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"I want no advantage over my fellow man, and if he is weaker than I, all the more is it my duty to help him." —Eugene V. Debs

February 2025

#14

THE REVOLUTIONIST.

"Revolution is simply the culminating point of Evolution"



Courtesy of Honest Lens Photography

Mindsprings in Negotiations with ICE

By Jacob Richards

Just days after Trump was inaugurated, Mindsprings' interim CEO, and CEO at Larkin Health Services, Nicholas Torres held a zoom meeting with staff at Mindsprings and their inpatient hospital, Westsprings.

During the course of the meeting, which has since been leaked, Torres proposes a "new service-line," to shore-up Mindsprings financial woes.

Torres states that as soon as March, Building D at West Springs Hospital in Grand Junction may be used to house unaccompanied minors from around the Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention system.

Torres explains that ICE wants to immediately transfer six minors; four of these children are in New York, one is in California and one in Texas to receive long

-term care at Westsprings. These minors are not currently in a mental health crisis but rather are needing long-term care.

"They are not actively harming themselves or trying to harm themselves, so it does not need to be a full inpatient level of care, but there has to be safe guards to prevent them from eloping or getting out," said Torres. Torres also notes that that the children would receive only one service provider meeting per week

The line between treatment and detention is being blurred. Are they free to leave? No. Are they in crisis? No. Are they going to be held long term? Yes, 170 days on average according to Torres.

After weeks of rumors, media stories, and a blog post from The Rev detailing the contents of Torres' meeting with Mindsprings staff. Mindsprings sent us a statement:

ICE on Page Thirteen

Personal Security in the Age of Oligarchs

By Winston Smith

A new era has dawned across the United States that puts us at risk. To maintain our freedom, integrity, and security, we must make some important changes to how we live, work, and play. Our society no longer can assume that the norms and standards we have enjoyed will continue to frame and protect our privacy and our lives. The responsibility for our well-being, and the well-being of those around us rest on our shoulders.

Risks:

Our culture of convenience puts us at risk. Enamored with the novelty and sparkle of our Information Age, we have traded the ease of accomplishing tasks for the integrity of the information held within. Google offers convenience in finding information and communicating in exchange for access to your private information. Meta has transformed our ability to engage with our community by monetizing your activity and effectively mining and selling your privacy. Our shopping is now centralized, placed at your fingertips, and delivered sometimes within hours with the trade off that all your buying behavior is tracked, analyzed, and manipulated across the internet by Amazon. We have adopted convenience and given up our freedom, integrity, and security in trade.

In this trade, we have fueled the largest class-wealth gap in generations, and have put unprecedented power in the hands of a tiny group of technology oligarchs. Now in power, these oligarchs are focused on building more wealth, power, and control at the cost of the safety, stability, and the integrity of the rest of us. Their reach is omnipresent, their greed insatiable, and their integrity is compromised.

Guiding Principles:

Although wrestling back control will be a diffi-

cult challenge involving social revolution, we can engage in some change individually that can protect us individually and collectively as well provide the foundation for the larger revolution. Some people will find these changes difficult and for others it will be easy. Many of these changes will involve technology fixes, others require behavior changes. The path forward requires us to make some important changes and embrace a set of principles that protect and free us. We need to implement DEAPC.

The DEAPC:

The DEAPC is a set of principles that frame behavior and technology

with the goal of maintaining our freedom, integrity, and security. These principles are interconnected and interlinked. These principles are: Discipline, Encryption, Anonymity, Privacy, and Control.

