

"The old world is dying, and the new world struggles to be born: now is the time of monsters." —Antonio Gramsci—

# THE REVOLUTIONIST.

"Revolution is simply the culminating point of Evolution"

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WESTERN  SLOPE NEWS

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## Viral Ranting Racist: A Repeat Offender



*Robert Phillips, mid-rant in viral video*

**By Jacob Richards**

Just days after the election, a Grand Junction man went viral for having a racist meltdown in the local Five Guys burger franchise.

Robert Phillips is seen in the video yelling at two young hispanic employees: "Fuck you, Fucking beaners. Europeans fucking colonized this fucking country and you beaners are fucking invading it. Your fucking invaders! You should be fucking ashamed." His wife Katherine filmed and nodded in agreement during the exchange.

"It started when the guy came in to pick up his order," said Aiden Renova. "He asked my coworker, who did he vote for? My friend, having no reason to lie, or to expect the guy to freak out, said Kamala Harris. The guy responded by calling him a beaner. My coworker, justifiably, mad, said stuff back. and from there it escalated to a shouting match

"After that, they left, we apologized to all the customers and got back to work. We

posted a video online and thought nothing more of it," said Renova.

But, "The next day, we came in and my coworker had been fired," Renova said. Phillips apparently had called the owner and complained that the viral video was defamation. During the yelling he "[said] he was going to get us fired," said Renova.

"I quit before they could fire me because, quite frankly, that was insane," said Renova. "Many of our other coworkers quit alongside us or put in two weeks, because what Five Guys did was arguably worse than what Katherine and Robert did," he added.

Five Guys's owner, Jeff Parker, provided *The Daily Sentinel* with a milquetoast statement: "We expect our employees to treat all customers with respect and expect our customers to treat our employees with respect as well."

*The Daily Sentinel* also failed to name these racists amongst us, but for the sake

**RACIST on Page Four**

# You Have Heard it Said...

By ΚΛΕΩ

On October 30, 2024, the editors of the *Daily Sentinel* wrote an opinion piece entitled, “Exasperation is hard to combat”. It focused on the Community Resource Center for the unhoused, located in downtown Grand Junction. They wrote:

“The resource center for the unhoused stirs conflicting emotions. On one hand, there’s deep appreciation for the resource center staff, affiliated nonprofits and volunteers who are dedicated to making a difference in the lives of marginalized people who are often barely tethered to society. They’re doing the Lord’s work—but not without an impact on neighboring businesses. This is the “other hand” that makes it difficult to justify keeping the resource center in its current location.”

The opinion goes on to state that because the Downtown area is growing in “sophistication” and because the “unhoused problem is going to be with this community for the foreseeable future” they suggest that these services be provided somewhere else. Once more, our unhoused neighbors will be shuffled along. Lacking from the editorial is discussion about how that might impact those who are un-

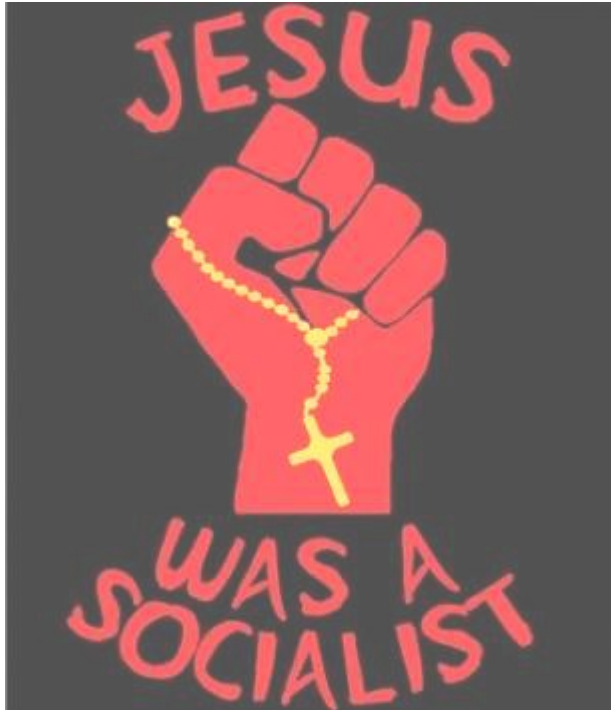
housed. Their voices are absent from this editorial, but that wasn’t surprising to this reader. More insidious was the reference to “doing the Lord’s work”.

