

THE REVOLUTIONIST.

"Revolution is simply the culminating point of Evolution"

SEPTEMBER 2024

WESTERN  SLOPE NEWS

ISSUE #9



People just trying surviving north of the Grand Jct. Photo by Firefox.

West Slope Moves To Criminalize Homelessness in wake of Grants Pass

By Jacob Richards

In June, the supreme court ruled in *Grants Pass vs. Johnson* that local governments could again criminalize houselessness without concerns of running afoul of the pesky eighth amendment barring cruel and unusual punishment.

California Governor Gavin Newsom (D) is leading the charge. At the end of July he issued an executive order mandating communities dismantle established homeless encampments.

On August 20, the city of Montrose, held a first hearing on two ordinances to criminalizing homelessness.

Mayor J. David Reed stressed that this law targeted behavior not the unhoused. But the camping ban included a mandatory ten day jail sentence for a second offences.

About a dozen citizens spoke. From lawyers, to cowboys, to social workers and people currently experiencing homelessness.

The council were informed of the fact that 200+ people are unhoused in Montrose. The city's only shelter is only open in the coldest months. Even during the winter only about 25% of people experiencing homelessness can get in.

In a surprise move, the council voted to table the ordinance until their next council workshop, without taking a vote on it. It will be back likely without the mandatory jail time.

The *Daily Sentinel*, reported recently that camping ticket issued by GJPD almost doubled between June and July. From 13 to 25 tickets. The PD was quick to distance the uptick from the *Grants Pass* ruling.

The City of Grand Junction, of course has been waging a war on the homelessness long before the *Grants Pass* ruling.

GJ waged this war euphemistically. Harassment was branded as 'outreach.' Closing Whitman park was spun as 'reimagining' the park. Camp sweeps were 'fire mediation' and 'brush removal.'

We can debate all the weasel words, Mayor Abe Herman, his mentor Anna Stout and the *Daily Sentinel* are happy to do that, but the growing sprawling encampments in the desert north of Grand Junction are evidence of the war on unhoused people free of doublespeak, spin, and euphemism we currently get from City Hall.

Human rights are under threat across western Colorado—we need to do more than just vote.



\$1/2 million dollar a piece Crawford Row Townhomes sit largely empty below powerlines, next to an asphalt plant and sit on a formerly radioactive superfund site. The city assured us that all this upper middle class housing being subsidized was going to trickle down and relieve housing cost for the workers. Photo by Jacob Richards.

Join or Die: Building Social Capital

By Will Locascio

Social Capital, as prolific political scientist and author Robert Putnam puts it, is “the connections among individuals’ social networks and the norms of reciprocity and trustworthiness that arise from them.” This statement rings blatantly obvious, yet it is one that we’ve been increasingly losing sight of for the last half century.

On Wednesday July 31, Fruita Rotary Club and Fruita for Equality hosted a documentary screening of the film “Join or Die,” a deep dive into the necessity of being involved in something, both for the fate of a dying democracy as well as for one’s individual wellness. Directed by Pete and Rebecca Davis, “Join or Die” delves into the life and career of Robert Putnam, author of the groundbreaking book “Bowling Alone,” in which he prophesied the fate of America through an evident rapid, unflinching decline in social capital leading to lower life expectancies, a lack of trust on both a communal and governmental level, and higher crime rates.

Putnam’s work was initiated, surprisingly, in Italy during a period of major political reform beginning in the mid-70s in which political power was localized from a dominating central government and broken into more unique, individual regions, primarily in government areas that pertained to social programs and institutions like education, child care, and healthcare. This study revealed that the most successful of these localized governments were the ones that fostered the most successful, public-pleasing social programs, resulting in a higher social capital for the region. Putnam took this groundbreaking study, applied it to research surrounding the rise and fall of social groups and of people in America having the attitude of being a “joiner,” to ultimately arrive at the

conclusion that as a democracy, it is absolutely necessary that Americans join groups and build a sense of community.

The documentary noted that organized religion is one of the most significant arenas of building social capital in a society. This involves a community having tolerance and accessible places of worship for all religions within that community. Per the “Join or Die” website, from the 1960s to the 2020s there has been a 35% decline in religious congregation membership, and from the 1970s to the 1990s there was a 50% decline in the number of Americans that attended a club meeting within the previous year.

It seems that as these declines in membership and communal participation have taken root in the modern American mindset, the archetype of a leader has become increasingly rare. Essentially, if we are struggling as a whole to even get out and participate in local happenings and groups that are centered around pursuits of passion or great shared interest, it will become more unlikely that leaders stand out to rally community and make attempts at significant social change.

