

The Fortnightly Rant

Dawn Comes to Marble Head

Shocking affronts to common decency just aren't what they used to be. In 1884, the scandal over Grover Cleveland's fathering of an illegitimate child kept the nation titillated for months before the Presidential election. Now they've become too common to have much impact. Scandals today are like trolleys used to be: if you miss one, don't fret. Wait a few minutes, and another one will come along.

Scandal is like beauty, to some degree: in the eye of the beholder. A recent favorite of ours, plucked at random from the daily cornucopia, unfolded after the Lord—or some complex set of interactions in the thin film of air surrounding Earth—saw fit to smite Alabama with three dozen tornados, including one a mile wide, killing 23 people. Five days later, President Donald J. Trump flew to Alabama, where, to provide moral support, he personally autographed a number of Bibles.

More recently, and somewhat less esoterically, Twitter exploded on Tuesday with the shocking revelation that certain people have paid huge sums of money to unscrupulous con artists so their otherwise unqualified offspring could gain admission to elite colleges and universities. By "elite" we mean those whose marketing departments have managed to convince enough of the public into believing their diplomas either a) guarantee some measure of intellectual achievement, or, b) will provide enough of an advantage in the marketplace to justify all the zeros in the bribes parents paid.

Elsewhere in our color-blind meritocracy, in 2011, a black woman named Kelley Williams-Bolar was sentenced to 10 days in jail and three years probation for sending her daughters to the next school district over, where their father lived.

The scandal here is that anyone is scandalized. Any reasonably intelligent person who's watched things work for a couple of decades could point out that this merely represents a refinement of a system that has been in place for millennia, e.g., Donald Trump and Jared Kushner.

Displays of common sense, on the other hand, seem rare enough lately to be worthy of note. The same holds true for examples of Democrats calling out other players in the political arena for blatant displays of bad faith. So it is that we must honor DNC Chairman Tom Perez, for having recently done both simultaneously: telling Fox News to shove it—no debates for you.

All it took for Perez to wake up and smell the river of toxic sludge being pumped into the nation's cerebellum was an 11,000 word piece in *The New Yorker* by Jane Mayer.

Her article detailed near-daily calls between the President and Sean Hannity, Roger Ailes feeding Trump advance warning of debate questions—a web of connections between Fox and the White House which rendered any distinction between them to a merely theoretical level. Fox has served as a satellite HR office for the White House, and the Justice Department may have acted as in-house counsel on mergers for Fox.

Mayer's piece provided sordid details on a granular level revealing how Fox operates, and added a few eye-opening nuggets about the depths of the network's mendacity. Otherwise it was a lot like learning that—lo and behold—college admissions are rigged.

All too predictably, an assortment of the professionally high-minded expressed their view that Perez was making a terrible mistake. The *Washington Post* published two such



pieces in succession.

Evan Siegfried, March 7th:

"Fox News isn't just capable of hosting a fair and informative debate. It's also a crucial outlet for reaching an audience that contains some potential voters Democrats will need if they want to end Trump's presidency."

Christine Emba, March 8th:

"an appearance on the channel might have been one of the few times a Democratic hopeful could actually present his or her case (or some of it, at least) to such viewers in their own words."

It's an argument that, we must admit, sounds more or less rational on the surface.

What, though, does rationality have to do with politics these days? Let's ask Caspar Milquetoast, age 7, on the playground:

"If we don't give Rupert our lunch money, he says he'll beat the snot out of us."

Fox was able to become Trump's Propaganda Ministry because so far no one has had the guts to say "no,

we're not going to dignify your bizarre dog-and-pony show by giving you a role in our primary process."

The go-to line for Fox apologists is that "they do have some good, straight reporters and anchors." Certain names are cited: Shepard Smith, Chris Wallace, Bret Baier, &c. Sorry, but that argument won't cut it. If you pour a cup of sewage into a barrel of wine, you end up with a barrel of sewage. No matter how much wine you pour into a barrel of sewage, it's never going to turn into a barrel of wine.

"A former cable producer once told me," reporter Ken Klippenstein tweeted in January, "that the genius of Fox News is its willingness to focus singularly on some topic, no matter how facile or idiotic (e.g. the migrant caravan), until the liberal outlets thought it had gone viral and decided to cover it too."

Fox News: it's a racket whose very name is a lie.

Laudable though it was for Perez

to give Fox the brush-off, that gesture came about 20 years late.

What remains to be seen is whether that is *too* late. Our tipoff would be an uninhabitable planet.

The prospect is almost too much for even our wizened old soul to bear: a beautiful planet, a species of plucky featherless bipeds capable of astonishing achievements, but doomed to choke on the effluvia of their own inventions, dissuaded from helping themselves by a few clever, greedy bastards who saw a way to pervert the First Amendment, make obscene pots of money, and gain unwarranted power, just by frightening the oldest and dumbest amongst them.

Or—you never know—maybe they'll straighten up and fly right, even without any feathers.

It remains to be seen how it will all turn out.

One thing's for sure, though: there's no way Fox will ever be any help.

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Gun Crazy

For nearly two centuries the New Hampshire General Court was incredibly predictable. Democrats dominated the legislature for 30 years following the election of Andrew Jackson. Republicans took over in 1856, and ran the show for 150 years. Bo-o-o-ring!

Then along came George W. Bush, the Iraq War, Hurricane Katrina, &c., &c. Leadership in the New Hampshire House has flipped five times since then. Lively! Fun!

For added excitement, when Republicans take control they establish a rule which allows legislators to carry loaded firearms in the House. When Democrats take over, they rescind that rule and put a gun ban in place, thus giving Republicans something to do next time they're in the majority.

Some members of the GOP really seem to relish their opportunity to

exercise their Second Amendment rights. One of the House's most prominent pistol packers was former Rep. Kyle Tasker, from Nottingham. In order to be extra safe, he carried a brace of .45 pistols, one under each arm, in shoulder holsters. In March of 2012 he made the national news by dropping one of them on the floor during a public hearing.

Tasker was in the news again last week. A Rockingham County Superior Court Judge approved his application for a work release program, after two years in State Prison. Tasker went from the State House to the Big House for a 2016 attempt to lure a 14-year old girl into a sexual encounter, and for using and selling marijuana and other drugs at the State House. While he was out on bail in November of that year he was arrested again, for DWI. His Nissan rear-ended a Dodge in Rochester,

which then went on and hit a Ford.

Tasker isn't the only butter-fingered gun enthusiast to have graced the oldest state capitol in which both houses of the legislature meet in their original chambers. Former Rep. Carolyn Halstead, a Republican from Milford, dropped a loaded pistol on the floor in January, 2017, also during a public hearing.

Democrats are currently in charge, but that doesn't mean no one is armed. A group of eight Republicans announced in January that, in their view, the House gun ban is "illegitimate." Having thus usurped, it would seem, the prerogative of the judiciary branch, they then announced that they would flout the rules of their own legislative branch.

Presumably, then, at least seven current legislators are packing heat. In 2012, State Rep. Steve Shurtleff, a former Deputy U.S. Marshal, es-

timated that at least one in ten legislators was armed. These days, with the gun ban in effect, it's anyone's guess how many pistoleros there are among our solons.

Let's hope none of them are totting one of the half-million P320s which Sig Sauer sold on the civilian market.

The most prominent tenant of the Pease Tradeport in Newington, Sig Sauer announced in January, 2017 that it had signed a \$580-million contract to supply the U.S. Army with its next-generation service pistol. "We are both humbled and proud that the P320 was selected by the U.S. Army as its weapon of choice," Sig Sauer CEO Ron Cohen told *Military.com*.

In July of that year the Dallas Police Department, which had previously authorized its members to use the P320, suspended that authoriza-

tion. An email from the Dallas PD to *TheFirearmBlog.com* explained why: "The department was notified that Sig Sauer identified a defect in the P320 handgun that could cause the weapon system to go off when dropped. Please check with Sig Sauer for more information about the defect."

At least two police officers have been accidentally shot by their own P320s, according to news reports. The month Sig Sauer announced its Army contract, a Stamford, Conn. officer dropped his P320 and took a bullet in the leg when it fired. In April of 2018, an Orlando, Fla. officer dropped his P320 and was shot in the knee.

The problem appears to be a heavy trigger. If the dropped pistol hits the

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from page one

ground with the muzzle pointing upwards, its weight and inertia keep it moving as if a finger were pulling it.

The Army noted the problem during trials, and asked Sig Sauer for modifications. The company continued selling un-modified guns on the civilian market, though. There are about a half-million of them out there.

