The Fortnightly Rant

The Ides of March

The Ides of March have come and gone. Marco Rubio, unable to spin one more “victory” out of a second-place finish in his home state of Florida, which, having eked out a mere plurality in the state which he governs, slogs ahead praying he can draw to an end.

The Republican Party is clearly hell bent on nominating Donald Trump for President of the United States. The last putative obstacle in his way is Ted Cruz, the most-hated man in the U.S. Senate. That leaves Republicans with a choice that’s been characterized by one of their own as “death by being shot or poisoning.”

The only good that can come of this revolting situation will be the entertainment derived from watching the nation’s dominant political party erupt in chaos at its national convention. Fortunately, the odds of that happening are increasing daily.

On the other side of the aisle, despite an astonishingly successful, out-of-nowhere challenge, it appears less and less likely that Bernie Sanders, the New Deal Democrat, will be able to overcome the delegate advantage of Democrat, will be able to overtake the New Deal. It appears less and less likely that we’ve seen the phenomenon so many times in recent months: a podium, the carefully-posed, lighted, improbable mass of oddly-colored fibers atop his head, those gesticulating hands with their snub little fingers, and that mouth — above all, that weirdly fish-like mouth.

You never know what’s going to come out of it, and therein lies its power. Most of the time it might as well be someone singing what’s making meaningless sounds which are endlessly repeated. Every once in a while, and often enough to keep it compelling, he’ll utter something truly bizarre and outrageous. In February, for example, Trump said he’d pay the legal fees for followers who punched protesters. On Tuesday he said, “I never said I was going to pay for fees.” When the candidate might be seconds away from dictating tomorrow’s headlines, it’s awfully hard for a television producer to cut away to someone talking sense.

The candidate’s supporters also seem capable of just about anything, as do the security forces around him. At a Trump rally in North Carolina a black protector was arrested for getting punched by a white man. As a result, Trump has garnered, according to the New York Times, nearly $2 billion in free media exposure. That is double the cost of the most expensive presidential campaign in history. Hillary Clinton has received less than 40 percent of that figure, and Sanders less than 17 percent.

On Tuesday night, Sanders delivered a one-hour speech. Among other things, he exorciated Republican efforts to restrict access to the polls. “If you are afraid of free and fair elections,” he said, “get out of politics. Get another job.” An extremely cogent point — but boring, according to our corporate media overlords. CNN, Fox, and MSNBC all ignored Sanders’ speech. CNN’s cameras added insult to injury by showing Trump’s empty podium in front of nine U.S. flags, along with text saying, “Breaking News: Standing By For Trump.”

We were reminded recently by a faithful reader of our prediction, many months ago, that sooner or later Trump would bawl out that prediction was based on the theory that, faced with a stark choice between living the carefree life of a goodfellow billionaire or actually buckling down to a mountain of tedious assigned labor, he would make the smart choice. So much for trying to read the mind of a psychopathic authoritarian megalomaniac.

It all just goes to show — you should always follow the Golden Rule: do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

For the better part of a year we have been mocking the Republicans’ fear of Donald Trump. Now we’re terrified. Considering that his most likely opponent is Hillary Clinton, we’re depressed, too.

The polls say don’t worry — in a general election matchup, Clinton has a ten-point lead over Trump.

With the election more than seven months away, that seems like an awfully thin need to lean on.

The Alleged News®

Republicans Behaving Badly

It’s been an unquiet fortnight in the Granite State.

First Kyle Tatro, one of our most prominent State Representatives — or best-known, anyway, after he dropped his pistol during a heated debate at the State House, and also the highest vote-getter in his district — was arrested at a secluded spot in Nottingham, where he alleged he planned to play the undercover object of his affections with alcohol and illegal drugs. A subsequent search of his home turned up “vast amounts of controlled drugs” which were “packaged for sale.”

