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"No one man can terrorize a whole nation unless we are all his accomplices." Edward R. Murrow

October 2025

#22

THE REVOLUTIONIST.

"Revolution is simply the culminating point of Evolution"

Let Zafira Dance: Q and A with Pavia Justinian

The Revolutionist: What's your process as an artist, how do you bring your ideas to reality?

Pavia Justinian: I really enjoy looking through found steel and other materials and seeing how I can combine them to

create something new. It's a little bit like looking at clouds and finding shapes in them. Sometimes I come up with ideas just by looking at different pieces of old metal and seeing how they speak to me. Other times, like with Zafira, I have a vision in mind first and choose materials to support that vision. Some of my artworks are made mainly of steel, while others like Zafira are made mainly with cement and/or epoxy over a steel framework. Still others are made with a combination of these and other materials. First, I weld a framework for each sculpture to create a strong structure. Parts of this structure may be decorated

with metal like chrome, colorful fenders, or something with an interesting shape that I want to show in the finished piece. Other parts are more simply structural, and those parts I sculpt over with concrete or epoxy and paint with a colorful palette. As both a sculptor and painter, I

really enjoy adding color to my sculptures.

TR: What other works of yours are around the valley?

PJ: I sculpted a small herd of big-horn sheep in the Redlands roundabout on Highway 340, several artworks for Mesa County Libraries including the east-facing mural at the Central Library, the dog and book-worm benches in the Discovery Garden, a collection of small steel wildlife sculptures and two paintings

in the Clifton Branch. I have painted many other murals, including three collaborations with District 51 students - one at New Emerson School, one at



Artist Pavia strikes a pose with her piece "Zafira." Before it was relocated after controversy.

ZAFIRA on Page TWO

Selective Outrage: An Open Letter to CMU President John Marshall

By Shayla Trowbridge

On Friday, September 12th, CMU President John Marshall sent a campus-wide email regarding the assassination of Charlie Kirk in Utah just two days prior. In that email, he stated that he does not “often weigh in on national or world events.” This is true. I have been a student at CMU for four years. In that time, John Marshall has addressed students as a whole regarding national politics exactly twice. The first time was to condemn the Hamas attack in Israel on October 7th, 2023. The second was on Friday. In my time at CMU, I have grown as a person and an intellectual. I can say confidently that John Marshall’s



‘Human Scale’ University has nothing to do with that growth. This letter is intended for John Marshall, but I encourage everyone reading to consider carefully how his words represent CMU to the world.

John, shortly after your email regarding the Oct. 7th attacks, I spoke with you in your office hours. I came to you as a Jewish student on CMU’s campus who has previously resided in Israel, and as a student of Political Science. Primarily however, I came to speak with you as a human about how the words in your email were perceived by your students. At that time, the events in Gaza were just beginning to unfold, and I was watching in terror as the death toll for both Palestinians and Israelis kept climbing. I spoke with you for nearly an hour that day. When I spoke to you about the

fear and anxiety that was being felt across campus by Middle Eastern students for fear of unjustified retaliation, you told me that your actions were meant to protect Jewish students like me. I explained to you that I did not need your protection, and that other students were in a more vulnerable position. I pleaded with you about sending out a revision, acknowledging the death toll on both sides, and indicating a genuine concern for the tragedy of human lives being lost at alarming rates.

John, what I have learned about you in my time at CMU is that you say that you hesitate to speak on world events to the student body, but one thing you will never

do is admit to a mistake. Being able to acknowledge when you have handled something poorly and taking accountability is a valuable quality for a leader that claims to hold your values. What purpose is discourse if not to create growth, to allow for mistakes and the ability to learn from them? I spoke with you for a long time about Palestine just days after the Hamas attack – when we did not have all the information. I was horrified when my plea to you was met with an offer to allow me to conduct an event on Israel as a counter to a student conducting an event on Palestine, a ploy for sensationalism in the name of ‘discourse.’ What was even more horrific for me was watching the Israeli death count slowly crawl to a stop, while for Palestinians, the number began to multi-

Events & Orgs: Praxis in Action

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.
falconerworkerssociety@gmail.com

Grand Junction IWW is Organizing
Join the one big union! At <https://redcard.iww.org/>
Then contact local organizers at
grandjunction.iww@gmail.com

Ballots are in the Mail,
School Boards hang in the balance. Please get your ballot in **the mail by October 28**, after that please hand deliver your ballot to the numerous ballot boxes around the county by **7pm November 4**.

Be the Media!
Help Edit, Write, Distro
The Revolutionist
therevolutionistgj@gmail.com

No Kings 2.0 Mass Mobilization
October 18
GJ: 12-2pm 100 S. Spruce
GWS: 10am-12pm, Bethel Plaza
Paonia: 12pm-2, Paonia Park
Montrose: 3:30 to 6pm, Centennial Plz.
Telluride: 11am-12pm, County Courthouse
Moab: 9am-12pm, Swanny City Park
Gunnison: 2pm-5, North Main & West Ruby
Eagle County (Edwards): 10am-12pm Freedom Lake Park

Pro-Palestine Rally
Join Humanity and Justice Advocates of Grand Junction, for their bi-monthly rally against genocide in Palestine.
12th and North
9:30 to 10:30am Oct. 18 and Nov. 1.

