

PIQUE

Newsletter of the Secular Humanist Society of New York

August 11, 2020

Stupid! No, not you, gentle reader, but certainly a whole hell of a lot of our fellow (and sororal) Americans. *How* stupid? Let us count the ways: by buying lies and rejecting reality, making sophisticated excuses for an evil God, denying science while believing abused children are shipped in furniture crates, and by taking the advice of a talk-radio hatemonger to arm themselves against, well, us. We revisit the gay apocalypse and D.C.'s dumbest, consider demons, and take a look at the offspring of "demon seed". But first, let's rethink something we thought we knew. —JR

"AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISM" DOES NOT MEAN WHAT WE THINK IT MEANS

Jonathan Engel

In the movie "The Princess Bride" the character Vizzini (Wallace Shawn) keeps referring to things that are actually happening as being "inconceivable". This prompts the classic rejoinder from Inigo Montoya (Mandy Patinkin): "You keep using that word, but I don't think you know what it means." Many Americans like to refer to our version of nationalism as "American Exceptionalism", which is the belief that the United States is inherently different from other nations in that it was founded as a democracy (even though at its founding well over half its inhabitants were disenfranchised), and that its history and mission to spread liberty and democracy around the world give it a superiority over other countries. Well, Americans might like to use that particular term, but in light of recent events, I don't think they know what it means.

The United States is alone among modern industrialized nations in not facilitating universal healthcare for its citizens. This form of "exceptionalism" has been harshly exposed during the current pandemic, as have other peculiarly American pathologies. By now it has become clear that no matter how Trump tries to lie his way out of this mess, the United States, despite all its wealth and technical know-how, has had one of the worst pandemic outcomes in the entire world. We are also the only country in the industrialized world where significant numbers of people refuse to wear a facemask in public because of "freedom", or something. And can you name another country where people responded to Covid-necessitated shutdowns by taking assault rifles into government buildings to threaten violence against public officials if their life-saving shutdown measures were not lifted? We have also trailed the world when it comes to

our response to the economic fallout that the pandemic has engendered. While many European countries paid private enterprises to keep their employees on the payroll during mandated public shutdowns, we did not. And so while the countries that provided this lifeline to workers now have unemployment rates that sit at about 5 percent, ours is more than double that. All of this has contributed to our exceptionally horrible response to the virus. Not to mention, of course, that while other democracies have from time to time elected some pretty horrible leaders, we have certainly taken the cake when it comes to that dubious distinction.

Our response to the Covid-19 crisis is not the only example of our misbegotten "exceptionalism". While other members of NATO stand firm against Russian aggression the United States, through its president, bows down to the autocrat Putin. While other signatories to the Iran nuclear accord (including China and Russia!) respect an agreement that even Trump sycophant Mike Pompeo admits was working to keep Iran from gaining a nuclear capability, the United States ripped it up. While almost every country in the world remains committed to the provisions of the Paris Climate Accord, the United States stands alone in repudiating this landmark compact. That's all certainly exceptional, but not in a good way.

The bottom line is that despite what religious xenophobes might believe, the United States has no God-given right to eternal empire. We have been a great but deeply flawed country in our history. But now our exceptionalism is going in the wrong direction. We can use our current dilemma as a spur to address our flaws and keep working toward a more perfect union. Or we can rest on our exceptional laurels and recede into the dustbin of history. We must all be vigilant, because there is no divine guarantee that we will choose the correct path.

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THEODICY / THE IDIOCY

James A. Haught

(Excerpted from "The Pandemic Disproves God" at Daylight Atheism on patheos.com, 8/3/2020)

Vice President Mike Pence, a renowned born-again fundamentalist, takes the podium as leader of America's task force on the Corona crisis. Reporters should ask him: "Why did God send the pandemic to kill perhaps millions of people?"

Follow-up questions should be: "Why didn't God prevent the tragedy? Is he powerless to stop it? Or does he simply not care if multitudes die in misery?"

