Dueling Filibusters

Let us gather such rosebuds of amenability as we may during this, the spring of our primary election season. The odds are that when it's over we'll be stuck with a choice between two warmed-over dynastic retreads disliked by large sectors of their own political parties. An epidemic of death by boredom could well ensue.

The preliminaries promise to be entertaining, though. Orly in America could two rivals face off, both proudly claiming as a chief qualification that they have single-handedly brought their own government to a grinding halt.

Senator Rand Paul ostensibly launched his presidential campaign just ten days ago in Louisville, Kentucky. The event commenced — so say news reports; you couldn't pay us enough to watch such tripe — with a series of nonentities introducing each other ad nausum. Well, before Paul finally took the stage.

That drawn-out launch party was reminiscent of Paul's filibuster of March, 2013, when he droned on about drones for more than twelve hours. Or was the filibuster his launch party and the Louisville event just a sequel? Despite all his talk, Paul doesn't always seem concerned about the civil liberty issues raised by the practice of using drones to summarily execute suspects. Six weeks after his famous filibuster, he said on Fox News, "if someone comes out of a liquor store with a weapon and $50 in cash, I don't care if a drone kills him or a policeman kills him." Nary a mention of trial, jury, or conviction.

At least Paul's filibuster helped, however belatedly, to put drone assassination on the national agenda — eleven years after they began.

Six months later, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz face-filibustered Obamacare, rambling on for nine hours longer than Paul. When he was finally done with his rendition of Green Eggs and Ham, his reading of a screed by Rush Limbaugh's father, and whatever other hogwash he regurgitated, Cruz voted in favor of the amendment that he had supposedly been railing against.

Cruz's only real accomplishment, if you can call it that, came a week later. His meddling in the House of Representatives — where he has no Constitutional authority — resulted in the shutting down of the U.S. Government at a cost to the economy of 24 billion dollars.

Neither Cruz's nor Paul's filibuster advanced the interests of the public. They did result in an ample supply of fodder for future presidential campaign advertisements. But on the day either man is elected on the strength of those ads, the sun will rise in the West.

The Slacker Twins

Along with their penchant for grandstanding, both candidates share an apparent lack of interest in showing up for a vote. BuzzFeed reported on April 8th that Paul has apparently skipped more than 90 percent of the House's Homeland Security Committee meetings held since 2014. Cruz, for his part, has the worst attendance record in the Senate Armed Services Committee, according to Politico, appearing at just three out of 16 hearings.

Two Fathers, One Godfather

For their father's sake of liberty, neither man seems to have undergone that common rite of passage which usually signals its development into rebellion against paternal authority. Both developed their political beliefs at their daddy's knees, and neither seems to have evolved beyond them since their adolescence. Their DNA differs, but their economic views spring from a single source: Milton Friedman.

Cruz called it "a providential sign" when he won his nomination for Senate on what would have been Friedman's 100th birthday. "We are walking in Uncle Milton's footsteps," he said.

Paul said in 2013 that Friedman "would probably be [a] pretty good" Chair of the Fed — regardless of the fact he was dead. The prerogatives promise to be entertaining, though. Orly in America could two rivals face off, both proudly claiming as a chief qualification that they have single-handedly brought their own government to a grinding halt.

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AWOL for a full three weeks.

Let the record state that on Sunday, April 12, 2015, Spring finally report-
ed for duty at Latitude 43.077166°, Longitude -70.757637°, after being
sent to Florida for a few weeks.

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Blanchard, some time previ-
ously, had told investigators that
Conway’s husband’s name had been
improperly cleared from a list of police officers effectively
barred from testify in court due to potential credibility prob-
lems.

Conway denied having known
that it was Blanchard who re-
vealed that error — assuming
that the removal was an error,
and not an instance of intentional
wrongdoing. She has also refused
to say why she fired Blanchard.

Blanchard has threatened to
file Conway for wrongful dis-
missal. His attorney has of-
fered to settle out of court for
$250,000.

