

The New Hampshire Gazette

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The Fortnightly Rant

Our Mysterious White House

Trying to understand what's going on between the White House and the Kremlin is like walking on Portsmouth sidewalks in mid-winter: every alleged fact is an ice-slick brick. So, let's strap on the roller skates!

Donald Trump has been President for 42 days; but he hasn't broken the Internet yet, so we've still got that goin' for us, which is nice. The best thing on the Internet right now is a website called *WeAreThisAmericanCarnage*. According to its authors, whose identities we do not know, it was "set up to document running open source research analysis on Donald Trump's alleged ties to Russia, his alleged ignorant or willful compromise, and mapping his policymaking to pro-Russia interests."

In other words, it has compiled the work of a number of independent investigators digging into different aspects of this writhing mess and presents the results in eight sections posted between February 2nd through the 23rd. More will no doubt follow.

It begins, naturally, with the hacking campaign that captured the emails of the Democratic National Committee and John Podesta. We had been skeptical about the attribution of this hack to the Russians. *AmericanCarnage* finally convinced us.

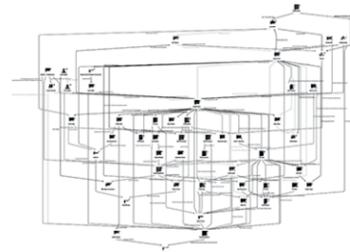
The second post discusses the mysterious \$10-billion sale in December of a 19.5 percent stake in Rosneft, the Russian oil giant, to an anonymous party. Rosneft is run by Igor Sechin, who was named in the infamous Steele dossier. Rex Tillerson, our new Secretary of State, received Russia's "Order of Friendship" in 2013 for brokering a deal between Exxon and Rosneft that boosted the Russian company's value by \$7

billion in five days. Carter Page, a New York oil industry consultant once named by the Trump campaign as an advisor, was said in the Steele dossier to have brokered a deal: for a 19 percent share of Rosneft, Trump would lift sanctions against Russia.

The third post outlines Vladimir Putin's ambitions for Russia, its economy's dependence on oil, and the crippling effect of the sanctions placed on Russia by the EU and the U.S. Putin has weakened Europe by bombing Syria and creating a flood of refugees. That fuels support for nationalist parties across Europe, weakening the EU. As for the U.S. sanctions, see 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

AmericanCarnage's fourth post looks at #Calexit, the campaign for Californian independence. If California were an independent nation it would have the world's 6th largest economy — and the U.S. economy would be that much weaker. Rather counterintuitively, the second-busiest guy working to make that happen has been living in Russia since 2007. What a coincidence.

The four remaining posts explore in detail, with helpful, legible charts [see thumbnail, below],



the documented relationships between Donald Trump, members of his Cabinet and inner circle, the Trump Organization, international bans and bankers, Vladimir Putin, other Russian officials including half a dozen recently-deceased diplomats, Rus-



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THE NEW HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE —
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sian mobsters, and assorted other shady characters.

To reiterate: this material has been collected from published material by private individuals who have not been vetted, extremely or casually, by anyone in a position of authority. It and two bucks will buy you a cup of coffee.

On the other hand, what *AmericanCarnage* has done, in this blizzard of bewilderment, is provide clarity amidst confusion — much of that confusion having been carefully manufactured to obscure the ugly truth.

There are, of course, those who will not be convinced. They'll be easy to spot. They'll be wearing red MAGA hats.

By this time some of our readers may be approaching catatonia. We can hardly blame them.

We have found some good news, in a podcast called *GetIt-GotItGood*. In an interview posted February 24th, with a British journalist named Louise Mensch,

we learned that President Trump is headed for impeachment.

In her day job Mensch works for Rupert Murdoch's *Heat Street*. In her spare time she's been sleuthing the Trump/Putin connection. In the podcast, Mensch finally makes sense of FBI Director James Comey's infamous letter and discusses its implications.

Remember before the election, when Rudy Giuliani crowed on *Fox News* about a "big surprise," and "a few things up our sleeve"? According to Mensch, Comey was forced to inform Congress about re-opening the investigation into Hillary Clinton's emails because one or more rogue FBI agents in New York had leaked the story to the press.

Republicans in Congress, of course, immediately leaked Comey's letter. Clinton's shaky lead faded, and Trump won by a nose. Mission accomplished.

The investigation was re-opened because Hilary Clinton's

emails were found on Anthony Weiner's laptop. What were they doing there in the first place? He didn't work the campaign. His wife says she never used it.

Forensic evidence cited by Mensch strongly suggests they were planted there by a Russian hacker masquerading as a 15-year old girl. The laptop was a cybernetic landmine manufactured by Russians and used to blow up the Clinton campaign.

The good news, Mensch says, is that Trump is bound for impeachment.

"If the FBI has concluded a national security investigation, it cannot give you a Glomar response [*i.e.* 'I can neither confirm nor deny, blah blah blah'].

"So, when the Director of the FBI says 'I can neither confirm nor deny that we're looking at Donald Trump in connection with treason with Russia,' that's pretty much 'Yes,' if people understood what they're saying."

The Alleged News®

Nouveau-Nero Tweets While the World Burns

Not to be unduly alarmist, but under the circumstances it behooves us, given the absence of appropriate coverage by our more profit-oriented colleagues in the news media, to alert our readers to the indubitable fact that Earth's atmosphere, over the past several decades and up to the present, has been behaving in a manner that suggests our impending doom.

Scientists announced in January that for the third year in a row, Earth recorded its highest temperature ever. Climatologists recently noted an alarming disparity in new record temperatures; for every new low-temperature record that is set, about 100 record high temperatures are recorded. Locally we have had what's amounted to — so far — about a three-week

winter, though this weekend does promise a rare return to normalcy.

Readers may want to mark their calendars for Sunday, March 26th, when the Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum, located at 18 Highlawn Road in Warner, will hold Maple Sugar Day. It will include a live demonstration of how the Indians made maple sugar. Since warm winters have been wreaking havoc on the freeze-and-thaw cycles on which that old art depends, such an event may not be possible in a few years.

For a better understanding of the magnitude of this threat, some background would be useful, so we'll set the Wayback Machine for 252 million years ago. At that time volcanoes in Siberia began a million-year long eruption event

which released vast amounts of carbon into the atmosphere. The oceans absorbed a lot of that carbon and became more acidic. That had a devastating effect on shell-forming organisms, which formerly had fed on microorganisms such as methanosarcina, which, as their name suggests, excrete methane. No longer under constant threat of being eaten, methanosarcina held a global orgy. They reproduced like mad, and the atmosphere filled with methane. Ocean temperatures at the equator rose to 104° Fahrenheit. This natural fluctuation in global temperature did no harm to the planet *per se*, of course; it takes an awful lot to perturb a ball of rock that weighs 659 sextillion tons.

From the admittedly self-centered perspective of a sentient mammal, though, it's somewhat troubling — the change in the climate extinguished 90 percent of life on land and 96 percent in the oceans. Technically known by the rather dry handle, "the Permo-Triassic Extinction Event," fun-loving scientists gave it a cute nickname: The Great Dying.

That was then, this is now — why should we worry about this ancient horror story? Because the oceans are now acidifying at a rate not seen for, oh, about 252 million years.

So much for chemistry; let's have some fun with thermodynamics. Climate scientists, suspecting inaccuracies in their existing climate models for the

Atlantic Overturning Meridional Current [AMOC], recently tried out a new algorithm. The AMOC, which carries warm water north from the equator and has a huge effect on the climate, has been "mysteriously slowing for the past decade," as one scientist has put it. The new study told scientists that they've underestimated the odds of a collapse. They now believe "there is an almost 50 percent chance that a key area of the North Atlantic [the Labrador Sea] could cool suddenly and rapidly, within the space of a decade, before the end of this century" — greatly increasing the likelihood of an AMOC shutdown.

The Alleged News®

from page one

Presciently, the National Science Foundation in 2013 began funding something called the Overturning in the Subpolar North Atlantic Program (OS-NAP), to the tune of about \$3 million a year. Unfortunately the knucklehead in the White House, who spends that much of the taxpayers' money to weekend at his tacky palace in Florida, seems averse to such endeavors. It's only a matter of time before he uses our climate satellites for target practice.

