

The Fortnightly Rant

A Court More Pious Than the Pope

We are in a theater. We cannot leave; the doors are locked and we're chained into the seats. On the screen is a horror movie.

We're about 300 reels into it. We should be bored out of our wits. We're not just the audience, though. We're the cast, too.

Half of us are screaming, "Don't open that door!" Up on the screen, though....

Someone opened the door. Of course someone opened the door. Not only do they have every right to open it, but you, you hateful, despicable person, have shown yourself to be un-American by questioning their right to do so.

Doors flew open all summer long at such a pace that, but for the horror, we might as well have been living in a farce by Georges Feydeau—who, let us recall, spent his last years in an asylum, felled by depression.

Now the data say we're about to be hit hard—harder than ever. Apparently that's what it will take for us to smarten up. Even at that, there's no guarantee.

The U.S. death toll currently stands somewhere about 270,000. A late-November page from the CDC predicts a total of 294,000 to 321,000 COVID-19 deaths will be reported by December 19th. That's another 30,000 dead between now and then. Have a Merry Christmas.

Most news outlets limit their projections to similarly myopic scenarios—as if this thing was going to suddenly call it quits in mid-winter. We were able to find one reputable source—the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation [IHME] in Seattle—that's bold enough to project farther out, through February.

Working from IHME's estimates, and applying a little extrapolation, it looks pretty certain that this virus will have killed half a million Americans by March 17th.

We're so old that we can remember when that sort of health outcome would be considered a bad thing by just about everyone. Now the virus seems to have a constituency of its own. We could call it the Death Panel.

In *Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn v. Cuomo*, the Supreme Court weighed Governor Andrew Cuomo's responsibility to protect public health against the right of pastors to risk the lives of their flocks. On November 25th, the sheep lost.

The Court's decision was allegedly based on the First Amendment: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...." That has somehow come to mean that whosoever believes he knows the will of some diety has every right to spread a lethal virus. Thank Baphomet the practice of snake handling is dying out.

The next day, in the *New York Times*, Pope Francis—helpfully described by the paper of record as "head of the Catholic Church and the bishop of Rome"—wrote in an op-ed, "With some exceptions, governments have made great efforts to put the well-being of their people first.... [They have] acted responsibly, imposing strict measures to contain the outbreak.

"Yet some groups protested, refusing to keep their distance, marching against travel restrictions—as if measures that governments must impose for the good of their people constitute some kind of political assault on autonomy or personal freedom!...

"It is all too easy for some to take an idea—in this case, for example, personal freedom—and turn it into an ideology, creating a prism through which they judge everything."



M. J. J. @ 4 DEC 2020 N:1866
THE NEW HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE - (80)

How odd. The highest judicial body in a nation without an official religion has somehow turned out to be more pious than the Pope.

On the other hand, maybe it's not so strange. Maybe it's just politics as usual. In the population at large, only one American in five is Catholic. On the Court, though, Catholics have an overwhelming majority—six out of nine. How did that happen? More to the point, *why* did that happen?

Conservatives—many of them evangelical Protestants—have been packing the court with Catholics for years. Never mind all that mealy-mouthing during confirmation hearings, the game plan here is obvious. Use the Church's antipathy towards abortion as a battering ram against *Roe v. Wade*.

It's easy to see where this conservative juggernaut is headed:

*Every sperm is sacred
Every sperm is great
If a sperm is wasted
God gets quite irate.*

Our gametes may be sacred, but once they've grown up into nurses, doctors, and grocery clerks, they're expendable.

This principle was demonstrated yet again on Thursday, November 26th. We may not have an established religion, but we do have a quasi-religious national holiday.

Everyone knows what Thanksgiving is. Obviously it implies that there is someone to be thanked. Who, exactly? Thank Him or Her—or Them?—for what?

NPR reports that the number of Americans traveling a significant distance dropped a whopping four percent from last year. Some of those folks may soon be showing up on lists of the late and lamented.

Georges Feydeau's sprightly farces, cited earlier, flourished at the turn of the 20th century—about the same time the consumption of absinthe and coca-laced *Vin Mariani* peaked. No wonder we remember the period as *la Belle Époque*.

Then along came Gavrilo Princip. The tubercular 19 year-old and his little pistol started what was called, in those days, The Great War. In less than five years it knocked off ten million soldiers; in the process another four million non-combatants somehow got in the way.

That horrific cumulative death toll was doubled, or worse, by the so-called Spanish Influenza. Though limited to ocean liners, rather than jets, the war spread the flu with a vengeance. Not from Spain, but from Camp Funston, Kansas, it covered the world, sparing only Antarctica.

The calendar says that once-Great War ended more than a century ago—though some veterans of more recent vintage will assure you that hardly any war has ever really ended.

If we were to travel half the way back, from now 'til then, we would rediscover a playwright who is perfect for our times: the bleak—yet funny—Samuel Beckett.

The Alleged News®

President Humpty Dumpty Trumpty's Great Fall

President Humpty Dumpty Trumpty had a Great Fall. Some people have said it was the greatest fall of all time. No one has ever seen anything like it.

In fact, there may never again be anything like it—because we might not survive this one. The last we heard, President Humpty Dumpty Trumpty retained full authority to demand the nuclear football, right along with his next bag full of Big Macs.®

If we were in a comic strip, the joke would be on the angry, overweight, overgrown child. Alas, we're not; the joke is on us. For all his vain posturing, the real Michael Richard Pence lacks the stern moral courage of the fictional Lucy van Pelt, who would long ago have triggered the 25th Amendment with glee.

If we get really lucky, though—yes, we know: Lucky? What a preposterous thought, in the year 2020!—we will never again see anything like this because 1) the majority of us will not stand for it, and, 2) despite longstanding custom and many sacred Constitutional provisions to the contrary, the will of the majority will have a determinant effect on public policy. But we get ahead of ourselves.

First a minor housekeeping note: for the rest of this Rant we'll use HDT for short. Studies have shown that seeing the real name of the person in question in print has been known to cause nausea in 24 percent of the public in general, and 87 percent of our readers. You could look it up! Also, before going any further, we must expunge all doubt that this Great Fall took place.

After a long and utterly pointless delay, that proof finally emerged this fortnight. In keeping with the unique tone of his administration, it was revealed by the very efforts of HDT's "legal team" to obfuscate it.

Less clear is the matter of who is on this team. Lacking assistance from the late Bud Abbot and Lou Costello—creators of the immortal "Who's On First" routine—we cannot say which among this host of improbable goofballs—who have been springing up around the country like psychedelic mushrooms around cow flops after a spring rain—are currently employed by the President, and which are simply ordinary Americans unable to afford their medication, who may have wandered into the courtroom in search of a rest room.

We submit Exhibit "A": Sidney "Kraken" Powell. As recently as November 14th, HDT cited Powell as one member of "a truly great team, added to our other wonderful lawyers and representatives!" Less than a Scaramucci later, Rudy Giuliani, HDT's personal lawyer, and Jenna Ellis, a "senior legal advisor" on his "elite strike force team," issued a statement saying, "Sidney Powell is practicing law on her own. She is not a member of the Trump Legal Team. She is also not a lawyer for the President in his personal capacity."

This change in status came shortly after a November 19th press briefing at the headquarters of the Republican National Committee in Washington, D.C. Powell asserted that voting machines around the country

had switched millions of votes from HDT to Joe Biden. The software running the machines, she said, had been created at the behest of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, who, technically, has been dead for seven years.

If we have this right, Powell may have been bounced for alleging that Georgia Governor Brian Kemp threw the election for Sleepy Joe Biden in exchange for a large bribe from George Soros.

Nevertheless, in a heart-warming display of consideration for a person with a handicap—she's too bonkers to be on the elite strike force team—Powell somehow managed to submit some kind of legal document—pieces of paper with words on them, anyway—to courts in Arizona, Georgia, and Wisconsin. These

have provided welcome amusement to real lawyers. Their comedic touches range from slapstick—the word “district” misspelled in several different ways—to more subtle and esoteric amusements stemming from errors in legalistic intricacies, which frankly are beyond our ken. Suffice it to say that this elite strike force team has, by losing literally scores of these ludicrous cases, established beyond any doubt that, yes, HDT did, in fact, have a Great Fall.

Granted, that Fall was a direct result of his having been pushed by seven million voters. All the same, gravity took over in the end, and that’s what matters. That, and a mess of states certifying the election results.

What will be the consequences of this Great Fall? We cannot be terribly specific. Doing so would require the use of facts; these days, every fact brings with it a question: what is its source? Before you know it, you’re tripping over your own footnotes.

Indeed, writing about current events at all these days is like trying to stab marbles with a spork. Somewhere, in another dimension, Heisenberg decided to test his uncertainty principle by releasing

Schrödinger’s cat. It’s been chasing butterflies, with predictably chaotic results.

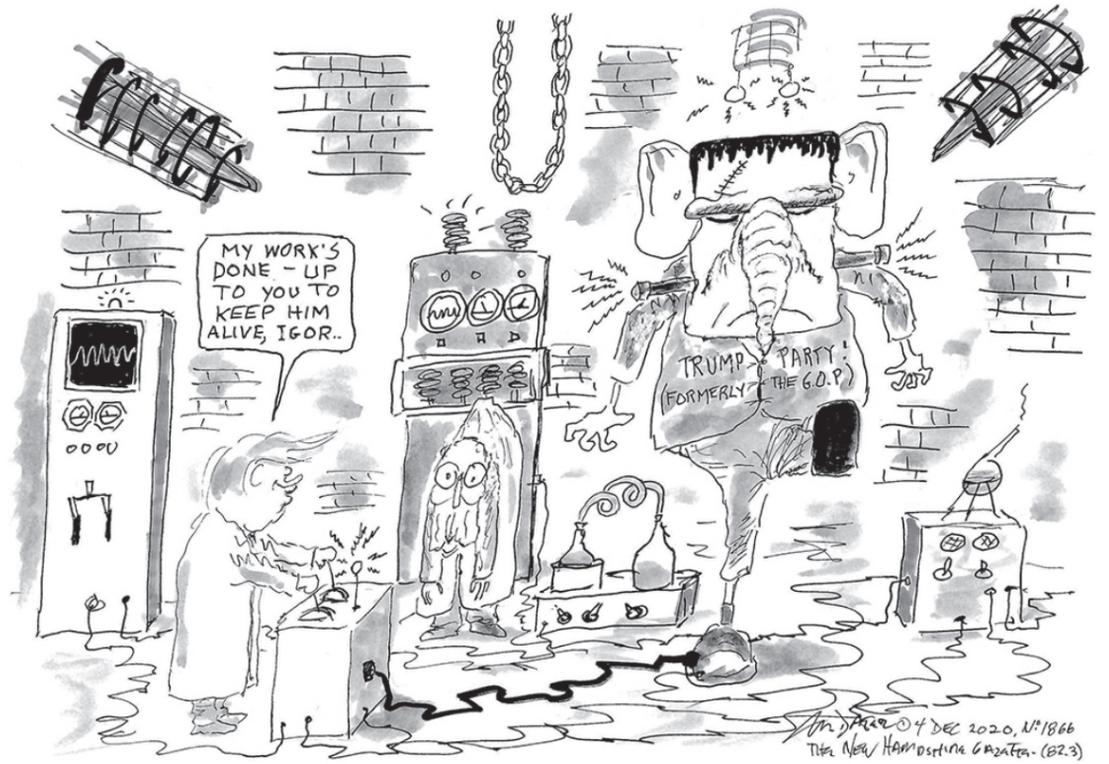
For example, the *New York Times* reported on Thursday that, despite losing the election, HDT’s frenetic fundraising has brought in \$207 million.

