

*The Fortnightly Rant***A Lack of Progress Report**

Come Sunday it will have been 245 years since the U.S. of A. told King George III, "Thanks, we can handle it from here on our own."

So, how's that working out?

Let's be optimistic and call it a mixed bag.

We'll begin with the meta-news. This will be our third paper since we resumed our traditional practice of manifesting on a substrate of newsprint. The distribution of said newsprint—always the true challenge—is going well enough; the downtown crew has been exceptional. On the editorial end, of course, there is infinite room for improvement. The true highlight has been the enthusiasm of readers and subscribers. Apparently they've missed the tangible results of whatever it is we're doing here. All in all, not bad for a newspaper that was nearly twenty years old on July 4, 1776.

What, though, of the nation?

What, indeed? Or, as just about everyone says these days, WTF?

—==—

Back in the day—by which we mean the 18th century—handwritten letters and newspapers like ours were what passed for social media. Despite—or perhaps because of—the absence of Facebook and Twitter, these were men—they were all men, and white ones at that—who knew each other. Hence all the talk about creating "a nation of laws, not men."

The Founding Fathers knew better than to trust each other. Their mutual distrust was embodied in the design of the divided government they eventually created; its three branches are but a slightly more dignified version of the three-man cemetery shootout at the end of *The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly*.

A nation of laws administered by men—and women, these days—is a nation in permanent need of remedial education on the topics of human weakness, perversity, and just plain weirdness. Perhaps it is a

sign of a finely-tuned universe that those lessons keep coming with such regularity.

For about half a century, John N. Mitchell held the undisputed title of Worst U.S. Attorney General Ever. It's hard to beat his primary qualification: 19 months in a federal penitentiary. Having his vivacious wife Martha silenced with drugs and kidnapping earns him extra points for style.

Now, for the first time, Mitchell has a serious challenger. William Barr earned that spot eight months before his nomination by submitting a job application, in the form of a 20-page memo arguing that Robert Mueller's investigation into Russia's role in the 2016 election was inherently illegitimate.

Trump had always wanted an AG who would serve as his personal lawyer. Now, in Barr, he had one. When the Mueller Report was issued, Barr stuffed it in a drawer and lied to the public about what it said. Barr backed up Trump's bogus claims about being unfairly "spied on" by the Justice Department, and meddled in myriad cases against members of the Trump crime family.

Now, for reasons which we cannot know, but, given his record, we must presume to be devious, he's attempting to rehabilitate his image by granting an interview to *The Atlantic's* Jonathan Karl. The resulting article could never make up for Barr's terrible tenure in office—not to mention his ex-boss's—but should reinforce the lesson the Founders encoded in our form of our government: trust men at your peril.

On December 1st—while Donald Trump was howling about a stolen election and voter fraud, five days before his failed *autogolpe* at the Capitol—Barr mumbled to an AP reporter on the Justice beat, "To date, we have not seen fraud on a scale that could have effected a different outcome in the election."



Cut to Trump's personal dining room, near the Oval Office. Karl writes, "Barr's AP interview was dominating every cable news channel except the one Trump was watching. The television in the room was tuned to the right-wing, pro-Trump network One America News, which was broadcasting a committee hearing of the Michigan legislature. The hearing featured disproven allegations of massive election fraud..."

Trump, with "the eyes and mannerism of a madman," screams at Barr, "How the [bleep] could you do this to me?"

Such were the waning days of the Trump administration. The White House, we're told, is a lot calmer these days.

The former guy has taken his show back on the road. He recently delivered rambling, deranged mono-

logues in front of adoring fans in Ohio and Texas. Unmasked attendees heard their idol repeat his favorite lies as some of them, no doubt, passed along the Delta variant.

One venue on Former's wish list is the very Capitol building trashed by his followers on January 6th. Not as a tourist in traditional tactical gear, though. He wants to be the Boss. It turns out that the Speaker need not be an elected Member of Congress. Those Founding Fathers—what a bunch of jokers!

Brian Kilmeade, a babblemonger for Fox "News," recently asked House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, "Would you be for President Trump becoming Speaker [of the House]?" McCarthy replied, "You know, I've talked to President Trump many times. He tells me he wants to be Speaker."

It seems unlikely now, but so was

the White House in June of 2015. We want to know whether that can be prevented by putting him in Leavenworth.

