

# OPINIONS / LETTERS

# Letters TO THE Editor

## The Reluctant Editor



Forrest Johnson

We were recently visiting family in Michigan, and I saw an interesting front page story in the Detroit News. It was about a guy who is running for state attorney general who told a crowd that he had a secret lab where he would show he could manipulate election equipment to prove that there was election fraud in 2020.

The Detroit News obtained the previously unreleased video where Republican candidate Matt DiPerno said he knew how to stuff ballots at his lab. DiPerno is a Kalamazoo attorney who gained traction with Big Lie adherents and is hoping to be elected the state's top attorney.

He looks rather like a mad scientist in suit and tie.

"It's pretty easy to manipulate that system is what we found," he told the crowd of believers. "I can

show you today, if I have a tabulator in front of me, if I took you to my lab, which Secretary of State Benson is trying to find and I am not going to tell you where it is.

"But if we went there, all of us, crammed in a room, I could show you how to reopen an election, stuff a bunch of ballots into it, close out the election and print off a tape that says, Nov. 3 (the date of the 2020 election) at 8:03 p.m. It's pretty simple."

Turns out that Dana Nessel, the current state attorney general, has sought the appointment of a special prosecutor to consider charges against Di Perno and a host of accomplices who have been investigated by the Michigan State Police and the Attorney General's Office after the group convinced local clerks to hand over five tabulators, then took them to a Royal Oak, Michigan apartment, broke into the machines, printed "fake ballots" and performed "tests" on the equipment and posted the whole comic scheme on his law firm's website.

One America News, that bastion of fake journalism, said the video proved how easy it was to manipulate election results. Believers in the Big Lie lapped it up. In an interview last week with the Detroit News DiPerno said that "Ninety percent of the facts she lays out, that she calls facts, in her petition are either false or I have no knowledge of what she's talking about." He told the News that the claims against him didn't matter because the local

clerks freely gave them to the group.

In other words, he didn't steal the tabulators because law abiding local clerks simply handed them over when asked.

This comedy is happening all over the country as election mad scientists and their computer experts are running tests over and over and over to try and get voters to notice and believe even more in the Big Lie and get real mad. That's the point of the Big Lie, to get people real mad that an election was stolen, if only there was proof, so plenty of mad scientists have popped up to build the house of cards beneath the false claims.

Please remember. All fifty secretaries of state, all fifty, verified the election results and gave their stamp of approval. One nincompoop with shiny shoes, red tie and flap of hair decided he wasn't going to do his part as president and follow the peaceful transfer of power as described in the U.S. Constitution.

I again will hope readers would look up a story written back on Sunday, July 31, in the StarTribune. Journalists Briana Bierschbach and Jessie Van Berkel wrote that Minnesota election officials are coping with waves of misinformation about elections and election security. At least 25 Minnesota counties have had election vigilantes (my term, not theirs) show up and try to show county commissioners and election officials just how easy it is to manipulate and steal

an election, even though it didn't happen in 2020.

The mad scientists simply want to sow doubt about election security and question trust in a system that has proven to be nearly airtight in Minnesota. GOP challenges to mail-in ballots were tossed out by a federal judge in 2020 after it was revealed that the rate of voter fraud was 0.000004% since 1979. Most states post similar fraud numbers.

The two journalists provided a nice inset to the story that showed just how your vote is counted and made secure. Not to repeat myself from an earlier column but voters weren't slipped a mickey on election day by local election officials and the local and state canvassing boards that are made up of the secretary of state, supreme court justices, district court justices (state canvassing board), the county auditor, two county commissioners not up for election, the mayor of the county's largest city and the district court administrator (county canvassing board).

Sorry there for a very long sentence but I'm trying to make my point that elections are a very secure process. Only a nincompoop with shiny shoes, red tie and a flap of hair is not living up to his constitutional duty to a peaceful transfer of power and egging on election mad scientists with his false claims.

Please learn more about how our election process works and choose your candidate wisely.

They just come. As Toni Bernhard says in the book "How to Wake up," no one gets a pass from those 10,000 sorrows. Life would not be life without it.

Columnists are people too, with lives that cannot always be separated from work. Such is it for me now. The extended Gordon family has spent a week in that painful, sacred space. We have dropped everything to be with my husband Mark's brother and his family at a time of critical illness and passing. At times like this it becomes crystal clear what's important, and what is the small stuff. Just about everything is small stuff.