Mutual Aid Partners’ Distro Day!
Every Tuesday!
10:30am to 1pm
402 Grand Ave. Grand Junction.

Join your local Democratic Socialists of America (DSA)

Contact your local chapter:
Mesa County: info@mesadsa.org
GarCo: CAD.Garfield.county.DSA@proton.me
YDSA @ CMU: cmuydsa@protonmail.com

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Subscribers help support ongoing independent journalism, opinion, and art. Subscribing is solidarity and solidarity is how we are going to change this world. Follow the QR code or mail checks or cash to The Revolutionist, **P.O. Box 163 Fruita, CO 81521**. You can also subscribe at our website www.therevolutionistgj.org. 12 Issues plus comrades that support at the ‘revolutionary level and higher will receive a free gift!

Peasant/Students \$20 Proletariat \$25 Revolutionary \$50

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

Name: _____

Addy: _____

Email: _____



Women Demand the Streets



Cyanotype of picture in a Belgian shop window. The women's banner reads, "Women Demand the Streets." by Ky

BRIEFS From Page THIRTEEN

The Revolving Door Project released a report in August titled *Debunking the Abundance Agenda*. In September, they followed up with *The Abundance Ecosystem: Understanding the Figures and Groups Behind the Abundance Agenda*, which exposed the conservative billionaires pumping money into this astroturf movement.

New Polls Show Capitalism Losing Ground to Socialism

A recent Gallup poll found that just 54% of Americans have a favorable opinion of capitalism—42% of Democrats, 51% of Independents, and 74% of Republicans. Meanwhile, 39% of respondents viewed socialism favorably, including a super majority—66% of Democrats.

Trooper Arrested for Exploitation of a Child

The Colorado State Patrol has faced serious issues with troopers being arrested in recent months. Most recently, Trooper Luke Zellman was arrested for sexual exploitation of a minor in Colorado Springs in early September. Another trooper was charged with domestic violence in August.

War Against the Cartels and War Crimes in the Caribbean

The regime continues to build up military forces in the Caribbean and has attacked at least four vessels on the high seas, in violation of international law. At the end of September, Trump issued a confidential memo to Congress declaring that the United States is at war with drug cartels. He designated smugglers as "unlawful combatants" and cartels as "non-state armed groups." We'd suggest he read *The Fort Bragg Cartel* by Seth Harp—because the enemy might be calling from inside the house.

Homeward Bound Closed

Grand Junction's only homeless shelter is facing a budget crisis, of epic proportions. Homeward Bound moving forward will be closed Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

CBI Agent Resigns

Colorado Bureau of Investigations agent Joe Somosky was forced to resign after being charged with Bigamy in July.

SEND NEWS TIPS, LEAKED DOCUMENTS, WEIRD UNDER-REPORTED STORIES, and LETTERS TO:

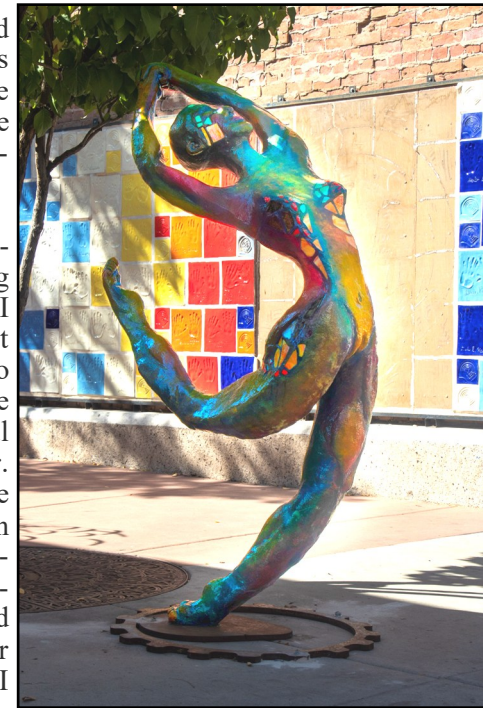
Therevolutionistgj@proton.me

ZAFIRA from Page ONE

Rimrock Elementary, and one with Fruita Middle School students for the Wellspring Project. Those are just some of my permanent installations in the Grand Valley, and I've also had many temporary installations in rotating sculpture exhibits like Art on the Corner and Palisade Art Vision.

TR: What inspired Zafira? Where does the name come from? Where else has she been displayed?

PJ: Zafira is an Arabic name meaning "successful", but I didn't know that when I chose it. To me, Zafira's name evokes her graceful strength as a dancer. I really admire the art of dance, both because it is a beautiful form of creative expression and because it's never been something I had any skill at myself. I think Zafira is a very joyful and uplifting piece, both because of her colorful palette and her dancing pose, which is based on the golden mean. It's a shape that appears throughout nature, from our vast Milky Way galaxy to the shells of tiny sea creatures, and artists have been using it for centuries. We often see it represented horizontally, but when I flipped it on its side I kept seeing this dancing figure in it, and I really wanted to sculpt her. I think this pose makes her seem almost weightless, like she's already leapt off her



Zafira on Main Street in Grand Junction, with zero controversy.

base, joyfully embracing the unknown. Zafira has been on display in Grand Junction, Longmont, Aurora, and Westminster, and she won awards in all of those locations, so perhaps she is living up to her name's traditional meaning despite my ignorance when choosing it.