Sig Sauer offers a free upgrade with a lighter trigger and modified slide, but the change is voluntary.

Are there any heavy-triggered Sig Sauer's in the State House? Who knows? To those who long to see more bipartisanship, though, we offer this suggestion: a partial gun ban prohibiting legislators from carrying unmodified Sig Sauer P320s.

In other news, Sig Sauer CEO Ron Cohen has been charged with falsifying end-use certificates so that 38,000 pistols made in Eckernförde, Germany could be shipped to Colombia. German prosecutors are

looking to jail Cohen for up to five years.

Meanwhile, back in the State House, male members of the Republican Party have again been making the national news. This time it's for wearing pearls to mock mothers supporting gun control—a farce deserving explication, but...

Lithuanian Book Smugglers Day!

No one in Portsmouth needs reminding that St. Patrick's Day is just around the temporal corner. Since it will come on a Sunday, this year the Irish, the somewhat Irish, and the temporarily Irish will all have lots of time to behave, misbehave, or, one presumes, have in general, as suits their fancy. Other than thus noting the inexorable return of this annual event, we have only this to add: it frequently coincides, at this latitude and longitude, at any rate, with winter finally giving up the ghost—a bit of wisdom remarked upon by a rugby-playing gentleman of the Irish persuasion, as it happens.

We are pleased to pass along, though, a factoid which recently



came to the attention of this newsroom: tomorrow is Lithuanian Book Smugglers Day!

Nations do not often celebrate transgressions of their borders. Some, in fact—not to mention any names—get quite huffy about such things. Lithuania is a proud exception, at least when it comes to books.

During its heyday around the 14th century, Lithuania was the largest country in Europe, stretching from the Baltic to the Black Sea. It was also the last region in Europe to convert to Christianity. The Swedes to the northwest, though, and the Grand Duchy of Muscovy to the east, brought an end to its pagan independence.

In a manner that mirrored what Americans were doing to its native peoples at about the same time, the Russian Empire began, in the mid-19th century, an attempt to impose its language, Cyrillic alphabet, and culture upon the Lithuanian people. As did the Americans, the Russians met with some resistance.

In Lithuania, resistance took the form of book smuggling. The story is well told by Michael Waters, at *Atlas Obscura*:

"Thus appeared the first of the *knygnešiai*—or book-carriers—who, in a desperate bid to save their language, transported books across the border and illegally disseminated them throughout Lithuania.

"Initially, the *knygnešiai* worked alone. They carried books in sacks or covered wagons, delivering them to stations set up throughout Lithuania. They performed most of their operations at night, when the fewest guards were stationed along the border. Winter months—especially during blizzards—were popular crossing times.

"Lithuanians went to great lengths to conceal their illegal books. *The Forty Years of Darkness*, by Juozas Vaišnora, reports of female smugglers who dressed as beggars and hid books in sacks of cheese, eggs, or bread. Some even strapped tool belts to their waists and pretended to be

craftsmen, disguising newspapers under their thick clothes."

This struggle lasted from 1864 to 1904, when the Czars finally lifted the ban. The Soviet Union, in turn, suppressed the history of the ban. After its dissolution, proud Lithuanians honored their cultural heroes by designating the birthday of Jurgis Bielinis (1846–1918), one of the most successful book smugglers, as *Knygnešio Diena*, or Day of the Book Smugglers.

Missing Couple Found in 'Copter Wreck
A Canadian couple had been missing for a week when their bodies were found Monday in the wreckage of their helicopter.

Jody and Nicole Blais had flown to Nashville, Tennessee for a late-winter vacation. They were last seen alive on Monday, March 4th, refueling their Robinson R44 in Sudbury, Ontario, just 200 miles from home.

Canadian authorities spent six days using military planes and heli-



Late in February the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests proudly presented its plan for the future of Creek Farm. The plan includes the demolition of Carey Cottage, where Arthur Astor Carey entertained diplomats from Japan and Russia, thus helping to successfully conclude the Treaty of Portsmouth, ending the Russo-Japanese War. Now the race is on to see whether the Forest Society can knock it down before irate preservationists somehow manage to force them to preserve the place.

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copters to search hundreds of square miles of densely-wooded terrain in northern Ontario. The wreckage was found Monday in a remote area about 165 miles southwest of James Bay. It appeared that both occupants died in the crash.

It's Criminal!

One thing can be said with confidence about the U.S. criminal justice system: it's criminal! Thus the title of a film to be shown Wednesday, March 20th, at 3S Artspace.

It's Criminal, directed by Signe Taylor, highlights the economic and social inequities that divide the United States by following a Dartmouth College class that brings students and incarcerated women together to write and perform an original play. In doing so it offers a vision of how separated communities can learn to speak to each other.

Poignant and personal, the documentary explores the often painful and troubled paths that landed the women behind bars, and also shares some of their fragile visions for the future. Delving into privilege, poverty and injustice, the film asks viewers to think about who is in prison and

why. In addition to exploring disparities, *It's Criminal* also captures how the students and prisoners struggle and ultimately succeed in overcoming their fears and prejudices to form hard won bonds of friendship, showing that empathy is a powerful force that can help bridge the divide.

A panel discussion will follow the 80-minute film. Panelists will include: Pati Hernandez (Professor, Dartmouth College), Signe Taylor (the director), Rebecca Romanoski (AIR Program Director), and the courageous women who shared their stories to make this powerful documentary.

Doors will open at 6:30 p.m.; the screening will begin at 7:00. This film is rated PG-13. Admission is free, donations are welcome. RSVP requested to info@3sarts.org.

More McIntyre Merchandising

March 5th saw City Hall serve as the set of another infomercial in which Redgate/Kane promoted its plan to redevelop the McIntyre Federal Building.

The format of the event consisted of a forty-minute talk and slideshow,



followed by four simultaneous discussions in separate rooms, at which point our easily-distracted observer wandered off. We've been told that the final part of the program consisted of the presenters relaying to the audience their interpretation of what the small groups had to say. There was, apparently, no question and answer session of the body as a whole.

The Public Living Room

It's our own fault. If we'd stayed, and could have somehow been in four places at once, perhaps we would have learned the answer to a question that's been nagging at us.

Who, exactly, would be welcome in the warm and friendly "public living room" at the heart of the proposed design; the space where people can just come and hang out, and get to know their neighbors, without having to buy anything?

It goes without saying that in a free country the only acceptable answer is everyone, right?

Pardon us for saying so, but the most likely users of such a public living room would be those who don't have their own private living room—or a roof, either. A critic of the proposal suggested to us that it was engineered to fail because there was nothing special about it to draw people in. We believe he overlooked this demographic.

A sufficiently optimistic mind might imagine a place where all strata of our community would not only be welcome, but, through conversation, transcend barriers of wealth and class. Obviously, at this point, we have left the realm of journalism and drifted into magical realism.

Open Discussion

Opposition to the official plan does not seem to be waning. Revisit McIntyre has scheduled what it's calling a "Town Hall Meeting" for Tuesday, March 19th, at 3S Artspace, at 319 Vaughan Ave. According to a flyer making the rounds, State Senator Martha Full-

er Clark and former City Councilor Jim Splaine will "discuss the current proposal and options for the future of this critical project. Questions and answers from the public [will be] most welcome."

FTC Teams Up With Flag Police

A New York grifter named George Statler III, doing business as Patriot Puck, bought 400,000 hockey pucks from China and sold them as "Made in the USA." The FTC busted him on the labeling issue. The Flag Police hereby bust him for molding a U.S. flag into the edges of the pucks.



It's like a story in a children's book. Instead of a magic wardrobe, though, it's just a gap between two houses on the 400 block of Islington Street. Peek between them and a surprisingly vast space opens up before you. Apparently much of the nearly 400 feet separating the Martin's Hill stretch of Islington Street from State Street will soon be filled with housing.

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A Royal Decree

To the Editor:

Twenty years of reading this wonderful rag and finally I have to write.

First topic: Kudos to my fellow Forestry man B. Pingree for calling out the [alleged] editor on the describing of the Market Square Christmas Tree as deciduous. I recommend to Portsmouth that they try a Larch tree for their next Christmas arbor sacrifice. Best of both worlds and fixes the error Pingree called out on Fowle, to a degree.

Pre-amble: recently heard on news, "if that political party wins then it is illegitimate."

