

## It's never over in New Hampshire

WOODSTOCK, N.H. — It's over. Donald Trump is the inevitable Republican presidential nominee. No, it's not. Trump is too flawed — and lately too nutty — to be the Republicans' standard-bearer.

It's over. Trump is whom the Republicans want. No, it's not. Deep in their hearts, Republicans want someone more youthful and more polite, less arch and less mean.

It's over. We're facing a Trump-Biden rematch. No, it's not. Stein's Law — promulgated in 1986 by Herbert Stein, at the time the chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers — will come into play: "If something cannot go on forever, it will stop."

It's over. Trump's lead is insurmountable. No, it's not. Someone, somewhere, will appear, and the Trump support will vanish in February 2024 the way he said in February 2020 that COVID would disappear: "One day — it's like a miracle — it will disappear."

Stop in any coffee shop here in New Hampshire, site of the first Republican primary, sit outside and eat at any brewpub, pause by any roadside stand, newly stocked with freshly picked corn, and you'll hear a version of one of those four debates. Chances are, you will hear them all.

This state is crammed with candidates. One day recently, five presidential candidates held events in Merrimack, whose population (25,969) is less than a quarter of the seating capacity of Penn State's Beaver Stadium or the University of Michigan's "Big House" — which may be why politics here is not a spectator sport but is, instead, a participation sport.

But it's a sport with consequence. New Hampshire has lost its claim that it picks presidential nominees; though it has been right in the last five GOP primaries, Sen. John McCain of Arizona (2000) and political commentator Patrick J. Buchanan (1996) won the primary but not the nomination. Even so, New Hampshire is both staging ground and testing ground for presidential candidacies. It was here that Gov. Bill Clinton of Arkansas, who lost the 1992 primary to Sen. Paul Tsongas of Massachusetts, nonetheless could claim that he was the "Comeback Kid" of American politics. It was here that Democratic Sen. Edmund S. Muskie of Maine, the prohibitive favorite in 1972, failed to meet experts' expectations and displayed the vulnerability that eventually doomed his campaign.

It is, of course, one of the quirks of American politics that this state is either staging or testing ground at all. Today, commentators repeatedly point out how unrepresentative of America this state is — so much so that while the Republicans persist in holding the first primary here, the Democrats have moved South Carolina to the front of the parade.

This state's place in primary politics made no more sense when the tradition started in 1920.

New Hampshire then had a population of a little more than 440,000. (This town had 684 souls.) Search through census data, and you will discover that there were more sheep of shearing age in the state than there were humans in Nashua, the state's second-biggest city. Blacks accounted for one-tenth of 1% of the population. New Hampshire was remote; there were no superhighways. The state roads commission officially designated truck traffic as a "menace."

But over the decades, the residents of this state have developed a reputation — part myth, part "truth" — of being especially discerning judges of political character. There is no evidence for this, of course, but the Granite State always has been a congenial destination for political reporters; Sen. Gary Hart, who won the 1984 Democratic primary, said that more lies were told at the bar of the Sheraton Wayfarer hotel, at the time the preferred hostelry for candidates and commentators, than anyplace in America. The hotel is gone. The tradition persists.

Now the Forever-Trumpers are taking one position, the Never-Trumpers the other, and it's anyone's guess whether the combatants truly believe their protestations. Politics here is a matter of conscience — but also of conversation. And practicality. The saxophone, Clinton's preferred instrument, has subtone, a musical technique that removes the edge from sound — and, it turns out, political people often employ them, too.

Here are the subtone in this year's race in New Hampshire: We're open to an outsider. Our allegiances aren't as strong as our statements. Surely the country can produce a better choice than between two old men. (Similar subtone are being produced in Iowa, site of the first caucus, where Christian-right kingmaker Bob Vander Plaats is determined to topple Trump.)

In this context, there are two documents that should be passed around whenever the talk turns to politics, which it inevitably does in some circles.

One is a copy of the chapter in Lord James Bryce's "The American Commonwealth" (1888) titled, "Why Great Men Are Not Chosen Presidents." The other is the front page of The New York Times on Feb. 28, 1984. As I write this, I'm consulting my own yellowed copy — retained all these years, I suppose, with the thought it might come in handy sometime. It reads: Mondale Lead Over Nearest Rival in Poll Sets Nonincumbent Record.

That piece, published exactly a week before the 1984 New Hampshire primary, said the latest New York Times/CBS News Poll showed former Vice President Walter F. Mondale as the choice of 57% of likely Democratic voters. The Rev. Jesse Jackson was second, with 8%, followed by Sen. John Glenn of Ohio and Hart at 7%.

The voters of New Hampshire thought otherwise. Hart, with 39% of the vote, beat Mondale by 10 percentage points. Glenn finished with 12%.

"We had a theory there were a lot of voters there in New Hampshire who were waiting for the right candidate to come along and activate them," said Greg Schneiders, a top Glenn aide. "We thought we would defy all the polls. It turns out Gary Hart defied all the polls, and all those people turned out for him."

Mondale eventually won the nomination, after a long slog against Hart, the surging insurgent. Then Ronald Reagan won the general election by a landslide.

But there is a lesson in that clipping I kept for 40 years.

"The odds were on John Glenn as the runner-up, and not me," Hart, now 86, told me the other day. "I don't know anything about American politics anymore — nothing. But I do know that a lead in New Hampshire can be overcome."

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### Letter Policy

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### Letters to the Editor

#### CLC Cafe closing day-to-day operations

To the Editor:  
To our Community Learning Center Cafe supporters, partners and customers:

We would like to express our sincere gratitude for your support and loyalty as our supporters, partners and customers. You have each been an integral piece to helping us teach and learn job skills. Our employees have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know many of you. Working in the cafe was a highlight of their week for many.

