

The Fortnightly Rant

Lest We Remember

Memorial Day is coming on Monday, and not a minute too soon. Some of us, it seems, may have lost the historical thread. Or, perhaps, we've all just lost our minds.

Every spring the White House invites the reigning World Champions of baseball in for a tour. With the Trump Administration running the place, naturally there were some complications. White House publicists touted the event as honoring the "Red Socks" for winning the "World Cup." We shouldn't criticize them too harshly, though. We'd make mistakes, too, translating from Russian. It's a wonder they didn't call the team "the White Socks," considering that players of color all boycotted the event.

Red Sox Chairman Tom Werner proceeded to compound the confusion. Speaking before C-SPAN cameras he said, "Well the president is a pretty good raconteur of history and he did say that, uh—he was talking about Abraham Lincoln losing the war and he said 'Well, I know you guys have lost a game or two, but this was a war.'"

Some media outlets interpreted Werner's ambiguous wording—there were times during the war, after all, when Lincoln did appear to be losing—to mean that our 45th President doesn't know who actually won the Civil War. Our view is, we hope, slightly more nuanced.

Just last month Trump said, in his trademark semi-coherent fashion, "Whether you like it or not, [Robert E. Lee] was one of the great generals. I've spoken to many generals here, right at the White House, and many people thought of the generals, they think that he was maybe their favorite general. People were [in Charlottesville, Va.] protesting the taking down of the monument of Robert E. Lee, everybody knows that."

Perhaps Trump just thinks that the South *should have* won the Civil War. Of course, with him in the White House, Mitch McConnell running the Senate, and the GOP solidly behind them both, one could argue that they did.

If only confusion and ambiguity regarding our martial history were confined to the 19th century. Between December 7, 1941 and September 2, 1945, 450,000 Americans lost their lives in the struggle to defeat fascism. As with the Confederacy, though, fascism seems to be enjoying a revival.

War crimes such as the mistreatment of prisoners were a notorious characteristic of our enemies' behavior during World War II. President Trump is now erasing that distinction—such as it is*—between us and our former enemies.

In 2008, Army First Lieutenant Michael Behenna of Oklahoma was ordered to release a prisoner who'd been held for interrogation. Instead, Behenna shot Ali Mansur Mohamed, then placed a live grenade under his head. Found guilty by court martial of unpremeditated murder in 2009, Behenna was sentenced to 25 years imprisonment. Paroled in 2014, Trump pardoned Behenna on May 6th.

That, apparently, was just the beginning of a campaign to turn our war criminals into heroes. The *New York Times* reported last Saturday that Trump has made an expedited request for the paperwork necessary to pardon a Green Beret, a Navy SEAL, several Marines, and

* The late Robert McNamara, Secretary of Defense under Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, served under U.S. Army Air Corps General Curtis LeMay during the fire-bombing campaign against Japan during World War II. According to McNamara, LeMay once told him, "If we'd lost the war, we'd all have been prosecuted as war criminals."



a former Blackwater contractor for crimes ranging from murder to urinating on a corpse. Perhaps to make sure no one misses his point, Trump reportedly asked that the paperwork be ready for Memorial Day.

Sullying the nation's sacred rituals seems to be a theme of this Presidency. Unnamed "top Administration officials" have told the *Washington Post* that Trump is planning a couple of changes for the Capitol's Fourth of July celebration. First, the grand fireworks display, traditionally held on the Mall, will be moved instead to a spot near the Potomac. Second, the President, who does not normally feature very prominently will deliver an address to the nation from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

Perhaps in doing so he may unite the nation. His detractors and supporters alike will be hanging on his every word. The former will condemn him if he continues his recent

trend towards using scatological language, while the latter will howl with delight.

It would be a mistake to think, though, that Trump is somehow uniquely awful among Presidents when it comes to war crimes. Quite recent history provides a far worse example—so far, at least.

Addressing West Point's Class of 1947, President-to-Be Dwight D. Eisenhower said, "War is mankind's most tragic and stupid folly; *to seek or advise its deliberate provocation is a black crime against all men.* Though you follow the trade of the warrior, you do so in the spirit of Washington — not of Genghis Khan. For Americans, only threat to our way of life justifies resort to conflict."

When Ike spoke those words, George W. Bush was still in diapers. Now he paints bad portraits of men who were maimed in his pre-emp-

tive war. President Trump seems determined to make the same criminal mistake as Bush, with even less justification.

After 17 years, 7 months, and 17 days of bleeding and dying, we're caught in a stalemate in Afghanistan with a poorly-equipped foe on his home turf. He wonders why we just don't go home; most of us have just forgotten all about it. What does that remind us of...? Oh, yes—two more years and this will have taken longer than Vietnam.

"Game of Thrones" seemed to last forever, too; and even it is over now. A lot of fans expressed disappointment with the ending. They must be civilians. Team Daenerys' finely-tuned plan went straight to hell, innocents died in droves, and muckety-mucks divided the spoils while laughing at the very concept of considering the will of the people.

Who knew it was a documentary?

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Nice Infrastructure Bill You've Got There ...

Until quite recently, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi had been telling Democrats that they can't launch impeachment proceedings against the *resident because if they do he won't work with them on an infrastructure bill.

The logic behind that strategy took a hit on Tuesday evening when the *resident sent a letter to Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer saying he wouldn't work with Democrats on an infrastructure bill unless they pass his trade deal first.

Wednesday morning Pelosi let fly her opinion that the *resident "is engaged in a cover-up," which seems to have rustled his jimmies. Hours later, at an Oval Office meeting scheduled to discuss infrastructure with Democrats, the *resident barked at them for three minutes, then abruptly left

for a Festus ceremony in the Rose Garden.

His podium bore a sign noting that the Mueller investigation had cost \$35 million. It did not. The true cost was \$25 million, one-quarter the cost to date of the *resident's golf outings.

The *resident then announced that he's going on strike until the House stops investigating him—in other words, stops doing its job. Perhaps† he's suggesting that the White House and the People's House take turns working alternating shifts. The Senate quit working long ago, of course, convening now only to confirm crackpots to judgeships.

It's a Federalist Society dream come true.

† Never articulate, the *resident becomes increasingly incoherent as investigators get closer to his tax returns.

Local Fête Spared in Helium Shortage

The world—well, the internet—was abuzz recently over the news of a potentially-calamitous global helium shortage. An army of byte-stained wretches all reiterated the same provocative data point: Party City, apparently the nation's pre-eminent purveyor of mylar balloons, was closing 45 stores in 2019 for lack of the gas to fill them.

Last week the *New York Times* let some of the hype out of that story. The paper quoted an unnamed spokesperson for the company who said that while Party City is "closing more stores than usual in 2019" those closings have "nothing to do with helium."

According to the *Times'* anonymous flak, the closings are motivated by the free market imperative to pursue the highest-possible return

on capital: "Party City closes some locations every year to invest more in its most profitable locations." How else does one protect the board members from the stockholders, who might otherwise storm the boardroom, pitchforks and torches in hand?

Never having heard of the place, we were shocked to learn that the 45 stores which will close represent just five percent of Party City's full complement of 870. Wondering what we'd missed, we took a look at the company's website. That only shocked us further. Party City offers consumers a vast smörgåsbord of plastic geegaws, none of which appeared at first glance to be recyclable. Closing all 870 stores tomorrow would probably delay the environmental apocalypse a few months.

At about this point our environ-

mental concern was briefly derailed by a spasm of local chauvinism.

Market Square Day is scheduled for June 8th. What if Pro Portsmouth can't get ahold of its usual ration of helium? The event just wouldn't be the same without those towering arches of festive, colorful balloons. We emailed Executive Director Barbara Massar, who promptly assured us there were "no issues with helium supply."

Our civic concern alleviated, the question arose—what other critical functions might be compromised by the lack of helium? The further we dug, the more intrigued we became.

Helium is one very weird element. Signs of its existence were not discovered until 1868; formal

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from page one

discovery did not come until 1895. It's the second most abundant element in the universe next to hydrogen, but it's scarce because—rather obviously—it tends to float away. It is created deep underground by the decay of unstable uranium and thorium and accumulates in rock formations mixed with other gases. Special equipment is required to capture helium during natural gas processing. Once you've got it, it's hard to store. Complicating matters, helium doesn't occur in commercial quantities in all natural gas deposits. The richest areas for helium extraction in the U.S. are around southwest Kansas and the panhandles of Oklahoma and Texas. That is why, for reasons of national security, the Helium Act of 1925 ordered a National Helium Reserve to be built a few miles northwest of Amarillo. Gotta keep those dirigibles flying!

