

*The Fortnightly Rant***The American Devolution**

Well, let's see here...2020, subtract 1776...yup, looks like tomorrow, the Fourth of July, will mark this country's 244th birthday. How shall we celebrate?

We understand that El Presidente will be visiting South Dakota. Flying in on Air Force One is his subtle way of letting us know that he thinks his face belongs on Mount Rushmore. After all, what has Lincoln done for anyone lately?

It pains us to say this, but in a way he's right. After all, the so-called "Shrine of Democracy" is a grandiose monument created by a monomaniacal racist on land stolen by the government from the Sioux.

Some Sioux have said they want their sacred Black Hills returned and those huge white faces gone. On the Fourth, the Air Force will be sending an array of military aircraft overhead: fighters, bombers, and whatnot. If the Commander-in-Chief happened to be standing under Washington's big nose, and... No. Never mind. Pay no attention to the lingering fantasies of a lowly former enlisted person from a bygone age.

It must be said, though, that there are a lot of people connected to the uniformed components of our military-industrial complex who are rather peeved with the C-in-C. Not unreasonably, either.

Every day our much-vaunted "Intelligence Community" sifts through the most vital information it has about our national security and distills it into what is called the President's Daily Brief, or PDB. Considering his role as Chief Executive, and dividing our annual intelligence budget by 365, one could argue that the PDB costs \$234 million *every day*. According to credible news reports, on February 27th the

PDB included the startling fact that Russia has been paying bounties to Taliban fighters for killing member of the U.S. armed forces. The President didn't read it though. We know this because he never does.

We also know what he did do. He met with some of his Black supporters, including a duo calling themselves Diamond & Silk. It was a productive meeting. A photograph was taken showing the President in the Oval Office at the Resolute desk, hands piously clasped before him as if in prayer, as a dozen or so Black supporters lay their hands upon him as if invoking God's blessing. Lord knows that couldn't hurt, but we have doubts about efficacy. The re-election campaign certainly gained a valuable asset, though. Trump also met that day with actors Dean Cain and Kristy Swanson. They are working up a stage production based on emails between a couple of FBI agents. If Cain or Swanson know anything about national security, that would be news to us. Their production, however, titled "FBI Lovebirds," will surely gratify the President's urge to glorify what he sees as his own martyrdom.

As for the little matter of Russians paying the Taliban to kill American troops, the President has done nothing, so far as anyone can tell—nothing but lie, that is. That goes without saying, and yet, for the record, we feel compelled to make up for other news organizations, which rarely make that point clearly enough.

In the past—the recent past—the bar for Presidential behavior has been held rather high. Wear a suit of a particular color or listen to the wrong pastor and you'd never hear the end of it. That historical error seems to have spurred an overcorrection. Nowadays the President's more



THE FOUR CHARLATANS OF THE APOCALYPSE

ardent supporters expect him to lie. The more blatant and puerile the lie, the more amusing they find it.

They will settle, though, for just about any audible sound coming from his strangely fish-like lips. Recently Sean Hannity, whose years of servility to the Republican agenda have earned him the coveted top spot at the Faux News Propaganda channel, asked Trump what's at stake in this election and what were his top priority items for a second term.

"Well," Trump responded, clearly enough, but then immediately left behind any rails of coherence: "one of the things that will be really great, you know the word experience is still good. I always say talent is more important than experience. I've always said that. But the word experience is a very important word. It's an—a very important meaning. I never did this before. I never slept over in Washington. I was in Washington, I think, 17 times. All of a sudden, I'm President of the United States.

You know the story. I'm riding down Pennsylvania Avenue with our First Lady and I say, 'This is great.' But I didn't know very many people in Washington. It wasn't my thing. I was from Manhattan, from New York. Now I know everybody, and I have great people in the Administration. You make some mistakes. Like, you know, an idiot like Bolton. All he wanted to do was drop bombs on everybody. You don't have to drop bombs on everybody. You don't have to kill people."

A responsible interviewer—or any human with a heart—would have followed up by asking, "Mr. President, are you feeling all right? Do you feel a sudden numbness or weakness on one side of your body? Is your vision OK?"

Hannity merely asked if John Bolton should be prosecuted. The answer, of course, was "yes." Anyone not wearing a MAGA hat should be prosecuted. Those who do wear the hat, though, are exempt no matter what they do.

This gets to the reason why it is so important to have the worst man imaginable in the Oval Office. As the Rector of St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Tucson has said, he's "an awful man, waving a book he hasn't read, in front of a church he doesn't attend, invoking laws he doesn't understand, against fellow Americans he sees as enemies, wielding a military he dodged serving, to protect power he gained via accepting foreign interference, exploiting fear and anger he loves to stoke, after failing to address a pandemic he was warned about, and building it all on a bed of constant lies and childish inanity."

Not exactly flattering, but undeniably true. Letting a moral leper run the country into the ground is the clearest possible way to demonstrate the central pillar of Attorney General Barr's interpretation of the original intent of the Founding Fathers—which is that under the U.S. Constitution, "King" is spelled "President."

*The Alleged News®***Mystery Woman Not Dead Yet**

Despite being placed in confinement Thursday morning in the state whose slogan is "Live Free or Die"—by agents of the FBI, Attorney General William Barr, proprietor—Ghislaine Maxwell, as we go to press, still has not been reported to have committed suicide, fatally fallen through the bars from an upper-floor cell onto a busy thoroughfare, or suddenly contracted a case of Covid-19 severe enough to necessitate a medically-induced coma.

Maxwell's whereabouts have been the subject of intense speculation since the arrest last year, and death in jail, of her former lover and long-time associate, the notorious convicted sexual predator Jeffrey Epstein.

Bill Sweeney, Assistant Director of the FBI's New York Field Office, explained, "We have been discreetly

keeping tabs on Maxwell's whereabouts...recently we learned she had slithered away to a gorgeous property in New Hampshire continuing to live a life of privilege while her victims live with the trauma inflicted upon them years ago."

Epstein, a college dropout, was hired in 1974 by Headmaster Donald Barr to teach physics and mathematics at the prestigious Dalton School in New York. Barr—the father of Attorney General Barr—was also an author; he wrote *Space Relations* (1973), a sci-fi novel featuring teenage female sex slaves. Last year the *Miami Herald* quoted an alumna saying, "Epstein was considered a little creepy by the girls. I won't say that the girls didn't like him. But they thought he was odd."

Fired from Dalton in 1976 for "poor performance," presumably still creepy and lacking credentials,

nevertheless Epstein landed a job as a low-level junior assistant with the global financial firm Bear Stearns; its CEO was the father of a former female student. Four years later he became a limited partner.

This implausibly felicitous career continued, eventually leading to such lifestyle amenities as a private Boeing 727 called the "Lolita Express" and a private island, where Epstein hosted celebrities like Britain's Prince Andrew, former President Bill Clinton, future President Donald Trump, and people like Alan Dershowitz.

His personal conduct led, in 2007, to a 53-page indictment on charges of sexually abusing teenage girls. Despite the heft of the charges, Epstein was able, with the help of Dershowitz, to negotiate a plea deal which "essentially shut down an ongoing FBI probe into whether there

were more victims and other powerful people who took part in Epstein's sex crimes," according to the *Miami Herald*. The plea deal contained a couple of curious stipulations. It was to be kept secret from Epstein's victims, and his co-conspirators, including Ghislaine Maxwell, would be granted immunity from prosecution. The deal was negotiated by U.S. Attorney Alex Acosta, whom President Trump later appointed as his Secretary of Labor.

Apparently Maxwell's immunity is no longer operative. Facing charges that could keep her behind bars until she's 93, she could still get a break—if she lives long enough to talk.

—==—

**'Be A Hot Time in the Gulag Tonight**  
Best known formerly as the site where the *narodnik* Ivan Babushkin was exiled and imprisoned 115

years ago, Verkhoyansk, Siberia is again in the news. The temperature there reached 100.4° on June 27th, according to the Irish newspaper *Independent*.

Last June the Siberian arctic saw unprecedented wildfire activity. This June has now surpassed last year's. The tundra has been so dry in places that vegetation which smoldered under the winter snowpack has re-ignited, resulting in what are called "zombie fires."

From 2003 through 2018, fires in the arctic released an average of 1.8 million metric tons of carbon into the atmosphere annually. In 2019 that figure jumped to 14.5 million tons, according to figures published at *BloombergGreen*. This year it went up to 16.3.

**The Alleged News®**

from page one

**Garage Roof Beer Garden Nixed**

A report on WOKQ called it “a brilliant plan.” Brilliant or not, it certainly had a New Hampshire flavor to it.

As originally announced, said plan was to help support the town’s restaurants, retail shops, and arts community by converting the top two floors of the otherwise-empty Foundry Place Garage into a pop-up restaurant and beer garden. The idea probably sprang fully-formed from the head of a driver cruising past the New Hampshire Liquor and Wine Outlet on the Rt. 1 traffic circle. Cars + alcohol—what could go wrong? It’s the New Hampshire Way.

