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Editorial Board

DEB ANSELM Publisher **TOM MARTIN** Executive Editor JOHN WETZEL community member

Why we need law and order

but put it aside when the phrase was shamelessly bandied about in fact-free political attack ads and is to be law and order, those overheated rhet-



DAN

oric on the campaign trail. But now that the midterm elections are over and passions have cooled down a bit, I return to the topic.

The simple fact of the matter is that we need law and order if life is not to be

chaotic. It is worth noting the history of the early 20th century, when automobiles started honking their way through streets in Chicago and other cities, streets crowded with pedestrians, bicyclists (with bicycles having become a fad) and horse-drawn carriages.

It resulted in a noisy, raucous pandemonium which spooked horses and scared children. The headline of an article which ran in the Chicago Tribune asked, "Is the Automobile Mania a Form of Insanity?"

But then traffic laws (Chicago was one of the first cities to impose a speed limit on motorists the speed limit was 8 miles per hour) and other measures brought at least a semblance of order to the streets of Chicago and other cities (though some would say that pandemonium still reigns supreme.)

Law and order is needed for another reason as well - to protect people from the malevolent intentions of crooks and other criminals. Once again Chicago provides an example. Notorious gangsters such as Al Capone and John Dillinger robbed and killed

with abandon during the 1930s. The Federal Bureau of Investigation, which was still in its infancy, and other law enforcement agencies put them out of business, with Capone convicted of tax evasion and sent to prison and Dillinger gunned down as he left a Chicago movie theater on July 22, 1934.

Fast forward to the present. There are some on the lunatic fringe of the Democratic Party who call for "defunding the police," which is sheer nonsense. The simple fact of the matter is that we need an effective police force to protect us from criminals and other intent on harming us. (It should be added that defunding the police is not the view of President Biden and most other members of the

I started working on a piece on Democratic Party, notwithlaw and order several weeks ago standing what fact-free political attack ads have claimed.)

It might be added that if there charged with enforcing the law must respect the law and not engage in illegal activity while claiming to enforce the law. What happened to George Floyd, who died on May 25, 2020, while in police custody, is appalling. Derek Chauvin, the Minneapolis police officer who knelt on Floyd's neck, preventing him from breathing, was charged with second-degree murder, third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter. He was found guilty on all counts and sentenced to 22.5 years in prison.

There are allegations of illegal activity on the part of individuals such as former President Donald Trump and Hunter Biden. It is essential that these allegations be investigated (as is being done with respect to former President Trump but has not yet occurred in the case of Hunter Biden.)

If these investigations discover credible evidence of illegal activity, this evidence should be turned over to the U.S. Department of Justice or other law enforcement agencies with jurisdiction for further investigation. If the Department of Justice or another agency with jurisdiction determines that this evidence is of sufficient gravity to justify filing charges against the individual accused of wrongdoing, it should be presented to a grand jury to decide whether an indictment is in order.

U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland has stated on more than one occasion that no one is above the law. He is right about that.

Finally, it should be noted that the rule of law is essential to the democratic traditions of our nation - traditions that include the peaceful transfer or power when called for by the decisions that voters make in the privacy of the voting booth. What is so troubling about the assault on the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021, is that it was an attempt to seize power by disrupting the democratic processes.

Several of the rioters have been tried and convicted of violating the law. Whether there are other indictments that follow remains to be seen. Suffice it to say that respect for law and order by all citizens and by officials on all levels of government is essential if our democracy is to survive.

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Mascot names lighten the crush of fall sports

seems to pile up in its final months.

Business activity is at its peak and the constellation of feasts and festivals lights up almost every

Contributing to the distraction is the fall collision of major



DON **WOOTEN**

sports. Baseball ends, football begins, followed by basketball, with hockey, soccer, wrestling, and field sports making their contribution.

When I was younger, the procession of events

seemed manageable, but once television (cable, in particular) moved major sports from the field and field house into the living room, they came to dominate. Football, in particular, has muscled its way to the forefront with annual schedules, championships, and bowl games, live and taped, endlessly available at all levels: professional, college, even high school.

But some arcane aspects of the game have their own peculiar attraction, as we learned in a family conversation some years ago. Son David is an archivist by training and inclination and, in consequence, picks up and saves odd bits of information. One particular evening, he started regaling us with the names of football teams.

Most athletic groups follow the ancient, tribal custom of associating themselves with animals of grace and power. This supposedly endows them with kindred qualities and also serves notice to opposing teams that they are not to be taken lightly.