The pandemic gripping the world raises the age-old philosophical dilemma called "the problem of evil", which asks why a supposedly all-loving god does nothing to stop horrors like diseases, tsunamis, earthquakes, hurricanes and the like. If there's an all-merciful father-creator, why did he make breast cancer, childhood leukemia, cerebral palsy, and predator animals that rip peaceful grazers apart?

Ever since Ancient Greece, priests and theologians have been flummoxed, unable to answer this enigma. In fact, a whole field of argument called theodicy arose in a futile attempt to solve it.

I think theodicy should be called "the idiocy" because there's only one possible explanation, which is obvious to intelligent, scientific-minded people: The all-loving god proclaimed by churches cannot exist. Logic doesn't exclude a cruel god, but it precludes a merciful one.

Dispute is swirling over the topic, with believers hedging and evading. Catholic columnist Ross Douthat of *The New York Times* wrote: "A pandemic sharpens the permanent questions of theodicy, the debates over whether it's reasonable to believe in a good and loving God in a world so rife with misery."

Absurdly, Douthat contends: "Meaningless suffering is the goal of the devil, and bringing meaning out of suffering is the saving work of God." He avoids the glaring question: Is God too weak to halt the devil's work? Douthat's answer is laughable.

Similarly, in *Time* magazine, Anglican theologian N.T. Wright dodged the question and said that, instead of seeking explanations, people should "recover the biblical tradition of lament". Which could be interpreted: Don't ask why God is killing multitudes - just lament it.

Jim Daly, president of the born-again Focus on the Family, wrote a sappy Fox News commentary offering no answer, but saying: "God is working through the government's response to this crisis, providing President Trump and Vice President Mike Pence and the Coronavirus Task Force wisdom and guidance as they plot and plan their attack on this lethal pathogen."

How typical for mindless right-wing religion, hinting that Trump and Pence are on God's team to protect humanity.

The truth stares everyone in the face: The pandemic proves that no compassionate god can exist. End of discussion. The idiocy of theodicy can do nothing to refute this clear logical conclusion.

"AGAINST STUPIDITY WE ARE DEFENSELESS"

John Stoehr

(Excerpted from "Must We Continue to Respect Stupidity?" at alternet.org, 7/30/2020)

We need to talk about the role of stupidity in our national discourse. We should not aim to insult, demean or marginalize anyone. Stupid people are human beings deserving of equal rights and equal justice. We should, however, redefine and reestablish the boundaries of acceptable public opinion. Stupid people deserve equal treatment, but it's deadly - literally - to give stupid ideas equal respect. (Stupidity, moreover, is not in the eye of the beholder when the medical, scientific and good-government consensus is that wearing masks is good, not wearing masks is bad.)

Of course, redefining and reestablishing the boundaries of acceptable public discourse is at the heart of the controversy over so-called cancel culture. In truth, no one is getting canceled (anyway, not in the way "cancel culture" critics claim). And in truth, the people most likely to complain about getting "canceled" often have access to public platforms so gigantic as to undermine the very premise of their arguments.

Take John Kass, for instance. A columnist for the *Chicago Tribune*, he wrote recently a piece about George Soros and "lawlessness" in cities run by Democrats. Soros is a frequent subject of anti-Jewish conspiracy theory. Outraged by its antisemitism, some said the column is a firing offense. This week, Kass defended himself against "the angry left-handed broom of America's cultural revolution [using] fear to sweep through our civic, corporate and personal life". A column about being a victim of censorship becomes incoherent the moment it's published. Yet we accept this stupidity, give it respect, and encourage it though it can and does poison discourse and enable evil.

