

EST WEEKLY

Why We Need to Talk About Order and Chaos Today

by Elle Rogers | Interregnum Committee, Academic Coordinator

The opinions of this Op-Ed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of staff, faculty and students of The King's College

Order & Chaos marks our fifteenth Interregnum, and it's a timely theme.

This year, we hope to identify and practice together the disciplines that build properly-ordered lives. Habit formation may not immediately spring to mind when considering a theme like order and chaos, but it is something that defines Interregnum.

Indeed, the rhythms of Interregnum—the debating, the late-night prepared lecture writing sessions and early-morning performing arts practices, the brainstorming over which historical figure could feasibly have introduced Abraham Lincoln in 1838—are not constrained within a theme for practicality's sake. Instead, they point towards larger, defining questions.

It's not difficult to find the questions latent in a theme like order and chaos. The Interregnum Committee listed several of them in our introductory email yesterday.

King's teaches us to engage with the tension between tradition and innovation, to appreciate spontaneous order even as we look carefully for structure and consistency in human nature. Our curriculum breeds familiarity with Hayek, Publius, and Aristotle's thoughts on these topics.

Consider the theme for a minute more, however, and the questions these men raise hit closer to home. We are justifiably dismayed by the Twitter-induced incivility that characterizes political and social discourse, and are left concerned for our communities by policies that perpetuate dehumanizing conditions and reward self-aggrandizement.



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PHOTO OF THE WEEK

The House of Thatcher celebrates their Great Race victory. Photographed by Leticia Mosqueda

Certainly, the tumult could be described as chaotic.

The same could be said of the once-familiar institutions that the #MeToo movement has exposed as being operated by cruel and morally bankrupt leaders. How can the natural order depicted in Genesis be consistent with a context in which Harvey Weinstein, Bill Cosby, and an ever-growing list of spiritual leaders delude audiences just long enough to violate those who trust them?

This is the world in which we find ourselves here in New York City. It is a world that often leaves us exhausted, isolated, and confused, looking for radical solutions.

It is also a world that has consequences for our own campus. Life at King's has felt awfully chaotic at points.

For large parts of my time here, I have kept a regular sleep schedule of 3:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m., dealt with anxiety that keeps me awake at night, and poured so much time into attempting to be “the best” that classes and relationships have become second (or third or fourth) priority. If I told you that I almost lost one of the people closest to me because I cared more about student leadership than my other commitments, you might not believe me, but pride has a way of disordering our priorities.

And yet, what Augustine called the “tranquility of order” is available.

As the Interregnum Committee, we selected order and chaos as our theme not merely because turmoil is apparent, but because proper ordering is an end that supersedes it.

Story continued on back

GREAT RACE TOP SCORES

1. Thatcher
2. Reagan
3. Lewis
4. Susan B. Anthony

COMING THIS WEEK

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22

Mandatory Housing Meeting for all students living on campus at 12:15 p.m. (check with house for location)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 23

Job and Internship Fair at 12 p.m. in the lobby
First Refuge Worship Night at 7:30 p.m. in the City Room

FRIDAY, AUGUST 24

Church Fair at 12 p.m. in the lobby

THIS JUST IN

The Board of Trustees at The King's College has officially appointed Brigadier General Tim Gibson as the college's seventh president. We are excited to permanently welcome him to King's, and look forward to the year ahead!

If Plato is correct (and I have been known to believe that he is), the just city is preceded by the just soul; there is a right arrangement to our loves and passions and beliefs that approximates the character of Christ.

This arrangement shapes us just as it transforms the spaces we inhabit. When undertaken properly, it renders our homes, offices, and churches – and maybe even our Houses, orgs, and classes – as communities that look more like the city of God. When understood this way, our interaction with ourselves is better described as self-examination than self-care, and is always pointed towards the transformational shaping of those around us.

