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The Hancock County Democrat



A Publication of the Hancock County ,Ohio Democratic Party



Inside this issue:

The Rethuglicans	2
Will the Republican Party Go the Way of the Whigs?	5
The Case for Secularism	6
Further Reading	7
Important	8
Links	9
Cartoons	10
About	11



The Rethuglicans

Bruce Workman

This will be based on interviews with those who worked at or attended the booths in front of the Marathon Center and the courthouse and the witnesses to events that took place near the polling location at the St. Mark's United Methodist Church annex on election day 2020. Due to the current political climate in Findlay and around the county, I am going to omit the names of witnesses. The only name I will include is special thug, Craig Pingle. Pingle was present during many of the incidents recorded here. He says he is an ex-policeman, with ex being the operative prefix here (judging by his current physique, it would not be injudicious to assume he was dismissed for eating all of the doughnuts)—body shaming is acceptable when done by a fellow person in the obese BMI range.

After obtaining the required permit, the Democrats' Biden booth was set up on the sidewalk in front of the Marathon Center—on Thursdays, correlating with the opening of the Hancock County Farmers' Market—and operated with minimal incidents for the first few weeks. The Rethuglicans are a group of Trump supporters who acted reprehensibly during days, weeks, and months leading up to the November 2020 election. Upon noticing the traffic at the Biden booth, which was unprecedented in Findlay, they applied for their own permit and set up a booth without an awning or other covering a mistake they realized during the first downpour. Fortunately for them didn't have the tee shirts and other quality items that were available at the Biden booth. The Biden booth was superior in design, content, and management to the Trump booth—reflecting the entire presidential campaign. In an unsuccessful 'if you can't join them, beat them' strategy, the Trump booth called upon the Rethuglicans



Long lines at the booth attract attention.



The Republicans are caught in the rain.



The rotund Mr. Pingle at his post



Trumpie the Clown 'assists' Pingle and his friend (the extra- long red tie is a giveaway)



The Rethuglicans continued from page 2

The Biden Booth workers adopted the "when they go low, we go high" attitude—a difficult task when faced with adults behaving childishly. Trumpsters came to the booth during setup, loaded with many questions. After the courageous contingent answered the questions initially as if genuine, it quickly became apparent that the Rethuglicans were only there to impede the process. It became a weekly or twice-weekly occurrence with the sole purpose of impeding the setup process and harassing the booth workers. The behavior of the Trumpsters just regressed from there. Also, during this time, the vandalism and stealing of Biden signs were rampant..

What the Trump booth lacked in goods they more than made up for in noise. From their corner location, they set up signs reading "Honk for Trump." This led to trucks, cars, and semi-trucks honking their horns with the noise resonating between the Post Office and the Marathon Center. Also, cars, and trucks with flags reading "F*** your feelings" or "Vote for Trump" would slow down in front of the Biden booth and rev their engines, 'lay rubber', shout obscenities, or 'roll coal'—when a diesel engine intentionally blows black smoke as a sign of protest or scorn. This behavior gave rise to noise complaints—directed at the Democrat booth because that was where it was taking place even if they were not the cause—by customers and vendors in the Farmers' Market. By October, the folks in charge of the farmers' market had had enough.

Mayor Muryn proposed a solution where both parties would set up their respective booths inside the Farmers' Market if both agreed to abide by the rules published by Hancock County Farmers' Market. The Farmers' Market had sensible rules about wearing masks, social distancing, the number of people who could be in one booth at a time, remaining peaceful, not making unnecessary noise, and other sensible guidelines. The Democrats were already abiding by those rules, so they looked at it as an opportunity to serve the voters without all of the needless drama. For whatever reason, the Rethuglicans declined to answer, so neither party was allowed to move to the inside of The Farmer Market. This prompted a rush to obtain the permit necessary to set up the booth in a new location in front of the Hancock County Courthouse. The Trumpsters and Trumpettes liked their location, where they could continue to be disruptive and obnoxious, and chose to remain there. They soon seemed to have trouble remaining at their end of the street. In addition to cars and trucks prominently displaying Trump flags, profanities, and insults routinely parked in every available space—including accessible parking— in front of the courthouse, Pingle was joined by others waving Trump flags on the southwest corner of Main and Main Cross streets—proof that idiocy and density can be synonymous.

