

## Trendsetting Thugs and Fascist Fashionistas

by Julian Sereno

Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Turkey's trendy tyrant, made a fascist fashion statement in Washington D.C., the heart of our democracy, on a warm sunny day in mid-May on Embassy Row.

And quite a row it was. Nine peaceful protesters carrying placards denouncing Erdogan ambled around the sidewalk across Massachusetts Avenue in front of the Turkish Ambassador's residence. As Erdogan stood near his limo, idly looking on, 24 members of his security team, large beefy men in suits, some with holstered firearms, brushed aside the understaffed and overmatched law enforcement team tasked with keeping the sides separated, attacked the protesters and beat them to a pulp, kicking and punching them while they were on the ground. They roughed up the police — federal officers — who intervened.

Videos of the beat-down have been widely watched on Youtube, and the *New York Times* identified each and every goon and showed each in action. Members of Congress, who saw foreign agents attacking lawful protesters in

the very seat of our sovereignty, expressed outrage. Sen. John McCain demanded that the Turkish Ambassador be expelled.

Two Turkish thugs were detained and subsequently released. Then the entire Erdogan entourage headed home. Before the last goon could even flash his diplomatic get-out-of-jail-free card, the Turkish Foreign Minister in Ankara called the U.S. Ambassador to demand an apology for the attack on the 24 Erdogan goons by the nine protesters, claiming the police were complicit.

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson called the entire episode “unacceptable” and said the State Department would conduct a thorough investigation, sounding eerily similar to our very own Senator Richard Burr talking about his committee's investigation into the Trump Campaign's Russian connections.

Thuggishness has been trending ever since l'affaire Erdogan. Just over a week later, the Republican candidate for Congress in the Montana special election throttled and body-slammed a reporter for asking questions. Now-congressman-elect Greg Gianforte grew

annoyed at Guardian reporter Ben Jacobs for repeatedly asking him about the Congressional Budget Office's report that 23 million Americans will lose their health insurance with the Republican health plan.

“I'm sick of you guys,” shouted Gianforte as he threw Jacobs to the ground and climbed on top of him. “The last time you came here you did the same thing. Get the hell out of here. Get the hell out of here.”

“You just body-slammed me and broke my glasses.” said Jacobs, who said he intended to call the authorities and asked for the names of witnesses.

Following the example of the trendy Turks, Shane Scanlon, Gianforte's campaign spokesman, lied about it all. He said that the reporter kept aggressively sticking a microphone in the candidate's face which the candidate asked him to stop, and finally defending himself, they both fell to the ground.

He was contradicted by none other than a Fox News crew as well as Jacob's tape. Police came, interviewed witnesses, and Gianforte was charged with misdemeanor assault.

House speaker Paul Ryan called the assault “inappropriate” and said, “It shouldn't have happened.” But he welcomed Gianforte's election nonetheless.

Never to be outdone, President Trump, perhaps inspired by his Oval Office meeting with Erdogan right before the row on Embassy Row, shoved the Prime Minister of Montenegro out of his way for a photo op. Dusko Markovic, the pushed prime minister, was gracious when questioned by reporters, and thanked Trump for his support in getting Montenegro into NATO.

Of course Montenegro survived a Russian attempt at a coup in mid-April, with 14 plotters arrested, including two Russian agents, so what's a little love shove compared with that?

Needless to say, Trump would never say “excuse me” or apologize. That would be a fascist fashion faux pas. The only one who apologized was the newly-elected U.S. Rep. Greg Gianforte. That should take care of his misdemeanor assault charge.

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## Progressivism Update

by Don Lein

It is appropriate to take a look at what has happened to the two chief advocates of progressive thought since the recent election — Barack Obama and Hilary Clinton. Lest you think that Obama has to scrape by on the paltry pension of \$205,700 (which will increase each year), as well as tax-payer provided funding for staffing, rent, travel, secret service, rest assured that the \$60-65 million deal for their memoirs that they signed with Penguin will kick in soon and allow them to remain with the people they wish to mingle with. While that is a terrific deal for the Obamas, one has to wonder how many millions of books Penguin feels it can sell in order to pay off that \$65 million — or, perhaps, the deal was underwritten by parties wishing to reward the Obamas.