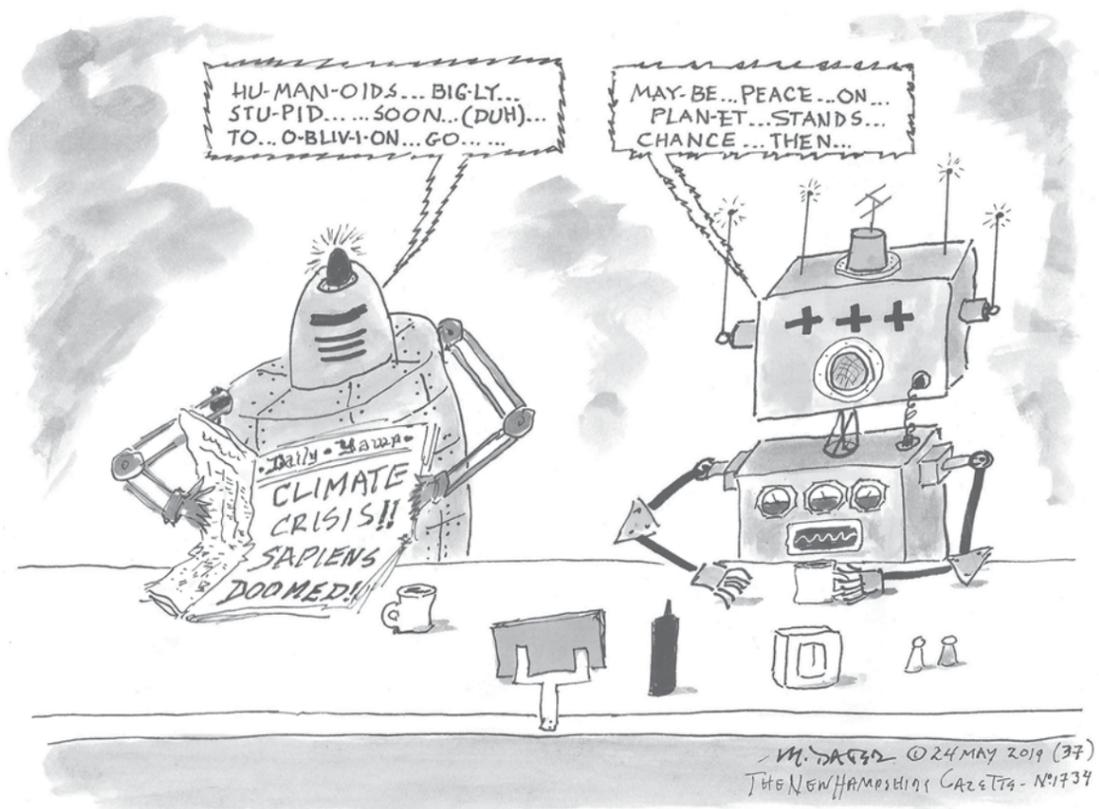
The U.S. Navy invested heavily in money and manpower, but its airship program never really got off the ground. Well, actually, it did. The problem was the way the ships came back down. The first of them, *U.S.S. Shenandoah*, crashed in a storm in Ohio in 1925, with the loss of 14

lives. The *U.S.S. Akron*, a 785 foot-long flying aircraft carrier equipped with five Curtiss Sparrowhawk biplanes, went down off the coast of New Jersey in 1933, killing 73 of the 76 on board. Akron's sister ship, the *U.S.S. Macon*, was destroyed by a wind shear off Big Sur in California in 1935. Only two crewmen died, but the Navy's rigid airship program died with them.

The Helium Reserve lived on, though, proving its usefulness during the Cold War due to helium's unique cryogenic properties. Then someone had a bright idea.

Rep. Christopher Cox, a California Republican, sponsored the Helium Privatization Act of 1996. It passed. On signing it President Clinton wrote, "Once our defense and aviation industries had a strong need for helium and the nation lacked a market to supply it. A government program was appropriate. But today, over 90 percent of U.S. helium needs are met by private producers and suppliers. A government-operated program is no longer needed. The private sector can meet, and now will be able to compete to supply, the needs of all users."

Cox's 1996 Act didn't just dictate the sale of a unique resource, it dictated a formula for pricing it. That

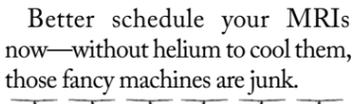


The little pier next to the new Memorial Bridge is beginning to see some use, on those fleeting occasions when the weather permits.

turned out to be well below the market rate. As any capitalist could tell you, that resulted in wasteful usage.

The government is out of the way now, so the famous invisible hand of the free market is able to do its thing—and it's not just the balloon man who's in trouble. The price is already 20 times what it was ten years ago. By law the reserves are supposed to be drained by September 30, 2021, and God knows what it will cost then.

Better schedule your MRIs now—without helium to cool them, those fancy machines are junk.



Robinson Helicopters in the News
Megan Hawk Penna posted a video clip on Facebook last Friday morning, from the cockpit of a Robinson R44 helicopter. It showed clouds and mountains, her husband Benno at the controls, and herself. Both were smiling broadly. "Above the clouds" was all she wrote.

A relative notified authorities later that day a that the couple were over-

due at their destination. An aerial search located the wreckage of their machine in the mountains northeast of Alpine, Utah. They left a son and daughter, ages six and five.

That makes five people who have died in Robinson R44 crashes in less than three weeks. An April 29th crash in Kailua, Hawaii killed a pilot and two passengers.

The latter incident spurred Hawaii Senator Mazie Hirono and First District Representative Ed Case, both Democrats, to ask the FAA to take action.

Case wrote to the Western Pacific Regional Administrator, "Communities throughout the nation, and particularly in my home state of Hawai'i, are dealing with the intrusion from noise and visual impacts, as well as safety risks and other negative consequences of excessive helicopter and small aircraft commercial tour operations. . . .

"... [the] tour helicopter [which] crashed onto a residential street in Kailua ... was the second time in

six months that the same company had a tour helicopter crash land on O'ahu. It is time we reevaluate the FAA's role in regulating this industry.

"These tours impact our national, state and county parks and natural resources; cemeteries and memorial sites; military installations; harbors and other government infrastructure; visitor industry locations; commercial and industrial areas; nearshore waters and recreational areas; and throughout our residential neighborhoods.

"As I understand from discussions with the FAA and my own review of existing laws and regulations, these air tour operations are virtually unregulated at the federal level. The FAA does not consider noise emission, time and place of operation, and altitude. The only real federal interest or authority at present is strictly operational safety and national airspace efficiency. With the recent crash and deaths in Hawai'i, we must look into the way

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safety is being regulated. And as the federal government largely claims exclusive jurisdiction over airspace, state and local governments are not authorized to legislate or regulate any mitigating restrictions.

“This current situation is not acceptable. Commercial air tour operators are not or should not be entitled to exact widespread and virtually unlimited disruption and risk as a result of their operations. There has been no material effort by operators to mitigate disruption and risk on a voluntary basis, and none can be reasonably expected. My commitment is therefore to pursue legislative and/or regulatory solutions, and I would appreciate you working with me and others in doing so.”

We don't know if Chris Pappas, Congressional Representative for the First District, reads this paper or not. If anyone reading this paper knows him, perhaps they might put a bug in his ear—a mosquito might

be appropriate, for the verisimilitude—and suggest that he join forces with Rep. Case.

Residents of East Brookfield, Mass., at least, were able get some relief from helicopter overflights this month. It came not from the FAA, but from the U.S. Attorney.

Since early last year, Antonio Santonastaso, 59, had been making frequent low-altitude flights in a Robinson R22, taking off from and landing in his backyard on Podunk Road. That ended May 9th, when he was charged with one count of “serving as an airman without an airman certificate and one count of making false statements to federal agents,” according to a Justice Department press release.

Santonastaso did have a license at one time, but he lost it in 2000. It was revoked after he was convicted of stealing another Robinson R22 from the Norwood, Mass. airport. He “pleaded guilty to larceny in the



Recently it came to our attention that the Boston Women's Heritage Trail includes the Beacon Hill home of Bashka Paeff, the sculptor who created this magnificent work. The entry reads, in part, “Known as the ‘subway sculptress’ because in her spare time [she worked] as a toll collector at the Park Street subway station... Bashka Paeff (1893-1979) was a Russian Jewish immigrant who lived with her family at 6 Pinckney Street. Her most controversial work, *The Soldiers and Sailors Memorial*, stands in John Paul Jones Park in Kittery, Maine. Although she made changes to soften the work at the request of the governor [Ralph Brewster], she originally wanted to depict the horrors of war, saying: ‘...we should set up memorials that would make us loathe war instead of admire it.’” Amen, sister.

