

**Renaming Robert E. Lee School**

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Green Dragon Gazette



**Like Socialism? Like Marxism?**

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# Missouri's Elitist Governments

By Abigail Adams

**NEWS FLASH!**

**UNITED FOR MISSOURI RELEASES MOLEG SCORECARD!** Of 33 MO Senate members, only 10 scored above a D on their voting records on economic issues. Out of 162 total House members, 59 of them (14 Republicans and 45 Democrats) rated an F and 27 more got a D (26 Republicans and 1 Democrat). So 86 of them (53%!) voted to keep Missouri economically disadvantaged? Why? It's time you asked--if your representative or senator is one of them--see scores at: <http://www.unitedformissouri.org> Move detailed analysis next issue.

**CORRECTIONS:** Green Dragon Gazette, a digital newspaper of Missourians, by Missourians, and for Missourians, puts its corrections on the front page! **However, we made no mistakes again in the last issue.** So this issue, we must deeply apologize for our lack of errors the second time in a row!

Send your news, unknown or little known facts, enlightening history, and best way and time to contact you, to [adamsabigail1800@yahoo.com](mailto:adamsabigail1800@yahoo.com) We are Missouri-centric--we will be in touch!

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Green Dragon Gazette is a digital "e-news-paper of Missourians, by Missourians, and for Missourians. Monthly, we will fill these few pages with stuff you never knew about the goings-on in Missouri, about your economy, your health, your family-only matters, your privacy, your security, and your government, and the history of much of the above and the pickles we have let ourselves get into because of it all. It's news, it's truth, but with a twist.

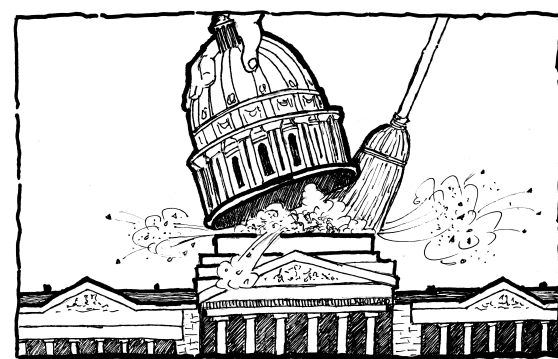
**MO, Did Ya Know?**

MO, Did Ya Know? is a regular feature of each issue, and is a gathering of information and news not widely known around the state.



**The Truth About MO Legislature**

Don't waste your time walking the halls of the Capitol asking legislators to consider any specific bills come time for the session in January 2018. The fix is about to already be in. The Republican legislative members will caucus on Monday, November 13 to decide, among not many other things, which bills will be allowed to see the light of day during the 2018 legislative session. We'll let you know next issue how many total bills the entire body pre-files in early December. See "Clean Up Our Capitol" Group Trying To Save Missourians From Elitist Legislators, Next Column.



**"Clean Up Our Capitol" Group Trying To Save Missourians From Elitist Legislators**

By James Coyne

"An honest process produces good law" is their motto, and this nameless (as far as we know) group of Missourians claim to have the solution to fix Missouri's representation problem.

The state representatives we vote in to office have no power to bring a bill to a vote on the house floor, and without a chance to be voted on, the most popular idea can never become law.

A couple thousand bills are introduced every session by the representatives we elect, but only those supported by a few in House leadership positions will ever see the light of day. The speaker of the house, the floor leader, and the chairman of the committee the bill is assigned to by the Speaker will have complete control of a bill advancing through the process or dying.

Here is how this power play works:

1. If and when a bill might be assigned to a committee, and what committee it is assigned to, is the sole decision of the speaker of the house. If the speaker has

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### More MO Did Ya Know?

The Missouri Republican Assembly is the state level of the National Federation of Republican Assemblies, an organization with roots going back to the 1930's and with strong ties to former President Ronald Reagan. The first meeting of the recently elected Missouri group's officers and directors was October 28th in Columbia. All we can say is, Republican office holders in the state of Missouri might do well to start reading their party's 2016 platform if they want to be re-elected next time around. See **"Real, Conservative, Honest Republicans An Oxymoron?,"** Next Column.

Charter schools are not run by school boards of elected board members, but rather by the board of directors of a corporate entity that owns it. Prior to August 28, 2016, charter schools were only allowed within the St. Louis or Kansas City school districts. Now this system is expanding, and there are likely to be special backroom deals just as in most things state government legitimizes and particularly in things the corrupt MO Department of Elementary and Secondary Education oversees. Parents have no say whatsoever in how such schools are run or who sits on a charter school's board of directors. The only alternative if they do not like how a charter is run is to move their children to a different charter school, a private school, or back into the government's school system. See **"Don't Erase History at Robert E. Lee Elementary School,"** Third Column.

