

## The Fortnightly Rant

### A Very White Christmas, Indeed

The Administration opened another front Monday in the war on the separation of church and state. The text of an official statement, headlined “First Lady Melania Trump Unveils Christmas at the White House 2019,” uses the word Christmas eight times. In case anyone is slow to get the message, the title of an accompanying 56-second video appears not once, but twice: “2019 Christmas Decorations at the White House.”

Despite these explicit references to the Christian holiday in the statement, though, and a small forest of trees, or tree-like simulacra, in the 56-second video, there is precious little evidence of the spirit of Christmas in any of it—or even of humans.

The video's soundtrack features chimes, sleigh bells, and strings—but no vocals—playing a jingle vaguely reminiscent of the holiday season. Its tempo and dynamics mimic the pace of an approaching horse and sleigh, or perhaps a troika: quietly at first, then, as the strings come in, a crescendo so precise and devoid of phrasing that it could only have been written by an algorithm and produced by a synthesizer. The audio would work equally well as either telephone hold music or the sonic component of an interrogation, depending on the volume.

The First Lady makes half a dozen fleeting appearances, for a total screen time of under twenty seconds.

Twice she fiddles with one or another of five miniature representations of the White House. One would think that having 96 full-time and 250 part-time staff at your beck and call would be sufficient reminder of one's unique address.

Standing next to a tree, Mrs. Trump selflessly uses her own manicured fingers to sprinkle on a branch some white powdery material from a small bowl. We checked out the ornaments, looking for any small, dangling silver spoons, but saw none. Three flower arrangements appear in the video. In two the flowers are white. In the third, a massive blanket of red roses is draped over the mantel of a huge fireplace. The First Lady grasps one rose and tugs it, as one might pull on the ear of a recalcitrant child.

The only other humans in sight are a man and a woman, seen standing in the background at parade rest for all of one second. They wear long, white chef's smocks, reaching well below the knee. At least, we hope they're chef's smocks; the white toques on their heads taper to an unsettling point—add masks and they're in full Klan regalia.

Mostly, the video shows a succession of interiors, with the camera panning and tracking to simulate life. Tree-shaped objects appear, smothered with so many tiny white lights one can hardly tell if they're green underneath. One long hallway features a lone tree at the far end, beyond a succession of frosted-white arches over a blood-red carpet. The shot looks like an out-take from Kubrick's *The Shining*.

It would be unfair to expect a plot in so short a video. On the other hand, commercials can convey surprisingly complex messages in that time. In this case, the final shot shows the First Lady—who never once faces the camera—walking away from the viewer. The back of the white cape she's wearing needs



no words to say, “I really don't care do U?”

If this production is an effort to “trigger the libs,” its director pulled his punches. The word Christmas is used aplenty, but there's no Christianity in evidence. The White House had no qualms about introducing Conan, the gender-fluid killer dog, so where are the crèche, the manger, the live menagerie with donkeys and camels, and the little baby Jesus? (It goes without saying there is nary a wise man in sight.) This Christmas in the White House represents a rare lost opportunity.

It would be preposterous, of course, even to suggest that there might be an iota of sincerity in anything this White House says or does—except when it imposes on non-“white” people as many risks, cruelties, indignities, and threats as possible. To claim that the administration is moved in any way by the principles that have long been held to motivate Christianity, such as love for one's fellow man, compassion towards the weak and needy, &c., &c., would be to libel the Bible.

The notion that our President is any sort of Christian at all seems absurd on its face, though there is one particular branch which might have some appeal. How, though, would our lying, cheating, fornicating Chief Executive ever “find Jesus”?

By finding Paula White first. It is 2002. “The Apprentice” has not yet begun. Our subject is, perhaps, bored. While flipping through the channels, he is suddenly transfixed. A lithe, young-ish, blonde televangelical named Paula White is striding back and forth across a stage. When she's not speaking in tongues—a performance that must be seen to be...no, even seeing it, it's unbelievable—she's preaching the prosperity gospel: “Send me your money, and you, too, can be rich.”

White has apparently been Trump's spiritual advisor ever since, which may explain how he got from his mid-fifties into his seventies without maturing at all. She delivered a benediction at Trump's inauguration—entirely in English, we presume—and was recently appointed a special advisor to the Faith

and Opportunity Initiative, which the *New York Times* defines as “the division of the White House overseeing outreach to groups and coalitions organizing key parts of the president's base.”

Considering that 99 percent of white evangelical Christians currently oppose Trump's impeachment, it's safe to say she's a vital component of the re-election campaign. She's working hard for the money, too. She frequently preaches fire and brimstone against “demonic networks” trying to take the President down.\*

Jesus is reputed to have said that it is easier for a camel to pass through a needle's eye, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. Many Republicans seem to think they've found a loophole. Perhaps that's what they mean by American exceptionalism.

As for the politicians among their ranks, they seem to worry more about staying in Congress than they do about getting into heaven.

\* Her prayers can't be very effective, though; after all, we're still here.

## The Alleged News®

### As Go the Submarine Bugs, So Go All of Us

What's left of the Award-Winning Local Daily reported... no, strike that and start again.

The Corporate-Owned Local Daily published an article Monday by the AP's Patrick Whittle about the future of the lobster catch. By weight, the lobster catch runs about twice the size of the herring catch, its closest rival. In terms of value, the annual catch of these submarine bugs is worth three times as much as all other species combined. If you then calculate, as some marketing expert probably can, the value of a working lobster industry as a component of Maine's tourist industry, and...well, you get the picture.

All in all, whatever you call them, *Homarus americanus*, lobsters, bugs\*—these crustaceans are kind of a big deal.

Whittle's article, while assuredly objective and accurate—he's been covering the Atlantic fishery for years, and the AP doesn't hire duds or cranks—had an underlying tone of reassurance.

The “U.S. lobster industry is headed for a period of decline,” Whittle wrote, “but likely not a crash.”

Although “fishermen have brought in record hauls this decade”—nearly double what they used to be—new scientific models show “the lobster catch in the Gulf of Maine 'will return to previous historical levels.'”

That means “tens of millions fewer pounds of lobster per year, but still enough lobsters to support a robust business and supply hungry seafood lovers.”

Too bad there's a lot more at stake.

Driving Whittle's article were two new studies, led by University of Maine scientists, which “show a fishery in which warming waters off Maine have changed the dynamics of the lobster population.” A declining lobster fishery will survive, but, if we understand the article correctly, only because the local population of submarine bugs is mobile, and the Gulf of Maine has deeper, cooler areas in which they may find refuge.

Take a step back and the prospects are less than comforting. The ocean, like the atmosphere, undergoes localized heat waves—periods when the temperature runs towards the high end of its range for an extended period.

We have known that the Gulf has been warming for at least a decade. Last year, freelance science journalist

Laura Poppick wrote in *Eos Earth & Space News*, “the Gulf of Maine has experienced only 45 days with what have *not* been considered heat wave temperatures.”

If that sounds scary, try this:

“Over the past decade [2004–2013], sea surface temperatures in the Gulf of Maine increased faster than 99.9 percent of the global ocean.” That's according to a 2015 scientific paper by Andrew J. Pershing of the Gulf of Maine Research Institute.

Pershing's paper was focused on the cod fishery. He attributes its collapse to overfishing, which was exacerbated by the failure to recognize the impact of warming water on the cod population.

The Maine cod fishery peaked in 1991, with a record 21.1 mil-

lion pounds landed. Five years later the catch was down to 4.8 million. By 2001, it was just 2.9 million pounds—less than 14 percent of what it had been a decade earlier. These days fishermen bring in less than 100,000 pounds of cod annually. That would have been a rounding error 30 years ago.

The productivity of the shrimp fishery has been more volatile historically; its story is less obvious, but equally tragic. From 10.1 million pounds landed in 2011, the take plummeted to 563,000 pounds in 2013—after which, the fishery was closed. Again, the loss was attributed to warming waters.

So—lobsters are on the run, the cod have been decimated, and for all we know, we'll never see local shrimp again; all this because this little patch of water off our coast warms up faster than anywhere else

\* When fishermen call lobsters bugs, they're not just using dysphemism—substituting a disparaging term for an inoffensive one. They're being accurate. Someone asked *Quora.com*, “Aren't crabs and lobsters just giant sea bugs?” Richard Pierce, who says he

has a Ph.D. in Marine Biology & Plankton from the University of Rhode Island, answered on March 8, 2018, “At the basic level, yes. All are members of the Phylum Arthropoda, which means ‘jointed feet.’ They all have a chitinous exoskeleton, joint-

**The Alleged News®**

from page one

on earth, for some reason.

**North Atlantic Currents**



What is that reason? *Eos'* Laura Poppick explains that the temperature of the Gulf of Maine is affected by both the cold, southward-flowing Labrador Current [darker, above], and the warm, northward-flowing Gulf Stream. [Graphic by Leuke Caesar, University of Potsdam.]