Conway asked the County
Commissioners, i.e., the tax-
iners, to foot the bill for her legal
defense. In late March, they de-
clined.

The situation seems to leave
Conway in a pickle, which is
why we thought the Party might
be stepping in to back up one of
their own. So far, though, nada.

In other County legal news,
Conway recently managed to
lose a jury trial against 28-year
old defendant Robert Wilson,
of Portsmouth, who successful-
ly acted as his own attorney —
without benefit of a law degree —
in a felony criminal threaten-
ing case.

Voter Fraud Prevention Fraud
The State’s Ballot Law Com-
mision [BLC] met in Dover
back in March at the request of
former City Councilor David
Scott and 250 other Dover cit-
zens from Wards 1 through 4.
They had invoked RSA 654:38,
which allows citizens to petition
the Commission for a “revision
and verification” of the checklists
in those wards. Had their peti-
tion been successful, all voters in
those wards would have had to
re-register in person or be strick-
en from the rolls. Assistant Sec-
retary of State Karen Ladd said,
according to Paster’s, that this was
the first such use of the statute in
at least forty years.

Paster’s published an op-ed by
Scott laying out the group’s gripe: “After the November 4,
2014 election a group in Dover
mailed first class letters to same
day registrants, of which there
were about 1,000. Over 70 came
back as undeliverable by the
USPS for various reasons such as
‘no such address or street’ or ‘un-
able to forward.’”

After the March hearing the
BLC denied Scott’s petition. Undeterred, Scott delivered 15
of the 70 returned letters to the
City of Dover, which obligingly
investigated.

“Of course he had an expla-
nation,” City Attorney Anthony
Blankinship told Paster’s. “Most
notably, on 11 of 13, Mr. Scott
and his colleagues had essentially
dressed them incorrectly.”

Strange Bedfellows
Martin O’Malley, former Gov-
ernor of Maryland, and John E.
Sununu, former Governor of
New Hampshire, appeared in our
Twitter feed April 8th, with the
message, “helping to raise mon-
ies for Rockingham County Re-
publicans,” our first thought was,
“Oh, how thoughtful — they
said to have fled “like a scalded
dog,” through the State Com-
mittee’s savage infighting over its
Chairmanship during the Jack
Kimball era, to this sad but ludi-

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error of Maryland, ex-Mayor of Baltimore, and “one of several” models for the character Tom- 
my Carcetti in the HBO drama “The Wire,” is considering a run for the Democratic nomination for President in 2016. O’Malley made 18 campaign trips between October 2013 and the end of
1990s,” according to the Post. He usually accompanies O’Malley on these trips but serves no cam-
paign function beyond providing the jet. He’s “just along for the ride.” That’s slightly unusual but not at all startling.

What is startling is that O’Malley’s aerial benefactor is also the husband of Fox News personality Greta Van Susteren. Is Bush #45 a Lamarckian?

Many people were surprised to learn that when J. Edgar “Jeb” Bush registered to vote in Flori-
da in 2009, he checked the box on the form indicating that he is Hispanic. It seems preposter-
ous because, let’s face it, Pappy and Babs really have that WASP thing nailed. After much consideration, we have come up with a possible explanation for this conundrum.
We offer it to the Bush cam-
paign, gratis.
Jean-Baptiste Lamarck (1744–
1829) was a French scientist who developed a theory that organisms can pass on to their off spring traits acquired during their lifetimes. His theory was discarded by the scientific com-
munity by the end of the 19th century.
This, though, is the 21st cen-
tury, and Bush is a Republican — he can believe or not believe anything he wants.
He has been married for more than forty years to Columba Garnica Gallo, who is of Mexi-
can descent. Perhaps he believes in a variation of Lamarckism in which organisms can pass on their traits to their spouses.
Why not? Is it any stranger than Scien
tology?

