

*The Fortnightly Rant***The Cruellest Campaign Ad Ever**

A lot of people are saying that the general tone of our political life has been going downhill. It's easy to make claims about such a nebulous subject, but they're difficult to prove. Until someone invents a Zeitgeist-o-Meter, we're stuck with subjectivity.

A more solid case could probably be made in a narrower way—that our political discourse has coarsened since the most recent Inauguration. Even that case would likely be disputed, but let's try it anyway.

While many people remember the bleaker passages of the famous "American Carnage" speech—"mothers and children trapped in poverty in our inner cities," "rusted-out factories scattered like tombstones across the landscape," they tend to have forgotten the brighter vision which followed:

"We do not seek to impose our way of life on anyone, but rather to let it shine as an example for everyone to follow. [Note how the implied "or else" is diplomatically left unspoken.]

"We will reinforce old alliances and form new ones—and unite the civilized world against Radical Islamic Terrorism, which we will eradicate completely from the face of the Earth."

Granted, that last bit was perhaps a little more belligerent than was strictly necessary. But look what follows:

"When you open your heart to patriotism, there is no room for prejudice.

"The Bible tells us, 'how good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity.'"

That's all very soothing. You could even say it's suggestive of a calm, even temperament.

Contrast that with Sunday morning's epistles from the Oval Office:

"So interesting to see 'Progressive' Democrat Congresswomen, who originally came from countries whose governments are a complete and total catastrophe, the worst, most corrupt and inept anywhere in the world (if they even have a functioning government at all), now loudly.....

"...and viciously telling the people of the United States, the greatest and most powerful Nation on earth, how our government is to be run. Why don't they go back and help fix the totally broken and crime infested places from which they came. Then come back and show us how....

"...it is done. These places need your help badly, you can't leave fast enough. I'm sure that Nancy Pelosi would be very happy to quickly work out free travel arrangements!"

Clearly someone needed a nap, even if it was only 8:27 a.m.

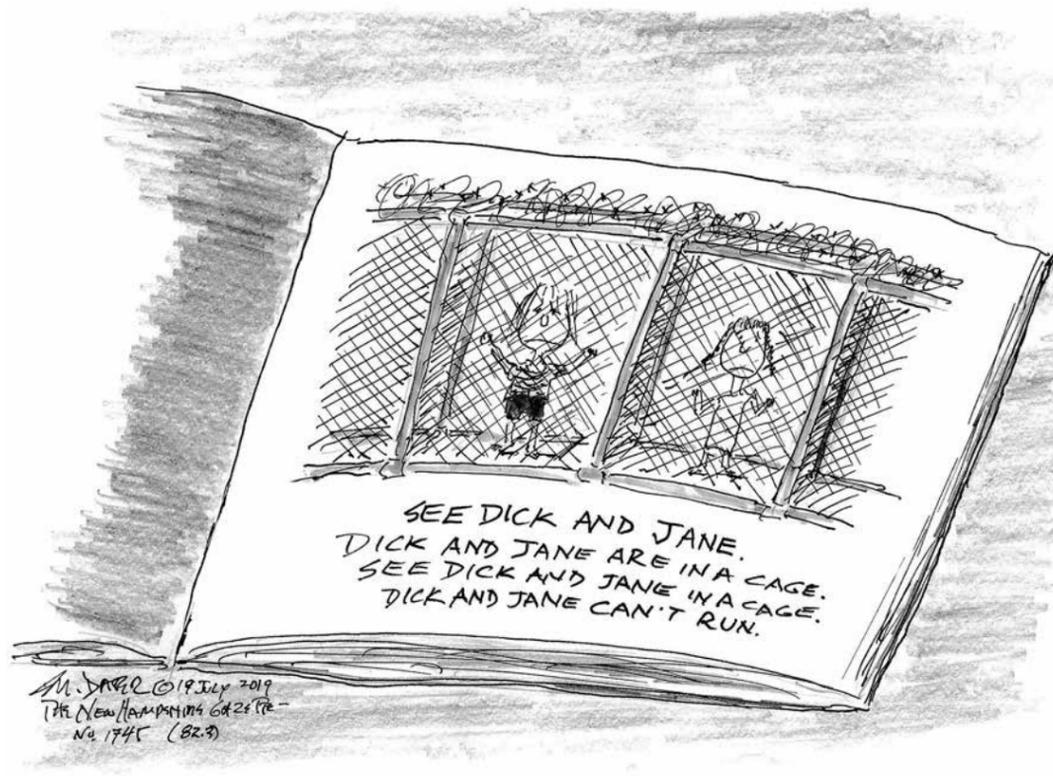
What caused the Tweeter-in-Chief to become so upset that he lost his grasp of geography? People calling him a racist, of course. You'd be upset, too, even if you were a racist, if people called you a racist. Because it's just damned rude.

QED: the tone of our political discourse has indeed plummeted, and it appears to be the fault of people who are using inflammatory language to accuse other people—good people—the best people—of being racist. There ought to be a law. ...

There is no law, but there is a ruling. In fact, there is an entire paragraph of "precedential ruling[s] of the chair," according to Josh Chafetz, a professor of law at Cornell, "set down in the annotated version of Jefferson's Manual of Parliamentary Practice contained in the House Manual."

That paragraph, § 370, says:

"References to racial or other discrimination on the part of the



president are not in order. As such, remarks may not refer to the President as: (1) a racist... (2) having made "racial slurs" or "racial epithets"... (3) telling a "racist lie"... (4) a bigot... (5) having made a bigoted or racist statement... (6) having taken a bigoted action... (7) not caring about black people... (9) a misogynist... [or] (9) having run a prejudiced campaign...."

Curiously, with the exception of (7), all these prohibitions were put in place on or after June 7, 2016: Republicans had control of the House, Paul Ryan was the Speaker, and two weeks earlier the Republican nomination had been secured by Donald J. Trump.

On Tuesday, once again, the Republican penchant for long-range strategic planning paid off. As House Democrats struggled to craft a counterattack, Republicans mounted a defense based on § 370. The result was the most tumultuous day on the floor of the house

since February 6, 1858, when two Wisconsin Republicans snatched a toupee off Mississippi Democrat William Barksdale's head. The dispute was over slavery, naturally.

In 2017, *Harper's* published a letter written in 1905 by a man pleading to be allowed to stay in Bavaria—whence he had fled, to dodge the draft.

"...we were confronted all at once, as if by a lightning strike from fair skies, with the news that the High Royal State Ministry had decided that we must leave our residence in the Kingdom of Bavaria. We were paralyzed with fright; our happy family life was tarnished. My wife has been overcome by anxiety, and my lovely child has become sick.

"Why should we be deported? This is very, very hard for a family. ...

"In this urgent situation I have no other recourse than to turn to our adored, noble, wise, and just sovereign lord, our exalted ruler His Royal Highness, highest of all, who has

already dried so many tears, who has ruled so beneficially and justly and wisely and softly and is warmly and deeply loved, with the most humble request that the highest of all will himself in mercy deign to allow the applicant to stay in the most gracious Kingdom of Bavaria.

"Your most humble and obedient, "Friedrich Trump."

Regrettably, Luitpold, Prince Regent of Bavaria, told Friedrich to go back to America.

In case anyone was in danger of forgetting he's a racist, Wednesday night Friedrich's grandson basked in the adulation of a few thousand North Carolinians and led them in chants of "Send Her Back."

NPR has reported that Border Patrol agents in El Paso, while splitting up a Honduran family, forced a three-year old girl named Sofi to make a choice: go with her mother, or her father. Some people will probably call that cruel.

Really, it's just a campaign ad.

*The Alleged News®***Hey, What's That Sound...? Silence—Blessed Silence!**

Since April, just out of curiosity, we've kept track of weekend weather. As one would expect this time of year in New England, there have been a few washouts. In general, though, we've been fortunate. On at least four occasions,\* the weather on both days has been splendid, with temperature and humidity well within tolerable bounds: altogether, the sort of conditions which don't just encourage, but practically demand that one savor the sky's seemingly infinite shades of blue.

From 2014 through 2018, of course, conditions such as these have invariably been accompanied by the intermittent sound of a helicopter passing overhead.

"That signature sound, familiar to anyone who has ever heard

a helicopter, is often called blade slap," Eddie North-Hager reported in 2011 for KCET Los Angeles. "Blade-vortex interaction, a more technical term, is the pulsating deep bass and high pitch frequency created when a rotor blade hits the wake left behind from the blade in front of it ...

"Eight different studies in the 1970s found that the annoyance created by a helicopter does not equate with the decibels it registers. The chopper's unique sound causes people to rate it as much as 10 decibels higher than it actually registers, doubling the noise impact. It's enough to make some residents into amateur inspectors, watching the skies above their neighborhoods and notifying pilots when they fail to adhere to recommended flight paths."

That's certainly been the case here in Portsmouth, where citizens ex-

pressed opposition to such flights long before they became routine. About a hundred people attended a hearing in August of 2013, as the Pease Development Authority [PDA] "considered" Seacoast Helicopters' application to operate. By our rough guess, 90 percent were opposed.