As with literally everything else under the sun, during this period of political dysfunction, the best hope for us sentient mammals is to band together. The Citizens Climate Lobby [CCL] offers a way to do just that. Since CCL bills itself as "a market-based, revenue neutral solution that will help the economy while making us healthier and safer without growing government," we were naturally dubious, expecting to find it funded by the ubiquitous, iniquitous Koch Brothers. Instead

we found it has been endorsed by the likes of James Hanson and Bill McKibben — climate advocates beyond reproach. It has chapters in 28 counties, including one here in New Hampshire: *CCLNHSouthCentral.org*. Its next meeting will be held at the Hooksett Public Library on March 16th, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Global War on Terror & Drugs

From the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction's latest Quarterly Report, dated January 30, 2017: "The United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) reported that approximately 201,000 hectares of land in Afghanistan [*That is equal to 496,681 acres, an area 11 percent larger than Rockingham County.* — *The Ed.*] were under poppy cultivation in 2016 — an increase of 10 percent over the previous year's total. According to UNODC, poppy eradication results were the lowest this decade at 355 hectares — a 91 percent decrease from 2015.

"Though cultivation decreased by 7 percent in Helmand — the country's main opium poppy-cultivating province — and 3 percent



in Kandahar, it increased significantly in others, notably 184 percent in Badghis. The number of poppy-free provinces decreased from 14 to 13, with Jowzjan losing the poppy-free status it regained in 2008.

"Moreover, final approval of the U.S. government's revised counternarcotics strategy has been postponed until the new Administration endorses the new strategy."

From *TheFix.com*, February 15, 2017: "Former U.S. Representative Frank Guinta of New Hampshire may become the next head of the Office of National Drug Control Policy."

From *Leafly.com*, February 23, 2017: "After President Trump's new budget director was sworn in last week, the White House Office of Management and Budget immediately set to work, proposing the government cut nine popular government programs, including

the Office of National Drug Control Policy." [Emphasis added.]

Binnievision Blinkered

The staff of WBIN-TV produced several news broadcasts the night of Thursday, February 16th, as they've been doing since September, 2014. The next morning management "pretty much got rid of everybody," according to an account in the *Boston Globe*.

Between 20 and 30 people formerly employed by the private sector suddenly found themselves out of work. Mercifully, the state they live in has not yet been stripped of all its social service agencies. The *Union Leader* suspended its usual stridently-free-market tone to include this non-judgmental paragraph: "Michael Power, community outreach administrator for 'NH Works,' the Office of Workforce Opportunity, which leads the state's 'rapid response team,' said they reached out to

WBIN-TV Friday morning. The response services, which are provided free to affected employees [*at taxpayers' expense* — *The Ed.*], are designed to help employees laid off with the job search process and provide information on unemployment compensation. The team includes officials from New Hampshire Employment Security, NH Vocational Rehabilitation, Department of Health and Human Services, and the Community College system." Perhaps some of them can be retrained to work in the state's robust daily newspaper industry.

Owner and failed Republican candidate for Senate William "Bill" Binnie, meanwhile, walked away with a purported \$100 million. He was quoted in the press boasting that his original investment had been a mere \$9 million; pocket change, in other words. Considering the millions he must



Monday's mild weather allowed Rob Emmett (left) and Mamadou Ndaw, who work for Minutemen Painters, to enjoy fresh air while spiffing up the front doors of the South Church.

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have spent buying real estate like the Walker School in Concord, constructing broadcast facilities, hiring technical experts, covering payroll, and so forth, in a clearly failed effort to tap into WMUR's lucrative market. We wonder if it was really all that profitable.

Part of that \$100 million came from the sale of various bits and pieces of his mini-empire, like a swamp Yankee "parting out" an old pickup truck. The bulk of it, \$68 million, came from the taxpayer-funded Federal Communications Commission [FCC].

The FCC coughed up that dough to take back that part of the electromagnetic spectrum which had been licensed to WBIN. Soon it will sell that commodity to other wireless entrepreneurs, presumably for more than its cost. Binnie retains a string of radio stations in the state, which broadcast the usual array of Right Wing lunatics: Hannity, Limbaugh, the aptly-named Savage, &c.

Sanders Poynt Update

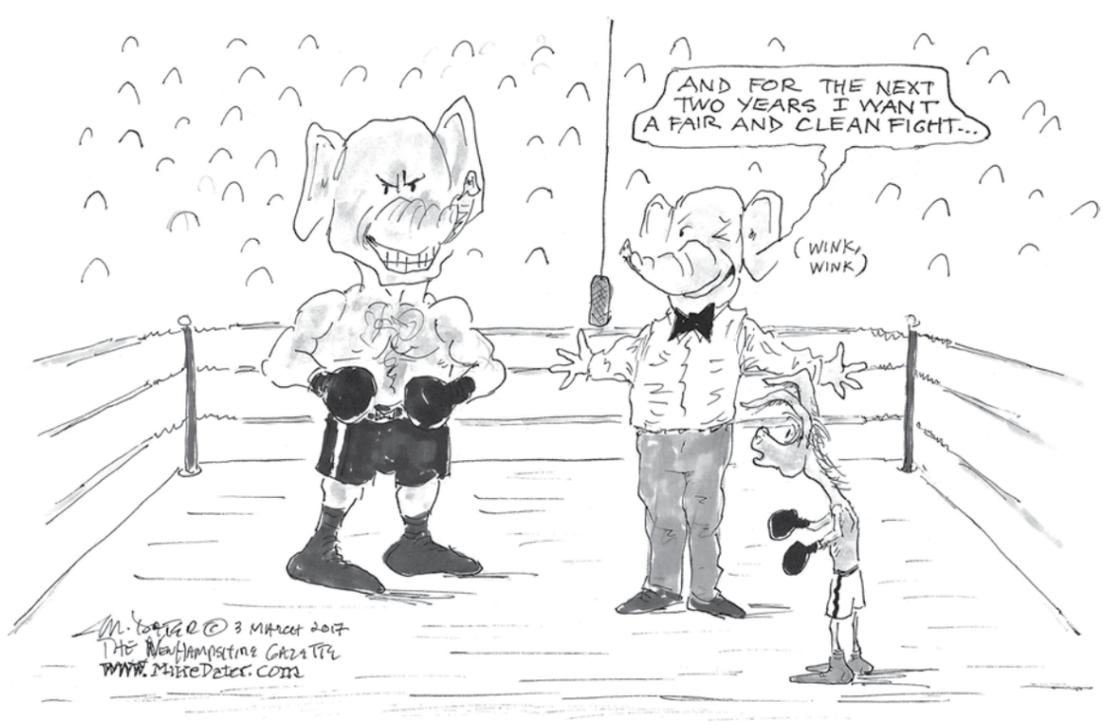
Don Swanson, President of the Coastal Conservation Association of New Hampshire, says there has been no significant change as of

Monday in the amount raised so far to reimburse Robert Jesurum for his legal expenses in defense of the peoples' right to traipse across William "Bill" Binnie's Rye golf course to dabble their toes in the refreshing waters of Little Harbor.

Those wishing to alter this deplorable situation may do so online at ccanh.org/sanders-poynt, or mail their personal check to CCA NH, PO Box 4372, Portsmouth, N.H. 03802-4372. Checks should be payable to the "Coastal Conservation Association of New Hampshire," with the notation line on the lower left of the check stating "Sander's Poynt Legal Fund" so that CCA NH can direct donations accordingly.

Good News, For a Change

The Press Room, Portsmouth's home of live music since 1976, has been on the market for years. Given the real estate market, no one would have been surprised if someone had thrown down a large wad of cash to convert 77 Daniel Street into a *piéd-à-terre*. Last week the Award-Winning Local Daily reported there has been a sale, but — *mirabile dictu* — the new buyer likes the joint



and intends to keep it open. Being optimists, and because the Press Room is synonymous with Bruce Pingree, we assume he will continue booking acts and generally keeping the place real, as he has since 1978.

Ona Judge — Never Caught

For a state whose First in the Nation Presidential Primary™ has been criticized for sampling a remarkably non-diverse citizenry, New Hampshire — and Portsmouth in particular — have a remarkably long and complex racial history: generally appalling, yet studded with examples of the human spirit refusing to be contained. Primus X, former pressman of this newspaper, held in bondage by a man whom we otherwise admire, is but one example.

Ona Marie Judge is another. Held as a slave by the family of George Washington, she escaped and fled north, evaded a dragnet, resisted recapture, and made a life for herself as a free person in nearby Greenland.

Her remarkable life will be explored and celebrated during a presentation of the book *Never Caught: The Washington's Relentless Pursuit of*

Their Runaway Slave, Ona Judge, by author Erica Armstrong Dunbar, including a question and answer session and book signing.

