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THE REVOLUTIONIST.

“Revolution is simply the culminating point of Evolution”

APRIL 2024

WESTERN  SLOPE NEWS

ISSUE #4

Use of Deadly Force Skyrockets in Mesa County! Local Media Silent!

By ‘cobo

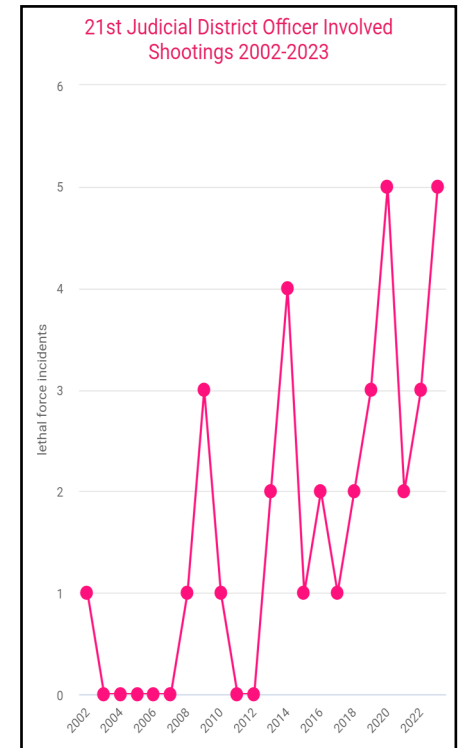
Whenever local law enforcement agency is involved in a lethal force incident, whether someone dies or not, it triggers an investigation by the 21st Judicial District Critical Incident Response Team. The team is comprised of Mesa County Sheriff's Office, Municipal Police Departments, Colorado State Patrol, and other smaller agencies. Since its inception the team has been activated 38 times. Only in one of those cases was an officer charged with any crime.

What is more telling is the rapid increase in the use of force since the 2000s. From 2002-2012 CIRT was only activated six times. The next eleven years, from 2013-2023 saw 32 activations. An increase of 533%. Crime is not up 533%. The population hasn't increased 533%. What is going on here?

It's hard to image that the now gentrified streets of Grand Junction are more violent now than they were during the height of the meth epidemic of the 1990s and 2000s. But what is certain is that police departments all across the United States have become more militarized and that is certainly the case here in 'Happy Valley.'

Neighboring Garfield county has 65,000 people. They have only activated their CIRT team 3 times since 2013. Mesa county's population is two and half times larger, but the uses of forces is almost 11 times higher in Mesa county

What's also telling is that none of



the local mainstream media outlets have reported on this. Just like they didn't ask question when the State Patrol killed Jayne Thompson on May 9th 2020 during a wellness check. The police and the media misgendered, and used the victims' deadname for weeks afterwards. The media does not question power they serve it.

Why The Revolutionist in 2024?

The Revolutionist is the product of its times. We are in an election cycle where we have to choose between genocide or fascism. We have a president, echoed by the DNC and likely your liberal parents/grandparents, that goes on about how great the American economy is doing. While most work-

ing people are struggling more than ever before. We have the most progressive city council in Grand Junction's living memory, and the city has only increased its cruelty to the homeless.

More and more the reality we see

if your scene doesn't have a paper, you probably don't have a scene together.

—Abbie Hoffman—

2024 on page

Events and Projects: Praxis in Action!

Plant Peace

Learn how to grow, harvest, and prepare Palestinian culinary staples.

Donations going to aid Gaza

Friday, April 12th, 5:30pm

Desert Bloom Hydroponics

westernslopeforliberation@gmail.com
to reserve a spot!

People's History of the Grand Valley

Presents "Opportunity and Oppression: Marginalized Narratives of the Grand Valley"

April 18th, 7pm

Lithic Books 138 S. Park Circle, Fruita

Love Beyond Understanding

Has tons of LGBTQ+ events, groups, supports. Check them out if you have not yet.

302 South Ave. Grand Junction

Falconer Workers' Society

Revolutionary book club currently

reading: Let This Radicalize You by

Kelly Hayes & Msriame Kaba

falconersworkerssociety@gmail.com

Fruita For Equality

Meets to the second Wednesday of each month at 5pm at Lithic Books and holds living room conversations about important topics of equality.

