

# Editorial / Opinion

## THE RHETORIC OF THE LEFT AFTER MISREPORTING RITTENHOUSE THREATENS SOCIETY

By Bill Connor

Following the delivery of the not guilty verdicts in the Kyle Rittenhouse trial, many Liberals in Congress, media, and entertainment went into hyperdrive with hyperbolic irresponsible criticism. Some attacked the judge and some attacked the jury. Most attacked "the system" they allege is broken. Ironically, most of those criticizing the verdict had, since the time of the killings, pushed defamatory misinformation about the incident and Rittenhouse. This has become a "Covington kids 2.0". Unlike what was reported and repeated, Rittenhouse was not an "outsider" to Kenosha. His father and many relatives lived there, he worked there, and it was only a 20-minute drive from his mother's house. From the evidence at trial, we learned Rittenhouse did not "cross state lines with an illegal weapon" as was misreported. The weapon charge had to be dropped, and the rifle was kept with his friend in Kenosha. Testimony, pictures, and video showed Rittenhouse in Kenosha cleaning graffiti,

putting out fires in schools, Churches, and businesses. Videos showed Rittenhouse being chased down by Rosenbaum, a convicted child rapist just out of in-patient psychiatric treatment. Rosenbaum had threatened to kill Rittenhouse twice before charging him. The other two men shot were convicted felons, and both had attacked Rittenhouse while Rittenhouse was stunned and on the ground. The wounded attacker admitted Rittenhouse did not shoot him until he pointed a loaded pistol at Rittenhouse's head. This all contradicted the misreporting of Rittenhouse as a white supremacist attacking peaceful protesters. After the misreporting, the subsequent hyperbolic criticism of the American system of jurisprudence has the potential to destroy society. Let me explain.

First, in criminal trials, the prosecution bears the highest burden of proving "guilt beyond a reasonable doubt". In civil trials, the standard is the much lower "preponderance of the evidence". This distinction answers why OJ Simpson was found "not guilty" in his criminal trial yet lost his civil trial.



**Attorney Bill Connor**  
BILL CONNOR LAW FIRM, LLC  
1408 RUSSELL STREET,  
SUITE 11, ORANGEBURG SC  
29115 P 803-937-5571

Famed British Jurist William Blackstone wrote the seminal book "Commentaries on the laws of England" in the 1760s, and it became the authority for American lawyers. According to Blackstone "It is better that ten guilty persons escape than that one innocent suffer" in a criminal trial. That sentiment was repeated by American founders, with Benjamin Franklin claiming it was better that "100 guilty persons" go free than to convict an innocent man. The system therefore provides many safeguards to help ensure innocent people are not convicted. One safeguard being that those facing charges of murder (or lesser homicide charges) have the ability to assert the privilege of self-defense. That's what Rittenhouse did, and by Wisconsin law the prosecution then bears to burden of proving the accused was not in reasonable fear of great bodily harm or death when exercising self-defense. Those who saw the evidence at trial concluded Rittenhouse was in such a fear when he fired his weapon. A doctrine of "provocation" (you cannot assert self-defense if you provoked the attack) was asserted, but the prosecution did not meet the burden of proving provocation.

The rhetoric attacking the "system" was unbelievable. Democratic Congresswoman Cory Bush went so far as to allege: "This system isn't built to hold White supremacists accountable, it's why Black and brown folks are brutalized and put in cages while White supremacists murderers walk free". Democratic Congressman Adriano Espaillat similarly alleged: "A murder is once again walking free today - our system is terribly broken.". This race bating not only causes violence and division, it's factually as wrong as the misreporting before trial. On the day of the Rittenhouse verdict, African American Rayshondre Gartrell Tarver was found not guilty by reason of self-defense by a jury in Columbus Georgia. This was despite Tarver having killed two men when he was trying to sell them drugs. Police argued that Tarver could not claim self-defense because he was committing a felony, but the jury disagreed. Another African American man was found not guilty of killing police during a no-knock warrant by the privilege of self-defense. It happens all the time for all races, and claiming racism undermines the protections of all Americans.