The presentation will be accompanied by a living history performance, "If I am not for myself, who will be for me?", featuring Gwendolyn Quezaire-Presutti as Ona Judge, the main character of the book. This event is part of the Elinor Williams Hooker Winter Tea Talk Series and will be held at the Temple Israel Social Hall in Portsmouth, N.H.

JerriAnne Boggis, Executive Director of the Black Heritage Trail-NH, commented, "It is really exciting to have the Ona Judge story get such national attention. This book puts our little town of Portsmouth right into the middle of an important examination of history."

BHT-NH wanted to share this story with the community, said Boggis, because of the compelling story of Ona Judge and its theme of freedom. "It points to how important freedom has been and is in America, and it highlights a story of freedom that is relevant even today. Ona Judge once said

that she would rather die free and poor than as a slave. That humanity needs to be free no matter the trappings of wealth and escaping slavery from even the President of the U.S. is not only part of Black history, it is American history that is inclusive rather than separate."

"Now, where racial tensions are at such a peak in our country, Dunbar's book comes at a time when we are reexamining where we are and shows us what kind of country we want to have. It is the same question our Founding Fathers asked. BHT-NH is asking the same question, turning our lens on the past to see how we move forward in the future, to understand human dignity when it is free of historical stereotypes. Sharing history that relates to all of us is part of the mission of NHT-NH."

The living history performance is scheduled from 2:00 to 2:30 p.m. on March 5th; the author's presentation from 2:30 to 3:15 p.m., and the Q and A session from 3:15 to 4:00 p.m., followed by the book signing and refreshments. The program is free and open to the public.



Signs point to a continuation of the tradition of live music at the venerable Press Room, now under new ownership.

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On Insanity

To the Editor:

What if you were to have a life-and-death health crisis requiring immediate attention from a medical specialist, but you first had to wait in a tiny room in the emergency department for five and a half days? Only afterwards could you receive the appropriate care.

What if you were not allowed to leave that tiny room — the size of a small jail cell — unless you needed to use the restroom across the hall? A guard would be stationed 24/7 just outside your door to make sure you couldn't leave, despite the fact you had broken no laws.

What if many Americans were experiencing the same health crisis and were also being mistreated in this same way all across the country, yet there wasn't enough political will to improve the health care system for people like you? Would you be a little upset about this?

What if the emergency department in which you were confined like a criminal was located in a hospital that had recently undergone construction for a multi-million dollar palatial-looking facade, yet it didn't spend a dime to keep a specialist on hand for people with your type of crisis?

This happens every day to Americans with mental illness. It happened to my girlfriend who suffered from paranoid schizophrenia. She had to wait five and a half days, just as I have described. She was not a criminal but she was treated like a criminal. It was unethical and inhumane.

This took place in November, 2013 at Frisbie Memorial Hospital in Rochester, N.H.. Frisbie's psychiatric unit had been eliminated. As a result, my girlfriend was confined and out of her mind, without appropriate care, waiting for a bed to open up for her at New Hampshire Hospital in Concord.

New Hampshire Hospital is a state-run, state-funded psychiatric unit. And not surprisingly, it's underfunded.

On the last day I went to visit my girlfriend at Frisbie, I unexpectedly saw that her tiny room was empty. I was told that she had just been transported to Concord. I had not been notified ahead of time. To collect my thoughts, I sat down in the brand new lobby, extravagant chandeliers overhead.

As I sat there quietly reading the newspaper, a hospital guard walked up to me and asked me what I was doing. I calmly and politely told him that I was reading the newspaper. He told me to leave the building if my business was finished. The large, palatial lobby was empty, except for the guard and me.

This took place at approximately 7:30 p.m. There were at least thirty empty seats in the lobby. And there were no signs posted stating "No Loitering." But I was wearing a dirty yellow rain coat, as I was poor, and as I had pedaled my bicycle to the hospital. Apparently, the guard didn't recognize me as Lord Jesus.

Not caring to be arrested, I left. I exited the palatial lobby and walked towards my bicycle, which I had locked to a gentrified-looking bench, as there was no bike rack available for that purpose. I unlocked my bicycle, said a little prayer, and pedaled back to my apartment. And I vowed that someday I'd have the last word.

Recently it's been reported in the national news that Trump wants to increase military spending by 10 percent, or \$50 billion. It's also been reported that he wants to increase the number of nuclear weapons in the U.S. military arsenal. That's in-

sane. It's a potential "global mass shooting" which can irrevocably wipe out life on earth.

I doubt that Trump wants to equally increase spending by \$50 billion for better access to quality mental health care. But if he does I'll eat my hat.

No doubt, many Americans strongly agree with Trump's nuclear and military ambitions. And, no doubt, they will continue to strongly agree with him — even as the nuclear missiles are launched from their silos. Their strong denial will prevent them from recognizing their own insanity. And in their insanity they will feel completely justified.

Alex J. Boros
Rochester, N.H.

Alex:

Thank you. This is the sanest thing we've read all year.

The Editor

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State Your Belief

To the Editor:

It is time for those who relentlessly attack Donald Trump to explain what it is that they support. Do they really support the same agenda of perpetual and expanding wars, the financial policies that transfer billions of dollars to the one-percent, while imposing austerity on the rest, and the trade deals that send good paying jobs to other countries and that created The Rust Belt? Are they in support of the same entities that supported and campaigned for Hillary — Wall Street, the banks, the Military-Industrial-Security complex, the Corporate media, the K street denizens, NATO, and other free loaders? And do they really believe the Clinton Foundation was a charity and not an influence-peddling entity? Do they believe that anyone in the world should be able to walk into the United States and declare themselves a citizen? Do they believe that a nuclear war with Russia is desirable — and winnable? And do they still support a party that with the combination of super delegates and other manipulations

Mash Notes, **HATE MAIL,**

destroyed the candidacy of Bernie Sanders, who, like President Trump, wanted to challenge the status quo?

But it was left up to Donald Trump to challenge the status quo that supports illegal and costly wars, that has hollowed out the middle class, expanded the surveillance state, imposed extra judicial punishment in the form of the death sentences carried out by an expanded use drones, and supported unrest in the Ukraine and the expansion of NATO to Russia's borders? By merely bringing up the issues President Trump has done an enormous service for the American People.

The greatest fear of those who so vehemently oppose The Donald is the fear that he might truly make America great again.

John Dente
Wilmington, DE

John:

Halfway through reading this we felt the urge to hide the matches — we've never seen so many straw men in one place before in our lives.

Since you ask, what we support is competent government that honestly works for the greater good.

Trump is an incompetent fake and a puerile deadbeat. His presence in the White House is a disgrace. We don't fear he'll make America great again, we fear he'll destroy it.

The Editor

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White House Whiner

To the Editor:

The Commander-in-Tweet held a press conference on February 16th in which he called the news media "very unfair" for reporting the truth, and for exposing his many and frequent lies to the public. He resembles 6-year-old children who scream, "it's not fair" when their parents tell them they can't always get what they want. Even when photographic or video evidence clearly show a statement is not true, he relentlessly doubles down, insisting the mainstream news media are

"fake news." This is not sane adult behavior. Thankfully, the media is continuing to expose his mental and moral deficiency. Hopefully, responsible Republicans will realize that the 25th Amendment, enabling removal from office due to physical or mental incompetence, applies to this president.

Bruce Joffe
Piedmont, CA

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Enemy of the People

Dear Editor:

Have I missed something or have the major press outlets beyond the *New York Times* avoided boldly confronting Donald Trump over his use of a phrase against the free press with powerful historical (and literary) resonance: the "Enemy of the People"?

This demagogic phrase goes back into deep history, but at the least we might expect the press to stand up and refer to its dangerous use not only in Henrik Ibsen's 1882 play of that title, wherein an idealist physician (scientist) sets out unsuccessfully against local economic forces to save townsfolk from his town's contaminated public waters. We might also expect the press to stand up by referring to the French Revolution's Robespierre who would cut off such public enemy's heads, to Lenin's use of the term against anyone who threatened the Bolshevik cause, to Adolph Hitler's same fascist term used against the Jews, and on to Mao Zedong's same terminology for anyone considered an elite obstructionist to the reign of his agrarian utopia that turned out to be the brutal totalitarian state in China. There are many examples beyond these, but the purpose seems always roughly the same — to turn the people into a threatened mob against anyone (in our present case the free press) who disagrees with or questions the propaganda of the demagogic leader(s).

