

NORTH COAST

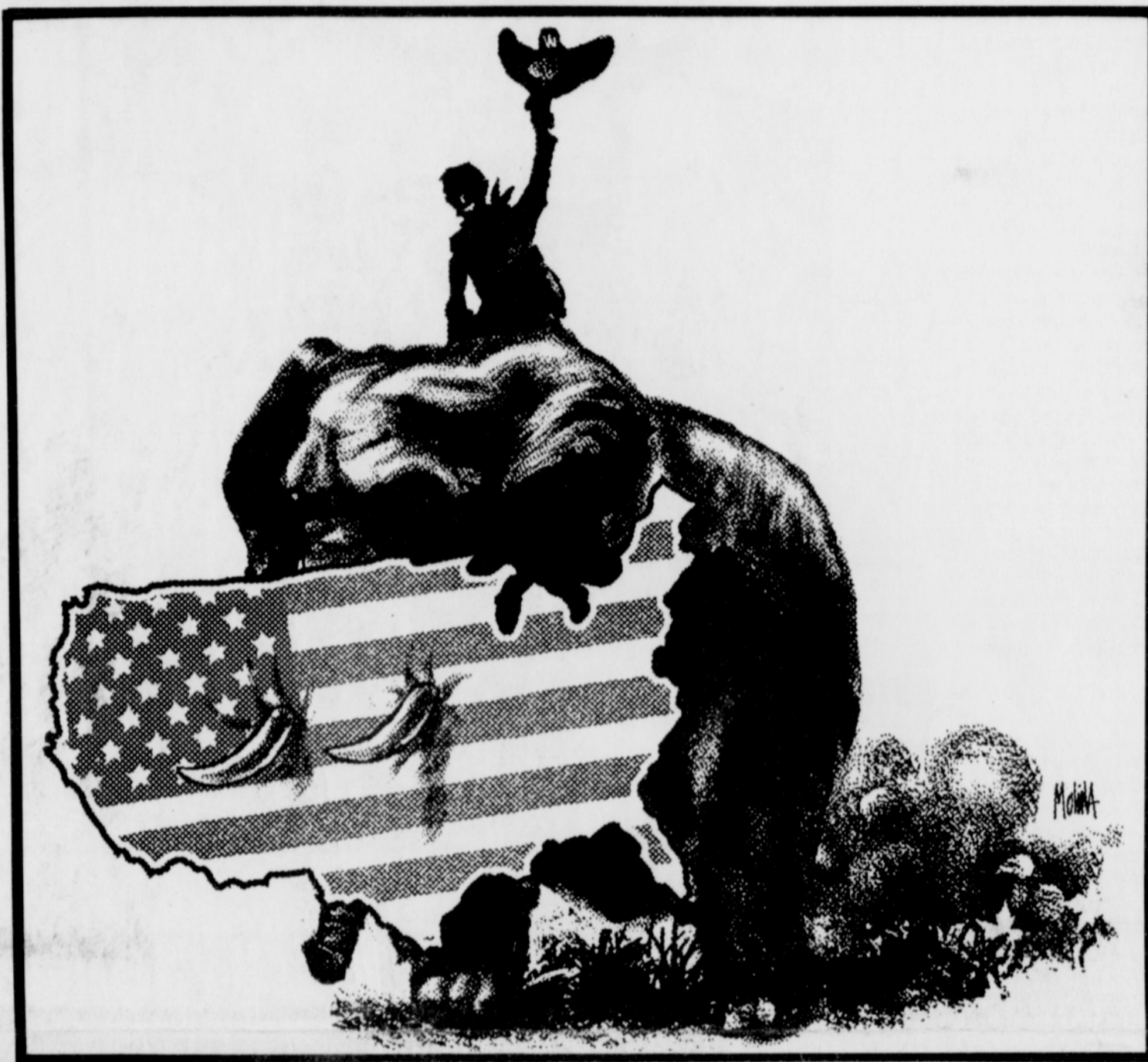


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'In a dark time the eye begins to see'
~THEODORE ROTHKE

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PEDRO MOLINA

THE IMPEACHABLE PRESIDENT

"Immediately the subject ceases to fear the despotic force, its power is gone," Gandhi said.

~MOHANDAS GANDHI

It is time to discuss impeachment. The President has disgraced the nation and imperiously downsized its reason for being — outright abrogation of the nation's secular 10 commandments (otherwise known as the Bill of Rights), arrogant disregard for the Constitution, which was conceived by revolutionaries wary of domestic tyranny; a war deserter who makes war to profit his benefactors (or as one critic says, he has compelled our country to be fueled on "miles per soldier.")

And besides all that, he was probably not elected in the first place, or for that matter, not in the second place either. His first impeachable offense might very well have been taking the oath of office without having been elected President.

George W. Bush is a fraud, an instinctively mythomaniac deconstructionist: a swaggering bully who ducked his chance to put his life where his grossly inarticulate mouth is, who allowed others to kill and die in a war he claimed to champion but was not inclined to display the nerve to invest himself personally.

Yet a significant number of Americans are afraid of him, or worse, claim to worship him, which, paradoxical to his meager character, makes him the most dangerous and menacing chief executive in the nation's history.

