

L.A. Wildfires Spark Misinformation and Conspiracy

By Mira Rengrachary
Parkway Central, 2025

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On January 7, 2025, the deadliest and most destructive fires in California’s history broke out. Over 16,000 buildings were destroyed, and 29 people have lost their lives. The fires continued to burn for over three weeks before they were contained. Yet, misinformation and conspiracies about the fires run rampant online.

One of the most glaring forms of misinformation is AI-generated images, such as this picture of the Hollywood sign burning that was spread on social media. Though pictures like these can be dismissed

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Los Angeles firefighters in the midst of the 2025 Palisades Fire



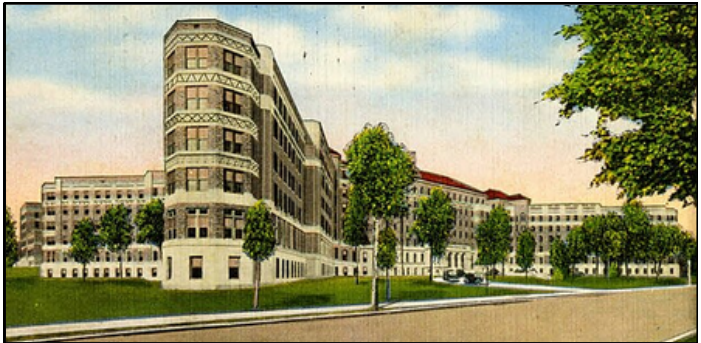
AI-generated image of burning Hollywood sign



Fires impacting LA homes

Closure of the Homer G. Phillips Memorial Hospital

By Hank Fosdick
Home School Network, 2027



Homer G. Phillips Hospital

Now shuttered, the Homer G. Phillips Memorial Hospital on Jefferson Ave. near downtown Saint Louis is embroiled in more conflict. Not to be confused with the historic hospital or elder care facilities with the same name. This 21st-century hospital had only been open since January 2024, opening among its fair share of controversies. The Homer G. Phillips name was used without permission from the family and community and continued to be used despite opposition from community leaders. The

hospital was closed in December 2024 after the employees claimed they were not being paid. Paul McKee alleges the hospital closed because of a shortage of blood supply. Homer G. Phillips was a prominent African-American Saint Louis Lawyer who first started practicing law in 1911. Phillips spent his life advocating for a desperately needed Black hospital in Saint Louis. Eventually, he went on to found the Homer G.

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Wentzville, Missouri: Rapid Growth Brings Challenges and Opportunities for the Future

By Charles Giraud
Liberty, 2026

Wentzville, Missouri, has recently garnered attention for its rapid growth, ranking among the 50 fastest-growing affordable cities in the United States. This growth has attracted a wave of new residents seeking a balance of suburban charm, modern amenities, and affordable housing. However, as the population surges, Wentzville faces significant challenges in areas like infrastructure, the environment, and education.

The surge of new residents has led to noticeable traffic congestion, particularly during rush hours, as streets become overcrowded. To address these challenges, the city

must invest in significant upgrades. Expanding the road network, widening lanes, and enhancing interchanges will alleviate traffic congestion. Additionally, a robust network of bike paths and pedestrian walkways could offer alternative transportation options, helping reduce the reliance on cars and easing the strain on roadways. Furthermore, implementing smart traffic management systems could optimize traffic flow, reducing delays and improving overall efficiency. To support the growing population, it’s also essential to expand utilities, such as water treatment plants and the electrical grid, to ensure these essential services can meet demand without disruption.

However, rapid urban-

ization isn’t just impacting transportation it’s also causing environmental concerns. Wentzville’s expansion into rural areas, including farmland, forests, and wildlife habitats, is contributing to habitat loss and environmental degradation. The disruption of ecosystems has led to increased pollution, water runoff, and compromised air quality. This urban sprawl not only threatens the environment but also affects the quality of life for residents. To mitigate these impacts, the city needs to prioritize sustainable urban planning. Integrating green spaces, parks, and natural buffers into new developments will preserve ecological balance while promoting a healthier environment.

Additionally, adopting sustainable construction practices such as energy-efficient building materials and water management systems can significantly reduce the city’s environmental footprint. Wentzville should also consider designating wildlife conservation zones or green belts to protect natural areas and provide sanctuaries for local species. Supporting renewable energy solutions and implementing community-wide recycling programs will further reduce pollution and help decrease the city’s overall carbon footprint.

Another major issue is the strain that rapid growth is placing on the local education system. As more families relocate to

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RFK JR. IS NEXT HHS SECRETARY

EXAMINER STAFF

On Thursday, February 13th, the United States Senate voted to confirm Robert F. Kennedy Jr. as the next United States Secretary of Health and Human Services. Kennedy has faced intense scrutiny for his views on vaccinations among other issues. Republican Senator Mitch McConnell of Kentucky voted against the nomination, the third of Donald Trump’s cabinet nominees McConnell has opposed.



Robert F. Kennedy Jr. at Senate hearing

What Actually Is Socialism?



Socialism is often the dirty word in American politics, thrown around to name call enemies.

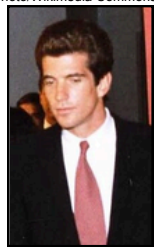
At the same time, politicians like Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (pictured) and Bernie Sanders have instead embraced the term. So which is it?

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Not Just Politics As Usual

Politics is usually really boring or really dramatic, but what if it was more than just that, more than usual politics? Reflecting on JFK Jr. (pictured) and his magazine, George. we explore the intersection between pop culture, politics, and American everyday life.

SEE PAGE 3



Don’t Let The Fire Go Out

In 2000, Mel Carnahan was elected to the United States Senate, representing Missouri. The issue? He had passed away three weeks prior to election day. Mel Carnahan’s victory, being a Democrat, prompts reflection on how far Missouri politics has come, from bellwether state to Republican stronghold.

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Civitas Examiner is a newsmagazine largely written by high school students who participate in Civitas programs. This edition includes content from nine students, some of whom were summer interns in the Campaign 2024 program. It includes both news and opinions. The Examiner is available both in printed copy and online, with a direct link on the [Civitas home page](#), which is where the hyperlinks in the printed copy will work.

Civitas is a St. Louis-based not-for-profit organization. Staff organizes Model United Nations programs and activities that promote active citizenship and world awareness for high-school and middle-schools students attending public, private and parochial schools. You can contact us at info@civitas-stl.com. Civitas is not associated with any school, school district, religious or political organization.