A study of college students political stance was conducted recently. A solid majority, 60%, considered themselves to be Socialists. However, an even bigger percentage, 75%, say they do not trust the government, nor do they wish to pay higher taxes to support all the social programs the government wants funded. See **The Word Corner on "Socialism, Communism, and Marxism,"** Page 3.

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"A man's admiration for absolute government is proportionate to the contempt he feels for those around him." *Alexis de Tocqueville*

"We don't worship government, we worship God" *President Donald Trump*



### Real, Conservative, Honest Republicans An Oxymoron?

*By Jun Snow*

With all the cat fights, bickering, leaking, back-stabbing and name-calling going on in the Republican Party, it is time to take a deep breath and see if some clarity can calm the current chaos besetting us: let those of us who have labored since the Reagan Revolution point Republicans back to their roots.

President Reagan was greatly influenced by Michigan State University English professor Russell Kirk. Kirk is widely recognized as one of the premier thinkers of this era and an articulate, respected voice of what has become known as American conservatism. When it seems Republicans claim they are – or wish they were – or falsely claim to be – a conservative – it would be "prudent" to review Kirk's stance on the matter.

What exactly is a conservative? To answer that, turn to page 8 of Kirk's conservative classic, "The Conservative Mind: From Burke to Eliot." It is there Kirk offers what he calls "the six canons" of conservatism. If you adhere to "all" of them, then you are a conservative:

1. Belief in a transcendent order (God), or a body of natural law, which rules society as well as conscience." Political problems," Kirk writes, "at bottom, are religious and moral problems." One conflict between conservatives and liberals is their view of humans. To conservatives, humans are sinners and not to be trusted. To liberals, humans are good, maybe even perfectible.
2. Affection for the proliferating variety and mystery of human existence, as opposed to the one-size-fits-all, radical equality, and contempt for creativity that liberalism embraces.
3. Conviction that civilized society requires orders and classes, as against the notion of a "classless society." With reason, conservatives often have been called "the party of order," Kirk says. If natural distinctions are eliminated (think traditional marriage) in society, oligarchs (think federal court system (continued on Page 3)



### Don't Erase History at Robert E. Lee Elementary School

*By Joan Rawson*

In the current highly polarized political atmosphere, the frenzy to destroy historical symbols of "an oppressive country" is not surprising. Disturbing is not the severe ignorance of Robert E. Lee's character and achievements, but the idea no facts are at issue. The historical person is not the motivator in the school naming controversy. The real agenda of the hardcore activists driving the protests is to undermine our country's core values: individualism, heroic efforts, and any concept of greatness itself.

According to vast evidence, the most recent target of the 'history puritans' is grossly unfair. Lee said slavery was an evil institution, freed his wife's slaves, and testified after the war in Congress in an effort to prevent violence by vigilante groups in the South. By all accounts, Lee was brilliant, honorable, measured, stoic, and concerned at all times with minimizing unnecessary loss of innocent life both during and after the war. As the president of what was to become Washington and Lee University, he devoted his final years to healing and reconciliation among Americans. All through his life, Lee was admired by his ideological opponents. But today, any possibility of respecting the character of one's adversary, or someone who holds a different viewpoint, seems laughable. No matter the facts, "the other" must be castigated, demonized, and ultimately eliminated from memory.

The folly of attempting to judge flawed, all-too-human, historical figures by ever-shifting, politically motivated standards is glaring. Such attempts have the same character as the "struggle sessions" used by Maoist Red Guards to intimidate and shame their former professors, often in cattle sheds to show their new captives the sudden change in status. None of the factual history regarding Lee is relevant to the purveyors of this historically-ignorant effort to distort the past. The absurd nature of this skewed enterprise is rendered even more clear when one realizes that even a school named after (continued on Page 4)





## Real, Conservative, Honest Republican An Oxymoron?

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and emotional bureaucrats) fill the vacuum. Ultimate equality in the judgment of God and equality before courts of law are embraced by conservatives. Equality in outcome (picking winners and losers for example), imposed by oligarchs and emotional bureaucrats, flies in the face of order and freedom.

4. Freedom and property ownership are inseparable. Separate them, and the government becomes master of all. Economic leveling is not economic progress, Kirk reminds us.

5. Faith in prescription and distrust of "sophisters and calculators who would reconstruct society upon abstract designs." Man must put a control upon his will and his appetite, knowing that he is governed more by emotion than reason. Emotion, when unbridled, will ultimately lead to chaos and tyranny.

