Forever Wrong

The U.S. is experiencing its most devastating collapse of a corrupt puppet government in almost forty years, proceeding at an ever-increasing rate. The New Hampshire branch of the Party of Lincoln.

The Corner Office

Walt Havenstein and Andrew Hemingway are competing for the Gubernatorial nomination of New Hampshire’s Republican Party. In other words, they’re contesting to see who gets to lose to Maggie Hassan this November. That may sound like partisan cheerleading, but against Hassan’s poll numbers and approval ratings, neither of them stands a chance. Andrew Hemingway has been awfully quiet for a political candidate. The New Hampshire branch of the Party of Lincoln.

And They’re Off! (Some of Them by Quite a Bit)

The filing period has ended and the rosters are set; the Primary Election campaign of 2014 has now begun in earnest.

For the next ten weeks the four Democratic candidates for Governor, U.S. Senate, and our two Congressional Districts — all of them incumbents — may sit on their porches sipping lemonade: they have no challengers.

Republicans, on the other hand, have 12 candidates vying for just four nominations. This would seem to set the stage for a real battle royale.

But we digress. Enough of the candidates must muster at least a semi-competent campaign. That may or may not happen.

Its a hell of a state to be in for a State which, within living memory, used to consistently vote Republican. The prevailing explanation for this within the Party has been, as far as we can tell, that the leftward shift has been the result of a steady influx of liberals from Texas.

That very shur upon the Commonwealth, though, demon- strates the weakness of the argument. While Massachusetts’s anti-tax attitude has done is draw in tax-takers from south of the border. They have pulled the Party ever-further into the Right — right into unselectability.

But we digress — we were go- ing to revel in the entertainment so thoughtfully provided by the New Hampshire branch of the Party of Lincoln. The Corner Office

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An interview with Cheney, Fox News anchormodel Megyn Kelly ran through a litany of his greatest misses. “Time and time again, history has proven that you got it wrong as well in Iraq, sir. You said there was no doubt Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction. You said we would be greeted as liberators. You said the Iraq insurgency was in its last throes back in 2005.”

Then she whipped him with her version of Churchill’s line, formulated as a question. “What do you say to those who say you were so wrong about so much at the expense of so many?”

True to form, Cheney replied, “No, I just fundamentally dis- agree, Reagan — uh, Megyn. Dodgeball as Olympic Sport

Cheney is not the only guilty party capable of Olympic feats of denial; nor is Fox News the only alleged news outfit willing to drink from the poisoned well. MSNBC’s Chuck Todd inter- viewed Paul Wolfowitz, the for- mer Assistant Secretary of De- fense, accurately introducing him as the architect of the Iraq War.

Wolfowitz disputed his own identity. “[I]f I’d been the archi- tect,” he said, “things would have been run very differently, so that’s not a correct label.”

Todd, a card-carrying member of the elite liberal media, work- ing for a network widely cast as the Left Wing equivalent of Fox News, capitulated immediately. “OK,” Todd said, before Wolf- owitz could even complete his lie. “That’s fair enough.”

Nothing To See Here

Last summer the neo-cons pressured President Obama to bomb Syria because President Assad had chemical weapons.

Now, as the engines of the Iraqiiasco deny their responsibil- ity for it, Syria’s chemical weapons have been eliminated through di- drink from the poisoned那些 chemical weapons.

The Alleged News

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be open to tax fraud charges in Maryland — hardly a plus in the general election campaign.

Two other Republicans, Jonathan Smolin of Alton and Daniel J. Greene of Pittsfield, are nominally running for Governor. Neither seems to have done a thing toward that end, though, besides paying the $100 fee to file papers.

In this screenshot from an online video, excommunicated Free State Project member and current New Hampshire resident Chris Cantwell burns Old Glory in his back yard. In the video, Cantwell simultaneously maintains that “this is the most oppressive government in the history of mankind,” and that governments do not exist. The Flag Police have chosen not to cite him for desecrating the national emblem. Cantwell on the grounds of insanity.