Thus, it is that most teams have names like Lions, Tigers, and Bears (oh, my!), along with Mastodons, Triceratops, Sasquatch, and Yetis — names which bespeak animal power and cunning. Some teams opt for military prowess, hence Warriors, Majors, Generals, Spartans, Vikings, Trojans, and, Gladiators.

Religion gets in the mix with

The calendar is tilted; everything Battlin' Bishops, Preachers, Monks, and Evangels.

> There are those which evoke the power of nature: Tornadoes, Hurricanes, Prairie Fire, the Crimson Tide, and Waves of various hues: Purple, Green, etc.

Some teams conjure mythic powers: the Dragons, Titans, Vulcans, Demons, Devils, Griffons, and Mystics. Others celebrate homely occupations: Miners, Threshers, Packers, Boilermakers, Oilers, Orediggers, and Foresters. Then there are those which simply confuse; Siwash, Ephs, Hoyas, Roos, Yotes, Eutectics, Rougarous, Lutes, and Nads.

David has even found teams which had trouble identifying themselves at all. When Merrimack College fielded a team for the first time, they couldn't decide what to call it, ultimately settling on Warriors. But Montclair State University of New Jersey played football anonymously for six years before finally deciding on Red Hawks.

Then there are teams whose nicknames seem to have been chosen in a whimsical mood. Take, for example, the "Student Princes" of Heidelberg College, Ohio; or the "Lord Jeffs" of Amherst, Massachusetts; or the "Diplomats" of Franklin and Marshall — names more at home in a drawing room than on a football field.

Others are just strange: Flaming Smelts, Fighting Pickles, Pygmies, Little Johns, Violets, Cows,

Mules, and Rodents. Of course, the most unusual team names are to be found in high school ranks, including some right here in Illinois: The Effingham "Flaming Hearts" (who must bring passion to the game); the "Pretzels" of Freeport, a team which never can be exhorted to go "straight down the field;" and the Fisher High School "Bunnies."

David chanced on the Bunnies decades ago when he was a student at the University of Illinois. Sweating over his books on a weekend, he would tune in broadcasts of high school football games in the area, thus encountering the

Fisher Bunnies, who quickly became his favorite team.

Years later, he would check scores to see how the Bunnies were faring in the Heart of Illinois Conference. You can imagine the shock he had in discovering that they had canceled their 2022 season, settling for some Junior Varsity games instead. Enrollment was down and with only six returning upperclassmen, they simply didn't have the numbers to take on the St. Teresa Bulldogs and Maroa-Forsyth Trojans.

But the team name which deviates furthest from the totemic norm is President Nixon's alma mater, (John Greenleaf) Whittier College of California. Their football team is known as "The Poets" with a mascot called Johnny Poet, who bears a large pen to the games (It's mightier than the sword).

We vowed to follow the Poets' fortunes and even spent some time devising cheers for them. Not merely the obvious ones ("Parse that line!" "First and ten: Quote it again!" and "Write, team, write!"), but some worth using when facing the Pomona-Pitzer Sagehens: "We beat them! We'll beat you! 'Cause we're tough and Whittier, too!"

Our interest in the Poets is not based on their record (they lost every game for the past three years and by badly-lopsided scores), but on the hope that they will prove to be the one team in all of football able to rise above cliches in press interviews.

What a treat it would be to hear their quarterback explain a defeat, not by moaning about the 45-0 shellacking they took from the California Lutheran Kingsmen, but by squaring his shoulders and manfully admitting, in the best Whittier Poets' tradition: "Of all sad plays that have ever been, the saddest was ours around right end."

Go, Poets, go!

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Do not believe the election lies

Thank you, everyone, who rejected the election lies touted by Republican politicians and conservative media and voted to protect our democracy in the 2022 midterms. The fight continues. Conservative media still spreads propaganda about our elections. Republican legislators still pass laws restricting our right to vote, citing "election integrity", with no evidence of election issues.

Last Sunday, November 27th, an egregious op-ed article titled "Optics can be polarizing", written by John Donald O'Shea, was published in the Times. Mr. O'Shea's op-ed promotes distrust in our elections and concludes that our elections do not appear to be "entirely fair", while offering no proof.