The flow of the Labrador current has been weakening in recent decades, giving the Gulf Stream more influence over the temperature of the shallow Gulf of Maine.

Take another step back and the picture gets more ominous—we're not just talking seafood availability.

Never mind 'the seven seas,'

they're really all one ocean. All the major currents around the globe are interconnected. The currents are driven by salinity and temperature—thermohaline circulation. Here in New England we have a ringside seat to a critical part of that system.

Prevailing winds from west to east drive the warm surface waters of the Gulf Stream north towards Greenland, where the water cools and sinks. That's the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation [AMOC].

There are only a couple of places on the planet where this happens, so it's pretty important. Climate scientists and respectable publications have long acknowledged this, but they've tended to downplay any alarmist talk about its long-term reliability.

Their caution only increased in 2004, after the release of the apocalyptic sci-fi movie, *The Day After Tomorrow*, in which the AMOC abruptly stopped. As a consequence, huge storms flash-froze major cities in a matter of minutes. Sea levels rose 25 feet in seconds.

The special effects were truly spectacular, but the plot was beyond ludicrous. Duke University paleoclimatologist William Hyde, who watched the film under protest after losing an online dare, concluded his review, "This movie is to climate



science as Frankenstein is to heart transplant surgery."

Fifteen years later, scientists still have not embraced *The Day After Tomorrow*. They have become far less reluctant, though, to use language that is frankly alarming. In a widely-cited article just published in *Nature*, a group of scientists warn that "the growing threat of abrupt and irreversible climate changes must compel political and economic action on emissions."

Noting that the AMOC has slowed by 15 percent just since the 1950s, they warn of drastic climatic effects around the world if the trend continues.

AMOC, though, is just one of nine tipping points the scientists address. Each is a threat on its own, none of them operate in isolation, and our understanding of their interactions is, to say the least, inadequate. If one trips, it might set off another, in a cascading effect.

"If damaging tipping cascades can occur and a global tipping point cannot be ruled out, then this is an

existential threat to civilization. No amount of economic cost-benefit analysis is going to help us. We need to change our approach to the climate problem."

On the other hand, Jim Inhofe, Republican Senator of Oklahoma, once brought a snowball to the floor of the Senate in February of 2015, so perhaps we should not act too precipitously.

In other news, Monday's *Herald*, the one with Whittle's article about lobsters, arrived at our luxuriously-appointed offices 48 hours late. Tuesday's was 24 hours late. They arrived bundled together with Wednesday's paper. We suppose it's possible that the delay may have had something to do with cost-cutting driven by the recent merger of GateHouse and Gannett. It was more likely caused, though, by the snowstorm that lasted from Sunday afternoon until Tuesday night.

Among the predicted effects of a changed climate: storms persisting longer than we're used to.

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**Rest in Power, Fred Hampton**  
Wednesday marked the 50th anniversary of the death of Fred Hampton. Perhaps we missed its commemoration in the corporate media. He should be remembered for his life as well as his death.

As an honor roll student in high school and as an NAACP organizer, Fred Hampton showed a talent for leadership even before joining the Black Panther Party [BPP]. Seeing his potential, the Party made him chairman of the Illinois chapter and deputy chairman of the national party. He organized free breakfast programs, free medical programs, and other community service programs. He also brought street gangs together in peaceful cooperation in the Rainbow Coalition—later co-opted by Jesse Jackson.

J. Edgar Hoover saw Hampton's potential, too—and made him a target. As part of the secret, illegal COINTELPRO, Hoover sent memos to all field offices demanding "imaginative and hard-hitting counterintelligence measures aimed



Random signs of entropy tend to attract the eye of Our Wandering Photographer. Late last Friday afternoon, when all the decent folk were doing their part to sustain the economy by spending what they might not have on stuff their friends and family may not need, he was documenting the eroding granite façade of Portwalk Place: "Luxury Living in Fauxpo."

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— Joe Keefe

at crippling the BPP." With the FBI pulling its strings, the Chicago PD exploited a hired felon, William O'Neal, to infiltrate the Party. Late on December 3rd, 1969, he surreptitiously drugged Hampton. In the early morning of the 4th, a squad of cops broke into Hampton's apartment, shooting his bodyguard, Mark Clark, dead. They then murdered the drugged Hampton in his bed, next to his pregnant fiancée.

Fifty years later, those who remember still await justice.

**N.H. Man Shines in Libertarian Debate**  
 Asked if people should have to have a government-issued license to drive a car, candidate Darryl Perry, of Keene, New Hampshire replied with a question of his own, which he delivered with a scornful sneer: "What's next, requiring a license to make toast in your own damn toaster?"

The audience reacted to Perry's response with enthusiastic cheers and applause.

Former Colorado Governor Gary Johnson, on the other hand, responded to that question, "A license to drive? I'd like to see some competency exhibited by people before they drive."

For this abject capitulation to statist tyranny, Johnson was loudly

booed.

[Oops. Turns out that was from a June 7, 2016 debate. Surely Perry's views have become more moderate since then. We apologize to all Libertarians, and to all Republicans who have absorbed, over recent decades, so much Libertarian ideology.—The Ed.]

**Repeal the Nearly Two-Decade-Old War Authorizations**

by Matthew Hoh

In 2001 and in 2002 Congress passed authorizations for war. While not declarations of war, these mandates, each titled an Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF) provided the legal framework for attacks against al Qaeda in 2001 and in 2002 for the Iraq War. Both AUMFs are still in effect today. As Congress considers its annual authorization to fund the Pentagon our current members of Congress, both in the House and the Senate, are in a position of responsibility and have the ability to repeal these AUMFs.

The effect of the AUMFs:

Based on FBI and journalist investigations, al Qaeda had between 200-400 members worldwide in September of 2001. Al Qaeda now has affiliates in every corner of the world, their strength measures in the tens of thousands of members,



and they control territory in Yemen, Syria, and parts of Africa. In Afghanistan, the Taliban now control as much as 60 percent of the territory and, with regards to international terrorism, where there was one international terror group in Afghanistan in 2001, the Pentagon now reports twenty such groups.

ISIS was formerly al Qaeda in Iraq, an organization that came into existence solely due to the invasion and occupation of Iraq by the United States. U.S. military, intelligence agencies, journalists and other international organizations continually report that the reason people join such groups is not out of ideology or religious devotion, but out of resistance to invasion and occupation, and in response to the killing of family, friends and neighbors by foreign and government forces. It is clear the AUMFs have worsened terrorism, not defeated it.

The cost of the AUMFs:

More than 7,000 U.S. service members have been killed and more than 50,000 wounded in the wars

since 9/11. Of the 2.5 million troops deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, as many as 20% percent are afflicted with PTSD, while 20 percent more may have traumatic brain injury. The Veterans Administration reports Afghan and Iraq veterans have rates of suicide 4-10 times higher than their civilian peers. This

grasp. Between one and four million people have been killed, directly and indirectly, by these wars, while tens of millions more have been wounded or psychologically traumatized, and another tens of millions made homeless—the cause of the worst refugee crisis since WWII.

Financially, the cost of these wars is immense, at least \$6 trillion. Nearly \$1 trillion of this incomprehensible figure of \$6 trillion is simply interest and debt payments. For any American, Democrat, Republican or independent, these interest and debt payments alone should cause them to reconsider these wars.

The AUMFs have allowed for wars to be waged without end by the executive branch, wars the American people, including veterans, say have not been worth fighting. Congress has the ability and responsibility to end these wars by ensuring the repeal of the 2001 and 2002 AUMFs.

Matthew Hoh is a Senior Fellow with the Center for International Policy and a Marine combat veteran of the Iraq War.



When it comes to intrusive signs of visible deterioration, Portsmouth's new non-neighborhood [see other photo] has nothing on Kennebunk, Maine. There, amid any number of Gilded Age mansions in pristine condition, sits this rotting pile of extravagance. The condition of the Wedding Cake House, as it's called, suggests that the bride's maiden name was Havisham.



means almost two Afghan and Iraq veterans are die by suicide every day. Do the math and it is clear more Afghan and Iraq veterans are dying by suicide than by combat. The cost to the people overseas to whom we have brought these wars is hard to

**Murph's Fortnightly Quote**  
 "There is something feeble and a little contemptible about a man who cannot face the perils of life without the help of comfortable myths."  
 — Bertrand Russell (1872-1970)  
 philosopher, writer, mathematician, &c.

"Everything else you grow out of, but you never recover from childhood."  
 — Beryl Bainbridge  
 john@wordpraxis.com

"So great... is the regard of the law for private property, that it will not authorize the least violation of it; no, not even for the common good of the whole community."  
 — William Blackstone, 18th century jurist who greatly influenced the writers of the U.S. Constitution  
 — Not-So-Random Thoughts from an Oregon Subscriber

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 Keene Public Library, 60 Winter St.

