

# The New Hampshire Gazette

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## The Fortnightly Rant

### The Coat Hanger Court

Because life in these United States had been going much too smoothly, resulting in a general state of placid indifference, and because such a lack of public engagement is unbecoming in a democracy, Justice Anthony Kennedy has generously taken it upon himself to liven up this election season by announcing his retirement.

Would that it were so. On the same day Kennedy announced his impending retirement, Rasmussen released the results of a poll which found that 31 percent of likely voters were already saying “it’s likely that the United States will experience a second civil war sometime in the next five years.”

Now the third branch of government, which had been known to occasionally rule in favor of the people, is about to become a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Republican Party and the oligarchy for which it stands. Not to get all prematurely-apocalyptic, but down the line we may come to regard June 27th the same way we do 9/11 and December 7th.

Anthony Kennedy was no William O. Douglas, but he was on the right side of some important issues. When it came to gay rights and abortion, for example, his decisions seemed to embody the First Amendment: the religious beliefs of some people—no matter how fervently they might hold them—are no grounds for restricting the behavior of anybody else.

It could be argued that his opinion in *Boumediene v. Bush* was equally important. It applies to far fewer people, but addresses a more fundamental point: even suspected terrorists detained at Gitmo are human beings, and all human beings have rights. Naturally, it was a Republican administration which raised that little question.

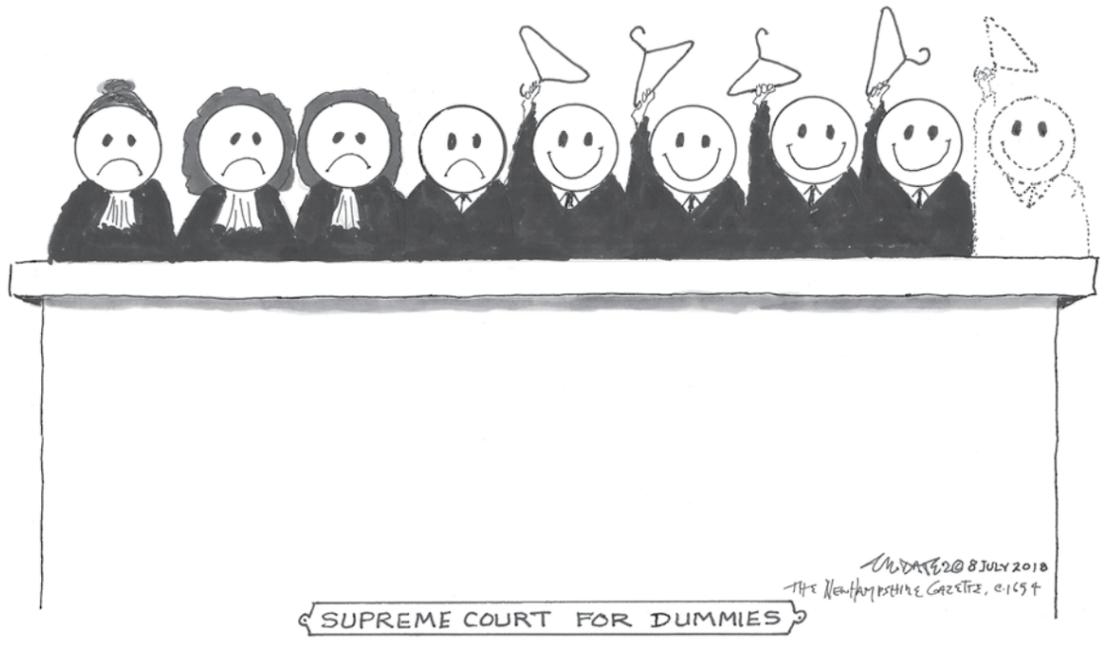
On the other hand, there’s *Citizens United*, which threw out the old-fashioned “one man, one vote,” and established a new standard: “one dollar, one vote.” Whatever else he did on the court, concocting that vile decision will forever leave him wanting in the scales of justice.

Kennedy’s alleged motivation was explained by Nina Totenberg, famous for her access to the secretive world of The Court. Exuding extra oodles of empathy, NPR’s *grande dame* said the 81-year-old Justice’s wife was not well. His tender ministrations have brought the couple ever so much closer. Somewhere in Hollywood, a producer is sketching the storyboards for another geriatric tear-jerker.

If Kennedy stuck around until next January, a markedly different Congress might well be ruling on his successor, but nooo . . . He wants to play nurse, so it’s bye-bye *Roe v. Wade*. This, from the guy who’s been James Comey’s only rival in the self-annointing sainthood department. Oh, for a “who’s more virtuous” cage match between those two. Sadly, with the passing of Charles Krauthammer, no living person is qualified to referee.

Kennedy’s replacement will come from a list of names previously approved by the The Federalist Society. Why? Because it must. Why must it? That’s harder to answer. When John Roberts was appointed Chief Justice in 2005, he found it expedient to deny having been a member of the Federalist Society. Many hairs were then split after the *Washington Post* published a roster with his name in it. Not only is membership no longer anathema, it now acts as unavoidable gatekeeper.

This august and scrupulously disinterested body—we know it is because it says so—believes in “orig-



inalism,” the idea that the Constitution has “a fixed and knowable meaning established at the time of its enactment.”

This is either confusing or ironic. Under the tenets of “originalism,” the Court must rule according to the original intent of the be-wigged slave holders who wrote the Constitution. Since they are long dead, it is up to the Federalist Society to determine what they meant; presumably they do this by consulting an ancient Ouija board and recording its *diktats* with a quill pen. That organization was not founded, however, until 1982, and therefore is not mentioned in the document they claim to revere. Despite these fairly obvious flaws in their argument, the Federalist Society has nevertheless managed to finagle itself into the position of having more veto power over Court appointments than does the Senate itself.

Another conundrum, minor but sufficient to throw “originalism” into

question, is presented by mankind’s increasing lifespan. Early Justices served average terms of 15 years before expiring. The average term is now 25 years. Original intent would seem to require term limits, but we never hear any mention of that.

This being the Trump administration, there is, of course, an incipient scandal. Totenberg’s retirement tale is touching and all that, but a potentially sordid item seems more to the point: the man who has kept Trump solvent for years with loans from a dirty bank is none other than Anthony Kennedy’s son.

Federalists, libertarians, and so-called “conservatives” of every stripe are perpetually striving to restrict the powers of the government—except those powers that serve their special needs. (We speak primarily, of course, of the Defense Department. Its contracts reliably provide higher-than-average returns on investment, and its efforts protect corporate access to foreign raw ma-

terials and markets.)

The reason is obvious: the government—its actual performance over the past 150 years notwithstanding—is theoretically supposed to answer to the citizenry. Corporations, on the other hand, are allowed to put consumers on hold—at which point, as likely as not, they disconnect and leave you with a dial tone.

We’re about to have a five-to-four Federalist majority on the Supreme Court—on top of a thoroughly-gerrymandered Congress and Presidency. Then there are the state houses. Democrats control all three branches of seven state governments. Republican have total control of 26.

This would be a perfect recipe for despair, were it not for one rogue element: a seething mass of the disaffected, the disgruntled, and the disenfranchised. Lord only knows how they will manage, but if this is to be turned around, it’s up to them—which is to say, dear reader, it’s up to you.

## The Alleged News®

### A Granite State of Mind

This Fourth of July marked 242 years since some obstreperous colonists with a mixture of motives took a calculated risk and committed an act that was considered treasonous by what had until then passed for duly constituted authority: they declared their independence.

Obviously this was a bold act. These days it would be considered bold to suggest that it was a bad one. We are Americans, and that is good: anything else is heresy.

Others had inhabited these lands since the glaciers retreated. Thanks to gunpowder, the concept of land ownership, and microorganisms, the colonists had begun to prevail. Much work still remained, though. Throughout most of the western vastness of the continent, the inhabitants were going about their lives with no idea what was about to befall them.

Back along a narrow band of the eastern seaboard, shed of the now doubly-foreign Hanoverian monarchy, We the People got down to business. Much of that business, of course, north and south, involved in some way the exploitation of the labor of enslaved people.

At the time of the Declaration, this newspaper was in its 20th year. Having outlasted one short-lived rival, it was the only paper in the state, and retained that advantageous position throughout the Revolution that followed.

It owed its existence in no small part to one of those enslaved persons. Primus was “a man of handsome color,” according to a stray line of elegant handwriting left on a broadsheet by an unknown admirer. We have come to think of him as Primus X, in honor of whatever name was stolen from him.

One might think that these fundamental facts would have been accepted by now, once and for all. As it turns out, however, that is not the case. It appears increasingly likely, in fact, that nothing at all has been established beyond a doubt.

A study recently published in the journal *Psychological Science* may shed light on this perplexing matter. Titled “Collective Narcissism: Americans Exaggerate the Role of Their Home State in Appraising U.S. History,” the study reveals “a massive narcissistic bias in the way that people from the United States remember the contributions of their home states to U.S. history,” according to senior author Henry L. “Roddy” Roediger, of Washington University in St. Louis, Mo.