Glory in his back yard. In the video, Cantwell simultaneously maintains that “this is the most oppressive government in the history of mankind,” and asserts that governments do not exist. The Flag Police have chosen not to cite him for desecrating the national emblem.

For example, this photo proves that at 5:12 p.m. on Sunday, June 15th, a Robinson R44 II with registration number N184SC was flying over Prescott Park. The machine is owned and operated by Seacoast Helicopters, which flies out of Pease Tradeport. It’s not so easy to say who was piloting the noisy little beast. Judging from an advertisement we heard Friday, June 20th, on WQSO radio — the Seacoast’s primary source for Right Wing blather — the person at the controls could have been a licensed pilot, or just some random jamoke who wandered in off the street with $250 to burn.

“First we teach you the basics of helicopter flight,” the ad said, “Then we strap you into the pilot seat, and with the instructor in the co-pilot seat, you take to the sky. This is not a scenic ride. You are on the controls flying the helicopter around the beautiful Seacoast area. Call us to live your dream today at …” [Emphasis added.]

Defending the Indefensible Attention, citizens of New Hampshire: you may now remove your earplugs and move about the state without quite so much fear of going deaf. According to “The Official Website of The 91st Annual [commercial plug redacted] Laconia Motorcycle Week®” (you can Google™ the URL if you like — we’ll be damned if we’ll enable its proprietors) this year’s prolonged and relentless assault on your tympanic membranes is now over.

Of course, if you live in Portsmouth and walk its sidewalks, your ears will be subjected to random high-decibel assaults from loud bikes constitute a privileged class which is made up of people who feel an inexplicable need to emit a deafening noise whenever they make yet another pointless journey down Congress Street. They act like they have every right to break local and state noise laws with impunity. And since they rarely get ticketed, much less arrested, it seems that they’re right about that.

Why is it that all our law-abiding citizens — and our scofflaws, grabbing snapshots of helicopters flying over downtown Portsmouth. It’s not easy to get a usable image of a moving target at an unknown distance while moving along an unpredictable path, especially with the mediocre equipment we provide. It can be rewarding though. Succeed and you have photographic evidence that can help establish exactly — or approximately — who it is that’s flying over our heads.

Our Wandering Photographer has been having great sport lately, drawing on the sidewalks annoying Keene’s meter maids, and writing along an unpredictable path, especially with the mediocre equipment we provide. It can be rewarding though. Succeed and you have photographic evidence that can help establish exactly — or approximately — who it is that’s flying over our heads.

Now until the Halloween Parade. It’s not so easy to say who was piloting the noisy little beast. Judging from an advertisement we heard Friday, June 20th, on WQSO radio — the Seacoast’s primary source for Right Wing blather — the person at the controls could have been a licensed pilot, or just some random jamoke who wandered in off the street with $250 to burn.

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Why is it that all our law-abiding citizens — and our scofflaws,
and our neer-do-wells, and our other miscellaneous miscreants—have to put up with these noisy rolling oafs? What makes them a special, privileged class? Could anyone else get away with florishing the law this way?

Take an artist, for example. Artists frequently draw or paint in downtown Portsmouth (and the day that’s outlawed we’re leaving: 258 years of tradition be damned!). If a sculptor, though, were to prop up a tree trunk in Market Square, fire up a Stihl 880 Magnum chainsaw, and start carving it into an effigy of PeeWee Herman, he’d be cuffed in about five minutes.

For years, citizens have asked for more rigorous enforcement of our existing laws. The response from law enforcement officials—we use the term loosely—has been, “but … but … it’s harmonious.”

A couple of times a year, Portsmouth police used to detail four or five cops to deploy a wooden gùnzo and a decibel meter in front of the North Church, to demonstrate how hard it was. Why, it was almost as if the law had been engineered to be un-enforceable.

During a recent session of the legislature an effort was made to pass a simpler law that could be enforced without so much superfluous rigmarole. It was shot down by aggressive lobbying from the local Harley dealers. So, the status quo prevails: we have a flimsy, hard-to-enforce law which was intermittently “enforced,” somewhat reducing the bluntness of the ongoing violations.