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

**Republican Disrespect of Military Veterans**  
To the Editor:

During the last days of August 2004, my wife and I were vacationing on the coast of Maine. As it happened, the Republican National Convention was taking place in New York City that week. The presidential election that November would be between Republican President George W. Bush and John F. Kerry, Democratic U.S. Senator from Massachusetts.

On August 30, the opening day of the convention, I purchased a copy of *The New York Times*, which was covering the proceedings. I also bought the *Times* on the following days of the convention.

Prominently featured in the September 1st edition was coverage of delegates on the convention floor mocking Senator Kerry's Vietnam War service as a U.S. Navy Lieutenant in charge of a Swift boat patrol operation. Several right-wing delegates gleefully wore Band-Aids on their faces with purple hearts drawn on them in an abhorrent attempt to tarnish Kerry's receipt of three Purple Heart medals. The disrespect for Kerry's military records persisted throughout the convention, despite protests from The Military Order of the Purple Heart. Republican Arizona Senator John McCain and many other veterans vigorously denounced the attacks on Kerry's service.

The seaside peacefulness I was relishing immediately switched to anger as I read news of the convention's dishonest goings-on. At a 1967 forum in Manchester, a young Marine from Maine and I had been presented the Purple Heart by Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Wallace M. Greene, Jr. Though I had become opposed to the rotten war, I held great respect for the medal's recognition of those wounded in U.S. wars. The Purple Heart is also presented to the families of military personnel killed in battle along with a folded funeral flag. It is our country's oldest military decoration, originating with General George Washington, known then as the Badge of Military Merit. Contrary to news media anchors and others, the

Purple Heart medal is not "won." It is not a prize for an accomplishment. It is an award of recognition.

It irks me that so many Republican leaders have and continue to feign patriotic superiority while discrediting those who have served during wartime. Instances of this are numerous, and even include veterans of their own political party—the late Senator John McCain, for example. During his 2008 presidential campaign, McCain caught grief from those questioning whether he was a "natural born citizen" for having been born in Panama where his father was stationed in the U.S. Navy. He had been wounded in Vietnam and became a long-term POW in Hanoi. Infamously, in 2015 during Donald Trump's presidential run, Trump insulted McCain for having been captured.

In his 2006 campaign for reelection as a Democrat, the late Pennsylvania Congressman John Murtha's service in the Marine Corps took scathing abuse from his opponents, despite his two Purple Hearts and other combat medals for service in Vietnam.

Max Cleland, at age 25, became a triple amputee from the Vietnam War. He was awarded the Purple Heart and several other medals for gallantry. When running for reelection as a Democrat to the U.S. Senate in 2002, his patriotism was outwardly slandered by his Republican opponent. Cleland lost reelection by a slight margin. He went on to support John Kerry's 2004 presidential candidacy.

Tammy Duckworth lost both legs after being shot down in Iraq piloting a Black Hawk helicopter in 2004. Born in Thailand, Duckworth was scorned by her Republican opponent in her 2006 run for Congress for having an Asian mother. She lost that election but was later elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and is currently a Democratic Senator from Illinois.

In 2016, candidate Donald Trump shamelessly belittled the U.S. Gold Star parents of Humayun Khan, a Muslim soldier killed by a suicide bomber in Iraq. The fallen soldier's father denounced Trump in a powerful



speech during the Democratic National Convention that July.

Again, in October 2017, Trump made insensitive remarks to the widow of a U.S. soldier killed in an ambush in Niger, telling her coldly that he "knew what he signed up for." Unable to recall the soldier's name, Trump displayed no empathy.

And most recently, during the House impeachment inquiry, U.S. Army Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman was disrespected by Republicans in their smearing, vindictive questions. Vindman, a Ukrainian-American immigrant, is the recipient of the Purple Heart and several other combat medals from his service in Iraq. Vindman serves on Trump's National Security Council.

It makes me wonder who will be next to take verbal shrapnel from right-wingers, many of whom are chickenhawks.

Paul Nichols  
Loudon, N.H.

Paul:

*Some folks don't seem to know the difference between the Constitution and the NRA's by-laws.*

The Editor

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**"Score One for the Grinch in Durham"**

To the Editor:

This past week the Durham, New Hampshire town council cancelled their annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony and the hanging of street decorations downtown, then renamed their event "Frost Fest," allegedly after a private citizen complained to them that the decorations were "offensive."

Are you kidding me? So much for the state motto, "Live free or die."

Even in today's mixed up, inside out, upside down world I had to do a double-take after reading this decidedly un-American announcement. Where does it stop?

We must name and fight insanity whenever and wherever we find it or

it will inevitably lead to our collective ruin. If we don't speak out, we risk the very real possibility that our nation and cultural heritage become lost and unfamiliar to us.

As a native New Hampshire former resident and 1980's UNH Durham undergraduate and graduate degree holder, I'm stunned by the town council's blockheaded and flat-out wrong overreaction. Especially in today's highly polarized society, does anyone really believe achieving 100 percent consensus on anything (other than the possible exception of lowering taxes) is ever possible?

We must not abandon our hard fought rights and traditions that enrich us both as individuals and as a community simply because someone chooses to take offense. After all, what's the problem?

Taking offense is a choice. In my counseling practice I gently urge those with the hair-trigger habit of being easily offended to straighten out their reactive "crooked thinking," and thereby stop upsetting themselves to everybody's betterment.

Stubbornly refusing to be reactive requires those taking offense to work on increasing their emotional intelligence by actively practicing tolerance of others. It further requires learning to live and let live with dignity and respect, as has been practiced by every generation of Americans going all the way back to our country's founding.

We all know many of the colonies original settlers emigrated to this country for the express purpose of enjoying religious freedom, the most precious right of all to them, indeed as it continues to be for many of us today.

People will always have differences of opinion. Suffice it to say, allowing a minority of disgruntled citizen's to dictate public policy for all is misguided

and contemptibly stupid, and stands against the very principles on which democracy is founded.

During my service as a U.S. Marine, it was understood by all who served that our purpose included helping to ensure the safekeeping of the very rights, values and traditions that define us as a people and a nation, including the practice of freedom of speech and freedom of religion.

To get along best in this world, each of us must learn to respect our differences and the beliefs of others unlike our own, religious or otherwise, and safeguard the expression of those beliefs without interference so long as they are legal and cause no real harm to anyone.

And not just in Durham, but in every town or city in America, wherever attacks on our basic rights raise their ugly heads.

Thus even as we seek to make the circle bigger to reasonably include everyone, we must stand steadfast in vigorously protecting our values from those who would take away our individual and collective rights to freely express our culture and traditions as they have been practiced in America for hundreds of years; for ultimately personal expressions as such are what give our lives meaning.

Otherwise, it won't be long at all before we find ourselves devolving into a joyless, valueless and soulless people.

Think about it.

I therefore urge the Durham Town Council to immediately reverse their Grinch-like decision to cancel the lighting ceremony and placement of decorations, and to unflinchingly refer to the event for what it is and has always been: The Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony.

In the spirit of the season, let us dare

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to imagine and strive to create a world of inclusivity, peace on earth, and good will towards all!

Michael Ra Bouchard, Ph.D.

Hilo, Hawaii

Michael:

Care for a second opinion? Seems to us like you're the one who's being reactive.

We do not know the details of Durham's previous customs, but, to the extent that they specifically referenced Christmas, they went too far.

The Editor

**The Deep State Has Depth**

To the Editor:

The Right Wing Radicals, now the mainstream of the Republican Party, rant and rave about the apocryphal "Deep State." Trump referred to them as "absolute scum" and compared them to Nazis.

Now we have seen them, these deep state actors, appearing as witnesses at the impeachment hearings. Turns out they are not "absolute scum," or Nazis, but patriotic career diplomats and military officers who showed deep knowledge, dedication, ability, coolness under pressure and a commitment to the rule of law. They were thoroughly professional and thoroughly believable, despite Republican efforts to impugn their patriotism and veracity.

And, they vindicated everything the whistleblower said about President Trump's efforts to bribe/extort a domestic political favor from Ukraine: In exchange for investigating his political rival, Joe Biden, he would release military aid that had already been approved by both houses of Congress and signed into law by him.

If this is the "deep state," we need more of it and less of Trump and his cronies in this administration, eight of whom are in jail or awaiting sentenc-

ing.

Michael Frandzel  
Portsmouth, N.H.

Michael

Trump would not dare denigrate these upstanding, hard-working people if he thought his base could relate to them.

