

K PUBLIC SQUARE

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Every mom is a superhero

By LYNDON ZAITZ

When asked what superpower they would like to possess most people answer with things like the ability to fly, to be invisible or some other amazing trait.

The superpowers to covet are the natural traits of a mother. Sure, mothers can't fly or morph into other beings, but they have what we love, admire and want to emulate. How powerful they are with their nurturing, their nursing, their creativity, their empathy and of course their ferocity when it comes to their children. Those are realistic super powers to possess.

Until her last breath, every mother is a teacher and defender from the day their child is born. What a child knows about the world generally comes from what they learn from their mother. Every child should feel safe with a mother who watches over and secures them. Is there anything more ferocious in the nature world than a mother whose child is threatened?

Some mothers are friends with their children, which is a wonderful relationship to have with grown offspring. During the years when a kid is living under the roof of their parents, isn't it more important that they have discipline, boundaries and values?

My mother is a friend, but she is always my mom first. And she definitely was the mother when I and my siblings were growing up. She had expectations from her children and when we really stepped over the line, the wood spoon or dad's belt was available for corrective measures.

We are all products of our background and experience. At home, how we are raised, what we are taught and how our wants and wishes are answered creates the foundation of a person who grows into a productive, loving adult. I am a product of a two-parent household.

Dad worked, mom was in charge of the domestic homefront, which was what most households looked like at that time.

My mother was like millions of others. She prepared three meals a day for her family. She sewed, knitted and cro-



cheted. She baked for school events and was a heck of a den mother for our local Boy Scout troop. And she was curious, in my mind one of the best traits a person can have. When the family went for weekend drives (all seven of us fit comfortably in a Volkswagen Beetle), it was mom who said, "I wonder where that road goes?" And we'd find out.

With a mother possessing a strong curiosity streak and a journalist father, it is no wonder all the Zaitz children exhibit the same need to know and learn.

We Zaitz children have become who we are today because of the superpowers of our mother. She nurtured our interests, which were as varied then as today. With a Lucille Ball-esque wit and Midwest common sense, she taught us how to make things that fueled our overactive imaginations. We empathize with other people, whatever their challenges. We know that we are not the center of the universe, even though mom thinks we are all special.

Every mother is a superhero. They stand astride their world, defending their brood against evil and embracing the good.

(Lyndon Zaitz is publisher of the Keizertimes.)

The GOP's woke awakening

By JOSH HAMMER

One of the unfortunate vestiges of liberalism's lingering influence upon American conservatism, and by extension the Republican Party that is conservatism's default political vehicle, is the pervasive knee-jerk tendency to view government action as *per se* bad and private-sector action as *per se* good. This ideology, which might be called "market fundamentalism" or "private-sector fundamentalism," takes on differing forms: in its more benign variation, a principled commitment to unwavering *laissez faire*, but in its more malignant variation, a less principled commitment to corporate boosterism and outright cronyism.

The realignment now unfolding before our eyes in American politics could finally retire the right's long-standing and lamentable fixation with these bromides. On the former front, the realignment right's leading institutions and proponents seek to recover the Two Cheers for Capitalism of Irving Kristol, allowing for a greater state role in channeling market efficiency toward the traditional conservative political ends of justice, human flourishing and the common good. That theoretical recalibration is welcome and proper.

The real recent action, however, has been on the latter, more tangible front. In the aftermath of corporate America's defenestration of the state of Georgia—best encapsulated by Major League Baseball's obtuse decision to yank its All-Star Game out of the Peach State—over its passage of a milquetoast election reform law, the already-festering tension between the GOP and its corporatist Chamber of Commerce wing has reached a fever pitch.

Early last week, Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., who has previously made realignment inroads with his advocacy of "common good capitalism" and vocal support for unionization in Amazon's Bessemer, Alabama, plant, took to the New York Post to decry how "corporate America eagerly dumps woke, toxic nonsense into our culture." Even more notably, Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, a political disciple of Reaganite conservatism, took to *The Wall Street Journal* to pronounce that "starting today," he will "no longer accept money from any corporate PAC."

Sen. Josh Hawley, R-Mo., meanwhile, is only ramping up his assaults on Big Tech oligopolists, most recently expressed by his unveiling of the aptly named "Trust-Busting for the Twenty-First Century Act." And on the House side, Rep. Ken Buck, R-Colo., is leading a campaign to forswear all political donations from Amazon, Apple, Facebook, Google and Twitter.

