Crossing an Un savory Line

As everyone knows, these are hard times for newspapers. Readership is withering away and costs are rising. For the good of the industry, in the coming year, it’s supposed to serve, we should welcome innovations that keep newspapers viable. Resorting to purchasing, most of the denizens of this rock have come to accept, with little more work, and a hearty “Happy New Year.”

A couple of things added to the oddity: the new investors were hiring their identity behind a Delaware LLC, and they seemed to be taking a hands-off approach.

At an introductory meeting, Record-Journal editor in chief Michael Hengel asked Schroeder what his new owners were. Schroeder reportedly shot back, “don’t worry about who they are.” “Stunned and demeaned in front of his stuff, Hengel was speechless,” the LA Times reported December 23rd. “Groans and sarcastic laughter echoed off the high ceilings.”

The cohesiveness of the newsroom team deteriorated from there. Disregarding Schroeder's admission, Record-Journal reporters went to work. They learned — and reported — who had bought their paper: Sheldon Adelson, casino tycoon, Republican Party donor, and Earth’s 18th richest person. Hengel, meanwhile, accepted a “voluntary buyout,” according to a Record-Journal editorial — except, in an interview conducted the day it was published, Hengel said he first learned of his buyout when someone read the editorial to him over the phone.

Schroeder's abrupt dismissal a week after he took over in Las Vegas, cut had, rather oddly, published a story critical of far-off Clark County Nevada District Judge Elizabeth Gonzalez. She just happened to be presiding over a wrongful dismissal lawsuit against Sheldon Adelson. The story carried the byline of a mysterious Edward Clarkin, of whom no other traces have been found. Michael Schroeder's middle name, though, is Edward, and his mother's maiden name is Clarkin.

“Clarkin's” story had some other distinguishing features: made-up quotations and passag es plagiarized from other sources. Those flaws may account for Schroeder's abrupt dismissal a week after he took over in Las Vegas.

Schroeder's gone, and Adelson remains in control of the largest daily paper in Nevada, an early Presidential Primary state. There is no cause for alarm, say his defenders. He also owns a newspaper in Israel, and there is no evidence that he micro-manages that paper to further his own agenda. That may be because he doesn’t need to; the politics of Israeli politics staff clearly reflect his own. Established just eight years ago and now the largest circulation daily paper in the country, Israelis call the paper “Bibiton,” after hard-line Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s personal nickname “Bibi” and the Hebrew word for newspaper, “ton.” As might be expected, the paper fervently supports the Prime Minister.

Adelson’s control of a newspaper, though, is a mere bagatelle compared to his influence over a certain political party. Last March, most of the forty-leaf Republican candidates made a pilgrimage to Las Vegas to kneel before him and kiss his ring. This brings us back to Judge Gonzala les. She is presiding over Jacobs v. Sands, in which allegations have been made that Adelson has ties to the trials — Chinese organized crime.

Now there’s a pretty picture — Chinese gangsters on the one hand and Presidential candidates on the other, with a casino-owning billionaire in the middle. It remains to be seen whether any such link is established in court, but either way, GateHouse owns 166 daily papers in 23 states, and there’s no reason to presume that any of them — including the AWLD — operate differently from the Record-Journal.
The Alleged News®
from page one

The flag end of the flag had frayed, then fixed itself upon the pulley of the pole. The Flag Police are rarely flustered, but they were somewhat flummoxed upon finding this fouled flag trying to fly over a financial institution on State Street. Forensic scrutiny of the photographic evidence suggests that they were just trying to do their jobs while guns were being pointed at them. The BLM eventually caved. Bundy still owes about $1 million in unpaid grazing fees, and his cattle still graze illegally on land set aside for the endangered desert tortoise.