The Editor

**Chidester Letter "Troubling"**

Dear Sir:

I found the November 24th Portsmouth Herald Op Ed by Jeff Chidester's, "Politicians burning Washington to the ground," most troubling. In this piece, Mr. Chidester speaks out of both sides of his mouth while attempting to have it both ways. It seems he is trying to immunize himself from the wrath of history that will fall upon those now supporting and protecting Trump, by saying on one hand, "there is a very serious problem with the withholding of funds to our ally the Ukrainians," and that the call "transcript" is "a weak defense of the President's actions in this matter." Then he moves on to say that, "although Trump's actions are probably worthy of Congressional censure," he suggests that it should be the voters who decide in 2020 the penalty for Trump's actions regarding Ukraine. He then asks if Trump will be convicted in the Senate. Answering his own question, he states, "of course he won't. Which begs the question, why did we put the country through this process only to end up where we started?" Let me help explain to you why it is important to go through this process, just like it was when Republicans impeached President Clinton, knowing that he would not be convicted in the Senate.

First of all, elections are not the remedy established in the Constitution for removal of a President. Article

II Section 4 of the Constitution states, 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." It says nothing about the electorate taking such action in these circumstances. By pushing this duty to the public, Congress would be ignoring its Constitutional duty and responsibility and violating their oath.

Second, an election does not specifically address the impeachable offenses for which the President may be removed. An election simply indicates that the electorate, in voting out a President, did so for any number of reasons, including a rejection of his policies and direction of the nation.

Third, if Congress fails to hold a President accountable for impeachable offenses, and cowardly leaves it to the voters in the next election, it establishes a very dangerous precedent for all future Presidents. It codifies that a President is above the law, since removal by an election is not based on violations of the law or Constitution, and has no Constitutional or legal consequences. Any future President who commits offenses similar to Trump's could justifiably claim that such behavior is acceptable, based on Congress's failing to hold such behavior accountable in the past.

Neither Congress nor the voters can have it both ways. Either we reject Trump's assault on our Constitution and follow the prescribed Constitutional remedy, or we hold that this behavior was acceptable for him and for all future Presidents. Choosing the latter is what will prove to be the Constitutional equivalent of "politicians burning Washington to the ground."

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

Rich:

Thank you. We've long felt that we should address Mr. Chidester's failings as

a columnist, but we've been too daunted by the magnitude of that task.

Your common-sense assessment of the reasons why impeachment should proceed validates the faith the Founding Fathers placed in the propertied white males they charged with preserving our democracy.

The Editor

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**The Truth Won't Make Him Free**

To the Editor:

Was mainstream media coverage of the House Intelligence Committee hearings "biased"?

Probably so!

In fact, the entire purpose of any debate, hearing, or trial is to bring forth factual information that "biases" the jury toward accepting one conclusion over another. If the preponderance of evidence favors one side, then it's only natural that accurate reporting will reflect that bias, as well.

Unfortunately, many of us seem to be fixated with "fairness" and "balance" these days, even when the evidence isn't on our side. Everybody is a winner, and everybody gets a pony regardless of merit. Even Devin Nunes and Jim Jordan.

President Trump is in trouble, but not because Democrats are biased and unfair. He's in trouble because, through the process of forensic inquiry, the truth is becoming self-evident.

Rick Littlefield  
Barrington, N.H.

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**We Must Resist!**

Dear Editor:

You have doubtlessly heard the phrase, "United We Stand, Divided We Fall." The expression is attributed to the ancient Greek storyteller Aesop, both directly in his fable, "The Four Oxen and the Lion," and indirectly in "The Bundle of Sticks." I am also sure it is what the early Romans had in mind when the order was given, "Form the Turtle."

Similarly, the Founders also deduced that economic inequality would destroy America's democracy, leaving many of us now wondering, can the Constitution save us?

As numerous other writers have alluded to for years (such as Thom

Hartman, author of over 25 books including *The Hidden History of the Supreme Court and the Betrayal of America*, long before Donald Trump came on the scene, America was already mired in a Constitutional crisis, as historical transformations are prone to do.

The reason, as Ganesh Sitaraman (Professor of Law at Vanderbilt Law School and senior fellow at the Center for American Progress) explains, "Our Constitution wasn't built for a country with massive economic inequality and deeply entrenched political divisions." During America's greatest crises—the Civil War, the Great Depression, perhaps the present moment (events the Founders could only dimly imagine)—the social conditions within the country no longer matched the Constitution.

It is believed by many Americans (including Sitaraman) that the Founders clearly understood that if severe economic inequality emerged, their democratic experiment would collapse. The rich would gradually take over the government and pass laws benefitting themselves at the expense of everyone else.

When America's wealth began to "plunder the poor," a Virginia politician warned in 1814, it would be "slow and legal." Sooner or later the masses would respond, but not through a violent uprising. Instead, they would turn to a personage, a notable character perhaps, a celebrity, who would know, instinctively and precisely, how to manipulate their resentments. Does that describe anyone we know?

As the wealthy rig the system in their favor, it gets harder to tax the rich, break up monopolies, help working families and (most importantly) reduce the influence of money in our politics.

Conversely, as social divisions become more entrenched, it becomes easier, as we are now experiencing, to keep everyone divided through fear-mongering and scapegoating. Our Constitution requires equality and solidarity—and once those are de-

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

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The Northcountry Chronicle

# Weathermen

by William Marvel

On the Friday morning of my last visit to Washington, I spotted an unusual number of police along the Mall and around Capitol Hill. Motorcycle cops encircled the James Garfield Memorial, standing around their bikes as though awaiting the start of a parade, and cruisers guarded each intersection of Independence Avenue. As I waited for the light to cross over to the Longworth building for breakfast, I heard indecipherable chanting from farther up Independence, over a rise and out of sight. A young Capitol policeman came up to wait for the same light, and I asked what was up.

"Protestors," he said. "They say they're going to shut down D.C." I asked what they were protesting, but he shrugged and smiled. "Damned if I know," he said, as the light changed. "Have a nice day."

The protest was not very effective, I guess. It had evaporated by the time I left the Longworth for the Library of Congress. Once supplied with LC wireless, I learned that the

intent had been to block traffic in protest of climate change.

I might have guessed, having spent the previous Sunday in the library at Gettysburg College, where the *Gettysburg Times* reported that a couple of hundred people had gathered for a climate "strike" two days earlier. Fridays seem to be the favorite day for such actions, perhaps because it yields a longer weekend, and the September 20th student strike went worldwide—at least within countries where protestors are not bundled off to labor camps. In some cities where activists chose to concentrate, the turnout was impressive, but not so much in the hinterlands.

Ostensibly, "about 100" protestors convened at the Four Corners in Conway that same day. I've grown skeptical of local crowd estimates since five or six protestors were reported "thronging" the Four Corners last April, demanding release of the Mueller Report, but perhaps it was accurate. The usual suspects were there, and numerous schoolchildren had been trucked in. A few dozen students also interrupted

their \$200,000-a-day education to "march" at Kennett High School, although it isn't clear where they went.

Unlike their counterparts in Washington, the Conway demonstrators made no effort to cause disruption. Except perhaps for the Kennett marchers, they successfully emphasized an important issue for a wide audience, if only for an hour.

Imitating the Weathermen who promoted their politics with bombs through the Nixon years, some combatants in the climate war have adopted modified terrorist tactics to make a very muddled point. Instead of violence, they derange societal systems. In London, as proletarian commuters tried to get home at rush hour, one hypocritical syndicate calling itself "Extinction Rebellion" blocked their train—the most ecologically efficient transportation they could use.

I'm not opposed to political demonstrations per se, mind you. I protested construction of the Seabrook nuclear power plant with the Clamshell Alliance in the 1970s, and early in 2003 I went to New

York and Washington to demonstrate against the threatened invasion of Iraq. Neither time did my side prevail, but I'm still convinced that I was right both times, and that the majoritarian Establishment was dead wrong—again.

I also think climate activists are justified in their fears, and in their suspicions about the causes of global warming. It may be the only issue of much importance on which I don't think progressives have gone stark, raving mad. In the strategy and tactics with which they are responding to it, however, the madness returns.

Political protests have become monotonously common, and that popularity has diluted their effectiveness. Before citizens came to depend on government to do just about everything for them, protests were usually aimed at ending an obnoxious imposition, or averting some reckless national enterprise—such as destabilizing the Middle East by invading Iraq. Today, demonstrations seem geared more toward squeezing some further service or entitlement from the taxpayer, or having another

federal agency perform work that individuals could (and often should) undertake on their own.

Government, for instance, is not likely to curtail or reverse global warming without authoritarian restrictions, but individuals could take their own steps, and lead by example. No government intervention is necessary to eschew gas-guzzlers, or to carpool, or to refuse to fly, or to spawn fewer children. Anyone can boycott the proliferation of new, oversized housing that is destroying New Hampshire forests as effectively as any fires in the Amazon.