Not that it mattered. FAA regulations allowed the PDA only Hobson's choice: in the absence of any glaring deficiencies in Seacoast Helicopters' application, the board could either rubber-stamp its approval, or pay back millions in federal funding it's received over the years. Five years of unmitigated "blade-vortex interaction" ensued.

People complained to the PDA. The PDA said, in essence, we are powerless.

People tried to complain to the FAA, but "for the Federal Avia-

tion Administration, the focus is on safety, not noise," as KCET's North-Hager wrote.

"The FAA does not regulate aircraft noise," said Ian Gregor, the public affairs manager for the Pacific region of the FAA. "If a noise complaint involved an allegation that an aircraft was flying improperly low or unsafely, we would investigate the safety component of that complaint. ..."

"But the short of it is this: helicopters have no noise regulations and can do nearly anything but crash. There are no limits to how many helicopters can be in an area, and there are no flight paths they must follow, unless they are in controlled air space such as the area near an airport. ...

"Though the FAA is hesitant to regulate noise, it has also made it very clear that local authorities have

no jurisdiction in the matter, effectively barring debate."

For five years, then, residents of Portsmouth have been living with their own version of Catch-22: the FAA could regulate helicopter noise—and routes, and altitude—but it won't; local authorities—the City, the PDA—might regulate if they could, but they can't.

**An Admittedly Morbid Distraction**

A handful of locals made an effort to field some kind of resistance, but their efforts went nowhere. Unable to take any other action ourselves to defend against the noise pollution spewed by these airborne lawn-mowers—owned by a presumably profit-making enterprise, let's remember—we sought to simply distract ourselves. What better

\* We refer specifically to April 6th & 7th, May 18th & 19th, June 22nd & 23rd, and last weekend.

**The Alleged News®**

from page one

way than by watching out for news stories about them crashing?

We've probably run a couple of dozen of these by now; we haven't kept a precise tally. We're not particularly proud of having done so. We know it's a bit unseemly. In our own defense, we have to say that at least we don't grab random strangers on the sidewalk by the collar, force them to listen as we read these stories to them at the top of our lungs, all the while expecting to make a profit.

The National Transportation Safety Board [NTSB] maintains a database of all aviation accidents. On Tuesday, we asked it for a list of all fatal accidents involving Robinson helicopters—the type flown by Seacoast Helicopters—going back

to January 1, 2014, their first year of operation.

The query returned a list of 88 fatal crashes (23 R22s, 58 R44s, and 7 R66s), which took a total of 162 lives. A few of the dead weren't even aboard the machines. They died on the street (Rosario, Brazil, April 1, 2018), in their home (Williamsburg, Va., July 8, 2018), and in their vehicle (Kailua, Hawaii, April 29, 2019). Another 21 people suffered serious injuries.

**Gravity Never Sleeps**

Databases, of course, require perpetual revision. We've seen news reports of two fatal Robinson crashes which have yet to be entered.

On Monday, a flight instructor was killed and his student critically injured when an R44 crashed in California. They had been practicing hovering at the Hayward Executive Airport, according to KPIX TV,



The Flag Police were taken aback upon receiving a report from a usually-reliable source asserting that the Albacore Museum was displaying the U.S. Flag improperly. After a few fortnights spent diligently contemplating the ramifications of this inflammatory allegation, they piled into the squad car and investigated. Upon reaching the scene, the case solved itself. The informant had spoken of detecting the alleged infraction—a hanging flag being displayed with the blue field on the left—from the Market Street Extension. Viewed from the Visitors Center, however, as seen above, the display is correct. The Visitors Center, by the way, is open from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., every day from Memorial Day through Columbus Day. This unique experimental submarine is fascinating in its own right. The unlikely story of its preservation compounds its inherent interest. More information is available at [ussalbacore.org](http://ussalbacore.org).



when the machine suddenly crashed upside down.

The day before, Igor Nikitin and Oleg Chernigin died when their Robinson, (its model unreported) crashed near the village of Barskoe, "in the Moscow region." Nikitin was the head of Russia's United Federation of Ultralight Aviation. Both men, according to *Pravda*, had taught Russian President Vladimir Putin how to fly a mono-hang glider. Putin was photographed flying a glider near a flock of Siberian Cranes in September, 2012.

"Most likely," *Pravda* added schoolmarmishly, "the helicopter crash [sic] because of violation of traffic safety rules."

**"Too Quiet Out There"? Hell, No!**

It's a subjective judgment, but it seems to us that beautiful days have seemed more so lately because they've been almost completely helicopter-free.

The last time we managed to photograph a red Robinson over

Portsmouth was on June 10th. Their blessed scarcity spurred us to look for hard evidence of their absence.

The simplest thing would have been to call the company, of course. However, since the owner of Seacoast Helicopters [SH] has repeatedly made claims which we believe were false—that he was committed to being a "good neighbor," that his pilots always flew above 1,000 feet—we concluded that would be a waste of time.

Having learned in 2015 from the Award-Winning Local Daily—which has seemed from the start fairly eager to provide SH with free, positive publicity—that the company was offering a training program through Great Bay Community College [GBCC], we did reach out to that institution.

"GBCC offered a program in aviation technology/helicopter from 2015–2018," we were informed, "when the program was discontinued due to low enrollment and the

high cost of the flight training portion of the program."

That would account for some of the decrease in Robinsons overhead. How much? Hard tellin', not knowin', as a former printer of ours used to say. Though the FAA has proved itself useless at protecting the public against helicopter noise pollution, we presumed we could trust it to at least keep track of the damned things. We queried its database for helicopters registered to SH. It found five tail numbers.

Then we turned to FlightAware, which bills itself as "the world's most comprehensive, capable, and useful flight tracking and digital aviation data platform." Plugging in SH's tail numbers, here's what we found:

Robinson R22, tail number 827SC's last known flight was on November 24, 2017, from Ft. Lauderdale to Boca Raton.

Robinson R44 II, tail number 814SC's last known flight was on December 24, 2018. It, too, flew

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from Ft. Lauderdale to Boca Raton. Robinson R22 Beta, tail number 4471G's last known flight was on March 18, 2019. It flew from Rochester to Portsmouth, N.H.

Robinson R66, tail number 5QH's last known flight was on June 22, 2019, from the vicinity of Dow Highway and Beech Road in Eliot to the Pease International Airport.

And, finally, Robinson R44 II, tail number 442BD's last known flight was also June 22nd, 2019. It flew down from Portland, Maine, crossed the Piscataqua a couple of times, flew south to the Massachusetts border, then landed at the Pease International Airport.

FlightAware appears to be suggesting that an R22, an R44, and an R66 are just gathering dust at Pease—which seems unlikely. Those three used Robinsons are worth about a cool million. Interest on that would run about \$200 a day—expensive, for paperweights.

What does all this mean?

Damned if we know. We took a run out to Pease last Friday, just to see what we could see. It wasn't much, as the photo below shows.



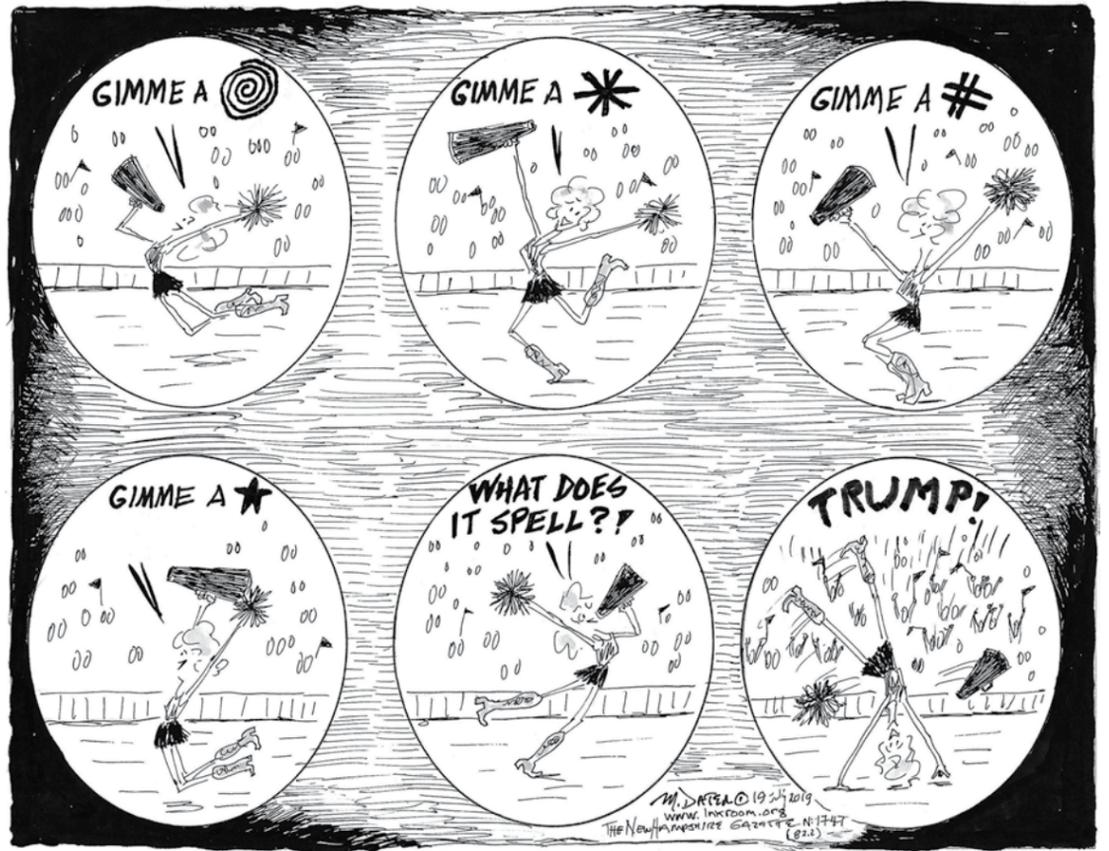
On any given Friday morning, from 2014 through 2018, and especially during the summer, one might have expected to see a flurry of activity at 44 Durham Street, at the Pease Tradeport, the headquarters of Seacoast Helicopters. But, last Friday, nooo. No visible helicopters, no sign of lights in the window, just one forlorn, parked Honda (the box truck belongs to an unrelated organization).