The Hedge Fund-Owned Local Daily reported on Wednesday, however, that the venue has been changed to the Bridge Street parking lot. Specific details on the reason(s) for that change were...well, not really supplied.

According to Elizabeth Dinan—one of the few, the proud, the *Portsmouth Herald* reporters actually present in the eponymous arts mecca—Portsmouth Citizen Response Task Force Chair Russ Grazier said “after discussions with city staff,

it was decided the parking garage roof was not the best location for the events and city officials offered use of the Bridge Street parking lot, with some adjacent space on Bridge Street.”

Since the Bridge Street lot is down at ground level, whatever noise does end up being generated by this enterprise will lack the carrying power it would have had if were coming from the top of the garage.

Whatever the merit of this idea, it’s a good thing the Citizen Response Task Force exists. Somebody’s got to figure out a way to keep this town afloat.

It’s all well and good to have a zillion restaurants, retail shops, theaters, galleries, historic houses, membership research libraries, archaic newspapers, and other miscellaneous peculiarities to lure free-spending tourists. Up until, oh, say, last week, it even appeared that us *Homo sapiens* might be getting away with the whole “gradual re-opening” thing. Then the consequences of Memorial Day started to set in.

Now, instead of happy claptrap from the MAGA-head, we’re getting truly dire warnings from epidemiologists. The nation’s catastrophically stupid response to the coronavirus has put our tourist econ-



omy in what we’ll just call a rather delicate position.

That didn’t prevent WOKQ’s Chio Acosta from closing his piece on an upbeat note, though: “The idea of pop-up restaurants and shops is really a stroke of genius and shows how innovative Americans can be.”

True dat—we haven’t seen such creative re-purposing since the Hoover administration.

**Whither Ye Olde Rag?**

Somewhat like the aforementioned Chio Acosta, we do our best to maintain a relentlessly upbeat attitude. And why should we not? We have survived a Revolution, a Civil War, a Great War, an influenza pandemic a century ago, a Great Depression, another damn Great War by another name, blah blah blah, &c., &c.—and yet we are still here. To what can we attribute our singular longevity?

Despite the astoundingly improbable sequence of events through which the current editor plucked

this ancient gem from the ashheap of history [see *nhgazette/about*] we decline to accept so simple an answer as fate or divine intervention.

Has it been due, then, to an unbroken succession of perspicacious proprietors? Not hardly. We’ve had some real nutballs at the head of this operation, quite possibly including the incumbent.

Our working hypothesis for our continued existence is threefold: dumb luck, the universe’s well-documented tendency to randomly produce peculiar outcomes, and, at least since we attained seniority in our field in 1839, the innate human reluctance to let old things die.

This latter factor is the only one over which we have any control. It behooves us to move cautiously. Current circumstances are more chaotic—and thus more threatening to our survival—than anything we’ve seen since the Revolution.

In the 21 years since we re-emerged in the city of our birth, we have developed a *modus operandi*

which has relied on loyal and energetic volunteers fanning out through a densely built-up area packed with myriad small businesses, where they put down small piles of free papers which were then picked up by a bustling flow of passing pedestrians.

Our physical form—a svelte one-ounce packet of newsprint—cried out to be mailed. To our great good fortune, a small, amiable team of volunteers has enjoyed the experience of gathering around a table and preparing papers for the Post Office.

In mid-March, when we suspended print operations, we wondered if we were acting prematurely. It soon became obvious that we’d acted just in time. More recently, with Governors around the country loosening restrictions, we wondered if we were being too pessimistic.

While the Administration would surely encourage us to resume both these methods of distribution, we suspect, that competent epidemiologists would be more circumspect. We’ll go with them.



Originally this Portsmouth neighborhood was to be subjected to enjoy the sonic overflow from a beer garden atop the Foundry Place Garage. The venue has since been changed, however, to the Bridge Street parking lot.

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

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 — Joe Keefe

# Racism: As American as Apple Pie

by W.D. Ehrhart

For much of my adult life, I have taught high school English and history, most recently including eighteen years at the Haverford School for Boys in suburban Philadelphia, retiring in June 2019 at the age of 70. In my U.S. History course, I always teach a unit I call “Race in America,” which begins with the first shipload of Africans arriving in Jamestown, Virginia, in 1619, and goes right up to Rosa Parks and the modern Civil Rights Movement.

I sugarcoat nothing. We cover slave life on the plantation with its whippings and brandings and castrations and amputations, the almost infinitely repeated rape of female slaves by their masters (how else can one account for the range of skin tones we call “black”), the separation of families. We look at the failure of Reconstruction and more importantly why it failed (the refusal of the federal government to enforce the 14th and 15th Amendments, the disinterest and racism of northern whites, and the reclaiming of political power by the same southern white racists who had fought to destroy the Union). We study not only “legal” disenfranchisement through poll taxes, literacy tests, and grandfather clauses, but also Ku Klux Klan violence, lynching, and the imposition of penal servitude, “slavery by another name,” that existed extensively from the 1880s into the 1940s.

We look at photographs of thousands of hooded Klansmen and Klanswomen marching down Pennsylvania Avenue carrying American flags with the Capitol dome behind them. And photographs of lynchings with the white lynchers proudly facing the camera and smiling happily. And videos of enraged whites pouring mustard over the heads of black Americans sitting passively at Woolworth lunch counters.

I think it is fundamentally necessary for young Americans to understand that slavery and racism are not a sidebar to American history, but central to that history. We look at the progression represented by 1857’s *Scott v. Sandford* to 1898’s *Plessy v.*

*Ferguson* to 1954’s *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*. We study the hard fought, sometimes murderous, but finally successful Montgomery Bus Boycott, the lunch counter sit-ins, and Freedom Summer.

I want to believe, and I want my students to believe, that as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., said, “The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.”

My white students often wonder why I keep harping about racism. Once, when I was teaching the poetry of Langston Hughes and Claude McKay in an English class, one boy blurted out, “I never owned any slaves. Why are you trying to make me feel guilty?” My reply was, “I’m not asking you to feel guilty about what your ancestors did. I’m asking you to live your lives in such a way so that your descendants won’t have to feel ashamed of you.” Six months later, at the end of the school year, Ian gave me a ceramic bowl that he’d made. Painted around the rim of that bowl were those words.

So, pat myself on the back and think, “Oh, what a good boy am I.” But I need to remember that this isn’t about me.

Nor is it about my white students, who can walk in my suburban neighborhood without others eyeing them suspiciously, who can shop at the drugstore or the hardware store without being followed by an employee, who will never have to explain how they came to be driving a BMW or Mercedes. What do I say to my African American students in the face of Eric Garner, Freddie Gray, Tamir Rice, Philando Castile, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, and 1,252 others killed by police just since January 1st, 2015?

One of my former students, a young man named Dan, posted this message on social media:

“More than ever, I’m overwhelmed and confused. I’m overwhelmed when I hear on the news another black man or woman’s life was cut short due to senseless violence and racism. Overwhelmed to see my community continue to hurt while our voices continue to be suppressed and our feelings minimized.



Overwhelmed when we say ‘Black Lives Matter’ and the response is ‘All Lives Matter,’ but the actions don’t match the words. I’m confused as to how cops can act off of impulse with lethal weapons, but black civilians must remain cool with guns drawn to their faces and hands behind their backs in cuffs. Confused as to how when we kneel or we protest, we need to find a different way. Confused as to how one can ‘see both sides’ in such calamity. It’s disheartening to see that we as a country need to take into consideration any racist’s feelings because our protest may hurt their ego. Meanwhile, lives continue to be lost and families and communities continue to mourn. Where is the solace for the black community?

“It’s easy to post and spread awareness on social media, and it is appreciated, but let’s take the next steps: signing petitions, making calls demanding justice, and continuing to educate ourselves; most importantly, have the uncomfortable conversations at home, where it all begins.

“Don’t think because it doesn’t pertain to you that it doesn’t pertain to you.”

Those are not the words of an

incendiary black man full of rage and ready to lash out at whatever and whoever gets close. They are the words of a thoughtful 20-year-old full of pain and hurt, trying to come to terms with the situation in which he finds himself, his community, and his country floundering.

I don’t know what to say to him. This is not the United States of America I want to be living in. This is not the country I want to bequeath to him. I owe him something better than this. Every caring American—black, white, yellow, red, pink, and blue—owes him and his generation something much better than the racism that has plagued this nation since before it was a nation, that plagues the nation to this day, that makes it difficult to be an African American in America, and downright dangerous to be a young African American male in America.

Dan offers some very constructive actions that each and every one of us can take to try to help change the current sorry state of affairs in

this country, to which I would add: get out and vote for candidates who promote inclusion rather than division, get out on the streets and exercise your 1st Amendment right to peaceably assemble and petition the government for redress of grievances, write to your elected officials at every level from your local municipality to those who represent you at the national level (and then write again, and again; most of them can be reached easily by e-mail).

Our national anthem claims that this is the land of the free and the home of the brave. How brave are we willing to be in order to ensure that all of us are free? As my young friend so wisely observes, “Don’t think because it doesn’t pertain to you that it doesn’t pertain to you.” This pertains to all of us. We really are all in this together.