Recently, our two U.S. Senators reached across the aisle to address this situation. Unfortunately the result could serve as an argument for continued gridlock: all they accomplished was further to enable the Huns on the Harleys. They co-sponsored an amendment prohibiting the National Highway Safety Administration from issuing grants to fund motorcycle-only checkpoints. So, even the demonstrations of the old law’s futility must now be curtailed.

What’s next? Free vuvuzelas for everybody, emblazoned with the Harley logo? The NH Rebellion Gets Rolling

We’re indebted to our friend Jean Stimmell, of Northwood [right,] for this dispatch on a vital topic: ‘The NH Rebellion’ is gearing up for a campaign to return elections to the people. It aims to get the corruption of big money out of politics, a scourge that is increasingly polarizing us, poisoning the well of our civic life, and preventing us from constructively engaging the many great issues that confront us today.

“The NH Rebellion is indeed the real deal! The name alone attracted me like a bee to pollen. After doing research, I discovered that the NH Rebellion is geared up to make big money in politics the central issue of the 2016 presidential primary. The NH Rebellion is a totally non-partisan organization appealing to 96 percent of Americans who want to return elections to the people. It aims to get the corruption of big money out of politics, a scourge that is increasingly polarizing us, poisoning the well of our civic life, and preventing us from constructively engaging the many great issues that confront us today.

“Today, the increasingly polarized atmosphere of our country, the NH Rebellion could start a much needed conversation about something we can all agree upon, a conversation that could be healing and help re-unite us. The founder of NH Rebellion is Lawrence Lessig, professor of law and leadership at Harvard University and one of Scientific American’s Top 50 visionaries. You can see his TED talk at bit.ly/1zyAytW, The Executive Director is Jeff McLean who lives right here in Portsmouth. The NH Rebellion will make big money in politics the central issue of the 2016 primary. To start with, the NH Rebellion needs 50,000 folks to sign our petition. Next, for those near the Seacoast, NH Rebellion invites you to join us on Saturday, July 5th to walk the New Hampshire Seacoast, following in the footsteps of Granny D, the 88-year-old New Hampshire woman who walked across the country, from Los Angeles to Washington, D.C., to protest the corruption of how we fund campaigns in this country. For more information, check out the website: www.nhrebellion.org.

“Power to the people!”

-30-

Longtime readers know we love to mock the Portsmouth Herald. Recently, though, the Award-Winning Local Daily has been giving the NH Rebellion extensive, positive, and smart coverage written by Howard Altschiller, Executive Editor of the Herald’s parent company, Seacoast Media Group. Any campaign that has the Gazette and the AWLD seeing eye-to-eye has got potential.
Guinta’s Ludicrous Claim
To the Editor:
Former First District Cong-
gressman Frank Guinta has never
been one to let facts get in the
way of telling a story, as evidenced
in his recent outrageous claim of
voter fraud involving supporters
of Congresswoman Carol Shea-
Porter. Referring to approximately
100,000 New Hampshire citizens
who registered on Election Day in
2012, he reportedly told talk radio
host Howie Carr that “... the vast
majority of those 100,000, people, I’ll
call it voter fraud because I
only 100 percent believe that it
was voter fraud.”
Mr. Guinta’s accusation, which
would have far reaching implica-
tions if it were fact-based, was not
only an insult to approximately
54 percent of the voting citizenry
of the Congressional District he
wishes to serve but also to those
individuals who tirelessly volun-
teeer at polling stations to make
our elections operate smoothly.
His groundless claim demonstra-
tes his cynicism towards the
U.S. Constitution, our system of
democracy with free and fair elec-
tions, the U.S. Constitution, our system of
democracy with free and fair elec-
tions, and the American people!
Mr. Guinta would like you to
have believe that he lost the last
election due to massive voter
fraud, but I will assure you that he
was soundly rejected, fairly and
squarely, in the voting booth for
a multitude of reasons, including:
his radical position on women’s
reproductive rights, wanting to
impose creationism in schools,
desire to abolish the Department
of Education, and his incessant
attempts to repeal the Affordable
Care Act. Mr. Guinta was further-
more more memorable for his work as
a Tea Party affiliated member of
the do-nothing 112th Congress
responsible for draconian budget
proposals, imposing sequestra-
tion, and setting the stage for the
recent government shutdown.
The primary reason I never
have and never will vote for Frank
Guinta or Scott Brown is that
they are both dirty and paid for by
the likes of the billionaire, energy
magnate Koch Brothers and Wall
Street fat cats, et al. I am confident
that the intelligent and informed
voting citizens of the First Dis-
trict are poised to vote, and recog-
nize that Guinta and Brown serve
two masters: themselves; and their
billionaire campaign contributors, who
don’t give a rat scat about New
Hampshire.
Warren Merritt
Dover, NH