What have they been doing since leaving the White House? A couple of highlights — in February they were hosted by Richard Branson, Chairman, Virgin Airways, on his private island in the British West Indies for an unknown length of time. Next found them at Tetiaroa, the South Pacific private island, once belonging to Marlon Brando with ultra-exclusive villas renting for \$3000 per night or for purchase for 6 million Euros. Obama opined that this would be an ideal location to write his memoirs. However, we cannot forget the photos of the Obamas relaxing aboard David Geffen's 454 foot yacht, Rising Sun, with Tom

Hanks, Bruce Springsteen, Oprah, etc., which, serendipitously happened to be in the neighborhood of Tertiaroa when the Obamas were there!!

With this kind of money being thrown around to entertain the former First Family, one has to wonder what would be remarkable about a \$400,000 speaking fee from Cantor Fitzgerald, a Wall Street firm. The editorial Board of the *New York Times* were aghast in an editorial called “The Cost of Obama's Speech” that he would accept that fee from forces he was “fighting against”. They went so far as to quote for his book “The Audacity of Hope” to show how wrong his acceptance of that money was. The *Washington Post*, naturally chimed in, chastising Obama as did Vox, who stated that acceptance of the fee would undermine everything Obama believes in.

What of Hillary? She has recently made public appearances, but alas an April 23 *Washington Post-ABC* poll asked a representative sample of voters how they would vote if the election were held today. They replied Trump 43 percent and Clinton 40 percent. Recently she was quoted on CNN to Christiane Amanpour as opining that “If the election had been on October 27, I would be your president.” “I was on the way to winning until the combination of Jim Comey's letter on October 28 and Russian WikiLeaks raised doubts in the minds of people who were inclined to vote for me, but were sacred off.”

Actually, she tried to piggy back on the Obama strategy/coalition, but it wasn't transferrable to an off-putting 69 year old white multi-millionaire. She even abandoned her own approach

of 2008 when she became Annie Oakley and drank boiler-makers in Milwaukee, bowled in Scranton and reminisced about shooting guns as a young gal. By 2016 the Democratic Party had embraced identity politics so effectively employed by Obama. Instead of her 2008 candidate she scorned the rust belt states and never campaigned in Wisconsin. She characterized “half of Trump's supporters” as irredeemables and deplorables. Miners were toxic losers who needed to learn how to build solar panels rather than mine coal. Alas, for Clinton, they vote. Annie Oakley had transformed herself into a progressive elite.

Some analysts see the election outcome as a Western phenomenon and not just the U.S. They attribute it to the “implosion of the center left”. They point to the elections in Europe. First Greece, then Spain, Italy, Netherlands and recently, France. The socialist brand/philosophy is very unattractive to the voting public. The coalition between the progressive elites and the proletariat is broken. The elites are too liberal on immigration and too in love with multiculturalism and the proletariat loathe both. British journalist David Goodhart pointed out 13 years ago that a redistributive welfare state is only viable in an ethnically homogenous society. He was excoriated for saying so, but events have proven him correct. Will the Democratic Party continue to embrace its elitist agenda, and like its European counterparts, become irrelevant losers?

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## Witch Hunting through History

by Jeff Davidson

It's likely that some time after 2020, freedom pioneer Harriet Tubman will appear on the \$20 bill. In her perilous role as a scout and spy for the U.S. Army during the Civil War, and as an abolitionist and humanitarian, she earned it. She replaces Andrew Jackson, a favorite target today of some people who rail against Jackson's slave ownership, perhaps totaling up to 150 people at one time, while failing to understand the context.

Nearly everyone in Jackson's environment was racist at the time. What's more, Jackson championed the Indian Removal Act that displaced nearly 46,000 Creeks, Chickasaws, Cherokees, Seminoles, and Choctaws from their ancestral lands. Because he ascended to the presidency, maybe it's time for him to vanish from our currency.

### TRANSGRESSIONS AS SEEN FROM THE FUTURE

Since everyone, however, has transgressed to some extent perhaps the vital issue is “at what point does the transgression overcome the good?” Or put more positively, “at what point does the good a person has done outweigh the misdeeds?”

