

The GOP's Frankenstein ■ By Emily Weathers Kennedy, Guest columnist

By Emily Weathers Kennedy

I just finished Mary Shelley's acclaimed *Frankenstein*, and the similarities between her antagonist—the monster—and today's modern fiend are downright eerie.

I am speaking metaphorically, of course. I doubt my friends in my book club, who recommended this classic novel as our reading for October, quite realized the coincidence. Who could have predicted the monster emerging in this election? But he is there, and the devastation he wreaks, though not dastardly and murderous, is, nonetheless, a tragedy to our country.

As Victor Frankenstein feverishly created his creature with no regard to its effects on humanity, so too did the Republican Party create the monster of Donald Trump, enjoying the political poll bumps he generated as frustrated voters across the country embraced his bombastic language. He touched a chord with disenchanted people, hitting one low after another, even as party leaders tried to put forth more appropriate candidates.

He insulted the office of the presidency and the president himself, rising to political prominence with his racist message of a black man's birth that surely could not be legitimately American but African.

He insulted Hispanic people, African Americans, Muslims, and even a Gold Star family, whose sacrifice to our freedom was the ultimate asked of any Americans.

All the while Trump's party

stood by with a few half-hearted disclaimers, allowing the rhetoric to escalate. The rallies became circuses with supporters yelling and fighting, pumping up the base, as Trump called for violence against his opponent.

Still, little cautionary word came from the GOP.

In July of 2016, Trump offhandedly egged our country's adversary, Russia, with its authoritarian leader, Vladimir Putin, to hack into DNC computers and disrupt the U.S. election. By this point, party leaders became alarmed, for never before had anyone threatened our democracy in such a dangerous way by encouraging espionage.

Then he attacked women, their appearance and their weight. Suddenly the dam began to seep as women turned away from him. After he was caught on tape speaking of his penchant for grabbing women's private parts and forcing intimacy on them, more women abandoned him in disgust. The dam burst. One by one, members of his party denounced him, some vowing to vote against him, some merely registering their own disgust. As he then saw the inevitability of his candidacy's deterioration, he lashed out against the American democratic system itself, claiming a rigged election, poisoning the minds of his followers. This, to party stalwarts, was the final straw.

By then it was too late. The monster, allowed to dominate the news with his hateful rhetoric and pompous ego, had not been chastened in time.

Just as Victor Frankenstein is tortured by the monster he creates, recognizing that he, in fact, is the real monster, so must people, who pushed Trump along and welcomed a surge at the expense of the health of the country, recognize their own culpability in the destruction of their party.

These folks must reflect on their imminent losses and figure out how to govern again in the way of the Grand Old Party. They're not going to get women, immigrants, minorities, people of color, and Millennials to embrace conservative principles otherwise. And they cannot win elections without them.



On Halloween and "Snowflakes" ■ By John W. Finney, Advocate General Manager



With Halloween just around the corner, the list of costumes that cannot be worn is beginning to out-number the list that can without offending anyone.

Growing up, we could dress up like cowboys and Indians, not any more. Indians are now politically incorrect as Halloween costumes and cowboys fought the Indians so they are bad too.

Gorilla outfits were always funny and made good Halloween costumes, but not anymore. Some say that it is offensive and racist. Or is it more racist to suggest that all monkey and gorilla costumes are racist and politically incorrect? That leaves out the Planet of the Apes.

You cannot dress as a belly dancer, Geisha girl, clowns, Hobo, Sumo wrestler, Bruce or Caitlyn Jenner, a tied up Kim Kardashian, banditos, ninjas the list goes on and on. Dress as a skeleton you are making fun of the dead. Dress as a pimp you will be putting women down.

A lot of people put a great amount of thought into a Halloween costumes, most are going to offend someone one way or another.

Traditional Halloween costumes were modeled after vampires, monsters, ghosts, witches, and devils. Now they are from celebrities, popular TV characters, or what comes to mind.

We have become a society where someone complains and says that is "politically

incorrect". Are we becoming soft with our feeling? Sticks and stone will hurt my bones but words will make me cry.

There is a term out there for these people, "Snowflakes"; a person who thinks they are perfect and unique when in fact they are not and are like everyone else.

They feel they need a "safe space" when anything makes them feel "uncomfortable". They need coddling and shielding from anything in society that may offend them. Their views are the right views and your views are the wrong views. They do not want to hear your side.

The University of Florida is one of the colleges that will be offering counseling for those who are offended and traumatized by someone's Halloween costume. A "safe space" they can go to and gather to avoid anything they cannot stand to see in public.

To me this is a ridiculous extreme attempt to keep people from being exposed to anything remotely offensive. How will they survive the real world? Will they be able to hold down a job where their performance is evaluated? Will they be able to handle dealing with people that have different views of the world than they do? Will they live in their parent's basement?