§
How to Make an Atheist Pray
To the Editor:
So, let me get this straight: the
neo-conservative jack-ass who
got us into the mess in Iraq in the
first place, under false pretenses
no less, are suddenly popping up
all over the place telling us what
to do about its disastrous conse-
quences. Unbelievable.
Anyone who didn’t predict what is
happening today in Iraq as a result
of our ill-conceived invasion is a
raging moron. Simple logic and the
reading of history would tell you
this would happen. I pre-
dicted it and I am neither a politi-
cian nor a “pundit.” I just took it
upon myself to read up and learn
instead of just believing anything
the incredibly ill-informed media
pucker out.

Almost 4,500 American sol-
diers killed and tens of thousands
maimed, hundreds of thousands
of Iraqis killed (I know, who cares
about them?) and almost 2 tril-
lion bucks spent so far and count-
ing. And we have a Congress that
wants to save a few bucks by cut-
ting lunch programs for the poor
people. Wow. You better get down
on your hands and knees and pray
before God that there will be no
judgment day. And even though I
am an atheist, I will join you.

Robert “Wheel Gun Bob” Ford
Portsmouth NH

Guinta back in Washington with his
harmful “you’re on your own”
attitude.
Beth Olhansky
Durham, NH

§
Parsing William Marvel
To the Editor:
William Marvel compares
comments made by a black
American woman visiting Paris
with that of the [LA Clippers basket-
ball team owner] Donald Sterling
statement [in which he asked his
girlfriend not to bring her black
friends to ball games]. Mr. Marvel
concludes that blacks and whites
are held to a different standard.
But this analysis fails on at least
two points.
Mr. Sterling is the public owner of a National Basketball Associ-
ation team. His comments offend-
ed both the basketball players and
the paying public. The basketball
team through the commissioner
took action against Mr. Sterling
for a public relations disaster.
The American woman in Paris is
a private citizen not held to the
same standard of conduct.
Perhaps more important is that
the woman’s comment is an insen-
sitive observation whereas Mr.
Sterling made a racist statement.
The woman simply commented
that she observed that young
Parisian white women were not
intimidated by her and her pres-
sumably, black American friend.
Such observations are a pleasure
to travel. The American woman
uses the “it” word to refer to the
Parisian women, but that is the
present slang among urban youth.
Mr. Sterling on the other hand
was recorded asking a friend not
to be seen in public with a black
man. His comment is offensive
and apparently the most recent in
a chain of racist actions.
Gregory Kalkanis
Oakland, CA

§§
Mas, Notes, HATE MAIL,
American Exceptionalism
To the Editor:
Exceptionalism is a neutral
word as it can reference some-
thing exceptionally good or ex-
ceptionally bad. Human beings,
and their respective nations, have
clearly shown themselves to be
capable of both.
The notion of American Ex-
ceptionalism has been in the news
very recently — President Obama
in his West Point commencement
address said “I believe in Ameri-
can Exceptionalism with every
fiber of my being.” He also said
that “The United States is one
indispensable nation.” However,
I feel that if we are able to take
a sober, objective look at our na-
tion, we will see that, like many
other nations, we have done some
exceptionally good things and some
exceptionally bad ones. We fought
and won an exceptionally great
Revolution to create a de-
ocracy and free ourselves from
the oppressive rule of a king; yet,
in the building of a new nation we
did commit horrifically terrible
things — we committed geno-
cide against the Native American
people and participated in the
brutal and murderous institution
of slavery.
In my own lifetime I have seen
both sides of our national charac-
ter on display. Our journey to
the moon is an exceptionally good
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And Other Correspondence

ally wonderful accomplishment of the people of our nation coming together to elect our first African-American president.

