

The Fortnightly Rant

Pick a Crisis, Any Crisis

Tuesday's *Herald* carried a piece by Paul Briand—one of the Hedge-Fund-Owned Local Daily's few writers still based in this area—headlined, "Purple Principle podcast seeks political middle ground in U.S." A five-person team is exploring "whether political factions—with blue liberals on the left and red conservatives on the right—can somehow find some common ground in the purple middle."

In the marketplace of mainstream journalism, editors know readers are eager to start their day by snapping open a fresh paper and finding a story that gives them some slight thread of hope—a story that nurtures, however briefly or improbably, the comforting illusion that there may in fact be some way out of the Slough of Despond now engulfing us. The Purple Principal people—earnest, intelligent, and sincere—were thus a perfect subject. We wish them all the success in the world. We will now return, however, to our regular programming. Herewith, a headline from Tuesday's *Globe*:

"Tom Cotton under fire after calling slavery a 'necessary evil' in interview with Arkansas paper."

The junior Senator from Arkansas has taken a lot of heat since Sunday for uttering that two-word phrase. Perhaps in the purple spirit of nonpartisanship we should give him credit for bothering to include the word "evil."

All this focus on that particular word choice has drawn attention away from the actual topic of the Cotton interview: his proposed legislation which would...wait for it...*prohibit the use of federal funding for a particular educational purpose*. Bet you didn't see that coming!

Last August 14th the *New York Times Magazine*, on the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first enslaved Africans in Virginia, kicked

off the "The 1619 Project." Its aim is "to reframe the country's history by placing the consequences of slavery and the contributions of black Americans at the very center of our national narrative." Somehow, this effort failed to show our history in a manner that always made white people look kind and noble.

"If Cotton's [Saving American History Act of 2020] passes," the *Arkansas Democrat Gazette* wrote, "school districts that embrace the curriculum [developed by the 1619 Project] would no longer qualify for federal professional development funds, money that is intended to improve teacher quality."

The paper quoted Cotton saying "The *New York Times* should not be teaching American history to our kids." It's OK for him, though, to make sure they're *not* taught.

When Cotton was elected to the Senate in 2014, stenographers dutifully noted what Cotton's PR people told them: his family had lived in rural Arkansas for seven generations. It took *Historic.ly*, a historical podcast, to do a little research on those generations. They make a convincing case that the Senator's great-great-great grandfather held 12 people in bondage. What's more, their forced labor was used to farm land taken from natives who had been forcibly removed.

It would be wrong, of course, to lay the sins of his fathers on the Senator. What's that old saying, though? Oh, yes: it's not the crime, but the cover-up.

In other despair-inducing news, 30 million Americans are out of work and Congress just let the \$600 unemployment boost lapse.

Democrats wanted to extend it but Republicans refused. That amount is too high, they said. It takes away people's incentive to work for starvation wages.



THE SPIRIT OF BIPARTISAN COOPERATION, SUMMER, 2020

Republicans say they're willing to extend the benefit, but only under certain conditions. First, the amount of the payment must be slashed to one-third of its current level. Then, the amount must be switched from a flat rate to an amount calculated on previous earnings. Because that would require re-programming the computers not once, but twice, further payments would be delayed for an undetermined period. It's unclear whether Republicans see that delay as a bug or a feature.

This confusion over the future of unemployment benefits exacerbates another impending catastrophe. Half a million Americans are already homeless. Another 20 million renters could join them soon—disproportionately people of color, of course—because the federal moratorium on evictions is being allowed to expire.

Meanwhile, the pandemic has not gone away. Why on Earth would it, when a Google search for "Covid

sex demon" brings up the President of the United States retweeting a video featuring Dr. Stella Immanuel. We'd ask Dr. Anthony Fauci for his assessment of her theories about space alien DNA, but we hear he's busy.

We're guessing Rep. Louis Gohmert [R-Texas] may be among Dr. Immanuel's followers, based on his recent positive diagnosis for Covid-19. Gohmert was spotted talking—maskless, as has been his wont—with William Barr on Tuesday, shortly before the Attorney General spent a day snarling before the House Judiciary Committee. Gohmert has blamed his medical misfortune on his own behavior—against his better judgment, he recently wore a mask.

The nation is now confronted with a whole host of crises: *unemployment, evictions, virus, &c., &c.

* We despise cliches, and try to avoid them—the one that could be used here most of all.

Not to worry, though: the Democrats have a plan. House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer announced it on Tuesday. It may sound vaguely familiar: pre-emptive capitulation.

"Look, it's not \$600 or bust," Hoyer said to CNN, about negotiations over extending the boost to unemployment benefits. Quoting House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, he added, "We don't have red lines, we have values."

Yes, that's how we got into this pickle: Democrats have values, and Republicans have Gohmert.

Last week—before the fever hit—Gohmert introduced a resolution which would ban the Democratic Party because of its former support for slavery. Next will be a resolution making support for systemic racism compulsory.

Democrats were in need of a rousing, catchy slogan, to inspire their supporters as the 2020 general election looms. Now they've got one: "Let them eat values."

The Alleged News®

Playing Musical Electric Chairs

Generally speaking, NPR's reporting tends towards restraint, so Thursday morning's headline stood out: "3 Months Of Hell: U.S. Economy Drops 32.9% In Worst GDP Report Ever."

Yesterday's Gross Domestic Product estimate from the Commerce Department was "Horrific," Economist Nariman Behravesh told the network's Scott Horsley. "We've never seen anything quite like it."

Even that shocking presentation, however, fails to convey the full magnitude of just how screwed we truly are. NPR's report, and the GDP estimate on which it's based, are both snapshots—still pictures of a changing scene. And, like all pictures, they leave out what's beyond the frame.

While the report does acknowl-

edge the cause of this violent contraction—the global coronavirus pandemic—it fails to mention something that pretty obvious, and terribly important.

That awful, terrible, no-good GDP report illustrates the damage that was done to the economy *on purpose, to get the pandemic under control*.

Well, that didn't happen. Not even close. According to the latest figures, the virus is killing an American every minute. In other words, most of that effort was wasted. That damage was an investment which returned almost nothing. And that's not the half of it.

We're all used to seeing the government issue handouts by now. Banks, insurance companies, you name it—if you're big enough, and

screw up badly enough, Uncle Sam's got you covered.

This time—largely because the Awful Oaf in the Oval Office screwed up the pandemic response at such an Olympian level—things got so bad the government had to take the unprecedented step of putting some money where it actually did some good: into the hands of ordinary people, who did what they do when they get their hands on a few loose bucks. They spent it. It kept them fed. It kept a roof over their heads.

That is why the economy didn't fall apart completely—and, of course, that's ending. Democrats put together a package months ago that might have done some good. Republicans...are acting like Republicans. [See Rant, above.]

Wilbur Ross's Commerce Department was just following the dictate of the calendar when it issued the report that nearly caused NPR's correspondent to lose his composure and pull a Howard Beale.*

Ross is a wimp. A real man would have said, "What Quarterly Report? You're wrong—it's not time for that." Or maybe, "The dog ate it." But, noo....

Once again, the Chief Executive had to step in and take it upon himself to distract the public.

* Howard Beale was the protagonist of the 1976 film *Network*, a TV anchorman who exhorted his audience to open their windows, stick out their heads, and yell as loud as they could, "I'm as mad as hell, and I'm not going to take this anymore!" Network executives reward him for performing this valuable public service, by arranging for his assassination, live on-camera.

The Alleged News®

from page one

**Trump: Delay the 2020 Election?
Everyone Else: Reverse 2016!**

Every day the press tells us that some crony of the President has been caught with his hand in the cookie jar, or invented some brand new grift. Nobody panics, because we have all come to expect that by now. But when Donald Trump tweets that we should postpone the election, well then everyone loses their minds! [Apologies to Jonathan Nolan and Heath Ledger.]

Sure enough, right on cue, the twittersphere freaked out.

Some might argue that anyone reading whatever ill-intentioned idiocy the worst person in the world feels like posting is only getting what they richly deserve. It is distasteful and degrading, we cannot deny it; but, there's no accounting for taste. Even some sensible people, though, whose faces are not permanently bonded to screens, showed a heightened level of concern.

It's easy to say that it's only an empty threat, that he has no such power, and therefore he can't do it.