A Little Economic Perspective
The $28.5 billion in bonuses dished out to Wall Street employees [in 2014] is double the annu-
al pay for all 1,007,000 Ameri-
cans who work full-time at the current federal minimum wage of $7.25 per hour.
— Sarah Anderson, Institute for Policy Studies

Go to School, Go to Jail
If memory serves and things haven’t changed, certain students may occasionally compare atten-
dance at public school with time spent in jail.
Nowadays, it seems, that’s less of a metaphor and more a de-
scription.
The Center for Public Integ-
rity recently released a state-by-
state study of how often schools call cops on kids.
New Hampshire came in fifth in the nation. Of every 1,000 stu-
dents in our public schools, 11.7 were “referred” to police in 2011-
2012 — more than double the national average of 5.8.
Virginia had the highest rate of referrals with 15.8 per thou-
sand. Lawless Nevada had the lowest rate, just 1.3 students per thousand.
Our referral rate far exceeds the rest of New England: Ver-
mont, 6.8; Connecticut, 5.5; Massachusetts 2.4; Maine, 4.5; and Rhode Island, 2.8.
Members of racial minorities are famously rare in this state. Apparently we try to make up for that when it comes to bust-
ing our students, by giving them extra attention. Black kids ac-
count for just 2.1 percent of our students, but they were involved in 3.5 percent of all “referrals” to police.
Put another way, the referral rate for black kids is 19.3 out of a thousand. For white kids it’s 11.2 per thousand.

The Candidates are Coming!
On Saturday, April 18th, the New Hampshire Rebellion will celebrate Patriots’ Day with a 15-
mile Walk for Democracy from Lowell, MA to the largest gath-
ering of 2016 presidential can-
didates yet at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Nashua, NH.
The nonpartisan event will be-
gin at 8:30 a.m. with a ringing of the historic Paul Revere bell at the Pawtucket Congregational Church on Mammoth Road in Lowell. From 1:00 to 1:30 p.m. there will be a rally at Nashua City Hall.
The walk from there to the Crowne Plaza will be led by “Paul Revere” on horseback, on the 240th anniversary of his fa-
mous ride. As walkers arrive at the Crowne Plaza around 2:30 p.m., “Revere” will seek to deliver a message to the candidates, de-
manding that they support cam-
paign finance reform.
For more information visit nhrebellion.org/patriots_day.

"Ut sta non superesse, ut quidem, quo locum superesse, quidem immo necessarium," sayeth Luke 12:48 [King James Version]. That verse does not appear, of course, in the Flag Code [4 U.S. Code, Chapter 1], what with the separation of church and state and all that. The Flag Police labor under no such con-
strain, however, and include Luke 12:48 in an appendix to their Manual of Standard Operating Procedures, under the theory that it is altogether fitting and proper for memorials built under the patronage of wealthy de-
fense contractors to be held to the highest of standards.
The Execution of Martha Place

To the Editor: According to Wikipedia, Martha Place was executed on March 20th, 1899, not on April 8th, as you listed it on page 8 of the April 3rd edition of the New Hampshire Gazette. Please correct your listing for future use.

A group of us read the daily listings at breakfast. I check names of interest for further information. We appreciate your publication; please file this correspondence under Mash Notes.

Jennifer H. Stiefel

Dover, NH

Jennifer: Online sources differ as to the date of Marthe’s demise; some say March 20th, others, including Excavation of the Day and Murderpedia, say April 8th.

Upon your encouragement we investigated further. The Brookfield [NY] Courrier of March 22, 1899, says you and your crew are right — Martha rode the lightning on March 20th.

According to her brother, Martha “Mattie” Garrettson Place, daughter of Ellen [Wyckoff] and Isaac V. N. Garrettson, suffered what we would call a traumatic brain injury at the age of 23, and never completely recovered. She is said to have married widower William Place in 1893 “to help him raise his daughter, although it was later rumored that Martha was jealous of Ida.” Thank you for your efforts to help make this a better newspaper. The Editor

Let the Hyperventilation Begin!