W.D. Ehrhart holds an honorable discharge from the U.S. Marine Corps and a PhD from the University of Wales at Swansea.

### Murph’s Fortnightly Quote

“That’s not a chip on my shoulder, that’s your foot on my neck.”

—Malcolm X (1925-1965)

“Men that had seen her  
Drank deep and were silent...”

—The Planter’s Daughter, Austin Clarke (1896-1974)

john@wordpraxis.com

“Love is the motive,  
but justice is the instrument.”

— Reinhold Niebuhr

— Not-So-Random Thoughts from an Oregon Subscriber



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- Hanover Public Library, 13 South St.

### Keene:

- Keene Public Library, 60 Winter St.

### Lebanon:

- Lebanon Public Library, 9 E. Park St.

**General Hill's Body Stands a 'Molderin' in the Grave...**  
Dear Editor,

Delighted to read the references to Confederate General A.P. Hill in the latest front page Rant. Living within spitting distance of the general's monument/grave, I thought your readers might enjoy a bit more about his post-mortem adventures and how he manages, even in death and to this day, to make his presence felt.

Fatally shot in battle less than two weeks before hostilities ended at Appomattox, he was hastily buried in Chesterfield County, then two years later dug up and reinterred in Hollywood Cemetery, in a spot years later deemed unsuitable for one of his stature.

In the early 1890's, as the white-washing of the origins of the previous civil conflict began in earnest, concerned citizens decided that placing him and his monument in the middle of a major intersection bestowed the appropriate honor and thus made the most sense. The intersection just happens to be in an area of the city affectionately known as the Northside. Oh, the irony. Anyway, there he stands, buried in an upright position, monument above, smack dab in the middle of Laburnum and Hermitage Avenues. Ten to twenty thousand cars a day roar by.

It is difficult to adequately describe the challenge one faces when attempting a left turn from any direction around A.P. There are stop lights at each entrance to "circle," but none with a leading green. For decades, literally decades, dozens of car crashes have occurred there each year. Fatalities, though fairly rare, have happened. The intersection is so unusual and so unexpected, especially for those encountering it for the first time, that automotive chaos and mayhem are simply the norm. For old A.P., being buried a third time is definitely not a charm.

I have been arguing for his removal and replacement for years, but as one incensed advocate for keeping things as they are, no matter how screwed up, made perfectly unclear to me, "It's

complicated!" I'm still trying to figure out how applying the capabilities of crane and a backhoe to this situation can be complicated.

As I write this, A.P. has suffered only minor indignities from the protesting graffiti artists, as compared with those impressed upon the monuments of Marse Robert and the rest of the Monument Avenue "heroes" of The Lost Cause. Northside is a few miles from ground zero of the activities that have recently taken place in Richmond.

No one really knows if or when A.P. will be moved to a quieter and certainly less chaotic home. But I swear, each and every day I pass by his spot, I can hear him whisper from his tomb, "Please, for god's sake, get me the hell out of here."

John C. Ficor  
Richmond, Va.

John:

*Thanks very much for your entertaining letter.*

*We had seen accounts claiming the General had been buried in an upright position, but weren't sure we could believe them. Thank you for confirming that bizarre detail; nothing like hearing it direct from a local resident. For the record, we'll add this tidbit here: Hill's fatal shot was fired by a lowly Union corporal.*

*We just heard today that your Mayor's having all those monument Avenue statues taken down—congratulations!*

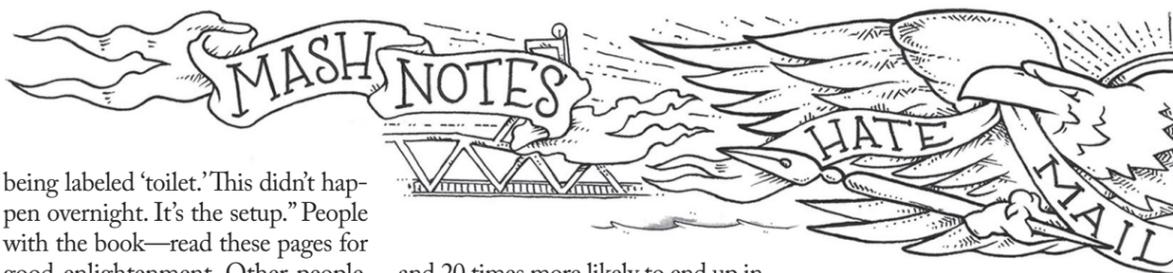
The Editor

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**The Recipe for Revolution**

Dear Editor:

I've just written to the few people I know reading or having copies (that I gave them) of Maine author Carolyn Chute's just-out novel, *The Recipe for Revolution* (Grove Press). The paper jacket has this *Kirkus Review* recommendation: "Essential Reading." I agree. It's a big book, 732 pages—good for pandemic-time/isolation reading. On pp. 666-675 Chute does an exposure of our U.S. racism's roots through the eyes/mind of Blake who is mixed—"Some of my family is white by marriage and we got the Indian factor. But we're labeled 'Black'. And we're labeled 'inner city,' which is like



being labeled 'toilet.' This didn't happen overnight. It's the setup." People with the book—read these pages for good enlightenment. Other people, get the book and read it from start to finish for pleasure and enlightenment. Story is set in rural Maine.

Gibson's Bookstore in Concord mailed mine to me and to the family and friends I gave this treat, excellent writing and mind-stretching. The cover also has on it: Winner of the PEN New England Award for Literary Excellence in Fiction. Long ago Chute fans enjoyed her *Beans of Egypt, Maine*. She hasn't stopped writing. We corresponded a while, and now I know she writes her first drafts by hand—a neighbor puts it into the computer to send to the publisher. Humbling! Makes me think of Tolstoy's *War and Peace* being written by hand (his wife taking dictation and using the pen)!

Lynn Rudmin Chong  
Sanbornton, N.H.

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**That Fraudulent Democrat [sic] Party**

To the Editor:

*[Note: Mr. Ewing's statistics have, in the past, proven to be dubious. He throws them around with such abandon that fact-checking them all is impractical. We therefore issue this blanket warning: caveat lector. — The Ed.]*

The Democrat Party's greatest fraud is that it cares about Black people. Using lies, virtue signaling, alarmist charges like "white supremacy" and "institutional racism," and media support, Democrats blame others for the enormous harm done to Blacks by the Democrat [sic] Party's own actions, policies, and laws.

President Johnson's Great Society still causes enormous suffering due to the resulting increase from 24 percent to 75 percent of births to unwed Black mothers. As President Obama said, fatherless children are five times more likely to live in poverty, nine times more likely to drop out of high school,

and 20 times more likely to end up in prison.

Democrats force many inner city students into bad and dangerous schools resulting in high drop-out rates and graduates who are unprepared for most good jobs. For example, a 2017 study showed that no more than one percent of the students tested at grade level in math in 48.7 percent of Baltimore high schools.

With high taxes, burdensome regulations, and unchecked crime, Democrat [sic] city governments drive away businesses offering jobs and affordable goods. Democrats support open borders and protect illegal aliens who compete for scarce jobs, increasing Black unemployment; suppress Black's wages; and bring drugs and crime to many Black neighborhoods. Democrats refuse to provide the policing needed to make Black neighborhoods safe.

Democrats now use government power, rather than slavery and the KKK, to oppress Black people.

In a population of over 41 million Blacks, there were 2,458 victims of anti-Black incidents in 2017, committed by people of all races, according to FBI reports. Any such actions are unacceptable and all perpetrators must be condemned.

By comparison, millions of Blacks suffer every year because of Democrat [sic] laws and actions by Democrat [sic], often Black Democrat [sic] controlled city governments. Most evidence of institutional anti-Black treatment is committed by government entities controlled by Democrats for whom most Blacks voted!

When situations like the current riots occur, Democrat [sic] politicians excuse, allow, and some encourage the spread of the lawless, violent, and destruction that disproportionately hurt

Blacks. Without opposition these riots have grown into domestic terrorism, looting, destroying, burning, stealing, injuring, killing, and destroying the symbols of our nation's history including monuments to abolitionists and to the authors of our founding documents.

Democrat [sic] politicians rejected President Trump's calls to stop the riots to protect people and property, and they rejected his offers of assistance.

Now Democrats call for defunding the Police which will only result in the spread of violence...perhaps to your family's neighborhood. To Democrat [sic] politicians and many of their supporters, most lives and certainly most Black Lives *don't* Matter.

Don Ewing  
Meredith, N.H.

Don:

*We went to school back in the allegedly good old days, when racial segregation was the law in the south.*

*Those of us who were white, in grade school, and living up here in the north, were generally unaware that the nation whose flag we saluted every morning was, on that deeply important but easily ignored point, virtually indistinguishable from South Africa. Most of what we knew of tyranny we learned from the playground bully; though, occasionally, a teacher would play a supporting role.*

*Perhaps things are different now, but in those days, budding scholars were often turned loose like animals in a pen and left to sort themselves out—a Darwinian method of management which was probably suggested by our general demeanor.*

*We learned through direct experience an array of techniques for co-existing in an environment which included all sorts, including the occasional goon endowed with physical strength enough to inflict pain at will, but lacking the humanity*

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to suppress the temptation to use it. Some learned how to be inconspicuous. Others fended off beatings by becoming toadies.

