

The Fortnightly Rant

The Unknown and the Unknowing

Catholics have the Vatican, Anglicans have Westminster Abbey, and North Koreans have Mount Paektu. The closest thing Americans have to hallowed ground—being barred from establishing a state religion and having been at war for 93 percent of our history—is the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Most years the President visits the Tomb on Veterans Day. Exceptions usually involve some militaristic alternative. Last year, in an uncharacteristically gutsy move, the President who used four draft deferments and a note from a doctor to dodge the war in Vietnam, went to that country and visited with American veterans who fought there. This year he skipped the ritual entirely.

The lapse hardly came as a shock. He had just come off a European trip scheduled to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Armistice which ended World War I and managed to disgrace himself at each ceremonial event.

First he blew off a visit to the American cemetery which holds our war dead from Belleau Wood and Château-Thierry, blaming the weather and the Secret Service. Journalist and pilot James Fallows analyzed that day's weather reports from French aviation authorities and concluded that Marine One could easily have made the trip.

The next day, November 11th, world leaders were to march together up the Champs Elysee for a ceremony at the Arc de Triomphe, symbolically scheduled for 11:11 a.m.—exactly one century after the guns fell silent. That didn't happen, two men were late: the U.S. President and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

French President Emmanuel Macron spoke, denouncing nationalism

as a “betrayal of patriotism” and warning that it could lead to “old demons coming back to wreak chaos and death.” A scowl from Trump suggested that he understood Macron was talking about him.

Later that day Trump went to the Suresnes American Cemetery, conveniently located just five miles west of the Arc de Triomphe. He said to attending American veterans, “You look so comfortable up there, under shelter as we're getting drenched.” Video released by the White House showed no sign of heavy rain.

On Monday, November 12th, the President was back in Washington, D.C. As the rest of the nation observed Veterans Day, though, he was AWOL once again. Rather than pay his respects at the Tomb of the Unknowns, less than three miles away, he holed up at the world's most expensive public housing unit.

Through a lifetime of constant effort, #45 has created a uniquely toxic force field of moral negativity around himself. He could not have set foot on that hallowed ground without sullyng it to some degree. So, by staying away, he did the only thing in his power to show any measure of respect—though there is, of course, no reason to suspect that was actually his intention.

He was not entirely idle. He tweeted that “The Florida Election should be called in favor of Rick Scott and Ron DeSantis in that large numbers of new ballots showed up out of nowhere, and many ballots are missing or forged.”

If Florida officials had followed the President's direction—which was wrong on both the facts and the law—Floridians in the military who were voting by mail would effectively have had their franchise arbitrarily revoked. When it comes to



the Commander-in-Chief misusing his powers to abuse members of the military, though, that was fairly small potatoes.

Trump outdid even himself by sending 5,600 troops to the southern border, where they'll “celebrate” Thanksgiving in tents, eating MREs. The official White House lie claimed the mission would “heighten security” against an “invasion”—a caravan of oppressed and helpless women and children, 800 miles away.

A Pentagon source called it an “expensive waste of time and resources, and a morale killer to boot.” That was being kind. Those uniformed American military personnel were being used as “crisis actors” in a \$200 million campaign ad for Republican candidates—a Hatch Act violation of truly Trumpian proportions, were Presidents not exempted. Any doubts that the enterprise was a sham fell away when the Pentagon issued orders to bring the

troops home as early as this weekend.

Trump frequently lavishes praise on the U.S. military, hoping, no doubt, that, by association, his followers will see him as a mighty man. It's a trick that surely works on those who can be fooled all of the time. The insults he's thrown at John McCain and, more recently, Admiral William McRaven, make it clear that's all a sham.

The least surprising revelation about Trump's relationship with the military came Monday. The *Washington Post* reported that Trump hasn't visited U.S. troops in the field because of “his fears over risks to his own life.” The paper's source was “a former senior White House official, who has discussed the issue with the President and spoke on the condition of anonymity to speak candidly about Trump's concerns.”

“He's never been interested in going,” the official told the *Post*. “He's afraid of those situations. He's afraid

people want to kill him.”

Rather than fly to Afghanistan for Thanksgiving, as his two immediate predecessors did, Trump has gone to Mar-a-Lago, his private club in Florida. A team of Secret Service agents accompanied our fearful Commander-in-Chief. The visit will cost taxpayers millions. Mar-a-Lago will submit a bill for housing the Secret Service. Some of that money will end up in the pocket of the alleged man they are protecting.

Trump claims that when he's in Florida, he works most of the time. There is no reason to believe that, but three members of his club, though they are not veterans, do advise him on veterans affairs. They think he should privatize the VA.

Our President is no more interested in, or capable of, helping veterans by scheming with his Mar-a-Lago troika than he is of honoring America's war dead by waddling around the Tomb of the Unknowns.

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Apocalypse Cubed

Globally renowned, but almost never quoted by America's corporate media, Noam Chomsky, an MIT linguist and cognitive scientist, is also an historian, a social critic, and the living embodiment of a familiar line of scripture: “... Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house.” [Mark 6:4]

The election of Donald Trump caused the *New York Times* to freak out so completely, though, that in July, 2017 it threw aside all its usual restraints and published an interview with Chomsky.

George Yancy, a professor of philosophy at Emory University, asked Chomsky, “Given our ‘post-truth’ political moment and the growing authoritarianism we are witnessing under President Trump, what public role do you think professional philosophy might play in critically ad-

ressing this situation?”

Rather refreshingly, Chomsky replied, “We have to be a little cautious about not trying to kill a gnat with an atom bomb. [Trump's] performances are so utterly absurd ... that the proper response might best be ridicule.”

Chomsky did add that “ridicule is not enough.” He was optimistic about the potential of citizen action, though, noting that there is “good reason to suppose that [Bernie] Sanders would have won the nomination had it not been for shenanigans of the Obama-Clinton party managers. He is now the most popular political figure in the country by a large margin.”

We're going to need all the optimism we can muster because, as Chomsky told Yancy “the most important issues to address are the truly existential threats we face: climate change and nuclear war.”

Those threats overlapped on November 8th when the Woolsey Fire burned Simi Valley, California.

Major news networks gave the California fires plenty of coverage—it's hard to ignore an evacuation of nearly 300,000 people, or a list of nearly 1,000 missing—but they glossed over an important part of the story.

On November 14th, NBC News reported that the fire “isn't believed to have released toxic chemicals into the air, public health officials said.

“Preliminary testing conducted over the weekend at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory ... found ‘no discernable level of radiation in the tested area,’ the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health said Tuesday.”

Uh ... radiation?

According to the Rocketdyne Cleanup Coalition, “The tremendously destructive Woolsey Fire

has been widely reported as beginning ‘near’ the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL or Rocketdyne), but it appears that the fire began on the Rocketdyne property itself. Cal Fire identifies the fire location as E Street and Alfa Road, a location that is in fact on SSFL. It was recently reported that the ‘Chatsworth electric substation’ experienced a disturbance two minutes before the fire was reported, but that substation is in fact on SSFL, near that location. A photograph posted on Twitter from KCAL9's Stu Mundel shows the fire starting Thursday afternoon near the same location, which is only about 1,000 yards away from the site of the 1959 partial nuclear meltdown of the Sodium Reactor Experiment (SRE) reactor.”

“The [Chatsworth] substation had been built in part to provide electricity from the reactor, which was the first reactor to produce com-

mercial electricity for the commercial grid, before it became the first such commercial reactor to suffer a partial meltdown.”

Denise Duffield, Associate Director of Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles, said, “Though we must wait for fire authorities to conclude their investigation, it is ironic that an electrical substation built for a reactor that melted down six decades ago now may now be associated with a catastrophic fire that began on the SSFL site that is still badly contaminated from that accident and numerous other spills and releases.

“Decades of nuclear and rocket-engine testing activity, including nuclear reactor accidents and other toxic spills and releases, have resulted in widespread contamina-

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from page one

tion throughout SSFL's 2,850 acre facility. Federally-funded studies indicate higher cancer incidents associated with proximity to the site. The California Dept. of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), which has regulatory oversight over the parties responsible for cleaning up the contamination—the Dept. of Energy, NASA, and the Boeing Company—signed legally binding agreements to fully cleanup the contamination by 2017. However, the cleanup has not even begun and DTSC is considering vastly weaker cleanup plans. If DTSC and those responsible for polluting SSFL had not broken their cleanup commitments, we wouldn't be facing the prospect of contamination now being driven off site by the fire."