As I noted recently, "cancel culture" critics aren't defending speech. They are instead blurring lines. They make it appear as if demands for redefining and reestablishing the boundaries of acceptable public opinion seem as authoritarian as the authoritarian president who really is dispatching his paramilitaries to harass and intimidate social reformers in cities nationwide under the guise of "protecting" federal property. Voters who don't want to vote for a fascist president might vote for him anyway to "protect" against "the angry left-handed broom of America's cultural revolution". Stupidity, Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, "is a more dangerous enemy of the good than malice."

Bonhoeffer really *did* get canceled. A Lutheran minister in Germany, he opposed Hitler's rise and the eventual attempt to exterminate Jews from Europe. The Nazi regime accused him of conspiring to assassinate Hitler, and hanged him just before the war's end. This is what he said from his prison cell about stupidity:

"One may protest against evil; it can be exposed and, if need be, prevented by use of force. Evil always carries within itself the germ of its own subversion in that it leaves behind in human beings at least a sense of unease."

Against stupidity we are defenseless.

“Neither protests nor the use of force accomplish anything here; reasons fall on deaf ears; facts that contradict one’s prejudgment simply need not be believed – in such moments the stupid person even becomes critical – and when facts are irrefutable they are just pushed aside as inconsequential, as incidental. In all this the stupid person, in contrast to the malicious one, is utterly self-satisfied and, being easily irritated, becomes dangerous by going on the attack.

“For that reason, greater caution is called for when dealing with a stupid person than with a malicious one. Never again will we try to persuade the stupid person with reasons, for it is senseless and dangerous.”

I KNOW WE’RE NOT SUPPOSED TO CALL ANYONE (EVEN THEM) “STUPID”, BUT ...

- Percentage of U.S. adults who say they would refuse to get a COVID-19 vaccine: 19
 - Of Republicans who say so: 28
- Percentage change since last year in the number of Democrats who have a “great deal” of trust in medical scientists: +43
- In the number of Republicans who do: – 3

Source: Harper’s Index, August 2020

QANON: EMPOWERING STUPIDITY

Chris Lehmann

(Reprinted from “The Dark Obsessions of QAnon Are Merging With Mainstream Conservatism” at thenewwrepublic.com, 7/18/2020)

For most of the Trump era, the delusional conspiracy creed that goes by the name QAnon—after the online alias of a supposed highly placed federal government official poised to expose and punish lurid forms of child sexual exploitation at the summit of deep-state power—seemed like an extremist fringe tendency on the American right. The unhinged transports of the QAnon faithful seemed more than a little reminiscent of the nineteenth-century moral panics over imaginary violent and sexual trespasses alleged to take place behind the walls of Catholic convents and abbeys—a collective Protestant hallucination that crested with the rise of the anti-immigration Know Nothing movement.

But what’s different about QAnon—which spurred its latest bout of online mania this month with invented tales of the furniture retail giant Wayfair allegedly transporting children marked for sexual slavery in pricey armoires and cabinets—is its proximity to institutional power and to allied crusades against sex trafficking across the political spectrum that often trade in similar fabrications. As *New Republic* staff writer Melissa Gira Grant observes, QAnon has quietly set up shop in some of the most influential reaches of American life, including the White House. And this means, in turn, that the QAnon movement’s trademark paranoia and penchant for vigilante violence are increasingly common motifs in the

rhetoric—and actions—of the Trumpian right:

The Wayfair meme was perfect for QAnon, driven as the movement is by people who believe they possess secret knowledge about how “elites” are buying, selling, abusing, and even devouring children. If you believe that, it’s not much of a leap to imagine that child trafficking is taking place inside an overpriced armoire. The danger escalates with the next logical leap: If that’s what the powerful are doing, what wouldn’t be justified in challenging them? QAnon has inspired its adherents to plot kidnapping “raids”, stage a standoff with an armored vehicle at the Hoover Dam, and attempt a citizen’s arrest that ended with a killing. The FBI’s Phoenix field office issued a memo last year about QAnon posing a potential domestic terrorist threat. None of this has kept QAnon isolated on the fringes; in fact, the group is now becoming a force in what passes for the mainstream of American politics.

