



Rockland Metro Magazine

"The Buzz"

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The Old School
Fellowship Education

Trump, The End

by Joe Steinberger

The scandal that has broken in today's news is a bombshell. Did Donald Trump influence the IRS to conduct particularly bothersome audits of two of his political enemies? There's lots to read in the national press - and lots to reflect on. Where have we arrived?

There are currently three principal political entities in the US: The Democrats, the Republicans, and Donald Trump. Trump is the outsider who took over the Republican party when he got himself nominated, and then elected, President. To the Democrats he is the Devil. To the Republicans he is at this moment a hero or a villain depending on who you are, and on the particular circumstances. Right now the circumstances are not favoring Trump.

Using your political power to punish your enemies is the essence of corruption, its most heinous act. The result is government by intimidation, and the end of freedom.

Republicans who adhere to the values they profess cannot forgive an act that strikes at America's most fundamental, conservative, values. If the evidence is clear, this is the end of power for Donald.

What has America become, and what can we do to fix it?

by Alan Toth

Let's try to see how so many Americans have come to reject moral limits and tolerance for principled differences in favor of rebellion and destruction. A brief historical sampling of ideas and the developments they've led to might help.

Classic liberalism, America's heritage, is generally linked to 17th century English philosopher John Locke, an early Enlightenment thinker. Locke lived after the reformation during a time still marked by religious conflict and opportunists seeking power in the midst of social chaos. Against that background he came up with a restatement regarding government's authority. Rejecting the divine right to rule assumed by kings and queens he argued that governing authority was a human creation to be given to winners of popular elections. Presuming, apparently, to strengthen social bonds and weaken post reformation conflict he also authored a watered down version of Christian doctrine. To corral religion further he argued that it should be privatized thus to turn it into a supporter rather than a critic of government. His thinking revolved around social freedoms for both people (its left) and the private ownership of property (its right). Government was to protect both. At a time when piety and churchgoing characterized life in colonies filled with slave labor his thinking about privatized religion and property rights made him a founder favorite.

The Enlightenment in France went further. Its intellectuals were fed up with both an economically bankrupt state and a comfortable, supportive church. So they authored thinking that replaced the authority of biblical revelation with the authority of reason, situated hope in a budding science and technology informed by reason alone, argued that humans were not sinners but perfectible beings and that, given all this, human progress was inevitable. They never anticipated the unimaginable evil of the holocaust nor the way technological progress and the assumed rights of economic development, its creature comforts and medical advances aside, would one day put the entire planet in jeopardy. When it's understood that liberalism's core belief is that truth starts with the individual then Locke and true believers in Enlightenment rationality are, I'm arguing, candidates for re-examination.

Much has happened along the way that demonstrates the mixed bag we humans represent. But slavery introduced into the body politic a cancerous force that made the exploitation of people for profit an ongoing problem for both people and planet. That the Supreme Court would strip the Environmental Protection Agency of its operating authority, and turn that over to the legislators who find removing limits on economic advancement to be righteous, tells us a lot about the human condition. We are not sinless nor on a path to inevitable progress. Rather, if we want any kind of livable future, repentance is being called for by the circumstances of daily life in a world going rogue.

Pro-life people, of which I am one, are not generally concerned about such things. Moreover, I have not encountered any who value life in the womb of mother earth as much as life in the womb of a mother. Theirs, for the most part, is a single issue litmus test that blackballs big picture governance and allows its advocates to overlook otherwise sinful behavior. To be generous it may be that they have not heard about China's some million deaths annually due to pollution caused by its coal burning industrialization. And I'm not sure they know about how that same air pollution breathed in by pregnant women has been responsible for babies dying in their mother's womb. Maybe, now that the EPA has been gutted, they'll eventually get a chance to find out for themselves.

So, I'm here to ask this: What has America become and what can we do to fix its derailment by the thugery of being ruled by what looks and feels like a return to the unprincipled slave masters now controlling a Republican party corrupted by the hollowed out soul of its self-serving leader. By his example they seem willing to do whatever they can get away with no matter who or what it hurts almost as if it is their right to do so. With the help of a McConnell orchestrated stacking of the Supreme Court the stage has been set for the validation of voter suppression and a return to the state's rights mind set of the slavery era.