Given the heavy carbon footprint of air travel, it's always deeply discouraging to hear believers in the climate crisis announce their plans to fly somewhere, especially when they do so for mere pleasure. When the same people sympathize with activists who demonize and disrupt motorists trying to get to work, it's downright infuriating. The goal should be to attract champions for the cause, rather than cultivate enemies.

—==—

from page five

stroyed, it contains no mechanism to restore them.

The foundations of participatory democracy must also be rebuilt by enabling more Americans to vote. Only then can we hope, as Sitaraman puts it, "to rediscover a sense of common purpose that the Founding Fathers knew was a prerequisite for their experiment to succeed."

Our greatest hope, ironically, may rest in the very savagery and viciousness of our political climate, that very thing we have come to detest. The American people might not think of what we are experiencing as a "Constitutional crisis," but they clearly understand what our leaders fail to recognize (or at least fail to

admit they recognize): the system does not work anymore.

Therefore, something radical has to happen. This realization, this knowledge, above all, is the one thing that the majority of the citizens of our deeply divided country have in common.

"Because of the corrupt Supreme Court," Thom Hartman states, "oligarchs and the corporations that made them rich have taken over the American political system"—yes, including our government—and "if we don't take it back from them soon, the entire experiment of an American democratic republic will

come to an end."

**We must resist.**

David L. Snell

Franklin, N.C.

*David:*

*Amen.*

*The Editor*

—==—

### Bernie's a Mainstream New Deal Democrat

To the Editor:

It's not every day that one of my long-held theories is validated by a major figure in analytic philosophy. Hence, I felt quite honored when I heard Noam Chomsky (a linguist,

philosopher, cognitive scientist, social critic, historian and political activist) do just that during a recent interview where he was discussing U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders' front-runner status in the race to become the Democratic nominee for President.

Professor Chomsky stated, "Well, Bernie Sanders is an extremely interesting phenomenon. He's a decent, honest person. That's pretty unusual in the political system. Maybe there are two of them in the world, you know. But he's considered radical and extremist, which is a pretty interesting characterization

because he is basically a mainstream New Deal Democrat. His positions would not have surprised President Eisenhower, who said that whoever does not accept New Deal programs doesn't belong in the American political system. That's now considered very radical."

To gain a little more perspective on Chomsky's pronouncement, I urge you to research the seven major planks of the Republican Platform under President Dwight D. Eisenhower—a beloved two-term President—in 1956. Actually, please allow me to assist:

1. Provide federal assistance to low-income communities;
2. Protect Social Security;
3. Provide asylum for refugees;
4. Extend minimum wage;



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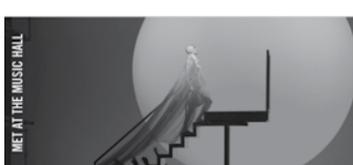
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## How Trump's poverty subsidy enriches the rich

by Jim Hightower

Breaking news: Donald Trump has inadvertently said something true!

He recently exulted that his special tax incentives to spur investment in poverty projects have gone "beyond anything that anybody... even thought." So true! His "Opportunity Zone" tax breaks are financing such "anti-poverty" projects as a Superyacht Marina on the toney

waterfront of West Palm Beach, Florida. Who would've thought?

Named Rybovich, this project is a "luxurious resort-style" marina that will accommodate the \$100-million, football-field-sized yachts of the superrich. Not your typical poverty zone. It's being developed by Wayne Huizenga Jr.—the politically-connected billionaire who inherited a fortune last year from his father, a corporate baron who had owned Blockbuster Video and was a major

donor and plutocratic pal of Donald Trump. Father and son were also big money backers of Rick Scott, the notoriously sleazy Republican governor of Florida, who had authority under Trump's Opportunity Zone program to designate which poverty areas were eligible for the multimillion-dollar tax subsidies. Obviously, an opulent superyacht marina does not qualify.

But...money talks. Huizenga Jr. simply asked his buddy the gov-

ernor to give the tax break to him, and—shazam!—Scott waved his magic gubernatorial wand and transformed the posh marina into a poverty zone—an area in which Huizenga himself had just bought a \$5-million house. The tax subsidy he's been given could cover the cost of that house—but we won't know, since Trump's law requires no disclosure of who gets how much of a tax handout.

Even more disgusting is that,

since the law limits the number of Opportunity Zone projects, slipping in the Huizenga's luxury Marina meant that an actual poverty-stricken area in Florida got rejected by the governor. Plutocracy in Action.

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from page six

5. Improve unemployment benefit system so it covers more people;
6. Strengthen labor laws so workers can more easily join a union; and
7. Assure equal pay for equal work regardless of sex."

Eisenhower's policies were, of course, a follow up to the New Deal, a series of programs, public work projects, financial reforms and regulations established by FDR, an extremely popular Democratic Socialist who was awarded four terms in office.

The modern day Republican Party platform is a radical departure—serving only themselves and their Oligarch campaign contributors—from what it was under Eisenhower. Meanwhile, Bernie's Progressive platform for all working class Americans, which calls for Medicare for All, a Green New Deal, free State Education and a massive national infrastructure initiative which would create tens of millions of jobs, provides a logical continuation of FDR and Eisenhower's New Deal policies.

Wayne H. Merritt  
Dover, N.H.

Wayne:

Forgive us, but, as we do with certain other correspondents from time to time, we subjected your letter comparing the New Deal and the 1956 GOP platform to the Snopes test. Don't worry, it more or less passed.

We can only briefly summarize David Mikkelsen's 1,800 word assessment here. Changes in terminology made direct comparisons difficult. Overall, he deemed it a mixture of true and false. Specific language he cited, though, sup-



ports the general drift of your letter.

*"The Eisenhower Administration will continue to fight for dynamic and progressive programs... Stimulate improved job safety of our workers... Continue and further perfect its programs of assistance to the millions of workers with special employment problems... older... handicapped... minority groups... migratory workers... expansion of social security... broadened coverage in unemployment insurance... improved housing... better health protection..."*

*Over the past 60 years, Republican policies have gone from pro-business with a nod to the desperate, to flat-out anti-human.*

The Editor

### Win the Old Fashioned Way

To the Editor:

With the holidays fast approaching once again we will hear the rhetorical question, "Should old acquaintances be forgot," to which the answer is no; however, with regards to the Democrats and their attempts to impeach President Trump the answer should be a definite yes, and the Democrats should embark on a real effort to present a platform that will deliver the White House the old fashioned way—by winning the presidential race.

And this platform, if presented correctly without the background noise of impeachment, should be delivered in words that will be understood. The Democrats should agree that there is too much socialism, but this socialism is social-

ism for the wealthy, in the form of bailouts and quantitative easing that has transferred interest on bank deposits and the money from pension funds to the wealthy in the form of zero-interest loans for stock buybacks, and speculative investments with the guarantee that if they speculate incorrectly they will again be bailed out. All this transfer of wealth occurs at the same time that middle class and the poor pay sixteen to twenty-four percent interest on their credit cards, or over 500 percent on payday loans. Furthermore, where are those good manufacturing jobs? Why have they not returned as promised? Yes, more people are employed, but the jobs are gig jobs with low wages and few if any benefits. This continuation of the neoliberal economic agenda of socialism for the wealthy and austerity for the rest must be stopped.

In addition, the Democrats should stop pushing for open borders and seek a rational way to solve the immigration problem. And they must admit we cannot accept the entire population of Latin America so there must be limitations. And perhaps it will be necessary to stop fomenting coups that drive the people of those countries to emigrate. And isn't it strange that while Donald Trump is warding off an attempt to remove him by a coup, Trump and his administration are supporting coups in other nations? Perhaps Congress can try to impeach him on these grounds,

but unfortunately, the Democrats, as part of the Deep State, support Trump in creating and supporting unrest in other countries. And why is Tulsi Gabbard being pilloried for her support of withdrawal from the Middle East? This is another promise on which Trump failed to deliver. But, once again the Democrats, as part of the Deep State, reject Gabbard, and support Trump's policies of continued engagement in the perpetual wars that waste American blood and treasure.

In short, the combination of the policies of perpetual war and neoliberal economics that is socialism for the wealthy and austerity for the rest is what defeated the Democrats in 2016. These are the policies of the bipartisan Deep State.

From the clown-car of those seeking the Democratic nomination, two young, dynamic contenders, Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Tulsi Gabbard, are the only ones that in combination recognize this. The issue of the income gap is not the result of building businesses that produce consumer goods and provide good jobs, but because of financial manipulations that are supported by zero interest monies provided by The Fed and made available only to those who are already wealthy, while everyone else pays up twenty-four percent interest on credit card loans or five-hundred percent on payday loans. This point can be understood by the majority of Americans if Ocasio-Ortiz can present it in this simple manner

and without the background noise of impeachment. Representative Gabbard has managed to present her view on the insanity of perpetual wars, but has been shouted down and labeled as a traitor by her own party.

