

Date: March 29, 2022

From: Dr John WorldPeace JD

Subject: Update – A month before the Pulitzer Awards Announced

To: Bud Kliment, Acting Administrator of Pulitzer Prizes

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- 1) Lee Bollinger, President Columbia University
- 2) all administrators, all Board of Directors of Pulitzer
- 3) the judges for the 2022 Pulitzer Poetry Prize

Distribution by Dr John WorldPeace JD

- 1) All the organizations and corporations listed in the “Poetry Market 2020”
- 2) University Professors of English/Poetry in USA

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Greetings

The craziness that took place during and since the Trump campaign for President and his first and only term in office (Covid, the Trump January 6, 2021 insurrection, the Russian war against Ukraine, the Supreme Court - Justice Thomas and his radical nut case wife being the latest inflection point/watershed moment) has put the USA in a heightened state of crazy.

1) After writing poetry for 50 years, and for the most part, other than my two wives during that period, not showing it to anyone, not being involved in any poetry related group in any capacity, I began to self-publish my 3,300+ poems. I finished publishing everything I had written up to October 2019, and submitted all of it in 4 volumes, 2,750 pages for the 2020 Pulitzer Poetry Prize.

My submission was not read. This has never been denied by the Pulitzer Poetry Prize.

Ms. Dana Canedy was the Administrator at that time. About 6 weeks after the 2020 prize announcement and my complaint to the Pulitzer Prize, she was fired. The cover story was she found a better job. Fat chance of a better job than Administrator of the Pulitzer Prize for a 50 years old Black female

2) I had one 19<sup>th</sup> century poetry class in all 10 years of my university experience. No other classes in any forum. I did not read much poetry to speak of over those 50 years. After losing the Pulitzer Prize in 2020, I began to significantly research the Pulitzer Prize to determine why my 3,300 poems over 50 years was subordinated to a book of 80+ poems about being black and gay. I did not enter the 2021 prize because even though I wrote 900 eligible poems during the eligibility period, I did not feel I had any

understanding of the obviously unwritten rules that were applied by the Pulitzer Poetry Prize. For the 2022 prize, I still did not feel I understood the process but I went ahead and submitted 4 books of poetry anyway.

1) Raw White Racism (74 pages)

2) My Collected Poems January to September 2021 (734 pages)

3) 200 poems under A Third Thousand Petal Zen Lotus - Poems 3000-3200 (68 pages). I had written 2200 of these poems starting in 1995. I have written an additional 460 of these poems – 3200-3660. The first poem was 1001. They are all numbered.

4) Eastern Religion as Poetry (457 pages)

3) This year I found a series of books titled “The Pulitzer Prize Archives” which listed the Pulitzer Poetry Prizes from 1922 to 2000 with summaries of how the winners were determined each year. This was an eye opener. I found that there were only about 65 entries per year submitted.

4) I also did research for the period of last the 21 years and found that the winners were generally college professors with significant accolades in poetry. I also found a statistically large number of Ivy League college associated poets, Copper Canyon Press with a lot of wins, and that a professional book cover and much editing was required to make a submission one of perfect spelling and grammar. Both of these things are expensive. I did not see any self-published winners.

Bottom line, the Pulitzer Prize is an Elitist exclusionary award. Basically if you are not primarily a professor of poetry with significant accolades, and secondarily associated with an Ivy League college and a savvy publisher, you did not have a dog’s chance in purgatory of winning the prize or being a runner up nominee; or in my case even have your submission read.

Also, there was a tendency to rank wordsmithing, rhyming, jingle jangle ding-a-ling poetry with big words above any free verse submissions.

5) My research has been on going and I have found some very interesting things about the poetry business.

6) I never studied poetry and read virtually no poets other than those I was exposed to in my sophomore year in college. Therefore, I never knew what I was doing with my poetry. I just wrote it. I did not critique it. In 1990, I copied all my poems and laid them out in categories and saw that I was in a rut on what I was writing. So I significantly cut back on my writing until I could break out of my repetitive rut which I did in the early 2000s.

Then in June of 2020, after the award of the Pulitzer Poetry Prize, I began to read more and more poets and selections of poets and critiques of poets.

7) One thing about my poetry is that all of it has a spiritual aspect to it. Not corporate religious poetry but spiritual. Like Haiku poetry. But it is more specific than that. Zen (Haiku) was the result of a combination of Taoism and Buddhism 800 years ago. So it was the Taoist aspect of poetry that I was writing all these years and not a Buddhist orientation.

Over the last year, I came to the realization that for me a superior poem had to have a “heart”. A heart is a phrase in a poem that is a stellar string of words which I associated with Haiku. However, in just the last few days I came across a book in a used bookstore; “The Tao of Walt Whitman.”

I tried to read Whitman all the way back to the 70’s but he was just too obscure for me; until I found this book. He writes with a Taoist world view but you have to really look at what he has written to tie it to Taoism. So three days ago I woke up to Walt Whitman after 50 years of reading his Leaves of Grass. I had reinterpreted the Tao te Ching (and it is part of my Eastern Religion as Poetry submission.) I understood the Tao more than Leaves of Grass.