2000 helicopter theft after initially claiming that he couldn't have stolen the helicopter because he was overseas performing “black ops,” according to an article in the Worcester Telegram & Gazette.

Tubman Disrespected by Rich Geek

Three years ago the then-Secretary of the Treasury announced that Harriet Tubman would be placed on the front of the \$20 Federal Reserve note. Andrew Jackson, the current occupant, would go to the back of the bill.

Apparently because that change seemed to be losing momentum, New Hampshire Senator Jeanne Shaheen introduced a bill in March to “ensure that the face of all \$20 Federal Reserve notes printed after December 31, 2020, bear the likeness of Harriet Tubman.”

Earlier this month, Shaheen and Reps. Elijah Cummings [D-Md.] and John Katko [R-N.Y.] wrote a joint letter to Treasury Secretary

Steven Mnuchin, urging him to get the lead out.

Wednesday, Mnuchin said he had more important things to do.



Clearly, a little historical refresher is needed here. As Admiral Fowle's Piscataqua River Tidal Guide has been noting for years, 156 years ago this June 2nd, Harriet Tubman led

a team of Black Union Soldiers on a raid of a plantation in Combahee Ferry, South Carolina. The intrepid crew freed 750 slaves, many of whom went on to serve in the Union Army.

For the record, it was the North that won the Civil War.

Steven Mnuchin, if he's lucky, may eventually be remembered as the man whose father Robert, an art dealer, spent \$91 million dollars last week for a chrome-plated rabbit on behalf of hedge fund manager Steve Cohen.

Cohen's business practices as a hedge fund manager have been so [abem] creative they inspired a Showtime TV series, “Billions.” According to Allen Salkin's book “From Scratch: Inside the Food Network,” Cohen once paid Guy Fieri \$100,000 “to be his friend for a day” and drive him around Connecticut, reenacting a fantasy episode of “Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives.”

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— Dwight David Eisenhower
— Not-So-Random Thoughts from an Oregon Subscriber

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Act Now!

To the Editor:

That old feeling...the first time I felt it was during the '60s when serial assassination of America's leaders dominated the news. It continued into the '70s when America's youth were commoditized like cattle to become cannon fodder in an illegal war everyone knew would fail. "I guess the kids were right," Lyndon Johnson later admitted. Thanks a lot!

People in power make mistakes. Horrendous mistakes that topple nations, destroy futures, and get people killed. Honest mistakes, stupid mistakes, and willfully negligent mistakes that can breed bitterness for generations.

For the past two years, President Donald Trump has been ruthlessly jettisoning every check, balance, and constraint that might save him from making a mistake. Now, with no apparent need for advice or consent, he's free to exercise the same flawed judgment over our nation that plagued him in business.

What will history record as Trump's greatest misstep? War with Iran? An economy-crashing trade war? Invasion of North Korea? Gunning down refugee families at the Mexican border? Declaring a national emergency and jailing his detractors? Appointing himself President for Life? Can we afford to find out?

Nancy Pelosi tells us to forget impeachment and sit on our hands until after the 2020 election. But I've got a gnawing feeling Donald Trump won't wait. He's poised to act now, well before a reversal in 2020 could tear power from his grasp.

Please contact Nancy Pelosi and New Hampshire's entire Congressional Delegation and tell them to get the lead out. Do it before they all make a huge mistake—one that will haunt America's future for decades!

Rick Littlefield
Barrington, N.H.

Rick:

But...but...but...Speaker Pelosi is deeply concerned that if she offends the Despot-in-Chief, he won't sign legislation that Mitch McConnell won't...

*OK, we see your point.
The Editor*

A Constitutional Mandate to Impeach
To the Editor:

At the risk of sounding like a geek, I admit that I'm currently reviewing, as I have numerous times over the years for my own edification, the Constitution of the United States of America, the supreme law of our nation. With all the discussion surrounding the possible impeachment of POTUS #45, over what appears to be charges of obstruction of justice (certainly a high crime), I am focusing on the sections of the Constitution that cover impeachment.

Article II, Section IV of the Constitution says in no uncertain terms: "The President, Vice President and all civil Officers of the United States, shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors." Article I, Section II makes it clear that the U.S. House of Representatives "shall have the sole Power of Impeachment," and Section III of the same Article declares that "the Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments" and that conviction of the defendant will require "the Concurrence of two thirds of the Members present."

You probably noticed that the word "shall," which is not synonymous with the word "maybe," appears in all three sections on impeachment. I also recognized that the Constitution doesn't care if anyone's feelings get hurt or that our already bitterly divided nation becomes more divided over a President being held accountable for having committed an impeachable offense. Additionally, the Constitution does not instruct the House to hold off on introducing Articles of Impeachment just because they don't think enough partisan Senators from the other party will vote to convict. Furthermore, the Constitution provides no directives on what actions to take for political expediency or to make allowances for an upcoming major election.

The heavily redacted version of the Mueller Report (the one that #45



claims to "totally exonerate" him) cites at least 10 occasions where #45 attempted to obstruct a counterintelligence investigation into a foreign adversarial power's interference in our election, which is all the information the Constitution says the House needs to introduce Articles of Impeachment.

Wayne H. Merritt
Dover, N.H.

Why Democracies Fail

To the Editor:

A Democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of Government. It can only exist until the voters discover they can vote themselves largess out of the public treasury. From that moment on the majority always votes for the candidate promising the most benefits from the public treasury with the result that Democracy always collapses over a loose fiscal policy, always to be followed by a Dictatorship with loss of freedom for the many and greed for the few. This was the conclusion arrived at by Professor Alexander Fraser Tytler, a Scottish advocate, judge, writer and historian who served as Professor of Universal History, and Greek and Roman Antiquities at the University of Edinburgh nearly two centuries ago. A conclusion reached during the period when our thirteen original states were still colonies of Great Britain. At the time he was writing of the decline and fall of the Athenian Republic over two thousand years before.

It is to the "Republic" that we pledge allegiance, as guaranteed by Article 4, section 4, Constitution for the United States of America. Long live the glorious Republic of the United States of America and Damn the democracy. It is a fraudulent term used by ignorant persons and more often by intellectual fakers, to describe an infamous mixture of socialism, miscegenation, graft, confiscation of property and denial of personal rights to individuals whose

virtuous principles make them offensive.

The average age of the world's greatest civilizations has been 200 years.

Nations have progressed through the following sequence:

- From Bondage to Spiritual Faith
- "Spiritual Faith to Great Courage
- "Courage to Liberty
- "Liberty to Abundance
- "Abundance to Selfishness
- "Selfishness to Complacency
- "Complacency to Apathy
- "Apathy to Dependency

This sequence of events is most commonly attributed to *The Decline and Fall of the Athenian Republic*, by Alexander Fraser Tytler Lord Woodhouselee (1748-1813).

However, this has also been attributed to Benjamin Disraeli, Alexis de Tocqueville, R. G. LeTourneau and others. It is most likely that it is actually two quotes, put together. Parts of it show up in printed record as far back as 1950, when the "Fatal Sequence" portion was cited in a speech by Eugene E. Wilson at a special United Nations Convocation at Hillyer College in Hartford, Connecticut. Regardless of the quote's origin, it is interesting to note how accurate it details the past and how much further we have progressed along that predicted lines since it first appeared in modern recorded history, in 1950.

I urge you not to be concerned with the authorship of this quote, but to focus upon the truth that is in the words. I believe that we can stop this "Fatal Sequence," once the people have accepted the truth that history has provided. I close with the admonition of the Preacher, who recorded in verse 9 of Ecclesiastes "The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under

the sun."

Rep. Dick Marple, Merrimack #24
Hooksett, N.H.

Dick:

Thank you for writing. We welcome all opportunities to eviscerate this sort of pompous, authoritarian claptrap, masquerading as irrefutable wisdom, which has been undermining the very principles embodied in our Constitution since March 4, 1789—the day it went into effect. Usually we rely on Don Erving for this stuff, but we haven't heard from him in a while. We miss him deeply.

You are apparently aware of but not troubled by the spurious attribution of this piece. We find that curious.

Of course, we find everything curious. Thanks to the Miracle of the Internet, we found that someone else had already researched the first lump in this stew of twaddle. According to Loren Collins, [lorencollins.net/tytler.html] it originated in a 1951 editorial in the Daily Oklahoman written by Elmer T. Peterson. Peterson was—appropriately enough for this hogwash—Dean of the College of Education at the University of Iowa.