Then Jerry Demers, a state councilor for the Republican Presidential frontrunner and husband of a State Representative, was thrown in the Strafford County Jail just a few minutes before his 50-caliber, semi-automatic Barrett sniper rifle, capable of throwing a 1.7-ounce slug four miles, out to Nevada to support a welfare rancher who’s been cheating the government, for threatening Federal employees trying to enforce the law, and for turning away a pair of armed nutjobs who went on to Vegas and murdered a civilian and two cops.

Shesh — where have our freedoms gone? Does Live Free or Die mean nothing anymore?

No-Nonsense You Can’t Use — Twice

The Award-Winning Local News Media — always a splendid exhibit in 2012 explorations of lower social standing, living in some seedy council flat, their murdered Mrs. deCecember, for having sponsored the looting development of which we spoke. But enough with the digressions — now to that exciting development of which we spoke.

The Irish writer Rebecca West once defined journalism as “the ability to meet the challenge of filling space.” In laying out the aforementioned March 5th “Downtown Abbey” story, someone in GateHouse’s Design Center made a 40-page breakthrough in journalism, at least according to West’s standard. The story was 1,143 words in length — barely enough copy to fill half a page. Rather than giving up and ending the story when he got to the last paragraph, our assertions that it has run in its own real estate section, soliciting occupants for the excess space at its cavernous plant at the Pease Tradeport. Here’s a thought: perhaps the City of Portsmouth can find some suitable municipal use for that building.

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For the Portsmouth paper to have run such a story, however, would have required local staff to write it. GateHouse, our presiding daily media overlord, prefers to run our daily paper with a presumably-overworked skeleton crew; the fewer local reporters, the better.

Many of the tasks which were formerly done at the AWLD’s cavernous plant at Pease — like the laying out of pages — are now accomplished at a centralized Design Center in Austin, Texas. [Apparently GateHouse doesn’t think Chinese workers are ready for those jobs yet.]

GateHouse’s zeal in staff reduction can be measured by the advertisements it has run in its own real estate section, soliciting occupants for the excess space at its cavernous plant at the Pease Tradeport. Here’s a thought: perhaps the City of Portsmouth can find some suitable municipal use for that building.

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unsung Austin genius developed a whole new technique in the field of typography. Call it “dittography.” He simply appended the second through the 16th paragraphs, all over again. Bingo! A fall, completed page.

Until quite recently, newspapers were considered a dead-end investment. Thanks to innovative techniques like dittography and photo caption recycling — another innovative technique in which a single caption is used multiple times under different pictures on the same page — GateHouse has become the nation’s largest publisher of newspapers, owning approximately 575 publications in 32 states.

By focusing on its core competency, “creating content, attracting eyeballs to it and then monetizing against those eyeballs,” as one industry observer described it, GateHouse is able to meet its strategic goal of producing a profit for its parent company, the $60-billion hedge fund Fortress Investment Group.

RIP, Cabot Lyford

The sculptor Cabot Lyford died January 21st in Brunswick, Maine. He was 90, and had been in hospice care. Lyford resided in New Harbor, Maine after his retirement from Phillips Exeter Academy, where he taught for 23 years and directed the art department. One of Lyford’s works, “The Whale,” is in Prescott Park.

Another, “My Mother the Wind,” is on Four Tree Island. According to a profile of the artist by Tammi Truan, published in the Portsmouth Herald on January 2, 2015, the latter work is “essentially an anti-war protest since it depicted a mother and child fleeing from war.” Lyford was said to be pleased that it ended up “in front of the Portsmouth Navy Yard.” Lyford’s opposition to war came naturally; he had served with the 96th Infantry during the Battle of Leyte.

Statue Proposed for Local Hero

While we’re on the topic of statues in Prescott Park, a new one has been proposed by city resident Brian Kelly.

On the website Change.org, Kelly laments that there is “currently no statue of Portsmouth native Ronnie James Dio … anywhere in Portsmouth,” and has created a petition for the City Council to ask them to remedy that situation. Dio, a musician, was born Ronald James Padovona in Portsmouth on July 10, 1942. He died of cancer on May 16, 2010.

