How much is democracy worth?

Trump's ridiculous bribery

By JOANNA FARRELL
Opinion Editor

You know, none of us should be surprised by now that I'm writing yet another piece about the laws our president is breaking right in front of our very eyes, but here I am.

During the GOP's midterm convention in Dallas, President Donald Trump made the extraordinary (and extraordinarily illegal) promise to give every American adult $5,000 if Republicans were able to maintain their control over the U.S. House and Senate. He said that it would be called the "Trump Dividend" and would reflect how "tremendous" our economy is doing.

Whether President Trump is ignorant or just plain stupid is another question, because it has been a long-standing code in the United States that using bribery to influence an election is… yup, you guessed it! Super illegal!

According to Title 18 U.S. Code 597, "… it is a serious federal crime to buy or sell votes. This means using money as an incentive to sway how a person votes or whether they vote." The website also stated that anyone found guilty of this crime could face up to two years in federal prison.

I guess that doesn't mean much when you're already a felon, though, does it?

And really, how stupid does Trump really think the average American is? Well, it's probably not good considering all the other times he's tried to bribe and trick Americans into thinking that far-right conservative governance actually has a real benefit to the American people.

In the past two years since his election, Trump and his administration have made promises to Americans, claiming they will receive payments from whatever stupid idea is at play at the time. An idea that the President knows he's receiving societal backlash for. Just like in every other part of his life, he thinks enough money will make all his problems disappear.

At first, it was Trump's Department of Government Efficwiency (DOGE), which caused an uproar across the country for its mismanagement and heavy-handed deletion of departments critical to how the country operates. Many of these cuts are still being felt today.

Back then, Trump promised that the funds recovered to the government by DOGE would be sent to Americans in the form of a $5,000 stimulus check that he would call the "DOGE dividend"… starting to sound familiar? Well, if you don't remember, you'd probably guess it's because no one ever got those checks, and you'd be absolutely correct.

Trump would make another monetary plea to short-pocketed American voters in November 2025, the same year as the "DOGE Dividend," but this time marketed as an economic return from the successful implementation of tariffs.

This time it would be $2,000 promised in a Truth Social post: "We are taking in Trillions of Dollars and will soon begin paying down our ENORMOUS DEBT, $37 Trillion. Record Investment in the USA, plants and factories going up all over the place. A dividend of at least $2000 a person (not including high income people!) will be paid to everyone."

All this sounds to me like a crazy old man grasping at whatever straws he can to ignite the voters on his side of the aisle.

Like every other phony promise made by our Commander-in-Chief, I do not doubt that this will be another pipe dream of his the American people never get to see.

But let's talk about what the reality is if this money does somehow actually reach the pockets of Americans.

Well, firstly, he'd be a felon… again… but he didn't care much the first time, so I guess that's a gamble he's willing to take.



Secondly, this would cost our country more than $1 trillion (of taxpayer dollars, mind you) and would require congressional approval. I'm sorry, but the party so focused on not giving government handouts all of a sudden wants to financially destroy our already mounting debt because they're terrified that midterms are not going to go their way? Pathetic.

And if you don't think the administration is scared they're going to lose, here's a quote from Vice President JD Vance, and if you have a chance, watch the video too: "… give us another chance, give us another couple of years to keep working on the amazing things that we've been doing over the past few years."

All of this is a true tell of what Democrats have been hoping for the past two years since these absolute morons have taken office. They're scared, the numbers aren't looking good for them and they're grasping at whatever straws they have left to try and secure the midterm elections. So, if you weren't already planning on it, vote this November and show this administration that we're calling their bluff. Those checks aren't coming, and Republicans aren't coming back.

What your Super Smash Bros character says about you

By REX NAYLOR
Staff Writer

Super Smash Bros. has been a game millions have enjoyed since its inception in 1999. Since the semester started, Smash has become a group bonding activity for my suitemates and me. With that being said, not every game has everyone smiling at the end.

With any video game, certain characters have more power than others — Super Smash Bros. is no exception. Before every game starts, there are eyes shifting, groans and arguments about who is playing with what character.

Each character says something about the person using it; take Mr. Game and Watch, for example. Mr. Game and Watch is tricky to fight against, so much so that there are dozens of Reddit threads dedicated to it.

Mr. Game and Watch users enjoy having the results without putting anything on the line to win the game. His juggling abilities keep enemies in the air for a combo loop to take over. In other words, Mr. Game and Watch users hate risks; they walk a golden brick road in nice little boots.