Ammon Bundy is the son of Cliven Bundy, the welfare rancher from Nevada who — after enriching himself for a couple of decades by freeloading on BLM land in Nevada without paying even the subsidized rate — starred in a passion play which ran for several weeks in the Spring of 2014. The villains in that controversial work were Federal employees who were just trying to do their jobs mostly-local people attending a rally in Burns, Ore., on Saturday, January 2nd, in support of the Hammonds. The Bundy bunch then took off on its own, both literally and figuratively. Heading 23 miles south of Burns to the Malheur Wildlife Refuge, its members occupied a visitors center.

That move was too much for the residents of Burns, who quickly disavowed that action. Stewart Rhodes, founder of the Oath Keepers, a self-styled militia for ex-military and law enforcement members which had been integral to the Bundy standoff in the spring of 2014, also criticized the move.

Who Are You Calling “We?”
Bundy explained on January 2nd, “We are using the wildlife refuge as a place for individuals across the United States to come and assist in helping the people of Harney County claim back their lands and resources.” He called on supporters to sign a petition saying “The residents of Harney County believe that [the Hammonds] have served enough time and are asking the President for a commute of sentence for the remainder of the Appeals Court Sentence.”

Yet, as High Country News reported on January 4th, “out of 1,700 signatures, only 157 indicate they’re from the county, and the vast majority are from elsewhere.”

The BLM eventually gave their lands and resources. He got his wishes he might be surprised. The 350 or so members of the Burns Paiute Indian Colony might have a prior claim.

In 1879, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs found it convenient to “discontinue” the Reservation. In January of that year the Paiutes then in residence were shackled in pairs and marched to the Yakama Reservation in Washington, 300 miles to the north.

A Case of Selective Dissent
For a movement that measures patriotism by the degree to which one despises his own government, this one can be curiously selective. Ammon Bundy, for example, took out an SBA loan in 2010 for more than half a million dollars to support his Arizona truck fleet servicing company. The occupying force, once installed at the Wildlife Refuge, Indian Reservation, a refuge for “all the roving and straggling bands in Eastern and Southwestern Oregon, which can be induced to settle there,” most of whom were Panutes.

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Fresh flowers often adorn the African Burying Ground. Wreaths were issued a plea to supporters asking them to mail "snacks." That would seem to require the assistance of the mostly-unionized U.S. Postal Service, not to mention State and Federal highways.

Is It Early-Onset Alzheimer's?

In an interview published on-line at Jacobin, Margaret Corvid asked Bundy, "What figures in U.S. history inspire your beliefs and this action?" Bundy cited George Washington, "for what he did to help found this country." Bundy seems to have forgotten that Washington came out of retirement to put down Shay's Rebellion, an insurrection which did much to convince post-Revolutionary Americans that the country needed a more powerful central government.

Papa Don't Preach

Cliven Bundy told Oregon Public Radio, "I don't quite understand how much they're going to accomplish. I think of it this way: what business does the Bundy family have in Harney County, Oregon?"

Title 18 U.S. Code § 2384

"If two or more persons in any State or Territory ... conspire to ... seize, take, or possess any property of the United States contrary to the authority thereof, they shall each be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than twenty years, or both."

Oregon: a Racist Utopia

It is strangely appropriate that this example of white privilege should be unfolding where it is. As Matt Novak explains, in an article published at Gizmodo on January 21, 2015, the state of Oregon was founded as a racist utopia.

Here is Article 1, Section 35 of the Oregon state constitution, as originally adopted in 1857, taken from Novak's article:

"No free negro, or mulatto, not residing in this State at the time of the adoption of this Constitution, shall come, reside, or be within this State, or hold any real estate, or make any contracts, or maintain any suit therein; and the Legislative Assembly shall provide by penal laws, for the effectual exclusion from such negroes, and mulattoes, and for their effectual exclusion from the State, and for the punishment of persons who shall bring them into the state, or employ, or harbor them."

Article 1, Section 35 was repealed on June 28, 1927, but as Novak points out, it accomplished its goal: to this day only two percent of Oregonians are black. A caution for any pro-pluralism Granite Staters who might be feeling smug: only 1.1 percent of New Hampshire residents are black.