Those who came of political age associating the GOP's low-tax, low-regulation

policy plank with Big Business might be taken aback by the sweeping nature of this pushback, but in truth, the GOP resistance to corporatism has been a long time coming. The tea party era of



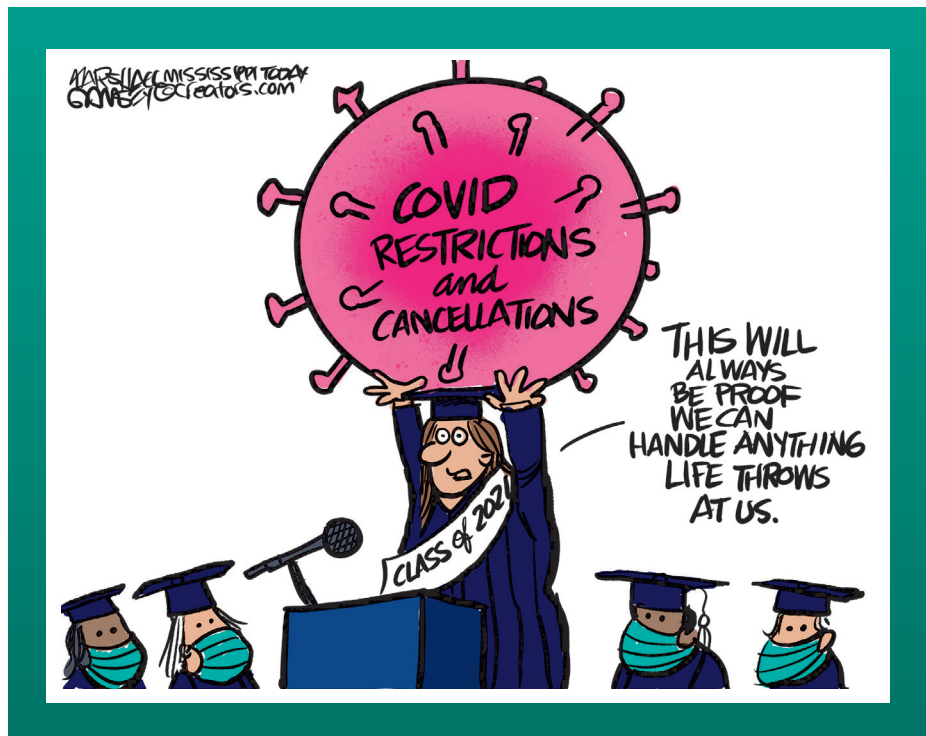
2009-2012 took on a decisively populist, anti-corporatist hue, with its opposition to bailing out Wall Street and its resistance to other policies reeking of Beltway-style corporate cronyism, such as the Export-Import Bank that effectively amounts to a Boeing slush fund.

But the recent accelerant has been the emergence of woke capital as a destructive force tearing a grievously divided country ever-more asunder. As the cultural left nears completion of its Antonio Gramsci-esque "long march through the institutions," Big Business has joined the ranks of the academy, Hollywood and the mainstream media as a sprawling national edifice beholden to the illiberal woke ideology. Whereas just nine years ago, Wall Street donated to native son Mitt Romney's presidential campaign at a higher clip than it did to then-incumbent President Barack Obama, today corporate wokesters threaten boycotts of entire states due to Republican-backed legislation on wedge issues such as abortion and transgenderism—all while prostrating themselves before the (literally) genocidal commissars of the Chinese Communist Party.

Republicans are right to stand up and solemnly declare that enough is enough, already. There is no compelling reason to suffer through the humiliating bromance with woke capitalists, "battered woman syndrome"-style, while corporate America makes itself clearer than ever before that it hates Republican voters' guts. Whether it is on human sexuality, the right to life for unborn children, gun rights, immigration sanity or a host of other issues, woke capital treats the Republican Party as more of an enemy than it would ever dream of treating sadistic detention facility managers in Xinjiang, China.

Republicans should stop trying to prevent the unpreventable and permit its amicable divorce from corporate America to continue apace. Indeed, that divorce is a "blessing," as the Post's op-ed editor, Sohrab Ahmari, argued in January. The GOP's future comes in the form of a multiracial working-class political coalition -- not in the C-suite.

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