Wikipedia says that "Throughout the years, approximately ten low-power nuclear reactors operated at SSFL, in addition to several 'critical facilities:' a sodium burn pit in which sodium-coated objects were burned in an open pit; a plutonium

fuel fabrication facility; a uranium carbide fuel fabrication facility; and the purportedly largest "Hot Lab" facility in the United States at the time. (A Hot Lab is a facility used for remotely cutting up irradiated nuclear fuel.) Irradiated nuclear fuel from other Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) and Department of Energy (DOE) facilities from around the country were shipped to SSFL to be declassified and examined.

"The Hot Lab suffered a number of fires involving radioactive materials. For example, in 1957, a fire in the Hot Cell 'got out of control and ... massive contamination' resulted.

"At least four of the ten nuclear reactors suffered accidents ... The reactors ... were considered experimental, and therefore had no containment structures. Reactors and highly radioactive components were housed without the large concrete domes that surround modern power reactors."

Wildfires raging through a drought-stricken, radioactive landscape: welcome to the future. Just to make things a little more dystopian,



WHITAKER'S NEW AND IMPROVED DEPARTMENT OF INJUSTICE [PATENT PENDING]



The circa 1904 YMCA building, which formerly housed the Sake Japanese Restaurant, is now undergoing a thorough restoration. We've been told the work will include exacting reproductions of the original copper-clad bay windows. On Tuesday, workers covered the front of the building with five levels of scaffolding. Judging from their spirited banter, it's fun to work on the YMCA.

many of the firefighters are prisoners—some of them juvenile offenders—being paid less than \$2 per day.

Expect Overlapping Catastrophes

As it happens, overlapping catastrophes are exactly what scientists predict in a paper released on Tuesday—albeit without specifically addressing how drought-enhanced wildfires might compound the hazards already posed by anthropogenic nuclear contamination.

Titled, "Broad threat to humanity from cumulative climate hazards intensified by greenhouse gas emissions," the study warns that in the not-too-distant future, we can expect climate change to bring multiple disasters at once, creating a "cascade of catastrophes, some gradual, others abrupt, all compounding as climate change takes a greater toll," according to a précis on Reddit.

"In total, the researchers identified 467 distinct ways in which society is already being impacted by increasing climate extremes, and then laid out how these threats are likely to

compound on top of each other in the decades ahead. If something isn't done to dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions, they say that instead of dealing with a single major hazard at a time, people worldwide could be forced to cope with three to six at once."

CBS News quoted the study's lead author, Camillo Mora, on Monday. "Facing these climatic changes will be like getting into a fight with Mike Tyson, Schwarzenegger, Stallone, Jackie Chan—all at the same time," adding, "I think we are way above our heads."

"This is Fine"—Paid Hack

Those inclined to passively submit to the consequences of capitalism will probably find the above material a little bit depressing. Even those eager to fight back will probably find it somewhat daunting.

Whichever of those categories fits your mood, Benjamin Zycher, resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI), stands ready to soothe your fevered brow. Zycher

"works on energy and environmental policy," according to his bio. Last month AEI published a 3,000 word screed by Zycher which dismissed the latest "Summary for Policymakers" from the International Panel on Climate Change, issued in October, as a bunch of alarmist malarkey.

Ah, the perpetual question: whom can one believe?

Our old friend *Sourcewatch.com*, which we've never found to err, says AEI's wordsmith is a former UCLA lecturer and economist for the Rand Corporation. Some time during the 1990s he "became erratically involved in the cash-for-comments network run for the Tobacco Institute." He was one of "[o]ver a hundred professors of economics at major American universities [who] were successfully recruited ... into these cash-for-comments networks."

"They were not paid retainers or salaries, but were erratically commissioned to perform specified functions (usually for \$1,000 to \$3,000

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per project) when the tobacco industry came under attack. Some earned much more—often in the \$20-40,000 range—for producing ‘independent research’ which was customized to produce the desired results.”

From defending tobacco companies which poisoned smokers on a retail scale, Zycher has gone to the big time: fossil fuel companies that are killing us all, wholesale.

In January, in *Investor's Business Daily*, Zycher, true to form, called *Juliana v. U.S.* “the most prominent current example” of a class of “lawsuits are so destructive that they stand out even among the hugely expensive wreckage wrought by our legal system.”

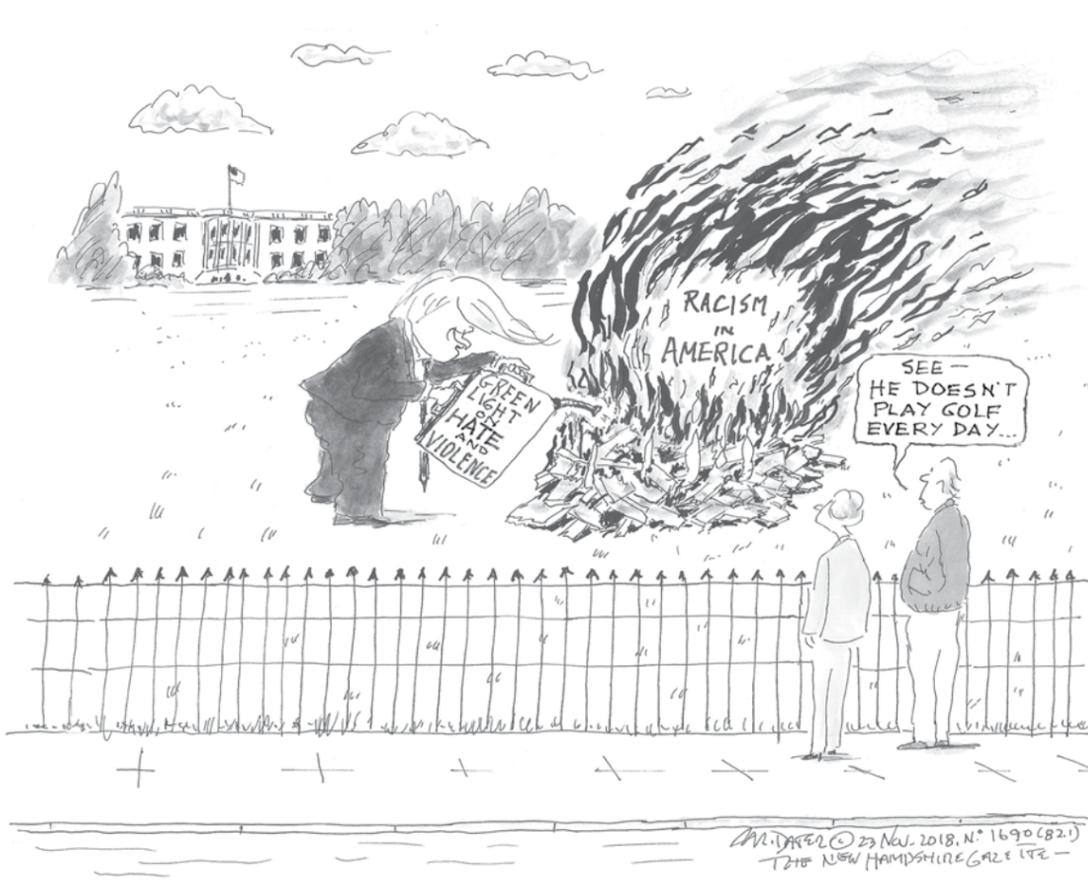
To someone other than a cynical, overpaid, old hack—say, a young person who might hope to live another 50 or 60 or 70 years on this mudball, *Juliana v. U.S.* might just save your life.

Currently being batted back and forth between the Ninth Circuit Court in Oregon and the Supreme Court, the lawsuit boldly attempts to hold the federal government accountable for allowing corporate thugs to knowingly put the future of humanity at risk. Watch this space.

LA Times Investigates Robinson 'Copters'
A search of our back issues reveals that since August of last year we have reported on 18 Robinson helicopter crashes—an average of one every 25 days—which have taken a total of 16 lives. We are relieved to report that another newspaper, one with more resources at its disposal, has taken a considerably more rigorous and systematic look at that particular—and peculiar—brand of flying eggbeater. [Yes, yes, we know—a less systematic approach than ours could scarcely be imagined.—The Ed.]

Robinson helicopters are built in a plant just 12 miles from the *L.A. Times'* newsroom. It's not easy for a newspaper to so strongly criticize a major local employer. The *Times'* article, “Danger spins from the sky: The Robinson R44, the world's best-selling civilian helicopter, has a long history of deadly crashes,” is to some degree a repudiation of that paper's checkered past.*

* Almost from its founding in 1881, and throughout much of its history, the *LA Times* presented a façade of benevolent local boosterism which hid a malevolent heart. Harrison Gray Otis, its tyrannical owner, was rabidly anti-union and greedy as sin. Noted historian and California State Librarian Kevin Starr wrote that Otis was



Analyzing reports from the National Transportation Safety Board [NTSB], the *Times* concluded that Robinson R44 helicopters experience 1.6 deadly crashes for every 100,000 hours flown, “a rate nearly 50 percent higher than any other of the dozen most common civilian models whose flight hours are tracked by the Federal Aviation Administration.”