Mr. O'Shea insinuates that

Democrats contribute to distrust in our elections. He lists two "major crises" as proof. "1. After the 2016 election, when the Democrats and Mueller investigated President Trump, culminating in Trump's first impeachment for "Russian Collusion."" "2. Stacey Abrams claimed she was the winner of the 2018 $\,$ Georgia Gubernatorial election, and that the election was stolen from her."

Both statements are lies. Republican appointee, Deputy AG Rosenstein, appointed Mueller in 2017 as special counsel to investigate Russian interference during the 2016 presidential election. Trump was impeached in 2019 for denying congressionally approved military aid to Ukraine. Stacey Abrams never claimed she won the 2018 Georgia governor's race and, like all Democrats, formally conceded the election.

Our elections have proven,

time and again, to be accurate and free of fraud. Republicans are 100% responsible for casting doubt on our elections. Do not believe their election lies.

Richard Patterson Moline

Censoring dissent

As you glean through volumes of information, how do you know who is telling the truth?

Without the gift of discernment, you are left to your own resources—studying both sides of issues, asking individuals whom you trust, and using common sense. Although there is no perfect indicator, normally the party that calls for censorship is lying.

People who tell the truth can deal with dissent, and they welcome debate.

If this theory is correct, it means that in every instance of a Left-Right difference, the Left is

lying. Take universities. Conservative speakers are often either not allowed in the first place, canceled after being invited or shouted down while speaking. That's because the Leftist ideas that dominate campuses are false, and administrators know that one conservative speaker can undo four years of indoctrination.

Another example is the Leftwing CA State Assembly passing a bill that pulls the medical license of any physician who spreads "medical misinformation." Why? To stifle all dissent on issues related to COVID-19. And the medical association knows that a few dissenting physicians can undo its entire credibility.

Based on the theory that those who censor are almost always lying, we must come to the conclusion that the American medical establishment has been lying to us. In its suppression of scientific dissent, the American

medical establishment mimics the medieval Church's treatment of Galileo.

Truth is both a liberal and conservative value. It's never been a Left-wing value. When dissent is allowed, the Left loses its power.

Mike Steffen Moline

Letters to the **Editor policy**

Quad-City Times welcomes letters to the editor. Each submission should be no more than 250 words and include the author's name, city of residence and phone number for verification. Each writer is limited to one published letter every 30 days. Letters can be emailed to opinions@qctimes.com or mailed to: Letters to the Editor, Quad-City Times, 500 E. 3rd St., Davenport, Iowa 52801

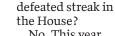




Voters answer top 10 questions about election

efore the midterms, I offered my top 10 questions for voters to answer. Here are their responses, as we know them so far:

1. In 2020, House Republicans flipped 15 Democratic seats but didn't lose a single incumbent. Will the GOP continue its un-



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the House? No. This year, three Republican incumbents lost on Election Day: Steve Chabot of Ohio, Maya Flores of Texas who had just flipped the seat in

a special election—and Yvette Herrell of New Mexico. In addition, the GOP lost two seats held by Republicans who voted to impeach Donald Trump-Peter Meijer of Michigan and Jaime Herrera Beutler of Washington state. Both were defeated in GOP primaries by MAGA challengers who went on to lose to Democrats in the midterm elections.

2. During GOP primaries, Democrats spent tens of millions of dollars to get "poison pill" MAGA candidates nominated. How did those MAGA candidates do?

The strategy was immoral, cynical . . . and effective. All the Democrat-backed MAGA candidates-including Senate candidate Don Bolduc in New Hampshire, congressional candidate John Gibbs in Michigan, and gubernatorial candidates Doug Mastriano in Pennsylvania and Dan Cox in Maryland-

3. Did any Republicans pay a price for the Supreme Court's abortion decision?

All the Republican governors—in Ohio, Georgia, New Hampshire, Florida and Texaswho signed laws restricting abortion won reelection. But the Fox News Voter Analysis showed that voters ranked abortion the second-most important issue facing the country (10 percent), trailing far behind the economy (48 percent) but narrowly ahead of immigration (9 percent) and crime (8 percent). So, abortion might have helped put some Democrats over the top in tight House and Senate races, many of which were closer than they should have been due to extreme GOP candidates.