When I was single, my girlfriends and I would discuss possible marriage partners. One of the first and most important questions would be, "Is he a keeper?" By "keeper" we meant a lifer, someone who was capable of and interested in committing for a lifetime, and living that commitment every day, through thick and thin. So it is amazing to watch my husband's family, a real tribe of "keepers," rally around one of their own as he lived out his final chapter on this earth.

We all know that death is certain, but there is no guarantee we will approve of or understand the timing. Big questions inevitably arise, especially when the person passing is younger, with responsibilities and dependent loved ones. Why this pain and loss? At some point we all come to see that we are not in control, but must live with whatever happens. It's often when acceptance settles in that we see our true selves.

What strikes me as amazing about Mark's family is that they don't think they're amazing. You will not find anyone who assumes that he or she belongs at the top, or deserves recognition for his or her efforts. Doing one's job is good enough. The highest honor and the first priority is to love and serve others, especially one's family. The more critical the service, the higher the honor.

Death is a time when one needs to simply be present as it unfolds the way it will. Once it was clear what was happening, this family's natural ability to be present with each other came to the forefront and stayed through

a 14-hour vigil. Love showed up and stayed, clothed in physical touch, tears, snacks, drinks, ears to listen, laughter, phone calls, and reminiscing. None of this takes away the pain, but it adorns it with a cloak that makes it bearable, and passes critical time.

Not that we should be this way all the time. Lives need to be lived, schedules made, money earned. But when these times arise, how important it is to accept them! To see them not as interruptions to life but the real thing, and to take the time to let them shape us. To feel the pain and loss and begin to grieve.

I love big families. Mark has six siblings and I have four. Big families are good at deaths. Everyone does their part. There are just enough important roles to go around.

And now, as anybody who has lost dearly knows, time needs to pass. Time is an unrelenting healer when we let it be.

Katya Gordon is a Two Harbors resident and reporter for the Lake County Press. She can be reached at kgordon@cherryroad.com.

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## Northshore mining alternatives if permanently closed

by Eric Enberg

We can all see that the steel industry is undergoing tremendous change. The basic oxygen furnace which uses coal is fading away. Direct reduced iron (DRI) is becoming more common. There is also a new technology with only oxygen as the waste product, Molten Oxide Electrolysis or MOE.

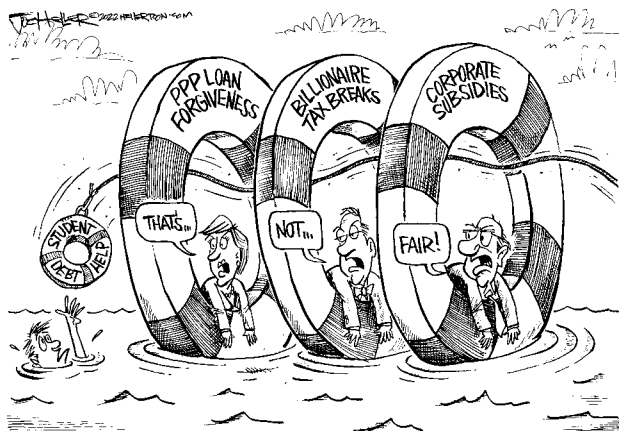
MOE can take a lean ore with a lot of silica and turn it into a ton of high-grade steel with five megawatts of electricity. For this reason, only renewable forms of electricity are inexpensive enough for this process. MOE can profitably use grades of ore too poor for DRI. Best of all, MOE is modular, which means it can be fit into existing industrial structures, like Northshore Mining.

So, if the worst happens and Northshore Mining becomes another unused island in the Rust Belt archipelago, MOE might be a way to reuse the facility and rejuvenate the economy of Silver Bay which is already blessed with ample transmission, rail, water, and human infrastructure.

MOE is expected to be a commercially licensed technology in about two years. That's not a lot of time but planning and coordination should begin between local and state leaders now for the potential permanent closure of Northshore and its speedy replacement.

If you are interested in learning more about MOE as well as the Iron-Air battery and the potential for pumped hydro storage using the old mine pits of the Iron Range, check out this 22 minute webinar Economic Development & Employment Opportunities For The Minnesota Northland.

Eric Enberg is a resident of Hermantown, and a member of the Citizens Climate Lobby, Duluth chapter.



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Sincerely,  
 Jeremy Gulban, Publisher

## Correction:

In the August 20 edition of the Lake County Press a photograph captioned "Checking the vote totals" accompanied the article Recall vote official, by Kitty Mayo. Ms. Mayo neglected to include photo credits to Terry Gydesen, who kindly contributed her professional photography skills to the Press.



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