138 S. Park Square #202

Solidarity Not Charity

Free Food for Free People!

SolidaritynotcharityGJinfo@gmail.com

Meeting before the Saturday 'Feed' at the Resource Center. 261 Ute Ave

3pm mtg; 4pm 'Feed'

Help, Edit, Write, Distro

The Revolutionist

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Adam Frisch: Apologist for Genocide

By 'cobo

Recently two voters were able to question Adam Frisch, Democratic candidate for Colorado's 3rd Congressional District, about his stance on the ongoing genocide in Gaza, and lucky for voters they did so on camera. Jeremy Robinson and Grantley Showalter took advantage of a 'meet-n-great' with Frisch at the Polished Bean in sleepy Monte Vista Colorado. "I don't normally do things like this, like ask politicians questions on camera," said Jeremy Robinson. "There are a lot of protests happening around the world. Not so much in Monte Vista. This is the one little part I am doing," he added.

In the video Frisch makes no bones about it; He has no desire to hold Israel accountable to international law, has no desire to push for a ceasefire; and he holds HAMAS "100% responsible" for the current blood shed. "I believe there is a way to be



pro-Israel, pro-Palestine and very anti-HAMAS" he said.

"I was surprised," said Grantley Showalter. Showalter had organized with a few friends to attend Frisch campaign events in the San Luis valley. "Frisch was very specific about holding Israel blameless," said Showalter.

"We wanted to send a message that rural Colorado cares about ending US aid to Israel and supports a permanent ceasefire," said Showalter.

Frisch has out fundraised his opponents by huge margins, and according to OpenSecrets.org at least \$58,393 of those dollars have come directly from the Pro-Israel lobby.

<https://youtu.be/aROO64j4lv4?si=zQtpDbBy6FU9Qwry>

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☐ Revolutionary \$50 _____

☐ Che Guevarra \$100 _____

☐ Vladimir Lennin \$250+ Email: _____

Comrades that support at the 'Revolutionary' level and higher will receive a gift!

2024 from page

and live through everyday is not reflected back to us by our leaders, our media, or institutions of learning.

We have a media system so culpable in spreading propaganda, The New York Times is not investigating how unfiltered Israeli propaganda made it into print in the pages of their paper, they are investigating who within their organizations leaked the information.

Here in America thousands of protests have occurred and millions of protesters have taken to the streets demanding a ceasefire in Gaza, and they barely register a blip in the mainstream media.

We marched in the streets, many of us faced down armed fascist and/or police, in 2020, and nothing has changed, arguably worse. Police continue to kill unarmed marginalized people with little repercussions. Millions still languish in overcrowded prisons.

Marx Says "Be the Fucking Media!"

Send us your revolutionary art, poetry, analysis, rants, letters, journalism, photography, selfies on burning cop cars, recipes, events, graffiti, hidden histories.

Include a name or pseudonym if you want to be credited.

Next Deadline: **April 21st**

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All power to the photocopiers!

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Subscribing is Solidarity!—>

Abbie Hoffman in his counter-culture masterpiece Steal This Book explained the importance of publications like the one you hold in your hand.

"The most important institutions in our lives one would have to say is the underground newspaper. It keep tunned in on what's going on in the community and around the world. Values, Myths, Symbols and all the trappings of our culture are determined to a large extent by the underground press. Each offices serves as a welcome mat for strangers, a meeting place for community organizers and a rallying force to fight pig repression...if your scene doesn't have a paper, you probably don't have a scene together."

That's the goal of this publication. To be the backbone for radical movements for change on Colorado's western slope. Send us your news and events. Help us build a 'scene!'



Palestine: In Revolutionary Context

Courtesy of the South East Idaho Democratic Socialists of American

One cannot seriously speak about the, "common cultures," of a nation when employers and workers of one and the same nation cease to understand each other. What, "common destiny," can there be when the bourgeoisie thirsts for war and the proletariat declares war on war? - Stalin, 1913

J. V. Stalin. Among conservatives, liberals, and even leftists, not many other names can arouse such strong feelings as his. Best known as the leader of the Soviet Union after Lenin's death and the subject of much Red Scare propaganda, Stalin was a committed revolutionary and writer even prior to the Russian Revolution that put the Soviets in power and deposed the Tsar. Perhaps his best-known writing is "Marxism and the National Question," first published in 1913.