It is perfectly normal, under these circumstances, to assume a state of catatonic paralysis. Indeed, given the present risk of exposure to a potentially-lethal virus, that may be the wisest choice. Unfortunately, few of us are able to conveniently avail ourselves of that option.

We have found that it helps to abandon our old fixation on certainty, and embrace a more fluid understanding: we must simultaneously entertain any number of contradictory possibilities. Having cleared that up, let us proceed....

According to a real rumor, vaguely attributed to occasionally-reliable sources, HDT is planning one last official act to display his contempt for...well, everything except himself. He may skip Joe Biden’s inauguration.

There is even talk that, on January 20th, 2021, HDT plans to hold a huge event—no masks required—



Jon Diller 04 Dec 2020, N°1866
The New Hampshire Gazette - (823)

to announce his 2024 Presidential Campaign. No joke. Well, obviously a joke, but, seriously, people are talking about this. And one would be a fool to rule it out.

One would naturally expect him to time this tawdry event for noon—it would be right out of the WWE playbook. [*That’s World Wrestling Entertainment, for you effete snobs. – The Ed.*] By scheduling his event to coincide with Sleepy Joe’s, though, he’d be passing up a tremendous opportunity.

He’ll still be President until noon that day, and apparently able to get away with anything. Be prepared, readers, around 10:00 or 11:00 a.m., for the January Surprise: a campaign kickoff at the Lincoln Memorial.

Let us be clear, here: the better angels of our nature hope this does not come to pass. The nation’s eschatology has no need of yet another disgraceful blot.

The perverse little devils on our other shoulder, though, are praying that it does.

We can almost see Letitia James, Attorney General of the State of New York, marching up those hal-

lowed steps, trailed by a squad of attorneys bearing binders full of indictments, and apprehending the Miscreant-in-Chief. What a unique and memorable career arc! From Queens to Manhattan, from Mar-a-Lago to the White House, and, finally—and forever, one would hope, the Big House.

Out of compassion for the soon-to-be-former First Family and its entire extended network of grifters, we suggest a whole wing at Federal Penitentiary at Leavenworth. We understand northeastern Kansas, on the fashionable left bank of the Missouri River, is lovely all year round.

This proposal would dovetail nicely with HDT’s reported plan for a post-eviction media empire. Passive consumers of televised dreck are already conditioned to gawk at the incarcerated. Imagine the kind of ratings he’d get as the star of “Jail to the Chief.” Through the roof!

Speaking of roofs....

After so many years of that odious name appearing in huge fake-gold letters around the world, is it really too much to ask, just once, to see it where it truly belongs?

House Republicans to Americans: Drop Dead

by Jake Johnson
staff writer, *CommonDreams.org*

With mass layoffs persisting at an unprecedented clip, coronavirus deaths surging, and hunger on the rise nationwide, a group of House Republicans on Thursday attempted to pass a motion to adjourn the chamber in what Democratic lawmakers denounced as an “outrageous” stunt by members of a party that continues to stand in the way of desperately needed economic relief.

Though the motion, introduced by House Freedom Caucus Chair Rep. Andy Biggs (R-Ariz.), was ultimately defeated by the Democratic-controlled House, the attempt to adjourn was viewed as another telling example of the GOP’s refusal to take seriously the coronavirus pandemic and resulting economic crisis.

“People are going hungry and they’re treating this like a game,” Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) tweeted in response to the motion, which Republicans used to complain about House rules allowing proxy voting to prevent the



The city’s newest recreational space now has an official sign. Carved above the name—Paul McEachern Park—are images of a thistle and a shamrock; they signify the Scottish and Irish ancestry of a much-loved local son. Our sources in the neighborhood say it will soon be joined by another, more playful monolith, for the delight of future generations.

HUMAN speakers

"Music to Your Ears"

Supporting the *New Hampshire Gazette* and the radical notion of freedom of the press
I also build and repair speakers

Huw Powell

7 Kelsey Road, Lee NH - 603 659 5335

Death to Rats,

Mice, Roaches, Water-Bugs, Beetles, Ants and all vermin. Hotels, dwellings and granaries cleared in one night. **Safe** to have 'round. No arsenic. **Parson's Exterminator 15c.** Mail 20c. WEEKS & POTLER, Boston, Mass. tj23

VISIT NORTH HAMPTON'S HISTORIC CENTENNIAL HALL

A community center for the arts, club meeting place and host to many.

105 POST RD
NORTH HAMPTON, NH 03862
WWW.CENTENNIALHALL.ORG

The arts are vital to our vibrant Seacoast community. Please consider supporting your many local arts and culture organizations in this time of crisis.

Gathering together to experience the arts is the heart and soul of what we do here at The Music Hall. We are ever grateful for the unwavering support of our community, and look forward to seeing you when our doors reopen.

Facebook/MUSICHALL Twitter/MUSICHALL Instagram/MUSICHALLNH 603.436.2400 • THEMUSICHALL.ORG
B2W BOX OFFICE AT THE HISTORIC THEATER • 28 CHESTNUT ST • PORTSMOUTH NH

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.

"Happy to Support Progressive Journalism and The New Hampshire Gazette"

– Joe Keefe

spread of Covid-19 on Capitol Hill. “Leaders don’t abandon people in their time of greatest need.”

Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-Calif.) called the GOP ploy “batty” and noted that “Americans are in dire need of food and paychecks.”

Over the opposition of the chamber’s Republicans, House Democrats in October passed legislation that would send another stimulus check to most Americans, restore the lapsed \$600-per-week federal unemployment boost, and provide aid to cash-strapped state and local governments. The Republican-controlled Senate, led by Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), has refused to consider the measure.

“More people died yesterday from Covid-19 than any day [before],” Swalwell said Thursday. “We have work to do. Yet, the House GOP just motioned to adjourn Congress. What the hell are they doing?”

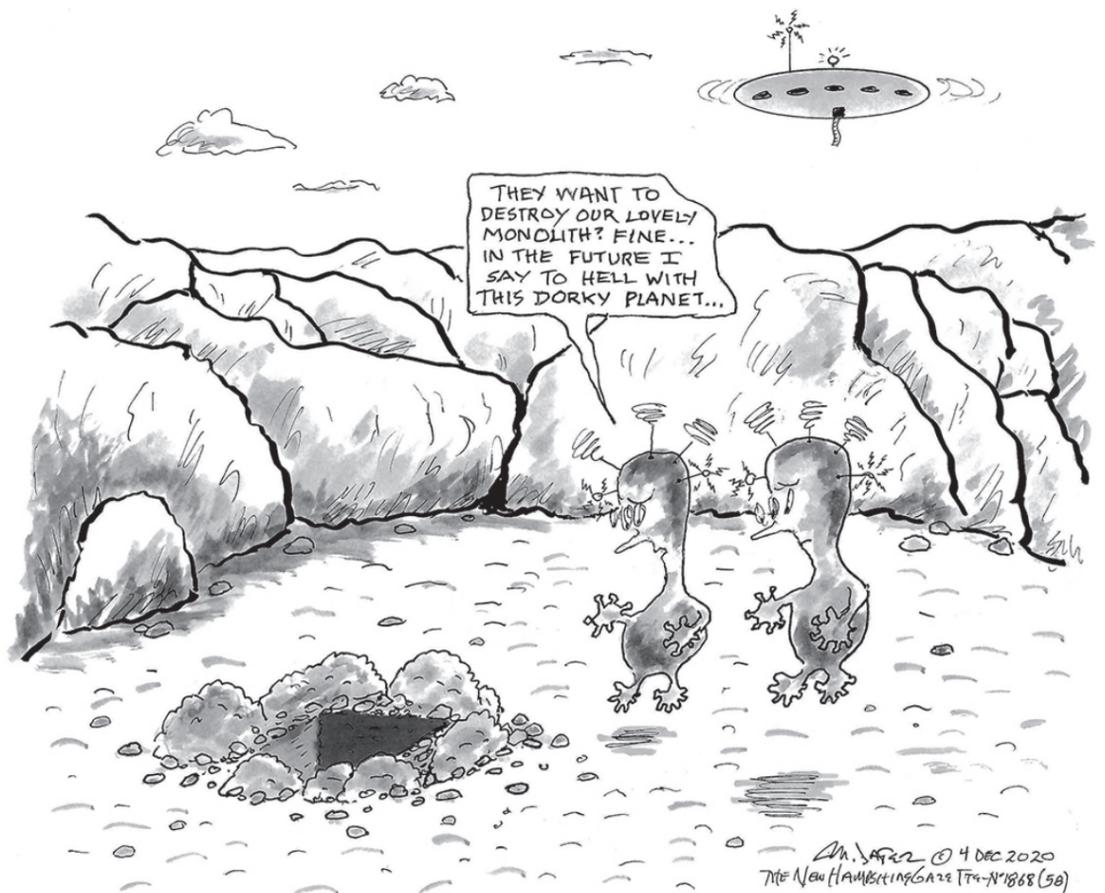
“Isn’t this a procedural stunt you ask? Sure,” Swalwell continued. “What makes it outrageous is a single vote now takes well over an hour to occur with Covid-19 restrictions in place. Then the chamber must be sanitized. These are final days of Congress. It’s like pulling the fire alarm during a final exam.”

Other Democratic members

voiced similar outrage over the motion, introduced as U.S. coronavirus hospitalizations soared to a record high and the Labor Department reported that a million Americans filed jobless claims last week, a blaring signal that the economic crisis is nowhere near over.

