



# A Hancock County Democrat

Not affiliated with or approved by the Hancock County Democratic Party

## Trouble at the Post Office Bruce Workman

Other than working summers at Cooper Industrial Products, my first job was as a clerk at the main post office in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. I was hired in mid-November, just in time for the Christmas rush. This meant three straight weeks of 12 hours/day and 7 days/week. Add an hour's drive each way and it made for long days. There were the early sorting machines, that involved looking at addresses flying past and entering codes on a keyboard and canceling machines where loose change became missiles. My duties were not much different than they were in colonial times. I sat in front of one of the many sorting cabinets containing compartments where mail was stuffed in the appropriate pigeonholes according to the delivery address. The test was heavy on a lot of memorization and so was the work.

I am telling you this because I know first-hand that most of the postal employees were dedicated workers who took their roles seriously and I met a few odd people, but none I believed to be unhinged. These are good people performing an important service and they should not be used as political pawns or objects of privatization schemes designed to make political donors more affluent. It appears the Trump administration may be attempting to do both.

During my brief stint at the Post Office, the organization became the United States Postal Service, an independent federal agency. The Postmaster General went from existing as a cabinet-level appointment to an agency director, similar to the director of the Social Security Administration. Postmaster positions have always been political appointments, but Trump's June appointment of Louis DeJoy marks the first time when the appointment was purely political and without any regard for competence. DeJoy is the first Postmaster General in decades to not have experience as a letter

carrier or any experience with the service at all. All the knowledge he had concerning the management and operation of the agency he is running came from 45. In other words, he knew nothing at all.

Trump has tweeted insults about the postal service since shortly after the Washington Post began publishing articles critical of his policies and his actions. This seemed to cause Mr. Thinskin an inordinate amount of distress. His attacks were related to Jeff Bezos's ownership of the newspaper. He immediately began to blame all of the USPS financial problems on low postage rates for deliveries. Apparently, DJT not only wants to make as much money off of his position as possible, but he also wants perceived opponents to be damaged financially.

Recently, after discovering he was trailing in the polls by double digits, Trump decided he would use any method to undermine the integrity of the coming election.

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## Trouble at the Post Office (continued)



**There are many reasons to doubt that the service is prepared to serve as a backstop for American democracy. Photograph by Elaine Thompson / AP / Shutterstock**

**A Hancock County Democrat**

In addition to having done nothing to prevent another foreign interference, he has been trying to cast doubt on voting by mail. He has suggested mail-in ballots are infamous instruments of voter fraud, apparently suggesting those who work at boards of elections everywhere are morons. Applicant: “Yes, I will be wanting mail ballot, my email is: trotsky@moshennichestvo.ru.” BOE official:” Looks legit to me, send it out.”

The USPS has had to deal with privatization efforts for decades and Trump loves lucrative financial opportunities for friends and family. He is trying this with Social Security, Veterans Affairs, and Medicare. One can only wonder what will happen if he gets four more years with spineless Republicans—The Department of Defense, Eric Trump, CEO? With the appointment of DeJoy, he seeks to accomplish both his goals: hinder absentee voting and make the post office a corporate division.

DeJoy has already started “cost-cutting” measures. A truck is not to move until it is full, regardless of the delays in delivery that will result. He has instituted a no overtime policy. If your route is not done at the specified time, quit and try to finish tomorrow. Postal employees are not happy with DeJoy or his new policies. Mark Dimonstein, president of the American Postal Workers Union, stated in an article in USA Today, “If we can’t serve people at a time when they want things quicker, it undermines people’s confidence in the postal service, which they usually strongly support. And if people no longer support us, that opens the door for us to get privatized.” (1)

Fortunately, absentee ballots in Ohio are accepted by the postmark, and they have not yet found a way to delay that, but this is not true in all states. The most prominent cases

of voter fraud have involved campaigns and not individual voters. The evidence suggests that voter fraud occurs at a slightly higher, but still insignificant rate than in-person. The total rate of voter fraud in the U.S. since 2002 was .0000044%, with in-person fraud a few 10ths of a million percent lower and mail-in fraud a few 10ths of a million percent higher; certainly not as prevalent as Trump would like us to believe and certainly not enough to affect the outcome of any election.