The paper notes the company's objection to its calculations—Robinson says “the FAA undercounts the flight hours for the R44, leading to an inflated accident rate.” However, the *Times* points out, “Using the flight hour estimate—nearly 40

“capable of manipulating the entire apparatus of politics and public opinion for his own enrichment.” He published lies in his paper to push a bond issue which allowed him to profit from secret land deals, a scheme which inspired the movie “Chinatown.” Otis's 20-year war to drive unions out of Los Angeles inspired the Iron Workers Union, in 1910, to dynamite the *Times* building, killing 21 workers.

percent more than the FAA's—the R44 still had the highest rate at 1.17 fatal accidents per 100,000 flight hours.” The second-deadliest helicopter, according to the *Times*, is the McDonnell Douglas 369, with 1.09 deadly crashes per 100,000 hours of flight time.

The paper spent months on its 3,600 word exposé. Among its revelations: Robinson does not “retain detailed records of accidents or incidents, compile statistical data to track recurring issues, or tally how many people have been killed or injured in its helicopters,” a “lack of historical data [that] is troubling to aviation safety experts.” Owner Kurt Robinson says the company meets the FAA's record-keeping requirements.

On Sunday, a Robinson R22 crashed in China's Sichuan Province during a sightseeing trip, according to *Xinhuanet*. The pilot and a passenger survived.

Sanders Poynt: The Saga Continues
Apologies to readers weary of this topic, but duty and a perverse curiosity compel us to follow it through to the end: William “Bill” Binnie's attorneys are now accusing Robert Jesurum of acting in bad faith, after Jesurum charged that signs erected by Binnie's minions failed to adhere to the Court's requirements.

Considering that Binnie began this fight by blocking public access to Sanders Poynt six years ago last month, this latest filing appears to fit perfectly into the category of behavior known as DARVO: Deny, Attack, Reverse Victim and Offender.

“This is Fine,” Part Two

Last year, on Thanksgiving Day in Portsmouth, the temperature ranged between 28° and 39°. Meteorologists forecast this Thanksgiving's temperature to be 30 degrees below normal. The wind chill will make it feel like -10°.



Veterans Day, née Armistice Day, was observed in Portsmouth on November 11th, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I. All the customary rituals were flawlessly performed.

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“There's nothing left ... but to get drunk.”
— Franklin Pierce (1804 - 1869)
American general, lawyer, and politician,
14th President of the United States
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“There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest.”
— Elie Wiesel
— Not-So-Random Thoughts from an Oregon Subscriber

Sentenced To Disability Hell

To the Editor:

Things I've learned since I became disabled from a fall last year that broke my back:

The people that work downtown in the Social Security office really do want to help you.

The Office of Hearing Operations, Nationwide—their hands are tied. I am from Minnesota. The Minneapolis office has 9,000 cases, with 1,000 people waiting for a court date. The current national average is a 17.5 month wait.

The Regional Office in Chicago says there are not enough funds in the budget to add more administrative judges.

Trying to get a Senator to submit a request to fund more administrative judges? It's not on their priority list. According to a Social Security phone representative, this has been going on for 20 years.

So I submitted a proposal myself: Add 45 judges per state @\$162,305.00, one year salary each=\$7,303,725 per state. Times 52 states=\$379,793,700 needed to bring the Social Security Administration up to date/current.

Why wouldn't the government want to keep Social Security up to date? It's like a bully in school taking money from an innocent kid every day. When he finally gets caught, he doesn't feel he has to give the money back. If a person in Congress makes it a law, does that make it okay to "borrow" from Social Security, taking money from the people they are supposed to be protecting? That is what happened 20 years ago. Nothing was done to stop it then. Now, when we need our money, we have to wait an unacceptable wait time. Good people are losing their homes, their credit is ruined and their savings dwindled. Put the money back! 380 million is just a start. When people retire or become disabled, their payments should start on time. No wait time, no excuses, No stall tactics. Is it okay with you that Congress uses your Social Security money for their own agenda?

There is strength in numbers. Contact Congress and express how you

feel. That is the *only* way we're going to get anything done.

Donald Trump is the president that will get this done!

Cheryl Alexander
Little Canada, Minn.

Cheryl:

Thanks a lot. We were with you all the way, right up until that last sentence. Then you gave us whiplash!

Until quite recently—which is to say, by our scale or reference, a decade or two ago—we were unaware, as are most Americans, that payroll taxes are massively regressive. Congress has set a ceiling on Social Security taxes. That assures that if you unload trucks, bag groceries, or teach school for a living, you pay Social Security tax on very damned dime you earn. If you sit on your butt in some fancy office, though, engineering hostile takeovers of a trucking company or a grocery store chain, or lobbying Congress to divert tax money towards charter schools, everything you earn over \$128,400 is exempt from taxation.

Why? Because high-income people are special, we suppose.

Good luck to you, thinking the doofus in the Oval Office is going to fix Social Security. You're going to need it.

The Editor

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Bravo, Mr. Marvel

To the Editor:

I find Mr. Marvel's always engaging North Country Chronicle especially so when he invokes storytelling. So compelling did I find "The Bloody Angle" that I looked back at the incidental details associated with each to identify the soldiers as all but one fell in the latter paragraphs. Kudos to one who can evoke empathy for subjects in so little space. I confess to having had to reread Mr. Marvel's concluding sentence before registering its meaning. Bravo, Sir!

In acknowledgement of and appreciation for splendid writing,

John Simon
Portsmouth, N.H.

John:

Our records show that we have run more than 450 of Bill's columns—and we began keeping records only 13 years ago. We find it a comfort every fortnight



to know that there is at least one thing in the paper that is worth reading. Only on the rarest of occasions do we even bother to thank him. Thank you for remedying our negligence.

The Editor

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Royalty and Traditional Cat Burning

To the Editor:

Your almanac entry for November 17th has a mistake. Elizabeth I's coronation was actually on January 15, 1559. November 17th was the date of her accession and her first surviving state paper.

Your reference to burning several bags of cats made me look it up. Indeed, something like this happened at the coronation. Here's one account: "At the coronation of Elizabeth I in January 1559, a dozen or so cats were stuffed into a wickerwork effigy of the Pope and paraded through the streets of London before being burned on a bonfire. Their dying shrieks were said to be the devils inhabiting the Pope's body. Horrible!"

Apparently, burning baskets of cats also became a French hobby ... up until the 1800s. Here's how Wikipedia describes it:

"According to Norman Davies, the assembled people "shrieked with laughter as the animals, howling with pain, were singed, roasted, and finally carbonized." James Frazer wrote: "It was the custom to burn a basket, barrel, or sack full of live cats, which was hung from a tall mast in the midst of the bonfire; sometimes a fox was burned. The people collected the embers and ashes of the fire and took them home, believing that they brought good luck. The French kings often witnessed these spectacles and even lit the bonfire with their own hands. In 1648 Louis XIV, crowned with a wreath of roses and carrying a bunch of roses in his hand, kindled the fire, danced at it and partook of the banquet afterwards in the town hall. But this was the last

occasion when a monarch presided at the midsummer bonfire in Paris. At Metz midsummer fires were lighted with great pomp on the esplanade, and a dozen cats, enclosed in wicker cages, were burned alive in them, to the amusement of the people. Similarly at Gap, in the department of the Hautes-Alpes, cats used to be roasted over the midsummer bonfire."

Aren't we a delightful species?

Keep up the good work!

Paul Fischler
Rochester, N.H.

Paul:

We strive for accuracy, but do not always succeed. Thank you for correcting our error. As a token of our gratitude, we have extended your subscription by one issue. In fact, commencing with this issue, such will be our policy: find an error, get a free subscription extension. Non-subscribers are welcome to read between the lines.

Your letter prompted us to look a little more deeply into the traditions of British royalty. Accession and succession are, indeed, two different things. Succession is the the order in which members of the royal family would come to the throne if the reigning king or queen died.

Accession is a preposterous, elaborate foofaraw involving ridiculously expensive gewgaws being flourished about by the beneficiaries of system well described by Thomas Paine: "It] indiscriminately admits every species of character to the same authority. Vice and virtue, ignorance and wisdom, in short, every quality, good or bad, is put on the same level. Kings succeed each other, not as rationals, but as animals. It signifies not what their mental or moral characters are. ... [W]e cannot conceive a more ridiculous figure of government, than hereditary succession, in all its cases, presents."

Thank you, too, for introducing us to an aspect of history of which we had been unaware: the systematized torture of cats

for the amusement of mankind [sic.]

Felis catus has been our totem animal since the long-gone days when we would trudge off to school—seven miles through the snow, and uphill both ways, of course—with a backward glance at the household mouser, lying on a rug in a pool of sunlight.