There is a way to bring more principled and varied voices to the legislative table. It's called Proportional Representation and it can be fought for and won by launching a campaign that goes over the thwarting heads of the powerful (this requires another commentary). P.R. goes beyond Ranked Choice's reworked majority voting reform and could help save America from its slide into the abyss. For anyone who wants to dialogue now about this I can be reached at recasters7@gmail.com.



interview with

Spencer Reuillard

by Ron Staschak

Spencer is a breath of fresh air at WRFR. He pushes us to appreciate new and different music. Check out his show on Saturday afternoon (3-5).

What do you do at the radio station?

I play various music from rock to classical, a lot of soundtrack stuff that's moody, creates good atmosphere and elicits strong emotions.

Also been doing some live improve modular shows.

I try to encourage people to call in but they don't seem to.

How long have you been volunteering?

Less than a year now, though I've had a show years back.

Why did you decide to volunteer/why did you want to have a show?

Mostly to get involved with the community and bring some music I know isn't heard much on radio.

Other than the show you host, what is your favorite show?

The one that canceled so I could have a time slot, haha.

Is there a question I should have asked you?

Me? No. But it'd be cool to hear what drives other volunteers musical/audio passion

Why is the show called "The Speezy Spin?"

I had the nickname Speezy, and spinning like a dj/ 'lets take a spin.'

Who are your favorite musicians? Styles of music?

My favorite musicians would be Trent Reznor, Hans Zimmer, Maynard James Keenen.

I end up finding myself listening to alot of soundtrack stuff, moody types of instrumentals but I have a wide range of appreciations.

Join the WRFR/Buzz team

Radio station WRFR and our magazine, the Buzz, are all-volunteer efforts. We are open to everyone, and we need your help.

We need people to do radio shows, to help with our administration, to provide technical support, to write, to edit, to print - to do whatever you do best and enjoy most.

Do you have skills that could help us give voice to our Rockland community? Then give me a call: 596-0731, or email steinberger@gwi.net. - Joe

Wednesdays from 3-4:30 PM, July 13-August 10th at Rockland Public Library 4H SPIN Club- Changing Oceans

Librarian and 4H positive youth development volunteer Jessie Blanchard joins local STEM expert and educator Carney McCrae to bring you “oceans” of summer science fun! “Changing Oceans” is a five-part program designed for youth 8 and up to learn about the life, science, and beauty of the Gulf of Maine, and the impacts of climate change. All sessions will include STEM learning activities, crafts, and resources for further action. Kids are welcome to drop-in to any session, but are encouraged to attend all five. All sessions are on Wednesdays from 3-4:30 PM, outside the Library’s Community Room (except for day 5, see below). For more information please contact Jessie Blanchard at jblanchard@rocklandmaine.gov.

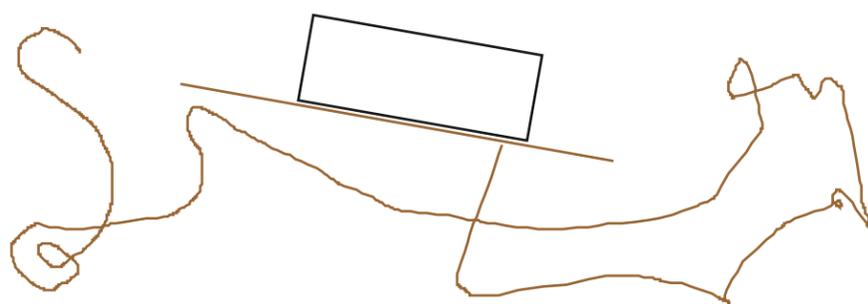
Session 1, July 13: “Creatures of the Gulf of Maine”- we’ll get to know the inhabitants of our ocean by creating a 3D food web and ocean layer map.

Session 2, July 20: “Understanding Ocean Chemistry”- we will do simple STEM activities to show and test the ocean’s salinity, pH, and temperatures.

Session 3, July 27: “Presenting Climate Data as Art”- based on the work of scientist and artist Jill Pelto, we’ll use climate change graphs as an art form to demonstrate and interpret data.

Session 4, August 3: “Ocean Ecologies and Their Future”- we’ll play a game based on the ocean’s ecologies, then create our own using what we’ve learned.

