

Words Poorly Used #80 — Preside

What does it mean “to preside?” The Online Etymology Dictionary says, among other things, that it comes from the Latin for “to sit in front of.” What a multitude of sins we have hidden behind that facade! What a clever analogy for the idea that in the name of order we can invent any process. Not only is the office of “president” a loose cannon, but we usually fill that office with loose cannons who manipulate a vast minionhood of loose cannons. Mr. POTUS, please sit down and behave.