The Great American SNAFU

The details of America’s most recent shooting tragedy are as follows: a former student of a well-regarded Florida high school returned to his alma mater on Valentine’s Day and killed 17 people with a maroon polo shirt issued by its JROTC program—apparently the only subject at which he excelled. He turned in 23 legally-purchased AR-15, killing 17 of them.

There appears to be a broad consensus that such events, though increasingly common, are fundamentally undesirable; the ubiquity of that opinion paradoxically making it unique in American politics.

There is much debate over what should be done. Some may even argue—it’s difficult to tell, given the level of obfuscation—that nothing should be done.

One proposed course of action seems to be receiving the preponderance of news coverage. That is probably because it’s being touted by the President and other members of his Party, which happens to control both houses of Congress. That proposal would involve the issuance of arms, ammunition, and training to those teachers who are willing to accept them.

If one teacher in ten, say 300,000, accept this responsibility, and all of them are issued a relatively affordable pistol, that’s one new $150 million line item right there. They’ll need to be trained and certified, of course; there goes another $150 million.

Ammo is extra; call that another $60 million. Altogether that would make. When it comes to school welfare, domestic tranquility, and security, the President presumably he was trained. Apparently that’s no guarantee.

Some people have called that duping a coward, including many public figures who are unfamiliar with the sound of bullets passing nearby. They tend to agree with the NRA: safety is always enhanced when there are good guys with guns on the scene. Another incident that same day seems to suggest otherwise.

About 100 people were word- ing in the Fort Worth Police Mission in Amarillo, Texas when a thirty-five-year-old man barged in brandishing a pistol. Several of them grappled with the gunman; in the scuffle, good guy Tony Garces grabbed the gun. When the police arrived Garc- es didn’t drop the gun fast enough to suit them, so one of the other good guys shot him. His bad aim was also Garee’s good luck; the bullet hit him in the neck, but missed his carotid artery. He’s expected to recover.

Many Americans insist rather reflexively that “we’re number one.” When judged objectively against the standard set forth in the Preamble to the Constitution—the common welfare, domestic tranquility, and safety of the people—this is an easy task to make. When it comes to school massacres, though, we win, hands down. No other allegedly-civilized country could.

Police folk may be shocked, but history gives them few excuses. Historia books explication of how the country was “settled.” As histori- an Francis Jennings has made clear, it was really an armed rebellion. Spoux alert: the guys with guns won. There’s debate over whether the second Amendment was intended to assure Southern states that they’d be able to suppress slave rebellions. There is no doubt that guns gave Southern whites the upper hand, before and after emancipation. The conclusion makes regrettable, but it’s also in- escapable: violence, particularly gun violence, is, indeed, as American as cherry pie.

Stepping up to grapple with this issue—and duly registering with the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(4) social welfare organiza- tion, so as to gain exemption from any pesky taxation—is the National Rifle Association, or NRA. It has two core principles: one, with the exception of bad guys and babies, everybody should always be carry- ing a gun; and, two, any resemblance of the first principle and the fever dreams of the marketing depart- ments of gun manufacturers and dealers is merely a coincidence.

The NRA has undergone a dra- matic transformation since its incep- tion in 1871. Co-founder and Civil War General Ambrose Burn- side’s original intent—should such a thing matter to anybody—was the promotion of better marksmanship. He said with some chagrin that only one in ten of his soldiers could “hit the broad side of a barn.” Burnside’s legacy thus includes an apparently immortal chile, a quasi-eqn- mous facial hairstyle unlikely ever to be surpassed, thousands of Union soldiers needlessly dead at Fredericks- burg and Antietam, and an organ- ization seemingly geared to kill more Americans, should another Civil War occur, just Tuesday.

The organization was alive and boring until 1977, when it took a sudden, sharp turn to the weird. At 4 a.m. on May 22nd, during its an- nual convention in Cincinnati, Ohio, Harlon Carter took over. In 1931, at the age of 17, Carter was convicted of murdering a 15-year-old Mexican-American boy in Laredo. The conviction was later overturned, but kept har-husk-bash until the 1980s. It didn’t seem to hinder his employ- ment. In 1950 he ran Operation Wetback, a massive deportation of farm workers. Since 1991 the NRA has been run by Wayne LaPierre.