Nearly 4,000 U.S. residents were asked to assign their state a percentage reflecting that state’s relative

contribution to American history.

“While it is difficult for anyone to accurately estimate an individual state’s contribution to the nation’s history,” reports Washington University’s website *The Source*, the name of which suggests a certain narcissism of its own, “it is mathematically reasonable to expect the sum total of individual state contributions to add up to a figure in the vicinity of 100 percent.

“Instead, the average percentage contributions estimated by residents of each state in this study added up to a staggering 907 percent, more than nine times higher than logic suggests.”

Virginia won the narcissism sweepstakes, its inhabitants having estimated that the Old Dominion is responsible for 41 percent of our collective heritage. Roediger, a Virginian, confessed he was not surprised.

By comparing each state’s self-assessment with the assessments of non-residents, the researchers created a Narcissism Index. Virginia and Delaware tied at the top of the chart with scores of 18 percent. Georgia followed at 15.

Granite Staters, we are pleased to note, were far more accurate. The residents who were polled pegged New Hampshire’s contribution at a healthy—but still restrained, given all the temptations—21 percent. That works out to a Narcissism Index of just eight percent.

That seems pretty moderate to us, considering the unparalleled leadership role that this state and the colony that preceded it have played in establishing what is unquestionably the greatest nation ever to grace . . .

**The Alleged News®**

from page one

**Vets Rain Scorn on Trump's Parade**

Every time a new scandal pops up—which is to say, several times a day—President Bone Spur's grand military parade becomes more ridiculous—and closer to reality. Yet more proof that Barbara Tuchman was right about the March of Folly.

As we have noted, Congress OK'd this waste of money in May's defense authorization bill. Democrats tried to bar the use of "motorized vehicles, aviation platforms, munitions ... and operational military units," according to the *Military Times*, but Republicans were apparently not feeling austere that day. A week ago NBC reported that actual planning "has finally begun."

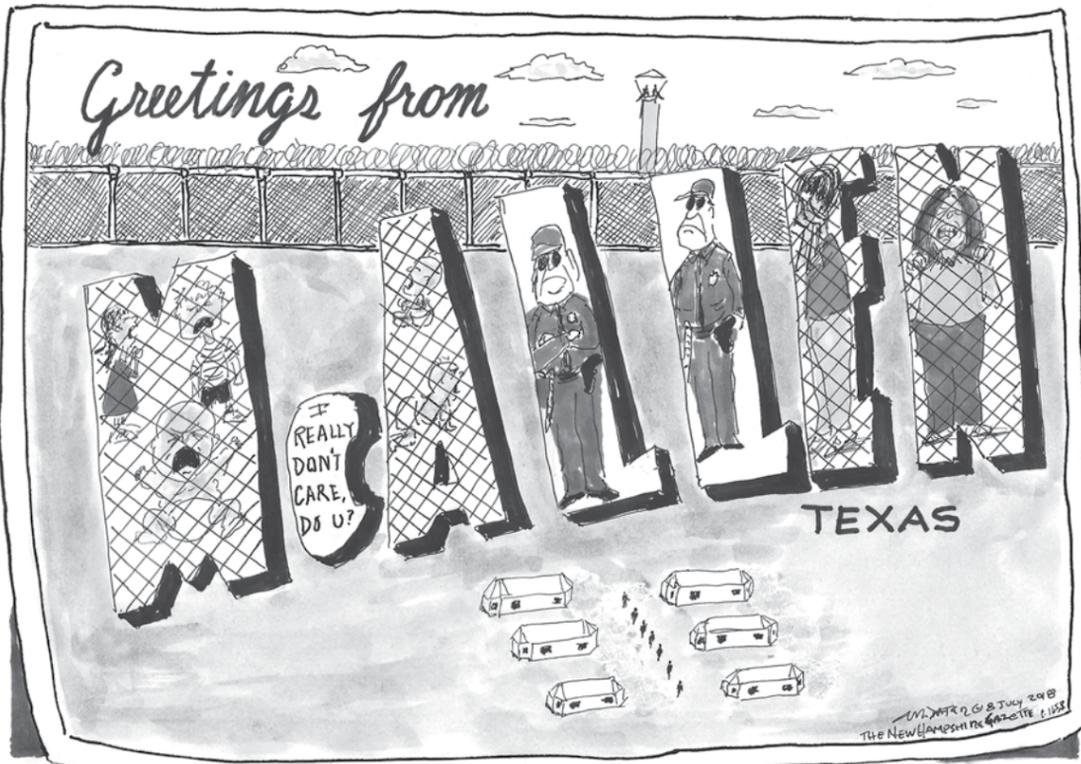
"Pentagon officials told NBC News that they will be able to pull off the extravaganza, but the lack of momentum is notable—and possi-

bly indicative of low enthusiasm for the event outside the Oval Office.

"There is only one person who wants this parade," a senior U.S. official said, referring to Trump.

The eventual cost is estimated at between \$10 and \$30 million. The amount actually allocated so far is \$0 million. Bill Crane, writing for the Brunswick [Ga.] *News*, noted on Tuesday that the nation's two Armed Forces Retirement Homes—which are administratively attached to and funded by the Executive Branch—have a budget shortfall of \$20 million. Maybe if the vets living there promised to salute him real nice, Trump would skip a couple of golf games, cover that expense, and cancel this grotesque shindig.

The last parade held by the U.S. military in Washington, D.C. was a bit of a fiasco, according to a February 8th article by Elliot Carter on *Slate*. The ambient temperature was 85°, and the treads of 67-ton



POSTCARD FROM THE ABYSS



Though the heat index was pushing 90°, many hundreds of people turned out on Saturday to protest the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's policy of forcible family separation. Signs said, among other things, "Stop KKK — Kids in Koncentration Kamps," "\$\$\$ Where are the Kids? \$\$\$," "Use Your Power, Vote Them Out," "End Zero Humanity," "Stop The Terror," "ICE — Inhumane, Corrupt, Evil," "Make America Care Again," "CowardICE," and "Everyone Has the Right to Seek and to Enjoy in Other Countries Asylum from Persecution." The latter is Article 14 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as proclaimed by the U.N. General Assembly on December 10, 1948. The Leftist Marching Band, ever stalwart, kept spirits high. They sounded great, as well they should, after fourteen years of practice.

Abrams tanks chewed hell out of streets designed for rubber-wheeled loads of 30 tons. Aristide Maillol's bronze statue "Nymph," in the Hirshhorn Museum's Sculpture Garden, was also gravel-blasted by a fleet of landing helicopters.

The June 8, 1991 "National Victory Celebration" had at least some kind of excuse. Operation Desert Storm was actually over, for one thing. Casualties were relatively low, and the long-term health consequences were as yet mostly unknown. President Bone Spur's upcoming spectacle has no such justification.

**You're Not Serious—No Post Office?**

We try to stay out of local land-use fights, but the McIntyre building acquisition process seems to put the future of our downtown Post Office at risk. A petition in favor of keeping our full-service Post Office downtown has gathered hundreds of signatures already, we understand. It's on the counter at Kaffee Vonsolln.

**World War Two, As It Happened**

British historian Alwyn Collinson is live-tweeting WW II, 78 years late. On June 24th, he tweeted a link to the Republican Party platform, adopted on that day in 1940. Lo and behold, Republicans opposed fighting the Nazis: "The Republican Party is firmly opposed to involving this Nation in foreign war."

Explaining why, they first mentioned money: "We are still suffering from the ill effects of the last World War: a war which cost us a twenty-four billion dollar increase in our national debt, billions of uncollectible foreign debts, and the complete upset of our economic system ..."

They did finally get around to mentioning the doughboys: "... in addition to the loss of human life and irreparable damage to the health of thousands of our boys." This professed concern was belied, though, by their actions eight years earlier, when, under Republican President Herbert Hoover, General Douglas MacArthur drove the Veterans

Bonus Marchers out of D.C. with tanks and bayonets.

This is not to say the GOP is incapable of change. It's just that when it does change, it's likely as not in the wrong direction. Take, for example, the 1940 platform's plank on Puerto Rico:

"Statehood is a logical aspiration of the people of Puerto Rico who were made citizens of the United States by Congress in 1917; legislation affecting Puerto Rico, in so far as feasible, should be in harmony with the realization of that aspiration."

**Robinson Crashes and Consequences**

Two years ago two experienced pilots, both in their 50s, died in the crash of a Robinson R44 helicopter in Wikieup, Ariz. A National Transportation Safety Board investigation found "no evidence of any preexisting anomalies that would have precluded normal operation of the helicopter." It did find, though, "evidence that a mast bumping event

"As people do better, they start voting like Republicans — unless they have too much education and vote Democratic, which proves there can be too much of a good thing."  
— Karl Rove  
— Not-So-Random Thoughts from an Oregon Subscriber

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had occurred and that the main rotor blades had contacted the airframe, which resulted in an in-flight break-up.”

Now their families are suing the manufacturer. They allege, according to an AP report, that the machines “are especially susceptible to catastrophic mast bumping events due to, among other things, the design of the rotor head and main rotor blade system.” Robinson claims the design is safe.