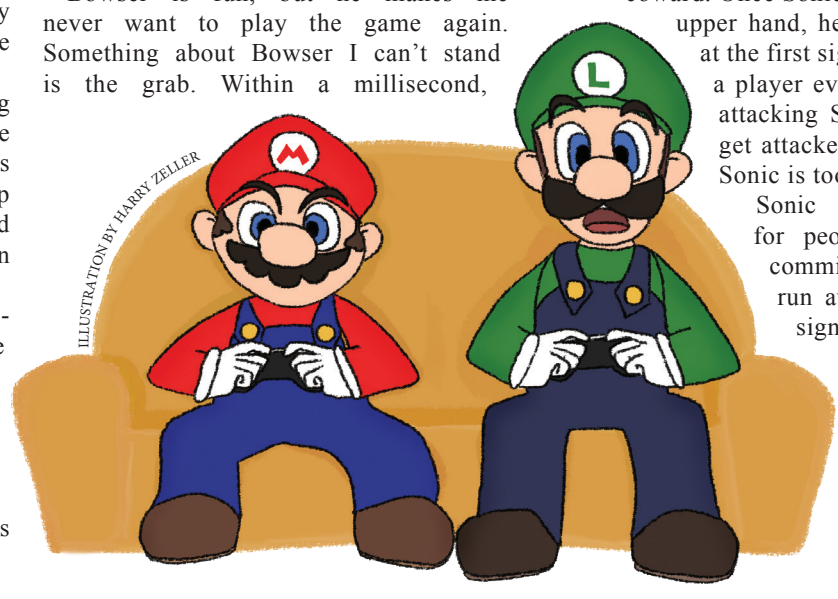
On the other side of the coin, there's Pac-Man. The character is fun but not effective in fights. His fire hydrant is ridiculous, and his recovery is tedious. If he gets his hands on the smash ball, pray you still have stocks left, as it's almost a guarantee you'll get eaten and thrown off the map.

Pac-Man is as slippery as water, and his users avoid fighting and wait to drag it out to reap the benefits of everyone else's work.

The DLC's — additional downloadable content — include a larger selection of characters, including Byleth. I won't lie, I used Byleth when Ness wasn't working out, and I never looked back. Byleth's down special can KO any character if their health is above 80%.

Byleth is for the people who aren't good at anything in real life, or any other character, really. I quickly realized how overpowered Byleth was, so I had to switch to Link. For those who still use her, they need to touch grass and put their energy into something more useful.

Bowser is fun, but he makes me never want to play the game again. Something about Bowser I can't stand is the grab. Within a millisecond, Bowser has you in your arms as you can't defend yourself, and a ground pound is a guaranteed 15% damage dealt.



Even worse, if the Bowser user is in a bad mood, he'll jump off the map and take you with him. Bowser is a bully, plain and simple. Bowser users are scum of the earth, and every time I play in a battle with Bowser, I pray I don't end up in a 1on 1.

Link is one of the most enjoyable characters in the game. No move is particularly powerful and his agility makes for an easy introduction to the game. I may be biased, but there's no real fist-clenching moments when playing against Link.

Sonic the Hedgehog, more like Sonic the coward. Once Sonic has any sort of upper hand, he will run away at the first sight of danger. If a player even thinks about attacking Sonic, they will get attacked regardless, as Sonic is too quick.

Sonic the coward is for people who can't commit in life and run away at the first sign of adversity. If you look at any Reddit thread related to Smash Bros., Sonic is the number one topic of conversation for hated characters — and for good reason.

Of course, there's a character who isn't supposed to be good; yet they always find a way to ruin your day. That character is Little Mac. Little Mac is fast, but if he gets in the air, he is finished. Despite this, his KO punch is more than lethal, and his speed makes for a hard fight.

His recovery is awful, his grab is limited, and his combos are dull. So, this begs the question of why Little Mac is so hated? He forces opponents to play defensively, and his super armour keeps him around much longer than he should be.

Little Mac is for the people who need an extra bump, the people who need a seat booster to sit at the dinner table. He's the little sibling looking at you with a snobbish face, with his tongue out, saying "I told you so." He's annoying, and losing to him is worse than any other character in all of Smash.

Donkey Kong is another character, the great ape. Again, there aren't any overpowered abilities ending a match early, and the grab feature isn't as automatic as Bowser's. His punch and combos aren't as lethal, and the damage tolerance means matches can last, keeping everyone on the edge of their seats.

Super Smash Bros. is all about balance and having a good time at the end of the day, so play whoever you choose. Just know, you may make some enemies depending on what character you pick.