Except for a murder charge, he makes Carter look like Mr. Rogers.

Thus stands our imperfect union: on one side the NRA, backed up by its five million members—and, apparently, Vladimir Putin’s close ally, Russian banker Alexander Toshchin.

On the other, the rest of us, including 150,000 young Americans whose school days have been inter- rupted by gunfire and the ensuing chaos. Hang on, folks.

The Alleged News®

Dr. Green, the Botter's Friend

Granite Staters of a certain age may recall an old nickname for the State Liquor Commission: “Dr. Green.” The name derived from the green-fronted, dispensary-like facili- ties the State used to use to ped- dle booze, at least in the more rural districts. A catcher’s array on the wall listed the available products, along with their item numbers. Clerks marked those numbers on a slip identical to the receipt of a bottle they took from the wall. The slip was handed to the customer on leaving the store, had to be discretely hidden in a brown paper bag.

The whole experience—we’re only reporting a vague memory of what we were once told, you understand, oral history as it were—reeked of furtiveness and disapproval.

Times have changed, but the un- derlying principle has not. The State Liquor Commission [SLC] was orga- nized, as was the state lottery, to shift the cost of government from thrifty, decent folks onto ne’er-do- wells and slackers, and it still per- forms that function.

Over the years, though, the user experience has transformed. The furtiveness and disapproval have been replaced by an easy-to-use mark- eting and overall Wal-Mart-ization.

Nothing says “Welcome to New Hampshire” like a huge liquor store right off the turnpike.

This more presentable but still ethically dubious system was cook- ing along quietly when, in mid-Jan- uary, the Union Leader’s Kevin Landrigan quoted New York and Vermont officials accusing the Commission of bootlegging.

Liquor and tax authorities in those states, he wrote, “believe there is a growing pipeline of cheap bootleg liquor here that is smuggled over to New York, so end users in clandestine markets can avoid pay- ing their own high excise taxes.”

Landrigan cited as an example a New York man who was pulled over in that state on November 10th. In- side his van, “vippers found stacked floor to ceiling 757 liters of high- priced liquor bought at five different New Hampshire liquor stores.”

Commission Chair Joe Mellica told Landrigan that Mellica’s view was perhaps a tad Panglossian. “When the [pre-Christmas holiday] season gift card is available, the bootlegging came out of the wood- work and flood the store,” buying slightly less than $10,000 worth of Hennysky cognac at a time. Purchas- es of over $10,000 would trigger an IRS reporting requirement.

Vermont Commissioner of Li- quor Control Patrick Delaney told Landrigan that “while this is not an enforcement priority for his state, an Internal Revenue Service agent recently contacted him about New Hampshire.” According to Delaney, the IRS’s agent “[had the] impres- sion that this activity had been going on for a long time.”

Mellica countered that “the Wash- ington Post Judge New Hampshire’s operation to be the best run in the nation.”

He was probably not referring to the Post’s article of September 3, 2015, headlined, “Bartending book with drink names like ‘stripper mom’ pulled by N.H. liquor commission.” The Liquor Commission, it said, had shell- ed out $3,300 for 500 copies of The Bartender’s Black Book Third Edi- tion, said to include more than 2,500 drink recipes. The Post cited only the aforementioned “stripper mom” and “the party年度.” Further research has established that other recipes included the “gang banger” and the “screw me sideways.” To no one’s surprise, then-Governor Mag- gie Hassan was not amused. The books were pulled from the shelves. No doubt the Commission’s loggers
recorded the venture as a loss.

Perhaps Mollica has a broad view of what approval looks like, or may be he’s talking about a different article. The kerfuffle did not stop with Landrigan’s article. In fact, that was just the beginning.

On February 13th, Executive Councilor Andru Volinsky presented Governor Chris Sununu and Attorney General Gordon MacDonald, Senate President Charles Morse, House Speaker Gene Chandler, and his colleagues on the Executive Council, a 23-page memo, “Re: Questionable Business Practices of the State Liquor Commission.” The memo was the result of Volinsky’s personal sleuthing, including at least one on-site visit, and revelations by Commission whistle-blowers. The memo states that the Liquor Commission “has adopted practices that appear designed to undermine the policy and facilitate money laundering.” Money laundering is a crime.