TR: What were the terms of the commission? Were there any guidelines?

PJ: A commission is when someone asks an artist to create a new artwork specifically for a certain site or context. Instead, HeART of Fruita is one of many rotating sculpture exhibits where artists are asked to submit work they have already created to loan to a city for a period of time, typically one year. The only guidelines listed for the work were that it should be constructed of durable materials suitable for outdoor display, and

that it should not have sharp protrusions that could endanger the public.

TR: Wasn't the board that approved it the same board that later censored it?

PJ: Yes. I am told that the Fruita Arts and Culture Board initially voted for Zafira as the top choice for the show, but they later unanimously voted to remove her from the exhibit in the face of public pressure from a vocal faction

American Fascism and its Allure

By Albert C. USA

Fascism is a political system of fear and the failure of democracy. Fascism uses ultranationalism, the cult of the authoritarian leader, the glorification of violence, and hatred of liberty. So why are large segments of a democratic population drawn to an anti-democratic ideology? By examining the psychological and social appeal of fascism and analyzing the core beliefs of the Make America Great Again (MAGA) movement against fascist characteristics, it is an awful truth that our MAGA movement is American fascism.

Why We Are Drawn to the Authoritarian State: Our attraction to fascism is about finding certainty and belonging. The sociologist Erich Fromm, writing after World War II, described this as an "escape from freedom." When we feel powerless, isolated, and anxious due to rapid economic upheaval, cultural shifts, or technological disruption, fascism offers us relief by substituting personal freedom with collective obedience. This psychological dynamic gives us three core promises:

Certainty and Simplicity: Fascism replaces complicated political and economic debates with simple narratives. Societal problems are attributed to an internal enemy (the "traitorous elite") or an external enemy (immigrants, globalists). This scapegoating gives us immediate psychological relief and gives us a target for our resentment.

Victimhood and Revenge: Fascism frames the majority group as the true victims of national decline. The leader promises to restore a mythic, idealized past—a promise that validates anger and status. We transfer our personal failures onto the political system and our designated enemy. We find solace and self-worth in a nationalist identity.

Action and Violence: Fascism glorifies visceral action over rational discussion. It appeals to our contempt for intellectualism, experts, and the complexities of democratic processes. The paramilitary aesthetic and rhetoric of violence mobilizes supporters, giving us a masculine efficacy and belonging to a cause larger than ourselves.

Fascism offers us psychological regression. Fascism exchanges the anxiety of our individual responsibility for a dominant, victimized collective led by a paternal, omnipo-

tent leader.

MAGA Is American Fascism! It has the structural and rhetorical characteristics of fascism.

The Cult of Personality and the Leader: Central to fascism is the absolute, unquestionable authority of the leader. The MAGA movement is devoted to one person, Donald Trump. Loyalty to him is higher than loyalty to the U.S. Constitution, the party platform, or historical conservative principles. Any dissent or failure is a betrayal by the "Deep State" or "Fake News" media, reinforcing a profound anti-intellectualism and rejection of objective truth.

Aggressive Nationalism and Nostalgia: The slogan "Make America Great Again" is fascist nostalgia—the promise to restore a mythical golden age that was stolen by internal enemies, such as immigrants, leftists, and the LGBTQ+ Community. The language of national decline and victimhood is aggressive and demands that Our Nation project strength and reject global cooperation.

The Threat of Political Violence: The MAGA movement relies on the threat and use of violence, seen in events like the January 6th attack on the Capitol. This violence is excused or glorified by Trump as a patriotic duty necessary to fight existential enemies (the Deep State, socialists, immigrants). The use of terms like "traitors," "vermin," and "enemies of the people" dehumanizes political opponents and creates a moral license for violence.

Disdain for Democracy:

MAGA views democracy as weak and inefficient. The MAGA movement delegitimizes institutions: the electoral process (the "stolen election" narrative), the justice system ("weaponization of government"), and the legislative branch. The goal is to replace the rule of law with the leader's personal will and the direct action of his loyal followers.

Conclusion: Fascism is a political system of resentment that transforms our personal anxiety into political aggression. Fascism appeals to us by offering certainty, belonging, and a target for blame. MAGA uses structural and rhetorical elements of historical fascism—a cult of the leader, aggressive nationalism, the mobilization of popular resentment, and a profound contempt for democracy—to exert authoritarian power. ★



OCTOBER NEWS BRIEFS

The War on America Begins

After the September 10 assassination of racist debate bro Charlie Kirk, the regime has gone on the offensive. An executive order declared Antifa (short for anti-fascist) a domestic terrorist organization. Trans folx have also been targeted. The regime then issued National Security Presidential Memo-7, which declares that "anti-capitalist, anti-Christian, and anti-American views and speech" are "indicators of terrorism."

Trump and Hegseth then gathered the generals from all branches of the U.S. military to ready them to use American cities as live-fire training grounds in the fight against the "enemy within." The regime has now deployed soldiers to Portland, Chicago, and Memphis in addition to the nation's capital. Make no mistake: we are all targets of this war.

ICE Raid Shuttters Frisco Restaurant

In a September 16 raid, Homeland Security Investigations and ICE kidnapped two workers and seized computers from the popular Mexican restaurant Hacienda Real. According to Alex Sanchez with Voces Unidas, six more people were abducted on September 25, and an additional two workers were kidnapped on September 26. Locals have taken to the streets to protest these violations of their community.

