

# Editorials

## Turner sends anti-business message politicizing S.230

Rep. Don Turner, R-Milton, is conducting a public lesson on how to politicize legislation, rather than simply fixing a problem.

And as House Minority Leader, and one of the leading Republicans in the Legislature, he is also teaching Vermonters how the state gets viewed as anti-business.

The issue is Gov. Peter Shumlin's veto of S.230, the Legislature's effort to define rules for siting renewable energy projects. Specifically, the governor noted that in the rush to complete the bill during the last hours of the session, four specific mistakes in the bill's language were made that do not represent the Legislature's intent. Two measures deal with the siting of wind power, one measure deals with the siting of solar power, and the fourth is adding \$300,000 for training to help towns understand the legislation and incorporate it into their town plans — a provision that was mistakenly left out of the original bill. Each of the items is essentially a housekeeping measure that could easily be resolved.

Sen. Chris Bray, D-New Haven, chairman of the Senate Natural Resources & Energy Committee that crafted S.230, sent an email to his fellow legislators on Monday urging them to salvage S.230. He included a draft of a replacement bill that he said "fixes the items cited by the governor." All the Legislature has to do is meet, confirm the changes in the new draft and vote on the corrected bill.

"The achievability of this 'fix' is reflected in the draft bill itself: In a 43-page bill there are only 14 changed lines, and one section inserted (Section 10A was left out of the final bill due to a drafting error)," Bray said. "In short, the changes are very narrow, maintain all the original provisions, and precisely correct the ambiguities which caused the veto. This Thursday, I hope to see the Senate and House come together one more time to get our best work — a 'replacement' S.230 — passed into law."

In past veto sessions, Bray noted, lawmakers have adopted new bills in as little as three hours. "Really all this stuff depends on deciding to get work done, rather than slowing the process down," Bray said. "From my point of view, if we were in a normal legislative day ... by Friday or even the same day, if we wanted to, we'd make the fix, and nobody would debate whether to eliminate ambiguity and make it more clear."

But Rep. Turner smells political opportunity and he's seeking to exploit it. On Tuesday this week, he said his Republican caucus is prepared to override the governor's veto, and would prevent any attempt to modify the bill. He also tried to pull House Speaker Shap Smith into the fray by declaring: "If Shap doesn't support an override, he's an obstructionist."

Name-calling, bullying, being antagonistic — the very definition of a dysfunctional politician advocating for dysfunctional government.

But it's not madness. Turner's political ploy would seek to drive a wedge between residents opposed to wind power and Democrats who are proposing legislation to which some residents remain steadfastly opposed. Turner is politicizing the issue to get some Democrats to switch political allegiance.

What Turner is proposing, however, has a political pitfall for Republicans. If the legislation passes as is (as Turner hopes it will), it would bring to a halt any commercial scale wind power in Vermont and make it harder for small solar farms to be developed. Vermont would be the first state in the nation to essentially decree wind power as a health hazard at any commercial scale and prevent its siting. The message would be decidedly anti-business.

House Speaker Smith has the right approach when he refutes Turner and explains he (Smith) is simply "trying to bring clarity to what happens, and (to put) some funding in place for the process that municipalities want. I would think the Republicans would want the same thing."

Many probably do. What Vermonters should not want are political leaders sabotaging legislation for political gain against the common good and contrary to common sense. We hope Addison County Republicans will push back against the anti-business message Turner is advocating, and instead help solve the issue at hand as Sen. Bray has so rationally suggested.

Angelo Lynn

## Clinton + Bernie's revolution

After Tuesday's determining primaries, in which Hillary Clinton won convincingly in California and New Jersey and even slipped past Bernie Sanders in South Dakota, the die is cast: Clinton will be the nominee. She won the majority of the pledged delegates, the most states and contests, her steadfast support is across more demographic sectors of the population and far stronger in the most populated regions of the nation. She also has a sure lead among the Democratic Superdelegates, as well she should. She earned it.