6. Conservatives recognize that change is not always productive and "hasty innovation" may be a "devouring conflagration, rather than a torch of progress." Indeed, society must alter, "for prudent change is the means of social preservation...and a statesman must take Providence" into account, Kirk teaches us. Kirk was a Christian, who believed that if you separate Christianity and Western Civilization, the result will be disastrous.

A statesman's chief virtue is prudence, per Plato and Edmund Burke, and why conservatives at the base level, abhor such radical actions as the Affordable Care Act, government picking economic winners and losers by Wall Street bailouts, or tax breaks for a new stadium for the local sports team. In such instances, prudence seems to be the first casualty.

Conservatives embrace reason--look to history while pondering the future, as it provides clues as to how to proceed for the future. As Harvard philosophy professor George Santayana wrote: "Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it." History resists chaos and helps us maintain order. The past is always connected to the future.



**Word of the month:**  
**Socialism**  
(aka  
**Communism,**  
aka **Marxism**)

## The Word Corner

*By Merryman Wagnel*

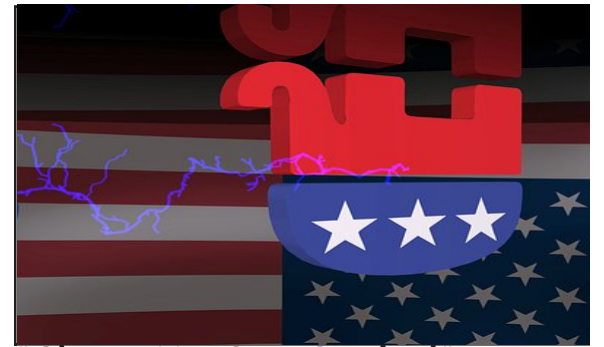
This regular feature is dedicated to the idea that words can truly mean something, and that there actually is right and wrong--not relativism only.  
**All About Socialism, Communism, and Marxism**

In the American system of government the struggle has been to keep a central government under control so that maximum individual freedom and liberty is maintained. Our English ancestors understood that as power concentrates, freedom wanes. What has been lost is that other forms of government tend to concentrate power in the hands of the few so they may rule over the masses.

The forms of government that routinely grab power into the hands of a very few are as follows: theocracy (rule by a religious leader), monarchy (rule by royalty that may not be good rulers), fascism (rule by one party, headed by a dictator), dictatorships, and Communism (total government control of everything). No government at all is known as anarchy, and the only limited governments are democratic republics--i.e.: the United States--at least, as it was founded in 1776; or a Constitutional monarchy such as the U.K., New Zealand, Australia and a few others that still recognize a monarch. Democracy is mob rule, where if you are part of the mob, you have it made—but if you are not, you are not likely to survive the violence.

All of those forms grabbing power and concentrating in only a privileged few while claiming to be "for the people" or the "good of all" are only truly intent on complete and total government control of the population under them. Fascists and Communists are both Socialists--two sides of the same coin--and are to the right of *nothing* in a free society.

If you think Socialism the answer, but government should stay out of your business, you may need to reevaluate your thoughts on any form of government trying to raise itself above either individuals or God. The fight has always been concentration of power in central government in this country. In my lifetime, I see we are losing--and becoming less free every day.



## "Clean Up Our Capitol"

### Group

(continued from Page 1)

no interest in it, it may be assigned very late in the session to a committee where it will never get a hearing, much less a vote. This happens routinely. And since the chairman of that committee is appointed by the speaker in the first place, that chairman can also be removed by him at any time.

2. If a bill is assigned to a committee in a timely manner, the chairman will control when and if it will be heard. Many bills die in committee--never having been heard and never voted on.

3. If a bill is heard and voted out by the committee with a "Do Pass" status, it often is never scheduled for a vote on the house floor. This is, again, at the complete discretion of the floor leader and the speaker.

When you go to the Capitol, it is no wonder why lobbyists are lined up to meet with a just a couple of power brokers, while your representative's office may be devoid of any lobbyist activity. Once you have testified and worked for bills very popular with citizens and certain representatives a few times, only to see them languish and die, you figure out that the process is obviously broken. In fact, We the People, even through these elected representatives, quickly find we citizens have little real voice in our state government.

A group of citizens have concocted a plan to reform this broken process, one that would allow those we elect to actually make the laws--the reason they are sent to Jefferson City in the first place. The group looks to empower all elected representatives to bring forward bills, have them considered in an honest and open forum, and, as a body, be able to vote on them. If need be, the group hopes to craft a way this process can happen despite the house leadership. From the introduction of a bill to a vote on the house floor, the opinion and priorities of all those elected should drive the process, not just the opinions  
(continued on Page 4)



**Don't Erase History at Robert E. Lee Elementary School**

(continued from Page 2)

Mahatma Gandhi would not survive such unprecedented scrutiny. Gandhi insisted on using an offensive pejorative for blacks and made numerous overtly racist statements.