Our system of Jurisprudence is the most fair possible, particularly in safeguards to prevent conviction of the innocent. Convicting the innocent is not only wrong, but poses great danger of tearing apart society through perception of injustice. Exercise of self-defense is a right inherent in all humans. An even greater danger comes with the kind of irresponsible rhetoric being spewed by those on the Left over the Rittenhouse verdict. It drives the system to "mob justice" over ensuring the innocent are not convicted. It destroys the ethos of acceptance of the verdict of juries as the final determination of innocence. Americans all benefit from both the peace of the system, and also the protections for all of us from conviction of the innocent. The attempts to undermine the system must stop now, before it's too far gone to repair.

## Thanksgiving 2021

This Thursday we will celebrate 400 years to the day the very first Thanksgiving in the New World. After a very difficult year at the conclusion of a decade of very difficult years the Puritan settlers of Plymouth in what is now Massachusetts sat down to a celebratory meal with their helpful new neighbors, the Wampanoag "Indians". They in turn were happy for the presence of these "foreigners" and entered into an agreement for mutual protection. The Wampanoags having been seriously weakened by a disease now thought to be leptospirosis, but long thought to be smallpox, were under unrelenting pressure from the Narragansetts. November 25, 1621 was a time for celebration by both the Pilgrims and their Indian friends.

The Puritans of Plymouth were serious people. Their passion was religious liberty, the right to worship God free from the oppression of the Church of England and the Church of Rome. Early in the 1600s they fled England for Holland hoping for a freer climate for religious practice. By 1620 it seemed that Holland was reaching towards a treaty with Spain and that meant Romanism. They needed to move on and the New World seemed to be the place. They knew little about it except it was far away from what they saw as religious and political oppression.

These were no freebooters out for conquest and riches. They were religious people, craftsmen and farmers mostly who sought refuge to practice their religion and prosper by their efforts. A measure of their seriousness of purpose is that they established basic rules of behavior and self-governance in drafting and signing the Mayflower Compact on the ship before setting foot on the land at New Plymouth.

They were grateful to God for keeping them together in purpose for more than a decade in exile, for preserv-

ing their lives in the 66- day passage of the North Atlantic, for finding receptive new neighbors who shared the secrets of husbandry in this strange land and for the bountiful harvest at the end of their first year.

With the coming of more English and European settlers, future decades would not be kind to the Wampanoags or the Narragansetts for that matter. By the 1670s the entire Northeast would come under the sway of the Mohawks who had significant support from the English. But that's another story.

Today Thanksgiving has become a holiday for feasting with family and friends on turkey, mashed potatoes, candied yams, stuffing and green bean casserole. It is also the official launch of the Christmas shopping season. But I ask that we hold a thought for its origins. The Christian sojourners who came to the New World in 1620 and celebrated their survival on November 25, 1621 left a legacy of hard work, neighborliness, , seriousness of purpose and the first real steps toward governance by consent of the governed. In the 177 years that elapsed between the Compact and the Constitution of the United States there would be many setbacks including a complete break with England. The first attempts at unifying the nation with the Articles of Confederation would be seen as a failure. But lessons learned informed the crafting of the document which actually did unify the colonies, now states, and gave us the template for free people governed by consent from themselves to state and national governments charged with securing their freedoms.