On the other hand we have an exceptionally violent side which has led to some exceptionally bad actions of President Kennedy, Robert Kennedy, and Martin Luther King, the Holocaust that we visited upon Vietnam with our carpet bomb- ing and massive use of chemical weapons, our illegal invasion of Iraq, our nightmarish development of drone warfare and a military budget that dwarfs the rest of the world. It is also exceptionally bad that we have the largest prison population in the world with 80,000 people in solitary confine- ment and that we remain the only industrial democracy in the world to not guarantee health care for all its people. We also have an excep-
tionally bad record when it comes to the issues of income inequality and dealing with the planetary emergency of global warming.

Jeff Vogler
Sunnyside, NY

§

Looking Down The Barrel
To the Editor:

Guns are literally stitched into the American fabric. The U.S. possesses more guns per capita than any other country in the world. Yemen is a distant second. Frequently in strife, Yemen has an active branch of Al Qaeda. Not only are we one number in possessing guns, we’re at the top of the list for using them le-

thally. Countries with the lowest gun homicides, almost zero per 100,000, are Japan, South Korea and Iceland, all of which have strong gun laws. Homicides from firearms are over 32 times greater in America than in the United Kingdom and Australia.

The cost — mostly to taxpayers — for medical treatment, criminal justice proceedings, security pre-
cations and reduction in quality of life due to sky-high American gun violence has been estimated at $100 billion annually. The ex-

tent of this unhealthy situation should be self-evident.

With 300,000,000 guns in America, and sales surging, it’s unrealistic to expect America to make meaningful inroads into this problem given the failure to have done so in the face of per-


tual gun crimes.

The Second Amendment right to bear arms, a favorite argument on the part of the gun proponents, is a ruse. The landmark 2008 Su-
preme Court case did uphold the Second Amendment, but they also took pains to carve out many exceptions, calling for reasonable restrictions on that right. This is true of our constitutional rights generally — they’re not absolute. We must be reasonable. Just as we have the First Amendment right of free speech, one can’t yell fire in a crowded theater nor disturb the peace, &c.

A generation ago, conserva-
tive Supreme Court Chief Justice Warren Burgem, put it strongly.

“The Second Amendment has been the subject of one of the greatest pieces of fraud, on the American public by special inter-

est groups that I have ever seen in my lifetime.”

The “good guy” against the “bad guy” is another rallying cry by gun devotees. But just who are the good and bad guys? Recently two cops were fatally ambushed by a couple who viewed the law as the enemy. Good guys, bad guys and in between are in the eyes of the beholder — note the Trayvon Martin case.

The gun lobby would have you believe that the real aim is to con-

fuse all their guns. This is hype to rally the base because guns are as American as apple pie. We have a long history of hunting and gun ownership.

Today in America, more than 18,000 children are shot by guns each year in assaults, suicides and accidents! Guns used in these tragedies are often from their own home, or that of a friend or family member — unsafe ac-

cess. About 1.7 million kids live with unlocked and loaded fire-

arms. Hiding guns is not enough and just talking to children is not enough. They are curious, and if they find guns they’re likely to play with them.

Since the Newtown massacre there have been 74 school shoot-

ings! The life of each of our chil-

dren, every single one, matters and is worthy of our passionate pro-

tection. Rights demand responsi-

bility. This right does not extend to terrorists, it does not extend to criminals and it does not extend to the mentally disturbed.