The House GOP’s procedural maneuver came as coronavirus relief negotiations showed signs of life for the first time in weeks, with a possible government shutdown just seven days away and the end of the year rapidly approaching. Failure to approve additional Covid-19 relief before year’s end would be disastrous, economists have warned, particularly given that more than 13 million Americans are set to lose unemployment benefits as emergency federal programs expire on December 26.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.), and President-elect Joe Biden have expressed support for using a \$908 billion bipartisan compromise proposal unveiled earlier this week as a framework for talks going forward, while acknowledging that the plan—which lacks direct payments and provides just \$300 per week in additional unemployment benefits—is nowhere near sufficient.



“Of course, we and others will offer improvements, but the need to act is immediate and we believe that with good-faith negotiations we could come to an agreement,” Pelosi and Schumer said in a joint statement Wednesday. “In light of the urgency of meeting the needs of the American people and the hope that the vaccine presents, it’s time for Leader McConnell to sit down with Democrats to finally begin a true, bipartisan effort to meet the needs of the country.”

McConnell and Pelosi spoke by phone Thursday afternoon for the first time since the presidential election and, according to the Kentucky Republican, had a “good conversation” about coronavirus relief and an end-of-year spending package to avert a government shutdown.

“Compromise is within reach,” McConnell said in a floor speech Thursday. “We know where we agree. We can do this.”

The Republican leader’s remarks came just days after he circulated a relief proposal of his own that was immediately dismissed as a non-starter by many Senate Democrats and progressive critics, who lambasted the plan’s sweeping liability shield for corporations and exclusion of additional weekly unemployment benefits.

Jeremy Funk, spokesperson for government watchdog group Accountable.US, slammed McConnell for “shilling for special interests” instead of offering real relief to the tens of millions of Americans struggling to afford basic necessities and possibly facing eviction in the near future.

“The McConnell Senate enabled the Trump administration’s mismanagement of the health crisis and still insists on doing as little as possible to contain the economic fallout,” said Funk. “McConnell’s big idea of giving corporations permission

to mistreat workers with impunity during a pandemic and giving more handouts to coal CEOs means absolutely nothing to the millions of families who face hunger and homelessness in the Trump recession.”

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 License. Feel free to republish and share widely.

=====
57 Years On...

The 57th anniversary of the assassination of John F. Kennedy came and went this fortnight with little if any notice. It could be seen as the opening shot of the Vietnam War: three million men sent to the other side of the planet to rain mechanized destruction on hungry peasants. That war and the Warren Commission sowed the seeds of American mistrust in government. Their combined effects helped created the world in which we live today.

=====
—



A lone Trump supporter ventured into Market Square last Sunday night, bravely bearing the banner of his widely-despised hero. For moral support he dragged along a nearly life-sized image of the Chief Executive giving a double-barreled “thumbs-up” sign and grinning for no apparent reason.

Murph’s Fortnightly Quote

“It’s just a bad comedy sketch, really, when you get right down to it.”

— Pennsylvania Lt. Gov. John Fetterman, on Republican election-related court challenges

“The effect of power and publicity on all men is the aggravation of self, a sort of tumor that ends up killing the victim’s sympathies; a diseased appetite, like a passion for drink or perverted tastes; one can scarcely use expressions too strong to describe the violence of egotism it stimulates.”

john@wordpraxis.com Henry Adams, *The Education of Henry Adams*

“The most important service rendered by the press and the magazines is that of educating people to approach printed matter with distrust.”

— Samuel Butler

— Not-So-Random Thoughts from an Oregon Subscriber

North River Woodworks

Portsmouth, NH — (603) 682-4443

Local Craftsmanship

Ceres Bakery

51 Penhallow Street, Portsmouth, NH 603 436 6518
Check our website for today’s specials! www.ceresbakery.com

Open 7 days!

RiverRun BOOKSTORE

A Constantly-Changing Selection of

New & Used Books

in both

Hard Cover & Paperback

Your Coffee, Ice Cream, Children & Pets Are All Welcome

Store Hours

Mon - Sat: 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Sun: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

32 Daniel St • (603) 431-2100

History In Progress

BLACK HERITAGE TRAIL NEW HAMPSHIRE

Raising awareness of New Hampshire’s Black History to build inclusive communities today

Give the Gift of History – Come Shop with Us!

Visit blackheritagetrailnh.org

Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire

222 Court Street, Portsmouth NH 03801 | 603-570-8469

As soon as it’s safe for them to do so, our volunteer distributors will resume bringing this newspaper to following locations:

Concord:

- The State House Visitor’s Center,
- Gibson’s Book Store, 45 S. Main St.
- Concord COOP Grocery Store, 24 S. Main St.
- Concord Public Library, 45 Green St.
- Franklin Pierce Law School, 2 White St.

Hanover:

- Hanover Public Library, 13 South St.

Keene:

- Keene Public Library, 60 Winter St.

Lebanon:

- Lebanon Public Library, 9 E. Park St.

Is 2020 a Watershed?

by James A. Haught

Maybe 2020 is a turning point—one that won't be clearly visible until the future. Maybe it marks the end of the four-decade epoch when the white evangelical "religious right" had enough power to tip American elections to the GOP.

White evangelicals fought fiercely for Republicans this year. They gave about 80 percent of their votes to President Trump and strongly favored conservatives in state elections. These born-again fundamentalists have shrunk to only 15 percent of America's population, but they're so politically intense that they were 28 percent of voters who went to the polls. Undoubtedly, they tipped some marginal states to the GOP, causing early Democratic consternation on election night. But they couldn't swing the whole nation. And maybe—with the relentless decline of religion—they never can do so again. Let us hope.

The rise and fall of right-wing, born-again politics is a significant episode in America's history. Until after World War II, many fundamentalists shunned government, choosing to ignore this world and focus on heaven and hell instead. But white evangelicals—the most racist element of society, some research says—were jolted by several breakthroughs that threatened their vision of America as a Christian "city on a hill" favored by God.

Victories by the civil rights movement and integration of public schools upset conservative white believers. So did the loss of tax exemption by Bob Jones University, a fundamentalist school that first banned blacks, then forbade interracial dating.

Halting of school prayer in the 1960s—followed by the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision—coupled with the rise of feminism—and gays coming out of the closet—and the sexual revolution with racy magazines and movies—and the end of censorship and "blue laws"—these and more made white evangelicals feel their country had turned against them. It drove them into politics.

First, evangelist Jerry Falwell

launched the Moral Majority to mobilize redneck religion behind the Republican Party. Then evangelist Pat Robertson followed with the Christian Coalition. Election after election, born-again white faith was turned into a huge political machine. GOP strategist Karl Rove helped spur this powerhouse to elect Ronald Reagan President in 1980. Later, it put George W. Bush into the White House.

In their heyday, around 1990, white evangelicals were one-fourth of America's population. Their soaring political clout meshed well with the "southern strategy" of former President Richard Nixon, who exploited Dixie racism to shift Sunbelt states to the GOP. The combination of Jesus and white supremacy produced a conservative political juggernaut.

However, a demographic tide began to flow left. America started losing its religion. People who say their faith is "none" became an amazing sociological phenomenon, suddenly doubling in the 1990s, then climbing rapidly to one-fourth of the populace. Among young adults under 40, the churchless ratio is much higher. This godless group generally holds compassionate, liberal political views and has become the largest faith segment in the Democratic Party base.

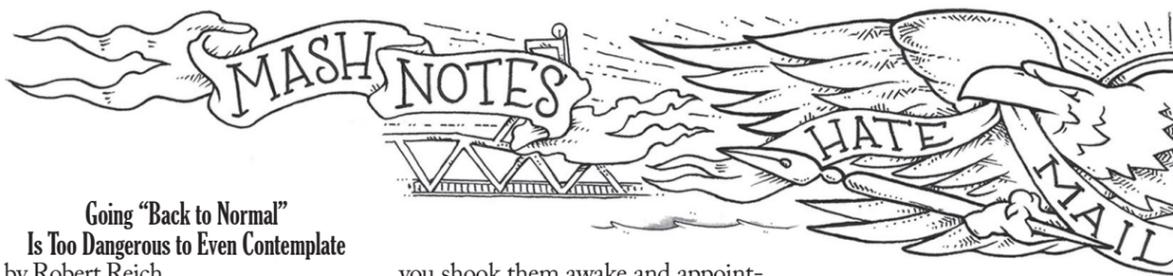
Meanwhile, religion suffered relentless decline. White evangelicals fell from one-fourth to only 15 percent of the public. Respected "mainline" Protestants lost enormously, and Catholics were battered by never-ending pedophile scandals.

Rising "nones" and sinking born-again have far-reaching political implications—boosting Democrats and eroding the GOP. Many researchers have traced this sociological shift.

Was 2020 a watershed point, when the "religious right" slipped too far downhill to be decisive in forthcoming elections? Keep your fingers crossed and hope that the future will confirm this blessed prospect.

—==—

James Haught, syndicated by PeaceVoice, is editor emeritus of West Virginia's largest newspaper, The Charleston Gazette-Mail and author of 12 books.



Going "Back to Normal" Is Too Dangerous to Even Contemplate

by Robert Reich

"Life is going to return to normal," Joe Biden promised Thursday in a Thanksgiving address to the nation. He was talking about life after Covid-13, but you could be forgiven if you thought he was also making a promise about life after Trump.

It is almost impossible to separate the two. To the extent voters gave Biden a mandate, it was to end both scourges and make America normal again.

Despite Covid's grim resurgence, Dr. Anthony Fauci—the public health official whom Trump ignored and then muzzled, with whom Biden's staff is now conferring—sounded guardedly optimistic last week. Vaccines will allow "a gradual accrual of more normality as the weeks and the months go by as we get well into 2021."

Normal. You could almost hear America's giant sigh of relief, similar to that felt when Trump implicitly conceded the election by allowing the transition to begin.

It is comforting to think of both Covid and Trump as intrusions into normality, aberrations from routines that prevailed before.

When Biden entered the Presidential race last year, he said history would look back on Trump as an "aberrant moment in time."

The end of both aberrations conjures up a former America that, by contrast, might appear quiet and safe, even boring.

Trump called Biden "the most boring human being I've ever seen," and Americans seem to be just fine with that.

Biden's early choices for his cabinet and senior staff fit the same mold—"boring picks," tweeted the *Atlantic's* Graeme Wood (referring to Biden's foreign policy team), "who, if

you shook them awake and appointed them in the middle of the night at any time in the last decade, could have reported to their new jobs and started work competently by dawn." Hallelujah.

All his designees, including Janet Yellen for Treasury and Anthony Blinken for Secretary of State, are experienced and competent—refreshing, especially after Trump's goon squads. And they're acceptable both to mainstream Democrats and to progressives.