“We would like to see the statue in Prescott Park, the heart of the Arts in Portsmouth. Kelly wrote, “honoring the legacy of this influential man. Preferably there would be a water feature on this memorializing our strong maritime tradition. We believe it should be constructed of metal (naturally). We would defer to the artists for all decisions, of course, and we are open to discussion.”

Kelly appears to be quite serious, and is clearly not alone — the petition racked up 500 signatures in less than a day.

With new signatures coming at a rate of one every 2.7 minutes, it appears quite likely that the proposal will end up before the City Council. If it does, Councilors will be presented with an interesting problem. They would be asked to place, in an area where neighbors are, shall we say, rather jealous of their peace and quiet, a monument to one of the loudest heavy-metal musicians in the world. Of course, no one has suggested that the statue be equipped with a sound system, yet, anyway.

Those who are unfamiliar with the genre might assume that Dio was probably a nasty, nihilistic, drug-addled maniac, like Lancaster, N.H. native G.G. Allin [1956-1993].

“They would be surprisingly wrong about that. In a remembrance published in Rolling Stone shortly after his death, Robert Sheffield wrote that it “wasn’t just his mighty pipes that made him Ronnie James Dio — it was his moral fervor. … what always stood out was Dio’s raging compassion for the lost rock & roll children in his audience, his fiercely anti-clerical religiosity, his hatred for the kings and queens who blind our eyes and steal our dreams. Dio barely ever sang about women unless he was empathizing with them, as in ‘Invicible,’ where he also empathized with gay teens.

This block of Islington Street was once the site of Governor Ichabod Goodwin’s mansion. That stately dwelling was moved to Strawberry Banke in 1963 and replaced by a building which housed Atherton’s Furniture. That building was destroyed in a three-alarm fire on the night of July 12, 1979. It was replaced by a low, undistinguished brick structure, roughly similar to the one which, until recently, housed Kline’s Furniture a few blocks east. Atherton’s closed in the mid-1990s, and Old Port Traders moved in. Old Port has now moved on to Peverly Hill Road, and the former Atherton building was demolished. The Kline’s building is gone, too. The difference is that here the new construction fits the site.
agers, which was (to say the least) a bold move from a straight rock star in 1983."

For what it’s worth, a statue of Dio would not be unprecedented.

The one shown above was erected in Kavarna, Bulgaria, in 2010. A Reassuring Reality Check

Overly-conscientious readers may recall A.O., a faithful subscriber in Laconia who informed us some time ago of a phone call she’d received from a robot. It wanted to know if she was pro-life.

Early this fortnight A.O. called again, to tell us about an item she had found in her local supermarket. Its packaging proudly announced that its contents were “100 percent real.”

A Year In Their Life

Ever wondered what life was like for the Native people who called the Berwick area home? Now’s your chance to hear Dana Benner discuss what a typical year would have been like for them.

Dana is of Abenaki (Piqwacket, Penobscot, and Micmac), English and German descent. He has been writing and lecturing about Native American history and all aspects of the outdoors for 30 years. He holds an M.Ed. in Heritage Studies and a B.A. in U.S. History and Native American Culture.

Sponsored by the Old Berwick Historical Society, the program will be held on Thursday, March 24, starting at 7:30 p.m. at Berwick Academy’s Jeppesen Science Center on Academy Street. The public is invited, and volunteers will serve refreshments. Donations are welcome for additional information, visit oldberwick.org or call (207) 384-0000.

The Fight for Community Rights

Two New Hampshire communities have just taken steps to determine their own futures.

In Barrington, residents at Town Meeting voted 795 to 759 on March 9th to adopt a Community Bill of Rights asserting their right to clean air, pure water, and local, community self-government. The rights-based ordinance bans corporate gravel extraction and water withdrawals as a violation of those rights.