The inclusion of this statement felt heretical alongside the rest of the article, which was a slap in the face to those who have dedicated their lives to sacramental justice. What some characterize as “woke” ideology is quite literally the heart of the Judeo-Christian belief system. An advocate was quoted in the same editorial, stating, “If we don’t come together to identify the root causes and to actually

work with the community that this is affecting, then we are not going to get anywhere with it.” Is it possible that this is the heart of the “Lord’s work”?

References to liberation of the poor are found throughout the Biblical texts. It is present in the Law. Every seven years, it was ordered that debt should be canceled. If God’s people were faithful in this, “there need be no poor people among you” (Deut.15:4).

That passage goes on to state, “Give generously to them and do so without a grudging heart; then the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your



## Announcing the Formation of a Mesa County Democratic Socialist of America (DSA)

“The DSA is the largest socialist organization in the United States with over 92,000 members.”

The local chapter is holding meetings and organizing! Committees are getting to work! Join them!

Memberships are on a sliding scale!  
[www.dsausa.org](http://www.dsausa.org)

Contact the local chapter:

[mesacountydsa1@gmail.com](mailto:mesacountydsa1@gmail.com)

### 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](mailto:falconersworkerssociety@gmail.com)

### Be the Media! Help Edit, Write, Distro The Revolutionist

[therevolutionistgj@gmail.com](mailto:therevolutionistgj@gmail.com)

## Oppression and Opportunity: A Marginalized History of the Grand Valley

By Jacob Richards

December 20 at 7pm  
Lithic Books  
138 S. Park Circle #202  
Fruita

### Mutual Aid Partners’ Distro Day!

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](mailto:solidaritynotcharitygjinfo@gmail.com)

### Grand Valley Zine Club

Bring a page to contribute to the Collaborative Zine See @Grandvalleyzineclub on Instagram for more details. Bring Your Own Zines to Swap.

December 15 at 4pm  
120 N. 5th St.  
Grand Junction

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**Stolen Ballots (Likely) Cast for Trump**

As is the case in 90% cases of voter fraud, a registered Republican is at the center of the Mesa County stolen ballot controversy. It's alleged that Sally Jane Maxedon convinced United State Postal Service worker Vicki Lyn Stuart to steal sixteen ballots before they arrived at their intended recipient. The scheme according to Maxedon was to test our election security. Authorities have not specified who the ballots were cast for, but I think we can all guess. Maxedon was previously arrested for meth in 2008 and her fingerprints were on the fraudulent ballots.

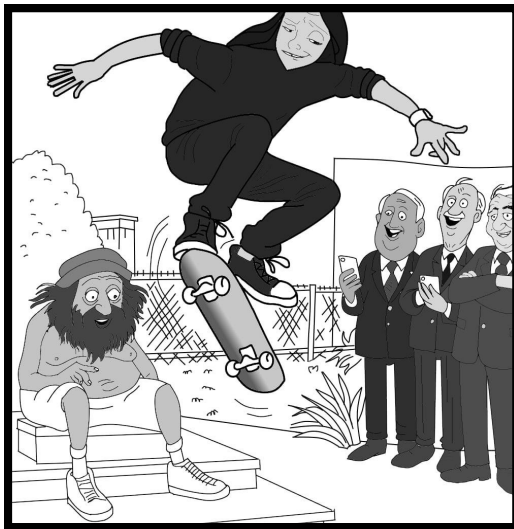
**Fifteen Dems Eager to Get in on the Fascism, Vote to Pass HR 9594**

Fifteen Democrats voted with Republicans to pass a bill that would give the president's Secretary of the Treasury "carte blanche" to strip any non-profit of federal tax exempt status. Planned Parenthood opposes your bill—gone. Propublic breaks a story Trump would rather not be broken—gone. ACLU sues for basic constitutional rights—gone.

**S.O.S—Save Our Schools**

Mesa County School District 51 announced plans to shut down two elementary schools in November. Clifton and Scenic are going to close at the end of the 2024-25 school year. Declining admission, rises in homeschooling and charter school have all resulted in declining enrollment.

Dalton Trumbo addressed this in his novel "Eclipse," set in slightly fictionalized Grand Junction: "You can remember that not so long ago the Ku Klux Klan marched down Main Street at night, all ghostly with a fiery cross.... It was still the Loyalty League.... the organized mob risen from its grave to snoop and tyrannize once more. And it will come up again and again for ever and ever! If there isn't a good cause like a war, than it will parade for a poor cause. It will always be a cause with ideals so high that no mere law can restrain the execution of its judgements. And it will always be based on hatred and fear. Tomorrow it may come again. ... who knows?"