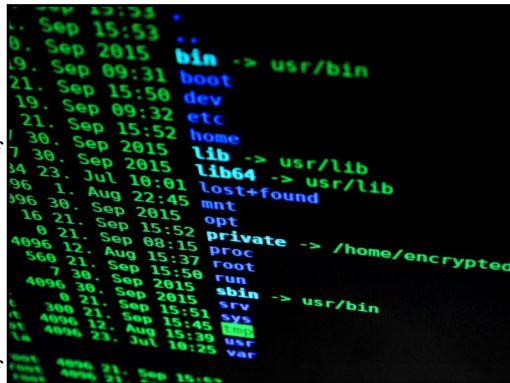
D: The first principle is Discipline, and it is the framework that must hold the whole DEAPC set together, for if we lose Discipline, we jeopardize the success of the whole approach. Many will find Discipline is the hardest of all the principles. There is no quick fix, but there are tools we can use to help establish and maintain Discipline.

Challenge: *If we usually generate a unique, high-quality password, but reuse an easy-to-remember password occasionally, we risk loss of Privacy, and Control of our information and potentially our freedom, integrity, and security.*

Tips: *adopt and ONLY use tools that support the DEAPC principles*

Tools: *password managers, VPN, private email and file storage*

E: The second principle is Encryption, and when employed consistently (with Discipline) it acts as a protective layer that wraps the rest of DEAPC.



Events & Orgs: Praxis in Action

NO ICE NO DEPORTATIONS RALLY

February 15th. 11-2pm
12th and North Ave.

Free Palestine Rally
10:30 am to 12:30pm @
12th and North, GJ
February 15th

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

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

Cortez Food Not Bombs

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

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

Contact the local chapter:

mesacountydsa1@gmail.com

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Che Guevarra \$100

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53 Days

By Ezra Woods

Editors note: It took Hitler just 53 days to dismantle democracy in Germany.

When the day came to take me away, you looked in my face & still claimed it'd be okay.
You stared daggers into my soul as I wept & begged for them not to take me away & you told me clear as day that I'd be okay.
Just have faith.
But faith has bled from the creases of every pore.
You looked beside you at the whore & said blessed are the wicked.
We came together & cried as you stood there watching us be led to our miserable deaths.

You told me "it will never get that bad, don't overreact. It's just a fad. It'll be gone soon enough."
But the day came & I was no longer there.
You went among the world & all were gone.
The world is in ruin & it's too late.
You've decided your fate as you continued to be complacent & have the belief that it'd never get so bad.

53 days later.... you found yourself fallen to the ground in mass defeat, not knowing how to make a sound.

53. Days. Later.

That's all it took before your best friend was swept under the rug, gone with no trace & hidden in little dark rooms surrounded in mazes of confusion & torture.

53 days & you have awoken to realize that you were being fed full of lies & lulled into blissful ignorance & complacency.

You swore they wouldn't come for you. For me. For your sons or your daughters.
You promised yourself & others that it'd all be okay, just stay the course.
Just wake up. Get dressed. Go to work. Come home. Pay your bills & do not make a sound.
Do not make ripples within the waves & it'll all be okay.
I promise, it's really going to be okay.
Just do NOT make new waves.
Do not let the tsunami take hold, because it's really not there. I swear.
But you saw the weather change with your very own eyes & the shoreline swallow itself whole.
Suddenly you're drowning in your own ugly blissful ignorance.

"Oh but I didn't know any better."
You plead & begged as they dragged you away.
"Please. You promised it would be different. That I would be saved. You swore my friends would be okay"
But they never did. They told you from day one they never cared.
You just convinced yourself that YOU would be safe.
Telling yourself they were the saviors, to keep yourself from falling into that abyss.

But now I am gone.
Locked in a tiny dark room, being bled alive.

I will never give up. You will have to pry my name, my dignity, my life, from the depths of the hells that you have created. For I am so much more than your hatred & cowardice.

I am love & light within the hate & darkness.
I am community & peace.
I am the end of that long tunnel in the dead of night.
I will claw my way out of this if it's the last breath I draw.

You were wrong. They are here, knocking at the door.
You kept promising us it would be different.
You need to wake up. Wake up.
For it's all the same routine, but this time there can be change.