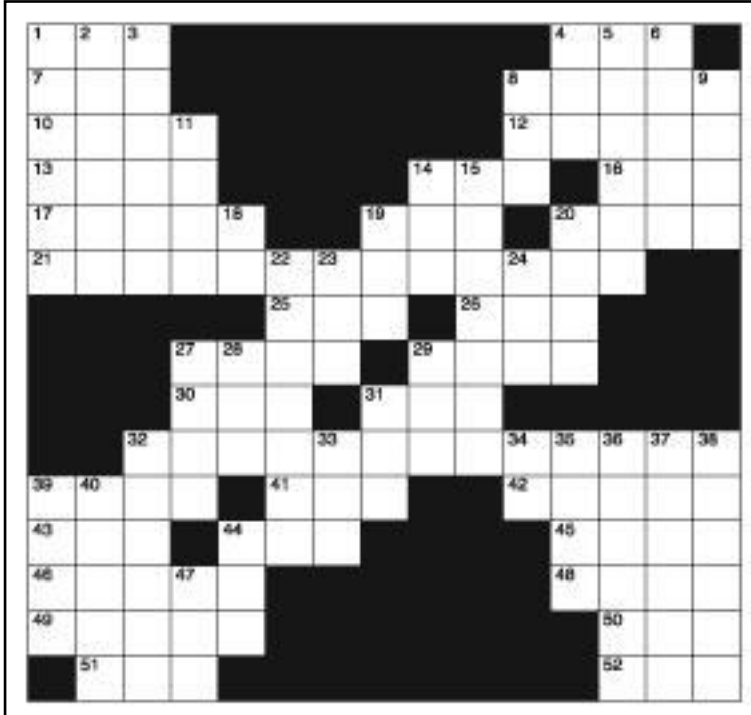
But, wait you say. "We are more fractured now than at any time in recent memory. Some who would seek to rule us now would trample our liberties in order to create greater control over us". That is true. All the goodies



**Ed Scanlon**  
has his opinions

which they promise come with a very large dose of governmental control over our choices and behavior. Every generation of Americans has faced challenges moral, economic, even war. But starting with the Mayflower pilgrims we have always risen to the challenges. Our forebears beginning with William Brewster who drafted the Mayflower Compact, Miles Standish who pledged his life and sword to defend it John Carver and William Bradford who governed under it down to this day left us a tradition and a framework for consent. You will not find that in any of our principle adversaries. You may not find it among many of our allies.

I propose that this Thursday, the 400th anniversary of the first Thanksgiving in the New World, we have much to be thankful for. Not least the right to choose. We may relinquish those rights which have been bequeathed to us. But those who would cannot just take them. If we relinquish our power of choice with our votes it will be because we made that choice with our votes. We live in a nation of choices, not mandates. We live in a nation of liberty, not regimentation. We live in a nation where "Momma Bears" carry more weight than educators. We live in a nation where Constitutional rights support the rule of law, not mob rule. These are gifts of a beneficent God and courageous forefathers. That is plenty to be thankful for on Thursday, November 25, 2021.



### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. FDNY's union
- 7. Hideout
- 7. Trent Reznor's band
- 8. Old World tropics plants
- 10. Places to stay
- 12. Group of organisms from a common ancestor
- 13. TV character Goodman
- 14. Not around
- 16. Title of respect
- 17. Ceramic jars
- 19. British legal authority (abbr.)
- 20. A companion (archaic)
- 21. Where groups of people live
- 25. Indigenous person of NE Thailand
- 26. Red-brown sea bream
- 27. Ridge of jagged rock
- 29. Meat from a pig (French)
- 30. A way to save for the future
- 31. Opposite of bottom
- 32. A term of endearment
- 39. Weight used in China
- 41. You need it to hear
- 42. Frighten
- 43. Basics
- 44. Computer data collection (abbr.)
- 45. The best point of something
- 46. Jewelled beaddress
- 48. Spoke
- 49. Mammary gland of female cattle
- 50. Midway between north and north
- 51. Defunct European economic group
- 52. Foul-mouthed Hollywood bear

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. In tune
- 2. Ending
- 3. Ring-shaped objects
- 4. Equal to 10 liters (abbr.)
- 5. Removes from record
- 6. The lowest point
- 8. Plant cultivated for its tubers
- 9. Dry or withered
- 11. Stony waste matter
- 14. Speedometer reading
- 15. Each of two or more forms of the same element
- 18. A baseball stat
- 19. Corporate PR exec (abbr.)
- 20. Insures bank's depositors
- 22. Made dim
- 23. Uncultured person
- 24. Paddle
- 27. Currency of Cambodia
- 28. Pitching stat
- 29. A place to put mail
- 31. God of battle (Scandinavian)
- 32. 10 years
- 33. Resinous substance secreted by insects
- 34. Losses
- 35. S. American plants
- 36. Void of thought or knowledge
- 37. Stout-bodied moth
- 38. Transferred property
- 39. Russian pop act
- 40. Accept
- 44. A retrospective military analysis (abbr.)
- 47. A type of center