Painful as it is to think of such creatures being tormented by our own supposedly superior species, the awareness such knowledge brings is helpful whenever some politician or, in particular, some self-appointed spiritual leader, professes to moral superiority.

The Editor

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The Distractor Factor

To the Editor:

Okay, the Red vs. Blue games are over, scores are in, and coaches are busy spinning the outcome. Meanwhile, the distractor-in-chief, believing his best defense is a strong offense, stands ready to behave more offensively than ever before. To counter the loss of the House, threats and accusations will fly, heads will roll, bluffs will be called, and red lines will be crossed. It will be a colorful spectacle and make for great TV, but most of all, it will be monumentally distracting.

It will distract our attention from big money's ever-tightening grip on the Senate. It will divert our focus from the private sector's systematic dismantling of the public sector. It will deflect attention from the wholesale transfer of wealth from Main Street to the top .01 percent. And, it will obscure the nation's slow but steady slide from a Democratic Republic to an Authoritarian State.

To avoid distraction, you might want to unfriend Twitter, spray-paint your TV black, and lock up your laptop. Do it because the real show, the

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only one that deserves our undivided attention, will be running quietly in the background, below the radar.

Rick Littlefield
Barrington, N.H.

Rick:
Haven't heard from you for a while— thanks for this. It's right on the money— and right about the money.

The Editor

====

A Referendum on Trickle-Down Economics
To the Editor:

With the economy chugging along (at least for Corporate America) and the most recent monthly jobs report having shown a 97th consecutive month of job growth, we need to remember that the majority of credit is due to former President Barack Obama. It was Obama who saved the economy and prevented a second Great Depression following the G.W. Bush Administration. Yet, one would have reasonably expected #45 to have emphasized, at his campaign rallies for Republican Congressional candidates, his "accomplishments" in regards to the economy. He didn't. He chose instead to focus entirely on the "threat" of a caravan of poor, desperate asylum seekers hundreds of miles from our southern border.

He didn't dare make the midterm election a referendum on his economy. It had become readily obvious that the Republicans' previous \$1.5 trillion tax giveaway to their billionaire campaign contributors (sold as "rocket fuel" for the economy) wasn't working as promised. If it was, #45 wouldn't have needed to desperately promise his adoring minions another round (with Congress on recess) of tax cuts.

The failure of the tax cuts is just one more rock-solid piece of evidence that trickle-down economics doesn't work.

To make matters worse, the tax cut debacle comes on the heels of #45 and the Republicans failing to take health-care away from their staunch supporters as promised.

During a BBC Radio interview, just prior to Tuesday's election, Professor Ha-Joon Chang, Faculty of Economics of the University of Cambridge, provided a description of trickle-down economics. He said, "Once you realize that trickle-down economics does not work, you will see the excessive tax cuts for the rich as what they are—a simple upward redistribution of income, rather than a way to make all of us richer, as we were told."

Fortunately, far more Americans who think like Professor Chang made the Midterm Election a referendum on trickle-down economics. We see that #45 and his Republican enablers did nothing to help the economy. But they did manage an all-out assault on democracy and have attempted to divide Americans by race, religion, national origin and sexual identity.

Wayne H. Merritt
Dover, N.H.

Wayne:

We applaud, and intend to emulate more often, your use of the numerical designator in reference to the occupant of the world's most expensive public housing unit.

While we're on the general topic of the power of language to shape thought, someone has suggested that the tax cuts of which you speak should all be called "entitlements."

The Editor

====

Election Result: Trump Won

To the Editor:

Yes, the Democrats won the House but lost two seats in the Senate which means no more Kavanaugh-type shenanigans, and Trump's judgeships and

Supreme Court nominees should go through easily. Trump now enjoys a stronger position in the Republican party. Furthermore, the loss of the number of seats in the House was below the traditional amount of seats which is on average thirty-six, while the Democrats lost over sixty seats in the midterm elections during Obama's first presidency. So this is no great blue tide.

If the Democrats proceed to seek impeachment, the Senate will not remove the President even if by some miracle the Democrats succeed. But, the Democrats will continue to waste their time and energies on things that only they, the media, and the rabid Trump haters care about, instead of developing a positive message for 2020 that people will actually believe and vote for. Nancy Pelosi is wise enough to realize this, but she may be overthrown or caught up in the multiple investigations the other Democrats will have in order to satisfy their base. It's a losing strategy for 2020.

The military-industrial-surveillance state won as the Democrats along with the Republicans still continue to support Globalism, military intervention, perpetual war, and an Israel/Saudi first foreign policy agenda that continues to waste American blood and treasure while it makes a hypocrisy of America's stated ideals. It's amazing that America's perpetual war in the Middle East, the Saudi genocide in Yemen, and the vote to give billions of dollars to Israel over the next ten years while Medicare and Social Security are in danger, were not issues discussed by any party. Even the media has now become silent about the Saudi torture, murder, and dismemberment of one of their own. It seems that the American politicians and media are still merely the hired help of the Saudis and Israelis.

Trump was the biggest winner. Along with his strengthened role and

the obliteration of the never Trumpers in his own party the Democrats now serve as a convenient foil and scapegoat. Bragging and boasting about the strength of the American economy convinced many to believe this. However, the American economy by being supported with overwhelming debt is fragile in spite of what the stock market values are. America cannot continue to monetize its vast debt forever and individuals cannot continue to accumulate more debt so a collapse or at least a deep recession will likely occur within the next two years, and now Trump will have the Democrats to blame for this as he goes into the 2020 election.

John Dente
Wilmington, Del.

John:

We seem to agree that impeaching #45 would be futile. We also seem to agree that Democrats should make their first priority acting in ways that would benefit the vast majority of citizens.

We part company with your suggestion that Democrats should simply ignore the wholesale violation of our laws by Republicans and their owners. Call us old-fashioned, but in our book, that would include the enforcement of those few flimsy laws which feebly attempt to moderate the massive influence the moneyed class has upon our politics.

#45 has, indeed, come to dominate the Republican Party—to its eternal disgrace. That he was able to do so tells us just how depraved and corrupt it had become under the likes of the Bush dynasty, Karl Rove, and Newt Gingrich. We cannot, at this point, imagine any course of action through which it could claim redemption other than seppuku, and they're all too xenophobic for that.

The Editor

====

Didn't Vote? Don't Complain

To the Editor:

Nationwide, 85 percent of eligible Americans registered to vote, but only 49 percent actually voted in the 2018 general election. A majority of votes determines who runs our governments, yet that majority represented only 21 percent of eligible Americans. If you didn't vote, don't complain

about government policy. If you think all politicians are corrupt and you didn't vote your politician out of office, you are part of the corruption.

Many non-voters don't like to talk about politics or public policy. This hinders our democracy's intention to represent the will of the people on issues like government services, environmental protection, taxation, jobs, economic prosperity, civil rights and personal safety. Non-voters probably don't read letters-to-the-editor either.

Where can one go to have civil discussions about the public policies that affect us? We should create attractive venues, where expressing political opinions and hearing others' is a civic pleasure.

Participation by informed voters is necessary to prevent authoritarian rule by rich bullies.

Bruce Joffe
Piedmont, Calif.

Bruce:

Amen.

The Editor

====

What's the Point of Local Government?

To the Editor:

Did you know that our individual right to collectively come together and cast a vote on matters that actually mean something to our everyday lives is simply rendered illegal here in New Hampshire unless the state specifically enables legislation granting local authority to pass such a law?

What's the point of local government when we don't get to decide what is best for our health, safety, and welfare at the local level? Why bother serving for a local public office when you can be penalized and held personally liable? Laws created by the New Hampshire State Legislature are supposed to protect its people, yet truth be told, laws coming from the state legislature are denying protections for Granite State people, communities, and ecosystems.

Specifically, issues of clean air, water, soil; acceptance of all human beings no matter where they are from or how

Mash Notes, Hate Mail, &c.

to page six

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The Northcountry Chronicle

Verisimilitude

by William Marvel

In my youth I bought a book called *The Stonewall Brigade*, intending to expand my knowledge of Civil War history. Unfortunately, I mistook it for a book of the same title by a real historian—James I. Robertson Jr., who is still alive, and with whom I had lunch one day last June. The book I bought so many years ago was cheap fiction by Frank G. Slaughter, but I read it anyway, and naively supposed that I had improved my familiarity with that period of history despite the mistake.

Nearly half a century of further study has given me a different perspective. Recently I ran across the same edition of Slaughter's book and started it again, only to wonder how I ever swallowed his misunderstanding of the American past. I should have guessed at the quality of the work the first time around, when the first typo appeared in the first sentence. This time I spotted innumerable technical blunders. On the second page Slaughter dressed a U.S.

