Twitter Thread by Parker Molloy



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My latest piece at @mmfa:

Fox News keeps trying to justify GOP efforts to object to the Electoral College vote by pointing to the number of people who think the election was stolen (after spending 2 months telling their audiences that it was

This is Fox, basically: https://t.co/dkc0J8Dviw

Another comparison to the role Fox is playing here via one of my favorite Onion articles: https://t.co/7R5PsQ8xvT

Or maybe a human centipede, but with the front connected back to the end for a loop of shit-eating. Yeah, that's it. That's the role Fox is playing here.

But seriously, check out the *more than 2 months* of Fox-enabled conspiracy theories (a partial list): https://t.co/STD1vheqU4

https://t.co/ZfqbWncekD

https://t.co/haivFSEztO

https://t.co/51fYDdcxet

https://t.co/ZBGDh2IkZs

https://t.co/ElP1TxOl8j

https://t.co/F9BZrLL53m

https://t.co/0kppjxyPLs

https://t.co/C8ZdCa1RLQ

https://t.co/WRc4zEdfXT

https://t.co/tC1VgFTdnw

https://t.co/Lt5hwatqi3

https://t.co/MKTYbrFlIc

https://t.co/Lc819P581T

https://t.co/isMAsmSSi0

https://t.co/Q5PehkHPZj

https://t.co/tZN0CzH9sg

https://t.co/rru2ZBAP5M

https://t.co/QI1lHwM2AU

https://t.co/M70PxE141Q

https://t.co/B4euDlyeJN

Fox is the dad in the "I learned it by watching you!" anti-drug PSA https://t.co/4MML4lM056

But check out this example from last month:

* Fox promotes the false "Georgia suitcase" conspiracy theory

* Fox reports that it wasn't true...

* And then Fox promotes the story again https://t.co/IUs7shC9pA

It doesn't help their case or Trump's case that they have spent *years* scaremongering about widespread voter fraud that didn't exist. https://t.co/D4uYQWE9k2

And it certainly doesn't help their case that when Trump got angry that he didn't win the popular vote in 2016, he devoted government resources to create a "voting integrity commission" run by Trump toadies who couldn't find any evidence of

fraud https://t.co/epGfcl2yuq

The problem with all of this has been that mainstream news organizations and tech companies are way, way, way too afraid of upsetting Trump or Republicans.

"But I FEEL like social media is biased against conservatives!" was enough of an argument to actually get Facebook to bend over backwards to specifically boost right wing content. Working the refs works.

And it's been Trump's go-to move throughout his presidency. "This is the greatest economy ever," he'd say when it objectively was not. "I built the wall!" he'd say when he didn't. "Mexico is paying for it," when we were paying for his goofy pet project.

For the most part, news organizations took him at his work and would just print what he said. Worst case scenario is that they'd run some sort of mealy mouthed "both sides" piece.

(This is exactly what Josh Hawley did when he *lied* about "antifa thugs" attacking his house or whatever... it's on tape! It didn't happen that way! Still, WaPo ran a story giving him the benefit of the doubt.)

So really, why *wouldn't* they try this? These clowns haven't come up with a single bit of evidence to support any of their insane claims. Look at how relatively chill mainstream media is about all of this, treating it like a totally normal thing to do.

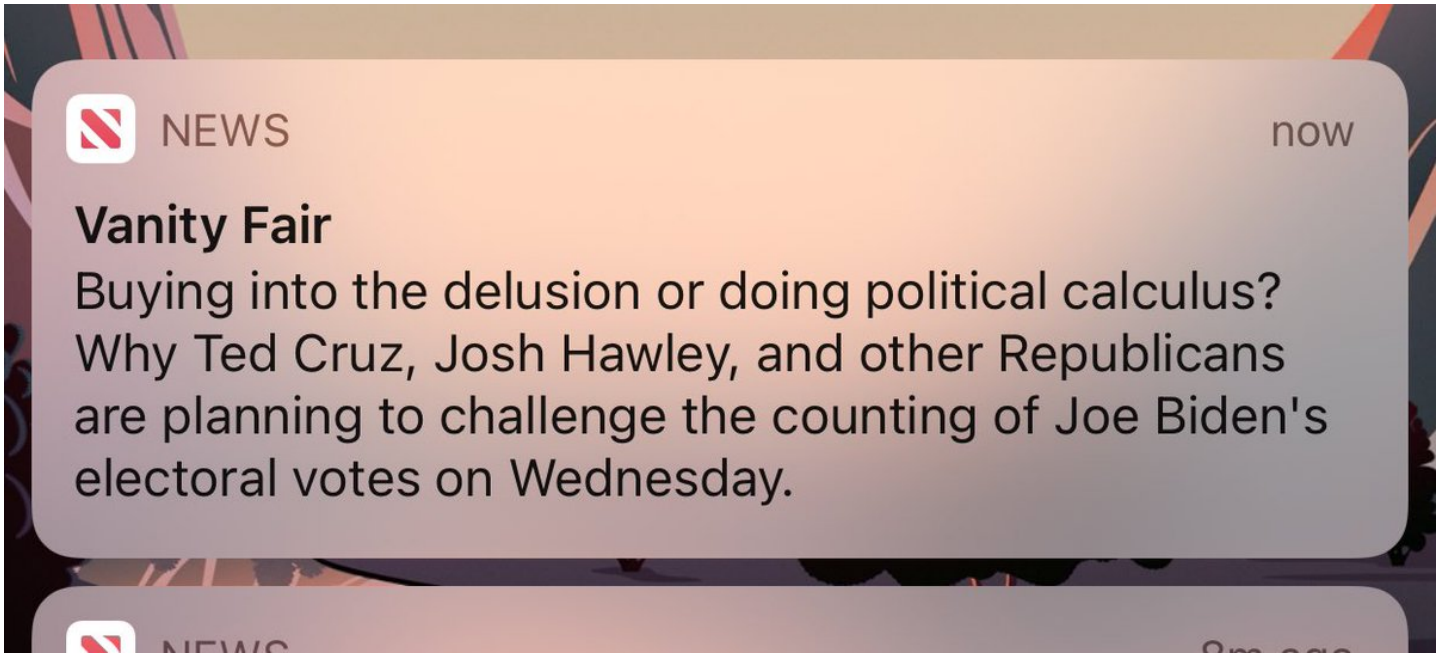
Republicans face zero consequences for their actions. Zero. Chuck Todd still invites them on Meet the Press, lobs them softballs for a few minutes, and then *thanks them* for coming on the show.

So while this is a Fox News problem (and an OAN/Newsmax/etc. problem), it's also a CNN problem, an NBC problem, a CBS problem, an ABC problem, an AP problem, a New York Times problem.

It's the mainstream outlets that created the conditions for all of this.

And what have they taken away from this? Nothing. Absolutely nothing. So while we watch as more than 100 House Republicans try to overturn the election results tomorrow, let's all remember that it goes back beyond right-wing media.

And just like that... another headline that shows just how much mainstream media have failed. “Political calculus?” Give me a break.


NEWS
now
Vanity Fair
Buying into the delusion or doing political calculus? Why Ted Cruz, Josh Hawley, and other Republicans are planning to challenge the counting of Joe Biden's electoral votes on Wednesday.