You just need to wake up

Security from Page Two

Proper use of encryption can effectively lock access to information with an unbreakable lock. Encryption has been made incredibly accessible with the advent of nearly ubiquitous fast computer processors while also becoming incredibly protective through Open Source development. However, quantum processors may unravel this protection, so we cannot depend solely on Encryption for protection.

Challenge:

currently it is quite easy to employ high-quality encryption

Tips: use communication

tools, file storage, and device protection that have good encryption at their core

Tools: VPN, encrypted chat and email, and hard drive encryption

A: With the fate of Encryption unknown, the third principle of Anonymity becomes more important. Its location in the middle of the DEAPC principle stack represents the role Anonymity plays and the tension it has to balance. Anonymity's goal is to hide identity and attribution. By doing so, Anonymity also complicates communications and makes authenticity harder to verify. This will require travelers in the DEAPC to adopt some fluidity in their use of Anonymity based on changing needs and goals.

Challenge: *sometimes you want information to be attributable and verifiable and anonymity can limit or prevent this*

Tips: *use tools that allow you to manage who sees identifying information and employ obfuscation techniques*

Tools: VPN, encrypted chat and email, and file encryption

P: The fourth DEAPC principle is Privacy. This principle is an idea that has historically had a lot of power in our society, but with the advent of



Social Media, global connectivity, and nearly universal adoption of connected technology, Privacy has become almost non-existent. If you want to live with security, integrity and freedom, you need to regain your Privacy. The other DEAPC principles will help, there are some technological tools you can wield, but much of the loss of Privacy is due to an individual's behavior.

This makes establishing, maintaining, and rebuilding Privacy a challenge for many.

Challenge:

Social Media is a societal norm and the contrary to privacy

Tips: *manage access to your information by limiting use of connected devices, data mining applications, and websites*

Tools: VPN, faraday bags, privacy-focused communities

C The final principle we need to employ is Control. Our Control over our information and our lives is both a goal and a method. At the end of the DEAPC, it quickly becomes clear how connected Control is to Discipline and how the two ends of the stack of principles is actually more like a ring.

Challenge: *many people have already ceded control of their information, so the challenge becomes how to regain control*

Tips: *disciplined use of good passwords, encrypted communications, and encrypted data storage*

Tools: password manager, VPN, encrypted communication

Recommendations:

Email—Proton Mail

Chat and Voice—Signal

VPN—NordVPN, Proton VPN

Faraday Bags—Mission Darkness, SLNT

Password Manager—LastPass, 1Password

Device Encryption—FileVault or BitLocker

February NEWS BRIEFS

GJPD Sued for Tasing Man Because Wife Wouldn't Stop Arguing with Police

Grand Junction resident Abraham Ybarra filed a lawsuit against the Grand Junction Police Department for being tased because his wife was arguing with police. During the incident which took place in January of 2023, and was recorded on body cam and ring cam, officer Cody Lopez can be heard telling Ybarra's wife "He's gonna get tased again if you don't stop." All charges against Ybarra were dropped.

2024: The Coolest Year for the Rest of Your Life

Scientists at both NASA and the World Meteorological Organization confirmed that 2024 was the hottest year on record. Temperatures were 1.55 degrees celsius hotter than pre-industrial temperatures. The rise is significant because international agreements sought to limit temperature rise to less than 1.5 degrees. We've seen multiple once-in-a-lifetime disasters in 2024, from hurricane Helene to the fires in Los Angeles: hot, dry and extreme is the new normal.

SCOTUS Rejects Utah's Quixotic Bid to Take Control of Public Lands

For decades, Utah has tried to get the federal government to turn over federal controlled BLM land to the state of Utah. The court did not explain its reasoning in a short order rejecting the case. Conservationists breathed a sigh of relief, but without a doubt the state of Utah will continue to seek control over Federal Lands within their state, and more importantly, the timber and mineral resources that can be sold to the highest bidder.

