



Carmage Walls
Commentary Prize

2019 Entry Form

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What is the subject/title of the entry?

The Community Importance of a Local Newspaper

Date(s) of publication?

Grieving for Maryland newspaper

Thursday, July 5, 2018

Newspaper seeks reader input on new draft policy

Wednesday, July 25, 2018

Softening online scourge of long-past indiscretions

Wednesday, August 15, 2018

Southeast Missourian joins Google in test to elevate civility

Wednesday, November 14, 2018

Life in Cape and Jackson: Some of the top stories in 2018

Wednesday, December 26, 2018

Google, FTI, LMA select SE Missourian as 1 of 10 in North America; Missourian seeks

reporter

Wednesday, April 3, 2019

Is your newspaper under 50,000 circulation or above 50,000 circulation?

Under 50,000

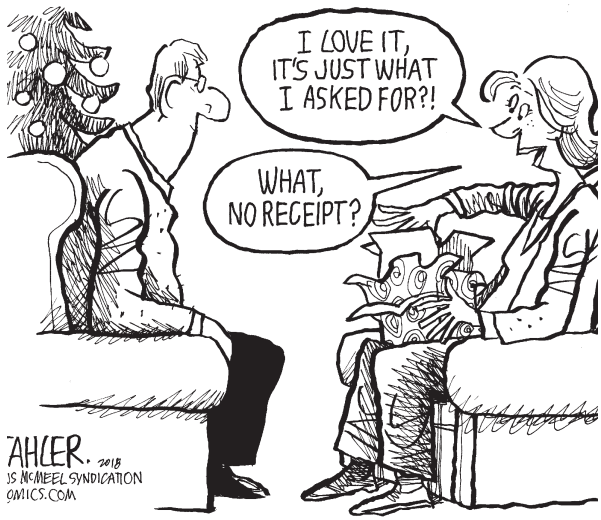
Please give a brief explanation of issues discussed and the results achieved. (This space will expand as you type in your comments.)

Too often the public takes the local newspaper – and local, responsible journalism – for granted. Regularly in his weekly columns, Southeast Missourian publisher Jon Rust seeks to engage readers in thinking about newspaper issues. He does this in part by inviting readers to participate in deliberations around new policy, and transparency is a big part of his philosophy. As a result, his columns are among the most commented online. And, we believe, his messages create a trust and credibility in the community that is difficult to measure, but which shows up in powerful ways, including when the newspaper digs aggressively into community ills. His columns on newspapers, in subtle style, seek to build a relationship that ensures the future for one of the community's most important institutions: the newspaper itself.

OPINION

TODAY'S PRAYER

Lord God, may the peace of Christ rule in our hearts. Amen.



Out with the old



**MIKE
JENSEN**

Somewhere deep in the recesses of my desk are a heap of rubber-bound calendars dating back to the 1970s.

It's a company ritual that each year around this time, neat, new cellophane-wrapped calendars mysteriously arrive at our desks.

Being an obsessive scribbler, I favor the flip calendars instead of the desk models. Opting for a desk calendar would result in a mishmash of unreadable notes and pseudo-artsy designs only a mother could love.

So come next week, the 2018 model — worn thin with once-important memos — will take its place in the dark corners of my desk, to be replaced with a shiny and unblemished 2019 model.

I've foolishly pledged on countless occasions to someday revisit those old calendars to refresh my faltering memory of seemingly critical notations that were once so very important.

Turns out, those past plans have yet to materialize. But there's always tomorrow, right?

It's funny, in a way, how we mark time.

Way back in the day, as I tried to make a mark in this business and in this community, those calendar pages were chocked full of appointments and meetings, committee obligations, board assignments and a full array of responsibilities that make for long days and short nights.

Time has diminished those calendar pages. Yet the days remain too long and the nights too short.

Once the old calendars are relegated to the desk dungeon and the new ones replaced, I follow one more year-end routine.

I clean my desk.