Session 5, August 10: “The Climate and Seabirds, and the Beach”- we’ll walk to the Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center to experience the replica seabird island, and then make our way to the beach to make a wish for the ocean and wrap-up activity. This day will involve a 15-minute walk to and from the Library*



The Rockland Metro Show Wednesdays from 5 to 6 pm on WRFR and MaineCoast.tv

On the Metro Show we try to have the conversation America needs today, Co-hosted by Steve Carroll and Joe Steinberger, the show features lively, friendly and constructive conversations between people from different backgrounds and political perspectives. Listen or watch, and call 593-0013 with your questions and comments.

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The Buzz is composed and printed by the Fellows of The Old School at the WRFR studios, 20 Gay Street, Rockland. Email: wrfr93.3@gmail.com

WEEK ONE HUNDRED-TWENTY-ONE

COVID-19 RANDOM NOTES WHILE SHELTERING IN PLACE

by Phyllis Merriam

Leaving an Augusta appointment, I had to come to a full stop to let a large gaggle of Canada Geese and their flocks cross the parking lot. It was the same gaggle from a few weeks ago but this time the chicks were so much bigger. One adult acted as the sentry to ensure safe crossings. Either the goose or the gander stared me down until the last gosling made it to safety. Geese must be more intelligent or protective than we credit them.

Another Maine baby has died. The one-year old boy drowned in a water-filled storage bin at his home. This is the 31st Maine child death in about 18 months.

We’ve been having some lovely weather over the July 4th holiday weekend and tourists are flooding our mid-coast. Gas prices don’t inhibit travel. They are swarming the grocery stores. I switched to another store that, so far, less crowded and has better fresh produce on shelves that haven’t been ransacked.

SCOTUS will change the social justice landscape for decades to come with their conservative political agendas that do not reflect the wishes of the majority of Americans. Chief Justice Roberts seems to hold no sway. That there is no oversight of SCOTUS and the justices have lifetime appointments, was a grave mistake from the beginning.

There have been an average of 11 mass shootings per week in America. America’s days and weeks are now marked by mass shootings by alienated, depressed and suicidal young White males with combat grade assault weapons. TV Talking Heads and politicians blame the mentally ill when our fellow Americans with mental illness are far less violent than most other people.

This morning I awoke around 4 AM and couldn’t get back to sleep. So I made my favorite java brew and went onto the side porch to enjoy my coffee and watch the sky brighten. Just then a large grey fox trotted from our backyard, passing by the porch about five feet from me. It trotted into the rose bushes across the street and I lost sight of the fox. It then emerged, crossed the street onto our other driveway and then trotted down the Harbor Trail, stopped and we stared at each other for a while. The fox looked healthy and beautiful with its large brush.

Two crows in the Big Maple cawed their alarms while the fox crossed the street again to stare at my neighbor’s patio, then trotted up the street and disappeared. Not exactly like Aesop’s Fable of the fox and the crow. Our local crows are too clever by far to be seduced by any foxy flattery.

My neighbor has seen two lovely fawns in her backyard and deer tracks by her bird feeder. We residents are fortunate to have such wildlife in our city neighborhood.

Boris Johnson, Britain’s cringe-worthy Prime Minister, has resigned after most of his cabinet quit and the Conservative Party pulled the rug out from under his obfuscations. At least the Brits don’t put up with lying politicians for very long. Whereas across the pond, our lying politicians get easy passes and are even elevated to the highest office.

Today Brittney Griner, WNBA champion and two time Olympic gold medalist, pled guilty in the Russian kangaroo court to having two vapes containing small amounts of cannabis oil. Videos of the handcuffed Griner being led to and from the court high light her 6’9” stature as she towered over her captors. With renewed tensions between Russia and the USA, she is being used as Putin’s pawn in his international maneuvers.

The iconic Dorman’s Dairy Dream has re-opened under the new ownership of Shepherd’s auto dealership next door. The same ice cream recipes are on offer. I know it’s a very popular summertime venue. The hallmarks of excellent ice cream, in my experience and opinion, are the vanilla and chocolate. Their vanilla is too sweet and their chocolate too weak. There. I’ve said it. I’ll probably be subjected to a public stoning.

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