Second topic: Democracy. It is obviously in peril. I reached across the "aisle" (i.e. pub table) to a person I know identifying as conservative and he agreed with my following rant and proposition. It is a right for an American to chose to be ignorant. But yet all persons over 18 are allowed to vote (if registered) or even run for political office (I do not trust persons that desire power). This has been a problem long in gestation and obviously has now hatched. Time to admit we need to change things up.

1) Persons desiring to run for political office need to pass a civics test (maybe even history, EQ, and IQ).

2) Persons desiring to vote need to pass a civics test.

3) Tax dollars need to go to a 4th Estate, external corporate dollars prohibited from the venture. The Fourth Estate is overseen by the persons that pass civics tests. Other "information outlets" are allowed to exist but they cannot call themselves *news* if certain litmus tests aren't passed, among them exclusion of commercial support.

Perhaps this will provide some course correction for our system of governance. Yes, it doesn't have the flavor of democracy as intended, but times have changed.

Other brain-droppings on my rant: If you can't pass the civics test you have to pay more taxes. There must be a fine for choosing to be ignorant. In fact, by the end of your sophomore year in high school, if you have demonstrated no desire to learn more, then you are

out. Taxpayer dollars need to go elsewhere. Have fun with the job you get. Term limits are necessary. Lie three times and you're out. Political orientation is neither nature or nurture. Its a choice and should be malleable. Did I mention that I'm not a fan of baby-boomers? You must be 35 to run for presidency for fear of "cult of personality." Age discrimination. You buggers and your cajoling younger lawmakers "into ranks" is screwing up our governance. You cannot run for political office if you are 60 or older. Bye. Go away. I'm not a liberal, I'm not a conservative. I'm a humane human being. And with persons desiring power getting power (elected by ignorant persons) and climate change coming we're all in trouble. Good luck. I haven't any children. I feel bad for those that do. You can't eat money. Learn survival skills. One of my favorite books is the fourth in the Dune series. The human race is due for a lesson.

There's more than one way to skin a cat. Get hungry enough and you'll figure it out.

Regards,
The Earl [Duffy] of Kittery
The Duke of York County, Maine
P.S.—I'd like to see Angus King and Susan Collins form a ticket. I find it amusing that we could have a 'President King'. They do seem to have the most level-headedness required. Pray to your higher powers that I don't run.

Dear Earl:
Thank you for writing, and for your kind words.

We began to compose a reply which played off your imposing title, but immediately broke out in hives. Apparently our allergy to aristocracy is more pronounced than we knew.

Clearly we will never live down last December's error in arboreal nomenclature. Fair enough. For the record, the problem for this old sawmill hand was not that he didn't know the difference. It was just a case of slippage in the old mental clutch.

Now, on, to the various elements of your decree:

Item 1: Candidates must pass certain tests. An interesting proposition. We would love to see the incumbent's results.



However, this smacks too much of the infamous poll tests used by southern states to disenfranchise blacks. Who would write the questions? Who would grade the answers? Proposal rejected.

Item 2: Ditto.

Item 3: Ditto on the test which would qualify news organizations. The concept of a subsidy, though, is not without merit. Our current crop of self-proclaimed "conservatives" endlessly trumpet their wish to govern as the founding fathers did. Well, then, let them cough up a postal subsidy for newspapers. That line item actually represented a considerable portion of early Federal budgets—and rightly so.

As First Amendment fundamentalists, though, any time we consider legislating any sort of restriction on any sort of news organization, we come down with hives.

The Editor

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Incompetent, Arrogant, and Amateurish

Dear Sir:

The level of incompetence, arrogance and amateurish international diplomacy by the Trump Administration was on full display in Vietnam last week. The murderous dictator of North Korea, Kim Jong Un, was able to lure Donald Trump over 8,000 miles to give Kim the opportunity to gain the status and prestige of being Trump's equal. In return, Donald Trump was humiliated and forced to leave this so called Summit totally empty handed.

While I agree that negotiating with hostile governments can be a very positive strategy, it must be accomplished with extreme care and with rigorous lower level preparation. Donald Trump should never have put himself in the position to be so discredited on the world stage. Before agreeing to have a President attend such a high-profile, high-stakes summit, an experienced competent administration would have accomplished all the necessary ground work and made sure that all the details of any agreement were finalized, and

that everyone was on board. This is how it is taught in International Relations 101. However, with this recent summit, it appears that none of these assurances had been obtained in advance, and that Mr. Trump felt that he and he alone could use his self-proclaimed great deal making skills to persuade Kim to give up his nukes. That strategy did not work out very well for Trump or America.

The end result is that Kim can return home having stood up to Donald Trump, consolidating his power and prestige both at home and around the world, while weakening Trump and America in the process. The only positive result was that fortunately, Mr. Trump had the sense not to sign a bad agreement in an effort to save face. This was a very low point for American diplomacy and prestige, and will have long-term consequences far beyond Vietnam.

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

Rich:
Remember that time when President Obama wore a tan suit? What a terrible scandal that was.

The Editor

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The Chief Executive and His Wall

To the Editor:

My former Chief Executive Officer of American Airlines, Bob Crandall, was not a popular guy in that business, or with his employees. He was our guy and he kept the airline flying, made it the greatest on his watch, kept it out of bankruptcies, and growing. He made decisions that made American provide value to the customer, by far the best thing in a free market society that chooses their flying by price and services available on a history of rendering good services.

Trump may be the anti-Christ of

politics, but he is the best CEO the country has had in a long time. He bashes through the subterfuge, hammers fork tongs [forked tongues?] of inaction, and actually tries to keep his campaign promises he was elected to fulfill in spite of both parties, and their media, mafias, aka the forever-Establishment.

How many years had illegal immigration, unemployment, and welfare spending have [sic] to grow before both political parties got off their frozen hands to fix it?

"It" being a cycle of cheap legal and illegal labor displacing home grown U.S. citizens now on the dole because they either can't price compete with those newly created jobs taken by the surge of cheap imported labor or it is a better and easier living with Uncle Sam's handouts?

In 2013, Congress accepted a well researched and documented report that half a trillion in business profits is made by imported legal and illegal labor to fill new jobs while home grown laborers lost out the same in income.

This one issue defines Trump's uniqueness in determination in Washington D.C. and the art of nothing looking like something for 35 years that won elections for both parties. During that time the hopeful newly elected game changers to D.C.; woman and men, only got stuck in the mud of the D.C. swamp.

It defines so many issues, like term limits—nothing happened, immigration fix—kick it down the road, fix the roads and welfare honey pot holes of both—next election, deficits—it's the other guy's fault, foreign trade inequities—manufactured in China/overseas now fills the shelves, education—create a government monopoly only the rich can escape, the war on drugs—

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still losing 40,000 in casualties annually, national security—turn the world into mini wars by imperialism... the list goes on.

This Wall issue spotlights to the average Joe sick of the fork tongs [forked tongues?] of D.C. growing government power and losing—freedom of choice and economic security. The frustration with ever-increasing laws to suppress business, controlling our lives, and runaway, inefficient, socialistic bankrupting expenses placed on the taxpayers.

Win, lose, or neutral on the “wall,” this issue defines the next election, because once again it defines D.C. as the snake pit of political power brokering and pontificating nothingness.

Big service businesses—hotels, restaurants, farming, and construction, &c.—[would] rather have the cheap, imported labor. Manufacturing went offshore a long time ago for it, and special foreign trade tax advantage benefits. Another fix Trump’s Executive branch is trying to fix in trade negotiations.

Rather than pay to motivate the next generation’s labor pool that always needs jobs, immigration issues were just fluffed up once in a while and the back door opened wider. Both parties’ Congresses played the American people for fools on immigration once too many times and Trump was elected. They continue to do it now, and the “wall” just highlights so many other issues that have the same con artist fate kicked down the road.

As the Chief Executive of the country Trump is doing just that—executing his promises any way he legally can. Finally, as ugly as the political hacks try to spin it and Trump—the swamp show goes on—this “wall” exposes their game and the expense of us

letting them do nothing.

Considering the annual U.S. budget, then, this “wall” expense equates to a rounding error, but it provides a half trillion in political gamesmanship to either impeach Trump and/or win elections.

Note to the American people, the Chief Executive Officer of this country is the President of the United States, and the next election has consequences if we elect a weak or inexperienced one.

Listen to the promises and judge whether that person will do what she or he can to keep them. Or will they just play to win another election and break those promises. Also ask yourself are you, and we, better off today than we were.