Maybe the mainstream free press

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Murph's Fortnightly Quote

*"Unless someone like you cares
a whole awful lot,
Nothing is going to get better.
It's not."*

— Dr. Seuss, aka Theodor Seuss Geisel (1904-1991)
from "The Lorax" (1971)

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And Other Correspondence

is afraid of confronting, not only Trump, but “Trump’s brain” — that Great Intellectual Steve Bannon, who might well have re-hatched the phrase for Trump’s ignorant use. Fear not, members of the free press corps! Remember that Bannon is merely an extreme Right Winger with fascist fantasies of his own. Graduating from Harvard Business School does not make you an intellectual; nor does using the word “deconstruction” in a crude, literal sense; nor does violating the Trump Administration’s dress code (pity Sean Spicer) and letting your inner slob out to cut a supposedly transgressive figure before the public. Bannon may have special privileges with his boss, but he’s still a benighted soul who should not cause any journalistic fears either about pursuing the facts or about confronting boldly this Philosopher of Alternative Science and Reality who would distort and deny them.

C.K. Adams
Newfields, N.H.

C.K.

We’re a little disappointed we haven’t yet been designated an “Enemy of the People.” Coming from the buffoon in question, we’d consider that epithet a badge of honor.

The Editor

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## Nincompoop-in-Chief

To the Editor:

Here is how I recently explained myself to a friend who said he found the choice between Trump and Clinton like having to choose between olives (which he doesn’t like) and arsenic:

“I see the contrast as something closer to terminal cancer (Trump) *vs.* multiple sclerosis (Clinton) rather than the more benign and obvious choice between arsenic and olives. Ah, well, this is America, and everyone’s entitled to his or her opinion — for the time being, at least. I guess I just can’t feel like the sky is falling because I have despaired of

my country for many decades, and perhaps now others who have not shared my despair previously will finally see my country as I have been seeing it for most of my life.

“Of course, I will continue to teach the teenaged boys I’ve been teaching for the past 16 years — I’ve already agreed to return next year — though God only knows if any of them are actually learning anything I’ve been trying to teach them. And I continue to write and publish. And I’ve taken to wearing a safety pin every day (I’m told this is just a way for privileged whites to assuage their guilt, but the folks who are telling me that can go suck an egg). But I am pretty well convinced that this country is doomed to go the way of the British Empire, the Spanish Empire, and the Roman Empire, and there is little I can do about it. We never really were much of a democracy to begin with, and while the franchise has nominally been expanded, power has always remained in the hands of a plutocracy, so now perhaps the sham will finally be revealed for what it is.”

But enough doom and gloom for one day. The sun is shining. I’m going for a walk while we still have a natural world to enjoy.

Cheerfully yours,

W.D. Ehrhart  
formerly Sergeant USMC  
Vietnam 1967-68  
Bryn Mawr, Pa.

Dear Bill:

*A shining example of what we love best about many of our fellow ‘Nam vets: an ability to remain cheerful in the face of reality.*

The Editor

~~~~~

The Times That Try Men’s Souls

To the Editor:

“These are the times that try men’s souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands by it now, deserves the love and thanks

of man and woman.” These words written by Thomas Paine are as valid today as they were in December, 1776. The crisis now is the frontal assault on our Democratic Republic by Donald Trump and the circle of accomplices around him and in our Congress. These “summer soldiers and sunshine patriots” have no sense of honor, integrity, respect for our institutions, our constitution, or the well being of the average American. Their only allegiance is to their own warped ideology, greed and the force of power they hold over the weak.

Trump is a poster boy for the “summer soldier and sunshine patriot,” having made sure he avoided military service during Vietnam, he now demonstrates a fierce sense of bravado and military courage, as long as others are the ones placed in harms way. When Trump had his opportunity to serve his nation during war he folded like a tin can, hiding behind student deferments and a questionable medical deferment. However, in his own words, he did explain what he considered his “Vietnam experience” avoiding sexually transmitted diseases as a young man in New York.

In these “times that try men’s souls,” it will be the foul weather patriot and winter soldiers of freedom who stand up against the Trump tyranny who will be remembered and praised for their courage, wisdom and strength, and honored by a grateful nation. It will be up to those of us who actually have souls that are now being tried, to make sure those soulless “summer soldiers and sunshine patriots” like Trump, Bannon, Ryan, McConnell and the rest of their cabal do not succeed in achieving their victory.

This will be a difficult struggle against a powerful force that controls most of the means of power. The threat we face is unprecedented in American history. Never have we been confronted with such a well organized and so pervasive a threat to our Republic emanating direct-

ly from the Presidency itself, and spilling over into the executive departments, the courts and the legislative branch of our government. If you doubt the threat or consider my opinion hyperbole, just look at what Trump has done to Radio Free Europe, turning it into his own government propaganda machine that can now be aired here at home. And just today, he had CNN, *The New York Times* and the *Huffington Post* locked out of a White House news briefing. If this does not send a shudder down peoples’ spine, then they just do not understand what is happening to our country.

We Americans are not trained or prepared to deal with such a threat, we have always trusted that the checks and balances built into the system would protect us as they have done for over 200 years. Unfortunately, that trust can no longer be counted on to save us, it will be up to us to stand by our nation and not “shrink from the service of their country.”

Rich DiPentima
Portsmouth, N.H.

~~~~~

## Let’s Pray for Some Smarts

To the Editor:

The simple act of Melania Trump leading the public in The Lord’s Prayer at a rally in Florida may be the beginning of the end of 60 years of unconstitutional silencing of religious expression in the public arena. In the 1947 court case *Everson vs. The Board of Education*, the judiciary established a legal myth which they called “Separation of Church and State.” To justify this new judicial doctrine, the court used a phrase from a letter written in January, 1801, by President Thomas Jefferson to the Danbury Baptist Association of Danbury, Connecticut. Taking the phrase “separation of church and state” out of the context of the letter itself, this phrase was used to begin the development of the belief that the Founding Fathers wanted government to be totally devoid of religious influence and that government displays of religious faith were



unconstitutional.

This new judicial heresy was advanced further by the 1954 Johnson Amendment to the Federal Tax Code that limited the political activity of tax-exempt nonprofits, including churches. Then in 1962, in the case *Engel vs. Vitale*, the court ruled that it was unconstitutional for state officials to compose an official school prayer and encourage its recitation in public schools. This ruling was soon interpreted to limit and often restrict prayer in public schools.

Was this the intention of the Founding Fathers and the signers of the Constitution? Absolutely not!

Benjamin Rush, a signer of the Constitution, who was often referred to as “The Father of Public Schools Under the Constitution,” wrote a treatise on why the Bible should always be the primary text book in American schools.

Fisher Ames was the delegate to Congress who gave us the primary wording for the First Amendment. He also stated, “Should not the Bible regain the place it once held as a schoolbook? Its morals are pure, its examples are captivating and noble. ...”

[Two more irrelevant examples comprising 86 words excised to make room for more editorial vitriol. — The Ed.]

Now for the first time in decades, we have a leader who is more concerned about being historically and factually correct than politically correct. With the simple action of the First Lady leading a public meeting

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The Northcountry Chronicle

# Chionophobia

by William Marvel

Language has always intrigued me. As the child of a sailor and a former waitress with a penchant for literature, I picked up a lot of words at a relatively early age. Some of them must have been quite amusing, judging by the reaction of my mother's bridge club the night she dropped me in my playpen and closed the door, to keep me out of the living room.

The greatest short-term infusion for my vocabulary may have come on the winter evening when my father and I went off the road in his 1954 International Harvester pickup. It was snowing heavily, and the only end of Davis Hill Road that was then open made a 90-degree turn just before the steep climb up the hill. The truck was rear-wheel-drive, as were nearly all vehicles in those days, but there were four hundred pounds of oak in the bed for traction. A set of chains hung off the backboard, but they were a trial to put on in the biting cold with bare fingers, so — after a day of work in the woods — my father made the turn at the best speed he could, hoping to gun it up the

hill. Instead, we skidded off into the snowbank. That kept us out of the swamp, but it must have taken an hour to dig out, back out, and mount the chains. I held the flashlight the whole while, listening attentively to the foreign-sounding soliloquy spilling out of my father. Some words I recognized but most I didn't, and when I tried a few of them out at recess the next day some little snitch went streaking for the office, where I was soon called by special messenger.

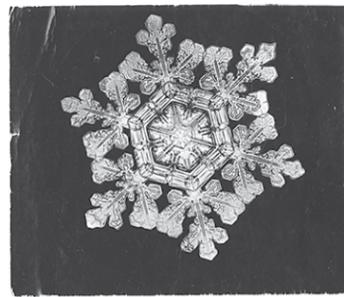
I learned another new word just last week. "Chionophobia" isn't in the *Oxford English Dictionary*, or even the *Merriam Webster*, but it seems to be a buzzword common among therapists on the lookout for some marketable ailment to treat at \$100 or more per hour. When the profitable Greek suffix "phobia" is hung on the Greek word "chioni," the concept of a morbid fear of snow is born.

