

# The New Hampshire Gazette

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## The Fortnightly Rant

### Voter Fraud? Or Voters Defrauded?

American citizens were once the envy of the world. They spent their vacations seeing the U.S.A. in their Chevrolets, rolling merrily along on smooth bands of asphalt (carefully engineered to carry the load should caissons and whatnot ever be required to repel the Godless Commie hordes). They saved a little money, enjoyed compound interest, and sent their kids off to college. Then they retired with a pension. (This all assumes, of course, that they were prescient enough to be born white and in the right circumstances.)

Here's what passes for good news these days: the Senate had to put off taking healthcare away from tens of millions of Americans until a Senator with a long list of preexisting conditions recovers from taxpayer-funded surgery.

Meanwhile, most of humanity now understands that the way we live is making our planet unlivable, but our government's policies are being re-aligned to hasten the apocalypse.

In the midst of such mishegas, the overgrown adolescent in the Oval Office — who has not appeared in "House of Cards" because suspension of disbelief has its limits — has established a voter fraud commission.

That's our problem? We don't know how many deranged individuals might have risked a felony conviction to cast one extra vote out of 128 million?

Talk about blaming the victims.

The excruciatingly obvious truth is that there is no voter fraud to speak of — which is not to say that it hasn't happened. Terri Lynn Rote, an Iowa Republican, pleaded guilty last month to voting twice in the last election. Both her votes went to Donald Trump.

**Tuh-mey-toh, Tuh-mah-toh**

Republicans, since the demise of the Great Emancipator, at least, have

been the party of big business, while Democrats are alleged to have been the champions of the little guy. This alignment has been evident in the parties' contrasting approaches to election shenanigans.\*

Democrats — and proto-Democrats going right back to Thomas Jefferson — used to fix elections by buying votes on the retail plan: one mug of beer at a time. The free market once known as machine politics, though, has gone the way, for better or worse, of the non-ironic fedora. This political sea-change can be dated to John Kennedy's election, which he won in part by flashing his teeth and hair on the Philco.

Republicans have gone with their natural proclivities and taken a more wholesale approach to fixing elections — and their business is booming as never before. Perhaps ironically — it's so hard to know — they did it in part by taking a page from Marx. They seized the means of production, which is to say: state governments.

In 2010 Republicans hit the jackpot. Thanks to deregulation and a couple of futile wars, the U.S. economy was in a shambles. The Koch-facilitated Tea Party harnessed the resultant anger and gave Republicans control over a record number of state houses (there's that irony again, we suspect). Newly-developed mapping tools allowed Karl Rove and his ilk to perfect the hoary art of gerrymandering. Democrats, of course, tend to self-sort into compact urban districts, thereby giving Republicans yet another edge.

Those factors help to explain

\* Any rational human reviewing the historical behavior of these two competing organizations will periodically be moved to call out to the heavens, "can we not get a little competition, here?" The answer is no, because, almost without exception, American elections are run using First-Past-The-Post rules. These are best explained by the video, "The Problems with First Past the Post Voting Explained," by CGP Grey: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s7tWH1fbiyo>.



why Republicans got 55 percent of the seats in the House with just 51 percent of the votes. These were far from the only factors at play, though.

#### Our Non-Partisan Court

Black voter turnout hit record highs in 2008 and 2012, no surprise considering the ticket. Some dropoff was to be expected in 2016, but not a seven-point decline. It was the most significant anomaly in the demographics of voter turnout in the last 20 years.

Other factors were at work as well, but it's no coincidence that in 2013, Republican-appointed Justices on the Supreme Court took the Voting Rights Act behind the barn and put a bullet in its head. The consequences of that decision are not easily quantified. As is usually the case, though, our politics work on the ratchet principle: movement is possible in only one direction, and that is to the right. According to reports, there were 868 fewer polling places in Arizona, Texas, and North Carolina last November. In Maricopa County, the number of polling places was cut by 70 percent.

#### Crosscheck That Voter!

If those efforts at discouragement fail, Republicans have another line of defense: throwing voters off the rolls with the Crosscheck program. In Arizona and North Carolina, the number of voters purged with Crosscheck was three times Trump's margin of victory; in Michigan it was 34 times greater.

In recognition of his efforts in this scheme, Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach has been named, along with Vice President Pence, to co-chair the President's Advisory Commission on Election Integrity.

Speaking of integrity, Kobach was just fined \$1,000 by a judge for making "patently misleading statements" about a document he brought to a meeting with the President-elect.

#### Rank Thievery?

The case is far from proven, but there's reason to suspect skulduggery in three states whose electoral votes were enough to put The Grand Yam in the Oval Office. Trump won Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin by margins of less than one percent. In each case there was

a marked discrepancy between the exit polling and the result: 4.3 percent in Michigan, 4.9 in Pennsylvania, and 6.4 percent in Wisconsin. A political party with gumption might be looking into that; the feckless Democrats are not.

#### Secure Elections? Naaah ...

UPI reported Tuesday that House Republicans are planning to shut off funding to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission — the only U.S. agency charged with ensuring election security — under the pretext of balancing the budget.

#### Who Is Defrauding Whom?

Republicans are defrauding the electorate in more ways than we can count.

Democrats claim to be fighting back, but it's hard to see how or where.

If our news media were what they claim to be, they would not have enabled the last several decades of escalating Republican lies; instead they would be using their resources to dig into the issues that we've just skimmed over here. For the most part, they ignore them.

## The Alleged News®

### Who Knew Imelda Marcos Had a Closet in the White House?

We are considering the adoption of a boilerplate apology to begin each issue's Alleged News®. Here's a draft: "It is entirely possible that one or more scandals of some significant importance may have arisen, unfolded, metastasized, and been completely overshadowed by one or more succeeding scandals during the relatively brief time that has elapsed since this newspaper was sent to the printer. We regret any inconvenience."

This desperate measure was prompted, of course, by the constant, deafening, and interminable racket being created by shoes, boots, and other assorted footwear of every conceivable description hitting the floor in the Trump™ White House.

The final straw was the report Tuesday evening that ten days earlier, during the G20 summit in Hamburg, Donald Trump had sat down for a previously undisclosed, hour-long tête-à-tête with Vladimir Putin — without any adult supervision.

The Russian President and former KGB officer had a translator present who was fluent in English. Trump brought a translator who spoke Japanese, but not Russian. National security experts were more appalled than surprised.

The meeting was first disclosed by Ian Bremmer, the chairman and founder of Eurasia Group, a consulting company specializing in political risk which can call on a network of 500 experts in 90 countries around the world. According to a 2006 pro-

file in *The Telegraph*, Bremmer is a self-described "mutt" of Armenian and German ancestry who dragged himself out of the Boston housing projects to go to university at the age of 16. ... By the time his teenage years were over, he had already rubbed shoulders with an impressive menagerie of corrupt Third World politicians and grasping oil men. His office wall is covered with photographs of Bremmer, looking like Ferris Bueller, deep in conversation with Bond-villain oligarchs."

Bremmer was quoted in *The Hill* saying that Trump speaking with Putin without a translator of his own present was "a breach of national security protocol ... though one that the President likely would not know about."

Michael McFaul, President Obama's Ambassador to Russia, agreed, tweeting, "Before G20 summit, I said many times that Putin wanted to get Trump alone, without advisors around. Turns out, he succeeded twice."

This news meshed perfectly with the now-established Trump pattern, in that it overshadowed another story which had broken just a few hours earlier: the identity of a Georgian businessman who had been present at another formerly-secret meeting which had been attended by Donald Trump Jr. The mysterious "8th guest" was revealed to be Irakly "Ike" Kaveladze, 52, a vice president of Crocus Group, a real estate company owned by a Russian billionaire — of course.

News of Trump Jr.'s previously-secret meeting with Russians, at Trump Tower in Manhattan on June 9, 2016, first broke on July 8th. Every few hours since then, it seems, that bottomless story has vomited up some new, unsavory detail.

The original version of this tele-novela starred Natalia Veselnitskaya, a Russian lawyer with connections to the Kremlin who is, according to the *New York Times*, "best known for mounting a multipronged attack against the Magnitsky Act, an American law that blacklists suspected Russian human rights abusers. The law so enraged Mr. Putin that he retaliated by halting Ameri-

**The Alleged News®**

from page one

can adoptions of Russian children.”

Don Jr., told the *Times*, “It was a short introductory meeting. I asked Jared [Kushner] and Paul [Manafort] to stop by. We primarily discussed a program about the adoption of Russian children that was active and popular with American families years ago and was since ended by the Russian government, but it was not a campaign issue at the time and there was no follow up.” So: no big deal, entirely benign.

