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We truly appreciate everyone's involvement.  
This War on Oppression will only be won as one mass  
movement.

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## Our Mission Statement

The continual unification of as many organizations as possible, starting at the local level and branching out to both the state of North Carolina and then the entire nation.

## Spotlight

**" 'Tis the Season!"**



By  
**DonnaMarie Woodson**



**Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer**



**I'm blessed to be a child of the '60s, growing up with classic animated Christmas television specials like "A Charlie Brown Christmas," "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," and my first, "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer!"**

**I loved singing along to the songs "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," "There's Always Tomorrow," and "We're a Couple of Misfits," whose song meaning came into a sharper focus as I grew older. For me, it was the underlying meaning of the special.**





**Double Click on Picture to Play Video**

**“Rudolph is a fictional reindeer created by [Robert L. May](#), usually depicted as the ninth and youngest of [Santa Claus’s reindeer](#). Rudolph uses his luminous red nose to lead the reindeer team and guide Santa’s sleigh on [Christmas Eve](#). Though he initially receives ridicule for his nose as a fawn, the brightness of his nose is so powerful that it**

**illuminates the team’s path through harsh winter weather.**

**Writer Ronald D. Lankford, Jr. described Rudolph’s story as “the fantasy story made to order for American children: each child must express and receive approval for his or her individuality and/or unique qualities. Rudolph’s story embodies the American Dream for the child, writ large because of the cultural significance of Christmas.”**

**This story has always resonated with me, especially today in our society’s political environment. This climate harms our children and their need to express and receive approval for their individuality and unique qualities. Every day, a child’s sense of self suffers from the news media and the warped sense that the lack of character in today’s leaders is acceptable.**

**I can’t imagine raising a child in today’s America; the heartbreaking reality of having to explain to them this new version of morality. Like Rudolph had to hide his identity because his peers and their parents ostracized him, I’m concerned about how our children internalize their worth. Even Rudolph’s dad was ashamed to honor his son’s special gift that ultimately saved Christmas.**



**Double Click on Picture to Play Video**

**Sweet Hermey is another character forced to deal with being dismissed by his peers and superiors. All he ever wanted was to be a dentist, but because he was born an elf, he had to deny his true self and heartwarming desire to fix the teeth of Santa's toys to fit in with the others.**

**By attacking immigrants, trans children, the LGBTQ community, women, and anyone who isn't white, male, and a billionaire, the MAGA haters are projecting the insecurities of their worth by demanding that we all must conform to their vision of what we're supposed to be to "fit in."**

**Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer is a beautiful story reflecting inclusion, love, and the spirit of Christmas. Our various gifts are what make this country stronger. Collectively, we all make America great!**

**This Holiday Season let's remind ourselves and our families, and friends that hatred and prejudice have been ongoing since the origins of our Democracy, and we will once again stand up to reclaim the respect that everyone is due.**

**"United We Stand But Divided We Fall"**

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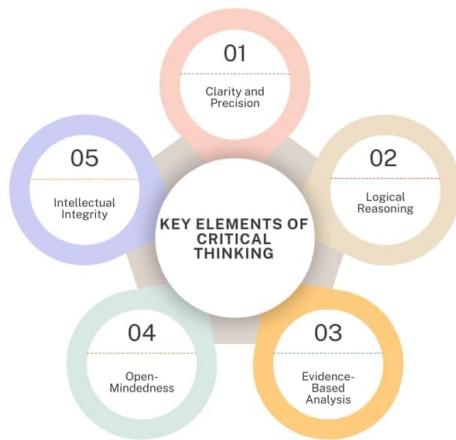
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## **Editorial**

# **Is There A Future for Critical Thinking?**

**By  
Tarik Kiley  
11/27/2024**

**Smart people run the world. At least that is what was taught to me as a child. To be a leader was to be wise. Not only this, but to be a leader was to have a moral compass. But, today, there seems to be no guidance. Who can the younger generation look up to, especially when the most powerful person in the world, the President of the United States of America is a felon with questionable character and intellect? Logic and critical thinking seem to have been abandoned in current political discourse in the USA. Do ideas matter anymore?**



**I was recently in a conversation with a young man who is well-versed in the topic of finance. We discussed my concern with President Trump's pursuit of tariffs. Halfway through the conversation, I asked him whether people have ever opened an economics textbook. He replied that we can't take it for granted that anyone has studied economics at all. I found that very concerning.**