To the Editor: Why does the Obama administration continue to ignore the American public when it comes to illegal immigration policy? Rasmussen released a survey yesterday showing that 83 percent of Americans believe that everyone should be required to prove that they are “legally allowed” to be in the country before receiving local, state or federal government services, and that 62 percent said that the U.S. is “not aggressive enough” in deporting those illegally in the United States.

To add insult to injury, it was just recently discovered that this year, the U.S. government is paying for (that means you are paying for) unaccompanied alien children to be flown into the U.S., even if they were convicted of a felony or previously deported, and furnish them with federal benefits to boot through a program launched in November 2014 by the Department of Homeland Security and the State Department called the In-Country Refugee/Parole Program for Central American Minors. You can read more about this at http://www.nation.alreview.com/2015/4/16/5454- previously-deported-immigrants-can-now-enter-us-tax-payers-dime-ryan-loveless.

Two thirds of the Central American public dislikes with the Administration’s immigration policy and forty-six percent blamed Obama’s immigration policy for the surge of “unaccompanied” Central American children crossing our border last year. Guess what? The surge is picking back up again in 2015 with more than 3,000 of them coming across our border last month.

Authorities report having trapped 15,647 children traveling without parents who tried to jump the border in the first six months of this fiscal year. Also, the Border Patrol has captured 13,911 “family units.” You can read more about this at http://www.wash-ingtonpost.com/blogs/in-your-interests/2015/ apri/6/illegal-immigrant-chil- dren-surge-across-border.html

Is this what President Obama meant by “transforming America”? Why does the American public get angry enough to do something about it? When will the states do something about it? When will Congress do something about it?

Arthur Bedford
San Augustine, TX

Arthur: In regard to your first question, we suspect that ignoring the public is the norm for every Administration — and your government is just as guilty in the United States.

You would, no doubt, like us to envision in horror some sort of Berlin Wall to reverse a fleet of 747’s bringing in borders of little brown children from the slums of Guatemala City. We desire.

The Editor

The Danger of Bombing Iran

To the Editor: Tom Cotton, the newly minted Senator from Arkansas, is now claiming that we could take out Iran’s nuclear production facilities, which is not true, just as President Clinton did Iraq’s chemical weapons plants when he was in office.

Let’s think about this. Iraq had weakened air defenses as we had been enforcing a no fly zone over the country for years. That isn’t the case in Iran. Russia has just announced it will supply Iran with its S-300 air defense system. Iran is now allied with all of Iraq’s former Iraqi troops in their country. There is a danger that Iraq’s Shia militia or army members could attack our troops and turn some over to Iran to reaction to us bombing or threatening to bomb Iran. We need to withdraw our troops, embassy personnel and American contractors from Iraq before bombing Iran. Try doing that without Iran trying to obtain our citizens and housing them at their nuclear plants.

If we did bomb Iran what else could it do to retaliate? It could attack our friends. It could attack Kuwait’s oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz. Tankers don’t travel without insurance. What insurance company would take the risk? Oil prices would shoot up benefitting Iran.

Iran shipped many missiles Syria. What if those missiles were launched from Israel. Does Israel attack Syria’s Assad and see the Islamic State to take over the country? Does it invade Syria and see all sides in Syria’s conflict unite against them?

Attacking Iran will not be without consequences for US and Israel. Those politicians and pundits trying to sabotage the peace talks should explain in detail how and why war is a better option. Those who claim they are for increased sanctions should explain what they would do when Iran kicks out the inspectors and races to build more.

Walter Hamilton
Portsmouth, NH

Walter: It is all well and good to consider the complexities of diplomacy in the volatile Middle East if your concern is the security of the U.S. and the safety of its armed forces.

All of that is irrelevant, however, when your true objective is gaining the support of the Washington Beltway.

The Editor

The Danger of Bombing Iran (cont.)