### Half-Staff for Justice Stevens

The Flag Police mourn the passing of Associate Justice John Paul Stevens (1920 – 2019), a most worthy adversary.

As their motto—"Eternal vigilance is the price of upholding the fetishization of material objects which signify the values of a purported republic in the absence of any perceptible functionality"—suggests, the Flag Police are perfectly willing to accommodate a measure of irrationality in upholding the tenets of the Flag Code. However, they take issue with Justice Stevens' dissent in *Texas v. Johnson*, (1989):

"The ideas of liberty and equality have been an irresistible force in motivating leaders like Patrick Henry, Susan B. Anthony, and Abraham Lincoln, schoolteachers like Nathan Hale and Booker T. Washington, the Philippine Scouts who fought at Bataan, and the soldiers who scaled the bluff at Omaha Beach. If those ideas are worth fighting for—and our history demonstrates that they are—it cannot be true that the flag that uniquely symbolizes their power is not itself worthy of protection



from unnecessary desecration."

Under Flag Police doctrine, the flaw in Justice Stevens' argument lies in that penultimate word, unnecessary.

Unnecessary according to whom? Even the Flag Police—who have never, to their knowledge, been accused of lacking confidence—shrink from the task of determining what a free citizen might consider necessary.

Considering Justice Stevens' career as a whole, however—particularly in the context of the last 20 years—disagreement on that single point shrinks to a mere quibble.

"Although we may never know with complete certainty the identity of the winner of this year's presidential election, the identity of the loser is perfectly clear. It is the nation's confidence in the judge as an impartial guardian of the rule of law." — Associate Justice John Paul Stevens, dissenting in *Bush v. Gore*, December 12, 2000.

### How Politics Works\* In Three Tweets

1) Chris Hayes @chrishayes: "So even thought [sic] the House Democrats went along w[ith] the McConnell funding bill in the Senate, Pence is still running around blaming "Democrats in Congress" for not adequately funding their detention camps."

2) Kelsey D. Atherton @AthertonKD Retweeted Chris Hayes "[T]he insane part of 'we'll treat their bad-faith criticisms as genuine and moderate accordingly' is that it's been a failing strategy for years (decades, really) and the party keeps trying it instead of extracting meaningful concessions with the power it has[.]

"[PS] what if a political party did politics [?]"

3) Susan of Texas @SusanofTexas Retweeted Kelsey D. Atherton: "How else are you to ensure incremental gains that are constantly overwhelmed by losses?"

\* By which we mean, of course, don't work.

### Rain Check? Denouement? Anything?

The Tuesday before our July 5th paper went to press, New Hampshire was expecting a visit from Mike Pence.

As an audience waited for the Vice President at an opioid recovery facility in Manchester, a person from Pence's office stepped forward and announced that "Air Force 2 was heading this way, but there's been an emergency callback; the vice president has been asked to return to Washington."

A short while later, Alyssa Farah, a Pence spokeswoman, tweeted that no, Pence had not left Washington, and there was no "emergency callback."

"Something came up" was as close as she came to explaining the change in plans. Simultaneous with this foofaraw, the Pease Air National Guard base was locked down due to a report of gunshots—said report being made by a person who had never heard a gun fired.

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— Jef Johnson  
  
— Not-So-Random Thoughts from an Oregon Subscriber

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**Keene:**  
Keene Public Library, 60 Winter St.

**Lebanon:**  
Lebanon Public Library, 9 E. Park St.

**A World of Garbage**

To the Editor:

The island of plastic waste floating in the Pacific Ocean has grown to twice the size of the state of Texas (Jennifer Earl, Fox News, reporting on March 23, 2018). American explorer Victor Vescovo discovered, upon descending nearly 11 km (seven miles) into the Mariana Trench, the deepest place in that body of water, as well as sea creatures a plastic bag and sweets rappers (Rebecca Morelle, Science Correspondent, BBC News, reporting on May 13, 2019), and it is anticipated that by 2050 there will be more plastic than fish in the oceans (Sarah Kaplan, *The Washington Post*, January 20, 2016, among others).

Meanwhile, China, which imported and processed the bulk of the worlds "recyclables," decided it would no longer be the West's "dump." So what response might be made to these circumstances?

Matthew DiLallo, *The Motley Fool*, in a June 15, 2019 article titled "U.S. Oil Demand was Scorching Hot Last Year—But Gas-Guzzling SUVs Aren't to Blame," writes that "While America's demand for oil and related liquids reached new heights last year, it's not because we're consuming more gasoline. Instead our rising appetite was mainly due to the completion of several new petrochemical plants that turn liquids like NGLs [natural gas liquids] into the building blocks of plastics. With the second wave of petrochemical plants coming, and more export capacity under construction, U.S. demand should continue rising."

What did you expect? We are burying ourselves and filling the oceans with plastic, and recycling less and less of it, so what could be more reasonable than to build massive new petrochemical plants that burn fossil fuels to make even more of the stuff?

God (or whoever) save us from ourselves, or at least save the earth from us.

Despairingly,  
John Simon  
Portsmouth N.H.  
John:

*The important question, it seems to us,*

*is why we are "build[ing]... new petrochemical plants that burn fossil fuels to make even more" plastic to throw in the ocean? The short answer is because it's profitable. It's profitable because our legal systems have concluded that it's OK to make a profit by externalizing your costs in the form of pollution.*

*Our legal systems didn't come to that conclusion because it's right. They did so because profit-making corporations can afford to hire the sharpest legal minds least fettered by conscience.*

*According to capitalist doctrine, profit is good, and growth can go on forever. No Republicans, and only some Democrats, are willing to dispute this point.*

*We're in a race against time, here. No God is going to save us. Pogo was right.*

*We can sit and bemoan our fate, or we can distract ourselves from our own personal doom—which is coming anyway, eventually, regardless of Earth's fate—by fighting the good fight.*

Easy choice.  
The Editor

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**The Most American Thing One Can Do**

To the Editor:

A friend of mine made an excellent point this past Fourth of July regarding the importance of reminding everyone that calling out our leaders' lies and hypocrisy is about the most American thing one can do to observe Independence Day. I am furthermore a strong subscriber to the philosophy of the late Professor Howard Zinn, who once said that, "dissent is the highest form of patriotism."

I've personally made a point of re-reading the Declaration of Independence as part of my observance of Independence Day, for the last couple of decades, and usually follow that practice up by listening to the personalities on National Public Radio take turns reading the founding document out loud for reinforcement of what I had read.

Having thought hard enough about it this time around, I could see where some might get confused and think that the NPR broadcasters are referring to and casting slanderous remarks about POTUS #45 while they read off the long list of grievances against King



George contained in the Declaration.

With just a cursory read of the document, I was able to highlight at least six examples of "repeated injuries and usurpations" committed by #45 and his royal family: 1. "He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good." 2. "He has endeavored to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither;" 3. "He has obstructed the Administration of Justice by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary Powers." 4. "For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world." 5. "For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments." And 6. "He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us."

It was clear to me, on this Independence Day, in the same way it was to Jefferson and the Fathers about King George, that #45 is a "Prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, who is unfit to be the ruler of a free people."

Wayne H. Merritt  
Dover, N.H.  
Wayne:

*Given the current tendency of the GOP to do only that which causes damages to the nation, perhaps they're using the Declaration as a Bizarro-World instruction manual.*

The Editor

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**Conned Followers of a Cowardly Bully**

Dear Editor:

While economic indicators keep rising, employee wages stagnate. Where does all the wealth that workers create go? To the top 1 percent of the top 1 percent. Working people are stressed. They can hardly make ends meet. They are only one illness or one car breakdown away from drowning in quicksand of debt. They are stressed.

And angry.

A coward who bullies the weak, Trump harnesses that anger by talking like a tough guy. Real tough guys, men and women who carry the super-rich on their backs, were raised to "suck it up," to be tough or else be seen as losers. So they hold festering resentment and smoldering anger inside. The bullying coward points at innocent immigrants to blame.