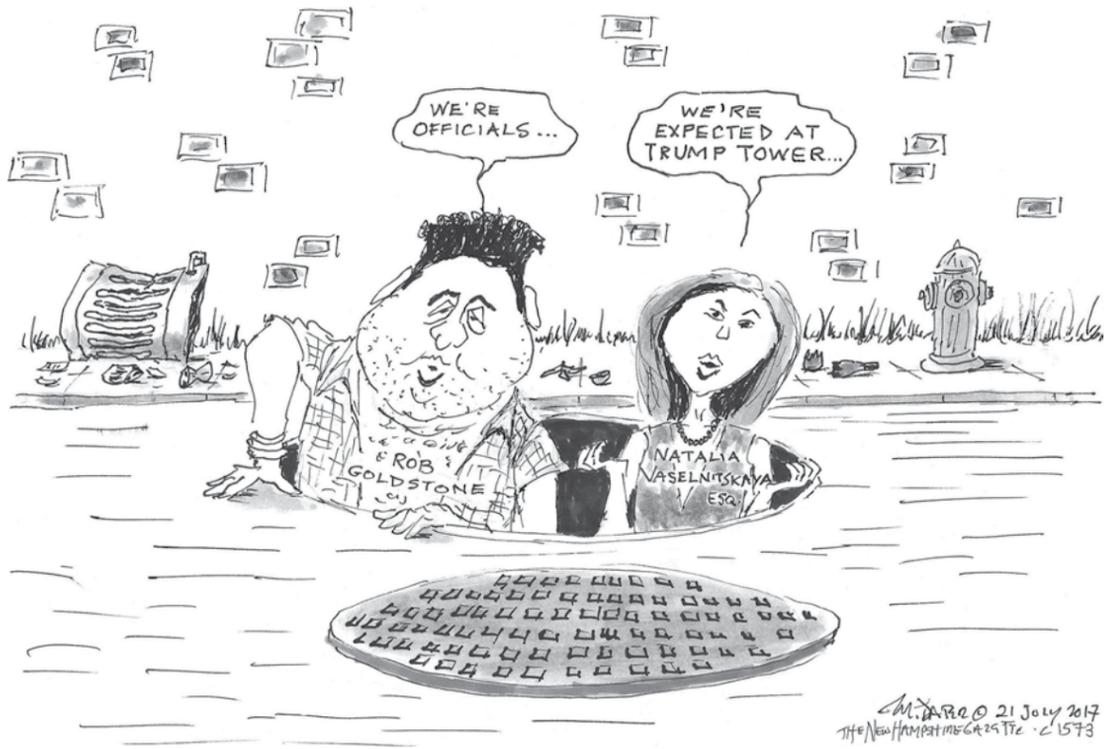
The next day a little more truth came out — after Trump Jr. (The Lesser Yam?) was presented by the *Times* with information leaked by “three advisers to the White House briefed on the meeting and two others with knowledge of it,” the younger Trump admitted that he had been lured to the meeting by the promise of information that would be damaging to Hillary Clinton’s Presidential campaign. Exit Russian babies, stage left.

True to form, that jarring bit of information was obscured by the next day’s bizarre news: the person who had linked Trump Jr. to the Russian lawyer was a music publicist named Rob Goldstone, a portly fellow with a penchant for appearing on social media wearing odd headgear like a tiara, or a gold-colored trucker’s cap bearing an obscenity, and performing little skits from his favorite children’s television program.

Despite his eye-popping eccentricity, Goldstone was quickly forgotten in the uproar following Trump Jr.’s release of the string of emails setting up the June 9th meeting.

As he released the emails, Trump professed a sudden urge for transparency. That noble posture was undercut by its timing: he had just learned that the *New York Times* was about to make them public.

The President chose that moment to praise his son as a “high-quality” person. His definition of quality seems not to include intelligence. Trump Jr. appears not to have recog-



The Portsmouth Times building, damaged in the fire that destroyed the State Street Saloon, has been exposed to the elements for more than three months. Its owner has now admitted before the Historic District Commission that he wants to tear it down. His words only confirmed what empty windows have been telling us since April 10th. Given the privileges of ownership under our capitalist system, the handsome old structure is probably doomed. Meanwhile, the MacIntyre building, a notorious eyesore a few blocks away, is apparently immune to the wrecker’s ball.

nized that those emails constituted a confession.

They established beyond any doubt that the Russian government was eager to become, in effect, a Moscow-based PAC working for the Trump Presidential campaign, and that the campaign was delighted to have its help. Trump Jr.’s response to the invitation was “I love it.”

A reasonable person might wonder if these revelations finally begin to erode support for the Trump Administration. The results of a recent poll conducted by Public Policy Polling, and released on Tuesday, suggest that they will not.

“[O]nly 45 percent of Trump voters believe Donald Trump Jr. had a meeting with Russians about information that might be harmful to Hillary Clinton ... even though Trump Jr. admitted it. 32 percent say the meeting didn’t happen and 24 percent say they’re not sure.”

To that, we can only add this: “As democracy is perfected, the office of president represents, more and more closely, the inner soul of the people. On some great and

glorious day the plain folks of the land will reach their heart’s desire at last and the White House will be adorned by a downright moron.”

—H. L. Mencken

**Affordable Housing For ... ?**

There used to be a run-down building between the old Memorial Bridge and Prescott Park. At one time it housed a restaurant which featured undistinguished food and a terrific view of the river, the bridge, and the shipyard. A moldering old boat was tied up to the pier alongside. If you listened hard enough you could probably hear the raucous shouts of drunken hellraisers, still echoing from a hundred years ago.

Now you can drop \$3,200,000 for a 2,600 square foot condo in a building on that site that looks like it might have been designed by Albert Speer. A warning is in order: it’s kind of a fixer-upper. The interior walls are studs-only, and it’s being offered as-is. On the plus side, it comes with inescapable free entertainment, all summer long. Lull yourself to sleep at night to the drone of car wheels crossing the bridge ....

Just across the quaint and picturesque parking lot two more units of affordable housing for millionaires are available; a three-bedroom for \$3,995,000, and a more modest two-bedroom for a mere \$2,745,000.

We were somewhat stunned by those numbers at first, but then we learned there’s a house for sale in L.A. priced at a quarter of a billion dollars. It has everything, including, on the roof, a no-longer-airworthy Bell 222 helicopter that was used to film the TV series “Airwolf.” You, too, can spend your leisure time pretending to be Dr. Charles Henry Moffet: evil genius with a psychopathic taste for torturing and killing women.

This 38,000-foot temple of excess was built on spec by Bruce Markowsky, who made a fortune selling handbags on QVC. Is this a great country, or what?

It’s a good thing the President is not a West Coast kind of guy. Otherwise we’d have to worry about this thing showing up in the budget as Pentagon West.

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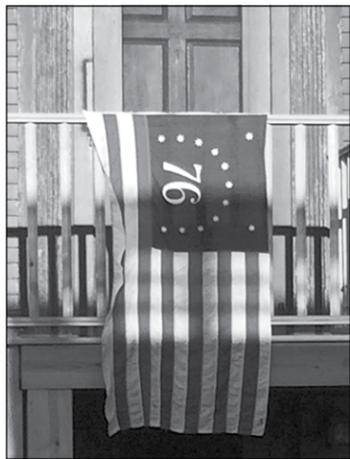


**South End Crime Wave**

Either the South End is having a crime wave, or someone's putting something in Officer Krupke's coffee. After a bit of a dry spell, he's gone on a tear and issued two citations in that *chichi* neighborhood.

One case is a straightforward violation of 4 U.S. Code Sec. 7 (i) "When displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall, the union should be uppermost and to the flag's own right, that is, to the observer's left. . . ."

The other case is more ambiguous. It raises an existential question, akin to the well-known tree falling in the forest. If the flag in question does not meet the specifications of the Flag Code, is it subject to that



**Code, or exempt?**

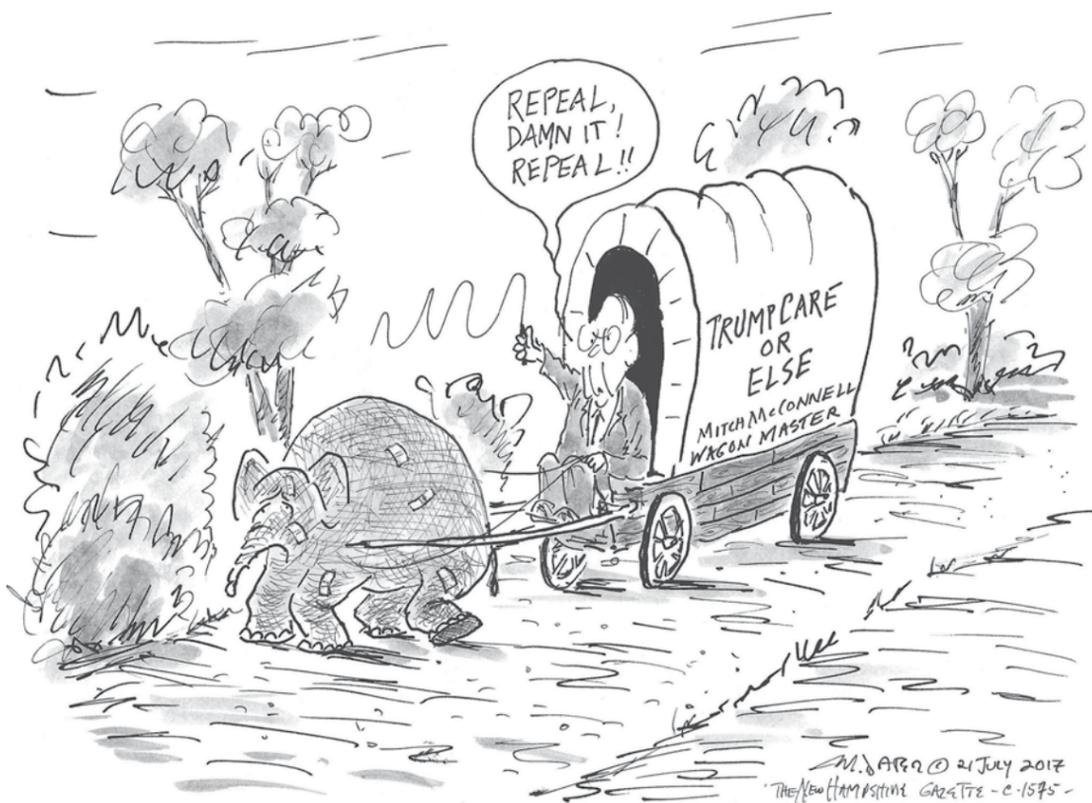
The question was still being debated at press time, albeit languidly, in light of the weather.

