

# Public Square

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## A rest from labor

On Monday, Sept. 7, America will mark Labor Day, a federally-recognized holiday.

Labor Day was established in the late 19th century to honor and recognize the American labor movement as well as the contributions of laborers in the United States.

While labor in America looks much different than it did when Labor Day was first suggested, today's workers have as much to celebrate as their ancestors. Many fewer Americans work in factories and mines, or on farms today, yet today almost 160 million of us work, often in jobs a workingman (or woman) of 1894 could never have imagined.

The goal has not changed much over a century: people work to make an income to live and raise a family, with the goal of eventually retiring. This country was built by its workforce. This country continues to be an economic beacon for the rest of the work due to our work ethic and productivi-

editorial

ty. It is the men and women who work that we honor and celebrate on Labor Day.

There are, of course, people who work on Labor Day. It is these we should especially honor—the firefighters, paramedics, EMTs, hospital doctors and nurses and public safety officers. They serve so the rest of us can take the day off and enjoy a holiday.

Members of the military are on the job as well. The defense of our country doesn't take a holiday. American workers can shop, picnic, camp and recreate because the men and women in uniform are on duty to preserve our way of life.

—LAZ



## Is anyone persuadable?

By LYNDON ZAITZ

Is anybody undecided about anything anymore? We all know what we know to be true. We all have our beliefs. Is there room for debate and discussion? Are there open minds that suggest that someone can be persuaded to think other than they do?

Persuasion is a powerful thing. For centuries, billions, if not trillions, of dollars have been spent to get people to change their mind. Advertising and marketing have been so fine-tuned, that those in the persuasion business can drill down to the minutiae of a consumer's habits to develop a campaign of persuasion to get them buy one product over another.

We all are targets of persuasion; it starts at an early age when our parents persuade us to 'try' the Brussels sprouts or some other vegetable. After that, it never lets up. Americans are barraged with thousands of messages each day in an effort to change our mind.

What about something bigger and more important than trying a vegetable? Between now and Nov. 3, airwaves, phones, lawns and media will be crammed with messages of persuasion to get us to choose one person over another. When it comes to presidential elections, each side—Democrats, Republi-

cans—can rely on about 45 to 47 percent of the electorate to be in their corner. The millions of dollars to be spent by campaigns between now and the election will be spent to persuade those eight to 10 percent in the middle to vote for them.

People who have voted for one party can be lured to vote in a new way. Remember the Reagan Democrats? Somewhere along the way many of those voters said to themselves: "You have a point." They were persuaded that changing their political beliefs was good for them and good for the country.