There is also no evidence that there is any significant difference by the party in the rate of voting by mail. The irony of all this is that it could horribly backfire on Trump. In Iowa the decision to allow voting by mail was left up to the county boards of election. Every county deemed Democratic chose to allow vote-by-mail while every county deemed Republican chose not to. Should this trend continue, Democrats who consider themselves high-risk will vote by mail while Republicans with similar concerns will choose to stay home and not vote.

Figuring out the logic and reason behind policies concocted by a malignant, narcissistic idiot is indeed a conundrum and something I hope we can put behind us forever in 2021.

1. Jason Lallgee, “Union warns of U.S. Postal Service cost cuts as states prepare for mail-in voting,” *USA TODAY*, August 1, 2020



Louis DeJoy  
Kim Walker / AP

## Volunteer or Professional Bruce Workman

The Macmillan dictionary defines a professional as n. 1. someone who has special skills and qualifications. 2. someone who plays a sport or does an activity as a job rather than for enjoyment adj. 1. relating to work that needs special skills and qualifications. 2. relating to a profession and its rules, standards, and arrangements.

The same dictionary defines a volunteer as n. 1. someone who offers to do something without being forced 2. someone who is not paid for the work that they do. And volunteerism n. 1. doing work for good causes without getting paid for it.

While whether I have exceptional skills and qualifications is open to debate, the work I do for the Hancock County Democratic Party is voluntary. Other than being urged to get along with people I find obnoxious, neither Nancy nor John has forced me to do anything. The only pay I received now is for doing nothing, aka retirement, or as I prefer to think of it, getting paid for the excellent work I did for my entire adult life. I have been reimbursed, but never paid for the work I do for the party, and from a purely financial standpoint, I have experienced a net loss.

Why all the semantics? A professional ambushed me at the last meeting of the Hancock County Democrats. One of the accusations made was that by publishing an article in the newsletter was that I had acted unprofessionally. Unprofessional is a cliched term that gets thrown around a lot, and in this context, it just means behaving in a way the does not meet an individual's approval.

As the publisher, editor, and major contributor, another voluntary activity that I did on my initiative, I may have taken individual liberties with the tone of "The

Elephant in the Room." Still, I did not "fudge" the facts. Many readers may have been shocked at the tenor of the article, but not the content. I did not write anything that others have not expressed privately, and I have yet to be challenged on the facts.

I have already addressed the objections that I used a newsletter with the party name as my platform. There is a clear disclaimer on the new newsletter. I have to admit that in a fit of rage, within a few hours after the meeting, I deleted the Hancock County Democrats website, which I had designed, built, maintained, and financed on my own. That is my only regret, especially since I could not recover the contents or any of the money I had spent.

Perhaps my biggest resentments are the way the critique was delivered—like a sucker punch on Zoom—and the fact that I, a volunteer who has spent many hours and a significant amount of personal funds to support the party, was verbally assaulted by a professional. This professional was a campaign manager with four months' experience and a 14-point primary election loss to another Democrat—who recently attempted to use the party as a marketing tool for an overpriced communications package. I know and correspond via email with a lot of attorneys, and only one has ever signed an email with J.D., a degree which even the esteemed Jim Jordan possesses. I am not sure if this suggests insecurity or arrogance.

If there is a response to this article, I will probably publish it, with the caveat that I will have the opportunity to respond in real-time. I will be able to reply to the response in the same issue.



Volunteers  
photo by Jim Henderson

**"Perhaps my biggest resentments are the way the critique was delivered—like a sucker punch on Zoom— ..."**



Professionals  
photo by Getty Images

## The Republican Party Is Racist and Soulless. Just Ask This Veteran GOP Strategist.

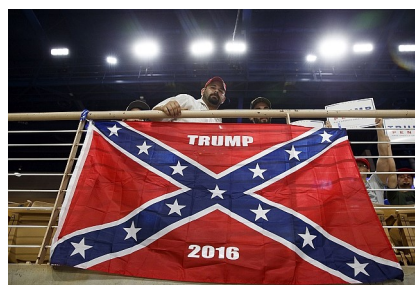
David Corn, Mother Jones, September/October 2020

