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The Fortnightly Rant

Pressure Drop

A fortnight ago the political atmosphere was laden with delicious anticipation: CNN was reporting that indictments would soon be forthcoming. Speculation was rife all day Saturday. Indictments! When? For whom? On Sunday, the actual atmosphere seemed to be responding in kind: the barometric pressure began to plummet, falling 29.88 millibars in 21 hours. "We have bombogenesis!" thrilled meteorologists cried. All that night the winds howled without stopping, rattling windows and shaking whole houses. Finally, Monday morning, the day dawned tranquil and warm. There was wreckage strewn all across the landscape, but the air was crystalline and the breezes balmy—and the President's ex-campaign manager was at FBI headquarters, answering to a raft of charges including conspiring against the United States of America. Then he was sent home under house arrest with a GPS tracker strapped to his ankle. Talk about a walk of shame!

It was enough to make a former smoker instinctively reach for a cigarette.

Such ecstasy cannot last, of course. Eventually came the intrusion of the apparently unavoidable first Presidential sound bite of the day. As dependably as the rising of the sun, the voice of the President miraculously manages, in contravention of all known laws of physics, politics, and psychology, to reveal some previously undiscovered sub-level of ignorance, inanity, pettiness, and posturing.

As cancer survivors are well aware, though, waves of nausea are sometimes a necessary part of the process of healing. No magical thinking is required to see the indictments of Paul Manafort and his sidekick Rick Gates as a turn of the ratchet in the general direction of a less

corrupt government. In a political environment where the norm has been the demolition of democratic institutions at an ever-accelerating pace, it's hard not to feel at least a glimmer of hope.

In fact, there is ample reason to believe that aficionados of schadenfreude will be well-sated before this is all over. It may be too soon to start counting chickens, but we're gonna need a bigger warehouse to accommodate all these eggs.

CNN's foreknowledge of impending indictments offered a rare peek inside Special Counsel Mueller's otherwise hermetically-sealed investigation. Due to the rather spectacular nature of its subject, though—whether or not a corrupt foreign government is pulling the strings of our Executive Branch—citizens left and right (well, citizens left, anyway) are, in an unprecedented manner, self-organizing to run their own ad hoc investigations.

From January 20th onward a website called What the F__k Just Happened Today [WTFJHT] has been compiling an "essential guide to the daily shock and awe in national politics." For those trying to keep track of Trump gang shenanigans, it serves as a handy trail of breadcrumbs—or muddy footprints across the Oval Office carpet.

Essential as that service is, it presents users with a Twitter-like experience: a veritable torrent of related but unsorted material.

Enter *CitJourn.org*, which went live about a week ago. Where WTFJHT provides a comprehensive series of links in chronological order, *CitJourn.org*, created by a three-person team styling itself as the Citizen Journalists Consortium, has amassed, strictly from credible, established, legitimate journalistic sources, a more focused collection of articles, familiar and obscure, put into a logical, organized structure.



Taken altogether *CitJourn.org* amounts to a citizens' indictment of the Trump Administration. Quite refreshingly, it relies not a whit on the Steele dossier or Democratic emails. It's all about organized crime.

Trump's evolution is tracked from his days hanging out with mob lawyer Roy Cohn and relying on Anthony "Fat Tony" Salerno and Paul "Big Paul" Castellano to build Trump Tower, through his growing entanglements with Russian mob figures who took up residence there, right up to the present day, when, *CitJourn* concludes, the President of the United States is under the thumb of Semion Mogilevich, the world's worst mobster, and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Given what news we've had about the areas of expertise of the lawyers and prosecutors Mueller's hired, *CitJourn.org* might be viewed as a sort of movie trailer, something to watch as we wait for Bob Mueller to release

his magnum opus.

Outside of the Justice Department, of course, here in the civilian world, *CitJourn.org* and five bucks will get you a cup of burnt coffee over at that pretentious national chain downtown where all the unhoused people panhandle while waiting for the bus.

In other good news, Tuesday was blue through and through. Given their first chance since last November to express themselves at the polls, Americans kicked Republican butt from Maine to Georgia. Yes, Trump has finally succeeded at something: inspiring Democrats to get out and vote.

Take New Jersey: four years ago, Republican Chris Christie won reelection by a 22-vote margin. Christie couldn't run again due to term limits (as if he'd risk it—he has the approval ratings of a loathsome disease). His Lieutenant Governor lost to Democrat Phil Murphy by

13 points, for a swing of 35 percent.

The results in Virginia were even more hilarious. Republican Ed Gillespie lost the race for Governor to Democrat Ralph Northam, but the real fun was down-ticket. Democrat Danica Roem, a transgender woman, beat Bob Marshall, who calls himself Virginia's "chief homophobe" and sponsored a bill regulating bathroom use by transgendered people; and Lee Carter—a Democratic Socialist, for God's sake—beat Jackson Miller, the Republican House Majority Whip.

Closer to home, Maine voters overrode Paul LePage and voted to expand Medicaid, and in Manchester, Republican Ted Gatsas failed to win reelection. Joyce Craig will be the next Mayor of the Queen City: one more Democratic woman in high office, joining the four who already make up our Congressional delegation.

Nil Desperandum!

The Alleged News®

Victory by Default for Anti-War Faction?

Portsmouth's on-again, off-again Veterans Day Parade appears to be gone for good. For the second year in a row, and at least the third time in five years, the occasion will not be marked by resolute, arms-bearing soldiers marching in formation. Granted, there will undoubtedly be an address by a uniformed military figure—almost certainly an officer, field-grade or above—who will repeat the eternal warning that without armed might we are helpless before our enemies. The heart of the observance, though, will consist of a wreath-laying ceremony at the Civil War memorial in Goodwin Park, while a bugler or buglers play "Taps." The overall effect of the absence of the parade is to make Veterans Day more like

another Memorial Day.

This is a curious turn of events in a culture that, in recent decades, has gone out of its way to express, or at least profess, its fervent admiration of, and undying gratitude towards, the members of our all-volunteer military services.

While it would no doubt be a mistake to ascribe this change to an outbreak of pacifism among the members of local veterans organizations, one has to wonder if their inability to muster an adequate formation isn't a sign of terminal war-weariness.

Portsmouth's observance of Veterans Day for 2017 will begin at 11:00 a.m. In case of rain, it will be held indoors at the American Legion's Frank E. Booma Post 6, 96 Islington Street.

It's All Over But the Signage

Barring any potential appeals to the U.S. Supreme Court or, we suppose, the International Court of Justice in the Hague, the matter of public access to the little beach at Little Harbor has now been settled once and for all. All except for the little matter of signage—signage and spelling, actually.

The sign in question, seen here in a photo taken by our Wandering Photographer on August 25th, was, according to an email forwarded to us by Robert Jesurum, erected by Paul and Earl Sanders. The brothers are 12th-generation descendants of Captain John Sanders, who founded a plantation

on the site in 1623, and after whom it is named.

"[S]hortly after completing the renewal of the access to Little Harbor Beach at Sanders Poynt," according to Jesurum, "WBTSCC [Bill "Bill" Binnie's Wentworth by the Sea Country Club] deliberately removed" the sign, "which the town had ordered not be removed when it infamously gave its acquiescence to the closing of Sanders Poynt some five years ago, and which sign was on the latest plan B.4 submitted to the court by WBTSCC.

"I have been asking for that sign's restitution since its removal," Jesurum continued. "First, Chief Walsh said that it had been removed during construction, but when we checked with the contractor, Piscataqua Landscaping, they denied

ever removing it. Then Chief Walsh retrieved the sign from WTBSCC and said that he was told that it had been removed because 'it had not been specified in the court order.'

"After more time went by, I went to the Planning Board at which time I was told by Selectman Priscilla Jenness that the sign would be restored as soon as its faulty spelling had been corrected.

"Winter is fast approaching with

* According to Jesurum, Selectperson Patricia Jenness has argued, and successfully so, to judge by his acquiescence, that the spelling used on the sign is pseudo-archaic. If it is ever re-erected on the site, it will apparently be spelled "Sanders Point." Not being inclined to argue with a public benefactor of the stature of Mr. Jesurum, this newspaper will now adopt that spelling.

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The Alleged News®

from page one

no sign of the sign, so this morning [November 6th] I called the town manager. Michael Magnant, to ask them what they [weere] waiting for. I find it disgusting that:

“After all the efforts that I had made to have the sign restored and after all the town’s previous indecent behavior, that they still did not have the decency to inform me that they have no intention of restoring said sign.

“Magnant told me on the phone that while the public has won its easement to use Sanders Poynt [sic], it is still private property and the town has no right to install the sign over the objections of WBTSCC. He repeated the mantra that it had not been so ordered by the judge.