A gun-besotted nation where each citizen has the right to pos-

sess as many weapons of poten-

tial mass destruction as he or she wants, that right being considered sacred and inviolable, surrender to a deep-seated vulnerability and opens the gates to chaos.

Michael Kulla
Pleasant Valley, NY

§

Havenstein’s Out of Touch
To the Editor:

The more I read about GOP hopefuls and their at-
tempts to rally the base because guns are Old as

the good and bad guys? Recently

Madore Electric
Organic Lawn and Garden Care

GENTS ATTIRE

Old as Adam

New Hampshire Gazette

Friday, June 27, 2014 - The New Hampshire Gazette - Page 5

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Organic Lawn and Garden Care

HeidelbergFarms.com

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The Man to Blame

by William Marvel

Eight years ago my wife and I bicycled to Canada the day after school closed, but as the Fourth of July weekend approached I grew anxious to return. We left our campground near Saint-Herménégilde Friday morning, scaling up a bear just past the entrance, and after breakfast in Cana we followed the Vermont side of the river as far as Lancaster. To avoid the thickening traffic — and the increasingly thick drivers — we would go up over a precipitous mountain road to Lost Nation, coming out on Route 2 in Jefferson that evening just as it began to rain. Cars and trucks were zipping by uncomfortably close, so when my wife spotted the Starr King Grange she made for it. We pitched our tent on the porch, finishing our evening tent on the porch, finishing our meal, and then we went up to the Little Theatre to watch a play. It was then after midnight, and the area seemed to be deserted.

I had only a vague notion of who Thomas Starr King was. His name popped up frequently in newspapers during the Civil War years, and especially early in 1864, during his last illness. His career as a Unitarian minister offered little interest to me, and his posting to California from 1860 effectively removed him from the political environment; I always thought his reputation for keeping California in the Union badly overblown.

I was, however, aware that he had written a book about his travels in the White Mountains, and that seems to have been his claim to local fame and infamy. His professed object in The White Hills: Their Legends, Landscape, and Poetry was to “direct attention to the noble landscapes” on the way to the White Mountains, and he certainly did that. From its appearance in 1859 his book traveled north with thousands of visitors, especially after 1861, when the Mount Washington stage road made it possible for even the least tourists to enjoy the view from New England’s loftest peak. The publishers had to keep printing new editions to meet the demand.

Seeking to please everyone, King offered at least a modicum of flattery for each town along the way, but his eternally positive tone left the impression that anything short of a superlative compliment reflected damnation by faint praise. That seemed to be the case with Conway, which he barely mentioned alongside the better-known village a few miles north. He noted that Conway “naturally divided” the long stagecoach ride from Center Harbor to Pinkham Notch, remarking on the sprawling Conway House as “a large and excellent hotel,” but he observed that most people considered it “a mere resting-place for the night.” Those who failed to rise early enough to catch the stage for North Conway and the Glen House hardly knew what to do with their day, he claimed, so he offered a couple of halfhearted suggestions. They might spin down to see Mount Chocorua and its lake, or go a few miles off the main road, or they could visit Elbridge Potter’s farm, with its panoramic view of the mountains from the hill overlooking what King called “Gould’s Pond.”

He saved most of his more glittering adjectives for the sites around North Conway, advocating for Diana’s Baths, the ledges, “Kiarsarge,” Artist’s Brook, and the view from Sunset Hill — which, with his penchant for imprecise local nomenclature, he identified as Artist’s Hill, or simply “the hill in North Conway.” Throughout the book, even after he had finished the chapter on the Saco Valley, he kept alluding to North Conway as the central memory of his tour, but once he left the Conway House he had no more to say about that village.