From Democracy to Oligarchy: The Changing Landscape of American Powers

By Charles Giraud
Liberty, 2026

As we approach 2025, it’s impossible to ignore the shifts in the United States that suggest a growing concentration of power. The nation, originally found ed on the idea that power rests with the people, seems to be experiencing an increasing concentration of influence in the hands of a select group of wealthy individuals. While the media often focuses on high-profile figures like Donald Trump, it’s important to also consider the role of corporate leaders like Elon Musk in shaping America’s political future. Why are individuals who have never been elected to office, like Musk, gaining influence that seems to rival that of the Vice President, an official chosen by the people?

This trend is part of a larger issue: the growing dominance of corporate elites in American politics. It’s not just about individual personalities; it’s about how a small group of powerful business leaders now influences key industries such as technology, media, and commerce. Figures like Musk, Jeff Bezos, and Mark Zuckerberg don't just run companies, they control platforms that millions of Americans rely on daily, shaping how we communicate, shop, and work. As their political influence increases, the question becomes: How far are these corporate elites willing to go to protect their wealth and power?

Some might argue that

these individuals are simply exercising their rights as private citizens, but the consolidation of power among a small number of elites raises deeper concerns about the future of American democracy. The problem isn't just about any one person or political movement; it's about the increasing dominance of wealth over the political process. We're witnessing a shift from a system where the people's voice was meant to shape policy to one where economic power dictates it. With their vast financial resources, corporate magnates can fund campaigns, sway public opinion, and influence policies that serve their own interests, often to the detriment of the general public.

For everyday Americans, this shift has serious implications. These corporate giants already impact our lives in profound ways, from the products we use to the platforms that define how we interact. But as they gain more influence over political decisions, their control over our lives will only grow. The risks are clear: if unchecked, this concentration of power could sideline the needs of the broader population in favor of the wealthiest few. The voice of the people could be drowned out, and the very essence of our democracy could be undermined.

This isn’t a problem limited to one political party or ideology. Regardless of whether you’re a Democrat, Republican, or Independent, the growing influence of corporate



Donald Trump meeting with Mark Zuckerberg, the 2nd richest person in the world

elites in politics should concern everyone who values democratic principles. At the heart of the American system is the idea that the government should serve the people, not the interests of a few wealthy individuals. When corporations and their leaders are able to shape policy and control political discourse, we risk losing the fundamental idea that the government should reflect the will of the people.

The danger here is not only that the voices of everyday citizens are being overshadowed but also that corporate interests are increasingly dictating the direction of the country. With billionaires like Musk, Bezos, and Zuckerberg at the helm, the ability of elected officials to represent their

constituents could be compromised. These individuals already hold tremendous influence over the industries they dominate, but as their political power grows, it becomes more difficult for the average citizen to have a meaningful impact on governance.

This is not a partisan issue; it’s a problem that should concern all Americans. Whether you're on the left or the right, the idea that a small group of wealthy individuals could control political outcomes essentially replacing the voice of the people undermines the very core of democracy. The increasing sway of corporate interests in political matters erodes the idea that government should work for all citizens, not just the few who can afford to fund

political campaigns and sway public opinion.

The fight for democracy is not about winning political battles for one side or another; it’s about ensuring that the system works for everyone. It’s about protecting the democratic principle that every citizen’s voice, no matter how small, matters. If the wealthiest Americans continue to consolidate power in their hands, the government may no longer reflect the needs of the population but serve as a tool for the elites to protect and enhance their wealth.

We are at a critical crossroads. As corporate elites gain more control over politics, the ability of ordinary citizens to influence government decisions will diminish. If we allow this trend to continue, the future of

American democracy could be in jeopardy. It’s up to all of us regardless of political affiliation to stand united in defense of democracy and ensure that the government serves the people, not just the wealthiest few. The stakes have never been higher.

This struggle isn’t just about one political party or one leader; it’s about ensuring that America remains a place where the people, not a select group of elites, hold the power. We must resist the rise of an oligarchy and protect the values that have made America a symbol of hope and opportunity for all. This is a moment that demands collective action and a stand for democracy, not for partisanship. ◀

Find The Odd One Out

- List 1:
- a. James Madison
 - b. John Adams
 - c. Andrew Jackson
 - d. Thomas Jefferson
- List 2:
- a. Chiang Kai-shek
 - b. Mao Zedong
 - c. Ho Chi Minh
 - d. Kim Jong-un
- List 3:
- a. Bismarck
 - b. Churchill
 - c. Eisenhower
 - d. Napoleon Bonaparte
- List 4:
- a. Treaty of Versailles
 - b. Treaty of Tordesillas
 - c. Treaty of Paris (1783)
 - d. Treaty of Ghent
- List 5:
- a. The Democratic Party
 - b. The Whig Party
 - c. The Republican Party
 - d. The Federalist Party
- Answers:

List 1: Answer: Andrew Jackson
Explanation: He was the 7th president, while the others were Founding Fathers.
List 2: Answer: Kim Jong-un
Explanation: He leads North Korea, while the others led Chinese or Vietnamese movements.
List 3: Answer: Napoleon Bonaparte
Explanation: He was a military leader, while the others were political figures.
List 4: Answer: Treaty of Tordesillas
Explanation: It divided lands between Spain and Portugal, not European powers or the U.S.
List 5: Answer: The Whig Party
Explanation: It no longer exists, while the others still do.

Punjabi Dress

By Apurva Ganti
Marquette, 2025

I’m currently sick with the flu—something that I’ve always considered myself impervious to as if sheer willpower alone can stop the tiny microbial invaders from getting a hold of me. And here I am, trapped in the feverish limbo between wakefulness and sleep, where reality blurs at the edges and time loses meaning. And in these hazy hours of discomfort, I’ve found myself turning inward. What better time for self-reflection than when you feel like your body is waging a war it just might lose?

Introspection is no mystery to me, perhaps it is my greatest friend and my dearest foe. My friends say that I am admirably in touch with my emotions. I wonder if I ever feel the way that others can. The soaring heights of love and the cavernous depths of despair seem unknowable to me—but that is unnecessary for what I’m trying to tell you today.

In my introspection, I realized that when I picture my mother, she is rarely ever in a t-shirt and pants. In my mind’s eye, she is always draped in a Punjabi dress, its fabric flowing like a second skin that belongs to her more

than any Western attire ever could. It’s not just a garment—it’s a presence, a statement, a tether to something larger than herself. And perhaps, in ways I’m only beginning to understand, a tether to me as well. She came from India shortly after marrying my father, following him across an ocean when he secured a job in the U.S. He was one of thousands of Indian engineers who arrived during the technological boom of the 2000s, lured by the promise of opportunity and a better future.

She never really acclimatized—or, perhaps more accurately, never Americanized. When I go to my Indian friends' homes, their parents will wear sundresses or polos around the house, mirroring the suburban fashion of their new (well perhaps now old) homes. My mother could never—she prefers the cottons and silk of the dresses she brings in her overweight suitcase from her yearly trip to India to the polyester that pervades Macys.