For three years, residents have worked to educate elected representatives, neighbors, and other local groups of the threat posed by corporate interests intent on gravelfication Ordinance comes during a critical year for the Native people who called the Berwick area home. Their perseverance since 2013 resulted in tonight’s enactment of the Community Bill of Rights to protect the Waterways of Barrington Ordinance.

In Barnstead, residents unanimously enacted an unprecedented “Community Bill of Rights” law at their annual Town Meeting on Saturday, March 12th, establishing the right to be free from religious identification requirements. The first-in-the-nation law was drafted at the Town’s request by CELDF to protect Barnstead residents from political and civil persecution based on their religious beliefs. The passage of the Right to Be Free From Religious Identification Ordinance comes during the 2016 presidential election campaign in which Republican candidate Donald Trump spoke of the possibility of requiring people to carry religious identification cards.

On March 9th, the House Legislative Administration Committee voted CACR 14, the Community Rights state constitutional amendment, inexpedient to legislate. The Committee ignored the standing-room-only crowd urging them to support the measure, instead favoring industry, which wanted the measure blocked. The full House voted to end consideration of the amendment as part of a package of bills on the consent agenda. The measure was sponsored by House Representative Susan Emerson (R - Cheshire, District 11).

Michelle Sanborn, CELDF’s Community Rights Organizer, said “We are enthusiastic that CACR 14 received the support it did from Representative Emerson and her colleagues, and we are undaunted by the outcome … We will be back next year.”

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**THE NEW HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE, FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 2016 — PAGE 3**
Provocateurs, Not Protesters

To the Editor:

Those that protest against Donald Trump are either poorly informed, chronic malcontents, hypocrites, or varying combinations of all three.

Otherwise, how does anyone explain the large presence of the Occupy Movement supporting Hillary Clinton, the consummate Wall Street insider and protector.

Why aren’t they picketing her rallies? And why do we not see those with a visceral hatred for the Bush/Cheney/neon-con Middle East agenda not holding Obama and Hillary accountable for adopting and extending those policies? When Donald Trump is the only one questioning the very sanity of these policies, why is he being dismissed as being demoted?

Answer: These violent anti-Trump rallies have the fingerprints of the 56 elections all over them. After all, it’s not coincidences that these riots started shortly after a meeting at Sea Island where a stop-Trump agenda of the Beltway and financial elites was hammered out. And, as always, they are using dupes, drawn from the chronically malcontent who will join any movement, poorly-educated college students, and those with cognitive dissonance who can hate Bush/Cheney/Wall Street policies, yet dissonance who can hate Bush/Cheney/Wall Street insider and protector.

Is there a back story here? After all, “Slack Willy” and “The Don” are the most accomplished con-artists of modern time, and their collective brilliance for demonizing mischief could easily take on quantum dimensions if unleashed. Or, is such speculation merely conspiratorial brilliance for fomenting mischief?

First Family pursued like dogs, impeached and humiliated. It always confused me why conservatives treated the Clintons with such contempt, never acknowledging Bill’s behind-the-scenes success at driving America’s progressive agenda back into the stone age. NAFTA, Wall Street deregulation, welfare reform, and all the rest? Reason says they should be best buds! Is it possible the abuse was a smokescreen and we-people were victims of the greatest political con ever? Or, are ingrates Republicans just “like that”?

One thing is certain, Bill Clinton (the silver fox) is still standing. With his 165 IQ intact, the former President remains a consummate master of southern treachery with lots of free time these days to think. So, enter old friend Donald Trump (the Red Fox), serial tycoon, hasbler extraordinare. The Donald is running against Hillary, but at the same time running down terror and destruction on virtually every one of the Clintons’ historic opponents and detractors. Indeed, Trump has taken the chosen one to strike that final fatal blow that levels the party of Lincoln forever! Should he succeed, it would certainly settle a lot of old Clinton scores.