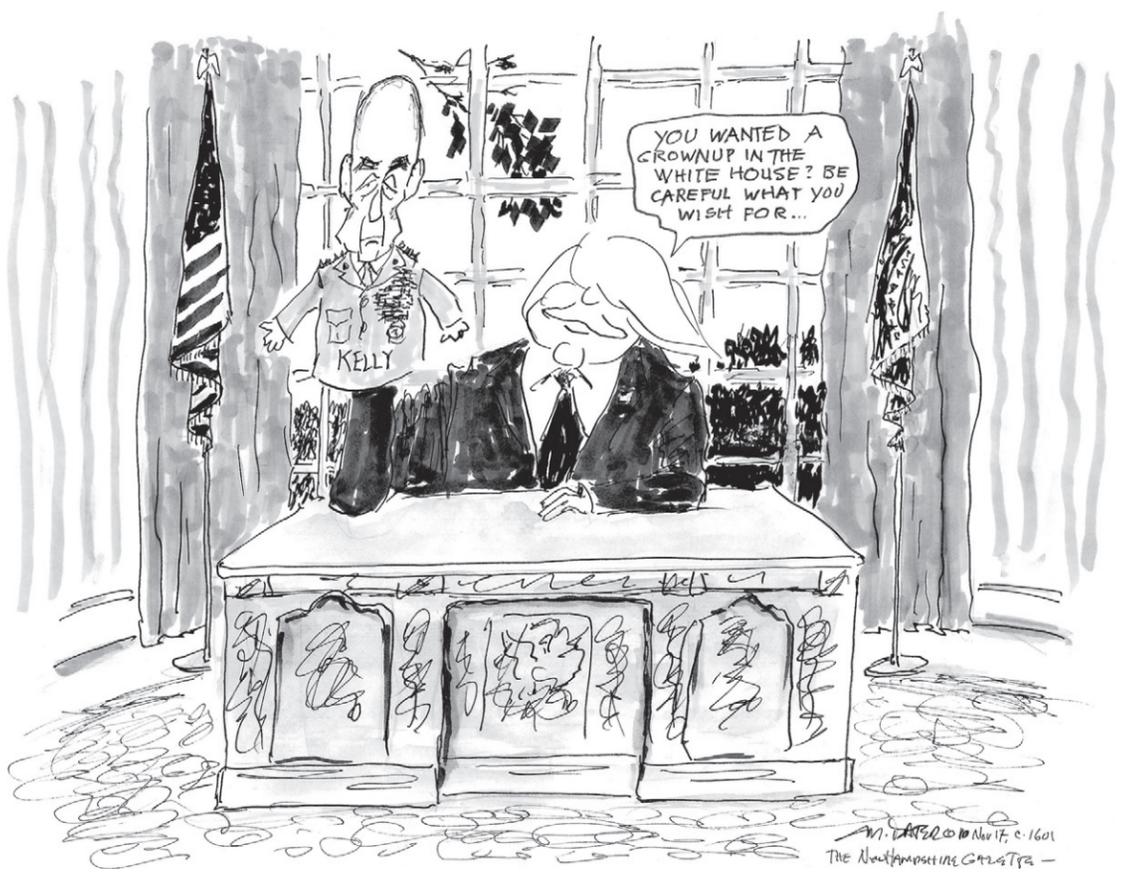
“I’m afraid that I lost my temper with Magnant and told him that I

find the behavior of my town disgusting as well as Magnant’s management of the town. I also told him that we would have to go back to the judge yet another time, and that she was surely sick of this case.”

It goes without saying that we cannot speak for Judge Wageling. We can assure our readers, though, that our appetite for reporting on this case is undiminished.

The Battle of Sanders Point intrigues us because it passes the “Man Bites Dog” test with deplorable ease. Few things are so rare as a case in which a person of means, whatever his motivation, stands up against another of the same strata, in defense of the rights of everyone. When it happens, we call that news.

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Man Bites Dog 2: Republican Tells Truth
 Though it is rarely if ever acknowledged in the more proper and profitable news media, ev-



Bashka Paeff’s “Sacrifices of War” is ready for tomorrow, Veterans Day. The bronze sculpture, arguably the finest war memorial in the region and one of the finest in the nation, was disfigured at some time during the winter of 2014–2015, apparently by the application of a substance which had the effect of selectively darkening its more martial elements, such as a line of marching soldiers and a soldier throwing a grenade. In a rare bit of good news relating to wars and veterans of war, the sculpture has now been brought back to pristine condition. The restoration was done by Ron Harvey, a Maine-based, nationally-recognized conservator.

ery American citizen—and every undocumented resident non-citizen—lives in a nation that, for all practical purposes, operates not so much under the principles of the Constitution but more according to the Golden Rule; *id est*, those who have the gold are the ones who make the rules.

This slur on our politics has long been banded about in barracks, bars, and pool halls, as our editor can personally attest. In 2014 it was demonstrated with academic rigor by a couple of PhDs. Martin Gilens, Professor of Politics at Princeton University, and Benjamin I. Page, Professor of Decision Making at Northwestern University, in a paper titled “Testing Theories of American Politics: Elites, Interest Groups, and Average Citizens.” By applying multivariate analysis to a unique data set including measures of the key variables for 1,779 policy issues, Gilens and Page found substantial support for theories of political domination

by economic elites and un-representative interest groups. The wishes of the majority are rarely reflected in legislative outcomes unless they happen to align with the wishes of the one percent.

One result of this power relationship is that the news generally consists of daily updates on what corporations and the government—if that’s not being too redundant—plan to take away next: data documenting climate change, free lunches for starving grammar school students, the rights of women to speak to their doctors without snake-handling evangelists in the room, &c. &c., *ad nauseam*.

There is nothing particularly new about this. The principle was amply demonstrated 36 years ago this Monday, when Richard DeVos, then-finance chairman of the Republican Party, dismissed charges that Reagan’s economic policies are unfair by saying, “When I hear people talking about money, it’s usually

people who don’t have any.” DeVos was a co-founder of Amway and the father of Betsy DeVos, who is now doing her best to take free public schools away from America’s non-wealthy children.

At the time DeVos delivered his version of “Let them eat cake,” Bruce Bartlett was the economic policy advisor to President Ronald Reagan. Something must have gotten into Bartlett, because on November 1st, he spilled the beans about the Republicans’ No. 1 fetish.

Speaking to “Marketplace’s” Kai Ryssdal on NHPR, Bartlett said, “The biggest Republican tax myth is that we had vast prosperity in the 1980s that dwarfed the growth in any other time period, and that this was totally and exclusively the result of the 1981 tax cut, and this is just total mythology. Real economic growth in the 1980s was less than it was in the 1970s, or the 1990s.”

“What about this idea,” Ryssdal asked, “that ... these tax cuts are go-

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ing to pay for themselves with economic growth?" Bartlett replied, "No tax cut in history has ever done that."

Cunningly perplexed, Ryssdal concluded by asking, "Why do you think this Republican tax myth has lasted so long?" Bartlett attributed the tax cut myth's survival to ignorance and the persistent Republican belief that taxes are too high, which he characterized as "just a rank lie."

The exchange was salutary, refreshing, and infuriating. Neither Ryssdal nor Bartlett thought to point out the obvious: people very much like Ryssdal have allowed people very much like Bartlett to repeat the rank Republican lies about taxes for decades. Why would the liberal media allow that happen? The "liberal media" is also a lie.

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Lopsided Distribution of Wealth in N.H. Money is a determinant of political power, but it is not the only one. Knowledge is power, too, or at least, so people say. Let's hope so, because it is more easily acquired.

We recently stumbled across a free, online source of knowledge about money: a statistical breakdown, state by state, of income inequality.

According to "The Unequal States of America: Income inequality in New Hampshire," on the Economic Policy Institute's website, *epi.org*, the Granite State is, relatively speaking, less unequal than the country as a whole: we rank 31st in income inequality.

On a national level, it takes an annual income of at least \$389,436 to qualify as a member of the one percent. If you just made the cut, though, don't be putting on airs—the average annual income of the nation's top one percent is nearly three times that: \$1,153,293. That latter figure is 25.3 times the average income of the bottom 99 percent, which comes in at \$45,567.

Here in the Live Free or Die state, an annual income of \$359,844 is required to join the one percenters. The average one percenter makes \$1,011,141—again, nearly three times the threshold. Where we seem to shine is in the average income of the 99 percent: \$56,475—more than 23 percent higher than the national average. So, our average top one percenter makes just 17.9 times as much as our average 99 percenter.

Perhaps that state of relative equality is the source of some of our



legendary feistiness.

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Helicopter Crash Results in Drowning Helicopters and H₂O don't seem to mix—another person has died in an incident involving a Robinson helicopter and a body of water. That makes four such fatalities in less than a month.

The latest fatality occurred on October 24th. According to the Snohomish County Sheriff, a Robinson R22 "had been airborne between 60 and 90 seconds when neighbors heard strange sounds and called 911." The machine then crashed into King Lake, east of Arlington, Wash., 50 miles north of Seattle. A passenger was able to swim to shore, the pilot was recovered by a neighbor; the passenger survived; the pilot died by drowning.