“Join or Die” noted the backlash aimed at Putnam’s “Bowling Alone.” Initially published as a short form article on his study, the discourse around “Bowling Alone” soon gained momentum, and as a result, the doubt and frenzy to label Putnam a mere doomsday predictor came flooding in. Those critical of Putnam’s study stated that he centered his research around clubs and social institutions that were going out of style, and that the American people weren’t lacking in participation, but rather participation was seeping away from the old and gravitating towards the new. Putnam detailed a period of despair, believing that he

Join or Die on Page Ten



September Is GJ’s Pride September 4th –8th

9/4: Pride Proclamation GJ City Hall
Documentary Screening “1946.”

9/5: GSA & LBU Drag Show and CMU

9/6: Rainbows and Revolutions
Pride was Riot

Glow Party @ Good Judy’s

9/7: Pride Festival

Rainbow Party @ Good Judy’s

9/8: Pride Parade

BAM! Pride Mural Unveiling

For more info:

www.coloradowestpride.org/

Cortez Food Not Bombs

Serves a community meal every Sunday
at Veterans Park. 12pm-2pm

Falconer Workers’ Society

Anti-Capitalist and Revolutionary Book Club
Grand Junction. Email for an invite.
falconersworkerssociety@gmail.com

Be the Media! Help Edit, Write Distro The Revolutionist

therevolutionistgj@gmail.com

West Fest—Open Air Market
Live music, local vendors, help this local alternative to the monopolies of Etsy and Amazon get off the ground. dog and kid friendly.

September 7th, 3pm to 7pm

Lowell School at 310 S. 7th Ave.
Grand Junction

Mutual Aid Partners

Every Tuesday!

10am to 1pm Drop Donations
11am to 1pm Receive Donations
262 Ute Ave, Grand Junction

Solidarity Not Charity

Free Food for Free People
Feeds every Saturday at 4pm at the Resource Center. Grand Jct.
solidaritynotcharitygjinfo@gmail.com

Grand Valley River Clean Up!

Get one last float in and help clean up our rivers.
Check out the website below to sign up:
<https://riversedgewest.org/get-involved/events/20th-annual-grand-valley-river-cleanup>
BBQ afterwards!

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Peasant/Students \$15 ☐ Proletariat \$20 ☐ Revolutionary \$50 ☐

Che Guevarra \$100 ☐ V. Lenin \$250+ ☐

Name: _____

Addy: _____

Email: _____



munity space. He protested the police killings of Jimmy Flores in 1980 and Archie Archuleta in 1993, and sued the school district in *Otero v. D51*. He and his second wife, Shirley, have been instrumental in securing the community rights to the Sangre de Cristo Land Grant in southern Colorado's San Luis Valley.

Larry Ruiz

Larry Ruiz was abandoned by his parents at the Grand Junction "State Home" in 1954. Diagnosed with cerebral palsy, he was seemingly doomed to a life of institutions. But Larry wasn't having any of that. He taught himself how to read and how to write computer code, eventually going on to write code for the first text-to-speech programs.

In 1972, he was transferred to the Heritage House in Lakewood. Three years later, he and other residents escaped with the help of activist Wade Blank. They set up The Atlantis Community, one of the first independent living communities in the nation.

In 1978, Larry and 17 other people blockaded a Denver bus demanding accessibility. Dubbed the "Gang of 18," the group became ADAPT. According to his obituary Larry was arrested over 60 times in acts of civil-disobedience around the nation in the fight for the Americans with Disabilities Act.

This article can also be ordered as a micro zine at our store: <http://therevolutionistgj.org/zine-store/>



that Fruita's Lithic Bookstore, the meeting place every second Wednesday of the month for Fruita for Equality's Community Conversations gathering, has been a hotspot for fostering important cultural and social discussions and group events within Fruita. Coincidentally, Lithic Books is also where I was introduced to The Revolutionist and began pursuing these monthly pieces. It does feel vital for a community to have a gathering place such as Lithic that lacks the restrictive strings of the formality of a government office or board room and leans much more heavily into an air of comfort, taste, and welcoming for anyone interested in breaking into a new group or community.

