**Words**

**Today is November 3, Cliche Day. A cliche is any phrase that is so overused that it loses its originality. During the time of the coronavirus, many new cliches have arisen, like "flatten the curve," "new normal," and "alone together." *(The Daily Chronicle)***

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**All words are pegs to hang ideas on. *(Henry Ward Beecher)***

**A Massachusetts preschool has banned children from using the term "best friend." Parent Christine Hartwell says she learned about the ban from her 4-year-old daughter, who'd come home sad from her day at the Pentucket Workshop Preschool. When the Hartwells complained, school officials explained that "best friend," even when used in a loving way, can lead other children to feel excluded." *(The Week magazine, May 4, 2018)***

**Some students at George Washington University are campaigning to drop the name "Colonials" from the university's sports teams, saying it's "extremely offensive." The name and accompanying mascot -- a white man in a three-cornered hat -- was chosen in 1926 to honor George Washington, a military and political hero in Colonial America. A campus petition says the name "glorifies the act of systematic oppression." *(The Week magazine, May 18, 2018)***

**Words are like nets -- we hope they'll cover what we mean, but we know they can't possibly hold that much joy, or grief, or wonder. *(Jodi Picoult, author)***

**The words racecar and kayak are palindromes; they are the same whether they are read left to right or right to left. *(The Daily Chronicle)***

**When the white nationalist accused of killing 11 people in a Pittsburgh synagogue last week arrived at an emergency room with several bullet wounds, he shouted, "I want to kill all the Jews!' The doctor and the nurse waiting to treat Robert Bowers at Allegheny General Hospital were Jewish; the hospital's president, Dr. Jeffrey Cohen, belongs to the Tree of Life congregation Bowers attacked. They tended to Bowers ass they would any patient. "We're here to take care of sick people," Cohen said. "You do what you think is right." Cohen made a point of talking to Bowers, to see what kind of a person could turn an AR-15 on grandfathers and grandmothers and two disabled men. He saw not a monster, but "a very lost guy" who'd listened to the "noise" telling him that white, Christian America was being invaded by Jews, by a caravan of Central Americans, by foreign vermin. "Words mean things," Cohen said. "Words are leading people to do things like this." *(William Falk, in The Week magazine, November 9, 2018)***

**What’s in a word? Consider the difference between wise guy and wise man. (Marshalltown, Iowa, Times-Republican)**

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