Of course, there are issues such as immigration control, health care, and education that must be debated, but these debates too cannot occur when all that the Democrats continue to do is attempt to impeach the President and in doing so making fools of themselves while showing that they are unable to accept the American system of government that changes power through the voice of the people and not by the desire of a shadow government of entrenched bureaucrats the likes of which Adam Schiff has called upon in his mad quest to impeach and remove Donald Trump.

John Dente  
Wilmington, Del.

John:

*We agree: Democrats should present a platform that will win the White House; and vowing to end socialism for the rich is one good way to do that.*

*However, they should also impeach the incumbent. If they don't, they give the next Republican President—and Trump, if he wins a second term—a pass to commit even more egregious high crimes and misdemeanors.*

*A legitimate impeachment is not a coup. Claiming otherwise empowers authoritarians like Mitch McConnell, which is always a bad idea. Ocasio-Cortez is not running for President. She can't. She's not 35 yet. And immigrants do this country a lot more good than armed white vigilantes.*

The Editor

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

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

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

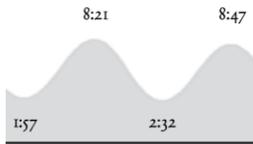
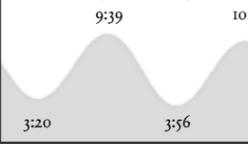
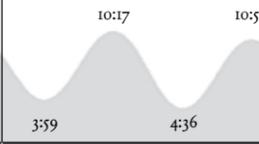
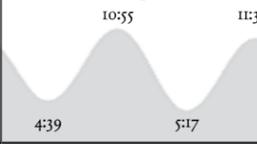
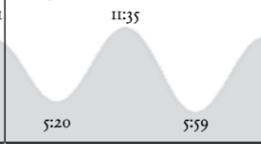
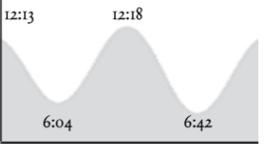
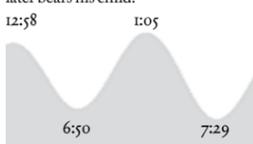
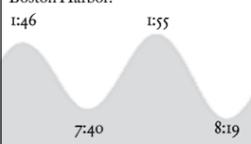
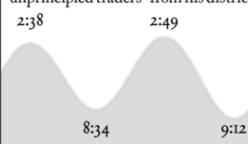
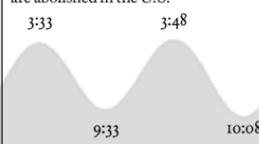
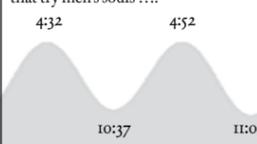
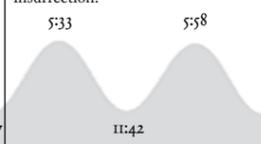
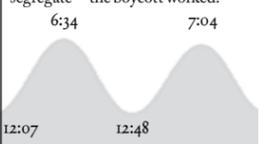
drags about seventeen billion gallons of seawater — enough to fill 2,125,000 tanker trucks — up the river and into Great Bay. This creates a roving hydraulic conflict, as incoming sea and the outgoing river collide. The skirmish line