4. Did ticket-splitters show

In droves. Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp (R) got 203,130 more votes than Republican U.S. Senate candidate Herschel Walker. If Walker had won those votes, he would be a senator-elect today. In New Hampshire, Gov. Chris Sununu (R) got 76,820 more votes than Bolduc. Bolduc lost by 56,682 votes, which means that ticket-splitters made the difference. In Ohio, Gov. Mike DeWine (R) got 380,120 more votes than Senate candidate J.D. Vance, but that difference did not prevent Vance from winning. In Nevada, GOP gubernatorial candidate Joe Lombardo won with 6,989 more votes than Senate candidate Adam Laxalt, who lost by 7,928 votes. So, even without ticket-splitters, Laxalt still would have lost by 939 votes. In those four states alone,

667,059 voters pulled the lever for the GOP candidate for governor but not Senate-collectively a massive vote of no

confidence in the GOP's Senate

5. Did the Trump-backed Senate candidates make it?

Four lost: Mehmet Oz in Pennsylvania, Bolduc in New Hampshire, Laxalt in Nevada and Blake Masters in Arizona. Two won: Vance in Ohio and Ted Budd in North Carolinaboth thanks to a massive rescue effort by Sen. Mitch McConnell (more on that below). Walker made it to a runoff in Georgiathanks, again, to McConnell. If Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey and New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu had been the Republican Senate nominees in their states, the GOP would probably hold the majority today.

6. Was there an opportunity cost to bailing out Trumpbacked Senate nominees?

Yes. The \$32 million that McConnell-aligned super PACs had to spend to rescue Vance siphoned critical resources away from efforts to widen the electoral map and flip Democratic Senate seats. In Nevada, the GOP lost by 0.77 percent. Could a few million dollars more have made the difference?

7. How much did Trump's MAGA, Inc. super PAC spend in the general election to shore up candidates he championed in the primaries?

Trump's super PAC, Make America Great Again, Inc., spent a grand total of ... \$15.03 million on Senate races. By contrast, McConnell-aligned PACs spent \$248.8 million. Trump helped nominate weak candidates and then left them to fend for themselves.

8. What happened to socalled GOP voter suppression in

Early voting shattered the state's record for a midterm and outpaced the 2016 presidential election, with 2,288,889 ballots cast. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported that Black voters accounted for 29 percent of early voters, outpacing 2020 when they made up just over 27 percent. When the final votes were counted, 3,964,926 Georgians cast ballots, slightly more than the 3,949,905 who voted in the 2018 midterms. So much for "Jim Crow 2.0."

9. Will Republicans reach 54 seats in the Senate, which would put them in striking distance of a 60-vote, filibuster-proof majority in 2024?

Quite the opposite. Republicans could actually lose one net seat if Walker fails in the upcoming runoff. For the second election in a row, Trump cost Republicans control of the Senate. But Republicans are almost certain to take back the chamber in 2024, when the field is heavily tilted toward the GOP-provided they learn from this year's mistakes.

10. If Republicans win in a rout, will Democrats turn on Biden and begin openly urging him to step aside in 2024?

Far from a GOP rout, Biden's first midterm performance was better than that of any president since John F. Kennedy (except for George W. Bush after the 9/11 attacks) - despite the worst inflation in 40 years, the worst crime wave since the 1990s and the worst border crisis in U.S. history. If Biden decides to run again, it is unlikely that any Democrat will challenge him.

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ANOTHER VIEW | ST. LOUIS POST DISPATCH

GOP plans petty payback

he incoming Republican House majority is salivating to begin investigations against the Biden administration, with some in the caucus even talking about impeachment. In contrast to the numerous Democratic investigations and two impeachments against Donald Trump – which were legitimate responses to a uniquely unfit president who routinely spurned the rule of law - the GOP's current plans are little more than tit-for-tat politics. They should keep in mind how obvious that will be to a nation that just denied their party the "red wave" everyone was expecting.

Congress has an implied duty under the Constitution to provide oversight of the president. Inarguably, both parties in modern times have weaponized the oversight process to score partisan points. Trump may well have been the most investigated president in history, with scores of inquiries launched in the two years Democrats have controlled Congress. Many Republican partisans clearly believe that fact alone merits some payback - as if the Trump probes were plain

old politics. That attitude is part of the blinkered normalization the GOP has always extended to a dangerously abnormal president.

No one can deny Democrats approached their oversight duties with zeal when it came to Trump. But Trump provided voluminous, literally unprecedented justification throughout his tenure, including his inherently suspicious Kremlin coddling, his appalling family separation policy at the southern border, his use of the Justice Department to attack his political enemies and his abuse of his pardon power to reward cronies. And don't forget his tragic politicization of the pandemic and his frontal assault on democracy itself during and after the 2020 election.