As a borderline hoarder, I keep unusual news items or somewhat interesting tidbits, in the expectation that they may perhaps somehow make their way into a column or provide fodder for conversation.

They rarely do.

So with trashcan at the ready, I meticulously sort through this flotsam and jetsam of once-interesting oddities and one by one, discard them to the file of forgotten treasures.

And with that, my year comes to an end.

Up next are New Year's resolutions, yet another task in which I don't excel.

Truth is, I long ago abandoned the ritual of New Year's resolutions. All those countless resolutions only proved my weaknesses or lack of discipline.

Why subject myself to this self realization.

This year, like no other I can recall, does not offer much hope or promise on several levels. Granted, on a personal level — when it comes to family — I remain full of optimism and full-throated excitement.

But in my small world of news digestion, the trend is obviously more pessimistic than optimistic.

And just to put an exclamation point on the upcoming year, think what 2020 might well offer.

And with that, I wish everyone a Happy New Year, slightly in advance.

Michael Jensen is the publisher of the Standard Democrat in Sikeston, Missouri.

SPEAK OUT

No. 1 traffic light

The best traffic lights in Cape Girardeau is at Mt. Auburn and Hopper Road. If you are making a left turn onto Hopper Road, you don't have to wait by forever like at other lights. If traffic is slow it will change to give you a green light.

\$5 billion

Just think what \$5 Billion would do towards building roads and bridges for the entire country

if Trump pushed improving infrastructure that is failing across the U.S. If we are going to mortgage our children's future, at least spend the money on things the country needs instead of giving billions of dollars to third party immigrant jails and the new generation of Halliburtons, Blackwater and other corrupt insider companies owned by the DeVos, Prince, Mercers and other gazzillionaires. Wasteful and ridiculous.



POLL QUESTIONS

Do you support President Trump's decision to pull troops out of Syria?

Do you think economic conditions in the United States will be better or worse in 2019?

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2018: Cape, Jackson move forward with big stories, milestones



**JON K.
RUST**

As 2018 comes to a close, tumult plagues the national and international scenes, while locally, progress presses ahead. Along with President Donald Trump, the leaders of France, England and Germany stand precariously, their popularity on the wane and protests in the streets. In Washington, the government is "closed", and one of the president's most important and able advisers, Sec. of Defense Gen. James Mattis, has resigned in protest of another rash Trump decision. Meanwhile, the stock market, thanks to an autumn slump and December collapse, in part sparked by concerns around the president — trade policy, Mueller investigation, lack of seriousness or personal discipline — combined with an incoming Democratic House and rising Fed interest rate, injects concern and anxiety into millions of Americans. The general economy, meanwhile, continues to hum, and unemployment remains at historic lows, conditions that are overshadowed.

Thankfully, at home in Cape Girardeau and Jackson, the world stands calmer, and as we prepare for a new year, it's a good time to reflect on what happened during the past one. Here are some of my top local stories from 2018, in no particular order, in some cases assisted by traffic statistics on semissourian.com.

Government and Politics

Trump came. A packed Show Me Center (composed of thousands who braved heavy rains and strong winds) saw the president make his final pitch before the 2018 midterm election. He left. Venit, vidit, discessit?

It was the fourth visit by a sitting president in Cape Girardeau's history, taking place only after a previously scheduled Trump rally was canceled due to a hurricane elsewhere. Among the highlights, when a woman collapsed and was prone on the floor for several minutes; the crowd's spontaneous singing of "Amazing Grace" and the president's patient compassion. Besides that: the enthusiasm caused by the throwing of red MAGA hats into the crowd and the raucous reception for celebrity speakers, including native Rush Limbaugh, was palpable.

Cape Girardeau state Rep. Kathy Swan was one of many who voiced her concerns about a Republican governor's indiscretions, and she was among the first Republican officeholders to call on him to resign. Ultimately, Eric Greitens did. The new governor Mike Parson visited several times, including in an attempt to rally support for an increase in the gas tax to rebuild state infrastructure. It lost. Medical marijuana won. For U.S. Senate, the politically talented Josh Hawley vanquished the politically talented Claire McCaskill.

