

# The Delray Democrat

## DeSantis As Nixon<sup>1</sup>

*Michael K. Cantwell*

It's easy to mock Ron DeSantis as a pint-sized Trump or Trump with table manners (Rebekah Jones might take issue with that characterization . . . more on that below).

But there are several respects in which he differs from Trump, and where the better analogy to Republican reprobates is Richard Nixon. For one, DeSantis is self-made; he didn't depend on his daddy to fund him and clean up his messes or on Russian gangsters to bail him out when his businesses go bankrupt and no one else will lend him money.

DeSantis, like Nixon and unlike Trump, is both shrewd and smart. Even allowing that he went to Yale on an athletic and not an academic scholarship, he graduated magna cum laude, and he graduated cum laude from Harvard Law School. All this makes him more dangerous than Trump,

Finally, DeSantis, like Nixon, has a mean streak, and that could prove to be his tragic flaw. When Rebekah Jones refused to manipulate COVID data, he fired her. She continued to accuse DeSantis of putting politics above public safety, and was subjected to an early-morning raid of her house by multiple police, armed to the teeth and menacing her husband and infant children. Now she's running against Matt Gaetz for Congress, and leading in the latest polls.

When the Disney corporation spoke out against the "Don't Say Gay" law passed solely as red meat to DeSantis's knuckle-dragging Neanderthal base, he called a special session of the legislature and bulldozed through a revocation of Walt Disney World's special taxing district. It was done hurriedly, without any consideration of who will be on the hook for the \$766 million bond debt Disney's Reedy Creek Improvement District owes. Bullying some children to remove their masks carries little risk except public approbation; taking on Disney is another matter.

And just days after the massacre in Uvalde, DeSantis was back at it. After the Tampa Bay Devil Rays released a statement calling for reform of the gun laws, DeSantis punished them by vetoing a \$35 million grant in the state budget.

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<sup>1</sup> *The Delray Democrat*, June 2022, page 11.