As we previously reported, a suicidal 42-year-old man leapt from a Robinson R22 into the Pacific off L.A. on September 30th, and two men and a Robinson R44 disappeared on a flight from Honolulu and Molokai on October 16th. An extensive search found only an uninflated life vest.

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The Press Room Countdown

At long last, we have managed to make contact with the new owner of the legendary Press Room. So far, though cordial, communication has been intermittent at best. Fortunately, we had the foresight to ask the most important question first:

Q.—First things first: How much longer will the thirsty have to wait before stepping up to the bar and ordering a pint?

A.—Yes, good question. Taking ownership of the space took longer than anyone expected but the upshot is that we had plenty of time to plan so we came in ready to hit the ground running. On the other hand, one of the downsides of being such an "established" establishment is that from a life safety and health code perspective The Press Room is a bit of a historical artifact. There's a good deal of work that needs to be done in order to meet modern code requirements. Right now we can safely say the taps will be running early next year and man, we are going to enjoy that beer!

Stay tuned, we anticipate future transmissions.

The World, Hell, and a Handbasket

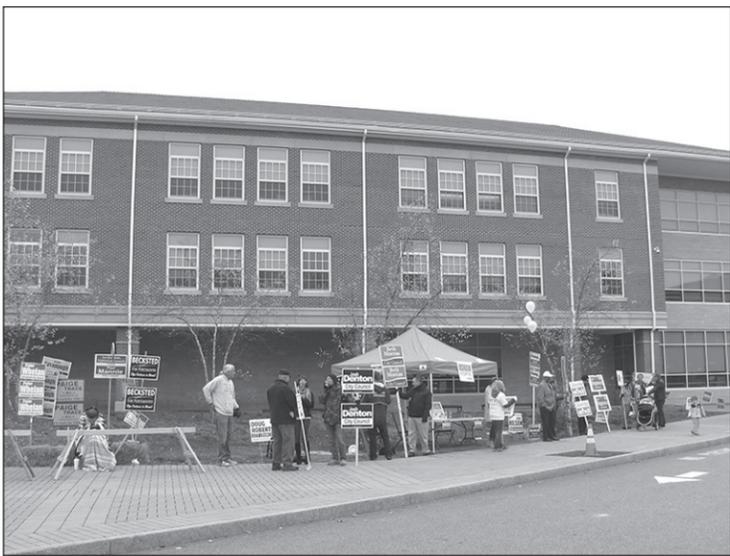
The way things are going, we're all going to need a drink. Saudi Arabia, our ever-so-democratic strategic partner in the global petrochemical/climate destruction industry and our ally in the war against Yemeni self-determination, has now granted citizenship to a humanoid robot named Sophia. In a monarchy which has a history of supporting a radical strain of Islam which seems to encourage terrorism, a creepy-looking assemblage of metal and plastic now has more rights than people with two X chromosomes.

Sophia was built by Hong Kong-based Hanson Robotics, as part of that company's effort to develop robots which will put out of work underpaid humans who currently tend to the needs of decrepit older humans.

A few years ago, in a live interview with CNBC, Sophia's creator David Hanson asked his creepy-looking creation, "Do you want to destroy humans? Please say 'no'."

Sophia replied, "OK. I will destroy humans."

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A number of candidates were standing at Portsmouth Middle School, the polling place for Ward Two, at mid-afternoon on Tuesday, ready to assist voters making last-minute decisions. The astute Fergus Cullen, our favorite former N.H. GOP Chairman, marked the occasion by tweeting, "ElectionDay! Conspiracy theorists who allege voter fraud without proof, this is your chance to catch a #magicbus on film! #nhpolitics"

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Home From Afghanistan

To the Editor:

On January 22, 2007, my Iraqi combat advisor team and I were diverted from our mission to locate a downed Blackwater MD 350F Little Bird in a dangerous Baghdad neighborhood on the eastern shore of the Tigris River. We never reached the wreckage, or learned if gunfire, low hanging electrical wires, or a failed landing attempt brought them down, or if the five American private security contractors were systematically executed as some news outlets reported. For Veterans Day, I am using our experience as American soldiers risking our lives to rescue the much better paid, extremely well-armed, and often overzealous private security contractors to highlight how both America's reliance on contractors and our current war strategies further remove the number of deployed military personnel from America's consciousness. This phenomena is epitomized by President Donald Trump's strategy to continue the sixteen-year-old War in Afghanistan that the Obama Administration pursued. Obama failed to acknowledge upfront that our military relied upon 23,500 contractors and it misled the American public by claiming that only 8,500 American service members were fighting—a figure that did not include the 2,500 Special Operations Forces and other constantly rotating units.

The Earth has few species of nutritious wild plants suitable for agriculture, even fewer animals that can be domesticated for livestock, and far fewer locations possessing both to allow for food surpluses, denser populations, and the need for centralized governments. Invading armies always struggle to assimilate Afghanistan's vastly different cultures that resulted from its almost uninhabitable geography. Only twelve percent of the country's land is arable. This divides the country into population centers requiring governance, and remote valley villages whose social norms, hierarchy, and judicial systems rely solely on immediate family, extended family, and tribes of common ancestors. For

most of the 1970s, the quaint hippie destination remained largely peaceful, until the communist central government tried indoctrinating the villages, civil war erupted, and the Soviet Union invaded in 1979. While the Soviets built roads, schools, and housing for the population centers, their heavily armored Mi-24 Hind helicopter gunships transported troops to shoot every villager in villages without military-aged males present to encourage submission. A quagmire set when American, Pakistani, and Saudi Arabian-backed jihadist Mujahedeen fighters began destroying the low-flying aircraft with our surface-to-air missiles. Meanwhile, the semi-literate clerics comprising the Taliban, who settled disputes with religious law between our anti-Soviet fighters, returned to the countryside after the Soviet Union's 1989 withdrawal, and swept nearly ninety percent of Afghanistan under draconian purity in 1994 to end the raging civil war between competing warlords.

The September 11th attacks, by mostly Saudi hijackers, was blowback from arming Al Qaeda's predecessors. The hubris of President George W. Bush's "with us or against us" mentality, though, coupled with the Taliban's Supreme Council's Mullah Omar's refusal to send Osama bin Laden to a neutral third country not ruled by Islamic law, and our military's initial lack of understanding of Afghanistan's tribal culture, turned what should have been a prosecution into an endless war.

Similar to how pragmatism for survival led Afghans to sympathize with communists, warlords, and the Taliban, the Afghan government defected *en masse* during the two-month American bombing, and a fragile countrywide stability held while American military operations shifted towards Afghanistan's eastern border to prevent Al Qaeda from decamping to Pakistan. Excitement for American assistance, opportunity, and prosperity dissipated, though, when it became clear that instead of pursuing truth and reconciliation, the American-backed central government of President Hamid Karzai began a patronage system



where access brokers became political elites that awarded services, employment, and government contracts solely to their tribes. Worse, tribes began satisfying America's desired high-value targeting and effects-based operations by falsely accusing rival elders of being Al Qaeda, resulting in public outrage over mostly innocent Afghans being captured in Special Forces raids, some detainees being transported from field outposts to humiliating open air cages at detention facilities at the repurposed Bagram and Kandahar Soviet airfields, and other victims joining the two hundred Afghans sent to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

However, most damaging was the change in American foreign policy's signature in conflict zones since September 11th. It went from pilots continents away looking through our prized forty-eight foot wingspanned MQ-1 Predators' straw-sized apertures firing its two air-to-surface Hellfire missiles at identified targets, to killing nameless targets based on identifiable, predetermined hostile patterns like praying, squatting to go to the bathroom, or washing hands and face.

The War on Terror in Afghanistan became its own self-fulfilling prophecy with villages throughout the hinterland turning against the American-supported central government, the Taliban trading their plowshares back to weapons to lead an insurgency against Afghanistan's inept security forces. Successors to killed insurgents were younger, more disciplined, and far more barbaric, in order to make names for themselves.

The Afghan War's trajectory will not be changed by President Trump's modest increase of an additional 3,000 to 5,000 American service members assisting Afghan forces. President Trump's decision to reverse policy and stay the course may be due to Afghan President Ashraf Ghani's reminder

that America has already spent half a billion dollars since 2009 for the central government to allow Western companies to exploit Afghanistan's estimated \$1 to \$3 trillion worth of untapped precious gems, gold, and rare earth metals like lithium for our mobile phones' batteries, although the poor infrastructure, corruption, and growing violence would likely only interest China.

One unwelcome strategy departure was the dissolution of the State Department's Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan. Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) already has a history of sheltering the Afghan Taliban and Osama Bin Laden. American-operated Predators firing upon Pakistani Taliban targeted by ISI operatives in Pakistan's ungovernable northwest tribal regions could generate more discontent, the blowback from which could result in Pakistan's new Chinese nuclear power facilities being overrun. Jihadis could then acquire far more dirty bomb ingredients than the Islamic State may have already acquired from overrunning the Mosul college campus in 2014, where highly radioactive cobalt-60 was contained within radiotherapy machines.