Harry Rediger successfully completed eight years as mayor of Cape Girardeau; city councilman Bob Fox was elected, unopposed, to replace him. Incumbent Cape County Presiding Commissioner Clint Tracy kept his seat, as did incumbents Swan and U.S. Rep. Jason Smith, overwhelmingly. Barry Hovis won a first term in the Missouri House, replacing Donna Lichtenegger, who had been term-limited. The four Scott Co. government seats up for election flipped from Democrat to Republican.

The Missouri Supreme Court set wrongfully convicted David Robinson free after nearly 18 years of imprisonment. The Sikeston police detective at the heart of the matter, exoriated in a special investigation by the court, lost his job, belatedly. For his reporting on the case, Southeast Missourian editor Bob Miller was recognized with a B Magazine Newsmaker award — along with 13 other individuals who make a difference. Ruth Dickerson became Cape County's first-ever female sheriff; John Jordan, a U.S. Marshall.

Business and Restaurants

At the Cape Chamber annual dinner, Bob Neff was recognized with the Limbaugh Award, and a new award named after the Drury family was announced to recognize entrepreneurial success. Marco Construction Products won Small Business of the Year. In Jackson, for a lifetime of service, Billy Joe Thompson was bestowed the R.A. Fulenwider Award. Dr. Karen Hendrickson was recognized with the Zonta Lifetime Achievement Award. Navy veteran and long-time business leader Raymond Buhs won the prestigious Southeast Missourian Spirit of America Award.

Local business progress was a big theme in 2018, and the new, flashy B Magazine (a sister product of the Southeast Missourian) was launched to popular acclaim to cover it. A new

102-bed behavioral health hospital was announced, now moving forward as a partnership between SoutheastHealth and Universal Health Services but without Saint Francis. The Town Plaza area continued its resurrection — soon to include Dogwood Social House, Krispy Kreme Donuts and Rosati's Pizza Sports Pub. Harbor Freight opened there in the summer. Buffalo Wild Wings, which used to be in the Plaza, opened an attractive new venue on Siemer's Drive. In fact, many new eating spots opened in 2018 (or are near opening), too many to mention. But among them: news about Sugarfire Smokehouse near Panda Express, Zaxby's on the southwest side, and Sugar Chic Creamery in downtown with its new ice cream mobile, all registered high in semissourian.com page views.

A majestic new hotel, Courtyard by Marriott, opened in the historic H&H Building. The interior details, meticulously recreated by a developer team led by Scott Rhodes and Jeff Maurer and executed by Boulder Construction, are sights to behold. Across the street, the Marquette Tech District flourished — with Codefi, its main tenant, and the Tech District Foundation, named recipients of a \$400,000 grant from the Missouri Tech Corporation to expand their tech startup competition:1st50K. Meanwhile, youth coding camps under the auspices of Codefi also grew, making this area more conducive to the future economy. Kohlfeld Distributing acquired Bluff City Beer, Drury Southwest purchased the Lorimont complex, Realty Executives acquired the Lorimont Place realty company.

Cape Girardeau opened a new police station and municipal court building and overwhelmingly passed the extension of a city sales tax to fund storm water projects and local parks improvements, including a new, still-to-be-finalized (and much debated) aquatic center. After voters in Jackson approved a new sales tax measure for police and fire, Jackson and the Cape County Commission finalized plans on a new police station and courthouse, respectively, both to be built by Penzel Construction. The Southeast Missouri Regional Port was offered \$19.8 million in a federal grant to help fund a \$33 million project to construct two loop tracks and a terminal along the Mississippi River: project on hold until additional funds secured.

Hip, hip, hurrah!