**Unknown Tourist Risks Life, Limb**



At mid-afternoon on Sunday, July 16th, a tourist could be seen gawking at downtown Portsmouth from the port side of a Robinson R44 — the same make and model of helicopter Rosemere do Nascimento, 32, of Sao Paulo, Brazil, boarded on what should have been the happiest day of her life. Instead, it was her last.

A video published July 6th by the



*New York Post* shows the last minutes of the lives of the bride, her brother, the pilot, and a six-month pregnant videographer. The passengers are wearing headphones to protect their hearing from the thrashing sound of the whirling blades and the roar of the engine. After the crash, the only sound is of chirping birds.

**Take Back Sanders Poynt!**

After Wentworth By the Sea Country Club [WBTSCC] illegally blocked public access to the Little Harbor beach at Sanders Poynt, and the Attorney General's office of the State of New Hampshire did nothing, Rye resident Robert "Bob" Jesurum sued WBTSCC and, after an unnecessarily-prolonged legal battle, including an appeal to the New Hampshire Supreme Court, won an unequivocal victory.

Since then WBTSCC seems to have been putting its time, money, and energy into not complying with the Court's orders.

The Town of Rye appears to be enabling that behavior.

Jesurum is about to try to get the town to change its ways. He sent us

this message on Monday:

"Next Monday, July 24, at 6:30 p.m., the Rye Board of Selectmen will be holding one of their sessions. Not yet having had a reply from the letter I sent them last week, I intend to turn up and use my allotted five minutes each person is allowed for public comment. It is our last chance to try to turn the town before the next hearing we have before the judge. In my opinion, while the town has lost any real standing in the case, it would be great to have them as a friend in court rather than as my adversary and ally of the Wentworth.

"I would welcome any support at this meeting that I can get."

Jesurum recently sent a letter to the Rye Selectmen. It said, in part, "the latest filing by your lawyer, Michael L. Donovan, to the Rockingham County Superior Court ... sides with WBTSCC which if I am not mistaken lost the court case over Sanders Poynt some two years ago. ... On May 23, for a short period of time, the town appeared to have come to its senses. Attorney Donovan wrote a letter to all the parties

in the dispute, saying in part: 'The town's position is that WBTSCC should "put it back the way it was" prior to October 2012, as documented by photos provided to the court ... There should be no subsequent enhancements. It is time for this saga to end.

"Why was this moment of clarity so short-lived? What changed the town's position again?"

If the Wentworth prevails here, the people's rights will be eroded all across the state. Whatever their rules may be, non-residents ought to be permitted not just to attend, but to speak at the Rye Selectmen's meeting on July 24th.

Coastal Conservation Association of New Hampshire reports a recent \$200 donation towards the legal expenses of fighting for public access at Sanders Poynt. That leaves upwards of \$90,000 to go. Contributions can be made online at [ccanh.org/sanders-poynt](http://ccanh.org/sanders-poynt). Checks can be sent to CCA NH, PO Box 4372, Portsmouth, N.H. 03802-4372, payable to the "Coastal Conservation Association of New Hampshire."



*A microcosm of America today: a self-professed patriot proudly flies an inappropriately-sized flag — the fly-end of which is too tattered for display — on a foreign-made motorcycle. In conjunction with it he flies another flag which, in the context of our times, signifies clearly the rider's preference for lawless militias over our duly constituted government.*

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**Lazy Dog Days**

To the Editor:

Anyone who's ever trained a dog understands America's contribution-driven political system. Here's how it works. When Rover does something you like, you reward him with a treat. Same for a politician. If you want something done, write a big fat check and say "good boy!" It's like voting, only different.

Surely you remember Pavlov's dog, Skinner's box, and the power of positive reinforcement. Trouble is, we peons on Main Street can't afford to go around handing out enormous checks. So how can we compete against such powerful lure? Our votes are only cast once every two to four years, but corporate check writers are free to short circuit our preferences and short-sheet our beds anytime they choose!

As a result, campaign-contribution addiction and "treat solicitation" run rampant among elected officials everywhere — and especially in D.C. In fact, many have the temerity to complain about the huge amount of time they must spend groveling, begging, and presumably trading away our best interests for cash. Some even claim they have no time to write or review legislation anymore. Instead they pass off "complicated" tasks like healthcare and the environment to legions of friendly lobbyists, lawyers, and industry consultants who stand all-too ready to help.

Would you tolerate that behavior from your dog?

But, why blame the dog? Dogs will be dogs, and when training them, suction always works better than pressure. No amount of tweet-shaming or butt-swatting with rolled-up copies of the *New York Times* will change their behavior as long as those fat checks keep coming in over the transom.

By all rights, we should go after these barons of multinational commerce for turning our dogs against us and twisting democracy into plutocracy. However, we don't because there are laws against commoners clubbing lobbyists and rich people with fish bats. The Supreme Court saw to that.

Nevertheless, it appears change is

on the horizon. Despite our woeful inability to get out of bed, mobilize, and initiate change, concern and even paranoia is growing rapidly among the .01 percent that "the pitchforks are coming."

Here's the thing — if they believe it, why don't we?

Rick Littlefield  
Barrington, N.H.

*Rick:*  
*Comparing duly-elected office holders to a bunch of misbehaving curs — how rude!*

*And, sadly, how accurate . . .*  
*The Editor*

**An Unnerving Experience**

To the Editor:

I had a rather unnerving experience about a year ago, and it still troubles me. Despite the well known credo that "you can't go home again," I visited the places where I grew up in the 1940's and 50's in Haverhill, Mass., and Newton Junction, New Hampshire (towns about 10 miles apart).

Though I hardly expected (more than half a century later) to find things unchanged, I was totally unprepared for one transformation that seems to have engulfed both my home places.

I recall so very well the tree-lined streets in Haverhill and our many neighbors and also the mile-long dirt road leading to my grandmother's camp on Country Pond in Newton Junction. My father rode the train from the Junction to Haverhill and back, to work during the summer months. In late afternoon my grandmother and I would listen for the old steam engine's whistle telling us it was time to walk out the road to meet my father coming in, all the while conversing with our friends and neighbors along the way. We knew everyone and everyone knew us.

In Haverhill, fences were for decoration or to form a safe play-yard for young children. Along the road to Country Pond there were no fences. Most everyone had one family vehicle and at least one boat. No one gave a lot of thought to where one person's property ended and another's began. Looking back it seems now an un-



der-appreciated treasure of the times.

I was shocked to find a fence around my grandmother's house in Haverhill, and "Keep Out" signs and one sign reading, "This property is guarded by two Bull Mastiffs." That scene was hard to absorb and a far cry from the rose bush my grandmother nurtured which grew up the side of the house, then in under the living room window, up the window (on the inside) and then out again at the top of the window where it continued climbing toward the second floor. My grandmother remains the only person I ever knew to pick roses off a rosebush from a sofa.

The camps along the road to the pond (which is paved now) seem separated by fences or clearly marked, "Private Property," "No Trespassing," or "Keep Out."

There was an older gentleman outside the camp where my aunt and uncle had theirs (next to ours) so I stopped, apologized for crossing the "No Trespassing" sign, explained who I was (even showed him pictures of our camps 60 odd years ago) and asked if he minded if I walked down to the shoreline for a few minutes. "No," he said, "I think it would be better if you went over to the public beach."

I didn't expect a ticker-tape parade in my honor upon my return, but neither was I prepared to be treated like a second-story man. I trust my experience does not characterize present-day New Hampshire as a whole. If it does — Bummer!!!

David L. Snell  
Franklin, N.C.

*David:*  
*We would not be particularly shocked ourselves to run into that sort of treatment. Having met you, however, we can attest to the fact that you are a dignified and entirely presentable person; we cannot imagine your appearance or behavior in any way justified the reactions you encountered.*

*Your grandmother sounds like a real sketch.*  
*The Editor*

**Remembering Justice Brandeis**

To the Editor:

Louis Brandeis, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court from June 1, 1916 to February 13, 1939, said, "We must make our choice. We may have democracy, or we may have wealth concentrated in the hands of a few, but we can't have both."