But my 4:30 AM thoughts didn’t stop there.

What I really want to say is this: when I saw Elon Musk’s recent call for more H-1B visas—the same kind my parents came here on—it struck me as ironic. He justified it by claiming that Americans have low education and high salary demands, as if immigrants were nothing more than a convenient labor force to exploit. And that made me laugh.

For someone aligned with an anti-immigration party, his call for more H-1B visas is blatant self-interest. On some level, he must understand that immigrants have built this country. They always have. The roads, the railways, the technology, the medical breakthroughs—immigrants have been at the heart of American progress since its inception. The Italians, Poles, Irish, Japanese, Chinese, and Indians. And yet, figures like Musk, and the politicians he aligns himself with, continue to vilify them when it’s convenient, painting them as threats, burdens, or invaders—until, of course, their labor is needed.

Immigrants only have two identities in this country: too much or too little. Too unskilled, too uneducated—until they take the jobs no one else wants. Too foreign, too unwilling to assimilate—until their culture is

repackaged for mass consumption. Too burdensome—until their taxes pay for the very systems that refuse to protect them.

My parents, like millions of others, came here chasing the American Dream, only to find that the very country that prides itself on being a nation of immigrants is the first to turn on them when political winds shift. And yet, they endure. My mother, in her flowing Punjabi dress, remains unshaken in her identity, refusing to trade authenticity for acceptance. Who says she is not an American? My mother, like so many engineers, doctors, and scientists who came before her, built her career on a visa system that treated her as temporary, disposable, useful only so long as it served corporate interests.

Musk’s words are just another reminder of a truth I’ve long known: for people like my parents, America extends a hand only when it benefits from doing so. And as soon as it doesn’t, that hand is quick to close into a fist.

What a hypocrite. What a country. ◀

What Actually Is Socialism?

By Augustus Farrell Borgia, 2026



Photo/Wikimedia Commons

Bernie Sanders, is one of two Independents in the United States Senate, represents Vermont. Sanders has garnered publicity for being a self-proclaimed “democratic socialist”.

What actually is socialism? Is it not getting to choose what type of bread you get? Does it involve rations? Is it run by a dictator? Is it evil?

To all of those questions, unequivocally, no. Socialism, while often used as a pejorative term by Conservatives, is simply an economic system that prioritizes economic planning over unchecked market forces. At its core, socialism advocates for the means of production to be structured in a way that benefits society as a whole rather than serving only private interests. This often translates to better working conditions, expanded social benefits, and more leisure time—goals rooted in democratic and moral ideals.

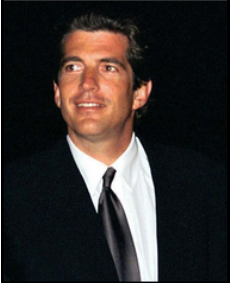
A common misconception is that socialism and communism are the same. While they share certain aspects, they differ significantly in execution. Socialism focuses on wealth redistribution to improve living conditions for as many people as possible, often through progressive taxation, public services, and regulated industries. Communism, on the other hand, seeks to abolish private ownership of the means of production altogether, replacing it with collective ownership—factories, land, and resources controlled by the community as a whole rather than individuals or corporations. Both systems fundamentally challenge capitalism, but they do so in distinct ways.

The contrast between these economic systems and capitalism is summed up well by Brazilian Catholic Archbishop Hélder Câmara, who famously said, “When I give food to the poor, they call me a saint. When I ask why they are poor, they call me a communist.”

Nowhere in these definitions do we find dictatorship, anti-American sentiment, or any of the so-called “evils” often associated with socialism. At its heart, socialism is about ensuring that no one is left behind—an attempt to create a society where basic needs are met and economic inequality is minimized. Should a society prioritize profit over people? ◀

Not Just Politics As Usual

Though released two decades ago, John F. Kennedy Jr.'s magazine, George, provides introspection on the modern relationship between politics, pop culture, and everyday life.



By Emily Nguyen
Liberty, 2026

On October 13th, 2005, Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Public Policy saw the gathering of several notable figures, including Senator Edward Kennedy, NBC anchor Tom Brokaw, and even President Bill Clinton and California governor Arnold Schwarznegger by video call. News anchors and political analysts formed a panel, giving valuable insight honoring the subject at hand.

What was the occasion? A magazine.

John F. Kennedy Jr. was born into the Kennedy political dynasty and subsequently, a life of mass media attention. He died young at age 38, in a plane crash over Martha’s Vineyard, alongside his wife, Carolyn and sister-in-law, Lauren, leaving an uncertain legacy but a foreseeable purpose with his political magazine, George.

The first cover of George magazine saw Cindy Crawford posing as a midriff-exposed George Washington, a symbol for the intersectionality between politics and popular culture that Kennedy hoped to achieve by viewing politics in a new light.

According to Rosemarie Terenzio, Chief of Staff at George from 1994 to 1999, Kennedy was told that “the only two magazines that will never sell are religion and politics.” Despite that, the magazine would be unveiled in 1995 to a crowd of hungry reporters.

George would live a short life, seeing more celebrities adorned covers, and a vision into the future of politics and media.

American politics is very usually messy and can be very dysfunctional and the 2024 election was no exception.

We saw Donald Trump, who was found guilty on 34 felony counts only months before the election, among a repertoire of other controversies, versus Kamala Harris, who was left with only a 107 day campaign after incumbent Joe Biden dropped out of the race.

In 2024, we saw politics become a ball of incivility and disrespect, with Trump using phrases like “Comrade Kamala” and “Tampon Tim” to dub the Democratic ticket or “Low IQ War Hawk,” to describe Liz Cheney. Contrastingly, Biden called Trump and his fans “garbage” during a rally, in response to comments made at a Trump rally about Puerto Rico as a “floating island of trash.”

Some of the 2024 presidential debate highlights included Biden asking Trump “How many billions of dollars do you owe in civil penalties for molesting a woman in public?” in a horrific first debate and Trump falsely antagonizing Haitian immigrants for eating domestic pets in Ohio in his first and only debate with Harris.

The internet and social media, now lodged into American life, played a large part

vegetation caused these asymmetrical patterns). Other Facebook users have claimed that the weather is man-made, that the wildfires were started to clear out land, or that the fires were caused by prioritizing DEI initiatives over disaster relief preparations. Spreading unfounded conspiracies like these can have dire repercussions. Like the AI-generated images, they only served to intensify the stress, anger, and tension that people felt in the face of these destructive fires. This caused even more division among Americans, and obfuscated the real causes and solutions of the fire.