In this time of one state, acting in defense of its self-proclaimed national-cultural identity, committing genocide against a stateless nation bound together by geography, it seems pertinent to revisit this important work.

As a work focused on the material conditions of its time, the first portion of the work, focusing on the "national question" can be a bit dense or downright incomprehensible with Stalin describing various positions of now-defunct political assemblies and parties. At its core, however, the first portion of the work reviews various ideas on what a "nation," as opposed to a state, is. This was as important in 1913 as it is today, though we hardly separate the idea of nation and state in common conversation. Fundamentally, the "national question," that Stalin is reviewing is how political power should be organized among affinity groups. The idea of a nation had evolved, at that time, away from the idea of a tribe or a race and into the idea of a nation being defined as, "primarily a community, a definite community of people." But the quest to answer

what "community" was, if not defined by race or tribe, was up for debate in both legislative bodies and political discourse in the streets. Included in this debate across Europe and Asia were several groups, national identities, and movements we may find familiar to us today; Polish and Ukrainian nationalism as well as Zionism.

Stalin calls out these national definitions as being both baseless and regressive. He points out that people of shared cultural heritage, living in different places, have different material conditions that can serve to divide them. A German-American living in Iowa has little in common, day-to-day, with a German living in Berlin outside of their linked genetic heritage. From healthcare to environmental safety to public transit, their lives are vastly different. It would be foolish to say that they have more in common with one another than they do with their day-to-day neighbors of Polish, Irish, and Lebanese extraction. Instead, the main uniting point between the German in Berlin and the German-American in Iowa is their class, for there they can find a shared struggle decoupled from any genetic memory.

None of this is to say that heritage and ethnicity are unimportant! We see the effects of bigotry and racism against various groups every day. The point Stalin was making is that the working class everywhere has more in common with each other than with disparate members of the same culture in different material and class conditions. What does Danish-American Jeff Bezos have in common with a working-class Dane, in reality?

Stalin also points out a tactic of the ruling bourgeoisie to divide the working class; special protected groups will be raised by the bourgeois government in order to distract from the oppression of other groups of people and to pull away from international class unity. Under this guise, socialism is twisted to the cause of nationalism. We see this today with the genocide in Gaza, where white liberal feminists

Gaza from page three

identify more with the oppressors than they do with the women who are experiencing catastrophic reproductive health crises, and with Israel bringing "pride" to the ruins of Gaza (to which we must say, "no pride in genocide!"). It goes almost without saying that these oppressed groups are in need of liberation and these struggles are important, but their rights cannot be truly protected under the current system because capitalism does not profit from it. In fact, majority rights cannot be protected under this system either, for the only rights that capitalism will ensure are those of capital itself.

Indeed, Stalin correctly points out that minority rights are only as strong as the forces within a capitalist government wish them to be. Furthermore, any passing protection of a minority group will be the basest form that the democratic means will allow. Largely speaking, reforms are only as effective as the ruling class wishes them to be, within the barest pretext of the existing democratic structure. "More women drone pilots, more trans cops," as the sayings go, and we see people like Pete Buttigieg raised up by the liberal establishment as an example of the triumph of liberal "progress" while he serves as a tool of oppression within the genocidal Biden administration. We see the loss of nationwide reproductive rights under the bourgeois liberal order, as the reforms to protect those rights were not

deemed necessary for the bourgeoisie. Multiple Democratic administrations refused to act on this over the decades, showing the truth in what Stalin had to say about the strength and efficacy of protection for minority groups.

We hear often in the media these days about, "Israel's right to protect itself."

This is imperialism using the language of socialism. Israel is an occupying entity, not an innocent party. Palestinians form a nation of people, acting in resistance to protect themselves, whereas Israel has been the aggressor since 1948. This is the only "right to self protection," that exists in this conflict. It is true that nations have a right to self determination, as Stalin points out, and can conduct within their boundaries as they see fit, which may mean that liberation groups and parties may take lines or actions that do not immediately benefit the working classes within that liberation

struggle. He also states, however, that communists have a duty to agitate against harmful actions and work to change the behavior of those nations to act in favor of the proletariat. Uncritical support for anything doesn't and shouldn't exist, but critical support for those liberation movements is essential. A nation working to break free from the yoke of oppression does not, by its own existence, automatically become correct in all actions even if that work is (in general) in the correct direction. We cannot expect an oppressed people to al-



Gaza on page five

Carl Gleeser: GJ's 1st Radical!