Luis Rivas Deported

It is with great sadness that we report that Luis Armando Rivas has been deported to Mexico. We previously reported on Rivas' seemingly illegal arrest on June 3 in Glenwood Springs. He will be missed by his community in the Roaring Fork Valley. We remain, essentially, the only news outlet covering this important case and the questionable method by which he was arrested.

Rev is Missing Aiden McVay

Aiden McVay has been in our thoughts a lot lately at the Rev. McVay was a regular contributor to The Revolutionist. They covered the LGBTQ+ community with love, compassion, and a fierceness that was evident to their readers. Aiden passed away in October 2024, and our hearts are still heavy with loss.

Over 1,000 People Disappeared from Alligator Alcatraz

After a judge ordered the infamous Alligator Alcatraz detention facility

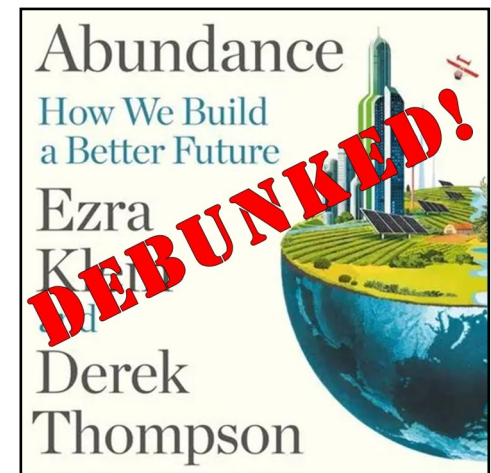
to be shut down, nearly two-thirds of the people detained there have disappeared. Families and attorneys are frantically trying to locate their missing loved ones and clients. The Miami Herald is reporting that 800 people have disappeared from ICE databases, and another 450 have no location listed. Some might still be in Alligator Alcatraz, others might have been deported, and others might be elsewhere in the labyrinthine ICE detention system. Weeks have now passed, and most of these people are still missing. It is hard not to fear the worst.

157 Nations Now Recognize Palestinian State

France, Malta, Andorra, Belgium, Monaco, Luxembourg, and Andorra formally recognized the Palestinian state. They were followed by Canada, Australia, Portugal, and the United Kingdom. Now, 81% of countries on the planet recognize the Palestinian state.

Abundance Debunked

Ezra Klein penned a ridiculous essay after the Charlie Kirk assassination that should make clear to any thinking person where his loyalties lie—at least when push comes to shove. Klein is well known for his recent book *Abundance*, which has gained traction with the right wing of the Democratic Party. It has long needed debunking, as it is capitalist, right-wing propaganda parading as progressivism. Now, it has been debunked.



since pivoted and has taken that viral infographic and has created a non-profit called Ad Fontes Media. She has proposed creating a certification program for independent journalists and commentators. On its face, it doesn't sound like a bad idea.

Did the panel go into what that would look like? No.

It would have been interesting to explore problems with a mandatory certification, and if it was envisioned as a voluntary certification, how would it be different from a pay-for-credibility scheme like Twitter's blue checkmark?

The Media Bias Chart, despite its good intentions, is in itself a retreat from reality, serving to enforce the myth that corporate media is balanced, accurate, and objective. It plays into the trope of a 'liberal media' and a 'conservative media,' when in reality we have a centrist corporate right-wing media and a far-right partisan press, and virtually no leftist media with a national reach.

Additionally, without disclosing who's funding Ad Fontes Media, or the source code of their AI analysis tool, how can we assess their biases?

Just like how the bias in the media is often found in what is not being said and what is not being published, the bias at this panel was found in what wasn't said—what wasn't discussed.

The last question from the audience was about the media bias in the coverage of the genocide in Gaza. The woman (kicking myself for not getting her name) spoke with a foreign accent and was shouted down by Chaim Goldman, who proudly claimed his dual citizenship, and interrupted the woman before she could finish her question.

"I have a bias. I am Jewish. I am also a dual citizen of Israel. The information you are putting out is just not true. There is not a genocide. They are not starving them. It's all documentable," said Goldman with a raised voice.

"If Israel wanted to commit genocide, it could have done it a long time ago," he added, yelling over everyone.

Then without giving anyone else a chance to answer her question, the moderator ended the panel.

Real questions about the language being used while covering the genocide, questions about how anti-genocide voices are being suppressed, questions about independent reporters being barred entry into Gaza, and questions about the 245 Palestinian journalists who have been killed by Israeli forces since October 7, 2023, were not discussed.

The panel was unbalanced, and the moderation could have been better. The fact that I was the only person on the panel engaged in citizen journalism—journalism that has made change in our community—journalism that is holding those in power to account—journalism that gives voice to the voiceless, and journalism that is embedded in and accountable to our communities—and I was given the least amount of time to speak, speaks volumes.

The hour-long event was 37 minutes in before I even got a chance to speak. I should of interrupted and talked over people I guess.

Ultimately, it was an opportunity missed to discuss real issues of citizen journalism, and we hope that the Society of Professional Journalists organizes more of these panels with outlets that are doing citizen journalism well, with ethics and intention.

We would love to see a series of panels with more focused topics that highlights some of the truly excellent work being done by citizen journalists across Colorado.