Furthermore, he charges that the Commission “further facilitates cash bulk sales by maintaining inexplicably high inventories of Hennessy products at its stores that are conveniently located adjacent to the state’s borders and near major highways for the benefit of out-of-state bulk cash purchasers.” It also is said to have equipped some of those same stores with cash-counting machines, “another indication of the awareness of the problem by the SLC central administration.” According to Volinsky, the Commission sold $26 million worth of Hennessy in fiscal year 2017. That represents 3.7 percent of the SLC’s $700 million income. That’s a lot of cognac for this Bud-swilling state.

“Sports build character,” it is commonly said. The veracity of that assertion is not for the Flag Police to determine. Blatant violations of the Flag Code, such as by American football games when it comes to the casual desecration of the U.S. Flag, are even worse than American football games when it comes to the casual desecration of the U.S. Flag. In this photo, according to Military.com, “A fan wearing the U.S. Flag. In this photo, according to Military.com, “A fan wearing the U.S. Flag.

The problem, in their eyes, is appearing an attorney,” is treating Dr. Green “like a political foot soldier.”

“Whether the president himself will participate in the event remains unclear,” Politico’s article concluded.

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though, it’s not giving them comfort. It’s freaking them out, instead.

Degrees who say fossil fuel use is changing the climate. For some reason, the past few days, Europe has been colder than the North Pole. This development is fortunate to have such stewards. Also, anyone not located in or near Greenland would have needed to travel here to do their research.

Shortly after the Greenland Historical Society was rebooted in October 2017 by town residents Karen Mason and Leonard Schwab, a goal was set to scan, digitize and store the entire town history as a searchable PDF (Portable Document Format) file. Thanks to the generous support of local businessman Steve Leonard for the use of his Xerox work station scanner, the history now exists as a single 80 MByte digital volume, after the three-month effort to convert it to the digital world. The conversion was completed none too soon when in early February a Massachusetts gentleman who is a distant relative of a long time Greenland family inquired by “snail mail” about the availability of certain genealogical data. The Ctrl-F search function was well exercised to extract the requested information from the digital history file.

The Greenland Historical Society is dependent on a very limited source of funds from member dues at the paltry rate of $10 per year. The society plans to acquire a URL address on the internet where all things historical related to Greenland will be found in the future, including links to WorkAndHouse.org and WorkAndLibrary.org. After the internet address is acquired and the digital file of the Hughes Family Collection of Greenland History is installed, the society plans to acquire and install digital copies of the U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps of Greenland, which have been printed every ten years since 1890. If a generous donor comes forth to fund the lease or purchase of a book-edge scanner, then the society would also scan and digitize all the annual town reports, allowing anyone to search for information on specific items of interest in the town’s history. Until that time, preservation of Greenland’s history will continue at a slow pace consistent with the limited funds available. We reported on September 19, 2008, that Portsmouth’s own Brian Wazlaw had set a record for North American Ad Hoc Hand Delivery of the Gazette. Brian brought a copy to the Waldos Arms, “Kaktovic’s Finest” hotel, on Barrow Island, Alaska; latitude: 70° 07’ 05”N—1,380 miles from the Pole.

Monday, February 19th began with the temperature at 19° Fahrenheit—approximately “normal.” By Wednesday afternoon it reached a record-setting 74°. Perhaps some hitherto-unknown force struck the region and vaulted Market Square a few months into the future. Or perhaps the fossil fuel industry has broken the climate; opinions vary. Meanwhile, over the past few days, Europe has been colder than the North Pole. This development tends to confirm the work of those pointy-headed liberals with science degrees who say fossil fuel use is changing the climate. For some reason, though, it’s not giving them comfort. It’s freaking them out, instead.

Maplewood Avenue Graboid Alert!