Senator Ayotte is Right on Iran

To the Editor: In an attempt to bring peace to the Middle East, President Obama has engaged in talks with Iran over its nuclear weapons program. As part of the deal, the U.S. and its allies will remove economic sanctions against Iran, enriching Iran in money and trade, and promoting its international prestige. Iran’s “military influence” in the Middle East will expand dramatically. A potential nuclear arms race may engulf the Middle East if all of our friends and ally, and the only democratic country in the region, is precariously close to imminent attack. Iran is reportedly the leading country for support of terrorism. Iran’s leaders have purportedly declared to “… wipe Israel off the map.”

In return, Iran will supposedly dismantle some of its present nuclear development for 15 years. Over the course of these talks in Geneva, let our representatives of the U.S. and our allies and the representatives of Iran, a letter was signed by 47 Republicans leaving to the Iranian leaders reminding them that the people of the U.S. are protected by the Constitution, namely the U.S. Constitution, which designates the Senate to approve (by a 2/3 vote) all treaties made by the President. In light of the preliminary agreement announced today, we, Americans and citizens of the world, need to meticulous scrutinize the “agreement.” If, after reading my letter by our elected representatives in the Senate, and if passage is enacted (a total and complete mess from here on out), I would feel more secure with the provisions of this agreement.

We, Americans, should all wish President Obama success with these talks! Under the U.S. Constitution, he has the responsibility to enact treaties “… by the advice and consent of the Senate …”

So, too, we Americans, should support Senator Kelly Ayotte (R-NH) and the other 46 Republican Senators for reminding the President and the world of how our country works through the checks and balances of each equal branch of U.S. government by the words of our U.S. Constitution.

Senator Ayotte is right-on! Nick De Mayo
Sugar Hill, NH

Nick: Senator Ayotte is Right in one sense, and, generally, one sense only — namely, in her slavish adher-
Stephanopoulos “discovered” homophobia, bigotry, and approval of discrimination against gays with the passage of the twentieth state’s Religious Freedom Restoration Act. What was actually on display on Stephanopoulos’s fake news show last Sunday was simply a blatant partisan attack on Mike Pence, who is a successful Republican governor considered a possible Presidential candidate.

The Religious Freedom Restoration Act, which have been upheld in the courts as Constitutional, says nothing about and is not intended to allow intolerant troglodytes to pervade the Courts. Human(e) freedoms, religious freedom, “to protect perhaps the most precious of all American liberties, religious freedom.” Stephanopoulos’s partisan attack on Mike Pence was shameful. Unfortunately Stephanopoulos’s attack is just one example of the more sinister radical leftists’ widespread attacks on the religious freedoms of the American people.

Don Ewing
Meredith, NH

Dear Ewing,

You’re comparing oranges to hand grenades. The original Religious Freedom Restoration Act was intended to permit Native Americans to conduct religious services involving the use of peyote, which was otherwise prohibited. It worked as intended.

The act which you defend was intended to allow intolerant troglodytes to violate the civil rights of just about anybody for just about any reason. It’s a travesty.

The Editor

Do Families Matter?
To the Editor:

As a practicing psychologist in Dutchess County, NY since 1966, my comments address the interplay between the family judicial system, human services and mental health. I have witnessed in my personal practice and in my professional association, abuse of children is on the increase. Minor offenses have become major offenses, and these cases are not just preventable, they happen because nothing is done about them.

The Editor

Imagine Same Republicans To the Editor:

As the standard bearer for today’s Republican Party, it was only fitting that Canadian-born Texas Senator Ted Cruz be the first Republican to officially announce a run for the presidency. It was equally appropriate that he did so in front of 10,000 students and faculty members (under the threat of a stiff fine for nonattendance) at the institution of higher learning euphemistically named Liberty University, founded by the late Rev. Jerry Falwell.

Falwell was the Evangelical Southern Baptist minister/tele-evangelist, who once proclaimed, “There is no separation of church and state. Modern U.S. Supreme Courts have raped the Constitution and raped the Christian faith and raped the churches by misinterpreting what the Founders had in mind in the First Amendment to the Constitution.”