Army surgeon in a captain's uniform with crimson trim, instead of green, and described the "two rows of brass buttons" on his coat, at a time when double-breasted coats were only worn by field officers and generals.

One page later, that surgeon lamented (in April of 1861) that the doctors and nurses in Washington hospitals did not always wash their hands before delivering babies. Babies in 1861 were invariably born at home, however, and Washington then had no hospitals at all, as we know them.

A few pages further on appeared a full-blooded Cherokee who had attended the Virginia Military Institute—although VMI admitted only white students until 1968. The date was still supposed to be April 18, 1861 when that character said he had been offered "a Confederate captaincy in Stand Watie's Cherokee Brigade." Stand Watie was then still a civilian, and his Cherokee Brigade would not come together for two more years.

When this novel first appeared,

the *Roanoke Times* predicted it would "delight even the most sophisticated Civil War buff," and when I was a novice enthusiast it entertained me as much as it misinformed me. The book attracted nearly a million readers, and misled all of them about the times it pretended to represent—the attire, the vocabulary, the technology, the politics, and the very ethos of the era. It was cheap fiction, but it was promoted as an accurate depiction of history through a fictional character.

Regrettably, for the past century most people have learned their history through such fiction, either in book form or film, and that genre is usually as unreliable as Slaughter's novel. Mackinlay Kantor conveyed history as he found it in the jaundiced medium of memoirs, but his quest for accuracy in historical details elicited undeserved credibility for his woefully misguided treatment of broader subjects. He won a Pulitzer Prize for one captivating novel that badly misinterpreted the causes of suffering and mortality at Andersonville prison camp, and his

book resurrected the animosities and political prejudices of the 1860s.

Serious history can't always be trusted, either. The discipline is so specialized now that scholars of one period often know little about others, yet they are regarded as historical experts generally. Laziness now mars many historical works, too, as researchers depend on what is already published rather than visiting distant manuscript repositories to root out new evidence. There is also an aversion to politically incorrect interpretations in academia, where expressing an unpopular opinion can destroy a career. Even when an author does dare to submit a controversial conclusion, peer-reviewers often try to squelch it, if only to protect their own intellectual territory.

Not long ago one award-winning, tenured professor at a prestigious university followed the now-popular, politically safe course of lionizing John Brown in a new biography. He relied disproportionately on published antislavery sources and cited only a few Brown-friendly man-

uscript collections, which activated my bias radar. He also bungled enough pedestrian details to make me doubt his basic knowledge of American history: I remember specifically that he identified Vermont as one of the original 13 states. His book nevertheless sold well, and enjoyed laudatory reviews.

In news as in history, any presentation of facts is inevitably colored by unintended error and ambiguity, or by the prejudices, perceptions, assumptions, and apprehensions of the author. Fake news, in the form of conscious misrepresentation, may not even be the most dangerous because it's usually easier to spot. A more effective way to mislead the public may be to cultivate a reputation for factual accuracy, but to focus on one's own favorite themes and issues, so as to inflate their apparent importance. Almost everyone except chronic skeptics and the ideologically hostile will fall for it.

—==—

from page five

they got here; food sovereignty, election integrity, waste management practices, sustainable energy choices, water quality and access, labor practices, farming practices; among many other issues, are all governed beyond our local communities while at the same time, through preemption, the state denies us any local decision-making authority over these issues, rendering us powerless to enact local laws that might help our economy or protect people and natural ecosystems.

And now, it seems it is not enough to be rendered powerless at the local level to protect our health, safety, and welfare for the New Hampshire Legislature has felt it necessary to consider legislation meant to pe-

nalize local officials and hold them personally liable for acting contrary to the State in matters of local lawmaking that afford greater protections for the local community than the State allows.

First introduced in 2018, HB1749 sought to penalize and hold local officials personally liable for any local legislation regarding firearms and knives that have not been authorized by the State. In House Calendar 5, page 24, Rep. McCarthy suggested that restricting such penalties to only firearms and knives is not broad enough and that local elected officials should be penalized for any and all local legislation not specifically

authorized by the state. During the October 10th executive session of the Municipal & County Government committee, an amendment (2018-2139h, by Rep. McClean) was proposed that rewrote HB1749 to do just that. The amendment was not taken up by the committee this year, but don't be surprised to see this as a new bill in the future.

All of this might seem out of character for the Granite state since New Hampshire has a long history of believing we have "local control," however, the reality of local control is far from the belief. As a colonial state, the reality of local control ex-

isted long before the state or federal governments were created. New Hampshire was the first to adopt a form of government independent of British rule in January of 1776—six months before the Declaration of Independence was signed. However, the current state constitution adopted in June of 1784 created an entirely new form of government. One that mirrors the British rule we initially separated ourselves from.

In the first part of the New Hampshire State Constitution, the Bill of Rights, Article 10. [Right of Revolution] says that whenever the ends of government are perverted and publicly liberty is manifestly

endangered, the people may and of right ought to reform the old or establish a new government. It even goes so far as to say, "The doctrine of nonresistance against arbitrary power and oppression is absurd, slavish, and destructive of the good and happiness of mankind."

It isn't enough to have the right to change our form of government if we don't have the recognized authority to do so. People across the Granite State are coming together to push back against such arbitrary power and oppression with a peoples' state constitutional amendment that would specifically recognize the right of local community self-government—the right to a system of local government founded on the consent of the people of the municipality; the right to a system of



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Where did Thanksgiving come from?

by Jim Hightower

Thanksgiving—let's eat! America's most food-focused holiday traces its roots back to the abundant feast that Pilgrims and Indians enjoyed together in the fall of 1621.

Only half of the Mayflower Pilgrims who'd arrived at Plymouth Rock the previous December survived their first year in the New World ("new," of course, only to those undocumented immigrants

from England—not to the local citizens). Still, to celebrate and offer thanks for their survival, the newcomers planned a communal meal following the fall harvest. And in appreciation for being taught by the Wampanoag people how to raise corn and gather the region's seafood, they invited Massasoit, the tribal leader, to join them. He did—surprising the hosts by arriving with 90 members of his community! But the Wampanoag party didn't come

empty-handed, bringing much of the fare for what became a three-day banquet featuring venison, duck, geese, wild furkees (Wampanoag for gobblers), eels, mussels, lobster, gooseberries, plums, cornmeal pudding, popcorn balls (who knew!), barley beer, and fortified wine. And you thought you over-ate at Thanksgiving!

But this was not the first precursor of our annual November Food-a-Palooza. Texans assert that

it began near El Paso in 1598, when the Manso and Piro tribes roasted ducks, geese, and fish over an open fire to give sustenance to a lost and bedraggled group of Spanish colonizers. Meanwhile, Floridians insist that the firstest-of-all Thanksgivings was in 1565, when the Timucuan people shared a stew of salt pork and garbanzo beans with Spanish settlers at St. Augustine.

These interesting tidbits raise an equally interesting question for us

to ponder this Thanksgiving: What would have happened to those Pilgrims and Spanish settlers if the Native Americans had Donnie Trump around to build "a big beautiful wall?"

Populist author, public speaker, and radio commentator Jim Hightower writes The Hightower Lowdown, a monthly newsletter chronicling the ongoing fights by America's ordinary people against rule by plutocratic elites. Sign up at HightowerLowdown.org.

from page six

local government that secures their rights; and the right to alter any system of local government that lacks consent or fails to secure and protect the people's rights, health, safety, and welfare.

The New Hampshire Community Rights Network (NHCRN) is a grassroots, statewide nonprofit that informs communities and elected officials about our right of local self-government. To learn more email info@nhcommunityrights.org and visit www.nhcommunityrights.org.

Michelle Sanborn

Alexandria, N.H.

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www.nhcommunityrights.org

Michelle:

Since you have brought up Article 10, we are compelled to repeat, as best we can recall it, a conversation we had many years ago, with Rep. Joseph Eaton, of Hillsborough. Eaton was an acknowledged expert on New Hampshire's Constitution. At that time he had fairly recently chaired a legislative convention of some sort on that subject. (The State's website provides no useful history, and it's too late in the publishing cycle for us to delve as deeply as we'd like.)

"Mr. Eaton, does that clause say what it seems to say?"

"Yep."

The Editor

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Presidential Nuclear Nonsense

By John LaForge

The Reagan Administration's 1980s crazy talk of "winning" nuclear war with "only" 20 million US dead produced a lot of anti-nucle-

ar activism — all over the world. In Europe, hundreds of thousands marched against the placement of US Cruise and Pershing II missiles in NATO countries.