Now, I've never liked snow. The first storm that sticks is always a little depressing to me, and in winters as bad as this one I really grow to hate it, but I can't say that I've ever actually been afraid of it. Unfortunately, there are obviously quite a few people hereabouts who

are terrified of the white stuff. Just ask them to drive somewhere or send their kids somewhere during a storm — somewhere, that is, besides the ski slopes, which is usually okay.

Here in the northcountry, a phalanx of parents and their allies in the employ of the school district usually force their neighbors to fund a generous array of programs. That might serve as evidence of their high regard for education were it not flatly contradicted by their support for — and even demand for — speedy cancellations, delayed starts, or early releases at the slightest accumulation of snow. A truncated day will bomb instruction, especially in the upper grades, and makeup days in late June are useless. Blizzard bags seem little more than a euphemism for vacation, and defending them weakens the argument that classroom teachers are the most important part of the entire system.

The budget proposed by the Conway School District for next year will cost taxpayers over \$200,000 per school day. A couple of weeks ago local superintendents salvaged one of those enormously



expensive days by actually holding school while snow was falling, and for that effort they were absolutely excoriated. Their primary critics appeared to be parents who could have chosen to keep their kids at home, if it was so perilous.

Sometime, somewhere, the first precedent of canceling school for snow turned it into a litigable decision. Thanks to that, superintendents who should be focusing on pedagogy, curriculum, and budgets are now also expected to be fortunetellers. Superintendent David Appleton refused to cancel school in the 1950s and '60s, when four-wheel-drive was uncommon and front-wheel-drive virtually unknown. In the dozen years I attended Conway schools, I don't recall a single snow day. There was at least one early release, memorable to me because I had to walk

the last mile of unplowed dirt road in knee-deep drifts.

My father was still driving that International when he became the only custodian at Conway Elementary School. He had to be there early every day, without fail, to tend the boiler and clear the walks. The parents of kids who lived on other back roads might give up on trying to get out, but there was no hope for me.

This winter pales alongside those of 1957 or 1969, and our roads are better maintained than ever before. A salt-heavy bare-pavement policy robs each of us of half the life in every car we own, and most of those cars are more nimble in snow than anything available half a century ago. But we have an Achilles heel — a class of people who specifically chose to move to northern New England, despite living in abject horror of a snowstorm.

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*Inset: a "Dendrite Star" Snowflake photomicrographed by Wilson Alwyn "Snowflake" Bentley (1865-1931). The original may be found in the Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 31, Box 12, Folder: 17, Bentley Neg. # 591.*

## More Mash Notes, HATE MAIL, and Other Correspondence, from Page Five

in The Lord's Prayer, Americans have been given an open invitation to return to their historical roots. May we boldly accept that invitation and move forward.

Steve Casey  
Stonewall, La.

Steve:

*Congratulations on unearthing a small handful of alleged factoids which proved to be, over the course of time, irrelevant to the matter at hand.*

*To employ a trope currently enjoying popularity in the vernacular,*

*what part of "Congress shall make no law regarding an establishment of religion" don't you understand?*

The Editor

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### Misnamed "Women's March"

To the Editor:

The misnamed "Women's March" on January 21, 2017 was an enormous missed opportunity to help women, families, and our country. It was simply a leftist, anti-Trump, pro-abortion rally, with women fronting for the same old leftist anti-American groups. The

rally was led by self-important people, who have terrified themselves with their irrational imaginings, trying to inspire terror, feelings of victimization, and anti-Trump activism.

Some attendees reported enjoying the rally, and everyone probably expected an uplifting, helpful, constructive event. But I suspect many women were disappointed, experiencing what the people saw from home: another far left, radical, anti-Trump, anti-abortion rally put on by vulgar, partisan, vi-

olent, disrespectful, and irrational sounding people without a constructive message.

When I was a child, my mouth would have been washed with soap for speaking even a few of Ashley Judd's words. Vulgarity wasn't enough for Madonna who considered blowing up the White House. Speaker Donna Hylton, a great role model, went to prison for her part in the kidnapping, sodomizing, and murder of a gay man. Speaker Angela Davis, two-time Communist Party Vice

Presidential Candidate, wants the early release of the murderers of law enforcement officers.

Speakers expressed concern about "Islamophobia," but I found none concerned about female genital mutilation and honor killings even in this country, or the execution of gays and oppression of women in Muslim countries.

Many speakers suggested that women are disrespected and abused; perhaps they should abandon their "pussy" hats, vagina costumes, and outfits that suggest

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## Why Paul Ryan should sit down and be very quiet

by Jim Hightower

For nearly half a century now, America's middle-class working families have been pummeled by corporate greedmeisters and their political henchmen. Indeed, in just the last decade, the typical median-income family has lost 60 percent of their wealth. Haven't they been punished enough?

No, says House Speaker Paul Ryan. Along with other top Re-

publican leaders of Congress, he intends to slash the Social Security money that middle-class and low-income workers depend on, and he ultimately is out to kill it altogether. Dependence on such public "entitlements," he preaches, weakens our nation's morality.

Entitlements? Social Security isn't a welfare program — regular working people pay a 12-percent tax on every dime of their wages into the this public pension fund

year after year. They earn their retirement!

Morality? Social Security embodies America's core moral value of fairness and our society's commitment to the common good. And it works — before it was enacted, half of all American's spent their "golden years" in poverty. Social Security has saved the great majority of us from old-age penury. Where is the morality in taking this earned retirement and modi-

cum of dignity from millions?

Besides, a sermon on the morality of entitlements should never come from a congress critter's mouth. Speaker Ryan himself wallows in a mud pit of congressional entitlements that working stiff's couldn't imagine getting: A \$223,500 annual paycheck, free limousine and chauffeur, a maximum-coverage health plan, a tax-paid PR agent, lavish expense account, free travel — and, of

course, a platinum-level congressional retirement program funded by the very taxpayers whose Social Security he's out to kill.

Yet Ryan wonders why Congress' public approval rating is plummeting toward single digits.

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they shouldn't be taken seriously, and leave the liberal men they associate with.

I found no speakers that addressed the real problems that make success difficult for American females (and males), being forced to attend bad schools, policies that lead to broken families and single motherhood, lack of good jobs, crime, drugs, etc.

I understand that it's easier and more appealing to complain and tell people they're victims than to tell people the truth that their own behavior and choices are the biggest obstacles to their success.

Imagine the difference it would make in Americans' lives if we had school choice so each child got a good education, policies and behaviors so each child grows up in a two parent home, a growing economy providing good jobs for everyone, and a society that leads people to do the right things just because they are right.

The Women's March called itself a "Love Army" but it really was just an army that hates and inspires hate for its political opponents. The Women's March was a wasted opportunity because its objective was to gain political power, not to improve the lives of the American people.

Don Ewing  
Meredith, N.H.  
Don:

*With (or without) your kind permission, we're going to forward this letter to a quarry where it will be carved in marble, then shipped to the Feminist Museum of Patriarchal Artifacts, to be forever ensconced in the Mansplaining Wing. Congratulations.*

The Editor

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### Slamming the Golden Door

To the Editor:

Immigration is a bi-partisan issue, and if it remains unaddressed in a humane manner by Congress, it represents a deliberate erosion of the fundamental values under which this country was formed.

The vitriolic language that was part of Trump's campaign reared its ugly head in his recent immigration edict, the so called "not a ban." Families seeking safety from poverty, civil and religious oppression and in many instances torture, are once again living in fear — no different than what they were trying to escape. Yes, I am in favor of deporting those illegals with a felony criminal history, but many targeted are only guilty of a misdemeanor and should not be subject to separation from spouses and innocent children.

I expect members of the Senate and House of Representatives to stand up for the values that represent "We the People," and not succumb to the dictatorial rant-

ings that seem to surface on a daily basis.

In the event that these elected officials have forgotten, American values do not include greed, avarice, all forms of prejudice, blatant sexism and the most unfortunate, uncontrollable narcissism. We as a people must challenge any change to the beliefs that welcomed our past generations to this country.

The inscription on the Statue of Liberty applies as much today as when our parents and past generations set foot in this country. I quote: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

Where did your ancestors come from, and how did the United States help and support them in overcoming the obstacles that prevented a good life in their country of origin?

Judy Zalansky  
Dover, N.H.