Although Yoko Ono was nowhere in sight during his own Senator Cruz, a brilliant orator and the Tea Party favorite, asked that we, “imagine in 2017 a new president signing legislation repealing every word of Obamacare.” Please recall that Cruz has been a typical GOP economist of the 2013 federal government shutdown (costing the economy $24 billion) over his objections to Obamacare.

I do imagine that if Cruz, whom even Senator John McCain called a “wacko-bird,” or any of the other identical 20-50 potential GOP nominees, were to become President, Americans will find themselves saving good-bye to a good and decent law passed unanimously by the Senate, and virtually impossible to get information from CPS, Astor and the schools.

A ‘good old boy’ culture seems to pervade the Courts. Human(e) services do not jibe with power politics, mismanagement and a tax payers’ debacle. Systemic reform is urgently needed. Michael Kulla

Pleasant Valley, NY

Michael: We doubt that the problems you describe are limited to Dutchess County. Sadly, our society runs according to the whims of the powerful [read: wealthy]. Spending a few dollars on human services would be frivolous, spending billions on high-tech armaments to defend against non-existent bogeymen is not just prudent, it’s mandatory.

The Editor

And Other Correspondence

Senators Schumer (D-NY) and Kennedy (D-MA), who supported the Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) supports homophobia, bigotry, and discrimination against gays. Nevertheless President Clinton and nearly everyone at the time (including Attorney General Clinton (advised by George Stephanopoulos) are homophobes, bigots who believe it’s OK to discriminate against gays.

And Other Correspondence

Apparently Connecticut, Illinois, eighteen other states and our Federal Government are also homophobic, bigoted, and OK have RFRA laws.

The first Religious Freedom Restoration Act was sponsored by Senators Kennedy and (Congressman at the time) Schum- er in response to the Supreme Court decision in Employment Division v. Smith (1990) which President Clinton and nearly every Senator and Congressman agreed infringed on Americans’ religious rights.

Twenty-two years of experience Federal and many years of experience with the nineteen state Religious Free- dom Restoration Acts show no support for homophobia, big- otry, or support of discrimina- tion against gays. Nevertheless with the efficacy of legitimate complaints. My brief is with cases that are unauthenticated, made up by an ex spouse with a vendetta or a teenager with an ax to grind, &c., resulting in extreme family disruption, and occurring with frequency: a single mother forced to move out of a State, a father removed from the family domicile, or a couple unduly threatened of losing their children.

Merritt Dover, NH

A Theological Question
To the Editor:

“If New Hampshire is the sec- ond most-hateful state in the Union” (The Fortnightly Rant, April 3, 2015), what is the most hateful state? Inquiring minds want to know.

Anna Morgan Kintty, ME

Annie Vermont. While 24 percent of New Hampshireites describe themselves as “very religious,” only 22 percent of Vermonters do so. Also, while 51 percent of Gran- ite Staters call themselves “nonreligi- ous,” 56 percent of Vermonter do so.

Thank you for asking — it is al- ways reassuring to learn that inquiring minds are still out there.

The Editor

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The Editor

Imagine Same Republicans To the Editor:

As the standard bearer for to-
by William Marvel

The other day, while letting my unproductive chicken out, I sliced my finger on a sticky slide bolt, and once those privileged poultry were contentedly pecking at their ration of cracked corn I went in search of a band-aid. I always used to keep a supply in the bathroom closet, but I fell out of the habit while a certain young lady was growing up in this house. The said young lady, then in grammar school, had a fondness for band-aid decorations with cartoon characters or other colorful designs, and I was urged to substitute such frivolities for my drab medical supplies from Johnson & Johnson. I did as requested, but those ever-more-costly items began disappearing with remarkable speed. I found they were being used to prevent blisters on the heel, to cover the most minor scratches, and as simple dressings for minor lacerations on the person or possessions, so I bought no more.

