

*The Fortnightly Rant*

## Keeping Up With the Loonies

We do our best to keep up. In theory, that's most of the job: try to keep up, and write about the stuff that really matters. These days that boils down to tracking dangerous outbreaks of authoritarian lunacy. This can be unnerving—especially in the context of a formerly-natural environment whose expiration date seems to be getting a fortnight closer every dang week.

In a perfect world we'd be maintaining a sophisticated database for this purpose. Cross-tabulation analysis would no doubt be useful in sorting out the misleaders from the misled, the grifters from the true believers, and the charlatans from the congenitally bewildered.

Having a handle on the character of the actors involved could be of great help when trying to determine if some bizarre event is evidence of a criminal conspiracy, the serendipitous confluence of separate strains of stupid behavior which could nonetheless lead to an accidental but complete societal breakdown, or merely another Fortean example of the universe being kinky.\*

The staggering volume of such incidents means, though, that merely entering the data would consume far more labor than we currently expend on this whole operation. Furthermore, in a perfect world such a thing would be superfluous.

Rewinding to June 3rd, for example, we find [SaveThePostOffice.com](https://www.savethepostoffice.com) reporting that the "Postal Service is now proposing to cut air transportation for the continental U.S. to about 12 percent of First Class volumes, and perhaps eventually to end

\* Charles Fort (1874–1932) was an American researcher and author who compiled four volumes of anomalous phenomena such as frogs and fish falling from the sky, ball lightning, and spontaneous human combustion.

it altogether."

That sounds bad on the face of it. Why do it? "The agency says shifting from air to surface modes of transport would improve net income by \$175 million a year and avoid dependence on air carriers, which can sometimes be unpredictable in meeting USPS time frames."

But, a reasonable person might sputter, the Postal Service has no choice *but* to use planes, if it's going to meet current service standards of three-day delivery to the contiguous 48 states....

Yes, that's true. So, to solve that little problem, "the Postal Service has proposed downgrading service standards. Instead of two or three days, the new standard will be two-to-five days. The Postal Service says that *it will be able to meet these lower standards more consistently, so mail delivery, while slower, will be more 'reliable' and 'predictable.'*"

Ah, we see: this plan was cribbed from the old "The Beatings Will Continue Until Morale Improves" handbook.

The nation's favorite agency, which boasts a 91 percent approval rating, is being driven into the ditch by a Postmaster General who just happens to have owned a competing business in the private sector.

Also on June 3rd, the *Washington Post* reported that said Postmaster, Louis DeJoy, is now under investigation for possible violation of campaign finance laws.

First he gave away money to politicians—maybe legally, maybe not—and then he was given a job that probably pays less than what he's used to getting. Now he's going to improve the agency by making the service worse.

No, there's nothing suspicious in any of that.



*ProPublica* reported last week that those leftists were right all along: "a vast cache of IRS information showing how billionaires like Jeff Bezos, Elon Musk and Warren Buffett pay little in income tax compared to their massive wealth—sometimes, even nothing."

Warren Buffet was being coy when he said he paid a lower tax rate than his secretary. *ProPublica* calculated his tax rate at one-tenth of one percent.

Jeff Bezos—the richest man on the planet, who is burning up billions so he can go joyriding in space—also pays taxes at a rate less than one percent.

Naturally, the IRS and the Justice Department got on this case right away. Unfortunately, their investigators did not go directly to GOP HQ and demand reparations for the overtaxed multitudes who have had to make up the shortfall over all these years.

No, they set out to find and punish whoever let the truth out.

In the absence of our hypothetical database, we've selected these examples of terrible public policy almost at random. Worse things are going on, we have no doubt.

It is easier, in a way, to report on catastrophic climate change than a criminally dysfunctional government. Nature may have her secrets, but she rarely dissembles.

As we go to press, a massive and intense heat dome is squatting over the Southwest, reaching as far north as Montana. It is expected to stay in place for a week. Health officials in Phoenix are warning that contact with asphalt pavement—which can reach 180° F at mid-day—may result in third-degree burns.

Researchers said in April that "the period from 2000 to 2018 was the driest 19-year span [in that region] since the late 1500s and the second driest since 800." What's more, it could continue for decades. And, says the lead author of the study, "We know that this drought has been encouraged by the global

warming process."

This drought is sure to make this year's fire season worse. We reached out to an expert for insight, but our phone line to Hell had melted.

From fire, to ice: the Pine Island Glacier—the stopper keeping half a million cubic miles of Antarctic ice from melting in the Amundsen Sea—could be gone in a decade, glaciologist Bethan Davies said last Friday. An optimistic, though, she said "the future is still open to change."

Fortunately, some legislators are also open to change. Rep. Louie Gohmert [R-Texas] recently asked if, to mitigate climate change, there might be "anything that the National Forest Service or BLM (Bureau of Land Management) can do to change the course of the moon's orbit or the Earth's orbit around the sun?"

Any such plan, though, would have to get past Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, who seems to think Joe Biden is only 3/5ths of a President.

*The Alleged News®*

## Want Socialism? Try the U.S. Military.

*Some of our top brass denounce socialism, but they run the most socialist organization on earth.*

by Mike Lofgren

America's love affair with lunacy continues undimmed. Along with flat-earthers, anti-vaxxers, and fans of perpetual motion, according to a May 21 Ipsos poll, 53 percent of Republicans now assert that Donald Trump is the current President of the United States.

There is a tendency in the reality-based community to regard these folks as obscure lunatics who yell at their TVs in trailer parks when they're not ruining a relative's Thanksgiving dinner. Unfortunately, this epidemic of delusional belief

embraces a more exalted layer of the social spectrum, a group on which the maintenance of our democracy—deeply flawed as it is—may hinge.

This May, 124 retired generals and admirals published an open letter claiming that President Joe Biden stole the election. Traditionally, this letter would have been unthinkable, but a sizable contingent of former flag officers—people whose decisions once held lives in the balance—has gone full QAnon, writing: "Under a Democrat Congress and the Current Administration our Country has taken a hard left turn toward Socialism and a Marxist form of tyrannical government which must be countered now by electing congressional and presidential candidates who will always act to defend our Constitutional Republic."

(A small but telling note: the letter employs the phrase "Democrat Congress," a grammatical barbarism that has done duty as a rhetorical device for Republican operatives for at least 40 years, demonstrating that the signatories are rabid political partisans rather than constitutional scholars).

The screed goes on, asserting that "we are in a fight for our survival as a Constitutional Republic like no other time since our founding in 1776," a claim that makes us wonder how the signers ever graduated from their service academies, since a little incident called the American Civil War is an important part of the academies' military history curricula.

They also question "the mental and physical condition of the Commander in Chief." Given the endorsement of the letter by a raving lunatic like Lieutenant Gener-

al William Boykin and convicted Iran-Contra criminal Vice Admiral John Poindexter, one just might infer a degree of psychological projection on the part of the signers.

The letter garnered condemnation from other retired officers and military analysts, but also a surprising complacency from former Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman Admiral Mike Mullen, who noted that no retired four-stars signed it and only a handful of three-stars: "It's not very senior... In our world it's not very significant in terms of people."

It may be cold comfort that there are "only" retired three-stars on the letter, but what about those officers who are still serving?

It turns out that the same month the letter appeared, a lieutenant colonel was removed from his command after appearing on a conservative podcast touting his book

*Irresistible Revolution: Marxism's Goal of Conquest & the Unmaking of the American Military*, which claims that Marxist ideologies have infiltrated the military.

It is noteworthy that he was only cashiered after the podcast, whereas the book already was in print. Previously, it would have been inconceivable that a military officer could even receive permission to write an ideological screed like that. Ordinarily, they are allowed to write freely on military or technical topics, but political diatribes are strictly off-limits. Someone in the command structure was very lax.

Nevertheless, it was predictable that the Right would see him as a persecuted member of the military who fell afoul of political correct-

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*from page one*

ness. And sure enough, Matt Gaetz came through.

There is considerable irony in the fact that both the letter and the colonel's rant denounce "socialism," the premier bugaboo of right-wingers everywhere. At one level, it is of course the usual childish nonsense that has been disseminated for decades by the kind of mentality that once denounced fluoridation as a Bolshevik plot. Yet in a sense that is quite the opposite of what they intend, these people might have a point about socialism infiltrating the military.