In sports, among many noteworthy accomplishments: Cape Central won its third-straight state swimming championship, and Southeast Missouri State University football made history by winning its first-ever national football playoff game. Redhawks coach Tom Matukewicz was named OVC coach of the year and his contract extended. The SportsPlex packed touring teams into top-notch competitions (as well as into local hotel rooms and restaurants) while opening for more weekend sports leagues. Basketball phenom Lisa Leslie inspired the crowd with grace and beauty at the Semoball Awards, which also featured bring-the-house-down remarks by Cape Girardeau Central stalwart Terry Kitchen, who received the Semoball lifetime achievement award.

In entertainment, a new full-day music festival, Shipyard, dazzled all who attended in downtown Cape Girardeau, even as they danced through the rain. The Vintage Now fashion show wowed its crowd at the Show Me Center with a circus theme, all to benefit the Safehouse for Women (which broke ground on a new building). Southeast Missouri State survived another year of budget cuts, won business and cybercrime competitions — and re-organized its departments — while producing amazing productions at the River Campus, including Southeast faculty member and writer Kenn Stillson's "An American Hero," which won Best in Festival at the New York Musical Festival in July. The Cape Catfish, a new summer-league baseball team to start play at Capaha Park in 2019, was announced alongside a major redesign of the field's amenities. A new skate park was built in Arena Park. The city approved the placement of a statue featuring a black Union soldier in Ivers Square. The Esquire Theater was approved



All of the above was originally reported in the Southeast Missourian, and drawing from it, I could have written about so much more: the many heroes in our midst, the volunteers, the teachers, the philanthropists, the churches, the hardworking men and women who make America great."

for a redevelopment TIF (though construction is delayed as property lines are sorted out). United Express added additional jet flights to Chicago (and boardings grew closer to the million dollar goal: 10,000 in a year). More delivery services opened in the area, while Cargo (with much thought and careful preparation — though not enough for the chief of police) began delivering alcohol — leading to debate around rules for such things. The Southeast Missourian embarked upon a test with Google to elevate civility and engagement within online commentary via technology and more human moderation. Former mayor, current university regent and long-time banker Jay Knudtson earned his undergraduate degree, "36 years after" he started, and delivered a rousing address to December graduates. With the installation of new LED lamps, Broadway got brighter. Long-time federal prosecutor and genuine good man Larry Ferrell retired.

LaCroix church and hundreds from around the area came together to pack meals, more than 800,000, for Feed My Starving Children. Thousands of local residents marched, walked, ran, volunteered, and donated to help others, to fight cancer, to beat Alzheimer's, to feed and clothe the needy, and to do so much more, selflessly, nobly, inspirationally. Toybox and Toys for Tots coordinated closer than ever before, delighting even more children during Christmas.

Sad farewells

In 2018, our community buried good friends and strong leaders, several whose accomplishments marked historic firsts. Among them: councilwoman Loretta Schneider, singer Neal Boyd, Judge Marybelle Mueller. We said goodbye to Dortha Stack, famous for growing farmers, and Gary Friedrich, for comic-book writing. Long-time museum director James Parker brought art to Southeast Missouri, while designer and businessman Harry Rust turned people's homes and businesses, literally, into livable art. From business and community leadership, among others, we lost Melvin Gately, Dr. Ray Ritter, Gene Penzel, Leland "Freck" Shivelbine, Mike McKinnis, Lowell Peterson and a bartender who brought the sun in with his smile: Marcellus Jones. A longtime university first lady succumbed to a vicious disease and had her name lovingly memorialized in the Jeanine Larson Dobbins Conservatory of Theater and Dance at Southeast's River Campus.

Then this week we lost one of Cape's friendliest and most civic-minded, long-time Schnucks manager Dennis Marchi. Incomparable in his high spirits (even against high odds) and with a boundless desire to help, Dennis touched the lives of an entire community. We lift up our prayers for his wife Kathy and their family.