When Nathaniel Abbott died in his home beside the Conway House, late in 1863, local creditors who had expected to claim much of his fortune found that he had left little worth taking. His presumed wealth had been underemined entirely by debt, and his insolvency plunged the local economy into a tailspin. Abbott owed the most to the owner of the Conway House, and the snow precluded much-needed revivifications for the tourist season of 1864. Thenceforward, Conway steadily lost ground as the premier stopping place on the trip north. Starr King succumbed to diphtheria early in March that year, out in California, but new printings of his books were still persuading travelers to bypass Conway and continue on to North Conway. Two men who died during the same winter died more than anyone to seal the fate or the village by the next summer, consigning it to a more pedestrian destiny.
By W.D. Ehnhart

As I watch events unfolding in Iraq over the last weeks, I find myself wondering if Iraq War veterans are feeling the way I felt in March and April of 1975 when the fiction that was South Vietnam collapsed like a house of cards. Eight years earlier, I had arrived in Vietnam as a 19-year-old Marine, convinced of the rightness of our cause, and eager to save the Vietnamese from the scourge of communism. I left Vietnam thirteen months later, wounded in body and spirit, struggling to process the reality that our Saigon allies were corrupted and incompetent, their soldiers largely unwilling or unable to fight, while my Viet Cong enemies were dedicated and relentless.

When, seven years after my return, the entire edifice crumbled in a matter of weeks, even after more than twenty years of U.S. support and a decade of massive U.S. military effort, I was neither surprised nor angry nor jubilant. I just felt empty. Utterly empty. Fifty-eight thousand dead Americans, some of them my friends. Millions of Vietnamese and Laotians and Cambodians. And for what? Years later, Dean Rusk blamed our defeat on the failure of the American people to have the will to soldier on to victory. Peter Beinart blamed it on the liberal media, who, he argued in his book The Big Story, made the U.S. victory at Tet 1968 look like a U.S. defeat. The redoubtable Col. Harry Summers, Jr. (Ret.) argued that we never lost a single battle. Others blamed the antimwar movement or the meddling politicians who made the military “fight with one hand tied behind its back.”

It never seems to have occurred to any of these very bright and powerful people that Vietnam was not and never had been ours to win or lose. It never occurred to them that Vietnamese dedication, motivation, and determination — an ancient proclivity to resist — is all about us: US. U.S. power and a decade of massive U.S. military intervention, now we seem to have failed to create a viable and self-governing Vietnam.

To find out, a few citizens remembering the incompetence, corruption, and inability of a government we created and have supported for over a decade and once again, according to a June 14, 2014, op-ed piece in The Washington Post written by a prominent counter-insurgency expert, “by declining to provide a long-term security assistance force to an Iraq not yet able to handle the fight itself, we pulled defeat from the jaws of victory.”

He goes on to argue, “We are reaping the instability and increased threat to U.S. interests that we [emphasis in the original] have sown through the failure of our endgame in Iraq .... There is a clear lesson here for those contem- plating a complete withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan.”

It does not seem to occur to him or those who agree with him, as it did not occur to the politicians and generals who created and persisted in the disaster that was the Vietnam War, that Iraq was never ours to win or lose. Just as we could not train our Saigon allies to become self-sufficient in spite of massive U.S. aid and intervention, now we seem to have failed to create a viable and self-governing government in Baghdad — and it’s all our fault because we pulled out too soon instead of having the moxie to stay the course.

It has nothing to do, according to this point of view, with the motivation, composition, determina- tion (or lack of determination) of our allies and their opponents; it is all about us: U.S. U.S. The Iraq War was not, of course, the Vietnam War. The differences are myriad. But there are two similarities, and those two things are the differences: 1) in each case, U.S. policymakers tasked the military with achieving goals that were and are unattainable by force of arms; and 2) when you send scared and heavily armed kids into a hostile environment they have no hope of understanding or navigating, nothing good will result.

Oh, yes, there is one more similarity, and that is the arrogance of bright and powerful people who persist in imaging that America can military might can accomplish whatever they desire, and in blaming their failures on anything and anyone but their own ignorance.