While We're On the Topic

"The African Burying Ground seems to be working. Ever since it was dedicated last spring, we've been noticing more and more just how deeply embedded — buried, you might say — the issues of race, prejudice, and the overall consequences of slavery are in this country.

Take, for example, this quote from John Erlichman, Richard Nixon's domestic policy advisor, quoted by Dan Baum in his expose of the War on Drugs, Smoke and Mirrors:"

"The Nixon campaign in 1968, and the Nixon White House after that, had two enemies: the antiwar Left, and black people. You understand what I'm saying? We knew we couldn't make it illegal to be either against the war or black. But by getting the public to associate the hippies with marijuana and blacks with heroin, and then criminalizing both heavily, we could disrupt those communities. We could arrest their leaders, raid their homes, break up their meetings, and vilify them night after night on the evening news. Did we know we were lying about the drugs? Of course we did." [A tip of the hat to Charles P. Pierce, Esquire's politics correspondent.]

Meanwhile, a newspaper in Britain published a news story about a scientific study that we have yet to see covered in any American news outlet.

"Barack Obama was made to look 'blackyer' in Republican Party campaign ads," read the Independent's headline, "Findings reinforce charges that some Republican politicians seek to win votes by implying support for racist views and ethnic hierarchies," read the drop head beneath it.

According to the abstract of the study, "Findings show that darker images were more frequent in negative ads — especially those linking Obama to crime — which aired more frequently as Election Day approached. We then conduct an experiment to document how these darker images can activate stereotypes, and show that a subtle darkness manipulation is sufficient to activate the most negative stereotypes about Blacks — even when the candidate is a famous counter-stereotypical exemplar — Barack Obama."
Madame Secretary!

To the Editor:

With the primaries just around the corner, be sure to ask candidate Hillary Clinton for her views on PPD-27. PPD-27 is President Obama’s recent Presidential directive regarding our policy for the export of arms to foreign governments.

Although estimates vary, it’s safe to assume in 2016 the U.S. will either sell (through DCS) or transfer (under FMS) to Saudi Arabia and ISIS are Sunni led, with the Middle East with nearly half of the Middle East with nearly half of

Seemingly or prints of Mike Dater’s drawings and other tomfoolery are available at www.mikedater.com

The Editor

Here Comes the Dirt

To the Editor:

With the impending prosecution of American icon Bill Cosby for sexual assaults, we are reminded that even the most trusted public figures can have a scandalous secret life. Now Donald Trump threatens to bring up Clinton’s alleged sex abuse scandal if Hillary pressured him to keep quiet in order to protect Bill’s political aspirations.

Recently, in a campaign forum in New Hampshire, Hillary stated, “I want to send a message to every survivor of sexual assault. Don’t let anyone silence your voice. You have a right to be heard, and you have a right to be believed. We’re with you.”

When asked by a member of that audience if that applied aware in the 90’s know every de-
tail about the Monica Lewinsky affair in the White House when she was an intern, and the allegations surfaced from Paula Jones, Juanita Broaddrick, and Kathleen Willey.

Paula Jones, Juanita Broaddrick, and Kathleen Willey, Hillary replied that they should be believed until the evidence proved otherwise.

Whether these multiple alle-
gations are true or not, Trump will take Hillary’s stated posi-
tion as an invitation to re-ignite each incident and that's what the November presidential cam-
paign will be all about if these two win. Not income inequality, climate change, terror threats, foreign policy, health care, corpo-
rate corruption, or gun control. Those issues, which are of the ut-
most importance to Americans, will only be the subject of the presidential race if Bernie Sanders is the Democratic nominee because there is no sex scandal or other soap opera to steal the spotlight.