Never has that choice been so stark. Donald Trump's cabinet is super rich. Collectively they own more than a third of what the total American people do. Overall the richest one percent in the United States now own more wealth than the bottom 90 percent. Marc Lore, Wal-Mart CEO, made \$236.9 million last year, essentially the equivalent of over \$4.5 million per week. A Walmart worker paid at \$11 an hour would have to work 199 years to match that sum.

Though these wealthy people don't agree on everything, they are brought together by their core beliefs — that taxes are tyrannical, and that government regulation of business infringes on their freedom to make more profits. They are using their billions to influence public policy and public opinion to advance their own interests at the expense of the environment, worker safety, and the healthcare of millions. They contribute generously to the campaigns of favored candidates. They hire lobbyists — in one calendar year the lobbying industry spent about \$12.5 million for each member of Congress.

Republican Senators are hiding from their constituents during their holiday break. Only 35 percent of Republicans and 17 percent of Americans overall approve of the Senate

GOP's proposed health care bill, and concerned people are speaking out — loudly — just as they did about the House bill. Why is it so hard for their elected representatives to hear them?

Perhaps because of the constant refrain filling their ears, "Never mind affordable health care — you owe us a tax break!"

How long are we going to put up with this? We have a choice to make.

Cynthia Muse  
Rye, N.H.

*Cynthia:*  
*We've been hearing lately about a "New Brandeis movement." It seems to be a promising new/old way to approach the relationship between corporations and the government. Corporations have been running things for quite a while — perhaps it's time for a change.*

*The Editor*

**Bipartisan Greed**

To the Editor:

Thank you for the refreshing reporting of how members of both parties accept vast amounts of money from the insurance lobbyists working to defeat a one-party payer system.

Both parties, by accepting the money with equal enthusiasm, reflect the greater reality that Washington serves only the interests of the elites, who are united not by party but by their common interests. It is those elites in finance, the corporate media, the Military-Industrial-Security complex, and the financial sector, that Donald Trump ran against and whom he defeated with the help of ordinary Americans — Hillary's deplorables — who returned to the voting booth, or who voted for the first time.

Yes, it was one man, Donald Trump, who fought the establishment and won. And, although he has been a

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**Murph's Fortnightly Quote**

*"If any form of service is menial, democracy is a failure."*

— William Rufus Scott,  
from *The Itching Palm* (1916)

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disappointment in many areas the movement he inspired is bigger than the man himself. The Donald's win proved that democracy works — that the candidates of the elitists can be defeated — a fact which has made the establishment apoplectic.

What I cannot understand is how Hillary Clinton, who is an amalgam of neoconservative foreign policy of perpetual war, and neoliberal policies of globalism, privatization, and destruction of the social safety net, and a member of that elitist Washington establishment, is supported by such groups as Black Lives Matter, or the Occupy Movement. I, of course, can understand the students who support her as those who have not yet grown out of their teenage rebellion, or those who are brainwashed by their liberal professors. Then, of course, there are the graduates with useless diplomas, thousands of dollars in student loans, living in their parent's basement, or in their grandmother's garage, who also find themselves supporting the candidate of the elite classes. Do they really think that diplomas make them members of the elites?

Please explain.

John Dente  
Wilmington, Del.

John:

We realize that by accepting this position — alright, by wrenching it from the feeble grasp of a Canadian plutocrat whose full moniker was Kenneth Roy Thomson, 2nd Baron Thomson of Fleet — we have invited requests of this sort. Still, we are somewhat taken aback by your suggestion that we ought to be able to explain the behavior of "students ... who have not yet grown out of their teenage rebellion" or "graduates with useless diplomas [and] thousands of dollars in student loans, living ... in their grand-

mother's garage" — largely because we see those purported figures as straw men and women.

Our sense of things is that people associated with the movements you cite are far more likely to have supported Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders. As the footnote to this Fortnight's Rant makes plain (we hope), American voters are trapped in a political duopoly. Once the Democratic National Committee put the kibosh on his candidacy — which is understandable, if not forgivable, since he really was a Democrat in Name Only — whom could they support? Trump? That grotesque, lying, incompetent buffoon?

The Editor

~

**Somersworth HAZMAT SitRep**

To the Editor:

The City of Somersworth has, so far as can be determined, deliberately ignored a major pollution site, a 1940s to 1986 EXXON gas station that was at 20 Green Street, at the top of a granite upthrust, which has spilled MtBE and other petrochemical toxins down the hillside for the years after a sham tank removal, which EXXON registered with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services in 1986.

It is now 2017.

The three rusting EXXON installed, but never removed, 2000 gallon tanks are still in the ground there, if a magnetometer test is to be believed. Despite that evidence the town has continued to refuse to inform itself and refused to obtain accurate information about the site.

Instead, town officials drove New Hampshire DES's [John?] Pasquale from the site as he prepared to dig the tanks out and remove the contaminated soil surrounding them, all of this at no cost to Somersworth.

It is no wonder that the school

system in Somersworth failed, as it educated this group of "Know nothings," swept them from its halls, and sent them out to (mis)manage a city — their city, the city of Somersworth.

They may have lived downhill from the 20 Green Street site and spent their youths in toxins, who knows?

Dr. Terry Bennett  
Somersworth, N.H.  
Terry:  
What an impertinent implication!  
The Editor

~

**Trumps? Deceptive? It Can't Be!**

To the Editor:

"Oh! What an tangled web we weave, when first we practice to deceive." These words, written by Sir Walter Scott, perfectly describe the entire Trump family, campaign staff and the Trump Administration. With each passing day more and more proof emerges that Trump's family and his campaign conspired with Russia, an adversarial foreign government, to influence the 2016 Presidential election.

The entire scope, depth, and extent of the connection between Trump and the Russians may go far beyond the conspiracy to disrupt the 2016 election. The financial ties between Trump and various Russian groups has been well documented. Donald Trump Jr. said, "Well, we don't rely on American banks, we have all the funding we need out of Russia." And Eric Trump said, "Russians make up a pretty disproportionate cross-section of a lot of our assets. We see a lot of money pouring in from Russia." What exactly are those financial ties between Trump and Russia? There has been speculation of Russians using Trump properties to launder money in the United States, and it was Russians who bailed Trump out financially, when no American banks would touch him. What other sinister ties are there between Trump and Russia? As Deep Throat said during Watergate, "follow the money"

Rich DiPentima  
Portsmouth, N.H.

~

**Oozing Democrats**

To the Editor:

Democrat [sic] politicians ooze concern for the poor and promise wonderful sounding policies to win the votes of gullible, ignorant, and willingly deceived people. But, in practice, Democrat [sic] policies hurt the people they are promised to help. The Democrat-demanded \$15 minimum wage hurts young, uneducated, unskilled, and/or part-time workers.

A recent University of Washington study reports that the increase to \$13 on the way to implement Seattle's (a wealthy city) \$15 minimum wage law resulted in a nine percent reduction in work hours, a seven percent cut in jobs for the lowest wage earners, and an average \$125 per month less take home pay. (<http://tinyurl.com/yb9kersz>) (<http://tinyurl.com/yd9atq62>)

if you want to get at the truth.

Hopefully, Special Council Mueller is following the money and all the other aspects of this very tangled web that the Trumps have woven. Considering all the lies, deceptions, contradictions, obfuscations, and omissions by Trump, his family, and his allies, it is almost certain that there is much more to this "Russian thing" than Mr. Trump would like to share with the world. It has gotten to the point where today on FOX, even Chris Wallace has asked Trump to let the entire truth be told, and let the chips fall where they may.

In the Movie, *A Few Good Men*, Jack Nicholson's character Colonel Jessup yelled "You can't handle the truth." While this may apply to the Republicans who will continue to support Trump regardless of what truth emerges, most Americans are more than capable of handling the truth. Americans realize that the security and protection of our Republic is more important than one man, a political party or maintaining power. It is only after the full truth surrounding Trump and Russia is revealed, that we will be able to untangle our nation from the web that has been woven around us.

Rich DiPentima  
Portsmouth, N.H.

~

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Nearby areas, not subject to Seattle's \$15 minimum wage law, didn't suffer these job losses, business closings, and wage losses.

In 2016, after the New York State's minimum wage increase on December 31, 2015, 1,000 restaurants closed. The increases in jobs as cooks, servers, and dishwashers dropped from the 4.4 percent average increase in the preceding six years to 1.4 percent. New York City fast food restaurant job growth was cut in half in 2016 versus the average of the prior six years and is even lower in 2017. (<http://tinyurl.com/y9pzqv7b>)

Price increase attempts to cover increased labor costs usually reduced sales which meant reduced worker hours, pay, and tips. Struggling businesses went out of business; previously comfortable businesses now struggle; and many prosperous businesses are less so.

These are just the effects of the first stage increases on the way to the \$15 minimum wage, many more losses will occur with future increases.

[Here a paean to McDonalds of 115 word was deleted due to lack of space and patience. — The Ed.]

Only four percent of America's hourly workers earn the minimum wage; half are 25 or under, and two-thirds work part-time. (<http://tinyurl.com/zx6kq6y>) Most workers soon earn more than the minimum wage as they show their value to their employer.

Democrats promise many great sounding policies to win votes, not to help people because they don't. The \$15 minimum wage policy, like other Democrat policies, hurt poor people, especially young, uneducated, unskilled, and, disproportionately, minority workers.

Don Ewing  
Meredith, N.H.