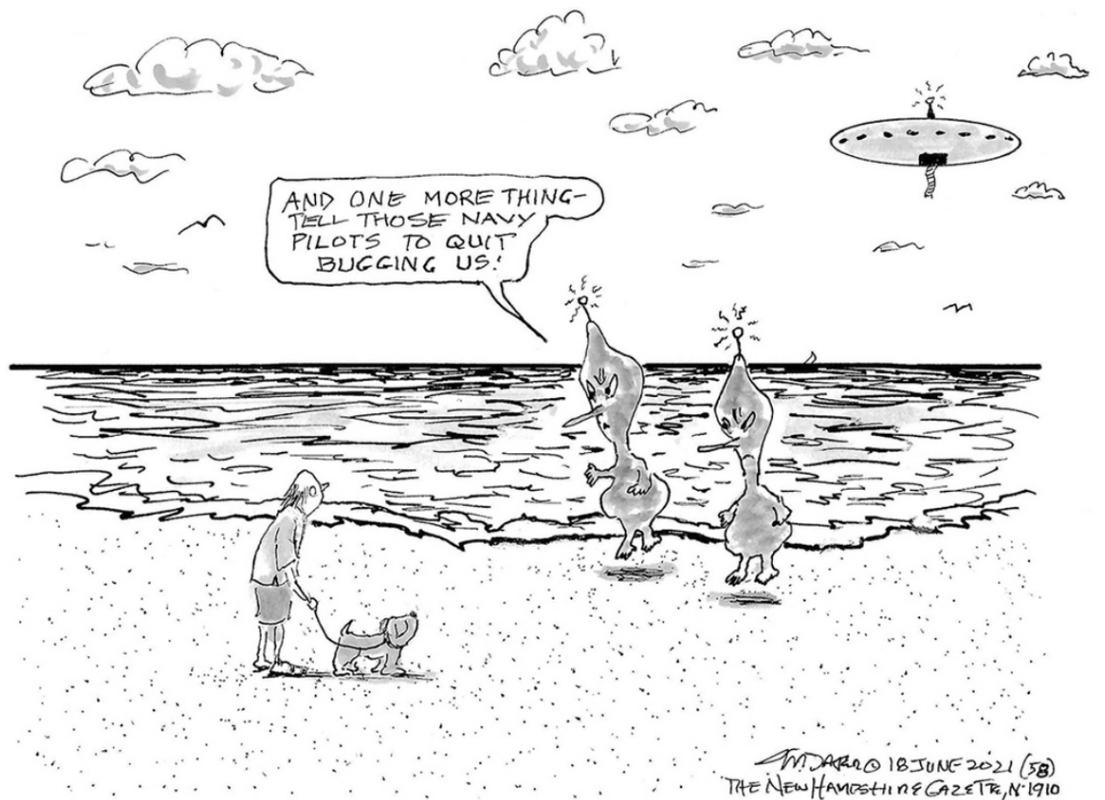
All these self-styled guardians of the Republic, whether retired flag officers luxuriating in their beachfront homes in San Diego, or active-duty military vandalizing the Capitol building, are beneficiaries of socialism. Their profession has a 20-year retirement, free lifetime health care for retirees, housing allowances, food allowances, privileges at heavily-subsidized commissaries and PXs (which, fittingly, somewhat resemble the special stores the old Soviet nomenklatura had), free fitness centers,

golf courses, and the list goes on.

With the demise of the Soviet Union and the capitalist transformation of nominally "Red" China, socialism as a hegemonic political system is confined to backwaters like North Korea. The U.S. military is now the biggest socialist enterprise remaining on earth.

For officers, particularly those with experience in weapons acquisition, the gravy train doesn't end with retirement. Aside from their retirement pay and other continuing benefits, they can snag a job with a defense contractor to peddle influence with their former colleagues. Far from being private enterprise, defense firms like Lockheed Martin or Northrop Grumman are hot-house plants, sustained only by the contracts the military steers to them; they would wither and die if subjected to the cold winds of actual market competition.

Proof of this is the F-35 fighter. The most expensive weapons program in history, the plane has been a snake-bitten fiasco from its inception, and it demonstrates that nothing succeeds like failure—as long as it's too big to fail. As an engineering disaster, the F-35 ranks with the So-



Unidentified pedestrians strolling on Vaughan Mall, paying no attention to an ancient granite post set in a slab of old concrete. A bronze plaque set in the concrete reads as follows: "HISTORIC PORTSMOUTH STONE This stone quarried in Portsmouth in 1803, stood at the corner of Vaughan and Congress streets and marked the departure point of the stage coach to Boston. It also served as the central point from which milestones were set along [the] Concord - Portsmouth stage route."

viet reversal of the flow of rivers into the Aral Sea.

No one can seriously argue that those who bear the brunt of battle should not be adequately compensated and granted all necessary benefits. The problem is that the vast majority of combat casualties are enlisted personnel, and only a small percentage of these will serve long enough to receive retirement pay, whereas colonels and generals by definition have enough service to receive retired pay as well as all the other benefits.

It doesn't end there. Congress usually appropriates an annual military pay raise. The brass, of course, insist that these be across-the-board. Let's say the pay raise is 3 percent. That means a buck private at \$21,420 per year base pay gets a modest increase—\$643—while a lieutenant general, at \$199,296 base pay, receives almost \$6,000. It amounts to socialism for the better-off, and it is curiously just like all the tax cuts of the last four decades: a windfall

for the rich, crumbs for the working stiff. Each succeeding year of military pay raises will only increase the disparity.

The rationale for across-the-board pay raises is as an incentive to hold onto those with valuable skills. While this makes sense to keep a jet engine mechanic for whose talents a commercial airline will pay a premium, I am unaware that we have any difficulty retaining generals. In the case of my hypothetical lieutenant general, he also will likely be provided with a representational house, complete with an enlisted cook and driver, in order to ease the strain of command.

We can be rather safe in assuming that those 124 retired flag officers who wrote the letter decrying socialism knew whereof they spoke from their own deep personal experience: at the commissaries where they shop, and from the free health care they receive to the cut-price gin fizzes they drink at the local officers' club.

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Mike Lofgren is a former congressional staff member who served on both the House and Senate budget committees. His books include: *The Deep State: The Fall of the Constitution and the Rise of a Shadow Government*, (2016) and *The Party is Over: How Republicans Went Crazy, Democrats Became Useless, and the Middle Class Got Shafted*, (2013).

**House Majority Leader Finally Gets [A Little] Scrutiny**

"From taxes to gun rights, to school choice, religious liberty, abortion or election law," tweeted NHPR on Monday, "Jason Osborne has helped steer a historic conservative push in the New Hampshire House." Someone named Jason Knights replied, "So he's responsible for turning us into Arkansas on the Atlantic."

NHPR's story on the House Majority Leader has something in com-

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*Sometimes Old is Good*

The Fechheimer Building, one of the finest examples of a cast-iron facade in Portland, Oregon, was built in 1885. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, it was restored in 1981 by Russell Fellows Properties, the principals of which enjoy a subscription to this newspaper.



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

— Joe Keefe

mon with the pugnacious emails Osborne sends to our inbox: they are absolutely must-read material. We got one such email the same day Rogers' profile appeared.

"Granite Staters Should Run New Hampshire," was the headline, and yes, it was ironic. Probably not intentionally, though.

Osborne is an Ohio native who moved to New Hampshire "more than a decade ago from Defiance, Ohio," Rogers reports. "[H]is involvement in New Hampshire politics dates back to the Free State Project, a movement that aimed to recruit 20,000 libertarians to move to New Hampshire to expand freedom and shrink government."

Osborne's email accuses "our colleagues on the other side of the aisle [of having] forgotten and ignored [a] key tenet of federalism and instead seem complacent to let Washington, D.C. run amok all over New Hampshire."

Yes, better by far to have libertarians from all over the country come to New Hampshire and run amok. And why limit the chaos to the Granite State?

"Last year," Rogers writes, Osborne "gave \$50,000 to Make Liberty Win, a PAC dedicated to electing libertarian-leaning lawmakers nationwide. That figure is an eye-popping sum by New Hampshire House standards."

We can safely say that Osborne did not accumulate that \$50,000 by salting away the \$100 annual stipend legislators are paid. It more likely came from his family's debt-collection business, Credit Adjustments, Inc., [CAI] which he now manages, according to Rogers. "Osborne said the pandemic posed challenges for his business, as some debt collections were put on pause over the past year. He said he's had to shed more than two-thirds of his firm's jobs. (His business also received a \$4 million loan through the federal PPP program last April.)"

CAI's biggest customer had been the Department of Education.

#### Mile Marker Re-Set... Again

Tony's Television and Video Service and Repair recently—and expertly—handled a small technical problem for us. On the counter we saw a carefully preserved 1990s-era news clipping from the *Portsmouth Herald*. Lars Trodson wrote the story of how, during the 1960s, the mile marker in the photo at left nearly ended up in the dump. Ralph Morang provided a photo.

"About 30 years ago, resident William Carlton was working on Islington Street when he noticed the milestone in a heap of junk. 'They were taking the trash to the Jones dump,' said Carlton, and I said 'that's not right.'"

"It didn't get much farther than that. 'I put it in my back yard and kept it there,' he said. His daughter, now fully grown, used to climb on it. 'About two years ago Carlton called [Bruce's father, Louis] Vinciguerra and asked him if he wanted it..."

"Vinciguerra was interested in retrieving the milestone. He called City Hall to get permission to put it back. Red tape being what it is, the process took about two years, but now it's finished.

"City Engineer Dave Allen and his crew of city workers assisted in helping restore this small piece of city history and Vinciguerra planted a small bed of marigolds at the base of the post."