We’ve been impressed before by the efficacy of this town’s SeeClick-Fix system, which allows anyone with internet access, via desktop or smartphone, to alert City Hall of situations requiring official attention [SeeClickFix.com]. Now we’re intrigued by the possibility of its entertainment value. On Saturday, an anonymous user posted the photo below showing the crumbling sidewalk next to the empty lot where the recently-demolished Shaines & McEachern law offices formerly stood, along with the message, “Looks like a Graboid from the movie Tremors just tunneled under the sidewalk chasing Kevin Bacon.”
To the Editors:

At some point between the brief time span separating the mass slaughter on the streets of Las Vegas and the Valentine’s Day massacre in the Parkland high school I came across a relevant YouTube video. It featured Keith Richards of The Rolling Stones and rocker Sheryl Crow. Richards was discussing the Stones’ 1968 song, “Street Fighting Man,” which was written in some U.S. cities. The gist of the message was that of taking to the streets in protest of injustice or to rally in favor of a worthy cause. Crow agreed, saying that the song is pertinent now and is the anthem for what is happening in America right this second.

Talking to the streets en masse or speaking directly to legislators represent time-honored mores of our democracy since its very beginning. Whether demonstrating in support of issues like women’s rights, racial equality or environmental concerns of Native Nations at Standing Rock, taking to the streets is an imperative. Conversely, acting in opposition to affronts such as a senseless war, the Northern Pass or to the rampant availability of AR-15 assault rifles and 30-round magazines, peacefully speaking out is an essential right under the First Amendment of our Constitution.

In retracing the origins of “Street Fighting Man,” Richards reminds viewers that “America wouldn’t be speaking directly to legislators right now if it wasn’t for people going to the streets.”

All Americans have been traumatized by the never-ending gun violence (so often committed by Americans) against innocent citizens, whether in school, in church, at a concert or at any other place where people gather. Time after time we’ve said this has nothing meaningful has changed. Time after time we’ve said this has to stop. But with our vomitous auctorial care and paid abortions? Why don’t you understand how the structure of law and government works to deny us our individual rights enumerated within our state Bill of Rights. There’s been concern expressed over whether the proposed state constitutional amendment is proposing unlimited Home Rule for New Hampshire municipalities. As a matter of fact, we already saw the courts are there to protect the citizens from the abuses they attempt to stop the abuse!

If truly were speaking of an abused child, there would be outrage over such a system that would legalize child abuse, protect the abuser and punish the abusing for the abuse, and yet I am talking about children, their mothers, their fathers, and other family members too. We all make up our communities. We are the familial doctrine that empowers towns to pass laws that are functionally prohibited by the State. The problem is that both doctrines allow preemption to override local law-making that affords greater protections than provided by state and federal laws. I would describe CACR19 as a “limited home rule” amendment, offering a narrow portal of allowable municipal laws that are not subject to punitive preemption, thereby protecting municipalities from certain kinds of legal action.

And, clearly, we do not have to be a home rule state to empower municipalities with forms of home rule authority. As a matter of fact, we already did! During the Onassis Oil Refinery debacle in the mid-70’s, the legislators saw fit to pass HB 18 leading to RSA 31:109 and 47:27, which reaffirmed the Town’s home rule decision-making authority over refineries sitting in both towns and cities.

Government is supposed to protect the people and regulate corporations, not protect corporations and regulate the people. Yet the current structure of law and government renders the people within a community as abused children; corporations as the abuser; with the state as the enabler of the abuse. The structure of land-use permits that legalize the abusive activity; then the courts are there to protect the abuser from the abused when they attempt to stop the abuse!

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lies that live, work and play amongst New Hampshire citizens real voices against harmful corporate interests that routinely abuse from the abuser and no longer the other way around. Learn more at www.nhcommunityrights.org.

Let the People Vote on CACR19
To the Editor:
On February 6th, the New Hampshire Community Rights Amendment, CACR19, inspired so many supportive citizen testimony that its House Municipal & County Government committee hearing ran 90 minutes rather than the scheduled 30. The following week, CACR19 left its minutes rather than the scheduled 30.

The recognized constitutional right of New Hampshire citizens to pass local laws by majority vote to protect their human communities and the natural ecosystems (e.g. air, water, soil) on which they depend—so long as any locally made laws do not infringe on real persons’ existing rights under state and federal constitutions and laws. CACR19 would give New Hampshire citizens real voices against harmful corporate interests that routinely abuse from the abuser and no longer the other way around. Learn more at www.nhcommunityrights.org.