*Stuart Stevens says he now realizes the hatred and bigotry of Trumpism were always at the heart of the GOP.*

When Donald Trump decided to back-burner the coronavirus crisis and reboot his reelection campaign with superspreader events in June, he headed to an arena in Tulsa, Oklahoma, to present his case for four more years. In front of an audience of maskless fans standing side by side, Trump performed his usual routine. He threw out buzzwords (“law and order,” “left-wing radicals”). He boasted. (“I have done a phenomenal job” responding to the pandemic.) He denigrated his opponent as “Sleepy Joe.” He obsessed over personal grievances and slights, devoting much time to slamming news outlets that had recently shown video of him walking gingerly down a ramp after delivering a commencement address at West Point. What was mostly missing from Trump’s speech: ideas.

Although he referred to his tax cuts for the wealthy, his appointment of conservative judges, and his “beautiful” wall on the US-Mexico border, Trump had little to say about economic policy, national security, health care, education, housing, the environment, and other subjects. Moreover, he offered no agenda for a second term other than vague promises of making everything swell. Days later, during a friendly Fox News “town hall,” Sean Hannity asked Trump to spell out his plans for a second term. He replied by rambling on about his inauguration and attacking John Bolton.

All this was nothing new for Trump, who approaches the presidency more as performance artist than policymaker. But in the Oklahoma crowd were many unmasked Republican senators and House members, who clapped along and looked delighted to be props for The Trump Show. Once upon a time, Republican legislators and party leaders claimed they cared deeply about certain foundational issues—the deficit, family values, free trade, hawkish foreign policy. Now they were cheering a twice-divorced adulterer who had run up the federal debt, sloppily imposed tariffs, and embraced the anti-American autocrats leading Russia and North Korea—a man devoid of serious thought and guiding policy principles, a self-fixated candidate who presented no intellectual framework for his presidency. Had the GOP become the party of no ideas? (continued on page 5)



Brandon Partin, of Deland, Florida, in front of a flag he brought as he waits for Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump at a campaign rally in 2016. Evan Vucci/AP

## The Republican Party Is Racist and Soulless. (continued from page 4)

This seemed a premise worth exploring, so I thought I would check in with veteran Republicans who once were attracted to the party for its conservative ideals but who have become Trump critics. First on my list was Stuart Stevens, the chief strategist for Mitt Romney's 2012 presidential bid. I should note that I feel a bit awkward when I talk with Stevens. Plenty of people have asserted that my exposé of the "47 percent" tape in 2012—remember Romney denigrating nearly half of Americans as freeloaders who want the government to take care of them?—played a part in his defeat. But Stevens has always been gracious when we have crossed paths. And this time was no exception. It turned out Stevens had much to say on the current state of his party. Actually, enough for an entire book.

Asked if the Republican Party in the Trump years has become an outfit free of governing ideas, Stevens went even further: "It was all a lie." He noted that this was word-for-word the title of his forthcoming book, *It Was All a Lie: How the Republican Party Became Donald Trump*. The modern GOP, he said, never truly cared about the ideas it claimed to care about.

This was a stunning indictment coming from a longtime political consultant who had toiled on five Republican presidential campaigns and numerous Senate and gubernatorial races. "The Republican Party has been a cartel," Stevens said excitedly. "And no one asks a cartel, 'What's your ideological purpose?' You don't ask OPEC, 'What's your ideology?' You don't ask a drug gang, 'What's your program?' The Republicans exist for the pursuit of power for no purpose."