His followers don't see that their plight is because an undeserving few take nearly all the wealth they've produced. He calls low-paid workers "losers." His believers are conned to suck it up, blame the "others," but don't ever question why the super-rich have so much while they have so little. That's the con.

Watcha gonna do? Resist? Or continue sucking it up?

Bruce Joffe  
Piedmont, Calif.  
Bruce:

*What a dismal assessment—and so accurate, too.*

*We fear there's a vague, general, unspoken strategy among some who oppose the Trump/GOP agenda which relies on the efficacy of simultaneously educating and counseling—in the mental health sense of the word—the great mass of bamboozled enablers. Even if that would work, which we tend to doubt, we don't have time.*

*Another camp, of course, says "to hell with 'em." While we can sympathize with that viewpoint, drowning on a boiling planet isn't our idea of fun, even if some of our least-favorite people are along for the ride.*

*How to defeat the combined powers of greed and gullibility? Organize, in a focused and determined way, with the express purpose of amassing political power. Republicans have been at it for decades, and it works.*

*Teachers have been striking and win-*

*ning in places where no one thought it possible. Jane McAlevey, author of No Shortcuts – Organizing for Power in the New Gilded Age (Oxford University Press, 2016) and Raising Expectations and Raising Hell (Verso Books, 2012), has written about the tactics and strategies that made those strikes successful.*

*The same principles can be applied across the board. They're just not popular among "influential Democrats" because they involve working from the ground up, rather than attending fund-raisers.*

The Editor

====

**Trump's Popularity**

To the Editor:

The headline read: "Trump Sees Popularity Rise After 'Go-back' Attack." For those of us who find this news disturbing, consider the possibility that Trump is on the right track with his directive to "go back."

Following his own advice, Trump would find himself transported to the heart of Germany dressed in a kilt. While there, he might rediscover that true Scotsmen value frugality over opulence, excess, and waste. He might also note that his current leadership style ended badly for his German forebears. For Trump, "going back" might be really good advice.

Unfortunately, Democratic unity continues to be sullied by a disturbing rift between AOC and Nancy Pelosi. AOC, America's bartender-in-chief, wants to shut Trump off and send him home in a taxi. Majority Leader Pelosi wants to let him continue imbibing on power until he keels over and falls off his stool. Perhaps the young bartender knows something Ms. Pelosi has yet to learn.

Meanwhile, Trump's popularity continues to rise, a positive indicator

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**HOWLE'S AND HUMOR**



that “it” can happen here and that “it” is happening here. Voting alone won’t prevent “it.” Please get active now.

Rick Littlefield  
Barrington, N.H.

*Rick:*  
*You’re absolutely right: “it” happens—*  
*or it will, if we let it!*

*The Editor*

====

**Dan Innis Exaggerates!**

To the Editor:

Many of us cannot believe that almost a month has passed since Dan Innis wrote his June 16 *Union Leader* opinion piece insisting on “strong support” for commuter rail expansion, based on the false assumption that “75 percent of all New Hampshire” wants it.

Worse yet, no one has pointed out the error of his outrageous assertion of a projected “weekday ridership of nearly 670,000”!

The correct numbers are 668,000 riders per year, not 670,000 per weekday. Innis conveniently exaggerated by a factor of 365 to one!

Some say, what’s the harm in using federal tax dollars for a study? Innis claims it would help the legislature “to make a determination if it makes sense to move forward.” However, previous studies have already determined that commuter rail expansion from Massachusetts to Concord would serve few New Hampshire residents, while the burden of the expense would be borne by the other 99 percent.

Several hundred people have already sent petitions to the Governor to ask him to veto SB 241 to stop what would be the first steps in embarking on what most agree would be the most massive “boondoggle” (the Governor’s own word) in the history of New Hampshire. The Governor does know

that it would be a losing proposition and would likely cause the need for an income tax, sales tax, or *both!*

Call the Governor 271-2121 and tell him “No” to commuter rail expansion.

Jane Aitken  
Bedford, N.H.

*Jane:*  
*You have accomplished something we had not thought possible: induced us to defend Dan Innis.*

*First you claim Innis was projecting a ridership of 670,000 per day. Your claim seems to raise two possibilities. One: you believe the average person’s reading comprehension is so poor you can fool them. Two: it’s not their reading comprehension that’s at issue, but your own.*

*Then you take the position that remaining ignorant is preferable to understanding what the people want. You certainly have a right to that opinion. Pardon us if we raise an eyebrow at your willingness to have it known.*

*Finally, we can’t help but be amused by your professed concern for the 99 percent who might bear the expense of a commuter rail system. This is yet another example of the corrosive neoliberal doctrine which has been poisoning our political discourse for half a century. Shifting our transportation system towards commuter rail would benefit 100 percent of humans on Earth by moving us away from two-ton, oil-burning catastrophes on four wheels.*

*The Editor*

====

**Yet Another Error**

To the Editor:

[*Mr. Folmar refers to the final entry for Tuesday, June 25th, dated 1876, in our paper of June 21st.—The Ed.*]

Tardily (again): “The Seventh Cavalry... are killed by Native Americans at the Battle of Little Big Horn.” No! Major Marcus Reno’s three companies and Capt. Frederick Benteen’s three

companies, on a nearby ridge, were battered but they survived. Total killed: 52 percent.

J.K. Folmar I  
California, Pa.

*J.K.*

*Your correction is timely enough, and we thank you for it. We’ll re-phrase that entry to expunge the error.*

*The Editor*

====

**Concise**

To the Editor”

Make sure your vote counts. Avoid the middleman, vote Putin in 2020.

Michael Frandzel  
Portsmouth, N.H.

====

**Billionaires and American Politics: Is the U.S. Becoming a Plutocracy?**

by Lawrence Wittner

With the manifestly unqualified but immensely rich Donald Trump serving as the nation’s first billionaire president, it’s not hard to draw that conclusion. And there are numerous other signs, as well, that great wealth has become a central factor in American politics.

Although big money has always played an important role in U.S. political campaigns, its influence has been growing over the past decade. According to the Center for Responsive Politics, by 2014 the share of political donations by the wealthiest 0.01 percent of Americans had increased to 29 percent (from 21 percent four years before), while the top 100 individual donors accounted for 39 percent of the nation’s super PAC contributions.

With the 2016 presidential primaries looming, would-be Republican nominees flocked to Las Vegas to court billionaire casino magnate Sheldon Adelson and his wife, who had donated well over \$100 million to Republican groups during the 2012 election cycle. Although even Adelson’s money couldn’t save them from succumbing to vicious attacks by Trump,

Adelson quickly forged a close alliance with the billionaire president. In 2018, he became the top political moneyman in the nation, supplying Republicans with a record \$113 million.

In fact, with Adelson and other billionaires bringing U.S. campaign spending to \$5.2 billion in that year’s midterm elections, the big-ticket players grew increasingly dominant in American politics. “We like to think of our democracy as being one person, one vote,” noted a top official at the Brennan Center for Justice. “But just being rich and being able to write million-dollar checks gets you influence over elected officials that’s far greater than the average person.”

This influence has been facilitated, in recent years, by the rise of enormous fortunes. According to *Forbes*—a publication that pays adoring attention to people of great wealth—by March 2019 the United States had a record 607 billionaires, including 14 of the 20 wealthiest people in the world. In the fall of 2017, the Institute for Policy Studies estimated that the three richest among them (Jeff Bezos, Bill Gates, and Warren Buffett) possessed more wealth (\$248.5 billion) than half the American population combined.

After this dramatic example of economic inequality surfaced in June 2019, during the second Democratic debate, the fact-checkers at the *New York Times* reported that the wealth gap “has likely increased.” That certainly appears to be the case. According to *Forbes*, these three individuals now possess \$350.5 billion in wealth—a \$102 billion (41 percent) increase in less than two years.

The same pattern characterizes the wealth of families. As Chuck Collins of the Institute for Policy Studies recently revealed, Charles and David Koch of Koch Industries (their fossil fuel empire), the Mars candy family, and the Waltons of Walmart now possess a combined fortune of \$348.7 billion—an increase in their wealth, since 1982, of nearly 6,000 percent. During the same period, the median household wealth in the United States declined by three percent.

Not surprisingly, when billionaires

have deployed their vast new wealth in American politics, it has usually been to serve their own interests.

Many, indeed, have been nakedly self-interested, sparing no expense to transform the Republican Party into a consistent servant of the wealthy and to turn the nation sharply rightward. The Koch brothers and their affluent network poured hundreds of millions (and perhaps billions) of dollars into organizations and election campaigns promoting tax cuts for the rich, deregulation of corporations, climate change denial, the scrapping of Medicare and Social Security, and the undercutting of labor unions, while assailing proposals for accessible healthcare and other social services. And they have had substantial success.

Similarly, billionaire hedge fund manager Robert Mercer and his daughter, Rebekah, spent \$49 million on rightwing political ventures in 2016, including funding Steve Bannon, Breitbart News, and Cambridge Analytica (the data firm that improperly harvested data on Facebook users to help Trump’s campaign). After Trump’s victory, Robert stayed carefully out of sight, sailing the world on his luxurious, high-tech super yacht or hidden on his Long Island estate. But Rebekah worked on the Trump transition team and formed an outside group, Making America Great, to mobilize public support for the new president’s policies.