That brings us to your incessant campaign to elevate the Republican Party by denigrating the Party you insist on incorrectly calling "Democrat."

Today's Republicans are the direct descendants of the Democrats who enforced racial segregation in the south, all those years ago. They just jumped ship after LBJ tried to restore the civil rights southern Democrats had been denying since Reconstruction.

You must by now have created an entire file drawer of fiction praising the biggest band of bullies this country has ever seen. That, we would warn you, matters not a whit to the powers-that-be. If they ever deign to notice you, and you displease them, they'll crush you, too.

The Editor

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**Listen To the Doctor. Do As He Says.**

To the Editor,  
The COVID-19 pandemic is just getting started and will be with us for another year or more. Getting people back to work and students returning to school is important but so is containing the virus. The two are not mutually exclusive.

If we maintain social distancing and practice other safety measures, we can and will lessen the severe impact of the virus, free up resources in acute care facilities, and save lives until we have effective medications and vaccines. This should not be a partisan decision, it is an altruistic decision. To show our humanity we must all wear masks when near other people, be adequately distanced from others, voluntarily quarantine when at risk of having the virus, wash our hands, and keep surfaces disinfected. Following the medical guidelines shows you care.

It is worth the inconvenience of the mask, distancing, hand washing, &c. now, to save the lives of our friends and family, protect healthcare workers, emergency workers, and all the others to allow societal recovery, physically, emotionally and economically and to have a future that we can be proud of.

Finally, this is an especially important election year regardless of who you are voting for. It is essential all of us vote safely this Fall. Not only will many of us be at risk when we vote but the volunteer poll workers will be at an even greater risk. Since poll workers are usually retired older people most will decline working this year making opening the polls even more difficult. This year more than ever mail in voting is essential. You can get your absentee ballot online at <https://www.voteinnh.org/> or at <https://sos.nh.gov/ElecForms2.aspx>. Thank you and stay safe.

Wayne Goldner, M.D.

Bedford, N.H.

Dr. Wayne:

Thanks for writing.

The Editor

====

**Going Slow on Testing**

To the Editor:

In Tulsa on June 20, President Trump announced that he had asked "his people" to go slow on virus testing, explaining that if you do more tests, you have more cases (which would be embarrassing). Spokespersons said the next day that Trump had spoken "tongue in cheek."

This was after doctors standing next to the President at numerous press conferences had explained repeatedly that testing is essential to controlling an epidemic, as it allows directing of efforts, quarantining and contact tracing. It avoids having contagious staff infect nursing home residents, and young people bring the virus to their

grandparents. At those conferences, Trump insisted repeatedly that we are world leader in testing.

Clearly what we have here is one of three things:

Either Trump doesn't comprehend the need for testing, in which case he is an idiot; or he jokes about a pestilence that has killed 130,000 citizens, in which case he is a callous jerk; or he intentionally directed a course of action that would cost tens of thousands of lives, in which case he is a killer—his knee on the neck of patients who can't breathe.

Trump bragged he could stand on Fifth Avenue and shoot someone and get away with it. His Attorney General says he can't be indicted, and his senators thwart impeachment. So, we must be the judge—on November 3.

Don Nolte  
Exeter N.H.

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**Override That Veto!**

To the Editor:

COVID-19 slashed household and town income in N.H. and across the country. Senator Martha Fuller Clark's June 24th "My Turn" [column in the *Concord Monitor*] highlights a bipartisan solution to save money for towns and citizens: expand net metering (renewable energy sharing). Make it more accessible in our state.

Last year net metering bill HB365 passed the Senate and House with bipartisan support. Governor Sununu vetoed this bill; the vote to override failed. A similar fate met net metering SB446 in 2018.

HB365 would have saved N.H. businesses and communities \$2-\$2.5 million annually, just on electricity generated with hydropower. Tax- and rate-payers would have saved hundreds of dollars.

This year a new net metering bill, SB159 led by Republican Jeb Bradley and Senator Fuller Clark, passed both chambers—to be vetoed (again) by the

Governor. The Senate overrode the veto by a bipartisan 17-7 vote. Now it's up to the House to override Sununu's veto.

Three times, our bipartisan lawmakers supported an important net metering energy bill, until Sununu brow-beat them to let his three vetoes stand. This keeps the Governor's fossil fuel donors happy, but what of the people of New Hampshire? Twelve of the state's 13 mayors petitioned Sununu to support net metering. If this third veto is allowed to stand, we continue fossil fuel dependence, lose good new energy jobs, keep rates and property taxes high, and fail to create an energy plan for the future.

I call on the House to concur with the Senate veto override immediately. Let the projects—and jobs—begin!

Susan Richman  
Durham, N.H.

Susan:

Thank you for so clearly laying out this issue. You have simultaneously made clear both the benefits of net metering, and the Governor's willingness to put the interests of corporations before those of the people.

The Editor

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**Mindi Messmer—  
Good Choice for Executive Councilor**

To the Editor:

It is my pleasure to endorse Mindi Messmer for New Hampshire's Executive Council. Anyone who has been following the environmental issues on the Seacoast has often heard the name Mindi Messmer. Her work on the Pediatric Cancer Cluster task-force and her involvement with drinking water contamination, backed up by her professional expertise, has made her a voice to be listened to. Additionally, she has been a voice for enhancing the radioactive monitoring capabilities of the State of N.H. to bring more public transparency to the residents in the towns surrounding the Seabrook nuclear plant.

As a fellow scientist who currently serves on the Science Technology & Energy committee of the House, I strongly support those who bring a scientific background into the political realm. It is desperately need-

ed both in N.H. and in Washington D.C., because we are dealing with many currently important issues, e.g. environmental, health related, energy production, climate change and even efficiency in government. All these issues can benefit from a fact-based scientific approach to help find solutions.

Mindi's background in science, business and as a former N.H. State Representative, but also her thoughtful and methodical style, will serve the residents of New Hampshire well on the Governor's Executive Council. Please join with me to support Mindi Messmer.

N.H. Rep. Peter Somssich, District 27-Portsmouth, Member of the House Science Technology & Energy Committee, Portsmouth N.H.

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**Our Local Media Saves Taxpayer Dollars**

To the Editor:

According to a recent *Journalist's Resource* report by Chloe Reichel, between 2004 and 2015 the U.S. newspaper industry lost 1,800 print outlets due to closures and mergers.

In a democracy, the basis for self-government is an informed citizenry. Local news media, and newspapers in particular, bear the primary responsibility. As the result of closures and mergers, the American newspaper industry has lost hundreds of news outlets, shedding journalists and investigative reporters, leading to a more challenging news landscape.

Ms. Reichel highlights various studies indicating that areas with fewer local news outlets and declining coverage not only have lower levels of civic engagement and voter turnout according to the 2014 article by Lee Shaker titled "Dead Newspapers and Citizens' Civic Engagement," but also have increased borrowing costs.

Local media is essential for the continued economic, social and political health of a community. There is no substitute for on the ground reporting of events large and small that take place in communities. Large corporate and social media outlets are unable to

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

to page six

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**HOWL'S PILE AND HUMOR**

What do we choose to remember with memorial markers, buildings and community projects?

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"Puddle Dock," now Strawberry Banke, remembers the Irish and other immigrant families who lived there.

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# Ominous Clouds Are Gathering

by Jean Stimmell

No more excuses! Forced into isolation by the pandemic, we now have the time and space to “to think what we are doing,” as Hannah Arendt long ago urged.

Arendt, perhaps the foremost political philosopher of the 20th century, observed that in the past we didn't have to think: “tradition, religion, and authority told us how to behave and defined our moral options of right and wrong, the mass of humanity did not need to think for themselves...”

However, nowadays, she wrote, its a free-for-all, with no guard rails on how we should act. “Adrift in a world in which everything and anything is possible, thinking is the only activity standing between ourselves and the most heinous of evils.”<sup>1</sup>

Today, many different worlds exist, depending on which lens we look through.

One lens, promoted by the medical and health professionals, sees

our first duty is to protect our community, the body politic. Under this view, individuals should be willing to forego certain liberties during a deadly pandemic, like self-isolating and wearing masks, to safeguard the greater whole. That's one view of reality, in step with most religions.

Another lens revolves around the idea that the world is a dangerous place, like a cage fight with no rules, where only the fittest individuals survive. Proponents of this view believe that's the way it should be, with little or no government restraint.

During the pandemic, some proponents of this second view have suggested sacrificing some of us in order to achieve herd immunity, a term from veterinary practice, meaning letting a disease play out throughout the herd without intervention. The end result is that the weakest are culled from the herd, leaving only the fittest.