Judy:

*We're proud to say our Great Grandpa Anton Wild bugged out of Prussia to avoid the Kaiser's draft.*

The Editor

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### Oppose Friedman

To the Editor:

Please join me in opposing

President Trump's nomination of David Friedman as U.S. Ambassador to Israel. Call Senators Hassan [202-224-3324] and Shaheen [202-224-2841] who will vote on this nomination. As an American Jew, I fear for the well-being of both Israelis and Palestinians if David Friedman's nomination is approved.

David Friedman has neither the experience nor the temperament suitable to be a diplomat, especially in this volatile region. David Friedman is a bankruptcy lawyer. He has been an avid supporter both personally and financially of the settlement movement, a movement that makes it increasingly difficult for Palestinians to establish a contiguous, independent, sustainable state next to an equally secure and democratic Israel.

A two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, seen as a starting point on a path for peace negotiations, has been U.S. foreign policy for many years. The vision of a one-state solution to the conflict espoused by David Friedman requires the ongoing occupation of Palestinian land and Palestinians who will continue to be politically, economically, and militarily subjected to the Israeli state. Ultimately, I believe that only justice as evidenced by a two-state solution at this time will

bring security to this area.

David Friedman's words and behavior reveal a bigoted partisan. He has called on Palestinians to "embrace life rather than worship death," dismissing Palestinian responses to peace initiatives. He has called people like me who disagree with him "worse than kapos," i.e. those Jews who collaborated with Nazis in concentration camps.

A diplomat must be circumspect, able to consider opposing points of view, and willing to compromise. David Friedman is none of these. David Friedman has neither the vision, the experience nor the desire to create a peace with justice.

Judy Ullman  
Portsmouth, N.H.

Judy:

*He seems like the worst possible choice — no wonder he got picked.*

The Editor

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*To the subscriber who wrote this: "Whatever happened to 'Wheel-Gun Bob'? I loved his letters.*

*"Thank you for not publishing this note."*

*We regret having to violate so blatantly your clearly expressed wish. In our own defense, however, we could think of no better way of inducing ol' "Wheel-Gun" to put down his revolver and grace us with a letter.*

The Editor

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## ADMIRAL FOWLE'S PISCATAQUA RIVER TIDAL GUIDE (NOT FOR NAVIGATIONAL PURPOSES)

Portsmouth, arguably the first town in this country not founded by religious extremists, is bounded on the north and east by the Piscataqua River, the second, third, or fourth fastest-flowing navigable river in the country, depending on

whom you choose to believe. The Piscataqua's ferocious current is caused by the tide, which, in turn, is caused by the moon. The other player is a vast sunken valley — Great Bay — about ten miles upriver. Twice a day, the moon

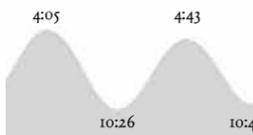
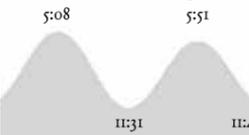
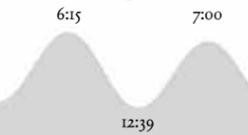
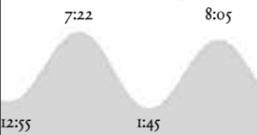
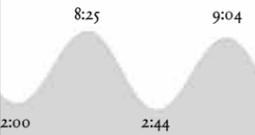
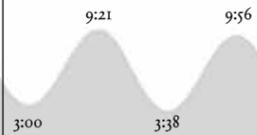
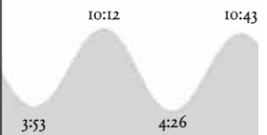
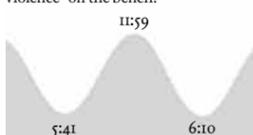
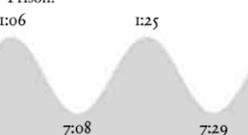
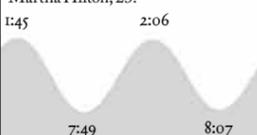
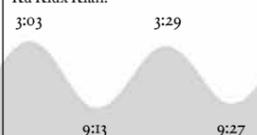
drags about seventeen billion gallons of seawater — enough to fill 2,125,000 tanker trucks — up the river and into Great Bay. This creates a roving hydraulic conflict, as incoming sea and the outgoing river collide. The skirmish line

moves from the mouth of the river, up past New Castle, around the bend by the old Naval Prison, under Memorial Bridge, past the tugboats, and on into Great Bay. This can best be seen when the tide is rising.

Twice a day, too, the moon lets all that water go. All the seawater that just fought its way upstream goes back home to the ocean. This is when the Piscataqua earns its title for xth fastest current. Look for the red buoy, at the upstream end of

Badger's Island, bobbing around in the current. It weighs several tons, and it bobs and bounces in the current like a cork. The river also has its placid moments, around high and low tides. When the river rests, its tugboats

and bridges work their hardest. Ships coming in laden with coal, oil, and salt do so at high tide, for more clearance under their keels. They leave empty, riding high in the water, at low tide, to squeeze under Memorial Bridge.