Indeed, some 59 GOP congressional candidates professing QAnon sympathies have amassed more than 600,000 votes, according to a recent *Washington Post* study; Trump’s disgraced former national security adviser Michael Flynn has taken a public pledge to the QAnon cause; and President Trump has signaled his own support for the movement by taking to Twitter with Q-themed messaging and hashtags.

Political observers might shrug off such appeals as part of the president’s increasingly desperate, scattershot effort to energize his base with any and all culture warfare that distracts attention from a raging pandemic, a tanking economy, and a mass movement for racial justice. But the real appeal of such messaging keys into far deeper and distressing currents of belief among the hard-line movement faithful. As journalists Jeff Sharlet and Adrienne LaFrance have argued, QAnon is an extension of long-standing obsessions that have convulsed the modern evangelical right. By tapping into a theology of unappeasable cultural evil on the left, QAnon serves to validate the crusading virtues evangelical culture warriors bring to electoral battles about a vast range of policy issues.

The Q worldview also importantly treats believers as initiates to a powerful strain of true understanding available only to a spiritual elect—a belief system that structurally echoes the speculations of first-century Christian gnostics, as Sharlet has argued. Scholars of Gnosticism have referred to it as a theology of power—and to judge by QAnon’s growing clout within the conservative movement, the stuff of persecution fantasy may well pay material dividends heretofore undreamt of in the realm of worldly power. QAnon may already be far afield from consensual reality, but that’s also long been true of the president who coyly promotes the movement’s message online. After all, evangelical culture warriors profess their allegiance to a God for whom all things are possible—even the mobilization of a major political party behind Know Nothing fantasies of gothic victimization and persecution.

TRUTH COSTS MONEY, LIES ARE FREE

Nathan J. Robinson

(Excerpted from “The Truth Is Paywalled But The Lies Are Free” at currentaffairs.org, 8/2/2020)

Paywalls are justified, even though they are annoying. It costs money to produce good writing, to run a website, to license photographs. A lot of money, if you want quality. Asking people for a fee to access content is therefore very reasonable. You don’t expect to get a print subscription to the newspaper gratis, why would a website be different? I try not to grumble about having to pay for online content, because I run a magazine and I know how difficult it is to pay writers what they deserve.

But let us also notice something: *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *The Washington Post*, *The New Republic*, *New York*, *Harper’s*, *The New York Review of Books*, *The Financial Times*, and *The London Times* all have paywalls. Breitbart, Fox News, the Daily Wire, the Federalist, the Washington Examiner, InfoWars: free!

You want “Portland Protesters Burn Bibles, American Flags In The Streets”, “The Moral Case Against Mask Mandates And Other COVID Restrictions”, or an article suggesting the National Institutes of Health has admitted 5G phones cause coronavirus—they’re yours. You want the detailed *Times* reports on neo-Nazis infiltrating German institutions, the reasons contact tracing is failing in U.S. states, or the Trump administration’s undercutting of the USPS’s effectiveness—well, if you’ve clicked around the website a bit you’ll run straight into the paywall.

This doesn’t mean the paywall shouldn’t be there. But it does mean that it costs time and money to access a lot of true and important information, while a lot of bullshit is completely free.

HOW CLOSE TO SHOUTING “FIRE!” IN A CROWDED THEATER IS THIS?

Jared Holt

(Excerpted from “Alex Jones Tells His Listeners to Get Ready to Die in Fight Against New World Order”, on rightwingwatch, 8/3/2020)

Right-wing conspiracy monger Alex Jones, who has been referenced and quoted often by President Donald Trump (“Your reputation is amazing”), said last Wednesday that his years-old warnings about a globalist “New World Order” takeover of the United States were coming true, so his listeners should try to overcome their fear of death and be ready to “kill as many of them as quickly as possible”—in a “defensive” way, he added.