I hope most would agree that there's a fundamental distinction between how we should treat hu-

man beings and animals bred for slaughter.

On top of that, the odds are unfairly stacked against us. The massive income inequality that exists today would, to a large extent, determine who would pay the ultimate price: The losers would include minorities and the poor without access to adequate healthcare; the elderly, who have compromised immune systems; and working people, first responders, and essential workers in nursing homes, grocery stores, factories.

Meanwhile, the more well-to-do can work safely at home or self-isolate at their secluded, second homes. Defining herd immunity in terms of who is the most affluent is an insult to us all. On top of that, the toll would be catastrophic: Johns Hopkins estimates, without any mitigation, the price for herd immunity in the U.S. could be an additional 500,000 deaths.

Finally, I want to present Joanna Macy, eco-philosopher, Buddhist,

and general systems theorist, who sees the world through a different lens, similar in many ways to that of the medical and religious communities, but with a modern touch.

She uses the human brain as an analogy for explaining systems thinking and how it contrasts with other approaches. She points out that human brain cells would die if they tried to compete to gain “power over” neighboring cells. Instead, to be effective, nerve cells must ensure maximum flow between cells to communicate and form collaborative networks.

According to her, in microcosm, that is how life works. Natural scientists now understand that what appears to be separate entities are interacting currents of matter, energy, and information.

Using a poetic metaphor, she says, “we are flames that keep our shape by burning, by the act of combustion—matter in and matter out... So action isn't a burden... It is something we are.”<sup>2</sup>

Why is that important? Because if action defines who we are—if we are bright, burning flames by our very nature—then we are meant to be engaged, vibrant actors in life, not couch potatoes dozing through the evening news.

As political polarization inches closer to civil insurrection in these times of Covid-19, we need to heed Hannah Arendt's warning about the imminent danger we face. And be empowered by Joanna's call for action.

Do we want to insist on unfettered individual freedom during this pandemic, unwittingly advancing the interests of the strongest and richest against the rest of us? Or do we want to come together as a united community for the greater good of us all?

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1) <https://hac.bard.edu/amor-mundi/to-think-what-we-are-doing-again-2012-03-19>

2) <https://tricycle.org/magazine/schooling-our-intention/>

from page five

capture the full scope and meaning of events that affect people's daily lives. Covering the actions of elected governing bodies, volunteer boards and commissions are of vital importance for keeping citizens informed and serve as a check on government activity.

Some scholars, e.g. Gao, Pengjie, et al. in a report titled “Financing Dies in Darkness? The Impact of Newspaper Closures on Public Finance,” also explain the financial impact. Their main finding is that newspaper closures have a significantly adverse impact on municipal borrowing costs, because they raise the cost of borrowing by approximately 0.1 percent three years after a closure. This increase in borrowing costs adds tens of millions of dollars to 10-20-year municipal bonds. The increase of borrowing costs re-



sults from a perception by potential lenders that this community has a lower level of oversight, with respect to corruption or mismanagement, than a community with a vigorous local media.

Citizens care about their local communities and want honest, factual information about their elected representatives, the candidates for public office, and the issues of government interest. The more information they have, the more they exercise their right to vote and the more they contact and engage with their municipal officials.

A recent example of this is the lawsuit filed by the Seacoast Media Group and others which was successful at the N.H. Supreme Court this June. The decision stated that

municipalities cannot use the public records laws to shield settlements using taxpayer dollars from the public (this ruling was in response to a settlement involving Portsmouth police officer Aaron Goodwin and the estate of Geraldine Webber).

For all of these reasons, we should not take for granted the critical role of local media to keep government accountable to the citizens and maintain an informed, engaged electorate. In addition, they save us taxes as well. Thank you, *Portsmouth Herald, New Hampshire Gazette, WSCA Portsmouth Community Radio, and Portsmouth Public Media TV.*

Joan Hamblet, Candidate for District 31, (Greenland, North Hampton, Newington and Ward 3-

Portsmouth)

Richard DiPentima, Candidate for District 30 (Ward 1, 2, 4, 5-Portsmouth)

Peter Somssich, State Representative for District 27 (Ward 3-Portsmouth)

Damon Thomas, Attorney, resident of Portsmouth.

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## Cops: Protectors or Predators?

by Roy Morrison

The killing of Rayshard Brooks in Atlanta in a Wendy's parking lot by Officer Garrett Rolfe is a reflection not only of racism, but also the transformation of police from protector to predator, and the criminalization of social problems like DWI.

Officer Garrett Rolfe was a reputed “expert” in detecting drunk

driving. “Failing” sobriety test automatically leads to arrest, slapping on cuffs, and, in this case, the shooting in the back of Rayshard Brooks.

Yes, drivers if drunk should have their keys taken away, their car towed if not parked, and given a summons to appear in court facing appropriate consequences like fines, loss of license, counseling, alcohol rehabilitation.

By combining criminalization of drunk driving, a social and addiction problem, with racism, you have tragedy. Faced with resistance from a Black man for an unnecessary DWI arrest, guns start blazing and a man is shot twice in the back.

My Dad was a Fed. I grew up in a law enforcement family. For more than 40 years my late father, Leo Morrison, worked for U.S. Customs in NY. His best friend was Lt. Dick Gallagher, Head of the Waterfront Squad NYPD, and then Midtown

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## Who was Smedley Darlington Butler, and why is he important?

by Jim Hightower

Many Americans can't believe that political coups are part of our country's history—but consider from the Wall Street Putsch of 1933.

Never heard of it? It was a corporate conspiracy to oust Franklin D. Roosevelt, who had just been elected president. With the Great Depression raging and millions of families financially devastated, FDR

had launched several economic recovery programs to help people get back on their feet. To pay for this crucial effort, he had the audacity to raise taxes on the wealthy, and this enraged a group of Wall Street multimillionaires.

Wailing that their "liberty" to grab as much wealth as possible was being shackled, they accused the president of mounting a Class War. To pull off their coup, they plotted to enlist a private military force made

up of destitute World War I vets who were upset at not receiving promised federal bonus payments. One of the multimillionaires' lackeys reached out to a well-respected advocate for veterans: Retired Marine general, Smedley Darlington Butler. They wanted him to lead 500,000 veterans in a march on Washington to force FDR from the White House.

They chose the wrong general. Butler was a patriot and lifelong sol-

dier for democracy, who, in his later years, was critical of corporate war profiteering, and he was repulsed by the hubris and treachery of these Wall Street aristocrats. He reached out to a reporter, and together, they gathered proof to take to Congress. A special Congressional committee investigated and found Butler's story "alarmingly true," leading to public hearings, with Butler giving detailed testimony.

By exposing the traitors, this cou-

rageous patriot nipped their coup in the bud. But their sense of entitlement reveals that we must be aware of the concentrated wealth of the imperious rich, for it poses an ever-present danger to majority rule.

Copyright 2017 by Jim Hightower & Associates. Contact Laura Ebrlich (laura@jimhightower.com) for more information.

from page six

North Homicide.

It was a world of very tough guys with guns. And in four decades my dad used his gun only once, in a running gun battle on the waterfront with a professional armed robber he shot in the leg. That's it. He fired his gun once in four decades spent dealing with heroin smugglers, gangsters, armed robbers, escaped prisoners, hijackers, rapists, drunken longshoremen and seamen. He was, by the way, a top rated combat shooter.

In his world, he told me, "I only draw my gun if I intended to shoot and I would only shoot to kill." That meant he disarmed people. He did not kill them. Instead he used come-along holds, twisting wrists and arms. At the most, in street fights on the waterfront with men wielding a knife or broken beer bottle, he'd use a club or a blackjack.

He was trying to enforce the law against real criminals, not looking for an excuse to arrest an ordinary citizen and destroy a family. If my father, or Dick Gallagher, shot every time he thought his life was in danger, each would have killed more people than Dirty Harry.

My father taught me about social justice. Once, on a bitter cold November day, driving by a woman selling hot dogs from a wagon, he said to me, "Imagine if your mother had to do that."

My dad would have told Rayshard Brooks that his idea to park his car and walk home was a fine plan. There was more than enough serious crime to go around in NY.



Yes, racism is an endemic American problem, and police are typically too often the enforcers of business and racism as usual.

But the idea that cops can shoot or choke unarmed African American men and women for no reason or for any reason on the street or in their homes, with impunity and little or no consequences, is a particularly vile expression of institutionalized racism.

It's long past the time for this to end and no longer be tolerated by a society embracing justice and fairness for all its members. The role of police should be transformed to be community participants dealing with serious criminals and violent crime, and not as agents of social discipline or dealing with society's failures. For that, we need social workers, vocational counselors, community health workers, community organizers, and entrepreneurs.

It's too easy to saddle the cops with responsibility for society's failures. Cops are ordered to deal with homelessness, mental illness, alcoholism, spousal abuse, drug addiction, and a plethora of criminalized regulations that, combined with racism, leads to murder.

Eric Garner is killed for selling cigarettes on the street. George Floyd is killed for allegedly using a counterfeit \$20 bill. Breonna Taylor is killed in her bathroom under a bogus, no knock drug warrant. Rashheed Brooks is killed for running away from a DWI arrest.