After growing up just outside of downtown Denver, when I moved to Grand Junction in 2021 I remember being shocked that the city did not have a community rec center. Growing up, rec centers were often the place to be in order to meet people, take random classes, work out, or just hang around. I feel like Grand Junction making it all the way to mid-2023 before finally approving the bill to begin construction on our first community rec center speaks quite heavily towards the stunted growth of social capital in the area that I've felt in my time living here. As communities adapt and rebuild their social constructions in the time of an ever-changing landscape of technology and post-pandemic attitudes, now seems like a better time than ever to consider the implications and weight of "Join or Die."

Septembers News Briefs

Election Conspiracist, Tina Peters, Guilty

The lengthy Tina Peters' soap opera is coming to an end. A Mesa County jury found Peters guilty on 7 out of 10 charges related to her willful breach of election security in a tinfoil-hat attempt to prove election fraud as part of the election denial movement after the 2020 election. Tina's defense was largely paid for by Mike Lindell, the MyPillow guy, reportedly to the tune of \$800,000. The lengthy trial has seen many far-right personalities flock to Grand Junction to bask in the crazy. Peters will be sentenced on October 3, and could face prison time.

US Media Biden Admin Complicit in US Coup Attempt in Venezuela

The July 28 reelection of Venezuelan president Nicholas Maduro was challenged by the United States before the polls were even closed. 900 international election observers from 95 countries found that the election was free and fair, yet the opposite narrative is being pushed by the U.S. State Department and U.S. media. They hinge most of this false narrative on exit polling (which is illegal in Venezuela, so conducted outside of the law) by Edison Research, which is part of the U.S. State Department-owned propaganda media outlets, like Radio Free Europe and Voice of America. U.S.-backed coup attempts in Venezuela in 2002, 2007, 2019, and 2020 are absent from the corporate media narratives. *The Real News Network* has done some excellent factual reporting. The only U.S. based election observers, with the National Lawyers Guild, found the election to be free and fair in their report: "Election Monitoring Delegation to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela."

Trump Shot, Biden Resigns, Things Get 'Weird'

This election has taken some historic twists and turns. The attempted assassination of Donald Trump has almost totally dropped out of the public mind. Similarly, Biden's withdrawal from the race and Kamala Harris's subsequent campaign launch feels more like a season of "House of Cards" than a real timeline. The surreal nature of the contest is embodied by the new embrace of name-calling by the Democrats. It's all very weird.

Boeing Strands Two in Space

Boeing can't seem to do anything right. After a year of their planes losing doors and falling out of the sky and whistleblowers meeting

suspicious deaths, Boeing now has stranded two astronauts at the International Space Station. Butch Willmore and Sunita Williams arrived via Boeing's new Starliner capsule, but safety concerns have forced NASA to delay a return launch to retrieve the astronauts. They will have to wait till February for a ride home.

City of GJ Continues to Avoid the Housing Crisis

Grand Junction plans on spending zero dollars out of almost a half a million dollars of Housing and Urban Development monies on housing, according to a draft 2024 Annual Action Plan. The plan "does not address goals associated with affordable housing." But the report accidentally gets right the reason why we can't make any progress on the local housing crisis: "The City of Grand Junction does not maintain any public housing units." They usually don't say it that clearly.

Montrose Awarded State Housing Funds to Develop Non-Affordable Housing

Funds approved by voters via Proposition 123 have been awarded. \$8 million out of \$39.39 million was earmarked for the Black Canyon Flats project in Montrose. The project will include 60 units for tenants earning 80 to 100% of the Average Median Income (AMI).

\$20 Billion Worth of Weapons for Israel

In a move that surprised nobody, the Biden administration and congress have approved a \$20 billion dollar weapons sale to the rouge settler colonial state despite 10 months of slaughter in Gaza. Fighter jets, air to air missiles, artillery shells, and more. Of course it's not a sale of arms, Israel doesn't have that kind of funds just lying around. They will 'buy' the arms ultimately with the funds we give them in foreign aid every year.

Protesters in Chicago Left Out

Some 30,000 people participated in protests in the streets of Chicago during the DNC. Uncommitted delegates and office holding Democrats of Palestinian extraction, negotiated to speak from the convention stage, and ultimately were shut out of the convention. Not the expected repeat of 1968, clashes were limited. 74 protestors were arrested.

July 4th Hate Crime in Montrose Still Unsolved

Sources inside the City of Montrose have told the *Rev* that they had the license plate numbers of the suspects. We are still waiting!

Praxis in Action: Events & Orgs

You can find The Revolutionist at the following business:

Lithic Books, Discontent, 1st Street Tattoo Parlor, Copeeka Coffee, Kiln Coffee, Good Judy's, Uncanny Valley, Loving Beyond Understanding, Galaxy Hookah, and more!