We're running late, so we'll be succinct: most of your sources, i.e. CNBC, Lid-Blog, BeBusinessed.com, are crap.

We'll see your U. Wash. study and raise you a U.S. Berkeley study that, according to Dean Baker, "produced an analysis

**Hate Mail, &c.**  
to page six

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*The Northcountry Chronicle*

# Independence Day?

by William Marvel

The *Berlin Daily Sun* carried a story early this month about Coaticook, Quebec, investing a million dollars in an effort to attract tourists. I was sorry to read of it. It's always sad to hear of desperate communities going in blind chase of what the article called the "financial security of becoming a tourist attraction." That dream often becomes a nightmare, and my fond recollections of Coaticook make it particularly unpleasant to think of it turning into another tourist hell.

A decade ago my wife and I bicycled to Canada — over Route 2 to Lancaster, and up Route 3 to Canaan, Vt., with no specific destination. A well-armed but very friendly Canadian customs officer gave us a map and suggested an inviting bike loop. We spent a few days cycling around Saint Hermenegilde, Sainte Edwidge, and Saint Malo, sticking mostly to back roads that were still gravel. Vast expanses of green, open fields still dominated the landscape. We found neighborhoods where English was still a foreign language,

and I could chip some of the rust off my French without the locals lapsing from their native tongue into mine. On one rural roadside near a farmhouse we played with a stray kitten, wondering at first whether it needed a home and, if so, how difficult it might be to get it back over the border.

At one point we bought some sketch paper and sat for a couple of hours drawing 19th-century architecture in Coaticook. Since then, in what was characterized as an effort to encourage more people to visit for "hiking," Coaticook has invested a million dollars in a project called Foresta Lumina. The attraction apparently consists of a footpath through the Parc de la Gorge, with electronically operated displays located periodically along the route. Promoters describe it as an "enchanted forest," and it sounds worthy of Disneyland. In fact, tourist literature categorizes it with Disney projects. A visitor who apparently couldn't comprehend his self-contradiction called Forest Lumina "totally unique" — before going on to compare it to other very similar fantasy theme parks.

Some "hiking" that must be. Alas, Parc de la Gorge; I knew it, Horatio.

In the tradition of advertising men who mistake themselves for journalists, the author of the article put as positive a spin as possible on the negative consequences of Forest Lumina. Visitors' cars jammed the surrounding residential neighborhoods, and the mayor admitted that it was "terrible for those people," but promoters found a way around that. At still more expense, they carved a parking area out of the business district and instituted a free shuttle service — free, at least to the visitors.

That also rectified another problem with the project, because the tourists hadn't been going downtown to spend money. After all, the motive behind all tourism is to give people a good time in return for them leaving some cash on the table before they go. Half a century ago I often encountered young ladies who offered that same exchange on the periphery of various military installations. They were a little more honest about it, too — not to mention more reasonable. Many a young person today spends hundreds of dollars per weekend in some playground



destination, mainly for lodging and drinks, in what is really a quest for the same entertainment many GIs used to enjoy for 20 bucks.

Forest Lumina did finally bring plenty of tourists into town, but the local infrastructure couldn't handle it. There were too many mouths for the restaurants to feed, and apparently not enough staff at the park to cope with the influx. Visitors "became cranky."

Park supporters could cite no specific positive economic impact. They mentioned no negative economic impacts, either, although inevitably there were some. The shuttle and parking lot incurred initial and ongoing costs. The demand for emergency services surely rose. An invasion of 150,000 visitors a year is bound to increase food and fuel prices for the vastly outnumbered residents. If some of those sojourners decide they just have to live in the picturesque terrain around Coaticook, housing prices will escalate. The environment will deteriorate.

Schools will have to grow. Municipal employees will require more money, and taxes will eventually soar. Most of the original residents will suffer, or be driven away by the rising cost of living. Most of those who benefit will be newcomers.

Meanwhile, any who survive economically will face the inconveniences and annoyances that made the Fourth of July weekend so unpleasant for some of us here in our tourist town. Parked cars and trailers jammed both sides of every road near a water hole; the constant hum of traffic carried into the most remote neighborhoods; for four days, sirens and fireworks disturbed the peace all over town until well after midnight.

For the discriminating tourist, the most desirable destination is the one no one knows about. It's a bad sign when a community starts vigorously promoting itself, especially if tourism becomes the last, best hope, because such desperation signals an eagerness to sell even the most precious resources for short-term financial gain. Anything goes; just leave that double-sawbuck on the nightstand.

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

using a very similar methodology that found no statistically significant impact on employment."

The Editor

### The President and Voter Integrity

To the Editor:

The Republican Party will never be accused of being a party of problem solvers. Of course, that's to be expected since the party's sole purpose is to maintain the *status quo* to the benefit of itself and its uber-wealthy campaign contributors, with whom they enjoy a symbiotic relationship. I will rest my case by re-

ferring you to the Congressional Republicans' latest "attempt" at solving our nation's major healthcare issues.

So, how in the world does the GOP obtain and maintain power when the only work they do is on behalf of the elite, ruling class? The simple answer is that they strive to keep Americans poor, sick, stupid, divided, and scared. They also strive to control women, who comprise over half of U.S. voters, and to keep America in a perpetual state of war and crisis in order to distract.

I would be negligent if I didn't add that Republicans have contempt for

American citizens voting when they aren't voting Republican. And the party has done an excellent job of discouraging Americans from voting with their redrawing of districts (*i.e.* Gerrymandering) to favor Republicans and creating pernicious laws and policy which suppress the vote. One needs to look no further than Senate Bill 3, which New Hampshire Governor Sununu just signed into law and to his unspoken support for #45's Commission on "Voter Integrity," based on one of the most massive lies told by a sitting American President: That he lost the

popular vote by three million votes in the election because of millions of fraudulent voters, a lie that our Governor attempted to lend credence to with his own huge lie about busloads of Massachusetts' citizens converging on New Hampshire polling stations.

So, if the Republicans are truly concerned about voter integrity, may I suggest that instead of stroking #45's ego at the expense of New Hampshire citizens' privacy, the Governor reject #45's commission and to insist on the establishment of a transparent, independent com-

mission into the Trump campaign and administration's connections to Russia and its meddling in our most recent election.

Wayne H. Merritt  
Dover, N.H.

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## Real news, fake news — and BS news

by Jim Hightower

How can journalism help people make sense of our turbulent world if it can't make sense of itself?

In addition to “news” (which involves reporting on real stuff), there's now “fake news” (stuff that's completely made up). But wait, the barons of corporate news are also adding to today's tumultuous state of journalism by putting out “BS

news” (stuff they know is untrue, but is reported because it advances their owners political agenda).

For example, the *Washington Post* (owned by Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos, who's a laissez-fairlyland promoter of privatizing government functions) keeps publishing a load of BS to denigrate our Post Offices. In an alarmist editorial, the paper declared: “The U.S. Postal Service continues to hemorrhage red ink.” Embracing Bezos' privatization

ideology, the editors grumped that postal unions have made our mail service outmoded and insolvent, running up “a net loss of \$5.6 billion last year.”

That is pure bovine excrement — and the editors know it. In fact, thanks to innovative and efficient postal workers, the mail agency racked up a \$610 million operating profit last year, and a \$1.2 billion profit the year before.

The \$5 billion in red-ink that the

paper's propagandists pointed to is nothing but a bookkeeping hoax created by Congress to make people believe our Post Office is a hopeless money loser that must be privatized. In 2006, Congress manufactured an artificial “loss” for the Postal Service by decreeing that it pre-fund the healthcare costs of future retirees, 75 years in advance. That includes retirees who're not even born yet! No other agency and no corporation (including Amazon) could survive if

Congress added a \$5-billion-a-year fictitious loss to their books.

Yet, in a shameful piece of BS journalism, the *Washington Post* intentionally ignored the true story.

~

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and sustaining the basic values and principles of our Democracy and the Free Press — values and principles that *The New Hampshire Gazette* embodies — and which, unfortunately, seem to be under attack by “The Grand Yam.” May your voice continue to be heard across this land.

With thanks and appreciation,

David Cook  
Brownsville, Tenn.

David:

Thanks very much for those kind words. We shall continue to try to live up to them.

The Editor

~

### Mixing Politics and Religion

To the Editor:

As a liberal Republican, I'm interested in the possibility of increasing the application of universal spiritual principles in my daily life, as well as at all levels of the political arena — yet without violating the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, which prohibits both the establishment and prohibition of any particular religion. Religion and spirituality can be interwoven at times but are not necessarily the same thing. I would be happy to explain.

The current norm of materialism, which involves the acquisition of financial wealth and political power for primarily selfish and self-seeking ends, is a major, ongoing problem in U.S. politics (no surprise there). We can witness this taking place and

shape in the Trump Administration, and I believe it is this very approach to governing which follows a long-standing and destructive pattern of living out of balance with Mother Earth.

Freely and voluntarily putting a loving Higher Power first in all areas of life, including in politics, need not violate the U.S. Constitution, as it neither establishes nor prohibits any religion. Empathy, compassion, and nonviolence can be the new norm.

No one need enter nor leave the structure of any church, temple, or mosque in order to believe in a loving Creator. No one need join nor abandon any major religion to practice kindness, economic justice, and environmental stewardship.