Finally, one of the most pernicious pieces of misinformation is that California’s water mismanagement led to the fire. During his first presidency, Donald Trump signed a bill into law directing more water to farmers in Southern California, from the Sacramento-San Joaquin River

in connecting presidential candidates and their campaigns with voters. Mass media helped to control and disrupt the political narrative, feeding viewers information that they wanted to hear, even if it was misinformation, or in an echo chamber.

The disparaging back and forth between candidates and the heightened media influence are just two examples of why our political norm is a boiling pot of hatred, division, and worse of all, confusion.

But, it wasn’t always like this.

Winning his presidential races against John McCain in 2008 and Mitt Romney in 2012, Barack Obama, and both of his opponents, managed to keep their respect for each other. In fact, McCain and Obama were even civil enough to arrange for the latter to eulogize the former at his 2018 funeral, without any semblance of an actual friendship.

Politics was much more civil when the intricate relationship between media and politics had not yet entangled into the mess it is today.

Through George, JFK Jr. correctly predicted that modern media and pop culture would become an accompaniment to politics, just not in the optimistic way that he had intended.

Kennedy had set out to “demystify” politics, especially to the average media consumer or young person who had no previous ties to the world of elections and campaigns.

A bi-partisan magazine, George embraced staff, guests, and perspectives from all walks of politics, including conservative commentator Ann Coulter, former Republican House Speaker Newt Gingrich, and long-time Democrat supporter George Clooney, making an effort to foster political conversation that did not divide, but instead unified. George offered

a solution to the way that politics could connect people Modern audiences are used to politics being a very specific way. Shock hungry media outlets work to dramatize our idea of politics and to divide the polarized.

The type of election that gets attention are the ones that highlight polling data, debate results, and fundraising efforts, all of which work together to drive viewer perception of politics towards cynicism and the belief that politics is all about winning instead of serving public interest.

In addition, many media outlets lean heavily towards one side of the political spectrum. Biased media coverage of elections can leave audiences stuck in an echo chamber, feeding into their own beliefs without consulting the opinions of others. Different media outlets may also pick and choose which issues to cover, influencing which issues audiences deem most important.

In a multitude of ways, consuming media about politics today means the end of widening your political knowledge, halting the pursuit for political awareness in exchange for reaffirming what you already knew or thought you knew.

George not only hooked readers with the popular, but implored them to look at politics in a different way, into the ways that politics could connect with everyday life.

By connecting politics, something divisive and at times boring, with pop culture, something relatable, George explored a new way to weave politics into the lives of young people and how they could engage with modern civics. George teaches modern media that talking politics can reach the average viewer, through a change of perspective and an embrace of the unusual.

Kellyanne Conway,

now the former the campaign manager and senior counsel to Donald Trump, was a pollster for George during its tenure. According to Conway, Kennedy was “fascinated with polling, because polling was the touchstone to what people think.”

He sucked people into the world of George and its politics with these “touchstones”, the captivating bits of worldly gossip and pop culture that would intrigue anybody.

Conway recalled telling Kennedy about how ““I don’t know” is a great answer that gets ignored.” to which he responded with “Let’s not push people,” noticing the nuances of the relationships between politics and people. Kennedy realized how unlike what politics wants, people do not easily gravitate to one side or the other.

To seek out an informed vote, past the headlines, quotations, or gossip, you must first admit that you simply do not know.

George utilized connecting its readers to the media and popular as a way to ignite their political curiosity. Not to assure them of a certain bias or sway them in one direction, but to have them admit the ever relevant “I don’t know” that pushes them to seek knowledge.

George proved an important lesson in how we should use the attention grabbing nature of media to our advantage in order to productively consume political information. The headlines that dominate our political media and skew our political perception should be our signal for more. Instead of serving as a static reassurance, they should ignite our search for the truth.

George and its tagline, “not just politics as usual” reminds us to not view politics as it is, but as the beginning of something more. ◀

the and local level, by all appearances, that made this exponentially worse, and so those are things that have to be factored in with regard to the level of aid and whether there are conditions upon that.” Even more bluntly, Trump told Fox News reporters that “I don’t think we should give California anything until they let water flow down.” (In reference to the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta). The idea of withholding or conditioning aid to California based on their policies is horrifying— especially given that it is based on false information.

Every day that these fires continued, Californians lost their homes, businesses, and even their lives. Right now, America should be unified in their desire to send relief to those facing natural disasters, not divided and misinformed. ◀



By **Kirill Kondratyuk**
Parkway West, 2027

President Trump's recent comments on Greenland stirred quite a controversy, to say the least. Trump noted that buying Greenland is essential to "freedom in the world" and that "the people (of Greenland) want to be with us." This comment, of course, was met with backlash from both Denmark and Greenland. Danish officials called such a proposal "absurd," with the Danish EU parliament member Anders Vistisen telling Trump to "f*** off." Denmark even changed the royal coat of arms to make the Greenlandic arms more visible. Greenland's response, which is an autonomous region, was not less negative. Múte Bourup Egede, the prime minister of Greenland, said that Greenland was "not for sale" and instead said it was looking towards independence. However, despite everyone reacting to Trump's comments negatively or ironically, one question remained: Is this the first time the USA has wanted to buy Green-land? Well, the answer to it is no. Some may not remember, but Trump wanted to purchase the island in 2019. However, the story of Greenland-US relations is much older than that, and the concept of buying it is not new.

First, for context, most U.S. land expansion was through purchases, such as the Louisiana Purchase from France or the Alaska Purchase from Russia. So, Greenland came into the U.S. eyes for quite some time. Proposals to purchase it came in 1867, 1910, 1946, and 1955. Most famously, in 1940, during WW2, as Denmark fell to the Nazis, the U.S. temporarily occupied Greenland, though it was returned once the war ended. Despite that, in 1946, U.S. Secretary of State James Byrnes offered Denmark \$100 million in exchange for Greenland, as he saw it as a major strategic point for the USA. It was just the first step for Byrnes, as he also wanted to purchase Iceland. However, Denmark refused his proposal. Okay, the idea of purchasing Greenland isn't new, but the more important question is not what Trump wants but what Greenlanders want. So what do they want?

As of 2019, two-thirds of Greenlanders supported independence, although most would refuse it if it meant an end to Danish subsidies since they believe that if they cease, the independence would not be viable. Some might cite the recent survey from Patriot Poll, in which out of 416 residents, 57.6% favored joining the United States. But here is the catch. The CEO of PP, Lucca Ruggieri, is closely affiliated with Republican politicians, such as Donald Trump Jr..