Another fatal Robinson helicopter crash, in British Columbia last October, has prompted Canada’s Transportation Safety Board to repeat an earlier call “to require commercial and private operators [of helicopters] to install lightweight flight recording systems on their aircraft,” according to the Victoria, B.C. *Times Colonist*.

“Without such recordings, it’s sometimes impossible for the board to discover and highlight possible safety deficiencies, the report said.”

**Paper Tiger Committee to Meet**

The Pease Development Authority [PDA] is scheduled to hold a meeting August 2nd, at which it will apparently approve or deny Seacoast Helicopters’ expansion plan. The company has been offering tourist flights over this area in Robinson helicopters since about 2014.

The PDA’s “approval,” of course, is a mere formality. As we understand

the matter, under the terms of the acquisition of the former Air Force base, and the PDA’s agreement with the FAA, the PDA has little real power. If the PDA withholds approval, it would apparently have to reimburse the FAA several million dollars worth of grants.

The PDA must have *some* leverage, though. Would it be too much for the PDA to ask Seacoast Helicopters to use ADS-B receivers—inexpensive lightweight flight recording systems—at all times?

What reasonable objection could the company have?

**The Sea Serpent**

The sea serpent, or some other huge marine monster, was seen by some sober people at Salisbury Beach early last Thursday evening. He will probably visit Rye and the Shoals before returning home from his regular summer tour of the watering places.

— *The New Hampshire Gazette*, Thursday, July 14, 1892

**Dept. of Appropriate Nomenclature**

Early in the afternoon of Wednesday, June 20th, as our Wandering Photographer was dutifully waiting for the Walk sign at the west end of Congress Street, a man came along and crossed Maplewood Avenue standing with great aplomb atop what at first glance appeared to be



MARK COBB JULY 2018 THE NEW HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE 01655

skateboard. However, instead of the usual two sets of small, hard, noisy wheels, this gentleman’s transportation device sported one quite broad, soft tire, about the same diameter as that of a wheelbarrow. The axle was situated just under the board; the wheel’s top half poked up through the middle. This mini-vehicle had four little red lights in a row across the back end, apparently powered by the same hidden battery that drove the little rig. The rider appeared to be in his forties, at least. He was nearly motionless. We have no idea what the thing is called. If it were up to us, we’d call it a Death Wish.

**Unexpected as the Spanish Inquisition**

One never knows what may turn up in Post Office Box 756. Last week we received an unanticipated copy of the July issue of *New Hampshire Magazine*. Under the heading, “Best of N.H. 2018 Arts & Culture,” we found this:

“Fortnightly Rant: In this age of 24/7/365 ranting on cable TV and social media, it’s amazing how a more measured and timely rant

can sound a lot like common sense. That’s not to make a value judgment about the politics of [the] freely distributed *New Hampshire Gazette*, just about [the editor’s] temperament. [His] front-page editorials may drive conservatives to crank up Fox News, but his words are carefully chosen and arranged with insight and a sense of humor. OK, dark humor—still, the view of the world from the Portsmouth offices of the ‘Nation’s Oldest Newspaper’ is always enlightening and entertaining, even when exasperating.”

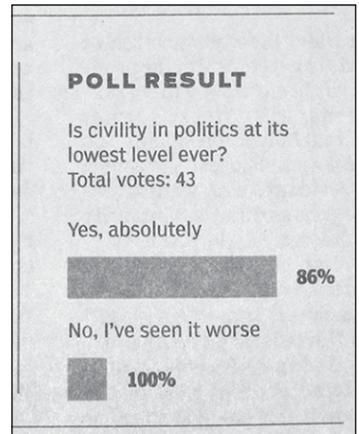
Our thanks to Editor Rick Broussard: your assessment of the alleged editor’s temperament gave our Business (Such as it Is) Manager a good laugh. That issue, by the way, carries a great piece by Marshall Hudson on Ernest K. Ballard’s epic effort to build a water-powered, up-and-down sawmill, completed when he was 80 years old. The Taylor Mill Historic Site in Derry is open on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. through September 22nd, and we can’t wait to visit.

**Real Fake Math**

“Is civility in politics at its lowest level ever?” Well, bombings and murders were far more common 50

years ago than they are today. On the other hand, so was the ability to do basic math.

The small but potent display of innumeracy shown below appeared



in the Award-Winning Local Daily for June 29th. In fairness to that part of the *Herald’s* staff which still actually works in the 603, this little gem probably came from some poor overworked wage slave at GateHouse Media’s Center for News and Design in Austin, Texas. What’s worse, after reading the horror stories about that place on *GlassDoor.com*, we can’t even muster our usual disdain for them. It’s a wonder we don’t see little messages slipped in the paper, saying things like “I don’t really care. Do U?”



Back in 2014 Americans for Tax Fairness lit into Walmart, arguing its crummy wages were saddling Ma and Pa Taxpayer with \$6.2 billion a year in public assistance costs. Forbes and a whole host of other capitalist-apologist publications have quibbled over that point ever since. Here’s something Walmart apologists can’t deny—the corporation is violating the Flag Code—for profit. Shown above: real items for sale at Walmart.com.

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Rod Serling (1924–1975) American screenwriter and producer  
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**Still Not Ready to Be Rumbled**

To the Editor:

Please accept a small slice of Humble Pie. Your willingness to publically [sic] consume said pie will tell me quite a bit about your self-honesty. Regarding the "We Are Not Ready To Be Rumbled" article of June 8, 2018, the brush being used to paint the Bikers in Portsmouth must have been special ordered. Size; Extra Wicked Colossal? Apparently since I don't ride a Panhead or Knucklehead, I am forced into the (your words, not mine) S\_\_head category. Allow me to humbly 'splain a few things. Yes, there are the inevitable two percent infantile, "don't wanna grow up" Bikers who create teeth splitting noise. The remaining 98 percent cringe and probably get at least as angry as you when their under-developed ego rears its narcissistic head. The why of our dislike is simple! The noise is annoying to us as well and it makes all Bikers look infantile. Thus 98 percent of Bikers coming into Portsmouth are quiet, respectful of the rules of the road, pedestrians and general population. We do not unnecessarily rev our engines to draw attention to ourselves.

The vast majority of these same 98 percent P,K and S heads have families, work hard and are active citizens of our communities. We are Project Managers, Engineers, Police Officers, Small Business owners, Teachers, I could go on. We attend church, T-ball games and local school functions. True, on occasion we gang together and go on charity rides to raise money for the little boy who otherwise might have Christmas come and go without a toy, the small girl diagnosed with Leukemia or the family whose house burned down last week. It must be annoying that we P, K and S heads can't even be trusted to be consistent renegades.

The "garb picked out with equal care" comment was pretty funny considering what we see walking around Portsmouth on any given day. Let's review: Is it Leather? Check! Black Boots? Check. Sunglasses? Check. Doo-Rag? Occasionally. But wait! Could there be a reason for all this gear? Ahhh, safety! We are very,

aware that the biggest Bike will always lose to the smallest car. The "garb" we wear affords at least a little protection in case of an accident (and occasional malicious intent by auto drivers. Rare but an experience that comes to every Biker sooner or later).

Riding a motorcycle is one of the last truly free activities left in this world of ever-expanding rules and regulations. I imagine it is a similar feeling for pilots of single engine, open cockpit planes, bungee jumpers and surfers. As I was riding the bike home today, crafting this letter in my head, I passed four or five other bikes. Each meeting was met with a nod or the left hand "I see you friend" gesture familiar to all. Don't see much of that respectful, be safe, hello brother or sister from auto drivers. Bikers tend to be at least somewhat mechanically inclined and I believe are highly likely to stop and help a stranded motorist. Additionally, I don't know a single Biker who would ride by another Biker who was obviously in a jam. Those stalwart auto drivers? Don't make me laugh!

In closing and with respect, before your brain over-revs on Bikers again and you find your digits painfully mashing the ole Selectric, I invite you to meet with me and others. Perhaps in front of Breaking New Grounds. Even 10 minutes might benefit everyone. Coincidentally, 10 minutes is how long I estimate it will take you to remove the permanent marker inscribed "Liberal Rag" scrawled on the box containing the *Gazette* in front of BNG. Nope, I didn't do it and neither did my Biker friends. We enjoy reading *The New Hampshire Gazette*. It makes for stimulating conversation if nothing else.

Randall M. Cheney  
Rollinsford, N.H.

Randall:

*Since you cited no source for your 98 percent figure, we'll rely on our own eyes. They tell us 10 or 20 percent of the bikers we see downtown are playing a role in their own superhero movie, and feel compelled to make everyone hear the soundtrack. If they kept it a little quieter, they would trouble us not in the least. It is a free country, after all.*

*We're pleased you enjoy reading the paper, and hope some day to meet. The editor, who is quite familiar with the freedom to someday comparing notes with you and your friends—and explaining why he finds editing a newspaper to be even more liberating. This one, anyway. Compact and devoid of extraneous components, it is the motorcycle of newspapers.*

The Editor

**Apportioning Blame**

To the Editor:

Congratulations to all the Bernie Sanders supporters, especially in Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin, who decided not to vote or did not vote for Hillary Clinton in the 2016. Your slogan was to "feel the Bern." Get ready to feel the real burn after Trump gets to his next Supreme Court nominee confirmed by the Senate. And to those white women who voted for Trump by 53 percent, because you did not like Hillary, get ready for an attack on women, including you.