Unable to grasp reality, unwilling to govern when in office, Republicans still seem compelled to hold onto power. It's time to retire old nicknames like the Party of Lincoln—obviously obsolete—and GOP, for Grand Old Party. We could simply call it The Party. There's plenty of precedent; e.g., Red China, Orwell's 1984, &c. &c.

Shift the burden of taxation to those least capable of paying and most in need of services—namely those the private sector finds unworthy of a living wage. Reduce income taxes on upper brackets to zero or below. Any government services provided on a fee-for-services model only....

Just as the Founders intended.

*The Alleged News®***Wealth Hoarding by "Silver Spoon Oligarchs" Is Endangering U.S. Democracy: Report**

by Kenny Stancil, *Common Dreams*

The growing concentration of wealth in fewer hands—including among corporate robber barons' descendants who continue, after multiple generations, to wield the "financial, political, and philanthropic clout" afforded by enormous inheritances to "advance their dynasty-building agenda"—intensifies working-class suffering in the U.S. and poses a threat to society and democracy.

That's according to *Silver Spoon Oligarchs: How America's 50 Largest Inherited Wealth Dynasties Accelerate Inequality*, a new report out June 16th from the Institute for Policy Studies.

Analyzing data from Forbes, IPS tracked the assets of the country's 50 wealthiest families—including the Waltons, the Kochs, the Mars family, and many others, some well-known and others relatively unknown—from 1983 to 2020.

"By 2020, the 50 families had amassed \$1.2 trillion in assets," researchers found. "By comparison, the bottom half of all U.S. households—an estimated 65 million families—shared a combined total wealth of just twice that, at \$2.5 trillion."

The "staggering" fortunes of dynastic families, whose "wealth is becoming increasingly persistent," increased at "10 times the rate of ordinary families," IPS pointed out.

"For the 27 families that were on both the Forbes 400 list in 1983 and the Forbes Billion-Dollar Dynasties list in 2020," wrote the report's authors, "their combined assets have grown by 1,007 percent over those 37 years. This is an increase from \$80.2 billion to \$903.2 billion in inflation-adjusted dollars. In contrast, between 1989 and 2019, the wealth of the typical family in the U.S. increased by just 93 percent in inflation-adjusted dollars."

Moreover, "those at the very top are blowing away even their closest competition," the report said. "The five wealthiest dynastic families in the U.S. have seen their wealth increase by a median 2,484 percent from 1983 to 2020."

According to IPS:

- In 1983, Wal-Mart founder Sam Walton and his children were worth just \$2.15 billion (or \$5.6 billion in 2020 dollars). By the end of 2020, Walton's descendants had a combined net worth of over \$247 billion, an inflation-adjusted increase of 4,320 percent.

- The Mars candy dynasty has seen its wealth increase 3,517 percent over the past 37 years, from \$2.6 billion in 1983 (in 2020 dollars) to \$94 billion by 2020. The family has also spent large sums on public policy advocacy to change tax laws.

- Cosmetics magnate Estée Lauder and her descendants have seen their wealth grow from just \$1.6 billion in 1983 (in 2020 dol-

lars) to \$40 billion in 2020. This is a growth rate of 2,465 percent.

The past 15 months, in particular, have been a boon for dynastic families, who have enjoyed substantial wealth gains amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Since the start of the pandemic in March 2020, the top 10 families on the Forbes dynasty list have had a median growth in their net worth of 25 percent," researchers found. IPS has consistently highlighted the skyrocketing amount of wealth held by the nation's 660 billionaires, who have seen their combined fortunes balloon by more than \$1.1 trillion

**The Alleged News®**

from page one

amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

“Much of the media’s focus today is on new wealth billionaires like Jeff Bezos, Mark Zuckerberg, or Elon Musk, who have become centi-billionaires in their lifetimes,” noted the progressive think tank.

Chuck Collins, co-author of the report and author of the new book, *The Wealth Hoarders: How Billionaires Pay Millions to Hide Trillions*, said in a statement that “when we focus on the surging fortunes of first-generation billionaires—and their shocking tax avoidance—we forget to look at the troubling growth of dynastic families and the changes in tax policies that will enable the children of today’s billionaires to become tomorrow’s oligarchs.