Former McCain Independent N.H. Chairman 2000

Former Manchester Republican Committee Chair

Retired American Airline Captain

Jeff Frost
Alexandria, N.H.

Jeff:
To perform a line-by-line assessment of your letter would require more time and space than we have available, and, probably, access to illicit substances.

Thank you though, for providing a distillation of the anger and frustration which is legitimately felt by so many Americans today.

Sadly, it’s clear that you are willing to accept bogus “solutions” from the same snake-oil salesmen who created the problem in the first place.

The Editor

Capitalism Benefits from Government

To the Editor:
Capitalism thrives on self interest and our natural acquisitive impulses. It requires a government that enforces respect for private property, the rule of

law, patent protection, a stable monetary system, available credit. It benefits from government-funded scientific research, transportation systems, business incentives such as subsidies and tax credits, and education that creates a pool of able workers.

The alliance of government with business and industry to foster our free market economy has made America the richest nation in the world. But have we sacrificed the public good for the personal wealth of a few? With these resources, shouldn’t we be able to provide affordable health care, a university education or job training, and a reasonable social safety net for all as we continue to enjoy innovation and prosperity?

Good government is in alliance with all the people, not just the top 10 or 20 percent. As citizens, we are able to use the power of our vote to elect people who value our democracy and are willing to work together to meet the challenges of a compassionate capitalism. It is done by other countries— we can do it, too!

Cynthia Muse
Rye, N.H.
Cynthia:
Compassionate capitalism? How about caged capitalism?
The Editor

Mothers, Tell Your Children...

To the Editor:
So said Michael Cohen, imploring House Conservatives “not to do what I have done.” They should listen but they won’t.

It wasn’t the questioning of Cohen’s veracity. It was the unbridled anger in the delivery. Ugly anger, inflamed and ragged, like an abusive parent, belt in hand, berating a child. The machine-gun cadence and the arrogant drawl. If it won’t move, kick it. If it still doesn’t move, kick it harder.

Cohen was wrong about one thing, though. Nobody enables Donald

Trump. Trump enables others with his songs of exclusion, defiance, and privilege. Songs of the Old South as unyielding and rigid as scar tissue.

It’s not going to end well for Trump and his band of court jesters. In fact, it’s not going to end well for anyone. And it will take a lot more than Democrats to repair the damage.

Rick Littlefield
Barrington, N.H.

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Tax Reform, Not Term Limits

To the Editor:

Term limits are an issue because voters don’t like politicians exercising excessive power and control. Term limits don’t change this; it only ensures the elected change more quickly. We make a very bad choice when we look to politicians and government for solutions. The best they can do is take from some and give to others. They try to pick winners and losers and help some and hurt others. These no-win scams build a larger ruling class of politicians and unelected officials. The results are more socialism, undermining capitalism and enabling corruption.

It is time to disable this us v. them scam system and renew our lost civil rights, freedom and liberty.

The root of the problem is the power of direct taxation per the 16th Amendment that gives government and politicians the dictatorial power to directly tax us without limits. Taxes are used to pick winners and losers, to hide and deceive, to punish and reward, to change behavior and to divide and conquer.

The solution is to repeal the 16th Amendment with the FAIRtax bill HR 25. It is real/true replacement tax reform to fund the federal government with the same total tax collection and end the present income/payroll tax system. Move the tax base from income, savings and investment to a tax base on consumption with a progressive national sales/consumption tax with only one tax break, a monthly tax refund (\$239 per adult, \$85 per dependent), called Prebate, that puts money in your pocket to pay the FAIRtax tax up to subsistence level spending and is of most value to the impoverished.

Learn more, join the tax reform cause, make a difference and contribute at fairtax.org or bigsolution.org.

Paul Livingston
Jacksonville, Fla.

Paul:

It will be difficult to cite all the errors and misconceptions contained in this letter, but let’s try.

If we don’t look to “politicians and government” for solutions, to whom can we turn? God? Corporations? Who else is there?

Your claim that government is a scam that’s “picking winners and losers,” resulting in “more socialism,” and “undermining capitalism”? Who elected capitalism?

You propose the FAIRtax, which would eliminate the purportedly progressive income tax—which ought to be jacked up to 70 percent or higher for the top bracket—in favor of a regressive sales tax. Now, there’s a scam.

And here’s a suggestion: read Wayne H. Merritt’s letter, below.

The Editor

====

Corporate Socialism at its Worst

To the Editor:

Article 1 Section 8 of the Constitution authorizes Congress to collect income taxes: “The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States....”

Although I’m no more enamored with paying taxes than the next person, I am accepting of paying my fair share as long as I know they are contributing to the causes laid out in the Constitution and not tax cuts for billionaires, a racist border wall, or for a regime-change war for profits. Besides, the role of government in a democracy, socialistic in nature, is to protect and empower all citizens equally through the use of public resources and services, requiring taxes to pay for them.

With all that said, I’m really happy that I asked some experts in advance about what I should expect from the new Republican tax law when it comes

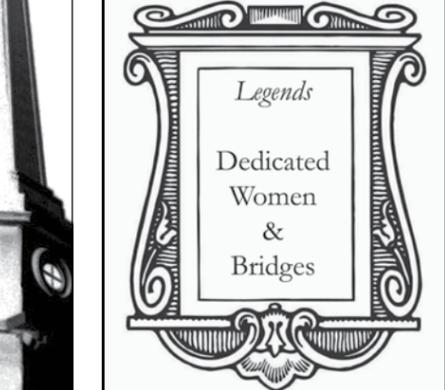
Mash Notes, Hate Mail, &c.
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Murph’s Fortnightly Quote
“Corporation, n. An ingenious device for obtaining individual profit without individual responsibility.”
— Ambrose Bierce (1842–1914?)
from *The Devil’s Dictionary*

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What makes Portsmouth what it is? What do we choose to remember with memorial markers, buildings and community projects?



To learn more about this memorial and what else we choose to remember go to PortsmouthGenome.org Join the conversation. A Portsmouth Peace Treaty Forum project.

“One of the great problems of philosophy is the relationship between the realm of knowledge and the realm of values. Knowledge is what is; values are what ought to be.”
— Jacques Monod (1910–1976) French biochemist and geneticist, Nobel Prize laureate
john@wordpraxis.com

Sometimes Old is Good
The Fechheimer Building, one of the finest examples of a cast-iron facade in Portland, Oregon, was built in 1885. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, it was restored in 1981 by Russell Fellows Properties, the principals of which enjoy a subscription to this newspaper.

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The Northcountry Chronicle

Fearcrafters, Inc.

by William Marvel

One year ago, a columnist for *The Guardian* damned media generally for promoting despair by reporting disproportionately dismal news. He contended that avid news-watchers fret most over those horrors that are least likely to happen precisely because media habitually emphasize the spectacular and ignore the common. Everyday dangers therefore go unnoticed, and uncorrected.

Airplane crashes grab media attention more than car accidents, he pointed out, yet automobile travel is far riskier. Because of that media focus, resources are lavished on airline safety while such deadly daily perils as dashboard video screens and cell-phone use by drivers attract none of the prohibitions or penalties they deserve.

He seemed to ignore that the media obsession with gun violence also distracts us from far more deadly threats. The incorrigibly liberal *Guardian* may have squelched that unpleasant fact, which would have

illustrated their columnist's point perfectly. The Center for Disease Control reported that 38,658 Americans died from gunshot wounds in 2017—with 60 percent of them deliberately self-inflicted. Slightly more people died in car accidents, most of them innocent victims, yet guns still get all the attention.

Even more pertinently, the CDC also reports that over 480,000 Americans still die every year from the effects of smoking. That's more than a dozen times as many as perish by firearm (including the willing), and an estimated 41,000 of those smoking deaths are nonsmokers killed by secondhand smoke. Secondhand smoke alone therefore kills twice as many people as are shot to death by others. Our gun-hating crusader from Freedom might find himself better appreciated if he addressed the far-deadlier threat, rather than grandstanding on the politically popular one.

The *Conway Daily Sun* appeared to try correcting that negative-news cycle last month. The issue of January 22nd seemed dedicated to

reporting news that didn't really happen, such as the much-ballyhooed Snowmageddon. That latest "blizzard of the century" turned out to be a relative bust. Doomsday warnings to stay home (conflicting as always with zealous efforts to lure people out on the slopes) emerged as just another cry of wolf. News of that disappointment nevertheless filled most of a page.

The big front-page story that day, with two jumps and photographs, was the "People's rally" in Jackson, which reportedly only drew "about 30 people." Photos suggest that even this estimate may have been a little generous, and it was only achieved by including some obvious counter-protestors inimical to the agenda advertised on signs carried by the usual suspects.