The story of the Walton family, the nation’s wealthiest, is more complex. For years, while it fiercely opposed union organizing drives and wage raises for its poorly-paid workers, it routinely channeled most of its millions of dollars in campaign contributions to Republicans. In the 2016 elections, it took a more balanced approach, but that might have occurred because Hillary Clinton, a former Walmart director and defender of that company’s monopolistic and labor practices, was the Democratic standard-bearer.

Although some billionaires do contribute to Democrats, they gravitate

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

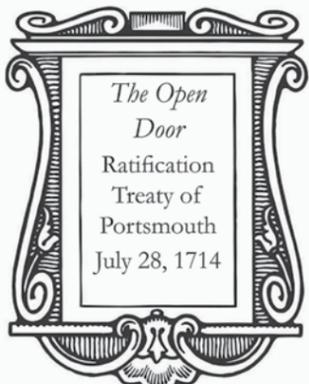
*to page six*

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The Northcountry Chronicle

# The Family Brevet

by William Marvel

A few years ago I discovered a monument in the Grafton Center Cemetery to “Maj. Gen. David F. Cole,” who died in 1865 in his late 20s. I’ve seen the name of every Civil War general at least once—especially every major general—and I had never heard of that one. There was no David F. Cole in Ezra Warner’s *Generals in Blue*, in Mark Boatner’s *Civil War Dictionary*, or in the Official Records. I thought he might have been a junior officer who had been “brevetted” all the way up to major general under the old system of honorary promotions for battlefield valor, but there was no trace of any New Hampshire resident named David F. Cole in the entire Union Army.

I began to suspect some sort of grim hoax, but the 1860 census of Grafton did list Richard and Sylvia Cole with six children, the oldest of whom was 24-year-old David F. Cole. According to that record, he was still working as a farm laborer at the time. Such a meteoric rise in

military service did not seem likely for so proletarian a citizen.

Finally I found him in the U.S. Army Register, listed as a Vermont-er. Service records confirmed that he was the same person, but the highest rank he ever attained was major, rather than major general. Perhaps his parents or siblings did not know the difference between the two grades, or gave him their own series of brevet promotions. Such things happen. Toward the end of World War II, through a combination of misunderstanding and misinformation, my grandmother told neighbors that my uncle was second-in-command of naval forces on Saipan, although he was only a lieutenant j.g.

David Cole had moved to Vermont to attend college by the summer of 1862, when he raised the better part of a company for one of Vermont’s nine-month militia regiments. The men he had recruited elected him captain of the company, which became part of the 12th Vermont. That regiment missed every battle during its term of service,

spending the winter at and around Washington, leagues away from the fighting armies. For not holding guard mount on Christmas Day, Captain Cole was arrested on the orders of Brigadier General Edward Stoughton, another Vermont-er and West Point graduate who was even younger than Cole. Stoughton himself had issued orders to dispense with all unnecessary duties that day, so the charges filed against Cole were quickly dropped. Stoughton retaliated by ordering Cole before an examining board, claiming that he was unfit for his commission, but the board returned him to duty with a highly complimentary report.

Cole had the last laugh a few months later. Late on the night of March 8, 1863, John Singleton Mosby, the “Grey Ghost of the Confederacy,” snuck into Stoughton’s headquarters with a raiding party and awakened the young general with a smack on the rump, apprising him that he was a prisoner. That was the end of Stoughton’s army career.

The 12th Vermont and four other



nine-month regiments in the Second Vermont Brigade joined the Army of the Potomac on its march to Gettysburg. Three of those regiments helped repel Pickett’s Charge on July 3, but Captain Cole and the 12th remained behind at Westminster, Md., guarding their wagon train. A week later, with their enlistments expired, all five regiments went home.

The next year, Cole secured a com-

mission as major of the 107th U.S. Colored Infantry, and he reported for duty at Louisville, Ky. on July 1, 1864. Four months later the regiment moved to Virginia, spending a few weeks in the trenches around Petersburg, but in December Major Cole came down with typhoid fever. While his regiment sailed off for the attack on Fort Fisher, N.C., he traveled up the Potomac to the officers’ hospital at Point of Rocks, Md. There he died on January 7th, a casualty without ever having seen a battle.

His father had the family tombstone inscribed with the remark that his boy was buried at Point of Rocks. That was true only until 1866, when the Quartermaster Department collected the bodies from that graveyard and reburied them in the new national cemetery at Arlington. Major Cole ended up in what became Section 26, grave 5209, with an irregular headstone (pictured) supplied by his parents. This stone correctly identified him as a major, but for the folks back in Grafton he would always be a major general.

from page five

toward the “moderate” types rather than toward those with a more progressive agenda. In January 2019, an article in Politico reported that a panic had broken out on Wall Street over the possibility that the 2020 Democratic presidential nominee might go to someone on the party’s leftwing. “It can’t be Warren and it can’t be Sanders,” insisted the CEO of a giant bank. More recently, billionaire hedge fund manager Leon Cooperman made the same point, publicly assailing the two Democrats for their calls to raise taxes on the wealthy. “Taxes are high enough,” he declared. “We have the best economy in the world. Capitalism works.”



The political preferences of the super-wealthy were also apparent in early 2019, when Howard Schultz, the multibillionaire former CEO of Starbucks, declared that, if the Democrats nominated a progressive candidate, he would consider a third party race. After Schultz denounced Warren’s tax plan as “ridiculous,” Warren responded that “what’s ‘ridiculous’ is billionaires who think they can buy the presidency to keep the system rigged for themselves.”

Can they buy it? The 2020 election might give us an answer to that question.

Dr. Lawrence Wittner, syndicated

by PeaceVoice, is Professor of History emeritus at SUNY/Albany and the author of *Confronting the Bomb*.

### A Question of Nomenclature

Dear Editors,

May I suggest substitution of “Occupant” for “Resident?”

Resident: Living in a place for a long time; inherent; intrinsic. A person who lives in a place, as distinguished from a visitor or other transient, such as a squatter. A resident lives in a home, as opposed to just crashing: watching TV, tweeting, and taking dumps, as a squatter

might.

Occupant: Person who occupies, taking or keeping possession by the taking up of space, e.g. a PortaJohn or an airline toilet is “occupied” versus “free.” Plus, the rounded letters suggest mass/obesity/volume.

Or, how about Rezident, with a Z, for a Russian flavor?

Do keep having fun in horrifying times—helps me get out of bed.

Lauren Sherman  
South Royalton, Vt.

Lauren:

We’ll say this for these horrifying times: they’ve challenged us all to truly think about what the bleep is actual-

ly going on. Thanks for reading—and subscribing. Without our readers, we’d be stuck in this asylum all alone!

The Editor

“Let’s do it again...one more time—with gusto! By this time next year we should be in the thick of things. Bring it on. P.S.—The new postal delivery arrives on time—every time. Thanks.”

—P.C., Marlborough, Mass.

“Thomas Paine had passed the legendary limit of life. One by one most of his old friends and acquaintances had deserted him. Maligned on every side, execrated, shunned and abhorred—his virtues denounced as vices—his services forgotten—his character blackened, he preserved the poise and balance of his soul. He was a victim of the people, but his convictions remained unshaken. He

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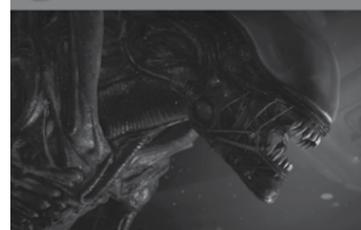
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## The other Mexican migration

by Jim Hightower

You probably haven't heard about it, but there's another mass migration coming across the U.S.-Mexico border. However, these are not Central American families fleeing horrific conditions back home—only to be separated, incarcerated, traumatized, and demonized by the Trump Gang for seeking humanitarian asylum in our country.

Rather, these migrants are going the other way, from the U.S.A. into Mexican border towns, where they're welcomed with open arms instead of armed guards. They are mostly working-class people seeking relief from our nation's unaffordable, no-care healthcare system. As many as 6,000 a day travel to towns like Los Algodones, across from Yuma, Arizona, to get medical services and prescription drugs that

are priced out of their reach here in the US. Nicknamed "Molar City," Los Algodones has more dentists per capita than anywhere else in the world—quality dental work in Mexico averages two-thirds less than it costs here.

This is because the health system there prioritizes care over profits. Start with professional education, which is tuition-free in Mexico, meaning dentists and other health-

care providers don't have to jack-up prices to cover a crushing load of student debt. Also, Mexico's universal, tax-paid healthcare system doesn't saddle patients with exorbitantly-expensive, insurance bureaucracies. It's a system that's open, affordable, and accessible to all—the opposite of ours, which is why hordes of U.S. working-class people go south to find care. As a *Truthout* article reports, "U.S. citizens seeking

healthcare can park in Yuma for \$5, walk across the border, get the help they need and come back for dinner."