Having stolen a Supreme court appointment from President Obama, Trump will now get to nominate a replacement for the swing vote Justice Kennedy. You can rest assured that the person Trump nominates and the Republican Senate confirms will be a staunch Right Wing conservative. As a result, women's reproductive rights will be severely curtailed, to the extent of repealing *Roe v Wade*. Access to birth control will be limited. Voter rights will be restricted. The rights of the LGBT community will be reduced or eliminated, including same sex marriage. Sensible gun safety measures will be declared unconstitutional. Healthcare will be made less accessible. Environmental and worker protections will be curtailed. And most concerning may be the limits placed on a free press.

America is on the brink of returning to the Dark Ages. The decisions by a

Trump Supreme Court majority will have devastating effects on our nation for decades to come. The lives of millions of Americans will be forever damaged as a result of Trump being "elected" and getting to make a long-term damaging legacy on our country.

Feel the Burn America. Elections have consequences.

Rich DiPentima  
Portsmouth, N.H.

Rich:

*The consequences you outline are surely descending upon us, of that we have no doubt. We're less certain about your apportionment of blame.*

*The Democrats allowed Bernie into the primaries, which was to their credit. Had they fought fair, he might well have won. If he had, we think there's a good chance that he would be in the White House today. We'd be living in a different world.*

*Instead, Hillary and her crew did a lot of finagling, some of which seemed underhanded. She also ran an execrable campaign.*

*What's done is done. Re-running the 2016 primary at this point would be a terrible mistake.*

Onward.

The Editor

**Why Democrats Don't Support Trump**

To the Editor:

Trump supporters often complain that Democrats just won't get behind Trump's initiatives, instead, they try to block him. Let me suggest just two reasons, connected to Vladimir Putin, why this is so.

Putin has several well-known goals with regard to the U.S, and Europe. Two of the most important are: first, to weaken NATO and the ties that bind the NATO countries together; and second, to weaken the democracies by tampering with their elections, leaving citizens with less faith in their leaders

and democratic institutions.

Early on, Trump declared that NATO was obsolete. Now with his tariff wars, walk out of the G-7, and attacks on our allies, Trump has gone a long way in helping our most determined enemy reach that first goal.

Trump is actively working on the second goal. By denying that Russia interfered in our elections, by constantly attacking our security agencies, by attacking the special investigation into Russian meddling, by constantly attacking the free press as lying when they report on Russia, he has gone a long way toward helping Putin weaken our democracy!

So, yeah, Democrats don't support Trump—they don't support Putin either. Why do you?

Michael Frandzel  
Portsmouth, N.H.

**Tort Conversion by Legislation Accounting**

To the Editor:

As a 5th-term elected member of the New Hampshire General Court I have refused to accept the constitutional Article 15 Part II compensation guaranteed me for my service. Reason is the corporate employees have deducted 7-1/2 percent "Social Security" and Medicare as well as IRS from my mileage reimbursement. Federal statute 29 USC 630(f) clearly exempts me from being an employee, as does N.H. statute. What is taking place is a *Tort* known as Criminal Conversion and this is taking place in 235 cities and towns, as well as the ten counties. Multiple Millions of dollars are unlawfully being taxed to our constituents in that they are required to pay the other 7-1/2 percent of "Social Security" now being unlawfully deducted from all elected representatives compensation; which is *not* salary, wages

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**Murph's Fortnightly Quote**  
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— Ethel Kennedy (1928- )

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or pay! All this is loss is to the New Hampshire economy and is costing our government millions of dollars in unnecessary accounting services and the attending expenses. I will be happy to respond to any who may have an answer to how we may stop this assault on our economy. My colleagues in the House have not given me any support and I have had no success with proposed legislation, which if re-elected, I will file again in the upcoming new session.

Rep. Dick Marple  
Merrimack, N.H.  
Dick:

*We always enjoy hearing from one of the few General Court members we know of who support Jury Nullification. Your letters often give us a new perspective. If, at times, they seem implausible, or far-fetched, well—that's better than being bored by the sort of predictable drivel cranked out by the likes of Americans for Prosperity.*

*We think you're right on Jury Nullification. We're not conversant with the details, but our impression is that you may be right on this, too.*

The Editor

=====  
**Trapped In Their Own Hypocrisy**

To the Editor:

Trapped in their own echo chamber the liberals, Democrats, and their fellow travelers in Hollywood and media just do not get it.

They look on those with whom they disagree as ignorant rednecks, homophobes, and racists who cannot make intelligent electoral choices.

What they do not understand is that Americans adore winners, and they also respect those who lose gracefully and those who do not blame their losses on others but accept the fact that they fell short.

Americans also hate hypocrisy such as that of the liberal elites that drive the liberal agenda. Those elites pretend to lament global warming but lay down the biggest carbon footprint with their large homes that require temperature regulation and their large energy consuming vehicles such as yachts and private jets.

And the liberals speak of multiculturalism and inclusiveness from their gated communities with their private beaches and their private schools.

In mainly liberal California there is a major homeless problem, brought upon by the bogus use of environmental laws that prevent the building of affordable housing in the neighborhoods of the liberal elites. Of course, this also keeps out the immigrants that these elites supposedly support. And in liberal New York, City, those Clinton voters on the Upper East Side are enraged by the fact that their segregated public schools will now be forced to accept minority children from less privileged areas of the city.

The so-called plight of the immigrants brought into focus by hordes of immigrants flooding America's borders and being separated from their children is exploited by the liberals to embarrass the Administration while the only real interest the liberals have in immigrants is to use them as cheap labor for nannies, cooks, and cleaning chores in their homes and for cheap labor in their businesses such as restaurants and maintenance. In addition, the liberals want the immigrants in order to establish a permanent base of support at the polls. It is akin to stuffing the ballot boxes.

Sore losers and hypocrites have come to define the liberals. This is why they are not taken seriously by most Americans outside of the liberal bastions of California and the Boston to

Washington corridor.

Now that the bogus Mueller investigation has collapsed and the real conspiracy was revealed to be the Democratic cabal that lied to the FISA court in order to gain a warrant to spy on Trump, if they are to become a legitimate party again Democrats must offer a better platform and a more sincere image. They cannot just run on an anti-Trump platform.

John Dente  
Wilmington, Del.

John:

*You write as if only liberals live large. We suspect that among carbon footprint King Kongs, conservatives outnumber liberals. They may just be more visible because celebrities trend towards liberality.*

*As for what you call the bogus Mueller investigation, you've been listening to Sean Hannity, haven't you? That man is deranged. He's Alex Jones with a shirt on. Nothing he says can be believed. Please, read this next letter.*

The Editor

=====  
**You Call this Bogus?**

To the Editor:

Donald Trump constantly complains about Special Counsel Robert Mueller's probe of Russian influence on the 2016 presidential election. Over and over, Trump tells us that Mueller's investigation should be finished by now; that it is a "witch hunt," and that neither he nor his campaign colluded with the Russians. "No collusion, no collusion, no collusion."

If Trump is innocent, then why is he so focused on the Mueller inquiry? Wouldn't an innocent person say, "Look all you want; I have nothing to hide" and then turn attention to other matters? Not Trump. He gnaws on the Mueller investigation like a beaver on a redwood tree. Trump wants to discredit it and gain public support in case Mueller indicts Trump or recommends impeachment.

Let's look at Trump's claims one at

a time. First, Trump claims that Mueller's probe, which has been underway for slightly over a year, is taking too long. According to the *Business Insider*, the average special counsel investigation lasts 904 days. That's about two years and six months, twice as long as the Mueller probe. Furthermore, the special counsel probe of Bill Clinton went on for approximately eight years and three months. So, Mueller's inquiry is not unduly long by comparison.

Second, Trump claims that the investigation is a witch hunt. It fails to find evidence of wrong doing. Not so. The *Los Angeles Times* (May 17th) writes that Mueller has issued 17 indictments and obtained five guilty pleas. That figure does not include a recent additional indictment of Paul Manafort and a new one of Konstantin Kilimnik. Apparently, if this is a witch hunt, there are a lot of guilty witches around.

Third, Trump claims no collusion with the Russians on the part of his campaign or himself. However, Paul Goldstone who set up the infamous Trump Tower meeting involving various Russians and Trump campaign officials, Donald Trump, Jr., Jared Kushner, and Paul Manafort, tells a different story.

A Russian law enforcement official, Goldstone wrote, had "some official documents and information that would incriminate Hillary and her dealings with Russia and would be very useful to your father."

"If it is what you say," Donald Trump, Jr. responded, in a previously disclosed email that is now infamous, "Then I love it."