So is there a back story here? Answer, none. “Slack Willy” and “The Don” are the most accomplished con-artists of modern time, and their collective brilliance for demonizing mischief could easily take on quantum dimensions if unleashed. Or, is such speculation merely conspiratorial brilliance for demonizing mischief?

To the Editor:

Do Your Job, Senate

To the Editor:

Over the years my political views have moderated to such an extent that I get pummeled by both sides equally on a regular basis. I’m in a mix between a Barry Goldwater conservative and a Democratic liberal, a “Burton for Certain,” “Feel the Bern,” middle-of-the-road.

One issue that’s caused my be- thinking threat from the right was the death of Supreme Court Jus- tice Scalia. I’ve read, re-read, and re-read Article II., Section 2., of the Constitution and if my layman’s understanding is correct, it’s the President’s responsibility to nominate, and with the ad- vice and consent of the Senate, appoint a replacement for Judge Scalia to the Supreme Court. I see no rhyme nor reason the United States Congress and their responsibility to follow through although North Carolina’s two foggy-brained senators (Richard Burr and Thom Tillis, and others) seem bent on obstructing any for- ward motion attempted by Presi- dent Obama.

If the election was to be held, say one week after the date of Scalia’s death, perhaps the most accomplished con-artists of modern time, and their collective brilliance for demonizing mischief could easily take on quantum di- mensions if unleashed. Or, is such speculation merely conspiratorial brilliance for demonizing mischief? "like that"?

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HATE MAIL

Mash Notes, HATE MAIL

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To the Editor:

HATE MAIL

Mash Notes, HATE MAIL

Do Your Job, Senate
And Other Correspondence

velop a nominee to submit to the Senate. 

But the election is not a week away, it’s eight months plus 70- odd days before the next President is sworn in. It has been reported that President Obama is vetting Brian Sandoval, the central Nevada governor of Nevada, which would certainly throw a monkey wrench into the GOP’s efforts to block Obama’s choice to fill the vacancy on the high court.

In any case, the President is right in making the appointment, the Senate would be wrong to obstruct otherwise delay that appointment.

David L. Snell
Franklin, N.C.
David

You’re entirely right. After having sent more than enough signals of its contempt for the Constitution, this latest move from the GOP is entirely superfluous. 

The Editor

The Real Threat
To the Editor:

In the March 6th New York Times Sunday Review there were no less than three major articles, pieces highly critical of the current Republican President front runner, Donald Trump. These follow a blustering speech this past week from Mitt Romney in which he tore the Plaid Beach Party

as being a very rational alternative to their front runner, Mr. Trump. Mr. Cruz, the most disliked member of the Senate, among his fellow Republicans, who has not received any recommendation from one of his fellow Senators, has now become the possible savior of the Republican Party. My great fear, knowing that it is unlikely for Donald Trump to be elected President if he wins the Republican nomination, is that Ted Cruz could actually win, and that would be a much greater disaster.

Richard DiFentima
Portsmouth, N.H.

Rich: 

Thanks for sharing us out of our with

The Editor

(Fla.) Economic Report
To the Editor:

If someone who does not read the news about the U.S. economy were to land in Palm Beach County they would think we are doing just fine, thank you.

The auto indicators are as follows: Rolls Royce, Bentley, Lamborghini, Ferrari, and Corvettes (the American version of these toys). Audis, Lexuses, Mercedes Benz, and Jaguars abound. The unusual cars are things like Subars and Chevrolets.

Housing indicators suggest boom times. Condo and single home developments are going up all over. The one night by us was $800,000. Lots with a knock-down house on a canal are one million. Moonah is flowing.

Ken Wolfe Palm Beach County, Fla.

Ken:

How do you get past security?

The Editor

“Make America Hate Again”
To the Editor:

With the endorsement of Donald Trump by Christie and Maine’s Governor LePage, they admit to being happy to “Make America Hate Again.”