The Hancock County Young Democrats began setting up and staffing the booth at the courthouse location on Saturdays beginning in late August and were experiencing the same problems. Parades, complete with flags, were going through the booth area. Of course, while they were passing through their flags hit staff and guests alike. In one case a man actually came into the booth and began knocking displays and goods over. I am not sure about the law on this, but the excuse that it was a public venue seems a bit dubious to me. Is the location of the Farmers' Market considered public? Would it be lawful for someone to go in there and begin knocking things over? The saddest part is that these dedicated and valuable young adults had to witness adults behaving this way. It is truly a testament to all of the workers and valued guests at the Biden Booth that they endured this level of antagonization for over 12 weeks without retaliation.

The attempts at intimidation did not end at the booths. On election day, caravans of trucks and trailers bearing obscene Trump signs cruised the streets in front of polling places doing everything possible to attract attention to themselves and intimidate voters. In many cases, they entered the parking lots of polling locations—often in violation of the 100-foot. buffer rule. The most egregious case involved Rethuglican Pingle. After "buzzing" the polling location at St. Mark's UMC on Main Street multiple times, Pingle decided to pull into the nearly full parking lot. He was stopped by people who were on the sidewalk outside the 100-foot. zone and told that he could go no further. Pingle explained that he was just trying to turn around but, given the fact that he could have accomplished that much more easily at Superior Cleaners or Little Caesars without violating any election laws, it seems his real motivation was to intimidate or influence voters at the polls. He insisted that he could not back out on Main Street safely, even though people who live on Main Street do it all the time.

(continued on pager 4)



The Rethuglicans continued from page 3

A poll worker joined the people in front of Pingle's truck, Craig Pingle, ever vigilant about his own perceived rights, whether at the expense of others or not, decided to get out of his truck and press his case. His attempts at intimidation were challenged and this seemed to frustrate him to the point that he got back in his truck, started the engine. The truck jerked forward, striking the two women in front hard enough to knock them back. Insisting he was in the right he called the police. When the police arrived, his attitude changed. Pingle cooperated with the order quit blocking the driveway and back up our on Main Street. The officer took statements from the witnesses and listened to the account of the incident when Pringle's truck struck the two women but took no notes. Later he called one of the women and asked to come over to take a written statement. The other woman recanted and claimed she was never struck with the eventual result that no legal action was taken against Craig Pingle.

In addition to recounting the appalling actions of the local Rethuglicans, this account also provides support for a notion most of us already suspect is true. That is the concept that nearly anything a Republican does in Findlay will be tolerated. I can only imagine what would have happened if we behaved the same way and if I had pulled into a polling place with Biden flags and "Trump Has Dementia" signs while donning a "F*** Trump t-shirt. Alas, such is the quandary we find ourselves in in the land of the Rethuglicans.

The Biden supporters did manage to get some share of revenge by receiving significantly more in donations than at any event in the past, much more than enough to pay for three digital billboards and donate to Democratic causes during the Georgia Senate elections and saved seed money for future local campaigns. The Biden booth distributed over 2000 Biden signs in Hancock County. Some of the visitors at the booth did not want to sign as donors because they said they were Republicans who had had enough of Trump and did not want the Rethuglicans to know. We know how your feel! The Rethuglicans can be intimidating, but we remain unafraid



Donors were peaceful and willing to stand in line.

FINIS



Will the Republican Party Go the Way of the Whigs?

Bruce Workman

The Republican Party was the successor of the Whigs. The Whigs were an early abolitionist party that lost its most loyal voters by compromising and deferring its core principles. The Party of Lincoln seems to be following a similar path. Will this lead to their demise?

The earliest indication that Republicans were headed in a new direction was the nomination of Barry Goldwater to run against Lyndon Johnson in 1964. His supporters managed to kill a civil rights plank in the party platform. Although Goldwater's views on civil rights were largely based on libertarianism, the result was a perception of racism. In a letter to Robert Taft, Jr., George Lee, a civil-rights activist, businessman, and lifetime Republican wrote that without intervention, "the Republican Party will be taken over lock, stock, and barrel by the Ku Kluxers, the John Birchers, and other extreme rightwing reactionaries." Richard Nixon told a reporter, "...if Goldwater wins his fight, our party would eventually become the first major all-white political party." Both Lee's and Nixon's comments would prove prophetic. In a landslide defeat, Goldwater won only his home state, Arizona, and five states of the old south; making him the first Republican to make inroads into the previously solid Democrat South. Today's Republican Party has become a white man's party in philosophy, platform, and agenda, if not total membership.