Fear of nuclear war and anger over presidential ignorance of it also produced the 1987 Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces Treaty, or INF. The treaty banned nuclear-armed missiles in Europe with a range of 270- to 2970 miles. About 2,700 missiles were destroyed by 1991, a deal that weapons salesmen like President

!#&\$! don't like. What the British, German, Dutch and Belgian marching masses were so alarmed about was NATO's plan to destroy Europe in order to save it. Former West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt explained it this way: "So-called 'flexible response' ... means that the West ... says to the Soviet Union: 'We threaten you with a military defense strategy which foresees the early use of so-called tactical nuclear weapons.' That means for the Germans that the West in its self-defense would destroy Germany."

Schmidt's description was no exaggeration. In an October 5, 2018 report by the Congressional Research Service, "flexible response" was explained similarly. "NATO's strategy of 'flexible response' ... is designed," the C.R.S. wrote, "to allow NATO to ... be the first to use nuclear weapons in a conflict, with the intent of slowing or stopping [opponents] if they ... advanced into Western Europe."

Now, President !#&\$! says he will withdraw from the INF treaty because he claims Russia is in violation of it. Russia denies this, noting that research and development is not banned, that its new land-based cruise missile "fully complies" with the treaty's requirements.

These questions could all be settled with negotiations, but President !#&\$! wants to get contracts for new missiles signed the and the gusher of military spending pumping, so that electoral votes are bought and paid for this year, and in 2020. Last February 12th the Prez boasted, "We're increasing arsenals of virtually every weapon. If they're not going to stop, we're going to be so far ahead of anybody else in nuclear like you've never seen before." Never mind that the President cannot speak English; he and Congress are handing hundreds of billions of your tax dollars to their friends.

• Boeing took down \$14.6 billion for the year 2015, and last February, won a \$6.5 billion contract from the Missile Defense Agency to complete a "a new missile field with 20 additional" ground-based interceptor rockets at Fort Greely, Alaska, according to the *Washington Post*. While missile defense systems have never worked, the Pentagon said the total Boeing contract would reach \$12.6 billion through 2023.

• Lockheed Martin, the world's biggest arms merchant, is buried in money with \$29.4 billion coming to it in 2015 under 66,000 contracts.



Saddened by Democrats' Change

To the Editor:

Today's Democrat leaders have vastly different objectives from the Democrat friends of my youth. In my youth in Illinois, Americans were patriotic, anti-Communist, and worked for better futures for their children; we wanted all Americans to be safe, free, and prosperous. The Southern Democrat mistreatment of African-Americans repulsed us all. Republicans and Democrats only disagreed on the best policies for improving the American people's lives.

[Here, 154 words were ruthlessly deleted because that's what the free market demanded.—The Ed.]

In my youth it was obvious that Socialism / Communism are bad; those governments sent millions to gulags and shot people trying to escape to freedom.

[Another 87 words slandering Democrats and inaccurately describing the U.S. as a paradise for all have been deleted here.—The Ed.]

In their lust for power Democrat leaders undermine the foundations of our wonderful society and of the American people's freedoms, security, and prosperity.

[An additional 55 words direct from GOP HQ bite the dust.—The Ed.]

Everyone who wants to continue enabling all Americans to be freer, safer, and more prosperous should vote for Republicans.

Don Ewing

Meredith, N.H.

Don:

You do know, we hope, that in the 1920s, Illinois was largely ruled by the KKK.

The Editor

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

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

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

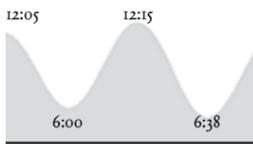
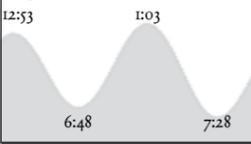
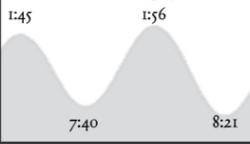
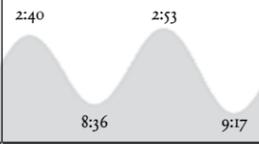
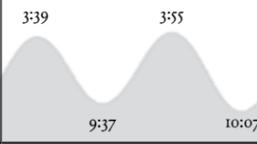
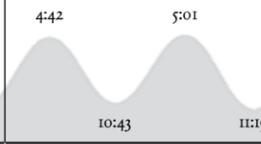
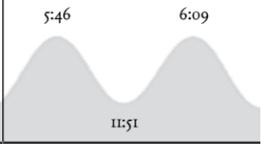
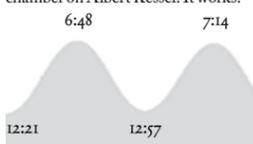
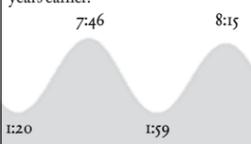
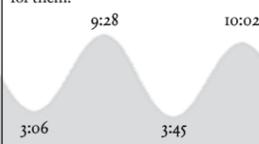
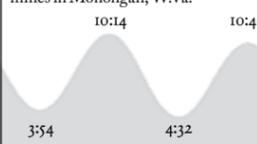
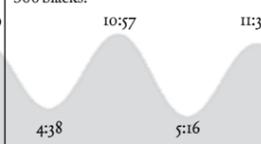
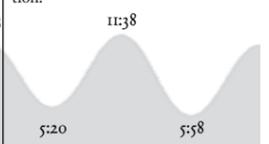
drags about seventeen billion gallons of seawater — enough to fill 2,125,000 tanker trucks — up the river and into Great Bay. This creates a roving hydraulic conflict, as incoming sea and the outgoing river collide. The skirmish line