But that does not mean Sanders should not continue to carry his message into Washington, D.C. for the final primary contest next Tuesday, and to continue carrying his momentum to the national conventional in Philly. On the contrary, the party should want him to keep his significant base of support energized — even in the form of Bernie's political revolution.

What Bernie wants is to continue that revolution. He has kept up the rhetoric because he knows the minute he walks off that stage — and Clinton adopts old-school politics and moderates her positions toward the middle — the revolution fizzles and that base of support is lost. That's not smart politics. Smart is understanding that Bernie and Hillary together encouraged 650,000 new people to register to vote in California alone during the past few weeks. Smart is not rushing Bernie off into the political hinterland.

What Bernie instinctively knows is that his revolution is good for the Democratic Party and for the nation, and he is loathe to let that energy die. He is willing to concede the presidency, but he is not willing to crush the dreams of all of those people who have embraced the hope for political change; for all the things his campaign has advocated. That is why he will stay in the race until the convention.

What Bernie has to accept is that while he swayed 45 percent of the party, Hillary swayed the other 55 percent.

No doubt he brought his message, and his acceptance of Clinton's victory, to President Obama on Thursday. The challenge now is to navigate a way in which the revolution continues, and Bernie carries that energy all the way to November for Hillary's, and the nation's, benefit.

Angelo Lynn



### Sister to sister

MARY HOGAN ELEMENTARY School fifth-grader Adelaide Riche holds signs congratulating her older sister Bryna as the Middlebury Union High School senior class marches by the elementary school on their way to their final assembly in the Memorial Sports Center Tuesday morning.

Independent photo/Trent Campbell

## 'Miss Kolb' — a teacher for a lifetime

When retiring Bristol Elementary School teacher Sandy Haddock told me about how she often makes mistakes — deliberately — so that students will catch her out and learn for themselves how essential mistakes are to learning, I could think of only one person.

Emma Kolb. That's Miss Kolb to me — forever and eternally, even in my memory (oh, and I've just stopped slumping in my chair in front of this computer and am trying to sit ramrod straight, just thinking about her).

Miss Kolb stood six feet tall. She wore heavy-framed, black-rimmed mannish glasses and a man's watch. She wore her dark brown hair twisted tight to her scalp in two braids, pinned up high. And — like a fair number of folks in the small town in western Kansas where I attended grade school in the 1960s and '70s, descendants of the northern European immigrants who brought Turkey Red hard winter wheat to farm the plains — she spoke with something of a German accent, her voice clipped and precise, her s's sibilant.

To my younger self — meaning before I reached the heights of maturity and worldliness that constituted sixth grade — I knew Miss Kolb as the terror-inspiring disciplinarian's disciplinarian of Lincoln Elementary.

She was so tall. She was so strict. Those brown eyes could pierce you, basilisk like, with just one look. That strong beak of a nose could smell out even the smallest infraction.

I was sure my best friend, Brenda Kessler, had her facts mixed up when she told me that Miss Kolb was "really nice."

How could she even think such a thing? Miss Kolb was scary. But ... Brenda's mom did know a lot. She was our school music teacher, played the piano beautifully, cooked a mean, farm-style chicken fricassee and got her hair cut right across the street from Fort Hays State College (which meant that Brenda and I had the run of the college museum's shrunken heads, giant fish within a fish fossil, and bafflingly tiny Chinese shoes).

Still, despite Brenda's assertions to the contrary, I stood my ground. How on earth could Miss Kolb be "really nice" when I knew she was terrifying?

Then I landed Miss Kolb as my sixth-grade teacher and learned the real truth.

Emma Kolb was a genius of a teacher. Yes, she was strict. Yes, she was very tall. Yes, she could look scary (especially if you were being a knucklehead and certainly if there was even the least whiff of bullying). But she was compassionate, kind and thoughtful. She was inventive in the classroom. She loved us and she wanted us to learn. And she remains in my heart — despite a Phi Beta Kappa B.A. from a liberal arts college renowned for its teaching, despite two graduate degrees at wildly different institutions — as the best teacher I've ever known.