By People's History of the Grand Valley

Meet Carl Gleeser: anarchist, labor organizer, publisher, radical feminist, writer, pacifist, and Grand Valley pioneer. Born 1856 in Germany, Gleeser immigrated to the United States in 1872. He was one of the very earli-

est settlers in the Grand Valley in 1881, Gleeser was here for a short time 1881-1890?, but while here he organized with the Knights of Labor, and worked as a watch repairman. He was in the center of the action during the 1885 railroad strike. Gleeser was regularly praised in the pages of "Lucifer the Light-Bearer," a radical anarcho-feminist paper that was advocating free-love, homosexuality, abortion advice, and total liberation of women, as the leading subscription gather and signed his letters off with "Yours in Anarchy."

But like so many radicals and organizers in Grand Junction's past, Gleeser moved on.

In the wreckage of the economic panic of 1893, a mutual aid movement known simply as The Labor Exchange, were being set up in communities all over the nation. In 1894, Gleeser became the lead organizer for the state of California and within a year almost every county had a Labor Exchange, and he was running the movements journal called "Living Issues."

By the late 1890s, Gleeser was in Kansas, a then hot-bed of radical thought and organizing. He was editing a radical German language paper, Kansas Staats-Zeitung latter to become the

Missouri Staats-Zeitung.

In 1917, in the run up to 'Great War' the United States passed the Espionage and Sedition Acts, criminalizing anti-war and radical speech. The following years saw brutal suppression of the Industrial Workers of the World, the first of many Red-Scares, the Palmer Raids (google it), mass deportations of radicals, and of the suppression anti-war socialist and anarchists presses.

In April 1918, Carl Gleeser was convicted for publishing 12 articles that "might cause insubordination, disloyalty, and refusal of duty." Gleeser was sentenced to five years in Leavenworth prison.

After serving just over a year, Gleeser was released. He shortly there after joined the Llano Colony, the largest and longest lived socialist utopian community. Gleeser worked for and eventually edited the Colony's

newspaper.

Gleeser was a dreamer. He was a man searching and working for a more just and less hierarchical world.

Gleeser's search was over when he joined the Llano Colony. He eventually took over the editorship of the colony's newspaper, and garnered the moniker "Papa Gleeser." This life long revolutionary found his place as the kindly old grandfather of the revolution. A letter of his to the Vernon Parish Democrat sums it up his creed:

"live an intelligent and sensible life in agreement and harmony with the constitution of nature...and the equal rights of my fellow human beings..."



Carl Gleeser in Leavenworth Prison 1918-1919. Wood-cut. Courtesy of the New Llano Colony Museum.

Gaza from page five

Regional autonomy instead solves these issues because it relies on a population in an area, not any national character or national border that artificially exists. It unites workers who share the same material conditions across geography, allowing for the crystallization of the class struggle while also opening the region for natural resource production for all workers in that region without waiting for decisions from geographically removed but culturally tied elites.

Stalin returns to the idea of minority oppression, showing his concern not just for class struggle but for the struggle of all oppressed peoples and giving the lie to the idea of, “class reductionism.” He states that at the outset it is natural that minority groups would have fear of oppression within this scheme, but only insofar as the bourgeois government and its systems remain. He argues that the removal of bourgeois elections and rule, and opening of complete popular democracy would prevent this feared oppression.

In fact, Stalin cogently addresses many of the concerns about rights and oppression that are often raised in favor of liberal bourgeois reforms and concessions. Minorities, he states, don’t want some super-organization transcending national (state) boundaries to act as their, “voice,” but which is powerless to actually assert itself and make change. We can find an example of this in the current situation in Palestine. The Gaza Strip and West Bank are functionally nations, as envisioned by Stalin. Christians and Muslims coexist, united by their material conditions under the oppression of the State of Israel. Israel, being an ethnostate, is united only by its settler-colonial ideal of Zionism which has drawn people from dissimilar classes and backgrounds into one “super-organization,” functioning as a state. Is it any wonder that Israel has the highest number of dual citizens in the world, or that non-Zionist Jews, as well as Christians and Muslims are treated as second-class citizens?