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

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

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

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

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25	MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26	TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27	WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28	THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29	FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30	SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1
<p>2002—George W.[MD] Bush signs the Homeland Security Act, which coincidentally provides security from lawsuits for Eli Lilly & Co., on whose board his father and Ken Lay had sat.</p> <p>1997—In Plymouth, Mass., police serve Native American demonstrators a generous helping of pepper-spray.</p> <p>1986—As Ed “Meese is a Pig” Meese confesses that profits from illegal arms sales to Iran went to Nicaraguan <i>contras</i>, a reluctant Ronald Reagan fires Lt. Col. Oliver North.</p> <p>1974—Britain outlaws the IRA after two bombs kill 21 and injure over 100 in Birmingham.</p> <p>1970—After tying up their commandant, Japanese novelist and Nobel nominee Yukio Mishima exhorts military cadets to revolt; but they jeer him instead. He then commits <i>seppuku</i>.</p> <p>1968—Death of Upton Sinclair, writer and media critic.</p> <p>1947—For refusing to rat out their friends to Congress, the Hollywood Ten are fired by studio bosses.</p> <p>1915—At Stone Mountain, Ga., William J. Simmons founds the new, improved Ku Klux Klan: it hates Catholics and Jews, too.</p> <p>1910—French anarchist Jules Durrand is sentenced to die after a bum trial. He's later exonerated, but 40 days in a strait jacket have driven him mad.</p> <p>1783—Redcoats under Carleton evacuate New York as General George Washington and the victorious Continental Army arrive.</p>	<p>2000—Katherine Harris, Florida's Secretary of State and, coincidentally, the Bush campaign's state co-chair, declares DUBYA the winner.</p> <p>1983—Thieves hit Brinks Mat near Heathrow expecting a mere £3 million in cash. They leave with three tonnes of gold bars worth £25 million.</p> <p>1981—Nancy Reagan's social secretary reports there is a “terrible tablecloth crisis” at the White House.</p> <p>1976—The Sex Pistols unleash their first single, “Anarchy in the UK.”</p> <p>1975—George Gainsou, son of a heroin importer, climbs the White House fence to ask for his father's pardon. Arrested 90 minutes later while chatting with President Ford's daughter Susan, he later says, “If [Ford] can pardon Nixon he can pardon my father.”</p> <p>1973—Rose Mary Woods takes the fall for the 18½ minute gap.</p> <p>1958—A B-47 with an A-bomb aboard burns in Lake Charles, La.</p> <p>1942—A two-day battle begins between hundreds of U.S. and Aussie troops in Brisbane, Australia.</p> <p>1932—In his newspaper column, Will Rogers mocks Herbert Hoover's theory of “trickle-down economics.”</p> <p>1922—Howard Carter and his employer Lord Carnarvon desecrate the tomb of King Tutankhamun.</p> <p>1921—Former Lt. Col. Charles W. Whittlesey, 37, commander of the “Lost Battalion” and a pallbearer for the Unknown Soldier, leaps from a ship and drowns in the Atlantic.</p>	<p>2004—A Robinson R22 helicopter sheds its rotors about 400 feet above Arlington, Wash.; a pilot and a student die in the subsequent crash.</p> <p>2002—Donald Rumsfeld signs off on “Category III” interrogation techniques—namely, torture.</p> <p>2001—As Gen. Tommy Franks tries to concentrate on catching Osama bin Laden, Donald Rumsfeld distracts him with an order to revise plans to attack Iraq.</p> <p>1969—At the 71st Evac. Hospital in Pleiku, 100 soldiers fast on Thanksgiving to protest the war.</p> <p>1965—The first Acid Test.</p> <p>1952—Winnie Ruth Judd, the Trunk Murderess, makes her sixth escape from Arizona's State Insane Hospital.</p> <p>1932—Edward Marshall, future beat poet, is born in Chichester, N.H.</p> <p>1900—To motivate the president of a Filipino town to rat out local dissidents, U.S. troops force salt water down his throat and burn his town to the ground.</p> <p>1868—In the Battle of the Washita, General George A. Custer and his troops massacre Black Kettle and 102 other Cheyenne survivors of the Sand Creek Massacre.</p> <p>1729—The Natchez people repay decades of haughty brutality by massacring 230 Frenchmen. Women and enslaved Africans are spared.</p> <p>1095—Pope Urban II launches the Crusades, promising salvation for those who die slaying pagans. Jihad?</p>	<p>2011—During a routine training flight in Waterloo, Ontario, a Robinson R22 loses power, descends rapidly, and crashes into a pond, killing an instructor and a student.</p> <p>2005—Ex-Rep. Randy “Duke” Cunningham (R-Calif.) pleads guilty to selling votes and dodging taxes.</p> <p>1979—Relying on outdated navigational data during a sightseeing flight over Antarctica, <i>Air New Zealand Flight 901</i> flies into Mount Erebus with 257 souls on board.</p> <p>1969—<i>Time Magazine</i> reports that 20 months earlier, things got out of hand at My Lai.</p> <p>1950—Albert Pierrepont, Britain's official hangman as well as a pub owner, hangs James “Tish” Corbitt, his former customer and drinking buddy.</p> <p>1942—The Coconut Grove in Boston burns; 492 die, 172 are injured.</p> <p>1922—Ex-RAF pilot Cyril Turner gives the first demonstration of skywriting in NYC. He uses the technique to advertise—skywriting.</p> <p>1895—Six cars compete in the U.S.'s first auto race. The winner averages seven m.p.h.</p> <p>1859—Moments after asking “When will this end?,” the ailing Washington Irving supplies his own answer.</p> <p>1795—On George Washington's watch, the U.S. pays \$800,000 to Tunisian pirates, with a promise to pay \$25,000 a year in future.</p> <p>1545—Printer Jacob van Liesveld is beheaded for heresy.</p>	<p>2011—Ex-Arapahoe County (Colo.) Sheriff Patrick Sullivan, arrested for exchanging methamphetamine for sex with a male informant, is incarcerated in an eponymous jail.</p> <p>1976—After Jerry Lee Lewis accidentally plugs his bass player in the chest twice with a .357 magnum, he's charged with discharging a firearm within city limits.</p> <p>1963—LBJ sets up the Warren Commission to rule out a conspiracy in the assassination of John F. Kennedy.</p> <p>1960—On learning that, thanks to the CIA, the Congo's Patrice Lumumba had been arrested, genial old Ike orders that agency to heighten its efforts to assassinate Fidel Castro.</p> <p>1947—French soldiers massacre over 300 civilians, mostly women and children, halving the population of My Trach, in Vietnam.</p> <p>1941—The Army-Navy game program includes a photo of the <i>U.S.S. Arizona</i> with this note: “despite the claims of air enthusiasts no battleship has yet been sunk by bombs.”</p> <p>1864—Ignoring a truce flag, Col. (& ex-minister) John Chivington leads a Colorado militia in the slaughter and mutilation of 150 Cheyenne women, children, and old men at Sand Creek. A local paper says the soldiers had “covered themselves in glory” (a typo).</p> <p>1781—His slave ship <i>Zong</i> short of water, captain Luke Collingwood has 133 live slaves thrown overboard to stick underwriters with the loss.</p>	<p>2012—As a Robinson R22 flies offshore of Apollo Beach, Fla., it goes “bang” and the rotors fall off; it plummets 500 feet, killing the pilot.</p> <p>2001—Two days before filing for bankruptcy, Enron executives award themselves big bonuses.</p> <p>1999—A WTO meeting in Seattle is called off due to anarchists.</p> <p>1974—Rep. Wilbur Mills (D-Ark.) appears onstage at Boston's Pilgrim Theater with stripper Fanne Foxe.</p> <p>1972—Nixon spokesdrone Ron Ziegler says with only 27,000 Americans left risking their lives in Vietnam, the White House is done updating the nation on withdrawals.</p> <p>1965—Defense Secretary Robert Strange McNamara offers LBJ two Vietnam options: get out now, or go all-in, suffering 1,000 KIAs per month and perhaps losing anyway.</p> <p>1954—A DC-3 falls 500 feet short of clearing the summit of New Hampshire's Mount Success. All seven aboard survive the crash, five survive two freezing nights at the crash site.</p> <p>1954—Liz Hodges of Sylacauga, Ala. is bruised by an eight-pound meteorite that busts through her roof.</p> <p>1951—Winnie Ruth Judd the Trunk Murderess is recaptured after her fourth escape from the Arizona State Insane Hospital.</p> <p>1812—Gen. Alexander “Apocalypse” Smythe's troops disobey his orders to invade Canada and turn their weapons on his tent. He flees.</p>	<p>2003—Howard Dean tells Chris Matthews, “We're going to break up the giant media enterprises.” Giant media enterprises soon begin calling Dean “unelectable,” despite high poll numbers.</p> <p>1976—Steven B. Williams rams the northwest gate of the White House complex at 25 mph with his pickup truck. The gate wins.</p> <p>1969—The U.S. Selective Service holds the first draft lottery since WW II, cleverly undermining support for the anti-war movement.</p> <p>1968—A U.S. C-130 with engine trouble empties defoliant tanks over South Vietnamese towns.</p> <p>1966—Dick Gregory is convicted of fishing with Native Americans.</p> <p>1955—Rosa Parks changes the world by refusing to give up her seat on a bus in Montgomery, Ala.</p> <p>1948—Costa Rica disbands its army after a civil war kills 2,000 people.</p> <p>1914—Benito Mussolini is appointed to edit the socialist newspaper <i>Avanti!</i></p> <p>1913—Ford announces its first moving assembly line.</p> <p>1842—Midshipman Philip Spencer, son of the Secretary of War, is hanged for mutiny without benefit of court martial, along with two sailors, aboard the <i>U.S.S. Somers</i>.</p> <p>1777—Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben lands in Portsmouth, N.H. from France, <i>en route</i> to Valley Forge, where he will turn Washington's rabble into a trained army.</p>
<p>12:05 12:15</p>  <p>6:00 6:38</p>	<p>12:53 1:03</p>  <p>6:48 7:28</p>	<p>1:45 1:56</p>  <p>7:40 8:21</p>	<p>2:40 2:53</p>  <p>8:36 9:17</p>	<p>3:39 3:55</p>  <p>9:37 10:07</p>	<p>4:42 5:01</p>  <p>10:43 11:19</p>	<p>5:46 6:09</p>  <p>11:51</p>
