



A DEFLATED BAG

After a season of gratifying attention bestowed on the *Green Bag* by reputable people and institutions – see, e.g., *Flannery’s Generosity*, 26 *Green Bag* 2d 1 (2022); *Our Mistake?*, 25 *Green Bag* 2d 261 (2022); *A More-than-Nodding Familiarity*, 25 *Green Bag* 2d 171 (2022) – the new year has been hard on our institutional ego.

First, there was a news item brought to our attention by Emory law professor and longtime *Green Bag* adviser Morgan Cloud. In an email on February 28, 2023, Professor Cloud pointed out that on July 12, 2022, *The Onion* had published a slide show titled “Americans Explain Why They No Longer Trust The Supreme Court.”³ (Why didn’t we notice this our-

³ www.theonion.com/americans-explain-why-they-no-longer-trust-the-supreme-1849158523.

Ex Ante

selves sooner?) The first slide in the show is a photograph of “Preston Berger (Freelance Writer)” with this caption:

“None of the current justices lend themselves well to fun bobbleheads.”

Since we have no doubt that the bench of the current Supreme Court is occupied entirely by justices who have been or will be excellent subjects of interesting and fun bobbleheads, we have no choice but to understand *The Onion*’s slide as a comment on the actual funniness of the bobbleheads actually made. Clearly, our best efforts have failed to impress one of the leading fun news outlets.

Second, there was a time, long ago, when the *Green Bag* itself, and even its editors, were of sufficient interest to the general public to merit coverage in general interest newspapers. Consider, for example, the news that the *Green Bag* was getting a new editor. See the facing page for the story in the *Fall River [Massachusetts] Daily Evening News* for January 18, 1905. And for the sad news of the *Green Bag*’s loss of an editor a few months later, see below for the notice in the *Boston Globe* for April 12, 1905.