Stalin points out, correctly, that real, protected, concrete rights within the area or jurisdiction that people inhabit are the only way to prevent oppression. National minorities are not oppressed because they lack a national, trans-state union but because they lack specific, concrete rights. These include freedom of language, schooling, freedom of movement and freedom of religion. Granting (and upholding) these rights to all within the boundaries of a regional autonomous nation will ensure that no minority group is oppressed within this nation. A change in material conditions, not sloganeering and hollow words, is the only thing that can actually better the of any oppressed people.

Reviewing this work during this time of rising nationalism both within the United States and elsewhere, it has become clear that the problems Stalin (and the Bolsheviks in general) saw and faced in the opening of the 20th century are sadly not far removed from where we find ourselves today. It also drives home the point that many on the left, even those opposed to Stalin, have come to realize; hollow words and token representations do not bring about socialism. Indeed, these actions only serve to heighten the contradictions within the capitalist system. In American, as millions call for a ceasefire in Gaza, and many of those same people go to sleep wondering about their next meal or their housing or whether this round of COVID will be their last, Israel raises the pride flag and says, “land back,” over the ruins of Khān Yūnis making a mockery of everything those symbols and statements stand for. The contrast between neo-Nazi brigades in Ukraine, or Patriot Front militias in Idaho is no less clear. Let the next “land back” cry come from a unified, multicultural nation called Palestine where the working classes of all religions live in peace.

Gaza from page four

ways take the correct position on every possible problem every time; nations are made of people and just as no person is perfect no national liberation struggle can be perfect. But as people from Palestine to the north of Ireland to pre-Revolutionary China have pointed out time and time again, one must be alive to fight for their rights. Ireland had to break free of England

ment believe that true liberation from capitalist oppression of a minority group can come about independent of all other oppressed people in a nation, region, or globally. This argument is hard to find support for both in theory and in the real-world experiences of oppressed peoples.

In his concluding section, Stalin argues that the complete democratization of the country is both the basis and solu-



and then the grip of the clergy before it could begin to guarantee the rights of women and the LGBTQ+ community. The ability to break the working class free from national bourgeoisie oppression is the precondition for true, and not symbolic, liberation of minority groups.

This line of thought has been used to critique Stalin (and Leninists by extension) for being “class reductionist,” which seems to show little understanding of Stalin’s underlying point. It is clear that Stalin is starting to articulate an early idea of intersectionality, where the true liberation of all oppressed peoples are bound up in uniting their struggle. To say that Stalin is advocating for class reductionism is a reductionist argument in itself, and also suggests that the folks making this argu-

tion for the national question, as allowing for true democracy will enable the true will of the people to be expressed as opposed to being mediated by bourgeois organs of “democracy.” External complications can arise as capital searches for new markets to exploit, as Marx and Engels pointed out. This leads Stalin to reiterate his point about the two possible definitions of a nation. The idea of national cultural autonomy draws together people who have been separated and acted upon by disparate events, and stimulates nationalism as it leads to the othering of peoples, which is incompatible with social democracy. It leads to unity between and bourgeois elements under a unified banner, which in the end, can only benefit capital. National autonomy does not solve the problem.

Small Town Drag Big Time Heart

By Aiden McVay

Drag King, Xavier Van Dyke, may come from a small town, but he's doing drag in a big way.

The first thing I noticed about Xavier was his intoxicating smile. Being blind, sometimes I miss the details, but with him, I couldn't take my eyes off of his face. His energy drew me in as well, and

made me feel at home. I can understand why he is such an extraordinary performer.

Xavier Saenz is a 50 year old transgender man that was born and raised in Delta Colorado. Although he only started his transition seven years ago, it really began for him in "6th grade pretending to be a boy in my room wanting to be a rockstar," he recalled.