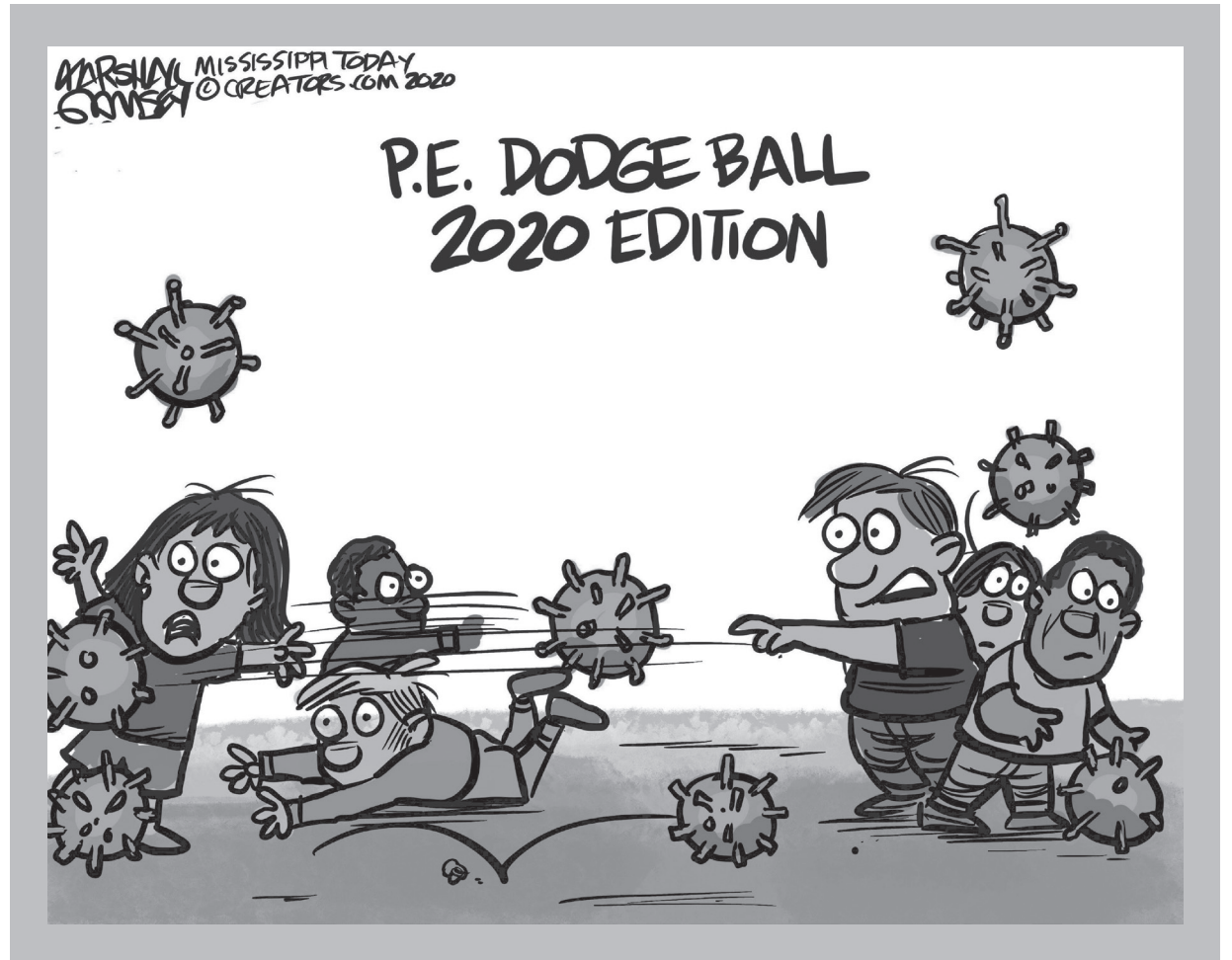
Is that kind of seismic shift possible in today's political climate? Are there people who are open to hearing views from "the other side" without automatically rejecting out of hand those views? Self interest drives how we vote—what is best for us? What is best for our quality of life?

Persuading a kid to try Brussels sprouts is child's play; however, persuading a voter to consider options to hard-held beliefs is much more difficult. There are no sweeter words to one trying to persuade than: "Convince me," which should be an invitation for robust debate, not a hill to die on.

(Lyndon Zaitz is publisher of the Keizertimes.)

zaitz writes

other voices



## Is Biden ceding the law and order issue?

By PATRICK J. BUCHANAN

Is Joe Biden forfeiting the law-and-order issue to Donald Trump? So it would seem.

"Republicans Use Law and Order As Rallying Cry" was the top headline on *The New York Times*' front-page story on Vice President Mike Pence's acceptance speech at Fort McHenry last week.

*The Wall Street Journal* Page One headline echoed the *Times*: "Pence Accepts Nomination as GOP Puts Focus on Police."

In his address, Pence charged Biden with sinning by silence in failing to denounce the rioters, looters and arsonists who have for months attacked police and pillaged Portland, Seattle, Minneapolis, Kenosha and other cities.

Said Pence: "Last week, Joe Biden did not say one word about the violence and chaos engulfing cities across this country."

"Joe Biden says that America is systemically racist, and that law enforcement in America has... 'implicit bias against minorities.' When asked whether he'd support cutting funding to law enforcement, Joe Biden replied, 'Yes, absolutely.'"

"Joe Biden would double down on the very policies that are leading to unsafe streets and violence in American cities. ... You will not be safe in Joe Biden's America."

Now, it is inexact to say Biden would "defund" the police. When the big agenda item of Black Lives Matter was first raised, Biden rushed to say he would reform the police and increase spending.

And, probably after seeing an advance of Pence's speech, Biden tweeted from Delaware about the chaos that has engulfed Kenosha since Sunday night's police shooting of Jacob Blake:

"Needless violence won't heal us. We need to end the violence."

Biden's belated and tepid condemnations of the riots and pillaging of America's cities by "peaceful protesters" gone rogue night after night testifies to the dilemma in which he finds himself.