**Junktown Follies by Dalton Trombone**

*"Didn't know Councilwoman Stout could kickflip."  
"Kickflip? I'm going to do a quickflip, this neighborhood needs a Starbucks."*

## Events & Orgs: Praxis in Action

**You can find The Revolutionist at the following business:**

Lithic Books, Discontent, 1st Street Tattoo Parlor, Copeeka Coffee, Good Judy's, Uncanny Valley, Loving Beyond Understanding, Desert Bloom Hydroponics, and more!

**Free Palestine Rally**  
10:30 am to 12:30pm @  
12th and North  
Grand Junction  
December 7 & 21.

## December News Briefs

**Western Filament Lay-Offs Blamed on Boeing Strike**

Multiple sources have it that Western Filament in Grand Junction has laid off an undisclosed number of workers. Reason given was it was due to the ongoing strike at Boeing's manufacturing facilities in the Pacific Northwest. When the Rev called and asked Western Filament, they seemed startled, and after putting us on hold, they decided not to comment. The Rev hopes you all get on unemployment without issue, and find better—preferably union—jobs.

**Grand Valley Ties to Dark Money, Elon Musk and Workers' Rights Violations**

A dark web of nepotism and cronyism ties local republicans to Musks' dark money, via Blitz Canvassing and golden-boy Josh Penry. Blitz was busted abusing workers in Michigan by *Wired Magazine*. The Rev published an in-depth expose on our website: <https://therevolutionistgj.org/>

**Montrose Bans Camping**

On November 5, the Montrose City Council came back together and voted to ban camping after voting against the law at its first reading. The council continued to claim the law doesn't target the unhoused, though the assistant city manager's presentation was a clear attempt at stigmatizing the unhoused. Montrose's only shelter is only open in the winter and can only house about one-quarter of the growing homeless population. The law includes new provisions that include providing notice and providing people a period of time to comply with the law. The law also mandates jail time for a third offense.

**Garco Deputy Fired for Embezzlement**

Fourteen-year veteran of the Garfield County Sheriff's office, Corporal Trisha Worley, was terminated for suspicion of embezzlement from a local non-profit on November 7. The Colorado Bureau of Investigations is heading up the ongoing criminal investigation.

**Colorado Company Tied to Racist Texts**

Racist text messages sent out to black Americans in the days after Trump's victory are linked to a Colorado company, Onvoy Spectrum, which is owned by Onvoy, LLC of Minnesota, which in turn is a wholly owned subsidiary of Holdings, and Holdings is in turn managed by GTCR, a private equity firm outta Chicago. Messages were disturbing: "Good Evening [name withheld]. Our 2024 presidential elect, Donald J. Trump has scheduled you for the weekend cotton-picking shift...Be ready to pick diligently." Philip A. Canfield and Fritz Hendricks are on the Board of GTCR's Holdings and have ties to front-range conservatives. Thank you to journalist and writer Allison Wiltz, @queenie4rmnola, for doing the heavy lifting on this story.

**Onion Buys Infowars, Alex Jones Refuses to Leave**

Reality is becoming very meta. The satirical newspaper, The Onion has bought Alex Jones' Infowars. The forced sale was ordered to pay victims of his Sandy Hook misinformation. Jones, a petulant child to the very end, refused to leave the Austin studio now owned by The Onion.

**Police Killings on Track to Set Record in 2024**

The Denver Post reported that police killings are on pace to match or exceed the record-setting year of 2020. 34 people have been killed by Colorado Law Enforcement agencies so far this year. Another 20 have been injured. Adding fuel to the fire is that Police Chiefs and Sheriffs feel empowered by the passage of Prop 130, which will funnel \$350 million into local law enforcement agencies. Wheat Ridge Police Chief Chris Murtha told Colorado Public Radio, "This isn't just a bill about supporting funding law enforcement but also taking the temperature of support for law enforcement right now."



## RACIST From Page One

of our communities' safety, the *Rev* will.

"The guy didn't realize that to place an order he had to tell us his name so we know his real name is Robert Phillips, and his wife's name is Katherine Phillips," said Renova.