“In a healthy democratic society with a functioning tax system, wealth disperses over decades as people have children, pay their taxes, and give to charity,” Collins added. “But with a weak tax system on wealth—as confirmed by the recent leak showing low billionaire taxes—we are now seeing wealth accelerate over generations, leading to consolidated wealth and power,” he said.

According to the report, the children and grandchildren of some corporate executives—“who may be up to seven generations removed from the original source of their family’s wealth”—tend to “focus less on creating new wealth and more on preserving existing systems that extract ongoing rents from consumers and the real economy.”

“America’s dynastic families, both old and new, are deploying a range of wealth preservation strategies to further concentrate wealth and power—power that is deployed to influence democratic institutions, depress civic imagination, and rig the rules to further entrench inequality,” the authors wrote. “This tax avoidance means less support for the infrastructure we all rely on to preserve our health, safety, and quality of life.”

IPS drew attention to the strategies that inherited-wealth dynasties use to consolidate their vast economic fortunes and fortify their immense political power:

- Dynastically wealthy families wield a great deal of political power and use it to further their interests. Some dynastic families spend millions lobbying for favorable tax, labor, and trade policies. Several have corporate political action committees which give millions to



candidates and campaigns. Many family members give to candidates and PACs; several serve on policy advisory boards; and a few have served in government themselves, including as governors, cabinet members, and even vice president.

- Dynastic families exploit their philanthropic power too, through charities and foundations. The top 50 families have set up more than 248 foundations among them, housing more than \$51 billion in assets. While many move much-needed revenue to broader public interest charities, others fund groups working to reduce taxes on the wealthy and roll back regulations that constrain corporate profits. Some funnel millions to donor-advised funds, which can fund dark-money political advocacy. And in a few cases, family members have used them to compensate themselves.

“Members of the Busch, Mars, Koch, and Walton families have together spent more than \$120 million over the past 10 years lobbying for taxation, labor, and trade policies favorable to their interests and invest-

ments,” according to IPS.

To counter the anti-democratic influences of dynastically wealthy families that “have gained massive and unaccountable financial, political, and philanthropic power... while giving relatively little back to the society that has enabled their fortunes,” IPS called for “a more progressive tax system as well as new efforts to shut down the hidden wealth system.”

Regarding more progressive taxation, IPS endorsed several existing proposals, including:

- Greater oversight and enforcement by the IRS, as outlined in the Stop Cheaters Act introduced in February by Rep. Ro Khanna (D-Calif.);
- An emergency pandemic wealth tax, as Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) called for last July when he introduced the Make Billionaires Pay Act;
- An annual wealth tax, as Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) proposed in the Ultra-Millionaire Tax Act she unveiled in March;
- A millionaire surtax;

- A progressive estate tax, as outlined in the For the 99.5 Percent Act introduced in March by Sanders and Rep. Jimmy Gomez (D-Calif.);

- An inheritance tax on heirs; and
- State-level estate and wealth taxes.

However, “none of these proposals will succeed,” IPS stressed, “unless the U.S. shuts down the tax loopholes, offshore tax havens, and dynasty trusts that enable the very wealthy to hide their wealth at a dizzying pace.”

In order to “shut down the hidden wealth system,” IPS urged Congress and the White House to:

- Establish a federal rule against perpetuities, which would limit the lifespan of trusts;
- Outlaw certain types of trusts; and
- Strengthen administrative actions by the executive branch.

In their conclusion to the report, the authors emphasized that “these trends are alarming for the health of a republic that aspires to widely held prosperity and opportunity.”

“If we stay on our current trajec-



Occupy New Hampshire Seacoast was back in Market Square at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 27th. With extremist legislators in Concord and Washington, D.C. attempting to restrict access to the ballot box, and the Supreme Court backing them up, Occupy turned out to show its support of the “For the People Act”—which, in essence, would legalize democracy.

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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.

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– Joe Keefe

tory, families of inherited wealth will exert ever more control over public policy and the public pocketbook,” they added. “But we can choose to move in a new direction: to enact economic policies that strengthen society as a whole, ensuring equal opportunity and dignity for all, not just the very few.”

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**Capitalism: Success = Wealth + Death**  
Goodness gracious, as a certain disgraced former Secretary of Defense used to say, that headline lacks even the pretense of objectivity, doesn't it? Indeed so. And what have we gotten from the precious pretense of objectivity? The presidencies of George W. Bush and Donald J. Trump, the 2008 financial meltdown, and hundreds of thousands of covid deaths. So, let's get on with the news.