| SUNDAY, MARCH 5                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        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| <p><b>2007</b>—In Bloomington, Ill., Dec Riddle is startled by a meteorite crashing through her bedroom window.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—Dixie Chick Natalie Maines says she's ashamed that George W.[MD] Bush is a Texan.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—In a White House press conference, Helen Thomas tells Ari Fleischer "There is no imminent threat" to the U.S. from Saddam Hussein. Apparently he fails to pass that information along to his boss.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—A Nor'easter begins which will dump 40 inches of snow on Rockingham County.</p> <p><b>1963</b>—Patsy Cline, singer of "I Fall to Pieces," dies in a plane crash.</p> <p><b>1960</b>—Alberto Korda takes a nice photo of Che Guevara.</p> <p><b>1953</b>—Everybody dies; this time, for a change, it's Stalin.</p> <p><b>1933</b>—In Germany, the Nazi party wins a plurality in the Reichstag.</p> <p><b>1933</b>—On his first full day in office FDR declares a bank holiday.</p> <p><b>1927</b>—One thousand U.S. Marines land in China.</p> <p><b>1877</b>—"Rutherford" B. Hayes is sworn in as President.</p> <p><b>1871</b>—Rosa Luxemburg is born.</p> <p><b>1854</b>—"Know-Nothings" throw a stone into the Potomac the Pope intended for use in the Washington Monument.</p> <p><b>1770</b>—Heinous British troops slaughter innocent Bostonians in the Boston Massacre. (Or, provincial terrorists attack duly constituted authority.)</p> | <p><b>2007</b>—A jury finds Dick "Dick" Cheney's Chief of Staff I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby guilty of perjury and obstruction of justice.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—Pres. George W.[MD] Bush claims Saddam Hussein has "biological and chemical agents" that move "to different locations every 12 to 24 hours, or placed in vehicles that are in residential neighborhoods."</p> <p><b>1991</b>—President George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush claims that his defeat of Saddam Hussein has created a "new world order."</p> <p><b>1981</b>—President Reagan determines who to call upon at a press conference by drawing jelly beans from a jar.</p> <p><b>1981</b>—Walter Cronkite weighs anchor.</p> <p><b>1975</b>—Tech. Sgt. Leonard Matlovich openly challenges the Air Force's "no gays" rule.</p> <p><b>1974</b>—Ayn Rand addresses West Point cadets on the topic, "Philosophy — Who Needs It?"</p> <p><b>1971</b>—The same day the FCC bans songs that "promote or glorify the use of illegal drugs," unsuspecting Lawrence Welk singers perform "One Toke Over the Line."</p> <p><b>1944</b>—The U.S. Army uses napalm for the first time, in Berlin.</p> <p><b>1896</b>—Charles B. King (1868-1957) becomes the first person ever to drive an automobile in Detroit.</p> <p><b>1857</b>—The Supreme Court rules in <i>Dred Scott</i>: "the unhappy black race [never possessed] rights which the white man was bound to respect."</p> | <p><b>1981</b>—A stabbed 18-year-old is Disneyland's first murder victim.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—Peaceful civil rights marchers make their first attempt to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge and march to Selma, the capital of Alabama. They're mercilessly beaten by law enforcement officers and deputized goons.</p> <p><b>1955</b>—Baseball Commissioner Ford Frick says legalize the spitball.</p> <p><b>1942</b>—Pentagon builders are told to double the restrooms to accommodate Virginia's segregation laws.</p> <p><b>1932</b>—Detroit police fire on Ford hunger marchers; four die.</p> <p><b>1911</b>—Twenty thousand U.S. troops are dispatched to the Mexican border to protect "American interests."</p> <p><b>1908</b>—In Cincinnati, Mayor Mark Breith announces that "women are not physically fit to operate automobiles."</p> <p><b>1906</b>—In Finland, the Senate approves of universal suffrage—except for the poor.</p> <p><b>1876</b>—Alexander Graham Bell gets a patent for the telephone without having submitted a working model. It is remarkably similar to Elisha Gray's previously-submitted design.</p> <p><b>1850</b>—New Hampshire native Daniel Webster, representing Massachusetts in the U.S. Senate, argues that slaveholders are entitled to be secure in their ownership of their slaves.</p> <p><b>1799</b>—In Bethlehem, Pa., John Fries and a mob of four hundred free 19 property tax protestors from a federal marshal and 13 deputies.</p> | <p><b>2016</b>—Stabbed several times, Israeli Yonatan Azarihab pulls a knife from his neck and kills his attacker.</p> <p><b>1983</b>—Ronald Reagan runs the phrase "evil empire" up the flagpole.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—The Citizens Commission to Investigate the FBI breaks into the Bureau's Media, Penn. office, obtaining 1,000+ documents revealing illegal suppression of dissent. The Bureau fails to find the perps.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—Radio Hanoi plays Jimi Hendrix's "Star-Spangled Banner."</p> <p><b>1968</b>—The Soviet sub <i>K-129</i> sinks in the Pacific. The CIA later retrieves part of it.</p> <p><b>1966</b>—Fifty years after the Easter Rising, an IRA bomb destroys Nelson's Pillar in Dublin. Soon the song "Up Went Nelson" tops Irish charts.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—The first U.S. combat troops—U.S. Marines—hit the beach at Da Nang ready to fight. Vietnamese girls greet them with flowers.</p> <p><b>1958</b>—William Faulkner says American schools have "degenerated to become babysitters."</p> <p><b>1950</b>—The USSR announces it's got an A-bomb.</p> <p><b>1913</b>—The IRS begins collecting.</p> <p><b>1906</b>—Maj. Gen. Leonard Wood, a Winchester, N.H. native, views the result of his illegal order: 900 dead Moros [Filipino Muslims, men women and kids] in a volcanic crater. Teddy Roosevelt calls the massacre "a brilliant feat of arms [that upheld] the honor of the American flag."</p> | <p><b>2007</b>—Presidential candidate Newt Gingrich admits he committed adultery while impeaching Bill Clinton.</p> <p><b>1992</b>—Donald Trump files his second bankruptcy in eight months.</p> <p><b>1986</b>—Divers locate the crew compartment of the Shuttle <i>Challenger</i>.</p> <p><b>1982</b>—The Contras have gotten \$19 million in covert aid, it's revealed.</p> <p><b>1974</b>—After his ex-commander comes to the Philippines to give him the order, Lieut. Hiroo Onoda finally surrenders. He is pardoned for killing 30 Filipinos after WWII.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—Terrorist CBS execs decline to broadcast the Vietnam drama "Sticks and Bones."</p> <p><b>1969</b>—Terrorist CBS execs cancel "The Smothers Brothers."</p> <p><b>1965</b>—Activists march again in Alabama; racist goons beat white minister James Reeb to death.</p> <p><b>1954</b>—Ed Murrow takes Joe McCarthy apart on CBS. The network never lets the like happen again.</p> <p><b>1954</b>—WMUR-TV in Manchester begins broadcasting.</p> <p><b>1950</b>—Britain hangs Timothy J. Evans for murder. He's pardoned in 1966 because he was innocent.</p> <p><b>1932</b>—Ford Motor Co. makes its first production Flathead V-8.</p> <p><b>1920</b>—Gen. Leonard Wood, the hero of Bud Dajo [see 3/8/1906], wins the N.H. Presidential Primary.</p> <p><b>1916</b>—Pancho Villa and 1,500 guerillas raid Columbus, N.M. killing 17 Americans.</p>                        | <p><b>2004</b>—Pres. George W.[MD] Bush finds out simultaneously that: 1) his Terrorist Surveillance Program expires that day; 2) his lawyers won't renew it; and 3) Atty. Gen. John Ashcroft has been in the ICU for a week. He sends Al Gonzales racing to Ashcroft's hospital bed, to no avail.</p> <p><b>1992</b>—Injected with poison by Okla. state workers, Robyn Lee Parks gasps &amp; gags for eleven minutes before dying.</p> <p><b>1974</b>—A Pa. commission says police corruption is "systematic at all levels" in Philly. Mayor Rizzo tries to block an investigation.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—Thirteen of 19 airmen die at Lima Site 85, a remote radar site in Laos; the greatest single U.S.A.F. combat loss of the war.</p> <p><b>1966</b>—U.S.A.F. Major Bernard Fisher, seeing a fellow A-1 pilot make an emergency landing at a Special Forces camp at A Shau, lands, picks him up, and flies him to safety despite intense fire from the two NVA battalions which were overrunning the camp all the while.</p> <p><b>1951</b>—Genial ol Ike says America might try a first-strike nuclear attack.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—U.S. bombers drop 2,000 tons of incendiary bombs on Tokyo, killing 100,000 civilians and leaving 1,500,000 homeless.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—Japan temporarily shuts down U.S. plutonium production for "Fat Man," the Nagasaki A-bomb, by his balloon-firebombing electric wires in Hanford, Wash.</p> | <p><b>2011</b>—The most powerful earthquake in its history hits Japan, causing a tsunami that kills 15,850 and sets off three nuclear meltdowns.</p> <p><b>2004</b>—Pres. George W.[MD] Bush knuckles under. He's forced to suspend an illegal surveillance program to dissuade his top three Justice officials from quitting.</p> <p><b>2008</b>—SEC Chair Chris Cox says "We have a good deal of comfort about the capital cushions at these firms," three days before Bear Stearns collapses.</p> <p><b>2005</b>—Pentagon documents reveal that some Abu Ghraib prisoners were as young as 11.</p> <p><b>1958</b>—A B-47 accidentally drops a Mark 6 A-bomb, minus its core, on Mars Bluff, S.C. On the ground, 6 are injured by a non-nuclear explosion and a house is destroyed.</p> <p><b>1954</b>—The U.S. Army says Sen. Joe McCarthy &amp; aide Roy Cohn used threats to get special treatment for Private G. David Schine.</p> <p><b>1942</b>—At Corregidor, "Dugout Doug" MacArthur bugs out.</p> <p><b>1917</b>—Baghdad falls to an Anglo-Indian force.</p> <p><b>1847</b>—Death of John "Johnny Appleseed" Chapman, Daniel Fowle's 3rd cousin twice removed.</p> <p><b>222</b>—Fed up with Emperor Elagabalus prostituting himself in taverns and brothels, and egged on by his grandmother, the Praetorian Guard cut his head off.</p>                                        |