In the dystopian movie *THX 1138*, an entertainment channel features a robo cop beating a prisoner. Today, the murder of African Americans is captured on cell phones as we watch an all too real deadly harvest of a nearly bottomless brutality.

Enough is enough. It's more than anyone with a heart and a soul can stand. Now we know. If collectively, we allow this to continue, this is who we have become. It's not pretty.

That's why an unprecedented number of people of all colors, persuasions, and ages have taken to the street in protest. There's hope for a sane, just, and fair common future. Black Lives Matter. My life matters. All life matters.

Roy Morrison builds solar farms. [www.RenewableSunPartners.com](http://www.RenewableSunPartners.com)

### The Usefulness of Racism

"They have Black people, and white poor people, and red poor people, and Puerto Rican poor people, and Latin American poor people, poor people of all descent. They have them caught up in their movements based on racism. The Black Panther Party stood up and said, 'We don't care what anybody says. We don't think you fight fire with fire best; we think you fight fire with water best. We're going to fight racism not with racism, but we're going to fight with solidarity. We say we're not going to fight capitalism with Black capitalism, but we're going to fight it with socialism. We've stood up and said we're not

going to fight reactionary pigs and reactionary state's attorneys like Hanrahan with any other reactions on our part. We're going to fight their reactions with all of us people getting together and having an international proletarian revolution. And that's saying all power to the people. That's saying that no matter what color you are, you go into two classes. That's saying there's a class over here, and a class over there. And the reason that this class over here has never done anything to get this class off its back, because this is lower, this is upper, this is the oppressed, this is the oppressor, this is the exploited, this is the exploiter, and these people in this class have divided themselves and said 'I'm Black and I hate white people.' 'I'm white and I hate Black people.' 'I'm Latin American and I hate hillbillies.' 'I'm hillbilly and I hate Indians.' So we fighting amongst each other. And here you heard the testimony of the pigs here, and you got pigs of all colors, you know that. You got pigs that are white, you got pigs that are Black. You've even got pigs that are Black and white. Propagating the same kind of madness that this buffoon Hanrahan would be propagating if he were here himself. And why? Because they want to keep you believing that I'm your enemy. And that everybody else that's Black, and that wears a lot of hair on his head, and hair on his face, they want you to keep thinking that he's your enemy. Why? Because if you were ever to disregard him, and overlook him for just a minute, and throw away the cause of the

racist, and start to dealing with a little logic, then they can be beaten. There would be no one else you could attack. Other than Hanrahan. Other than Daley. And other than 'Tricky Dick' Nixon."

— Fred Hampton  
(Born August 30, 1948,  
Murdered by the Chicago Police  
Department and FBI,  
December 4, 1969)

"The execution of Fred Hampton was the gravest domestic crime of the Nixon administration."

— Noam Chomsky,  
quoted in *The Assassination of  
Fred Hampton*, by Jeffrey Haas

"As a people, we have become obsessed with Health. There is something fundamentally, radically unhealthy about all this. We do not seem to be seeking more exuberance in living as much as staving off failure, putting off dying. We have lost all confidence in the human body."

— Lewis Thomas,  
*The Medusa and the Snail* (1979).

"Everybody's a mad scientist, and life is their lab. We're all trying to experiment to find a way to live, to solve problems, to fend off madness and chaos."

— David Cronenberg

"Patriotism is ... a conviction that a particular country is the best in the world because you were born in it..."

— George Bernard Shaw

"Politics, n. A strife of interests masquerading as a contest of principles."

— Ambrose Bierce,  
*The Devil's Dictionary*

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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

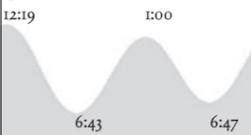
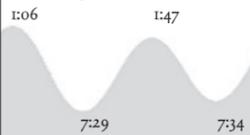
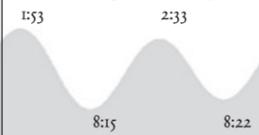
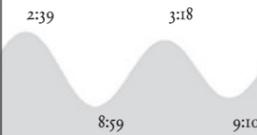
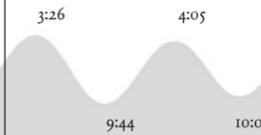
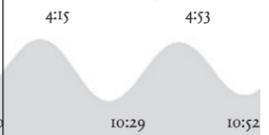
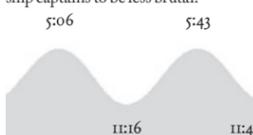
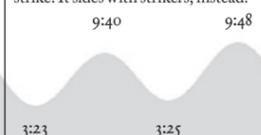
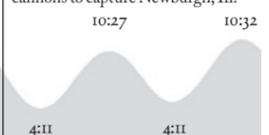
drags about seventeen billion gallons of seawater — enough to fill 2,125,000 tanker trucks — up the river and into Great Bay. This creates a roving hydraulic conflict, as incoming sea and the outgoing river collide. The skirmish line