Instead of building a senseless border wall to keep people out of the U.S., our leaders ought to be looking across the border for ideas on how to build a better healthcare system.

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from page six

was still a soldier in the army of freedom, and still tried to enlighten and civilize those who were impatiently waiting for his death. Even those who loved their enemies hated him, their friend—the friend of the whole world—with all their hearts. On the 8th of June, 1809, death came—Death, almost his only friend. At his funeral no pomp, no pageantry, no civic procession, no military display. In a carriage, a woman and her son who had lived on the bounty of the dead—on horseback, a Quaker, the humanity of whose heart dominated the creed of his head—and, following on foot, two negroes filled with gratitude—constituted the funeral cortege of Thomas Paine."

—Robert G. Ingersoll, as quoted in *Works of Thomas Paine* (2008).

—==—

"Running the newspaper letters column, I always let in anyone who denounced me violently, because I believe people like to read abuse."

—H.L. Mencken

—==—

### President Trump Is Putting American Patients in Control

by Alex M. Azar II, U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services

[Note: The following op-ed was pitched to us by Meg Burmeister, Regional Outreach Specialist, Office of the Secretary, Intergovernmental and External Affairs, Region 1 of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. We haven't been so flattered since Hill & Knowlton, pliable handmaidens to any number of soul-less corporations and cabals, sent a well-dressed fellow to the shabby offices of the Hillsborough (N.H.) Messenger around 1979, to enlighten us on the transformative benefits of Right

to Work legislation. Naïve though we were in those days, still his efforts went for naught. Any warning from us to take this text with a half-pound Himalayan Salting Cube [\$9.99 from the Salt Cellar, on Commercial Alley] would no doubt be superfluous. — *The Ed.*]

A few years ago, my doctor recommended a routine heart exam. I would be paying for it out-of-pocket, since I had a high-deductible plan, so naturally I asked what it would cost.

After a great deal of effort, I was told the list price was \$5,500, and my insurer's rate was \$3,500. But when I did some more research, I found out the same procedure could be had elsewhere for a tenth of the price: \$550.

President Trump has heard from many Americans who've had this kind of experience, like David Altman, from Colorado, who was billed \$169,000 for a monitoring procedure in surgery which typically costs \$8,000.

Americans know our healthcare system is high quality, but experiences like these leave us feeling like we're at the mercy of a shadowy system we can't control. President Trump wants to fix that, while keeping what works about our system today.

That's why the President recently signed an executive order directing me, his health secretary, to take major steps to deliver American patients the affordability they need, the options and control they want, and the quality they deserve.

One step is a historic proposal for

hospitals to publicly disclose information about the prices insurers and patients actually pay, in an easy-to-read way—before patients have to pay for the services. The executive order also requires federal agencies to come up with a plan to simplify and improve how we measure quality in healthcare, and opens up more ways for patients to use Health Savings Accounts to pay for primary care and chronic illnesses.

Special interests have kept critical information secret from patients for too long, raising prices by stifling competition. When prices are disclosed and patients can shop, everybody benefits. One study found that when patients were able to shop around for services such as X-rays and MRIs, their costs dropped by hundreds of dollars. Prices also began to vary less, which is important when some providers in New Hampshire currently charge 29 percent more than what other providers charge for, say, a typical knee MRI.

President Trump is fulfilling ... [Given the futile nature of Mr. Azar's task—convincing anyone that a decree from the Oval Office is both well-intentioned and potentially effective—we've decided to cut this off here in order to allow space for something with more substance. Take it away, Bill! — *The Ed.*]

—==—

### William Faulkner Explains Cats

"The cat...neither toils nor spins, he is a parasite on you but he does not love you; he would die, cease to exist, vanish from the earth (I mean,

in his so-called domestic form) but so far he has not had to (there is the fable, Chinese I think, literary I am sure: of a period on earth when the dominant creatures were cats: who after ages of trying to cope with the anguishes of mortality—famine, plague, war, injustice, folly, greed—in a word, civilized government—convened a congress of the wisest cat philosophers to see if any thing could be done: who after long delib-

