2017

Veritas (Fall 2017)

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WITHOUT FREEDOM OF THOUGHT, THERE CAN BE NO SUCH THING AS WISDOM; AND NO SUCH THING AS PUBLIC LIBERTY WITHOUT FREEDOM OF SPEECH.

— BENJAMIN FRANKLIN
Whether you aspire to connect the people to politics through advertising, journalism or public relations, we’re committed to helping you develop your skills at the Greenlee School. Through class work, student media and internships, tailor your training in reporting and writing, visual communication, multimedia, broadcasting, media planning, ad creation, social media management or strategic communication to fit your goals.

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Iowa State alumnus and journalist Hugh S. Sidey (’50) spent much of his career covering the presidency. We’re proud to honor his legacy with a $5,000 scholarship bearing his name, made possible by the generosity of Mr. David M. Rubenstein and the White House Historical Association. Sidey scholars also receive a trip to Washington, D.C.

Get the scoop: www.greenlee.iastate.edu/sidey
Special Thanks to our advisor, Kelly Winfrey, who guidance made this publication possible. Thank you to the Greenlee School of Journalism and Communication and its other staff members, whose support was greatly appreciated.
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Dear Readers,

This semester’s issue is different than others you may have read because we are not just attempting to teach you something about the political environment around you. As the Editor and Chief of this publication I am urging our readers to see beyond black and white. We implore you to discover, investigate and challenge the stereotypes and social changes that our are not only in our communities but in our political parties. This is independent from the political group you affiliate with.

Through the summer and fall semester a number of tensions have risen between political parties and as a publication we wanted to make a stand. We have a duty to show you, our readers, that there are not definite identities within the political parties. There are poor Republicans and there are racists in the Democratic party. There are many people who are not being properly advocated for or represented adequately in our elections.

Whatever issues divide us as a country, have the ability to bring us together. We are a country that once used its differences to bring us together and it can happen again.

I hope that you keep these things in mind as you read Veritas and absorb the information it gives you. We are proud of this publication and what it stands for. It stands for readers who care and want to understand what’s going on in today’s world. It stands for a generation of readers who want to improve its country. Thank you for picking up this publication and trying to broaden your perspective of the world and it's issues that need to be seen in various shades of gray.

Thank you,
Courtney Carstens
Analysis What we learned about Neil Gorsuch during his Supreme Court confirmation hearing

Political Science Department

In today’s politics, there are extreme divisions between the political parties and with that there is a tendency to look at politics in black and white. People are either for or against policies. This trend has created harsh stereotypes between the parties that make it hard to believe that people in the opposing party think similarly.

People on the left often view people on the right as selfish, religious and money-hungry. People on the right often view people on the left as immature and naive. Viewing the opposite party in a negative light has caused turmoil but Americans can overcome it.

That issue has caused another chain-reaction in politics, politicians focusing on the issues that no one appears to agree on.

“It’s a way to fire up their base so they work as volunteers to give [raise] their campaign money and spread the word about your campaign or the issues you care about," said Hilary Denk, an attorney and cochairperson of the Issues and Advocacy Committee for the League of Women Voters of Illinois. "It is also a way to differentiate yourself from the opposing candidate”.

This approach is a strategy to get voters emotionally involved with politician’s policies. They create the barrier by saying things like, I believe in this and the other candidate does not. It’s a way to gather a group of people using issues that are controversial, and evoke emotional support.

“Part of an election is to draw contrast, so they [the constituents] feel like they have a real choice,” said State Senator Herman Quirmbach.

Without focusing on the controversial issues, it may be harder for constituents to tell...
the difference between candidates and where they stand. Although this approach gets voters passionate, it divides the people. Politicians create that illusion so that you can only see it one way or the other. That's not entirely true.

“Research shows that if you ask people about seemingly divisive issues in slightly different ways, you find a lot more middle ground than you might realize,” said Tessa Ditonto, a Political Science professor at Iowa State. “Even issues like abortion and gun control or the 2nd Amendment—there is actually far more that a majority of people agree on than we are often led to believe.”

It is the way the issues and policies are framed that lead to the division between parties. The difference between saying, all liberals are against guns versus liberals want safer gun policies is quite extreme. This is what creates the stereotypes that have been so deeply embedded in our society. These are dangerous because it worries people when the politicians in their party compromise. It makes politicians want to keep close to their party’s beliefs and ideas.

“If they get the message that compromise—on any kind of issue—is viewed negatively by their constituents, they are not likely to pursue the middle ground,” said Tessa Ditonto, “This means that candidates and elected officials are often making promises on these kinds of issues that, when acted on, push the parties further apart.”

This makes it harder for politicians to make any compromises, without risking the chances of reelection within their party. There have been times that policies and ideas have been widely shared between parties but they are rarely discussed. Core health care values, the veteran hospitals and prison reforms are just a few examples.

“A fair amount of things have been passed that people don’t hear of, like texting while driving, because things that are controversial make headlines”, said Senator Quirmbach.

Voters have focused so heavily on controversial issues that a barrier is created between people that could have many common ideas. If voters were to focus more on these issues or policies, the presence of these stereotypes could lessen it’s hold on society.

In politics, we need to look at the grey area between parties and not be so against politicians when they are willing to compromise with others. Voters care deeply about the widely talked about, controversial issues without looking much into the other issues that could be just as impactful to their everyday lives.

To push past these stereotypes between the parties, people need to focus on which candidates are willing to put as much effort into getting those less controversial policies passed as they would a controversial one. Politicians could frame things in a different way that may appeal to other parties. There are ways to lessen the impact of these harsh stereotypes and we must work together to do so.
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TRUMP AND DEMOCRATS:
AN UNCANNY COMBINATION
"Going back to the first modern Democratic president, Andrew Jackson was an extreme racist," Shelley said. "The identities of political parties have flipped throughout time, [and] the politics and issues are always evolving. For those who are racist and Democrat, Trump was a prime candidate."

In the South during the earlier days of the Democratic party, members sought to keep slavery; the Democratic party wanted to keep the Jim Crow laws intact. It wasn’t the Republicans who were against slavery. Shelley went on to explain that Trump won by appealing to the working class and white men.

"Trump did what [President Richard] Nixon did during [his] presidential race," Shelley said. "They appealed to the working class. Trump did do something that Nixon did not. Trump appeals to upper middle-aged white males who were afraid of losing their superiority….power, too, in society."

"These men are afraid that an immigrant, minority, or a woman would take their job whether or not they earned it."

President Donald Trump has been seen as racist in the past for comments he has made regarding several ethnicities. "I’ll take jobs back from China, I’ll take jobs back from Japan. The Hispanics are going to get those jobs, and they’re going to love Trump.” Trump made this comment in July of 2015.
One of his famous promises was to build a wall keeping Mexicans out of the country. This connects to the earlier comments about how when Mexico sends over people, it’s their worst kind of people. Those are just a few of the seemingly racist comments that have been made by the president.

But another theory as to why Democrats voted for Trump lies within today’s political and social climate. Trump and Democratic primary candidate Bernie Sanders both represented the same thing. This may sound bizarre, a big venture capitalist and a democratic socialist sharing similarities but to many they both symbolized a potential change in government, according to ISU political science professor Stephen Steffen Schmidt. Steffen said that he thought the reason behind Democrats who did vote for Trump had to do with the fact that saw Clinton as status quo for the typical politician. Former President Bill Clinton and Hillary Clinton often have been considered the ultimate political family in the United States, along with the Bushes.

Iowa State student: Hunter Shevers, a registered Democrat, explained why he voted for Trump over Hillary Clinton. “I did it [voted for Donald Trump] because I don’t like how Hillary Clinton held herself,” Shevers said. “The email thing got me, but it wasn’t just that; it was other things in the past.

If anyone else did it, they would have been in big trouble. It’s not just the email scandal Benghazi was another incident where she has just messed up too much on the political stage.” Shevers went onto explain that he originally supported Sanders, especially because of his education policy. Once Sanders lost the nomination, Shevers says he wasn’t ashamed then for his Trump vote and isn’t now. “Trump’s an idiot but I’d rather have an idiot doing something bad then someone who intentionally does stuff that they know is bad,” Shevers said. “Trump is a sheep dressing up as a wolf right now. Hillary was and still is a wolf dressing as a sheep.”

Going outside of the Iowa State Community, Tom Godat, a union electrician from Clinton, Iowa voted for President Donald Trump. He voted purely for Democrats in the past. Godat told the Des Moines Register that he wants and hopes that the president can create more jobs like his own throughout America.
Sprawled over two floors of the Richmond Public Library, the motley attendees of the Richmond Zine Fest perused ramshackle tables of locally published art and writing. Zines, which are typically tiny booklets or pamphlets exploring a single subject, are as diverse in their publishing methods as the publishers themselves. The festival showcased over 130 different presenters from across the area, allowing for the direct exchange of tiny manifestos and accessible artistic missives.

Participants crowded into hallways and alcoves, many talking excitedly about the prospect of buying their favorites or trading copies of their own poetry if strapped for cash. Sheepish skinny teens in wire-rimmed glasses with unkempt hair brushed shoulders next to academics in oversized cardigans listened to the artists that talked animatedly about their ideas.

The festival was free and open to the public, and the public obliged enthusiastically. While some were there only for the comics about death, the high attendance demonstrated an engagement or an interest in discussion of solutions to current political problems. The important difference between art festivals and traditional political events is the method of engagement. The Zine fest celebrated a political type of do-it-yourself publishing. Many of the messages of these zines were related to public policy and progressive ideas though the space of the Zine Fest had a more fundamental political purpose. The festival was a conduit for genuine interaction between people with a purpose.

It included an audience that might not be concerned actively with governmental policy, and allowed them to connect with each other in a space outside of the internet. The zine fest and any artistic festivals like it have proliferated as localized involvement with politics has increased. Artistic presentation expands the political discussion into public art spaces and galleries. The Richmond festival was a single event in a larger trend of how D-I-Y art ethics localize social change.

The last election and the increase in leftist activism made national politics accessible to the average individual. Through the internet, millennials could latch on to politics through retweets and bots that could automatically call their senators. At the least the teens and twenty somethings could join a larger conversation about political issues. At the best, these conversations morphed into effective mechanisms to influence Congressional representatives.

Indivisible, a progressive political action organization, started as a Google document of effective ways for concerned constituents to make their voices heard. Through small donations and enthusiastic participation by leftists in progressive party politics, Indivisible now has over 6,000 chapters nationwide. Our Revolution is another group that attempts to localize national issues in the wake of the Bernie Sanders campaign.

The Democratic Socialists of America have been really loud on twitter, hyping the activities of local chapters. All of these groups accord to traditional elements of the political process. They stage protests, organize phone campaigns, and inform followers of town halls. They attest to the power of the email chain. However, while
these groups have provided a venue for the localization of national issues, music venues and public art spaces are spaces for direct engagement with local issues. These spaces are inherently political in that they involve people communicating for a certain purpose. Any show is a collection of unique individuals, and these DIY punk spaces are founded on artistic egalitarianism.

All members are an important part of the artistic process. The bands cannot perform properly without an audience, and the audience is unified by the performers. In sum, these individuals, each with a unique perspective, come together and wield a genuine political power through discussion and organization. The public nature of the events reinforces inclusion. Participants in these projects can access the political issues with ease. People that might be too nervous to hit a phone bank or not have enough time to canvas are encouraged to promote diversity as a daily activity. By showing up and making noise in public, attendees fuel an artistic process with a social message.

Though D-I-Y spaces have long been affiliated with progressive movements, the political nature of the space is more fundamental. Many local music communities follow a history of counterculture protest movements, but they each have distinct goals. At any given house show throughout the Midwest, under twinkling tiny lights strung from the ceiling, people share ideas from manifestos, make stump speeches, sew patches on jean jackets, and sing protest songs, all with the hope of somehow shaping policy. If not nationally, then at least in the space around them. The discussion and participation are ends in themselves, because they directly impact the nature of the space. Bands will take breaks from playing songs about being sad to discuss more transcendent issues about the importance of black voices in art, for example.

In Des Moines there was a series of shows called “Femifest” which focused on the importance of female voices in art. In this, discussion of their importance was paired with visual art displays, poetry recitations, and a donation collection for women’s groups in Des Moines. Representatives from Movement 515, an afterschool workshop hosted by Des Moines Public Schools performed poetry at one Femifest last year. Movement 515 intends to highlight the struggles and complexities in growing up as a minority in a mid-sized town. They utilize almost exclusively artistic media: poetry, graffiti writing, and mixed visual arts. Artists in movement 515 use art to engage the community in considerations of the struggles of race and class. Artistic movements like these thrive in public spaces. In this, even if DIY spaces do not influence policy at a traditional governmental level, artists and listeners can at least determine policy at the extreme local and individual level within the space.

Cultivating spaces free of general misogyny or sexual harassment is a current issue in music venues across the country. These political statements paired with an art exhibition localize the issues at hand. The audience is the life of the message, because the message is carried through the show-going experience. At any exhibition, attendees both learn, and internalize current topics.
The festival in Richmond featured books on a variety of political topics. Some were direct calls to action, as they featured arguments against the political establishment. Others were about establishing safe spaces, and a subset of these were about how to engage in responsible sexual behavior.

The sexual subcategory of zine often sought to tread a line between the intimate and public nature of sex topics. Importantly, the authors of the zines stood literally behind their zines for meaningful discussion. Some tackled less controversial topics. Two college students in beanies peddled a zine about dads. Many people with intricate tattoos sat behind books of poetry about collegiate ennui and frowning during break-ups. The death of romance was placed adjacent to political agitation. The dad zine was placed next to one about the problems with John Green novels and videos, in which the authors critiqued the language he used about women.

The line between art and politics is a contrived one. The art engages the audience with the message of politics. Artistic interpretations personalize issues of public importance.

A majority of the overtly political zines focused on unity. Amendment, a literary journal published by Virginia Commonwealth University students, used submissions from students as a lens for considering issues of diversity on campus. Amendment defines itself in two ways. First, as “an annual literary and art journal that seek to promote discussion on issues of equality, class, race, gender, sexuality, ability, and identity.” Second, as, “A socially progressive student-run organization that advocates social change through artistic expression...” The project highlights personal involvement in both the production and consumption of art.

A different zine entitled, “Symbols of Southern Pride,” printed in the wake of the violence at the Charlottesville Unite the Right rally which donated its profits to victims. Its mission was to take southern ideals like “honor” and “loyalty” and attach them to images common to all.

The distribution of the work promoted ends beyond the work itself. Another table handed out free pamphlets with website names for donations to the legal defense funds of counter-protesters that had been arrested in North Carolina. An adjacent table displayed stacks of free books which promoted the finer points of anarchism. From the back cover, “Anarchy is the freedom of self-determination.” Provocative photos of protests filled every alternate page. These publications use art as a method to talk politics. However, the public space renders this possible.

The zines both create and occupy a public. They delineate controversial topics. The accessible format makes issues identifiable to the reader, and the zines therefore create a public interest. This art is displayed in a public space, and their display is an incentive for immediate discussion.

Artistic spaces are the tangible counterpart to rising internet progressivism. DIY spaces serve as a local nexus for political interaction. These places, by virtue of bringing individuals together, create an in-group 'scene' where people can participate in a community where they might not otherwise have one. On the internet, young people looking for a place to participate post inquiries so loaded with stereotypical jargon that they sound sarcastic. However, with questions like, “Does anyone know about the scene in Ann Arbor?” they represent an interest in personalizing social progressivism.

Public spaces and DIY ethics allow for a loose audience-artist relationship, whereby all participants can discuss issues while at the same time have a memorable experience. By establishing a public space with political intentions and equal opportunity for participation, D-I-Y scenes are the thrashing adolescent echoes of the traditional political processes.
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COMMUNITY INPUT:

"IF YOU COULD CHANGE ONE STEREOTYPE IN POLITICS, WHETHER IT BE POLITICS AS A WHOLE OR IN A PARTICULAR PARTY, WHAT WOULD IT BE AND WHY?"

GABE JOHNSON
FRESHMAN - UNDECLARED ENGINEERING

"I WISH THAT REPUBLICANS AND LIBERALS WEREN'T Labeled THINGS LIKE RED-NECK OR PANSY"

DYLAN MEYER
SOPHOMORE - POLITICAL SCIENCE

"I HATE THE IDEA THAT THE LEFT HAS AN ANTI-GUN AGENDA BECAUSE PEOPLE SHOULD HAVE THE FREEDOM TO CHOOSE THE PROPERTY THEY OWN."
SERGIO GARCIA  
JUNIOR - CIVIL ENGINEERING

"I DON'T LIKE IT WHEN PEOPLE JUST ASSUME THAT ALL CONSERVATIVES ARE RICH."

MICHAEL HOLMES  
SENIOR - CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

"THE RADICAL VIEWS FROM BOTH SIDES THAT ARE DISPLAYED IN THE MEDIA ARE REPRESENTING SUCH A SMALL PORTION OF REAL AMERICANS. THIS "GREAT DIVIDE" IS MAKING IT HARDER FOR THE MAJORITY TO BE REPRESENTED AND CHANGE AMERICA FOR THE BETTER."

JOE TOWNSEND  
SOPHOMORE - ENGINEERING

"I DON'T UNDERSTAND THE IDEA THAT ALL REPUBLICANS ARE CLOSE-MINDED, AND THAT THEY HAVE A WAR ON WOMEN."
What do you think of when you hear “mid-western town”? According to the U.S. Census in 2016, the average Midwest town would be predominately white (76%) and its citizens would only be capable of speaking a single language, that being English (89%).

Having grown up near a town whose highest population has been around 9,000, this description has been pretty spot on. Traditionally, the area I lived in has been almost exclusively populated by European settlers and a historic African American community, but that has changed dramatically in the past few decades. To put it into perspective, I have known individuals since I was a child who have roots in Vietnam, Laos, Korea, Mexico, Central America, India, and Malaysia, all within 35 miles of each other.

While my rural town may be a special case, these changes are continuing nationally. NPR reported that all demographics have grown in population between the years of 2015-2016. What has sparked some interest has been the decrease of non-Hispanic whites by 163,330. According to Bill Chappell of NPR, despite this decrease, non-Hispanic whites still remain the dominant demographic at 198 million. These types of changes aren’t anything new as the US has been a country whose society has been a “melting-pot” of cultures, foods, religions, and peoples.

While the United States grows to become come more diverse, there begs a question. Are their voices being heard?

In a Pew Research study conducted in 2015, it was observed that the 114th congress was the most diverse congress that had ever been assembled. In this time, non-white representatives held 17% of the seats in Congress, whose share of the electorate is 38% of the total US. In comparison, the membership in Congress of non-white representatives was 6% out of 20% of the national population in 1981. Historically, Congress hasn’t been one to
Historically, Congress hasn't been one to reflect these types of changes as quickly as the general population.

An explanation for this occurrence has been the record of voter turnouts in the past. Since the midterm elections in 1986, the white share of the voting population has begun to decrease from 85% of the electorate to slightly below 74%.

Though, according to the United States Elections Project, there has been decline. The voter turnout for whites did rise during the midterm elections for the Obama administration, more than previous administrations. Even as the white share of the electorate has decreased, white representation has been overrepresented.

Along with a large population, the white population has, historically, had a higher percentage of voter turnout. Of most elections, the white demographic has maintained a higher voter turnout on both Presidential and midterm elections. It wasn't until the first and second term African American voters surpassed white turnout by reaching 70% on the first election and roughly 68% on the second, each reaching an approximate 5% above white turn out.

Looking at previous elections, both African American and white turnouts have had similar and proportionally higher than any other demographic. As the largest non-white demographic, Hispanics have not had a large voting turnout as you would expect. Along with other demographics, Asian, Pacific Islander, Native American, etc. the Hispanic population has not been able to mobilize enough to even receive 50% turn out of the community.

Bernard L. Fraga from Indiana University conducted research which studied elections to better understand how a such a diverse state such as America could ever experience low voter turn outs has. Fraga observed Hispanic and African American voter turnout data from 2006, 2008, and 2010, finding voter behavior to be a bit more complex than previously thought. According to the study, if a candidate were from the same racial or ethnic group as either Hispanic or African American, it would not likely inspire a larger voter turnout.

What actually brings more electorate participation in Hispanic and African American communities has been when each group had a majority in its electorate.

Community politics in non-white communities has been crucial in order to keep their voice heard, however, it is still important to remember that by sheer number, the white community still holds the majority and has been vital for elections, notably the 2016 Presidential election.

In an article written by the Washington Post Editorial Board, even as harsh and blunt, derogatory verbiage was used by candidate Donald Trump to alienate ethnic and racial groups, it succeeded because of its large white support.

Regardless of differences between the Trump campaign and minorities, the white share of the votes would have overshadowed other ethnic and racial groups. After completing an approximate calculation using voter turnout data from Dr. McDonald of the University of Florida and population data reported by Mr. Chappell
of NPR, there would have been a difference of 74,745,000 between the number of whites to African Americans and Hispanics combined. It’s clear that white communities have still maintained a large portion of the vote. It has also become apparent that such a victory was aided by an aging population. Hansi Lo Wang from NPR reported that the cause of this increase has been the aging baby boomers. This reflects data from a Pew Research study conducted by Renee Stepler which found 22% of white adults saw African Americans are treated fairly, compared to 64% of black adults that say they are not. As relations between older whites and minorities have shown to have come to odds on occasion, the youth from both white and nonwhite groups have been supporting movements that promote equal treatment of minorities. The Pew Research explained that roughly six out of ten white adults younger than 30 express support for social movements, such as Black Lives Matter while 65% of the general African American community
supports its cause (African American individuals between the ages of 18-29 have given the most support, 52%) (Stepler). Though the last election cycle did show inequalities of representation, it shows that activism and awareness has grown between the differences in both white and nonwhite communities.

Even in traditionally Euro-American communities, communities are becoming more diverse than they have been historically.

These changes have brought to light questions about representation, barriers to participation, and community action which have been revisited since the last presidential election. It is undeniable that America has grown in its diversity and complexity, but it is up to its citizens to resolve lingering issues with inclusion.
MAKE AMERICA NOT RACIST
In Charlottesville, people amassed holding torches shouting the phrase, 'Blood and Soil'. The media announced it as one of the worst displays of white nationalism since the second iteration of the KKK, where people marched down streets in promotion of their values. White supremacy has been the main accusation not only in these recent incidents, but through the last electoral cycle as well.

White supremacy is rooted in the later part of the Age of Enlightenment. Along with genetic and social Darwinism, white supremacy’s main tenant is that superiority leads to domination and that tends to be a political ideology that perpetrates white dominated systems. It is a general opposition of people of color and most religions, with a special place for anti-semitism.

In the United States, from traditional slavery to Jim Crow laws, disenfranchisement of other races was prominent. After the civil rights movement from 1954-1968 all citizens were considered truly equal. While the U.S. has been one of the more multicultural nations in the world, its example as a melting pot tends to be an exception to most cultural conflicts.

"I definitely think that now there’s a voting block of particularly young white men that feel like the world is against them and they need to react," said Ben Whittington, a sophomore in political science and the President of Turning Point USA.

South Africa instituted apartheid after their 1948 elections, putting people into 4 classifications. In 1970, they abolished non-white representation and citizenship. Apartheid was abolished in 1991, but racial tension still exist.

Anja Schepp, a junior in civil engineering, was born in South Africa. She explained how her dad reacted to the 2016 election.

"He saw so many parallels between our current president and the government we had left and the environment we moved away from.”
Rhodesia declared its independence from the U.K. before their intervention into their government. After the Rhodesian Bush War, a long and drawn out racial conflict between the government and African Nationalists, biracial representation was instituted in 1978. While that didn’t end the violence, Rhodesia became the nation of Zimbabwe in 1980.

White supremacists have used these examples to promote their supremacist views. White supremacy literature has made a massive resurfacing over the past 20 years. Most recruitment prioritizes grassroots efforts because of their socially outcast status, but it’s easier for them to recruit online. It allows for open and anonymous expression of unpopular opinions, and it becomes easy to recruit people who were down on their luck going into the election season.

The resurfacing of white supremacy has even hit Iowa State University’s campus. Posters were made and distributed on campus, igniting rage in students.

More than anything, there is the promotion of two particular books, The Turner Diaries and Camp of Saints. The first novel tells a story of the government taking away the second amendment, followed by the rise of a white nationalist group that want to reshape the world in a United States that has made rape and other crimes legal because they are “racist”. The book itself concludes in an all-out race war. The second books discusses the fall of Europe through mass immigration from Africa and the Middle East, as well as European governments promoting immigration even while crime skyrockets. These books show the similarities of white nationalist groups arguing mirror current events.
Fuel for the fire includes nonchalant use of the word racist. What used to be a specific term for an egregious offence has now deteriorated due to misuse and counterproductive labeling. While it is quite obvious to the majority of America that Donald Trump and the majority of his conservative followers are not racist, labelling them so has led to decreased discussion on real racism, and the ability for actual racists to promote their ideology to an assaulted populace.

Multiple reports from Africa have claimed that white genocide is prevalent. In South Africa, the last government report of farm attacks in 2001 showed that 61.6% of farm attacks were on white farmers, and in January 2015 AfriForum stated the murder rate had grown in the past five years. Anja talked about the injustices people faced back when she lived there. She also pointed out how the system almost required people of color to commit crime to survive.

“I would say hi to the table next to me or greet the people at the bathroom, he knew at some point I wouldn’t come back just because I was white and my parents had money to pay ransom”.

Zimbabwe saw the violent seizure of farmland from whites in 2000 as well as the recent verdict that no one who killed a white farmer will be charged with murder during the takeover. Zimbabwe is now in the middle of a food crisis.

White nationalism is still prevalent in many parts of Europe as well. As immigration begins to see the creation of more multi-ethnic states, race-oriented politics are only more likely to rise. In a melting pot country like America, there is plenty of opportunity to bring people together, but even more possibility that we may be split apart.

More than ever, it’s important to remember to stay together, and in the words of Martin Luther King, “We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools.”

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**American Attitudes Toward Racism in America: Big Problem vs. Not a Problem**

Source: Pew Research Center

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WIND ETHANOL AGRICULTURE & TRUMP

By Jessica Darland
“I don’t just want to hope the wind blows,” said President Donald Trump. The U.S. Cellular Center in Cedar Rapids was ringing with cheers after many remarks made during Trump’s speech on June 21st, but the cheers after this remark were sparse.

Iowa is known for its production of a few things: corn, soybeans, ethanol, and wind. The economy is based largely on agriculture, and maintaining the earth so that these sources of food, fuel, and income can continue is something that can be affected by policies made both at the state and federal levels.

Since Trump took office many policies regarding the environment have changed. He backed out of the Paris Climate Agreement, which called for a 23% cut to the EPA’s (Environmental Protection Agency) enforcement budget as well as a total agency cut of 31%. He also signed orders ending regulations that prevent pollution from various industries including coal and agriculture. Trump is working to repeal the Clean Power Plan, a policy created by President Obama that aimed to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from power plants and encourage use of renewable energy.

Republicans control congress, which makes Trump’s plan for repealing environmental policies easier. The EPA is an agency controlled by the executive branch and the President gets to choose the heads of these types of agencies, which must then be approved by congress. Agencies such as the EPA and USDA (US Department of Agriculture) consist of experts in the field to help guide politicians as they create policy since it’s impossible for the politicians themselves to become experts on so many subjects. New presidents will often choose people in their circle or people who helped them campaign rather than experts in the field to lead these agencies.

“What happens is, at the top of the agency you have people who are not technical experts, they’re politicians or they’re friends of politicians, or sometimes they don’t even have that background, and those people are actually the bosses of the people who are the experts and it almost invariably creates tension within an agency,” said senior lecturer of political science Dirk Deam.

Deam says the new head of the EPA, Scott Pruitt, is an example of this and that it’s sort of a ‘fox guarding the hen house’ scenario. Pruitt was the attorney general of Oklahoma - a state that has a big oil industry - and has spent a lot of time fighting EPA regulations. Now, he is working from within the agency to terminate these regulations.

Among these regulations are rules regarding what farmers can and can’t put into the soil. Fertilizers that include nitrogen...
and phosphorus help make up nutrients that are lost in row crops that aren’t frequently rotated and make the plants grow bigger. However, too much concentration of these chemicals can lead to problems with water pollution and algae blooms. A large concentration of animal waste can lead to similar problems. The land begins to change once it reaches its carrying capacity for these types of pollutants, and then there is a loss of excess nutrients.

“Look at the farm ponds and lakes in Iowa during July and August,” said Rick Cruse, Iowa State professor of agronomy and director of the Iowa Water Center, “you can almost walk on water, so to speak, if you can walk on moss and stuff that’s growing in our waters. Moss and algae and the aquatic plants, they respond the same way to fertilizer that corn and soybeans do.”

Cruse says a good way to combat this issue is using an integrated crop-livestock system where the farmer rotates what types of plants are grown in a field and livestock to help replenish nutrients in a more natural way. However, getting farmers to do this is difficult.

“We characteristically are infatuated with continuous row crops and the only way to make money from that is to sell the product that you produce, ship it away to some place for it to get processed or consumed, and with it goes the nutrients that you’ve applied to it in the past year or previous years,” said Cruse. He explained farmers in the context of a bell curve; some on one end will do everything they can to conserve soil and water resources, the majority care and will generally try to use correct practices, and some on the other end will do whatever it takes to get the highest yield and biggest profit. He says regulation tries to pull those on that end in to give them an incentive to not abuse land and water resources.

However, the Trump administration is working to do away with many of these regulations. Without regulation, Cruse says it’s hard for those who are using the correct practices to compete economically with those who couldn’t care less.

Effects of climate change are already being felt by Iowa farmers - the growing season is longer so farmers are planting earlier in the
season, there is more rain and flooding, higher humidity, and dew is on the fields for a longer time which makes harvesting difficult because the plants must be dry. Cruse says to pull from any policies that would mitigate climate change is not favorable to Iowa agriculture or farmer’s yields.

Cruse said using environmentally conscious farming practices or having regulations that encourage use of these practices will help Iowa in the long run because soil will be more fertile for future generations. However, it may be difficult to get people to see the long-term effects and deal with a bit of difficulty in the short-term.

Deam explained that some are unhappy with the EPA and other regulatory agencies for simply regulating and not helping people find solutions. Both Cruse and Deam agree that education about proper practices may help reduce problems caused by agriculture.

“We still need regulation, but in addition to regulation we need positive proactive citizen involvement in protecting the environment,” said Deam.

According to IowaCorn.org, “Iowa leads the nation in ethanol production, with 39 percent (953 million bushels) of the corn grown in Iowa going to create nearly 30 percent of all American ethanol.”

While Trump himself has spoken of his support for ethanol, some in his administration are big in the oil industry and want to fight subsidies toward it.

Right now, corn produced is high in starch and low in nutrition - good for ethanol, not great for consumption as food. If the market for ethanol is reduced, there could be a drastic change in how corn is grown, as well as impacts on the state’s economy.

“If we no longer have a market for ethanol production then my thinking is we’re going to have to go with more value-added products coming from the farm than a lower value product that we produce more and more of,” said Cruse.

Cruse says anything done to reduce ethanol production will have a negative economic impact on Iowa since so much of the corn produced is for that market.
According to Iowa’s Department of Agriculture, “The state currently has 29 ethanol refineries with the capacity to produce nearly two billion gallons annually. In addition, 18 ethanol refineries are under construction or expansion that will add nearly 1.4 billion gallons of annual capacity.”

The Iowa Department of Agriculture also says the industry has created hundreds of jobs in Iowa as well as added billions to the economy.

Another factor in Iowa’s economy is wind energy. Trump has shown his disdain for wind energy, tweeting things like, “It’s Friday. How many bald eagles did wind turbines kill today? They are an environmental & aesthetic disaster,” and “Windmills are the greatest threat in the US to both bald and golden eagles. Media claims fictional ‘global warming’ is worse.”

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, ‘Wind provided 36.6% of Iowa’s total electricity generation in 2016.’

Gene Takle, Iowa State University professor of atmospheric science and agricultural meteorology says wind energy has done many good things for Iowa.

“Wind energy has eliminated the need for multiple coal fired power plants in our state, improving the quality of the air we breathe and reducing the state’s contribution to global greenhouse gases,” said Takle. Wind energy has also created new jobs for installing and maintaining turbines.”
Wind is often regarded as a better, or “cleaner” source of energy. One reason it is seen as a better option because coal adds mercury, CO2 and other harmful substances to the air. This eventually gets in the soil.

However, there are some downsides to wind energy. People who live near the turbines have complained that they are loud, and the output of energy is hard to predict.

They can also kill birds and bats, but according to Takle more birds are killed from things like picture windows in private residences, large glass-covered buildings, power lines, automobiles and feral cats. Despite Trump’s comments about wind energy, Takle believes the industry will continue to grow throughout Iowa.

"'Ruing the landscape’ is a matter of personal preference,” said Takle, “Some would say that vast fields of corn and soybeans ruin a pristine landscape of prairie flowers and native grasses. Others would say putting up large ostentatious buildings also ruin the landscape."

The current expansion of wind in Iowa is driven by economics and will not be stopped by words of a president.