I asked Xavier if he'd experience bullying, to which he replied, "I didn't remember. I did have a lot of friends who said I stuck up for them...I think I've been bullied more as an adult by adults than anything." He survived by developing coping skills and support from his sister. Xavier mentioned she even comes to his performances.

Xavier started the Van Dyke fam-

ily 25 years ago when he started performing. I asked him where the name came from and he said, "Drag names spoofs off other famous people. Dick Van Dyke and Spic Van Dyke, those were the only two things that anyone could say about me negative." So Xavier Van Dyke was born and was created quite literally from the nega-

tive slurs that people would call him. Not only did he embrace the negative, he created something beautiful from it.

I have had the privilege of seeing Xavier Van Dyke perform,

and I was mesmerized at first glance.

His smile drew me in and his movements and energy captivated his audience. He brings people on stage with him and I have even been so lucky as to capture some of these moments on camera. It's not just during a performance that Xavier brings people in. Lexi Glidden said, "Xavi took me under his wing when I was in the beginning of my transition... He sheltered me, and made me feel safe and loved... He gave me what I needed to grow."

It's not just the small town performances that have got noticed either. Xavier



Xavier Van Dyke, Delta Pride, 2023, photo by Aiden McVay .

"That doesn't make it OK to put that stuff in front of children, especially without parental consent."

Terry Polsfut did not respond to any of my further questions, and neither did the Facebook community members respond to if they had actually been to any family drag shows. Some however did private message me and answer my questions.

Jessica Ochoa-Kuykendall stated, "I have not been to a family drag show. Nor would I be enticed to take my children to a family drag show. I believe in tolerance and teaching it to children, but I don't need a family drag show to teach them that." She continued, "I was raised in a church and was taught that men/boys shouldn't dress in women's/girl's clothes. It may confuse children on the definition of what a man and a woman are."

Of the multiple responses that I received on the opposition a family drag shows, not one had actually been to an all ages drag show. Not all responses were negative however, some were extremely neutral, such as Terry Inloes when he stated, "As for family drag shows, parents must make decisions for their own family what is appropriate and what is not."

Some responses were very positive. Billy Coley said "It is a form of entertainment that actually has a long history (generally speaking). No. To me, it is no more of a moral issue than the theatre, movies or TV in general." He continued, "As a person with a theatre and standup comedy background, seeing people perform and seeing how the response of, and interaction with, the crowd is amazing to me. And the way the crowd reacts, the laughter and everything is amazing. It is a win-win situation."

Andrea, Gray-Hoover said "It is a chance to be entertained and show children the wide and wonderful world out there for them."

But are any of the conservative Republican politicians or opposing community mem-

bers correct in their assumptions? Absolutely not. In adult drag shows there is sexual innuendo, explicit language, and dancing but none of this exists in the family friendly drag shows. And the all ages drag shows there are flashy, gender bending performances, brightly colored costumes and a genuine theme of love and acceptance.

Renee Shirley, a cohost of the first ever family friendly pride event in Montrose, Colorado stated, "At our family friendly event, performers were encouraged to remain sober during the kids portion, encouraged to wear outfits appropriate for all ages and to perform songs appropriate for kids. The hope and goal was to inspire our community to connect, be bold and brave and to be role models for younger children. We talked about suicide prevention, bullying prevention, accessing trusted adults and building self esteem. We had activities to do for kids and their parents!"

A Northwestern University article quotes, Ricky Hill, who is a research assistant professor an expert in transgender mental health "...so to pre-suppose that all drag performances are rooted in sex, and therefore must be banned shows that lawmakers don't fully understand that which they are trying to legislate."

We also need to look into all ages drag show as a way for the LGBTQ+ community to get support because LGBTQ+ plus youth are at a higher risk of bullying and suicide then they're straight peers.

In an article in Psychiatric Times, cited a 2020 national survey that 29% of LGBTQ+ plus have experience homelessness, been kicked out of their homes, or have run away. The article also reports that adults who reported higher levels of family rejection in their youth were eight times more likely to serve suicide almost six times more likely to experience high levels of depression, and three times more likely to use illegal drugs and engage in unprotected sex.

Family Drag Shows Controversy

By Aiden McVay

Family drag shows or all ages drag shows, are family friendly drag performances with no explicit material, no sexualized or inappropriate costumes, and no explicit language in the songs performed.