If it looks like collusion; if it sounds like collusion; if it has a bad smell like collusion, then by golly, it is collusion. So much for Trump's "no collusion" claim.

If Trump's claims of a "witch hunt" and "no collusion" do not hold up under scrutiny, then why does he keep repeating them? Here, we turn to the concept of the "big lie" as first proposed by none other than Adolph Hitler. "people will believe a big lie sooner than a little one, and if you repeat it frequently enough people will

sooner or later believe it." ("OSS Psychological Profile of Hitler," *Nizkor.org*. Retrieved January 17, 2018.)

So, Trump's constant repetition of "witch hunt" and "no collusion" are designed to batter us into believing him. As I wrote earlier, if Trump were innocent, he wouldn't have to go to all this trouble.

Gary Patton  
Hampton, N.H.

=====  
---

**Patriots and Parrots**

To the Editor:

These two words appear similar and, if you're not paying attention, you might misread one for the other.

Mark Twain told us, "Patriotism is supporting your country all the time and your government when it deserves it." He understood that government doesn't always get it right and that harm may come from within due to naïve blundering or greed fomenting from the top.

Being wise people, we know true patriots won't espouse "my country right or wrong," and won't be found persecuting minorities while wrapping themselves in the flag. Instead, they tend to be a more thoughtful bunch in search of the common good, even if the price for doing so becomes uncomfortable or life-threatening.

Unlike patriots, parrots bring us a different world view. These flashy fair-weather birds prefer living in the comfort of protected cavities and, although cute when young, often become noisy and aggressive adults unless rewarded with constant attention. Most of all, parrots are unique in their ability to mimic human speech without really understanding what they are saying. They simply pick up words and phrases from radio or TV and repeat them. Nonetheless, parrots love to entertain, and at times, to provoke us by putting on a good show.

Should you wish to lure a parrot, you'll find they are especially fond of nuts.

Okay, no need to go further with this parity. There's an election coming,

**Mash Notes, Hate Mail, &c.**

to page six

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The Northcountry Chronicle

# Paging Virginius Dabney

by William Marvel

Some people harbor a powerful desire to be writers. They pursue degrees in literature or journalism, or attend writers' conferences and seminars and groups at local libraries. Often they seem more interested in assuming an identity than with producing manuscripts, or more devoted to the romantic image of the writer's life.

Others are just driven to write. They may harbor a subliminal wish to emulate an admired predecessor, but the impulse to record ideas and observations beyond the trivia of "journaling" outweighs any aspiration to image or recognition. Except for hacks who spit out formulaic features, romances, westerns, and mysteries, the most productive writers are usually the most reclusive, who neither crave society nor care what others think of them. Their paramount concern is bringing the current project as near a state of perfection as a perfectionist can accept.

That task is difficult enough with a book the author will review several times before publication, but writing

for periodical consumption can be frustrating. In the world of academic journals and "slick" magazines, manuscripts are usually returned for author approval after copyediting, but sometimes they are altered without warning, with devastating results. A 1988 article of mine in *Historical New Hampshire* was butchered by a presumptuous editorial assistant who sent it to press without passing it by me, turning several months of research and analysis into an utter embarrassment.

Equally aggravating is the last-minute paraphrasing of opening sentences for bold-print or italicized teasers that might grab a magazine reader's meandering eye. Those often create esoteric factual errors readily recognizable only to the very audience the author intended to reach.

Newspapers are the most readily available medium, and the most widely read, but they are perhaps the most infuriating to the more scrupulous scribbler. An editor used to help catch those inevitable typographical errors, but today newspaper editing seems directed at stylistic conformity, while mistakes usually pass un-

noticed. I should mention that the *New Hampshire Gazette* is a rare and welcome exception to this common trend—as well as to most of the other criticisms herein.

Even the most prestigious and pretentious of the dailies usually insist on adherence to the Associated Press Stylebook—a sure sign of lowbrow literary expectations. AP style can best be recognized by its hostility to the serial comma, the elimination of which often produces hilarious miscommunication. Without the serial comma, a newspaper might report that its town had been visited by "Bill Clinton, a professional con artist and a child molester." That could easily lead any reader to believe that the story referred to a single person, rather than three.

The AP manual is apparently designed for newspaper writers in the early stages of literacy, striving to distinguish the differences between "accept" and "except," "fewer" and "less," "incredible" and "incredulous," and "should" and "would." Perhaps the publishers hoped the book would sell well as a text for undergraduate journalism courses.

Most papers refuse to include diacritical marks, which impedes literary quality by precluding much of the more subtly nuanced vocabulary of other languages. Some foreign words simply look stupid without their accents, and some cannot even be recognized or pronounced correctly without them. For example, ask yourself what "habitué" means: most people would pronounce it "habit-too" or "habit-chew," and mistake it for a typo.

Newspaper writers nevertheless often strive for lyrical expression, especially on the editorial page. It's painful to see your ephemeral news article marred by hasty editing, but deadline pressure can produce plenty of self-inflicted gobbledygook. It's another matter when a column that took days to perfect is mangled by an editor, either to enforce stylistic consistency or to stretch the copy.

One of the more distracting trends in journalism is the single-sentence paragraph. It achieved some legitimacy in occasional usage for emphasis, but the habit has proliferated today—partly as a means of filling space, and partly as a reflection

of scattered thinking. For the careful writer, paragraphs conveniently group different ideas, or different elements within a single idea. Modern journalists have shortened the paragraph to match the modern attention span, and editors readily sacrifice its logical integrity to the requirements of layout.

The day of finding literature on the opinion page is surely over. The 21st century will not likely yield a William Allen White, to ask "What's the Matter with Kansas?" No Francis Church will assure a millennial couple's little girl that the spirit of Santa Claus really exists. No one in recent generations approaches the caliber of Virginius Dabney, the proud grandson of Confederate officers whose editorials helped end segregation in Virginia. Such writers knew how to produce a literary effect, and had the editorial control to prevent others from tinkering with it—both of which are necessary to produce memorable essays. The most legendary and evocative examples of newspaper commentary were all solitary works, published precisely as the writer left them.

from page five

and if we're lucky, we might find a patriot or two mixed in among the parrots. Our job will be to tell the difference.

Rick Littlefield  
Barrington, N.H.

=====  
"Backworld"

To the Editor:

I've invented a new word for modern American English: "backworld." It's a combination of the two words "backwards" and "world."

Backworld means just what it sounds like—a backwards world. For example, it would be grammatically correct to say, "Trump's philosophy is backworld."



One can all too easily imagine a White House press conference during which Trump might verbally ejaculate a backworldish phrase, such as, "I am the humblest man in the world!"

Alex J. Boros  
Rochester, N.H.

=====  
"Wisdom of a 'Warrior Monk'"

To the Editor:

Secretary of Defense James "Mad Dog" Mattis is one of the very few original remaining members of #45's cabinet. What makes this so

remarkable is that Mattis, a well-respected retired four-star U.S.M.C. general who reportedly much prefers the nickname of "Warrior Monk" (given to him because of his lifelong bachelorhood and his dedication to the study of war), has been able to hang on despite his frequent willingness to publically express his disagreement, sometimes in 180 degree opposition with his boss, who generally doesn't take kindly to dissent, on almost all critical foreign policy and military matters.

Last summer, Secretary Mattis, whom I sense the military brass considers to be the *de facto* Commander-in-Chief, was captured on video appealing to a large gathering of troops in an unspecified overseas location, "Our country right now, it's got problems we don't have in the military. You just hold the line until our country gets back to understanding and respecting each other and shows it."

In response to drastic budget cuts to the U.S. State Department and America's growing isolation from

the international stage, including our NATO allies, Mattis has publically asserted, "If you don't fund the State Department fully, then I need to buy more ammunition ultimately."

Mattis has expressed his opposition to the withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal and the Paris Climate Treaty and criticized budget cuts that prevent the Pentagon's ability to respond to Global Climate Change.

The "Warrior Monk" has also been a vocal critic of #45's proposed collaboration with Russia on military matters and has warned us about Russia's threat to the world order. He recently voiced his concerns about his boss' call to readmit Russia

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## How vicious is the GOP's war on the poor?

by Jim Hightower

Generals plan wars, but battlefield commanders do the bloody work.

So, meet HUD Secretary, Ben Carson, a quiet but bloodstained commandante in General Trump's relentless war against poverty-stricken Americans. Carson is loyally serving the extreme right-wing's ideological crusade to destroy the very idea of housing subsidies for

poor families. He has taken a budget ax to the program that enforces our society's fair housing laws, and he even stripped the words "free from discrimination" out of HUD's mission statement.

Such sneak attacks, however, were deemed too subtle by Trump's political base of hardcore haters of poverty programs, so the commander-in-chief demanded a frontal assault on the poorest of the poor. Carson delivered, dutifully, propos-

ing legislation to triple the monthly rent that the most impoverished of public housing families would pay—including increased rents for the elderly and disabled. To add cruelty to this nastiness, Carson also called for eliminating child-care and medical deductions that public housing families can subtract from their rent payments.