They also stand out for their abilities not to stand out. There is no firebrand among them, no Elizabeth Warren or Bernie Sanders (at least not so far).

For the same reasons, they're unlikely to stir strong opposition from Republicans, a necessity for Senate confirmation, particularly if Democrats fail to win the two Senate runoffs in Georgia on January 5.

And they're unlikely to demand much attention from an exhausted and divided public.

Boring, reassuring, normal—these are Biden's great strengths. But he needs to be careful. They could also be his great weaknesses.

That's because any return to "normal" would be disastrous for America.

Normal led to Trump. Normal led to the coronavirus.

Normal is four decades of stagnant wages and widening inequality when almost all economic gains went to the top. Normal is forty years of shredded safety nets, and the most expensive but least adequate healthcare system in the modern world.

Normal is also growing corruption of politics by big money—an economic system rigged by and for the wealthy.

Normal is worsening police brutality.

Normal is climate change now verging on catastrophe.

Normal is a GOP that for years has been actively suppressing minority votes and embracing white supremacists. Normal is a Democratic Party that for years has been abandoning the working class.

Given the road we were on, Trump and Covid were not aberrations. They were inevitabilities. The moment we are now in—with Trump virtually gone, Biden assembling his cabinet, and most of the nation starting to feel a bit of relief—is a temporary reprieve.

If the underlying trends don't change, after Biden we could have Trumps as far as the eye can see. And health and environmental crises that make the coronavirus another step toward Armageddon.

Hence the paradox. America wants to return to a reassuring normal, but Biden can't allow it. Complacency would be deadly. He has to both calm the waters and stir the pot.

It's a mistake to see this challenge as placating the progressive wing of the Democratic Party. It's about dealing with problems that have worsened for decades and if left unattended much longer will be enormously destructive.

So the central question: In an exhausted and divided America that desperately wants a return to normal, can Biden find the energy and political will for bold changes that are imperative?

Robert Reich is the Chancellor's Professor of Public Policy at the University of California, Berkeley, and a senior fellow at the Blum Center for Developing Economies. He served as Secretary of Labor in the Clinton administration. His newest book is "The Common Good" (2019). This essay appeared at CommonDreams.org, and is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 License.

REWARD
FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO THE APPREHENSION OF —

JESUS CHRIST

WANTED - FOR SEDITION, CRIMINAL ANARCHY-VAGRANCY, AND CONSPIRING TO OVERTHROW THE ESTABLISHED GOVERNMENT

DRESSES POORLY. SAID TO BE A CARPENTER BY TRADE, ILL-NOURISHED, HAS VISIONARY IDEAS, ASSOCIATES WITH COMMON WORKING PEOPLE THE UNEMPLOYED AND BUMS. ALIEN - BELIEVED TO BE A JEW ALIAS: 'PRINCE OF PEACE, SON OF MAN' - 'LIGHT OF THE WORLD' &c &c PROFESSIONAL AGITATOR. RED BEARD, MARKS ON HANDS AND FEET THE RESULT OF INJURIES INFLICTED BY AN ANGRY MOB LED BY RESPECTABLE CITIZENS AND LEGAL AUTHORITIES.

Young

Acupuncture, Cranial Sacral Therapy, & Shiatsu

Pam Bailey (603) 828-6759

EST. 2000

JUMPIN' JAY'S
FISH CAFE

THE FINEST IN FRESH SEAFOOD FROM AROUND THE WORLD AND AROUND THE CORNER

150 CONGRESS STREET
WWW.JUMPINJAYS.COM | 603.766.3474

We design. We print. We print your design.

■ phineasgraphics.com
603-436-4402 / 108 Penhallow
in historic downtown Portsmouth

CAFFÉ KILIM

Fresh Roasted Coffees • Espresso Bar
Rug Gallery & Unique Gifts

163 Islington St ~ 436-7330

Nancy W. Grossman

Editing & Book Design
has moved 18 miles down the road to Exeter
USER FRIENDLY!
nancygrossmanbooks.com

Portsmouth Community Radio
WSCA-LP 106.1 FM

BOB'S.
BROILED CHICKEN

Restaurant, Takeout, & Delivery
We Fill Large Orders
801 Islington St., Gallagher's Pl.
(603) 433-6355
Mon. - Fri 11:30 - 3 & 4:30 - 9
Sat. 11:30 - 9, Closed Sun.

Spreading Truth, Humor, and Love

The Devil's Post
On your laptop at:
TheDevilsPost.org

HERE'S A WAY YOU CAN HELP VETERANS STAY HOUSED

The Veterans Affairs Supported Housing (VASH) program provides permanent housing and ongoing case management treatment services for homeless veterans who would not be able to live independently without the support of case management.

VASH cannot provide furniture, household appliances, pots and pans, or other household goods.

VASH can accept these items, and distribute them to veterans who need them.

Call or e-mail Tracey Noonan, VASH Program Manager, at (603) 657-5612 or email tracey.noonan@va.gov



**Inequality Gone Viral:
The Obscene Numbers**

by Paul Buchheit

In a distressing analogy to the relentless surge of Covid-19, which has disproportionately impacted low-income communities and people of color, there has been an unstoppable transfer of wealth from desperate Americans to the people who already had most of our nation's financial assets.

While the great majority of us have been focusing on the health and well-being—and the very survival—of loved ones, the super-rich have become “pandemic profiteers,” isolating themselves from Covid while riding the stock market to its highest-ever level. At the same time we are seeing a dramatic demonstration of Naomi Klein's Shock Doctrine, with the “perfect conditions for governments and the global elite to implement political agendas that would otherwise be met with great opposition if we weren't all so disoriented.”

We need to ask ourselves: In a year of disease and death and destroyed families, should a massive, inexplicable increase in new American financial wealth go to billionaires or to health care workers? Should unearned gains go to the few hundred richest Americans or to the millions of American households who have lost their means of support?

The numbers are shocking. Here's what happened in the year 2020:

An Average of \$200,000 Went to Each of the Richest 10 percent of Americans. In November of 2019 the Wilshire Total Market stood at about \$32 trillion. After plunging at the start of the pandemic, by November of 2020 it had risen to \$38 trillion. That's a \$6 Trillion overall increase

for stockholders. The richest 10 percent of Americans (about 25 million adults, most of them millionaires own 84 percent of ALL stocks.

An Average of \$1.5 Billion Went to Each of the Richest 650 Individuals. Since the onset of Covid-19 in early 2020, the combined wealth of the 650 American billionaires has increased by nearly \$1 trillion. A trillion dollars is enough to provide every U.S. household with a survival stipend of nearly \$8,000.

An Average of \$25 Billion Went to Each of the Richest 15 Individuals. Bezos, Musk, Gates, Zuckerberg, and the eleven other richest Americans had \$922 billion around this time last year. As of Thanksgiving Day this year, their wealth had increased by another \$375 billion. That's \$25 billion more, on average, for each multi-billionaire, although Elon Musk alone has added about \$80 billion to his fortune.

An Average of \$600 Billion Each to the Five Richest Tech Companies. In March, 2020 the market capitalization for Big Tech (Apple, Microsoft, Amazon, Google, Facebook) was \$4.1 trillion. By November it was over \$7 trillion. A 75 percent increase in under nine months! No one has profited more from 70 years of taxpayer input than these massive technology companies.

At the Other End of Inequality

While the pandemic profits roll in for the millionaires and billionaires, the plight of low-income Americans is growing more life-threatening every day. Just in the past three months, according to research at the University of Chicago and Notre Dame, six million people have been added to the ranks of the poverty-stricken, with the most dire effects on Black people and children.

Many Americans can't even feed

themselves and their children. Nearly 26 million adults—one in nine—have reported that their households sometimes or often lacked food.

“Pandemics should be the great equalizer,” says political analyst Fareed Zakaria. But instead “the virus is ushering in the greatest rise in economic inequality in decades, both globally and in the United States.” Brookings agrees, adding that “the costs of the pandemic are being borne disproportionately by poorer segments of society.”

What Can We Do?

We won't end the accumulation of wealth. As Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez says, “No one ever makes a billion dollars. You take a billion dollars.”

And we won't end corporate welfare. While we laud the work of the pharmaceutical companies in developing a vaccine, and that of the tech companies for providing us ways to communicate with each other during quarantine, everything they've done stems from decades of research and development paid for by U.S. taxpayers, and supplemented by government subsidies. But the CEOs and stockholders get all the benefits.

The only solution may be an implementation of Modern Monetary Theory, the pumping of money into the general population through a Guaranteed Income, so that the ever-expanding disparities in wealth can be countered by a surge in middle- and lower-class wealth.

Something has to be done to heal the rupture in the sickened body of our nation.

Paul Buchheit is an advocate for social and economic justice, and the author of numerous papers on economic inequality and cognitive science. He was recently named one of 300 Living Peace and Justice Leaders and Models. He is the author of American Wars: Illusions and Realities (2008), and Disposable Americans: Extreme Capitalism and

the Case for a Guaranteed Income (2017). This essay was published at CommonDreams.org and is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 License. Feel free to republish and share widely.

Critical Patriotism

by Jennifer Davis Carey and Winslow Myers

The test of a first-rate intelligence is the ability to hold two opposing ideas in mind at the same time and still retain the ability to function. One should, for example, be able to see that things are hopeless yet be determined to make them otherwise. —F. Scott Fitzgerald

At this profoundly uneasy moment in the American story, when neither the President nor the Vice-President has committed to accepting the results of the election, the authors of this piece, one a white man, the other a Black woman, thought it might be useful to write a piece together.

If our country is going to mature into its next phase, we citizens must hold in our minds two ideas which too many Americans consider opposed: first, that the American democratic experiment is still the last best hope of the world, exceptional, a “city on a hill;” and second, that to fulfill its promise or even to continue to be called a democracy at all, America must push for deep positive changes in its cultural, political, educational, economic, and religious institutions.

Both writers are old enough to recall Lynn Cheney's tenure as head of the National Endowment for the Humanities, when she advocated aggressively for a more optimistic perspective on America's past, telling off historians like Howard Zinn for what she considered an overly critical picture of our origins—origins that for Zinn included Columbus's horrific ethnic cleansing of the indigenous Arawak peoples of the Caribbean. Behind Cheney's rosy take on U.S. history is the false assumption that the only glue that will hold us together is “my country right or wrong.”

When Senator Sheldon Whitehouse comprehensively diagrammed the correlation between the millions

in dark money being poured into assuring the confirmation of Amy Coney Barrett and the 80 recent Supreme Court cases resolved 5-4 for corporate interests, he was performing a profound act of critical patriotism—without abandoning his presumed allegiance to the American spirit of creative entrepreneurship.