So what is the controversy? Especially since there is a long history of drag. According to a PBS, "Drag is the art of dressing and acting exaggeratedly as another gender, usually for entertainment

such as comedy, singing, dancing, lip-synching or all of the above." and traced drags roots back to Shakespeare. A National Geographic article, traces the roots of drag to the theater of ancient Greece and Rome and also as a part of kabuki

theater in Japan. LGBTQ+ people have always been associated with drag, but most memorably for the Stonewall riots.

Drag queens were specifically targeted and harassed by police. However, in the Stonewall riots, the drag queens were the first to fight back and truly push forward with LGBTQ+ rights. Drag isn't just about dressing up. It's about fighting for your rights.

But that's not how conservative political leaders see it. Tyler Lee, a republican, who ran for the US House in North Carolina in 2022, called drag queen story

hour in the park "Pedos in the Park." Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis has spoken up about drag events, "That is totally inappropriate. That is not something children should be exposed to." And he has even suggested having parents investigated by child protective services that bring their children to drag shows. Western Colorado's Rep. Lauren Boebert said a number of anti-LGBTQ+ plus comments among one of her most memorable, "We don't need 6-

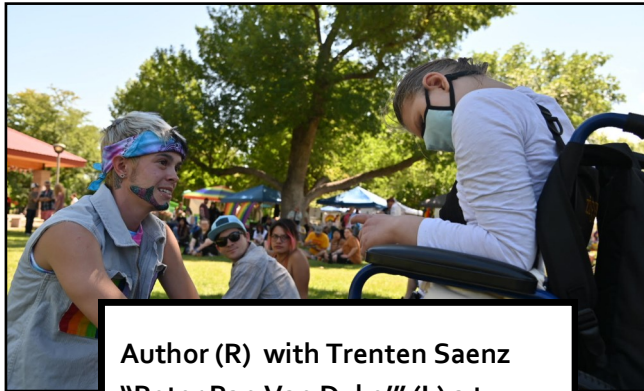
year-old children putting dollar bills in the thongs of grown men shaking and twerking in front of children ... that is child abuse."

It's not just the republican politicians that have a problem

with an all ages drag show. It is also members of our community. In order to ask the people their thoughts, I posted my question about a family drag show on my local message board on Facebook and this is what they had to say.

Dave Kitterman said "Just clean degenerative fun. Ridiculous you think this is normal behavior."

Terry Polsfut chimed in with, "... it's politically motivated and you know it." Terry also made his opinion known by stating, "Nothing clean about adult drag shows as they pertain to children."



Author (R) with Trenten Saenz
"Peter Pan Van Dyke" (L) at
Grand Junction Pride 2023.

and the Van Dyke family have been featured on HBO's show "We're Here." In season 2 episode 8, Xavier's drag son, Dustin Van Dyke got to perform and shared some beautiful things about him. Dustin said, "Xavi has done a lot for performers like myself, giving us a place to be



Xavier Van Dyke, Ouray
Pride, 2023, photo by Aiden
McVay"

themselves and be open."

Xavier has inspired many including his drag family. Leondre Nave said, "I love his big heart, and how he isn't afraid to be himself. He lets people into his family and is so supportive of every single person." Eli Bauguess called Xavier "...an inspiration I wish to become." When asked, if you could tell Xavier just one thing what would it be? Carson Saenz said, "I would want him to know how grateful I am to be his son. I wouldn't be the man I am today without him."

And when asked to describe Xavier in just one word the Van Dyke's offered "thoughtful, compassionate, loving, King." But the word that most accurately describes him was "home".

That was his response when I

asked him if he could do anything, what would it be? "I would have a huge home that anyone who needed a place would have one."

Xavier said, "That's one thing that's different about the Van Dyke family is that we're a chosen Family." He told me, "You were chosen too." And he was right. I wasn't just Aiden McVay, disabled, non-verbal, and invisible. I was Honey Van Dyke, author, photographer, future performer. But more than that, I was family.

That's what Xavier Saenz, Xavier Van Dyke does, he builds family.