Park City Ski Patrollers Win Strike and Large Raise

After a thirteen day strike, patrollers won a \$2 an hour raise for new hires and a \$4 an hour raise for tenured patrollers. Patrollers won 24 out of 27 contested points in the contract. Park City is owned by Vail Resorts. In similar news, Colorado's own, A-Basin, patrollers also recently voted to unionize, as ski patrollers across the industry unionize for a just wage. Powderhorn has some of the lowest paid patrollers in the nation, and is ripe for unionization efforts.

Florida Man Must Use Imagination

Pornhub, the most-visited pornography website,

blocked users from the states of Florida, Tennessee and South Carolina in January. New legislation in Florida that would require third-party age verification puts the publisher and users at too much legal risk. There are now fifteen states where Pornhub is unavailable.

Mesa County DA Fails to Keep Victim Safe

In a case that made national headlines, the DA failed to notify the victim that his assailant had bonded out of jail. Back in December, Patrick Egan allegedly assaulted a local reporter in a biased-motivated attack. The District Attorney's office has an obligation to inform victims under the Colorado Crime Victims Act, which according to people close to the case, the DA failed to do.

Federal Court Upholds Florida Plan to De-transition Prisoners

In a sign of things to come, a federal court has upheld the Florida Department of Corrections policy that classifies gender dysmorphia as a "short-term delusion," and severely limits gender-affirming care. Judge Allen Winsor, a Trump appointee with a history of anti-LGBTQ rulings, rejected the arguments made by the Florida ACLU, essentially forcing hundreds of inmates to involuntarily detransition.

HUD Report: Family Homelessness More Than Doubled in Colorado

The report found that nationwide homelessness was up 18%, and that roughly 770,000 people in our country are unhoused. The report found also that family homelessness more than doubled in Colorado from 2023 to 2024.

Ni Hao

The TikTok ban has backfired epically, as millions of Americans flooded onto the Chinese social media app RedNote. Decades of anti-Chinese propaganda has gone up in smoke as Americans wonder why Chinese citizens have better vehicles, phones, supermarkets, and quality of life than we do here in the states.

Montrose Bigots Operate with Impunity

In late December, swastikas and hateful graffiti was just another escalation against a student of color in Olathe. On January 17,

ICE from Page One

"The Potential contract between West Springs Hospital and Immigration and Customs Enforcement to offer inpatient services to unaccompanied minors in Building D is not happening."

The conversation has now "shifted" to provide adult in-patient services for ICE. Torres told Aspen Public Radio that this contract with ICE could bring in \$100,000 to 300,000 per month.

Alex Sanchez, president of Voces Unidas, told Aspen Public Radio: "We already have lots of scandals with Mind Springs and lots of hesitation from members of our community in going to Mind

Springs. The general public, not just those that are being detained by ICE, would be more fearful that their information, their data would then be shared with a federal agency that would be hostile to our community."

Larkin Health Systems Mind-springs' managing company, has long worked with ICE especially in south Florida, providing mental health services to detainees at the South Florida Reception Center (prison). Between 2002 and 2017, Larkin brought in \$47 million worth of federal contracts to provide mental healthcare to ICE and the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

DEMO from Page Seven

that corner in spirit, despite being less than 10 of us there total we had support, we weren't alone in our thinking and our presence allowed others to express it. A few yelled of course. Less than kind words laced with vitriol through smug faces or those of condemnation. Maybe those people can't be reached, but maybe they can. Time will tell and exposure to other sides other than their own might weaken those walls of ignorance. Perhaps

what I did that day put a critical crack in notions built on misinformation? Not likely I'll know that answer either. But those two hours gave some validation for their views, sowed seeds in many, and pushed back against ignorance in others and it cost me nothing.

Not to say it was easy. January 18th was bitter cold, and I was not prepared for it, dressing like I was going out to the store up the street rather than the long hours I planned for. The weather turned even more sour and even began to snow some. Frankly, as someone originally from Baton Rouge and still used to bayou heat, I was miserable. At least as far as my physical comfort. Shout out to the guy who

brought myself and the other two remaining demonstrators coffee unsolicited as an act of solidarity and the organizer, for the many cups of warm tea I drank. I never drank so much tea in my life.