The underwhelming response was blamed on temperatures in the teens (horribly unseasonable weather for January) and from a local skiing event—equally surprising for a winter weekend. Jackson now has about twice the per-capita police saturation of Conway, however, so a

patrolman was available to keep the rowdies in line.

The group gathered at the Jackson covered bridge (which has not been run into by a truck in several weeks, speaking of news). After standing around and showing each other their signs, these hardy souls fell in column and marched all the way to the Jackson Town Hall, which lay at least a couple of hundred yards away. Some of them made little speeches—using a microphone, although they formed so tiny a circle that they could all have practically spit on each other.

Some of them had come quite a distance. One couple had recently moved up here from Massachusetts, and found all the political activism thrilling. "We've already gone to three rallies," said the fairly giddy husband. It was heartwarming to think of them choosing our neck of the woods after their long search for a small, rich, exclusively white town to live in, where they could sociably protest within walking distance of a latte.

The article quoted most of the signs. The perennial leader of Jack-

son's Jacobins carried a placard with a smorgasbord of ambiguous slogans, each of which will inevitably be clarified with more objectionable specificity back at Democratic headquarters. "People's rights" means nothing until the particular people are identified, whereupon those who aren't on the list finally realize they are excluded. "Housing" implies affordable housing—an amusingly hypocritical demand in a town with snob zoning, yet where so many citizens advocate mass, unregulated immigration. "Education" is progressive argot for hiring ever-more teachers for ever-fewer students—and if the resulting taxes make your housing unaffordable, you can just suck it up. As for the allusion to "gun safety," we already know what Democrats mean by that.

One sign read "Good planets are hard to find." For years I wore that epigram on a T-shirt. Think of it: I might have marched with them, once—but not now that they try so hard to convince me of threats that don't exist, and distract me from those that do.

from page five

time to file my 2018 taxes. I am doubly happy that I heeded their advice of either maximizing my tax withholdings or placing a good amount of money to the side. I did the latter, as I just received my largest tax bill ever from the IRS. If we hadn't been lied to and if middle class families received the approximate \$4,000 in tax savings promised us by the 45th POTUS and the Republicans, then I figure my household would be owed around \$1,500. Yet, we were lied to and I did not receive the money I was promised.

It suffices to say that mine is not the only household feeling the effects of Corporate Socialism (privately owned industries receiving

substantial tax cuts, bailouts and other benefits at the expense of taxpayers and democracy) at the hands of #45 and the Republicans.

As an alternative, I recommend we immediately transition to a system of Democratic Socialism (*i.e.*, regulated Capitalism with a conscience), like all other advanced democracies, in which wealthy corporations and individuals pay their fair share of taxes to help fund public services like education, healthcare, infrastructure, clean air and water, police, firefighters, and libraries.

Wayne H. Merritt
Dover, N.H.



Wayne:

They call themselves "patriots," but they denigrate self-government and constantly rail against doing their duty.

Have you ever noticed how many of those who are blind to hypocrisy also fail to appreciate irony?

The Editor

====

Power to the People!

To the Editor:

The New Hampshire Community Rights Amendment, CACR8, was heard by the Municipal and County Government Committee March 6th, and will go to executive

session Wednesday March 13th.

New Hampshire citizens came out, publicly demonstrated outside the committee room before the hearing, and testified in support of CACR8—the right of local community self-government amendment, to empower Granite State citizens and their communities to protect their health and safety in the face of corporate power-posturing. Power to the People!

Members of the Committee heard testimony from citizens who have been told that their town "can't do anything" to protect them from corporate polluters and other harms

because current law does not allow them to. CACR8 will level the field between corporate deep-pockets and New Hampshire citizens attempting to protect community interests from being overridden by corporate ones.

We need to put the power back in the hands of the people!

CACR8 empowers the *people of New Hampshire* with authority to use their local lawmaking process to build on state and federal protections; establishing state and federal laws as a "floor" in which local people can collectively raise but not lower, thereby protecting health and safety at the local community level.

The N.H. Community Rights Network educates communities and electeds about our right to local

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Corporations are playing with our food—and our heads

by Jim Hightower

From kitchen tables worldwide you can hear a chorus of parents chastising their children with the same refrain: “Stop playing with your food.”

Children aside, this rebuke needs to be loudly directed at the profiteers of industrial agriculture. They keep toying with the very nature of food, not to benefit consumers, fam-

ily farmers, workers, or the environment—but to fatten the profits of Silicon Valley tech giants, food monopolist, and Wall Street financiers.

Meet Recombinetics, Inc. It’s a high-tech, gene-manipulation corporation with bio-engineers in its labs remaking farm animals. Pigs, for example. Recombinetics wants to mess with the very DNA of Mother Nature’s oinkers to make them produce bigger litters to supply the pork

factories of brand-name marketers. It is also genetically altering milk cows to withstand hotter weather, so climate change won’t reduce the output of huge dairy corporations.

Of course, this corporate-government collusion to build Franken-animals faces a high hurdle in the marketplace, for consumers have shown again and again that they don’t want the food they put on their family tables tampered

with. The tamperers, though, have a solution to that problem: Secrecy. The industry is lobbying to outlaw any requirement that milk and meat produced by genetically altered animals be labeled as such. Better to keep consumers in the dark, because...well, if given a free choice, people might reject Recombinetics in favor of natural food.

The industrializers are not out to make food better or more affordable

for us, but strictly to make it more profitable for them. Rather than remaking animals and the marketplace to benefit corporations that play with our food, let’s remake the corporate system so it cooperates with nature and serves the common good.

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from page six

self-government, as part of our advocacy for the New Hampshire Community Rights Amendment. One of the topics we focus on is the reality of how state preemption is often used as a “ceiling” to prevent innovative local lawmaking instead of a “floor” (minimum standard) in which local lawmaking can build upon.

If you believe that local concerns are often not adequately addressed at the state level, and the people most affected by health and safety governing decisions should be the ones making them, then call your legislator and ask them to support the advancement of CACR8. Learn more by visiting www.nhcommunityrights.org, or reach out via email to info@nhcommunityrights.org.

People, planet and principles over profit!

Jennifer Dube, Legislative Coordinator, N.H. Community Rights Network; jennifer@nhcommunityrights.org

(603) 361-4785

Stop Granite Bridge

To the Editor:

With the Granite Bridge project currently trying to build a 27-mile fracked-gas pipeline through southern New Hampshire, now is the time to consider what we want the future of our region’s energy sources to look like.

As a teenager living in this region and facing a future threatened by climate change, I am very concerned that this project aims to increase our reliance on fossil fuels rather than moving towards cleaner, renewable energy sources. To me, this project

presents another sign that some of the adults in power are not working hard enough to be able to hand a livable world down to the next generation. It is frustrating to see us moving backwards or standing still instead of making progress towards becoming a more sustainable society.

In addition to its other negative environmental and economic impacts (more information can be found at 350nh.org/resistgranitebridge, plan-ne.org, or echoaction.org/granite-bridge), this pipeline is a step in the wrong direction when it comes to fighting climate change. Towns across the affected region have been voicing their opposition to the project. If there is a vote in your town concerning this project, voting against the pipeline may be a step towards using less fossil fuels and preserving our irreplaceable natural resources.

Zoe Pavlik
Durham, N.H.

Zoe:
Go for it.
The Editor

“We’re going to fight racism not with racism, we’re going to fight it with solidarity. We say we’re not going to fight capitalism with Black capitalism, but we’re going to fight it with socialism.”

— Fred Hampton (1948 – 1969), was chair of the Illinois chapter of the Black Panther Party (BPP), and deputy chair of the national BPP. He was murdered—drugged, then shot while unconscious—by agents and officials of the State of Illinois.



Thank You For Your Service: Collected Poems

by W.D. Ehrhart

Every now and then we receive books in the mail from publishers looking for a review. Just today we received a copy of the 57th title of a well-known cartoonist. It went straight to River-Run Bookstore, where we left it in the hope one of their customers might find it more interesting than we did.

Earlier in the fortnight we received another book: *Thank You For Your Service: Collected Poems*, by W.D. Ehrhart. It’s going into the permanent collection.

This newspaper has, from time to time, published poems and prose written by W.D. Ehrhart. He is also a subscriber, we’re proud to say, and, we hope—though we’ve met only once or twice—a friend. All of this just says, you’ll get no objective assessment here.

