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**Notes from editor (not for publication):**

New email address noted and changed in our system. Thanks, Mike. —Jeff

HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

1 This is what resistance looks like

####END HED####

####BEGIN SUBHED####

2 The president's election campaign — purportedly  
3 centered on lowering the cost of living — didn't include a  
4 vengeance tour and efforts to wreak terror on the streets of our  
5 nation with masked, armed, unidentifiable hordes

####END SUBHED####

6 TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

7 A 2-YEAR-OLD held her dolly up to me, and I asked what  
8 her name was.

9 "Mine," she said.

10 Then she said, "Love," and she cuddled the doll.

11 Sums up my feelings for our country: “Mine,” and  
12 “Love.”

13 Especially these days, as we feel the threats to our  
14 (“Our”) democracy and actions from the current president, even  
15 in Vermont.

16 We’ve seen workers grabbed from our streets, challenges  
17 to mail-in voting and online misinformation from some entity  
18 calling itself the Election Integrity Network (a group started by  
19 Trump lawyer Cleta Mitchell).

20 Thankfully, recent elections have given some hope, and  
21 recent court decisions have put up some guardrails against the  
22 Trump orders/actions (and also amplified what incompetence  
23 their lawyers exhibit).

24 These glimmers of light between the ground, and the  
25 heels of the jackboots from the masked armed hordes this  
26 president has unleashed on America, are fanning the flames of  
27 hope.

28 Hope that we will get through.

29 And blowing on the coals of the heart of our republic  
30 (thank you, Archibald MacLeish, for those words I’m  
31 appropriating), the flame of liberty and justice for all will again  
32 illuminate this country. To make us the beacon of hope for the  
33 world, again. And the reason people continue to come here —  
34 and risk everything to do so.

35 \* \* \*

36 EARLIER THIS FALL, I was invited and allowed to see some  
37 real profiles in courage in our brave little state. I was asked to  
38 accompany some fellow humans to the ICE headquarters in St.  
39 Albans.

40 Organizers of the action felt that having elected officials  
41 accompany them might discourage any inkling to make them  
42 disappear. Some clergy came, too.

43 It was effective in that, undocumented people came to  
44 the building for their scheduled check-ins as part of their

45 respective journeys to U.S. citizenship. They were released — not  
46 detained.

47 Here were people who put themselves at considerable  
48 risk and danger to come to this country. People who left their  
49 birthplace because things were so bad that undertaking an  
50 arduous and dangerous journey felt like the better option.

51 I hope it will turn out well for them. But until then, they  
52 continue to have to run the gauntlet to stay here, as they follow  
53 the process and protocols to become citizens.

54 Their courage and persistence left me inspired that we  
55 must continue to resist and to do all we can to let the current  
56 administration in Washington, D.C., know that their actions do  
57 not reflect the views of the majority of Vermonters and  
58 Americans.

59 The current president's election campaign — purportedly  
60 centered on lowering the cost of living — didn't include a  
61 vengeance tour and efforts to wreak terror on the streets of our  
62 nation with masked, armed, unidentifiable hordes.

63 This behavior will be addressed by the first bill that I, and  
64 others, will introduce regarding masks and identification, in next  
65 year's Legislature, upon reconvening in January.

66 \* \* \*

67 MEANWHILE, THERE'S much we can do while so many are  
68 doing what they can. And it all helps.

69 As groups like Indivisible, 50501, and local affinity  
70 groups organize, they bring hope to many feeling deflated by the  
71 current president's actions. As locals also step up across Vermont  
72 and the nation to resist, to protest, and to provide food, rides,  
73 legal help, housing, and other supports, we are showing our  
74 mettle. And we are showing how the resistance looks and works  
75 in these times.

76 This is *our* nation. *Our* government.

77 We can feel as possessive as the little girl felt about her  
78 dolly, and we can show our love in that way for this way of life.

79 We are not letting go of the freedoms we find self-  
80 evident. We will not relent that we are all created equal and  
81 deserve equal treatment under the law, as Pope Leo has been  
82 reminding us lately.

83 We will overcome the incivility. The cruelty. The  
84 hoarding of resources that is passing for leadership from the  
85 current White House.

86 We the People will save democracy and our republic.

87 Whether you see us on the I-91 overpasses, in the ICE  
88 parking lot, or at the voting booths, in Vermont, this is what  
89 democracy looks like.

####END TEXT####

BIO/COATTAIL:

####BEGIN BIO/COATTAIL####

90 **MICHAEL MROWICKI** represents the Windham-4 district  
91 (Putney, Dummerston, and Westminster) in the state Legislature  
92 and is a longtime Putney resident.

####END BIO/COATTAIL####

LAST ISSUE IN WHICH THIS FILE CAN BE RUN:

####BEGIN MAXISSUE####

93 0

####END MAXISSUE####

LINKS:

####BEGIN LINKS####

94

####END LINKS####

VIDEO:

####BEGIN VIDEO####

95

###END VIDEO###

LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

###BEGIN LOGLINE###

###END LOGLINE###