According to Forbes, Jeff Bezos just lost roughly half a billion dollars—but stanch those tears, dear reader: he's still the world's richest man. He's got \$197.8 billion left.

His company, Amazon, recently said it “pays all the taxes it is required to pay.” We're not sure if that was a defense or a taunt. ProPublica has calculated that personally Bezos pays a “true tax rate” of less than one

percent. In the world of objective reporting, this is a dog biting a man.

How does a man get so rich? Why, through hard work, of course.

In this specific and spectacular case, it takes the hard work of 1,300,000 people: each individual a tiny gear in the vast machine that is Amazon, working around the clock for the ultimate purpose of jamming more money into Jeff Bezos's bank account.

Amazon has so many workers that its Human Resources department has been automated. That may sound heartless, but it's probably just as well. The *New York Times* reported recently that the company's annual turnover of workers, is about 150 percent. Only a sociopath could stand to see so many lives being treated like disposable widgets. Besides, there's only so much room at the top.

A former Amazon exec told the *New York Times* that his ex-boss “didn't want lengthy tenure for hourly employees. Company data showed that employees became less engaged over time, and Amazon wanted people who would push to go above and beyond.

“Maybe Amazon doesn't want to have so many people leave every year, but changing that is not the No. 1 priority, either. Amazon churns through so many employees



that [*Times* reporter Karen Weise said she] heard numerous Amazon leaders in Seattle describe a nagging fear that the company will run out of Americans to hire.”

Before that happens, Bezos expects to ride a rocket into space. His flight is scheduled for July 20th.

In anticipation of that event, a person going by the handle Ric G started a petition—addressed to “The proletariat”—at [Change.org](http://Change.org).

“Billionaires should not exist... on earth, or in space,” it reads, “but should they decide the latter, they should stay there.”

By Tuesday, 138,812 people had signed the petition.

**Ona Judge Historic Marker Unveiled at Mount Vernon**

Ona Judge—the African-American woman who fled enslavement by George and Martha Washington and escaped to freedom in New Hampshire—was honored on Juneteenth, Saturday, June 19th. A new historical marker was placed at Mount Vernon, the plantation owned and operated by her enslav-

ers, America's first First Couple.

The day's schedule included remarks by Dr. Erica Armstrong Dunbar, author of *Never Caught: The Washingtons' Relentless Pursuit of Their Runaway Slave, Ona Judge*. Judge's story was nominated for recognition by the students of a local fifth grade class, who are expected to attend the ceremony, according to a press release from the Fairfax County Department of Public Affairs. The release includes the following account of Judge's life.

“According to the Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington at Mount Vernon, Ona Judge, often called Oney by the Washingtons, was born at Mount Vernon in around 1774. She was the daughter of Betty, an enslaved seamstress living on Mansion House Farm, and Andrew Judge, a white English tailor whom Washington had hired. She fled the Washington home in Philadelphia in 1796 as they prepared to return to Virginia, eventually making her way to New Hampshire. She went on to marry and start a family, evad-

ing several attempts to recapture her over the years.”

Pennsylvania's slavery laws were complicated. One gave the enslaved their freedom after six months of residency in the state. Washington went to considerable lengths to evade that law, but he was never charged or prosecuted. Some things never change.

**Susan the Bruce**

We were deeply saddened to learn of the recent death of the writer Susan Bruce. Her Twitter handle, “@Susanthe,” was likely a play on an old Scottish naming custom, *i.e.*, “Robert the Bruce.” If so, it's fitting—both were daunting foes to any who dared oppose them.

Last August Carla Gericke, President Emeritus of the Free State Project, threatened to sue us for an item on page eight, linking the FSP with Carl Drega. Susan Bruce allowed us to print, as our response, her article “Carl Drega, Folk Hero to Free Staters.”

We had hoped to publish more of her work. *Carpe diem*, people.



We try to be hard-nosed about corporate efforts to weasel into our pages with marketing gimmicks. Last Saturday, though, down at the Pic 'n' Pay, this meticulously restored 1948 Chevy rolled right past all our defenses.