This volume contains 55 years of struggle, rigorously distilled from a mass of contradictions most chose to pretend did not exist. One is tempted to call Ehrhart’s writing fearless. That would almost surely be wrong. More likely his pen moves as his feet did in Vietnam, forward despite the fear.

Thorny though the subject matter is, the language is clear, straightforward, and accessible. It is not, though, for the faint of heart. This may be poetry, but it is no trifle, no bouquet, no box of bon-bons.

Best known for his unflinching poems and memoirs of that war, Ehrhart brings that same directness to poems of love, family, aging—the whole panoply of human experience.

Published February, 2019 by McFarland Books, Jefferson, N.C. [McFarlandBooks.com]

What the Fuss is All About

by W.D. Ehrhart

One wonders what the fuss is all about. They say the flag is blowing in the wind. They say the wind is blowing up a storm. They say the moon is blue, the lies are true, the bogeyman is here, we must believe whatever we are told. So all for one and one for all the money he can get his sticky fingers on, him and his sticky-fingered friends. So what’s new? Just the other day, K Street three-piece-suit walks into a bar and orders a beer. Sorry, sir, the barkeep says, we don’t serve sleaze in here; FBI man overhears, calls the IRS: barkeep’s doing time in Lewisburg. Let that be a lesson to us all: Miller Lite can change your life. Super Size me, praise the Lord, and give me purple mountains’ majesty, Hollywood commandos, and a gas-guzzling SUV with GPS and Power Everything. Burn, baby, burn, some angry Black man said, but I say what’s the hurry? Soon enough we’ll burn the whole damned planet down, choke it, strip it, starve it, melt it, pave it over, blow it up, and bury it in empty bottled water bottles, Pampers diapers, plastic grocery bags, and last year’s cellphones. Then we’ll see which way the wind is blowing, whose flags are blowing in the wind, whose lies are worth a big rat’s ass, who’s rich enough to buy a one-way ticket out of Hell, whose God is on whose side, and who’s left to wonder what all the fuss was about.

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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

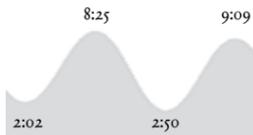
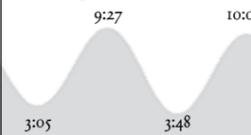
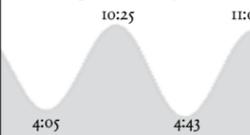
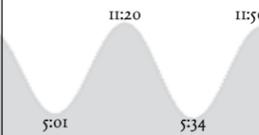
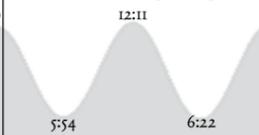
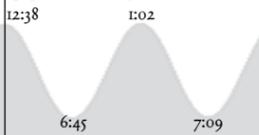
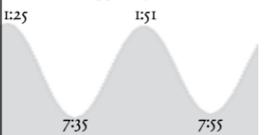
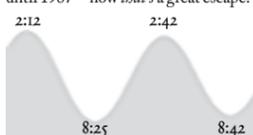
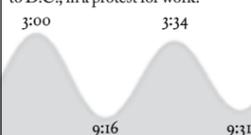
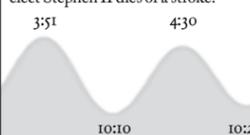
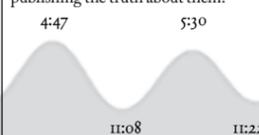
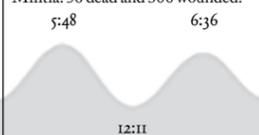
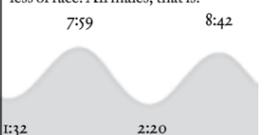
drags about seventeen billion gallons of seawater — enough to fill 2,125,000 tanker trucks — up the river and into Great Bay. This creates a roving hydraulic conflict, as incoming sea and the outgoing river collide. The skirmish line