Another chunk of your diatribe, beginning with "It is to the 'Republic' that we pledge allegiance," was lifted from Westbrook Pegler. Time magazine said in 1938 that he was "invariably irritated, [and] inexhaustibly scornful. Unbattered by coordinated convictions of his own, Pegler applies himself to presidents and peanut vendors with equal zeal and skill. Dissension is his philosophy." The older he got, the crankier he got. He even managed to get thrown out of the John Birch Society for being too extreme.

In Pegler's day, writers occasionally made references to miscegenation. In this day and age, if you do, you'll get what you deserve, namely, a label: racist.

As for The Preacher, for us there's only one: Jesse Cutler. He's played on the TV

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WOW! PILE AND HUMOR



machine by some English actor, but he talks like a Texan. His girlfriend Tulip was dead once, but she's OK now. His best friend Cassidy, is an Irish vampire. Here's what The Preacher has to say: "It feels like...there's a big blender in my gut. And inside that blender, there's everything. Love, hate, fire, ice, polonium, ice cream, tarantulas...everything. All of God's creation inside of me."

Works for us.
The Editor

=====
Big NRA Money is Killing Kids

To the Editor:

Are you sick to death of hearing about yet another school shooting and more kids dying? Do you ever wonder why we just can't seem to have common sense gun laws? Believe it or not, the answer is simple—big money in politics allows powerful interests to prevent the kind of progress We the People want.

In 2016, the National Rifle Association (NRA) poured an unprecedented amount of money into the elections. According to Open Secrets, the NRA spent \$419 million to deliver Republicans to the House and Senate, and Trump to the White House. What's more, career NRA support for some members of Congress now reaches well into the seven-figure range. The skyrocketing cost of elections forces political parties into the pockets of major corporations. Wealthy donors have too much influence over politicians. The concentration of wealth yields concentration of power. If the NRA didn't have so much control over Congress, We the People could have common sense gun reform.

So what can We the People do about it? Here in New Hampshire, House Bill (HB) 504 calls on Congress to pass a Constitutional amend-

ment allowing limits on political spending to combat corruption and protect the equal rights of American citizens. HB 504 will be voted on by the N.H. Senate very soon. Call your state senator now and ask them to vote OTP (ought to pass) on HB 504.

Jennifer Dube
Raymond, N.H.

Jennifer:

Getting big money out of politics would do a lot of good across the board, in addition to helping neutralize the crackpot grifters of the NRA.

The Editor

=====
Our National Debt—Causes and Solutions

To the Editor:

I totally agree with recent comments from Robert Bixby of the Concord Coalition encouraging voters to ask 2020 presidential candidates how they would address our national debt and annual deficits. The Concord Coalition deserves much credit for keeping this issue in front of the public. While this organization is non-partisan, it is worth remembering that it was Democratic Senator Paul Tsongas from Massachusetts who first sounded the alarm about out-of-control spending by President Ronald Reagan in the 1980s. That call for controlling deficits fell on deaf Republican ears at the time, but was as true then as it is today. A bit of historical context is useful to understand how the Concord Coalition was born.

President Reagan was convinced that more spending on the military and reducing taxes, particularly on the higher income taxpayers and corporations, would result in increased economic growth which would more than pay for any lost revenue by the government. Of course, as many suspected, that philosophy of "supply side economics" proved wrong and has since

been discredited by most economic experts including Reagan's own. Reagan's deficits kept on climbing so much that some critics commented: "our country owes President Reagan a debt that we can never repay." In response to these large deficits, his administration decided to create the "Grand Unified Budget" (GUB), which included not only the normal government budget but added the funds in the Social Security and Medicare Trust Funds (SS&MTF), which at the time enjoyed a large surplus. These surpluses made Reagan's deficits look smaller, and even though SS&MTF were self-funded programs administered by trustees, even today politicians are still using the GUB and pretending that they have control over it.

While I agree with many of the Concord Coalition's comments, their constant focus on SS&MTF when discussing debt and deficits is one-sided. SS&MTF are not the cause of our current debt or deficit spending, in fact the SS-Trust Fund currently has a surplus of approximately \$3 trillion, even though current revenues are lower than the payouts. However, the Medicare Trust Fund will need shoring up soon.

There are three drivers of our deficits and national debt: 1) constant reductions of the tax rates for high income taxpayers and corporations, 2) increased military spending on wars and interventions abroad, without funding to pay for them, and 3) overpromising and creating new programs without identifying funding. Solutions to this national deficit spending and debt are obvious to most Americans: we need more revenue, and (just like a family budget deficit) we need to control over spending.

The SS&MTF trustees have been recommending reasonable changes to address these issues for years. Here are just 4 suggestions: 1) increase by approximately 0.5 percent the payroll

deduction for SS&M taxes, 2) eliminate the cap above which no taxes are collected, 3) merge several pension programs for state and federal workers into the SS&M system, 4) allow Medicare to negotiate for drug prices with manufacturers (like the Veterans Administration does), pushing down drug prices for everyone.

On the political front: 1) our government must support generating more revenues by increasing the tax-rates for high income earners and corporations, 2) stop using the GUB by separating the SS&MTF from the regular government budget, providing real budget transparency, 3) ensure that the increased government revenue is adequate not only to fund already existing programs, but also to fund new and needed programs like infrastructure and modernization, 4) take a critical look at military spending. It is not supposed to be a jobs program, and the U.S. is not the policeman of world. Our military spending should be limited to the need to defend our own country, not someone else's.

While deficits and debt are very simple ideas, many politicians want them to be perceived as complicated, so that their drivers are discussed as little as possible. Thank you, Concord Coalition, for keeping this topic alive, and yes, let us ask the 2020 Presidential candidates about it.

Representative Peter Somssich / District 27, 34 Swett Ave. Portsmouth, N.H. 03801, (603) 436-5221

Peter:

Thanks very much—best explanation we've seen of how the GOP risked the peoples' future to cover up their fiscal hypocrisy.

The Editor

=====
Protect Community Rights

To the Editor:

In March of this year 74 of our N.H. state representatives voted in favor of allowing the people to vote on the N.H. Community Rights state constitutional amendment affirming the right of local self-government. 282 representatives voted to effectively undermine the efforts of New Hampshire communities that have enacted

local ordinances saying no to corporate harms and yes to environmental and social justice.

Barnstead residents watched for years as sludge, laced with carcinogens from Monsanto and other toxic industries, was dumped on farmlands impacting groundwater. We then looked on as our neighbors in the town of Nottingham fought the USA Springs takeover of their water resources. Barnstead residents subsequently enacted a rights-based ordinance asserting our right to control and protect our water resources. And recently Barnstead enacted a freedom from religious identification ordinance in response to burgeoning religious intolerance.

The N.H. Community Rights Amendment would have protected these ordinances—as well as those enacted in numerous N.H. towns fighting pipelines and other corporate harms—from state preemption and would have specifically enumerated the right to local self-government affirmed in the N.H. State Constitution's Bill of Rights.

Ask your representatives if they voted to support local decision-making, the N.H. Community Rights Amendment, or if they chose to yield to party pressure and bow to corporate donors. Ask them if they will, in the future, recognize the constituency they are serving and understand that the people most affected by decisions should be the ones making those decisions.

People all over N.H. are working with the New Hampshire Community Rights Network to realize true local self-government so we can dismantle the power structures that have kept us at the mercy of corporate greed. It's time that all of our legislators support the people's work that will sustain and enrich our communities. Kudos to the 74 legislators who did.

Diane St. Germain, NHCRN Board member, www.nhcommunityrights.org, (603) 496-3503
Center Barnstead, N.H.

Mash Notes, Hate Mail, &c.

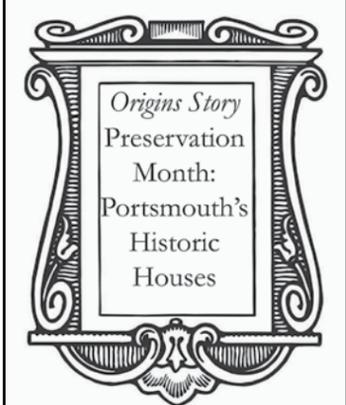
to page six

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Murph's Fortnightly Quote
"A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name Mother of Exiles."
— Emma Lazarus (1849-1887) from "The New Colossus," displayed at the Statue of Liberty

This lovely little space could be yours for a mere ten bucks. To learn how, call (603) 433-9898, or e-mail editors@nhgazette.com.