In contrast to the GOP's craven and silly impeachment of Bill Clinton for the high crime of lying about sex, Trump's impeachments were about the deadly serious topics of extorting a global ally for political gain and fomenting a physical attack on America's seat of government. There is simply no rational way for anyone not wearing par-

tisan blinders to conclude they are comparable.

The same can be said for most

of what Republicans have in store for President Joe Biden. There are some legitimate issues that deserve attention most notably, his botched withdrawal from Afghanistan but far more of the ammo Republicans have looks like exploding cigars. Unlike Trump's border controversies, Biden's problems appear to be about poor management, not malign and deliberate inhumanity. The

FBI's search of Mar-a-Lago was a solidly legal and restrained operation, no matter how Trump's hysterical supporters tried to portray it as an abusive siege. The business dealings of Biden's son, Hunter, might deserve scrutiny, but the right's obsession with the whole topic seems designed more for distraction than oversight.

House Republicans are going to do what they're going to do. And, as they did with Bill Clinton's impeachment, they're likely to see their transparently cynical attempts to mountain-ize these molehills backfire

Hey, Congress: No last-minute shopping at taxpayer expense

E.J. ANTONI

The Heritage Foundation

't's happened to all of us: The holidays are here before you ▲know it, and you're scrambling for that last-minute gift. Maybe you procrastinated, but at least you are spending your own money on someone else. Conversely, the politicians in Congress are preparing to spend YOUR money on THEMSELVES and their special interests in a perverse, year-end shopping

spree. What's on their Christmas wish list? A plethora of radical, left-wing boondoggles that the American people clearly did not endorse in this year's midterm elections. The Pelosi-Schumer-Biden omnibus may include everything from granting citizenship to large groups of immigrants living in the country illegally, bailouts for failed "green" energy programs, even more money sent to Ukraine without enough accountability, and further COVID-related funding despite President Joe Biden declaring the pandemic to be over.

All these additional outlays, on top of what the federal government already spends, come with a massive price tag measured in the trillions. While the details of such a proposal are still being hammered out behind closed doors and out of the public view, left-leaning lawmakers have made it clear that they want to ram a massive omnibus through Congress in this lameduck session.

Why the urgency to spend so much money that the taxpayer does not have? It's because Democrats have lost the House of Representatives. The new

Congress, which will take office in January, will likely be much less amenable to granting this

expensive wish list. This is occurring at the same time the U.S. Treasury is hitting its debt ceiling, which functions like a limit on a credit card. Put simply, the Treasury has borrowed to its limit and cannot issue more debt without congressional approval – authorization that should not be granted under any circumstances.

With the Treasury – and therefore the taxpayer - hopelessly \$31.5 trillion in debt, there is no room for more borrowing and spending, especially by a Congress whose priorities are clearly not aligned with the American people's. Liberals may crow about their love of democracy, but it is hard to imagine something less democratic than a lame-duck Congress thwarting the will of the American people by hastily assembling and passing another bloated omnibus, and thereby robbing the people's duly elected representatives of the chance to pass meaningful spending reform beginning in January.

Instead, there should be three priorities in the halls of Congress. First, the debt ceiling should not be raised. The solution to a maxed-out credit card is not a higher credit limit, but balancing the household budget. Second, this Congress has no mandate for further spending; there is also no need for any new spending in the remainder of this year. Until the new representatives are seated in January, Congress should not authorize

any new federal expenditures. Lastly, when the new Congress convenes, it must drastically cut federal spending, repeal onerous regulations across industries and stop discouraging domestic producers of reliable American

The gargantuan federal deficits over the last two years have caused inflation to explode and the menace of rising prices will continue its rampage across the American economic landscape until the reckless government spending is brought under control. At the same time, excessive regulation has throttled the supply side of the economy, reducing production, which is the real driver of wealth creation and economic growth.

Possibly the clearest example of this is in the energy market, where domestic producers are laboring with the Biden administration's boot pressed against their neck. Less energy has meant higher prices everywhere and for everything. The agenda outlined above, in addition to being the will of the American people, will have a dramatic and positive impact on fighting inflation.

The lame-duck Congress has no right to go on a last-minute shopping spree for themselves and their special interests this holiday season. Taxpayers already have an unsustainable burden of government debt on their shoulders. The last thing they need is another expensive wish list from liberal politicians to dampen the holiday spirit.

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