Meanwhile, Mark Ervin, a former meat cutter for Schnucks, inspired the living with fun and humor, told through his Southeast Missourian obituary. Among its lines: "He died as he lived, in dramatic fashion and without pants. He would have liked you to believe he was still younger than 62 years old. ... He was preceded in death by almost every person who ever lived on this planet, including, but not limited to, Abraham Lincoln and John Bonham."

On the national level, but in many ways, part of our own: through heartfelt ceremonies, prayers and commemorations, we marked the lives and contributions of the Rev. Billy Graham, former first lady Barbara Bush, Sen. John McCain and President George H.W. Bush.

In news of death and renewal, the old gum tree at the top of Cardiac Hill on Southeast's campus split during a windstorm; a new one was planted.

Thank you for reading today — and thank you for reading every day, for your support of this newspaper, for your subscription. All of the above was originally reported in the Southeast Missourian, and drawing from it, I could have written about so much more: the many heroes in our midst, the volunteers, the teachers, the philanthropists, the churches, the hardworking men and women who make America great. This is what the Southeast Missourian does every day, in more detail, in more breadth, it tells the story of our community — of our neighbors and our local institutions, of our places of prayer and our gatherings for fun; of our families, of ourselves. It does it in words and photos, thanks to the hard work of those who work here. Thanks to your contributions and contacts. Thanks to your support, your readership, your encouragement.

Happy New Year! Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward all! May you be blessed in 2019.

Jon K. Rust is publisher of the Southeast Missourian.

OPINION

TODAY'S PRAYER

Almighty God, this season's beauty is yet another example of your masterful creation. Amen.

OUR OPINION

Google, FTI, LMA select SE Missourian as 1 of 10 in North America; reporter sought



JON K. RUST

I need your help. The Southeast Missourian is looking for a new business reporter. Do you know anyone who might be interested? Think about it. Are you interested? Although our plan is to hire a full-time reporter, we would also consider hiring several people — if especially talented — on a part-time basis. So, if you have experience writing, and can do so on deadline, and you like the idea of covering business development (and more), let us know. Send email to editor Bob Miller at bmiller@semissourian.com; carbon assistant publisher Lucas Presson, lpresson@semissourian.com.

Marybeth Niederkorn has been the business writer for the Southeast Missourian for most of the past two years. She is moving on to work with a website company attached to Codefi. For those who've been interviewed by Marybeth or been the subject of one of her articles, you know how delightful she is. She's also a talented poet, having recently published the book, "Times Knew Roamin'." We will miss Marybeth and wish her the very best. She has been a big part of the upbeat personality of the Southeast Missourian newsroom.

In today's classified section of the newspaper, you will find a description of what the editor is looking for. Here is an excerpt: "The Southeast Missourian is looking for a business reporter to cover a thriving business community. The ideal candidate is a creative story-teller who is fair-minded and enjoys networking and finding fun, engaging and important stories. Candidates should be able to demonstrate the ability to write breaking news, feature stories and analysis pieces with precision and accuracy. At least two years of experience of daily newspaper reporting is preferred but not required."

Hiring great talent is important for any business. In this case, it's extremely helpful (although not necessary) to find talent with institutional knowledge of the area. If you already know Cape Girardeau and Jackson, you have a leg up.

At the Southeast Missourian, we believe in the saying, "Everything we do should be measured by the test of truth and grace." We do not believe in "gotcha" journalism. Instead, we seek to report with context and fairness. And we seek the good. The same principles guide our culture: We seek a culture of truth-seeking and open dialogue, while privileging kindness and positivity. Constantly seeking improvement is vital. Doing so in a team ethos, helping each other, is foundational.

If you'd like to be part of a dynamic team, please email us.

