

5 pieces worth reading

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Cruel Intemperance

Veteran journalist Dan Rather discusses the possible effects of the Supreme Court's draft opinion to overturn *Roe v. Wade* in this commentary. Rather contends that the effects of this decision, should it stand, cannot be overstated, as it will expose the court as an unelected partisan body, with the *Bush v. Gore* decision in 2000 and Senator Mitch McConnell's willingness to block the appointment of then Judge Merrick Garland in 2015 standing as major landmarks in making it into such an instrument. Rather argues that countless women will suffer because of the body's self-evidently partisan overreach. He also contends that it remains unclear whether this decision, if rendered as now expected, will spark enthusiasm among the majority of voters, whom polls suggest disagree with the Court's stance, to participate in the upcoming midterm elections.

Rather, D., & Kirschner, E. (2022, May 3). *Cruel Intemperance*. Substack. Retrieved from <https://steady.substack.com/p/cruel-intemperance?s=r>

The death of Roe is going to tear America apart

Michelle Goldberg argues in this essay that the possible demise of *Roe v. Wade* will exacerbate America's polarization and result, more particularly, in numerous legal battles among red and blue states. She also suggests that such a decision could set the stage for a national abortion ban in the future should a Republican president and congress gain control of the national government.

Goldberg, M. (2022, May 6). *The death of Roe is going to tear America apart*. The New York Times. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/06/opinion/roe-abortion-culture-war.html>

Why COVID-19 gaslighting by politicians is so dangerous for democracy

Jason Hannan, Associate Professor of Rhetoric and Communications at the University of Winnipeg, argues that partisan gaslighting concerning the ongoing deadly pandemic ultimately undermines democracy. It does so, he contends, by deepening existing social divisions, eroding trust in public health agencies and government more generally, and by providing oxygen to dangerous reactionary groups.

Hannan, J. (2022, May 4). *Why Covid-19 gaslighting by politicians is so dangerous for democracy*. The Conversation. Retrieved from <https://theconversation.com/why-covid-19-gaslighting-by-politicians-is-so-dangerous-for-democracy-181103>

8 ways higher ed can help save democracy

Higher education has served as a platform to address social challenges and change throughout American history. With our nation's democracy now at a critical inflection point, this essay by William Tierney details strategies that colleges and universities can adopt to highlight the importance of preserving voting rights in the face of sustained efforts among some officials to undermine them for targeted groups.

Tierney, W. (2022, May 4). *8 Ways Higher Ed Can Help Save Democracy*. Inside Higher Ed. Retrieved from <https://www.insidehighered.com/views/2022/05/04/higher-ed-must-act-protect-and-promote-voting-opinion>

What unions are doing to protect American democracy

Former *New York Times* labor reporter Steven Greenhouse argues that the more than 14 million union members in the United States may be the best hope against current attacks on democratic institutions and voting rights. He profiles union leaders in Wisconsin working to confront extreme partisan gerrymandering initiatives by the GOP in that state's legislature.

Greenhouse, S. (2022, May 6). *What unions are doing to protect American democracy*. The New Republic. Retrieved from <https://newrepublic.com/article/166336/wisconsin-unions-protect-american-democracy>