He tried to pass off this cold-blooded ambush of real people as merely a bureaucratic "streamlin-

ing," calling it necessary to cut the federal deficit. That's a despicable ruse, for the deficit was deliberately and grossly inflated just a few months ago—not by poor people, but by the trillion-dollar tax giveaway passed by Trump and the Republican Congress for the very richest people in America. And let's not forget that Carson himself was willing to bloat the deficit when he recently tried to spend taxpayer's money on a \$31,000 dining set for

his office suite! Fortunately, this plutocratic purchase was exposed and canceled... but was he embarrassed? Nah.

So, Trump, Carson, and GOP congress critters have also added hypocrisy to the nastiness and cruelty of their ongoing war against the poor.

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into the G7, seemingly wishing to advise us that #45, his supporters and his Republican enablers have been complicit, with this bold assertion: "Putin seeks to shatter NATO. He aims to diminish the appeal of the western democratic model and attempts to undermine America's moral authority. His actions are designed not to challenge our arms at this point but to undercut and compromise our belief in our ideals."

Wayne H. Merritt  
Dover, N.H.

====

### Re: the Annapolis Capital Gazette

To the Editor:

I know that he didn't actually tell him to murder the journalists at the Capital Gazette in Annapolis. However, when the supposed leader of the country identifies journalists as "enemies of the people," is it a big surprise that an unhinged, aggrieved miscreant feels it is all right to take out his anger with the paper with a shotgun?

Words do have consequences. When will we learn?

Keep up your journalism and be safe.

Dan Mannschreck  
Barrington, N.H.

====

### Is This Us?

To the Editor:

The U.S. government finally admitted in the Civil Liberties Act signed by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 that the shameful internment of Japanese during WW II was based on "race prejudice, war hysteria, and a failure of political leadership." Sounds like our government's current immigration policy.



However, at least back then families were kept together.

Whether it was intentional or not, the words, "I really don't care, do U?" on Melania Trump's jacket succinctly describe this administration's stance on children and families, both those who are trying to enter this country to save themselves from impossibly evil situations and those who are already here living in poverty.

Is this the kind of country we really are?

Cynthia Muse  
Rye, N.H.

Cynthia:  
Today, yes, sadly.  
The Editor

====

### Amazon, Teachers, and History

To the Editor:

Just reading your June 22nd issue on the execrable Bezos and his Dickensian labor practices. Below is my response to an email that I received from *Change.org*, with some historical background on the long battle to end exploitation regarding their attempted "buy-in" to Amazon.

Keep up the good work,  
Jim Tartari

### Change.org to Jim:

James—Amazon offers a 50 percent Prime membership discount to students, but what about teachers? Teachers across the country often use their own money to pay for supplies, and a discounted Prime membership could make a huge financial difference for educators. Join teacher

and petition starter Erica in urging Amazon for this discount—add your signature now.

### Jim to Change.org:

In the late 1860's, the wealthy Josephine Lowell Shaw, widow of Robert Gould Shaw, the commander of the 54th Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry [African-American], was shocked by a 12-year-old delivery boy found frozen to death in a delivery wagon on Christmas morning. He had worked seven straight days from 6 a.m. until midnight delivering packages to the rich people of New York City who placed late orders. He reportedly was given no lunch or dinner breaks.

As a result, she founded the New York Consumer's League, pressing those elites to order their presents early to end this sort of exploitation. The League also pressed for better working conditions, for women in retail stores to be provided sanitary facilities, for an eight hour day, and for the end of child labor.

It seems odd that *Change.org*, purportedly a progressive organization, but most likely a milquetoast establishment Democrat group, would pimp for Amazon, a company that wants to push labor back into the conditions of the 1860's.

Jim Tartari  
Wellesley, Mass.

Jim:

This is a perfect example of the widespread ignorance among the general

public of the unending nature of the battle between concentrated money and ordinary people. It goes on constantly, and it always has. Most of the time, people don't notice—because most of the time, it's not mentioned. Thank you for bringing this example to our attention.

The Editor

====

### Newspapers and the Workers

"[T]he worker must ... always, always, always remember that the bourgeois newspaper ... is an instrument of struggle motivated by ideas and interests that are contrary to his. Everything that is published is influenced by one idea: that of serving the dominant class ... from the first to the last line the bourgeois newspaper smells of and reveals this preoccupation.

"But the beautiful—that is the ugly—thing is this: that instead of asking for money from the bourgeois class to support it in its pitiless work in its favor, the bourgeois newspapers manage to be paid by ... the same laboring classes that they always combat. ...

"Hundreds of thousands of workers regularly and daily give their pennies to the bourgeois newspapers, thus assisting in creating their power. Why? If you were to ask this of the first worker you were to see on the tram or the street with a bourgeois paper spread before him you would hear: "Because I need to hear about what happening." And it would never enter his head that the news and the ingredients with

which it is cooked are exposed with an art that guides his ideas and influences his spirit in a given direction. ...

"Has a strike broken out? The workers are always wrong as far as the bourgeois newspapers are concerned. Is there a demonstration? The demonstrators are always wrong, solely because they are workers they are always hotheads, rioters, hoodlums. The government passes a law? It's always good, useful and just, even if it's ... not. And if there's an electoral, political or administrative struggle? The best programs and candidates are always those of the bourgeois parties.

"And we're aren't even talking about all the facts that the bourgeois newspapers either keep quiet about, or travesty, or falsify in order to mislead, delude or maintain in ignorance the laboring public. Despite this, the culpable acquiescence of the worker to the bourgeois newspapers is limitless. We have to react against this and recall the worker to the correct evaluation of reality. We have to say and repeat that the pennies tossed there distractedly into the hands of the newsboy are projectiles granted to a bourgeois newspaper, which will hurl it, at the opportune moment, against the working masses."