Robert Taylor Phillips is the owner of Freedom Renovations LTD., and his wife, Katherine Phillips, is a pathologist with The Pathology Group, which works contracts through both Community Hospital and the Mesa County Coroner's Office. The elected Mesa County Coroner, Dean Havlik, is Katherine Phillips's boss at The Pathology Group.

What is more scary is this is not Robert Phillips's first violent interaction with marginalized communities in the Grand Valley.

Back in the summer of 2022, Heidi Hess was shopping at the Clifton Ace Hardware, when "he asked what that tattoo was, and I told him it was to honor my life's work and remind me to have the courage of [Ruth Bader Ginsberg]," said Hess.

Then "he went OFF on me in line telling me how f\*\*s were unnatural and we were pedophiles who should all be 'taken care of'."

"After RBG died, I got a tattoo that is a dissent collar in the progressive pride flag colors, and it says 'Ruthless' on it," Hess said.

He "settled down a bit and asked me what I thought I was accomplishing. I asked, 'With the tattoo?' He sneered, 'Well yes.' I said, 'My first amendment rights of free speech,'" said Hess.

"I recognized him on the video from Five Guys [incident]," said Hess.

Additionally, Phillips was arrested for assault in 2017.

Hess is the Western Slope field organizer for One Colorado, and has formerly served on the Colorado Civil Rights Commission. And they were kind enough to share some solid advice if you find yourself the victim or a bystander in a similar situation.

"First: BE SAFE. If you feel unsafe, you probably are unsafe. Get to safety. If that's going to customer service, getting to an employee, calling 911—whatever it is—make yourself safe. DO NOT go off somewhere alone or exposed to get away from them. Go toward witnesses," said Hess.

"If you feel safe, stand your ground in public places where other people are. Speak your truth, be calm and remember you do not need to match their unhinged outburst with your own. Your greater point is made by firmly speaking your own truth," advised Hess.

"And most importantly: Be aware after a confrontation like this. Are you being followed when you leave the establishment? Take a circuitous route home and make sure. Stay on well-traveled streets. Today, right now, make a plan for where you will go if you are being followed. Staffed gas stations have video cameras. So do ER entrances and fire departments."

According to Hess, there are also actions that bystanders can take. "There are the 5 D's of bystander intervention: **Distract, Direct, Delegate, Document and Delay.**

**Distract:** Distract the perpetrator.

**Direct:** Be exceedingly direct. Emotions are high. If you want the victim to step away literally say: I think we need to go towards customer service. You come with me.

**Delegate:** Tell other bystanders what to do. Call for help, start recording the incident.

**Document:** Record, record, record.

**Delay:** Ask the victim, after the incident, what they need, how you can support them."

More bystander intervention resources are linked below. We keep us safe!  
<https://righttobe.org/guides/bystander-intervention-training/>



Heidi's Ruthless Tattoo

## ART From Page Twelve

**TR:** When is the Lowbrow Art Classic this year? What can people expect when they attend?

**TP:** The Lowbrow Classic takes place on December 14th, at 6:00 pm at First Street Tattoo Parlor—1119 N. 1st St. Unit B. The event is free of charge, and while some of the skateboards may be for sale, there is absolutely no obligation to make a purchase. The holiday season is hard enough as it is, and we want our space to be an escape from the Consumer Hell that we are all subjected to at this time of year.

This year, we have over 100 artists showing, and somewhere around 120-130 skateboards on display—expect a wide array of mediums and styles from artists all over

the region. We had around 1000 people through the door in 2023 and expect to double that number this year. Our hope is that you come and witness the absolutely incredible talent on display, shake some hands, have some conversations, find some inspiration, and ultimately take part in community—"a rising tide lifts all boats".

Our neighbors at No Coast Sushi are designing a special Lowbrow Classic menu to accompany the show, and our besties at Jitterz Coffee will be in attendance, whipping up coffee drinks to enjoy while perusing the art.

I think it's important to note that while the Lowbrow Classic is hosted by a tattoo shop, the shop is merely a venue—if tattooing isn't your thing, please know that this isn't a tattoo-related event.



Photo Courtesy of Honest Lens Photography.

November 25, GJ City Council voted to shorten lease on Homeless Resource Center from April 2026 to April of 2025. Right of ways were added to the lease to enable Homeward Bound can kick people off the sidewalks outside the Resource Center, along with a two week partial closure. Forty people spoke, most were in favor of keeping the center open. See our reporting on the topic at <http://therevolutionistgj.org>.