This troika of trash talkers, specializing in crude, cross, and coarse behavior, should call themselves “The Three Bully Goats Gruff.” A truly grim trio that should scare any reasonable person who wants America’s current values to carry on.

If Trump picks Christie as a running mate I will look forward to the general election and to what depths “The Hot Air and The Balloon” ticket will sink in political pandering, scapegoating and exaggerated promises. We already know they would be angry, acrimonious and exceedingly annoying.

We know that Trump is great at marketing a nightmare as a fairy tale. But please realize that “The Donald” has no clothes. 

Dave Potter
North Hampton, N.H.

Dave:

Please, in the future, try to refrain from presenting us with such revolting images.

The Editor

Trump’s Business Acumen
To the Editor:

Former Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney, sounding quite similar to hilarious comic John Oliver from his recent segment on Donald Trump (see “Trump is America’s Back Mole”) and even implying that billionaire real estate mogul Donald Trump has somehow amassed his wealth any less laissez-faire capitalistically or honestly in comparison to him (Romney), took time out from his busy retirement this past week to enlighten America on Trump’s less than stellar business record.

Trump, coming to his own defense, intimated that he is a very wealthy man, and that Romney is most likely extremely jealous of him because he is several times wealthier than Romney. He also reminded us that Romney, the consummate establishment Republican, despite being more than delighted to accept a Trump endorsement at the Trump Plaza Hotel in 2012, had chocked in his two attempts at the Presidency. Trump additionally made it clear that his road to the nomination has been far more expeditious than Romney’s was in 2012.

Now, no matter how fair it may have been for Romney to set the record straight on Trump’s checkered business past, he failed to give Trump the credit he deserves for successfully applying his business and acting acumen to his run for the White House. A very smart businessman, Trump has surrounded himself with an astute marketing and sales team (i.e., campaign advisors), which apparently was quick to identify the largest segment of the Republican voting base and to provide advice on how Trump would effectively attract that segment so he could extract the GOP nomination from a crowded group of 17 Republicans. Obviously, Trump advisors explained that he needed to target the people (today’s working class white males whose anger has been displaced towards “the others” by the Republicans and Right Wing Media) that President LBJ spoke of when he signed the Civil Rights Act in 1965: “The Democrats just lost the Southern White vote forever.”

This business practice has worked well for Trump and he even expressed his satisfaction at his victory speech in Nevada, where he told his admiring audience, “I love the poorly educated!”

Wayne H. Merritt
Dover, N.H.

Hate Mail, Etc.
The Conquistadors
by William Marvel

R
gardless of the outcome, the annual town and school meetings are almost always a frustrating exercise anymore. That is particularly true for those who spend their winters learning the arcane complexities of the various budgets, only to see the logic and mathematics of January vanished by the emotional histrionics of March. It should be no mystery that seats on the Municipal Budget Committee are the only offices going begging for candidates most of the time, or that in the rare year when those seats actually are contested it is by proponents of special interests.

The meetings are long, the content is dull, and those who attend conscientiously to the duties of the office inevitably make themselves easy targets for the self-righteous lectures of those who undertake no such obligation.

Once upon a time, those liabilities were counterbalanced by the more distant satisfaction of helping to preserve a town-meeting tradition in which open debate was the most controlling taxation — property and income taxes — are the most controlling of freedoms is not complete and fighting to complete our experience of survival, our home and income, being first owned by the government and then allowed to us as the government orders in tax code and kickbacks.

Neither Party advocates true liberty because these types of taxation — property and income taxes — are the most controlling and repressive, not progressive [and deny us] the independence we declared we wanted from the rulers of England. We live today, as then, with the same controlling means of survival, our home and income, first owned by the government and then allowed to us as the government orders in tax code and kickbacks.