Theodore L. Bowen

Berlin, NH

Theodore:

In our view, Sanders is the can-
didate America needs — but not because Trump is going to throw dirt at Hillary Clinton. The last thing we should do is allow that blowhard to exert prior restraint.

Making 2016 More Peaceful To the Editor:

It’s a new year and already we’re off to the same old tricks. Donald Trump released his first televised advertisement in which he doubled down on his threat to prohibit Muslims from entering the country if he becomes president, while also vowing to “chop the head off of ISIS.” When he was informed that terrorists were using video footage of his comments, Trump proclaimed that he didn’t care.

Although President Obama is announcing expanded back-
ground checks for gun purchases, many states are moving in the opposite direction. Texas started the year with new legislation allowing people to openly carry their guns, and Florida looks poised to pass open carry as well as campus carry laws. This de-
spite the fact that 27 Americans were shot and killed on Christ-
mas Day alone, a number equal to the annual gun homicide rates in Austria, New Zealand, Nor-
way, Slovenia, Estonia, Bermuda, Hong Kong and Iceland. Com-

Just before the end of 2015, a grand jury in Ohio refused to in-
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tionships.
And Other Correspondence

place a lot of stock in the opinions of celebrities and athletes on politics or the issues, I must say I found Ronda’s endorsement of Bernie to be extraordinary.

Rousey, up until her recent match, a tough loss against another talented mixed martial arts (MMA) athlete, had been as dominant as any athlete has been in their given sport. She had a 12-0 record in the UFC, competing against the best female MMA athletes in the world in a grueling gladiator sport, and had not had to go past the first round in any of her matches. She has, needlessly to say, amassed a fortune by being the world’s number one in her profession and has no doubt increased her fortune with lucrative endorsements.

Hence, one could see how Ronda Rousey might be enticed by the Republican Party’s platform of trickledown economics and preserving the current status quo for the most powerful and wealthy individuals in this country. With women’s issues also important to her, it would be perfectly understandable, since Ronda is the embodiment of women’s empowerment, if she gravitated towards Hillary Clinton.

Well, I just discovered that Ronda is also brilliant outside the octagonal cage. When asked by an interviewer from Maxim if she will be voting for the upcoming presidential primary, she, expressing her complete frustration with politics as usual and the corrupting effect of money on our democracy, answered, “I’m voting for Bernie Sanders because he doesn’t take any corporate money. I don’t think politicians should be allowed to take money for their campaigns from outside interests.”

Rousey, who knows a fight when she sees one, not only recognizes that big money in politics is, by far, the single most important issue, but that Bernie is the fighter best suited to take it on!

Wayne H. Merritt
Dover, NH

Hope Inspiring
The Editor

The Civil War, 1861-1961
To the Editor:

How about a little sympathy for the old Klan?

Sure, on the surface everything looks rosy, what with a major political party adopting their extremist agenda. But success can be a double-edged sword.

How do you hold onto your image as the bad boys of white supremacy when the big dogs — first the Tea Party, now the whole GOP — move in and take over your game? Must feel like acorns on a Sons of Anarchy film set when the bad guy Angels roll up.

It can’t be easy to go the ole boys to shear up and hang around a cow pasture in the dark, burning scrap lumber, when they could be warm and dry at a campaign rally.

And you gotta feel like you’re standing on shaky ground, as a Grand Dragon, when you turn on your TV and see a bunch of rich politicians competing for your job.

John Irvine
South Berwick, Maine

[Speechless]
The Editor

Medical Insurance Is Expensive
To the Editor:

I felt like my insurance company wanted me out of healthcare when I received my new premium information for 2016. I paid over $1,600 a month for health insurance are now being penalized. Some are opting to pay the penalty instead of buying the insurance.

We have to simplify our current American health insurance system.

Keep poor Americans on Medicaid. Allow all Americans with preexisting conditions to be on Medicaid. If they make over $40,000 then they should buy into Medicaid. Lower income people should pay less than those with higher wages.