1st Annual Uncompahgre Pow-Wow

Hosted by Western Slope Native American Resource Center.
17253 Chipeta Rd. Montrose
September 21, 11am-8pm

Meet Kandrii Zavalla

Words and Pictures By Aiden McVay

Kandrii Zavalla is a dynamic drag performer. She is a drag queen on the Western Slope that has mastered numerous looks with her style, make-up and pronounced profile. I recently had the pleasure of interviewing Kandrii about her performances, goals and inspiration.

Aiden McVay: What are your pronouns?

Kandrii Zavalla: He/him; unless in drag then she/her.

AM: Where were you born?

KZ: I was born in Mexico, in Yucatán.

AM: When did you move to Colorado?

KZ: I've lived here since I was seven years old.

AM: How did you get started in drag?

KZ: I started by doing makeup. Like contests or giveaways through Facebook. It wasn't necessarily drag, but it started my experimenting with makeup and that type of thing.

AM: When did you start performing drag?

KZ: 2016 would be the first time I started officially performing. My first venue I performed was at Baron's in Grand Junction.

AM: What are your goals for drag and performing?

KZ: Oh gosh, I have so many but my main goal is just to be, this sounds so crazy, but like a drag superstar.

AM: What are your drag inspirations?

KZ: Dolls, dolls, dolls, and my inspiration just comes organically.

AM: How do you come up with your looks?

KZ: None of my looks are really planned; just like it comes day by day.

AM: Where do you see your future in performing/drag?

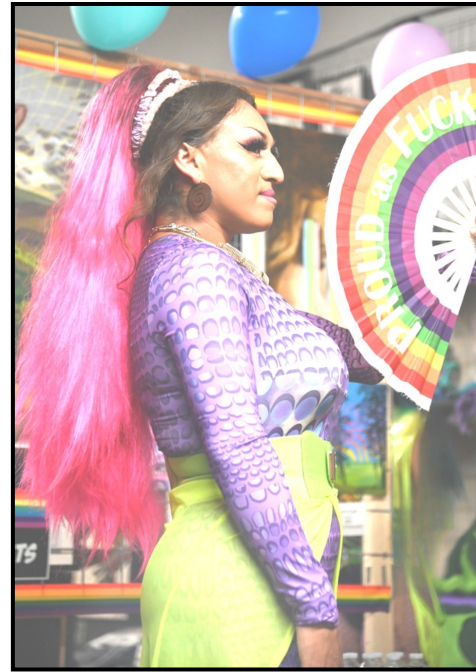
KZ: Hopefully, it's more at like different



Dia De Los Muertos Celebration 2023, Delta Colorado.

venues and around either the state or even the country. I would love to perform in Mexico. Of course, like one day I would like to

Kandrii From Page Eleven



At Uncanny Gallery, Grand Junction

Private photo shoot, Montrose.



see my future in drag just as growing for myself and I would like it to be full-time.

AM: Do you find it hard to make a living performing?

KZ: Yes, but the fact that I get paid to perform—it's just amazing.

AM: Where have you performed?

KZ: Charlie's Dwellingtons, what is now Good Judy's, The Cesar Chavez Event I've done for a few years now, I've been at a Halloween Drag show for Mesa theater, And I've done some shows with the Roaring Divas from Glenwood Springs, Glenwood Pride, Delta Pride. Mountain Pride in Avon this Year, Montrose Pride, Ridgeway Pride. I've been To Telluride, Durango, and also have done a few private parties lol.

AM: What is your favorite venue that you have performed at?

KZ: My absolute Favorite place has been in 2019, for the Denver Pride Latino stage. I was offered a 27 min time on Stage. I performed it with my partner and a mix of songs and the crowd was incredible! So many people there when I was on stage! I had the best time!! There's a video my family recorded too because they went to watch me that time too.

AM: What advice would you give someone starting off in drag?

KZ: We as drag artists, we make it look easy, and sometimes it's like we don't show the hard parts to it, but just keep going. Like anything in life, anything that is hard, if you keep going, you'll finally find your niche, you'll find your family, and you'll find people that enjoy your type of art or your type of style of drag.

Kandrii Zavalla's Latinx energy and stage presence is one you don't want to miss!