PUZZLE SOLUTION

U	F	A						D	E	N	
N	I	N						O	K	R	A
I	N	N	S					C	L	A	D
S	A	U	L				M	I	A	S	I
O	L	L	A	S			C	P	S	F	E
N	E	I	G	H	B	O	R	H	O	O	D
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					R	E	E	F	P	O	R
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### America needs Thanksgiving

Dr. Glenn Mollette  
America has been through a tough time. A national election separated friends and family, divided churches and took over our media. We've been intoxicated with poisonous rhetoric and toxic street gatherings that led to more division, injuries, and even death.

Americans horrifically viewed the murder of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer and said we aren't going to take that anymore.

Over 762,000 people have died from Covid-19 in America. Over 47 million of us have been sick. Families who have buried loved ones don't need convincing about the realities of Covid-19. Americans who have spent weeks in hospital intensive care units know they are fortunate to be alive.

However, in the midst of America's pandemic nightmare, Americans have debated with each other over vaccinations, masks, school and business closures. We have watched our businesses suffer. Our government's finances have been further strained to supply money to hurting unemployed people.

Americans watched our departure from Afghanistan in horror. We argued among ourselves about how we should have left, the timing of our departure, and whether we should have left at all.

We continue to struggle with racism in America. People who have experienced it know the reality. At all levels of society we must rise above any and all words or actions that denigrate others.

We continue to have other crises impacting our nation. People pouring over our border illegally, an ongoing drug epidemic, homelessness, rising costs of medical treatment and insurance, unaffordable college tuition, unaffordable housing and unaffordable and sometimes unavailable groceries.

Americans are now facing the fire of growing inflation. Groceries are becoming even more unaffordable for poor Americans. The cost of living adjustment coming for America's retirees in January, which is reported to be 5.9 percent, might buy a small bag of groceries, maybe.

America has gone through a tough time, maybe better said, we are going through a tough time. This is why we desperately need Thanksgiving.

In November 1621, after the Pilgrims' first corn harvest proved successful, Governor William Bradford organized a celebratory feast and invited a group of the fledgling colony's Native American allies, including the Wampanoag chief Massasoit.

Now remembered as American's "first Thanksgiving" - although the Pilgrims themselves may not have used the term at the time - the festival lasted for three days.



In March, the remaining settlers moved ashore, where they received an astonishing visit from a member of the Abenaki tribe who greeted them in English.

Several days later, he returned with another Native American, Squanto. Squanto taught the Pilgrims - weakened by malnutrition and illness - how to cultivate corn, extract sap from maple trees, catch fish in the rivers, and avoid poisonous plants.

He also helped the settlers forge an alliance with the Wampanoag, a local tribe, which would endure for more than 50 years and tragically remains one of the sole examples of harmony between European colonists and Native Americans. (from History.com)

The early settlers who came to America suffered hardships that few Americans can comprehend. In the midst of so much death, sickness and starvation they found a way to stop and express gratitude.

The friendship and humanitarian aid given to them by Native Americans stand out as to what really makes America great. We all need to learn from the first Thanksgiving. This year maybe we all could take time to be grateful, and do something to help each other.

Glenn Mollette's latest recording, "Black Coffee," is available on iTunes and at music dealers. Find his books on Amazon.com. Contact him at GMollette@aol.com. Learn more at www.glennmollette.com

SUDOKU

				4	1			
				3				6
	1	7	6					
					5	8		
9		4	5	3	2		7	
7								
8	7			6		2		
2			3	5			6	4
4								

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

7	3	8	2	9	5	6	4	1
4	6	1	3	5	7	8	2	9
2	8	7	4	1	3	5	6	9
5	3	4	1	6	8	7	5	2
6	3	4	5	2	8	9	7	1
1	7	9	2	6	5	4	8	3
2	8	5	6	7	9	1	3	4
8	5	2	7	4	6	9	1	3
3	4	6	7	9	1	5	8	2

ANSWER: