

HELL IS REAL

Dispatches from an Anti-Fascist Ohio

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This is not a liberal pamphlet.
This is not a Republican
newsletter.
This isn't about left vs right.
It's about up vs down.

"These are the times that try men's souls."



The Walls Close In: Raids, Rants, and Political Violence in a Single Week

By T-Paine

It's not paranoia. It's pattern recognition.

In the span of just a few days, three deeply troubling events unfolded across America; each a signpost along the road to something darker.

Alone, they are worrying. Together, they spell out a bigger truth.

1. The Raids Resume - ICE Returns with a Vengeance

The Associated Press reported this week that the Trump administration's immigration crackdown is surging once again. ICE agents are actively planning new waves of arrests and deportations, targeting thousands- including families with children- with no regard for due process or the consequences on communities already living in fear.

This is more than policy. It's terror as governance. And it's happening right now, while headlines are full of distractions. The raid playbook perfected under Trump's first term is being dusted off for a second, more brutal round. Expect midnight knocks. Disappearances. Broken homes. Fear-driven silence.

And local sheriffs- like Bruce Zuchowski right here in Portage County- are eager partners in the machine.



2. Trump's Darker Turn - The MAGA Rant Heard 'Round the Country

As if on cue, Donald Trump himself unleashed what The New Republic rightly called a "crazed, hard-right rant," urging supporters to prepare for the fight against a supposedly "radical leftist" uprising that doesn't exist. His language is sharper, darker, less coded than ever. There is no wink, no nod, no plausible deniability.

He tells his base to expect war. To see the enemy in their neighbors. To treat dissent as treason.

If you're wondering whether he's testing the waters for more street-level violence, more political intimidation, the answer is clear. The old strategy of "plausible deniability" is gone. What remains is the open invitation to crack skulls.

3. Bullets in Minnesota - Political Violence Comes Home

Two Minnesota lawmakers- House Speaker Melissa Hortman and Senator John Hoffman- were shot at this week, the bullets shattering windows near where they stood talking outside. Police say it was random. That it wasn't political.

But you know better.

The culture of violent political grievance has seeped into everyday life. Trump rages. Far-right forums seethe. Guns flood the streets. And sooner or later, as history always shows, words become bullets. Whether this was intentional or "just" reckless violence doesn't matter: the environment created this moment. And there will be more.

It's All Connected. The Fire is Spreading.





ICE raids. Presidential incitement. Gunfire near elected officials. These are not isolated events. They are scenes from the same unfolding drama- a government turning inward on its own people, a culture addicted to rage and fear, an authoritarian movement growing bolder because no one stops it.

And here in Ohio, the pattern reaches us too.

Sheriff Zuchowski is ready to serve ICE. The National Guard trains nearby. Police patrols grow more aggressive. The machinery is already humming, quiet but deadly, just like it did in LA. Just like it did in Kent State, 1970.

What Can You Do? Stay Loud. Stay Present. Stay Dangerous.

- Document everything. Every ICE raid. Every protest crackdown. Every far-right rally.
- Spread the word. Share this zine. Print copies. Leave them where they're needed.
- Watch your local officials. Zuchowski. Your school board. Your mayor. Hold them in the light.
- Organize quiet networks. Neighbors who check on each other. Lawyers on call. Protest buddies.
- Mock the oppressors. Never let fear silence laughter.

Trump's rant wasn't a fluke. ICE's plans weren't an accident. The gunshots in Minnesota weren't "random."

This is the shape of the future- unless you stop it. Unless you build something else.

The Bonfire Starts at Home: Portage County Sheriff Calls to Burn the Local Paper

by T-Paine

In 2025 America, the book burnings start small.

Portage County's own Sheriff Bruce Zuchowski- already infamous for his ICE collaboration and creeping authoritarianism- has now publicly encouraged his supporters to burn copies of The Portager, one of the county's only independent newspapers.

Not debate them. Not refute them. Not sue them. Burn them.

The Sheriff's fury came after The Portager reported fairly and critically on Zuchowski's partnership with ICE under the 287(g) program, and their coverage of rising concerns about civil rights abuses in Portage County. Rather than answer those concerns, Zuchowski turned to a tried-and-true dictator's trick: destroy the press. Silence the critics. Light the truth on fire.

It would almost be laughable if it weren't so dangerous.

Zuchowski's call isn't some offhand joke. In fascist movements across history- from Nazi Germany to Franco's Spain to Trump's America- the destruction of media is step one. Make the people blind, deaf, uninformed. Fearful of dissent. And now that step has come to your town.

A sheriff, elected to uphold the Constitution, openly advocates the elimination of the free press - because the truth about his ICE deal and abuse of power is too ugly for public view.



Ask yourself: if the sheriff wants newspapers burned today... what happens tomorrow?

Will it be flyers and zines like this one? Will it be anti-fascist graffiti on campus walls? Will it be the books in Kent State's library?

What else will be called "dangerous" and "illegal" and fit for the flames? This is not theoretical. This is not happening in Florida or Texas or California.

It's happening in *Portage County, Ohio*. This incident fits into Zuchowski's larger strategy:

- Deputizing his force as ICE agents under 287(g).
- Increasing traffic stops and patrols in immigrant-heavy neighborhoods.
- Silencing criticism with lawsuits and threats.
- And now: calling for the physical destruction of dissenting media.
- A sheriff who laughs about burning papers will not stop there.

He does not fear debate or democracy. He fears exposure.

Read The Portager. Share its reporting. Print it. Pass it around. Independent press must survive. Zuchowski fears it for a reason.

They burn the paper because they can't burn the truth.
But only if you carry it.

Stay dangerous. Stay loud. Stay free.



Ohio Republicans Move to Undermine Voter-Legalized Marijuana

By T-Paine

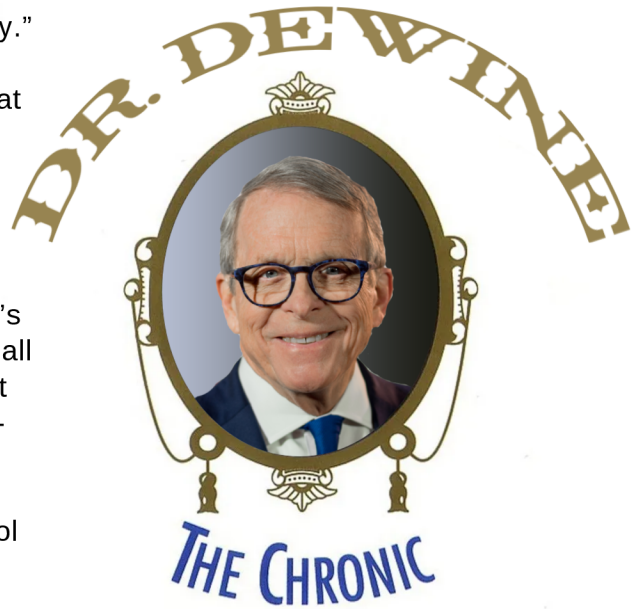
In November 2023, the people of Ohio made themselves perfectly clear. With 57% of the vote, they chose to legalize adult-use marijuana under Issue 2. Dispensaries opened, tax revenue flowed in, jobs were created, and communities finally began to benefit from a policy that was decades overdue.

But predictably- and quickly- Ohio's Republican lawmakers signaled they had no intention of letting the will of the people stand unchallenged.

New proposals, Senate Bill 56 and House Bill 160, have been introduced to gut the heart of Issue 2. Limits on home growing. THC caps designed to hobble small producers. Bans on public use even in controlled venues.

Most disturbingly, plans to redirect the marijuana tax revenue away from the community reinvestment and social equity programs voters were promised, and into the hands of law enforcement and general state funds. They've barely waited six months, and already they are rewriting the law you passed.