Second, and more importantly, the poll did not specify how respondents were chosen, what questions were asked, and the statistical uncertainty. Second, let's look at the Greenland government and parties. The majority of the legislature, 26 out of 31 seats, are taken by pro-independence parties, with the prime minister of Greenland, Múte Bourup Egede, belonging to the party

Inuit Ataqatigiit (Community of the People), which is a democratic socialist party advocating independence.

While Trump did hint at threatening to take Greenland by force or tariffs, as well as the so-called "Make Greenland Great Again Act" being introduced to the House of Representatives, there is little chance that Trump's comments would be anything besides words. Remember, Trump is a populist, and many of his campaign promises barely came true, such as the border wall during his first administration. Second, neither Greenland nor Denmark would agree to this, as most people are more pro-independence or staying with Denmark than joining America. However, Trump's statements and threats can make foreign relationships and diplomacy worse, and that's especially bad considering that Denmark is a NATO member. For now, we have to wait and see. ◀

WENTZVILLE

CONTINUED FROM 1

Wentzville, school enrollment numbers are skyrocketing, resulting in overcrowded classrooms, understaffed schools, and fewer resources for students. Teachers are facing the challenge of managing larger classes with limited time to provide individualized attention. Additionally, extracurricular opportunities are becoming increasingly scarce. To address this, the city must invest in expanding its educational facilities, whether by building new schools or expanding existing ones. Recruiting more teachers and providing them with ongoing professional development will help ensure that Wentzville's schools maintain their high educational standards despite the rising number of students. Partnering with local businesses and community organizations can also provide much-needed after-school programs and extracurricular activities to ease the burden on schools. Furthermore, integrating technology into classrooms can personalize learning and help reduce the pressure on teachers by offering more efficient ways to instruct and assess students.

As Wentzville continues to grow, it's crucial that the city adopts a balanced approach to development. Strategic urban planning will ensure that growth doesn't outpace the capacity of the city's infrastructure while preserving the quality of life for residents. Local leaders must continue to invest in key areas such as transportation, utilities, and education to support a larger population. It's also vital to engage the community in the planning process, ensuring that residents' needs and concerns are addressed. By prioritizing sustainable development, protecting the environment, and enhancing education, Wentzville can remain one of the most desirable and affordable places to live in the U.S.

As Wentzville grows, we must take proactive steps to ensure it remains a family-friendly community. With more families moving into the area, there's a growing need for businesses that cater specifically to families. Restaurants, entertainment venues, parks, and retail stores designed for families should be encouraged and strategically located within neighborhoods. By doing so, we can reduce the need for long car trips and create a more connected, vibrant community.

In addition, the city prioritize the creation of safe, accessible walkways hat connect neighbor-hoods, making it easier for families to travel on foot. Well-designed pedestrian paths will not only reduce reliance on cars but will also promote healthier, more active lifestyles. Whether it's walking to a local park or visiting a nearby store, connected walkways will foster a sense of community and convenience for families.

To build a sustainable and connected future for Wentzville, we must invest in infrastructure that encourages walking and supports family-oriented businesses. By focusing on these improvements, we can ensure that Wentzville remains a place where families can thrive and feel at home.

The students in Wentzville's schools deserve better. As the community grows, the pressure on our educational system increases, resulting in overcrowded classrooms, understaffed schools, and limited resources. It's essential that local leaders, residents, and school officials advocate for increased investment in our schools, both in terms of physical facilities and the support educators need to succeed. Expanding school facilities, recruiting more teachers, and providing teachers with the resources they need are all critical steps to ensure that our students receive a high-quality education. Now is the time to ensure that Wentzville's future generations have the resources, space, and support to thrive. Let's work together to push for the improvements our children and educators truly deserve.

In conclusion, Wentzville's rapid growth presents both exciting opportunities and significant challenges. As the city continues to expand, it is crucial to address the demands on infrastructure, education, and the environment to ensure that future generations can enjoy a high quality of life. By investing in sustainable development, improving transportation options, supporting family-oriented businesses, and expanding educational resources, Wentzville can maintain its appeal as a vibrant, thriving community. Through thoughtful planning and community collaboration, the city can strike a balance between growth and sustainability, making sure that Wentzville remains a great place to live, work, and raise a family for years to come. ◀

HOSPITAL

CONTINUED FROM 1

Phillips Hospital. The Homer G. Phillips Hospital at the time was one of the best hospitals in the nation. Through his work with the mayor of Saint Louis, Phillips managed to bring desperately needed resources to the Black community. The Homer G Phillips Hospital provided much needed healthcare and education to under-served communities, only for this hospital to be shut down in 1979, long before its white counterpart, City Hospital #1 on Lafayette Ave. in South St. Louis. The Homer G. Phillips Hospital was a pillar of The Ville community while in operation.

Six years ago, Missouri Attorney General Josh Hawley filed a lawsuit against businessman and property magnate Paul McKee. McKee was charged with misuse of over \$43 million in public funds between 2009 and 2013 and falsifying records in the pursuit of tax credits. Attorney General Josh Hawley demanded \$4.5 million in damages. It feels somewhat disingenuous for the name of Homer G. Phillips to be co-opted by a man with a history of exploiting primarily Black and Brown neighborhoods for profit. Paul McKee has a history of tax fraud and blighting properties, but with all this in mind, he still holds numerous properties across the North Side.

Over the course of this hospital's creation and existence, over \$43 million of taxpayer's dollars were taken in TIF money, only for the hospital to last less than a year. TIF “money, or, Tax Increment Funding is a form of government subsidy granted to individuals who provide economic stimulus to certain regions that have been zoned as in need by the municipalities. TIF stands for tax increment financing, the money needed for the TIF is paid for in the future by the area's taxes and the blighted region.

Paul McKee was sued by the city of Saint Louis for mismanaging the 3509 Page Boulevard McKee property, a property he bought back in 2009 that has been left to rot. This property is a blight upon the community, just as many of McKee's properties in the neighborhood surrounding the National Geographic Intelligence Agency. 3509 Page Boulevard is one of the properties

purchased in Paul McKee's NorthSide Regeneration Project, an ongoing project that has taken place over the course of nearly two decades, but in this time has only managed to open up the Greenleaf Market and the Homer G. Phillips Hospital, both of which are now closed.

As we have seen, Paul McKee has a history of fraud and neglect. He has a pattern of targeting struggling communities that are without the resources to combat him. In the future, preventing men like Paul McKee from abusing their power, could decrease the time necessary for adverse possession of land and enforce property codes the city has in place yet remain unenforced. ◀



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Presidency Brings Even More Prospects Of Change

Can Donald Trump dismantle the DOE?