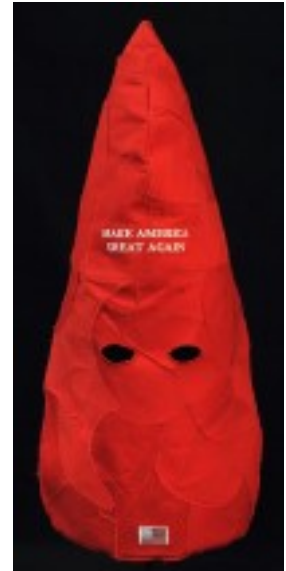
***Throughout his decades as a Republican, Stevens considered this racist element a bug in the system. He now realizes it has been a feature.***

He huffed that the Republican Party had not merely drifted away from its core positions, as sometimes occurs with political parties: "Fair trade, balanced budgets, character, family values, standing up to foreign adversaries like Russia—we're all against that now. You have to ask, 'Does someone abandon deeply held beliefs in three or four years?' No. It means you didn't ever hold them." He added: "I feel like a guy who was working for Bernie Madoff."

Stevens, an erudite fellow who is also a novelist and a travel writer, has become an emblematic ex-Republican. He once believed in GOP ideals and ideas. Now he saw it all as a huge con. His new book is a confession and cri de coeur. The first line is blunt: "I have no one to blame but myself." In these pages, Stevens self-flagellates, calling himself a "fool" for his decades of believing—and lying to himself—that the Republican Party was based on "a core set of values." Acknowledging his role, Stevens writes, "So yes, blame me. Blame me when you look around and see a dysfunctional political system and a Republican Party that has gone insane." The book offers one overarching prescription for the GOP: "Burn it to the ground and start over."

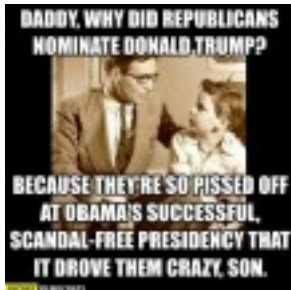
In our conversation, Stevens exploded with loathing for the party he once faithfully (and lucratively) served. He rejected the common view that Trump had hijacked the GOP. No, he explained, the triumph of know-nothing Trumpism marked the culmination of an internal conflict that had existed for decades between the party's "dark side" and its professed ideals. Even William F. Buckley Jr., often hailed as a grand public intellectual and the founding father of the modern conservative movement, was "a stone-cold racist" in the 1950s, Stevens pointed out. (Buckley at that time considered white people more "advanced" and more fit to govern.)

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**"Throughout his decades as a Republican, Stevens considered this racist element a bug in the system. He now realizes it has been a feature "**

## The Republican Party Is Racist and Soulless. (continued from page 5)



A Hancock County Democrat



When they whine about how Trump is treated, show them this.

“A lot of us in the party liked to believe the dark side was a recessive gene, but it’s a dominant theme,” Stevens, a seventh-generation Mississippian who was named for Confederate Gen. Jeb Stuart, told me. “And it’s all about race. The Republican Party is a white party and there still are more white people than non-white people.” So that is whom the party aims at—even if this will eventually be a losing proposition as the nation’s demographics continue to shift. Ronald Reagan achieved a landslide victory in 1980 by bagging 56 percent of white voters; 28 years later, John McCain lost with 55 percent of white voters. Perhaps the party’s fixation on white voters can work one more time with Trump in 2020. “But we’re talking about the Confederacy—literally,” Stevens said.

And Nazi Germany. On his own, with no prompting, Stevens went straight to the Defcon-1 analogy: “I tell my GOP friends, ‘It’s crazy to say it’s 1934 in Germany... when it’s clearly 1936.’” He insisted that the 1930s are important for understanding the current moment. “When there was rising anti-Semitism, isolationism, and pro-Nazi sentiment, why did the US not become fascist?” Stevens asked. “Because of FDR. Leaders matter, and the GOP has now completely abdicated its role.” Instead, the party has yielded completely to demagoguery and race-baiting to exploit the racism and resentments of certain white voters. Throughout his decades as a Republican, Stevens considered this racist element a bug in the system. He now realizes it has been a feature.

In 2012, Romney enthusiastically sought and accepted Trump’s endorsement, though Trump had been championing the racist birther conspiracy theory. But for Stevens, the decisive moment when the party embraced its ugly heritage came in December 2015, when Trump, then the leading Republican presidential candidate,

called for a ban on Muslim travelers to the United States. As Stevens now sees it, Reince Priebus, then the chair of the Republican National Committee, should have declared that the GOP did not support such bigotry and staked out a moral position. Perhaps Trump would still have marched on to victory, but such a move might have distanced the party from a racist candidate. Instead, the party kept mum and eventually folded to Trump. (Romney would go on to be the only GOP senator to vote to remove Trump from office at the end of his impeachment trial.)