Underlining that this newspaper is special — regularly winning the top award in the state and, frequently, recognized among the top in the nation for our size — on Monday the Local Media Association announced the Southeast Missourian was one of 10 newspapers in North America selected for something called the Google News Initiative Digital Subscriptions Lab. This lab involves an aggressive, six-month study, which will take me and part of the team here to Google a couple times (not to mention many video calls) and bring teams from Google, Local Media Association and FTI Consulting to Cape Girardeau. The focus is on building a sustainable strategy around digital subscribers and other reader revenue.

Too often people take for granted the hard work and expense that go into covering a community through original, ethical journalism. Unfortunately, in some parts of the country, many communities have learned recently what it's like to go without newspapers as their papers have failed, in part because of the lack of local support.

Even here, locally, it's amazing for me to see exchanges on Facebook where someone laments that they can't see a Southeast Missourian article (because they've surpassed their free views for the month), bad mouths the newspaper and asks for someone else to copy and paste it into a news feed, which someone eventually does. It apparently never occurs to those in the discussion that this is actually a form of stealing. Inevitably, if everyone did that, there wouldn't be a local newspaper.

On the good side, the fact people want the story, yearn to read it, and ask for someone to copy and paste it (after exhausting their free views) underlines the future opportunity.

I'm excited about the future of newspapers. At the Southeast Missourian, we've seen more than a 46% increase in the number of digital subscriptions since last year. And print will always be a big part of what we do, because so many people value and rely on it. Part of my optimism has to do with the fact more young people are subscribing to media than ever before. Still, it takes people valuing what we do. And, it takes good people to create what people value, which brings me back to the beginning of this column.

We're looking for a new business reporter — to join a dynamic team, involved in nationally impressive projects, right here in charming, economically diverse Cape Girardeau. Pass it on!

Jon K. Rust is publisher of the Southeast Missourian.

POLL QUESTIONS

Should the Obama Justice Department be investigated for how it coordinated with the Clinton campaign, including how it handled the Steele Dossier?

How often do you visit a public library?

See results on the Perspective page Sunday.



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What once was a compliment is now considered sexism



MIKE JENSEN

The Joe Biden sexual sensitivity roller coaster is gaining steam just about the time his poll numbers are starting to spike.

Don't, for a moment, think this is a coincidence.

Creepy Uncle Joe is working overtime defending his interaction with women in the past. And what we are learning should serve as a lesson in the over-sensitizing of an innocent act.

Joe Biden is a touchy-feely kinda guy. His brand of charm involves hugging and, on occasion, smooching members of the opposite sex.

But in today's hyper-sensitive culture, what was once innocent is now labeled as lecherous behavior in the era of #MeToo.

Poor Joe comes from another generation. I truly believe he means absolutely no harm.

What Biden forgets is that he is about to join a crowded field of Democratic presidential hopefuls. And entering that arena puts a bullseye on his back.

There is no longer a difference between highly inappropriate sexual contact and the innocent actions of an elderly man.

Someone forgot to remind Joe times have changed and we have adopted new "no-go zones" when it comes to our dealings with the opposite sex.

But over-sensitivity is not isolated to a presidential candidate. Far from it.

A mini-drama unfolded in St. Louis this week when a longtime host of St. Louis Public Radio quit his job over the most innocent comment imaginable.

Don Marsh, the 80 year-old host of a popular radio program, was interviewing a retired female television anchor. Prior to the on-air interview, Marsh greeted his 75-year-old guest and told her "she looked great."

The guest, Karen Foss, later said she accepted the greeting as a "common way for those of us who are aged to greet each other."

She later added, "As a woman who has long argued for the equitable treatment of women, I am alert to sexism and discrimination and I sensed none of that in his greeting."

But that didn't stop the radio management from meeting with Marsh after someone complained that his off-air remark was inappropriate.

Well, kudos to Marsh. When told his remarks were "right

on the edge" of being inappropriate, Marsh said, "That's it. I'm done." And walked.

The now-resigned radio personality said he was humiliated that someone, anyone, would take his remark as sexist.

He said that many people feel our culture of over-sensitivity was "out of control."