— *The Reivers*



Given our longstanding crusade against that dubious class of aircraft known as helicopters—absurd contraptions consisting of an assortment of parts in loose formation which don't really fly but temporarily beat the air into submission—we have always assumed that it would only be a matter of time before someone asked us if there is any sort of aircraft of which we approve. The answer is "yes," and, fortuitously, we were able to catch an image of one on a glass plate this past Tuesday. This, we believe, is a Stearman 75. Powered by a seven-cylinder, radial, air-cooled engine, this lovely thing can reach an altitude of 13,000 feet, and cruise at a sedate 96 mph. When it was introduced in 1934, its cost was \$11,000. Adjusted for inflation, that's about \$210,000—about \$40,000 less than a brand new Robinson R22.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SUNDAY, JULY 21	MONDAY, JULY 22	TUESDAY, JULY 23	WEDNESDAY, JULY 24	THURSDAY, JULY 25	FRIDAY, JULY 26	SATURDAY, JULY 27
<p><b>2007</b>—George W.[MD] Bush invokes the 25th Amendment, making Dick "Dick" Cheney President while Bush's colon is inspected.</p> <p><b>2000</b>—Long-time Texas voter Dick "Dick" Cheney registers in Wyoming to evade election laws.</p> <p><b>2000</b>—The FBI and ATF are exonerated for killing 80 religious fanatics during a 1993 siege in Waco, Texas.</p> <p><b>1954</b>—Geneva Accords free Vietnam from French colonial rule; the U.S. steps in to preserve disorder.</p> <p><b>1951</b>—A Canadian Pacific DC-10 leaves Vancouver for Anchorage with 37 on board and disappears.</p> <p><b>1950</b>—Tuffi, a young elephant riding in a German elevated train, gets agitated and breaks a window. She then falls into a river, but survives.</p> <p><b>1919</b>—A burning dirigible crashes through the glass skylight of a Chicago bank killing 13.</p> <p><b>1919</b>—With the cops on the sidelines, blacks in D.C. arm themselves and fight back against white aggression.</p> <p><b>1918</b>—U-156 attacks Orleans, Mass., sinking four barges and damaging the tug <i>Pertb Amboy</i>. A few shells hit the beach—the only attack of the war on the U.S. mainland.</p> <p><b>1877</b>—Pittsburgh militia bayonet and shoot railroad strikers (20 die). Surviving strikers burn 39 buildings and wreck 104 locomotives.</p> <p><b>1643</b>—In Santa Fe, New Mexico, eight men are unexpectedly beheaded by the Spanish Inquisition.</p>	<p><b>2003</b>—Uday and Qusay Hussein, ratted out by a cousin for a \$30 million reward, are shot dead by the 101st.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—"I know what I believe," says G.W.[MD] Bush. "I will continue to articulate what I believe and what I believe — I believe what I believe is right."</p> <p><b>1991</b>—Milwaukee police arrest Jeffrey Dahmer, the famous cannibal.</p> <p><b>1975</b>—Owen J. Quinn parachutes from the top of the South Tower of New York's World Trade Center.</p> <p><b>1974</b>—On the steps of the Capitol, 600 young Moonies begin a three-day fast and prayer-fest for Richard Nixon.</p> <p><b>1946</b>—Irgun bombs the King David Hotel in Jerusalem, killing 91.</p> <p><b>1934</b>—Chicago FBI agents kill John Dillinger, shooting him in the back.</p> <p><b>1919</b>—The Army, Navy, Marines, and a downpour finally end a four-day race riot in Washington, D.C.</p> <p><b>1916</b>—A bomb kills 10 and wounds 40 during a Preparedness Day parade in San Francisco. Perjured testimony sends two innocent men to prison.</p> <p><b>1915</b>—The excursion steamer <i>Eastland</i> nearly tips over at the dock in Chicago. The boat's instability is kept secret to prevent loss of business.</p> <p><b>1905</b>—Henderson's Point vanishes from the Piscataqua, thanks to 60,000 tons of dynamite.</p> <p><b>1877</b>—Local labor leaders and the Workingmen's Party elect a Directorate of the St. Louis [Ill.] Commune. It issues General Order No. 1, calling for a General Strike.</p>	<p><b>2014</b>—Arizona authorities experimenting with new poisons find Joseph Wood's execution takes 12 times longer than the expected 10 minutes.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—Bank robber Gary Sampson calls the FBI to turn himself in, but a clerk disconnects him. Over the next week he murders three people, including a man in New Hampshire.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—The last clash between the U.S. &amp; NVA ends in futility: the 101st Airborne evacuates Firebase Ripcord. Cost: 75 KIAs &amp; 463 WIAs.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—Charging the Court nominee was soft on smut, Sen. Strom Thurmond brandishes examples during Abe Fortas's confirmation hearing.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—Cops raid a blind pig in Detroit, interrupting a welcome home party for two Vietnam veterans. A five day riot ensues, and 43 die.</p> <p><b>1944</b>—The International Monetary Fund and World Bank are created in Bretton Woods, N.H., [where the first tax collector was Daniel Fowle].</p> <p><b>1892</b>—Anarchist Alexander Berkman shoots and stabs Henry Clay Frick, architect of the Homestead Massacre; but the capitalist survives.</p> <p><b>1877</b>—Workers seize the railyards and docks in East St. Louis, Ill. Knowing he's out-manned, the mayor deputizes strikers to maintain order. Meanwhile, in Reading, Pa., the State Militia shoots ten civilians dead.</p> <p><b>1846</b>—Henry David Thoreau is jailed for refusing to pay a \$1 poll tax to support the Mexican War.</p>	<p><b>2017</b>—"Who the hell wants to talk about politics ... in front of the Boy Scouts?," asks Donald Trump, who then talks politics at the Jamboree.</p> <p><b>2008</b>—An F2 tornado hits nine towns along a 50-mile path in central N.H., killing a Deerfield woman.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—Congress says the FBI and the CIA blew off warnings of a possible al-Qaeda attack on the U.S.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—In Iraq, the U.S. proudly displays photographs of the corpses of Uday and Qusay Hussein.</p> <p><b>2002</b>—James Traficant (D-Ohio) is booted from the U.S. House of Representatives for taking bribes.</p> <p><b>1998</b>—To prevent a cannibal holocaust, Rusty Weston murders Rep. Tom DeLay's bodyguard and another Capitol cop. Shot and near death himself, he is revived by Sen. Bill Frist.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—French President Charles de Gaulle says, from a balcony in Montreal, "<i>Vive le Québec libre!</i>"</p> <p><b>1959</b>—During the "Kitchen Debate" in Moscow, Khrushchev asks Nixon if Americans have machines to push food down their throats.</p> <p><b>1951</b>—Two officers from Hanscom AFB report a UFO flying over Portsmouth at 800 to 1,000 mph.</p> <p><b>1921</b>—The Aerowagon, a high-speed, propeller-driven railcar, crashes on its way to Moscow, killing six passengers including its inventor.</p> <p><b>1877</b>—Thousands of strikers parade through East St. Louis, Ill., calling on shops and business to shutter.</p>	<p><b>2000</b>—In a touching display of <i>naïveté</i>, George W.[MD] Bush announces that he has picked Dick "Dick" Cheney as running mate.</p> <p><b>1990</b>—Ambassador April Glaspie tells Saddam the U.S. won't take sides in an Iraq-Kuwait border dispute.</p> <p><b>1975</b>—Chester Plummer, Jr., a black 'Nam vet and D.C. cabbie, hops a fence with a three-foot pipe in his hand and becomes the first person shot dead on the White House lawn.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—U.S. health officials admit black men were used as guinea pigs in a 40-year syphilis experiment.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—Sen. Ted Kennedy gets two months (suspended) for leaving the scene of a fatal accident.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—Bob Dylan outrages the Newport Folk Festival with electricity.</p> <p><b>1952</b>—Généreux Ruest, a disabled watchmaker who helped bomb an airliner, is wheeled to Quebec's gallows and hanged in a chair. His hangman is inept; he struggles for 21 minutes.</p> <p><b>1946</b>—The first underwater A-Bomb, at Bikini Atoll, causes far more contamination than anticipated, especially to sailors of the U.S. Navy.</p> <p><b>1853</b>—The freshly-killed head of legendary bandit Joaquín Murrieta is put in a jar of brandy for display—until it's lost in the San Francisco Earthquake.</p> <p><b>1826</b>—"Nothing succeeds with me," says Decembrist revolutionary Mikhail Bestuzhev-Ryumin after the hangman's first rope breaks. "Even here I meet with disappointment."</p>	<p><b>1968</b>—The newly elected President of South Vietnam jails the runner-up.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—Mexican troops arrest thousands of students and shoot hundreds, killing dozens.</p> <p><b>1959</b>—An engine failure forces U.S.M.C. Lt. Col. William Rankin to eject from his F-8 fighter jet over a thunderstorm. Aloft for 40 minutes amid lightning, hail, and -58° temperatures, he survives.</p> <p><b>1953</b>—Arizona State Police and National Guard arrest the whole damn town of Short Creek for polygamy.</p> <p><b>1950</b>—The U.S. 7th Cavalry, backed by air support, kills between 200 and 400 Korean refugees at No Gun Ri.</p> <p><b>1948</b>—Harry Truman orders that the U.S. military be desegregated.</p> <p><b>1947</b>—The National Security Act creates the CIA and NSA and turns the War Department into the DoD.</p> <p><b>1936</b>—With dozens of fellow Communies along for cover, Bill Bailey rips the Nazi flag from the bow of the <i>Bremen</i> and throws it New York's harbor.</p> <p><b>1924</b>—Bath, Maine hosts a KKK rally, complete with burning cross and a parade led by the City Marshall.</p> <p><b>1877</b>—In Chicago, Federal troops kill 30 strikers in the Battle of the Viaduct. In East St. Louis, the Mayor sends 700 cops and goons to strike headquarters, ordering "shoot to kill."</p> <p><b>1758</b>—The French fortress of Louisbourg, taken by New Englanders in 1744 and given back by Britain three years later, is re-taken by the British.</p>	<p><b>2013</b>—In Montana, a Robinson R44 starts spinning out of control and crashes. The pilot dies, two are injured. In Pennsylvania, a Robinson R66 crashes, killing all five on board.</p> <p><b>2008</b>—Shotgunning in a Knoxville church, Jim David Adkisson kills two and wounds seven. He cites Fox News' Bernard Goldberg as one inspiration.</p> <p><b>1996</b>—To protect the sanctity of life, Eric Robert Rudolph bombs the Atlanta Summer Olympics.</p> <p><b>1957</b>—Jimmy Wilson (black) is sentenced to death in Ala. for stealing \$1.95 from a woman (white).</p> <p><b>1954</b>—Guatemalan President Jacobo Árbenz Guzmán is overthrown by mercenaries at the behest of the CIA. Genocide follows.</p> <p><b>1946</b>—<i>Hollywood Reporter</i> owner Billy Wilkerson, uncertain whether to name ten suspected Communies, consults Father Cornelius J. McCoy. He replies, "Get those bastards, Billy."</p> <p><b>1919</b>—After a white man throwing rocks kills a black man swimming at a segregated Chicago beach, a white cop arrests a black man. Nearby blacks who object are attacked by whites.</p> <p><b>1893</b>—William Taylor survives a jolt from New York's electric chair, and breaks its straps. Morphine and chloroform keep him alive during repairs; a third jolt finally kills him.</p> <p><b>1877</b>—In East St. Louis, 8,000 Federal troops, militia, and railroad hirelings start a two-day battle to crush the Commune and end the Strike.</p>
<p>2:43                      3:17</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8:58                      9:10</p>	<p>3:23                      3:56</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9:37                      9:54</p>	<p>4:06                      4:38</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:18                      10:41</p>	<p>4:52                      5:23</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11:01                      11:32</p>	<p>5:43                      6:11</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11:48</p>	<p>6:38                      7:03</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12:26                      12:39</p>	<p>7:36                      7:56</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1:22                      1:32</p>
