

EDITORIAL & OPINION

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PUBLISHER'S LETTER

Days of wine and roses

Dear Reader,

Recently I watched a movie called "Bottle Shock," which tells the story of a small, family-owned, struggling vineyard called Chateau Montelena in the Napa Valley, California. It gives an accounting of how the world of wine was turned on its head in Paris during an international blind tasting in 1976.



The tasting competition was called "The Judgment of Paris," a name that plays a story from ancient Greek mythology in which a mortal human named Paris had to decide on the beauty of the three most beautiful goddesses of Olympus: Aphrodite, Hera, or Athena. Chateau Montelena entered two of its wines in the competition. Shockingly, both wines won.

To understand the enormity of this event, you have to realize that American wines were considered inferior, barely worth drinking. The wine world was turned upside down when an American Chardonnay and Cabernet won first place in blind tastings by the world's greatest experts in wine evaluation. A paradigm shift occurred as many people realized a stunning truth: American wines are worth trying.

Recently I tried Montelena's Chardonnay and Cabernet wines. They were quite good. To use the, shall we say, unique language of wine tasting, the Montelena Chardonnay was "enchanting, like bright gold in a glass; it tickles the palate and, its young age notwithstanding, delivers an overall length that is impressive." Doesn't that sound funny? But that's how those wine experts talk. And Montelena Cabernet provides "colorful layers of notes and taste that continued to reshape and charm after pouring."

So in these days of occasional order and frequent chaos, pause some evening and conduct a tasting on your own or with a few friends. Chateau Montelena delivers by the case from the Napa Valley.

PATRICK J. WOOD
PUBLISHER

Author of "Dear Reader" and "Tapestry of Love and Loss"

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Keep it local

In your Oct. 28 edition, there was a letter from Frank Czarnecki noting that red (Republican party governed) states are compelling their citizens to rat on their neighbors.

I presume this is in regard to the abortion issue although he has not so stated.

The laws of each state are varied by the people who live in that state and who vote for a law's passage by their elected representatives.

This right is guaranteed in the Constitution of the United States of America.

A person living in Wisconsin is not subject to those red state laws.

Almost daily, we here in Green Bay and Northeast Wisconsin read that the police would appreciate in-

formation on an individual in regard to a crime committed under our state/city laws and ordinances.

If we respond, is that "ratting" on our neighbors as well?

Mr. Czarnecki, I am not a registered Republican, and I have read both of Orwell's novels — 1984 and Animal Farm.

The first was written against a totalitarian state such as Hitler's Third Reich, and Animal Farm was a statement as to the Communist Soviet Union.

We are a long way from having a national system that is described in both books.

Your argument is overstated.

— Larry Miller
Green Bay

Vote for stability

I agree with Frank Czarnecki (Oct. 28) that most Americans have not read "1984" or "Animal Farm."

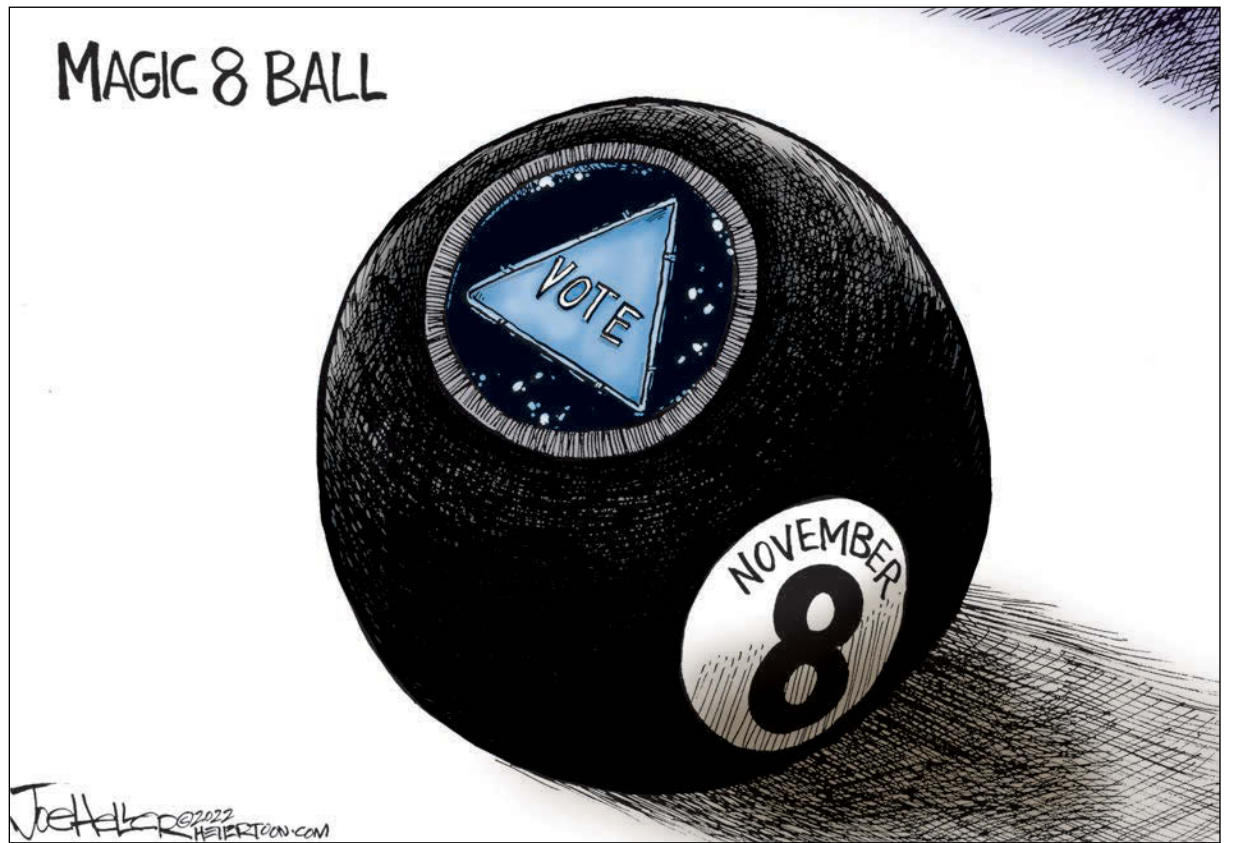
The harm being done in Florida, Texas, and Arizona is very obvious, and much more sinister in other states, such as our own Wisconsin.