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 5	MONDAY, JULY 6	TUESDAY, JULY 7	WEDNESDAY, JULY 8	THURSDAY, JULY 9	FRIDAY, JULY 10	SATURDAY, JULY 11
<p><b>2009</b>—Terry Herbert finds a spectacular hoard of Anglo-Saxon gold ornaments on Fred Johnson's farm in the West Midlands. It made the men rich—and bitter enemies.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—The U.S. Congress effectively tramples on the First Amendment to ineffectively "protect" the flag.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—The Marine base at Khe Sanh is abandoned 90 days after the lifting of a 78-day siege which cost 737 lives.</p> <p><b>1950</b>—Shipped out hastily without a plan, ill-equipped and outnumbered ten to one, Task Force Smith is decimated by North Koreans at Osan. The troops are blamed, not their commander, Gen. MacArthur.</p> <p><b>1937</b>—Leaving Berlin, IBM President Tom Watson thanks Adolf Hitler for a big order and assures the tyrant he will "do all in [his] power to create more intimate bonds between our two great nations."</p> <p><b>1935</b>—Workers finally get some help: FDR signs the Labor Relations Act.</p> <p><b>1934</b>—During a dock workers' strike in San Francisco, Joseph Roush, a Federal Laboratories sales rep, fires a long-distance tear gas shell at strikers. Hit in the skull, one later dies. Roush writes to his boss, "as he was a Communist, I had no feeling in the matter and I am sorry that I did not get more."</p> <p><b>1894</b>—A massive fire, probably set, destroys six buildings at the World's Columbian Exposition, including Machinery Hall, where Daniel Fowle's printing press was last seen.</p>	<p><b>2013</b>—A runaway fuel train derailed and burns, destroying half of downtown Lac Megantic, Quebec.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—Ex-FBI Special Agent, devout Catholic, patron of strippers, and exhibitionist Robert Hanssen pleads guilty to selling U.S. secrets to the U.S.S.R., then to the Russians.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—President Nixon sets up a "Plumbers Unit" to stop leaks.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—To test its dirt-moving capacity, the AEC sets off a buried nuke in Nevada. It creates Sedan Crater—the nation's biggest—and irradiates more Americans than any other test.</p> <p><b>1924</b>—Democrats "deplore and condemn...religious or racial dissension" during the longest convention ever held, but balk at naming the Klan.</p> <p><b>1916</b>—Major Douglas MacArthur, newly-appointed censor at the War Department, says the General Staff approves of the bill just put before Congress at its request: it would impose censorship if there's a war.</p> <p><b>1907</b>—The Irish Crown Jewels are found to be missing. Several theories are put forth; none proven, all sordid.</p> <p><b>1894</b>—U.S. troops land in Nicaragua to "protect U.S. interests."</p> <p><b>1892</b>—Pinkerton "detectives" and striking miners have a shootout at Homestead, Pa.; 20 die.</p> <p><b>1854</b>—In white robes, with a trumpet, The Angel Gabriel, aka John S. Orr, appears in Bath, Maine and delivers an anti-Catholic sermon. Townspeople then burn an Irish Catholic church.</p>	<p><b>1986</b>—Reagan's A.G., Ed Meese, attains quasi-legislative status for Presidential Signing Statements, which previously had had little impact, by persuading West Publishing to include them in law books.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—Near Danang, Battery B of the 82nd Field Arty. takes out four men from the 196th Inf. Bde. in the last major friendly fire incident of the war.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—His Tet Offensive plan OK'd by the Politburo, Gen. Nguyen Chi Thanh parties himself to death.</p> <p><b>1954</b>—As puppet Premier Diem arrives in Saigon, U.S. Gen. John W. O'Daniel, says "the war in Vietnam can be won without bringing in one single American soldier to fight."</p> <p><b>1950</b>—FBI Chief J. Edgar Hoover proposes permanent detention of 12,000 people "potentially dangerous to the internal security of the country."</p> <p><b>1905</b>—Kentucky hangs Robert Mathley, but he's six feet tall and the rope stretches. Officials with shovels dig until his feet don't touch the earth.</p> <p><b>1894</b>—During a railroad-caused financial panic, striking railroad workers in Chicago are fired on by the National Guard, under orders from Attorney General Olney—a railroad attorney; four are killed, 20 wounded.</p> <p><b>1863</b>—The U.S. begins exempting men with \$100 in cash from the draft.</p> <p><b>1844</b>—In Philadelphia, nativist Protestants and Irish Catholics armed with cannon fight it out at the Church of St. Philip Neri.</p>	<p><b>2016</b>—Dallas Police use a bomb-armed robot to kill a man suspected of having murdered five officers.</p> <p><b>1976</b>—The State of New York yanks Richard Nixon's law license.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—The U.S. begins withdrawing troops from Vietnam.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—The U.S. detonates a nuke 250 miles up, knocking out phones in Hawaii, 900 miles to the east, and crippling seven satellites.</p> <p><b>1959</b>—Viet Cong forces attack Bien Hoa air base, killing two U.S. advisors as they watch a movie.</p> <p><b>1947</b>—Radio reports say a UFO has crashed at Roswell, N.M.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—At a POW camp in Salina, Utah, Army Pvt. Clarence V. Bertucci machine guns 29 Germans; nine die.</p> <p><b>1898</b>—Jefferson Randolph "Soapy" Smith II, "King of the Frontier Con Men," dies in a Skagway shootout.</p> <p><b>1876</b>—In Hamburg, S.C., 100 white men attack 40 black militiamen, capturing 25, of whom they murder five. No one is ever convicted.</p> <p><b>1860</b>—Clotilda lands in Mobile Bay with an illegal cargo. It's the last ship to import enslaved Africans.</p> <p><b>1853</b>—Commodore Perry convinces the Japanese it's better to trade with Americans than get shelled by them.</p> <p><b>1835</b>—The Liberty Bell cracks tolling the death of Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall.</p> <p><b>1776</b>—Philadelphia's Liberty Bell summons citizens to hear the Declaration of Independence being read.</p>	<p><b>2004</b>—"I trust God speaks through me," George W.[MD] Bush tells a group of Amish people. "Without that, I couldn't do my job."</p> <p><b>1993</b>—To prove it's unbreakable, Toronto lawyer Garry Hoy hurls himself against a 24th floor window. It pops from its frame; he falls to his death.</p> <p><b>1986</b>—Ed "Meese is a Pig" Meese publishes a 1,960-page report on pornography packed with obscene titles.</p> <p><b>1985</b>—Ed "Meese is a Pig" Meese launches the "original intent" crusade.</p> <p><b>1958</b>—Lebanon is invaded by 14,000 U.S. troops with nuclear-capability.</p> <p><b>1958</b>—A 1,700-foot mega-tsunami hits Lituya Bay, Alaska.</p> <p><b>1951</b>—Dashiell Hammett, 57, tubercular author of <i>The Maltese Falcon</i>, is sentenced to six months in prison by the House Un-American Activities Committee for his reticence.</p> <p><b>1937</b>—Oliver Law, a battalion commander in the Abraham Lincoln Brigade and 1st African-American to lead white troops, is KIA in Spain.</p> <p><b>1918</b>—Two trains collide head-on in Nashville killing 101 and injuring another 171. It is the deadliest train wreck in U.S. history.</p> <p><b>1850</b>—Pres. Zachary Taylor dies, conceivably poisoned by pro-slavery southerners. If so, the first assassination paid off, at least for the short term.</p> <p><b>1846</b>—Marines from the U.S.S. <i>Portsmouth</i> row ashore at Yerba Buena (San Francisco), raise the flag, and claim California for the U.S.</p>	<p><b>2007</b>—China executes its Director of the State Food and Drug Administration for taking bribes that resulted in 40 deaths.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—A Phoenix FBI agent sends a memo to FBI HQ warning of "an inordinate number" of suspicious characters in local flight schools, possibly as part of a bin Laden plot. It's ignored.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—CIA boss George Tenet tries to warn George Bush and Condi Rice about Osama bin Laden and al-Qaeda, but can't get their attention.</p> <p><b>1985</b>—French secret police in the South Pacific blow up Greenpeace's boat, <i>Rainbow Warrior</i>.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—Water being used to fight an arson fire destroys the U.S.S. <i>Forrestal</i>'s computers and nearly capsizes her.</p> <p><b>1949</b>—<i>Pamir</i>, a four-masted barque laden with barley, becomes the last sailing vessel to round Cape Horn with commercial cargo.</p> <p><b>1929</b>—The <i>Portsmouth Herald</i> reports that the Coast Guard has seized 129 cases of booze in Rye Harbor.</p> <p><b>1926</b>—Lightning hits a powder warehouse in Picatinny, N.J. Three days of explosions destroy 187 buildings, kill 19, and injure 38.</p> <p><b>1805</b>—RIP Revolutionary War soldier Col. William Butler, court-martialed for refusing to cut off his ponytail. "Bore a hole through the bottom of my coffin," his will said, "[so] the damned rascal [his ex-CO] will see that, even when dead, I refuse to obey his orders."</p>	<p><b>2003</b>—Condi Rice lies about White House knowledge of Joe Wilson's Niger investigation; Ari Fleischer outs Valerie Plame as a CIA officer; Karl Rove lies to <i>Time</i> about Wilson's wife, Plame; and CIA head George Tenet takes the rap for the White House's lies about Iraq buying uranium.</p> <p><b>1991</b>—A defective heater sets a loaded ammunition carrier afire at Camp Doha in Kuwait. It explodes, scattering bomblets; blasts and fires consume 102 other vehicles, including four M1A1 Abrams tanks. The fires injure 49, three die cleaning up the mess.</p> <p><b>1958</b>—Mildred and Richard Loving are rousted out of bed in Central Point, Virginia and arrested for being married while Black and white.</p> <p><b>1955</b>—Congress puts "In God We Trust" on all U.S. coins and paper currency; which god is not specified.</p> <p><b>1953</b>—Ike OK's the overthrow of Iran's Prime Minister Mohammed Mosaddeq. What could go wrong?</p> <p><b>1917</b>—A Bisbee, Ariz. posse herds 1,186 striking copper miners into cattle cars and sends them by rail towards New Mexico with no food or water.</p> <p><b>1864</b>—Four miles north of the White House, at Ft. Stevens, Abraham Lincoln comes under enemy fire.</p> <p><b>1804</b>—At Weehauken, Hamilton fires into the ground in front of Burr. Burr aims and shoots Hamilton dead.</p> <p><b>1713</b>—Queen Anne's War ends as Indians sign the Treaty of Portsmouth. The settlers soon renege.</p>
 <p>12:12 5:55 5:59</p>	 <p>12:19 1:00 6:43 6:47</p>	 <p>1:06 1:47 7:29 7:34</p>	 <p>1:53 2:33 8:15 8:22</p>	 <p>2:39 3:18 8:59 9:10</p>	 <p>3:26 4:05 9:44 10:00</p>	 <p>4:15 4:53 10:29 10:52</p>