Our civic culture does not encourage the mingling of patriotism and national self-criticism in a creative dialogue. In recent decades, at least as far back as the Vietnam-era “America: Love it or leave it,” right up to the President's inability to categorically denounce white supremacy, uncritical and critical love of country have been assumed to be irreconcilable opposites. Witness the outrage when Muhammed Ali said he had no quarrel with the Vietcong. Or when the (Dixie) Chicks were pilloried for saying that they were ashamed to come from the same state as the President who began the second Gulf war.

Or take the police. It's not an either/or between supporting them or calling out racism in their midst—it's a both/and. There are many good, professional police officers—and the police are enmeshed in racist structures and attitudes. They need help with this like the rest of us.

Whites can learn a lot about love of country from those systemically excluded from that country's benefits. In the most excruciating holding together of opposites, consider the depth of a Black patriotism forged in the fires of chattel slavery, mass denial of voting rights, lynching and terror, chronically unequal educational resources, red-lining, mass incarceration, and police murder. Consider that it is the movements for the rights of those excluded—African-American, indigenous peoples, LGBTQ people—that hold this nation to its espoused values and demand that those values be expressed through laws, policies, and practices.

In response to the devastating images of extrajudicial killings of Black people we are amidst a resurgent

*Mash Notes, Hate Mail, &c.
to page six*

Davies TIRE COMPANY
Call us for a liberal dose of service
93 Islington Street - 433-1328

HOWLER'S PILE AND HUMOR

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

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

Join Us and Stand Up For Your Civil Rights!

Social Justice • Economic Equality

Market Square, Portsmouth, N.H.
Every Sunday 3 to 4 p.m.
OCCUPYNHSEACOAST@gmail.com

The Climate Hour with **Josh Denton**

Fourth Friday of Every Month at Noon.

NEW HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE SUBSCRIPTIONS
26 FORTNIGHTLY ISSUES, NOW MAILED FIRST CLASS

Mail this form with your check for \$25 to:
New Hampshire Gazette, PO Box 756, Portsmouth, NH 03802.
Please print clearly. Offer good in U.S. only.

Supporting Subscribers Only: Please Check Box at Right:
(Supporting Subscribers pay the standard \$25/yr, but make their money go twice as far for us by picking up their own papers at one of our many convenient locations.)

Supporting
 Subscriber

FIRST NAME: _____

LAST NAME: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

TOWN, CITY, OR BURG: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____ + 4:

GIFT OF: (WHERE APPLICABLE) _____

How wasteful is the Pentagon?

by Jim Hightower

Remember when candidate Trump promised not only to wall-out all migrants crossing our Mexican border, but also to make Mexico pay for his xenophobic wall? Well, Mexico hasn't paid a peso... and won't. So, he keeps running to Congress, demanding that it pony up unlimited billions of our tax dollars for his pet political project. Aside from one token appropriation, however, Congress has said:

“Ummmm...no.”

But that's no hill for a narcissistic climber. Unable to get tax money legitimately, Trump has simply stolen it, taking money from the US military budget. Ignoring the constitutional mandate that only Congress is empowered to control the flow of government money, Trump filched \$6.1 billion from our military last year, snatched another \$3.8 billion this month, and intends to swipe at least another \$3.4 billion before the year is out.

This executive “reprogramming,” as the White House euphemistically calls its daylight robbery, is being pulled off by masking Trump's wall obsession as a “national emergency.” The Pentagon brass has been yanking funds meant for the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, National Guard... and ultimately from our fighting forces.

Presidential autocracy aside, Trump's massive larceny raises three other interesting issues of public morality: One, his trickery sets a

precedent not only for future presidents, but also for our young people's behavior; Two, our congress critters, especially Trump Republicans, are setting a new standard of craven meekness in the face of this direct executive assault on their authority and on our democracy; and, Three, by simply kissing off a budget loss of more than \$13 billion, saying it's in excess of the military's needs, the Pentagon is admitting that the war machine is routinely taking way too much of the public's money.

“Defying Congress, Trump Plans to Renew Fight for Border Wall Funding,” <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/03/10/business/economy/trump-budget-wall.html>, March 10, 2019.

Copyright 2017 by Jim Hightower & Associates. Contact Melody Byrd (melody@jimhightower.com) for more information.

from page five

and evolved civil rights movement, Black Lives Matter, that once again demands adherence to proclaimed American values. And as with previous movements many whites have at last put their bodies on the line and accompanied Blacks into the streets in protest. Yet as has become sadly predictable, white racism has projected into the simple slogan that galvanizes and summarizes a movement, the assumption of a threatening exclusivity, labelling it identity politics. This assumption ignores the truth that the movement is only one aspect in the work of Blacks toward full inclusivity in the American fabric. It is easy for many to carelessly place the emphasis in the simple slogan “Black Lives Matter” on the word Black rather than on the word Matter. No Black leader claims only Black lives matter, but rather that Black lives must also matter.

The championing of a racial hierarchy by our bigot-in-chief and his enablers advances the concept of a zero-sum game with the core American value that all are created equal and that the work of our democratic republic is to assure the full expression of that reality. Those who make inclusivity impossible make identity politics inevitable. Too many white people cannot admit into the same mental space both love of country and the reality of how much they benefit from ingrained concepts of



white supremacy enshrined in laws, practices, and assumptions in ways that require some hard rethinking of their identity.

The brittle patriotism of whites who feel threatened by the looming certainty that they will soon be a minority in our country provides much of the energy behind the cult of Trump. Whatever constructive structural changes we may make to our system after he goes, none will be more important than those that result in racial equity and acknowledgement of entrenched white privilege. Black Lives Matter is nested in a bigger context: Democracy Matters.

If the Trump administration dares to question the results of the election, it will be a moment to take to the streets peacefully—Blacks, whites, all who love our country while at the same time knowing we can and must do better. And when this national nightmare that is the current administration is finally over, it will be past time for us all to come together to engage in the difficult and continual work to achieve our country.

Jennifer Davis Carey has held various positions in education and lives in Worcester, Mass. Winslow Myers, the author of Living Beyond War: A Citizen's Guide, serves on the Advi-

sory Board of the War Preventive Initiative.

Power to the People: The PUC Gets a Really Bad Letter

By D. Maurice Kreis

Our pandemic-ravaged state could use some additional economic stimulus right about now. So far, Congress has not been inclined to deliver the goods.

So what if we could do something on the state level? Say, for example, injecting \$350 million into the New Hampshire economy over the next three years, most of it spent in a manner that puts local people to work? And what if the net effect of that spending were to save money for every customer of an electric or natural gas utility?

That's exactly the proposal now pending at the Public Utilities Commission (PUC)—and it's exactly what nine newly reelected members of the House of Representatives are asking the PUC to put off, indefinitely.

The request came in the form of a letter from eight members of the House's Science, Technology and Energy (ST&E) Committee—plus a very prominent name indeed. The first name on the letter is that of the incoming Speaker of the House,

Representative Dick Hinch of Merrimack.

Publicly criticizing the Speaker and eight of his colleagues, all of them veteran ST&E members and one of them (Rep. Michael Harrington of Strafford) a former PUC commissioner, is not something for an appointed state official like me to do lightly. But my job, as head of the Office of the Consumer Advocate, is to advance the interests of residential utility customers.

That mission does not allow me to remain silent in the face of a full frontal attack on the state's ratepayer-funded energy efficiency programs.

Four years ago, the PUC adopted an Energy Efficiency Resource Standard and, with it, the objective of “all cost-effective energy efficiency.” This means that what customers fork over, via the energy efficiency charges on their electric and natural gas bills, can only be spent on programs that save customers money overall. The focus on saving all customers money means that the cost-effectiveness test ignores the additional savings achieved by the individual homes and businesses where the energy efficiency measures are installed.

Here in New Hampshire we rely on our utilities to deliver energy ef-

iciency programs, which are marketed under the “NHSaves” banner. On September 1st, the utilities filed a three-year energy efficiency plan that would go into effect in January.

The complaining House members—many if not most of them sincere and longstanding opponents of ratepayer-funded energy efficiency—are right to draw attention to the significant increase the utilities are proposing to the size and scope of the NHSaves programs. But they draw precisely the wrong conclusion.

“The increase in [energy efficiency] charges will impact everyone differently, but some of the state's largest manufacturers (and other high energy users) will pay hundreds of thousands and in some cases millions of dollars more in their electric bills every year,” the House members wrote. “This represents possibly a 10-15 percent increase on electricity costs at a time when many businesses, especially restaurants and other entertainment venues, which are high electricity and gas users, are managing substantial reductions in their revenue streams.”

The word “possibly,” in relation to alleged increases of 10 to 15 percent in electric bills, should give you pause. The alarmist rhetoric is just that—alarming. The lawmakers are ignoring all of the bill savings that energy efficiency measures yield—again, both for individual customers that receive the measures at their homes and businesses and for all

The New Hampshire Gazette
The Nation's Oldest Newspaper™
 Published Fortnightly on Alternate Fridays
 Founder: Daniel Fowle (1715 – 1787)
 Enslaved Pressman: Primus X (ca. 1700 – 1793)
 PO Box 756, Portsmouth, NH 03802
www.nhgazette.com • editors@nhgazette.com
 (603) 433-9898

Subscriptions:
 \$25 per year for 26 issues
Mailed First Class
 See Page Five for Subscription Form

Editor: Steven Fowle • Starving Artiste: Michael Dater
 Business (Such As It Is) Manager: Rose Eppard
 Columnist: William Marvel • 100 Proof Department:
 Rose Eppard, Marcia Jebb, and Allen McGee; Jane Porter,
Emerita • Freelance Instigator & Unindicted Co-conspirators:
 Win Rhoades & Jack Cleary • Distributor: New England
 Distribution Network • Downtown Distribution Volunteers:
 Megan “Moonbeam” Stelzer, Murph, Jon Wyckoff, David
 Drymon, & Bob Halperin • Subscription Fulfillment:
 Sally Strazdins, Gail Drobnyk, Rose Eppard,
 Sharon Churchill, Jan Marx, & Allen McGee

The Music Hall
THE ARTS MATTER.
 TICKETS & INFO 603.436.2400 • THEMUSICHALL.ORG

THE ARTS ARE GOOD FOR BUSINESS.
They bring \$58 Million per year to Portsmouth.

THE ARTS ARE GOOD FOR THE COMMUNITY.
People come together to share an experience that lasts long after the curtain falls.

THE ARTS ARE GOOD FOR THE SOUL.
They break you free from the confinements of your day-to-day.

THE ARTS NEED YOU.
We are proud to be part of an arts-rich community, but we are all being hit hard during this crisis.