Prayerfully,

Alex J. Boros  
Rochester, N.H.

~

### How Much is a Boss Worth?

by Lawrence S. Wittner

An awful lot of Americans are skeptical about the value of their nation's corporate executives.

As a 2016 nationwide survey reveals, 74 percent of Americans believe that top corporate executives are overpaid. This public dismay with CEO compensation exists despite the fact that Americans drastically underestimate what top corporate executives are paid every year. In fact, the survey found that CEO compensation at Fortune 500 companies was approximately 10

times what the typical American thought it was.

What are these CEOs actually paid? According to a study for the Associated Press by the executive data firm Equilar, in 2016 the typical CEO at the S&P 500 companies received \$11.5 million in salary, stock, and other compensation.

Of course, this was the median CEO income. Some were paid a great deal more. Thomas Rutledge (Charter Communications Inc.) received \$98 million during 2016; Leslie Moonves (CBS Corp.) \$68.6 million; Robert Iger (Walt Disney Co.) \$41 million; and David Zaslav (Discovery Communications Inc.) \$37.2 million. A few CEOs didn't make the list because, as fantastically wealthy business owners (like Jeff Bezos and Mark Zuckerberg, collectively worth \$146 billion), they didn't bother taking a salary from their companies.

CEO income during 2016 reflected substantial increases over the preceding year, with the typical CEO getting an 8.5 percent raise. Some, especially the best-paid, received far more. Rutledge received a raise of 499 percent, while Moonves's pay rose by 22 percent.

American workers haven't been doing nearly as well. According to the AFL-CIO (which estimated average corporate CEO pay in 2016 at \$13.1 million), the average production or other nonsupervisory worker earned only \$37,632 that year. Thus,

in 2016, there was a CEO-to-worker pay ratio of 347-to-1.

This gap between CEO and worker pay has been widening substantially over the years. In the 1950s, the S&P 500 CEO-to-worker pay ratio was 20-to-1. Even as late as 1980, it was 42-to-1. But the rise of the political Right, the adoption of pro-corporate public policies, and the decline of union strength, have led to a situation in which the average CEO of America's largest corporations has an annual income 347 times that of the average worker. In the last five years alone, corporate CEOs received percentage pay increases nearly double that of the U.S. workforce.

This enormous and rapidly growing economic inequality between bosses and workers can certainly be challenged on the basis of social justice. Why, after all, should roughly 20 million Americans, working at full-time jobs (and, sometimes, two or three jobs), receive such pitiful incomes that they are forced to rely on food stamps and other forms of public assistance while their CEOs grow ever wealthier and enjoy an opulent lifestyle once limited to kings and princes?

In addition, are these extravagantly-paid corporate CEOs producing commensurate value for their companies? According to a detailed 2016 study by MSCI, an investment and corporate research firm, businesses that provided their CEOs with

higher incomes delivered smaller financial returns to investors than did companies with lower compensation for their top executives. Favorably impressed by the study, a *Forbes* columnist concluded that “maybe it is time to rethink and restructure CEO compensation.” Indeed, some corporate boards have begun doing just that.

Although most Americans do not serve on the boards of major corporations, they do support sharp reductions in CEO compensation and other means of fostering greater economic equality. Indeed, a recent survey has found that a typical American favors limiting CEO pay to no more than six times the pay of the average worker. Furthermore, polls have found that most Americans support increasing taxes on the rich and substantially raising the pathetic federal minimum wage, long stuck at \$7.25 per hour.

Against this backdrop, it's striking that the Republicans controlling Congress and the White House champion huge tax cuts for the wealthy and oppose any increase in the minimum wage. But, in this case, as in so much of American politics, he who pays the piper calls the tune.

Dr. Lawrence Wittner, syndicated by *PeaceVoice*, is Professor of History emeritus at SUNY/Albany. His latest book is a satirical novel about university corporatization and rebellion, *What's Going On at UAardvark?*

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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

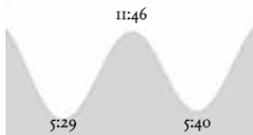
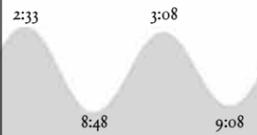
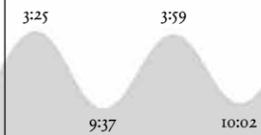
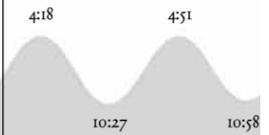
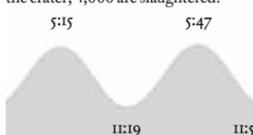
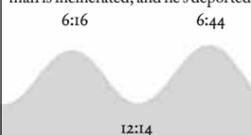
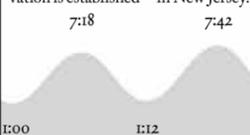
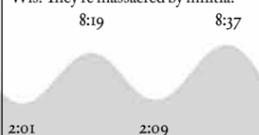
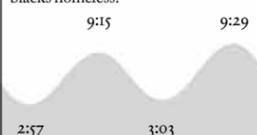
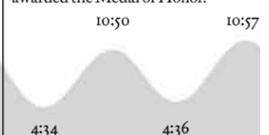
drags about seventeen billion gallons of seawater — enough to fill 2,125,000 tanker trucks — up the river and into Great Bay. This creates a roving hydraulic conflict, as incoming sea and the outgoing river collide. The skirmish line