Yet, in those two hours, I met others who had views like my own. Not all one to one of course, but that was the beauty of it too. I was exposed to people, both

"YET, IN THOSE TWO HOURS, I MET OTHERS WHO HAD VIEWS LIKE MY OWN. NOT ALL ONE TO ONE OF COURSE, BUT THAT WAS THE BEAUTY OF IT TOO."

younger and older than me, that understood to be kind hearted and their worlds that had

things to consider that I would never have known if I stayed stuck in my own orbit.

Maybe it was just two hours of self torture in the bitter cold, an odd use for my time when I lead such a busy life with so little downtime. Or perhaps it was a duet of hours that may have changed my life and spread to many others in a positive way, maybe it was the beginning of solving the problem by getting those in my home to stand with me if not physically, then in spirit. I prefer to think it was the latter of those.

All I had to do was show up. The same is true for anyone else. Whether it's Palestine, a strike, a charity drive, or whatever cause that needs people to stand for it. Show up.

people support modern Israel because of this misconception, and I don't think it's reaching to suggest that those who formed the current state of Israel may have done so to encourage the manifestation of a certain interpretation of the Bible—specifically the book of Revelation. In my opinion, this generates an overwhelming and unbridled support from the Christian right for any of Israel's actions in the world. If Israel is chosen by God, then everyone else is fucked. At least, that's how it always goes in the Bible. How much sense does it really make to base foreign policy on an ancient Mesopotamian mythology whose authenticity we can never know for sure? Some will argue for the historical reliability of the Bible, but these arguments most often come from people with a vested interest in it being true: people who have for generations structured their whole lives according to Pascal's pathetic wager. I would prefer to be governed by people who respect our current and verifiable model of understanding of the world, not by superstitious fear-mongers who want to burden humanity with a cosmic guilt-trip.

The third position definitely flows from the second—that is, Christianity's obsession with the End Times. There are too many end times conspiracy theories to count, but they mostly have one thing in common: God's going to save Christians, take them to somewhere else, and everyone else will burn for all eternity. I feel like that's a little harsh, but the god of the Bible is pretty brutal. Regardless, the point is that...well, what's the point if we're going somewhere else and this world can just burn? Why make this life better if the afterlife is the one we really want? If all that is true, then I agree that there is no point. However, I really don't think there's any good reason to believe the Bible is true, or that Christian nationalists can be trusted. Personally, I plan to make this one life on this one Earth as good as I can possibly make it. And call me crazy, but I don't think it's good for our lawmakers, city council members, and school board members to be a bunch of religious extremists who think the world is going to end soon. People like that aren't working for a better today; they're obsessed with some heavenly tomorrow.

One of my hobbies is arguing with Christians on Facebook, but I don't just barge in guns 'a blazing in the comments. I like to find someone who wants to have a serious conversation, I message them privately, and I've been pleasantly surprised by the level of civility I've received. However, I can't help but remark on how confident people can be in their position and also be completely incapable of telling me how they know it to be rational. They just believe it because it feels like it's true, or they receive direct revelation from God. They believe in this other kind of knowing things, mostly things we have zero evidence for. So I ask them simple and pointed questions and usually we can come to some common ground, though I've never had anyone up and change their position—not even once. But I have helped people find holes in their arguments, see their own intellectual blindspots, and I've found some of my own. I support having conversations with people we disagree with, as long as all parties involved are being respectful. After all, how will we learn if we allow ourselves to be stuck in an echo chamber? Religious extremism is dangerous; there's no two ways around that. As Americans, we likely automatically think of Islam when we hear that term, but religious extremism in America wears a Jesus costume. A large portion of the U.S. population believe we are a Christian nation—which is patently false. Many of these Christians give their unbridled support to Israel, human rights be damned. And swaths of them are supporting terrible policies out of a genuine belief that the world is about to end—who cares, if they'll all be raptured anyway? I'm no longer a Methodist. I don't subscribe to any particular religion. I would consider myself an atheist now, but for a long time, I thought I would become a pastor. I've studied the Bible pretty extensively, and that's why I don't believe anymore. But I think it's great that people get to decide for themselves what they believe and what their values will be in respect to how they live. That's the kind of freedom that we're supposed to have in the United States. That's why I also support complete separation of religion and government—no exceptions—because that's the only way to protect religious freedom.