Help us ensure that our vibrant arts community is still thriving when all of our doors are open again.

Please consider supporting the arts today.

LOFT • 131 CONGRESS ST // [f/MUSICHALL](https://www.facebook.com/MUSICHALL) [@MUSICHALL](https://www.instagram.com/MUSICHALL) [y/MUSICHALLNH](https://www.youtube.com/MUSICHALLNH)
 B2W BOX OFFICE AT THE HISTORIC THEATER • 28 CHESTNUT ST • PORTSMOUTH NH

Anthony's Home Services LLC
 Repair & Maintenance
 Residential & Commercial
 Fully Insured
 (775) 984-5054 ~ Durham
anthonyshsllc@gmail.com

**MIKE DATER'S
 CARTOON ORIGINALS**
 AND OTHER DRAWINGS BY
 THE NEW HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE'S
 VERY OWN
STARVING ARTISTE
WWW.MIKEDATER.COM

**Visit
www.jimhightower.com**

- ✓ Personally autographed copies of Jim Hightower's best-selling books
- ✓ Subscriptions to the monthly "Hightower Lowdown" newsletter
- ✓ CD's ✓ Tapes
- ✓ Videos ✓ Pamphlets

Pseudo-Events: Trump and the White Rabbit

by Jean Stimmell

Trump has an uncanny ability to orchestrate pseudo events.

Any doubts I might have had were erased after talking to an acquaintance, a smart, honest, and successful trades-person. I had always found him confident and upbeat, but today he felt besieged: he explained he'd been on edge since the election but now was on high alert, after receiving a text, warning that a BLM [Black Lives Matter] gang was headed to New Hampshire, including his town, to loot and plunder. He said he was ready: "my whole family is 'locked and loaded.'"

Unfortunately, fantasy had been winning the battle against reality, long before Trump. I first became aware of this dangerous trend after reading *The Image: A Guide to Pseudo-Events in America*, published in 1962 by the political historian Daniel Boorstin. Praising the book 54 years later, *Atlantic Magazine* said it had predicted the future "so neatly that it reads, in 2016, not just as prescience, but as prophesy."¹

Boorstin defined a pseudo-event as an ambiguous truth that appeals

to people's desire to be informed. He argued that being in the media spotlight was a strong incentive for public figures to stage artificial events, which became real and important once they had been validated by media coverage. Boorstin further warned that if the voting public continued to be inundated with pseudo-events, these media stars would soon dominate the political landscape.

Think Trump and his mass rallies.

P.T. Barnum proved not only that people could be fooled, but that they wanted to be, according to Boorstin. We have made illusions so vivid they have become our lives: "Yet we dare not become disillusioned, because our illusions are the very house in which we live; they are our news, our heroes, our adventure, our forms of art, our very experience."²

Boorstin's book first came out when I was a junior in high school, but I didn't discover it until attending college, after a long tour in Vietnam. Majoring in the social sciences, I was flung down a twisting rabbit-hole without end, stranger than any drug trip by his book. Wrapping my head around our crazy descent

into pseudo reality was like listening to Gracie Slick sing her anthem at Woodstock about the White Rabbit and Alice ten-feet tall. History since then continues to be this wild ride through an increasingly socially constructed fantasy.

Flashing closer to today, Chris Hedges wrote *Empire of Illusions* in 2009, at a time when the gap between the affluent, well-educated folks and the rest of the country was rapidly widening. As NPR said, after reviewing the book: "One side is based in reality and able to separate illusion from truth; the other side is rooted in fantasy."³

We are all, by now, familiar with how Trump was able to hone his P.T. Barnum skills during the years he was star of "The Apprentice," a virtuosity he practices daily, having expanded his reality show to include the whole nation.

Chris Hedges takes us further back in Trump's career to when he was a professional westling promoter, revealing how he first learned how to tap into and validate the rage and hopelessness of alienated white workers. He was really good at it, even getting inducted into the ce-



"White Rabbit"
by Nicolas Munoz

that negative energy toward the designated fall guy (or a woman named Hillary).

Though Trump will soon be gone, there are no easy answers in how to restore reality after our long slide into fantasy. Two things could do it but are probably as likely as seeing a white rabbit ten-feet tall: A stimulus program to lift up all boats, ensuring that every American is able to live a secure and dignified life; and a quality and affordable public education system, available to everyone, from cradle to grave.

====

1 - <https://www.theatlantic.com/entertainment/archive/2016/12/the-image-in-the-age-of-pseudo-reality/509135/>

2 - Hedges, Chris. *Empire of Illusion* (p. 15). PublicAffairs. Kindle Edition.

3 - <https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=106853619>

4 - Hedges, Chris. *Empire of Illusion* (p. 6). PublicAffairs. Kindle Edition

"White Rabbit," by Nicolas Munoz, is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

====

from page six

customers as a group.

Recently Eversource, the state's largest utility, signed a settlement agreement in a rate case now awaiting approval by the PUC. Here's an interesting factoid from that settlement. A really big industrial customer—one using 2.1 million kilowatt-hours a month—would get a monthly bill from Eversource of \$211,180.95 under the new rates.

That works out to \$2.5 million a year. It's a big number, most of which goes to paying legacy fossil-fuel and nuclear generators (the bulk of them out of state), the owners of the regional transmission grid (including Eversource), and the owner of the distribution system (which, for Eversource customers, is Eversource).

In their laudable zeal to defend the interests of New Hampshire's beleaguered utility customers, espe-



cially businesses, these lawmakers do not complain about these massive and ever-rising costs paid to generators and transmission owners. Neither, by the way, did the Business and Industry Association when it filed a similar letter at the PUC on November 10th.

Instead, the legislators zero in on energy efficiency. I think, at least in most cases, this reflects a sincere belief that if energy efficiency were so great then principles of free-market economics would naturally drive customers to adopt it.

Fair enough—but from the perspective of a ratepayer advocate, reality trumps ideology. And the reality is that negawatts—serving the next unit of demand by squeezing more work out of the energy we are already using—are always cheaper

than megawatts. That's true unless you use the kind of math that counts costs but ignores benefits.

Please forgive me for yet again getting a bit law professor-ish, but I do have to add one more point. Although the PUC is an independent body, structurally it is part of the executive branch. And separation of powers is a thing.

All of the PUC's authority is delegated to it by the General Court, but once the Legislature has told the PUC what to do via duly enacted statutes, it's not cricket for lawmakers, be they Democrats or Republicans, to send additional guidance to the agency on an ad hoc basis. That's especially true when the guidance is coming from only 2.25 percent (9 out of 400) of just one of the Gen-

eral Court's two lawmaking bodies.

You may disagree with me, in which case you probably want to know who besides Representatives Hinch and Harrington deserve credit for the letter. The other seven signatories are Rep. Glen Aldrich of Gilford, Rep. Troy Merner of Lancaster, Rep. Jeanine Notter of Merrimack, Rep. Russell Ober of Hudson, Rep. Fred Plett of Goffstown, Rep. Doug Thomas of Londonderry, and Rep. Michael Vose of Epping.

Good folks all—but, in this instance, all wrong.

====

D. Maurice Kreis is New Hampshire's Consumer Advocate. He and his staff of four represent the interests of residential utility customers before the N.H. PUC and elsewhere.

====

"They say the religion of your fathers is good enough. Why should a father object to your inventing a better plow than he had? They say to me, do you know more than all the theologians dead? Being a perfectly modest man I say I think I do. Now we have come to the conclusion that every man has a right to think. Would God give a bird wings and make it a crime to fly? Would he give me brains and make it a crime to think? Any God that would damn one of his children for the expression of his honest thought wouldn't make a decent thief. When I read a book and don't believe it, I ought to say so. I will do so and take the consequences like a man."

— Robert Green Ingersoll (1833 – 1899)

====

"Are you lost daddy I asked tenderly. 'Shut up he explained.'"

— Ring Lardner, *The Young Immigrants* (1920)

====

ASE Master Techs, Free Loaners
3 mins. from downtown Portsmouth

AUTOWORKS
All Makes & Models

(603) 436-4500
Approved Auto Repair

appt@auto-works.com
107 Government St. Kittery

Timetravel through 300+ years of history: 38 historic buildings, heirloom gardens, costumed role-players, traditional crafts.

7 days 10 am to 5 pm
14 Hancock St. Portsmouth
603.433.1100
StrawberyBanke.org

STRAWBERRY BANKE PORTSMOUTH NEW HAMPSHIRE

North River Woodworks
Portsmouth, NH — (603) 682-4443
Local Craftsmanship

City Brewery, 1850-1880, For Sale

418 Spring St.
Galena, IL 61036
call (815) 238-2939

Colin A. McGee
Enrolled Agent
Expert tax preparation, consultation and representation for businesses and individuals
(603) 436-0707 • Colin@kdmcgeebiz.com

For Sale: English Wintech Saddle

Brand new condition, never used on a horse. Comes with stirrups and girth.
Asking \$600 - (603) 812-3745

First Café Kilim... then Identity... now...

WE'VE MOVED!
Come visit us at our new facility in "WEPO" (West End of Portsmouth).
124 Bartlett St.

black sheep
design company
screenprinting embroidery graphic design
603-431-6801

HAPPY TRAILS
Until We Meet Again...

Water Monkey
Alternative Clothing & Goods
33 Vaughan Mall • Portsmouth, NH 03801 • (603) 431-2243

HOPE

Granite State Independent Living
gsil.org
Tools for Living
Life Independently

Pay is \$10.25 – \$10.75/hr.
Please contact Ashley at (603) 568-4930 or atruong@gsil.org for more information.

Granite State Independent Living is looking to add caring and compassionate individuals who are interested in making a difference in people's lives as a Personal Care Attendant. Duties include: personal care, housekeeping, lifting, transfers, errand and grocery shopping. We offer a flexible schedule and paid training.