Suppose that Hispanics working in America today as house cleaners, maids, nannies, gardeners, and lawn keepers, 200 years from now, are regarded as having been exploited. What if 200 years from now, whatever such Hispanic exploiters otherwise accomplished, such people are looked upon with disdain. Not fair you say? “You don't understand the context.” “We gave them employment, and we helped their families to prosper. It was all for the good.” Tell that to future ‘progressives.’

Who, besides Andrew Jackson, should be defamed? Let's explore some other notables in American history and see what laurels should be stripped from their legacy. Martin Luther King, Jr. plagiarized vast sections of his doctoral thesis, as has been well documented by major liberal newspapers and even by the institution that honored him with his doctorate.

Boston University has admitted knowledge of the transgression, that MLK plagiarized large portions of his doctoral dissertation and that the university had knowledge of such plagiarism at the time. Yet the decision was made to award him a doctorate. After all, he was an otherwise brilliant, promising student, and Boston University was pleased to have had him in its program.

### EXPULSED, NOT REWARDED

One hundred out of one hundred other students in graduate school programs found to have plagiarized vast portions of their doctoral dissertations would be expelled from the respective programs: no doctorate, no graduation, no honors, in fact deep dishonor. Is it not fitting to strip Martin Luther King, Jr., posthumously, of the legions of awards and distinctions bestowed upon them?

Virtually every major metro area has a Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. Scores and scores of schools are named after him, not to mention community centers, libraries, and other civic and social institutions. Numerous scholarships are named after him. Indeed, MLK is revered as the foremost civil rights leader of our time: America celebrates his birthday in January, as a federal holiday, while stripping George Washington and Abraham Lincoln of such distinction, in favor of the little-acknowledged “President's Day.”

Can someone who cheated his way to

academic distinction be allowed, posthumously, to retain such honors?

“Not fair,” you say, to put MLK under the spotlight posthumously. Apples and oranges? Surely his brilliance was evident to everyone, and he made a distinct and positive impact on our culture.

### WHEN TRANSGRESSIONS ABOUND

It's been said great men are not always good men and the corollary is true for women as well. If we're going to go on a witch hunt of the famous men and women in history, and defame them when we find something heinous, or merely unpalatable, we might have no one left.

The transgressions of John F. Kennedy are legion. Besides being a serial philanderer, his constant patronage on prostitutes put the him in the path of extortionists. He also initiated sex with White House interns (as young as 18) on numerous occasions. A former JFK intern, Mimi Alford, among many others, has documented his unforgivable behavior.

Yet JFK is still on the 50¢ piece and the so-named Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts sits un-mired on the Potomac River in Washington. The so-named JFK Airport in New York, JFK Federal buildings, schools, libraries, awards, and distinctions all named after him remain intact.

### A FORCE FOR GOOD?

“Wait,” you say. According to many people JFK was a force for good. Hmmm... At the time, and even since then, according to many, Andrew Jackson was a force for good, otherwise he would not have become the standard bearer on the \$20 bill in the first place.

What about John Kennedy's brother Edward? Does anyone not find him negligent in the suffocation death of Mary Jo Kopechne? (Forensic evidence, suppressed at the time,

reveals that she suffocated slowly; she did drown.) Ted Kennedy had time to save her, but waited an incredible nine hours before reporting the incident to the Edgartown authorities.

A non-profit educational institution and museum founded in 2009 was named for him: the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate.

Years before Mary Jo, Edward Kennedy was concerned about his athletic eligibility at Harvard for the coming year. He arranged to have a friend sit in for him to take a Spanish language final examination. The play failed, and, unlike Martin Luther King, Jr., Kennedy was expelled. Nothing, however, stopped a majority of people in Massachusetts from continually re-electing him and enabling him to become the fourth longest serving senator in United States history, a tenure of nearly 47 years, ending with his death.

### THE UNDESERVING

If you're sincere in outing historical figures who are undeserving of posthumous accolades, consider J. Edgar Hoover. He became a life-long career criminal who, by the way, incessantly hounded Martin Luther King, Jr.

Hoover kept his post for decades by extorting one U.S. President after another. After all the revelations of Hoover's lifelong propensity to break the laws that he was entrusted to enforce, why is the FBI building still named after him? If you can answer that one, we can get back to Andrew Jackson.

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