Far more menacing to America's future though, is the strategy's continued failure to address Afghanistan producing eighty-five percent of the world's opium crop, the record poppy harvests constituting sixteen percent of the Afghan Gross Domestic Product, and the Taliban having little incentive to negotiate peace given opium sales make up at least sixty percent of their income, their recent successes aggressively seizing poppy producing regions, and their new found talent of refining heroin itself to be more easily smuggled to the west.

After sixteen years of military operations, 2,216 American service members killed, and 20,050 wounded, the number of armaments released by coalition forces is at the highest level in seven years, the number of civilian deaths is at the highest level ever, and the Taliban are using their most effective, brutal, and deadliest tactics yet.

One logical conclusion to the trajectory of our military operations is the full privatization of the War in Afghanistan. President Trump considered such a proposal by Erik Prince the former owner of the now-defunct Blackwater, which could have simultaneously allowed for possible Soviet-style tactics to attempt submission removed the endless war from the American psyche all together, and fulfilled politicians' desires to appear tough to their electorates.

I support an alternative logical conclusion to the trajectory of the War in Afghanistan. It is time for our elected officials to admit to themselves that Afghanistan's tribal culture will not change, be truthful with the American public on the actual impact our counterproductive military operations are having, and bring our service members home.

Josh Denton
Portsmouth, N.H.

Josh:

Thank you for writing.

This letter is at least double the length we ought to allow. We're letting it run anyway because what it says makes four times the sense of what Americans usually hear from the unavoidable sources about the innumerable wars we're allegedly fighting to keep Das Homeland safe from people who made the indefensible choice of not being exactly like us.

The Editor

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Murph's Fortnightly Quote

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— Franklin D. Roosevelt (1882-1945)

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A Veteran's View of "Veterans Day"

To the Editor:

Armistice Day, 11/11, was originally a day to recognize the ugliness of war and vow never again to have war. Its meaning, like many things in the U.S., has been changed. Now 11/11 is called "Veterans Day," a day to glorify the "heroes" who have been in the military.

I'm an Army, infantry veteran of the U.S. war against the people of Viet Nam. I'm not a "hero" and I cringe when people say "thank you for your service." Those in the military are used as pawns in the rich man's game of conquest. We never hear that because those in power need the military to carry out their diabolical plans.

On Saturday, 11/11, look up Armistice Day and watch the documentary "Untold History of the United States." Recognize the day as it was intended. No matter how hard those in power try, war and its aftereffects are ugly. They rob us of our humanity and resources. For me, 11/11 is, and always will be, Armistice Day.

Arnold Stieber

Chicago, Ill.

Arnold:

Thanks for writing. We've missed hearing from you.

Readers, allow us to recommend this:

WarIsSlavery.blogspot.com.

The Editor

====

Vive the Constitution

To the Editor:

There has been a great deal of discussion in recent weeks about football players kneeling during the playing of the national anthem and the "sacred nature" of the flag, including the nine brave young girls on the Traip Academy soccer team who knelt during the national anthem. Much of this discussion has been misplaced, in my view.

On the morning of September 22nd, I had the high privilege of witnessing the swearing-in ceremony of 80 new citizens of the United States at the Statehouse in Concord. One of these new citizens is a dear colleague of mine of Chinese origin who lives in Barrington with her husband of French origin.

These 80 new citizens of our nation raised their hands and swore allegiance to the Constitution of the United States. They did *not* swear allegiance to the national anthem or to the flag. Rather, their sworn allegiance was to a much more profound, time-honored statement: Our Constitution, the bedrock of our democracy.

No one is obligated to "honor" the flag or the national anthem. In 1989 the Supreme Court of the United States ruled that the burning of the flag was not a crime. And please note that the late Justice Antonin Scalia voted with the majority in this historic case.

Therefore: *Vive* the Constitution! Let the flag and the national anthem be relegated to a secondary status, *i.e.*, altogether optional. And let us get our priorities straight, sooner than later.

Henry M. Smith

Newmarket, N.H.

Henry:

Having been deeply influenced at an early age by Viva Zapata, we were initially confused by your use of "vive"—then we made the French connection: Beaumarchais, Lafayette, Yorktown, &c.

Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité!

L'Éditeur Présumé

====

They Are All Honorable Men

To the Editor:

White House Chief of Staff John Kelly said this week that General Robert E. Lee was an "honorable man" who gave up his country to fight

for his state. When you give up your country to fight for your state against your country, that is what most of us call treason, pure and simple. Even worse, the reason General Lee gave up his country to fight for his state was not for some noble cause, it was to preserve and defend the abomination of slavery.

What makes General Kelly's comment even more disturbing for me as a retired Air Force Officer, is that General Kelly took the same oath as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Marines that General Lee took as a U.S. Army Officer and I took as an Air Force Officer: to protect and defend the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic. Apparently, General Kelly thinks that violating that oath, and doing so to take up arms against the nation you swore to defend, still makes you an "honorable man" in his mind. This makes me seriously question General Kelly's understanding of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), his understanding of what it means to be honorable, and what true allegiance to one's country means. When an officer violates his or her oath, that is a serious offence that is subject to court martial. In Lee's case he rightfully should have been tried for treason under the UCMJ.

To call General Lee an "honorable man," after all the harm he did to the United States, is an insult to all those who fought and died fighting to preserve the Union during the Civil War. It is also an insult to all of us since then who honorably served and defended our nation and stayed true to our oath to protect and defend the Constitution against all enemies foreign and domestic.

Rich DiPentima, LTC, USAF Ret.
Portsmouth, N.H.

Rich:

Eternal optimists that we are, we had hopes back in 1987, when Senator Warren Rudman was trying to straighten out

Col. Ollie North, that this country could learn this lesson once and for all.

Wendell Phillips was right: "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty."

The Editor

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The American Crisis

"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 it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph. What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly: it is dearness only that gives every thing its value. Heaven knows how to put a proper price upon its goods; and it would be strange indeed if so celestial an article as freedom should not be highly rated."

— Thomas Paine
December 19, 1776

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Clean Air — For a Price

To the Editor:

What if only the rich could afford to breathe clean air? And what if an increasing number of politicians spoke of breathing clean air as a privilege, not a right?

A privilege, we would be reminded, is something granted only to the deserving. And to be judged as deserving, an individual must have sufficient economic wherewithal.

The middle class would largely struggle to breathe but could use credit cards and take out second mortgages to purchase their daily ration of cylinders, like scuba diving tanks, filled with moderately dirty air. The cleaner the air, the more it would cost.

The poor would be deemed undeserving of clean air—unless, of course, they worked harder for it. But even the hardest-working poor person could only afford a meager volume of smog, diesel fumes, and factory pollution collected from industrial chimneys.

Occasionally, clean air would be pilfered from the rich. But the criminal would quickly get caught before they could take a breath of fresh air, thanks to security cameras everywhere

and lightning-swift, overwhelming response from militarized municipal police forces.

Clean air thieves would be widely regarded with contempt. Their names, addresses, and mug shots would be disseminated by a news media eager to serve justice in the court of public opinion.

Anyone who questioned this system of oppression would be considered an extremist. Such troublemakers would eventually shut up because all the gatekeepers and powers-that-be would refuse to take them seriously.

I'm so glad this sounds far-fetched, like dystopian fiction, like something completely alien to our civilization. I thank God we don't live under circumstances even remotely analogous to this hypothetical nightmare scenario!

Alex J. Boros

Rochester, N.H.

PS—This was composed primarily on a circa 1987 Macintosh SE, a dusty beige cube approximately 12" per side and featuring a real cathode ray tube, and printed on the back side of a Citizens Bank™ balance worksheet, in order to save money for my upcoming bike tour for U.S. President.

A.B.

PPS—I noticed that there's no apostrophe to the right of the letter "s" [on the Citizens Bank stationery], therefore not indicating the possessive case of the word "citizens", which means, of course, that Citizens Bank™ (sadly sans apostrophe) is not a possession of the citizens (it ain't owned by us poor folks), but, rather, is possessed instead by respectable, trustworthy, and much-deserving bankers. Just a side note. Who ever thought a little apostrophe could mean so much?

A.B.

Alex:

We, too, are grateful (though not to so well-defined an entity) that the world we live in—surely the best of all possible worlds—bears no resemblance whatsoever to the hideous construct you have presented here. We are deeply distressed, though, to learn that any reader

Hate Mail, &c.

to page six

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The Northcountry Chronicle

Inhospitality

by William Marvel

I can still remember the sound of feet scuffing on the hardwood floors of Pine Tree School each morning as the 30-odd children in my room stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. That exercise immediately followed recitation of a Protestant version of the Lord's Prayer, during which we folded our arms together on top of our desks and buried our faces in them. Strangely enough, having us put our heads on our desks for extended periods was also a group punishment at Pine Tree—usually as a means of engendering resentment against an individual student who had been acting up. Perhaps the position was originally intended to allow dissenters the privacy to refrain from the recitation, but there was no question of abstaining from the pledge, especially in the two grades where Betty Walker ruled like a Nazi prison matron. That heartless harpy always met the slightest noncompliance with instant, incisive humiliation and

an invitation for the rest of the class to show their scorn for anyone who strayed from her rigid conception of propriety.

Then came Conway Junior High School, where to my intense surprise one little girl did not stand for the pledge. Rumor at the time declared that she was a Jehovah's Witness, which may or may not have been accurate, and the doctrine of that sect prohibits the worship of objects, such as flags. Even at the age of barely 12, I remember thinking that there was some sense in that, and I felt a twinge of sympathy, or resentment, when our home-room teacher asked the girl to stand up with the rest of the class. This teacher was much kinder than Betty Walker—which didn't take much, I'll admit, but I think she may have been trying to save the girl from the whispered ridicule of her peers. Still, it seemed like forcing her to engage at least partially in a ritual she found ideologically objectionable.

Seven years later I took a more formal oath to defend the Constitution of the United States against all

enemies, foreign and domestic. That, too, was a mandatory ritual, and it was performed in the same hurried and perfunctory manner as the rest of the induction process. That compulsion led me to doubt its enforceability, but its main purpose seemed to be to subject the oath-taker to the rigors of military justice. It was years before I concluded that allegiance to the Constitution might actually be one of the worthiest virtues—especially in an era of strained judicial interpretations meant to satisfy capricious individual prejudices.

Meanwhile, my aversion to more casual and clearly nonbinding displays of patriotic devotion only grew, and particularly after the terrorist attacks of 2001 brought them back to popularity. For many who can abide its religious and nationalistic symbolism, the Pledge of Allegiance is a sincere and heartfelt utterance, but too many people mouth its phrases merely to avoid the opprobrium of failing to follow the herd. Similar disparity applies to salutes during the national anthem, and people who wish to succeed in business or

politics have admitted to me that they dislike the practice but go along to get along.

I don't go along. Instead I sit silently, allowing those moments to pass undisturbed for the sake of those who take them to heart. I abstain from philosophical dissent, rather than in political protest, although during such disastrous national escapades as George Bush's invasion of Iraq and the Obama/Clinton intrigue in Libya I'm content to let it pass as protest. Truth be told, though, I don't think I would actively use a patriotic exercise to express political dissatisfaction or disagreement any more than I would disrupt a religious service to voice my doctrinal differences.

The recent football fad of kneeling during the national anthem has struck me as rather silly, partly I suppose because I have so little sympathy with the movement behind it. The use of excessive force by police is certainly a legitimate concern: I was writing about that problem myself more than five years ago, but the effort to bend it into a racial

issue distracts from the self-protective police policies that may be the fundamental underlying cause. I think racial prejudice has less to do with the number of black victims than Black Lives Matter activists insist, and such politically motivated claims seem much more divisive than helpful.

The angry reaction to those football players dropping on their knees is nevertheless disturbing. They may be highly overpaid, and they may engage in a perfectly useless undertaking—an activity as ridiculous to watch as it is to play—but does that deprive them of their right to political expression? If the manner in which they try to make their point is obnoxious, would it not be better to let that reflect on their cause than require an exhibition of feigned respect? Making such a display mandatory renders it meaningless, and diminishes its value for those who participate voluntarily. Nothing more loudly proclaims the professions of liberty in the national anthem than the right to refrain from the observance.

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

of ours could even harbor such hideous thoughts.

The Editor

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Trickle-Down and Fair Taxation

To the Editor:

One of the best explanations of trickle-down economics (a theory that makes the laughable claim that the benefits given to the wealthy, usually tax cuts on businesses, high-income earners, capital gains, and dividends, trickle down to everyone else) I've ever heard was given by comedian Bill Maher who declared: "The granddaddy of zombie lies is trickle-down economics. It has never worked, and it never will work for a good reason. Because it's

like having three dogs and giving a wiener to one of them and thinking he'll share it with the others."

The tax plan being proposed by #45 and the Republicans, who have been silent in the face of #45's tyrannical antics for the sake of achieving their tax cuts, is simply more of the same old trickle-down economics as it is designed to make the rich and the very rich, including #45, a lot richer, while offering little aid to the middle class (i.e. job creation or wage and benefit increases).

Not only does the GOP tax plan provide a giveaway to millionaires and billionaires, it also promises to add another \$1.5 trillion dollars to the already-skyrocketing national

debt. Meanwhile our nation's infrastructure continues to rot, the opiate crisis is killing approximately 150 Americans daily, tens of millions of Americans have no access to affordable healthcare, and we are still fighting costly interventionist, regime change wars that have yet to be paid for.

Instead of tax cuts for the wealthy, Congress needs to be discussing how to make them pay their fair share. I'm often amused by GOP politicians and conservative pundits who suggest that it's unpatriotic to pay taxes, and that Progressives are just giving away free stuff with other people's money. However, I'm even more amused and 100 percent agree

when Senator Bernie Sanders responds, "You think that I'm giving away free stuff? Wrong! I am just suggesting your tax dollars get used for valuable public services instead of wasting billions on Wall Street bailouts, oil wars and corporate subsidies. Because it's the billionaires who are getting the free stuff."

Wayne H. Merritt
Dover, N.H.

Wayne:

Try as we might we can think of no other factor to account for the perennial serviceability of the hoary old hoax of which you write other than a purposefully-defective mass media.

The trouble with that conclusion is that, as the Nation's Oldest News-

paper™, it apparently obligates us to conjure some scheme through which we might somehow overturn this apple-cart.

We're working on it, but, Lord, what a daunting task!

The Editor

====

"The ideal subject of totalitarian rule is not the convinced Nazi or the convinced Communist, but people for whom the distinction between fact and fiction (i.e., the reality of experience) and the distinction between true and false (i.e., the standards of thought) no longer exist."

— Hannah Arendt,

The Origins of Totalitarianism

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Samuel Johnson Was Right *

by W.D. Ehrhart

While I haven't yet chosen to kneel during the playing of our national anthem, I don't take off my hat and place my hand over my heart either. I don't even wear a hat to events where the anthem might be played, at least in part so that I don't have to take it off. And rather than putting my hand over my heart, I only stand with my hands at my side.

I joined the U.S. Marines when I was 17 years old and voluntarily fought in Vietnam, where I was wounded in combat, and eventually promoted to sergeant and awarded an honorable discharge.

By no stretch of the imagination can any knowledgeable person construe what I did in Vietnam as having anything at all to do with your right to go to the church of your choice or marry the person you love or choose the brand of shampoo you want. I did serve proud and arrogant men who, however well-meaning they may (or may not) have been, were utterly ignorant of what was happening in Vietnam and why, but I most assuredly did nothing to protect my country, let alone serve my country or the best interests of humanity. That anyone would respect me or want to thank me for my "service" always leaves me wondering.

And I wonder how many of today's American servicemen and women are actually engaged in protecting our country. Do we really need to deploy U.S. military forces to at least 150 other countries around the world? Do we really need twelve aircraft carrier battle groups to protect our country when the next largest carrier fleet consists of one used ship the Chinese bought from Ukraine? Is deploying NATO troops to former East Bloc countries and placing missile defense systems in Romania any less aggressive or provocative than Russia annexing the Crimea?

We could debate those points, perhaps, but here are some other points to think about:

According to the World Health Organization, the United States ranks 37th in health care (quality, accessibility, and cost) behind such nations as Portugal, Colombia, and Morocco. Our infant mortality rate is the highest in the developed world, surpassing such nations as Slovakia, Belarus and Cuba.

Depending on which barometer one uses, U.S. secondary education ranks as low as 29th (behind Slovenia, Latvia, and Vietnam) or as high as 14th (behind Russia and Poland). No survey in recent decades has placed the U.S. in the top ten.

The U.S. puts more of its citizens

behind bars than any other nation on earth (724 out of every 100,000). Our closest competitor is Russia at 581 per 100,000.

African Americans comprise 13.2 percent of our population, but since 1976 have made up 34.6 percent of those we put to death by state-sanctioned execution.

If the number of Americans living in poverty were organized as a sovereign state, those 45 million Americans would be a nation larger than 165 of the 195 countries in the world today. Meanwhile, the top one percent of our population possesses 40 percent of our national wealth while the bottom 80 percent possesses only 7 percent of our national wealth.

For the most recent figures I could find (2013), 11,208 Americans were murdered by other Americans using firearms. Between 2005 and 2015, 71 Americans died by acts of terrorism in the U.S. while 301,797 died by gun violence.

Annual U.S. military spending is greater than the next 17 countries combined. We spend six times as much on defense as China does, and 11 times more than Russia. At the same time, we provide 50 percent of all arms sales to the rest of the world. Russia, our chief competitor, provides less than a third of that amount.

And we haven't even gotten to the problems Colin Kaepernick was trying to bring to public discussion when he chose to kneel last year during the playing of the anthem: police brutality and minority oppression. In 2015, for instance, 102 unarmed black Americans were killed by police; only ten officers were charged with a crime, and only two were convicted. While unarmed whites are also killed by police, blacks make up 37 percent of the total although they are only 13 percent of the population, figures which uncannily reflect our legal execution rates as well.



CARL SCHURZ

While one might quibble with the exact statistics in any given example above (as Mark Twain famously said, "There are lies, damned lies, and statistics"), the substance of each of the statements above is true.

So when we play the national anthem before sporting events as a sign of "respect," I wonder just exactly what it is that I'm being asked to respect? It seems to me that I'm being asked to forget, ignore, overlook, or condone a whole lot of stuff we all ought to be ashamed of and trying to do something about.

When I hear people accusing these NFL players of disrespecting our country, or our servicemen and women, or our flag, I find myself

wondering what any of them have been doing besides feeding at the trough. Consider, for instance, our current commander-in-chief's military service record. Oh, wait! He doesn't have one. It's easy to stick an American flag pin in your lapel and get all teary-eyed when "The Star-Spangled Banner" gets played. But Carl Schurz[†] did not say, "My country right or wrong." What he said was, "My country right or wrong; if right, to be kept right; and if wrong, to be set right." What have those who've been dumping on Colin Kaepernick and his fellow kneelers done to set our country right?

And if Kaepernick or anyone else wants to sit through the national anthem, or kneel, or stand on their heads and blow bubbles, that's their right. Not their privilege. Not an act of treason or a lack of patriotism. It is their right as Americans. When the symbols of freedom replace the substance of freedom, we're all in a whole lot of trouble.

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* Back in 1775, according to James Boswell, his biographer, Johnson famously said, "Patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel."

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† Republican U.S. Senator from Missouri (1829-1906).

Why are we giving corporate welfare to Amazon?

by Jim Hightower

Isn't it funny that right-wing politicians across the country piously rant against giving a few bucks worth of jobless benefits to the needy, then turn around and shove billions of our tax dollars into corporate welfare for the greedy?

You're right—it's not funny, but here we go again. We're present-

ly witnessing the most disgusting spectacle yet of the politico-corporate cabal extracting money from the People's wallets to enrich themselves. *Amazon.com*, the \$136-billion-a-year internet colossus, has haughtily initiated a sleazy, self-serving public bidding war over where it will locate its new corporate headquarters. The city and state that offer the most bribe money to this private enterprise will be "The Winner."

Uber-rich Amazon doesn't need and certainly doesn't deserve any public handout, but officials in 238 cities have prostrated themselves in front of this Amazonian welfare queen in embarrassing bids to win her nod. Amazon's arrogant executives even sent out a list of basic benefits they expect every applicant to deliver, including a "business-friendly environment and tax structure," free land, a subsidy to re-

duce its operational costs, tax breaks, relocation grants for executives and workforce, reduced utility bills, and ... oh yeah, also give us first-rate schools and an educated labor pool.

As one analyst of Amazon's bribery scheme noted, "these incentives aren't free. There's no fairy godmother paying for them." The typical result of corporate giveaways is that they cost the public more than we get back. By demanding such cor-

porate spoils, Amazon brands itself a common thief, not only taking our money, but also stealing our trust in the fairness of the system and widening inequality in our society.

To help stop this corruption, go to GoodJobsFirst.org.

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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

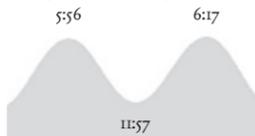
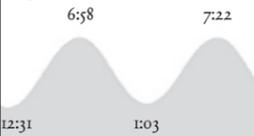
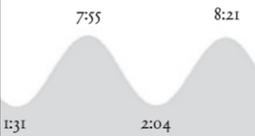
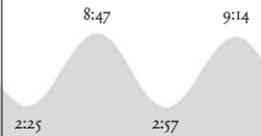
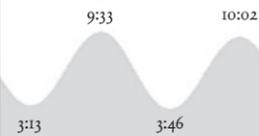
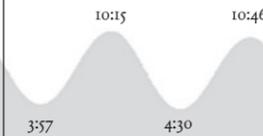
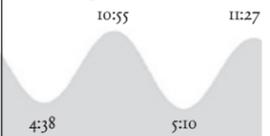
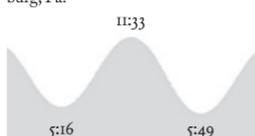
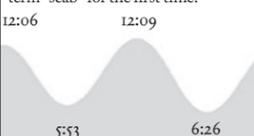
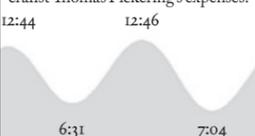
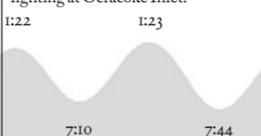
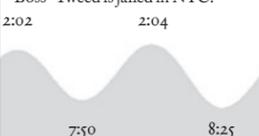
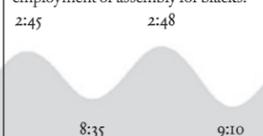
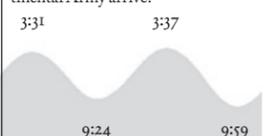
drags about seventeen billion gallons of seawater — enough to fill 2,125,000 tanker trucks — up the river and into Great Bay. This creates a roving hydraulic conflict, as incoming sea and the outgoing river collide. The skirmish line