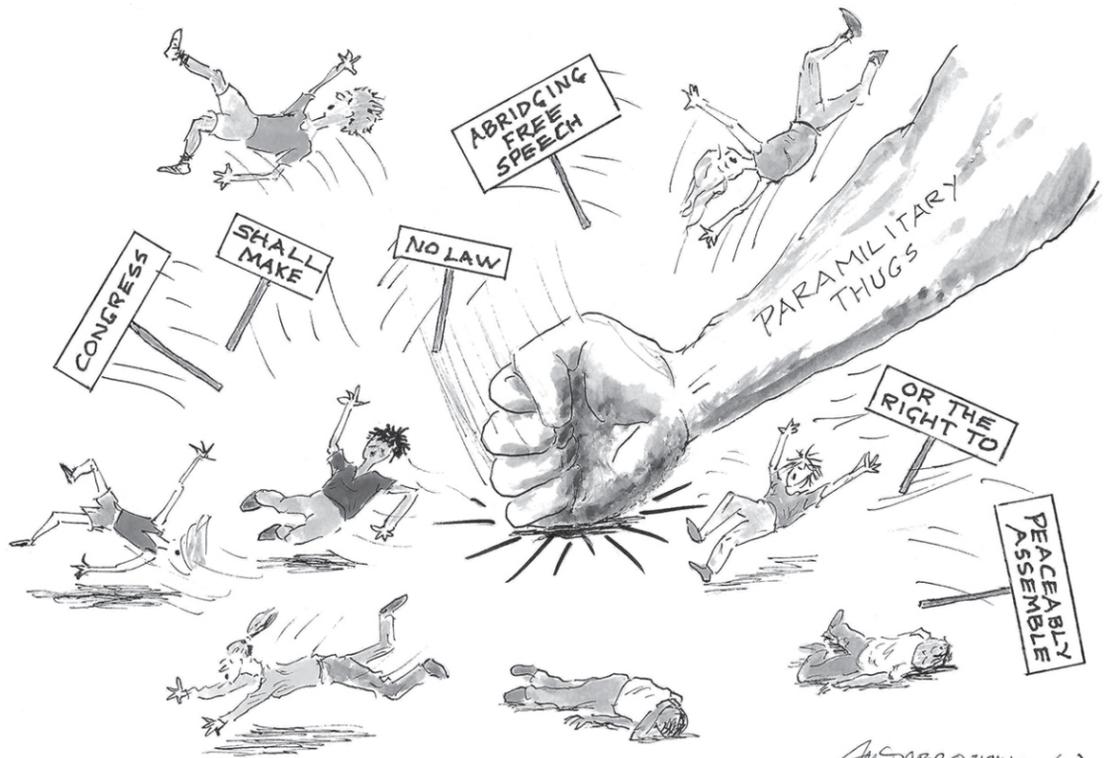
What's to stop him from trying, though, this person whose greasy thumb is never far from the nuclear launch button? Self-restraint?

Sen. John Cornyn was apparently assigned to deliver Standard Automatic Deflection #1: it was just a joke, "so all you guys in the press, your heads will explode and you'll write about it."

Trump quickly rewarded that display of fealty by making a liar out of Cornyn [pardon the redundancy], tweeting, "Must know Election results on the night of the Election, not days, months, or even years later!"

During yesterday's Foreign Relations Committee hearing, Sen. Tim Kaine [D-Va.] went a little off-topic and asked Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, "Can a president delay a presidential election?" Pompeo tried to dodge the question, and yet Kaine persisted. "In the end," Pompeo said, "the Department of Justice and others will make that legal determination."

That is, of course, hogwash, because the Department of Justice has no authority to do any such thing. If Pompeo believes what he said he's



A CIVICS LESSON FROM TRUMP

delusional; on the other hand, maybe he knows he's lying. The same thing goes for something he said to New Hampshire's own Sen. Jeanne Shaheen: "I fought on the border of East Germany when I was a young soldier." Not in our Army, he didn't.

Why are there so many liars in this administration? Because constantly bombarding the public with lies lowers the value of truth—thereby disarming its opponents.

By the end of the day Thursday a substantial number of Republicans had gone on the record saying that there would be no delay of the coming election. That may be irrelevant, though.

Thanks to the abysmal handling of the pandemic, the percentage of votes cast by mail this year is going to explode—particularly among Democrats, who tend to believe in, like, science and stuff. Republican voters, on the other hand, ain't afraid of no dang virus.

On the night of November 3rd, Trump can declare victory while millions of Democratic votes still

wait to be counted. He could tweet, "those uncounted, mailed in ballots are no good. They were all post-marked Beijing," and half of his hat-wearing minions will believe him.

What would happen then? We already know. It's not good.

A bipartisan group of "political operatives, former government and military officials, and academics" met in June and conducted "what became a disturbing exercise in the fragility of American democracy," according to a piece by *Boston Globe* staffer Jess Bidgood, published on July 26th.

They set out to answer some questions, troubling questions, but hardly far-fetched: "What if President Trump refuses to concede a loss, as he publicly hinted recently he might do? How far could he go to preserve his power? And what if Democrats refuse to give in?"

Georgetown law professor and former Defense Department official Rosa Brooks, a co-organizer of the Transition Integrity Project, said,

"All of our scenarios ended in both street-level violence and political impasse. The law is essentially ... it's almost helpless against a president who's willing to ignore it."

Anyone wanting a glimpse of the future should read Bidgood's exemplary 2,000 word piece today.

**Loan Terms Imposed by Mnuchin
"Could Accelerate U.S.P.S. Demise"**
by Jake Johnson, Common Dreams
July 30, 2020

Leading Congressional Democrats are warning that an emergency loan agreement announced Wednesday by Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin and new Postmaster General Louis DeJoy—a major donor to President Donald Trump and the GOP—could "accelerate the demise of the Postal Service" by giving the administration unprecedented access to the popular agency's internal operations.

"Secretary Mnuchin and the leadership of the U.S. Postal Service appear to be exploiting this public health pandemic to hold



On a lovely mid-summer Tuesday evening our Wandering Photographer heard what seemed like heavenly voices. He looked over the Mill Pond, whence came the sound; and what did he see but the same old new garage. Up on the next-to-top floor, though, was an actual practicing choir. Maintaining his customary degree of hygienic distance—about twenty feet, minimum—precluded any prying questions about exactly who they were. Suffice to say, though, they sounded wicked good.

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— Joe Keefe

the Postal Service to unreasonable loan terms without even consulting Congress,” said Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-N.Y.), Sen. Gary Peters (D-Mich.), Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-Va.), and Sen. Tom Carper (D-Del.) in a joint statement Wednesday evening.

According to a loan term sheet made public by the lawmakers, the U.S.P.S. will gain access to \$10 billion in emergency funding approved by Congress back in March provided that the agency adheres to a number of requirements, including providing the Trump administration with “historical and protected business, financial, operational, contractual, and planning data that Treasury may determine is necessary to evaluate U.S.P.S.’s current and future financial condition.”

The agreement also requires U.S.P.S. to give the Treasury Department access to proprietary information about the Postal Service’s private-sector shipping contracts and bars the agency from accessing the emergency funds if its “cash balance exceeds \$8 billion.”

In a statement, Mnuchin hailed the deal as a step in the direction of “the president’s goal of establishing

a sustainable business model under which U.S.P.S. can continue to provide necessary mail service for all Americans, without shifting costs to taxpayers.” In April, Trump called the U.S.P.S. a “joke” and demanded that it dramatically hike package prices amid the Covid-19 pandemic, which caused a sharp decline in mail volume.

Maloney, Peters, Connolly, and Carper said Wednesday that the terms agreed upon by Mnuchin and DeJoy—who took over as head of the U.S.P.S. just last month—“would inappropriately insert the Treasury into the internal operations of the Postal Service.”

“These terms would severely limit the Postal Service’s access to capital and could accelerate the demise of the Postal Service that all Americans, especially seniors, small businesses, veterans, and those living in rural communities, rely upon every day, especially during the pandemic,” the lawmakers said. “We will not stop fighting to protect this critical service that communities depend on and to ensure that every American can safely participate in the November elections.”

The new loan agreement comes



as DeJoy continues to rush ahead with sweeping operational changes at the U.S.P.S. that postal workers believe are part of a deliberate effort to sabotage the beloved government institution and put it on a path toward privatization—a longtime goal of the conservative movement.

Last week, as *Common Dreams* reported, U.S.P.S. leadership launched a pilot program that could result in significant delays in mail delivery by barring postal workers from sorting packages during their morning operations. In Portland, Maine, letter carriers allege they are being instructed to delay first-class parcels in order to prioritize Amazon packages.

“Undermining and degrading the Postal Service helps frustrate the customer, which sets the stage for privatizing it,” Mark Dimondstein, president of the American Postal Workers Union, told *The Intercept*. “The Trump administration is on record for raising prices, reducing service, and reducing workers’ rights and benefits.”

Motherboard reported Monday that “post offices around the coun-

try are slashing their hours—including during the busiest times of day—with little notice as yet another abrupt cost-saving measure” implemented by DeJoy, previously the CEO of New Breed Logistics, a private firm with a history of union-busting activity.