Issuing his latest conspiracy theory from behind an Infowars news desk displaying military style rifles, Jones told listeners of “The Alex Jones Show” that his outlet had “confirmed” that “Maoists” in major cities have “explosives and weapons and trucks loaded with ammonium nitrate and just chlorine gas—everything” and are preparing to murder government officials and right-wing talk show hosts. Jones cautioned listeners to avoid “jumping first” at the supposed

threat but said they should be ready to start killing people.

Jones recommended that people start taking down names and making a list “like Santa Claus” and to “just think about the future.”

“I want to avoid confrontation. I don’t need to put that on my belt that—I mean, I don’t even want to kill these globalists,” Jones said. “But if they want to kill us, the best thing to do in a defensive way is kill as many of them as quickly as possible. Again, the media will misquote that. I don’t want to offensively kill anybody. But I’m not going to take this, OK?”

Comment: Let’s be clear: the “them” hater Jones recommends being killed “as quickly as possible” is ... *us*. Globalists, freethinkers, liberals—excuse me, “libtards”—Never Trumpers, all of us ... *dead*. But in a “defensive” way, he says piously, so that he can claim no responsibility for the next of his demented and deranged acolytes who shows up in a pizza parlor with an AK-47 and a rage to kill.

I am a First Amendment absolutist; the only “holy writ” I believe in are those forty-three words that protect whatever the hell I—and you—want to write. Or to foam-at-the-mouth shout into a talk-radio mic.

But how is this not a textbook example of Justice Holmes, Jr.’s caveat about shouting “Fire!” in a crowded theater? How is this not incitement to riot? To murder?

Why, in a civilized society, is there an Alex Jones? – JR

THE GAY END OF CIVILIZATION?

Rob Boston

(Excerpted from “Five Years On, Dire Predictions About Marriage Equality Looking Pretty Silly”, itself excerpted and condensed in *AOF News & Views*, August, 2020)

June 26 marked the fifth anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court’s landmark decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, a ruling that had the effect of extending marriage equality nationwide. Prior to the decision and after, Religious Right groups made claims about marriage equality, predicting dire consequences from the ruling. Five years have passed. How many of these predictions have come true?

Western civilization will collapse: Christian nationalist attorney Mat Staver told a right-wing radio show that if the Supreme Court were to uphold marriage equality, the consequences would be devastating. “This is something that I believe is the beginning of the end of Western Civilization,” Staver said. “You can’t simply redefine and pretend that ontological differences between men and women do not exist. This will have consequences.”

Admittedly, Western Civilization has taken a bit of a hit — all civilization has. But due to the coronavirus pandemic and a reckoning over systemic racism, not marriage equality. In the main, Western Civilization is still plugging along.

The American people will rebel: As states began legalizing same-sex marriage and courts started striking down bans, Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council, was certain the American people were going to rise up. “If you get government out of whack with where the people are ... you create revolution. I think you could see a social and

cultural revolution if the court goes too far on this. [It] could literally split this nation in two and create such political and cultural turmoil that I'm not sure we could ever recover. ..."

It didn't happen. Instead, the country underwent a fairly rapid shift in public opinion on the question of marriage equality. Polls now show support in the low to mid-60s. Among millennials, support for marriage equality is even higher at 70 percent. Stick a fork in this one; it's done. **Houses of worship will be forced to perform marriage ceremonies for same-sex couples:** When it became obvious that marriage equality was coming to Alabama, Eric Johnston, president of the right-wing Southeast Law Institute, hit the panic button. "There will be a lot of lawsuits over whether ministers have to do it," he blathered. "It will be a clash between fundamental rights under the Constitution."

The flood of lawsuits never materialized, in part because it's obvious that houses of worship have an ironclad right to decide to whom they will extend their sacraments and religious services. Nothing about that has changed. The number of houses of worship that have been compelled to allow same-sex couples to marry stands at zero.