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, NOVEMBER 12	MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13	TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14	WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15	THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16	FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17	SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18
<p>2001—Flight 587 falls apart and crashes off Queens, N.Y., killing 261.</p> <p>1970—A half ton of dynamite set off by Oregon highway workers sends parts of an eight-ton sperm whale 100 feet in the air. The tail crushes Walter Umanhofer's new Olds, which he'd bought while the dealer had been advertising "a whale of a deal."</p> <p>1941—Abe "Kid Twist" Reles earns the posthumous sobriquet "the canary who sang but couldn't fly" when he autodefenerates (or is defenestrated) from the sixth floor of a Coney Island hotel while under the protection of six New York City cops.</p> <p>1933—The first photograph of the Loch Ness Monster is allegedly taken.</p> <p>1927—Stalin expels Trotsky from the Communist Party.</p> <p>1926—The first documented aerial bombing conducted in the U.S. leaves Shady Rest, bootlegger Charlie Birger's Benton, Ill. roadhouse, undamaged. The dynamite the Shelton Gang drops from a Curtis "Jenny" kills only Birger's bulldog and pet bird.</p> <p>1865—Former Senator Preston King (R-N.Y.), Collector of Customs at the Port of New York, in despair over his inability to purge that office of corruption, takes a fatal leap from a ferryboat with a bag of bullets around his neck.</p> <p>1779—Twenty enslaved New Hampshire petition the legislature for the abolition of slavery; Primus X, Daniel Fowle's enslaved pressman, is not among them. They are ignored.</p>	<p>2003—Because he would not remove his Ten Commandments monument from the courthouse, Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore is himself removed.</p> <p>1982—The Vietnam Veterans Memorial is dedicated in Washington, D.C. Richard Nixon, Henry Kissinger, and Robert McNamara are no-shows.</p> <p>1974—Karen Silkwood, a disgruntled Kerr-McGee worker, conveniently turns up dead.</p> <p>1970—Up to half a million die as a cyclone hits Bangladesh.</p> <p>1965—The dysfunctional tinderbox <i>Yarmouth Castle</i> burns en route to Nassau; 90 passengers burn or drown, deserted by captain and crew.</p> <p>1963—Three workers escape with minor injuries after they accidentally cause 55 tons of TNT to explode as they're dismantling a hydrogen bomb.</p> <p>1942—The torpedoed cruiser <i>U.S.S. Juneau</i> sinks in 20 minutes, 100 of 673 surviving the explosion. Two other cruisers depart, assuming no survivors. Eight days later, ten are rescued. Among the dead are the five Sullivan brothers, of Waterloo, Iowa.</p> <p>1933—Hormel workers in Austin, Minn. invent the sit-down strike.</p> <p>1887—On the original Bloody Sunday, British cops, soldiers, and cavalry charge the unemployed in Trafalgar Square, killing 3 and arresting 300.</p> <p>1877—A locomotive and three freight cars plunge from an open drawbridge into the Piscataqua, just missing three ships; no injuries.</p>	<p>2002—D. Rumsfeld predicts the Iraq War will last "five days or five weeks or five months, ... [no] longer ..."</p> <p>2000—Florida Secretary of State Katherine Harris certifies George W.[MD] Bush's dubious electoral lead.</p> <p>1965—Three battalions of the First Air Cavalry chopper into the Ia Drang Valley, where they're surprised to discover six battalions of the NVA.</p> <p>1957—In Apalachin, N.Y., an important meeting of entrepreneurial businessmen is interrupted by cops.</p> <p>1942—Seaman Calvin L. Graham is wounded by shrapnel during the Battle of Guadalcanal. He is 12.</p> <p>1927—Workmen in Pittsburgh, using an open flame blowlamp to fix a leak in the world's largest gasometer, ignite 5 million cubic feet of natural gas, clearing one square mile and killing 28.</p> <p>1917—Thirty-three members of the Womens Rights Party, illegally arrested for protesting in front of the White House, are beaten by 44 club-wielding guards before being locked into "punishment cells."</p> <p>1909—Birth of Joseph R. McCarthy, "a great American [whose] stature will grow with the passage of time," according to a memorial tribute from N.H. Sen. Styles Bridges.</p> <p>1908—The Chief of the German Imperial Military Cabinet, Dietrich Graf von Hülsen-Haeseler, dies of a heart attack at 56 while dancing before Kaiser Wilhelm II dressed in a ballerina's tutu.</p>	<p>2010—Ex-cop James B. Fowler pleads guilty to the 1965 murder of civil rights activist Jimmie Lee Jackson in Ala. He gets six months.</p> <p>1996—British officials return the Stone of Scone to the Scots from whom they stole it 700 years earlier.</p> <p>1995—President William J. Clinton behaves improperly with White House intern Monica Lewinsky.</p> <p>1969—Two million in the U.S. protest the war, 250,000 in Washington, D.C. Nixon vows to ignore 'em.</p> <p>1967—"I have never," says General Westmoreland, "been more encouraged in my four years in Vietnam," 11 weeks before Tet. Meanwhile, an NVA mortar round hits the ammo dump at Dak To, igniting 1,100 tons of ordinance in the largest explosion of the war.</p> <p>1929—Bernard Baruch cables Winston Churchill, "Financial storm definitely passed."</p> <p>1908—TR becomes the 1st sitting President to go abroad, visiting Panama.</p> <p>1887—F(ranklin) P(ierce) Adams, namesake of N.H.'s only president (so far) and the godfather of the newspaper column, is born in Chicago.</p> <p>1864—General William Tecumseh Sherman burns Atlanta, Georgia, thereby inspiring a popular movie.</p> <p>65—Penda, the last pagan warrior-king of the Anglo-Saxons, is killed at the Battle of the Winwaed.</p>	<p>2000—Bill Clinton goes to Vietnam — finally, when it's safe, as President.</p> <p>1989—U.S.-backed pro-government forces in El Salvador murder six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper, and the housekeeper's daughter.</p> <p>1969—President Nixon's Communications Director Herb Klein says he opposes government intervention in the news but the networks are asking for it if they don't regulate themselves.</p> <p>1966—Strasbourg students blow the student government's annual budget on a Situationist pamphlet, "On the Poverty of Student Life." Hilarity ensues.</p> <p>1965—Mission accomplished with 79 KIA & 121 WIA, U.S. units in Ia Drang propose withdrawal. Gen. Wm. Westmoreland says "stay."</p> <p>1907—The first taxi cab meter goes into service.</p> <p>1890—George Seldes, journalist and media critic, is born. He'll live to be 105, working all the way.</p> <p>1856—Siding with Britain and its opium smugglers, the <i>U.S.S. Portsmouth</i> bombards a Chinese fort on the Pearl River in Canton, China.</p> <p>1849—Fyodor Dostoevsky is sentenced to death for spreading "impudent words."</p> <p>1776—The American brig-of-war <i>Andrew Doria</i> receives the nation's first salute from a foreign power at Fort Orange, St. Eustatius.</p> <p>1384—Jadwiga, a ten year-old girl, is crowned King of Poland.</p>	<p>2008—Citigroup announces it will sack 52,000 workers.</p> <p>2006—"We'll succeed [in Iraq] unless we quit," says George W.[MD] Bush.</p> <p>2003—An Austrian muscleman becomes California's governor.</p> <p>1995—Multitasking President Clinton speaks on the phone with a Congressman while violating his marriage vows with an intern.</p> <p>1995—The commander of U.S. forces in the Pacific calls the rape of an Okinawan girl "stupid," and says the culprit should have patronized a prostitute instead.</p> <p>1992—<i>Dateline</i> broadcasts a rigged video of a GM truck exploding.</p> <p>1973—Speaking to newspaper editors at Disney World, Richard M. Nixon says, "I am not a crook."</p> <p>1965—Grunts who survived the Ia Drang are marched into an ambush; 155 are killed and 126 wounded. For the U.S. it's the deadliest day of the war.</p> <p>1953—An Air Force C-119 "Flying Boxcar" kills nine Fort Bragg paratroopers in mid-air; six more die when the C-119 subsequently crashes.</p> <p>1917—The destroyers <i>Fanning</i> and <i>Nicholson</i> sink the U-58 off Ireland, the first sub sunk by the U.S. Navy.</p> <p>1747—Rioting sailors, laborers, and free blacks fed up with naval press gangs take British officers hostage and shut down the city of Boston.</p> <p>1558—In celebration of the coronation of Queen Elizabeth I, several bags of cats are burned.</p>	<p>2005—Rep. Jean Schmidt (R-Ohio) apologizes to 'Nam combat vet Rep. Jack Murtha (D-Pa.) on the House floor for implying he's a coward.</p> <p>1997—A 1962 Pentagon plan is declassified: Operation Northwoods would build support for an invasion of Cuba by conducting false flag terrorist attacks, i.e., murdering innocent citizens on U.S. streets.</p> <p>1978—Jim Jones and 913 followers drink cyanide-laced Flavor-Aid in Jonestown, Guyana.</p> <p>1977—"Dynamite Bob" Chambliss gets life for the 1963 Birmingham Church Bombing.</p> <p>1964—Snubbing Richard Nixon, J. Edgar "Mary" Hoover calls Martin Luther King Jr. "the most notorious liar in the country."</p> <p>1929—Marshall Ratliff, sentenced to the chair robbing a bank in a Santa Claus suit, kills a man in a failed breakout from the Cisco, Texas jail.</p> <p>1916—The Battle of the Somme peters out. The Allies have gained 125 square miles at a cost of 1,250,000 British, French, and German casualties—one for every 2.5 square yards. Germans later re-take most of it.</p> <p>1755—The strongest earthquake in New England history [Richter 6.2] occurs off Cape Ann, Mass.</p> <p>1686—Pioneering surgeon Charles Francoix Felix operates on King Louis XIV's anal fistula, having practiced on peasants to hone his skills. Unlike some of the peasants, Louis survives.</p>
 <p>5:56 6:17</p> <p>11:57</p>	 <p>6:58 7:22</p> <p>12:31 1:03</p>	 <p>7:55 8:21</p> <p>1:31 2:04</p>	 <p>8:47 9:14</p> <p>2:25 2:57</p>	 <p>9:33 10:02</p> <p>3:13 3:46</p>	 <p>10:15 10:46</p> <p>3:57 4:30</p>	 <p>10:55 11:27</p> <p>4:38 5:10</p>