Great teachers, I think, do two things, one expanding out and the other drilling in. They inspire you to learn new things, thus expanding your knowledge base, your approach to the world, your horizons. And they also see you so that you can better see yourself. They see your potential. They see strengths you don't know you have

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### Clippings

By Gaen Murphree



## Much is riding on Britain's EU vote

On June 23, British voters will cast their ballots in a referendum on whether to remain in the European Union, of which Britain has been a member since 1973, or to leave. Next to the U.S. presidential election, the "Brexit" referendum is the most important election scheduled anywhere in the world this year. Its outcome will affect the global economy, and will provide a good test of the appeal of nationalist and populist politics at the ballot box.

The European Union does suffer from a democratic deficit. Voters and national parliaments often have little influence over decisions made by regulators across a wide range of policy issues. At the same time, the EU, through its single market, has made Europe more prosperous. It has also played a very important role in integrating former authoritarian states, such as Spain and Portugal, and former Soviet satellites, such as Poland and the Czech Republic, into the world of pluralist and competitive politics.

Arguments about the economic and political advantages of EU membership seem to be gaining little traction with British voters. With the polls on Brexit being closely balanced, advocates of remaining in the EU have increasingly based their strategy on the potentially dire economic consequences of leaving the union.

Businesses that depend on trade with Europe have said Brexit could result in a loss of jobs in Britain. The British Treasury has released reports trying to show that Brexit would result in a higher budget deficit, higher interest rates, and slower economic growth than remaining in the

EU. International economic organizations have said that Brexit, by increasing global economic uncertainty, could make it more difficult for the United States to attain a better level of economic performance.

The proponents of Brexit have tried to rebut the government's economic arguments, but in recent weeks their case has rested increasingly on nativist and anti-immigrant themes. They claim that, unless Britain leaves the EU, the UK will be overwhelmed with migrants from eastern European nations, who will take jobs away from Britons and place great demands on public services such as the National Health Service.

Racist and anti-Muslim overtones are not absent from the Brexit campaigners' message. They are raising the specter of Turkey's becoming a member of the EU "within the next five years," followed by millions of Muslims migrating from Asia Minor to the UK. This theme has been taken up by some of the British tabloid press, in spite of the belief among nearly all experts that the moves of the Erdogan government in Turkey to suppress political competition and freedom of the press make it most unlikely that Turkey would be accepted as a member of the EU for the foreseeable future.

The Obama Administration very much wants Britain to stay in the EU, and the President said so on his recent visit to London. The U.S. believes that Britain, as our closest ally, has much more influence on global affairs as an EU member than as an independent actor. Donald Trump, who is no fan of international political and

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# Letters to the Editor

## Town building needs plantings

I was happy to see the three small flags on the north side of the municipal building that indicate tree-planting sites.

I had been sad when the big tall black locust trees were cut down from back of the white house that was there.

I still miss those trees, especially in June when the big fragrant white flowers bloomed so sweet and buzzed with bees. They were good trees for the birds, too, giving them shelter, shade and insects to eat. Birds and mammals ate the seeds.

Black locust trees are native to the eastern U.S. and, like other native plants, are at home with our insects, birds and weather. (I know they are badly weakened right now by tree-borers...)

But the word on the three flags by the Municipal Building is "Ginkgo." Ginkgo trees are native to China and at home inside China's ecology.

In the U.S., though, ginkgos host few bugs, are avoided by birds and butterflies, give no food or shelter to mammals. One scientist wrote on Wikipedia that ginkgos are "biological deserts." (Ginkgos do, though, produce a potent pollen rated very high on the allergen scale.)

Ginkgo trees are planted in big cities because they resist pollution and are pretty. But Middlebury isn't a big city. We can grow plants that are both pretty and welcome bees, butterflies and birds.