|  <p>4:05      4:43<br/>10:26      10:43</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            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| <p><b>2009</b>—Self-professed expert Frank Gaffney asserts that Saddam Hussein may have been involved in the Oklahoma City bombing.</p> <p><b>2006</b>—In Fordland, Mo., Matt Suter is sucked out of his house trailer by a tornado and dropped, alive, in a pasture 1/4 mi. away.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—<i>The Guardian</i> reports that Halliburton is still paying VP Dick "Dick" Cheney up to \$1 million a year in "deferred compensation."</p> <p><b>2002</b>—Homeland Security Tsar Tom Ridge unveils a Homeland Security Advisory System which never went below "Elevated."</p> <p><b>1968</b>—Eugene McCarthy places 2nd in the New Hampshire Democratic Primary, inspiring President Lyndon Johnson to drop out.</p> <p><b>1947</b>—Piper pilot Carmen Onofrio of Milan, N.H. makes the first of 43 landings atop Mt. Washington, delivering ice research equipment.</p> <p><b>1928</b>—Hours after a personal inspection by its builder Wm. Mulholland, L.A.'s St. Francis dam collapses killing 600 people.</p> <p><b>1912</b>—Captain Albert Berry becomes the first man to jump out of an airplane and live.</p> <p><b>1888</b>—The New York Weather Bureau predicts "light snow" just before a blizzard kills hundreds.</p> <p><b>1804</b>—Federal district judge John Pickering is impeached by the U.S. Senate for "drunkenness, profanity, &amp; violence" on the bench.</p>                       | <p><b>2008</b>—A Robinson R22 helicopter flying over Wilmington, N.C. is heard "spitting and sputtering," then seen "shedding" parts before crashing and killing its pilot.</p> <p><b>2002</b>—George W.[MD] Bush says of Osama bin Laden, "We haven't heard much from him... I don't know where he is... I truly am not that concerned about him."</p> <p><b>1968</b>—Nerve gas drift from the Army's Dugway Proving Grounds in Provo, Utah, poisons 6,400 sheep in nearby Skull Valley.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Lyman L. Lemnitzer, signs a Top Secret memo authorizing Operation Northwood—a "terror campaign" on U.S. soil intended to build public support for an attack on Cuba.</p> <p><b>1957</b>—Georgia's General Assembly votes to impeach five U.S. Supreme Court justices.</p> <p><b>1954</b>—Viet Minh forces besiege French troops at Dien Bien Phu.</p> <p><b>1921</b>—The "Mad Baron" Roman von Ungern-Sternberg becomes dictator of Mongolia — briefly.</p> <p><b>1881</b>—Russian nihilists use bombs to assassinate Czar Alexander.</p> <p><b>1877</b>—Chester Greenwood, 18, of Farmington, Maine, receives the first of his 130 patents, this one for earmuffs.</p> <p><b>1851</b>—<i>Typhoon</i> sails from Portsmouth for Liverpool. The clipper will set a record, 13 days, 10 hours.</p>                                                                        | <p><b>2002</b>—The Justice Dept. charges accounting firm Arthur Andersen with obstruction of justice for shredding Enron documents.</p> <p><b>1983</b>—A Robinson R22 helicopter falls apart over the Mississippi River near St. Louis, Mo. The bodies of the pilot and a passenger are never found.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—"Except for Vietnam," the AP reports Richard Nixon saying, "U.S. foreign policy is in a shambles."</p> <p><b>1964</b>—"We still don't know who killed JFK, but on this day a jury decided Jack Ruby killed Lee Harvey Oswald."</p> <p><b>1961</b>—A B-52, its cabin temps over 130° due to a heater snafu and its crew's performance perhaps sub-par due to bennie use, runs out of fuel over Yuba City, Calif, and crashes with two nukes on board. All aboard survive.</p> <p><b>1927</b>—Birth of Edward Abbey, writer and anarchist.</p> <p><b>1912</b>—In Lawrence, Mass., strikers win both "Bread and Roses."</p> <p><b>1891</b>—A mob of 20,000 in New Orleans lynches 11 Italian immigrants recently acquitted of murder.</p> <p><b>1888</b>—James "Honest Dick" Tate, Kentucky's State Treasurer, vanishes with \$247,000 of its money.</p> <p><b>1883</b>—Karl Marx, 64, dies in London, impoverished.</p> <p><b>1757</b>—For not "doing his utmost" in battle at Minorca, the Royal Navy has Admiral John Byng shot.</p> <p><b>1471</b>—Sir Thomas Malory, author of <i>Le Morte d'Arthur</i>, dies in Newgate Prison.</p>                         | <p><b>2008</b>—JPMorgan and Federal Reserve auditors inspect Bear Stearns' books and turn pale.</p> <p><b>2005</b>—Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Calif.) says the White House hid an audit showing a \$108 million overcharge by Halliburton in Iraq until after the presidential election.</p> <p><b>1989</b>—To flatter veterans without incurring actual additional expenses, the Veterans Administration is elevated to Departmental status.</p> <p><b>1982</b>—CIA-trained forces in Nicaragua blow up commie bridges.</p> <p><b>1982</b>—Donald Trump gets a New Jersey casino licence—normally a months-long process—in hours.</p> <p><b>1980</b>—A <i>Boston Globe</i> editorial about a speech by Pres. Jimmy Carter appears under the headline, "Mush from the Wimp."</p> <p><b>1962</b>—A Lockheed Constellation carrying 96 U.S. Army Rangers to Vietnam disappears between Guam and the Philippines.</p> <p><b>1917</b>—Czar Nicholas II abdicates the Russian throne under duress.</p> <p><b>1916</b>—President Woodrow Wilson sends 16,000 soldiers into Mexico to catch Pancho Villa. They fail.</p> <p><b>1874</b>—A French "protectorate" takes over in Annam (Vietnam).</p> <p><b>1869</b>—The first bill granting women the right to vote is introduced to Congress, where it dies, naturally.</p> <p><b>1760</b>—Governor Benning Wentworth, 64, marries his housekeeper, Martha Hilton, 23.</p>                                    | <p><b>2008</b>—JPMorgan buys Bear Stearns, with the New York Fed's \$30 billion.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—On "Meet the Press," Dick "Dick" Cheney claims that Saddam Hussein "has, in fact, reconstituted nuclear weapons," and that "we will, in fact, be greeted as liberators."</p> <p><b>1993</b>—"The Storm of the Century" kills 318 on the East Coast.</p> <p><b>1990</b>—On his deathbed, Lee Atwater claims to repent; sadly, there are no lie detectors present.</p> <p><b>1988</b>—Kurds in Iraq are gassed with ingredients Saddam Hussein bought from the U.S. and Europe.</p> <p><b>1987</b>—Parts fall off a Robinson R22 helicopter over Scottsdale, Ariz., which then plummets, killing two.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—Senator Roman Hruska (R-Neb.) defends G. Harold Carwell's nomination to the Supreme Court by saying, "there are a lot of mediocre judges and people and lawyers. They are entitled to a little representation, aren't they?"</p> <p><b>1968</b>—GIs in Vietnam kill hundreds of civilians at My Lai.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—Alice Herz, 82, self-immolates in Detroit to protest the Vietnam War. She dies 10 days later.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—In Montgomery, Ala., police attack civil rights marchers.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—Flying Tiger Flight 739 from Travis AFB to Saigon disappears with 107 soldiers and crew on board.</p> <p><b>1862</b>—Men digging a well by hand in Brighton, England, finally hit water 1,285 feet down.</p> | <p><b>2013</b>—Two men hijack a tourist helicopter and help two convicts break out of a Quebec prison.</p> <p><b>2008</b>—Eliot Spitzer's nocturnal habits cost him his day job as Gov. of N.Y.</p> <p><b>2007</b>—<i>The Navy Times</i> reports that Fox News guest and U.S.M.C. Corporal Matt Sanchez had an earlier career as a gay porn star.</p> <p><b>2005</b>—"Based on a review of the video footage [Terri Schiavo] certainly seems to respond to visual stimuli," says Sen. [Dr.] Bill Frist [R-Fla.] on the Senate floor. An autopsy later reveals she was blind.</p> <p><b>2004</b>—Local narcs and off-duty cops celebrate St. Patrick's Day by duking it out in the parking lot at Paddy's on the Pease Tradeport.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—George W.[MD] Bush tells Saddam Hussein that Iraq isn't big enough for the both of them, and gives Hussein 48 hours to get out.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—Disgruntled tobacco farmer Dwight Watson drives his John Deere into a pond on the Mall, paralyzing Washington D.C.</p> <p><b>1992</b>—Dick "Dick" Cheney and two other members of G.H.[H.]W. Bush's cabinet admit they wrote rubber checks on the House bank.</p> <p><b>1960</b>—Genial ol' Ike signs off on a clandestine plan to overthrow the government of Cuba.</p> <p><b>1922</b>—The suburbs of Washington, D.C. are littered with racist propaganda dropped from a biplane by the Ku Klux Klan.</p>                        | <p><b>2004</b>—Portsmouth narcs and off-duty cops begin a second round of fist-cuffs, this time at Gilley's.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—"Why should we hear about body bags and death and how many?" former First Lady Barbara Bush asks Diane Sawyer. "It's not relevant... why should I waste my beautiful mind on something like that?"</p> <p><b>1992</b>—Bizarre Texas billionaire H. Ross Perot says he'll run for President if his supporters get him on the ballot in 50 states.</p> <p><b>1990</b>—Fake cops bluff guards and steal Rembrandts and a Vermeer from Boston's Gardner Museum.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—A Congressional study says income inequality has doubled since 1952.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—The U.S. begins secretly bombing Cambodia.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—Alexey Arkhipovich Leonov takes the first walk in space. It's almost his last. To fit back in the capsule he must bleed air from his suit.</p> <p><b>1963</b>—The Supreme Court rules that states must provide lawyers for indigent defendants.</p> <p><b>1953</b>—The State Dept. orders overseas libraries cleansed of books by authors of "suspect" loyalty.</p> <p><b>1925</b>—The Tri-State Tornado kills 695 along a 235 mile path from Missouri to Indiana.</p> <p><b>1741</b>—Fort George, the center of colonial government in New York, is torched as part of a conspiracy among blacks and poor whites.</p> |
|  <p>11:59<br/>5:41      6:10</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |  <p>12:25      12:43<br/>6:26      6:50</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    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