Stevens now argues that Trump’s rise was not a fluke that the party can sidestep or survive. “This is the complete moral collapse of a governing party of a major superpower,” he remarked. He wonders how he could have been blind to the GOP’s racism and turpitude for so long. “It is hard to see this when you’re in the middle of it,” he said. “The only analogy I can find is the collapse of the Communist Party in the Soviet Union, when the difference between reality and what is believed became so disjointed. I should’ve seen this. I did see this, but I wanted to believe the crazies were a minority.”

Stevens conceded that had Trump not come along, he still might not have been fully aware of the structural immorality of the GOP: The Republican Party was “a comfortable place for a lot of us. If Trump had lost, I’d probably still be working for a Republican candidate. But Trump made it impossible to deny what the party is. I just don’t get why these Republican senators don’t stand up to him. What’s the worst thing? You’ll be an ex-senator? They are the Trump Generation. It’s how they will be remembered. Like the segregationists of old.”

(continued on page 7)

## Inside Story Headline

It was hard to slow Stevens down as he spoke. He had so much to confess. He forecast a bleak future for the party. Citing the demise of the Republican Party in California (where more voters are now registering “no party preference” than Republican), he observed that the GOP was becoming a “regional/Sun Belt party.” And he shared his fear that young political operatives working for the party have drawn the lesson that a candidate must emulate Trump to win—that what most matters is not policy ideas but the ability to attack and exploit fears, divisions, tribalism, and resentments. “Elizabeth Warren can articulate a coherent theory of government,” Stevens said. “There is no coherent theory of government for Republicans right now. Usually a coherent theory versus an incoherent theory carries the day.”

“It’s really incredible how this had happened,” Stevens told me, as I realized I had received far more material from him than anticipated. “This is the last book in the world I wanted to write. It is tough to come to terms with this, and incredibly depressing. If we say we believe in personal responsibility, you have to take personal responsibility and start with yourself. We created this. It didn’t just happen.” Stevens was not pleased or satisfied with his epiphany: Ideas are not the currency for today’s GOP and never truly were. And Trump alone could not be blamed for that. “Republicans only exist to elect Republicans,” Stevens remarked with sadness. “They are down to one idea: How can we win?”

**“Citing the demise of the Republican Party in California (where more voters are now registering “no party preference” than Republican), he observed that the GOP was becoming a “regional/Sun Belt party.”**



Saturday August 1, 20

Contactless Canvassing · Hosted by Nick Rubando for Congress · Wood County Democratic Party Office · 455 S. Main St.; Bowling Green OH 4340 **10AM**

Sunday August 2, 2020

This Sunday, August 9th @ 5pm we will be having a phonebank with a special guest, candidate for Hancock County Commissioner, Melissa Kritzell! Come stop by to meet Melissa, encourage Democrats to request their absentee ballots, and get as many committed to vote and volunteer as we can. We will be calling solely into Hancock County so let's do all we can to turn the state blue one county at time! Please RSVP for the event here: <https://www.mobilize.us/ohdems/event/295836/>

Monday August 3, 2020

Tuesday August 4, 2020

Wednesday August 5, 2020

Thursday August 6 2020

Hancock County Democrats will have a blue pop-up booth setup along West Main Cross St Thursday afternoons from 4 to 6 PM. This will be in front of Marathon Center for the Performing Arts and near the Farmer's Market. We will have "Biden" yard signs available, donations are requested to offset the expenses. We have a few signs and info on Nick Rubando's campaign for the 5th district as well. Please respect the social distancing guidelines and mask up to protect the volunteers!

Friday August 7, 2020



JUST FOR FUN

**BREAKING NEWS:**



There is a caravan of old white guys coming to steal your health care and Social Security.

*Three Murderers and a Moron*



# A Hancock County Democrat



## ABOUT

"A Hancock County Democrat" is not approved by any formal organization of the Democratic Party.

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