By **Nayva Manchala**
Liberty, 2028

Lately, there’s been a lot of talk about Donald Trump wanting to get rid of the Department of Education (DOE). At first, it sounded like just another wild political promise, but the more I looked into it, the more real it became. This isn’t just an idea Trump came up with, it’s actually part of Project 2025, a detailed conservative plan for reshaping the government. Which, by the way, he said he hasn’t even read. So, what would it mean if this actually happened? Let’s start



Donald Trump, arriving at the 2025 presidential inauguration

with the basics: What does the Department of Education even do? Right now, the DOE is in charge of distributing federal funding to schools, enforcing civil rights laws (like making sure schools don’t discriminate against students with disabilities), collecting national education data, and overseeing financial aid programs like Pell Grants and federal student loans. It’s in charge of the \$1.6 trillion federal student loan program and a range of grants for K-12 schools. It doesn’t

run the individual schools, but it sets nationwide standards and guidelines to help ensure students get a fair education no matter where they might live. So Trump suggested eliminating the DOE and giving all power over education back to individual states. He and other conservatives argue that states should have full control over what schools teach, how they’re funded, and what rules they follow. The problem? This could lead to massive disparities. Wealthier states might have more

well-funded schools, while poorer states could struggle even more. Civil rights protections could also become weaker, making it harder for students with disabilities, LGBTQ+ students, and students in low-income areas to get the support they need. Now, can Trump actually do this? Well, not by himself. Adding or removing a cabinet-level position takes an act of Congress. The DOE was created by Congress in 1979 under President Jimmy Carter, so only the Congress can vote to get rid of it.

That’s not easy, even with a Republican majority. It would still need a supermajority of 60 in the Senate. So not only would he have to get every single Republican, they’d have to convince 7 democrats to vote in their favor. Trump talked about eliminating the DOE during his first term, but it never happened because, realistically, shutting down an entire government department is complicated. That said, just because it didn’t happen before doesn’t mean it won’t this time. Project 2025

outlines a very clear plan for dismantling the DOE, and Trump is pushing harder than ever to make it a reality. Even if Congress doesn’t fully abolish the department, Trump could still slash its budget, limit its power, or fill it with officials who don’t believe in its mission. So, what does this mean for students like me? Less federal oversight could mean schools in different states have completely different standards. It could mean less protection for students who rely on federal education laws. And it could mean big changes to how college financial aid works. In short, this isn’t just some far-off political idea, it’s a real possibility, and it could affect millions of students. If the government really wants to improve education, wouldn’t it make more sense to fix the system rather than tearing it down entirely? That’s a question we should all be asking before it’s too late. ◀

By **Emily Nguyen**
Liberty, 2026

At the turn of the millennium, Jean Carnahan, the first lady of Missouri, ushered in the new year with a profound sense of loss.

Her husband had just been elected to the United States Senate, despite having passed away in a plane crash, just three weeks before election day. In the 2000 United State Senate election for Missouri, her husband, Mel was elected with 50% of the vote compared to Republican incumbent John Ashcroft’s 48%. Before running for the Senate, Mel Carnahan had been the 51st governor of Missouri, its second to last Dem-ocratic governor to date. Mel maintained high approval ratings throughout his tenure, supporting progressive policies like abortion rights, gun control, and education reform.

After Mel’s passing, red buttons transcribed with the words “I’m Still with Mel” spread across the state. Polling places were left open for two extra hours, in order to account for the high voting turnouts in cities like St. Louis.

Jean, claiming her husband’s victory, promised supporters that she would “never let the fire go out,” a recall to one of Mel’s most common sayings.

John Ashcroft is the only United States Senate candidate to be defeated by a deceased person, no less a Dem-ocrat, in a state now dominated by state-wide Republican politicians, a symbol for how Missouri politics have drastically shifted in the last decade and what Missourians still have to learn.

It would be unimaginable today to see a Democrat hold statewide office in Missouri, no less a deceased Democrat. Let’s not forget that Republican John McCain won over President Barack Obama by only 4,000 votes. Missouri used to be a highly contested bellwether state, predicting how the nation would vote for the president with great

Photo/Wikimedia Commons



Mel Carnahan, 51st governor of Missouri, was born in Birch Tree, MO.

accuracy until 2008.

Since then, Missouri has been secured into a Republican stronghold, holding a ruby red majority in the two state legislatures and the governorship. Missouri has not elected a Democrat to a state-wide position since 2018.

Following the 2024 election, Democrats suffered losses across the state, despite intricate planning and funding. Democratic Senate candidate Lucas Kunce lost against Republican incumbent Josh Hawley despite outraising him in campaign donations. Nevertheless, progressive ballot initiatives like Amendment 3, that would enshrine abortion access in the Missouri constitution, were passed, likely on the same ballots supporting anti-abortion candidates.

According to Pew Research Center, 80% of Americans believe that elected officials don’t care what people like them think. The results of the study saw a large increase in this belief from a similar study conducted in the early 2000s. The study suggests that Americans lack trust in their officials, and feel like they have little influence in their local govern-ments compared to special interest groups or wealthy donors.

This disconnect between voters and legislators, especially on the local level, is not a new feeling among Americans, especially in Missouri counties where partisan politics dominate and isolate even right-leaning voters that make up our Republican majority. Missourians are frustrated with the, often partisan driven or divisive, choices that they have to make for each election, that try to portray them as single-issue or monolithic. This

Don’t Let The Fire Go Out

pattern of conflicted voting, specifically regarding Amendment 3 evokes the time of Mel Carnahan.

The proposal for an abortion amendment was sent to Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft’s office in May of 2024, after over 380,000 signatures were collected by Missourians for Constitutional Freedom, the group behind Amendment 3. Missouri was one of 13 states with trigger laws regarding abortion, meaning the state underwent a complete abortion ban when Roe v. Wade was overturned. After the overturn of Roe v. Wade, nearly all abortions were banned in Missouri.

The amendment was able to pass with the help of split-ticket voters. In St. Charles County, the most accurate bellwether area in Missouri, voters demonstrated this struggle between their own interests and the familiarity of partisan politics by voting for both the progressive Amendment 3 and Republican officials.

St. Charles County was one of four counties who voted for both expanding abortion access through Amendment 3 and Donald Trump, alongside Buchanan, Clay, and Platte counties.

This voting phenomenon provides commentary on the often unrepresentative politicians Missourians vote into office.

Incumbency advantages are extremely strong in red areas like St. Charles County, where Congresswoman Ann Wagner has represented Missouri’s 2nd congressional district since 2013, easily winning re-election each year. Wagner has even expressed her intent to run for re-election in 2026, for what would be her 7th term. Her district voted within 10% of the statewide vote, accurately representing the state vote on Amendment 3, through also voting in Wagner, who opposes abortion rights.

It is in these districts that voters rely on party recognition rather than candidate alignment or even plain name recognition.