“In addition to West Virginia and New Jersey, post offices in Berkeley, California; Petersburg, Alaska; Youngstown, Ohio, and Knoxville, Tennessee have announced similar plans to reduce hours,” *Motherboard* reported. “All of the changes *Motherboard* has reviewed were announced only by signs hanging on the post office doors.”

In addition to harming the credibility of the U.S.P.S.—which ranks as the most popular government agency in the United States—DeJoy’s cost-cutting measures also threaten to disrupt upcoming elections as a record number of Americans turn to vote-by-mail as the safest way to cast their ballots amid the pandemic.

“The Trump administration’s attempts to politicize, privatize, and gut U.S.P.S. in the middle of a pan-

dem and unprecedented vote-by-mail is one of the biggest scandals in American politics right now,” *Mother Jones* reporter Ari Berman tweeted Wednesday.

In an op-ed for *NJ.com* this week, Rep. Bill Pascrell Jr. (D-N.J.) warned that “the electoral implications for the destruction of the Postal Service are momentous.”

“If it is forced to curtail its service,” Pascrell wrote, “our ability to hold a national election could be obliterated.”

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Not Yet, Sadly

We got a call the other day from a gentleman inquiring when we might return from exile to the land of newsprint.

Our editorial mind, coming from yankee stock, is always questioning our own judgment. Are we being too cautious? Then we venture out.

No. Not yet. It’s not just the risk, which is itself real, it’s the uncertainty on top of it.



The City’s Pop Up Portsmouth plan to bolster local businesses was making progress. Then it discovered City Counselor Esther Kennedy had pre-emptively registered that trade name. The team came up with a workaround, and the program is moving forward. Other than a slight delay, the only real damage was to Kennedy’s reputation. On Sunday, these protestors met to demand her resignation.

Murph’s Fortnightly Quote
“Get in good trouble, necessary trouble, and help redeem the soul of America.”
 —John Lewis (1940-2020)

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Neil Postman, on the difference between Aldous Huxley’s *Brave New World* and George Orwell’s *Nineteen Eighty-Four*:
“What Orwell feared were those who would ban books. What Huxley feared was that there would be no reason to ban a book, for there would be no one who wanted to read one. Orwell feared those who would deprive us of information. Huxley feared those who would give us so much that we would be reduced to passivity and egoism. Orwell feared that the truth would be concealed from us. Huxley feared the truth would be drowned in a sea of irrelevance. Orwell feared we would become a captive culture. Huxley feared we would become a trivial culture.”
 john@wordpraxis.com

“Before you speak to me about your religion, first show it to me in how you treat other people.”
 — Cory Booker
 — Not-So-Random Thoughts from an Oregon Subscriber

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A Tale of Three Species

To the Editor:

I knew I shouldn't read it through, but it seemed a positive enough story, about a Hancock, Maine farmer and some friends, aided by police, shepherding back to their enclosure a couple of bulls that had strayed...until some dumbass bystander, repeatedly warned away, grabbed one of the bulls by the horns and was gored for his idiocy. Owing to some misguided legislation that protects idiots, both bulls, his companion as well as the poor beast defending itself, were put down. Naturally, the idiot survived, very likely to go on being an idiot.

In another part of this great nation, the solons of Martelle, Iowa are seeking to ban by ordinance from within the community's arbitrarily established boundaries, "vicious" breeds of dog. My daughter, who worked for a number of years as a veterinary technician, maintains that there are no "vicious" dog breeds, only breeds of dog raised by vicious people to be like them.

One might think that a couple hundred thousand years would suffice to evolve a species beyond stupidity and viciousness. One would, of course, be wrong.

Ever less hopefully,
John Simon
Portsmouth, N.H.

John:

At least we have the consolation of a well-told tale now and then. Thank you.

The Editor

An Unexpected Correspondent

To the Editor:

Let's face it: New Hampshire, which is a predominantly white state, is not an accurate reflection of America as a whole. Truth is, America is a racially diverse nation.

I'm a white man who was born in New Hampshire. I have lived my entire life in New Hampshire. I went to public schools in New Hampshire, which were predominantly white, and I went to the University of New Hampshire, which was predominantly white.

Despite my being college educated, it would nonetheless be easy for me to have an unconscious white bias. I want

to be increasingly aware of that bias, as well as increasingly aware of my white privilege, and overcome those things, taking care to remember the underlying unity of life.

In my past life I was born in India. I was Mohandas K. Gandhi. That may sound crazy to some people but it's nonetheless true. Sometimes the truth is stranger than fiction.

Given that we human beings are eternal souls with temporary bodies, not temporary bodies that die and that's the end of the story, we sometimes reincarnate into a body of a different race, speaking a different language from one incarnation to the next, being born as citizens of a different nation-state.

The implications of this are vast. My own experience serves as a reminder to me of the underlying spiritual unity of life—a unity that transcends various outer differences, such as race, language, and national origin.

It's not that race, language, and nation don't matter. Such things do, in fact, matter. It's that it's equally important, if not more important, to remember there's an underlying unity to us all.

Respectfully,
Alex J. Boros
Rochester, N.H.

Alex:

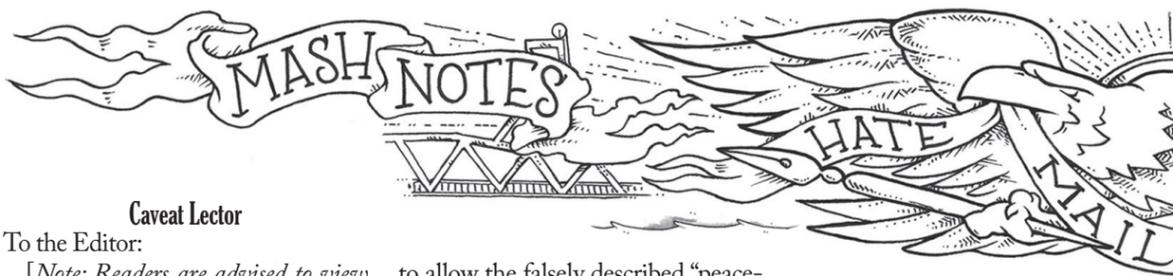
Yes, New Hampshire is overwhelmingly white. It's likely to remain so for the indefinite future—and the future is getting more indefinite by the moment.

Our state of melanin deficiency is often brought up by those who think we're not a suitable venue for the First in the Nation™ Presidential Primary Election. Here's one way we might defend our meal ticket against that charge: develop a reputation as a state that never votes for racists.

We are inclined towards skepticism when it comes to reincarnation. That said, the lessons you draw from what you perceive to be your experience certainly seem commendable.

We have other correspondents—not mentioning any names [coughseenext-cough]—who could certainly better the world by emulating your example.

The Editor



Caveat Lector

To the Editor:

[Note: Readers are advised to view the statistics herein as dubious. Mr. Ewing has been known to give questionable sources far more credit than is due. As for his alleged arguments, see our reply. — The Ed.]

Democrats blame white Americans for Black Americans' problems. If you're white, are you harming Black Americans? Or, are Democrats blaming white Americans for the harm to Black Americans caused by Democrats?

Note: most Black Americans live like most other Americans; they study, obey the law, and work to build successful lives for themselves and their families. There are Black billionaires, millionaires, and 77 percent of Black Americans live above the poverty level.

Unfortunately about 23 percent of Black Americans (vs 13 percent for all Americans) live in poverty. The worst concentrations of poor Blacks are in big cities which Democrats have controlled for decades.

If racism is to blame for the poverty and oppression of Black Americans, then that racism must exist in government policies and services; and that racism must be permitted by the Democrat[ic], including Black Democrat[ic], politicians who control those governments.

Democrat[ic]-controlled governments (Mayors, City Councilors, &c.) deny Black children good educations in safe schools. They create taxes and regulations that drive good jobs and affordable goods out of Black neighborhoods. They prevent police from protecting Black neighborhoods and firing bad officers. They provide sanctuary to illegal aliens who bring drugs and crime to Black neighborhoods and take good jobs from Black workers. Democrat[ic] Mayors ordered the police to ignore 911 calls for help and

to allow the falsely described "peaceful protestors" to attack and kill people, and loot, burn, and destroy Black neighborhoods. Democrat[ic] politicians are joining the "Defund the Police" movement which will exacerbate violence problems.

Democrat[ic] leaders, like Nancy Pelosi, attack President Trump for sending Federal law enforcement to protect lives and property.

President Johnson's "Great Society's" welfare laws made husbands unnecessary for family income; births to unwed Black Mothers tripled to 75 percent. Two-thirds of Black families headed by single mothers live in poverty and their children have a much higher chance of dropping out of school and ending up in prison.

Democrats have the power to eliminate these things that hurt Black Americans; why don't they do it?