He has assumed the mantle of God's chosen man, yet he baldly pursues Mephistophelean ambitions that threaten to sell out the nation's soul. He rips away the fabric of the democracy he is pledged to uphold and lavishes wealth and power upon a homegrown aristocracy that is avaricious for world empire — gained at any cost but their own.

To cyclop his vision with that of the nation's forepersons (an inaccurate term intended to embody the full range of founder ancestry), he is in a sense imitative of them as a traitor to his country and a terrorist, except they rebelled against tyranny while he is determined to reimpose it upon the ordinary citizenry of the nation. Also, the ancestors who created the American democracy were generally out in front of the storm they conjured while he is sheltered far behind the battle by layers of publicly funded safekeeping.

Bush the man is not very much, despite his blustering ego and aura of self-divinity; he is someone else's fool, in the words of the infamous V.I. Lenin who said of his more infamous protégé Stalin, "a useful idiot." His family is tainted with corruption and malfeasance. His father is a former President, the first CIA director in the White House (who knows the shadowy evil he conveyed with him: the name Noriega and an assault upon Panama come to mind). One of his brothers is governor of Florida and surely helped engineer the fraudulent elections in that state; another brother is perhaps the greatest swindler in U.S. history (remember the Savings & Loan disaster?).

It cannot be stressed too often that Bush and his nouveau federalists are exactly the domestic proto-aristocracy our ancestors most feared would eventually abrogate their hard-won liberties and civil rights. Benjamin Franklin candidly predicted that eventually the country would become so lax and

corrupt it would not only allow but embrace for its own selfish comforts a domestic despotism to more or less absolve their obligations and responsibilities to be active citizens enlarging and protecting democracy. And of course the putsch would be in the name of the sacrosanct names of liberty and justice for all simultaneous to their subjugation — as well as in the name of Christianity, in conflict with separation of religion and state.

A major notion of the ancestors was for the common people to be able to censure or remove corrupt or tyrannical officials without resort to revolution, vigilantism or assassination. Whenever these rights are plugged, dramatic relief becomes a conceivable option, which of course the leaders attempt to forestall and perhaps quell with increasing police powers to protect their illegal repeal of the rule of law.

STEPHEN PEARCY



Conservatives have called for the California Attorney General to remove Berkeley Lawyer Steven Percy's depiction of the USA being flushed down a toilet from a justice department art show. An online petition calls the painting "anti-American" and "a desecration of the symbol that represents this country." Percy said he painted the piece on July 4, 2003 because he felt "the country was going down the toilet." His inspiration was aroused "after seeing American flags everywhere in a fanatical display of patriotism." he said the painting is a "pretty straightforward message."

This second Bush administration is essentially carrying out an Orwellian deconstruction of democratic governance. People are simply denied power as well as any voice in its use or intent, and if history provides an insight, the majority become helplessly or angrily apathetic rather than revolt. Rearranging the democracy to suit a small ruling clique will most likely result in dismantling the democratic process.

Bush has severely curbed American freedoms with the Patriot Act, which was rammed through Congress just after 9/11, and is nearly a blueprint of the infamous Huston Plan of Nixon's era of surveillance and wiretaps of American citizens. He has virtually abrogated the Bill of Rights through administrative policies that avoid Congressional vote or oversight, and has cloaked the executive branch of government in the deepest web of secrecy in the nation's history.

Bush misled the American public about WMDs in Iraq, manipulated and falsified intelligence to justify invasion of Iraq, which has caused nearly 2,000 U.S. deaths and thousands more wounded, perhaps 100,000 more innocent civilian deaths (more than 30 times 9/11 deaths) — by this action has not only created a quagmire for American tax money, stretched the U.S. military too thin to adequately respond to terrorism but also through invasion, occupation and usurpation of power in Iraq, tarnished the concepts of liberation and democracy, words he flogs over and over as if selling cars.

Bush has escalated nuclear weapons development in the USA, insisting that 'Star Wars' guard the high frontier of space while so-called low-yield tactical nuclear weapons are planned for frontline use. Developing new nukes ostensibly for the war on terrorism while insisting every other country limit their stockpiles is a dangerous contradiction that brings the world closer to the long anticipated millennial annihilation.

Bush squandered the world's goodwill and sympathy following 9/11 by his arrogant and bullying bellicosity, using 9/11 to claim himself commander-in-chief of the world (God's crusader), breaking all major treaties, declaring pre-emptive right to invade any other country in the world for any reason, which has made the USA the currently most despised country in the world — a primary cause of 9/11 in the first place.

Even if there is little case for impeachment — standards of which Republicans lowered considerably in their incessant campaign to oust Bill Clinton — it is evident that a considerable number of Americans are beginning to react to the policies of the Bush administration. However much the GOP believes it has attained single party rule, it has from the very start imperiled its position with blatant arrogance and transparent corruption as well as flagrant disregard for the Constitution, unmindful that power in this country is ostensibly in the hands of the people however much that has lately been diverted or disregarded.

The thought of impeachment might seem an ineffective method of removing the President and curb his cabalistic expropriation of power, but it is something that everyone can be involved in, which is what power to the people is all about.

~MICHAEL PAUL McCUSKER