A few days after the panel, Gallup released a poll that found just 28% of Americans trust our media system. So while I was the minority on the panel, I was voicing the majority opinion.

After the event the lady that asked the question about Gaza bought me a drink, and nearly all of the reporters under forty came up and chatted with me after the panel. I met numerous young people frustrated with our media system and ready to take action to cover their communities and tell important stories.

The panel has also gotten us, at the *Rev*, to think about ethics, and how our ethics differ from those of the legacy media. We are currently drafting a 'working document' outlining our journalistic ethos to codify and maintain our journalistic standards, keep our sources and contributors safe, while providing transparency to our readers on how and why we publish what we publish. ★

Against Trump's Reign of Terror

By CMU YDSA

With the escalation of state terror against migrant populations by the Trump Administration, the CMU chapter of the Young Democratic Socialists of America (CMU YDSA) re-affirms its commitment to racial justice, anti-fascism, and the right of all peoples to liberty and equality.

President Trump has transformed ICE into an unaccountable Gestapo-like agency. He has destroyed the last remaining vestiges of American democracy and centralized power within the executive branch. CMU YDSA condemns the undermining of the democratic institutions of the American Republic, and is fully committed to the struggle for liberation from the grasp of capitalism and fascism.

In line with National DSA's opposition to mass incarceration and police violence, CMU YDSA fights against all overreach and abuse of power by government at all levels, whether it be local, state or federal. We seek to oppose government tyranny by means of a mass movement that unites all layers of the working class and exploited and tyrannized peoples of America.

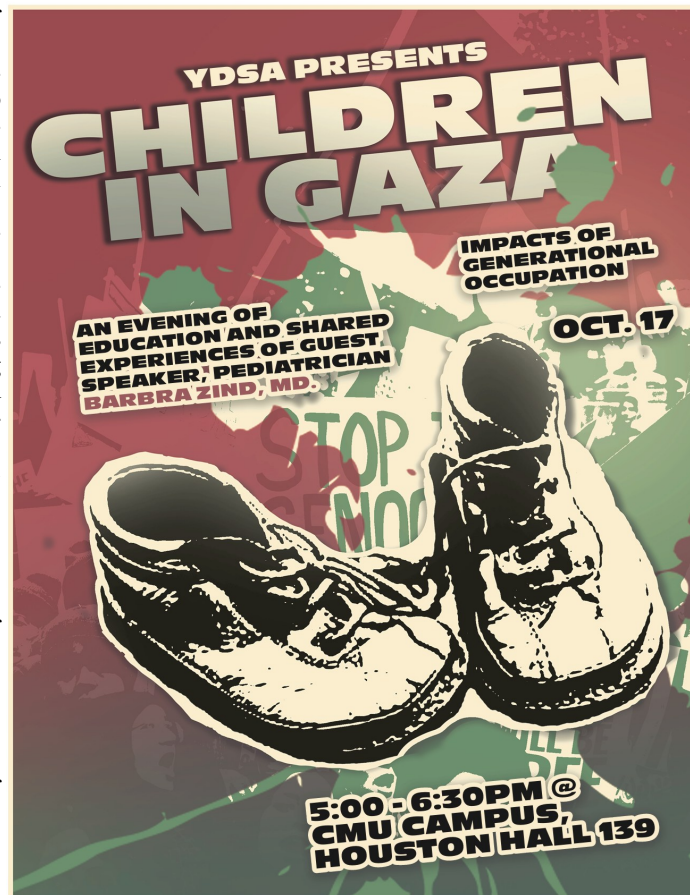
The fight against fascism does not and cannot end at the ballot box. It must begin in the streets, the fields, and the workplace, and it must end in the halls of power.

The power of the rich lies in their wealth. Our power lies in our numbers and our unity. The working people of America, when united, can never be defeated. The working people must unite and put a stop to the usurpation of power by wealthy oligarchs. In the words of socialist

revolutionary Leon Trotsky, "should fascism come to power, it will ride over your skulls and spines like a terrific tank. Your salvation lies in merciless struggle. Make haste, you have little time left!"

CMU YDSA is open to working with any and all student clubs and organizations who share our opposition to the Trump Administration and its reign of racist and anti-leftist terror. If you are a student who is interested in joining, or if you represent a student club that wants to collaborate with us, please reach us at cmuydsa@protonmail.com

In Solidarity, Nikoli Weir—YDSA President ★



Join YDSA and Dr. Barbara Zind for an educational event.
5pm October 17. Community members welcome.

ZAFIRA From Page THREE

of the community.

TR: Was there any discussions about potential backlash?

PJ: Most of that was not discussed with me personally. I heard through the grapevine that there were concerns about detractors boycotting downtown businesses and sponsors pulling their support from the HeART of Fruita program, but I never personally heard anyone threaten anything of the kind.

TR: Is Western Colorado just not ready for labia? Why do you think a taboo still exists about the female form?

PJ: I can't really speak for all of Western Colorado - I know that I have personally received many messages from people in our community expressing support for Zafira and disappointment at the City's decisions to censor and later remove her. I think many people wanted her to stay, but unfortunately, the people in charge disagreed. I have never really understood why such a taboo exists around the female body. I think sexism is too simple of an answer but is certainly a contributing factor. I wonder if deep down, some men are afraid of women's ability to create and sustain life, and seeing the female body in a non-sexual context brings that to mind.