Johnson's efforts to pass the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 were viewed as a betrayal by white southerners. Although it was the Vietnam War that would eventually ensure that Johnson did not run for a second term, it was his heroic efforts as a southern white politician backing major civil rights actions that flipped the south. Nixon used this opportunity to enact his Southern Strategy in the 1968 election. When the Democrats nominated a champion of civil rights, Hubert Humphrey, and Republicans adopted a somewhat subtle appeal to racism and white privilege, the old south became a Republican stronghold for the remainder of the decade and to the present day. The election of Jimmy Carter marked the only time when this pattern was broken.

If there is one idea that Republican strategists have come to embrace, it is the notion that if every adult is allowed to vote, they will lose. The only factor keeping them from reenacting Jim Crow laws was the VRA of '65. This didn't keep them from trying in states both on and off the restricted list. Most of the resulting laws were overturned in state or federal courts. In 2013, John Roberts and "Los Cuatro Idiotas" declared racism among public officials to be nonexistent. Almost immediately, states with Republican-controlled legislatures and either a super-majority or a Republican governor began passing laws restricting voting by members of minority groups, who historically have voted for Democrats.

In addition to the intentional appeal to white male voters, the Republican Party, with the help of the Tea Party, has moved to the right from conservative to reactionary. Ironically, it was not the reborn Christian, George W. Bush, who solidified the Republican hold on evangelical Christianity as much as it was Donald "holy water boils and wine turns to liquid poop when he enters a church" Trump. Evangelicals came to view Trump as either a high priest or spiritual leader. They claimed he was sent by God, to which Groucho Marx might reply 'why was God out of locusts?'

And thus, the new Republican party was formed. It now relies on the support of white supremacists, looney Christians, assorted right-wing-nut-jobs, and the usual list of wealthy sdooh niboR. The moderate (old conservative) Republican has become an endangered species, faced with the choice to adapt, and betray core principles, or perish. Many of these old-guard conservatives have chosen to retire rather than make that choice. Moral courage has become a scarce commodity within the party. Those who correctly vilified Trump in the primaries have since become his most zealous defenders. (continued on page 6)



Will the Republican Party Go the Way of the Whigs? continued from page 5

They have bowed and scraped to him so much that they have permanently weakened their spines. The Republican Party has become the cult of Trump and the sad part is that they have yet to realize that this is what will lead to their eventual demise. They have become the party of yesterday. They are the regressive answer to the progressive movement; longing for the 1950s, but without the taxes.

The founders were almost universally against political parties, fearing they would lead to needless division and an inability to act. Of the many political parties that have formed in the US, most have failed. We became a two-party system largely as a result of the ease at which third parties collapsed and the Electoral College. Winning less than a whole state became pointless in presidential politics. The Federalists were replaced by the Whigs in opposition to the Democratic-Republicans, which became the Democratic Party. The Whigs began to compromise their core abolitionist principles and dissolved in 1856 to be replaced by the Republican Party. As Herbert Hoover said at the 1936 Republican Convention, "The Whig Party temporized, compromised upon the issue of slavery for the Black man. That party disappeared. It deserved to disappear." Other parties that have ceased to exist include the American Party (aka the Know-Nothings) the Free-Soil Party, the Populist Party, the National Republicans, the Anti-Masonic Party, three iterations of the Progressive Party, the Socialist Party, and the Communist Party.

There are other parties currently, but they are largely marginalized. The Libertarian Party, the Green Party, and the Constitution Party seem to be in no immediate danger of extinction but are largely uninfluential within the US political system. The Republican Party may join them instead of completely going away. I do not claim to be a prophet, but it is my sincere belief that if the Republicans continue as the party of Trump, they will cease to exist in the current form by the end of the decade.