— Antonio Gramsci, 1916

Gramsci [1891 – 1937] was an Italian Marxist and philosopher. Arrested in 1926 despite immunity as a member of Parliament, his Prison Notebooks, smuggled out by his sister-in-law, became highly influential after his death.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SUNDAY, JULY 8	MONDAY, JULY 9	TUESDAY, JULY 10	WEDNESDAY, JULY 11	THURSDAY, JULY 12	FRIDAY, JULY 13	SATURDAY, JULY 14
<p><b>1976</b>—The State of New York yanks Richard Nixon's law license.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—The U.S. begins withdrawing troops from Vietnam.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—The U.S. detonates a nuke 250 miles up, knocking out phones in Hawaii, 900 miles to the east, and crippling seven satellites.</p> <p><b>1959</b>—Viet Cong forces attack Bien Hoa air base, killing two U.S. advisors as they watch a movie.</p> <p><b>1947</b>—Radio reports say a UFO has crashed at Roswell, N.M.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—At a POW camp in Salina, Utah, Army Pvt. Clarence V. Bertucci machine guns 29 Germans; nine die.</p> <p><b>1932</b>—The Dow-Jones average bottoms out at 41.22 points.</p> <p><b>1911</b>—Nan Jane Aspinwall arrives in New York City having left San Francisco 310 days earlier, traveling more than 4,500 miles on horseback.</p> <p><b>1876</b>—In Hamburg, S.C., 100 white men attack 40 black militiamen, capturing 25, of whom they murder five. No one is ever convicted.</p> <p><b>1853</b>—Commodore Perry convinces the Japanese it's better to trade with Americans than get shelled by them.</p> <p><b>1835</b>—The Liberty Bell tolls upon the death of Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall. Legend says it cracked this day, but that's been disputed.</p> <p><b>1776</b>—In Philadelphia, the as yet unnamed Liberty Bell summons citizens to hear the Declaration of Independence read for the first time by Colonel John Nixon.</p>	<p><b>2004</b>—"I trust God speaks through me," says George W.[MD] Bush to an Amish group. "Without that, I couldn't do my job."</p> <p><b>1986</b>—Ed "Meese is a Pig" Meese publishes a 1,960 page report on pornography meticulously listing 100 pages worth of obscene movie, magazine, and book titles.</p> <p><b>1982</b>—Unemployed and barefooted Englishman Michael Fagan, 31, climbs a drainpipe, enters Buckingham Palace, and wakes Queen Elizabeth in her bedroom.</p> <p><b>1958</b>—Fourteen thousand U.S. troops, equipped with nuclear-capable rockets, invade Lebanon.</p> <p><b>1958</b>—A landslide falling into Lituya Bay, Alaska, causes a megatsunami over 1,700 feet high.</p> <p><b>1951</b>—Dashiell Hammett, 57, tubercular author of <i>The Maltese Falcon</i>, is sentenced to six months in prison by the House Un-American Activities Committee for his reticence.</p> <p><b>1937</b>—Oliver Law, a battalion commander in the Abraham Lincoln Brigade and the first African-American to lead white troops, is killed in action in Spain.</p> <p><b>1918</b>—Two trains collide head-on in Nashville killing 101 and injuring another 171. It is the deadliest train wreck in U.S. history.</p> <p><b>1846</b>—Marines of the U.S.S. <i>Portsmouth</i> row ashore and raise the flag at Yerba Buena (now San Francisco) claiming California for the U.S.</p>	<p><b>2007</b>—China executes its Director of the State Food and Drug Administration. Zheng Xiaoyu took bribes which led to 40 deaths.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—George Tenet tries to warn George Bush and Condi Rice about Osama bin Laden and al-Qaeda, but can't get their attention.</p> <p><b>1989</b>—Fifteen tornadoes cause \$100 million in damages in the northeast.</p> <p><b>1985</b>—French secret police in the South Pacific blow up Greenpeace's boat, <i>Rainbow Warrior</i>.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—Water used to fight an arson fire destroys the U.S.S. Forrestal's computers and nearly capsizes her.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—In the Chandka Forest of India, a herd of stampeding elephants, driven mad by the heat, flattens a village killing 24.</p> <p><b>1949</b>—A 375-foot four-masted steel barque, <i>Pamir</i>, a school ship, is the last cargo-carrying sailing vessel to round Cape Horn.</p> <p><b>1926</b>—Lightning hits a powder warehouse in Picatinny, N.J. Over three days, millions of pounds of explosives destroy 187 of 200 buildings, injure 38, and kill 19.</p> <p><b>1873</b>—Verlaine shoots Rimbaud.</p> <p><b>1805</b>—RIP Revolutionary War soldier Col. William Butler, court-martialed for refusing to cut off his ponytail. "Bore a hole through the bottom of my coffin," his will said, "[so] the damned rascal [his ex-CO] will see that, even when dead, I refuse to obey his orders."</p>	<p><b>2012</b>—A Robinson R22 helicopter crashes in Brazil, killing one; in Australia, two R22s crash an hour apart.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—Condi Rice lies about White House knowledge of Joe Wilson's Niger investigation; Ari Fleischer outs Valerie Plame as a CIA officer; Karl Rove lies to <i>Time</i> about Wilson's wife, Plame; and CIA head George Tenet takes the rap for the White House's lies about Iraq buying uranium.</p> <p><b>1955</b>—Congress puts "In God We Trust" on all U.S. coins and paper currency; which god is not specified.</p> <p><b>1953</b>—Ike OK's the overthrow of Iran's Prime Minister Mohammed Mosaddeq. What could go wrong?</p> <p><b>1951</b>—In Cicero, Ill., 4,000 whites attack a building rented to a black WW II vet. The Guard quells the riot; the vet is charged with a crime.</p> <p><b>1947</b>—In Georgia, eight black prisoners are killed for refusing to work without boots in a snake-filled swamp.</p> <p><b>1917</b>—A U.S. Bisbee, Ariz. posse herds 1,286 striking copper miners into cattle cars and sends them by rail towards New Mexico with no food or water.</p> <p><b>1864</b>—Four miles north of the White House, at Ft. Stevens, Abraham Lincoln comes under enemy fire.</p> <p><b>1804</b>—At Weehauken, N.J. Alexander Hamilton fires into the ground in front of Aaron Burr. Burr carefully aims, then shoots Hamilton dead.</p> <p><b>1713</b>—Queen Anne's War ends as Indians sign the Treaty of Portsmouth. The settlers soon renege.</p>	<p><b>2011</b>—In Flandes, Colombia, a Robinson R66 helicopter sheds parts, then crashes, killing the former head of the Civil Air Patrol and his pilot.</p> <p><b>1982</b>—FEMA pledges that even in a nuclear war, the mail will get through.</p> <p><b>1979</b>—The White Sox are forced to forfeit a game after explosives damage the field during Disco Demolition Night at Comiskey Park.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—A fire in St. Louis, Mo. destroys the service records of 16 to 18 million Army and Air Force veterans.</p> <p><b>1917</b>—After 30 hours in cattle cars no food or water, 1,286 striking copper miners are left stranded in the New Mexico desert. No relief comes until the next day.</p> <p><b>1908</b>—Birth of Milton Berle, the first American transvestite to have his own television show.</p> <p><b>1892</b>—The Pennsylvania militia arrives at Homestead, Pa. to protect Andrew Carnegie's right to make a buck.</p> <p><b>1872</b>—Orangemen avoid casualties by refraining from marching through Irish tenements in New York.</p> <p><b>1871</b>—Orangemen are attacked as they march through Irish tenements in New York; 60 die this time.</p> <p><b>1870</b>—Orangemen are attacked by an Irish mob as they march through Irish tenements in New York; eight die.</p> <p><b>1864</b>—The Natchez [Miss.] <i>Courier</i> reports that Jones County has seceded from the Confederacy.</p> <p><b>1817</b>—Pencilmaker and troublemaker Henry David Thoreau is born.</p>	<p><b>1999</b>—Sen. Bob Smith (R-N.H.) drops out of the Presidential race, and the Republican Party to boot, to run as an Independent.</p> <p><b>1987</b>—Senator Warren B. Rudman [R-N.H.] sets Ollie North straight during the Iran-Contra hearings: "The American people have the constitutional right to be wrong."</p> <p><b>1977</b>—During a heat wave and a financial crisis, with Son of Sam on the loose, lightning strikes cause a blackout in New York City. Chaos ensues.</p> <p><b>1959</b>—A sodium-cooled nuclear reactor in Simi Valley, Calif. has a partial meltdown, releasing 300 times more radiation than Three Mile Island, a fact kept secret for 20 years.</p> <p><b>1950</b>—A B-50 Superfortress crashes in Lebanon, Ohio, killing its crew of 16. The fissile core of the nuclear weapon on board not being installed, the crater made by its high explosives was only 25 feet deep.</p> <p><b>1948</b>—Israeli troops drive 70,000 Palestinians from their homes in Lydda and Remleh.</p> <p><b>1943</b>—Student Alexander Schmorell and Professor Kurt Huber, co-conspirators in the anti-Nazi pamphleteering group White Rose, are guillotined in Munich.</p> <p><b>1863</b>—A New York mob, enraged by draft laws exempting the rich and egged on by Democrats, go on a three-day rampage, leveling whole blocks and attacking Greeley's pro-Union <i>New York Tribune</i>.</p>	<p><b>2004</b>—The GOP tries to ban gay marriage but can't rise to the occasion.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—Robert Novak outs CIA officer Valerie Plame in his column.</p> <p><b>2000</b>—A Florida jury orders five tobacco companies to pay \$145 billion in damages. An appeals court later lets them off the hook.</p> <p><b>1991</b>—A derailed tanker car full of pesticide spills into the Sacramento River killing 100,000 trout.</p> <p><b>1989</b>—Alabama tries twice, 19 minutes apart, to electrocute Horace F. Dunkins, who's black and developmentally-disabled. The first try fails because the chair is wired wrong.</p> <p><b>1981</b>—New Hampshire businessman Max Hugel's stint as Deputy Director of Operations at the CIA ends after 64 days due to revelations of unseemly stock market shenanigans.</p> <p><b>1976</b>—In Traves, France, unknown persons celebrate Bastille Day by burning war criminal Joachim Peiper's house—with him in it.</p> <p><b>1948</b>—Southerners walk out of the Democratic convention to form the pro-segregation States' Rights Party.</p> <p><b>1921</b>—Massachusetts' show trial of Nicolo Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti ends with a guilty verdict.</p> <p><b>1917</b>—The Army shows mercy to striking miners in the New Mexico desert by imprisoning them.</p> <p><b>1791</b>—In Lausanne, Vevey, and Rolle, Switzerland, citizens celebrate the liberation of the Bastille, shouting "Live free or die."</p>