The ability for political cohorts to communicate electronically and with relative privacy has contributed substantially to factional polarization at public meetings, and perhaps in American politics generally. That factionalism has proven especially beneficial to commercial interests in towns that have sacrificed their cultural identity for the illusory advantages of lucrative but unsustainable industries. In those communities, industry resources usually overcome reason through propaganda and a system of economic reward and intimidation; sustaining the interests of that industry therefore becomes the mandate of any who would succeed economically or politically. Such manipulative tactics must be applied superficially, and stealth is best achieved through the judicious use of internet contact lists or by word-of-mouth communication across a broad network of overlapping groups.

Few towns have sold their souls to an industry in this way more overlaid than ours has, even though that dominant industry promises to undermine its own viability with a speed directly proportionate to the degree of its success. The rural appeal on which local tourism depends declines a lifetime with the construction of each new home and the arrival of every new resident or retail outlet, yet the chamber of commerce strives mightily to accelerate that suicidal trajectory. Meanwhile, the gradual urbanization blights alternatives for a successor industry at the same time a burgeoning population demands one.

Maintaining support for so self-defeating an economy requires the mobilization of everyone who profits even remotely from some element of its perpetuation, however incompatible their personal interests may actually be. The result is a coalition of voters whose sentiments.

The core of this coalition consists of a number of non-profit organizations, each of which have adopted the name of Mount Washington Valley something-or-other. Most of them operate from Conway’s Tech Village; the others gather there frequently to communicate with each other and with representatives of large blocs of potential voters — teachers, hospital workers, and the like — who might be persuaded to vote a certain way. When the Tech Village was first proposed, many of us wondered what it was supposed to do besides providing at least one executive salary. Theомножитель may have been to spur economic development, but the suspected purpose of providing a seat for Conway’s secret back-room influence is surely evident when the turnout at public meetings that have always been poorly attended suddenly surges, and especially when that turnout is accompanied by unusually lively elected elections. All too often, handfuls of local barons dictated the course of New Hampshire politics by leaning on their mill hands and factory workers at town meetings that elected everyone from the hog reeve to the governor. Today a few nonprofit executives perform the same feat by summoning the troops in their respective networks to vote at town or precinct meetings. When well-respected public servants of long tenure are abruptly and resoundingly defeated by competitors who lack any experience or name recognition, you can be pretty sure the whole set up to silence another critic.
by Jim Hightower

A political contagion is sweeping across our land, spread by corporate media vectors. Its name is “media bias,” and it’s slipping Bernie Sanders wherever he goes. At first, the media mocked his run for the White House as a joke, declaring that no one would support a Democrat–Socialist Senator campaigning on issues of inequality, corporate greed, and big money corruption of government. But — wow! — at each of his rallies, tens of thousands of supporters flocked to hear him.

Well, hurriumphed the anti-Bernie media, he can’t raise the money to be a serious contender. But — wow! — millions of ordinary Americans donated an average of under $30 each to create a $100-million, people’s campaign fund to back Sanders. Well, snapped the media snipers, his supporters are young people and alienated working-class people who won’t turn out to vote. But — wow! — they’re turning out, helping him win victories from New Hampshire to Colorado, Oklahoma to Michigan.

Well, the dismissive media huffed, Sanders is losing African-American voters to Hillary Clinton, so he hasn’t packaged the whole Democratic constituency in their take to win. But — wow! — he is winning the votes of young African-Americans, as well as getting overwhelming majorities from all voters under-30, independents, and progressives. That’s a pretty good package — and it also shows that Clinton doesn’t have the whole package either.

Still, the contagion spreads. Even with Sanders’ impressive come-from-behind victory in Michigan, the media brumaruns kept investing negatives. One website mocked their bias with this satirical headline: “Can Bern- nie Recover From His Devastat- ing Win In Michigan?”

It’s hard enough to run against Clinton’s Wall Street-financed machine without having the corporate media pile on, too. But — wow! — Bernie just keeps going. Copyright 2016 by Jim Hightower & Associates. Contact Laura Ehrlich (laure@jimhightower.com).