**Murph's Fortnightly Quote**  
“...we shouldn't test people for drugs, we should test them for stupidity, ignorance, greed and love of power.”  
— P.J. O'Rourke (1947- ), journalist

“[E]very man who enters into a political association, must leave not only his opinions but his common sense at the door.”  
— John Quincy Adams  
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quoted in *Niles' Weekly Register*, May 7, 1831  
— Not-So-Random Thoughts from an Oregon Subscriber

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Lebanon Public Library, 9 E. Park St.

**Sununu Will Destroy the N.H. Advantage**  
To the Editor:

[Governor] Sununu has signed HB 154, another bill that allows your tax dollars to go to crony developers to fund their pet, low-income/high-density projects, which then get tax deferred up to nine years, while aforementioned developers reap the profits from the rentals.

Single-family homeowners get to pick up the extra tax burden when police, fire, EMT, and school services need expansion.

The Housing Appeals Board, approved by the Governor, consists of three realtor/developers and has already taken away your right to zoning and planning in your towns.

The goal of these "new urbanists" is to outlaw single-family zoning.

What this practice will do if allowed to continue, is to destroy the New Hampshire Advantage of low crime, low taxes, low unemployment numbers.

When density increases, so does traffic and crime. Just look at Conway, N.H. as an example.

There is nothing in the New Hampshire Constitution that allows for this type of redistribution of your tax dollars to chosen businesses, nor does it allow for the state to encourage, let alone mandate, any type of housing, by rewarding them with public money.

What's next, funding cars for those who can't afford them?

When will the residents of New Hampshire have had enough?

Jane Aitken  
Bedford, N.H.

Jane:

*While we share your evident lack of trust in our Hereditary Governor, we're puzzled by your selectivity; this seems especially odd since the person in question is unrelentingly voluble. All your ire seems aimed at a single bill, the purpose of which is to address a housing shortage which is making this state unlivable for so many.*

*You claim that HB 154 would allow an unelected Appeals Board to effectively nullify local control. To suggest that New Hampshire's legislature would pass any such thing is utterly preposterous.*

*The bill would allow towns—if they so choose—to give tax breaks to developers who build housing which people can afford. There are few things which the state needs more desperately.*

*If you're so worried about the diversion of tax dollars, tell us, please: what have you done to fight Senate Bill 130, which will drain public school budgets to fund religious schools?*

*As for your concern about damage to the "New Hampshire Advantage," pardon us for laughing.*

*The property tax burden in this state is already criminal and getting worse. When many lifelong residents retire to enjoy the fruits of their labor, they're driven from their homes because the wealthy in this state refuse to pay—or even honestly debate—an income tax.*

*The so-called "New Hampshire Advantage" is a club used to bash anyone who dares ask, how can we equitably fund this state? Because the answer is an income tax.*

The Editor

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**A Question For The Flag Police**

Dear Flag Police,

A question needing an answer from those in the know.

A letter from Barbara Pedley of Londonderry, published in the [Union] Leader on June 11th, asked if it is permissible to wear clothing which use images or likenesses of the American flag, if it is not made from an actual flag or part of a flag.

She has quoted from the American Legion website:

"Unless an article of clothing is made from an actual United States flag there is no breach of the flag etiquette.

"People are simply expressing their patriotism and love of country by wearing an article of clothing that happens to be red, white and blue with stars and stripes. There is nothing illegal about the wearing or use of these items."

This is contrary to what I have understood to be the case for many many years.

So I would appreciate the opinion of the Flag Police to clear my mind of at least one confusion.



Wes Flierl  
Rochester, N.H.

Wes:

*Let us be clear: we are not the Flag Police. We are barely capable of handling the duties of editing this paper. Actually enforcing the Flag Code on top of that would be well beyond our capacity.*

*That said, we do enjoy the privilege of passing along whatever communiqués the famed vexillological gendarmerie deign to share with us. We referred this matter to them, and received the following response.*

*"The quotation from the American Legion website is not technically wrong. Festooning one's self with red, white, and blue stripes and stars, in whatever configuration, however grotesque, is not inherently a violation of 4 U.S.C. § 1, The Flag Code. It may be in poor taste, it may raise questions in the minds of others, but it is not, strictly speaking, actionable.*

*"Neither, for the record, is soaking a flag in lighter fluid and holding a match to it. So the Supreme Court determined in United States vs. Eichman, decided June 11, 1990—31 years to the day before Pedley's letter was published."*

The Editor

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**Treachery Is Likely**

To the Editor:

In the not so distant past Richard Nixon manipulated the peace process for political gain. He got help from an enemy we were at war with and the Democratic Party did little but quietly complain.

