

EDITORIAL & OPINION

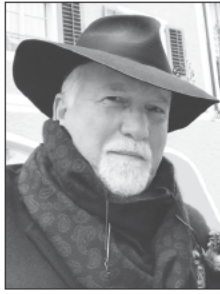
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PUBLISHER'S LETTER

"Nothing Gold..."

Dear Reader,
Recently I read Robert Frost's poem "Nothing Gold Can Stay." This eight-line composition reflects on the beauty and impermanence of life. Frost describes how all things dwindle with time, and how beauty fades to nothingness. The sunset you saw last night lives only in your mind; the christening of your child is only a memory; the wealth you accumulated over the years becomes value-less, since shrouds have no pockets.
The poet is saying that the green of spring's birth eventually evolves to the gold of full being in summer. But autumn winds blow through our lives, and the fleeting beauty of gold vanishes, much as the idyll of Eden gave way to the toil and pain of our current existence. Each cycle of life brings its own aesthetics, both new and familiar to the fore, as all things are limited and

temporary.
Being transitions into non-being over time as the body crumbles to dust. The raging priorities driven by bodily and ego needs - the hunger for food, the search for shelter, the quest for riches, power, and prestige - these all wane to nothing. Infinity prevails throughout, and the trans-personal ideals - love, compassion, and a desire for truth and beauty - suffuse whatever reality one experiences in that future state.
Most Christians, through faith, believe in a permanent afterlife with God which supersedes an impermanent physical life on earth. The afterlife is contingent on how well one handles the body and gifts bestowed on earth. If we accumulate and amass treasure, then we must give and share to alleviate the

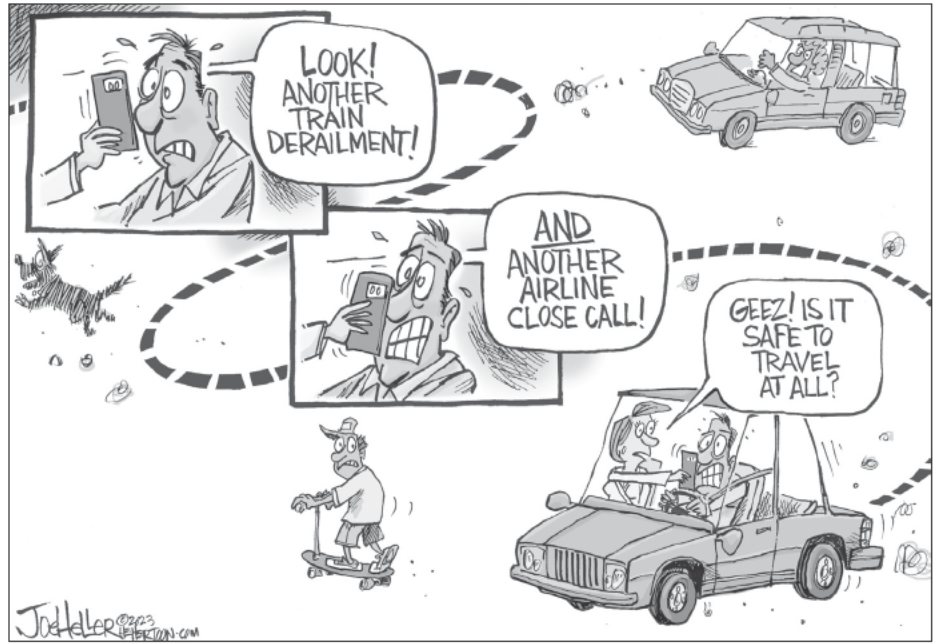


plight of our fellow travelers. If we attain power and influence, then we must leverage these forces to better the world for all of us, not inordinately for a few. Subjugating the soul in favor of the body's cravings during life may determine the final outcome; complete and everlasting loneliness instead of perpetual ecstasy.

In essence, our bodily form is a temporary symbol of all that is beautiful and important, but we cannot stay in this form, for nothing here is changeless forever. That's why recognition of the non-being of the soul is critical to how well we fare in eternity.

