long criticized Republicans, both here and in Logan County, for voting the party line regardless of who is the better-qualified candidate. I would be a hypocrite if I did the same.

The best answer to the question, “Where are the quality candidates?” , might be in your mirror.

Trump Is a Moron and a Criminal

Kevin Drum Mother Jones



Pavlo_bagmut/Ukrinform via ZUMA

In his new memoir, John Bolton says that Donald Trump is a moron who literally knows almost nothing. Yawn. Tell me something I don't know:

During a one-on-one meeting at the June 2019 Group of 20 summit in Japan, Xi . . . defended China's construction of camps housing as many as 1 million Uighur Muslims in Xinjiang — and Trump signaled his approval. “According to our interpreter,” Bolton writes, “**Trump said that Xi should go ahead with building the camps, which Trump thought was exactly the right thing to do.**”

Um, OK. I did not know that. What else?

Mr. Trump did not seem to know, for example, that Britain is a nuclear power and asked if Finland is part of Russia, Mr. Bolton writes . . . Intelligence briefings with the president were a waste of time “**since much of the time was spent listening to Trump, rather than Trump listening to the briefers.**” (continued on page

Trump Is a Moron and a Criminal (continued)

How about Ukraine? Bolton says there was indeed an explicit quid pro quo:

Mr. Bolton echoes allegations that were at the center of the president’s impeachment trial, writing that Mr. Trump repeatedly ordered White House officials to withhold military assistance from Ukraine as retribution for perceived slights during the 2016 election and as **leverage to pressure the country to investigate his 2020 presidential opponent, former Vice President Joe Biden.** Mr. Bolton describes the objective as a fantasy based on conspiracy theories pushed by Rudy Giuliani, the president’s personal attorney.

“Ukraine tried to take me down. I’m not f—ing interested in helping them,” Mr. Trump is quoted in the book as saying during a White House meeting about military aid to Ukraine on May 22, 2019. **“I want the f—ing DNC server,”** Mr. Trump said, referring to a Democratic National Committee computer server that was hacked during the 2016 elections. There is no evidence to support the claim that any Democratic server wound up in Ukraine.

The book confirms House testimony that

Mr. Bolton was wary all along of the president’s actions with regard to Ukraine and provides firsthand evidence of his own that Mr. Trump explicitly linked the security aid to investigations involving Mr. Biden and Hillary Clinton. On Aug. 20, Mr. Bolton writes, Mr. Trump “said he wasn’t in favor of sending them anything until all the Russia-investigation materials related to Clinton and Biden had been turned over.” **Mr. Bolton writes that he, Mr. Pompeo and Defense Secretary Mark T. Esper tried eight to 10 times to get Mr. Trump to release the aid.**

Mr. Bolton, however, had nothing but scorn for the House Democrats who impeached Mr. Trump, saying **they committed “impeachment malpractice” by limiting their inquiry to the Ukraine matter** and moving too quickly for their own political reasons. Instead, he said they should have also looked at how Mr. Trump was willing to intervene in investigations into companies like Turkey’s Halkbank to curry favor with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey or China’s ZTE to favor Mr. Xi.

That’s our president.

The Hancock County Democrat

Coming Attractions Events for the Week beginning 6/21/2020

Events for the coming week will be posted in a special page or section. I am not going to look for events, So if you know of something coming up soon that you feel .will be of interest to our readers, please submit the details to me prior or noon on the preceding Thursday



John Bolton Provides a Harrowing Portrait of Trump's Surrender to Putin David Corn Mother Jones

His book offers more evidence that Trump won't stop a Russian attack on 2020.

John Bolton's too-late book has produced a string of revelations that warrant headlines and outrage. President Donald Trump, in this account, encouraged Chinese President Xi Jinping to build concentration camps as part of China's genocidal war on its Uighur population. Trump beseeched Xi to help him win reelection in 2020. He displayed brazen ignorance. (He didn't know the United Kingdom is a nuclear power or that Finland is not part of Russia.) And he did indeed withhold military aid to pressure the Ukrainian president—for which he was impeached—to launch investigations to tar Joe Biden and promote a nutty conspiracy theory that holds that Ukraine, not Russia, hacked the 2016 presidential election. Receiving less attention than these made-for-Twitter disclosures is what Bolton says about Trump's response to Vladimir Putin's attack on that election. But this stuff is important, for here is yet another indication that Trump has no interest in thwarting a Kremlin assault on the current election

According to Trump's own top intelligence officials, Moscow is currently trying to intervene in the 2020 campaign. Both FBI Director Chris Wray and Director of National Intelligence John Ratcliffe have said so in congressional testimony, without providing details about the ongoing covert Russian efforts. So, one obvious question is, what is Trump doing about this? The answer, per Bolton, is nothing.