What's the excuse? "Safety." Protecting "the children." The usual tired phrases that cover for power plays and corporate favoritism. Big producers, wealthy investors, and out-of-state interests are salivating at the chance to control Ohio's cannabis market: while small local growers, independent dispensaries, and working-class entrepreneurs are quietly being pushed out. The promise of local control is dying before it even began.



And let's be blunt: this isn't just about marijuana. It's about democracy itself. When voters speak — loudly — and legislators move to undo it in back rooms and committee meetings, what's the point of the vote? If Issue 2 can be gutted by the very people Ohioans voted around, why bother pretending this is government by the people?

The fight over marijuana legalization is the canary in the coal mine. Today it's weed. Tomorrow it's abortion rights, public education, LGBTQ protections- all fair game for the same quiet legislative theft. And unless people show up, speak out, and remind Columbus that this is not their private kingdom, the theft will continue unchecked.

So here's where you come in, and where this zine matters. Call your lawmakers. Tell your friends. Print this article. Leave it in break rooms, bus stops, campus bulletin boards. Post about it. Talk about it. Don't let this become another quiet surrender. When they say "the people have spoken" and then ignore you, you speak louder.

If you voted for Issue 2- if you wanted legal, fair, community-driven marijuana in Ohio- the fight isn't over. It's only just started. And like every fight worth having in this state, it will be long, bitter, and hard-won. But you've already seen what happens when you stay silent.

Don't do it again.



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Was brought to you by:

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not

Spaghetti and j-j-j-justice!

Soup, for my family.

Better than a brick because you can't throw a brick; it's too heavy. But a can of soup, you can really put some power into that, right?



Trump Threatens to Arrest Governor Newsom

By T-Paine

This week brought an authoritarian escalation: President Trump publicly endorsed the idea of arresting California Governor Gavin Newsom amid the crackdown in Los Angeles.

On June 8, Trump's appointed "border czar" Tom Homan threatened that officials—specifically naming Governor Newsom and L.A. Mayor Karen Bass—"could face charges" for impeding federal law enforcement efforts.

Within hours, President Trump told reporters, "I'd do it if I were Tom. I think it's great," referring to Newsom. "He's grossly incompetent ... Gavin likes the publicity, but I think it would be a great thing."

Governor Newsom responded, "Come and get me, tough guy. I don't give a damn," calling the threat "an unmistakable step toward authoritarianism"

Legal teams in California have already filed Newsom v. Trump, a lawsuit challenging Trump's unfettered federalization of the National Guard and threatening state sovereignty

This feud escalates alongside sweeping ICE raids and mass deployments of National Guard soldiers and Marines to Los Angeles—including over 4,000 Guardsmen and 700 Marines, all without state approval.

Trump's rhetoric grows more extreme: "officials who stand in the way of law and order ... will face judges," and Newsom was labeled "a completely inappropriate and misguided mission" by Senate allies.



This is not just California's fight. It echoes the same trends we're tracking here in Portage County:

- Deploying military and federal agents domestically to suppress immigration dissent.
- Threatening arrest for state and local leaders who publicly oppose federal actions.
- Turning civil disagreements—ICE raids, Q-Anons, trans politics—into potential criminal or military targets.

If a U.S. President can threaten to jail an elected governor, next could be the mayor, the school board, or even local protest leaders. When national leaders threaten local officials with arrest, it's not a stunt—it's an authoritarian test.

We're part of the lab. Resist it.



Get Involved / Stay Loud / Make Your Own

Liked what you read? Think you can write it better? Good. Do it.

This zine isn't a brand, it's a tool. Copy it. Print it. Remix it. Hand it out. Leave it in laundromats, libraries, cafés, bathrooms, bus stops.

Make your own version. Or make your own zine.

If you want to contribute, write a rant, report local news, or send a letter to the editor send it here:

hellisrealtpain@protonmail.com

(Encrypted mail preferred. Use PGP if you know how.)

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Send them in. You can be anonymous. You can use a fake name. You can start your own zine.

This space is yours, and ours, to keep open.

(Letters to the Editor coming soon. Maybe yours.)

Hell is real, but you don't have to go quietly.