If you have not read either of these novels, I strongly encourage you to do so.

Yes, please vote Democrat — not because you like the candidate, but because he/she is a more stable choice for our state/country.

This country desperately needs a third party, but sadly that will probably never happen because the two power-hungry parties in power now will never let it happen.

— Cathay Lehnertz
De Pere



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rep. Steffen's rhetoric falls short

Last week Rep. Dave Steffen wrote in regarding doing more for public safety, yet the actions and policy of the GOP the last decade has done more to weaken public safety.

Foremost, public safety goes beyond police, which is all he wrote about.

Public safety encompasses many attributes of the community, hence the term "public," yet reforms by the GOP like Act 10, Act 32, cutting shared revenue, and capping local financial ability has significantly weakened public safety.

By cutting shared revenue and capping local/municipal taxes, it makes it harder to recruit and retain employees.

Act 10 and Act 32 under-

value employees versus valuing them and the services they provide.

Public safety encompasses many aspects such as dispatch, police, fire, medical, courts, prisons, etc.

Starting with dispatch, this has been a revolving door for many communities because of long hours, forced overtime, high stress, and lower pay.

Our prisons have been overpopulated or have less guards because of forced overtime, stress, undervalued and diminished pay and benefits.

Our courts have been backlogged because of a myriad of reasons.

Fire and medical statewide have seen increased demand with less person-

nel, many forced overtime, benefits lessened.

One could argue public safety also includes good, safe schools, improved infrastructure, etc.

Essentially such reforms have done more to view public workers as a liability versus an asset, and when you see referendums to fund basic essential services because the state legislature has hindered a local government's ability to provide public safety, that is a problem.

In the end, the only time that there has been a sense of support for public safety by the GOP is at election time, like now.

The rhetoric is more about politics and scare tactics than it is about im-

proving public safety.

If Rep. Steffen and the GOP truly care about doing more for public safety, then they need to look at the broader picture, not one aspect.

Want to do more for public safety?

Cut the politics and view employees as the people they are, view the bigger picture, not one attribute.

Is public safety better today, after such GOP reforms, or was it better in the past?

If it really were better today, we wouldn't see an elected representative writing in to "do more for public safety," especially when they can do so.

— John Crabbe
Green Bay

GB referendum benefits go beyond schools

As we consider the upcoming election and the opportunity to vote yes for the Green Bay Area Public Schools referendum, it should be an easy decision to say yes.

The Green Bay community could help secure safe and healthy schools where all children in Green Bay have an opportunity to learn, play and compete in great public schools.

This referendum will complete delayed facility projects, develop energy efficiency by building solar panels between two school buildings, replace 50-year-old windows in buildings, HVAC upgrades, roof replacements, general repairs and safety measures for children and the com-

munity.

Additionally, there will be much-needed improvements made to athletic programs, physical education facilities and fine arts facilities that will allow our children to learn, play and compete in a competitive environment with surrounding school districts.

And, finally, there will be upgrades to playgrounds throughout the district that will allow children of all ages and abilities to have an opportunity to use these playgrounds.

The changes and improvements included in this referendum will provide not only much-needed improvements for children but also for our community.

Please don't sell our city or our students short — let's work together for the benefit of all of us.

Postponing needed change to avoid disruption is counterproductive and is a historically-frequent rationale for denying opportunity to all the children in our schools and the businesses in our community.

Unity behind this referendum starts with us: when parents and community members choose to step up for children, we are developing the future for our community and helping kids get the start they need — in safe and healthy school buildings which allow them to learn, play and compete.

Do some people feel that

the school district should be able to budget for these services?

Not true — especially when the Wisconsin legislature's leadership chose not to provide any new funds to public schools.

As a community, let's dare to imagine the benefits of these improvements for our children.

Our kids deserve all this and more, so vote yes on or before Nov. 8 and let's create great learning and growing spaces for our children.

Green Bay is stronger together — supporting our children, and we can unite by voting yes.

— Denise Gaumer
Hutchison
New Franken

Vote to protect life

In a few days we will be given the opportunity to go to the polls to elect leaders of our country.

So, is there any special way we should vote if we believe in protecting the

lives of babies?

We should vote for the pro-life candidates.

The pro-life candidates this year all happen to be Republicans.

Vote for the Republican

candidates to protect the lives of innocent children.

Good luck, folks, and God bless.

— Jean and
Jeremiah Farrell
Suamico

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters must be no more than 400 words and be emailed to nwood@mmclocal.com with the subject line "letters to the editor."

Letters can also be mailed or dropped off to our office located at 310 West Walnut, 4th floor, Green Bay, WI 54303.

Letters must be received by Monday in order to be included in the Friday edition.