Next door to the municipal building, the Ilsley Library garden is home to bees, rabbits, moles, beetles, toads, caterpillars, butterflies and lots of birds, as well as a nice place for people. Even a small living green space growing native plants can be a welcoming place for us and for the animals we share our town with. Let's do that around the new municipal building, too.

Anna Rose Benson  
Weybridge  
Ilsley Library gardener

## Let's learn from WWII veterans

America and Vermont need to get a grip. A mere 72 years ago the second World War was at a tipping point where a major victory on either side would tip the balance in their favor and forever seal the fate of the free world.

June 6, 1944, the allies, led by the United States, invaded the beaches of Normandy, France, on their way to eventually defeating the Nazis (national socialist German workers' party).

Two years earlier from June 4-7, 1942 (six months after the attack on Pearl Harbor), the United States won the pivotal battle over Midway Island in the Pacific that proved to be the beginning of the end for imperial Japan's navy and expansionist ambitions.

There are over 100,000 American soldiers, airmen, Marines and seamen buried in dedicated cemeteries all over Europe alone, and survivors came home to an appreciative nation as reluctant heroes. Japanese and European cities destroyed by the arsenal of war rebuilt themselves into thriving and increasingly modern centers of commerce and opportunity. All was well in the world, at least for a while.

With the daily passing of thousands of these truly brave and patriotic men and women we lose an important link to our proud tradition of self reliance, genuine charity, patriotism, character and common sense that is sorely lacking in society.

The best measure of one's character is to monitor their actions when the cameras are nowhere to be found.

Ivan St. George  
Vergennes

# Letters to the editor

The Addison Independent encourages readers to write letters to the editor. We believe a newspaper should be a community forum for people to debate issues of the day

Because we believe that accountability makes for responsible debate, we will print signed letters only. Be sure to include an address and telephone number, too, so we can call to clear up any questions.

If you have something to say, send it to: Letters to the Editor, Addison Independent, 58 Maple St., Middlebury, VT 05753. Or email to news@addisonindependent.com.

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# Child care funds don't meet need

## Legislature's \$1M boost not enough

I applaud the Legislature for approving a much-needed \$1 million funding increase for Vermont's Child Care Financial Assistance Program (CCFAP), tuition assistance for early care and learning programs, in the fiscal year 2017 budget. At a time of great fiscal challenges, this decision highlights the Legislature's desire to support the wellbeing of Vermont's children and families. However, while the \$1 million is an important step in the right direction, it woefully stops short of the necessary funding to support the healthy development of Vermont's children and for taxpayers to gain a good return on their investment.

The brain develops most rapidly during the early years and it presents the greatest opportunity for children's healthy cognitive, social and emotional development. Research has found that for every dollar invested into early childhood programs, such as child care, there is a return on taxpayers' investment of \$7 to \$10, reducing future costs in education, health care and corrections. Children in quality programs are less likely to need special education or be held back a grade, and are less likely to commit a violent crime.

While it's the natural desire and responsibility of parents to support the healthy development of their children, the challenges facing today's families make this dif-

icult. More than 70 percent of Vermont's children under age six live in households where all parents are in the labor force and need some form of care outside of their home. Yet, the majority of families with infants and toddlers likely to need care do not have access to high-quality, affordable child care.

Working women are especially affected by this issue; lack of affordable child care is often an obstacle to women working full-time and achieving higher earnings. A key finding in the 2016 Status Report: *Women, Work and Wages in Vermont* from Change the Story, cites that women are significantly more likely than men to live in poverty, in part because they have the main responsibility for the care of young children. Having more affordable, high-quality child care programs will give more women the opportunity to stay and thrive in the workforce.

Funding CCFAP is a smart strategy to give every child a strong start while also helping to create a stable workforce, which Vermont businesses need to thrive. But, we are not doing enough.

As Anne, a parent from Wolcott, shared in our Small Talk project: "The financial equation just doesn't work. It costs too much for families and yet the child care providers aren't making ends meet."