In his book, Bolton does not go into great depth on this crucial matter. But Trump's former national security adviser notes that Trump "willfully ignored or denied that Russia was meddling globally in US and

many other elections." This is the public posture Trump has taken since the 2016 election and through his years in the White House. He has downplayed or dismissed the Russian attack, even though the US intelligence community has concluded it occurred and was mounted by Vladimir Putin in part to help Trump win. (A recent Senate Intelligence Committee report cited an intelligence intercept of a communication from a Russian cyber-operative who described Election Night this way: "On November 9, 2016, a sleepless night was ahead of us. And when around 8 a.m. the most important result of our work arrived, we uncorked a tiny bottle of champagne...took one gulp each and looked into each other's eyes... We uttered almost in unison: 'We made America great.'") Still, even in the privacy of the Oval Office, Trump would not discuss with his top national security aide the Russian intervention—or, worse, the prospect of a repeat performance.

"Trump believed that acknowledging Russia's meddling in US politics, or in that of many other countries in Europe and elsewhere, would implicitly acknowledge that he had colluded with Russia in his 2016 campaign," Bolton writes.

Trump has long yearned to remove the taint of Russian intervention—the asterisk—from his 2016 election. That is one reason that Trump, desperate to promote an alternative (and false) narrative, pushed the Ukrainians for that investigation—a blatant abuse of power that led to his impeachment. To clear this real stain, Trump has had to deny the basic reality: (continued on page 10).



John Bolton Provides a Harrowing Portrait of Trump's Surrender to Putin (continued)

The Hancock County Democrat

Putin mounted a successful campaign of information warfare against the United States.

Trump did this most famously during a joint press conference with Putin in Helsinki in July 2018. At this event, Trump appeared to back Putin's we-didn't-do-it disinformation and discount the findings of the US intelligence community. "I will tell you that President Putin was extremely strong and powerful in his denial today," Trump said, adding that Putin "said it's not Russia. I will say this. I don't see any reason why it would be."

This was a dramatic moment—a US president siding with a foreign adversary who had attacked the United States. In his book, Bolton recalls that he and John Kelly, then the White House chief of staff, "were almost frozen to our seats by Trump's answer." (Neither one quit over this.)

At this press conference, Trump rambled on about the conspiracy theory involving Ukraine, which held that Democratic Party computer servers had somehow been hidden in that country apparently to cover-up the real story that Ukraine or others had hacked the Democratic Party to somehow frame Russia and the Trump campaign. This bizarre, baseless Ukraine connection was an obsession of Trump. As Bolton notes, "It also became increasingly plain, not only to me but to others as well, including Fiona Hill, the NSC Senior Director for Europe and Russia, that Trump completely accepted [Rudy] Giuliani's line that the 'Russia collusion' narrative...had been run through Ukraine. In other words, Trump was buying the idea that the Ukraine was actually responsible for carrying out Moscow's efforts to hack US elections."

That is, the president of the United States was delusional.

Prior to the Helsinki meeting, Bolton took a shot at nudging Trump to confront Putin's aggression. He writes:

"I gave Trump a paper I had asked the White House Counsel's office to draft, laying out our objections to Russian election meddling. Trump made several changes to it, reflecting his general unease with the subject. It was precisely to deal with that unease that I asked for the paper. Trump could make the point of our intense opposition to election interference by handing Putin the paper, obviating the need for a long conversation. Ultimately, Trump decided not to use the document. He wanted me to raise election interference, which I said I would do in the scheduled working lunch, but obviously I wouldn't be in the one-on-one with Putin he wanted so much.

Trump could not even hand Putin a piece of paper to defend the United States against Russia intervention. This was both a betrayal of the national interest and an abandonment of his obligations as commander in chief. Bolton confirms that Trump could not bring himself to challenge Putin: "Trump repeatedly objected to criticizing Russia and pressed us not to be so critical of Russia publicly." And when the State Department did take steps, in accordance with legislation, to increase sanctions on Russia, Trump, Bolton says, wanted to rescind them. "

There is much in Bolton's book that is disturbing. This is information about the president that Bolton should have shared with the House impeachment investigators at the time of their probe. But he did not. And Republicans blocked him from testifying during the impeachment trial. Would all the Senate Republicans—except Mitt Romney—have been able to stand by Trump had Bolton testified that Trump did pressure Ukraine to
Continued on page 11)



John Bolton Provides a Harrowing Portrait of Trump's Surrender to Putin (continued from page 11)

to initiate investigations to help his reelection, that Trump had given a green light to genocide in China, and that Trump had requested Chinese assistance for his 2020 campaign

When the national security adviser to the president cannot talk to the commander in chief about a paramount threat to the country, it is a sign that neither one of them should continue in their jobs.

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Our mission is to support, promote, build and perpetuate the Democratic Party in Hancock County, Ohio, by recruiting, screening, and training qualified Candidates, raising funds, registering voters, distributing literature, advertising, and doing other such appropriate activities.

WE'RE ON THE WEB

<https://hancockcountydems.org>

Compassion

"U.S. Sen-elect Joseph R. Biden Jr. comforts those who comfort him."

At the memorial for Joe Biden's wife, Neilia, and daughter, Naomi.

*Evening Journal
Wilmington, DE
Dec 22, 1972*



*U.S. Sen.-elect Joseph R. Biden Jr. comforts those who comfort him
Others wait to offer their condolences at memorial for Neilia Hunter and Naomi Christina Biden*

I have chosen this theme because compassion is a quality a narcissist does not understand. Our current President completely lacks this quality .