Untitled Poem

by Aiden McVay

Disabled isn't a dirty word

Unlike what you've observed

Disabled doesn't mean unintelligent

We are all still relevant

We are capable

Although the side effects are unescapable

We can be sexy

We can be any thing We damn want to be

We just need everyone else to see

That we are not just our disability

The War on Homelessness: Grand Junction Lego Edition

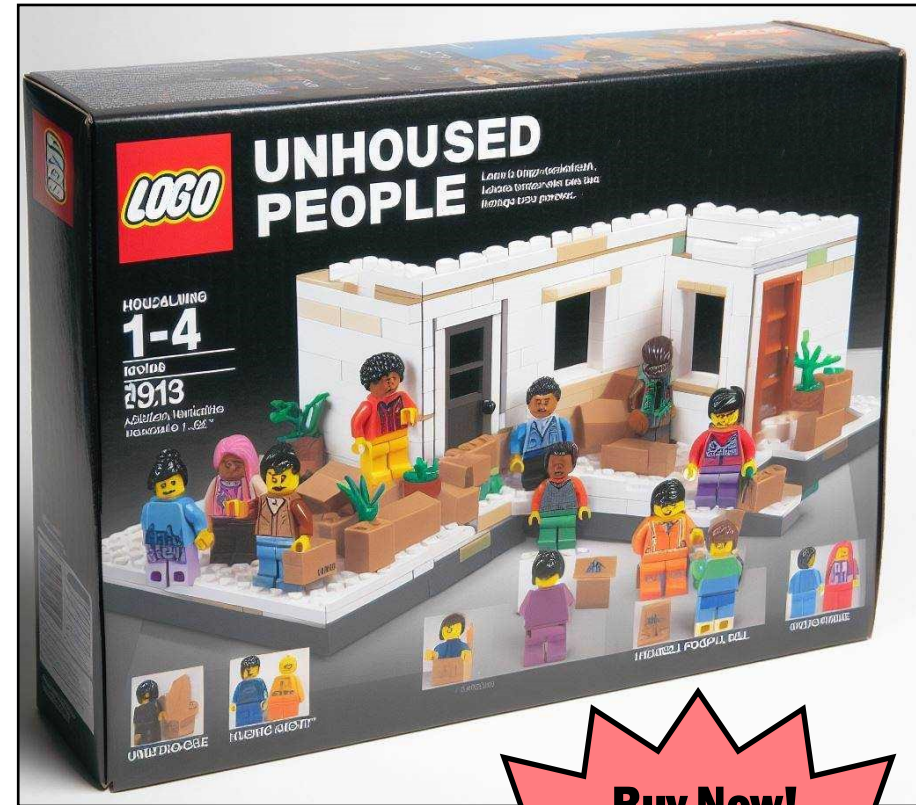
Grand Junction, 2023 – Prepare to embark on an exciting LEGO adventure like never before as we proudly unveil our newest creation – "Whitman Park - Law & Order Edition!" Capturing the essence of this iconic location, our LEGO set is designed to bring the magic and beauty of Grand Junction's Whitman Park right to your fingertips.

Experience the thrill of inhumane decisions with a customizable park closure feature, including the option to add your own cruel twists like fake eviction notices and miniature homeless en-

campments.

Recreate the charm of Whitman Park in an astonishingly detailed LEGO model. From the lush greenery to the stately public restroom (closed to the public), our set recreates this beloved park with utmost precision.

Act out the grand plans of property developers who can't wait to turn the park into high-priced luxury condos! As they say, "Gentrification is the new black."



*NOTE: Unhoused People™ Set Not Included

Key Features

- Performative outreach!
- Limited Edition Greg Canton NeoLib™ Superman MiniFig!
- Detailed representations of Whitman Park's picturesque landscape.
- Miniature versions of iconic park landmarks, such as the Gun Store!
- The only inhabitants in the park are now cops, and this set reflects that accurately with a vast array of exclusive cop figures, each equipped with tiny doughnuts and an undeniable air of authority.
- Expansion Set: Reenact the eviction process with a special Unhoused People™ set, complete with miniature tents, sleeping bags, and a tiny bulldozer for that extra touch of authenticity.

**Buy Now!
Before the
Prices Go
WAY Up!**

Art and Text by Dalton Trombone