You can see her perform at the 2nd Saturday's monthly drag show at Good Judy's in Grand Junction & and at the upcoming Delta Pride Celebration on October 26th and 27th. For more info check out <https://www.deltapride.com/>

Bear From Page Eleven

they would actually choose the bear.” He challenges men to get to a place where they can understand why women choose the bear, and if you did, “congratulations, you’ve experienced one percent of one percent of one percent of what they experience every day of their lives, and you experienced it for 2 1/2 minutes.”

@callmeBKBK also made another video about what girls are taught. He states, “... that they should fight with everything ... that it’s better to die on the street then get in that van ... that they should use their nails and their teeth so that afterwards there is DNA evidence.” He said in his video that there’s an assumption that all girls are going to have to experience this at some point and to “Use your imagination to put yourself in someone else’s shoes for a little while.”

And if women’s comments and experiences weren’t enough, along with men’s abhorrent rape and murdering comments, there’s TikTok user @dadchats statistics. @dadchats laid out the statistics of the scenario, stating that if you understand the statistics, “The answer is unequivocally a bear.”

In his video, he compares the statistics of bear attacks and women attacked by men, then adjusts the population of bears by a multiplier of 485 to make it proportional to the population of men.

“...you’re still two times more likely to be killed by a man than a bear if you are a woman in the US, and 220 times more likely to be involved in a non-fatal attack by a man than a bear.”

He also mentions that bear attacks are not underreported as they are in sexual assault victims and states “Approximately only 1/5 of violent encounters by men

against women are actually reported, and less than 1/5 of those actually lead to an arrest.”

And there is also empirical evidence compiled by the North Coast Rape Crises Team: “An estimated 91% of victims of rape and sexual assault are female and 9% male. Nearly 99% of perpetrators are male.”

“Around the world, at least 1 in 3 women have been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in their lifetime. Most often, the abuser is a member of her own family or is her partner.” and “Only 2% of rapists are convicted.”

(supportingsurvivors.humboldt.edu)

Or from Michael Paymar’s book Violent No More: Helping Men End Domestic Abuse, he estimates that 1 in 4 men will use violence against his partner in his lifetime.

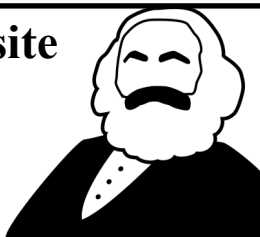
But what is more important than the statistics, or the violations that men have done to corpses, or the 2022 Monitor Lizard rape by four men, is @dadchats second reason that women are choosing the bear: “because women are telling you that it’s the bear.”

The point the men are missing, and even some women, is not just that women are statistically safer with a bear than a man, but the threat of real harm (by men) is something we face every day. And rather than believe us or even statistics, we are put down, told our fear is irrational. And rather than open up a dialogue to see why we are afraid for our lives or confronting the men that are making the comments and making rape jokes, they are dismissing the very thing the man-versus-bear scenario is actually about.

Believe Women.

Make sure to checkout our website for additional content, breaking news, and calls to action.

<https://therevolutionistgj.org>



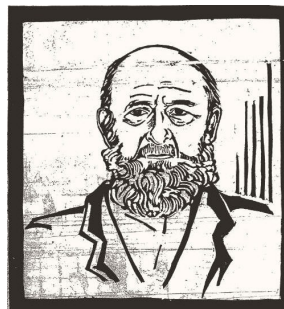
Seven Change Makers from Grand Valley History You Have Never Heard of But Should Have

By Jacob Richards

Carl Gleeser

Gleeser was Grand Valley’s first radical, and was amongst the first couple dozen settlers in 1881. An anarchist, Gleeser advocated for collective ownership of the first irrigation ditch (he lost), he was an organizer with the Knights of Labor, taking part in Grand Junction’s first railroad strike in 1885, and he helped organized the town’s first library in the Labor Temple.

Gleeser was also a distributor of a radical anarcho-feminist newspaper titled *Lucifer the Light Bearer*. The paper advocated for free love, emancipation of women, birth control and homosexuality, amongst other controversial topics. He was often the top subscription gather in the nation until he left GJ in 1889.



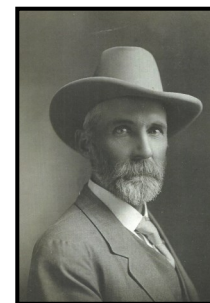
was made.

Gleeser would later be incarcerated during World War I for publishing anti-war articles. He spent a year in Leavenworth prison, where the adjacent woodcut

S. B. Hutchinson

S.B. Hutchinson was a lot of things, but he was consistently on the side of the working man and the poor. He knew that solving the issues of poverty and economic exploitation by the capitalist class needed systemic changes, not just charity or “thoughts and prayers.”