**Make sure to checkout our website for additional content, breaking news, and calls to action. <https://therevolutionistgj.org>**





## ART from Page Seven

**TP:** We initially started the Lowbrow Classic as a means to make some space for new blood in the art scene and sort of blur the lines between traditional/alternative art. The First Street Crew are fantastic tattoo artists, and that talent translates well to other mediums. A few of us reached out to a local gallery about potentially showing some of our art in their spot,

and they weren't super responsive. I think that tattooing is still intimidating to the stuffy, fine artist crowd—I understand that we look a certain way and might not be aligned with the image that they have for their clientele. So we just said “fuck it, let's do our own thing.” Let's keep the candle burning for as many

people as we can, not snuff it out because we think we have some better understanding of “art”. Let's encourage people to start something and finish it. There's a quote I just found in a Brandon Sanderson book that I've been thinking about a lot lately—

“One of the greatest tragedies of life is knowing how many people in the world are made to soar, paint, sing, or steer—except they never get the chance to find out.”

I don't think there is a major distinction in fine art vs. the art you'll see at the Lowbrow Classic—I think it's the venue and the people involved that set this thing apart. This is a space with open minds and open hearts and a willingness to understand.

There's enough of that bullshit mass-produced Thomas Kincade calendar art available at T.J. Maxx anyways.



**TR:** Why skateboard decks?

**TP:** Skateboarding, punk rock, tattooing. It all goes hand in hand. I think the decks pay homage to the places we spent our time during our formative years that ultimately led to the birth of the Lowbrow Classic and even First Street Tattoo Parlor—basement shows, skateparks, criminal mischief, graffiti, touring with our bands, etc. Personally,

they invoke feelings of youth and freedom, and it adds a lot of depth to the art they play host to.

Having a uniform canvas also helps with the display and flow of the show itself—the number of boards this year are well into the triple digits, and space is something to think about.

Also, a skateboard hanging on the

wall looks fuckin' sick. Shoutout to our homies at Skateboard Connection for making it easy for us.

**TR:** What effects does lowbrow art (of all types) have on culture or counter-culture?

**TP:** Art is reflective of the artist, and I think that the creative process embodies much of who that artist is—their past, present, and future, trauma, healing, and emotion, familial and ancestral ties and so on.

Representation is validation, and having a dignified spot where you can display your art, no matter your background or training, is valuable to the respective culture or counterculture you represent. Maybe it helps steady the ground you stand on, maybe it helps connect you to others like you, and maybe (hopefully) it affords others a chance to learn about you.

## What is Politics?

By Nikoli Weir

Politics is a field that is commented on by many, but understood by few. Generally speaking, there are two overarching ways of viewing politics. The first is one that is idealistic and abstract, and has historically been associated with what is called Classical Liberalism.

It should be made clear that both conservatives and liberals fall under the category of Classical Liberalism. Both share the same fundamental

of most republics.

This is an idea that is appealing, even beautiful. But unfortunately, it is totally incorrect. The second framework for viewing politics, which in my opinion is the more correct one, is as follows.

The essence of politics is power and struggle which on the surface appears as the arbitrary struggle of disconnected individuals acting in their immediate interests. In any sufficiently complex society, this by necessity de-



assumptions such as individual liberty, civil discourse and equality before the law, though they often disagree about the most effective way of implementing these ideas.

For Classical Liberals, politics means discourse. It means free human beings who live in the same society coming together to work out their disagreements in a way that is peaceful and amicable, so that problems can be solved in a way that satisfies the majority of people. This is the view that was held by the Founding Fathers of the United States, and by the founders

velops into the struggle of groups, factions, classes and even nations. This is a struggle that, by its nature, must end in the total victory of one side, and the total annihilation or subjugation of the other.

Compromise in politics is always temporary and results when neither side is capable of completely defeating the other. Once one side or the other comes to believe that it is again capable of victory, they will inevitably break the compromise and once again go to war. This will compel the other



hand to" (Deuteronomy 15:10).

Prophets also support liberation of the poor, "I will speak against those who cheat employees of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, or who deprive the foreigners living among you of justice, for these people do not fear me," says the Lord" (Malachi 3:5); and "Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him?" (Isaiah 58:6-7). In response to violence against the poor and dishonest business practices, Micah asked, "What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8).

The Gospels also speak of liberation of the poor. Mary sings, "He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty." Jesus speaks frequently about the poor: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God" (Luke 6:20); "whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:35-36, 40); and "When you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed" (Luke 14:13-14).