SUNDAY, JULY 28	MONDAY, JULY 29	TUESDAY, JULY 30	WEDNESDAY, JULY 31	THURSDAY, AUGUST 1	FRIDAY, AUGUST 2	SATURDAY, AUGUST 3
<p><b>2012</b>—Three elderly troublemakers infiltrate Oak Ridge, Tenn. and spill blood on its nuclear weapons plant.</p> <p><b>2006</b>—A wild storm topples the partially-renovated steeple of North Church and its attendant scaffolding onto Pleasant Street in Portsmouth.</p> <p><b>2004</b>—Nine minutes after a pilot reports his Robinson R22 helicopter is shaking violently, it crashes in Mount Clemens, Mich., killing him.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—Tom DeLay (R-Texas), who once said Americans smoke Cuban cigars "at the cost of our national honor," is photographed in Jerusalem lighting up a \$25 Hoyo de Monterrey.</p> <p><b>1957</b>—An Air Force C-124 with engine trouble jettisons two core-less nukes 100 miles off Atlantic City.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—A B-25 hits the Empire State Building; six floors burn, 13 die, 26 are injured. Among them: elevator operator Betty Oliver. The cable of the elevator evacuating her snaps; it plummets 80 stories. She survives that, too.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—A kamikaze biplane sinks the <i>U.S.S. Callaghan</i> off Okinawa.</p> <p><b>1932</b>—U.S. Army troops under General Douglas MacArthur, including six tanks under Major George S. Patton, drive the "Bonus Expeditionary Force"—20,000 hungry World War I veterans—out of Washington D.C., killing two in the process.</p> <p><b>1919</b>—Chicago is engulfed by a race riot in which the Hamburg Athletic Club plays a prominent role. Its president: future Mayor Richard J. Daley.</p>	<p><b>1994</b>—Being a good, pro-life Christian, Rev. Paul Jennings Hill uses a shotgun to kill Dr. John Britton and his bodyguard James Barrett, wounding Barrett's wife June in the process.</p> <p><b>1986</b>—Ex-Chaplain Charlie Liteky renounces the Medal of Honor he was awarded for bravery in Vietnam over U.S. policies in Latin America.</p> <p><b>1981</b>—Congress passes Ronald Reagan's tax cut for the rich.</p> <p><b>1974</b>—The House Judiciary Committee again impeaches Richard M. Nixon, this time for abuse of power and violating his oath of office.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—Thanks to a five-year grape boycott, the United Farm Workers win their first contract.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—Bum equipment and bad procedures let a stray electrical charge ignite a Zuni rocket on an F-4 jet on the flight deck of the <i>U.S.S. Forrestal</i>. The rocket slams into John McCain's A-4, releasing the first of eight half-ton bombs, killing 134 sailors and nearly sinking the ship.</p> <p><b>1966</b>—Bob Dylan crashes his Triumph, breaking his neck.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—The 101st Airborne lands in South Vietnam.</p> <p><b>1921</b>—Disgruntled former corporal Adolf Hitler becomes President of the German Nazi Party.</p> <p><b>1910</b>—Responding to a bogus claim about a pending race war against whites, hundreds of armed whites begin a race war against predominantly black Slocum, Texas.</p>	<p><b>2003</b>—Scottish motorcycle racer Steve Hislop, aka The Flying Haggis, survivor of 20 years as a top-tier motorcycle racer, dies when his Robinson R44 helicopter crashes in Scotland.</p> <p><b>1975</b>—Jimmy Hoffa is last glimpsed by anyone who's talking.</p> <p><b>1956</b>—Congress adopts "In God We Trust" as the national motto.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—The <i>U.S.S. Indianapolis</i> is torpedoed and sunk, having delivered the Hiroshima A-bomb to Tinian. Due to security precautions, its sinking goes unnoticed. Drowning, exposure, and sharks claim 879 of the 1,100 aboard.</p> <p><b>1938</b>—Adolph Hitler pins the Grand Cross of the Supreme Order of the German Eagle on his pal Henry Ford.</p> <p><b>1917</b>—A statement read in Parliament from Lt. Siegfried Sassoon says "the war is being deliberately prolonged by those who [could] end it."</p> <p><b>1916</b>—German saboteurs destroy a thousand tons of munitions stored on a barge at Black Tom Island in New York Harbor. Three men and a baby are killed; the Statue of Liberty's upraised arm is hit by shrapnel.</p> <p><b>1866</b>—Blacks march for civil rights in New Orleans; rioting whites kill 44.</p> <p><b>1864</b>—Union forces breach Confederate defenses at Petersburg with a huge mine. A drawn straw puts Brig. Gen. James Ledlie in command. Drunk, he sends Union soldiers into the crater; 4,000 are slaughtered.</p> <p><b>1419</b>—A religious dispute precipitates the First Defenestration of Prague.</p>	<p><b>1999</b>—Eugene Shoemaker becomes the first Earthling whose cremated remains are interred on the moon.</p> <p><b>1996</b>—Gerald Ford and George H.[H.] Walker Bush uphold the dignity of their former office by speaking for pay before an audience of Moonies.</p> <p><b>1993</b>—The control stick of a Robinson R44 helicopter breaks after 174 hours of use. It crashes and burns in El Monte, Calif., killing all three aboard.</p> <p><b>1974</b>—Richard Nixon's former advisor John Ehrlichman gets a free five-year stay at a felons' country club.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—Tom Egleton withdraws his candidacy; the public is shocked.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—The "Justice" Department OK's ITT's ownership of Hartford Fire Insurance; ITT's recent \$400,000 "contribution" to the GOP convention is a mere coincidence.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—Dave Scott drives the first a motor vehicle on the moon.</p> <p><b>1961</b>—Bruce Britt Sr. outruns cops at 120 mph, runs aboard a DC-3 in Chico, Calif., and shoots two men, but the first U.S. skyjacking fails.</p> <p><b>1950</b>—Chicago OK's a plan to tattoo citizens with their blood type.</p> <p><b>1944</b>—Antoine de Saint-Exupéry disappears over southern France.</p> <p><b>1938</b>—New York Yankee Jake Powell is suspended for saying on Chicago radio that he'd "hit every colored person in Chicago over the head with a club."</p> <p><b>1934</b>—Gerhard Zucker's proposed mail rocket explodes in Scotland: the mail is incinerated, and he's deported.</p>	<p><b>2007</b>—An interstate highway bridge in Minneapolis collapses, killing 13.</p> <p><b>1989</b>—In New Zealand, a Robinson R22 breaks up in mid-air and crashes, killing the pilot and a passenger.</p> <p><b>1976</b>—First occupation of the Seabrook nuclear power plant site.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—The <i>Washington Post</i> reports on a "two-bit burglary" at DNCHQ.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—First Lt. G.W. Bush loses his Air National Guard flying status because he skipped a required physical exam that included a drug test.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—Herb Kalmbach accepts a \$100,000 bribe from milk producers on behalf of Richard Nixon.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—A Mass. Superior Court judge denies a DA's request for an inquest into Mary Jo Kopechne's death.</p> <p><b>1966</b>—Ex-Eagle Scout, honor student, and former Marine Charles Whitman shoots 45 (killing 12) from a tower at the University of Texas.</p> <p><b>1946</b>—Corrupt Democrats in Athens, Tennessee, hole up in a jailhouse with ballot boxes. Disgruntled vets armed with Thompson guns stolen from the local Guard armory lay siege.</p> <p><b>1921</b>—Police Chief Sid Hatfield and Deputy Ed Chambers are shot dead on the courthouse steps in Matewan, W.Va. The Baldwin-Feltes detectives who shot them claim self-defense and are not prosecuted.</p> <p><b>1917</b>—IWW organizer Frank Little is lynched in Butte, Mont.</p> <p><b>1870</b>—Norton I is listed on the San Francisco census as "Emperor."</p>	<p><b>2007</b>—A Robinson R44 crashes in Easton, Wash. after its tail rotor fails. The ensuing fire kills the pilot and three passengers, and burns 485 acres.</p> <p><b>2000</b>—The GOP picks George W.[MD] Bush to preside, and Dick "Dick" Cheney to run the country.</p> <p><b>1993</b>—A short circuit sends a self-destruct command to a Titan IV rocket over the Pacific which blows up, destroying \$1 billion in spy satellites.</p> <p><b>1990</b>—Iraq invades Kuwait.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—The <i>U.S.S. Maddox</i>, in North Vietnamese territorial waters to support covert South Vietnamese attacks, fires on North Vietnamese torpedo boats. When they fire back, <i>Maddox</i> reports an "unprovoked" attack.</p> <p><b>1946</b>—Disgruntled veterans in Athens, Tenn. prevail over a crooked Democratic machine, thanks to several well-placed dynamite blasts.</p> <p><b>1943</b>—Treblinka prisoners revolt. Only 40 survive, but they close the camp.</p> <p><b>1943</b>—The nimble American PT boat #109 is rammed and sunk by a relatively ponderous Japanese destroyer.</p> <p><b>1939</b>—A. Einstein informs FDR that a nuclear bomb is doable.</p> <p><b>1931</b>—A. Einstein urges all scientists to refuse military work.</p> <p><b>1865</b>—The <i>CSS Shenandoah</i>, after capturing and sinking American whaling vessels all summer, learns that the war's been over since April.</p> <p><b>1832</b>—Starving Sauk and Fox women and children surrender at Bad Axe, Wis. They're massacred by militia.</p>	<p><b>2016</b>—A tidy German drifter on La Palma in the Canaries lights his used toilet paper with a match; his fire burns 12,000 acres and kills a firefighter.</p> <p><b>1981</b>—Federal air traffic controllers have the gall to go on strike.</p> <p><b>1980</b>—Ronald Reagan delivers his first post-convention speech, touting "states' rights," two miles from where three murdered civil rights workers had been buried 19 years earlier.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—New Hampshire's own Alan Shepard becomes the first man to whack a golf ball on the moon.</p> <p><b>1966</b>—Lenny Bruce beats a four-month bit for obscenity by dying.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—Tusko the elephant dies in an Oklahoma City zoo two hours after researchers give him LSD.</p> <p><b>1961</b>—Leon Beardon and his son Cody skyjack a Boeing 707 being piloted by Byron Rickards over New Mexico. Rickards also piloted the first plane to be skyjacked: a Ford Tri-Motor, in Peru, in 1931.</p> <p><b>1943</b>—Gen. George S. Patton slaps a shell-shocked private in an Army hospital in Sicily.</p> <p><b>1931</b>—In Chicago, an anti-eviction march by 60,000 turns into a riot; three die.</p> <p><b>1923</b>—In Plymouth, Vt., at 2:47 a.m., by the light of a kerosene lantern, Calvin Coolidge is sworn in as President by his own father.</p> <p><b>1919</b>—The Chicago race riot ends with 38 dead, 537 injured, and 1,000 blacks homeless.</p>
<p>2:19                      2:27</p>	<p>3:14                      3:21</p>	<p>4:08                      4:15</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:23                      10:36</p>	<p>11:15                      11:27</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5:00                      5:07</p>	<p>5:50                      5:59</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12:05</p>	<p>6:40                      6:52</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12:18                      12:55</p>	<p>7:29                      7:44</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1:09                      1:45</p>

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