Democrats apparently fear that if more Black Americans were better educated, wealthier, and lived in peaceful neighborhoods, they might realize that today's Democrats don't care about them any more than the Democrats who fought for slavery, created the KKK, segregated governments and schools, and passed and violently enforced the Jim Crow Laws.

Democrats won't stop harming Black Americans because that might jeopardize the Democrats' power.

Apart from exercising government power, racists don't have the power to legally harm so many Black Americans. But, by voting for Democrat[ic] politicians, racists and people who ignore Black suffering help the politicians who benefit from harming millions of Black Americans every single day.

Don Ewing
Meredith, N.H.
Don:

You certainly are persistent—and consistent. We're curious. We doubt ourselves a hundred times a day, and that's probably nowhere near enough. Have you ever tried it? Perhaps you should.

You have built your argument on the ludicrous premise that Democratic—note the last two letters, please, leaving them out makes you sound like a crank—mayors created their cities from scratch on the first day of their terms, in isolation from the national and global economy. It is necessary, of course, to take such violent liberties to arrive at your obvious goal: to heap all responsibility for the consequences of structural racism upon its victims and your political opponents.

Speaking of opposition, your letter makes no mention of Republicans. Perhaps that's because today's Republicans are the direct ideological heirs of the Democrats you so love to disparage.

They started deserting the Democratic Party when LBJ signed the Civil Rights Act in 1964. Ronald Reagan finished the job by kicking off his 1980 Presidential campaign in Mississippi—at the closest fairground he could find to an infamous KKK triple murder.

The Editor

Pro-Growth Dem., N.H. House Candidate

To the Editor:

My name is Duane Hammond and I want to use my talents and skills for the well-being of all citizens in Alton, Gilmanton and the State of New Hampshire to include Democrats, Republicans and Independents as a Pro-Growth Democrat by being elected to the New Hampshire House of Representatives.

What is Pro-Growth? Simply stated, I believe in building our New Hampshire economy from the bottom-up, as opposed to our present "trickle down" economy.

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For years, large multinational American-based corporations have benefitted from big tax breaks and favored status in the belief that, if they have more money, they'll hire more workers.

Not true, big breaks have all too often resulted in bonuses for management, and the purchase of equipment and technology resulting in the elimination of well-paying jobs. I can't hold this against businesses, after all, they are in business to make money and pay their investors. But, these "breaks" are not available to the middle class citizens or entrepreneurs, the dreamers, innovators, small businesses and/or inventors who want to build their own business.

By adopting a Pro-Growth economy, where public/private investments are used to help build businesses from the bottom-up, it will spur financial growth by creating many well-paying jobs in New Hampshire.

My plans are very much in "double-harness" with the same economic plans advocated by Presidential candidate Joe Biden. My ideas on how to achieve a 2-3 percent growth in New Hampshire will be explained through the media, and at my "Where there's a will, there's a way" talks I'm pleased to offer interested groups or organizations seeking a speaker.

Much of who I am and what I believe in is rooted in the fact that I'm a New Hampshire native, born and bred here, know and understand the New Hampshire way of life, live free or die, and who we really are: hard working, dedicated to what's right, truth, fairness, honest, willing to help others and love our independence.

I'm an environmentalist and strongly support alternative, non-polluting energy such as solar, wind and hydro.

I do not support any increase in state taxes.

As a hunter I support the 2nd Amendment but with some exceptions. I support the U.S.S.C. decision on *Roe v. Wade*, and the ACA, Medicare and Medicaid.

In education, I support taxpayer funding for our public schools only, and for high school students who qualify, two years of junior college or a trade school education to earn an Associate's Degree.

Finally, I strongly support equal pay for equal work regardless of race, color, sex, or sexual orientation.

As a State of New Hampshire Pro Growth Representative, I promise to be hardworking and a dedicated member of the House using my experiences, gained knowledge, capabilities and creative skills to serve the good people in District #5, the best I can.

Duane Hammond
Alton, N.H.

How We Ought to be Living

To the Editor:

Most Americans are confused as to where we are going in this Pandemic. With denial and false information coming from the current administration the real story has become clouded. I would like to try and paint a possible scenario.

The ideal outcome is an effective vaccine. We are unsure if any vaccine will ever give long lasting immunity and historically the great majority of vaccines fail testing. Compare to an AIDS vaccine—still none. If a successful vaccine is found (one that passes phase 3 trials and gives lasting immunity) it will still take many months to produce, distribute and administer.

Until we are safely immunized, what should a day in our life look like? You

will follow social distancing guidelines, wear a mask whenever in public and near other people, &c. Soon, when you wake up in the morning, you will perform an accurate saliva test for Covid-19, and take your temperature. If you are normal you will proceed with your day, following all present national guidelines for safety. If you are positive, you will go to a local Covid-19 clinic and confirm testing, get a monoclonal antibody shot, and possibly another drug to prevent the disease. You will then be interviewed for tracking, and then go into quarantine.

If you get sick you will be treated aggressively with the then-current methods, including Remdesivir, convalescent plasma, oxygen, and other therapies that have been proven to decrease mortality. Fewer people will become infected, die, or become disabled.

The most important thing is that we need to understand: this is a Pandemic, and extremely dangerous. To return to a reasonable new normal, we all must make sacrifices and share in the pain. Working together, supporting each other without prejudice, will enable us to constrain the virus. Only then can we begin to work, play, go to school, and function in a near-normal capacity. Trump's failure to respond to the Pandemic in a timely fashion has cost us unnecessary pain and deaths and lost time. Let us get to work.

Wayne Goldner, MD
Bedford, N.H.

Wayne:
Yes, if only...
The Editor

Have a Tasty Science-Burger

To the Editor:

Senators Jeanne Shaheen and Maggie Hassan should support federal funding for cultured-meat research. For those unaware, cultured meat is grown from cells, without slaughtering animals. It has the potential to eliminate unimaginable levels of

nonhuman suffering from our food system.

Dr. Mark Post created the first cultured-beef hamburger in 2013. It cost a whopping \$280,000. Soon, he thinks, that price could be reduced to \$10. Still, more research is required to make cultured meat economically viable. This is too important—and too urgent—to leave to the private sector. We need federal funding for cultured-meat research.

Jon Hochschartner
Granby, Conn.

Biden vs Trump on the Environment

To the Editor:

Donald Trump and Joe Biden have outlined their approaches to environment, infrastructure and jobs.

Trump, ignoring our need for clean air and water, says he will eliminate environmental reviews of highways, pipelines and power plants under the 1969 National Environmental Policy Act. In doing this, he seeks to distract from his failure to deliver an infrastructure plan.

Biden sees addressing climate change as an opportunity "to put Americans to work in good-paying jobs, making the air cleaner for our kids to breathe, restoring our crumbling roads, bridges, and ports."

Trump has called global warming a hoax (like the coronavirus). He says windmills cause cancer, energy efficient appliances are "worthless," and zero-emissions buildings lack windows. He says rejoining the Paris accord would destroy our industry. He offers no evidence to support these claims.

Republicans claim scientists who say burning fossil fuel contributes to global warming are either misguided or corrupt (*i.e.*, Trump knows better).

For Trump, addressing climate change poses a threat; for Biden, it presents an opportunity. Trump stokes voters' fears, looking to the past; Biden asserts the audacity of hope, looking to the future. A former Republican congressman in Florida has said that Trump's disregard for science points to a "broader character question."

Climate scientists say the next few

years may be critical. The stakes on November 3rd couldn't be higher—in addition to deciding the fate of our democracy, this election may determine the fate of the planet.

Don Nolte
Exeter N.H.

Don:
The President's message on this topic might as well be, "Vote for me because we don't need no stinkin' environment."

The Editor

Die for Your Bosses

To the Editor:

Meat packing plants are telling their workers to come to work, even if infected, or lose their jobs. President Trump has declared these plants essential and prevented the owners from being sued by workers or consumers. The same is true for farm workers picking and processing our vegetables. It is one reason infections in California and other states are spiking.

Now Senators Mitch McConnell and Susan Collins want every store, restaurant and factory to be protected from suits by their employees and consumers if they get infected. They refuse to keep the unemployment checks coming, believing that when someone is starving or facing eviction, they will ignore the danger of the Covid virus and go to work under any condition.

To Trump and McConnell businesses matter, workers and customers do not. Now Trump is trying to force schools to reopen. We are losing 1,000 humans a day to the Covid virus and Trump wants to pack kids into crowded classrooms and busses to catch the virus and spread it to teachers, bus drivers, parents and grandparents.

Trump's actions have helped the virus spread and now he is helping it again. Vote like your life depended on it this November.

Walter Hamilton
Portsmouth N.H.

Walter:
Such behavior, from a Party that claims to hold Christian values.