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, MARCH 17	MONDAY, MARCH 18	TUESDAY, MARCH 19	WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20	THURSDAY, MARCH 21	FRIDAY, MARCH 22	SATURDAY, MARCH 23
<p>2017—In the White House, President Trump argues with Vietnam veterans about <i>Apocalypse Now</i>, confusing Agent Orange with napalm.</p> <p>2013—Two men hijack a Robinson R44 tourist helicopter and help two convicts break out of a Quebec prison.</p> <p>2008—Eliot Spitzer, resigns as Governor of N.Y. after his habit of patronizing prostitutes is exposed.</p> <p>2007—<i>The Navy Times</i> reports that Fox News guest and U.S.M.C. Corporal Matt Sanchez had an earlier career as a gay porn star.</p> <p>2004—Local narcs and off-duty cops celebrate St. Patrick's Day by duking it out in the parking lot at Paddy's on the Pease Tradeport.</p> <p>2003—George W.[MD] Bush tells Saddam Hussein that Iraq isn't big enough for the both of them. Hitler 2.0 has 48 hours to get out.</p> <p>1992—Dick "Dick" Cheney and two other members of G.H.[H.]W. Bush's cabinet admit they wrote rubber checks on the House bank.</p> <p>1960—Genial ol' Ike signs off on a clandestine plan to overthrow the government of Cuba.</p> <p>1922—The suburbs of Washington, D.C. are littered with racist propaganda dropped from a biplane by the Ku Klux Klan.</p> <p>1921—Checka officers use machine guns to encourage Bolshevik troops to charge across the iced-over Neva River into machine gun fire from rebellious sailors at Kronstadt.</p>	<p>2004—At Gilley's, Portsmouth narcs and off-duty cops hold round two of a fight begun at Paddy's on St. Pat's Day.</p> <p>2003—"Why should we hear about body bags and death and how many?" asks Barbara Bush. "It's not relevant... why should I waste my beautiful mind on something like that?"</p> <p>1990—Fake cops bluff guards and steal Rembrandts and a Vermeer from Boston's Gardner Museum.</p> <p>1969—The U.S. begins secretly bombing Cambodia.</p> <p>1967—Thanks to inadequate charts, outdated radar, and bad judgment, the <i>Torrey Canyon</i> hits a reef off Cornwall. About 30 million gallons of oil foul the English Channel.</p> <p>1963—The Supreme Court: "You get a lawyer, and you get a lawyer, and..."</p> <p>1953—The State Dept. orders its overseas libraries cleaned of books by authors of "suspect" loyalty.</p> <p>1937—A school in oil-rich New London, Texas, heated by un-scented waste gas to save money, explodes. More than 300 die, mostly students.</p> <p>1925—A tornado kills 695 along a 235-mile path from Mo. to Ind.</p> <p>1871—Communards take Paris. Two months later they're massacred.</p> <p>1848—At the barricades in Berlin's Alexanderplatz, revolutionaries briefly gain the upper hand.</p> <p>1741—Fort George, the center of colonial government in New York, is torched as part of a conspiracy among blacks and poor whites.</p>	<p>2011—The U.S. and France attack Libya — for its own good, of course.</p> <p>2004—<i>USA Today</i> admits that its Pulitzer-contender Jack Kelley ought to have competed in the fiction category.</p> <p>2003—George W.[MD] Bush starts a pre-emptive war with 40 Tomahawk missiles in a residential Baghdad neighborhood. Civilians die.</p> <p>2002—Scientists report "alarming" melting of the Larsen Ice Shelf.</p> <p>2002—The Pentagon's top Cuba expert admits she spied for Cuba.</p> <p>1987—Ed "Meese is a Pig" Meese endorses drug testing for schoolteachers.</p> <p>1983—On "Diff'rent Strokes," Nancy Reagan tells "a true story" about "Charlie." "Burned out on marijuana" at 14, he "brutally beats" Sis when she won't steal to buy him weed.</p> <p>1954—The U.S. government burns books by Wilhelm Reich.</p> <p>1945—Off Japan, Kamikaze attacks kill 800 sailors on the U.S.S. <i>Franklin</i>.</p> <p>1937—Clarence "Frogman" Henry is born in New Orleans.</p> <p>1935—Over 100 are injured in a Harlem riot. A study blames police brutality; Mayor LaGuardia suppresses it.</p> <p>1916—Eight U.S. Army biplanes go after Pancho Villa.</p> <p>1840—Sixty-five Comanche men, women, and children, attend a San Antonio peace conference; 35 are killed by Anglos, and 30 imprisoned.</p> <p>1687—French explorer Robert de La Salle is murdered in Texas by mutineers fed up with his haughty ways.</p>	<p>2017—FBI Director James Comey tells Congress the Bureau is investigating possible coordination between the Trump campaign and Russia.</p> <p>2003—U.S. ground troops invade Iraq to protect "The Homeland" from Saddam's innumerable weapons of mass destruction.</p> <p>1992—UN weapons inspector Rolf Ekeus says Iraq has agreed to destroy its weapons of mass destruction.</p> <p>1976—Press Baron William R. Hearst's granddaughter Patricia is convicted of bank robbery.</p> <p>1954—"If the [Vietnamese] Communists continue to suffer the losses they have been taking," says French Chief of Staff Gen. Paul Ely, "I don't know how they can stay in the battle."</p> <p>1933—Germany opens its first concentration camp at Dachau.</p> <p>1933—"Get to hell out of here, you son of a bitch," would-be FDR assassin Giuseppe Zangara tells the chaplain before he's zapped for killing Chicago's mayor. "All capitalists lousy bunch of crooks. Goodbye to all poor peoples everywhere! Push the button!"</p> <p>1905—An old boiler explodes at the Grover Shoe Factory in Brockton, Mass. and shoots through the roof. The building collapses, trapping hundreds of workers; naphtha barrels burn; 58 die and 150 are injured.</p> <p>1899—Martha Place strikes a blow for gender equality by being executed in New York's electric chair, the first woman to do so.</p>	<p>2013—Four people perish in a fiery inferno after a Robinson R44 helicopter crashes in New South Wales.</p> <p>2003—Richard Clarke, senior U.S. counter-intelligence officer since G.H.[H.]W. Bush, says G.W.[MD] Bush ignored al Qaeda until 9/11.</p> <p>1995—Mississippi ratifies the 13th amendment outlawing slavery. Failure to register nullifies the action, though.</p> <p>1981—In Mobile, Ala., two Kluxers conduct the last recorded lynching. RIP: Michael Donald, 19.</p> <p>1963—"Gents, this is an educational project," says condemned murderer Frederick Wood in New York. "You are about to witness the damaging effect electricity has on Wood."</p> <p>1960—South African police kill 89 unarmed black protesters in the Sharpeville Massacre.</p> <p>1952—DJ Alan Freed throws the Moondog Coronation Ball in Cleveland — the first rock concert.</p> <p>1947—The GOP's Red Scare running rampant, Truman orders a "loyalty screening" in political self-defense.</p> <p>1937—Police in Ponce, P.R., executing orders from the Governor, machine gun peaceful, marching protestors; 21 die, 235 are wounded.</p> <p>1925—Tennessee bans the teaching of evolution in public schools.</p> <p>1915—At a White House screening, Woodrow Wilson is enraptured by the racist masterpiece <i>Birth of a Nation</i>.</p> <p>1861—Slavery's the cornerstone of the Confederacy, says Veep A. Stephens.</p>	<p>2015—A Robinson R44 helicopter crashes in Orlando, Fla., killing three occupants. The house it hits is set ablaze. Fortunately it's unoccupied.</p> <p>2006—<i>MV Queen of the North</i>, a Canadian ferry four miles off course, hits an island at 17 knots and sinks with a loss of two lives. Union reps deny crewmembers were having sex at the time.</p> <p>2003—The chief officer of <i>RMS Milbeim</i>, getting out of his chair while on watch, catches his trousers on a lever, falls and hits his head, losing consciousness. The ship runs aground at Land's End in Cornwall, a total loss.</p> <p>1987—The <i>Mobro 4000</i>, a barge toting 3,168 tons of garbage, leaves NYC. After a 162 day, 6,000 mile joyride, it returns to NYC, where its contents are incinerated.</p> <p>1986—A Robinson R22 helicopter dismantles itself near Memphis, Tenn., killing its experienced pilot and a luckless passenger.</p> <p>1986—The U.S. executes its first Vietnam vet in Fla.'s electric chair: David Funchess, a black former Marine with a Purple Heart and PTSD.</p> <p>1975—A worker looking for air leaks with a candle starts a fire causing \$100 million in damages at the Brown's Ferry nuclear power plant in Alabama.</p> <p>1966—An Undersecretary of Defense warns his boss bombing North Vietnam is useless.</p> <p>1622—Powhatans slaughter 400 English settlers — about one-third of the population of Virginia.</p>	<p>2004—In a Senate office building, 19 Members of Congress watch a golden crown being placed on the head of convicted tax cheat and <i>Washington Times</i> owner Rev. Sun Myung Moon.</p> <p>2003—A lost U.S. Army convoy is ambushed near Nasiriyah, Iraq: 11 soldiers are KIA, five are wounded, and six taken prisoner, including Pvt. Jessica Ryan. Friendly fire from Air Force A-10s kills from six to 10 U.S. Marines, and a U.S. Patriot missile downs an RAF fighter jet over Iraq.</p> <p>1983—Acting president Ronald Reagan proposes a space-based anti-missile system similar to one portrayed in the 1940 film <i>Murder in the Air</i>, in which he played Lt. "Brass" Bancroft.</p> <p>1965—In orbit, astronaut John Young, deadpan, offers Virgil "Gus" Grissom a contraband corned beef sandwich.</p> <p>1918—In London, a bullet-catching trick by American illusionist William Robinson (aka "Chung Ling Soo, the Marvelous Chinese Conjurer") goes fatally awry.</p> <p>1901—U.S. troops capture Filipino rebel leader Emilio Aguinaldo, whom the U.S. had earlier backed in his fight against Spanish colonial powers.</p> <p>1877—Mormon leader John D. Lee is executed by a firing squad for his role in the Mountain Meadows Massacre. He leaves 19 wives and 56 children.</p> <p>1842—The House of Representatives censures Congressman Joshua R. Giddings [W-Ohio] for introducing a resolution opposing slavery.</p>
 <p>2:02 2:50 8:25 9:09</p>	 <p>3:05 3:48 9:27 10:07</p>	 <p>4:05 4:43 10:25 11:00</p>	 <p>5:01 5:34 11:20 11:50</p>	 <p>5:54 6:22 12:11</p>	 <p>6:45 7:09 12:38 1:02</p>	 <p>7:35 7:55 1:25 1:51</p>
SUNDAY, MARCH 24	MONDAY, MARCH 25	TUESDAY, MARCH 26	WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27	THURSDAY, MARCH 28	FRIDAY, MARCH 29	SATURDAY, MARCH 30