Voting with party influences in mind fuels inattentive politicians, who opt for reaching constituents through campaign ads or yard signs instead of meaningful or representative policy.

While Amendment 3 ultimately passed, but not without challenge from Missouri politicians.

As abortion rights supporters were working to gain the signatures they needed to be on the November ballot, the Missouri General Assembly was attempting to make the constitutional amendment process even harder.

In February 2024, the Missouri Senate tried to pass a bill requiring that only United States citizens be allowed to vote and that prohibited foreign interference in the initiative petition process.

These provisions were called “ballot candy” by Missouri Senate Democrats. They branded those conditions as an attempt to get more resolution support, since citizenship is already a voting requirement and foreign interference is already banned by federal law.

The Democrats performed a 15-hour filibuster to remove them. The bill was passed onto the Missouri House of Representatives, with only one Missouri Senate provision that increased the amount of votes needed to pass a constitutional amendment.

But, the House amended the bill to include the deleted terms, in addition to adding a provision requiring that constitutional amendments have support from five of Missouri’s eight congressional districts. Six out of eight districts are red.

Back in the Missouri Senate, a 50-hour filibuster from Democrats saw the end of the legislative session without a vote, effectively killing the bill.

Later, the ability of Amendment 3 to appear on the November ballot was still tentative.

Despite having previously certified the proposed amendment, Jay Ashcroft wrote to Missourians for Constitutional Freedom lawyer Tori Schafer, de-certifying the amendment. He cited an earlier circuit court’s decision declaring the amendment as inadequate since it did not mention what laws it would appeal. This judgement was ultimately reversed by the Missouri Supreme Court, forcing Ashcroft to put the amendment on Missouri ballots.

Around the same time, Ashcroft, who is vocal against abortion, was forced to remove his “misleading” ballot language by the order of a circuit judge. Circuit Judge Cotton Walker would write new ballot language to appear at every polling place.

Opponents of the abortion measure, namely Republicans, have tried to attribute its success to the \$31 million raised by Missouri for Constitutional Freedom, the PAC behind Amendment 3. But, this claim is disregarding how Amendment 3 was passed precisely with the help of Missouri voters from all political backgrounds, since 3 million Amendment 3 voters also voted for Trump. The claim assumes that Missourians were driven by campaign funded appeals, rather than their own wants, again maintaining discontent between legislators and voters.

This strange alignment between Amendment 3 votes and conservative votes suggests a tendency to rely on voter-driven ballot initiatives or people-led movements rather than trusting the public officials that we vote into office.

Not only does this

reinforce distrust in politicians, it also weakens any Demo-cratic, and and possibly more representative holds in the state. As more progressive ballot initiatives are passed, there are fewer policies Missouri Democrats can run on. In this stead, politicians who do not represent or even oppose the wills of Missourians are increasingly elected.

There is hope though. The 2024 election saw record numbers of voter registrations and constituents in line to vote on election day for St. Charles County. Missourians not only voted for Amendment 3, but fought for its passage.

Though their ballots may be at odds with their interests, these votes and the passing of legislation like Amendment 3, point to an optimistic embrace of voter responsibility.

It is times like these that exemplify the ways that Missouri voters have not changed since Mel Carnahan was elected, that show how Missourians do not settle for the obvious choice, and do not let the fire go out.

It is the results of the 2024 and 2000 elections that tell us to not settle for familiarity, but to instead walk the political path that seems impossible.

In the face of her husband’s victory, Jean Carnahan declared that “the mantle has fallen on us” a statement that rings more true than ever, as modern voters realize the true power their ideas, beliefs, and ballots hold. Again, the mantle has fallen on us and our power to vote for what and who we want to represent us and our will.

In a tribute to her father, Robin Carnahan wrote about having walked downstairs as a child on a cold crisp morning to see a warm burning fire, courtesy of Mel’s early morning sacrifices. As her father left for work, she vividly remembered him saying: “Don’t let the fire go out.” ◀

SCHOOL BOARD

CONTINUED FROM 1

from a library under the First Amendment, was also referenced as a precedent. Following the accusation, almost all of the 8 books were brought back to shelves. In 2023, the WSD was served another lawsuit from Missouri Attorney General, Andrew Bailey, for allegedly violating state sunshine laws, which require government agencies to make their records and activities available to the public. According to Bailey, the WSD violated sunshine laws by discussing controversial transgender bathroom policies privately instead of publicly. Board members, Renee Henke and Jen Olsen, elected in April 2023, filed the complaint igniting the legal dispute. According to the case, another board member stated that the district would be a “lightning rod” for litigation if the meeting were to be held publicly. Over 40 community members filed complaints to the AG’s office. The lawsuit is still ongoing. Before the current district superintendent, Brian Bishop, assumed his position, the WSD was embroiled in local news once again. Danielle Tormala, the superintendent since 2022, had resigned, in exchange for a delicate buyout exceeding \$1 million. Following the agreement, Tormala agreed to drop any

charges against the district and school board, with the district and school board agreeing not to go forward with legal action against Tormala. Prior to her resignation, calls for Tormala’s departure had materialized around the same time as her comment, “The terms diversity, equity, and inclusion cannot be dirty words in this district” during a board meeting. Her statement was in the aftermath of a district investigation by the St. Charles County NAACP for racism complaints made by parents. The news of Tormala’s departure emerged during a time of district divisiveness and trouble, deriving from the aforementioned lawsuit with Bailey and the district book banning. Referencing the suit involving transgender restrooms, former state senator and current congressman Bob Onder, representing Missouri’s 3rd congressional district, even called Tormala a “wokester” via social media. These headlines have birthed politicalization of and division within the district. Though school board candidates have rallied their campaigns around partisan politics prevalent in the Wentzville community, parents are preferring indifferent that appeal to politics. The results of the 2024 district election saw the more moderate