The Editor

Mash Notes, Hate Mail, &c.

to page six

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HOWLER'S PILE AND HUMOR

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



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Smedley Darlington Butler:

What a True American Hero Looks Like

In our issue of July 17, 2020, W.D. Ehrhart wrote about the extraordinary early career of Smedley D. Butler.

by W.D. Ehrhart

Butler was not without his warts and blemishes. He loved the adrenalin rush of combat, the sheer challenge and excitement of it. As a young lieutenant, he complained in letters to his congressman father that the policies he was enforcing in countries like Nicaragua, Honduras, and Haiti were corrupt and immoral, benefitting only the white wealthy ruling class in America, yet he continued his career in the Corps for nearly three more decades. He began to speak out only after he'd gotten too old and too far up the hierarchy to be allowed to engage in actual combat.

But once he began to speak out, he would not be silenced. Even while still in the Corps, he publicly criticized Benito Mussolini, calling fascist Italy a "mad-dog nation," and causing an international diplomatic scandal for which Herbert Hoover would have had him court-martialed but for the public outcry in support of Butler.

Later, in 1932, he vocally supported the Great War Bonus Marchers who had fought for their country as young men, but were now, at the height of the Great Depression, unable to support themselves or their families. They had come to Washington to ask that their wartime service bonus, due to be paid in 1945, be paid to them now when they desperately needed it. Visiting their encampment on Anacostia Flats, Butler spoke to the men and their families from the roof of a car, telling them that they had as much right to lobby Congress as any corporation did, and calling their gathering "the greatest display of Americanism in history."

The next day, when Army Chief of Staff Douglas MacArthur, aided by Major George Patton and Major Dwight Eisenhower, ordered an attack against the men who MacArthur himself had commanded in France fifteen years earlier, forcibly driving them and their families out of their encampment with tanks, machine guns, tear gas, and cavalry, Butler was outraged. Already no fan of the arrogant and imperial MacArthur, Butler subsequently declared himself a "Hoover-for-Ex-President-Republican."

Perhaps most amazing of all, Butler was approached by wealthy Republican financiers and industrialists interested in persuading Butler to lead what would have amounted to a *coup d'état* against Franklin Roosevelt and the New Deal, using veterans from the conservative American Legion as a front for the interests of Big Business. It would have been the end of American democracy and the beginning of American fascism.

These men chose Butler because they knew that Butler commanded the loyalty and love of ordinary soldiers and veterans. He had put men before mission all his life, and the rank-and-file knew it, and revered him for it. But these rich un-American Americans utterly misunderstood who Butler was and what he believed in. Instead of joining the conspiracy, Butler informed Congress of the plot, putting an end to it.

Butler, by this time, had become deeply isolationist, insisting that "there are only two things we should fight for. One is the defense of our homes, and the other is the Bill of Rights. War for any other reason is simply a racket." We'll never know how Butler would have responded to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor since Butler died in 1940. We do know that he didn't think we should have military bases outside the continental U.S. in the first place, and

that included Hawaii; but it's hard to imagine Butler not responding angrily and without hesitation to what FDR called this "dastardly attack" on American lives.

It's not hard to imagine how Butler would feel about the situation in our country today, however, some 80 years after his death. In a speech to the Philadelphia Contemporary Club in January 1931, Butler argued that "mad-dog nations" could not be trusted to honor disarmament agreements, so I doubt that he would be pleased by the U.S. unilateral withdrawal from the Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces Treaty that has been honored by five former U.S. presidents. Nor would he likely be pleased by the U.S. unilateral withdrawal from the nuclear arms treaty with Iran, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

It's not hard to imagine that Butler would be outraged by a president who orders members of the U.S. military to forcibly deny American citizens their 1st Amendment constitutional right to exercise free speech and petition their government for redress of grievances so that he can have a photo opportunity while holding up a book with whose contents he is apparently unfamiliar.

It's not hard to imagine how Butler would feel about a president who enriches himself and his family in violation of the Constitutional prohibition against emoluments while spending one out of every five days of his presidency on a golf course at a cost to U.S. taxpayers of

\$136,000,000 so far.

It's not hard to imagine what Butler, who served in the 1930s as a spokesperson for the American League Against War and Fascism, would have to say about a man who insults and denigrates our democratic allies in NATO while cozying up to the likes of Vladimir Putin, Mohammed bin Salman, and Kim Jong Un.

It's not hard to imagine what Butler, who was hired by the mayor of Philadelphia to shut down the pro-

hibition speakeasies, then fired by the same mayor for raiding the Bellevue Stratford Hotel and other hangouts of the rich and well-connected, would have to say about an attorney general who serves as the political lackey of the sitting president and actively thwarts the course of justice.

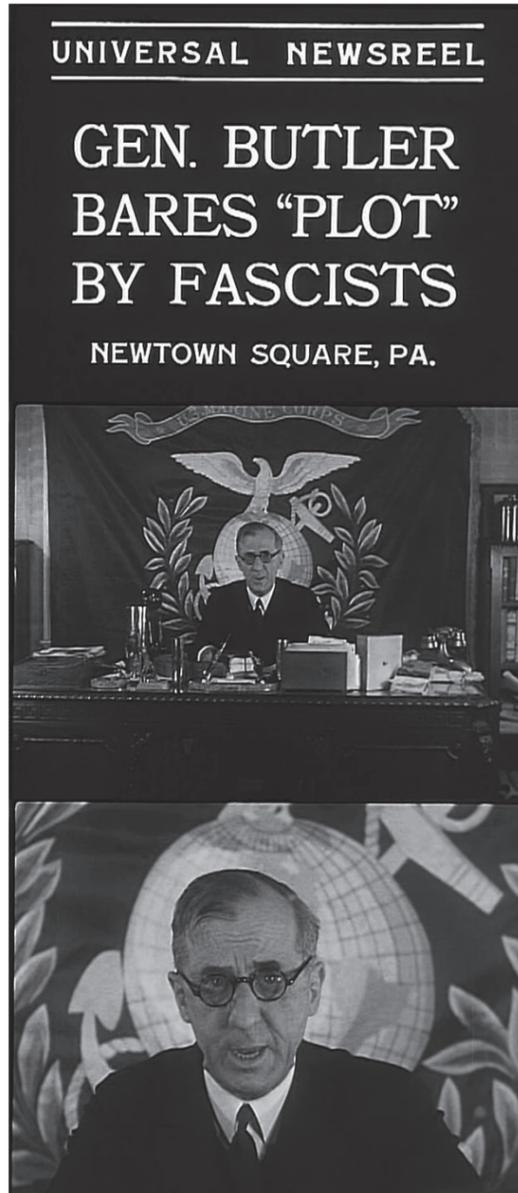
And it is not hard to imagine what two-time Medal of Honor winner and Marine Corps Major General Smedley Darlington Butler would think of Cadet Donald Bone Spur, who avoided military service with a highly suspect medical deferment while stating that he "always felt that I was in the military" because he had once attended a military boarding school, adding later, "I always wanted to get the Purple Heart."

As Thomas Paine once wrote, "These are the times that try men's souls." I would only add, "and women's, too." We could use a true American hero or two right about now. Maybe each of us could try to be a bit more like Smedley Butler.

=====

W. D. Ehrhart served in the U.S. Marine Corps, 1966-69, including service in Vietnam, achieving the rank of sergeant, and receiving the Purple Heart Medal, Navy Combat Action Ribbon, and a 1st Marine Division Commanding General's Commendation. He is author of Vietnam-Perkasie: A Combat Marine Memoir (McFarland, 1983) and Thank You for Your Service: Collected Poems (McFarland, 2019).

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The virus that's killing America

by Jim Hightower

The holy mantra of health professionals was coined about 2,500 years ago by the Greek physician, Hippocrates: "Do no harm."

Of course, that was before corporate healthcare took charge and asserted a new guiding ethic: "Jack up profits." Putting this in practice, America's largest and richest hospital chains rushed to the front of the Covid-19 bailout line this spring to

pull \$15 billion from the government's emergency fund. They pocketed the taxpayers' money despite sitting on tens of billions of dollars of their own cash reserves.

But hold your nose, for it gets much stinkier. The bailout was intended to keep hospital workers on the job, yet the wealthiest chains have hit nurses, janitors, and other crucial, frontline staffers with layoffs, pay cuts, and deadly shortages of protective gear. For example, HCA,

the \$36-billion a-year behemoth that's wallowing in profits, snatched a billion-dollar taxpayer bailout for itself, then demanded hospital staffers accept wage freezes, elimination of company pension payments, and other cuts...or have thousands of jobs eliminated.

However, in a public show of compassion, HCA's chief exec Samuel Hazen donated two months of his \$1.4 million salary to an employee support fund. How magnanimous!