It is three months since George Floyd ceased to breathe under the knee of that Minneapolis cop. But it is also three months to the election. And the political tide is turn-

ing, visibly and hard, against the arsonists and anarchists conducting the nightly rampages against cops across America.

The weariness of the public with the riots is palpable. The claim that these are but the understandable excesses of "peaceful protests" is getting stale. And the reaction against the riots and ruin in the Black communities, for whom they are allegedly being conducted, is growing.

Black leaders in urban areas are saying we want good cops, but we also want more cops to protect our people from gun-toting gang-

for having ignored it.

The smashing of statues, which has escalated from Columbus to Catholic missionaries and saints, to Confederate generals and statesmen like Lee, Jackson and Jefferson Davis, to the four presidents on Mount Rushmore—Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, TR—is now seen even by liberal elites as excessive.

Eventually, the country is going to go with law and order, for, no matter how the liberals' recoil from the phrase and its associations with Barry Goldwater and Richard Nixon, without law and order there is no justice and there is no peace. What Nixon said in '68 remains true: "The first civil right of every American is to be free from domestic violence."

The mega-demand of BLM and its collaborators—reparations for slavery and segregation—is not wildly popular. Yet, reparations, which ultimately involves trillions in wealth transfers, is an issue on which Biden will have to choose between the Bernie-BLM-AOC wing of his party and the Scranton Democrats among whom he was raised.

The decisive question:

Are the nation's police forces shot through with systemic racism and overpopulated by white cops who relish using violence on Black folks? Or are our police the first of the first responders, the thin blue line standing between America and anarchy?

The Republicans have chosen. They stand with the cops.

And if and when Biden comes out of the basement again, he is going to have to take a stand. Declaring evenhanded neutrality won't cut it.

(Creators Syndicate)

Eventually, the country is going to go with law and order.

bangers who are running up rising weekly kill rates.

Tuesday, video surfaced of a mob of radicals surrounding, berating, cursing and threatening a woman at a D.C. diner. Her crime? She had refused to submit to demands she raise her fist in a Black Power salute and proclaim, "Black Lives Matter!"

"White silence is violence!" screamed the mob.

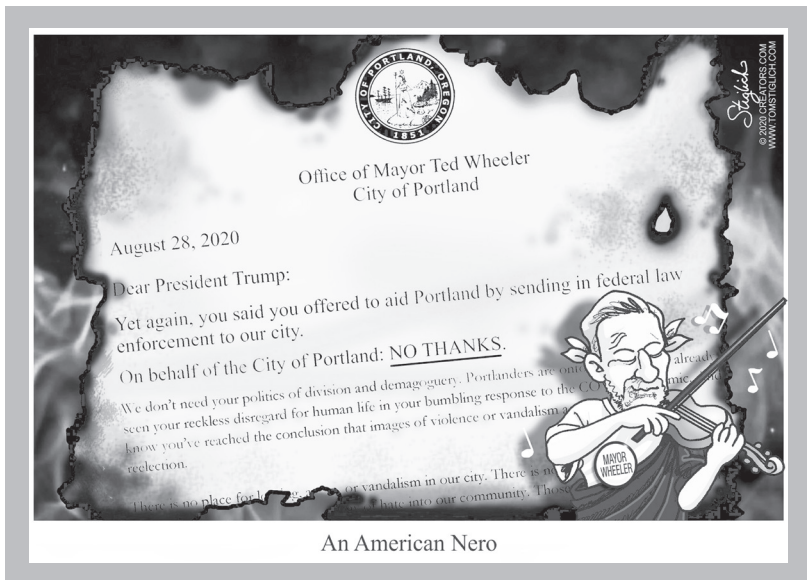
It looked like a training exercise for aspiring Nazi Brown Shirts.

We are beginning to see how this all unfolds. And from here, it looks like the Democratic left is going to be the loser on all counts.

First, the big mandate—"Defund the police!"—has backfired.

The Biden media daily testify to its unpopularity by insisting Biden never endorsed it. Where police department budgets have been cut, shooting and homicide rates have soared. And Biden's refusal to endorse the mandate tells you what Democrats' polls are telling them.

The police bill passed by Nancy Pelosi's House featuring restrictions on chokeholds has been ignored by the Senate, and Republicans do not appear to be suffering



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