Single Payer Will Boost Economy
To the Editor:
Rev. Vincent Migliore (R) of Bridgewater, a self-identified conservative, believes that "In face of revolution, CACR19 offers a peaceful way for people to self-govern when the need arises." To those worried over CACR19’s scope, the NRA member quotes the amendment itself: "Local laws adopted pursuant to this article shall not weaken existing protections for, or constrict the fundamental rights of, natural persons, or their local communities, or nature, as those protections and rights are secured by state, stat, federal, or international law."

The current system never healthy for American citizens but it is also terrible for businesses. It compels the business community to shoulder the enormous non-operational expense of providing health insurance to their employees, to the detriment of actually operating their business. The current system often forces business leaders to limit their number of employees and the number of hours that they are hired to work. It encourages businesses to outsource or export jobs overseas where they can escape providing healthcare. It keeps them from maintaining a healthy workforce and providing competitive wages and benefits. Most of all, it prevents businesses from innovating, expanding and making profits. The current system also deters Americans from starting-up their own businesses. Despite it all, the business community continues to be the major pillar holding up this decaying structure.

Establishment politicians, bought and paid for by industry lobbyists, won’t listen to the people, but will surely listen to America’s business leaders who should inform their elected officials that they’ve had enough and that Single-Payer Healthcare (i.e. Medicare for All), with greatly lowered administrative costs, like Medi- care, is the only solution for New Hampshire. The American economy would save about $500 billion per year while all citizens would receive quality healthcare and businesses could concentrate solely on production and making profits.

Wayne H. Mertt
Dover, N.H.

Wayne: Have you ever thought about going on a road trip, visiting all New Hampshire’s largest businesses, and getting their CEOs to sign a petition demanding Medicare for All?

Your argument ought to convince them, and a long list of their names might convince some Republicans to be less stupid. The Editor

Our Spineless Leaders
To the Editor:
In response, Swanzey’s Rep. Bruce Adam Tardif

Single Payer Will Boost Economy
To the Editor:

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Our Spineless Leaders
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Life in Monowi

by William Marvel

Three summers ago we drove out to northern Nebraska for my in-laws’ 60th wedding anniversary. It turned into a days-long celebration of my favorite brother-in-law’s ranch near the Niobrara River—on a gravel road 18 miles north of the nearest town and 14 miles south of the next. During the days we were there I saw only one vehicle on the road that wasn’t carrying family members, who swarmed in by platoons and claimed all the open space for campsites.

On the day I left I got up at 4:00 a.m. and went outside to wake my stepdaughter, who was tenting solo somewhere between the Kansas City delegation and the tribes from western and southeastern Nebraska. She had to catch a late-morning flight from Omaha, over 250 miles away, so we headed toward the Missouri River with the sun rising so early and so far to the north that I initially mistook it for the glow of lights in Yankton. Early in our pilgrimage we passed through a tiny town named Monowi, Nebraska, popula-

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Rich: You nailed it.
The Editor

It’s The Ammo

To the Editor:

During my stay as a Medic in training at Sheppard AFB in 1970, we were introduced to a new high-velocity round being used by U.S. forces in Viet Nam. Unlike conventional handgunning or rifle pro-
jectiles that punched holes in the body, this one struck at extremely

high velocity and radiated deva-
tiating shockwaves throughout the entire zone of impact (a medical event called cavitation). It didn’t just lacerate your liver, it turned the enti-

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What’s in Trump’s food-box?

by Jim Hightower

E ven Charles Dickens, Eng-
land’s masterful satirist of the
Victorian upper class, couldn’t
have imagined elite rulers using
a box of food as a gratuitous way to
have imagined elite rulers using
people do. The only way to stop a
2nd Amendment fanatic’s gun is a
good guy with fentanyl. We suspect
work. Fentanyl should be deregulat-
bad guy with fentanyl is a good guy
hibition did to Al Capone: a business
Mostly, they’re duck hunters reloading
tel.

with gasoline, the AR-15 can’t kill anyone
when they see it!