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



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

"Two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity; and I'm not sure about the universe."
— Albert Einstein
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

Waiting, 1945

by William Marvel

Bookcases and bookshelves cover all the open wall space on the first floor of my house, and every wall of the upstairs, including inside the closets. The books are largely arranged by category and subcategory, although some have to be shelved by size; most of the paperbacks have their own bookcases. Some might fit multiple categories, and when I need them I often find them more by memory than by the logic of my organization. The shelves are all full. When a new title joins the collection it can precipitate a wholesale reorganization, forcing me to choose between duplicate copies, or to decide whether I can stand to give away a book for which I've never yet found a use.

A new book arrived a few days ago. It was a fairly slim volume—the last publication by an old friend of mine, about a soldier we both knew well. That soldier already has a few biographies, a couple of which sit side-by-side on the shelves I've re-

served for Civil War biography, and putting it there would have initiated another endless shuffle. It wasn't really a biography anyway, and didn't fit any of the other genres in my collection, so I went down to the glass-front bookcase of miscellaneous titles beside the piano. The faded red spine of a book with a chipping dust jacket seemed the perfect size, so I pulled it out and found that the new one fit comfortably in its place.

The potential discard was *Brave Men*, billed as "the new book by Ernie Pyle." For the edification of readers under the age of 60, Ernie Pyle was a war correspondent who traveled with U.S. soldiers in Europe and the Pacific, sending frequent columns home to the Scripps-Howard newspaper chain. This book was his second collection of columns from the front. My interest in World War II is limited to naval operations, primarily in the Pacific, and I supposed that I could dispense with Pyle's book without much loss. There was no one I could give it to—the last WWII veteran I knew died last

February—and there wasn't much chance that anyone would pick it up secondhand. It would probably be bound for a furnace somewhere, so I flipped through it one last time.

Tucked between pages 92 and 93 was a tiny clipping from a newspaper, one side of which bore a nameless poem.

"Last night I dreamed my love came home.

"In the fourth lonely watch

"I waked, and waking heard his hand

"Upon the latch."

In the middle stanzas the dreamer found that she had misinterpreted the noise of wind and rain. She consoled herself with the reflection that another time it would really be him.

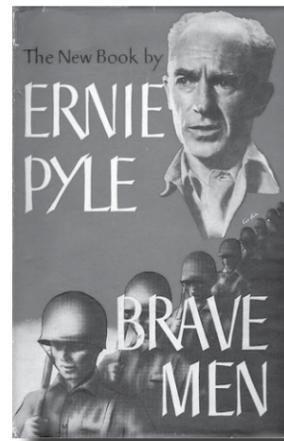
"What night, what watch? Ah, who can say,

"And whether soon or late?"

"Only, the heart that's strong to love

"Is strong to wait."

Behind the poem, cut down to exactly the same size, was a picture of my mother. She was sitting on the porch of her own mother's house



place. Dog-eared the pages of a book was a notorious vice of my father's, and that page marked the end of a chapter called "The Navy Stands By." This copy of Pyle's book was from the sixth printing, dated January, 1945. My father departed on his last tour in the Pacific in February, 1945, aboard the *U.S.S. Ottawa*, bound for Okinawa, and the book must have gone aboard in one of his trunks when he left.

The poem and the photograph, meanwhile, were trimmed just small enough to fit into a V-mail envelope. He must have received them somewhere between the *Ottawa's* landing at Okinawa and its stop at bombed-out Nagasaki, and put them in the book to keep them flat. There they've sat for three-quarters of a century.

Solving that mystery only raised another—namely, where the hell am I going to put that new book? If I could open up some new wall space downstairs, I suppose I could build some new bookshelves to fit. Do we really need a couch?

Rich DiPentima
Portsmouth, N.H.

Alabama Bound? Not Likely.

To the Editor:
There is nothing that could lead me to support Alabama's law criminalizing abortion.

There are, however, some amendments to that law that might at least let me feel that those who voted for it did so on the basis of their true belief in the personhood of the embryo and their true caring about the life (not just the birth) of the child.

The government denying abortion shall:

guarantee the medical costs of maternity care, delivery, postpartum care, and for any medical issues arising from the pregnancy or delivery. provide funds for the care, medical

from page five

Mueller's Testimony is Indispensible

Dear Editor:

Today, Mr. Trump stood behind a podium in the Rose Garden that had a sign saying "No Collusion, No Obstruction #35 + Million, 2,800 subpoenas, and 18 angry Democrats." An angry Trump had just abruptly walked out of a meeting about infrastructure with Speaker Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Schumer, to complain about the Mueller Report and the Democrats' attempts to hold him accountable. What the sign did not list were the number of Trump associates who pled guilty to felonies, were indicted, convicted, jailed, or the 251 contacts Trump campaign associates had with Russian foreign agents, none of

which were reported to the FBI as required by law, or the ten episodes of attempted or actual obstruction of justice by Trump listed in the Mueller Report.

Once again, Mr. Trump continues to repeat the big lie, that the Mueller Report totally exonerated him from obstruction of justice. That is clearly not what was stated in the Mueller Report. The Report stated, "If we had confidence after a through investigation of the facts that the president clearly did not commit obstruction of justice, we would have so stated. Based on the facts and applicable legal standards we are unable to reach that conclusion."

It is now imperative that the House Judiciary Committee have Mr. Mueller come and testify under oath, either voluntarily or, if necessary, under subpoena. Last week Attorney General Barr said that he was not preventing Mr. Mueller from appearing before Congress. We need to have a number of key questions answered by Mr. Mueller, such as; did Barr's four page letter fairly and accurately describe his report and its findings? Would he have indicted any other person, other than a sitting president, who committed the 10 episodes of possible obstruction of justice listed in his report? Since he

accepted the Department of Justice policy that a sitting president could not be indicted, did he intend for his report to be used by Congress to uphold their Constitutional responsibility to determine if impeachable offenses had been committed?

Based on Mr. Mueller's responses to these questions, House Democrats would have a better argument for either initiating impeachment hearings or for not doing so. In any case, Americans need to fully understand what actually were the findings of Mr. Mueller, and that Mr. Trump was not exonerated by the Mueller Report, despite his continued efforts to deny that truth.



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Why a 70% tax rate on the superrich would be good for America

by Jim Hightower

Once upon a time, there was a place where the prevailing ethic of the very richest people was that monetary self-indulgence was tacky and that wealth was a matter of good fortune, carrying with it an obligation to the Common Good.

Believe it or not, that place was the USA! Where did it go?

The prevailing ethic of today's billionaire's club is one of entitlement,

superiority, and grandiosity—including flaunting their wealth like the robber barons of old. For example, a ludicrously large "house" is under construction in Florida for one of our modern-day barons, boasting 11 kitchens, five swimming pools, and a 30-car garage.

Worse, the billionaire class is asserting its sense of plutocratic privilege by weaponizing their huge fortunes. They've been spending massively (and often secretly) to

build a culture of inequality across our land. To their dismay, however, America's workaday majority is rebelling, with newly-elected democratic populists like Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez proposing a 70 percent tax rate on incomes above \$10 million. "Oh, the horror," shrieked billionaires like computer magnate Michael Dell: "Name a country where that's worked," he demanded dismissively.

Okay, Michael: How about the

United States?

Yes, between the end of World War II in 1945 and Ronald Reagan's start of coddle-the-rich government in 1981, the top tax rate never fell below 70 percent—and that was a period of unparalleled growth and prosperity for America's middle class.

Dell, who lives in a sprawling 33,000-square-foot house with all the charm of a shopping mall, confuses value with money and has no

grasp of the essential richness of American egalitarianism. We should not be listening to people like him (much less being governed by them) just because they are rich.

====

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

and otherwise, of the child up until the age of 18. This shall include food, clothing, and other necessities.

provide funds sufficient to offset any loss of wages for the woman whose choice was taken from her.

Even these amendments would not fully compensate the woman denied an abortion, but they would at least take some responsibility for the effects of their law and demonstrate some moral conscience, some sense that they are truly pro-life and not purely anti-abortion.

Donna Pistole
Durham, N.H.

Donna:

We suspect that you know full well the Republican Party would never provide such generous support to any child—unless he or she was the offspring of a class we ought to call—irony alert!—"the deserving rich."

The Editor

====

Bill de Blasio a Great Addition

Dear Editor:

While healing from hip replacement, I'm seeing lots of CNN. Within minutes of each other, I heard Iran's top diplomat respond to our U.S. threats. He said this calls for U.S. recognizing the precarious situation we, the U.S., are creating and without thought for consequences. (That's Trump through and through—unserious about consequences as he shallow-thinking tweets his orders.) Then I heard new Democratic presidential candidate Gov. Bill de Blasio of New York City interviewed.