I say put on that gorilla suit, dress as a clown, put on the Indian headdress and war paint and have fun at that Halloween party or trick or treating. Stick your head in a pail of water and bob for some apples. Hopefully "snowflake" Bob will not be offended and hide in his "safe space".

Remember, it is Halloween, give out the good candy not the healthy politically correct snacks and fruit.

The Great Pumpkin Celebrates 50 Sincere Years ■ TYRADES By Danny Tyree



Remember a time when autumn meant burning leaves instead of burning Samsung Note 7 phones?

It's hard to believe, but on October 27 the animated TV classic "It's The Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown" celebrates its 50th anniversary.

It was the third "Peanuts" special, following "A Charlie Brown Christmas" and the mostly forgotten "Charlie Brown's All-Stars" (which, if it took as long as a typical Major League Baseball game, would be reaching the seventh inning stretch any day now).

Of course, the characters remain frozen in time, or we would now be up to "It's Your Colonoscopy Report, Charlie Brown." (Let's not even think about the "Peanuts" gang bobbing for dentures at Violet's Halloween party or going door-to-door chanting, "Trick or... wait, it's right on the tip of my tongue...")

I've been a fan of the special ever since its first airing, but I must admit the program was designed for simpler times. In this era of artificially enhanced self-esteem, the very idea of a "Great" pumpkin judging the relative sincerity of pumpkin patches

worldwide would be a mean-spirited no-no. EVERY pumpkin would get a ribbon just for participating. ("And you, artichoke and kale, you get ribbons for being pretty adequate pumpkins, too!")

Fellow old-timers might remember that Coke and Dolly Madison were the original sponsors of the show. Coincidentally, in a 2016 remake, the scene of Lucy carving out a jack-o-lantern and Linus crying, "You didn't tell me you were going to kill it!" would be replaced with Lucy preparing snacks and Linus wailing, "You didn't tell me you were going to fill it with high-fructose corn syrup!"

Remember Lucy yanking the football away from Charlie Brown at the last second? (Today's mania for remakes may yet spawn the reality show "Falling Flat On Your Back With The Stars.")

Nowadays she would cajole him with "If you like your dignity, you can keep your dignity" and afterwards defend her subterfuge by saying, "It's not what I SAID that's important. It's the fact that the Russians leaked those statements to you."

The late "Peanuts" creator Charles Schulz said that Charlie Brown's mournful repetition of "I got a rock" spurred fans worldwide to send bags and boxes of candy addressed to the lovable loser. In these litigious times, the neighbors who gave Charlie Brown the rocks would receive cease-and-desist orders for messing with the mineral rights of indigenous peoples.

Of course one of the highlights of the show was the fantasy sequence of Snoopy as a World War I flying ace aboard his Sopwith Camel, battling Germany's Red Baron.

State employees endorse Senator Dr. Joey Hensley for Senate District 28

NASHVILLE - The Tennessee Employees Action Movement endorses Joey Hensley, R-Hohenwald, for Senate District 28.

"Working to elect candidates who support state employees is an important goal for TEAM-PAC, which is why we are happy to endorse Joey Hensley for Senate District 28," TEAM Administrative Committee Chair Patricia Bowman said. "Joey understands that it is our state employees who make government work and that quality services for the citizens of Tennessee depend on a motivated, effective and efficient workforce. Joey Hensley is a leader that state employees have confidence will continue to represent them in the legislature and that is why he has our support."

(This rivalry had been introduced a year earlier in the comic strip and would continue a few weeks later in the novelty song "Snoopy Vs. The Red Baron" by the Royal Guardsmen. It's a bittersweet sequence because, while many kids watching the earliest airings of the special had grandparents who served in World War I still living, all those veterans have now passed away.)

Nowadays Snoopy would probably fantasize instead about being a crazy North Korean dictator using his doghouse to deliver missiles to the decadent United States.

Ah, put my revisionist fears out of your mind and revel in your fond memories of autumn rituals. Just save time to put in a good word for my musings. "Danny Tyree: just as deserving of a Pulitzer Prize as kale." Curse you, self-effacing punchlines! ©2016 Danny Tyree. Danny welcomes email responses at tyreetrades@aol.com and visits to his Facebook fan page "Tyree's Tyrades." Danny's weekly column is distributed exclusively by Cagle Cartoons Inc. newspaper syndicate.

Tennessee Federation of Republican Women will stand by nominee Trump

Sticks with nominee despite reported lurid statements and disrespectful comments

KINGSPORT - The TnFRW firmly stands behind our Republican Presidential Nominee Donald J. Trump and Vice Presidential Nominee Mike Pence. The TnFRW endorses the press release put out by the NFRW - the largest political Republican Women's organization in the country. "We stand behind the Republican ticket!"

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