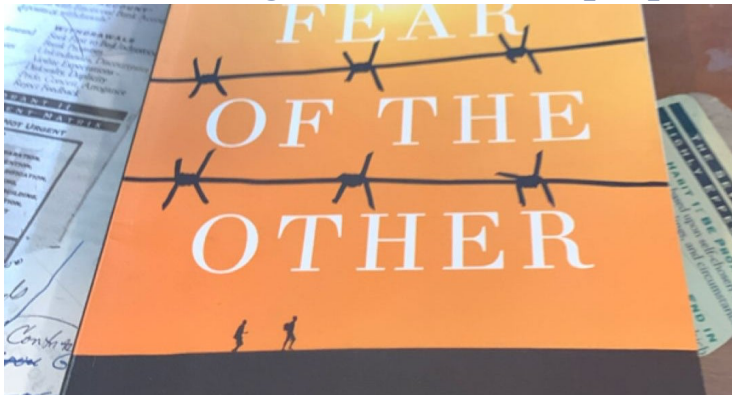
Also, years ago, while in undergraduate school, I read some writings of the founding fathers of the USA, where they talked about the myth of the American country bumpkin. In these writings, they said that all Americans aren't bumpkins, because there exists an intellectual class in America who can always take the lead. But, now that I see where political discourse in America is heading, I would argue against the writings of this particular founding father.



Reason seems to have lost its place in American politics. I'm not saying that people with opposing reasons are wrong. But the idea of scientific truth should be a universal norm.

Also, moral reasoning, knowing right from wrong, should be a universal norm as well. Instead, today we are drinking the political poison of hatred and division.

President Trump is truly a divider-in-chief. Also, some of the reasons that are being used for us to hate one another, don't even make sense. While campaigning, he said that the people in a particular city were eating cats and dogs. He said this without evidence, and guess what, some people believed him.



The main idea of President Trump's rhetoric resides in the fear of the "other." But, we have to understand that people who think differently than us, are not necessarily evil.



**That's the trap. Vice President Kamala Harris, didn't concentrate on ideas, when facing Donald Trump on the campaign trail. She talked about his poor character. This only gave President Trump's followers a sense of victimhood. It only fueled the fire, encouraging the idea that people who are different from Trump's followers were actually their enemies.**

**I really don't want to believe that people are as stupid as President Trump thinks the American people are. Some time ago, someone said to me that 80% of the world's people are followers. So that means only 20% of the people think for themselves.**

**Stupidity can be fought though. A thorough study of books and exposure to a variety of ideas can lead us to a revival of intelligent thought. That means we have to stop politicians from banning books, and we have to continue to fight for access to information for ourselves and for our children. We have to apply science, critical thinking, and logic, as well as encouraging it in the next generation.**

**Not only do we need a revival of intellectual thought, but we cannot become cynical. According to Britannica.com, "In the history of political thought, Cynics are often regarded as the first anarchists, because they regarded the destruction of the state—which, owing to its hierarchical nature, was the cause of a plethora of misfortunes—as the only salvation for the human species." But, I would argue that just because the government is flawed, doesn't mean that it should be destroyed, and we cannot let selfish men lead to its destruction, either.**

Of course, our current state of political affairs is truly disappointing. We aren't living up to our ideals. And, we don't really understand what is leading us to delight in the suffering of others. We also don't really understand the rise in the celebration of ignorance. It's also hard to believe that the majority of the American people would elect someone to power who clearly wants to harm others.

With all of this said, I don't have the answers to alleviating our current demise into a state of dystopia. The only thing I can do is to continue to use language to speak truth, based in science, and to speak about social conduct based in morality.

**History will judge us all.**

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# Announcements



## Democratic Women of North Carolina

### Holiday Party

Thursday, December 12, 2024

Law Offices of Tin, Fulton, Walker & Owen

301 East Park Avenue

Charlotte, NC 28203

RSVP

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeqB2HpONCCBtO6GhUv7nTHUHahbsNCmPlzruWLzww-FPVGCA/viewform>



Please submit your group events to [donnamarie93@gmail.com](mailto:donnamarie93@gmail.com) by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month for inclusion in the Announcements.

# Happenings!

*Wishing you peace and goodwill  
this holiday season and a  
prosperous new year!*



**The Executive Corner:**

**Rev Rodney Sadler, Joel Segal, DonnaMarie Woodson  
Rev Glencie Rhedrick**

**Coalition of United Progressives-CharMeck Chronicle**

**Editor: DonnaMarie Woodson**

**Contributor: Tarik Kiley**