But such internal order requires that we practice the right habits. If Dr. Johnson is correct (and we have all been known to believe that he is), what we know and love is in large part determined by what we do. Disciplines like reading and writing aid us in understanding course material just as disciplines like debate, acting, and speaking aid us in the process of interpretation.

The idea is that our rhythms orient us towards lives of humility even when our desires tend towards self-aggrandizement.

Despite its competitive context, Interregnum offers our community a forum for discussing and embodying formative practices and ideas. Mia Chiba's performance of Malala's Nobel acceptance speech and Drew Hepler's final debate are not merely calls to excellence, but modes of learning something about who we are and who we could become.

When we engage in this way, we upset the orders and power structures around us, pointing instead towards an order of empathy and serious-minded inquiry.

This is the idea that drives our academic and extracurricular structures.

It is in the assignments I completed for professors who saw and continue to see me for who I could become, events I planned with best friends I never expected to meet, and the meals I continue to share with all of them that I have begun to see proper order, both in myself and in the fact that our lives intersected at just the right time.

King's will celebrate its nineteenth year in Manhattan later this fall, and it is no mistake that Interregnum has been a part of our story for three quarters of that time.

At its best, Interregnum, like King's, asks us to confront defining questions and chaotic realities with one another in ways that leave us and the institutions around us changed. It demands that we become interlocutors in a great conversation that brings us in accord with tranquility and prepares us for the city to come.

In a world of Harvey Weinsteins, to be an interlocutor is perhaps most radical of all.

Check your TKC email for updates on this year's Interregnum theme and events

Mermaids Come to Coney Island

by Wes Parnell | Photo Editor



photo taken by Wes Parnell

Sequins of every color, mermaids, a killer robot and thousands of spectators flocked to Coney Island for the 36th annual Mermaid Day Parade.

The Parade took place Saturday, June 16 at 1 pm with mermaid festivities and drinking like fish lasting well into the night. Beginning on 21st and going down Surf Avenue, the parade included bagpipes, dancers, pirates, robots and of course, mermaids. Some of them on stilts. Oh, and a dog on a skateboard.

For New York residents like Dolores Anne, the parade provided her “a reason to get out of the house.”

For other residents like, Samantha Lagler, 31, the parade was way to relive a part of her personality.

“I came here today because I was a mermaid in a past life,” Lagler said.

Mermaids of all sorts, shapes, and sizes flooded the Boardwalk. Beyoncé Miller, a Brooklyn resident, self-identified as a “cheecho Mermaid,” Miller explained that meant she is a mermaid that is “fat,” “sexy,” and has “love handles.”

Posing for a photo with her friends, Beyoncé Miller paused and said, “Wait, let me put my shells on first.”

As thousands of spectators and mermaids flocked Coney Island, many struggled to get a view of the parade. Statements like “Put some pep in your step, you're not actually mermaids” or “I honestly don't know what is happening, I think I'm being pushed to

the ground,” and “Excuse me, happy mermaid coming through,” were heard as mermaids and fans struggled to get a view of the parade.

The Mermaid parade, a fun, crowded, partly nude but family-friendly environment, has collected a lot of meaning and significance for New York residents over the years. Katherine Marotta, 70 years old, explained that she had just lost her son in March. The Mermaid Parade was his favorite parade of the year.

Standing behind a large crowd, the parade out of her line of view, Marotta explained, “I am here for him this year.”

Marotta's granddaughter, Angeline Marotta, 13 years old, did not share in the sentiment.

“It's terrible,” Angeline Marotta said. “I don't like it because you can't see and there are too many people.”

Like many things New York, particularly Coney Island, The Mermaid Parade is a mixed bag of goods. It is crowded lines, drunk people with no shirts on, families with kids sitting on their father's shoulders, and moments created and shared in the form of “flipper-ant” activities and timeless memories.

Wondering what's new with the Greenwich housing? Check next week's edition for updates!



photo taken by McKenna Morgan

TWEET OF THE WEEK

@houseofsojo

Does lifting a bagel to my mouth count as prepping for move in?

