

The Delray Democrat

Monsters¹

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Monster: a person who excites horror by wickedness, cruelty, etc.”

In our November issue, we extolled the [heroes](#) fighting to protect the promise of Amendment 4 from Republicans hell-bent on preventing the “wrong people” from voting. This month we call out the monsters who inhabit the Republican Party. Like a fish, the caucus stinks from the head, but the stench extends to every cell.

Exhibit 1 is the 10-year budget Trump unveiled last March, calling for [steep cuts](#) in safety net programs like Medicare and Medicaid. If you missed it, that’s because it was dead on arrival in the newly Democratic House. Still it’s worth noting that the proposed \$1.9 trillion in cuts to these essential programs was identical to the \$1.9 trillion increase in the deficit estimated to result from Mr. Trump’s Orwellian-titled Tax Cuts and Jobs Acts.

A more accurate title would have been the Multi-Millionaire and Multinational Corporation Relief Act, since 60% of the cuts went to the top 0.1% of taxpayers and 80% went to the top 1%.

Let that sink in for a minute. Republicans pass a bill to further enrich the already obscenely wealthy, claim it will pay for itself, and when it doesn’t, expect the middle class and poor to foot the bill.

Although they have failed to date, Republicans have not given up on their Reverse Robin Hood dreams. Last summer [The Times](#) reported that Trump, when asked about cuts to Medicare and Medicaid, responded that it was a “second-term project.”

Moreover, the Democratic House is impotent against Trump’s executive powers. [The Times](#) recently reported that Trump has approved changes to the food stamps program proposed by his ethically compromised Secretary of Agriculture that will strip benefits from some 700,000 Americans. Two additional changes are expected to be approved before the November election, and these will result in the loss of benefits by an additional three million Americans, including nearly one million schoolchildren.

Some Republicans revel in putting children in cages, separating families, seeking to repeal the Affordable Care Act (and failing that, making health insurance unaffordable), and taking food stamps away from vulnerable populations. Others merely acquiesce out of fear, putting party before humanity just as they put party before country. Every last one of them is a monster.

• ¹ *The Delray Democrat*, February 2020, p. 5