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, JULY 23	MONDAY, JULY 24	TUESDAY, JULY 25	WEDNESDAY, JULY 26	THURSDAY, JULY 27	FRIDAY, JULY 28	SATURDAY, JULY 29
<p><b>2014</b>—Arizona authorities experimenting with new poisons find Joseph Wood's execution takes 12 times longer than the expected 10 minutes.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—Gary Sampson calls the FBI to turn himself in for bank robberies, but a clerk disconnects him. Over the next week he murders three people.</p> <p><b>1982</b>—While filming the movie <i>Twilight Zone</i>, Vic Morrow is decapitated by a helicopter blade.</p> <p><b>1983</b>—After running out of fuel halfway between Montreal and Edmonton, "The Gimli Glider" coasts 60 miles and lands safely.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—The last clash between the U.S. &amp; NVA ends in futility: the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne evacuates Firebase Ripcord. Cost: 75 KIA's &amp; 463 WIA's.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—Hours after James Robert Kalsu, Jr. is born his mother, Jan, learns that her husband, a guard for the Buffalo Bills, died two days earlier in Vietnam, at Firebase Ripcord.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—Cops raid a blind pig in Detroit, interrupting a welcome home party for two Vietnam veterans. A five day riot ensues, and 43 die.</p> <p><b>1944</b>—The International Monetary Fund and World Bank are created in Bretton Woods, N.H., where the first tax collector was Daniel Fowle.</p> <p><b>1877</b>—During a railroad strike in Reading, Pa., the State Militia shoots ten civilians dead.</p> <p><b>1846</b>—Henry David Thoreau is jailed for refusing to pay a \$1 poll tax to support the Mexican War.</p>	<p><b>2008</b>—An F2 tornado hits nine towns along a 50-mile path in central N.H., killing a Deerfield woman.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—Congress says the FBI and the CIA blew off warnings of a possible al-Qaeda attack on the U.S.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—In Iraq, the U.S. proudly displays photographs of the corpses of Uday and Qusay Hussein.</p> <p><b>2002</b>—James Traficant (D-Ohio) is booted from the U.S. House of Representatives for taking bribes.</p> <p><b>1998</b>—To prevent a cannibal holocaust, Rusty Weston murders Rep. Tom DeLay's bodyguard and another Capitol cop. Shot and near death himself, he is revived by Sen. Bill Frist.</p> <p><b>1974</b>—The Supreme Court tells Richard Nixon to turn over his tapes.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—French President Charles de Gaulle says, from a balcony in Montreal, "<i>Vive le Québec libre!</i>"</p> <p><b>1959</b>—During the "Kitchen Debate" in Moscow, Khrushchev asks Nixon if Americans have machines to push food down their throats.</p> <p><b>1951</b>—A UFO, "grayish with many black spots," is seen flying at 800 to 1,000 mph over Portsmouth by two officers from Hanscom AFB.</p> <p><b>1921</b>—The Aerowagon, a high-speed, propeller-driven railcar, crashes on its way to Moscow, killing six passengers including its inventor.</p> <p><b>1816</b>—In Alfred, Maine, for reasons unknown, farmer Daniel Davis shoots Old Bet, an elephant being exhibited by Hackaliah Bailey.</p>	<p><b>2000</b>—In a touching display of <i>naïveté</i>, George W.[MD] Bush announces that he has picked Dick "Dick" Cheney as running mate.</p> <p><b>1990</b>—Ambassador April Glaspie tells Saddam the U.S. won't take sides in an Iraq-Kuwait border dispute.</p> <p><b>1975</b>—Chester Plummer, Jr., a black 'Nam vet and D.C. cabbie, hops a fence with a three-foot pipe in his hand and becomes the first person shot dead on the White House lawn.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—U.S. health officials admit black men were used as guinea pigs in a 40-year syphilis experiment.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—Sen. Ted Kennedy gets two months (suspended) for leaving the scene of a fatal accident.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—Bob Dylan outrages the Newport Folk Festival with electricity.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—A stuck valve results in a fire at Johnston Island, forcing a technician to blow up a missile and its nuclear warhead on the launch pad. Contamination delays testing for months.</p> <p><b>1946</b>—The first underwater A-Bomb, at Bikini Atoll, causes far more contamination than anticipated, especially to sailors of the U.S. Navy.</p> <p><b>1853</b>—The freshly-killed head of legendary bandit Joaquín Murietta is put in a jar of brandy for display—until it's lost in the San Francisco Earthquake.</p> <p><b>1826</b>—"Nothing succeeds with me," says Decembrist revolutionary Mikhail Bestuzhev-Ryumin after the hangman's first rope breaks. "Even here I meet with disappointment."</p>	<p><b>1979</b>—Three and a half feet of rain fall on Alvin, Texas.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—Nguyen Van Thieu, winner of 1967 Vietnamese presidential election, jails the runner-up. Same day: Mexican troops arrest thousands of students, shoot hundreds, kill dozens.</p> <p><b>1959</b>—An engine failure forces U.S.M.C. Lt. Col. William Rankin to eject from his F-8 fighter jet over a thunderstorm. Aloft for 40 minutes amid lightning, hail, and -58° temperatures, he survives.</p> <p><b>1953</b>—Arizona State Police and National Guard arrest the whole damn town of Short Creek for polygamy.</p> <p><b>1948</b>—Harry Truman orders the desegregation of the U.S. military.</p> <p><b>1947</b>—The National Security Act creates the CIA and NSA and turns the War Department into the DoD.</p> <p><b>1942</b>—A Mississippian starts writing screenplays for Warner Brothers; his name is William Faulkner.</p> <p><b>1877</b>—In Chicago, at the Battle of the Viaduct, Federal troops kill 30 striking railroad workers.</p> <p><b>1826</b>—Spanish authorities hang schoolmaster Cayetano Ripoll; the Inquisition had ruled him a heretic.</p> <p><b>1758</b>—The French fortress of Louisbourg, taken by New Englanders in 1744 and given back by Britain three years later, is re-taken by the British.</p> <p><b>811</b>—Byzantine Emperor Nicephorus I is killed in battle. His skull is made into a drinking vessel by Krum, King of the Bulgars.</p>	<p><b>2017</b>—Trump tells Russia, "If you're listening, I hope you're able to find the 30,000 emails that are missing."</p> <p><b>2013</b>—Its pilot unable to control its yaw, a Robinson R44 helicopter crashes in Montana and kills him.</p> <p><b>2008</b>—Shotgunning in a Knoxville church, Jim David Adkisson kills two and wounds seven. He cites Fox News' Bernard Goldberg as one inspiration.</p> <p><b>1996</b>—To protect the sanctity of life, Eric Robert Rudolph bombs the Atlanta Summer Olympics; for a while, the press finds Richard Jewell guilty.</p> <p><b>1974</b>—The House Judiciary Committee votes to impeach Richard M. Nixon for trying to cover his tracks.</p> <p><b>1963</b>—Dick "Dick" Cheney gets his second drunk driving conviction.</p> <p><b>1957</b>—Jimmy Wilson (black) is sentenced to death in Ala. for stealing \$1.95 from a woman (white).</p> <p><b>1954</b>—Guatemalan President Jacobo Árbenz Guzmán is overthrown by mercenaries at the behest of the CIA. Genocide follows.</p> <p><b>1953</b>—A truce "ends" the fighting in Korea; our troops are still there.</p> <p><b>1919</b>—After a white man throwing rocks kills a black man swimming at a segregated Chicago beach, a white cop arrests a black man. Nearby blacks who object are attacked by whites.</p> <p><b>1893</b>—William Taylor survives a jolt from New York's electric chair, and breaks its straps. Morphine and chloroform keep him alive during repairs; a third jolt finally kills him.</p>	<p><b>2012</b>—Three elderly troublemakers infiltrate Oak Ridge, Tenn. and spill blood on its nuclear weapons plant.</p> <p><b>2006</b>—A wild storm topples the partially-renovated steeple of North Church and its attendant scaffolding onto Pleasant Street, Portsmouth.</p> <p><b>2004</b>—Nine minutes after a pilot reports his Robinson R22 helicopter is shaking violently, it crashes in Mount Clemens, Mich., and kills him.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—Tom DeLay (R-Texas), who once said Americans smoke Cuban cigars "at the cost of our national honor," is photographed in Jerusalem lighting up a \$25 Hoyo de Monterrey.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—LBJ doubles the draft quota.</p> <p><b>1957</b>—An Air Force C-124 with engine trouble jettisons two core-less nukes 100 miles off Atlantic City.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—A B-25 hits the Empire State Building. Six floors burn and elevators plummet. Toll: 13 dead, 26 injured.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—The destroyer <i>U.S.S. Callaghan</i> is sunk off Okinawa by a kamikaze biplane.</p> <p><b>1932</b>—U.S. Army troops led by Dwight Eisenhower, aided by George S. Patton, and commanded by General Douglas MacArthur drive the "Bonus Expeditionary Force"—20,000 hungry World War I veterans—out of Washington D.C., killing two in the process.</p> <p><b>1919</b>—Chicago is engulfed by a race riot in which the Hamburg Athletic Club plays a prominent role. Its president: future Mayor Richard J. Daley.</p>	<p><b>1986</b>—Ex-Chaplain Charlie Liteky renounces the Medal of Honor he was awarded for bravery in Vietnam over U.S. policies in Latin America.</p> <p><b>1981</b>—Congress passes Ronald Reagan's tax cut for the rich.</p> <p><b>1974</b>—The House Judiciary Committee again impeaches Richard M. Nixon, this time for abuse of power and violating his oath of office.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—Old bombs cook off after an accidental missile launch, nearly sinking the <i>U.S.S. Forrestal</i> off North Vietnam, killing 134.</p> <p><b>1966</b>—Bob Dylan crashes his Triumph, breaking his neck.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—The 101st Airborne lands in South Vietnam.</p> <p><b>1950</b>—In Korea, the U.S. 7th Cavalry withdraws from No Gun Ri having shot hundreds of civilian refugees, mostly women, children, and old men, under orders from high command.</p> <p><b>1923</b>—"No more war" demonstrations are held in 23 countries.</p> <p><b>1921</b>—Disgruntled former corporal Adolf Hitler becomes President of the German Nazi Party.</p> <p><b>1920</b>—Disabled German veterans rally for "No more war."</p> <p><b>1910</b>—Responding to a bogus claim about a pending race war against whites, hundreds of armed whites begin a race war against predominantly-black Slocum, Texas.</p> <p><b>1588</b>—The Spanish Armada is defeated and scattered by the British Navy and the weather.</p>
 <p>11:46 5:29 5:40</p>	 <p>12:00 12:38 6:21 6:32</p>	 <p>12:51 1:28 7:11 7:24</p>	 <p>1:42 2:18 8:00 8:16</p>	 <p>2:33 3:08 8:48 9:08</p>	 <p>3:25 3:59 9:37 10:02</p>	 <p>4:18 4:51 10:27 10:58</p>