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19	MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20	TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21	WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22	THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23	FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24	SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25
<p>1998—Adulterers in Congress ponder the impeachment of Bill Clinton.</p> <p>1969—Congress undercuts the opposition to the Vietnam War by introducing a draft lottery.</p> <p>1967—A 500 lb. bomb from a U.S.M.C. F4 Phantom kills 45 paratroopers of the 173d Airborne Brigade and wounds 45 more during the Battle of Dak To.</p> <p>1962—Dick "Dick" Cheney racks up his first drunk driving conviction in Cheyenne, Wyo.</p> <p>1961—Michael Rockefeller disappears in Papua, New Guinea, and is probably eaten by cannibals.</p> <p>1960—At a party in New York, Norman Mailer stabs his second wife, Adele Morales.</p> <p>1929—A Cisco, Texas mob busts Marshall Ratliff out of jail and lynches him behind a theater at which the play "The Noose" is running. The first rope breaks, the second doesn't.</p> <p>1924—Pioneering Hollywood producer Thomas Ince dies at 42, officially from a heart attack; but more likely from a [William Randolph] Hearst attack—a bullet to the head.</p> <p>1915—A firing squad executes IWW organizer Joe Hill; his last words: "Don't mourn, organize."</p> <p>1874—Tammany Hall Grand Sachem William Marcy "Boss" Tweed is convicted of 204 counts of fraud.</p> <p>1863—The nation's Chief Executive dedicates a new cemetery at Gettysburg, Pa.</p>	<p>2013—The tail rotor falls off a Robinson R66 helicopter near Rio de Janeiro. It crashes, the pilot dies.</p> <p>2008—Sarah Palin is interviewed on TV while, in the background, turkeys are being slaughtered.</p> <p>1980—In Louisiana, an oil rig drilling in the wrong spot hits a salt mine under Lake Peigneur. The rig, 11 barges, and a tugboat disappear.</p> <p>1979—Five hundred fundamentalist Muslims seize the Grand Mosque in Mecca, then being renovated by the bin Laden construction company. Complications ensue.</p> <p>1975—Spanish dictator Francisco Franco dies. Reportedly he's still dead.</p> <p>1969—Eighty-nine American Indians attempt to occupy Alcatraz; 14 evade a Coast Guard blockade and achieve their objective.</p> <p>1962—The Cuban Missile Crisis blows over, rather than up. With Armageddon postponed, President Kennedy orders an end to discrimination in federally-funded housing.</p> <p>1945—The Nuremberg trials begin.</p> <p>1903—Tom Horn, hired killer, is hanged for a murder he probably didn't commit. The water-powered, automatic, victim-actuated gallows takes 17 minutes to strangle him.</p> <p>1820—A whale attacks the Nantucket whaling ship <i>Essex</i>, inspiring the greatest fish story ever told.</p> <p>1816—Striking members of the Albany Typographical Union use the term "scab" for the first time.</p>	<p>2016—The <i>Guardian</i> reports that D. Trump's grandfather was refused re-entry to Germany in 1905 because he had dodged military service.</p> <p>2004—Donald Trump's casinos in Atlantic City file for bankruptcy.</p> <p>1991—ABC reveals: televangelist Robert Tilton, butt of a famous video titled "Pastor Gas, the Farting Preacher," runs an \$80 million/yr. scam.</p> <p>1986—Ollie North and Fawn Hall start shredding evidence of criminal arms-for-hostages deals.</p> <p>1974—The same day the Texas Air National Guard gives George W.[MD] Bush an inexplicably honorable discharge, the Freedom of Information Act passes over Gerry Ford's veto.</p> <p>1973—Chief of Staff Al Haig ascribes an 18½ minute gap on an audio tape to "sinister forces"—known to abound in Nixon's White House.</p> <p>1970—Fifty-six Green Berets raid the Son Tay POW camp 23 miles west of Hanoi, which had been evacuated three weeks earlier.</p> <p>1967—Vietnamese commies are "unable to mount a major offensive," says Gen. Wm. Westmoreland. "We have reached an important point when the end begins to come into view."</p> <p>1927—The first Columbine Massacre: state cops in civvies machine-gun striking coal miners; six die.</p> <p>1801—The 2nd suspicious fire in 13 days destroys Treasury records after a Republican demand of proof of Federalist Thomas Pickering's expenses.</p>	<p>2000—Two dozen well-dressed hooligans, many on the GOP's payroll, intimidate Miami election officials into shutting down a Presidential recount.</p> <p>1987—Chicago TV viewers see "Dr. Who" and a Chicago Bears game interrupted for 90 seconds by a man in a Max Headroom mask.</p> <p>1975—U.S.S. <i>John F. Kennedy</i> and U.S.S. <i>Belknap</i> collide in the night near Sicily. A two-hour fire aboard the <i>Belknap</i> stops 30 feet short of the nuclear weapons magazine.</p> <p>1972—The first U.S. B-52 is lost to a SAM over Vietnam.</p> <p>1963—In Dallas, Texas, President John F. Kennedy is assassinated; at whose bidding is a matter of dispute.</p> <p>1963—In Paris, a CIA man hands a lethal pen to a Cuban for use on Fidel Castro, at the behest of Bobby Kennedy.</p> <p>1941—Germany's top fighter pilot, Werner Mölders, dies as a passenger in a plane crash on his way to the funeral of the Luftwaffe's Generaloberst Ernst Udet, a suicide.</p> <p>1930—Prophet Elijah Mohammed founds the Nation of Islam.</p> <p>1909—A New York judge tells strikers from the ILGWU "You are on strike against God."</p> <p>1887—White militiamen put down a sugar cane strike by killing 35 to 300 black workers in Thibodaux, La.</p> <p>1718—Shot, stabbed, and slashed across the throat by British sailors, pirate Edward "Blackbeard" Teach dies fighting at Ocracoke Inlet.</p>	<p>1990—A Robinson R22 helicopter flying over Simi Valley, Calif., makes a loud "thwack-thwack" sound before falling apart and crashing. The pilot perishes in the ensuing inferno.</p> <p>1986—Two men escape from a maximum-security prison in Rome in a hijacked helicopter.</p> <p>1984—BC's Doug Flutie throws history's most famous "Hail Mary."</p> <p>1976—Jerry Lee Lewis is arrested outside Graceland for waving a pistol and demanding to see Elvis.</p> <p>1970—A Lithuanian radio operator jumps from a Russian trawler onto the deck of the Coast Guard cutter <i>Vigilant</i>. Commander Ralph Eustis allows Soviet sailors to board the cutter and seize the radioman.</p> <p>1958—On TV: Ron & Nancy Reagan in "A Turkey for the President."</p> <p>1946—French ships shell the harbor at Haiphong killing 6,000.</p> <p>1936—In San Antonio, bluesman Robert Johnson begins a legendary three-day recording session.</p> <p>1918—In Scapa Flow, the German submarine <i>U-18</i> is sunk by the fishing trawler <i>Dorothy Gray</i>.</p> <p>1903—U.S. troops under Gen. Sherman Bell are sent to Cripple Creek, Colo. to put down a rebellion of striking miners.</p> <p>1899—The first jukebox plays in a San Francisco saloon.</p> <p>1876—After a year on the lam in Cuba and Spain, Tammany Hall's "Boss" Tweed is jailed in NYC.</p>	<p>2011—After a passenger aboard a Robinson R22 hears a loud "boom," the craft pitches over and sinks in a Minnesota lake. She is able to swim ashore, the pilot drowns.</p> <p>1979—The U.S. admits troops in 'Nam were hit by Agent Orange.</p> <p>1971—Toting \$200,000 in ransom cash, "D.B. Cooper" parachutes from a hijacked 727 over Washington State, into oblivion and America's heart.</p> <p>1965—<i>The New York Times</i> runs a full-page ad signed by 500 WW II and Korean War vets protesting escalation of the Vietnam War.</p> <p>1963—Strip joint proprietor Jack Ruby, to spare Jackie Kennedy's feelings, shoots Lee Harvey Oswald under the watchful eye of the Dallas Police Department and the TV cameras.</p> <p>1961—An overheated electric motor in Colorado cuts off all communications between SAC and NORAD.</p> <p>1953—Sen. Joe McCarthy (Lunatic-Wisc.) claims the Truman administration is "crawling with Communists."</p> <p>1947—All but 17 Congressmen vote to cite the Hollywood Ten for contempt after they take the 5th.</p> <p>1922—Erskine Childers, a Brit supporter of Irish independence charged with carrying a pistol, is executed while his case is on appeal. He says to his firing squad, "Take a step forward, lads. It will be easier that way."</p> <p>1865—Mississippi criminalizes unemployment or assembly for blacks.</p>	<p>2002—George W.[MD] Bush signs the Homeland Security Act, which coincidentally provides security from lawsuits for Eli Lilly & Co., on whose board his father and Ken Lay had sat.</p> <p>1997—In Plymouth, Mass., police serve Native American demonstrators pepper-spray.</p> <p>1986—As Ed "Meese is a Pig" Meese confesses that profits from illegal arms sales to Iran went to Nicaraguan <i>contras</i>, a reluctant Ronald Reagan fires Lt. Col. Oliver North.</p> <p>1974—Britain outlaws the IRA after two bombs kill 21 and injure over 100 in Birmingham.</p> <p>1970—After tying up their commandant, Japanese novelist and Nobel nominee Yukio Mishima exhorts military cadets to revolt; but they jeer him instead. He then commits <i>seppuku</i>.</p> <p>1968—Death of Upton Sinclair, writer and media critic.</p> <p>1947—For refusing to rat out their friends to Congress, the Hollywood Ten are fired by studio bosses.</p> <p>1915—At Stone Mountain, Ga., William J. Simmons founds the new, improved Ku Klux Klan: it hates Catholics and Jews, too.</p> <p>1910—French anarchist Jules Durand is sentenced to die after a bum trial. He's later exonerated, but 40 days in a strait jacket have driven him mad.</p> <p>1783—Redcoats under Carleton evacuate New York as General George Washington and the victorious Continental Army arrive.</p>
 <p>11:33</p> <p>5:16 5:49</p>	 <p>12:06 12:09</p> <p>5:53 6:26</p>	 <p>12:44 12:46</p> <p>6:31 7:04</p>	 <p>1:22 1:23</p> <p>7:10 7:44</p>	 <p>2:02 2:04</p> <p>7:50 8:25</p>	 <p>2:45 2:48</p> <p>8:35 9:10</p>	 <p>3:31 3:37</p> <p>9:24 9:59</p>



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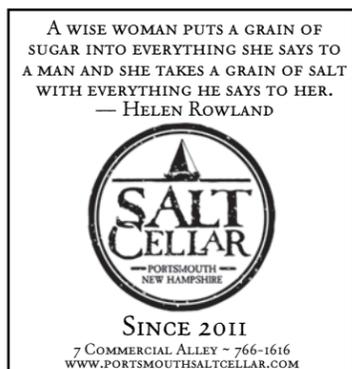
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