Uh, no—his generosity is a deception, not a sacrifice. The trick is that a CEO's "salary" is a minuscule part of total pay. Hazen's annual bonus, stock payouts, and other compensation will raise his actual pay to \$26 million this year! So his donation is less than one percent of his pay, and he almost certainly will write that off his income taxes—so we taxpayers (including the nurses and others he's knocking down) not only underwrite his fat take-home,

but we also subsidize his face-saving philanthropic gimmick.

What we have here is a raging virus of executive suite greed doing deeper damage to our society than Covid-19 ever could.

—==—

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A Plan for Social and Ecological Justice

by Roy Morrison

The death of John Lewis is a reminder that power concedes nothing without a struggle and that social and ecological justice are consequences of generational efforts.

Building a fair, just, and prosperous ecological future, rooted in social and ecological justice, means fundamental change of how we treat one another, how we govern, how we work, and how we protect and restore the living world.

What John Lewis saw in the economic and social and public health crises, arising in the time of Covid-19 and the murder of George Floyd, unleashing a global multi-racial and multi-ethnic movement for justice, was the latest incarnation of his injunction to make "good trouble." But, sadly this unfolded in the midst of a financial bailout—largely of the rich, as billions pouring into Wall Street as the stock market prospered, while tens of millions lost their jobs as Main St. suffered. The worst effects of a pandemic are borne by the poor, by people of color, and by essential workers.

For the election of Joe Biden to mean an epochal turn toward social and ecological justice, we cannot return to business as usual, BT (before Trump). This means the transformation of institutions, organizations, and businesses to follow



new mandates, established by law, by regulation, and by custom, to pursue ecological ends and justice.

A market system must make economic growth mean ecological improvement, not ecological pillage, as we pursue the imperative of ecological and social justice. A failure to successfully fight for justice will ultimately undermine any ecological hope, as the poor struggle desperately for survival. Justice denied also means the continuing growth of the concentration of wealth in the hands of the very few.

Six Steps for a Transformative Green and Just Future

First, the United States, with China, India, and the OECD nations, leads efforts for an accelerated global energy transformation from fossil fuel and nuclear power to renewable resources and green hydrogen. This is a paradigmatic example of economic growth meaning ecological improvement. Carbon emissions, pollution, depletion and ecological damage are slashed. Trillions are productively invested in renewable economic growth and job creation. Fossil fuel and nuclear workers are retrained for good-paying jobs in the green economy. Renewable resources are phased in year by year, and fossil fuel and nukes are phased out on a strict, yearly schedule.

The United States partners with the world's industrial powers in global efforts, which will include financial and technological assistance to poor nations for ecological trans-

formation.

Second, the price system must send clear signals for sustainability. Sustainable goods must become cheaper, more profitable, and gain market share. This can be accomplished by an ecological value-added tax on all goods and services. The more sustainable, the lower the tax. Such a taxation system will inevitably help lead to a convergence on the sustainable for almost all goods and services in pursuit of profit. Ecological taxes, combined with a wealth tax, will replace income taxes.

Third, in order to finance an ecological and just transformation, instead of raising taxes, we can create trillions in wealth by valuing and monetizing sustainability, starting with the displacement of metric tons of carbon dioxide with ecologically valuable renewables. The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) has found the value of displacing of one metric ton of carbon dioxide (2204 pounds) is equal to \$100.

We can create a new regulatory asset, the Sustainability Credit (SC), valued at \$100 for each metric ton of carbon dioxide displaced by renewable energy. SCs would be managed as part of the Federal Reserve System, and by other central banks. We don't need carbon taxes to raise prices on working people and the poor.

Sustainability Credits (SCs) will be monetized as paid-in capital, and as cash on the balance sheet of a Green Bank or Bank of the Com-

mons. The thirty-three billion tons (gigatons) of annual carbon dioxide emissions can result in the eventual creation of hundreds of trillions as in paid-in capital and cash on the books of green banks to be used for investment in future renewables.

A gigaton of carbon displacement means \$100 billion in sustainability credits on the books of a green bank, which must lend this money for further renewable energy investment. The common magic of bank financing, \$100 billion in paid-in capital, and cash means loans of \$900 billion in further renewable development, producing more Sustainability Credits each year. Investment from SCs can encompass both ecological transformation and social justice, such as a \$1,000 a month basic income grant for all.

The fifty trillion-dollar investment estimated by J.P. Morgan for a global renewable transformation from 2020-2050 can be easily produced by Sustainability Credits as the new gold—based on sustainable ecological value around the world.

Fourth, the ecological transformation must be pursued not just in energy, but in agriculture, forestry, aquaculture, and an industrial ecology driven by the pursuit of zero pollution and zero waste. All outputs of one process are captured and used as inputs by other processes. The ecological value added tax sends strong economic incentives for such conduct that can be similarly financed through the generation of Sustain-

ability Credits.

Fifth, a global convergence is required on a living wage and common sustainable standards for carbon generation and carbon sequestration. Globally there must be common sustainable norms for emissions and carbon sequestration that leads to atmospheric carbon below 300 ppm, to preindustrial levels.

Sixth, law and regulation must redefine fiduciary conduct as the pursuit of ecological economic growth within the context of social and ecological justice as guide for government, institutions, and business. This might also be codified by an ecological constitutional amendment.

These six steps are a recipe for ecological economic growth, for sustainability, peace, and justice. They represent spurs to economic and social action that uses an ecological focused pursuit of profit as incentive for ecological behavior and embraces the imperative for pursuit of social and ecological justice.

This is a recipe for an ecological future that transforms our self-destructive industrial world order into an ecological civilization. This is a global ecological and economic growth strategy that aims to build a bigger pie that is fairly and justly divided, ending poverty and injustice, at the same time healing the global ecosphere. Ecological economic growth and an ecological turn is a means for strengthening our democratic institutions and revitalizing our democracy.

Roy Morrison Builds Solar Farms www.RenewableSunPartners.com. His next book will be Ecological Economic Growth (EEG).