New Queer Space to Open in New Castle

By Emma Goldman

On March 8, the Cook Inclusive will be cutting the ribbon on their new Queer Resource Space (QRS) in New Castle, Colorado. The QRS will serve to uplift and support the LGBTQIA+ community in Garfield County.

“This space represents the heart of our mission: to create a community by and for LGBTQIA+ individuals where everyone feels safe, valued, and supported,” said Ashley Stahl, Executive Director of Cook Inclusive. “We’re excited to invite the community to join us as we celebrate this milestone.”

“We’ve had some unofficial events such as queers and coffee, an intergenerational open-house and a family dinner,” said Stahl. The QRS plans on hosting weekly events and more as the space becomes a central hub supporting and advocating with the LGBTQIA+ community in Garfield County.

Cook Inclusive already engages in advocacy up and down the Roaring Fork Valley supporting Gay Straight Alliances in the schools, and “we are working on engaging with the RE-2 School Board...around this [recent] name and pronoun change policy.”

With a focus on accessibility and inclusivity, the QRS will offer a diverse range of resources, programs, and events, making it a vital hub for community empowerment. Highlights include a Rainbow Library, Youth Drop-in spaces and inter-

generational community events, support groups and advocacy programs, and personal empowerment via gender-affirming resources.



Thanks to a generous grant from Colorado Health Foundation, the space will be a beacon of inclusion, advocacy and connection for queer individuals and allies from New Castle to Parachute and beyond.

Support Cook Inclusive this March 8 at 12pm, (location to be released closer to the ribbon cutting) New Castle, Colorado.

Christian Nationalism's Conjectured Beliefs

By Joseph D. Clark

Line up and knock them down. The neo-liberal I was thrust into this world against my will in the year of our lord, circa 1987, and it happens to be that I was raised as a Methodist. The United Methodist Church was founded by a guy named John Wesley, an Anglican Preacher whose motto was,

considers the convergence of white Evangelicalism and the Republican party. Republicans have been cozying up to Christian extremists since the late 1970s, before the Reagan presidency. But Christian extremists have been cozying up to government for centuries, and continue to cozy up, they shall. The combination of the rise



“Do no harm, do all the good you can, and stay in love with God.” By and large, in the United States the UMC is a pretty forward-thinking organization, and our little Jesus bubble in western Colorado was the Christian Kumbaya cocoon for our small, rural community. Sometimes I quite miss that carefree naivety of my childhood.

It is because of my somewhat sheltered religious upbringing that the rise of Cristian nationalism in the United States caught me a bit off guard. I suppose that’s how it goes for a straight, white, cis dude in America; oppression feels less intense for those of us with privilege. Being caught off guard notwithstanding, the rise of Christian nationalism isn’t shocking if one

of Christian nationalism and the ambiguity of neo-conservative Evangelical doctrine is making for some insidious theology. In fact, orthodoxy in American Christianity seems to be waning and making way for a fear-mongering war cry, aiming to snuff out anything that fails to champion white Republican Jesus. What I’m saying is that Christians are just making shit up about their religion that suits their personal and political agendas. There are three particularly unfounded positions that American Christians are taking that I’d like to discuss in this piece.

