

Anything Can Be Perverted

Ken Olson

If you don't know what's wrong in a culture, how can you know what's right? We have good reason to worry. After all, "we" elected Donald Trump two times (he says three), putting into office a person who says that real news is fake and his fake news is real, and who makes everything about himself, whether a prayer breakfast or a WWII remembrance.

Perversions have a long, multifaceted history. Sports, intended to be friendly competition, easily degenerate into betting spectacles wherein winning is everything and those who lose are seen as "losers." Just ask Trump, who often pins that label, dividing entertainers, actors, comics, and even entire nations into winners and losers. The idea of working together enshrined in the United Nations? For that, he has nothing but contempt. To his see-saw mentality, being "the greatest country" means trashing all others.

The diversity of the human race, instead of being celebrated, has often been distorted into outright racism. (Trump posted AI images of the Obamas as monkeys and thought it was funny, showing only the poverty of his soul.)

A man took a speech course in extemporaneous speaking. When participants had to pick a topic out of hat, his turned out to be "sex." Later, he told his wife about it but said he had drawn the theme of "sailing." Another classmate phoned her to let her know how well her husband had done on the topic. The wife replied, "I don't understand that. The first time he did it he got nauseated and the second time his hat blew off." See? Not every joke about the subject has to be perverse, dirty, and demeaning, something that many immature males of our species, of whatever age, appear to have never learned.

The wonders of sexuality have long been tarnished by gender-related sexism and, of course, by prostitution. Further still, the camera was an amazing invention, but photography soon became a tool for pornography, wherein sex is seen as a spectator sport and women are treated as objects. And, yet, somehow, "we" elected --to the highest office in the land-- a serial adulterer and porn star patron, a braggart about sexual assault, someone convicted of the crime. (Releasing all the millions of Epstein files, unblackened, would document how wealth and power enabled the horrific virtual enslavement of other human beings.)

The First Amendment on free speech guarantees that news organizations can scrutinize a president, as they always have. Trump says, "They should be illegal!" Decimating the sanctity of Truth, he tells more lies than any other person of which we know in all recorded history. Cicero, the great orator of Ancient Rome: "A liar is not believed even when he tells the truth." Common sense would say that, right? But Trump bootlickers think that truth is what he says it is, and enough were suckered to put him where he is, well-positioned to serve but, instead, uses that role to enrich himself and his billionaire friends, doing for democracy what John Dillinger and Bonnie and Clyde did for banks. Just in 2025, the Trump family's billions doubled.

The Dept. of Defense: Trump wants to rename and refashion it into The Dept. of War, with the tone shifting to offense, this to more easily justify aggression against other countries that he wants to occupy, subvert, or steal.

In true Orwellian style, his EPA talks about preserving the environment but only as a mask for exploitation and plunder for the Almighty Dollar, the Director even saying, “We finally have a president who respects science!” Egad.

The US Justice Dept. is looking more like his own law firm with Trump’s former personal lawyer now Attorney General. He lies that it had been weaponized against him. Instead, that’s what he is doing now, converting it to a cudgel for vengeance and intimidation. He sues dozens of agencies and entities just because, with billions of bucks and legions of corrupt lawyers, he can. He pardoned some 1,500 duly convicted January 6th criminals and even tried to grab 1.8 billion to reward each of them more than \$1,000,000 for the crimes they committed in his name.

Those recently nominated as federal judges –to lifetime appointments—have been chosen because they support the Big Lie that Trump won the 2020 election. Most are very young and none have requisite experience to be endorsed by the American Bar Association. The judge now confirmed in this state has never even been a lead prosecutor on a single case, nominated simply because she is “loyal to Trump and his agenda,” a bias that should have disqualified her. So, we will be dealing with incompetence --and injustice-- for decades.

Many of us love our country enough to want to make it better. You can’t do that without calling out the grievous wrongs. It could easily take all the print-space in this newspaper to open the smallest window to the ways in which one person has perverted religion, our culture, and our government, but I close with this description of Trump by Carolyn Goode: “The fable of The Wolf in Sheep's Clothing applies to public life. The disguise is not a costume --it is a strategy. ...He wraps himself in patriotic language while weakening systems that safeguard the nation. He claims to defend the country while demanding loyalty to himself. He presents himself as a protector while pursuing power and money.”

It takes a long time to build something truly great but very little time to destroy it. What an immeasurable tragedy for America, and for the world, that “we” have allowed such a perverted individual to do his selfish, heedless, destructive, and immoral thing.

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