TR: How would you explain the difference between art and pornography

to the critics of Zafira?
PJ: I think pornography typically depicts some kind of sexual act that goes beyond simple nudity. I'm sure there can be overlap between the two, and I don't really think any one person is qualified to say what is or isn't art, but Zafira exists to exude joy, and that is all I intended for her to do.

TR: What does the future hold for Zafira? What's in the future for you as an artist?

PJ: Zafira will be going on display at the Copper Club soon, and we're planning to have a party for her there on October 18th to celebrate art and community. I'm looking forward to getting back into the studio to create new artwork - cool weather is the perfect time to weld.

TR: How has this controversy impacted you personally?

PJ: I'm really not used to being in the spotlight and talking about my artwork this much. Usually I spend 90 to 95 percent of my time creating art, and only 5 to 10 percent doing artist talks, interviews, social media, and other marketing/admin. I prefer it that way. I'm a pretty hardcore introvert, and I would much rather be creating artwork while listening to a good audiobook than answering a lot of comments. I'm looking forward to getting back to a nice quiet life in the studio. ★

*Saturday October 18, 4-7pm
"Dance with Zafira" at her
new home, the Copper Club.
Artist talk, music, and
celebration.*

153 N. Mulberry St. Fruita

What is Citizen Journalism? Who Knows?

By Jacob Richards

At the end of September I was asked to be on a panel about the "Impacts of Citizen Journalism" hosted by the Colorado chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists at the esteemed and historic Denver Press Club.

There had been a last-minute cancellation. We weren't anyone's first choice, but we were going to prom! Finally! Being invited to speak at this panel representing The Revolutionist, a small monthly publication I co-founded in 2024, felt like making it. Like our efforts to speak truth to power were finally being recognized.

But as soon as the panel started, I could tell that we were not really going to get into anything resembling a clear-eyed discussion on citizen journalism.

Was there any discussion of citizen journalism that is being done well, and how is it different from troll accounts like DoBetterDNVR or Libs of TikTok, hiding behind the label "citizen journalism?" No.

Was there any discussion about the self-censorship citizen journalists have to go through to not be suppressed in the algorithms or demonetized by bots? No.

Was there any discussion about how legacy and traditional media are failing the public, creating the information vacuums that citizen journalism is rising up to fill? No.

Was there any discussion of National Security Presidential Memorandum-7, which makes expressing anti-capitalist, anti-Christian, and anti-America thought and speech "indicators of terrorism," and how to cover those voices moving for-

ward? No.

Was there any discussion about the photojournalist Alexa Wilkinson who was recently charged with a hate crime for documenting a protest and an act of vandalism against The New York Times for their coverage of the genocide in Gaza? No.

Was there any discussion about Rumeysa Ozturk being deported for co-authoring an op-ed in a student paper about Gaza? No.

Did we talk about Musk buying Twitter to bias it to the right or Larry Ellison's plan to buy TikTok to censor the one place people get real on-the-ground news about the genocide in Gaza? No.

Did we talk about how 90% of media outlets are owned by just six corporations? No.

Did we talk about media literacy? Not really.

Did we talk about how legacy media could broaden its reach by collaborating with inde-

pendent citizen journalists? No.

Instead, Chaim Goldman with Peak Radio, a Christian Conservative radio station owned by the very conservative Salem Media Group, and Vince Bzdek with The Denver Gazette, Colorado Springs Gazette, and ColoradoPols.com, all owned by right-wing oligarch Phil Anschutz, pontificated about objectivity and balanced reporting. Their main conclusions were that citizen journalism needs to be filtered through professional, objective editors like themselves to be considered journalism.

The other panelist was Vanessa Otero. Otero was a patent lawyer until an infographic she made went viral. She has



Colorado SPJ, promotional image.



ply. It has been two years, and you have never made another statement. This demonstrates to your student body that you value some lives over others, and that sticking to your initial reaction is more important to you than course-correcting.

Your email this week about Charlie Kirk has only served to further demonstrate your utter disregard for how all your students might be feeling. What happened to Charlie Kirk should not have happened to him, but the most important thing is that it should not have happened to anyone. Where was your horror regarding the lawmaker and her husband that were shot in a political assassination just months ago? Where is your horror about the school shootings that happen nearly daily in this nation, or even just the one that happened in our very state the very day that Charlie Kirk died? Where is your horror about the thousands of dying children in Gaza? Once again, your email is one of impulsivity, of a personal belief that simply overrode your 'value' of not telling students what to think. Your email places Charlie Kirk on a pedestal, and gives his life and memory more value than the other deaths that happen on our timelines every day. There is no denying that a father of two children should not have died, but Kirk being a father is not where the controversy is. The criticism that I,

along with my peers, have for him is that the rhetoric Kirk preached in public settings is the antithesis of what your email is calling for. Charlie Kirk made his reputation less from "courage, conviction, and facts," as you state, but rhetoric that dangerously conflated logical fallacies as being factual. This rhetoric was rarely to start healthy and civil conversations and more about him trying to get reactions out of as many people as possible.