David Bisenthal and Brad Welsh win over more conservative candidates, Leigh Palitsch and Cindy Reidy, both endorsed by Republicans Bill Eigel, Bob Onder, and the St. Charles County Republican Central Committee. This time around, the race for the two vacant seats on the WSD BOE have just kicked off. Four people have filed for candidacy including Danielle Looney, Christina Macormic, Jeremy Way, and Julie Scott, the incumbent vice president of the board running for reelection. The other open seat is currently occupied by board president Katie Lyczak, who will retire following this term. Danielle Looney is a previous graduate of Holt High School and mother of five children who reside in the Wentzville community. She has degrees in computer science and health management. Looney currently works as a controller at Farmington Manor, an assisted living facility in Farmington, Missouri. Some of Looney’s key issues include responsible use of taxpayer dollars, efficient trans-portion, decreasing late start days, and giving students quality education. Christina Macormic and her husband reside in Lake St. Louis with their five children. As a board member, Macormic says that she would “work to create an environment where we prioritize academics and safety while utilizing

effective and proven methods to support learning.” According to the St. Louis Post Dispatch, both Looney and Macormic were founding members of the St. Charles County Parents Association, a conservative parents group that sued the St. Charles County Health Department for allegedly violating state laws through their COVID-19 quarantine and health recommendations. In August 2023, the SCCPA also launched “Operation Opt-Out” aiming to “arm parents with as much knowledge as possible to combat the ideological subversion that is being forced on our children” through downloadable online forms that opt their children out of opportunities like Leader In Me Training, iReady testing, and Compass Health presentations. While these forms are not valid for student accommodations, the opt-out forms also included exemptions from vaccines and addressed topics like anti-racism and critical race theory. Looney and Macormic had already resigned from the SCCPA Board of Directors by April 2023. Jeremy Way is a father of two Holt High School graduates and resides in Wentzville. Since 2018, he has been the Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, Facilities, and Transportation at the Wright City R-II School District. He previously served as the Head and

Assistant Principal at Warrenton High School. His key issues include student achievement, staff attraction and retention, and productive use of taxpayer dollars. Julie Scott is currently an incumbent on the school board, serving since April of 2022. She has a background in nursing, having previously worked at SSM Health St. Louis as an oncology nurse practitioner. Scott also has experience as a freelance medical writer, and currently works as a medical science liaison at Gilead Sciences. Both Way and Scott have received endorsements from the St. Charles County Families for Public Schools, a political action committee that “supports, informs, and advocates for people, actions, and legislation that provides for the highest quality public education experiences for all students.” The founding board of the SCCPS consists of Dr. Mary Hendricks-Harris, current educational consultant and previous Francis Howell superintendent, former circuit judge and Democratic State Senator Ted House, and Pam Sloan, an educational leadership consultant and former Francis Howell superintendent and principal. The two candidates have also been endorsed by the Wentzville National Education Association, the local chapter of the NEA.

Given our substantial history with school board controversy, it is extremely important to consider the familiar stakes and recurring types of candidates brought by each election. In recent years, WSD BOE elections have brought forth candidates that lean into drama and partisan politics. This push and pull between conservative and liberal candidates should instead focus on appealing to the conscience and informed choice of voters. In lieu of engaging voters by relying on the partisan stronghold in Wentzville, candidates should be charming voters with their valuable experience and visible care for the wellbeing and future of students. There will always be room for improvement in terms of the public education that the Wentzville School District strives to achieve. Districts like ours have always had trouble deciding the best way to accomplish their ultimate goal of providing quality education to students, but until April, only one relevant question remains: which two candidates will be best suited to help lead the district, students, and community for the next three years? Once again, the outcome of this election will lie within the hands of voters and their exigence to vote on April 8th, 2025. ◀

The Renaming of Fort Liberty in Historical Context

By Benjamin Yates
Home School Harmony
St. Louis, 2028

On February 10, Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth signed a memorandum officially reverting the name of Fort Liberty to Fort Bragg, albeit with a new namesake: Roland Bragg instead of the controversial Braxton Bragg. However, his choice is proving to be just as controversial as the original namesake, if not more. Braxton Bragg was a Confederate general who some believe to be singlehandedly responsible for the Confederate defeat. He was also a notoriously brash military command-

er, his tactics mostly revolving around random frontal attacks and using nothing more than numbers of troops to calculate the possibility of success. Historians speculate that he had bipolar disorder, as he would oscillate between periods of intense rage and bloodlust and others of paranoia and complete refusal to move troops. But his actions against members of his own army set him apart as one of the most disturbing figures in the civil war. He would frequently execute people for minor offenses, including in one

case, where Asa Lewis was accused of desertion after he briefly left camp to visit his widowed mother for Christmas. Immediately before the execution, Bragg said that “You Kentuckians are too independent for the good of the army. I’ll shoot every one of [you] if I have to.” One soldier attempted to murder Bragg by placing a 12-pound artillery shell under his mattress. When the shell exploded, he was injured but refused to seek medical treatment until the soldier was executed. In short, nothing should be named after

Braxton Bragg. He was a ruthless man who was willing to disregard human life and even murder to advance his cause. And anyways, he was on the other side of the Civil War! Having a military installment named after him is comparable to naming one after a Nazi commander. In 2023, after pressure from Black Lives Matter activists to remove symbols of the Confederacy, many statues of and monuments to Confederate figures were removed, as well as legislation passed to

ensure that no new Confederate figures were removed, as well as legislation passed to ensure that no new Confederate monuments or namings would occur. Most importantly for this story, Fort Bragg was renamed Fort Liberty. Private First Class Roland L. Bragg, the fort’s new namesake, was born in 1923. He served in World War II and fought at the Battle of the Bulge. He received a Purple Heart for sustaining injuries but still being able to steal a German ambulance and transport a wounded soldier across enemy

lines to get medical attention. He was once captured by German soldiers but escaped because both he and his captors were Masons. He should absolutely have something named after him, but not this. In this action, Pete Hegseth has circumvented the law requiring that no Confederate names be honored with dedications. He has engaged in an action that will cost upwards of 8 million dollars to enact. And most of all, he has made Roland Bragg, a war hero who deserves honor, a simple stand-in for an evil man. ◀



Pete Hegseth’s inauguration as Secretary of Defense



Fort Liberty, not Fort Bragg

Word Search

HQZRBAPQDOEZQJB
PSPJXBIGCHLMTHT
EONFUOSMOWEBBAV
YVRLRPUIINNCDLMR
DSVLEIPLSJTWXEC
EQEI PWRC TOIRVNH
MDTBUFEOICOIPDW
OJOEBRMNTPNGRMY
CFSRLCEGUATHEED
RSETISPRTRETSNE
AOEYCTYEITBSITB
CGLNNMWSOYIDDXA
YOTKAMOSNVLGEXT
RVVZETE QEXLKNSE
FOJUBPELHLTTTCO

Word Bank:

- 1. Congress
- 2. Senate
- 3. President
- 4. Veto
- 5. Election
- 6. Bill
- 7. Democracy
- 8. Rights
- 9. Republic
- 10. Constitution
- 11. Amendment
- 12. Supreme
- 13. Party
- 14. Debate
- 15. Liberty

Civitas meets Blythe Bernhard, hosts student panel

On Saturday, February 1st, Civitas students heard from Blythe Bernhard and participated in a Q&A. Later that morning, student journalists discussed the Civitas Examiner on a panel, answering questions from other Civitas students.

Find more at [civitas-stl.com!](https://civitas-stl.com/)