He was a founding member of the Socialist Labor Party of Mesa County in 1898. He would run for numerous offices, being elected Alderman in 1901, and ap-



pointed Chief of Grand Junction Police Department in 1911, a first in the country. He engineered the Grand Junction Scheme which unified the Socialist Labor Party and the Socialist Party.

He was also involved in publishing

a number of socialist newspapers between 1901 and 1917, including *The Revolutionist*.

He was forced to resign as Chief of Police after having the audacity to feed the unhoused with city funds via Walter Walker’s agitation in *The Daily Sentinel*.

Elizabeth Austin Taylor Morris

Elizabeth was a woman ahead of her time. She was a writer, editor, organizer, minister and mother. Often all at the same time.

Her first husband was the publisher of the first black newspaper in Utah, *The Plain Dealer*. Many in the small black community in the Grand Valley were subscribers.

She and her husband would make frequent trips to Grand Junction.

He came to organize the black Masonic Lodge, while Elizabeth orga-



nized the GJ chapter of the Western Association of Negro Women, which held a conference in Salt Lake City in 1904. After the death of her husband in 1907, she became the editor of *The*

Progressives on Page Six

Progressives From Page Five

Plain Dealer.

Morris and her children moved to Grand Junction in the early 1910s, where she knew people from *The Plain Dealer* and the WACW. She served as minister at the Handy Chapel for a number of years. She was also a community leader during the rise of the KKK in 1924, and was targeted for it.

Roy Chapman

Roy Chapman grew up in Grand Junction. He was drafted into World War I and subsequently blinded by a mortar shell. Back in the States, he recovered at Helen Keller's Evergreen School for the Blind. Upon returning to Grand Junction, he operated a bookstore on main street.



A young Dalton Trumbo worked for Chapman walking him to the bookstore in the mornings. Chapman served as the inspiration for Trumbo's most famous novel, *Johnny Got His Gun*.

In the 1930s, Chapman was elected to the Colorado State Senate. Likely the first blind member of that body, he was later appointed the first blind director of Colorado's State Industries for the Blind. In 1951, he was appointed the first head of what became the Colorado Civil Rights Commission. There, he helped repeal Colorado's miscegenation laws, as well as helping draft a first-in-the-nation fair housing law—for which he was attacked in southern newspapers.

Mary Elizabeth Burns

Mary Burns was one of the early military resisters to the war in Vietnam. In 1968, Mary refused orders and refused to put on her uniform. She was court-martialed and discharged from the military. Her act of refusal

made national headlines.

Her twin brother, Timothy, was also resisting by failing to report in for his induction, and was out on bond.

On bond, Tim was organizing the earliest anti-war protests that happened in Grand Junction.

Public acts of military refusal and resistance, of which Mary was an early example of, were a major force in ending that bloody conflict.

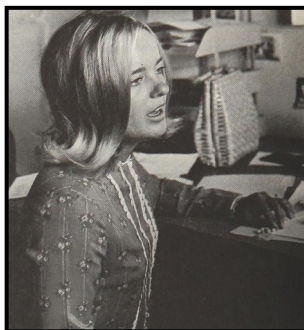
Larry Burns, Mary's father, would become an outspoken peace activist locally in the 1980s.

Ray Otero

Ray once walked into the Mesa County Sheriff's office, took the portrait of the Sheriff off of the lobby's wall and smashed it. He was promptly arrested.

Was this a senseless act of rebellion? No, Ray just needed to get into the Mesa County jail. Earlier that week, a number of orchardists decided it was cheaper to call Immigration on their workers rather than pay them at the end of the harvest. Ray was on a mission to gather names, employers, home addresses in Mexico, etc. to ensure that the workers at least got paid.

Ray brought the Chicano movement to the Grand Valley. He organized a student walkout in 1971. He organized the Voz de La Raza com-



Progressives on Page Fourteen

Bear From Page Seven

watch and laugh at me while another bear attacked me", and "if I was attacked by a bear, they'd believe me."

There are more disturbing ones, such as, "If I survive the bear attack, I won't have to see the bear at family reunions" and "The worst thing a bear can do is kill me."

Even with women commenting with their experiences, men still continue to disregard what women say. And rather than listen to what we say, they argue back, "Bears also rape" or "I just can't stop raping everything in a 50 mile radius."