SUNDAY, JULY 12	MONDAY, JULY 13	TUESDAY, JULY 14	WEDNESDAY, JULY 15	THURSDAY, JULY 16	FRIDAY, JULY 17	SATURDAY, JULY 18
<p><b>1982</b>—FEMA pledges that even in a nuclear war, the mail will get through.</p> <p><b>1979</b>—The White Sox forfeit after explosives damage the field during Disco Demolition Night at Comiskey Park.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—A fire in St. Louis, Mo. destroys the service records of 16 to 18 million Army and Air Force veterans.</p> <p><b>1917</b>—After 30 hours in cattle cars without food or water, 1,286 striking copper miners are left stranded in the New Mexico desert. No relief comes until the next day.</p> <p><b>1908</b>—Birth of Milton Berle, first American transvestite on TV.</p> <p><b>1892</b>—The Pennsylvania militia arrives at Homestead, Pa. to protect Andrew Carnegie's right to make a buck.</p> <p><b>1872</b>—Orangemen avoid casualties by refraining from marching through Irish tenements in New York.</p> <p><b>1871</b>—Orangemen are attacked as they march through Irish tenements in New York; 60 die this time.</p> <p><b>1870</b>—Orangemen are attacked by an Irish mob as they march through Irish tenements in New York; eight die.</p> <p><b>1864</b>—The Natchez [Miss.] <i>Courier</i> reports that Jones County has seceded from the Confederacy.</p> <p><b>1817</b>—Pencilmaker and troublemaker Henry David Thoreau is born.</p> <p><b>1626</b>—Soon to be hanged in Boston, pirate William Fly calmly mocks the executioner's noose-tying skills. Informed by Fly's critique of nautical injustice, Cotton Mather admonishes ship captains to be less brutal.</p>	<p><b>1999</b>—Sen. Bob Smith (R-N.H.) drops out of the Presidential race, and the Republican Party to boot, to run as an Independent.</p> <p><b>1987</b>—Senator Warren B. Rudman [R-N.H.] sets Ollie North straight during the Iran-Contra hearings: "The American people have the constitutional right to be wrong."</p> <p><b>1977</b>—During a heat wave and a financial crisis, with Son of Sam on the loose, lightning strikes cause a blackout in New York City. Chaos ensues.</p> <p><b>1959</b>—A sodium-cooled nuclear reactor in Simi Valley, Calif. has a partial meltdown, releasing 300 times more radiation than Three Mile Island, a fact kept secret for 20 years.</p> <p><b>1950</b>—A B-50 Superfortress crashes in Lebanon, Ohio, killing its crew of 16. The fissile core of the nuclear weapon on board not being installed, the crater made by its high explosives was only 25 feet deep.</p> <p><b>1948</b>—Israeli troops drive 70,000 Palestinians from their homes in Lydda and Remleh.</p> <p><b>1943</b>—Student Alexander Schmorel and Professor Kurt Huber, co-conspirators in the anti-Nazi pamphleteering group White Rose, are guillotined in Munich.</p> <p><b>1863</b>—A New York mob, enraged by draft laws exempting the rich and egged on by Democrats, go on a three-day rampage. They level whole blocks and attacking Greeley's pro-Union <i>New York Tribune</i>.</p>	<p><b>2004</b>—The GOP tries to ban gay marriage but can't rise to the occasion.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—Robert Novak outs CIA officer Valerie Plame in his column.</p> <p><b>2000</b>—A Florida jury orders five tobacco companies to pay \$145 billion in damages. An appeals court later lets them off the hook.</p> <p><b>1989</b>—Alabama tries twice, 19 minutes apart, to electrocute Horace F. Dunkins, who's black and developmentally-disabled. The first try fails because the chair is wired wrong.</p> <p><b>1981</b>—New Hampshire businessman Max Hugel's stint as Deputy Director of Operations at the CIA ends after 64 days due to revelations of unseemly stock market shenanigans.</p> <p><b>1976</b>—In Traves, France, unknown persons celebrate Bastille Day by burning war criminal Joachim Peiper's house—with him in it.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—R. Nixon approves the Huston plan to burgle and surveil Americans. It's so bad J. Edgar Hoover nixes it.</p> <p><b>1948</b>—Southerners walk out of the Democratic convention to form the pro-segregation States' Rights Party.</p> <p><b>1921</b>—Massachusetts' show trial of Nicolo Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti ends with a guilty verdict.</p> <p><b>1798</b>—The Seditious Act passes, making it a crime to criticize the government—especially President Adams.</p> <p><b>1791</b>—In Lausanne, Vevey, and Rolle, Switzerland, citizens celebrate the liberation of the Bastille, shouting "Live free or die."</p>	<p><b>1995</b>—A derecho sends hurricane force winds through New York and New England, toppling thousands of trees and killing three people.</p> <p><b>1979</b>—President Carter delivers his infamous "malaise" speech, which does not include the word "malaise."</p> <p><b>1974</b>—In Florida, on live TV, newsreader Christine Chubbuck pulls a loaded pistol from a shopping bag and shoots herself dead.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—Nixon says he'll go to China.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—The Republican Party saddles itself with Barry Goldwater as a presidential candidate.</p> <p><b>1954</b>—"Operation Wetback" begins throwing "Mexican-looking" people out of the U.S.</p> <p><b>1919</b>—The then-honestly-named War Department calls 337,000 Americans draft dodgers.</p> <p><b>1877</b>—John W. Garrett, President of the B &amp; O Railroad, gives his shareholders a 10% dividend and his workers a 10% pay cut.</p> <p><b>1865</b>—In Rye, N.H. an optical illusion causes the Isles of Shoals to appear to be only a mile or two offshore.</p> <p><b>1779</b>—General "Mad Anthony" Wayne's troops take 700 prisoners with a bayonet charge at Stony Point.</p> <p><b>1685</b>—Executioner Jack Ketch eventually beheads the Duke of Monmouth, after eight ax blows.</p> <p><b>1381</b>—Lollard preacher John Ball, for inspiring the Peasants' Revolt, is hanged, drawn, and quartered as Richard II looks on with approval.</p>	<p><b>1991</b>—The Trump Taj Mahal files for bankruptcy 467 days after opening.</p> <p><b>1979</b>—A dam, badly built on shaky ground, collapses in Church Rock, N.M., spilling 1,100 tons of radioactive mill waste, 93 million gallons of effluent, and as much radioactivity as Three Mile Island.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—Al Butterfield reveals he's been bugging the Oval office at the behest of The Man himself.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—A white cop shoots James Powell, black and 15, dead. The Harlem riots begin.</p> <p><b>1963</b>—In NYC, Tom Cornell and Chris Kearns stage the first anti-Vietnam War demonstration.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—The Atomic Age begins with a bang at Alamogordo, N.M.</p> <p><b>1934</b>—Workers in San Francisco conduct a four-day General Strike.</p> <p><b>1877</b>—B&amp;O RRR firemen in Martinsburg, W.Va. strike against wage cuts.</p> <p><b>1860</b>—In San Francisco, Emperor Norton I issues a declaration calling for the dissolution of the U.S.A.</p> <p><b>1858</b>—To bolster his ability to resist the allure of prostitutes, Thomas P. "Boston" Corbett uses a pair of scissors to castrate himself. Seven years later he will kill John Wilkes Booth.</p> <p><b>1854</b>—A conductor in New York City tells Elizabeth Jennings Graham to get off his streetcar because she's Black. She refuses. In court, she wins desegregation, \$250, and court costs.</p> <p><b>1790</b>—Congress votes to build the nation's capitol in a swamp.</p>	<p><b>2015</b>—Portsmouth cops grill Mike Thiel at his office about a letter in which he complains about helicopters.</p> <p><b>2014</b>—Detained for selling loose cigarettes, Eric Garner, 43, suffocates as he tells NYPD cops, "I can't breathe."</p> <p><b>1979</b>—Ex-dictator Anastasio Somoza flees Nicaragua for Miami, bringing with him family caskets and much of the national treasury.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—An American press officer in Saigon tells Morley Safer "if you think any American official is going to tell you the truth, then you're stupid."</p> <p><b>1962</b>—The U.S. conducts its last near-ground atmospheric nuclear test: the .018 kiloton "Little Feller." A company of soldiers is marched through ground zero 26 minutes later.</p> <p><b>1955</b>—Lightning ignites a huge mine placed near Ypres in 1916. A cow is the only casualty.</p> <p><b>1944</b>—Two munitions ships explode at Port Chicago, Calif., killing 322, mostly black bomb handlers.</p> <p><b>1935</b>—RIP Cudjoe Lewis, in Africa-town, Mobile, Ala., last known survivor of the Atlantic slave trade.</p> <p><b>1928</b>—Partying with Mexican Revolution veterans, President Alvaro Obregon tells strolling caricaturist Leon Toral, "Make sure you make me look good." Toral says, "I will," and shoots him dead.</p> <p><b>1877</b>—Gov. Henry Mathews calls out a local militia company to suppress the Martinsburg, W.Va. railroad strike. It sides with strikers, instead.</p>	<p><b>1985</b>—Doped up after cancer surgery five days earlier, Ronald Reagan OKs an arms-for-hostages deal with Iran.</p> <p><b>1984</b>—James O. Huberty tells his wife he's "going to hunt humans," then kills 21 and wounds 19 at a San Diego McDonald's. A sniper gets him. His widow sues Mickey D's for poisoning his mind with MSG. Her suit fails.</p> <p><b>1981</b>—Norman Mailer's protegee Jack Abbott, on work release after a stretch for bank robbery, steals a man to death in the East Village.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—The U.S.S. <i>Ranger</i> is disabled after bolts and a paint scraper are intentionally dropped into the gears.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—Senator Ted Kennedy gives Mary Jo Kopechne a ride part of the way home from a party, goes for a swim, then takes a nap.</p> <p><b>1944</b>—Ordered by <i>der Führer</i> to kill a fly, aide Fritz Darges suggests it's a job for the Luftwaffe. He's immediately banished to the Eastern Front.</p> <p><b>1938</b>—Douglas "Wrong Way" Corrigan lands in Ireland after an unauthorized trans-Atlantic flight.</p> <p><b>1925</b>—H.L. Mencken is nearly run out of Dayton, Tenn. on a rail by its pious Christian inhabitants.</p> <p><b>1877</b>—Governor Henry Mathews of West Virginia pleads for U.S. Marines to suppress the B &amp; O railroad strike.</p> <p><b>1863</b>—Black soldiers of the 54th Mass. Inf. Regt. prove their worth at the Battle of Ft. Wagner.</p> <p><b>1862</b>—Confederate rangers use fake cannons to capture Newburgh, Ill.</p>
 <p>5:06 5:43 11:16 11:46</p>	 <p>6:01 6:33 12:05</p>	 <p>6:58 7:24 12:43 12:55</p>	 <p>7:55 8:14 1:39 1:46</p>	 <p>8:49 9:02 2:33 2:37</p>	 <p>9:40 9:48 3:23 3:25</p>	 <p>10:27 10:32 4:11 4:11</p>

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