Bruce Vinciguerra standing next to an old granite post, recently re-set by city workers as part of the Islington Street Corridor Project. The stone, located at the corner of Islington Street and Frenchmans Lane, marks the one-mile point from the Portsmouth Stone, seen in the photo on the opposite page. If stones were conscious, this one would be having déjà vu.

#### On Returning to Newsprint

On several occasions while the plague was at its worst—we hope we've seen its worst; with so many reactionary troglodytes in positions of power, we could be speaking too soon—we have used the paltry digital equivalent of this tidy little space to wax nostalgic and pine for newsprint.

In our paper of June 4th—in our what of June 4th?—in our *paper* of June 4th, we went so far as to posit the possibility that some calamity might still derail our attempt to resume our natural fibrous state.

Yes, failure was an option. Of course it was. This is not NASA. The editor is no Gene Krantz, nor is he Ed Harris playing Gene Krantz in *Apollo 13*.

More to the point, we are not Al Reinart and Bill Broyles, the screenwriters of that movie, who saddled our alleged culture with yet another bogus brainworm—as if John Wayne had not already filled the nation's need for empty, posturing heroics.

That trope is right up there with Tom Brokaw's so-called "Greatest Generation." If that generation was

so great, why did it abide American apartheid? Why did it send the poor of the next generation into a pointless slaughter, while letting the privileged cavort at college?

Every generation—every moment—is made up of greatness and meanness, inextricably mixed and mingled. That's what makes life interesting.

Every moment is fraught with potential catastrophe, too.

Which is why, as we revel in our flexible, foldable, First Class-mailable state, we find ourselves oddly empathetic towards any mutt who finds his fangs sunk into a car tire.

When we were merely flinging strings of 1s and 0s into the aether, the only way to gauge success or failure was to steer our browser to Google Analytics and try to decipher a mess of marketing gobbledygook. Ho. Hum. Frankly we have no idea how we did. It was there. People read it or they didn't.

The good news is that subscription renewals are coming in strongly. Meanwhile, out on the street, people are snapping up the paper.

The what, you say?

The paper, we say.

**Murph's Fortnightly Quote**  
*"If you want peace, you don't talk to your friends. You talk to your enemies."*  
 — Archbishop Desmond Tutu (1931- )

*"When we get more houses than we can live in, more cars than we can ride in, more food than we can eat ourselves, the only way of getting richer is by cutting off those who don't have enough."*  
 — Nelson Algren  
 john@wordpraxis.com

*"We're all undesirable elements from somebody's point of view."*  
 — Edward Abbey  
 — Not-So-Random Thoughts from an Oregon Subscriber

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 Lebanon Public Library, 9 E. Park St.

## Does systemic racism exist in New Hampshire?

By Dan and Sindiso Mnisi Weeks

According to Republican leaders in Concord, systemic racism does not exist in New Hampshire and talk of it should be banned in our schools, state agencies, and private entities that contract with the state. Even Governor Chris Sununu, who has pledged to veto the so-called “divisive concepts” language now in the state budget, recently denounced the term “systemic racism” as having “a lot of implicit biases in itself.” He added that he does not want to see it taught to N.H. students because “some of those ideas can get very controversial, very divisive within the schools themselves.”

We agree that talking about systemic racism can get “divisive” fast. We’ve been trying to do just that for years in N.H. out of a sense of obligation to our kids. It is rarely fun or easy.

But we respectfully disagree with all who claim systemic racism does not exist. In fact, it is the omnipresent reality of systems of racial inequity, as experienced by members of our family and community every day, that is the true source of division in our state. Sweeping it under the carpet by government edict will not make it go away.

If that sounds like a stretch, we understand. One of us, like the overwhelming majority of Republicans in Concord, is considered “white.” Growing up in a small N.H. town without any ethnic diversity to speak of, I (Dan) did not get to know a single one of the tens of thousands of people of color with whom I shared this state from the 1980s until 2001, when I left to serve in AmeriCorps. I did not even know they called N.H. home.

Instead, every peer I befriended and adult I admired—from teachers and coaches to principals and police—shared and cemented my “white” identity. My public school education tacitly, if inadvertently, reinforced the idea that “white is right” by what it taught and failed to teach, including the gaping omission of N.H.’s own

centuries-long history of African enslavement and legal subjugation. As a result of my isolation from people of color, the very idea of systemic racism in N.H. never crossed my mind—until our two paths crossed and I invited my future wife Sindiso, a human rights law professor from South Africa, to visit the Granite State.

When the topic of racism is raised in “polite society” there is a natural human tendency to focus disapprovingly on overt acts of bigotry by “backward” individuals, while clinging to a colorblind ideal. Yes, there are those “elements of racism” in N.H. to which the governor recently referred, as we were reminded just last week when Neo-Nazis painted racist graffiti near our home in downtown Nashua and threatened a Latino state representative. Like many other people of color in N.H., I (Sindiso) have experienced my share of outright hate since arriving here in 2008, such as being called the N-word and told to “go back to where you come from” by angry men in public.

But instances such as these are simply not the point when it comes to systemic racism in N.H. Worse, they often distract us from the point. Instead of a few “bad apples” spouting racist hate, what concerns us most are the myriad and interlocking systems of racial injustice that continue in our state on account of “policies and practices that exist throughout a whole society [resulting in] unfair or harmful treatment” based on race, to take the dictionary definition. Crucially, systemic racism does not mean that individual people are racist; it simply means our systems still produce racially disparate outcomes, regardless of the intentions of those operating within them.

But how do we know systemic racism exists in New Hampshire today? Let’s take four simple examples.

### Education

Enshrined in our State Constitu-

tion is the promise that every New Hampshire child will receive an “adequate” education. Although much progress has been made since the end of legal enslavement in N.H. in 1857, the promise of educational adequacy remains tenuous for children of color today. According to the State, spending per pupil in Manchester, where the majority of African American students reside, is just 74 cents for every dollar of per pupil spending statewide—a pattern seen in other communities with large numbers of students of color, and nationwide. This lack of funding is compounded by the fact that students of color are far more likely to experience toxic stress linked to adverse childhood experiences, which derails healthy development and the ability to learn. Fully 58 percent of students in Manchester are eligible for free or reduced lunches and over 900 students experience homelessness, both around twice the statewide rate.

Such inequities in school funding are reflected in student achievement scores, with just 22 percent and 32 percent of African American students in N.H. scoring “proficient” in Math and English, respectively, compared to 49 percent and 57 percent of students of European descent. What’s more, students of color are two to five times as likely as their classmates of European descent to be suspended or expelled from school. Multiple studies find that, while rates of student misbehavior are consistent across racial groups, “black students are punished more harshly and more often for subjective minor offenses.” Many who are suspended from school will have difficulty finding work and go on to spend time behind bars, in a well-worn path known as the “school to prison pipeline.”

### Policing and prisons

Although officer-involved shootings are mercifully rare in New

Hampshire, over-policing and prosecution of people of color, especially for petty offenses, are not. Data from the N.H. Department of Safety show that African Americans are nearly three times as likely to be arrested as people of European descent and more than five times as to spend time behind bars, where they lose their right to vote and opportunities for future employment. Numerous academic studies from other New England states and beyond reinforce the N.H. findings that African Americans are far more likely to be stopped and searched by police even though people of European descent, when searched, are more often found to possess illegal contraband. The studies add a level of nuance not available in the N.H. data: racial disparities in traffic stops are most evident during the day, when police officers can better observe a potential offender’s skin tone.

Among juvenile offenders in N.H., the racial disparity is even wider than adults and ranks 10% higher than the national disparity. According to N.H.’s Child Advocate, African American teens are fully six times as likely as the general population their age to be punished with delinquency findings and probation, while teen offenders of European descent are far more likely to be granted access to diversion programs and maintain a “clean” record. All this in spite of the fact that people of African and European descent are equally likely to use and sell illegal drugs, the leading cause of arrest and incarceration, and are genetically the same.

### Health

Contrary to centuries worth of pseudo-science concerning human origins, which millions of Americans were taught in school, there is no such thing as race biologically speaking.

Nonetheless, a growing body of medical research into the social determinants of health finds that racism (the progenitor of “race”) shortens the lives and harms the health of millions of Americans of color, in New Hampshire and around the nation. For decades, scientists have demonstrated that experiencing racial discrimination produces a raft of negative health effects such as elevated blood pressure, hypertension, and early aging through a process known as weathering. In fact, the effect of racism on driving hypertension is on par with common “lifestyle” culprits like smoking, lack of exercise, and eating a high-fat diet.

In N.H., African American infants are 43 percent more likely than those of European descent to have low birthweight and 33 percent more likely to die as children, including from preventable diseases linked to environmental racism like asthma (which are highest in communities of color and Coos County). These disparities are even more apparent when it comes to hospitalization and death from Covid-19, with African Americans 1.5 times more likely than people of European descent to contract the virus and 2.3 times more likely to die as a result when adjusting for age, often because they are essential “frontline” workers. It doesn’t help that African Americans are more than twice as likely as people of European descent to lack health insurance in N.H., making them far less likely to receive basic care and more likely to be faced with preventable hospitable stays and costly procedures, the leading cause of bankruptcy.

### Economic opportunity

Although we have treated the foregoing factors of policing and prisons, education and health individually, they



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We have been informed that the Housing and Urban Development Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Program [HUD VASH] is no longer accepting used donations of any kind. Other agencies are meeting those needs; VASH now refers veterans to those programs. VASH also has a fund now which can be used to purchase new items for Veterans.  
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*School for Global Inclusion and Social Development at UMass Boston. They live in Nashua with their three kids.*

=====  
 [Note: On the question of systemic racism in this state, we can—we must—attest to this: throughout the first thirty years it was able to enjoyed the manifold benefits of having a newspaper—this newspaper—New Hampshire was relying upon the enslaved labor of an African man. He was called Primus by his enslavers, and by the community which exploited him. Whatever name his mother gave him, we will never know.—The Ed.]  
 =====

**Betsy Ross to Gov. Sununu**



**CONCORD**—In her rocking chair, and sewing stars on the makings of new nation's flag, Betsy Ross worked and greeting visitors on Flag Day outside the New Hampshire State House. "Betsy," portrayed by Derry resident Corinne Dodge, spoke with tourists, chatted with legislators, and posed for pictures, but the person she came to see, Governor Sununu, never came down for a visit. She had intended to thank him for his comments about New Hampshire being the "gold standard" for state elections, and for not supporting those who are spreading misinformation to justify more restrictive voting laws.

"Good day Sir, how be ye this fine day?"

"I have come on your Flag Day, to thank ye for wisely speaking out to give assurance to the People of New Hampshire. I hear tell that some in your State are spreading untruths about the integrity of New Hampshire elections. I thank ye for proudly standing up to tell the People of New Hampshire that their elections are fair and secure, and that New Hampshire is as ye yourself said, "the gold standard for fair elections." How very right and wise ye are, but, I must give ye warning.

"Ye will soon be asked to give approval to voting bills that will be troublin' to the good people of New Hampshire; bills which will require them to engage in all sorts of governmental red tape in order to vote. For many of your eligible-to-vote constituents, it will be a true inconvenience and for others a true burden to their ability to vote. I tell ye this day that the people will not be happy with these bills, specially after already they heard you say that New Hampshire is the gold standard for fair elections.

"Now mind ye, I do understand that there is much brabbling about with animosity in your time, people makin' a big fuss and squabbling over trifles, but ye are the Gov'na! Ye must rise above all that and make New Hampshire government work for all the People. I beg of ye to remember your colonial ancestors who fought and died giving birth to Democracy. Now it is up to ye as Gov'na to protect the people's Democratic Republic here in New Hampshire.

"I beseech ye Gov'na to protect the right of all New Hampshire citizens to vote without unnecessary obstacles. That is the New Hampshire Way! I thank ye for allowing me to speak my mind."

[Note: Our thanks to Open Democracy for having sent us the above dispatch.—The Ed.]

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**Permanent Infrastructure Week**

To the Editor,

Donald Trump held more than a dozen "Infrastructure Weeks" yet delivered on none of them because

his own party was unwilling to raise a dime in taxes to pay for roads and bridges. That has not changed. The GOP senators have offered to spend \$500 billion to \$1.2 trillion on infrastructure, but have flat out refused to support any tax increases to pay for it. In short, these Senators, including Susan Collins, are pro deficits and anti-balanced budgets. The time has come to stop calling Republicans fiscal conservatives. They are not.

Walter Hamilton  
 Portsmouth, N.H.

=====

**Do Billionaires Deserve Big Tax Breaks?**

Dear Editor,

It's outrageous that 25 rich billionaires paid far less tax, as a percentage of their income, than most taxpayers. Some paid zero, zip, nada. The latest analysis of plutocrats' tax returns shows big-time tax avoidance benefitting those whose earnings exceed \$2 million. It's legal, according to current tax laws, but it just ain't right.

Warren Buffet, for example, paid just \$23.7 million in taxes from 2014 to 2018, when his wealth rose by \$24.3 billion. That's less than 0.1 percent of his earnings. What percent of your earnings went to taxes?

It's perfectly legal that losses on speculative investments, like the stock market, offset winning bets in future years. But, those untaxed earnings require higher taxes on the rest of us. Why should we cover oligarchs' losses while we don't share their gains? Why are capital gains taxed as half the rate of wages?

These unfair tax laws should be changed.

Bruce Joffe  
 Piedmont, Calif.

=====

**Where Have All the Bees Gone?**

To the Editor:

As my husband and I sat dining and enjoying the gorgeous azaleas blooming on either side of our deck a few weeks ago, the usual humming of the bees was missing. This year, we have observed far fewer bees on each

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

are, in fact, intertwined as manifestations of the complex phenomenon called systemic racism. Nowhere is their combined presence and compounding impact more keenly felt than in the economic domain, where the lack of good health or a high-quality education, or the presence of a criminal record, conspire to set people of color back from one generation to the next.

According to the latest available Census data, New Hampshire has the third highest racial pay gap of all fifty states, with the median worker of African descent earning just \$24,500 or 61 percent below the median worker of European descent. They also experience poverty three times the statewide rate and generally pay a far higher rate of state and local taxes—9.1 percent for people in the bottom income quintile compared to 3.0 percent for the wealthiest one percent. Although employment discrimination has not been studied in N.H., national data clearly show that workers of color earn less than their colleagues of European descent with the same job and qualifications and are less likely to be promoted. In fact, simply having an African American-sounding name on your resume has been shown to cut your likelihood of being called back for a job in half.

Unequal pay naturally translates into unequal wealth, with African Americans in N.H. 71 percent less likely to own a home than people of European descent, a legacy of 20th-century federal housing discrimination and de facto residential segregation that continues to this day through restrictive zoning. According to the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, the rate of residential segregation in the Manchester-Nashua metro area rose from

28 to 38 percent between 1990 and 2017. People of color are also less than half as likely as those of European descent own a business in N.H., another common means of building inter-generational wealth.

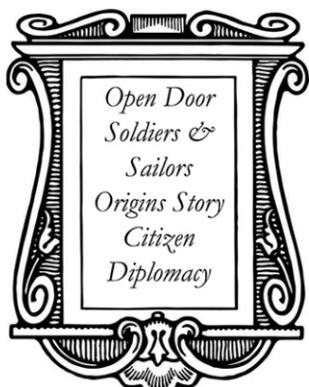
Why is it so difficult for state leaders to see and accept these truths? Perhaps it is because just 15 people of color, out of a population of nearly 150,000, hold positions of power in Concord and most are in the minority. Indeed, Granite Staters of color comprise more than 10 percent of our state's population yet hold just 3.75 percent of seats in the State House of Representatives and zero seats in the State Senate, Executive Council, and Supreme Court, not to mention the governor and his team. They are also less than half as likely as people of European descent to hold full-time state jobs.

Nevertheless, we believe a brighter future is possible for everyone in the Granite State. Even as Republican lawmakers are pushing through their "divisive concepts" ban, hundreds of businesses, nonprofits, and schools have declared their opposition to HB 544 and are doing the slow, hard work of uprooting systemic racism, the true source of division in our state. They do so not out of guilt but pragmatism, knowing that the harms described above visited on people of color actually degrade us all, at a cost of billions of dollars and countless lives across racial groups every year. What's more, they see that a "solidarity dividend" awaits our whole society when we entrench our shared humanity in policy and practice. It's time our Republican leaders followed suit.

Dan Weeks is a director at ReVision Energy and author of Poor in Democracy: A View From Below. Dr. Sindiso Mnisi Weeks is Assistant Professor in the

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## “The People vs Agent Orange,” the PBS Documentary

by Paul Nichols

Formidable advances in technology have generated various long-term health problems for US servicemen and women. And likewise, to opposing forces and the general public who reside in the war-torn countries, including the unborn.

History provides too many examples: Ionized radiation exposure during nuclear testing in the 1950’s in Nevada and South Pacific Islands caused numerous cancer deaths among witnesses too close to ground zero. Gulf War Syndrome from Operation Desert Storm in 1991 and later wars in Iraq and Afghanistan spawned significant human-made health maladies from factors such as toxic exposure to smoke and fumes from burn pits and contamination from depleted uranium in US weaponry.

It’s typical for political influences, endless scientific investigations, and economic concerns, which are often linked, to carry on for decades. By the time accurate medical determinations are made, countless affected victims are terminally sick or have died.

As a Vietnam veteran my focus is on Agent Orange and various other “agents” sprayed on jungles, forests, cropland and waterways in Vietnam and parts of neighboring countries with disregard for long-lasting consequences. A new PBS documentary titled *The People vs Agent*

Orange will be broadcast on June 28 at 10 PM. Since learning of this film, I have been haunted by the deaths of my many Nam Vet brothers who have died from Agent Orange-related cancer and other grievous diseases. Several deceased vets I’d known for years from nearby NH towns. It is as if these vets, years after returning from the war, were killed in Vietnam and didn’t know it!

Americans are rightfully angered and revulsed at other countries use of chemical weapons during wartime. Sadly, the widespread spraying of dioxin, one of the deadliest compounds known even in minute quantities, was a key component of Agent Orange and other infamous “Rainbow Agents”. This vegetative defoliation program was a form of chemical warfare.



Originally labeled Operation Hades, the US Air Force program’s code name soon changed to the more palatable Operation Ranch Hand.

The unofficial program mascot was a parody of Smokey the Bear with the motto, “Only you can prevent a forest”. The first aerial spraying took place in early 1962 using specially rigged Air Force C-123’s and ended in 1971. Throughout the war, all branches of our military applied the herbicides, which were also sprayed by helicopters, riverboats, trucks, and individual backpacks.

US bases, such as the stateside Eglin Air Force Base, served as early test sites. Infantry outfits training on the base and spray handlers were exposed to dioxin poisoning. Storage areas also became contaminated.

No protective gear was issued or worn when spraying. Neither villagers nor American and Vietnamese military personnel were told of the dangers of the herbicide spraying. In fact, they were told that the materials were safe! Men, women, and children in contaminated areas drank the poison, ate it, inhaled it, and wore it. Military applications of the herbicides were at rates much stronger than recommended by manufacturers. During spraying operations little concern was given to mist drift from windy conditions, so unintended areas were also poisoned.

In the rivers of Vietnam, brown-water military personnel became subject to dioxin contamination and its associated misery. The VA now recognizes specific blue water navy locations where personnel

were exposed by the Agent Orange spray program.

Principal suppliers of these agents were Dow Chemical and Monsanto, but there were others. Chemical company boardroom discussions, secret pentagon reports and political warmongers were aware of the calamitous peril caused by the Rainbow Agents. In 1988, Dr. James Clary, an Air Force researcher associated with Operation Ranch Hand, wrote to Senator Tom Daschle, “When we initiated the herbicide program in the 1960s, we were aware of the potential for damage due to dioxin contamination in the herbicide. However, because the material was to be used on the enemy, none of us were overly concerned. We never considered a scenario in which our own personnel would become contaminated with the herbicide.” More recently declassified documents indicate that health consequences received little or no regard.

Generally referred to as Agent Orange, the “rainbow” included Agents Pink, Purple, Green, White, and Blue. Striped colors painted on barrels of the stuff identified the contents. Approximately 20 million gallons of these poisonous concoctions were sprayed, of which more than half was Agent Orange. All except Agent Blue were sprayed to kill vegetation on the Ho Chi Minh Trail, along rivers and across much of the countryside. Agent Blue contained high levels of perilous

inorganic arsenic used to attack the country’s food supply killing life sustaining crops.

The tragic legacy of these monstrous chemicals continues to this day, horribly affecting a multitude of US veterans and their kids and thousands of Southeast Asian families. Prolonged studies have proven that miscarriages, spina bifida and other truly horrific physical offspring deformities have a direct correlation to dioxin exposure. Diseases from Agent Orange poisoning have been proven to sometimes skip a generation, striking grandchildren of war survivors.

The Veterans Administration has long maintained a registry of military vets who served in defoliated areas based on service records. Since at least the mid-80’s, I’ve periodically received the VA’s Agent Orange newsletter providing relative updates.

I feel that it is of utmost importance that tragedies such as the use of Agent Orange be featured in history textbooks and discussed in high schools, colleges, and other public forums so that such offenses can be prevented in the future. The PBS documentary, *The People vs Agent Orange* offers one way to understand a dark side of US history rather than it being swept under the rug as could happen if legislation such as HB 544 becomes NH law.

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Paul Nichols lives in Loudon, N.H.

*Mash Notes, Hate Mail, &c.*  
from page five

bush, and sometimes when I looked, I couldn’t find any!

This disturbing observation was a stark contrast to what we witnessed last year; we would usually see at least a dozen bees of all types feeding on each azalea.

Not just bumblebees and honeybees were few, but also the small, wild bees which do much of the

“heavy lifting” when it comes to the work of pollination.

While many factors like pesticide abuse, habitat loss, and severe drought are blamed, recent studies point to rising temperatures from climate change as a key problem impacting bee health. A 2019 study on wild bees in New Hampshire showed that while some species migrate to cooler climes and thrive, many cannot survive causing an overall decline. Bumblebees also

succumb to extreme heat.

I consider my observation a wake-up call, one which demands a sense of urgency and action on my part. I resolve to continue to landscape my yard with pollinator-friendly plants that support a variety of bees while doing all that I can, both personally and collectively, to reduce carbon emissions to curb increasing temperatures due to climate change. I invite others to join me in similar endeavors—perhaps together we

can avoid a complete collapse of bee populations.

Judith Saum  
UNH Extension  
Natural Resources Steward  
Rumney, N.H.

====

“I’m completely in favor of the separation of Church and State. My idea is that these two institutions screw us up enough on their own, so both of them together is certain death.”

— George Carlin

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“Semiotics is in principle the discipline studying everything which can be used in order to lie. If something cannot be used to tell a lie, conversely it cannot be used to tell the truth: it cannot in fact be used to tell at all.”

— Umberto Eco

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“If a person who indulges in gluttony is a glutton, and a person who commits a felony is a felon, then God is an iron.”

— Spider Robinson

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# It's Time to Dump the Filibuster

by W.D. Ehrhart

Let's take a look at the Republican Party this spring of 2021.

We have Senator Josh Hawley of Missouri, who pumps a raised fist on January 6th in support of the MAGA insurrectionists.

We have Representative Andrew Clyde of Georgia, who likens smashing windows and beating police with American flags and hockey sticks to a "normal tourist visit," and insists that the supporters of former President Donald Trump who stormed the Capitol behaved "in an orderly fashion."

We have Representative Paul Gosar of Arizona, who says the Justice Department is "harassing peaceful patriots" who came to DC on January 6th to exercise their 1st Amendment rights.

We have Senator Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, who says of Trump, "Enough's enough," then travels to Mar-a-Lago to kiss Trump's ass.

We have House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy of California, who says Trump "bears responsibility" for the violent insurrection by a mob of MAGA supporters, then flies to Mar-A-Lago to apologize to Trump.

We have Senator Roy Blunt, also of Missouri, who believes it's "too early" to create a commission, while Senate Minority Whip John Thune of South Dakota is worried about the commission "dragging on indefinitely."

We have Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky,

who says there is already "no shortage of robust investigations" into January 6th.

We have Senator Tommy Tuberville of Alabama who is opposed to an investigation into January 6th "until they make it bipartisan," though the panel would consist of an equal number of Democratic and Republican appointees.

And as long as I'm mentioning notable Republicans, I just can't overlook Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene of Georgia, who equates proof of vaccination to gain access to the floor of the House with the Yellow Stars German Jews had to wear in Nazi Germany, and Representative Lauren Boebert of Colorado, who demands the right to carry her Glock automatic pistol onto the floor of the House.

Speaking of Republicans, the Republican-controlled Arizona Senate has hired Cyber Ninjas, a company that has never audited any previous election, and whose founder and CEO, Doug Logan, is a committed supporter of Trump, to audit the 2020 presidential election results in that state.

At the same time, 361 voter suppression bills have been introduced in 47 states, almost exclusively by Republicans. Georgia, Iowa, Utah & Arkansas have already passed such bills with Florida and Texas in hot pursuit. All of this to make our elections "fair and honest" in spite of the fact that voter fraud in US elections at every level is statistically negligible, and every election official across the country insists that this 2020 election was the fairest in US

history.

Meanwhile, President Biden's sweeping recovery bills, announced with such fanfare and to overwhelming public support months ago, are still stalled in the Senate. His Infrastructure Jobs Plan, which would rebuild roads and bridges, boost broadband access, and make other improvements; and his Families Plan, which would expand preschool and college opportunities, create a national family and medical leave program, distribute child care subsidies, and make other similar investments, are both awaiting just ten Republican votes in the Senate to get beyond the filibuster threshold of 60 votes, as is the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act.

I fear Uncle Joe and his Democratic colleagues are going to be waiting until Hell freezes over—a terrible cliché, but sadly true—for those needed Republican votes. Already the Republicans have responded with badly watered down counterproposals to the Jobs and Families Plans. As if they're actually willing to sign off on anything even resembling what's required. As if Moscow Mitch and his cronies have any intention of agreeing to bipartisan anything.

Meanwhile, support for Biden's proposals will end up dying quietly of inertia as the Democrats fritter away their election goodwill and once again turn their backs on working Americans while ordinary people return in disgusted resignation to a sorry acceptance of the way things are and have been since at least the early Clinton years.



A still from Mr. Smith Goes to Washington. It wasn't a documentary.

After the experience of the past 25 years—since at least that vile "Contract with America" Newt Gingrich foisted on the nation—how any Democrat with a functioning memory can imagine bipartisan government is utterly beyond me. (Joe Manchin, are you really this stupid or do you just like to be the center of attention?)

Yes, we run the risk of the Republicans steamrolling their own agenda through the legislature in the future if we get rid of the filibuster, but that's a risk we ought to be willing to take, considering that the Republicans have misused that same filibuster to stymie virtually every aspect of the Democratic agenda since the beginning of the Obama administration.

And if the present Democratic White House and Democratic Congress don't make significant progress in alleviating the distress of ordinary working Americans, visibly and soon, they may never get another chance to get anything done.

Don't get me wrong. I have no particular fondness for the Democrats, who, at least since the Clinton years, have behaved like Republican Lite, and bear a great deal of responsibility for delivering the country into the hands of #45.

But if I've learned anything since November 2016, I've learned that while the Democratic Party is hardly worthy of champagne and ticktape parades, the Republican Party has simply ceased to bear even a passing resemblance to a collection of sane and decent human beings.

And as long as the filibuster remains, Democratic control of Congress and the White House are largely meaningless, nothing of significance will get accomplished in Washington, and by the next election cycle millions of Americans will once again be willing to listen to rogues, charlatans, fascists, and demagogues.

It's time to put an end to an undemocratic and anachronistic legislative ritual.

## Will Jeff Bezos Return to Earth a Better Human?

by Jim Hightower

While Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. proclaimed, "I have a dream," it was full of lofty ethical stuff like "justice for all" and...well, it was so 1963.

But in today's Facebook-Instagram-Google world of billionaire ethics and expectations, dreams need to glitter with a 2021-ish grandiosity to go viral. So, who better to take us

there than that visionary of instant gratification, Jeff Bezos? "Ever since I was five years old," says the mega-billionaire boss man of Amazon, "I've dreamed of traveling to space." Now that's intriguing, because Jeff regularly acts like he is from outer space—so, is this homeward bound?

Bezos can certainly afford the ticket, for today's global pandemic has delivered a financial windfall to him, increasing his personal wealth

by \$75 billion last year alone. Bear in mind that he didn't have to work harder or smarter to "earn" this bonanza. Indeed, he's retiring as Amazon CEO, but his haul keeps growing as the corporate stock price keeps bloating.

Meanwhile, he bought himself a rocket ship company, and in July he intends to be Customer No. 1 on a tourist fling to the lower edge of space. He and five other high-flyers

will take a short suborbital joy ride about 50 miles up in a fully pressurized cabin, then unbuckle and experience weightlessness for about three minutes before scooting back to terra firma.

Imagine how impressed MLK Jr. would've been by Jeff's commitment of his enormous wealth and potential to such a...well, such a flighty dream. For his part, the gabillionaire predicts that his space-capade will

make him a new man: "It changes your relationship...with humanity," he says of space travel.

Good, for his relationship heretofore has been one of worker exploitation, tax cheating, and monopoly profiteering. So go forth, Bezos-man—and come back a better human.

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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

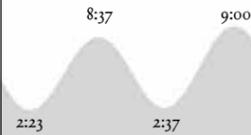
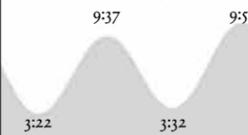
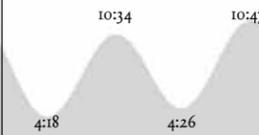
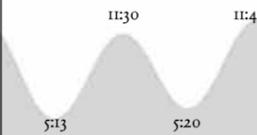
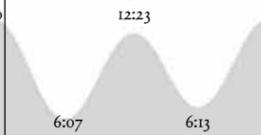
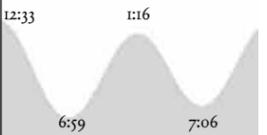
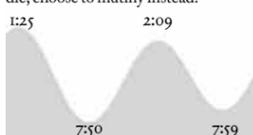
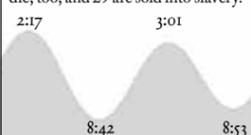
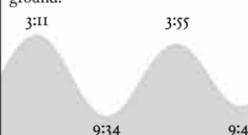
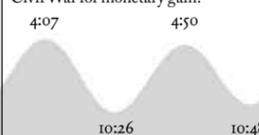
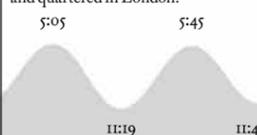
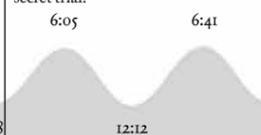
drags about seventeen billion gallons of seawater — enough to fill 2,125,000 tanker trucks — up the river and into Great Bay. This creates a roving hydraulic conflict, as incoming sea and the outgoing river collide. The skirmish line

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, JUNE 20	MONDAY, JUNE 21	TUESDAY, JUNE 22	WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23	THURSDAY, JUNE 24	FRIDAY, JUNE 25	SATURDAY, JUNE 26
<p><b>2005</b>—Veep Dick "Dick" Cheney explains to Larry King that the insurgency in Iraq is "in the last throes."  <b>1970</b>—Off Kamchatka, the Soviet sub <i>K-108</i> loses a screw to the pursuing <i>U.S.S. Tautog</i>, the sail of which picks up a permanent 2-degree bend.  <b>1965</b>—Navy Lts. Clinton B. Johnson and Charles Hartman, flying prop-driven Douglas A-1 Skyraiders, down a MiG jet fighter over Vietnam.  <b>1963</b>—The White House-Kremlin "Hot Line" is installed.  <b>1953</b>—Lt. Gen. John W. "Iron Mike" O'Daniel arrives in Saigon to confer with French General Henri Navarre on how to bring peace to Vietnam.  <b>1947</b>—Standing up for labor, President Harry S. Truman vetoes the anti-union Taft-Hartley Act.  <b>1943</b>—A three-day race riot begins in Detroit; 34 die, 25 of them Black, 17 of whom are killed by white cops.  <b>1942</b>—Four prisoners in stolen Nazi uniforms drive out Auschwitz's main gate in the commandant's car.  <b>1941</b>—The sub <i>U.S.S. O-9</i> sinks east of the Isles of Shoals with 33 aboard.  <b>1940</b>—Elbert Williams is lynched for organizing the NAACP in Brownsville, Tenn.; cops can find no evidence.  <b>1790</b>—T. Jefferson, J. Madison, and A. Hamilton make a deal: a Potomac Capitol, assuming states' debts.  <b>1631</b>—Pirates led by Murad—a Dutchman "gone Turk"—sack Baltimore, in County Cork; its inhabitants end up enslaved in North Africa.</p>	<p><b>2006</b>—Fox News, citing Sen. Rick Santorum (R-Pa.), reports that WMD have been found in Iraq.  <b>2005</b>—Edgar Ray Killen, 80, is found guilty of manslaughter in the case of Schwerner, Goodman, and Chaney.  <b>2004</b>—<i>SpaceShipOne</i> reaches an altitude of 100 kilometers; Mike Melvill becomes the first civilian astronaut.  <b>1989</b>—The U.S. Supreme Court rules that it's legal to burn the U.S. flag.  <b>1964</b>—Michael Schwerner, Andrew Goodman, and James Chaney are murdered in Mississippi by the KKK.  <b>1942</b>—A Japanese sub shells Fort Stevens, Ore., damaging a phone cable.  <b>1935</b>—The top cop busts a cap at a Eureka, Calif. sawmill; chaos ensues but a jammed machine gun keeps the death toll down to three strikers.  <b>1919</b>—Germans scuttle their captive fleet at Scapa Flow. British sailors shoot nine Germans in lifeboats.  <b>1877</b>—Ten Molly Maguires, miners arrested by private detectives and prosecuted by private attorneys for the coal companies, are hanged by Pennsylvania officials, private executioners apparently being unavailable. Pardons for two arrive minutes too late.  <b>1798</b>—British troops and Hessian mercenaries drive the United Irishmen from Vinegar Hill in County Wexford. Then they rape some women and burn some of the wounded.  <b>1788</b>—New Hampshire ratifies the U.S. Constitution. You're welcome.  <b>1631</b>—RIP John Smith.</p>	<p><b>2009</b>—A spokesperson explains the conspicuous absence of South Carolina's GOP Governor: Mark Sanford is "hiking the Appalachian Trail."  <b>2005</b>—Undeterred by futility, the Republican-led House passes a Flag Protection Amendment.  <b>2004</b>—On the floor of the Senate, Veep Dick "Dick" Cheney tells Sen. Pat Leahy, "Go fuck yourself."  <b>2004</b>—Yet another cash-laden C-130 lands in Iraq; this one carries the biggest load of them all: \$2,401,600,000.  <b>2002</b>—Enron execs admit they hid \$1.5 billion in illegal profits gouged from California ratepayers.  <b>1977</b>—Nixon's ex-AG John Mitchell begins a 19-month prison sentence.  <b>1972</b>—UPI's Helen Thomas gets a call from Martha Mitchell: "I'm a captive..."; the phone goes dead. On the scene, Nixon's lawyer orders that the AG's wife be sedated by injection.  <b>1970</b>—The 24th Amendment gives 18-year-olds the right to vote.  <b>1969</b>—Ohio's Cuyahoga River ignites, inspiring Randy Newman.  <b>1964</b>—The fun-loving U.S. Supreme Court overturns the Post Office's ban of Henry Miller's <i>Tropic of Cancer</i>.  <b>1950</b>—Retired FBI agents help a paranoid fabric importer publish <i>Red Channels</i>, a pamphlet claiming radio and TV are full of Communists.  <b>1942</b>—Congress adopts the Flag Code, thus replacing the embarrassingly Nazi-like "Flag Salute" with FDR's hand-on-heart gesture.</p>	<p><b>2016</b>—Memorializing W.Va.'s worst flooding in 100 years, a burning house is filmed as it floats down a creek.  <b>2008</b>—James Hansen warns Congress about global warming—again.  <b>2005</b>—Roller coaster safety expert Richard H. Brown, 64, dies of injuries received in a fall in his own driveway.  <b>2001</b>—"Dark Winter"—a war game simulation of a smallpox outbreak in the U.S.—shows lack of preparation for pandemic would result in chaos.  <b>1988</b>—NASA's James Hansen warns Congress of the seriousness of the threat of global warming.  <b>1976</b>—Edwin Walker, former Army General and Lee Harvey Oswald target, is arrested for fondling an undercover cop in a Dallas men's room.  <b>1972</b>—Nixon is hoist' on his own tape recorder, ordering the CIA to block the FBI's Watergate investigation.  <b>1959</b>—As a film adaptation of his book "I Will Spit on Your Graves" is screened in Paris, author Boris Vian stands, yells "These guys are supposed to be American? My ass!", and dies.  <b>1955</b>—Bill Loeb writes in the <i>Union Leader</i> that Ike has "done more to destroy the respect, honor and power of the U.S. than any President in its history." He ain't seen nothing yet.  <b>1947</b>—The U.S. Senate puts the screws to labor by overriding Truman's veto of the Taft-Hartley Act.  <b>1914</b>—Debate heats up among Western Federation members in Butte: the miners' union hall is dynamited.</p>	<p><b>1994</b>—U.S.A.F.L. Col. Arthur Holland, hot-dogging during air-show practice maneuvers, crashes a B-52 at Fairchild AFB in Washington State.  <b>1982</b>—All engines fail on a British Airways 747 en route to Australia after flying through a cloud of volcanic ash; 14 minutes later, pilots re-start the engines and land successfully.  <b>1971</b>—Nixon's Special Counsel Charles Colson circulates the first White House "Enemies List."  <b>1970</b>—Staging fails on the Kittery side of the Piscataqua River Bridge project. Four men fall 75 feet to their deaths, seven others are injured.  <b>1968</b>—Gen. Earle G. Wheeler, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, tells a Long Island audience, "The enemy has lost whatever chance he had of taking South Vietnam by military force."  <b>1968</b>—Cops and the Guard shut down "Resurrection City U.S.A." in D.C. with dogs and smoke grenades.  <b>1954</b>—Guatemala asks the U.N. to look into the U.S.-backed coup in that country; the U.S. vetoes the proposal.  <b>1924</b>—The Democratic National Convention begins. It ends 17 days later, having voted down an anti-Klan plank.  <b>1902</b>—Deadline looming, Joseph Conrad upsets an oil lamp and accidentally burns the second installment of <i>The End of the Tether</i>.  <b>1524</b>—Countess Helena von Lupfen orders Stühlingen peasants to collect snail shells for her maids, triggering the German Peasants War.</p>	<p><b>2013</b>—The Supreme Court rips the guts out of the Voting Rights Act.  <b>2005</b>—"I could kill someone with this," says Vladimir Putin putting Bob Kraft's Super Bowl ring in his pocket.  <b>1998</b>—The Fed OKs the Travelers/Citicorp merger: the fuse is lit.  <b>1996</b>—Al-Qaeda kills 19 U.S. servicemen in Saudi Arabia and wounds 372. Saudis and the CIA blame Iran.  <b>1973</b>—Ex-White House Counsel John Dean, on live TV, blows the big whistle on his crooked former boss.  <b>1971</b>—ITT lobbyist Dita M. Beard writes a memo noting that Pres. Richard "Dick" Nixon knew ITT was giving the Republican National Committee a \$400,000 bribe to get a favorable Justice Dept. decision.  <b>1969</b>—Defense Secretary Mel Laird gives National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger a menu of options Richard Nixon might use in dealing with North Korea; included: 47 nukes.  <b>1962</b>—God is expelled from U.S. schools by the Supreme Court.  <b>1938</b>—FDR signs a minimum wage and a 44-hour week into law, and puts an end to child labor.  <b>1914</b>—A factory full of volatile chemicals explodes in Salem, Mass. The ensuing fire burns 1,376 buildings and leaves 18,000 homeless or jobless.  <b>1876</b>—Five companies of the 7th Cavalry, including Gen. Custer and two of his brothers, and an AP reporter, are killed by Native Americans near the Little Big Horn River.</p>	<p><b>2015</b>—The Supreme Court puts an end to marriage discrimination.  <b>2013</b>—Byron Low Tax Looper [his legal name], imprisoned for murdering his political opponent, dies at 48 of a heart attack, hours after assaulting a pregnant prison guard.  <b>2006</b>—As Rush Limbaugh returns from the Dominican Republic—a tourist sex-mecca—customs officers confiscate his illicit stash of Viagra.  <b>2002</b>—A Federal court edits "under God" out of the Pledge of Allegiance.  <b>1995</b>—EPA workers dismantle David Hahn's homemade backyard nuclear reactor. The Michigander is 17.  <b>1976</b>—Gov. Kit Bond rescinds a predecessor's "Extermination Order" banning Mormons from Missouri.  <b>1954</b>—Bao Dai, the feckless puppet Emperor of South Vietnam, appoints Ngo Dinh Diem as premier.  <b>1947</b>—Boston Mayor James Curley goes to federal prison for five months.  <b>1943</b>—While loading rocks on horse-drawn wagons in Caribou, Maine, four adults and a boy are killed by a crashing B-26 "Widowmaker."  <b>1940</b>—At the Waldorf in NYC, Gerhard Westrick hosts a gala celebration of the Fall of France to Nazi Germany. His former law partner, future Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, defends Westrick from critics.  <b>1919</b>—Dist. Atty. and future Congressman T. Webber Wilson cheers on a crowd of 10,000 at the lynching of John Hartfield in Ellenville, Miss.</p>
 <p>7:36 8:05 1:23 1:41</p>	 <p>8:37 9:00 2:23 2:37</p>	 <p>9:37 9:54 3:22 3:32</p>	 <p>10:34 10:47 4:18 4:26</p>	 <p>11:30 11:40 5:13 5:20</p>	 <p>12:23 6:07 6:13</p>	 <p>12:33 1:16 6:59 7:06</p>
SUNDAY, JUNE 27	MONDAY, JUNE 28	TUESDAY, JUNE 29	WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30	THURSDAY, JULY 1	FRIDAY, JULY 2	SATURDAY, JULY 3
<p><b>2018</b>—Donald Trump's banker's father announces he's creating a vacancy on the Supreme Court by retiring.  <b>2015</b>—Ten days after the Charleston Massacre, Bree Newsom scales a pole at the South Carolina State House and removes the Confederate battle flag.  <b>2006</b>—Pinkos in the Senate block a Flag Protection Amendment.  <b>2003</b>—The "Do Not Call" list signs up 735,000 people on Day One.  <b>2000</b>—"Until I'm the President," says George W.[MD] Bush, "it's going to be hard for me to verify that I think I'll be more effective."  <b>1995</b>—Days after Rep. John Boehner [R-Ohio] hands out checks from tobacco lobbyists on the floor of the House, a key committee votes to continue tobacco price supports.  <b>1986</b>—Losing <i>Nicaragua vs. U.S.</i>, the U.S. tells the International Court of Justice, "You're not the boss of me."  <b>1973</b>—While reading Nixon's "Enemies List" live on CBS News, Daniel Schorr discovers that he's on it.  <b>1954</b>—CIA-sponsored rebels overthrow Guatemala's democratically elected government, napping a British cargo ship in the process.  <b>1950</b>—President Syngman Rhee, our ally, orders South Korean MPs to eliminate leftists. Thousands are massacred; Rhee blames communists.  <b>1905</b>—Russian sailors aboard the battleship <i>Potemkin</i>, ordered to eat maggoty borscht made from rotten beef or die, choose to mutiny instead.</p>	<p><b>2018</b>—A Trump supporter with a grudge and a shotgun kills five in the <i>Capital Gazette</i> newsroom.  <b>2009</b>—Stephen Hawking throws a party for time travelers. No one shows.  <b>2005</b>—Operation Red Wings goes sideways: 19 U.S. special operators die in Afghanistan's Korengal Valley, including Daniel R. Healy of Exeter, N.H. It's the greatest single loss for U.S. special ops since WWII.  <b>1994</b>—The Department of Energy admits hundreds of U.S. citizens were used as unwitting guinea pigs in radiation experiments during the Cold War.  <b>1975</b>—Rod Serling enters another dimension....  <b>1972</b>—Nixon says no new draftees will be sent to Vietnam, further eroding an anti-war movement already weakened by the lottery.  <b>1971</b>—Muhammad Ali's conviction for draft evasion is overturned.  <b>1969</b>—Gays and lesbians battle cops at the Stonewall Inn in N.Y.C.  <b>1957</b>—At 295 Broome St., New York City's last known opium den is busted.  <b>1943</b>—The Sub-chaser <i>PC-815</i> fires target rounds at the Coronado Islands, off San Diego; Mexican Coast Guardsmen there object. The ship's captain, Lt. L. Ron Hubbard [yes, him] is relieved of duty.  <b>1689</b>—Retaliating for a massacre he conducted 13 years earlier, Abenakis kill Maj. Richard Waldron of Dover with his own sword; 22 other Anglos die, too, and 29 are sold into slavery.</p>	<p><b>2016</b>—The 477-foot tanker <i>Chem Venus</i> runs aground off Goat Island, damaging itself and three boats at the Kittery Point Yacht Club.  <b>2006</b>—"It was not always certain," says President George W.[MD] Bush, "that the U.S. and America would have a close relationship."  <b>1989</b>—The <i>Washington Times</i> reports that high officials in the Reagan &amp; Bush I administrations are under investigation for involvement in a homosexual prostitution ring. Quickly and conveniently, the story evaporates.  <b>1987</b>—"We don't care," declares Attorney General Ed "Meese is a Pig" Meese, "about the political or ideological allegiances of a prospective judge." His audience bursts into laughing.  <b>1966</b>—U.S. planes begin bombing Hanoi and Haiphong harbor.  <b>1956</b>—The U.S. Federal Highway Act OK's 42,500 miles of new highway so the Pentagon can move stuff around if the Cold War turns hot.  <b>1940</b>—The Smith Act is enacted: all aliens resident in the U.S. must register with the government.  <b>1897</b>—The Chicago Cubs score 36 runs in one game against Louisville.  <b>1620</b>—Tobacco growing is banned in England, conveniently giving the Virginia Company a lucrative monopoly.  <b>1613</b>—A performance of Shakespeare's "Henry VIII" is interrupted; sparks from a theatrical cannon set the Globe Theater alight, burning it to the ground.</p>	<p><b>2014</b>—The Supreme Court rules in <i>Hobby Lobby</i> that people who are corporations have religious rights, too.  <b>2003</b>—The <i>Army Times</i> reports that the Bush administration wants to cut combat and family-separation pay for troops in combat zones.  <b>1984</b>—GOP Chairman Frank Fahrenkopf proposes adding Ronald Reagan's face to Mt. Rushmore.  <b>1980</b>—The Supreme Court rules that a woman's right to a federally-funded abortion is nullified by other peoples' religious beliefs.  <b>1973</b>—Dwight E. Stone, a Black, 24-year-old plumber's assistant from Sacramento, under indictment for failure to appear in 1969, is the last man drafted into the U.S. Army.  <b>1971</b>—The Supreme Court rules that the White House cannot prevent publication of the <i>Pentagon Papers</i>.  <b>1956</b>—Two airliners collide over the Grand Canyon, killing 128 and leading to the creation of the FAA.  <b>1928</b>—Alabama ends a half-century of leasing out convicts as coal-miners.  <b>1908</b>—A meteor explodes above Tunguska, Siberia, leaving a flattened area in the forest 30 miles in diameter.  <b>1882</b>—Charles Guiteau goes to the gallows for assassinating President Garfield, chanting "I am going to the Lordy, I am so glad."  <b>1864</b>—N.H.-born Treasury Sec. Salmon P. Chase resigns, charging speculators are plotting to prolong the Civil War for monetary gain.</p>	<p><b>2020</b>—"I think we are going to be very good with the coronavirus," says the oaf in the Oval, "at some point, that's going to sort of just disappear."  <b>1981</b>—Irish Cardinal Tomás Ó Fiaich descends in a helicopter for a mass on London's Clapham Common, bearing the head of Oliver Plunkett.  <b>1973</b>—The U.S. military draft ends. Henceforth, the ranks will be replenished by economic coercion.  <b>1968</b>—A DC-8 carrying 214 U.S. soldiers to Vietnam strays into Soviet airspace and lands in the USSR.  <b>1956</b>—On TV, Elvis sings "Hound Dog" to a basset hound in formal wear.  <b>1942</b>—Not knowing Aussie POWs are aboard, <i>Sturgeon</i> sinks the <i>Montevideo Maru</i>. More than 1,000 perish.  <b>1917</b>—In Boston, 8,000 Socialists march to protest the Great War; 12,000 upright citizens respond by rioting and wrecking their HQ. Order is restored with a bayonet charge.  <b>1916</b>—On the first day of the Battle of the Somme, 19,240 British soldiers die and 35,493 go missing. On the plus side, the Brits take three square miles.  <b>1898</b>—Buffalo Soldiers take San Juan Hill, while T.R. takes the credit.  <b>1884</b>—Allan Pinkerton, founder of the strike-breaking, union-busting detective agency, dies of gangrene at 64 after biting his tongue in a fall.  <b>1681</b>—Irish Archbishop Oliver Plunkett, found guilty of treason after a rigged trial on bogus charges, is drawn and quartered in London.</p>	<p><b>2003</b>—George W.[MD] Bush says, "There are some who feel that the conditions are such that they can attack us [in Iraq]. My answer is, bring 'em on."  <b>1982</b>—Vietnam veteran "Lawn Chair Larry" Walters, 33, ascends to 16,000 feet in a lawn chair buoyed by 45 helium-filled weather balloons.  <b>1980</b>—The Supreme Court rules that OSHA must consider corporate profites when protecting employees' health.  <b>1976</b>—The Supreme Court rules it's neither cruel nor unusual for the government to kill certain people.  <b>1967</b>—On their worst day in Vietnam, U.S. Marines suffer 84 KIA, 190 WIA, and nine MIA in Operation Buffalo near Con Thien.  <b>1964</b>—L.B.J. signs the Civil Rights Act, telling Bill Moyers, "I think we just delivered the South to the Republican Party for a long time to come."  <b>1917</b>—After a carload of white males conducts a drive-by shooting in Black East St. Louis, Ill., the worst U.S. race riot of the 20th century begins.  <b>1894</b>—Ex-railroad director &amp; U.S. Attorney General Richard Olney enjoins Pullman workers from striking.  <b>1881</b>—"Stalwart" Republican Charles Guiteau shoots Pres. James Garfield, a "Half-Breed" Republican, in the back.  <b>1822</b>—Charged with plotting in-surrection, Denmark Vesey, formerly enslaved co-founder of Charleston, S.C.'s Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, is hanged after a secret trial.</p>	<p><b>1994</b>—The Mayor of Boulder, Colo. declares this "Allen Ginsberg Day."  <b>1993</b>—In just leather jacket, dog collar, and jockstrap, punk rocker G.G. Allin is laid to rest at St. Rose Cemetery in his hometown, Littleton, N.H.  <b>1988</b>—The <i>U.S.S. Vincennes</i>, in Iranian waters, shoots down an Iranian airliner ascending within a commercial air corridor; 290 civilians die.  <b>1979</b>—President Carter OKs covert aid to the mujahideen, despite Z. Brzezinski's warning it will spur a Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.  <b>1978</b>—The Supreme Court rules that seven words are too dirty to broadcast—using those words in its ruling.  <b>1971</b>—R. Nixon tells B. Haldeman, "Jews are all through the government... you can't trust the bastards."  <b>1894</b>—Pres. Cleveland sends Federal troops to Chicago to break the Pullman Strike.  <b>1883</b>—Happy B'day F. Kafka.  <b>1863</b>—Portsmouth-born Benjamin F. Falls captures a flag at Gettysburg. He subsequently receives the Medal of Honor in recognition of his valor.  <b>1850</b>—Australian newspaper publisher James Harrison shows off a refrigeration plant, dooming New Hampshire's ice-export industry.  <b>1847</b>—To celebrate the Fourth of July, Portsmouth hooligans in Market Square set a stagecoach on fire.  <b>1835</b>—In Paterson, N.J., 2,000 mill girls strike for a shorter work week. Two months later they win.</p>
 <p>7:50 7:59 1:25 2:09</p>	 <p>8:42 8:53 2:17 3:01</p>	 <p>9:34 9:49 3:11 3:55</p>	 <p>10:26 10:48 4:07 4:50</p>	 <p>11:19 11:48 5:05 5:45</p>	 <p>12:12 6:05 6:41</p>	 <p>12:50 1:07 7:06 7:36</p>



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