Make medical insurance competitive over state lines. Allow citizens to shop across the country for the best insurance deals. Encourage insurance companies to advertise across the country. Give people a choice. Also, open the door to Canada’s pharmacies.

An approved list of pharmacies that Americans can do business with would give us another option.

Finally, we have to slow down government’s involvement in our medical care. The job of the government is to keep us safe and provide an environment where we can conduct business and live our lives. The government is being bilked by billions of dollars by health care providers each year. Each year our nations’ debt grows. This means our grandchildren will be paying our medical bills. Involving the government more and more into the health care industry only means a larger national debt and Uncle Sam telling you and your doctor how long you are allowed to stay in the hospital after an appendectomy.

America is in a healthcare crisis that is spiraling out of control. We must elect leadership with a real business plan or we are going to be out of the healthcare business.

Glenn Mollette
Washington, D.C.

Glen:

You know what’s really expensive? Allowing profit-seeking drug-manufacturing corporations to dodge taxes and use the excess cash to hire lobbyists to rewrite laws guaranteeing that their stockholders may profit when they jack up their prices.

Hate Mail, sc.
by William Marvel

A s a longtime columnist and erstwhile reporter for The Concord Daily Sun, I often sit in on editorial boards with passing presidential candidates. It can be very revealing to meet those aspirants beyond the focus of television cameras, and that opportunity for more unhurried exchanges is probably the best argument for preserving our small-state inaugural primary. Now and then, however, come those candidates whom we already know well enough as public characters to write off as underrating of further consideration, and no amount of personal interaction can rehabilitate them. If Donald Trump condescended to drop in at the Sun, for instance, I would not bother to attend because his wild commentary has already irreparably discredited his candidacy; wholesale retractions alone would suffice, and that would only worsen his air of unpredictability.

Similar reasoning persuaded me to forego the interview with Hillary Clinton. My aversion to Ms. Clinton’s campaign is grounded in a sense of betrayal by someone I mistrust for an ally, which forges far deeper and more enduring opposition than political disagreement with a philosophical or political opposite. Her entry into the race on the U.S. Senate initially offered some consolation for the disaster of George W. Bush’s “election” to the presidency; I thought she might really be the better half of her husband, leaving his political acumen with more genuine sensitivity, but she proved merely to be the disfigured version of the same politician.

As George Bush rescued his faltering popularity with military bravado, I expected Hillary Clinton would stand near the head of a congressional coalition that confronted such reckless jingoism. A majority of Americans swallowed advertisement propaganda over Iraq’s weapons of mass destruction and supported the invasion, but most of the world and a significant fact in the U.S. recognized the falsity of that excuse for aggression. That was the time for a principled congressional leader to galvanize opposition to the devastating, destabilizing neocon folly.

Right to life is not a violation of the principle of the separation of church and state for our nation was founded on this first unalienable right — the right to life. It is only on this principle of life the American nation will remain standing.

The heart of America and pro-life protection from God depend on it. Anyone committing murder on the unborn will be charged accordingly.

Colin A. McGee

The Clinton campaign is cultivating the assertion that she is a strong woman who can get things done. That appears to have become the mantra of those who are more concerned that the next president be a woman, regardless of character or principles, and it may come back to haunt them. Effectiveness is not an especially desirable trait among politicians who are inclined to satisfy the fickle demands of fluctuating constituencies. Shifting political boundaries can lead to bitter disappointment for such a president’s original supporters, as many of us who voted for Barack Obama have been serially mishandled.

That phenomenon is further illustrated by Ms. Clinton’s recent support — under pressure — for the Black Lives Matter lobby’s agenda, which conspicuously includes complaints about mandatory minimum sentencing. That ought to trouble the voters she wooed in 2008 with tough-on-crime rhetoric about mandatory minimum sentencing, and those 2008 comments should be no comfort to her later-coveted voting bloc.