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

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

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

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

| SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8  | MONDAY, DECEMBER 9  | TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10  | WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11   | THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12  | FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13   | SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14  |
|---|---|---|--|--|---|--|
| <p><b>2004</b>—Soldiers in Iraq ask Sec. of Defense Rumsfeld why their vehicles aren't armored. He says, "You go to war with the Army you have ... not the Army you might want."<br/> <b>1994</b>—A Robinson R44 disassembles itself while flying over Speyer, Germany, the tail landing ¼ mile from the cabin; pilot and passenger die.<br/> <b>1993</b>—President Clinton signs NAFTA into law.<br/> <b>1982</b>—To jumpstart a national dialogue on banning nuclear weapons, Norman D. Mayer, 66, threatens to blow up the Washington Monument with a dynamite-laden van. After ten hours, police shoot him dead.<br/> <b>1980</b>—R.I.P. John Lennon.<br/> <b>1972</b>—United Airlines Flight 553 crashes in Chicago killing 45 people including E. Howard Hunt's wife Dorothy, who was carrying \$10,000 in \$100 bills.<br/> <b>1964</b>—A B-47 crashes on takeoff at Pease AFB; all four crewmen die.<br/> <b>1963</b>—Lightning hits Pan Am Flight 214 over Maryland. A fuel tank explodes, a wing falls off, and 81 die.<br/> <b>1953</b>—Good ol' Ike announces Atoms for Peace, leading to an Iranian nuclear program four years later.<br/> <b>1940</b>—Four hundred German planes bomb London.<br/> <b>1864</b>—Pope Pius IX denounces liberalism, socialism, &amp; rationalism.<br/> <b>1854</b>—Pope Pius IX proclaims the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception.</p>  | <p><b>2008</b>—The Governor of Illinois, Democrat Rod Blagojevich, is arrested for attempting to sell a Senate seat.<br/> <b>1994</b>—Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders is fired for suggesting that having sex with yourself is OK.<br/> <b>1992</b>—U.S. Marines wade ashore in Somalia at 2:00 a.m. local time because that's prime-time in the U.S.<br/> <b>1983</b>—Ed "Meese is a Pig" Meese says people go to soup kitchens because it's "easier than paying."<br/> <b>1966</b>—"We are in a much stronger position than two years ago," says Secretary of State Dean Rusk, "[Com-mies] will not be able to succeed [in South Vietnam]."<br/> <b>1959</b>—Ford 86s the Edsel.<br/> <b>1958</b>—Robert Welch Jr. founds the John Birch Society, which goes on to label Dwight Eisenhower a Commie.<br/> <b>1949</b>—Poet Marianne Moore, hired to name a new car, suggests "Utopian Turtletop." Ford chooses "Edsel."<br/> <b>1950</b>—General "Dugout Doug" MacArthur proposes detonating 26 A-bombs to create an impenetrable barrier across the Korean peninsula.<br/> <b>1949</b>—The former head of the House Un-American Activities Committee, J. Parnell Thomas [R-N.J.], gets six to 18 months in the slammer—alongside two of the Hollywood Ten—for padding Congressional payrolls and pocketing the extra cash.<br/> <b>1935</b>—Investigative reporter Walter Liggett is Tommy-gunned in front of his family in Minneapolis.</p> | <p><b>2011</b>—The gundalow <i>Piscataqua</i> is launched on the eponymous river.<br/> <b>2004</b>—Gary Webb, who exposed the CIA-Contra drug connection, dies from two gunshots in the face. The coroner calls it suicide.<br/> <b>2001</b>—At a White House menorah lighting ceremony, George W.[MD] Bush says, "I couldn't imagine somebody like Osama bin Laden understanding the joy of Hanukkah."<br/> <b>1998</b>—House Judiciary Committee debates impeaching Pres. Clinton for lying about his lewd behavior.<br/> <b>1992</b>—Sen. Bob Packwood (Lech-mer-Ore.) apologizes for being a serial propter but refuses to resign.<br/> <b>1987</b>—Murderer Stanley Draper and gangster John Kendall are sprung from a British prison by a pal in a hi-jacked helicopter.<br/> <b>1976</b>—In a memo to President-elect Carter, pollster Pat Caddell makes the case for a "permanent campaign."<br/> <b>1971</b>—The Senate, buying Wm. Rehnquist's lie disavowing a letter supporting racial segregation, confirms him for the Supreme Court.<br/> <b>1967</b>—Trying to lower the cost of natural gas, the U.S. government explodes an A-bomb in N.M.<br/> <b>1966</b>—In Vietnam, 16 U.S. Marines are killed and 11 are wounded by "friendly fire."<br/> <b>1937</b>—G.P. Thompson gets the Nobel for Physics for proving electrons are waves. His dad won it in 1906 for demonstrating that they're particles.</p>   | <p><b>2006</b>—President George W.[MD] Bush, on national TV, denies having ever been "a knee-walking drunk."<br/> <b>2000</b>—The Supreme Court hears <i>Bush v. Gore</i>.<br/> <b>1998</b>—President Clinton begs forgiveness for his sins. Instead he gets three Articles of Impeachment.<br/> <b>1985</b>—Veeep George H.[H.J.W.] Bush, at a Manchester, N.H., dinner honoring the late William Loeb, reads aloud Loeb's most scurrilous attacks against him.<br/> <b>1981</b>—Soldiers of the U.S.-backed Salvadoran government murder 900 villagers at El Mozote.<br/> <b>1964</b>—As Ernesto "Che" Guevara speaks at the United Nations, a 3.5 inch rocket launched from Queens falls harmlessly into the East River.<br/> <b>1960</b>—Seeing at the last minute that JFK has his wife and kids with him, Belmont, N.H. resident Richard Pavlick defers his plan to crash into the President-elect's car with his dynamite-laden Buick.<br/> <b>1951</b>—A few days after slipshod coal dust removal techniques are approved by state inspectors, the New Orient mine in West Frankfort, Ill., blows up, killing 119 miners.<br/> <b>1917</b>—In Houston, after a police riot, 13 black soldiers are found guilty and hanged in unison.<br/> <b>1838</b>—The U.S. House of Representatives passes Rep. Charles Atherton's (D-N.H.) "gag rule" prohibiting discussion of slavery.</p> | <p><b>2006</b>—The <i>Portsmouth Herald</i> misquotes Sen. Barack Obama [D-Ill.], who, the day before, in Portsmouth, did <i>not</i> say, "The moral arc of the universe bends at the elbow of justice."<br/> <b>2005</b>—"I think we are welcomed [in Iraq]," says George W.[MD] Bush, "but it was not a peaceful welcome."<br/> <b>2000</b>—The Supreme Court selects George W.[MD] Bush as the 43rd President of these disunited states.<br/> <b>1998</b>—For good measure, Congress whups a fourth article of impeachment on Pres. Clinton.<br/> <b>1995</b>—A Flag Protection Amendment fails by three votes in the Senate.<br/> <b>1985</b>—Arrow Air Flight 1285 crashes at Gander, killing 248 U.S. paratroopers and eight crew. Islamic Jihad claims credit, which a sketchy U.S. investigation attempts to deny.<br/> <b>1984</b>—Georgia prison officials electrocute Alpha Otis Stephens a second time, after their first effort fails.<br/> <b>1983</b>—Nancy Reagan sits on Mr. T's lap and kisses him on the scalp.<br/> <b>1983</b>—At a Boston trade show, "New Trends in Missiles," anarchists turn loose 1,000 cockroaches, symbolizing the winners of a nuclear war.<br/> <b>1950</b>—Senator Joseph McCarthy (R-Bushmills) kicks columnist Drew Pearson in the groin.<br/> <b>1942</b>—The <i>Queen Mary</i>, with 16,082 GIs on board—the world record—is hit by a wave perhaps 90 feet high. It rolls 52 degrees; another three degrees and it would have capsized.</p> | <p><b>2009</b>—Sen. Joe Lieberman [I-Conn.] nixes a Medicare public option.<br/> <b>2003</b>—U.S. troops drag Saddam Hussein out of a hole in the ground, so final victory in Iraq must be imminent. U.S. death toll so far: 547.<br/> <b>2000</b>—Al Gore decides he'd rather be righteous than be president.<br/> <b>1988</b>—In Texas, Ray Landry's death is delayed 14 minutes when a tube falls from his arm and lethal chemicals spray across the room.<br/> <b>1978</b>—An eager public finally gets its first Susan B. Anthony dollars.<br/> <b>1974</b>—Defecting oceanographer Slava Kurilov leaps from a Soviet cruise ship, swims for three days, and reaches the Philippines safely.<br/> <b>1954</b>—In Louisville, Ky., journalist Carl Braden is convicted of sedition for selling a house in a white neighborhood to a black man.<br/> <b>1951</b>—J. Edgar Hoover spooks Harry S Truman into purging "disloyal" government workers.<br/> <b>1949</b>—An American League proposal to legalize the spitball fails.<br/> <b>1932</b>—In the U.S. House, sporting goods store clerk Martin Kemmerer brandishes a .38 and demands the floor. Rep. Melvin Maas (R-Minn.) talks him into dropping the gun.<br/> <b>1864</b>—Paraguay declares war on Brazil; its population is soon halved.<br/> <b>1774</b>—Paul Revere rides to Portsmouth with news that the export of powder and arms to America have been prohibited.</p> | <p><b>2012</b>—N.H.-born Adam Lanza shoots his gun-enthusiast mother, six other adults, and 20 kids at a Newtown, Conn. school.<br/> <b>2008</b>—"This is a farewell kiss from the Iraqi people, you dog," yells Muntadhar al-Zaidi, as he flings his shoe at George W.[MD] Bush.<br/> <b>2005</b>—George W.[MD] Bush blames his Iraq War on "faulty intelligence." He doesn't say whose.<br/> <b>1987</b>—Chrysler admits it sold thousands of used cars as new ones.<br/> <b>1986</b>—Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager begin a nine-day, non-stop, around-the-world flight.<br/> <b>1981</b>—Interior Secretary James Watt, defending taxpayer-funded cocktail parties he's held at the Lee Mansion, says "Mr. Reagan has the White House. I have Arlington."<br/> <b>1973</b>—Richard Nixon personally thanks the U.S. head of Rev. Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church for his support.<br/> <b>1972</b>—The last men on the moon leave.<br/> <b>1942</b>—The second of two giant Soviet propaganda planes crashes, again due to misadventure.<br/> <b>1907</b>—The seven-masted schooner <i>Thomas W. Lawson</i> runs aground off Cornwall, resulting in the world's first major oil spill.<br/> <b>1906</b>—The <i>U1</i>, Germany's first submarine, goes into service.<br/> <b>1774</b>—Local militiamen seize powder and arms from Fort William and Mary, near Portsmouth.</p>                     |
| <p>8:21      8:47<br/> <br/>                 1:57      2:32</p>  | <p>9:01      9:31<br/> <br/>                 2:40      3:15</p>  | <p>9:39      10:11<br/> <br/>                 3:20      3:56</p>   | <p>10:17      10:51<br/> <br/>                 3:59      4:36</p>  | <p>10:55      11:31<br/> <br/>                 4:39      5:17</p>   | <p>11:35<br/> <br/>                 5:20      5:59</p>   | <p>12:13      12:18<br/> <br/>                 6:04      6:42</p>   |
| SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15   | MONDAY, DECEMBER 16   | TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17  | WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18   | THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19  | FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20   | SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21  |
| <p><b>2003</b>—A Robinson R22 helicopter loses power over Redlands, Calif., and crashes onto a city street. Miraculously, only the pilot dies.<br/> <b>2000</b>—Sen. Phil Gramm gives Enron the energy futures deregulation it wants, hidden in an appropriations bill. One year later Enron is bankrupt.<br/> <b>1997</b>—Paula Jones' lawyers maneuver Bill Clinton into signing a legal document claiming he'd not had sex with government workers.<br/> <b>1989</b>—Sicilian-born sculptor Arturo Di Modica installs a 16-foot long, 3.5 ton bronze bull in the middle of Broad Street in New York, in front of the Stock Exchange—without a permit.<br/> <b>1986</b>—Bill Casey, CIA director, suffers a handy seizure, preventing him from testifying about Iran/Contra.<br/> <b>1983</b>—Ed Meese denies Ebenezer Scrooge exploited Bob Cratchit.<br/> <b>1969</b>—The Mormon Church reaffirms its "no black priests" policy.<br/> <b>1967</b>—A 2.5 mm-deep defect in a part collapses the 39 year-old Silver Bridge over the Ohio River, killing 46.<br/> <b>1960</b>—Palm Beach police arrest N.H. resident Richard Pavlick before he can kill John F. Kennedy with his dynamite-laden Buick.<br/> <b>1922</b>—The President of Harvard defends its policy of banning black students from dining rooms and residence halls.<br/> <b>1873</b>—Future President Grover Cleveland rapes Maria Halpin, who later bears his child.</p> | <p><b>2005</b>—The <i>New York Times</i> reports that the NSA has been tapping U.S. telephones without a warrant.<br/> <b>2001</b>—U.S. troops at Tora Bora ask for help catching Osama bin Laden. Donald Rumsfeld denies their request; Osama walks.<br/> <b>1988</b>—Bush #41 nominates notoriously boozy womanizer Sen. John Tower [R-Texas] to run the Department of Defense. His confirmation hearings do not go well.<br/> <b>1988</b>—Rochester, N.H.'s most famous native, perennial Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche, is convicted of tax and mail fraud.<br/> <b>1970</b>—Big Milk offers Nixon a \$2 million "campaign contribution" if he'll cut milk imports. A fortnight later Nixon imposes milk import quotas.<br/> <b>1965</b>—Gen. Westmoreland, already commanding 200,000 men in Vietnam, asks for another 243,000.<br/> <b>1960</b>—Two airliners collide over Manhattan killing a total of 134.<br/> <b>1944</b>—Hitler overrules his generals and mounts a massive attack in the Ardennes Forest. He shoulda listened.<br/> <b>1835</b>—A two-day fire destroys 674 buildings in New York, bankrupting insurance companies and kicking off the Depression of 1837.<br/> <b>1811</b>—New Madrid, Missouri, is hit by the first of a series of powerful earthquakes.<br/> <b>1773</b>—"Sons of Liberty" disguised as Mohawks dump 342 chests of tea into Boston Harbor.</p>  | <p><b>2010</b>—Street vendor Mohamed Bouazizi sets himself afire, thereby igniting the Tunisian Revolution and the subsequent Arab Spring.<br/> <b>2006</b>—On "Fox News Sunday," Bill Kristol predicts "Barack Obama is not going to beat Hillary Clinton in a single Democratic primary."<br/> <b>1998</b>—Pres. Clinton attempts to distract from his impeachment by using up half the Pentagon's inventory of cruise missiles in Iraq.<br/> <b>1996</b>—In Lima, Peruvian guerrillas crash a party at the Japanese embassy, take hostages, and stay four months.<br/> <b>1967</b>—Australian Prime Minister Harold Holt goes for a swim in heavy surf and disappears.<br/> <b>1960</b>—A U.S.A.F. C-131 hits a Munich steeple, then falls onto a trolley. All 20 on the plane die, along with 18 in the trolley, and 11 on the street.<br/> <b>1951</b>—Black Americans petition UN officials in Paris and New York for relief from genocidal U.S. domestic policies. They're ignored.<br/> <b>1944</b>—Adm. "Bull" Halsey sails the 3rd Fleet into a typhoon. Three destroyers sink; nine other ships are damaged, 100 aircraft are lost, and 790 sailors die, mostly by drowning.<br/> <b>1927</b>—The U.S. sub <i>S-4</i> is rammed and sunk off Provincetown by Coast Guard destroyer <i>Paulding</i>, which is hunting rum runners; 40 are lost.<br/> <b>1862</b>—Gen. Grant issues General Order No. 11, barring "Jews and other unprincipled traders" from his district.</p> | <p><b>2005</b>—"Not only can we win the war in Iraq—we are winning the war in Iraq," says George W.[MD] Bush, 962 days after "Mission accomplished."<br/> <b>2004</b>—"America's Most Wanted's" John Walsh says he most wants Jahbir and Alfonso Fowle caught.<br/> <b>2000</b>—"If this were a dictatorship," says George W.[MD] Bush on CNN, "it'd be a heck of a lot easier, just so long as I'm the dictator."<br/> <b>1996</b>—G-Man Earl Pitts is arrested for moonlighting for the KGB.<br/> <b>1972</b>—Richard Nixon begins Operation Linebacker: 12 days of B-52 strikes against North Vietnam. SAMs shoot down three Stratofortresses on the first night.<br/> <b>1957</b>—The first watts of nuclear-generated electricity begin lighting up used car lots and neon signs.<br/> <b>1946</b>—Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker flies over Broadway scattering Damon Runyon's ashes.<br/> <b>1941</b>—Outnumbered 10 to one, U.S. forces lose Guam to the Japanese.<br/> <b>1917</b>—Congress submits the 18th Amendment to the states for their approval. After it passes, Prohibition begins.<br/> <b>1867</b>—Differing track widths cause a train to derail in Angola, N.Y. One wooden car drops 40 feet and catches fire; 49 passengers burn to death.<br/> <b>1865</b>—The 13th Amendment is ratified: slavery and involuntary servitude are abolished in the U.S.</p>              | <p><b>2007</b>—A fire breaks out near "Dick" Cheney's office. Probable cause: spontaneous inhuman combustion.<br/> <b>1998</b>—As Bill Clinton is being impeached for some hanky-panky, Speaker-elect Bob Livingston resigns to cover up a bit of his own.<br/> <b>1984</b>—Due to a work speedup, 27 coal miners are killed in Utah.<br/> <b>1974</b>—Norris Cotton finagles a bill giving New Hampshire's senior Senator the right in perpetuity to commandeer Daniel Webster's old desk.<br/> <b>1973</b>—Johnny Carson makes a joke about a non-existent toilet paper shortage, inadvertently causing one.<br/> <b>1946</b>—The Viet Minh take on the French in Indo-China.<br/> <b>1944</b>—Primarily due to bad generalship, two-thirds of the 106th Infantry, comprising 8,000 men, must surrender during the Battle of the Bulge.<br/> <b>1941</b>—Ex-corporal Hitler takes direct command of the German Army.<br/> <b>1910</b>—Spurred on by the <i>Baltimore Sun</i>, that city mandates the racial segregation of residential areas.<br/> <b>1907</b>—An explosion kills 239 coal miners, many minors, in Smithton, Pa.<br/> <b>1865</b>—South Carolina passes a law requiring all black "servants" to sign contracts with their "masters" and be "polite" while working dawn-to-dusk.<br/> <b>1776</b>—Washington's army arrives at Valley Forge, Pa.<br/> <b>1776</b>—Thomas Paine's <i>American Crisis</i> is published; "These are the times that try men's souls ..."</p>      | <p><b>2002</b>—The ten largest U.S. brokerage houses cough up \$1.44 billion in fines rather than risk a trial over charges that they fleeced their customers.<br/> <b>2002</b>—Sen. Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-Miss.) steps down after lamenting Strom Thurmond's failure to win the Presidency on a racist platform in 1948.<br/> <b>1989</b>—The U.S. invades Panama to arrest ex-CIA asset Manuel Noriega.<br/> <b>1986</b>—Chased by a mob of young white men, Trinidadian Michael Griffith is run over and killed in Howard Beach, Queens, New York.<br/> <b>1983</b>—Once and future Defense Secretary Don Rumsfeld visits Baghdad to shake mass murderer Saddam Hussein's hand and convey Ronald Reagan's best wishes.<br/> <b>1960</b>—CIA chief Allen Dulles meets with bigwigs from Standard Oil, Texaco, ITT, Domino Sugar, and other big U.S. corporations, who instruct him to overthrow Fidel Castro.<br/> <b>1946</b>—Businessmen Charles Luciano, Meyer Lansky, Frank Costello, Vito Genovese, Joseph Bonnano and others confer in Havana, Cuba.<br/> <b>1786</b>—Hannah Ocuish, a cognitively-impaired 12-year-old Pequot Indian girl, thanks the executioner for his kindness before she's hanged.<br/> <b>1669</b>—In the first jury trial in Delaware, Marcus "The Long Finn" Jacobson is sentenced to be flogged, branded on the face, and enslaved for insurrection.</p>  | <p><b>2008</b>—Todd Carmichael reaches the South Pole after traveling 692 miles on skis and on foot, solo.<br/> <b>2006</b>—Saparmurat Niyazov's term of office ends. Turkmenistan's President for Life leaves a legacy of many golden statues ... of himself.<br/> <b>2004</b>—In Fort Valley, Ga., Larry Taylor refuses to give his cell phone to a would-be thief, who then shoots him in the head. Taylor walks two miles to his mother's home, only to find she has moved to a nursing home. Despite this setback, he survives.<br/> <b>2001</b>—"All in all," says George W.[MD] Bush three months after 9/11, "it's been a fabulous year for Laura and me."<br/> <b>1996</b>—After two years of denial, Rep. Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) admits to ethics violations.<br/> <b>1989</b>—Vice President J. Danforth Quayle sends out 30,000 Xmas cards in which "beacon" is spelled "beakon."<br/> <b>1988</b>—Pan Am Flight 103 explodes over Lockerbie; 270 perish.<br/> <b>1970</b>—At the White House, Elvis gives Tricky Dick a chrome-plated Colt .45; Dick gives Elvis a Narcotics Bureau badge.<br/> <b>1968</b>—The <i>Apollo 8</i> astronauts become the first humans to leave Earth's gravitational field.<br/> <b>1962</b>—The U.S. exchanges \$53 million in medical supplies for 1,113 Bay of Pigs prisoners.<br/> <b>1956</b>—Montgomery, Ala. buses desegregate—the boycott worked.</p> |
| <p>12:58      1:05<br/> <br/>                 6:50      7:29</p>   | <p>1:46      1:55<br/> <br/>                 7:40      8:19</p>  | <p>2:38      2:49<br/> <br/>                 8:34      9:12</p>  | <p>3:33      3:48<br/> <br/>                 9:33      10:08</p>   | <p>4:32      4:52<br/> <br/>                 10:37      11:07</p>   | <p>5:33      5:58<br/> <br/>                 11:42</p>   | <p>6:34      7:04<br/> <br/>                 12:07      12:48</p>   |



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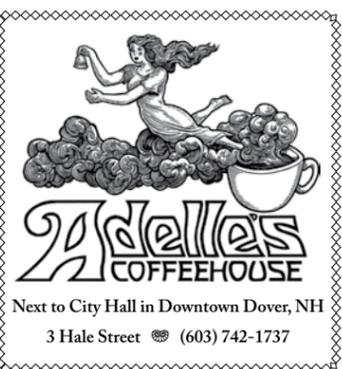


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