Common Sense

Right-Wing Nudist from Berkeley

October 31, 2022

Last Friday, at 2:30-ish in the morning, a man allegedly broke into Paul and Nancy Pelosi's San Francisco home and attacked 82-year-old Paul Pelosi with a hammer.*

The attack fractured Mr. Pelosi's skull, forcing emergency surgery, but fortunately he's expected to make a full recovery.

Police have arrested David DePape for the assault and numerous associated felonies. The 42-year-old is surprisingly well-known in California politics, long "affiliated with a prominent pro-nudist activism group in the Bay Area," and,

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according to the San Francisco Chronicle, "a sort of 'father figure' at a group home in Berkeley."

Police have yet to offer any motive for the attack but say the assailant was asking, "Where is Nancy?" Fortunately, the Speaker of the House wasn't there, but back in Washington.

Newsweek reports that DePape has "espoused numerous mainstream and right-wing conspiracy theories, including the belief that the 2020 election was stolen from Donald Trump, climate change denial, COVID-19 vaccine and mask skepticism, and other ideas associated with QAnon."

In recent weeks, DePape was apparently living in a school bus parked in front of his ex-wife's home. She — a fellow nudity



activist, now serving an unrelated prison term — explains plainly: "He is mentally ill."

Nevertheless, our statesmen strive for a deeper meaning. One they can harness.

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Calling it "the direct result of toxic right-wing rhetoric and incitement," State Sen. Scott Wiener (D-San Fran) declared, "Words have consequences, and without question, the GOP's hate and extremism has bred political violence."

But then consider what former President Barack Obama told a crowd in Michigan over the weekend: "This habit of saying the worst about other people, demonizing people, *that* creates a dangerous climate."

Does it? Left, right and all around? You don't say.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.

Note: There is still much we do not know about this crime. For instance, just yesterday it was disclosed that "there was a third person inside the house that opened the door for police."

^{*} I've never been attacked by a hammer-wielding man, but it sounds especially unpleasant. On the other hand, I have "attacked" myself with a hammer on several occasions, but that was ostensibly unintentional.