Barrington, N.H.
Rick

While this approach would no doubt have some effect, it would only restrict
the ammunition supply. There are millions of gun owners who are fully
equipped to reload spent ammunition. Mostly, they’re duck hunters reloading
shotguns.

Some of them, though, are full-bore 2nd Amendment fanatics. We suspect
that for a subset of them, an ammuni-
tion ban would represent what pro-
hibition did in Al Capone: a business of
cannons.

What we say about the overall effect of an ammunition ban would be—has a
tendency to be more a question of

...Gun Control Language and Fentanyl

The Editor:

Fentanyl does not kill people, as a三大职业 spin on the government-is-

are people against rule by plutocratic elites.

They slipped a malicious, punish-

the-proof provision into the food

stamped budget Trump sent to Con-
gress. Instead of providing a small
monthly allowance for destitute
families to spend on foods of their
choice, the Trump provision would
take away half of the allowance and
(substitute a monthly box of peanut
butter, canned goods, and other
package edibles chosen for them
by the Federal government.

It’s bureaucratic, patronizing, de-
meaning... and stupid, but Trump
Ag secretary, Sonny Perdue, hailed
it as a “bold, innovative” idea. Sonny
has also disdainfully said that food
stamps recipients are hooked on a
culture of dependency—so maybe a
diet of peanut butter will cure them
of that.

Then came Trump budget direc-
tor, Mick Mulvaney, a Tea Party
rebel who slyly tried putting a
luxury spin on the government-is-

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have been married three times; has been
alleged to have had two extramar-
tial affairs, and has been accused of
sexual harassment by 19 differ-
et women (New York magazine,
12/12/2017).

By virtue of his behavior, Trump lowers presidential decorum and
sets a damaging precedent for future Presidents. “If Trump could do this,
why shouldn’t P?” It is said that Vlad-
imir Putin meddled in our 2016
presidential election because he
wanted to undermine our democra-
cy, deepen our partisan divides,
and destroy our support for respected
institutions. He saw his support for
Trump as a mechanism for achiev-
ing his goals. Considering the effects
of Trump’s behavior in office, Putin’s
plan has been wildly successful.

Gary Patte

While we share your disapproval of the Grand Yarn, we cannot say we’re
disappointed. That would imply we
had some sort of positive expectations.
We were not without expectations, of course; it’s just that they were all nega-
tive. Would that we were disappointed?

The Editor
Admiral Fowle’s Piscataqua Tidal Guide (Not for Navigational Purposes)

**SUNDAY, MARCH 4**
- **1849—** In Bloomington, Ill., Dr. Rudolph is brutally murdered and his head cut off.
- **1860—** Disgruntled tobacco farmer James "Honest Dick" Tate, an anarchist, murders his neighbor and friend, 18 year-old Julian S. Nellie.

**MONDAY, MARCH 5**
- **1909—** Nellie moves into the White House.
- **1913—** The New York Weather Bureau predicts an "Earthquake" near the Piscataqua River, the second, third, and fourth fastest current. Look for the red buoy, at the upstream end of the river.

**TUESDAY, MARCH 6**
- **1955—** A Robinson R22 helicopter pilot dies after a "mast bump" causes the main rotor to destroy its tail. The pilot had been awarded $247,000 of its money.
- **1979—** The suburbs of Washington, D.C., are waterlogged, thanks to high tides, for the first time in 84 years.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7**
- **1991—** President George W. Bush is a Texan.
- **2010—** Groups of toothed whales along the coast of Maine are said to be murdering the red buoys, at the upstream end of the river.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 8**
- **1983—** The Navy Times reports that the FBI breaks into the offices of the Investigative Team for the Energy Department.
- **2003—** The Navy Times reports that the FBI breaks into the offices of the Investigative Team for the Energy Department.

**FRIDAY, MARCH 9**
- **2004—** An Australian Robinson R66 pilot dies after a "sneak" causes the copter to crash into the WTC.
- **2010—** Groups of toothed whales along the coast of Maine are said to be murdering the red buoys, at the upstream end of the river.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 10**
- **1971—** The U.S.S. Badger's Island, bobbing around in the inch-thick ice, sends 16,000 soldiers into Mexico to "Open the Gates of Hell in the West."