Religious conservatives will be imprisoned: James C. Dobson, the founder of Focus on the Family, seriously argued that people would be sent to prison for refusing to accept marriage equality. "Many of us will be dragged into court to be prosecuted or subjected to civil judgments ... Some may go to prison as the years unfold."

Wrong again. No one is sitting behind bars for refusing to accept marriage equality. (Kentucky county clerk Kim Davis was briefly in jail, but because she was found guilty of contempt of court. Davis, a government official, defied court orders and refused to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples even after Obergefell had come down.)

Religious freedom will be obliterated: Bryan Fischer, a radio talk show host, tweeted: "Every advance of the gay agenda comes at the expense of religious liberty. As of today, free exercise is toast."

Free exercise is not even scorched. People remained free to meet in houses of worship for prayer and fellowship. Pastors who disliked the ruling had the ability to criticize it from the pulpit. No church had to admit LGBTQ members. Nothing changed. It's true that secular, for-profit businesses were expected to follow state and local anti-discrimination laws and serve everyone equally, but that doesn't stop anyone from worshipping as they please. It's a strange definition of "religious freedom" that allows one person to treat another like a second-class citizen.

People will start marrying animals, microwave ovens, lakes, etc.: U.S. Rep. Louie Gohmert (R-TX) (Ed: see next essay) and former U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum (R-PA) were big fans of this insipid talking point. Some assertions are simply too stupid to merit a reply. This is one.

Even as these claims were made, we at Americans United were debunking them. They just aren't true. Will the Christian nationalist groups that spread them take an honest look back five years later and admit they were wrong? Don't hold your breath.

STUPIDEST CONGRESSMAN UPDATE

Rep. Louie Gohmert (R-TX), who thinks he contracted COVID-19 because he wore a mask (PIQUE, August 4), tweeted that he was taking hydroxychloroquine. In spite of 1) the fact that the anti-malarial drug has no effect on the coronavirus, and 2) his daughter Caroline's public plea that he "listen to medical experts", the dimwit announced that "It is what was decided as the best course of action between my doctor and me - not by government bureaucrats."

He lives in his House office, where until he got sick he insisted that his staff work maskless.

"I", "I", "I", "ME", "ME", "ME"

STUPIDEST PRESIDENT UPDATE

Ex-Presidents Clinton, Bush, and Obama all spoke at Congressman and civil-rights hero John Lewis' funeral (95-year-old Jimmy Carter sent a message), but Donald Trump, when asked by Jonathan Swan how history would remember Lewis's contributions to the nation, said,

"I don't know. I don't know John Lewis. He chose not to come to my inauguration."

Pressed by Swan on whether he found Lewis "impressive", the Narcissist-in-Chief added,

"I can't say one way or another. Nobody has done more for Black Americans than I have. He should have come. I think he made a big mistake."

TOP PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER SAYS TRUMP CAN DELAY ELECTION BY HAVING SEX WITH DEMON

Andy Borowitz

The adviser, whom Trump identified as "a very smart doctor", said that having sex with a demon could give him powers so mighty he could override the Constitution.

"A lot of people are talking about having sex with demons. Many smart people think that it's a good idea."

Trump's proposal immediately drew howls of protest from several prominent voices in the demon community.

"Donald Trump can talk about having sex with a demon all he wants, but getting a demon to go along with it is another matter."

"DEMON SEED" IS REAL



SHSNY CALENDAR: AUGUST – OCTOBER 2020

FICTION BOOK CLUB ONLINE

The SHSNY Fiction Book Club meets online via Zoom, and will continue so for the duration of our enforced isolation.

To be included and notified of each meeting's link and password, email your address to Sharon Krutzel at sharonkrutzel@rcn.com

TUES, AUGUST 11, 7:00 pm DOUBLE WHAMMY

Carl Hiaasen

Just for fun, follow the adventures of a news-photographer-turned-private-eye as he seeks truth, justice, and an affair with his ex-wife. A hilarious caper with unforgettable characters, including the lunatic ex-governor of Florida whose diet is roadkill.