The first position is that the U.S. is a Christian nation, and while the majori-

CHRISTIAN From Page Six

ty of Americans identify with some form of Christianity, this simply isn’t true. The United States was founded as a secular nation—our constitution guarantees that. The first amendment of the U.S. constitution reads: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.” The italicized, underlined section of the text is

and subjugated the indigenous populations that were already here, but the United States constitution was designed to prevent any religious group from controlling the government—as I previously illustrated. Organizations like the Moral Majority and Counsel for National Policy have aimed to destroy that protection in more recent history, and religious leaders across the United States today are committed to promoting Christian nationalism at the expense of democracy. Furthermore, many of these religious leaders explicitly purport the falsehood that the U.S. was founded as a Christian nation—and their followers real-



KKK, the original Christian Nationalists burn a cross above the town of Durango April 22, 1925.

described as the “Establishment Clause,” and supports the point I’m attempting to make when understood properly. The Establishment Clause is a limitation placed upon the United States Congress preventing it from passing legislation establishing an official religion, and by interpretation making it illegal for the government to promote theocracy or promote a specific religion with taxes. In my view, there’s no honest way to read the first amendment without it condemning Christian nationalism and debunking the idea that America was founded as a Christian nation.

I’ll be the first to admit that it was Christians who conquered North America

ly believe them. In fact, it’s impossible to convince many of them otherwise, even when presented with sufficient evidence. They know that they know that they know, and they’ll tell you so with unbridled confidence, Dunning-Kruger effect be god-damned.

The second position is regarding the nation of Israel, and at the risk of being labeled antisemitic, I’d like to express my humble opinion about the issue as clearly and concisely as I can. The nation of Israel today is not the same as Israel in the Bible, although many people would like to think they are exactly the same. I believe many

BREIFS from Page Four

a Native American man was accosted and harassed while riding his bike. Back in August, we reported about the Montrose Pride being attacked during the fourth of July. Local law enforcement does not seem to be interested in enforcing the law and keeping people safe.

Deepseek Pops Tech Bros' AI Bubble

Chinese startup Deepseek has cost the US AI industry a trillion dollars and made irrelevant billions in R and D. Deepseek is out performing ChatGPT and other mainstays of this much-hyped AI tech boom.

'Move Fast and Break Things'

The flurry of executive orders, trade war threats, spending freezes, and DOGE takeovers are absolutely designed to spread fear and confusion and shock. In her book, *The Shock Doctrine*, Naomi Klein examines the neo-liberal method of using disaster capitalism or a shock to enable capitalists and governments to make sweeping unpopular decisions while a populace is confused and disorientated. Don't become disorientated, don't get stuck in worry and fear—instead, resist. Trump

has bluffed and folded a lot in these first two weeks, and it's a testament to the resistance that is growing.

Durango Food Not Bombs Assaulted

On January 26, Food Not Bombs! Mutual Aid Distro/People's Potluck Lunch (MAD PPL) were hosting their weekly meal and mutual aid distro and occasionally protest march, when an unidentified man started chanting "Trump, Trump, Trump." An organizer then asked the man to leave and got instead a face full of bear-spray. Luckily, Medical Mutual Aid Durango was hosting their weekly free harm reduction distribution and free medical services, and were able to treat the victim.

Ceasefire in Gaza is Holding, Israel Attacks West Bank

As hostages continue to be exchanged, Israel has launched deadly new incursions into the occupied West Bank, with the city of Jenin seeing widespread violence and the destruction of Palestinian homes. Israel is still occupying land in Syria and Lebanon, all while Trump gives Israel the green light to remove all Gazans from the Gaza Strip.

City Hall Tagged: Fuck Ice

In a sign of growing resistance, Grand Junction city hall was tagged with anti-ICE and pro-working class messaging.

In a world in which money is speech sometimes extraordinary means are needed to balance the scale.

"The riot is the voice of the unheard," said Martin Luther King, so to is street art.

Anti-ICE graffiti has popped up all over the valley, using a variety of mediums, speaking to widespread willingness to resist.

Additionally, anti-CEO and Eat the Rich messaging has also been seen around the city in recent weeks.

City work crews were busy removing the messaging Wednesday February 5.