PATRICK J. WOOD
Publisher

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



PAID LETTER TO THE EDITOR

De Pere's District 2 deserves the best

DEAR EDITOR,
I'm writing in support of Alderman Jonathan Hansen for De Pere's District 2.
I moved to the district about two years ago and Alderman Hansen introduced himself quickly and answered the many questions I had as I got myself settled in the neighborhood.
He's stayed in touch since then and assisted me when I was interested in learning more about De Pere's Sus-

tainability Commission.
I'm now serving as a proud member of the commission.
Alderman Hansen has served De Pere since 2017. In that time, he's achieved a long list of accomplishments.
What matters most to me as a constituent of District 2 in De Pere, however, is that Alderman Hansen genuinely cares and helps his community.
He's always available and jumps in to assist when

needed.
He doesn't get caught up in political games and negativity; he's here to do a job, and do it well.
Alderman Hansen has a proven track record of moving De Pere forward doing what's best for District 2 and all who live here.
Join me in voting for Alderman Jonathan Hansen on April 4. De Pere's District 2 deserves the best.
Nicole Slavin
De Pere

BE OUR GUEST

Revenue Reflection: The funding of Wisconsin's Public Schools

BY DAN ROSSMILLER/
CHRIS KULOW
WISCONSIN
ASSOCIATION OF
SCHOOL BOARDS



Rossmiller

Kulow

On April 4, 50 Wisconsin public school districts will ask voters to dig deeper into their pocketbooks to approve referendums so the district can continue to operate.
Across the state, 249 school districts (nearly 60%) already depend upon voter-approved referendums to maintain their programs and services for students. In some cases, the referendums provided funds for districts to thrive, but increasingly referendums are providing funds districts need to simply survive.
While the circumstances of each school district and the size of the ask may differ, the need for additional resources is a given.
How did we get to a situation where so many school districts have to beg voters to tax themselves more heavily to keep the school doors open, let alone to

maintain adequate staffing levels?
Since the mid-90s, school district spending has been tightly controlled by state-imposed revenue limits.
These limits have eroded local control of school boards and restricted what schools can spend on teachers, textbooks or other instructional materials, supplies, transportation, facilities and all the other things our kids and schools need to operate.
These limits, by themselves, would not necessarily be a problem if the state allowed reasonable increases over time.
Our definition of rea-

sonable is an annual increase tied to inflation so schools can deal with the rise in costs for goods and services, including retaining teachers and other integral school staff.
The state used to agree with this logic, as inflationary increases from 1993 through 2009 provided districts with a relatively predictable revenue stream.
Large portions of Wisconsin are also losing population, and declining school enrollment is another challenge.
Wisconsin's per pupil school funding model

See REVENUE page 10

OPEN LETTER

How will the closing of West High benefit students?

DEAR GREEN BAY AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS (GBAPS) BOARD MEMBERS,
I live in the West District, both my children and I graduated from there.
I also have worked in food service for 25 years in the GBAPS.
Things that concern me:
1. High schools are community hubs, taking away any and you are damaging the community.
2. There are a lot of underprivileged students that are served by West High. If closed how would you:
3. Get them to and from school if they are involved in extracurricular activities. Public bussing is not efficient.
4. Many parents do not have cars. How are they going to get to conferences or get a sick child.

5. Where would there sense of community pride be placed.
6. We serve over 400 students at lunch and 200 at breakfast at West High, which is higher than Southwest. A lot of our students can walk home for lunch, mine did.
7. If they do not have the means to leave campus, you will be serving at the very least 600 more students.
8. Have you ever been in the actual prep kitchen of Southwest and West. If not, please check them out. The prep kitchen at West is much larger than Southwest. Tax payer dollars were just spent to upgrade Southwest, and the kitchen was not expanded to accommodate the extra students.
9. The money that would have to be spent in expand-

ing the prep area, storage, freezers and cooler would be a lot.
10. Bay Link Manufacturing has invested a lot of money into West High, what will happen to all the students who benefit from this program?
11. Bridges is another wonderful program at West High, what will happen to those students?
Remember we are trying to make an inclusive environment for all.
Taking a high school out of a community is the opposite of inclusivity.
Please let me know in all the ways we are going to benefit the students if West High is closed.
Thank you
Michele Salzsieder
Green Bay

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