SUNDAY, JULY 30	MONDAY, JULY 31	TUESDAY, AUGUST 1	WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2	THURSDAY, AUGUST 3	FRIDAY, AUGUST 4	SATURDAY, AUGUST 5
<p><b>1975</b>—Teamsters' boss Jimmy Hoffa makes his last public appearance in Birmingham, Mich.</p> <p><b>1974</b>—The House Judiciary Committee takes a hat trick, this time impeaching Richard M. Nixon for contempt of Congress.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—Near an Army chemical and biological warfare lab, 53 caribou are found dead. The base commander suggests they were hit by lightning.</p> <p><b>1956</b>—Congress adopts "In God We Trust" as the national motto.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—After delivering the Hiroshima A-bomb, the <i>U.S.S. Indianapolis</i> is torpedoed and sunk. Due to security measures, the sinking isn't reported for 5 days; sharks and drowning claim 880 out of 1,100 aboard.</p> <p><b>1938</b>—Adolph Hitler bestows Germany's highest award for non-citizens, the Grand Cross of the Supreme Order of the German Eagle, on his friend Henry Ford.</p> <p><b>1916</b>—German saboteurs destroy a thousand tons of munitions stored on a barge at Black Tom Island in New York Harbor. Three men and a baby are killed; the Statue of Liberty's upraised arm is hit by shrapnel.</p> <p><b>1866</b>—Blacks march for civil rights in New Orleans; rioting whites kill 44.</p> <p><b>1864</b>—Union forces breach Confederate defenses at Petersburg with a huge mine. A drawn straw puts Brig. Gen. James Ledlie in command. Drunk, he sends Union soldiers into the crater; 4,000 are slaughtered.</p>	<p><b>1999</b>—Eugene Shoemaker becomes the first Earthling whose cremated remains are interred on the moon.</p> <p><b>1996</b>—Gerald Ford and George H.[H.] Walker Bush uphold the dignity of their former office by speaking for pay before an audience of Moonies.</p> <p><b>1993</b>—The control stick of a Robinson R44 helicopter breaks after 174 hours of use. It crashes and burns in El Monte, Calif., killing all three aboard.</p> <p><b>1974</b>—Richard Nixon's former advisor John Erlichman gets a free five-year stay at a felons' country club.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—Tom Eagleton withdraws his candidacy; the public is shocked.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—The "Justice" Department OK's ITT's ownership of Hartford Fire Insurance; ITT's recent \$400,000 "contribution" to the GOP convention is a mere coincidence.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—Dave Scott drives the first a motor vehicle on the moon.</p> <p><b>1961</b>—Bruce Britt Sr. outruns cops at 120 mph, runs aboard a DC-3 in Chico, Calif., and shoots two men, but the first U.S. skyjacking fails.</p> <p><b>1950</b>—Chicago OK's a plan to tattoo citizens with their blood type.</p> <p><b>1944</b>—Antoine de Saint-Exupéry disappears over southern France.</p> <p><b>1938</b>—New York Yankee Jake Powell is suspended for saying on Chicago radio that he'd "hit every colored person in Chicago over the head with a club."</p> <p><b>1934</b>—Gerhard Zucker's proposed mail rocket explodes in Scotland: the mail is incinerated, and he's deported.</p>	<p><b>2007</b>—An interstate highway bridge in Minneapolis collapses, killing 13.</p> <p><b>1989</b>—In New Zealand, a Robinson R22 breaks up in mid-air and crashes, killing the pilot and a passenger.</p> <p><b>1976</b>—First occupation of the Seabrook nuclear power plant site.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—The <i>Washington Post</i> reports on a "two-bit burglary" at DNC HQ.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—First Lt. G.W. Bush loses his Air National Guard flying status because he skipped a required physical exam that included a drug test.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—A Mass. Superior Court judge denies a DA's request for an inquest into Mary Jo Kopechne's death.</p> <p><b>1966</b>—Ex-Eagle Scout, honor student, and former Marine Charles Whitman shoots 45 (killing 12) from a tower at the University of Texas.</p> <p><b>1946</b>—Corrupt Democrats in Athens, Tennessee, hole up in a jailhouse with ballot boxes. Disgruntled vets armed with Thompson guns stolen from the local Guard armory lay siege.</p> <p><b>1921</b>—Police Chief Sid Hatfield and Deputy Ed Chambers are shot dead on the courthouse steps in Matewan, W.Va. The Baldwin-Feltes detectives who shot them claim self-defense and are not prosecuted.</p> <p><b>1917</b>—IWW organizer Frank Little is lynched in Butte, Mont. No one bothers to look for the culprits.</p> <p><b>1870</b>—Norton I's is listed on the San Francisco census as "Emperor."</p> <p><b>1758</b>—The nation's first Indian reservation is established—in New Jersey.</p>	<p><b>2007</b>—A Robinson R44 crashes in Easton, Wash. after its tail rotor fails. The ensuing fire kills the pilot and three passengers, and burns 485 acres.</p> <p><b>2000</b>—The GOP picks George W.[MD] Bush to preside, and Dick "Dick" Cheney to run the country.</p> <p><b>1993</b>—A short circuit sends a self-destruct command to a Titan IV rocket over the Pacific which blows up, destroying \$1 billion in spy satellites.</p> <p><b>1990</b>—Iraq invades Kuwait.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—The <i>U.S.S. Maddox</i>, in North Vietnamese territorial waters to support covert South Vietnamese attacks, fires on North Vietnamese torpedo boats. When they fire back, <i>Maddox</i> reports an "unprovoked" attack.</p> <p><b>1946</b>—Disgruntled veterans in Athens, Tenn. prevail over a crooked Democratic machine, thanks to several well-placed dynamite blasts.</p> <p><b>1943</b>—Treblinka prisoners revolt. Only 40 survive, but they close the camp.</p> <p><b>1943</b>—The nimble American PT boat #109 is rammed and sunk by a relatively ponderous Japanese destroyer.</p> <p><b>1939</b>—A. Einstein informs FDR that a nuclear bomb is doable.</p> <p><b>1931</b>—A. Einstein urges all scientists to refuse military work.</p> <p><b>1865</b>—The <i>CSS Shenandoah</i>, after capturing and sinking American whaling vessels all summer, learns that the war's been over since April.</p> <p><b>1832</b>—Starving Sauk and Fox women and children surrender at Bad Axe, Wis. They're massacred by militia.</p>	<p><b>2016</b>—A tidy German drifter on La Palma in the Canaries lights his used toilet paper with a match; his fire burns 12,000 acres and kills a firefighter.</p> <p><b>1981</b>—Federal air traffic controllers have the gall to go on strike.</p> <p><b>1980</b>—Ronald Reagan delivers his first post-convention speech, touting "states' rights," two miles from where three murdered civil rights workers had been buried 19 years earlier.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—New Hampshire's own Alan Shepard becomes the first man to whack a golf ball on the moon.</p> <p><b>1966</b>—Lenny Bruce beats a four-month bit for obscenity by dying.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—Tusko the elephant dies in an Oklahoma City zoo two hours after researchers give him LSD.</p> <p><b>1961</b>—Leon Beardon and his son Cody skyjack a Boeing 707 being piloted by Byron Rickards over New Mexico. Rickards also piloted the first plane to be skyjacked: a Ford Tri-Motor, in Peru, in 1931.</p> <p><b>1943</b>—Gen. George S. Patton slaps a shell-shocked private in an Army hospital in Sicily.</p> <p><b>1931</b>—In Chicago, an anti-eviction march by 60,000 turns into a riot; three die.</p> <p><b>1923</b>—In Plymouth, Vt., at 2:47 a.m., by the light of a kerosene lantern, Calvin Coolidge is sworn in as President by his own father.</p> <p><b>1919</b>—The Chicago race riot ends with 38 dead, 537 injured, and 1,000 blacks homeless.</p>	<p><b>2003</b>—Lightning strikes a Bardston, Ky., warehouse, sparking a fire; 19,000 barrels release 800,000 gallons—a flaming river of Jim Beam; thousands of fish die as high winds whip up a 100-foot firenado.</p> <p><b>1992</b>—Republicans re-nominate the Bush/Quayle ticket. Snicker.</p> <p><b>1987</b>—The FCC jettisons the Fairness Doctrine, declaring it "restricts the journalistic freedom of broadcasters."</p> <p><b>1973</b>—Toronto cops bust Yankee outfielder Dave Winfield for killing a seagull with a thrown ball.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—The <i>U.S.S. Maddox</i> and <i>U.S.S. Turner Joy</i> report a second torpedo attack in Gulf of Tonkin. There are no casualties; nor is there any damage. Defense Secretary McNamara withdraws from President Johnson warnings that it may just be a false alarm.</p> <p><b>1961</b>—Barack H. Obama allegedly is born in Hawaii.</p> <p><b>1948</b>—HUAC chairman J.P. Thomas's pocketing of the payroll from his pals' no-show jobs is exposed in Drew Pearson's column.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—Joe Cleary's MLB career lasts one-third of an inning, pitching for the Senators. He gives up five hits and three walks—ERA: 189. Bert Shepard, whose career lasts one game, relieves him. The one-legged pitcher gives up just three hits and one run. The Red Sox win 15-4.</p> <p><b>1892</b>—Andrew and Abby Borden get the axe; Lizzie, acquitted, lives on in Fall River until 1927.</p>	<p><b>2012</b>—A White Supremacist invalidates his own ideology by murdering six Sikhs in Oak Creek, Wis.</p> <p><b>2011</b>—S&amp;P lowers the U.S.'s credit rating because the GOP says it might not let the government pay its bills.</p> <p><b>2007</b>—The President of France, clad only in swim trunks, jumps into the boat of AP photographer Jim Cole on Lake Winnepesaukee and berates him for doing his job.</p> <p><b>2004</b>—"Our enemies," says George W.[MD] Bush, "never stop thinking about new ways to harm our country and our people, and neither do we."</p> <p><b>1981</b>—Ronald Reagan fires 12,700 air traffic controllers.</p> <p><b>1977</b>—The NRC admits it's lost four tons of enriched uranium.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—The Army says eight Green Berets are under arrest for "terminating" a suspected South Vietnamese double agent "with extreme prejudice."</p> <p><b>1962</b>—A CIA tip lets South Africa nab fugitive Nelson Mandela.</p> <p><b>1950</b>—When a B-29 hits a trailer park in California, 18 die. At least the nuke on board fails to explode.</p> <p><b>1912</b>—The Progressive Party is formed "to dissolve the unholy alliance between corrupt business and corrupt politics."</p> <p><b>1864</b>—As Admiral Farragut damns the torpedoes and takes Mobile Bay, Portsmouth native Samuel Todd mans the conn of the <i>U.S.S. Brooklyn</i> with such distinction that he is later awarded the Medal of Honor.</p>
 <p>5:15 5:47 11:19 11:58</p>	 <p>6:16 6:44 12:14</p>	 <p>7:18 7:42 1:00 1:12</p>	 <p>8:19 8:37 2:01 2:09</p>	 <p>9:15 9:29 2:57 3:03</p>	 <p>10:06 10:15 3:49 3:52</p>	 <p>10:50 10:57 4:34 4:36</p>

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