Trump's mass-deportation program has met with widespread resistance, protest, and know your rights education.

Keep your eyes open, report suspected ICE activity in Colorado to the Colorado Rapid Response Network at 1844-864-8341.



Courtesy of Honest Lens Photography.

Showing Up: My First Demonstration

By Dylan Blount

When Hamas launched an attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, I was rather ignorant of the situation in Palestine. I grew up in the 90s and heard some news about the conflict, but it didn't really click. To be fair, to a middle schooler, getting home and playing Dreamcast, hanging out with friends, and finding ways to slide by in school seemed to be the greatest issues of the time. Nothing in secondary school really educated me on the matter or others like it and it wasn't until college that I was able to open my eyes on the plight of marginalized groups around the world or who share this nation with me with the many festering warts on its history.

As I got older, I got exposed to ideas that made me think, in real history and news as well as through fiction, and I began to understand.

A coworker whom I respect greatly had a lot to say on the matter denouncing the actions of Hamas and in general boosting Israel. Meanwhile, through social media and glimpses of demonstrations here and there locally or elsewhere, I saw a different

side of things. I was torn and confused, but I dove into the books, something I'd recommend for anyone for any subject or group you don't understand. This literary plunge was spurred on by the actions of demonstrators, by the mere acts of seeing them out there having something to communicate.

I came to realize just how little I knew and saw that those people were out there for a good reason. The situation in Palestine frustrated me. But what could I do? Out here in Grand Junction, a town more synonymous with a less than diverse set of thinking. I saw those North Avenue demonstrations, but I was so busy.

Aren't we all?

I resolved to do something. To show up. I didn't know anyone, I still don't know if I know enough to speak at length on the subject, but I approached those demonstrating and found out when next they would be out. I made a plan to try.

Even on the day of, I was terribly busy. The house needed to be cleaned, I

needed to pick up medicine for my cat from the vet, there were many items piling up in my own corner of the world and it was gloomy that day to boot. Try as I might, I still had to arrive late to the demonstration, coming in about 10:15 or so when it was said to be kicking off at 10:00. Did I really care if I couldn't arrive on time? Some activist, I berated myself. Besides, I'm 36 years old. That sort of thing is more for the college kids, right?

I pushed past the grocery list of excuses my mind put up and got to that corner of North and 12th with a hoodie, gloves, and hat, meeting up with the organizer of the event with my rather hastily put together cardboard Palestine flag made from my wife's hands (thanks, hun. You're

the best). I introduced myself, and held the image of a cause I believed in with conviction, a cause half a world away, to the countless passing cars in that busy intersection.

It was an incredible experience, even here in the sleepy Grand Valley.

Many people gave questioning looks my way through the glass. Maybe my actions will plant a seed like the one planted in me? I'll likely never know. Quite a few people smiled, waved, gave a thumbs up, or other encouraging gestures as they drove past. They stood with us on



DEMO on Page Thirteen

Some Scenes from the Growing Resistance in Western Colorado



Jan. 6, Mesa County DSA on scene as GJPD evicts a homeless encampment at 1st and Ute. Honest Lens Photography.



David Combs speaks to 100 at the annual MLK day celebration and march. Honest Lens Photography.



Pro-Immigrant, anti-ICE rally Feb. 8, saw hundreds participate for some part of the five hour long, spirited rally. The hanks of support were deafening at times. Honest Lens Photography.



125 people gather for the Jan. 19 People's March in Grand Junction. Honest Lens Photography.



Large rally against ICE and in support of our immigrant and latino communities. 12th and North Ave. Grand Junction. Feb 1. Photo by Sasha.



People's March GJ, Jan. 19. Honest Lens Photography.



4 Corners 4 Palestine at the People's March Durango. Jan. 19. Courtesy of 4cp.



About 60 people rallied at the Federal Building in Grand Junction, in conjunction with 50501 protests which took place in all 50 states on Feb. 5. Honest Lens Photography.