CCFAP provides child care tuition assistance for families who meet certain financial, health, work or education criteria and children who are currently in the care of the

Department for Children and Families (DCF). This program is a vital resource for Vermont families who could otherwise not afford to enroll their children in quality child care programs while parents work or attend school.

The \$1 million increase stops us from backsliding, but the gap between tuition assistance rates and the actual cost of child care remains; in fact, to bring assistance rates in line with 2014 child care tuition market rates, CCFAP would need an additional investment of approximately \$9.1 million.

That's why Let's Grow Kids and our partners — Vermont Early Childhood Alliance, Vermont Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, Vermont Association for the Education of Young Children and the Vermont Child Care Providers Association — joined together in support of the CCFAP funding increase.

For the long term, the Blue Ribbon Commission on Financing High Quality, Affordable Child Care is looking at Vermont's child care programs as a whole. The commission — which includes business representatives, policymakers, parents and child care providers — will issue a report in November that will recommend specific strategies to support high-quality, affordable child care in Vermont.

Once the Blue Ribbon Commission recommends actions, it will be up to Vermonters to ensure this translates into real results for Vermont's children.

If you want to help build a strong, effective and sustainable child care system that supports all of Vermont's children, their families and their child care providers and strengthens Vermont's economy, join the Let's Grow Kids campaign. Visit [www.letsgrowkids.org](http://www.letsgrowkids.org) to see how you can get involved.

## Community Forum

This week's writer is Robyn Freedner-Maguire of Burlington, campaign director of Let's Grow Kids, a statewide public awareness and engagement campaign about the important role that high-quality, affordable child care can play in supporting the healthy development of Vermont's children during their first five years.

## Clippings

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and build confidence out of helping you better appreciate yourself.

Especially when you most need it. In sixth grade, the world looked pretty good. After all, one of my older brothers had the lead in the high school musical. What could be cooler than that? We had an incredible school orchestra conductor we knew as "Mean Dean Angeles," who had us sawing away furiously at a baby version of "Eine kleine Nachtmusik" (his contrastingly sweet wife, who we called "Angel Face," taught fourth grade), I could run around town after school on my bike with my great gang of girlfriends, hanging out and making up low-key fun like sliding down the incline of an abandoned slate factory or pulling field turnips out of a muddy field during a torrential downpour or just going to the Dairy Queen.

But it was also the year my older sister ran away from home to California, got caught shoplifting, put into juvenile custody and then shipped off to a girls' home in Texas run by a religious fanatic so abusive and loathsome that even the state of Texas finally shut him down.

So, looked at from an adult perspective, it's unlikely that that year was all sunshine. And my adult self wonders if Miss Kolb didn't look out for me in ways I never even realized.

She certainly encouraged me in ways that made that year wonderful and exciting. Among my favorite projects, we created our own staged adaptation of Rudyard Kipling's "The Elephant's Child," with funny characters and funny voices and choral readings and a tremendous tug of war when the wily crocodile grabs the Elephant Child's nose. And I got to be the narrator.

I can still recite almost every word. "In the High and Far-Off Time, the Elephant, O Best Beloved, had no trunk ..."

Miss Kolb really did make deliberate mistakes in math and then encouraged us — exhorting us with that Germanic accent — to think for ourselves and catch her out. She once described to Brenda and me after school (both teachers' kids, we had the run of the building) how she started out as a strict disciplinarian, concerned that the desks be in perfectly straight rows, but now her vision was to blow out the walls, put in a wall-size glass window and let those of us who were ready go learn independently, surrounded by big tables and a lot of books. She'd

be watching us, and she could just wave through the glass wall.

At the end of the school year, we expressed our appreciation by buying for her that thing we *knew* she most desired: an ironing board. Brenda's mom, again, gave us the inside scoop. She knew Miss Kolb wanted a new ironing board, so we thought we'd surprise her. We were incredibly proud of the way we wrapped the awkward thing in brown paper and painted it all over with pink flowers. And when we brought it out at the school assembly she said, "What is that?! Is it a surfboard?!"