If you truly stand for a university campus that values Love, Dignity, Respect, and Integrity, you should be able to accept when you have misstepped, you should have more appropriately addressed the situation in Gaza, and you should not have sent such a clearly biased email to your student body about Charlie Kirk. Rather, you state that you are seeking to promote civil discourse and open dialogue, while all the while side-stepping any real accountability or difficult conversation. You seek less to create a conversation and more so to create a space that is tolerant of hate speech and of the ideas that have led to the direct harm of thousands of people. This sentiment is something that I am not alone in, and the fact that you have downplayed me and voices like mine in nearly every civil discourse that your students have tried to have with you has demonstrated that you only care about this discourse when it is with people who look like you. ★



Photo Credit: Ky

Remembering Los Seis De Boulder

By James Blatter *Checkout James' history blog: Americashorrifyinghistory.blogspot.com*

May 27-29, 1974, Boulder, CO – Two distinct car bombings, two nights apart rocked Boulder, the Campus of the University of Colorado and the Colorado Chicano community. Controversial conclusions were made at the time and 51 years later not much has changed except the dates on the Calendar.

On May 27, 1974 at Chautauqua Park in west Boulder the first bomb went off killing Neva Romero, Reyes Martinez, and Una Jaakola. They were all either students or alumni of the University of Colorado and actively involved with the United Mexican American Student (UMAS) activist group. Martinez was a lawyer in Alamosa who was using his law degree to help the poor and marginalized in the San Luis Valley. Jaakola was Martinez's girlfriend and a student at CU even though she was not Hispanic she was committed to Civil Rights. Romero was Jaakola's best friend and roommate but also a committed activist.

On the 29th another car bomb exploded killing Heriberto Teran, his friend Francisco Dougherty, and Florencio Granado. Also injured in this explosion was Antonio Alcantar who was outside the car. He was injured badly and had to have a leg amputated at the thigh. Granado was a CU alumnus and a well-known activist and journalist. Teran was a student and an idealist in helping the oppressed. Dougherty was Teran's close friend visiting from Texas where he was an activist and a pre-med student.

These tragic explosions unfortunately didn't happen in any form of a vacuum; they were tied directly to the wider events of the time. It was a time of violence and tension in Colorado and America. A period of societal change and anxiety, four years into the 1970s the chaos and rapid change of the 1960s still seemed ongoing.

In Colorado the feeling of uncontrolla-

ble change was closer, nearer to home. Unlike the Civil Rights marches in the south or the urban rioting of the previous decade events were front page in Colorado.

Nationally there were still the anti-war protests, however labor unrest, rising violent crime and the Chicano Civil Rights Movement had begun filling the headlines. All of these crossed over with each other in Colorado as the United Farm Workers strike against lettuce producers carried through most of 1973, Migrant workers made up most lettuce pickers and the Chicano Rights Movement stood in solidarity with them.

Colorado was second only to California in the very public demands by Hispanic or Chicano citizens and labor to have their rights represented and to be allowed their seat at the table. Aside from the lettuce pickers there were boycotts against the Coors Brewery and a major teamsters & united grocers strike against the major supermarket chains vocally supported by Chicano Rights Movement. Also there had been protest marches at CSU and the University of Northern Colorado against racial profiling by Fort Collins and Greeley police.

The six killed on the two May nights were very active in the civil rights demands but at the University for the most part. The United Mexican American Student (UMAS) student group had been working to get more representation at the University. The primary objective for UMAS was to have the enrolled percentage of Chicano students be equal to the percentage of Chicano's in the state's population.

The group had also been fighting for equitable financial aid for minority students, against police brutality and to stop the military from actively recruiting among the minority groups on campus. In reaction to proposed cuts



Front page of the Chicano newspaper El Dario after the Los Seis de Boulder bombings.

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in the fall of 1973 UMAS students at CU and Colorado State University occupied their respective university regent's office and Governor John Vanderhoof's office on November 2nd.

Based on newspaper editorial pages the protesting and boycotting made the Anglo community uncomfortable and furious, for being made to question their own privilege and racial feelings it appeared. Letter writers seemed to be dismayed that Chicano students felt as they did and that they had the audacity to ask for more.

As this wave of protests moved through the state it was paralleled by several incidents of violence that included police shoot outs and bombings. There had been over 35 bombings that hadn't yet killed anyone but had caused hundreds of thousands in damage. The violence was highlighted by a March 1973 shootout between Denver police and the Chicano activist group Crusade of Justice that had led to an explosion that severely damaged an apartment building.

Unfortunately, the March 17, 1973, shootout was an event that formed a negative public image of Chicano activism. Police attempted to arrest 20-year-old Luis Martinez for disturbing the peace. Martinez had tried to escape police custody, and an officer gave chase. Overwhelming police support arrived shortly after and a shootout between alleged Crusade members and police occurred. Martinez was killed by the officer who pursued him. An explosion then ripped through the apartment showering the parking lot and bystanders in bricks. The police arrested 38 people; 12 officers and seven Crusade members were wounded in the melee.

This event was followed by a series of letter bombs in November, one of which was sent to the first policewoman on the scene in the March shootout, Carol Hogue. Police records note that they felt that the Hogue was targeted for her involvement in March. Another target was School board member William Crider. Franke Eugenio Martinez, no known relation to Luis, but

brother to Boulder bombing victim Reyes Martinez was charged with five felonies and became a fugitive until 1980 when he was arrested and found not guilty of the charges.