One of Columbia's highest-ranking academic elementary schools, Ulysses S. Grant Elementary, is itself named after a severely flawed individual. An upcoming biography on General Grant by Ron Chernow shows the leader of the Union Army—and later President—was deeply imperfect, but heroically accomplished, and overcame profound personal weaknesses on his path to greatness. Grant was an alcoholic who presided over one of the most corrupt administrations in history. Numerous statements that would have shocked today's legion of moral pit bulls were made by him on numerous topics. Will the Board now subject Grant Elementary School to the same renaming process?

Is every single school in the CPS system going to face the "moral" microscope? If not, why not? Will the Board simply await the next identified miscreant judged by "citizen activists?" Why are their motives beyond any scrutiny? What moral agency or historical expert will the Board deem has the capability to properly assess the appropriateness or sincerity of the principles held by a long-past historical figure? Perhaps it would be better for the Board to dispense with a transparent process and just admit now that in the end it will bow to the political shock troops of the moment and rename the school as the historically ignorant have "demanded."

**In Part 2 in next month's issue, we will explore the reality of, and the truly important matters, at Robert E. Lee Elementary School, and Columbia Public Schools in general. In addition, the charter school conundrum will be discussed.**

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**"Clean Up Our Capitol" Group**

(continued from Page 3)

and priorities of a few. Those bills with the most co-sponsors should be first to move through committee and placed on the agenda for an up or down vote by the full body of our representatives.

Not only would this empower all those we elect, but would put them on the record on issues that are important to Missouri and Missourians--thereby making them truly accountable to their constituents. Maybe that is why it isn't currently happening this way. The specifics of this plan can, and no doubt will be, fine tuned. The problem with our legislative process is clear, but nothing citizens of Missouri want or need can be passed in Jefferson City until the process is made responsive to We the People once again.

**First Principals --Ideas that unite and protect us as a people:**

**"We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal," United States Declaration of Independence.**

*By Everyman*

We assert that all people, everywhere, are born with intrinsic value. That regardless of a person's race, sex, or economic standing, they are equally important; both in the eyes of their creator and in the eyes of the law.

This most basic belief we share is that we are to afford each person the same respect, and to demand that they are treated the same, by our government and by our courts – be they weak or mighty. Because we have equal value, we deserve equal opportunities.

This does not mean everyone will pursue those opportunities in the same way--or achieve the same results. Quite the opposite, in fact. As created, unique individuals, how we live our lives, what we value, and what we possess, will never be the same, nor should it be.

Is that not the beauty of life itself? The endless rainbow of human beings – each one of a kind, yet each of great value.



***BREAKING NEWS:***

Halfway, Missouri is a small town halfway between Bolivar and Buffalo, and about 30 miles north of Springfield as the crow flies. Superintendent of Schools Tim Boatwright claims the district had a "paperwork snafu" and did not send opt out slips home to parents before Halfway R-3 boys were taught what parents found to be "very age inappropriate" and "too graphic in detail" course in sex education. The course was presented by Alpha House Pregnancy Resource Center in Bolivar, Missouri, which claims to be a "Christ-centered ministry."

Missouri's answer to the lefty Broadway play "Hamilton" and the off-script lecture an alleged actor therein gave to audience member Vice-president Mike Pence, has been written by Phelim McAleer and Anne McElhinig. "Ferguson" is playing on Broadway now, and yes, it is about the events that occurred in that St. Louis suburb in 2014. The 2 Irish playwrights used grand jury transcripts, and the play tells the truth about the events. It lays waste to the "Hands up, don't shoot" narrative that was perpetrated by the media at the time.

Some Missourians in the SNAP food stamp program have had their accounts compromised by party or parties unknown but originating in the state of California.

Well, we finally know what perpetual candidate Leonard Steinman has been up to lately. He's running for U. S. Senate in the Democratic primary against Claire McCaskill. He's got our vote, especially since Senator Al Franken has endorsed Claire!

Missouri Attorney General Joshua Hawley and prominent social critic Os Guinness will headline a of a dozen prominent singers, preachers, and historians as the American Renewal Project brings "Pastors & Pews" to Kansas City Dec. 7-8. More than 700 pastors and their wives are expected to attend the free event at the Kansas City Marriott Downtown. Accommodations and meals are complimentary, but attendees must register at (800)921-1928 or on <http://MORenewalProject.eventbrite.com>