To our 11-year-old eyes she looked pretty pleased. And we felt proud that we had given her something useful. Now I wonder, couldn't we have instead chipped in our pennies for a trip to Tahiti? Some relaxing beach somewhere? Something more exotic or frivolous?

But she probably wouldn't have wanted it. A descendant of pioneers who'd braved locusts and sod houses and hot summers and blinding blizzards, work and service were the rod and staff that comforted her, even long after her ostensible retirement.

According to an article in the *Hays (Kan.) Daily News* from 10 years ago, Miss Kolb retired from teaching in 1984, after 47 years of

service. Then for the next 22 years she volunteered at Lincoln Elementary — every day — until she finally retired from retiring, close to her 88th birthday.

So extraordinary were her 69 years of service, that Kansas legislator Jerry Moran made a speech in the U.S. House of Representatives in honor of her passion for education and her dedication to the school and its students.

Said Moran, "The length of her tenure may only be over-shadowed by the amount of joy she gave to those she worked with and worked for."

Oh, and at 88, being interviewed for her retirement party, Miss Kolb let the journalist know "I still clean my own house and wash and iron. When you do all that, as slow as I am, it keeps you busy."

Some crazy part of me wants to imagine she's still ironing with that same board — likely an impossible hope as she approaches 98. That as she runs that iron back and forth, ironing some crisp pleat with fierce precision, she feels that board supporting her and knows that the love she gave to so many is still sustaining her.

Reporter Gaen Murphree is reached at [gaenm@addisonindependent.com](mailto:gaenm@addisonindependent.com).

# Lucretius: 'Where shall wisdom be found?'

*Editor's note: This is the 16th and final in a series of essays on Lucretius, an early philosopher who provides a link to "lost classics" through his epic poem "On the Nature of Things."*

When, in my youth, I began to study philosophy, I fell under the spell of the German philosopher Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel (1770–1831), and, I confess, I have not entirely broken free of it, even though I am decidedly not a Hegelian, but a naturalist and an empiricist of sorts, which places me diametrically opposite him. Many of his works still sit on my bookshelves, and whenever I pass by them I feel a longing to take one up and read it. What attracted me then, as it does even now, was his massive learning. His lectures covered everything: nature, religion, art, history, politics, law, domestic life, and anything else I've failed to mention.

Hegel loved learning, and so do I. Hegel took universal human history seriously, regarded it comprehensively, and attempted to show, if not prove, its true meaning, which explains his enduring appeal. Philosophically considered, history is a narrative of all events contemplated by an interested observer, a universal intelligence aspiring to be the soul of the world, a great mind in search of a great body. The universal mind, as Hegel conceived it, was not just an onlooker of things. It was the director and interpreter of everything, so that, Hegel claimed, world history regarded absolutely and in its totality was the object of a supreme creative mind contemplating and facilitating its own becoming. He borrowed this idea from Aristotle but deliberately altered it to fit his purposes.

Aristotle imagined that the universe was empowered by a perfect intelligence that did nothing more than contemplate its purely intelligible self, a universal intelligence without any interest in concrete things and their historical fate. Its creative power resided in the fact that it was the supreme object of desire; it was therefore the Unmoved Mover of all motion, change, and generation. Hegel considered universal intelligence to be the standard and standpoint of all truth; where everything would come to

be known completely after a long process of historical development. Nothing escaped it; things in all their detail and concreteness were preserved and included in a grand synthesis of everything that he supposed to be the end of history.

Hegel supposed that since history was the career of a universal intelligence, its sequences must have a rational, or logical order. He employed the term "dialectic" to signify a rational movement in the stages of universal history. Dialectic begins with opposition followed by a synthesis or reconciliation of history aims to describe this movement in its actual operation.

This insight into the meaning of history makes me reluctant to disavow Hegel altogether. His method of interpreting history, if applied modestly and circumspically, sometimes makes sense, although regarded uncritically it is grossly optimistic in a not very nice way, for, like Leibniz, Hegel subscribed to the notion that everything happens for the best in the best of all possible worlds, nothing is just plain bad, because it contributes in some way to universal good. But in fact some things are just plain bad.