Even a male sexual assault survivor totally missed the point. @milliondollarrenter, aka, "The drizzard of oz" on TikTok, stated he was a sexual assault survivor himself, by a woman, and argued that if you go to a store and no one is afraid of men, and that the average woman will interact with 300 men per day and not be scared. The creator also claims the question itself creates bias against men and likens it to a racist question: "...What do you think Islamic men use more to murder their wives with: guns or knives or rope?"

He even stated that he is "standing up" as an abuse survivor and "standing up against a false claim against the nature of men," and gives a false statistic that only approximately 1 in 1000 men will commit a crime of this nature.

Not only are his statistics complete-

ly false, he ignores women's comments on his own page about the real fear we face.

However, there are a few content creators that are listening to women.

@jon.the.detective, TikTok creator and former police officer of 31 years, 11 of them being in the crimes against persons department said, "... my daughter alone with a man or a bear, me understanding how men will continue to harm women at an alarming rate, I go bear every day of the week."

But a comment on @jon.the.detective's video put it into perspective. @Alexysk: "There are two kinds of men: the ones who say 'bear,' and the ones who are the reason we say 'bear.'"

The origin of this hypothetical scenario started with TikTok creator @callmeBkBg, with him ending a video stating "if you're alone in the woods, seeing a man is 10 times scarier than seeing a bear" and him making a video in response to a comment saying that seeing a bear is actually scarier than a man. @callmeBKBK responded to that com-

ment with a video describing why women are more scared of men than a bear, and that response went viral, and this hypothetical was created.

The TikTok creator said, "I never presented it as a 'Would you rather' question, because I already knew that women were picking the bear and men were picking the man." He continues in his video, "so my intention was to get men to think about why the world looks so different for women that



Tayen McVay, bloody hands prints representing non-consensual touch.

Bear on Page Twelve

Join or Die From Page Two

had inadvertently caused a panic surrounding research that may be faulty or incomplete. Rather than relenting to the backlash, five years of intensive research were funneled into the now incredibly well-renowned long form book adaptation of the "Bowling Alone" study.

A fascinating bit of research that worked towards refuting the points made by those criticizing Putnam's initial work was the analysis of environments in which children from low-income backgrounds were

able to pull themselves

out of that cycle and break into

more spe-

cialized and healthy social spheres professionally, culturally, and socially. Social capital was measured by community interaction and quality of social programs in different communities and sections of America. It was irrefutable in its results that children of similar socioeconomic backgrounds were able to break away from poverty and into more stable and healthy ground when being raised in areas that fostered a more positive social capital.

Throughout the course of the documentary I could not help but consider how significant of a problem declining social capital feels to me in the context of the Western Slope. Throughout the course of my undergraduate degree, club participation and attendance at Colorado Mesa University felt nearly nonexistent. In my journalistic endeavors for the school's Criterion newspaper, I found myself in conversations with Vice President Jody Diers in which she expressed similar concerns about placing a newfound emphasis on getting students out of their dorms and involved in some type of organized group, no matter how informal, somewhere on campus.

"Join or Die" included several clips of Putnam's speeches throughout his career in which he proclaims that joining a club or social group cuts one's chances of dying

within the next year by nearly 50%.

Karen Leonhart, a key member of Fruita's Rotary Club, organized this documentary screening at the Rocky Mountain PBS building in Fruita. Speaking to her, she expressed the importance of community for her in the small-town setting of Fruita. She noted that despite the relatively small group that makes up their Rotary Club (about 12 regular members) it is a strong and committed group that is constantly making strides towards uniting the community through these kinds of events.

"joining a club or social group cuts one's chances of dying within the next year by nearly 50%."

Leonhart ran the screening alongside her friend and colleague

Mckenzie Kim-

ball, currently operating the Fruita for Equality group, another small community organization boasting a mission statement of "promoting and supporting equality, inclusivity, and diversity through meaningful conversations and action in our community."

It has been my experience in the Western Slope, particularly Grand Junction, that social capital feels rather low. However, it is undeniable that social capital nationwide has been on an even more concerning downfall since the Covid pandemic than it was when Putnam was researching his book in the late 90s through the mid-2000s. Leonhart and Kimball gave two interesting perspectives on social capital in Fruita. Leonhart attested to her belief that Fruita, being the small community it is, is an area with high social capital. She said that due to the tight-knit nature of the area, it is easy to find groups to get involved with and build relationships. Kimball noted that although Fruita is tight-knit in the way that you can recognize a friendly face most places that you go, it still feels like a struggle to get people involved in the community in any deeper or more meaningful way than a wave hello or brief conversation at the grocery store. Kimball did note

Join or Die on Page Fourteen

We Choose the Bear

Words and Photos By Aiden McVay

The man-versus-bear debate has been going around social media for months now. The controversy has been plagued by blatant misogyny.