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Admiral Fowlé's PisCataqua River Tidal Guide (Not for Nautical Purposes)

Monday, June 30
1.30—A moonless first quarter moon descends below the horizon, marking the beginning of the week
2.30—In New York City, George W. Bush takes a hand off the handlebars to notice at pale of Bush ship and strikes a politician, causing a furor
3.30—A 510 Miles spoon by J. Bob Meese is munched by eager intelligentsia to justify standing in line to see it
4.30—An FBI Special Agent, det. Catholic, paves a bridge, and det. Robert the Robert is phoned to query U.S. secret to avoid making noise
5.30—It is raining below, the Niren, Administration forms the "Phantom Unit"
6.30—A 134 with a mole ex-husband (nominated last night and cut at Berkeley AP), B.A. Both plates and monopole are destroyed
7.30—The 97 for All Star Game is playing at Yankee Stadium in New York, the first home run
8.30—The Army begins using dog tags to improve its method of accounting for dead Civils
9.30—U.S. troops mass in Nicaragua to protect U.S. interests
10.30—In Philadelphia, private Potsdam and Sikh Catholics addresses a crowd of critics with a fire in his chest of St. Philip's night
11.30—In New Jersey, kushion O. Beacham, Ensign is busy earning its pay, and Ensign is busy earning its pay, and Ensign is busy earning its pay
12.30—In Philadelphia, the city's first solar eclipse is observed, and citizens are shut, cashed in, and taken to a small and middling pace succeeded.
13.30—In Philadelphia, Philadelphia Mint is about to be closed, and citizens are shut, cashed in, and taken to a small and middling pace succeeded.
14.30—In Philadelphia, the Liberty Bell will toll with the death of Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall. Legend says it died that day, but that's been a rumor.
15.30—In Cambridge, C.U.B. had failed to pass a resolution that would have allowed a self-indulgent student to bask in the sun's rays with his friends, but the resolution was voted down by a small and middling pace succeeded.
16.30—In Philadelphia, the city's first solar eclipse is observed, and citizens are shut, cashed in, and taken to a small and middling pace succeeded.
17.30—In Philadelphia, private Potsdam and Sikh Catholics addresses a crowd of critics with a fire in his chest of St. Philip's night
18.30—In New Jersey, kushion O. Beacham, Ensign is busy earning its pay, and Ensign is busy earning its pay, and Ensign is busy earning its pay
19.30—In Philadelphia, the city's first solar eclipse is observed, and citizens are shut, cashed in, and taken to a small and middling pace succeeded.
20.30—In Philadelphia, private Potsdam and Sikh Catholics addresses a crowd of critics with a fire in his chest of St. Philip's night
21.30—In New Jersey, kushion O. Beacham, Ensign is busy earning its pay, and Ensign is busy earning its pay, and Ensign is busy earning its pay
22.30—In Philadelphia, the city's first solar eclipse is observed, and citizens are shut, cashed in, and taken to a small and middling pace succeeded.
23.30—In Philadelphia, the Liberty Bell will toll with the death of Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall. Legend says it died that day, but that's been a rumor.
24.30—In Cambridge, C.U.B. had failed to pass a resolution that would have allowed a self-indulgent student to bask in the sun's rays with his friends, but the resolution was voted down by a small and middling pace succeeded.
25.30—In Philadelphia, the city's first solar eclipse is observed, and citizens are shut, cashed in, and taken to a small and middling pace succeeded.
26.30—In Philadelphia, the Liberty Bell will toll with the death of Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall. Legend says it died that day, but that's been a rumor.
27.30—In Cambridge, C.U.B. had failed to pass a resolution that would have allowed a self-indulgent student to bask in the sun's rays with his friends, but the resolution was voted down by a small and middling pace succeeded.
28.30—In Philadelphia, the city's first solar eclipse is observed, and citizens are shut, cashed in, and taken to a small and middling pace succeeded.
29.30—In Philadelphia, the Liberty Bell will toll with the death of Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall. Legend says it died that day, but that's been a rumor.
30.30—In Cambridge, C.U.B. had failed to pass a resolution that would have allowed a self-indulgent student to bask in the sun's rays with his friends, but the resolution was voted down by a small and middling pace succeeded.
31.30—In Philadelphia, the city's first solar eclipse is observed, and citizens are shut, cashed in, and taken to a small and middling pace succeeded.