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

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

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

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

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6	MONDAY, DECEMBER 7	TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8	WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9	THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10	FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11	SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12
<p>1967—Chaplain Angelo "Charlie" Liteky carries 23 wounded men to safety in Vietnam despite intense hostile fire. For his bravery he is given the Medal of Honor, which he returns in 1986 to protest U.S. foreign policy.</p> <p>1962—Speaking to journalists at the Deadline Club in New York City, Pentagon spokesman Arthur Sylvester says "It's [the] government's right, if necessary, to lie to save itself when it's going up into a nuclear war."</p> <p>1951—The National Association of Broadcasters adopts a Code of [Cowardly and Obsequious] Conduct.</p> <p>1937—The Supreme Court rules poll taxes Constitutional—why should Blacks and poor whites get to vote?</p> <p>1933—Federal judge John M. Woolsey rules that Joyce's <i>Ulysses</i> is not obscene and may be imported.</p> <p>1928—In Cienega, Colombia, soldiers with machine guns open fire on workers striking against United Fruit Co. At least 47, and possibly several thousand, workers die.</p> <p>1918—The U.S. War Department ceases shackling conscientious objectors to the walls of solitary cells.</p> <p>1917—The largest pre-A-Bomb explosion occurs in Halifax when a munitions ship explodes; 1,600 die; and windows break 40 miles away.</p> <p>1865—Georgia ratifies the Thirteenth Amendment, thus making slavery illegal—leaving a loophole for exploitable prisoners, though.</p> <p>342—RIP Saint Nick.</p> <p>2:58 3:05</p> <p>8:53 9:31</p>	<p>2006—The "Justice" Department fires eight prosecutors for failing to prosecute enough Democrats.</p> <p>1997—Six skydivers leap from a plane over the South Pole. Three of them die when their chutes fail to open.</p> <p>1995—France is virtually paralyzed when 1.75 million workers protest global exploitation.</p> <p>1993—The Department of Energy admits it conducted more than 200 secret weapons tests.</p> <p>1987—A disgruntled ex-employee shoots a Southwest Airlines pilot and co-pilot. The plane breaks up while diving at Mach 1.2, killing all aboard.</p> <p>1985—Their warnings overruled by Ronald Reagan—selling arms to Iran and giving the profits to assassins is illegal—Cap Weinberger and George Schultz joke about jail visiting hours.</p> <p>1970—R.I.P. legendary cartoonist Rube Goldberg, whose work inspired the <i>Gazette's</i> business plan.</p> <p>1964—Japan bestows the Order of the Rising Sun on Gen. Curtis LeMay, whose fire-bombing of that nation during WWII probably killed half a million Japanese.</p> <p>1961—MPs hold civilians at Peterson Field, Colo. at gunpoint as Tibetan commandos, secretly trained by the CIA, are smuggled aboard a C-124.</p> <p>1941—Japan attacks Pearl Harbor.</p> <p>1874—Angered by a Black sheriff's election, whites in Vicksburg, Miss. begin a month-long slaughter of 150-300 Black men, women, and children.</p> <p>3:51 4:03</p> <p>9:50 10:26</p>	<p>2006—Congress votes to destroy the U.S. Postal Service by making it pre-fund pensions for 50 years.</p> <p>2004—Soldiers in Iraq ask Sec. of Defense Rumsfeld why their vehicles aren't armored. He says, "You go to war with the Army you have...not the Army you might want."</p> <p>1993—Bill Clinton signs NAFTA, shipping umpteen jobs elsewhere.</p> <p>1982—To jumpstart a national dialogue on banning nuclear weapons, Norman D. Mayer, 66, threatens to blow up the Washington Monument with a dynamite-laden van. After ten hours, police shoot him dead.</p> <p>1980—R.I.P. John Lennon.</p> <p>1976—As a prop man moves a figure hanging from a gallows on the set of "The Six Million Dollar Man," a human arm falls off. Turns out it's Elmer McCurdy, born in Washington, Maine in 1880 and hanged in 1911.</p> <p>1972—United Flight 553 crashes in Chicago killing 45 people including E. Howard Hunt's wife Dorothy, who was carrying \$10,000 in \$100 bills.</p> <p>1963—Lightning hits Pan Am Flight 214 over Maryland. A fuel tank explodes, a wing falls off, and 81 die.</p> <p>1953—Good ol' Ike announces Atoms for Peace, leading to an Iranian nuclear program four years later.</p> <p>1864—Pope Pius IX denounces liberalism, socialism, & rationalism.</p> <p>1854—Pope Pius IX proclaims <i>Ineffabilis Deus</i>, the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception.</p> <p>4:48 5:05</p> <p>10:52 11:23</p>	<p>2019—Leaked documents reveal that officials lied about the war in Afghanistan. Some professed to be shocked.</p> <p>2008—The Governor of Illinois, Democrat Rod Blagojevich, is arrested for attempting to sell a Senate seat.</p> <p>1983—Ed "Meese is a Pig" Meese says people go to soup kitchens because it's "easier than paying."</p> <p>1970—Because he's talking to General Al Haig, Henry Kissinger keeps it simple: "Kill anything that moves."</p> <p>1966—"We are in a much stronger position than two years ago. [Commies] will not be able to succeed [in Vietnam]," says Sec. of State Rusk.</p> <p>1960—Its pilot asleep, a B-52 rolls into a dive over N.Y. state. Fearing a crash, the navigator ejects. That awakens the pilot, who orders "Bail out!" The crewless, nukelless plane flies 100 miles before crashing near Barre, Vt.</p> <p>1958—Robert Welch Jr. founds the John Birch Society, which goes on to label Dwight Eisenhower a Commie.</p> <p>1950—General D. "Dugout Doug" MacArthur proposes detonating 26 A-bombs to create an impenetrable barrier across the Korean peninsula.</p> <p>1949—Ex-HUAC honcho J. Parnell Thomas [R-N.J.] gets six to 18 months in the slammer—alongside two of the Hollywood Ten—for padding Congressional payrolls and pocketing the extra cash.</p> <p>1935—Investigative reporter Walter Lippett is Tommy-gunned in front of his family in Minneapolis.</p> <p>5:47 6:09</p> <p>11:55</p>	<p>2011—The gundalow <i>Piscataqua</i> is launched on the eponymous river.</p> <p>2004—Gary Webb, who exposed the CIA-Contra drug connection, dies from two gunshots in the face. The coroner calls it suicide.</p> <p>1998—House Judiciary Committee debates impeaching Pres. Clinton for lying about his lewd behavior.</p> <p>1992—Sen. Bob Packwood (Lecher-Ore.) apologizes for being a serial groper but refuses to resign.</p> <p>1987—Murderer Stanley Draper and gangster John Kendall are sprung from a British prison by a pal in a hijacked helicopter.</p> <p>1976—In a memo to President-elect Carter, pollster Pat Caddell makes the case for a "permanent campaign."</p> <p>1971—The Senate, buying Wm. Rehnquist's lie disavowing a letter supporting racial segregation, confirms him for the Supreme Court.</p> <p>1967—Trying to lower the cost of natural gas, the U.S. government explodes an A-bomb in N.M.</p> <p>1966—In Vietnam, 16 U.S. Marines are killed and 11 are wounded by "friendly fire."</p> <p>1937—G.P. Thompson gets the Nobel for Physics for proving electrons are waves. His dad won it in 1906 for demonstrating that they're particles.</p> <p>1789—Moses Brown hires Samuel Slater, a Briton, to build the first U.S. textile mill, in Pawtucket. By poaching British technology and exploiting children, Brown becomes filthy rich.</p> <p>6:45 7:13</p> <p>12:20 12:58</p>	<p>2006—President George W.[MD] Bush, on national TV, denies having ever been "a knee-walking drunk."</p> <p>2000—The Supreme Court hears <i>Bush v. Gore</i>.</p> <p>1998—President Clinton begs forgiveness for his sins. Instead he gets three Articles of Impeachment.</p> <p>1985—Veep George H.[H.]W. Bush, at a Manchester, N.H., dinner honoring the late William Loeb, reads aloud Loeb's most scurrilous attacks against him.</p> <p>1981—Soldiers of the U.S.-backed Salvadoran government murder 900 villagers at El Mozote.</p> <p>1964—As Ernesto "Che" Guevara speaks at the United Nations, a 3.5 inch rocket launched from Queens falls harmlessly into the East River.</p> <p>1960—Seeing at the last minute that JFK has his wife and kids with him, Belmont, N.H. resident Richard Pavlick defers his plan to crash into the President-elect's car with his dynamite-laden Buick.</p> <p>1951—A few days after slipshod coal dust removal techniques are approved by state inspectors, the New Orient mine in West Frankfort, Ill., blows up, killing 119 miners.</p> <p>1917—Guilty of fighting back when Houston cops rioted in August, 13 Black soldiers are hanged in unison.</p> <p>1838—The U.S. House of Representatives passes Rep. Charles Atherton's (D-N.H.) "gag rule" prohibiting discussion of slavery.</p> <p>7:41 8:14</p> <p>1:17 1:58</p>	<p>2006—The <i>Portsmouth Herald</i> misquotes Sen. Barack Obama [D-Ill.], who, the day before, in Portsmouth, did <i>not</i> say, "The moral arc of the universe bends at the elbow of justice."</p> <p>2005—"I think we are welcomed [in Iraq]," says George W.[MD] Bush, "but it was not a peaceful welcome."</p> <p>2000—The Supreme Court selects George W.[MD] Bush as the 43rd President of these disunited states.</p> <p>1998—For good measure, Congress whups a fourth article of impeachment on Pres. Clinton.</p> <p>1995—A Flag Protection Amendment fails by three votes in the Senate.</p> <p>1985—Arrow Air Flight 1285 crashes at Gander, killing 248 U.S. paratroopers and eight crew. Islamic Jihad claims credit, which a sketchy U.S. investigation attempts to deny.</p> <p>1984—Georgia prison officials electrocute Alpha Otis Stephens a second time, after their first effort fails.</p> <p>1983—Nancy Reagan sits on Mr. T's lap and kisses him on the scalp.</p> <p>1983—At a Boston trade show, "New Trends in Missiles," anarchists turn loose 1,000 cockroaches, symbolizing the winners of a nuclear war.</p> <p>1950—Senator Joseph McCarthy (R-Bushmills) kicks columnist Drew Pearson in the groin.</p> <p>1942—The <i>Queen Mary</i>, with 16,082 GI's on board—the world record—is hit by a wave perhaps 90 feet high. It rolls 52 degrees; another three degrees and it would have capsized.</p> <p>8:35 9:11</p> <p>2:13 2:55</p>
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13	MONDAY, DECEMBER 14	TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15	WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16	THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17	FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18	SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19