<p>2016—Microsoft's AI Twitterbot Tay is taken offline after 16 hours; its tweets are too racist and pro-fascist.</p> <p>2004—At a black-tie dinner, President George W.[MD] Bush cracks up A-list broadcast journalists with gags about "his" failed search for WMDs. Less amused: families of dead GI's, of which there are 691 at this point.</p> <p>1989—Exxon demonstrates its commitment to the environment in Prince William Sound via the <i>Exxon Valdez</i>.</p> <p>1985—Shot by a Soviet sentry while peeping at a tank shed in East Germany, U.S. Army Maj. Arthur D. Nicholson is touted by the Pentagon as "the last casualty of the Cold War."</p> <p>1972—At Washington, D.C.'s Mayflower Hotel, E. Howard Hunt and G. Gordon Liddy try to score an "LSD-type drug" from an ex-CIA doctor. They even fail at that.</p> <p>1971—The <i>Washington Post</i> reports stolen FBI documents show mailmen, a Swarthmore switchboard operator, and a local police chief have been spying on Philadelphia activists.</p> <p>1971—Operation Lam Son 719, the ARVN invasion of Laos, ends. Casualties: huge; winners: none.</p> <p>1944—At Stalag Luft III, 76 POWs exit via "Tunnel Harry"; three get away, 50 are shot. Not so great, really.</p> <p>1944—Parachute <i>kaput</i>, RAF tail-gunner Nicholas Alkemade jumps from 18,000 feet over Germany. Pine trees and snow break his fall; he lives until 1987—now <i>that's</i> a great escape.</p>	<p>2003—George W.[MD] Bush signs an Executive Order giving Dick "Dick" Cheney unprecedented power to classify information.</p> <p>2003—Four Air Force generals are sacked over a massive rape scandal.</p> <p>1997—Florida's "Old Sparky" sets Pedro Medina on fire as it kills him.</p> <p>1971—Three dairy coops get \$600 million in milk price supports for a \$427,000 "contribution" towards Dick "Original Dick" Nixon's re-election.</p> <p>1966—"Of all the forms of inequality," says MLK Jr., "injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane."</p> <p>1966—Fifteen WW II and Korean War veterans burn discharge papers in NYC to protest the Vietnam War.</p> <p>1965—In Montgomery, Ala., 25,000 civil rights marchers arrive at the state capitol, thanks to the National Guard.</p> <p>1955—U.S. Customs seizes Allen Ginsburg's "Howl" as "obscene."</p> <p>1947—A Centralia, Ill. coal mine, long the subject of ignored complaints and warnings, explodes, killing 111.</p> <p>1931—In Alabama, the Scottsboro Boys are arrested on bogus charges.</p> <p>1931—RIP, Ida B. Wells: daughter of slaves, her pen helped end lynching.</p> <p>1911—The Triangle Shirtwaist Fire kills 146 sweatshop workers in New York City. The factory's fire doors had been locked to enhance profits.</p> <p>1894—During the nation's worst depression to date, "Coxey's Army" starts tramping from Massillon, Ohio, to D.C., in a protest for work.</p>	<p>2006—Justice Antonin Scalia is photographed on the steps of a Boston church, making an obscene gesture.</p> <p>1993—Cosmonaut Sergei Krikalev returns to Earth, where the USSR that sent him into orbit is no more.</p> <p>1983—Bob "Bob Dole" Dole refers to former presidents Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, and Richard Nixon as "Hear no evil, see no evil, and evil."</p> <p>1982—Ground is broken for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.</p> <p>1972—Gen. John D. Lavelle loses two stars and command of the 7th Air Force for following Nixon's secret orders to bomb North Vietnam.</p> <p>1968—A dozen "Wise Men" tell LBJ it's time to get out of Vietnam.</p> <p>1920—After the rope breaks, James Johnson tells his executioners in Poplar Bluff, Mo., "Hurry up, boys, and get me out of my misery." They do.</p> <p>1892—Walt Whitman, the great American poet, utters his last words, "Hold me up, I want to s__t."</p> <p>1812—The gerrymander is born, in a <i>Boston Gazette</i> cartoon.</p> <p>1676—Narragansetts wipe out a force of 60 Colonial soldiers and 20 Wampanoag allies, nine by torture, in what's now Central Falls, R.I.</p> <p>1669—In New Castle, Jane Walford, the Editor's great x 8 grandmother, recovers damages for an unproven allegation of witchcraft.</p> <p>752—Three days after his election, and before his consecration, Pope-elect Stephen II dies of a stroke.</p>	<p>2007—After making a "bang/pop/twang sound," a Robinson R44 augers in at Point Vedra Beach, Fla. An instructor and a student pay the ultimate price for corporate profit: an over-worked mechanic screwed up.</p> <p>2003—Iraq "can really finance its own reconstruction and relatively soon," U.S. Undersecretary for Defense Paul Wolfowitz tells Congress. "There's a lot of money to pay for this that doesn't have to be U.S. taxpayer money."</p> <p>1986—Congress slashes welfare while approving \$100 million for a drug gang called "The Contras."</p> <p>1964—History's 2nd largest earthquake hits Anchorage; 115 die.</p> <p>1943—So their forged ID's might avoid Nazi detection, openly gay Dutch artist Willem Arondeus and others bomb the Amsterdam Public Records Office. It works.</p> <p>1942—RADM John W. Wilcox, Jr., commanding a task force bound for Scapa Flow, is washed off his flagship and lost one day out of Casco Bay.</p> <p>1931—Having drunk Parisian tap water three weeks earlier to prove that it was safe, British novelist Arnold Bennett dies of typhoid fever.</p> <p>1814—A (severed) nose count shows General Andy Jackson's troops, with a 3-1 advantage, massacred 85 percent of their Creek opponents at Horseshoe Bend on the Tallapoosa.</p> <p>1800—Federalist Senators find <i>Aurora</i> editor W. Duane in contempt for publishing the truth about them.</p>	<p>2007—Phyllis Schlafly explains to Bates students that a married woman "has consented to sex, and I don't think you can call it rape."</p> <p>2003—Two U.S. "Warthog" aircraft mistakenly strafed British tanks in Iraq killing one soldier.</p> <p>2003—"The enemy we're fighting [in Iraq]," General William S. Wallace admits, "is different from the one we'd war-gamed against."</p> <p>1993—A Robinson R22 helicopter proves un-flyable after the main rotor loses off the tail rotor. Two die when it crashes in Wissen, Germany.</p> <p>1979—An automatic emergency cooling system activates after a stuck pressure-relief valve dumps too much coolant, but it's overridden by operators who fail to see a hidden indicator light: the core of a nuclear reactor at Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania partially melts, releasing 43K curies.</p> <p>1967—The RAF begins dropping bombs on the <i>Torrey Canyon</i>, hoping to mitigate a catastrophic oil spill in the English Channel; half the bombs miss the huge target.</p> <p>1942—Brits disable a Nazi dry dock at St. Nazaire by ramming it with an explosive-laden destroyer.</p> <p>1920—On Palm Sunday, 38 tornadoes in 8 states kill 380 people.</p> <p>1884—A mob in Cincinnati tries to lynch a white murderer. Thwarted, the mob grows to 10,000. Gunbattles rage. Order is restored by the State Militia: 56 dead and 300 wounded.</p>	<p>2003—<i>Newsweek</i> publishes a poll saying 74 percent of Americans think the Bush administration has "a well thought-out military plan."</p> <p>1995—Rep. Dan Burton [R-Ind.] says the U.S. "should place an aircraft carrier off the coast of [land-locked] Bolivia and crop dust the coca fields."</p> <p>1984—Owner Robert Irsay sneaks his Colts out of Baltimore to avoid an eminent domain seizure by the City.</p> <p>1973—Army Master Sergeant Max Beilke becomes the last U.S. combat soldier to leave Vietnam. He will die at the Pentagon, a civilian, on 9/11/01.</p> <p>1972—The EPA lays off enforcement for a lead smelter in Idaho in exchange for a \$100,000 "contribution" to the Nixon re-election campaign.</p> <p>1971—A court martial elects Lt. W. Calley No. 1 scapegoat for My Lai. For at least 22 murders, Calley gets life in prison, later reduced to three years confinement to his apartment.</p> <p>1960—For reasons which are unfathomable, France launches a nuclear sub.</p> <p>1951—Julius and Ethel Rosenberg are convicted of espionage.</p> <p>1929—Abdulaziz ibn Abdul Rahman Al Saud's army defeats Ikhwan rebels at Sabilla, demonstrating the obsolescence of camel-mounted cavalry and the efficacy of machine guns.</p> <p>1843—At a Cabinet meeting, Secretary of War John C. Spencer lunges at Secretary of the Navy Abel P. Upshur. The ensuing fistfight is halted by President John Tyler.</p>	<p>2008—As he throws out the first pitch at Washington's new National Park, George W.[MD] Bush is met with a resounding chorus of boos.</p> <p>2003—Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld announces "we know where" Iraq's WMDs are: "the area around Tikrit and Baghdad and east, west, south, and north somewhat."</p> <p>2003—During a live Fox News broadcast from Iraq, Geraldo Rivera reveals the 101st Airborne's current location, where they're going to attack next, and when.</p> <p>2000—Fred Trump III, whose son is chronically ill and needs special care, learns his family's health care is being terminated by his uncle Donald.</p> <p>1981—John Hinckley Jr. empties a six-shooter at Pres. Ronald Reagan. A ricochet off the armored limo hits Ronnie. Al Haig announces he's "in control here." In Denver, John's older brother catches dinner with V.P. George H.[H.]W. Bush's son Neil.</p> <p>1972—Hanoi's Easter Offensive sends 200,000 PAVN soldiers across the DMZ: the mightiest attack since China crossed the Yalu.</p> <p>1965—A Viet Cong car bomb explodes outside the U.S. Embassy in Saigon killing 22 and injuring 183.</p> <p>1964—Senators (18 Democrats and one Republican) begin a 74-day filibuster of the Civil Rights Act.</p> <p>1870—The 15th Amendment passes, giving the right to vote to all, regardless of race. All males, that is.</p>
 <p>8:25 8:42 2:12 2:42</p>	 <p>9:16 9:31 3:00 3:34</p>	 <p>10:10 10:24 3:51 4:30</p>	 <p>11:08 11:22 4:47 5:30</p>	 <p>12:11 5:48 6:36</p>	 <p>12:26 1:17 6:54 7:42</p>	 <p>1:32 2:20 7:59 8:42</p>



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— HELEN ROWLAND



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