De Blasio nearly right away launched into explaining he's

known Con Don for a long time. He's challenged Con Don in court and caused him to back down. Bill de Blasio said, "Con Don is a regular playground bully. You can't let him get the upper hand." I heard de Blasio recount that he's had six years of tackling the problems of America's largest city, naming his gains for the people. He's well aware of the short time we have to address climate change, and he's well aware of income inequality hurting too many people. He was elected in 2013 and re-elected in 2017 with landslide victories both times.

If a new Deutsche Bank investigation of the billions Trump/Kushner borrowed and used somehow doesn't make Trump quake, then this challenge by Bill de Blasio should. If it turns out we see a Bill Weld candidacy in 2020 because something happened to derail Trump before then, well, we might have two fine elected officials in face off: high-achieving-for-the-people Bill de Blasio v. thoughtful and respected Bill Weld. It could be like the clouds breaking open and a shaft of sunlight shining down, that election. I know that's a lot of "ifs." Just hoping.

Lynn Rudmin Chong
Sanbornton, N.H.

====

Iran Wags Impeachment Dog

by Tom H. Hastings

Trump is blustering at Iran and to the world that we might just need to crush that pipsqueak terror country.

Um...it took nine years to invade, occupy, and finally limp out of Iraq,

288,000 Iraqi and American deaths later. Iraq is a third the population of Iran. War there would be many times more destructive, just when we need the militaries of the world to wake up to climate chaos and stop consuming vast quantities of fossil fuel.

Let's also recall that the invasion of Iraq was only sold to the American people by the creation of Fake News, by the incessant repetition of two categorical lies: 1) Saddam had weapons of mass destruction, 2) Saddam might give one or more of his nuclear weapons to Osama bin Laden.

Why is Trump doing this now? Is this drumbeat also based on lies?

Well, to misquote Mae West, "Is that a subpoena in your pocket or are you just happy to see me?"

Trump's coterie, his closest, his family, and his henchpeople are either in prison, heading there once they are through cooperating with prosecutors or Special Counsel, or about to get a Congressional force-of-law subpoena to come testify and/or hand over germane documents. The stench of corruption is revealing that Trump's promised plan to "drain the swamp" worked only because he brought in a cesspool with which to replace it.

More from Trump's inner circle have traded their charcoal Brooks Brothers power suits for orange jump suits as more evidence comes to light. More than 200 separate criminal charges have already been

filed just in the Mueller investigation against several entities and at least 34 individuals associated with Trump's campaign or his administration and we expect more from other courts.

The protracted and determined effort to get Trump's tax returns is also proceeding with force of law and virtually all his financial dealings—personal, family "charity," campaign, inaugural committee, business entities—are being revealed as corrupt, illegal, cheating, and often literally bankrupt. His horde of lawyers are suing everyone they can think of—Deutsche Bank, Capitol One, Mazars, House Oversight Committee chair Elijah Cummings—in a flustered attempt to contain each damning revelation.

We are reminded now on a daily basis of Trump's declaration that he could shoot somebody on Fifth Avenue and not lose any voters. He's stonewalling every Congressional subpoena and refusing to allow anyone to answer any of those subpoenas to come testify and answer questions by any Congressional committees. What's next for this wannabe monarch? Declare Divine Right? Summary executions? Jus primae noctis?

Even Richard Nixon in his worst criminal noncooperative period didn't go as far as Trump is now, desperate to prevent any truth at all from reaching the American people.

We deserve to know what Trump and his people did to steal the 2016 election; we deserve to know what

the Russians have on Trump and his people that allowed them to exert so much leverage on Trump then and now; we deserve to know just how many election and financial and national security laws Trump violated then and now.

Instead, it's Wag the Dog time; scream bloody hell about Iran, let loose the dogs of war under kennel master John Bolton and dictator whisperer Mike Pompeo and leap around madly, hoping to distract us all, even if it takes another war of choice based on lies in the Middle East, even if it credibly threatens millions of human lives, even if it consumes literally billions of gallons of absolutely unnecessary fossil fuel by naval battle groups already on their way and thousands of provocative military jet flights taunting and then possibly attacking Iran.

Will we fall for this garbage move? Will Trump attempt to do what so many autocrats have done when they feel imperiled by popular disapproval and launch a war, initiated by a false flag operation or concocted false intelligence reports? Will we be suckers complicit in mass murder?

The 2016 election was stolen by thieves, foreign and domestic. Will we the American people insist on justice and defense of democracy or will we sit back and take more of this abuse?

Dr. Tom H. Hastings is PeaceVoice Director and on occasion an expert witness for the defense in court.

====

"Why do so many people have the crash-prone helicopters? Are they sold with a free life insurance policy?"

—W.F., Rollinsford, N.H.



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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

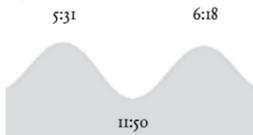
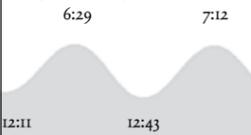
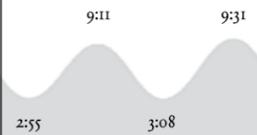
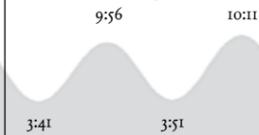
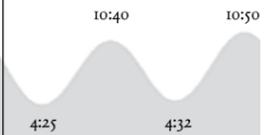
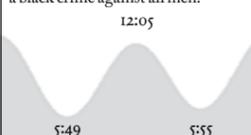
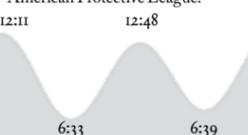
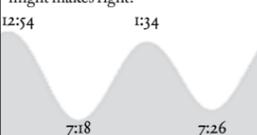
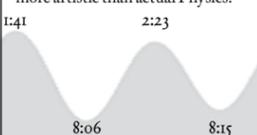
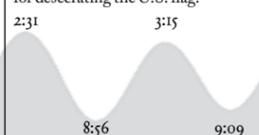
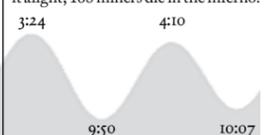
drags about seventeen billion gallons of seawater — enough to fill 2,125,000 tanker trucks — up the river and into Great Bay. This creates a roving hydraulic conflict, as incoming sea and the outgoing river collide. The skirmish line