Political parties are ruled by establishment committees that try to guide the nomination process toward the center. Presidential contests therefore often pit very similar candidates against each other, depriving the general public of any substantial choice in the general election, because popular choice has the potential to upset the establishment apple cart. The Democrats have the best chance to give the people a real choice in 2016, and if they again seek victory by falling back on a Republican lookalike — and especially this perfidious self-promoter — they do not deserve to win.
Why Have Major TV Networks Pulled The Plug On Bernie?

by Jim Hightower

Let’s go to the scoreboard to see who’s winning the exciting game of “Presidential Election Media Coverage.” A non-partisan media monitoring firm that has been tracking the nightly news broadcasts of ABC, CBS, and NBC reports that Trump is trump, trump, trumping over the airtime of everyone else. From last January through November, these dominant flagship news shows devoted 234 minutes of prime-time coverage to the incessant chipping of the Yellow-Crested Birdbrain, with no other contender getting even a fourth of that. Take Democrat Bernie Sanders, who’s stunning the public establishment with a fiery populist campaign that’s drawing record crowds. Indeed, Sanders’ upstart campaign is getting higher poll ratings in the Democratic contest than Trump is getting in GOP race. And — get this — polls also show Bernie topping The Donald by 10 points if they face each other in November’s presidential showdown. So surely he’s getting a proportional level of media coverage by the networks on our public airwaves, right?

Ha, just kidding! The ABC, CBS, NBC devotion of 234 minutes to Trump was “balanced” by less than 10 minutes for Sanders. Most egregious, of course, only amplifies the truth of what Sanders is saying about the vilification of corporate profitiers, and it fuels a greater determination by his millions of grassroots supporters to end the reign of greed in America. For information and action, go to www.BernieSanders.com.

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That ended nine years ago and know I would perform well in my age/gender category on a USAF PFT. However, my whistle blower obviously betrayed me as I was humbly reminded of my own mortality when I received an invitation from a representative for the Bernie Sanders Dover Office, to attend a conversation on senior citizen issues with the Senator at the McConnell Center.

The young lady representing Senator Sanders suggested to me that it is never too early, since I’m a “pre-senior,” for me to start thinking about Social Security. And I am absolutely determined to know he will turn out the vote on his side. Will we on our?

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To the Editor:

Chris Elliott
Los Angeles, Calif.

Chris: Because the man is so spectacularly unqualified for the office, and the consequences of his attaining it would be so ghastly, people tend to think it couldn’t happen, and make jokes. Like Mama used to say, though: it’s all fun and games until somebody gets hurt.

The Editor

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A Word From Our Sponsor

Scene: Man on riverbank gazing at water.


Woman’s voice: From the people that brought you, Getting Outside, comes prescription mood for no apparent reason. Feeling tired? Irritable? Stressed out? Nature can help. Let’s face it, you’re tired of Trump. I was feeling tired, and being in a good mood for no apparent reason.

Man’s voice: I sense a gathering storm from the people I know in the building trades, as well as some of the low-information musicians I know, as well as even some of the welfare-and-pills people I know from my not-so-distant past. His support is fierce and growing. Plus, he has a lot of cards to play: a possible fundamentalist Christian VP who will deliver some number of millions of votes in a tidy little here-you-go-basket, the anti-Obama cabal protest vote, knee-jerk generic Clinton hatred (if it’s her), good old anti-Semitism (if it’s him), and the lure of a power bonus with a GOP Congress. He is essential-ly a Reagan thinker minus the liberal VP who will deliver some people that brought you, Get- ting Outside, comes prescription mood for no apparent reason. Feeling tired? Irritable? Stressed out? Nature can help. Let’s face it, you’re tired of Trump. I was feeling tired, and being in a good mood for no apparent reason.

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Page 8 — The New Hampshire Gazette, Friday, January 8, 2016

Admiral Fowle's Piscataqua River Tide Guide (Not for Navigation Purposes)