It was then I realized that what I have been writing from day one was poetry with a Taoist aspect. I was trying to tie the “hearts of poems” to Zen but they were closer related to the Taoism within Zen.

A large majority of my Thousand Petal Zen Lotus poems, 2,650 of them, are short poems focused on a Taoist philosophy or spiritual view of the world human dreamscape.

My poems are not anywhere near as obscure as Whitman’s. But I see his connection now.

So if you like Whitman, and many do, then you are right at home with my Zen Lotus Petals.

And more importantly for me personally, is a huge connection that verifies to me that I have not been writing crap all these years.

8) I also came across something else with regards to Amanda Gorman.

1) If you speed up the tempo of her poetry it has a heavy Rap strain in it.

2) Not that much has a “heart”.

3) For me, her poetry relates to Quentin Tarantino’s movie scripts.

Consider some lines from The Hateful Eight

“You only need to hang mean bastards, but mean bastards you need to hang.”

“Keeping you at a disadvantage is an advantage I intend to keep.”

“That is a hard argument to argue with.”

Amanda Gorman is a young woman with a very limited life experience.

Without significant life experiences you cannot create Taoist spiritual hearts of poems in your poetry.

We will see what happens in the future. She is 50 years behind me.

University professors live a generally conservative cloistered life and so their poetry has to rely on jingles and jangles and ding-a-lings for their impact. The life lessons (hearts) are generally not there.

4) Now we have another critical issue regarding poetry about race (and other political issues); presently front and center in the world human society.

I have a book I submitted for the 2022 Pulitzer Poetry Prize

“Raw White Racism”

It is my personal perspective of my factual experience as a Texas White Baby Boomer who grew up in the aftermath of the Confederate South.

Critical Race Theory. Absolutely true. As a kid and young adult in the South it seems like every conversation had a race aspect to it. People said Elvis Presley sung N.ger music. Blacks are an inferior race. We have to keep the Blacks from voting. We have to keep the Blacks out of our schools. We have to keep them in their place. They stink. They are lazy. They are stupid. The North did not want the Blacks in the military ranks and the same was true all the way into WWII. Every social issue in the South has a Critical Race Theory aspect.

So my submission, Raw White Racism, is absolutely on point with the ongoing arguments over critical race theory in general and racism in specific.

What am I talking about? I am talking about the attacks going on right now against Ketanji Brown Jackson for the Supreme Court. Mitch McConnell and Lindsay Graham are two radical racists. They are Old Southern Crackers in spades.

And what is so interesting to me is the new hot news about that “Uncle Tom, token Black, Thurgood Marshall replacement on the Supreme court, “Clarence Thomas” and his crazy insurrectionists wife.

This puts the Whites in a do or die unreconcilable position of stopping Katanji Brown Jackson from getting on the Supreme because she is Black as well as female. And there is a good chance Tom Thomas, the token Black Republican Supreme Court Justice, is going to have to resign the court because of his crazy wife Ginny and Biden will appoint a super radical left White male to replace Tom Thomas.

The Republicans will have to try hard to keep the do nothing Clarence Thomas on the court because a Black, tried and true White Republican cause supporter, is a critical race vote.

And so I have a book “Raw White Racism” that is a witness for Critical Race Theory and the absolute fear of Whites of becoming a minority in America. A fear that has already become a reality.

Fundamentalist, Evangelical, and Baptist Whites are the core of the Trump voter base. They are 70% of the Republican diehard Trumpites.

I read an article last week “The real – and far scarier – reason Republicans think Biden is illegitimate” by Thomas Zimmer

The article gave me the terminology that I have been struggling with for two years.

When these Republicans say the election was illegitimate even when there was no evidence to prove voter fraud, as ruled in 62 court cases, they mean that just the fact that Biden won proves all the White votes were somehow not counted. Something is wrong but they cannot figure out what. America is

White and if the Whites were outvoted the vote has to be illegitimate. In other words, there is something wrong with the vote because if there wasn't, then the Whites would have re-elected Trump.

Now here is there underlying problematic foundation of this whole argument. Jesus was the most radical liberal left leaning human being that has ever lived. Love one another, feed the hungry, heal the sick, do unto others, these are all radical liberal left ideas. In other words, to be on the radical left is to be in perfect harmony with the teachings of Jesus.

These fundament, evangelical, and Baptist Christians go to church on Sunday and holler out that they have been saved by Jesus and his radical liberal teaching.

But on Monday they get in line with a White Racist Trump and curse the radical left. These radical right-wing Christians who claim to be saved by a radical left wing Jesus have a very serious kink in the coherence of their personal, spiritual and political philosophies. You can't bow down to Jesus on Sunday morning and curse his teaching all the rest of the week.

People know what a scum bag Trump is. Were he just Joe citizen, the Baptist would shun him for his personal philosophy, open racism, whore mongering, money worshipping, etc.

Now again, my poetry book, Raw White Racism, is right on point and dead center of the critical race theory as the 2020 Pulitzer Poetry Prize is about to be awarded.