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, MAY 26	MONDAY, MAY 27	TUESDAY, MAY 28	WEDNESDAY, MAY 29	THURSDAY, MAY 30	FRIDAY, MAY 31	SATURDAY, JUNE 1
<p>2004—The <i>NY Times</i> admits its pre-war Iraq coverage was "not as rigorous as it should have been." 1989—Future Veep J. Danforth Quayle predicts, "We are on an irreversible trend toward more freedom and democracy, but that could change." 1977—George Willig scales the World Trade Center in NYC. 1972—Nixon's "Plumbers" fail to gain entry to Democratic National HQ at the Watergate. 1970—The destroyer <i>U.S.S. Richard B. Anderson's</i> departure for Vietnam is delayed due to crew sabotage. 1947—An FBI agent writes a memo noting the Communist content of <i>It's a Wonderful Life</i>. 1938—The House Un-American Activities Committee begins carrying out its un-American activities. 1937—Ford's thugs beat hell out of Walter Reuther and three union colleagues in the "Battle of the Overpass." 1934—The Burlington diesel <i>Zephyr's</i> first run spells doom for steam. 1916—Louis Thomas "Moondog" Hardin, composer, street musician, and Viking-helmet-wearing blind eccentric, is born. 1647—In Hartford, Conn., where the State House now stands, Alice Young becomes the first American hanged for witchcraft. 1637—At Mystic, Conn., Captains Mason and Underhill start the Pequot War by burning Pequot forts and killing 600 Indians.</p>	<p>2017—Last call for The Coat of Arms. 1994—Charles Rodman Campbell does his best to doge it, but Washington State's hangman finally manages to get a noose around his neck. 1972—Nixon's "Plumbers" fail a second time trying to break into Democratic National HQ at the Watergate. 1962—To clear an underground landfill, Centralia, Pa. officials set a fire. It spreads to a coal seam, forcing abandonment of the town 30 years later. The fire still burns. 1959—NBC's <i>Today Show</i> reports straight-faced on the Society for Indecency to Naked Animals' campaign to clothe quadrupeds. 1941—The British sink the <i>Bismark</i> to the bottom of the sea. 1940—As Brits evacuate Dunkirk, Captain Jack Churchill drops a Nazi with an arrow from his longbow. 1923—Arch-fiend Heinz Alfred Kissinging is born in Fürth, Bavaria. 1902—Luna Park's owners poison then electrocute Topsy the Elephant. Edison's cameras film the event. 1777—Maj. Samuel Langdon sets out for Cambridge with gunpowder expropriated from the Crown. 1702—"I am about to—or I am going to—die;" says French grammarian Dominique Bouhours, "either expression is used." 1541—Margaret Pole, 67, 8th Countess of Salisbury, tries to dodge the ax in the Tower of London. It only makes things worse; the job takes 12 strokes.</p>	<p>2009—Jonathan Trappe crosses the English Channel suspended from a cluster of 54 multicolored balloons. 1987—W. German Mathias Rust, 19, lands a rented Cessna in Red Square. 1986—The Energy Dept. calls off a search for a high-level nuclear waste dump which had been considering a site in southwestern New Hampshire. 1972—Third time's a charm for Nixon's "Plumbers," finally breaking into DNC HQ in the Watergate Hotel. 1962—The stock market plummets 5.7 percent, the worst drop since 1929. 1959—The U.S. Army sends Able and Baker, two monkeys, into space. 1946—The Pentagon begins working on a long-range bomber to be powered by a nuclear reactor; 15 years and \$8 billion later it's declared impractical. 1871—In Père Lachaise cemetery, French soldiers restore proper order by massacring 147 Communards. 1868—"I like an Indian better dead than living," says Delegate James M. Cavanaugh [D-Mont.] tells Congress, "I have never...seen a good Indian...except...a dead Indian." 1830—Andy Jackson says all Indians must move west of the Mississippi. 1754—Tanacharison, scout for Lieutenant Colonel George Washington, murders the wounded Joseph Coulon de Jumonville near Fort Necessity. The French and Indian War ensues. 1738—Birth of Dr. Joseph Guillotin. 1653—To protect the guilty, Strawberry Banke becomes Portsmouth.</p>	<p>2015—The <i>Washington Post</i> prints ex-Gov. John H. Sununu's confession that in 1988 he bartered state assets—low numbered license plates—to buy support for G.H.[H.]W. Bush. 2011—Orange County, Calif., Paramedic Chris Trokey saves Dr. Michael Shannon from a burning SUV. Shannon had saved Trokey's life after his premature birth 26 years earlier. 2008—Senator (and candidate) John McCain [R-Ariz.] says "Mosul is quiet" on a day when 30 die there. 2002—FBI head Robert Mueller says 9/11 might have been preventable. 2001—The Bush twins, charged with underage boozing, plead <i>nolo</i>. 1992—In Gibsonton, Fla., "Lobster Boy" Grady Stiles Jr. is murdered by a hit man hired by his family. 1987—Michael Jackson attempts to buy the Elephant Man's bones. 1968—Charles deGaulle flees from Paris to Germany where he consults with French generals about bringing troops back home to restore order. 1953—Tenzing Norgay and Edmund Hillary top Everest. 1941—Disgruntled Disney cartoonists vote to go out on strike. 1932—WW I "Bonus Marchers" begin arriving in Washington, D.C. 1922—The Supreme Court rules that baseball is not a business and is therefore exempt from anti-trust laws. 1913—Stravinski's <i>Le Sacre du Printemps</i> debuts in Paris—to a notoriously tumultuous reception.</p>	<p>2007—Dale Rippey, a 62 year-old Florida resident, is attacked by a rabid 25-pound bobcat. Rippey, a 'Nam vet, strangles the cat with his bare hands. 1971—Vietnam War veterans are arrested for protesting on Lexington Green. 1962—Missionary Archie E. Mitchell, sole survivor of a Bly, Ore. picnic devastated by a Japanese fire balloon, is captured, along with two others, by the Viet Cong. He's never seen again. 1937—Police attack strikers at Republic Steel in Chicago: 10 are shot dead, 55 hospitalized, 30 wounded. 1927—In Queens, N.Y., Fred Trump, father of The Donald, is arrested for "refusing to disperse" from a KKK parade that devolved into a riot. 1922—The Lincoln Memorial is dedicated. The ceremony is segregated. 1909—A National Conference on the Negro leads to the NAACP. 1854—President Franklin Pierce [D-N.H.] signs the Kansas-Nebraska Act, which he also co-wrote. It leads directly to "Bleeding Kansas." 1806—Andy Jackson, dueling, takes a bullet near his heart, aims carefully, and shoots Charles Dickinson dead. 1783—America's 1st daily, <i>The Pennsylvania Evening Post</i>, begins. 1741—N.Y.C. burns 13 black men at the stake and hangs 21 men and women, black and white, for planning a slave revolt. 1381—John Bampton tries to collect unpaid poll taxes in Essex. The Peasants' Revolt ensues.</p>	<p>2009—Dr. George Tiller, ushering in a Wichita, Kansas church, is shot dead to uphold the sanctity of life. 2007—New Hampshire becomes the first state to honor same-sex unions without court intervention. 2005—Ex-FBI official Mark Felt admits he is "Deep Throat." 1971—For the first time in the U.S., Memorial Day is celebrated on a day other than May 30th. 1927—The last Model T rolls off the Ford assembly line. 1921—A black WW I veteran in Tulsa refuses a demand to surrender his pistol. During a struggle it fires; a massive "race war" ensues. 1921—The mistrial of Sacco and Vanzetti begins under Judge Webster "Did you see what I did with those anarchistic bastards the other day?" Thayer. 1916—The Battle of Jutland begins: 151 British ships, including 28 battleships, against 99 Germans (16 battleships). The results are inconclusive, except for the 8,645 dead sailors. 1889—A shoddy dam belonging to Andrew Carnegie, Andrew Mellon, and friends at the South Fork Fishing and Hunting Club collapses upstream of Johnstown, Pa. The resulting flood kills 2,200, but the owners are never successfully prosecuted. 1779—General George Washington orders New Hampshire's Gen. John Sullivan to bring "destruction... devastation [and] total ruinment" to the Haudenosaunee [Iroquois]. He does.</p>	<p>2005—Paul Wolfowitz, his incompetence well-proven at the Pentagon, is put in charge of the World Bank. 2003—The Bush administration cans its plans for a large Iraqi assembly in favor of a smaller, easier to manipulate advisory council. 2002—George W.[MD] Bush announces at West Point that we'll attack pre-emptively if we get nervous. 1967—Disgruntled vets form Vietnam Veterans Against the War. 1954—The AEC pulls the security clearance of Manhattan Project boss J. Robert Oppenheimer. 1950—Maine's Margaret C. Smith asks fellow Republicans to renounce the "Four Horsemen of Calumny—Fear, Ignorance, Bigotry, and Smear." She is duly punished by them. 1923—Maine Gov. Percival P. Baxter orders state flags lowered to half-staff to honor the death of his dog, Garry. 1921—Tulsa's whites use planes to firebomb the wealthy, black Greenwood neighborhood into oblivion, murdering hundreds in the process. 1918—Advised by a retreating French officer at Belleau Woods to turn back, U.S.M.C. Capt. Lloyd Williams replies, "Retreat? Hell, we just got here." 1857—The American Party sends Baltimore's Plug Uglies to disrupt municipal elections in D.C. To restore order President Buchanan calls out the Marines, who shoot 10 citizens dead. 1660—Mary Dyer is hanged in Boston for her Quaker beliefs.</p>