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2	MONDAY, DECEMBER 3	TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4	WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5	THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6	FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7	SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8
<p>2014—After the tail boom falls off a Robinson R44 helicopter over North Salt Lake, Utah, it crashes into an unoccupied building, then catches fire. The pilot and passenger perish.</p> <p>1986—Ronald Reagan says he can't remember what he knew about the Iran-Contra affair, or when he might have known it.</p> <p>1980—U.S.-backed death squads murder four nuns in El Salvador.</p> <p>1964—Mario Savio tells a mob of thousands of Berkeley students, “when the operation of the machine becomes so odious ... that you can't take part ... you've got to make it stop.”</p> <p>1956—<i>Granma</i> lands 82 rebels in Cuba. Only 12 make it to the Sierra Maestra. That was enough.</p> <p>1954—U.S. Senate censures Joe McCarthy—finally.</p> <p>1949—At the behest of the Air Force, General Electric contractors at the Hanford, Wash. plutonium plant turn off filters and release a cloud of radioactive iodine-131. They accidentally release twice the amount intended.</p> <p>1943—The <i>U.S.S. Squalus</i>, formerly the <i>Squalus</i>, sinks the Japanese carrier <i>Chuyo</i> near Truk. Aboard <i>Chuyo</i> are 21 survivors from the <i>U.S.S. Sculpin</i>, which had aided in the 1939 rescue of the <i>Squalus</i>. Only one survives.</p> <p>1942—Enrico Fermi fires up the first sustainable atomic chain reaction under a Chicago football stadium.</p> <p>1935—California tries out its new gas chamber on Albert Kessel. It works.</p>	<p>2013—In Londonderry, Scott Brown says “I don't think I ever said I was thinking about running for president,” 16 weeks after telling the <i>Boston Herald</i> he was thinking about running for President.</p> <p>2004—George W.[MD] Bush nominates Bernard Kerik (later to be known as Federal Inmate 84888-054) to be Secretary of Homeland Security.</p> <p>1996—A New York company that had a contract to manufacture Medals of Honor is fined \$80,000 for selling 300 bootleg copies.</p> <p>1984—An industrial accident in Bhopal, India kills 10,000. The U.S. government later blocks extradition of Union Carbide execs who face prosecution in India.</p> <p>1983—U.S. Information Agency head Charles Z. Wick says Margaret Thatcher opposed the invasion of Grenada because she's a woman.</p> <p>1980—Secretary of State Al Haig says four Maryknoll nuns recently murdered by Salvadoran death squads may have been gun-runners.</p> <p>1976—Bob Marley is shot twice by unidentified assailants. Two days later he plays a concert.</p> <p>1969—Protesters destroy files at eight N.Y. draft boards.</p> <p>1966—The Atomic Energy Commission explodes a .38 kiloton A-bomb 10 miles west of Purvis, Miss., inside an underground cavity created by a 5 kiloton A-bomb blast conducted two years earlier.</p>	<p>2016—To free the fictitious child sex slaves of the Democrat Party, Edgar Welch shoots up Comet Ping Pong in Washington D.C. with a real gun.</p> <p>2013—Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-Calif.) suggests the U.S. use tactical nukes against Iran's nuclear program.</p> <p>1993—R.I.P. Frank Zappa.</p> <p>1982—Returning from a trip to Latin America, President Reagan says, “I learned a lot. You'd be surprised. They're all individual countries.”</p> <p>1981—President Reagan OK's CIA spying on U.S. citizens.</p> <p>1969—Chicago police shoot and kill sleeping Black Panthers Fred Hampton and Mark Clark.</p> <p>1963—LBJ buys autoworker support in the upcoming election by slapping a tariff on foreign pickup trucks.</p> <p>1962—Lenny Bruce, busted for obscenity in Chicago, shares a paddy wagon ride with George Carlin, busted for refusing to show ID.</p> <p>1956—Fate brings Carl Perkins, Jerry Lee Lewis, Johnny Cash, and Elvis Presley to Sun Records in Memphis.</p> <p>1952—A “Great Smog” so thick moviegoers couldn't see the screen descends on London. It lasts all winter and kills about 12,000.</p> <p>1950—In <i>Feres v. U.S.</i>, the Supreme Court rules that servicemembers can't sue the U.S. for injuries.</p> <p>1946—In Oakland, Calif., striking veterans march on the anti-labor <i>Tribune</i>, then City Hall, to demand the Mayor and Council resign.</p>	<p>2013—Scott Brown, in N.H., says he's been helping Republicans “raise awareness as to the issues ... here in Massachusetts.”</p> <p>2002—At a party on Strom Thurmond's 100th birthday, GOP Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott expresses regret over desegregation.</p> <p>2001—A B-52, sent the wrong coordinates, drops a 1-ton bomb on U.S. Special Forces in Afghanistan, killing three.</p> <p>1996—Fed Chair Greenspan warns: “irrational exuberance” may have inflated stock prices.</p> <p>1994—For the first time in 40 years, the House of Alleged Representatives elects a Republican, Newt Gingrich, to be Speaker.</p> <p>1988—A Grand Jury in N.C. indicts “holy” man Jim Bakker on charges of fraud and conspiracy.</p> <p>1965—An A-4 Skyhawk accidentally rolls off the <i>U.S.S. Ticonderoga</i> near Japan. Plane, pilot, and one-megaton B43 are still missing.</p> <p>1960—The Supreme Court rules that restaurants in interstate bus stations can't be segregated anymore.</p> <p>1955—“Uppity Negroes” in Montgomery, Ala., boycott the municipal mass transit system.</p> <p>1945—Five Grumman Avengers and 14 airmen, making up the Navy's Flight 19, disappear off Ft. Lauderdale. Thirteen more men and a PBM Mariner flying boat disappear looking for them.</p>	<p>1990—Oakland, Calif. police fire tear gas into a home in an attempt to drive out the inhabitant who is standing next to them shouting “come out and give yourself up.”</p> <p>1973—Gerald R. Ford takes the place of disgraced Vice President and freelance media critic Spiro “Ted” Agnew.</p> <p>1969—The Rolling Stones throw a free concert at Altamont, Calif. Four people die and four are born.</p> <p>1967—Chaplain Angelo “Charlie” Liteky carries 23 wounded men to safety in Vietnam despite intense hostile fire. For his bravery he is given the Medal of Honor, which he returns in 1986 to protest U.S. foreign policy.</p> <p>1957—Two months after <i>Sputnik</i>, a Vanguard rocket carrying the U.S.'s first would-be satellite explodes at an altitude of five feet.</p> <p>1933—Federal judge John M. Woolsey rules that Joyce's <i>Ulysses</i> is not obscene and therefore may be imported.</p> <p>1918—The U.S. War Department ceases shackling conscientious objectors to the walls of solitary cells.</p> <p>1917—The largest man-made explosion prior to The Bomb occurs in Halifax when a munitions ship explodes: 1,600 die; and windows break 40 miles away.</p> <p>1915—The Supreme Court upholds a federal law stripping women of their citizenship if they marry “foreigners.”</p> <p>1907—More than 360 men and boys are killed by explosions at two coal mines in Monongah, W.Va.</p>	<p>2006—The “Justice” Department fires eight prosecutors for failing to persecute enough Democrats.</p> <p>1995—France is virtually paralyzed when 1.75 million workers protest global exploitation.</p> <p>1993—The Department of Energy admits it conducted more than 200 secret weapons tests.</p> <p>1987—A disgruntled ex-employee shoots a Southwest Airlines pilot and co-pilot. The plane breaks up while diving at Mach 1.2, killing all aboard.</p> <p>1977—FBI releases its JFK assassination files ... some, anyway.</p> <p>1975—Indonesia invades East Timor with help from the U.S. and Britain.</p> <p>1970—R.I.P. legendary cartoonist Rube Goldberg, whose work inspired the <i>Gazette's</i> business plan.</p> <p>1964—Japan bestows the Order of the Rising Sun on Gen. Curtis LeMay, whose fire-bombing of that nation during WW II probably killed half a million Japanese.</p> <p>1961—MPs hold civilians at Peterson Field, Colo. at gunpoint as Tibetan commandos, secretly trained by the CIA, are smuggled aboard a C-124.</p> <p>1941—Japanese planes attack Pearl Harbor, crippling the Pacific Fleet, killing 2,471, and wounding 1,213.</p> <p>1930—W1XAV in Boston broadcasts the first TV commercial.</p> <p>1874—Whites in Vicksburg, Miss., upset by the election of a black sheriff, begin a month-long slaughter of 150-300 blacks.</p>	<p>2004—Soldiers in Iraq ask Sec. of Defense Rumsfeld why their vehicles aren't armored. He says, “You go to war with the Army you have ... not the Army you might want.”</p> <p>1994—A Robinson R44 disassembles itself while flying over Speyer, Germany, the tail landing ¼ mile from the cabin; pilot and passenger die.</p> <p>1993—President Clinton signs NAFTA into law.</p> <p>1982—To jumpstart a national dialogue on banning nuclear weapons, Norman D. Mayer, 66, threatens to blow up the Washington Monument with a dynamite-laden van. After ten hours, police shoot him dead.</p> <p>1980—R.I.P. John Lennon.</p> <p>1972—United Airlines Flight 553 crashes in Chicago killing 45 people including E. Howard Hunt's wife Dorothy, who was carrying \$10,000 in \$100 bills.</p> <p>1964—A B-47 crashes on takeoff at Pease AFB; all four crewmen die.</p> <p>1963—Lightning hits Pan Am Flight 214 over Maryland. A fuel tank explodes, a wing falls off, and 81 die.</p> <p>1953—Good ol' Ike announces Atoms for Peace, leading to an Iranian nuclear program four years later.</p> <p>1940—Four hundred German planes bomb London.</p> <p>1864—Pope Pius IX denounces liberalism, socialism, & rationalism.</p> <p>1854—Pope Pius IX proclaims the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception.</p>
<p>12:21 12:57</p>  <p>6:48 7:14</p>	<p>1:20 1:59</p>  <p>7:46 8:15</p>	<p>2:15 2:54</p>  <p>8:39 9:11</p>	<p>3:06 3:45</p>  <p>9:28 10:02</p>	<p>3:54 4:32</p>  <p>10:14 10:49</p>	<p>4:38 5:16</p>  <p>10:57 11:33</p>	<p>5:20 5:58</p>  <p>11:38</p>



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