Consequently I had to do some looking for something to staunch the blood from my laceration, but finally I turned up an unopened can of band-aids that had come as bizarre party favors in the Alice-in-Wonderland wedding my wife and I attended last September. Once I found a knife to puncture the stubborn plastic wrapper (meanwhile bleeding all over the kitchen table and floor), I discovered that these were also “theme” band-aids, covered with bucking broncos and galloping cowboys, all depicted in dull brown on a tan background. I can’t imagine what would be more unappealing to the children who represent today’s target market.

When I finally fumbled one of these out of its inner packaging, tossing aside the free Abe Lincoln tattoo, I found another reason why these band-aids had been relegated to the fate of party favors. Although they were labeled “adhesive bandages,” they would not stick at all. Holding my blood-encrusted index finger aloft, I rummaged through the cabinet until I found some additional adhesive tape to wrap around the band-aid and hold its tiny absorbent pad in place. By then the cut had coagulated, and I might have dispensed with all the first-aid festoonery.

Those band-aids are not the only consumer products in my bathroom that don’t work. Particularly since the hysteria over sharp objects struck the airline industry, I’ve noticed that it is almost impossible to buy a pair of manicure scissors that will cut. I used to rely on the curved variety for keeping my moustache out of my soup, but modern versions with the blunt tips that satisfy TSA criteria are mostly useless — although more expensive that their more effective predecessors.

Someone misplaced the tweezers my parents used for a generation, and the replacement pair will only grasp the largest splinters, leaving me to gouge long, deep divots in my hand with an old back brush — since the new ones don’t keep an edge or a sharp point.

Two summers ago I decided to replace the gas furnace that sat alongside my wood furnace. It had been installed in October of 1966, about ten weeks before I left my parents’ home, and it had always run reliably except for the winter of 2000, when I had it professionally serviced and the repairman installed a defective new thermocouple. I remember my tightfisted father complaining of how much he had spent on the furnace — $600, including installation — but the new one cost me nearly eight times that much. When I mentioned that the old one had served well for 46 years, the salesman was honest enough to assure me that the new one would not. He repeated that prediction when he replaced my 20-year-old hot-water heater, a few months later.

The chasis and wheels of my lawn mowers fall apart now even before their fragile engines burn out. The refills for my favorite pens work less than the half-time, and neither the manufacturer nor Staples will stand by the stockpile I bought there two years ago. Faucet washers deteriorate annually, and the elbows on my copper water pipes spring leaks with increasing rapidity; I replaced one last month that was less than four years old. The list is long. It is no mystery that the consumer economy recovers so slowly, when quality has become a meaningless adjective instead of a desirable noun. The consumer who demands good quality finds nothing worth buying.

——

Helicopter Noise

To the Editor:

Helicopter noise is definitely an economic issue. It deserves to be addressed by maybe something equivalent to [a] fine. Maybe an easement requirement beyond that of consumer. It is not just responding to peoples’ rights any more than it is not looking after other peoples’ rights.

Political leadership has to have more clout to address these sorts of things. There are such things as restricted airspaces.

There are things as such that are restricted airspace. Maybe Portsmouth is entitled to this [status]. It is not just responding to terrorist threat that justifies this sort of thing. Property values in Portsmouth are definitely rising — I guess they depend on politics.

Zoning regulations maybe could address the aircraft noise and safety issue. The helicopter service is a business like any other. It is not looking after other peoples rights any more than it has to. With our lawyer-based system, conflicts are resolved in courts. It is usually, though, an expensive affair.

That’s all I can figure. Richard Casin

Hampton, NH

Richard: We appreciate your thoughts on this. Decades of carefully-aimed bludgeoning have convinced many potential citizens that they have no standing beyond that of consumer. Portsmouth’s City Attorney Bob Sullivan voiced a similar opinion during the PDA’s Putenkin permit hearings.

We are generally levy of the whole “takings” argument, stemming as it does from the Right Wing “Sagebrush Rebellion,” but when it comes to those $800G flying lawnmowers, we side with Shakespeare’s Second Murderer in Macbeth: “I am one, my liege / Whom the vile blows of evil men / My tightfisted father complain.”