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SUNDAY, JUNE 2	MONDAY, JUNE 3	TUESDAY, JUNE 4	WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5	THURSDAY, JUNE 6	FRIDAY, JUNE 7	SATURDAY, JUNE 8
<p>2016—In Colo., Cindy Estevane-Vilavicencio sees an Air Force Thunderbird crash; the pilot lives. In Ga., her sister Kristyn Lockwood sees a Navy Blue Angel crash; the pilot dies. 2010—A Robinson R22 helicopter flying over Spokane, Wash. sputters, pops, and throws off pieces before crashing and killing its pilot. 2002—The CIA admits to Congress—in a classified document, to avoid undue alarm—it had tracked one 9/11 hijacker months earlier than it had previously admitted. 1999—The <i>Virginian-Pilot</i> reports that evangelist Pat Robertson has had "extensive dealings" with Liberian war criminal Charles Taylor. 1972—Alfred W. McCoy explains to Congress that top South Vietnamese officials, the CIA, and the Mafia are all in the heroin racket together. 1971—"Treating [the press] with considerably more contempt," Nixon writes to Haldeman, "is in the long run a more productive policy." 1944—Donald Trump, 15, of Roslindale, Mass., drowns after being stricken with a cramp while swimming. 1919—Anarchists set off bombs in eight cities. In Washington, D.C., the home of Attorney General Mitchell Palmer is nearly destroyed; parts of the bomber's body land across the street on FDR's stoop. 1863—Black Union soldiers guided by Harriet Tubman raid Combahee Ferry, S.C. and free 750 slaves.</p>	<p>2017—Don Opplinger loses his life and a vast cattle empire when the Robinson R44 helicopter he's piloting crashes in Dimmitt, Texas. 2009—New Hampshire becomes the first state to legalize same-sex marriage without a court order. 2002—Egypt says it warned the U.S., a week before 9/11, that al-Qaeda was about to strike the U.S. 1987—After a loud "ping," parts fall from a Robinson R22 over South Windsor, Conn. It crashes, burning an instructor and student to death. 1983—In Medina, N.D., "Greatest Generation" veteran, Posse Comitatus co-founder, and anti-tax crank Gordon Kahl dies in a shootout with the FBI, having slain five U.S. Marshals. 1980—A failed 46-cent computer chip briefly convinces NORAD that 220 Soviet missiles are incoming. 1969—In the South China Sea, a navigational mistake takes the destroyer <i>U.S.S. Evans</i> under the bow of the carrier <i>HMAS Melbourne</i>. The bow of the <i>Evans</i> sinks with 73 of her crew. 1961—Henry R. Marshall, investigating LBJ's pal Billy Sol Estes for the Agriculture Department, is found with five .22 slugs in him from a bolt-action rifle. Verdict: "suicide." 1947—At West Point, 56 years before #43 preemptively attacks Iraq, #34 tells graduates, "War is mankind's most tragic and stupid folly; to seek or advise its deliberate provocation is a black crime against all men."</p>	<p>2017—"Last Call" at the Press Room. 2006—A Ukrainian man enters the lion cage at the Kiev zoo, saying "God will save me, if he exists." He doesn't. 2004—In Granby, Colo., Marvin Heemeyer destroys the Town Hall, the mayor's home, and 11 other buildings with his home-made armored bulldozer because "God has asked me to do this." Then he shoots himself. 2003—To prove they're not soft on corporate crime, federal prosecutors pick on Martha Stewart. 1989—The Chinese Army kills thousands at Tiananmen Square. 1963—Allen Ginsberg visits Saigon to assess the political situation. 1962—The first U.S. high altitude nuclear test fails when a Thor rocket malfunctions and is blown up minutes after liftoff over the South Pacific. 1944—For the first time a submarine—<i>USS 505</i>—is captured and boarded on the high seas. 1943—GIs in a fleet of cabs roam downtown L.A. searching for and beating up Mexican Americans. 1939—The <i>St. Louis</i>, 915 Jewish refugees aboard, is turned away from Florida; 254 later die in Nazi concentration camps. 1919—U.S. Marines invade Costa Rica "to protect American interests." 1917—President Woodrow Wilson—a Democrat—tells the Justice Department to issue badges to 200,000 jingoistic civilians in the American Protective League.</p>	<p>2003—Two top <i>New York Times</i> editors resign in disgrace. Curiously, many more do not. 2000—A rented Robinson R22 helicopter crashes outside an Indian town, Fla., treatment center. The occupants, a novice pilot and an escaping sexual offender, survive but are soon caught. 1989—A lone Chinese man temporarily stops a line of tanks in Tiananmen Square. 1976—In Idaho, the \$100 million federal Teton Dam fails, killing 14 and causing \$2 billion in damages. 1969—Taken three weeks earlier, at a cost of 72 American lives and 372 Purple Hearts, Ap Bia Mountain, aka Hamburger Hill, is abandoned. 1968—Robert Kennedy is fatally shot in Los Angeles. An LAPD investigation convinces the gullible that Sirhan Sirhan did it. 1967—Israel attacks Egypt and Syria. The Six Day War begins. 1965—The State Department admits that U.S. troops are engaged in combat in Vietnam. 1963—Britain's Sec. of War John Profumo resigns after it's revealed he and a Soviet naval officer had, at different times, shared the favors of the same prostitute. 1943—Clashes between GIs and zoot-suited Hispanics continue in L.A. 1862—France gains sovereignty over three Vietnamese provinces under the Treaty of Saigon and the principle that might makes right.</p>	<p>2002—Donald Rumsfeld tells the unknowing that unknown unknowns are "things we do not know we don't know." He should know. 2001—Florida man Vance Flosenzier drags a seven-foot shark from shallow water; paramedics drag his nephew Jesse Arbogast's arm from its mouth; doctors successfully re-attach the arm. 1989—Nuclear weapon manufacturing ends at Rocky Flats, Colo. when FBI and EPA agents raid the joint. 1989—Greenpeace reports there are 50 nuclear weapons and nine reactors on the ocean floor. 1988—At a food irradiation plant in Georgia, "unbreakable" cesium capsules break, nuking ten workers. 1980—Nuke-armed B-52s go on alert for the second time in three days after a computer glitch signals a Soviet attack on the U.S. 1978—Voters nuke California's tax base and future by passing Prop. 13. 1975—Governor Mel Thomson calls for the N.H. National Guard to be armed with nuclear weapons. 1949—Orwell publishes <i>1984</i>. Originally a novel, it became non-fiction. 1944—GIs are treated to a day on the beach in Normandy, France. 1933—The first drive-in movie theatre opens, in Camden, N.J. 1907—The University of Bern denies a doctorate to A. Einstein because his conclusions about light, space and time are radical and his assumptions "more artistic than actual Physics."</p>	<p>2018—Attacked by a bobcat in her Georgia driveway, DeDe Phillips, 46, strangles the rabid animal. 1997—Activists are arrested for passing out the Bill of Rights outside the pro-nuclear Bradbury Science Museum in Los Alamos. 1971—The <i>Armed Forces Journal</i> publishes an article saying "our army... in Vietnam is in a state approaching collapse." 1969—Marine PFC Dan Bullock is killed in Nam. He is 15. 1966—Walking for voting rights and freedom, James Meredith, 32, gets three blasts from a shotgun in Hernando, Miss. He's 84 now. 1960—A BOMARC missile at a site in N.J. catches fire, melting the 10-kiloton nuclear warhead on board; eleven ounces of plutonium go missing. 1943—In L.A., 5,000 soldiers, sailors, and civilians strip and beat zoot-suited Hispanics. 1924—George Mallory disappears near the summit of Mt. Everest. 1920—KKK Imperial Wizard William J. Simmons hires two PR experts: membership explodes. 1917—Messines, Belgium and 10,000 Germans vanish as British engineers detonate 19 huge mines. The explosion is heard in Dublin. 1862—Under orders from N.H.-born Gen. Benjamin "The Beast" Butler, disabled Mexican War vet Wm. B. Mumford is hanged in New Orleans for desecrating the U.S. flag.</p>	<p>2003—Condoleezza Rice admits Pres. George W.[MD] Bush's State of the Union claim that Saddam tried to buy uranium from Niger was "wrong." 1994—The main rotor of a Robinson R22 helicopter detaches over Martin, England, killing a pilot and instructor. 1991—Washington, D.C. hosts a "National Victory Celebration," complete with Abrams tanks and 8,800 active duty troops. In 85° heat, the tanks wreck Constitution Ave. 1967—Israeli planes and boats attack the unarmed U.S. spy ship <i>Liberty</i> with rockets, machine guns, and napalm; 34 sailors are killed, 171 wounded. 1956—Technical Sergeant Richard B. Fitzgibbon, Jr. becomes the first American serviceman to die in the Vietnam War. He's murdered by a fellow American airman. 1952—"I would never send troops [to Vietnam]," says Pres. Dwight D. Eisenhower. 1944—FDR signs the GI Bill. The president of the U. of Chicago warns that "colleges would become educational hobo jungles." 1943—The Zoot Suit Riots end after military brass put L.A. off-limits and civil authorities impose a dress code. 1917—A 1,200-foot electrical cable, insulated by oil-covered cloth and being lowered into Butte's Granite Mountain mine for safety purposes, lands in a heap 2,400 feet down. As a miner inspects it his helmet lamp sets it alight; 168 miners die in the inferno.</p>
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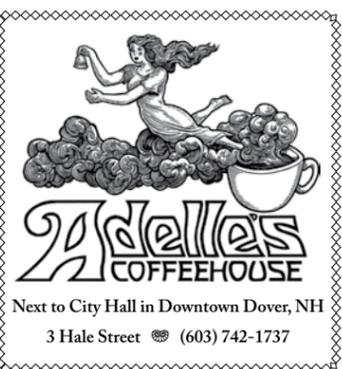
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