Finally, on May 13, 1974, Chicano students at CU took over the UMAS-EOP Administrative offices in Temporary Building One (TB-1) at CU. Dissatisfied by the way the Educational Opportunity Program was being administered Chicano students blockaded themselves in the offices. The students demanded that EOP director John Franco and assistant director Paul Acosta step down.

Accusations of misappropriation, failures to recruit, failures to document were made against the two men by the students as they went through the files for the 19 days (about 2 and a half weeks) they occupied the offices. There were negotiations with university officials and



Press conference from inside the TB-1

Occupation. Grand Junction Chicano leader

Roy Otero is standing in the background, Reyes

Martinez on the far left would be killed in the

ambiguous threats of police intervention, but no police activity ever occurred. This was probably because for all intents, the two bombings ended the occupation or cut off student enthusiasm for the effort. The occupation ended quietly on May 31, with an agreement for an official board of inquiry to investigate Franco and Acosta

The explosions in Boulder on May 27 and 29 that killed what became known as the "Los Seis de Boulder," (The Boulder Six) happened in an environment of public and authority mistrust in the Chicano movement and fear of explosive violence.

The newspapers and what news video of the era show a news media that was only too willing to join the events in Boulder to other events in the state without digging further. Reports in the Daily Camera in Boulder, the Denver Post and from the Associated Press all read almost as law enforcement press releases.

One of the initial investigators suggested that one of the females in the first car, either Una Jaakola or Neva Romero had dropped a bomb the three were building. This was run almost verbatim in the Daily Camera on May 28. Following the May 29th bombing the same accusations of bomb building were reported in the Denver Post and Rocky Mountain News, Den-

ver's two dailies, without any editorial note that this was not official.

All three of the local dailies and the AP stories reported that all those killed were student activist at CU. This wasn't true and should have at least been reported accurately. For example, Florencio Granado was a publisher in his own right having founded the El Escritor del Pueblo an English independent newspaper that reported primarily on the Hispanic/Chicano experience in Colorado.

The mainstream reporting devalued the victim's humanity, this shameful reporting continued into summer when the grand juries were impaneled to investigate charges about the bombings. Even though each story about the bombings mentioned them as CU students there were never any official obituaries in the Daily Camera or the official student newspaper at CU. What finally did get shared about the six was reported by the UMAS student newspaper El Diario de la Gente in June of 1974. El Dario did full write ups on each of the victims detailing their lives after conversations with family and friends and colleagues.

Reports of the investigation never mentioned any history of violence from the victims of the bombings, because there is none. They had no arrests for threatening violence; they had no record that law enforcement could use against them to build a scaffolding under the accusations about them blowing themselves up.

The district attorney spoke of possible charges against the one survivor Antonio Alcantar. While the investigation continued through June and into July DA Alex Hunter spoke to Alcantar, his lawyer, the police and associates and finally determined that Alcantar was only a hitchhiker picked up by the other men.

There had been 10 bombings earlier in the years among them bombings at the Boulder County Courthouse and a CU Police station. If the six were suspected in these bombings, of terrorism why weren't they under surveillance? If under surveillance, then why didn't someone stop them or stop someone from bombing them. What was law enforcement doing if they considered UMAS and their supporters dangerous. Taking on the broader perspective of Reyes Martinez and relationship to his fugitive brother or connections between Freddy Granado and Crusade for Justice, no surveillance seems at best counterintuitive given the FBI was involved in all these cases.

Disregarding the question of surveillance, then one must turn their attention to the other bombings. Flat Irons Elementary School was bombed in February with a small amount of

dynamite. This was very similar to the bombings at the CU Police Station and Boulder County Courthouse. A bomb was planted near an exterior door. Was the school a test run? In the redacted records it shows that chemical analysis wasn't done on the dynamite to track where it came from.

On March 8 of 1974 a White man, Richard Hoinville and his wife Julia were arrested and convicted of blowing up a Public Service electrical substation in Adams County. The Hoinvilles were under surveillance for several weeks but the reason was not explained in newspaper reports. Richard Hoinville said at the time of arrest that he was a member of a radical antigovernment group named the Continental Revolutionary Army. This group also claimed responsibility for bombings at a Denver federal building, a CIA agent's home and a Denver finance company. They claimed they left a bomb outside Denver's Channel 9, KBTB (now KUSA) which was blown up by the Denver bomb squad. While the connection between the Los Seis and the CRA bombings might be tenuous it is known that old, dangerous and decaying dynamite was used in both.

UMAS was not welcome at CU or in Boulder, just as the Crusade for Justice was not welcome in Denver. The University under the direction of the conservative board of regents had done several things such as canceling and cutting student aid in 1974, cutting scholarships and dorm availability. Many popular and relatable teachers were released or reassigned. Activists like Granado were banned from campus. Adding to the question of surveillance the nights of the two bombings is the fact there are detailed records by Boulder and CU police of all UMAS events from 1971-1974.

What happened leading to the two bombings that killed the Los Seis is likely never to be uncovered or revealed at this point 51 years later. The semiofficial narrative of two accidental detonations of homemade explosive devices is absurd, especially considering there was a large memorial on the day between attended by the three men killed in the 2nd explosion. While one accident is reasonable when all evidence is considered it seems unreasonable for there to have been two. Chicano activism was new and threatening to the majority Anglo population of the times and it seems more probable that like in the African American Civil Rights and the Black Revolutionary Movements the Los Seis died at the hands of people unknown. ★