So, what does this mean for those living in Mesa County? The editors of the local paper would like us to have pity for the local businesses who are crying out for action against the poor in this town. They would use their print space to create divisions among us. They would have us look at the poor as "them" and to feel as though "we"---the housed, the tourists, the business owners---are victims. Our local nonprofit agencies are struggling to manage the poor, because that is their primary duty: to manage the poor, engage them in services, check another box off their matrix and quantify their

results. And yet, in meetings, they are first to declare that having unhoused in visible spaces, near our reimagined (gentrified) shopping centers and parks, is bad "optics." Our city leaders use a grocery list of incidents as ammunition to shoot down the only facility in the downtown area that provides some sort of all-day respite from the elements, focusing instead on relocating and continuing to shuffle people around who already struggle daily to meet their own needs to just survive.

When one person in our community is ill (poor, addicted, houseless, diseased, depressed, oppressed, disadvantaged, disenfranchised), we are all ill. In 2020, there were at least 27,928 Christians in Mesa County. I imagine some of the loudest business owners/politicians/editors in the downtown area find themselves seated at a local church, at least occasionally. Are we meant to take in those words every week and then continue our lives, unchanged? Or are we meant to inwardly digest those words and turn them into action? Again, if we have a banquet, Jesus instructed us to invite the poor. Understanding this command brings us to a deeper understanding of our duty and relationship to the poor. We are instructed to actively come together as a community with these neighbors and invite them to sit at the table with us. Jesus's entire ministry asks us to see those on the margins and then asks us, over and over, how we can move ourselves closer together to create a community in which all belong. Once we accept this, only one question remains: how will we work together to create this Heaven on Earth? We are a people of abundance! It is time we started acting like it.



# WWI and Repression

## By People's History of the Grand Valley

World War One was a massively unpopular war. President Woodrow Wilson campaigned to keep America out of the killing fields of Europe. But in 1917 we joined the war. Only 73,000 men volunteered to go fight and a draft was quickly instituted. The Sedition and Espionage Acts were passed to silence women, socialists, pacifist Christians, and Wobblies (members of the Industrial Workers of the World, I.W.W.) speaking out against the war.

Hundreds of newspapers and magazines were forced to close, 900 outspoken anti-war leaders would be imprisoned for speaking out against the draft and the war. Vigilante groups were encouraged and sanctioned to terrorized and spy on dissidents.

In Grand Junction, this repression was led by the owner of the *Daily Sentinel*, Walter Walker.

Walker disrupted a meeting of the Socialist Party in early February 1917, as they held a mass anti-war meeting, two months before America declared war.

Walker championed the Loyalty League, Home Guard and the American Defense Society. A December 8, 1917 front page article reported on an ADS letter that encouraged the creation of a Vigilance Corps in Grand Junction, to "classify all residents" as loyal, disloyal, doubtful, and unknown, and weather those citizens were Alien Enemy, Pro-German, or Anti-government, and to "send this list to the police department and the local representative of the department of Justice."

When the Colorado National Guard was sent to the front the state encouraged local governments to raise and train a Home Guard.

The Home Guard's first local action was the detention and deporting 18 Wobblies fruit-pickers at gun-point from Palisade, in August of 1917.

The local Home Guard then defended the people of Grand Junction against words.

In September 1917, the first group of draftees were sent off to war. That same day the Socialist paper *The New Critic* published a sharply written anti-war editorial:.



*Grand Junction, sends 73 draftees off to war. Oct. 2 1917. Frank Dean Photo.*

"To make the world safe for democracy? NO! To make the world safe for the money lender. To feed the flies!"

The article was a bridge too far for Walker. Walker, began beating the drum against the anti-war socialists. His father, in his role as the local postmaster, denied *The*

*New Critic* postage rights. Later the Home Guard showed up armed at the offices and shut down the paper by threats of violence.

In April of 1918, the Home Guard seized books from the International Bible Society now called Jehovah's Witnesses for their pacifism and burned them.

The Loyalty League tarred and feathered E.E. Cole the principal at the Appleton School in April of 1918. That same month vigilantes painted M.O. Douglas' house yellow as a sign of cowardice or disloyalty, and threatened him with lynching if he didn't "square himself and become a 100 per cent American."

side to mobilize its own forces in order to defend its vested interests.