SUNDAY, JULY 15	MONDAY, JULY 16	TUESDAY, JULY 17	WEDNESDAY, JULY 18	THURSDAY, JULY 19	FRIDAY, JULY 20	SATURDAY, JULY 21
<p><b>1995</b>—A derecho sends hurricane force winds through New York and New England, toppling thousands of trees and killing three people.</p> <p><b>1979</b>—Jimmy Carter delivers his "malaise" speech, in which the word "malaise" does not appear.</p> <p><b>1974</b>—In Florida, on live TV, newsreader Christine Chubbuck pulls a loaded pistol from a shopping bag and shoots herself dead.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—Nixon says he'll go to China.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—The Republican Party saddles itself with Barry Goldwater as a presidential candidate.</p> <p><b>1954</b>—"Operation Wetback" begins throwing "Mexican-looking" people out of the U.S.</p> <p><b>1919</b>—The then-honestly-named War Department calls 337,000 Americans draft dodgers.</p> <p><b>1877</b>—President John W. Garrett, of the B &amp; O Railroad, gives his shareholders a 10% dividend and his workers a 10% pay cut.</p> <p><b>1865</b>—In Rye, N.H. an optical illusion causes the Isles of Shoals to appear to be only a mile or two offshore.</p> <p><b>1779</b>—General "Mad Anthony" Wayne's troops take 700 prisoners with a bayonet charge at Stony Point.</p> <p><b>1685</b>—Executioner Jack Ketch eventually beheads the Duke of Monmouth, after eight ax blows.</p> <p><b>1381</b>—Lollard preacher John Ball, for inspiring the Peasants' Revolt, is hanged, drawn, and quartered as Richard II looks on with approval.</p>	<p><b>2010</b>—As a running Robinson R44 helicopter is being loaded on a truck at Salt Lake City, an accident kills one person and seriously injures three.</p> <p><b>1991</b>—The Trump Taj Mahal files for bankruptcy 467 days after opening.</p> <p><b>1979</b>—A dam, badly built on shaky ground, collapses in Church Rock, N.M., spilling 1,100 tons of radioactive mill waste, 93 million gallons of effluent, and as much radioactivity as Three Mile Island.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—Al Butterfield reveals he's been bugging the Oval office at the behest of The Man himself.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—<i>Apollo 11</i> heads for the Moon.</p> <p><b>1963</b>—In NYC, Tom Cornell and Chris Kearns stage the first anti-Vietnam War demonstration.</p> <p><b>1948</b>—The first commercial flight ever is hijacked, and crashes. The sole survivor, Wong Fu, the hijacker, is released due to jurisdictional difficulties.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—The Atomic Age begins with a bang at Alamogordo, N.M.</p> <p><b>1934</b>—Workers in San Francisco conduct a four-day General Strike.</p> <p><b>1877</b>—B&amp;O RR firemen in Martinsburg, W.Va. strike against wage cuts.</p> <p><b>1858</b>—To resist prostitutes, Thomas P. "Boston" Corbett castrates himself with a pair of scissors. Seven years later he will kill John Wilkes Booth.</p> <p><b>1854</b>—A conductor in New York City tells Elizabeth Jennings Graham to get off his streetcar, since she's black. She refuses. In court, she wins desegregation, \$250, and court costs.</p>	<p><b>2015</b>—Portsmouth cops, doing the bidding of Seacoast Helicopters, show up <i>en masse</i> at the office of local businessman Mike Thiel and grill him about a letter of complaint.</p> <p><b>1996</b>—Flight 800 spontaneously explodes off Long Island. Yeah, right.</p> <p><b>1995</b>—An Australian, herding cattle with a Robinson R22 helicopter, is killed after it breaks up in mid-air.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—An American press officer in Saigon tells Morley Safer "if you think any American official is going to tell you the truth, then you're stupid."</p> <p><b>1962</b>—The U.S. conducts its last near-ground atmospheric nuke test: the .018 kiloton "Little Feller." A company of soldiers is marched through ground zero 26 minutes later.</p> <p><b>1955</b>—Lightning ignites a huge mine placed near Ypres in 1916. A cow is the only casualty.</p> <p><b>1944</b>—Two munitions ships explode at Port Chicago, Calif., killing 322, mostly black bomb handlers.</p> <p><b>1935</b>—RIP Cudjoe Lewis, in Africatown, Mobile, Ala., last known survivor of the Atlantic slave trade.</p> <p><b>1928</b>—Partying with Mexican Revolution veterans, President Alvaro Obregon tells strolling caricaturist Leon Toral, "Make sure you make me look good." Toral says, "I will," and shoots him dead.</p> <p><b>1877</b>—Gov. Henry Mathews calls out a local militia company to suppress the Martinsburg, W.Va. railroad strike. It sides with strikers, instead.</p>	<p><b>1985</b>—Still doped up after cancer surgery five days earlier, Ronald Reagan OKs sending arms to Iran.</p> <p><b>1984</b>—James O. Huberty tells his wife he's "going to hunt humans," then kills 21 and wounds 19 at a San Diego McDonald's. A SWAT team sniper kills Huberty. His widow unsuccessfully sues McDonalds for poisoning his mind with MSG.</p> <p><b>1981</b>—Norman Mailer's protegee Jack Abbott, on work release after a stretch for bank robbery, stabs a man to death in the East Village.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—U.S.S. <i>Ranger</i> is disabled after bolts and a paint scraper are intentionally dropped into the gears.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—Senator Ted Kennedy gives Mary Jo Kopechne a ride part of the way home from a party, takes a swim, then a nap.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—Harlem riots after cops kill an unarmed 15-year-old.</p> <p><b>1944</b>—Ordered by <i>der Führer</i> to kill a fly, aide Fritz Dargatzis suggests it's a job for the Luftwaffe. He's immediately banished to the Eastern Front.</p> <p><b>1939</b>—Hunter S. Thompson is born, Louisville, Ky.</p> <p><b>1938</b>—Douglas "Wrong Way" Corrigan lands in Ireland after an unauthorized trans-Atlantic flight.</p> <p><b>1925</b>—H.L. Mencken is nearly run out of Dayton, Tenn. on a rail by its pious Christian inhabitants.</p> <p><b>1877</b>—Governor Henry Mathews of West Virginia pleads for U.S. Marines to suppress the B &amp; O railroad strike.</p>	<p><b>2011</b>—Wendi Murdoch deftly deflects a pie aimed at her husband Rupert, as he's being grilled about phone-hacking by Parliament.</p> <p><b>2010</b>—Terrorized by a malignantly-edited <i>YouTube</i> clip, Sec. of Ag. Tom Vilsack has USDA employee Shirley Sherrod pulled over by the side of the road and summarily fired.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—Deputy Chairman of the British Conservative party Lord Jeffrey Archer is convicted of perjury and sentenced to 4 years.</p> <p><b>1994</b>—Dining with reporters in the Capitol, Sen. Howell Heflin (D-Ala.) pulls what he thinks is a hankie from his pocket, and wipes his nose with a pair of panties.</p> <p><b>1991</b>—South Africa's government admits it paid Zulus to undermine the African National Congress.</p> <p><b>1985</b>—Concord, N.H. teacher Christa McAuliffe is chosen to be first "Teacher in Space."</p> <p><b>1979</b>—Sandinistas march triumphantly into Managua.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—John Fairfax completes the first solo cross-Atlantic row.</p> <p><b>1957</b>—A two-kiloton nuclear warhead carried by an air-to-air missile explodes 18,000 feet above five Air Force volunteers at Yucca Flats.</p> <p><b>1919</b>—White Washingtonians enraged by racist headlines begin attacking blacks in the nation's capital.</p> <p><b>1848</b>—At the first Women's Rights convention held at Seneca Falls, N.Y., "Bloomers" are introduced.</p>	<p><b>2002</b>—The FBI arrests three former NASA interns for stealing a 600 lb. safe holding moon rocks.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—Lori Klausutis, 28, a Congressional aide, is found dead in the Fort Walton Beach office of Rep. Joe Scarborough (R-Fla.).</p> <p><b>1989</b>—Pres. George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush calls for a manned mission to Mars. His farcical notion is quickly laughed off.</p> <p><b>1985</b>—Mel Fisher begins hauling \$400,000,000 worth of gold off the ocean floor near Key West, Fla., where it had lain for 363 years.</p> <p><b>1984</b>—Famed runner and fitness fanatic Jim Fixx, age 52, dies of a heart attack while jogging.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—Martial artist and fitness fanatic Bruce Lee, age 32, dies in Hong Kong.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—Neil Armstrong takes a walk on the moon.</p> <p><b>1956</b>—A scheduled election intended to reunify Vietnam is blocked by the South. The Eisenhower administration concurs.</p> <p><b>1948</b>—Harry Truman kicks off the U.S.'s first peacetime draft.</p> <p><b>1944</b>—German generals try but fail to kill Hitler with a bomb.</p> <p><b>1919</b>—Rioting intensifies in Washington, D.C.: white mobs beat blacks in front of the White House.</p> <p><b>1877</b>—The B &amp; O Railroad strike spreads to Maryland, where workers threaten to blow up bridges and run trains into rivers.</p>	<p><b>2007</b>—George W.[MD] Bush invokes the 25th Amendment, making Dick "Dick" Cheney President while Bush's colon is inspected.</p> <p><b>2000</b>—Long-time Texas voter Dick "Dick" Cheney registers in Wyoming to evade election laws.</p> <p><b>2000</b>—The FBI and ATF are exonerated in the 1993 Waco, Texas siege which left 80 religious fanatics dead.</p> <p><b>1954</b>—Geneva Accords free Vietnam from French colonial rule; the U.S. steps in to preserve disorder.</p> <p><b>1951</b>—A Canadian Pacific DC-10 leaves Vancouver for Anchorage with 37 on board and disappears.</p> <p><b>1950</b>—Tuffi, a young elephant riding in a German elevated train, gets agitated and breaks a window. She then falls into a river, but survives.</p> <p><b>1919</b>—A burning dirigible crashes through the glass skylight of a Chicago bank killing 13.</p> <p><b>1919</b>—With the cops on the sidelines, blacks in D.C., arm themselves and start fighting back in earnest.</p> <p><b>1918</b>—<i>U-156</i> lands a few shells on the beach at Orleans, Mass. while shelling and sinking the tug <i>Perth Amboy</i> — the first time the U.S. mainland has been attacked since 1812.</p> <p><b>1877</b>—Pittsburgh militia bayonet and shoot railroad strikers (20 die). Surviving strikers burn 39 buildings and wreck 104 locomotives.</p> <p><b>1643</b>—Eight men are beheaded in Santa Fe under the unexpected authority of the Spanish Inquisition.</p>

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