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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, AUGUST 2	MONDAY, AUGUST 3	TUESDAY, AUGUST 4	WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5	THURSDAY, AUGUST 6	FRIDAY, AUGUST 7	SATURDAY, AUGUST 8
<p>2000—The GOP picks George W.[MD] Bush to preside, and Dick "Dick" Cheney to run the country.</p> <p>1993—A short circuit sends a self-destruct command to a Titan IV rocket which blows up over the Pacific destroying \$1 billion in spy satellites.</p> <p>1990—Iraq invades Kuwait.</p> <p>1964—The <i>U.S.S. Maddox</i>, in North Vietnamese territorial waters, to support covert South Vietnamese attacks, fires on North Vietnamese torpedo boats. When they fire back, <i>Maddox</i> reports an "unprovoked" attack.</p> <p>1946—Disgruntled veterans in Athens, Tenn. prevail over a crooked Democratic machine, thanks to several well-placed dynamite blasts.</p> <p>1943—Treblinka prisoners revolt. Only 40 survive, but they close the camp.</p> <p>1943—The nimble American PT boat #109 is rammed and sunk by a relatively ponderous Japanese destroyer.</p> <p>1939—A. Einstein informs FDR that a nuclear bomb is doable.</p> <p>1937—FDR signs the marijuana tax bill propagated by America's first narc, hardcore racist Harry Anslinger. Tim Leary gets it overturned 31 years later.</p> <p>1931—A. Einstein urges all scientists to refuse military work.</p> <p>1865—The <i>CSS Shenandoah</i>, after capturing and sinking American whaling vessels all summer, learns that the war's been over since April.</p> <p>1832—Starving Sauk and Fox women and children surrender at Bad Axe, Wis. They're massacred by militia.</p>	<p>1981—Federal air traffic controllers have the gall to go on strike.</p> <p>1980—Ronald Reagan delivers his first post-convention speech, touting "states' rights" two miles from where three murdered civil rights workers had been buried 19 years earlier.</p> <p>1971—New Hampshire man Alan Shepard hits a golf ball on the moon.</p> <p>1966—RIP Lenny Bruce, prosecuted to death at the age of 40.</p> <p>1962—Given a huge shot of LSD by a CIA subcontractor, Tusko the elephant, "pride of the Oklahoma City Zoo," keels over, defecates, and shudders. Big doses of anti-psychotics and tranquilizers don't help; he dies.</p> <p>1961—Leon Beardon and his son Cody skyjack a Boeing 707 being piloted by Byron Rickards over New Mexico. Rickards also piloted the first plane to be skyjacked: a Ford Tri-Motor, in Peru, in 1931.</p> <p>1931—In Chicago, 60,000 march against eviction. A fatal riot ensues.</p> <p>1929—The DA of San Bernardino brings a posse of fellow American Legionnaires on a raid. They bust Yetta Stromberg, 19, for raising a red flag.</p> <p>1923—By kerosene light at 2:47 a.m. in Plymouth, Vt., John Coolidge swears in his son Calvin as President.</p> <p>1922—The New York Society for the Suppression of Vice proposes that all literary manuscripts be screened to ensure they are not immoral.</p> <p>1919—The Chicago race riot ends: 38 dead, 537 injured, 1,000 homeless.</p>	<p>2003—Lightning strikes a Bardstow, Ky., warehouse, sparking a fire; 19,000 barrels release 800,000 gallons—a flaming river of Jim Beam; thousands of fish die as high winds whip up a 100-foot firenado.</p> <p>1992—Republicans re-nominate the Bush/Quayle ticket. Snicker.</p> <p>1991—The captain and officers of the sinking <i>Oceanos</i> abandon the ship—and its passengers. Entertainers organize a successful rescue of all aboard.</p> <p>1987—The FCC jettisons the Fairness Doctrine, declaring it "restricts the journalistic freedom of broadcasters."</p> <p>1964—The <i>U.S.S. Maddox</i> and <i>U.S.S. Turner Joy</i> report a second torpedo attack in Gulf of Tonkin. There are no casualties; nor is there any damage. Defense Secretary McNamara withdraws from President Johnson warnings that it may just be a false alarm.</p> <p>1961—Barack H. Obama allegedly is born in Hawaii.</p> <p>1948—HUAC chairman J.P. Thomas's pocketing of the payroll from his pals' no-show jobs is exposed in Drew Pearson's column.</p> <p>1945—Joe Cleary's MLB career lasts one-third of an inning, pitching for the Senators. He gives up five hits and three walks for an ERA of 189. He's relieved by one-legged Bert Shepard, whose career lasts one game. The Red Sox win 15-4.</p> <p>1942—The Bracero program begins. Mexican workers get to be criminally exploited north of the border.</p>	<p>2011—S&P lowers the U.S.'s credit rating because the GOP says it might not let the government pay its bills.</p> <p>2007—On Lake Winnepesaukee, the President of France, clad only in swim trunks, jumps into the boat of AP photographer Jim Cole and berates him for doing his job.</p> <p>2004—"Our enemies," says George W.[MD] Bush, "never stop thinking about new ways to harm our country and our people, and neither do we."</p> <p>1981—Ronald Reagan fires 12,700 air traffic controllers.</p> <p>1974—Cornered rat Richard Nixon releases the "smoking gun" tape.</p> <p>1971—ITT makes a \$200,000 "donation" to the GOP Convention. In return the Justice Department overlooks ITT violations of antitrust laws.</p> <p>1969—The Army says eight Green Berets are under arrest for "terminating" a suspected South Vietnamese double agent "with extreme prejudice."</p> <p>1968—HUAC convention starts in Miami. One delegate for Nelson Rockefeller: Theodore "Ted" Bundy.</p> <p>1962—An official South African goon squad nabs fugitive anti-apartheid "terrorist" Nelson Mandela, thanks to a helpful tip from the CIA.</p> <p>1950—When a B-29 hits a trailer park in California, 18 die. At least the nuke on board fails to explode.</p> <p>1912—Teddy Roosevelt founds the Progressive "Bull Moose" Party "to dissolve the unholy alliance between corrupt business and corrupt politics."</p>	<p>2016—"One of my proudest moments," says Sen. Mitch McConnell [R-KY], "was when I told President Obama, 'You will not fill this Supreme Court vacancy.'"</p> <p>2011—An RPG downs a Chinook in the Tangi Valley, killing all 38 on board—the most (30) Americans to die in one incident in Afghanistan.</p> <p>2001—The CIA hands the President a report—"Bin Ladin Determined To Strike in U.S."—which he ignores.</p> <p>1991—Tim Berners-Lee introduces the World Wide Web to the world.</p> <p>1970—Disneyland closes as 300 Yippies smoke pot, chant V.C. slogans & demand freedom for Mickey Mouse.</p> <p>1957—Carol Burnett becomes an overnight sensation by singing on the Jack Paar show, "I Made a Fool of Myself Over John Foster Dulles."</p> <p>1954—The Illinois Department of the American Legion denounces the <i>Girl Scout Handbook</i> as subversive.</p> <p>1945—Sayonara, Hiroshima.</p> <p>1930—N.Y. Supreme Court Justice and Democratic bigwig John Force Crater purges private files, cashes a large check, and disappears forever.</p> <p>1895—The socialist paper <i>Appeal to Reason</i> begins. By 1902 its circulation is the 4th highest in the U.S.</p> <p>1890—William Kemmler thrashes and smokes for eight minutes in New York's new electric chair.</p> <p>1855—Nativists in Louisville, egged on by a Know Nothing newspaper, torch Irish homes and kill 22.</p>	<p>2016—<i>Verrückt</i> (German for "insane"), the world's tallest waterslide, built in Kansas City by men who later admitted that they didn't know what they were doing, and exempt from state licensing, decapitates the 10-year-old son of a Kansas state rep.</p> <p>1974—Three GOP bigwigs tell Nixon on he's through. About to pardon the Watergate conspirators, Nixon backs off on advice from Len Garment. Al Haig—Nixon's man—bends Gerry Ford's ear for an hour in a meeting unrecorded in the V.P.'s official logs.</p> <p>1964—Congress falls for the Gulf of Tonkin hoax and gives L.B.J. unprecedented (and unconstitutional) power. Sen. Wayne Morse (D-Ore.) votes no, saying "I believe that within the next century, future generations will look with dismay and great disappointment upon a Congress which is now about to make such a historic mistake."</p> <p>1957—In Nevada, ZSG-3 becomes the first Goodyear Blimp to be brought down by a nuclear weapon.</p> <p>1936—Rep. Marion Zioncheck (D-Wash.), who once had a loaf of manure dumped on J. Edgar Hoover's lawn, defenestrates from the fifth floor of a Seattle office building.</p> <p>1930—A mob lynches three Black men in Marion, Ind. A photo of two, dead, inspires the song, "Strange Fruit." The third, rescued, later founds America's Black Holocaust Museum.</p> <p>1890—Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, "The Rebel Girl," is born in Concord, N.H.</p>	<p>1989—E. Robert Wallach, a close pal of Ed "Meese is a Pig" Meese, is convicted of racketeering for accepting \$425,000 to influence Meese and others to win defense contracts for Wedtech Corp.</p> <p>1980—Rep. Jon Hinson (R-Mich.), running for re-election, admits he's been accused of committing an obscene act in a "gay haunt" in Virginia and once barely escaped a fire in a gay movie theatre; but he denies he's gay.</p> <p>1974—Rep. Earl Landgrebe [R-Ind.], says "Don't confuse me with the facts. I've got a closed mind. I will not vote for impeachment. I'm going to stick with my President even if he and I have to be taken out of this building and shot." Later that day, however, his idol Richard M. Nixon confesses that he lied—he is a quitter, after all.</p> <p>1973—Veep Spiro "Ted" Agnew calls the revelation that he took bribes as Governor of Maryland "damned lies."</p> <p>1968—Richard Nixon chooses Spiro "Ted" Agnew for a running mate.</p> <p>1942—Condemned by an un-Constitutional secret military tribunal irregularly sanctioned by a Supreme Court Justice in cahoots with FDR, six German saboteurs are hanged six weeks after landing via submarine. Bush #43 later relies on the precedent.</p> <p>1925—Imperial Wizard Hiram Evans leads 35,000 members of the Ku Klux Klan in full regalia—minus the hoods—down Pennsylvania Avenue to the Washington Monument.</p>