Ronald Reagan convinced the Iranian Revolutionary Government to hold the hostages until after the election also getting something of political value from our enemies.

Other examples exist where treachery for political gain was committed and all the Republican Party got was the benefit with nothing of any consequence bad happening to them.

I'm no prophet but I think we can guess our future.

Tom Laperriere

Milton N.H.

Tom:

*You have nailed the spirit of this matter, though you have mis-stated the identity of Nixon's co-conspirators. Don't feel bad, we did the same thing some years ago. Nixon prolonged the Vietnam War by using Anna Chennault, a top Republican fundraiser, as his personal emissary to South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu. That treachery cost the lives of tens of thousands of American GIs. It was a crime too heinous to prosecute.*

The Editor

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**What Do They Have To Gain?**

To the Editor:

A lot of money is being spent, trying to defeat "For the People Act" (S.1 or H.R.1). Makes you wonder who would want to spend this money? What do they have to gain?

This is what is called "Dark Money." We don't know who is paying for it, but it must be people who want to be able to pump as much money as they have (a lot!!) into influencing how you vote. Dark money is also used to influence politicians to pass legislation that benefits billionaires and corporations, rather than regular people.

The "For the People Act" (also known as S.1 or H.R. 1) would make political money transparent. We would learn who is paying for campaign ads, we'd close campaign finance loopholes, and end foreign attempts to influence our elections.

S.1 would also **bring federal funding to New Hampshire**, contrary to the New Hampshire Secretary of State's assertions. This money would pay for modern election equipment and software, to prevent election hacking.

Those expensive ads against S.1 are not telling you the truth. The ads use terms like "power grab" and "fraud." So let's stop the fraud and the power grab

by billionaire donors! S.1 will protect our elections, preserve New Hampshire's "First in the Nation" status, and make sure that a billionaire's voice is not any stronger than your voice when you go to the polls. S.1 is good for democracy, it's good for all parties, and it's good for New Hampshire.

Susan Richman  
Durham, N.H.

Susan:

*It's not so much what they have to gain, it's what they fear they'll lose. Think about it: for centuries, the haves have enjoyed the fruits of what we call civilization, while hordes of "lesser" folks toiled and struggled. Now, with our backs to the wall due to one big screw-up after another—economic meltdowns, the climate gone haywire, structural racism still entrenched—ordinary people are asking, "Isn't it time we tried taking the Constitution at its word?"*

*The over-privileged understand that converting to an equitable society might result in a lowering of their status, relative to the rest of the hoity-toity. Plus, they're afraid we would treat them as they would treat us, if they were in our shoes. So, per capita, they have a lot to lose.*

*We, on the other hand, have everything to gain.*

The Editor

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**History vs. Myth**

To the Editor,

My son texted me that he was expected to be at the ballpark to assist coach my granddaughter's team at 7:15 a.m. the morning of Sunday, June 19th. When I expressed sympathy that that was a tough call for a start to Father's Day, his reply was "Is it Father's Day? That's a made up holiday anyway."

He's probably right; it was probably just a gesture to achieve parity

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with Mother's Day for poor, neglected males. But, of course, neither holiday has anything to do with the real reason for Mother's Day, which was a protest by mothers against having their sons serve as cannon fodder (of course, daughters as well are now accorded said privilege).

June 17th is a holiday that signifies something, a pronounced (albeit still not fully achieved) end to subjugating an entire race. Its establishment as a federal holiday drew derision from the usual quarter—GOP Rep. Ralph Norman of South Carolina voted “no” on the legislation, asking, “Are we going to do one for the Native American Indians?” The gentleman is clearly not “woke,” a status of which he is no doubt proud. The terms for indigenous Americans are “Native Americans” or “Indians,” not a concatenation of the two terms, the former being preferred and more representative of the circumstance of that unfortunate people.

Yes, we should have a federal holiday to acknowledge those from whom European settlers stole the country. The true history of this (I'm leaving out the word “great” because reading that history affords no grounds for that adjective) country has been documented by a host of historians; revisionist history is what has been taught in elementary, middle, and high schools for generations. A reading, and understanding, of that true history might just bring people in general a little closer to real dialog.

John Simon  
Portsmouth, N.H.