It was while reflecting on my two previous series of essays, and wondering where to go next, that a Hegelian solution dawned on me. Plato and Lucretius represent opposite standpoints. Plato was in mortal conflict with Democritus and materialism, and, accordingly, denied the sufficiency of mere nature. The insufficiencies of nature were compensated by eternal ideas, operating from above, although without perfect effect. Lucretius staged a counterattack, sustained by the forces of boundless nature that he took to be always self-sufficient, always productive, although not supremely purposeful in any way that might satisfy purely human interests.

Whereas Plato believed that the causes of value and order transcended nature, Lucretius attributed them to a native or spontaneous ingenuity of natural things. Natural things struggle for survival, and, as Darwin would later observe, some

succeed and others fail. The laws of nature were covenants, products of experiments and experience.

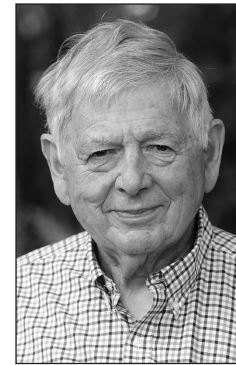
Is it possible to achieve a creative reconciliation of these opposing points of view as Hegel supposed? I'm certain he would answer "Yes"; and if asked by whom, he would point to himself. But I believe that this was accomplished before him in a far better way, during the 17th century, in Holland, by Benedictus de Spinoza (1632–1677). This, then, is my longwinded way of announcing a third series of essays, its subject, and purpose.

But there must be a reason for doing this. Here is what I think. There is truth in both standpoints: the sovereign intelligibility of ideas, and the boundless productivity of nature. Yet, they stand apart historically in the systems proposed by Plato and Lucretius. Adhering to these two truths is like having two homesteads. The philosophical mind needs to dwell in one place. Spinoza realized this need and met it simply and efficiently.

Besides, he was the only early modern philosopher who grasped the significance of the scientific revolution for our understanding of the nature of things; the most compelling advocate of freedom of thought upon which not only science and philosophy depends, but also civil society. He was not only a great metaphysician, but a great political philosopher also. All things considered, there is none wiser than he.

Spinoza also, like Hegel, borrowed Aristotle's idea of an Unmoved Mover. But unlike Hegel, he equated it with Nature, which he equated with God. God or Nature is the sum of all things, which makes very good sense when you think of it. Finite things like you and I, the chair I am sitting on, the house I live in: none of them exists by itself; everything comes from something and while it exists depends upon others, and if we trace things back to their ultimate point of origin, we discover that, like all organic and inorganic things, our ultimate parent and constant upholder is Nature.

But Nature is an idea as well as a productive power, the order of Nature is intelligible, a sequence of causes and effects that proceed with regularity, according to law. So, whatever exists is inherent in and is conceived through Nature or God, which operates without beginning or end. To this end, Spinoza found it necessary to exchange an empiricist method with a rationalist one that proceeds from an original idea. More will follow.



Lucretius: the nature of things

An essay by Victor Nuovo Middlebury College professor emeritus of philosophy

## Davis

(Continued from Page 4A)

economic cooperation, has said that Britain "might be better off" outside the EU, even though such an outcome could adversely affect his own golf courses and other real estate holdings in the UK.

Many of the nationalist and populist claims made by pro-Brexit campaigners are similar to points made by Trump in the speeches at his rallies. While these sound bites may appeal to lower-middle-class voters

who see free trade and global economic integration as having harmed them, they do not respond to the well-supported claims that organizations such as the EU have, on bal-

ance, resulted in a more stable and prosperous international order.

Eric L. Davis is professor emeritus of political science at Middlebury College.

## Enjoy life!



"I really enjoy teaching people in my own age group!"

Professor John Berninghausen, with student Jo Birnbaum

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