One would think this hypothetical

More comments by men directed at women include: "Brain dead," "There's no way [a] woman would choose a bear over a man," "A bear would kill you in five minutes without thinking," and "tbh being scarier than a bear is a flex."

There are even memes depicting



Daizy McCarty, We Choose the Bear Photo Shoot.

situation would not have caused so much outrage, but it has, especially with men.

The social media hypothetical has been asking women, "Would you rather encounter a random man or a random bear in the forest?" And the overwhelming majority of women have chosen the bear.

Although women have numerous reasons why they chose the bear, men consistently comment and berate women for their decision.

Men have left comments such as, "go to the woods then and experience what it's actually like to be there with a wild bear", "this whole argument is hilarious", "they are not choosing the bear: 10 out of 10 women will hide behind a man, should they encounter a real bear."

men hugging bears after having "spent a week with a woman" and a woman being killed by the bear after choosing it.

Women have their own reasons for why choosing the bear is preferable than choosing the man. These comments from TikTokers illustrate why women are picking the bear:

"If she's old enough to pee, she's old enough for me" (@tickertocker), and "If she bleeds once a month and can have babies, she is not a child" (@Javier).

Women are leaving responses from their own sexual assault experiences, such as: "At least the bear wouldn't invite other bears to join in." "Bears aren't what I have nightmares of." "A bear would not

Bear on Page Eleven

dust settles

dream your vicious dream, america.

don't let our picket lines disturb
your picket fences.
walk on, wayward manifest —
your destiny awaits.
meanwhile, we'll be here, like
the dirt beneath your feet.

we'll be singing, america.
don't mind these voices
shaking up your earth.
the dust settles eventually.
but remember, mountains
can be made from molehills.

we'll be singing from the peaks
soon enough, america.

perhaps our song will reach you then.

—tahirih bochmann—

— Ua Mau Ke Ea o ka 'Āina i ka Pono
(The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness)

you hold the blood of the goddess
in your quiet hands, her flowing hair
at rest beneath your feet, and in
the crater bed of her destruction,
you kiss her air and promise her
worthy of your mortal soul—
still, you laugh at the scattering
of her sacred veins, pocket a pebble
that will never see pele's kingdom of
heaven again

does the winter chill at feast
upon your lungs spell something
sacred? one bright morning's spill
against your eyes? the levitation of some
songborn persistence, one euphonic
testament against the milieu?
breathe into her spirit.
the land will have us all in time

—tahirih bochmann—

Art & Poetry Page

**Do you make
art that says
something?
Submit:
therevolutionistgj@gmail.com**



'Tain't

Thought for several
days a hitchhiker
stole my cell phone

Acting odd
in the front seat
Laughing to himself

Found it days later
at the bottom
of the car's wastebasket

Then a stranded motorist
knocked at my door
late one night

Lent him my gas can
& flashlight. Drove away
& kept them both

Color me gullible
And paranoid. 'Tain't
the Sixties anymore

That era
got co-opted
We got trumped

—ART GOODTIMES—

*Lone Cone Broadside/ Union of Mountain Poet/ Vincent
St. John Local / Headwaters of Maverick Draw / Aztlán/
Jack Mueller Brigade / Western Slope / 4 Corners Kuksu
Brigade (Ret.) / San Francisco 13019*

Warning

Dangerous air today
they say,
as if i could hold my breath
or turn back the industrial revolution.

Dangerous air today.
Forests burn all around us
old growth turned sunlight
into sugars
a strange alchemy
now turning sugars into
a carbon haze
and air quality alerts.

Dangerous air today.
An "i-told-you-so moment"
if only i could catch my breath.
Ed Abbey laughing—
he tried to warn us—
that we were falling and not flying.

Our fears lulled by PR firms
and impossibly cheap plastic baubles.
"Please put your seat and tray
into their full and upright positions."
Falling not flying.

Dangerous air today.
Red flag warning,
no burns,
red-eyes
impossible heat.

Dangerous air today.
Can't see the mountains—
might as well live in Kansas—
a long nothing.
Without mountains
how can one tell which way is north?
The cardinal directions
are all mashed potatoes—
featureless like a cartoon heaven—
a special kind of hell.

Dangerous air today.
People breath it in
and hate—
as if
that will clear the skies.

—Jacob Richards—