

# CAPITOL HILL CITIZEN

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“Democracy  
dies in  
broad daylight”

## Corporatists versus Populists

# Megastrife in the MAGAverse

“Trump can save America or have another war, but he can’t do both”

By Citizen Staff

Donald Trump’s victorious 2024 Presidential campaign was fueled by hundreds of millions of dollars in donations from the corporatists, but he arguably narrowly won the election by appealing to MAGA’s populist base.

In November, for example, Trump won a key swing district – Saginaw County – in a swing state – Michigan – because of these populists – who firmly believe that this time, Trump will drain the swamp. And this time around, they explicitly called out the swamp dwellers – the giant corporations that control their lives.

Earlier this year, Lori Patterson, chair of the Saginaw Republican party, told the *Guardian* newspaper that she believes that Trump will take on the corporate giants she said wield too much control over U.S. politics and citizens’ lives.

“The industrial complex, they’re enriching themselves, and it’s supposed to be about the people,” Patterson said. “Trump made mistakes in his first term.

He wasn’t a politician. He didn’t know how to really drain that swamp like he wanted to. He trusted some of the wrong people. He learned that lesson this time.”

She said that Robert F. Kennedy Jr., whose nomination to be Secretary of Health and Human Services came under heavy attack by food and pharmaceutical corporate giants, “is going to expose the chemicals that are in our foods.”

“It’s terrible that our foods here in the United States are so different than like of those in the UK. Why are our ingredients so different?” Patterson said.

“The problem is when they’re putting that stuff in our foods, they’re making us more unhealthy which is, in turn, helping big pharma because pharma is making profit off of us being unhealthy. RFK wants to put a stop to this.”

In Washington, Trump’s populist camp is filled with the likes of Darren Beattie, who was appointed in early February to oversee public diplomacy at the State Department.

“It’s hard to overstate what a significant signal his appoint-



## Explore Gaza

In remarks made as we were about to go to press, President Trump told reporters the U.S. would “take over” and “own” Gaza as part of a plan to turn it into “the Riviera of the Middle East.” – (See *CSI: Crime Scene Israel: Trump and Kushner salivate over Gaza beachfront* – Page 28)

ment is,” Ryan Grim wrote when he heard the news of Beattie’s appointment. “Beattie – a former speech writer who *Semafor* described as a MAGA intellectual – is an outspoken critic of the warhawk wing of the GOP and his ascension has sent shockwaves through Washington’s neocon think-tank universe.”

“His appointment is as radical as a Democratic president sending Noam Chomsky to run

the CIA, though let’s be clear, we are not witnessing a revival of a new socialist international,” Grim wrote. “Trump’s realists are rooted firmly in a right-wing tradition. Beattie, who was fired from the first administration for speaking at a conference alongside white nationalists, said as recently as October 2024 – ‘Competent white men must be in charge if you want things to work. Unfortunately, our entire

● Continued on Page 8

## Next lab leak could kill hundreds of millions

‘Purposely creating ever more dangerous viruses is insanity’

By Andrew Kimbrell

What technology has the potential to kill more than half of the human population – four to five billion children, women and men – in a short time, thereby ending civilization as we know it?

The first answer that might come to mind is a thermo-nuclear war. That would be apocalyptic, of course, with no assurance that humans or the earth’s other life communities would survive.

But there is another equally catastrophic threat to humanity; one that is much more likely to occur, yet unknown to much of the world’s population. This threat is based primarily on the development of genetic engineering and synthetic biology techniques that allow researchers to create new viruses and to make current viruses more transmissible, virulent, and lethal.

These experiments include enhancing the infectivity and deadliness of the most dangerous potentially pandemic viruses on earth. The accidental or intentional release of novel engineered viruses could lead to numerous devastating pan-

● Continued on Page 5

# Democratic Party: Apologize to America for ushering Trump back in

By Ralph Nader

The failing Democratic Party owes multiple apologies to the American people for not land-sliding the most corrupt, vengeful and chronically lawless, ignorant, openly self-enriching, egomaniacal and dictatorial

plutocrat in the history of the Republican Party and that of the United States.

In a two-party duopoly, the Democratic Party is the only alternative to saving the Republic from Fuhrer Trump. Yet the Democrats have continued on their arrogant, smug, all-knowing ways to lose or not to win by

enough to govern in recent decades.

Each of these apologies would contain the seeds of future corrective action.

● The Democratic Party should apologize for four decades of accelerating abandonment of half the country – the so-called red states – where the

GOP is given one party rule. It is hard to win national and congressional elections by conceding half the country – including, for example, twelve unchallenged Senate seats from four mountain and two prairie states – thus relying on a few swing states to survive. A national Par-

● Continued on Page 6

## INSIDE

10. Jimmy Carter Was My Last President

14. DeJoy Gives Himself an A and Covers His Ears

22. Senator Capito Buys Some GE Aerospace Stock

23. Make America Unhealthy Again

33. Anti-Tech Rising: Print Only and the New Underground

READY TO IMPEACH? WE’VE DRAFTED 14 ARTICLES (PAGE 34)