The Case for Secularism

Bruce Workman

The opinions expressed in this article are the author's and do not reflect the opinions or official position of the Hancock County Democratic Party.

In 1987, Pat Robertson formed the Christian Coalition with the express purpose of making the Christian community more active in US politics. Robertson and the CC's first director, Ralph Reed, were and continue to be avid anti-abortion activists. As a result of their abortion views and Reed's previous work with college Republican organizations, the Christian Coalition endorsed and promoted only Republican candidates.

This was not the first-time churches tried to become active in politics nor will it be the last. Many modern churches see no conflict between the tax-exempt status and legal exemptions, provided as a result of the First Amendment, and political activism—political parties have to pay taxes on certain types of income. Religious organizations are prohibited from political activity other than nonpartisan voter education projects under the Internal Revenue Code 501 Section c3, "Under the Internal Revenue Code, all section 501(c)(3) organizations are absolutely prohibited from directly or indirectly participating in, or intervening in, any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for elective public office. Contributions to political campaign funds or public statements of position (verbal or written) made on behalf of the organization in favor of or

(continued on page 7)



The Case for Secularism continued from page 6

in opposition to any candidate for public office clearly violate the prohibition against political campaign activity."

Make no mistake, when you see the yards signs that read 'STAND UP FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM' or 'PROTECT RELIGIOUS FREEDOM', they refer only to their religion, almost always Christian. Many of these same people would protest a mosque or synagogue being built in their communities. Distilled, what 'protect religious freedom' really means is 'let's create a Christian theocracy.' Despite what revisionist Christian historians might claim, this is not what the founders had in mind.

More recently, various evangelical Christians have bestowed sainthood or messianic status on a truly evil human being. To label a man like Donald Trump, who has trampled on every moral principle of Christianity, should infuriate anyone who places any value on the ethical teachings of the New Testament. Members of the Proud Boys, Qanon, and other groups present at the insurrection on January 6, 2021 viewed Trump as a messiah and prayed for divine assistance in their mission to attack and possibly kill our elected representatives.

I don't mean this as a denunciation of Christianity or any other religion. Believe what you want. Since I believe that the concept that of all the gods that have been worshipped throughout human history yours is the only real one and all the others are fake, is ludicrous; I have no stake in this game. I do however want to exert my freedom of religion. As far as any particular creed, please keep it from affecting my life in any way. Keep religion out of politics and I am willing to do the same. You can pray for me or perform remote exorcisms if you want, just leave me out of it.

Further Reading Related to the April Issue.

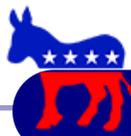
[Science and Race](#)

[The Revealing Showdown on Voting Rights](#)

[The 5th Wave of Rebel Terrorism](#)

[The Battle of Capitol Hill](#)

[The Four Waves of Modern Terror: International Dimensions and Consequences](#)



The next regular meeting of the Hancock County Democratic Party will be Monday, April 12 at 7:00 PM. This will be a Zoom meeting. If you are not already on the list, contact Nancy for a link.

Redistricting 101 — Sponsored by Fair Districts, a collaboration of Common Cause and the League of Women Voters. Tuesday, April 13 at 7:00PM. This presentation will be hosted by me on Zoom. If you do not receive an invitation contact me at: [email](#)

Looking for a volunteer to monitor the questions in chat. Contact me at the link above.

[Hancock County Democrats Events Calendar](#)

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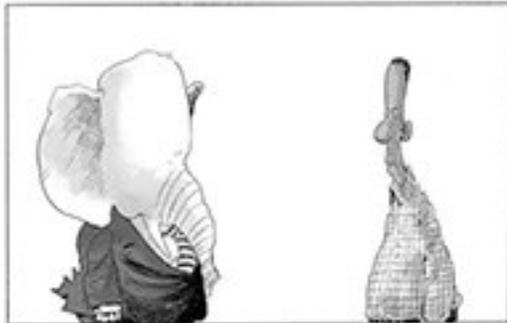


This Month's Cartoons

GUESS WHICH ONE REPUBLICANS THINK IS DANGEROUS?



SHENEMAN ONLINE CONTENT AGENCY



March 30, 2021

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Guest submissions are welcome. Please submit any work you would like to see published here to : [Bruce Workman](#)