Unfortunately, Friday, Aug. 4, will be our last day open for consistent day-to-day operations. However, we will continue to open for special events held at the CLC. If you are planning an event and would like the cafe open, please contact Julie with the CLC or us directly, and we will do our best to make it possible. Stay tuned to our Facebook page and website for future information on when the cafe will be open.

If you're interested in continuing to support us in our other job training programs stop by and see us in Albion. We sell Southside Seasoning Salt, birdhouses, delicious chocolate dipped pretzel rods and various pieces of art ... all made by us!

We are also always looking for area businesses to partner with for our job training programs. Looking for rewarding employment? Become a work mentor! Give me a call or send me an email today and I would love to discuss possibilities with you. Your support means so much to us!

**Jalyssa Kessler**  
Community Career Director  
The Arc Noble County Foundations

#### Kendallville Street Department appreciated

To the Editor:  
We would like to commend the members of the Kendallville City Street Department. We returned home Sunday evening to find a large tree limb that had broken off during the weekend storms. This limb was completely blocking the sidewalk, and if we would have been able to drag it, it would have blocked traffic in the street.

We left a voice mail message on Monday morning which was promptly and pleasantly returned in five minutes. Within thirty minutes, we heard a chain saw and found the tree limb cut up and the wood piled by the curb. An hour later, the wood was being picked up and carted off with a smile and a wave from the workers.

We would like to thank the members of the Kendallville Street Department for their excellent and timely service all year long. We appreciate them for keeping our

streets plowed, repaired, and clean. We are lucky citizens to have many great city employees in various departments! Thank you, again, for your great work!

**Debra and David Hockley**  
Kendallville

#### Liberal media outlets manipulate public opinion

To the Editor:  
Back in the day, I trusted liberals Walter Cronkite and Tom Brokaw to report the news accurately.

Today's national news media is a propaganda ministry for the Democratic National Committee (DNC).

I noticed deterioration of media integrity with the Nick Sandmann Lincoln Memorial incident in 2019.

Leftist media outlets including CNN, MSNBC, ABC, CBS, The Washington Post, New York Times, and USA Today slandered Sandmann as a white supremacist, eager to build the woke narrative that America is a fundamentally racist nation.

Sandmann and classmates attended a March for Life event in Washington and waited for their bus at the memorial.

Some wore recently purchased red MAGA hats. This attracted the attention of opportunistic activists.

The teens were approached by Hebrew Israelite cultists uttering profanities and racist taunts toward them.

A Native American activist, Nathan Phillips, approached Sandmann, standing inches from his face and beating a drum. Sandmann smiled to deescalate the situation.

The smile was intentionally misconstrued by media as an expression of white supremacy. Phillips contributed to the narrative by claims of racial slurs from the teens.

News outlets didn't show the full video, which would have revealed their deceit.

There is a conspiracy of media deception and relative silence surrounding the Charlottesville "Unite the Right" rally, 2020 BLM/Antifa rioting, the Steele dossier hoax, Hunter Biden laptop suppression, Biden family influence peddling, illegal harassment of SCOTUS justices and families, pro-life pregnancy center arson and vandalism, FBI/DOJ intimidation of advocates for preborns and concerned parents attending school board meetings, 2020 election integrity concerns, suspected federal agency incitement of Jan. 6 Capitol rioting, Chinese exploitation of Uyghurs and the 85,000 missing immigrant children released into the USA.

Their current target is "Sound of Freedom", a movie exposing child sex trafficking. Media associates it with QAnon, the woke boogiemanager. Are they running interference for

allies engaged in exploitation?

Entertainment industry ownership increases my suspicions.

Major US news outlets include CNN (Warner), New York Times, The Washington Post (Jeff Bezos), NBC/MSNBC (Comcast), ABC (Disney), CBS (Paramount), USA Today (Gannett), Fox, Associated Press, and Reuters.

Additionally, investment management firms Vanguard, Blackrock, and State Street own significant shares in most of these outlets.

These firms, managing \$20 trillion in assets, are implementing Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) programs to force companies in their portfolios to embrace wickedness.

How does leftist media create and manipulate public opinion?

- Feign objectivity while pursuing Democrat partisan interests
  - Amplify news coverage advancing Democrat party objectives
  - Censor or omit coverage exposing Biden and Democrat policies to criticism, including increasing crime in Democrat-run cities, double standards of the federal justice system, social burdens of uncontrolled immigration, and leftist violence
  - Intentionally misquote conservatives and omit crucial details to create false contexts
  - Interpret conservative voices in the least charitable manner
  - Use virtuous-sounding phrases such as "reproductive justice" to conceal evils like the abortion holocaust
  - Caricature conservatives as evil extremists through phrases like "ultra MAGA conservative" and portray Democrats as valiant moderates fighting for democracy
  - Dehumanize conservatives with labels like racists, white supremacists, Nazis, fascists and "Uncle Toms"
  - Release unverified negative information about conservative candidates and suppress similar information about Democrat candidates
  - Use data from suspicious, poorly constructed opinion polls for propagandistic purposes
  - Vilify conservatives voicing election integrity concerns despite similar Democrat claims surrounding previous elections
  - Label challenges to leftist narratives as disinformation, hate speech, and conspiracy theories
  - Deploy wild mischaracterizations of principled court decisions and congressional legislation
  - Normalize woke thought-forms through the AP Stylebook
- Do conservative media outlets practice similar propaganda? Occasionally, but with much less frequency and bandwidth.

**Robert Sparkman**  
Rome City

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Established 1859,  
daily since 1911

The Star

Established 1871,  
daily since 1913

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