SUNDAY, AUGUST 9	MONDAY, AUGUST 10	TUESDAY, AUGUST 11	WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12	THURSDAY, AUGUST 13	FRIDAY, AUGUST 14	SATURDAY, AUGUST 15
<p>2014—Ferguson, Mo. cop Darren Wilson shoots unarmed Michael Brown, whose body is then left uncovered on the street for four hours.</p> <p>1997—New York cop Justin Volpe sodomizes Haitian immigrant Abner Louima with a broomstick.</p> <p>1989—George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush signs the Savings and Loan bailout. Among the bailees: his boys Neil and Jeb.</p> <p>1974—Richard Milhous Nixon vacates the White House—finally.</p> <p>1945—In Nagasaki, the boss of Hiroshima blast survivor Tsutomu Yamaguchi doubts his account of the devastation. Then an A-bomb explodes.</p> <p>1936—Lincoln Steffens, one of the original muckrakers, dies at 70.</p> <p>1892—Reacting to a fatal disagreement two days earlier, a group of Hatfields tie three McCoys to a tree and shoot them.</p> <p>1874—Paranormal chronicler Charles Fort materializes in Albany, N.Y.</p> <p>1872—Fire destroys 547 buildings in Boston, killing 14.</p> <p>1842—Herman Melville escapes from the Typee Valley in the Marquesas where he has been held captive by cannibals for a month.</p> <p>1842—The Webster-Ashburton Treaty ends the Aroostook War.</p> <p>1610—Under orders from Thomas West, 3rd and 12th Baron De La Warr, after whom Delaware is named, English settlers slaughter the Paspahgh, men, women, and children.</p>	<p>2019—Mysterious sex criminal and pal of bigwigs Jeffrey Epstein is found conveniently but mysteriously dead in his closely unguarded N.Y.C. jail cell.</p> <p>2000—"I want you to know," George W.[MD] Bush tells farmers in Salinas, Calif., "that farmers are not going to be secondary thoughts to a Bush administration. They will be in the forefront of our thinking."</p> <p>1974—"I take my instructions from General Haig," says a Colonel overseeing R. Nixon's files being loaded three U.S.A.F. trucks. White House Counsel Benton Becker calls his bluff; the trucks are unloaded.</p> <p>1973—Free Marketeer Charles Koch writes Free Marketeer Friedrich von Hayek suggesting he move to the U.S.</p> <p>1968—Eight G.I.'s in Vietnam are killed by "friendly fire."</p> <p>1957—The Watch and Ward Society—the "Banned in Boston" people—abandons its role as censor.</p> <p>1931—The Wickersham Commission reports widespread police brutality in the U.S.—to no evident effect.</p> <p>1887—An engineer for the Toledo, Peoria & Western, seeing a burning bridge ahead, uncouples his engine and crosses safely. His 81 passengers die when it collapses.</p> <p>1856—Wind-driven waves drown 400 at a ball on Last Island, La.</p> <p>1600—Pueblo Indians begin an 11-day revolt that will kill 400 Spaniards and drive them from New Mexico.</p>	<p>2017—A "good person" rallying for White Supremacy in Charlottesville, N.C. commits vehicular homicide.</p> <p>2009—President Obama speaks inside Portsmouth, N.H. High School. Outside a Libertarian packs a 9-mm pistol and totes a sign calling for the "blood of patriots and tyrants."</p> <p>1972—The last grunts in 'Nam, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry, board that Freedom Bird for CONUS.</p> <p>1966—The first Coast Guardsmen (2) are killed in Vietnam when B-57s and three F-4s attack the cutter <i>Point Welcome</i>.</p> <p>1965—A white L.A. cop pulls over a Black driver in Watts. Five days of riots cost 34 lives, mostly Black, and \$200 million in damage.</p> <p>1942—Ten years after her scandalous <i>Ecstasy</i> nude scene, Hedy Lamarr gets a patent for using piano rolls to protect torpedoes from radio-jamming.</p> <p>1911—Workers incensed by the "scientific management" imposed by stop-watch-obsessed Phillips Exeter grad Frederick Winslow Taylor go on strike at the Watertown Arsenal.</p> <p>1897—Senator-to-be and ex-slaver Rebecca Ann Latimer Felton tells the Georgia Agricultural Society, "lynch, a thousand times a week if necessary," to protect "[white] woman's dearest possession from the ravening human beasts," i.e., Black men.</p> <p>1894—Charles "Hobo" Kelley and his 1,200 man "army" of unemployed are driven from Washington D.C. by Federal troops.</p>	<p>2004—Tom McGreevy, the Democratic Governor of New Jersey, admits he's been sleeping with a man who is not his wife, then resigns.</p> <p>2000—The Russian sub <i>Kursk</i> is sunk in the Barents Sea, probably by its own torpedo; 112 crew members perish.</p> <p>1985—A 747 with 524 on board, enroute to Osaka, crashes after the tail falls off. Many survive but, due to delays, only four are rescued alive.</p> <p>1958—Art Kane takes the photo known as "A Great Day in Harlem." 57 jazz greats on a brownstone stoop.</p> <p>1955—Ike raises the minimum wage from 75 cents to \$1 per hour.</p> <p>1953—Russia tests an H-bomb.</p> <p>1935—Babe Ruth plays his last game at Fenway.</p> <p>1898—The U.S. annexes Hawaii and makes peace with Spain.</p> <p>1865—Joseph Lister introduces a novel refinement to the art of surgery, which he calls "disinfectant."</p> <p>1827—William Blake is released from his earthly form.</p> <p>1806—In Haverhill, N.H. 10,000 assemble to see Josiah Burnham hanged on his 63rd birthday. He had stabbed two fellow inmates in debtors prison.</p> <p>1676—John Alderman, a "Praying Indian," shoots and kills Metacom, aka King Philip. Alderman is awarded the head and one hand. He sells the head to the town of Plymouth where it's displayed atop a stake for 25 years. Metacom's wife and child are sold to West Indian slave traders.</p>	<p>2002—"I promise you I will listen to what has been said here," says George W.[MD] Bush at the President's Economic Forum in Waco, Texas, "even though I wasn't here."</p> <p>1971—So-called Attorney General John Mitchell announces that there will be no grand jury investigation of the May 4 shootings at Kent State.</p> <p>1966—Chairman Mao's Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution begins.</p> <p>1966—"In two or three years, or even before" says S. Vietnamese Premier Nguyen Cao Ky, "the Communists will accept defeat."</p> <p>1957—Daisy and Bill Myers, who are Black, get a "warm welcome" to Levittown, Pa.—burning cross and all.</p> <p>1955—Lamar Smith, a Black WWI vet and voting activist, is shot dead at 10:00 a.m. on the lawn of the Lincoln County Courthouse in Brookhaven, Miss. No one is charged.</p> <p>1925—Baltimore's Chamber of Commerce accuses H.L. Mencken of damaging the city's trade with the south due to his reporting of the Scopes "monkey" trial.</p> <p>1906—African-American soldiers raid Brownsville, Texas to avenge racial insults. One white man is killed, Indian, two are wounded.</p> <p>1899—David Terry, former Chief Justice of the Calif. Supreme Court, assaults U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen J. Field. Terry is shot dead by Field's bodyguard, a U.S. Marshal later cleared of wrongdoing.</p>	<p>2019—<i>The New York Times</i> publishes "The 1619 Project," arguing chattel slavery was central to the nation's creation. Conservatives freak out.</p> <p>1966—"As long as the United States and our brave allies are in the field," says LBJ, "[a Communist takeover of South Vietnam] is impossible."</p> <p>1945—President Truman announces Japan's surrender. Naval enlistees in San Francisco celebrate their reprieve with three nights of looting, vandalism, rape, and murder.</p> <p>1936—In Owensboro, Ky., at 5:30 a.m., 15,000 watch as Rainey Bethea becomes the last person publicly hanged in America. Arthur Hash, the assigned executioner, is so drunk a deputy sheriff has to pull the lever.</p> <p>1935—FDR signs the Social Security Act; the GOP begins trying to gut it.</p> <p>1908—A would-be lynch mob in Springfield, Ill., frustrated that two Black men had been removed from jail for their safety, begins to riot.</p> <p>1884—The coffin of Lieut. Frederick F. Kinslingbury is exhumed and an autopsy performed in Rochester, N.Y., 10 days after the survivors of the Greeley expedition were fêted with a parade in Portsmouth, N.H. The heroes appear to have cannibalized his remains.</p> <p>1862—Abe Lincoln becomes the 1st President to meet a delegation of African-Americans, whom he offends by recommending they remove to Africa.</p> <p>1765—Boston's Liberty Tree is christened: two figures are hanged in effigy.</p>	<p>1980—Responding to a surge in the number of skyjackings, the FAA announces an increase in sky marshals on commercial flights.</p> <p>1977—Ohio State's Big Ear radio telescope records a 72-second burst suggesting there may be intelligent life... out there, somewhere.</p> <p>1971—His budget busted by Vietnam, R. Nixon reneges on the U.S.'s promise to redeem dollars with gold.</p> <p>1969—Half a million half-naked, drugged-up baby boomers begin a three-day mud wallow in Bethel, N.Y.</p> <p>1966—<i>The New York Herald Tribune</i>, founded as the <i>Tribune</i> by N.H.-born Horace Greeley 125 years earlier, succumbs to a strike called by a labor union also founded by Greeley.</p> <p>1953—TR's grandson Kermit sends Iran's Imperial Guard to arrest the Prime Minister, but they're captured by his guards. The Shah flees to Rome.</p> <p>1945—To celebrate the end of WW II, San Franciscans conduct a riot.</p> <p>1943—About 35,000 Allied forces land on Kiska, one of the Rat Islands in the Aleutians. Though unopposed—the Japanese had evacuated two weeks earlier—300 end up missing in action or killed by friendly fire.</p> <p>1935—Wiley Post and Will Rogers perish in a plane crash at Point Barrow, Alaska.</p> <p>1908—The Illinois state militia subdues a mob of rioting whites. Seven people are dead; the Black part of Springfield is a smoking ruin.</p>

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