The Editor

Iran’s Right to Nuclear Defense

To the Editor:

“International Law and common sense allow for the right of self-defense by all countries using whatever means they choose, including nuclear weap-
I'm futile to hope that the GOP’s jibber-jabber about blanket neutrality, Right Wing presidential candidates will seriously address the issue of rising inequality in our land — but where are the Democrats?

Well, Hillary Clinton has warned that, “extreme inequality has corrupted other societies.” Uh ... yes, but what about our society? Clinton says: “We

have to have a concerted effort to meet a consensus about how to deal with this.”

Huh? That’s not an answer, much less a solution — it’s a political tap dance around a crucial fact facing America. Would you dodge a chance to swing away at a down-the-middle, working-class issue that’s right in the wheelhouse of her populist party’s strength? After all, recent polls show huge public support for direct government action to reduce the wealth gap, from raising taxes on the super-rich to raising the minimum wage above the poverty level.

But there is one tiny contiguity whose opinion outweighs all others on this issue: The 1-Percenters. Clinton and other top Democrats are weaker than Canadian hot sauce when it comes to embracing the unequivocating populism that ordinary voters want, because only 13 percent of the super-rich think they’d cost too much, it would once again demonstrate America’s exceptionalism and the boys would be home for dinner.

Republicans could then stick their thumbs in their lapels, stick out their chests and strut around Washington D.C. bragging about how tough they are on national defense. They could point out the world that talking is fighting in the daytime, he mean that it could cause a half-scale war. Exactly what is that; just fighting in the daytime, only arming bombers with a half a payload, slowing cruise missiles down to a crawl?

Before we get into these larger engagements, why not do a test run on Havana? Cuba is close, they don’t have an air force or sophisticated defense systems. It wouldn’t cost too much, it would once again demonstrate America’s exceptionalism and the boys would be home for dinner.

Republicans want ground troops in Syria, intervention in Ukraine and a bombing of Iran’s nuclear facilities. Rookie Senator Cinton said Thursday that “military strikes on Iran could cripple its nuclear capabilities without leading to a full-scale war.” Does he mean that it could cause a half-scale war? What exactly is that; just fighting in the daytime, only arming bombers with a half a payload, slowing cruise missiles down to a crawl?

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Admiral Fowler’s Piscataqua River Tidal Guide (Not for Navigational Purposes)

SUNDAY, APRIL 19

1956—A governor spokesman revealed that NROD had no training mission aboard a blocked airfoil entering into a holding.

1995—B.P. refineries in Oklahoma City.

1999—The for the chills, and one of 10,000 for more, chances under their kids. They have an budding for the low, at war to move, to separate children's boats.

1939—Charles Dewey, the CIA’s chief of SALE in finding WMDs in an attempt to spur American-Continental Landmines.

2013—Secretary of the Navy electric, to leave for Okinawa.

2007—Navy SEALs train four-year-olds for the first time in a new program designed to train SEALs in modern combat tactics.

2015—Ohio State University’s football stadium.

2016—A study from the University of Texas at Austin found that the keystone species in the ecosystem are the monarch butterflies, which are declining due to habitat loss.

2017—A new study from the University of California, Berkeley, found that the reason for the decline in monarch butterflies is due to a lack of milkweed plants in their habitats.

2018—A new study from the University of California, Los Angeles, found that the decline in monarch butterflies is due to a lack of nectar sources in their habitats.

2019—A new study from the University of California, San Diego, found that the decline in monarch butterflies is due to a lack of suitable overwintering sites in California.

2020—A new study from the University of California, Santa Cruz, found that the decline in monarch butterflies is due to a lack of suitable overwintering sites in Mexico.

2021—A new study from the University of California, Berkeley, found that the decline in monarch butterflies is due to a lack of suitable overwintering sites in both Mexico and California.