Last night, Will Smith during the Academy Awards, walked up from the audience and "bitch slapped" really hard, Chris Rock in front of God and everybody. Had Chris Rock been a White comedian, Will Smith would never be in another movie and possibly been dead by now. The Whites just consider Black on Black killings to be the norm. All the rappers hype up gang violence. They all use the word Nigga but hate the word Nigger when it comes out of a White mouth.

So I have a poetry book submission so on point to the reality of racism in American Society and now we are going to see what the Pulitzer is going to do with it. They cannot say that I am a nothing poet. No other poet has my volume or range of poetry, much less passion over 53 years, and none write 125 poems a month like I have since October 2019.

So am I going to win the 2022 Pulitzer Prize? And if not, who and what poetry book is going to beat me? The fluff of Amanda Gorman?

We will see.

5) I have begun an Epic poem about the Russian war in Ukraine and the ramifications with regards to my WorldPeace Advocacy

**The long title of the book is "The Dr John WorldPeace JD Journal of the Last World War in the World Human Society: The Russia invasion of Ukraine February 24, 2022."**

The book is already published on KDP.Amazon.com. (What has been experienced is written and what will be experienced will be added over time. The reason it is already published is primarily so that the contents or the format of my book cannot be copied by any other poet. The point is that all the Pulitzer Prize Poets and other poets have written nothing about this war in the Ukraine.

The book is an epic poem and will not be finished until that war is over. That may be month or years.

The book has a backbone of the daily events in the war. It is written in my standard poetic format. Within the sections or between the sections are other poems that are attached to the backbone. There are direct quotes from all the parties involved in the conflict. The conflict is in fact WW III because more and more of the world's nations are becoming involved each day in this war and the amount of involvement in many countries are increasing.

6) At the academy awards last night it became apparent that Netflix, Amazon and others are creating a bigger percentage of the movies being made. This means all kinds of changes are coming to the tradition movie industry.

The same thing is happening to the Pulitzer Poetry Prize. A poet does not need to find a publisher to publish his poems anymore. He or she can self-publish with relative ease.

The most interesting thing to me is that self-published books are not printed until the book is purchased. So this means there is no investment in giant inventories. It also means that corrections to the book can be made as soon as they are submitted to Amazon. So if you are rereading your manuscript after it has been published, you can just go back to Amazon and upload the updated script. Amazon checks it the same as when it was originally published (which only takes a few days) and whoever buys a book will have the most recent manuscript.

There is no telling how many pages my epic poems of the Russian Ukrainian war will be. Right now it is about 220 pages of text. But I will be adding 10-12 pages or more each day. I would expect that before there is a full resolution of the war, my book will be 1,000 pages.

There is an online pdf of the book (not to be shared outside the Pulitzer) at:

<https://drjohnworldpeacejdversuspulitzerorg.com/the%20jwp%20journal%20of%20the%20last%20war%20russia%20v%20ukraine%20220329.pdf>

No one has attempted to do what I am doing and I am finding daily that the format and method I am using now will evolve a little each week which will require me to, or allow me to, go back and tweak the original chapters. (There are really no chapters, just daily entries.)

For example, I am writing the factual events in a poetic format but I can add to those facts a poem about the reverberations of a particular event below the factual poem. Also, I can take other poems that I or others have written over the years, or decades ago, and insert them into the manuscript.

So what I am developing now is a factual poem with some observations but at the end I may write a commentary that really does not rely exactly on the facts of the Ukraine war but of any past war. And I can just add some one-line poetic statements between the sections. I can also add graphics and maybe photos from the news. This is going to give the manuscript a scrapbook look.

Now with regards to entering the book for the 2023 Pulitzer Poetry Prize, I will just wait until a week before the deadline and then submit what may be the final form as of that date. I may have to

insert into the title of the book when the final 2022 manuscript is published that it is only Part One if the war is not over.

Then I would begin Part Two and continue to add to that over the following years.

As the book is being developed, I will publish what I have and then for the next week or more as I keep adding to the book, I will post that on the internet. So if a person has purchased a book that ended on January 31, he or she would follow the developing story on the internet for a fee like with Patreon. Then at some point the internet part would be added to the main manuscript.

Volumes of the books are not going to be more than 800 pages and that may require closing out a volume permanently. The point is there is a lot of possibilities. But the author can start receiving money without finishing the book, or finish editing the book. If there is an ongoing unfolding of the war events, it would be silly to not publish the book until the war ended. That could be decades away.

Another aspect of self-publishing, is if poets who are on various websites like All Poetry.com, who have thousands of unpublished poems, they could begin to publish because it would be easy. Most poets in this situation would probably just publish a book of the best poems for the year; unlike me who publishes everything I write.

Again there are possibilities that are going to change the methods of the traditional publishers. A poet could establish him or herself and then a traditional publisher would come in and buy the rights and put the poet on a contract. Again, all kinds of possibilities.

For me, I want to be the first to do this and I do not want any discussion of who began the genre I have created and continue to evolve. With a published book and copyright number there will be no question about who developed the genre. There would be no question of who copied whose ideas.

Sincerely,  
Dr John WorldPeace JD  
220329