TUESDAY, SEPT 8, 7:00 pm ALOYSIUS THE GREAT

John Maxwell O'Brien

By Joyce scholar, author of *Alexander the Great: The Invisible Enemy*, and PIQUE subscriber O'Brien, *Aloysius* is now available in paper and e-formats at Amazon.

Mr. O'Brien advises that to purchase *Aloysius* in paperback most economically go to <http://bit.ly/AloysiusTheGreat>. \$22.99 there, with free shipping.

TUESDAY, OCT 13, 7:00 pm AMERICAN DIRT

Jeanine Cummins

Stephen King calls it "extraordinary," and this *NYTimes* best-selling story of a comfortable, middle-class Mexican family caught up in the flight to *el Norte* and away from drug violence has been called "the international story of our times". *Hardcover, Kindle.*

HUMANIST BOOK CLUB ONLINE

We continue online for the duration of our social distancing. Harry French will send the linking codes for the Zoom meetings. Send your address to:

htfrench46@gmail.com
Meanwhile, do the reading ...

THURS, SEPT 3, 7:00 pm SURVIVING AUTOCRACY

Masha Gessen

As seen on MSNBC Morning Joe and heard on NPR All Things Considered: the bestselling, National Book Award-winning journalist offers an essential guide to understanding, resisting, and recovering from Trump and the ravages of our tumultuous times.

"When Gessen speaks about autocracy, you listen."
— *The New York Times*

THURS, OCTOBER 1, 7:00 pm TWILIGHT OF DEMOCRACY:

The Seductive Lure of

Authoritarianism

Anne Applebaum

Thought-provoking and gracefully written, this is the book—by a Pulitzer-Prize winning historian—to read for insight into what Trump's rise and rule really mean—here and abroad—for democracy in our time.

— *Ron Elving, NPR*

THIRD THURSDAY GROUP THURS, AUGUST 20, 7:00 pm

Welcome to our Secular Humanist Political Support Group via Zoom ... for lively discussion of whatever is currently of interest to us. To join, send an email with your address to:

htfrench46@gmail.com

HUMANIST HAPPY HOUR ONLINE

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 5:00 pm

Let's get together even when we can't get together, via Zoom. Get comfortable at your computer with your beverage and/or snack of choice – and join 15, 20, or more of your fellow humanists in our Humanist Happy Hour!

Zoom in at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9806344432?pwd=c0NrNUoweDVGWHo2ditvYmJlVjVjVGVz09>

[us/j/9806344432?pwd=c0NrNUoweDVGWHo2ditvYmJlVjVjVGVz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9806344432?pwd=c0NrNUoweDVGWHo2ditvYmJlVjVjVGVz09)

Meeting ID: 980 634 4432

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Join by Skype for Business

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[skype/9806344432](https://us02web.zoom.us/skype/9806344432)

MONDAY MOVIES

MONDAY, AUG 10, 8:00 pm

We'll discuss Stanley Kubrick's

DR. STRANGELOVE

(Or: *How I learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb*)

Movie buffs meet every other Monday eve to discuss interesting and socially relevant films.

Together we choose a film, each watch it at home, free or cheap rental, then Zoom to discuss it.

Let's watch Peter Sellers play three roles (hilariously) in 1964's "Dr. Strangelove" (\$3.99 rental on Amazon) – then discuss Cold War paranoia and wild black humor.

Zoom in at:

<https://zoom.us/j/91274837859?pwd=MEhINW1rbjIwYjI0OERZVE5lNzFOQT09>

[us/j/91274837859?pwd=MEhINW1rbjIwYjI0OERZVE5lNzFOQT09](https://zoom.us/j/91274837859?pwd=MEhINW1rbjIwYjI0OERZVE5lNzFOQT09)

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