It's easy to point to these two examples as "generational" insensitivity but it goes far beyond a simple explanation.

Today, we live in an era where the rules of interaction are changing on a daily basis. And subjective, not objective, evaluations are made on behavior that has always been viewed as innocent and, in some cases, downright gentlemanly.

No longer are compliments always seen as complimentary. We are forced to be vigilant for actions previously deemed as innocent.

When we lump Joe Biden and Don Marsh into the same category as Harvey Weinstein or the others caught in the #MeToo web, we do a great disservice to those who mean no disrespect and hold no ulterior motives.

Michael Jensen is the publisher of the Standard Democrat in Sikeston, Missouri.

Pelosi, not AMLO, is driving the border issue



RICH LOWRY

When historians look back to this era, they will wonder why we insisted on outsourcing our border control to a foreign country.

President Donald Trump's threat to close down the southern border with Mexico isn't a sign of strength, but of frustration fading into desperation.

He is reacting with understandable alarm at a spiraling migrant crisis on the border, and is looking to Mexico to address it because we are unwilling to do it on our own — not unable, unwilling.

There were more than 100,000 apprehensions at the border in March, an increase from the 76,000 in February. The numbers for both months were the highest in 10 years. The total for the fiscal year could hit a million, a historic surge completely overwhelming our capabilities.

We built our border facilities to hold single men, back when illegal migrants were largely adult males from Mexico, rather than family units from Central America. This means that they are ill-suited for the needs of women and children. Regardless, the sheer numbers are leading to authorities releasing migrants almost as soon as they are caught.

Secretary of Homeland Security Kirstjen Nielsen warned Congress last week of "the real-time dissolution of the immigration system."

It's not that border control has been tried and failed; it hasn't been tried. Thanks to court decrees and congressional enactments, we don't permit ourselves to quickly return minors

“Mexico has done more to play ball with the U.S. under Trump than most people would have thought possible, yet all the migrants showing up at our border are still traveling through the country. Mexico doesn't make controlling these migrants a high priority because they will end up here, not there.”

from Central American countries, or to detain them for any significant period of time. They get released, along with the adults accompanying them.

The asylum process is broken. The initial so-called credible-fear interview to determine whether asylum-seekers get to the next step of the process approves almost all of them, even if they are unlikely ultimately to win asylum. In the meantime, they are waved into the country and probably never removed.

The migrants coming in increasing numbers realize that we are helpless to exclude them and, indeed, surrender to Border Patrol agents when they get here.

Congress could fix all this in an afternoon, with a few key changes in the law. Trump has a Nancy Pelosi problem much more than an Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador problem. But, since Pelosi is unmovable, Trump has to try to work the Mexican president, known by his initials, AMLO.

Mexico has done more to play ball with the U.S. under Trump than most people would have thought possible,

yet all the migrants showing up at our border are still traveling through the country. Mexico doesn't make controlling these migrants a high priority because they will end up here, not there.

The talk of cutting off the border isn't aimed at the migrants, who largely don't come through ports of entry, but at forcing the Mexican government to do more. Maybe the mere threat of the resulting economic disruption will work.

But if Trump goes through with closing the border, the strategy has some of the same weaknesses as the government shutdown earlier this year. Where does it end? If Mexico doesn't act quickly, how long are we going to keep the border closed? The longer it's closed, the more pain will be felt in the U.S. economy at a time when there are already signs of softness. What if Mexico initially buckles, then backslides? Will we shut down the border again, or threaten to?

Even if this gambit were guaranteed to succeed, it's insane that a sovereign country of unparalleled power has tied its own hands such that it must try to bully and cajole a foreign nation to do immigration enforcement for it.

In a more rational world, Congress would take seriously the spectacle of U.S. officials — and humanitarian organizations — scrambling to handle a flood of humanity showing up every day, and give them the legal authorities and resources to get the situation under control. That it won't is a dereliction of duty of the highest order

comments.lowry@nationalreview.com

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