<p>2009—Sen. Joe Lieberman [I-Conn.] nixes a Medicare public option.</p> <p>2003—U.S. troops drag Saddam Hussein out of a hole in the ground, so final victory in Iraq must be imminent. U.S. death toll so far: 547.</p> <p>2000—Al Gore decides he'd rather be righteous than be president.</p> <p>1988—In Texas, Ray Landry's death is delayed 14 minutes when a tube falls from his arm and lethal chemicals spray across the room.</p> <p>1978—An eager public finally gets its first Susan B. Anthony dollars.</p> <p>1974—Defecting oceanographer Slava Kurilov leaps from a Soviet cruise ship, swims for three days, and reaches the Philippines safely.</p> <p>1954—Because he sold a house in a white Louisville neighborhood to a Black man, journalist Carl Braden is convicted of sedition.</p> <p>1951—J. Edgar Hoover spooks Harry S Truman into purging "disloyal" government workers.</p> <p>1949—An American League proposal to legalize the spitball fails.</p> <p>1932—In the U.S. House, sporting goods store clerk Martin Kemmerer brandishes a .38 and demands the floor. Rep. Melvin Maas (R-Minn.) talks him into dropping the gun.</p> <p>1864—Paraguay declares war on Brazil; its population is soon halved.</p> <p>1774—Paul Revere rides to Portsmouth with news that the export of powder and arms to America have been prohibited.</p> <p>9:28 10:06</p> <p>3:07 3:50</p>	<p>2012—N.H.-born Adam Lanza shoots his gun-enthusiast mother, six other adults, and 20 kids at a Newtown, Conn. school.</p> <p>2008—"This is a farewell kiss from the Iraqi people, you dog," yells Muntadhar al-Zaidi, as he flings his shoe at George W.[MD] Bush.</p> <p>2005—George W.[MD] Bush blames his Iraq War on "faulty intelligence." He doesn't say whose.</p> <p>1987—Chrysler admits it sold thousands of used cars as new ones.</p> <p>1986—Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager begin a nine-day, non-stop, around-the-world flight.</p> <p>1981—Secretary of the Interior James Watt, defending taxpayer-funded cocktail parties he's held at the Lee Mansion, says "Mr. Reagan has the White House. I have Arlington."</p> <p>1973—Richard Nixon personally thanks the U.S. head of Rev. Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church for his support.</p> <p>1972—The last men on the moon leave.</p> <p>1942—The second of two giant Soviet propaganda planes crashes, again due to misadventure.</p> <p>1907—The seven-masted schooner <i>Thomas W. Lawson</i> runs aground off Cornwall, resulting in the world's first major oil spill.</p> <p>1906—The <i>U1</i>, Germany's first submarine, goes into service.</p> <p>1774—Local militiamen seize powder and arms from Fort William and Mary, near Portsmouth.</p> <p>10:19 10:59</p> <p>3:59 4:42</p>	<p>2000—Sen. Phil Gramm gives Enron the energy futures deregulation it wants, hidden in an appropriations bill. One year later Enron is bankrupt.</p> <p>1997—Paula Jones' lawyers maneuver Bill Clinton into signing a legal document claiming he'd not had sex with government workers.</p> <p>1986—Bill Casey, CIA director, suffers a handy seizure, preventing him from testifying about Iran/Contra.</p> <p>1983—Ed Meese denies Ebenezer Scrooge exploited Bob Cratchit.</p> <p>1969—The Mormon Church reaffirms its "no Black priests" policy.</p> <p>1967—A 2.5 mm-deep defect in a part collapses the 39-year-old Silver Bridge over the Ohio River, killing 46.</p> <p>1960—Police in Palm Beach arrest N.H. resident Richard Pavlick before he can kill John F. Kennedy with his Buick full of dynamite.</p> <p>1922—Harvard's President defends its policy of banning Black students from dining rooms and residences.</p> <p>1890—Indian Agent J. McLaughlin sends 39 cops to Standing Rock to arrest Sitting Bull; he and seven supporters are killed, as are eight cops.</p> <p>1873—Erie County, N.Y. Sheriff [and future U.S. President] Stephen Grover Cleveland rapes and impregnates Maria Halpin, whom he'd been dating. He has mother and child put into asylums; lunatic and orphan, respectively.</p> <p>1814—The Federalists begin their Hartford Convention; their secrecy, sedition, and bad timing doom them.</p> <p>11:09 11:51</p> <p>4:50 5:33</p>	<p>2005—The <i>New York Times</i> reports that the NSA has been tapping U.S. telephones without a warrant.</p> <p>2001—U.S. troops at Tora Bora ask for help catching Osama bin Laden. Donald Rumsfeld denies their request; Osama walks.</p> <p>1988—Bush #41 nominates notoriously boozy womanizer Sen. John Tower [R-Texas] to run the Department of Defense. His confirmation hearings do not go well.</p> <p>1988—Perennial Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche—Rochester, N.H.'s most famous native—is convicted of tax and mail fraud.</p> <p>1973—Protestors celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the Boston Tea Party by hanging Richard Nixon in effigy.</p> <p>1970—Big Milk offers Nixon a \$2 million "campaign contribution" if he'll cut milk imports. A fortnight later Nixon imposes milk import quotas.</p> <p>1965—Gen. Westmoreland, already commanding 200,000 men in Vietnam, asks for another 243,000.</p> <p>1960—Two airliners collide over Manhattan killing a total of 134.</p> <p>1950—Spooked by Commies, Harry S Truman proclaims a national emergency. It stays in effect until 1976.</p> <p>1835—A two-day fire destroys 674 buildings in New York, bankrupting insurance companies and kicking off the Depression of 1837.</p> <p>1773—"Sons of Liberty" disguised as Mohawks dump 342 chests of tea into Boston Harbor.</p> <p>11:59</p> <p>5:40 6:24</p>	<p>2010—Street vendor Mohamed Bouazizi sets himself afire, thereby igniting the Tunisian Revolution and the subsequent Arab Spring.</p> <p>2006—Bill Kristol predicts on "Fox News Sunday," "Barack Obama is not going to beat Hillary Clinton in a single Democratic primary."</p> <p>1998—Impeachment pending, Bill Clinton wags the dog: half the Pentagon's cruise missiles explode in Iraq.</p> <p>1967—"I know this beach like the back of my hand," says Australian Prime Minister Harold Holt, before disappearing in heavy surf.</p> <p>1960—A U.S.A.F. C-131 hits a Munich steeple, then falls onto a trolley. All 20 on the plane die, along with 18 in the trolley, and 11 on the street.</p> <p>1951—Black Americans petition UN officials in Paris and New York for relief from genocidal U.S. domestic policies. They're ignored.</p> <p>1947—The National Security Council, just 90 days old, gives the CIA \$1 million to mess with Italian elections.</p> <p>1944—Adm. "Bull" Halsey sails the 3rd Fleet into a typhoon. Three destroyers sink; nine other ships are damaged, 100 aircraft are lost, and 790 sailors die, mostly by drowning.</p> <p>1927—The U.S. sub <i>S-4</i> is rammed and sunk off Provincetown by Coast Guard destroyer <i>Paulling</i>, which is hunting rum runners; 40 are lost.</p> <p>1862—Gen. Grant issues General Order No. 11, barring "Jews and other unprincipled traders" from his district.</p> <p>12:41 12:49</p> <p>6:31 7:13</p>	<p>2019—Donald Trump is impeached.</p> <p>2005—"Not only can we win the war in Iraq," says George W.[MD] Bush 962 days after Mission Accomplished, "we're winning the war in Iraq."</p> <p>2004—"America's Most Wanted's" John Walsh says he most wants Jahbir and Alfonso Fowle caught.</p> <p>2000—"If this were a dictatorship," says George W.[MD] Bush on CNN, "it'd be a heck of a lot easier, just so long as I'm the dictator."</p> <p>1996—Kenyan students protest the killing of a student the previous day. Police kill two more students.</p> <p>1996—G-Man Earl Pitts is arrested for moonlighting for the KGB.</p> <p>1972—Richard Nixon begins Operation Linebacker: 12 days of B-52 strikes against North Vietnam. On the first night, surface-to-air missiles shoot down three Stratofortresses.</p> <p>1957—Neon signs and car lots get their first jolt of nuke-generated juice.</p> <p>1946—Eddie Rickenbacker flies a DC-3 over Broadway so Damon Runyon Jr. can scatter his father's ashes.</p> <p>1941—Outnumbered 10 to one, U.S. forces lose Guam to the Japanese.</p> <p>1917—Prohibition, also known as the Organized Crime Job Creation Act, goes to the states for ratification.</p> <p>1907—An explosion kills 361 coal miners in Monongah, W. Va.</p> <p>1867—Differing track widths cause a train to derail in Angola, N.Y. One wooden car drops 40 feet and catches fire; 49 passengers burn to death.</p> <p>1:32 1:40</p> <p>7:22 8:04</p>	<p>2007—A fire breaks out near "Dick" Cheney's office. Probable cause: spontaneous inhuman combustion.</p> <p>1998—As Bill Clinton is being impeached for some hanky-panky, Speaker-elect Bob Livingston resigns to cover up a bit of his own.</p> <p>1984—Due to a work speedup, 27 coal miners are killed in Utah.</p> <p>1974—Norris Cotton finagles a bill giving New Hampshire's senior Senator the right in perpetuity to commandeer Daniel Webster's old desk.</p> <p>1973—Johnny Carson makes a joke about a non-existent toilet paper shortage, inadvertently causing one.</p> <p>1946—The Viet Minh take on the French in Indo-China.</p> <p>1944—Primarily due to bad generalship, two-thirds of the 106th Infantry, comprising 8,000 men, must surrender during the Battle of the Bulge.</p> <p>1941—Ex-corporal Hitler takes direct command of the German Army.</p> <p>1910—Spurred on by the <i>Baltimore Sun</i>, that city mandates the racial segregation of residential areas.</p> <p>1907—An explosion kills 239 coal miners, many minors, in Smithton, Pa.</p> <p>1865—South Carolina passes a law requiring all Black "servants" to sign contracts with their "masters" and be "polite" while working dawn-to-dusk.</p> <p>1777—Washington's army arrives at Valley Forge, Pa.</p> <p>1776—Thomas Paine's <i>American Crisis</i> is first published; "These are the times that try men's souls..."</p> <p>2:24 2:33</p> <p>8:15 8:55</p>

COLBY'S
BREAKFAST & LUNCH
436-3033

LA MAISON NAVARRE
Macarons Paris ●●●

French Pastry - Bistro - Wine Bar
121 Congress Street, Portsmouth
603.373.8401

Madore Electric
Residential & Commercial
Wiring Service
Serving the Seacoast since 1980

Licensed in Maine, Massachusetts, & New Hampshire

Sid Madore (603) 234-9996

Adella's COFFEEHOUSE
Next to City Hall in Downtown Dover, NH
3 Hale Street ☎ (603) 742-1737

"IT IS A TRUE SAYING THAT A MAN MUST EAT A PECK OF SALT WITH HIS FRIEND BEFORE HE KNOWS HIM."
— MIGUEL DE CERVANTES (DON QUIXOTE)

SALT CELLAR
PORTSMOUTH NEW HAMPSHIRE
SINCE 2011
7 COMMERCIAL ALLEY - 766-1616
WWW.PORTSMOUTHSALTCELLAR.COM