This will either end in the total defeat of one side or the other, or it will again end in compromise, but with the balance of forces significantly changed due to the attrition caused by the fight. No matter how frequent compromise may be, it is always temporary, and will always end sooner or later.

In our society, there are two major factions in this struggle; the faction of the working people and the faction of the capitalists. The capitalists are those who own and hold significant stake in all the banks, corporations, news outlets, media conglomerates; they own most of the land, almost all of the world's natural resources, and have long bought all the most important political officials by means of lobbying and backroom deals. Their economic and political power is backed up by their armed security wing, the police and the Armed Forces.

Compared to the capitalists, the working people have nothing but their numbers and their labor, or rather, their ability to withhold their labor. The most common form of organization which the working people engage in which is uniquely their own is the trade union. By means of the trade union, the working people can do battle with the capitalists on a purely eco-

nomics basis.

This of course is vitally important. However, it is imperative that what begins as a purely economic struggle against the economic power of the capitalists transforms into an all-encompassing political struggle against the political power of the capitalists.

Vladimir Lenin said that everything but power is an illusion. The ruling class of capitalists holds onto power by means of force and subterfuge; first, they enforce their power and deprive everyone else of it, and then they convince everyone that the state of powerlessness to which they have been reduced is power, and that

this power can best be exercised by going through the "necessary" channels which the capitalists themselves set up.

If We the People wish to be victorious in the class struggle that bifurcates all of modern society, then we must understand this simple truth; we cannot rely on the power of the capitalists. We must build our own power, and we must build it independently from the power of the capitalists. This necessitates the creation of an independent political organization which operates as a political combat organ of the working people. The building of such an organization is the basic task of socialists and communists nationwide.



## Art, Skateboards and the Lowbrow Classic: Interview with Tobias Peltier

**The Revolutionist:** Tell us a bit about the history of the First Street Tattoo Parlor. When did you open?

**Tobias Peltier:** First Street opened its doors on Halloween 2019. Prior to opening, I'd spent some time tattooing across the U.S., Asia and Europe, and after seeing so much and learning how other artists do it, my business partner, Paul Massison, and I came up with a plan to kill our former shop, completely rebrand, and build a brand new space built to our specs. In the last five years, we've grown from a three-person crew to a ten, sometimes 11-person crew and have expanded the shop twice to accommodate.

There's a culture that exists at First Street that I've never felt at any other shop or any other work place—there's so much love, so much respect—I am eternally grateful to the brothers and sisters that I share the space with for helping to cultivate something so beautiful.

**TR:** What is it about tattooing that speaks to you?

**TP:** That's a tough question. Everything good in my life is because of tattooing—my home, my missus, my friendships. In my brain, tattooing is so much more than an art form. It's an energy, or a guiding force, and I think it's important to focus on what I have to contribute to it versus what I stand to gain from it. Every day there's an opportunity to make the best tattoo I've ever made, and it's a blessing to be given the opportunity to work with each client. It's humbling to know that I get to carry that with me.

I think the direct connection we have to history is also really amazing. Traditionally, tattooing is passed between mentor and apprentice, and if you're one of the lucky ones, you can trace your lineage back to the very beginning of American Traditional Tattooing. Before our apprentice, Goob, graduated, we spent a lot of time researching ours, and it is as follows:

Charlie Barr (1870-1960) > Bert



Grimm (1900-1985) > Lyle Tuttle (1931-2019) > Dean Dennis (1950?-2012) > Jane Nemhauser (1952?-2012) > Pam Davison > Jason Bradham > Robbie Campbell > Tobias Peltier > Goob Fuentes

**TR:** What sets you and your artist apart from other shops in town?

**TP:** You know, we tend to keep our heads down and focus on what we have going on. Undoubtedly, there are amazing things happening in other shops around town—GJ plays host to some incredible talent.

We focus on maintaining the high vibe of the shop and hope that everyone who visits us feels welcomed and leaves feeling like they are a part of our family. That's the beautiful thing about tattooing—if you're doing it right, the walls come down and you build a larger table instead.

**TR:** What's the Lowbrow Art Classic all about? What is the difference between fine art and the art people will see at the Lowbrow Classic?



# Best of the Lowbrow Classic 2023



You are invited to the third annual Lowbrow Classic, featuring over 100 artists. Doors open at 6:00pm at First Street Tattoo Parlor—1119 N 1st St Unit B. Grand Jct. Free to Attend.  
Photos Courtesy of 1st Tattoo

