Sex, Drugs, and the Gestapo

Certain Sips: the Weekend Brew



You can be forgiven for missing this week's flurry of Elon Musk "human interest" stories. In fact, if you were too busy touching grass to know what I'm talking about then I salute you. Now let's get weird.



This is not a story that matters.

While the real story remains Musk's crony capitalism, wholesale destruction of U.S. governmental functionality, theft of your personal information, and general love of Nazis, this week's *New York Times* **<u>"bombshell" exposé</u>** extensively detailed what longtime observers already knew: this man is always on drugs.

And if that wasn't juicy enough, reports also emerged that upon his alleged departure from the Trump Administration's day-to-day operations, Musk spirited out of Washington with Stephen Miller's wife (and DOGE spokesman) Katie Miller in tow.

To my mind, nontraditional relationships with kinky power dynamics are legitimately more interesting than profligate drug use. But the Stephen Miller-Katie Miller-Elon Musk love triangle isn't exactly newsworthy, either. Last month

Max Read

published an incisive comparison between the first and second Trump cadres, <u>Cucks vs. breeders: On</u> the animating fetishes of the Trump administration.



Cucks vs. breeders

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Greetings from Read Max HQ! In this week's dispatch...

The concern here is less "strangers fucking your wife" and more "strangers fucking their own wives while you and your wife don't fuck at all." (<u>It's hard not to see a</u> version of this concern lurking behind the Trump tariffs policy.) This is not to say that cuckoldry has disappeared from the Trump imaginary--more that it's been sublimated. And plus, maybe there is a synthesis between cuckoldry and breeding to be found.

Unrelatedly, <u>here's the end of a *Wired* piece from Februray about Stephen and Katie Miller and Elon Musk</u>:

Still, Musk's relationship with the Millers has become a subject of great intrigue in Washington as DOGE continues to wreak havoc on the federal government. Little is known about how often they interact outside of work and how the relationship grew over the late stages of the campaign into the transition.

"If you can find out anything about Stephen Miller's social life, I don't wanna know the answer," says a longtime Republican operative who knows the couple personally.

"Stephen and Katie are very attentive to [Musk]," the Republican who referred to Stephen as "prime minister" tells WIRED. There's also only

one audience which truly matters, they say: "He's got a forgiving audience: the audience of one, and all of us around him."

What had previously been subtext emerged this week as plain text speculation, significantly less deniable now that Katie Miller has quite literally left Stephen Miller to remain at Musk's side. Yet fundamental concepts of BDSM dynamics still seem to elude many observers—including, apparently, the official Democratic Party comms team:

The actual Democrats 'taunting' White House fascist Stephen Miller.

If cuckoldry best defines the sexual aspect of the Miller-Miller-Musk triad, then this is just plain kinkshaming. Or perhaps whoever crafted this tweet fails to understand the consensual enjoyment pursued by those who engage in this sort of thing, and thinks this is a genuinely sick burn on Stephen Miller. Either way, what I find most interesting is less the interpersonal power play and more the element of shared power.

Stephen and Katie Miller have rightly been described as a Washington power couple. When amplified by the inclusion of a third, even more powerful person, what we have on our hands is quite likely the world's most dangerous power through. Whatever is going on behind closed doors, these three are united in a shared public commitment to nothing less than the full obliteration of American democracy. **Eroticism aside, we are looking at America's #1 White Power Throughe.**

I understand the appeal of salacious reporting on offer from *The Times* and others. But let's not lose focus: the real story here is neither cucking nor breeding; what matters now is neither polyamory nor drug addiction. What matters is the authoritarianism. What matters is the harm not just to American hegemony, not just to living standards at home, but to truth and decency at a global scale.

As Adam Serwer famously identified, <u>the cruelty is the point</u>. It's the point of Trumpism, just as it was the point of American conservatism before that. Our reporting on Trumpworld must focus on their cruelty, not their bedroom antics or their poor mental health. We must never lose sight of the cruelty, for that enables it to take root and become ingrained in our politics and culture forever.

When the dust settles on this era and we hold these criminals accountable in our own American Nurenburg trials, the case will not rest on sexual power dynamics, but on the abuse of power—it will not be brought against people using ketamine, but against people killing people.