John:

*We'll blithely side-step your son's view of Father's Day in our haste to endorse your assessment of what is taught as American history. We seem to recall being bored by the subject. Had we been taught*

*something like the truth—which is to say, had our teachers not feared being prosecuted as Reds—we surely would have paid more attention.*

The Editor

=====  
**Truth Matters**

Dear Editor:

In our never-ending search for truth, Americans must accept (if nothing else) one predominant lesson from January 6th. Identified fittingly by David French in *TheDispatch.com*, he states simply; “that when you tell tens of millions of Americans one political party is trying to steal an election, some Americans will act like a party is stealing an election.” Despite the total absence of supporting evidence, the Republican grassroots remain unconditionally convinced the 2020 election was stolen and have consequently turned against almost every American institution, including the military.

You don't have to be a rocket scientist to recognize that former president #45 is still the most influential figure in the GOP and is also (as conservative writer Charles Cooke observes in *NationalReview.com*) “unmoored from the real world” and that his persistent and insistent declaration that “he's the real president is deeply corrosive to our democracy.”

We can find some solace in believing the Republican Party suffers from idiotus, an almost incurable disease that causes the brain to shut down and the mouth to keep running. It's only somewhat comforting because at the end of the day I'm still left with the dilemma; how does one borderline burnout with questionable social skills go about causing over 500 nefarious men and women with predatory instincts, in Congress, to change their way of thinking?

Senator Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.)

always places his personal and party's interest above the nation's and has vowed, therefore, to block 100 percent of President Biden's agenda. Passage then, of any bill before a divided Congress and nation that would preempt state legislatures from passing laws enabling them to overturn the will of the people, is simply unobtainable.

Hundreds of bills being considered in 45 (or more) states, masquerading as “voting integrity” bills, are no more and no less than the Republican Party's underhanded, spineless and dishonorable attempt to suppress voters.

Former President Bill Clinton stated in *Time*, June 21st, “Republicans have clearly decided to double-down on the Hatfield's and McCoy's. Now they want to get it where they can win if they lose both the Electoral College and the popular vote by having a Congress that won't certify the electors.” Ari Berman echoed similar sentiments in the July/August issue of *Mother Jones*.

If you believe nothing else, believe this: that a GOP controlled Congress could overturn election results to install Trump (or a Trump clone) is a very real possibility and would spell the end of American democracy.

I believe, as Albert Einstein believed, “the world in not dangerous because of those who do harm—it's dangerous because of those who watch and do nothing.” I also believe we should want our lives to be a reminder that truth matters—even though we may not be here to see how history judges us.

We're facing the decision that all men in all times must face, the eternal choice, to endure oppression or to resist.

David L. Snell  
Franklin, N.C.

David:

*Few would chose to live in a time when so much is at stake. That's probably why it's so popular to pretend that it isn't so.*

The Editor

=====  
**Critical Race Theory: Does It Exist?**

To the Editor:

Some Facts. Black defendants get longer sentences than white defendants for the same crime. Families of color are more likely than their white counterparts to get evicted given similar financial circumstances. Numerous studies show that resumes with “black names” (Germaine, Latitia) get offered fewer interviews than those with “white names” (Jack, Harold) even though the resumes are exactly the same for the same job opening. By percentages, fewer people of color get help from FEMA during emergencies than whites. Blacks were mainly excluded from the incredible benefits of the GI Bill after WWII.

The list goes on; predatory banking; housing discrimination; racial profiling; higher level of government surveillance; lower access to healthcare...

Does knowing this through a college course or other credible sources make you a racist or anti-white?

No!

Our society has racist structures that obstruct success and fair play for minorities: the playing field is not level.

This is not “anti-American”! It is dealing with the facts!

We need to tune out the incessant drumbeat of the Right Wing Media machine and the outrage it is manufacturing. Fox News has been screaming non-stop for a month about the evils of CRT, something that hardly exists.

If racism exists, then students should be able to learn about it (at the appropriate time and grade level). This Communist-style censorship being espoused by Republican State legislatures and the right wing media is un-American!

Michael Frandzel  
Portsmouth, N.H.

Michael:

*As you astutely point out, today's authoritarian nitwits are as locked into their ideology as firmly as any Bolshevik or Maoist ever was. The difference is that those ideologies, however misguided, were rooted in reality. These people are giving the Salem witch trial jurors a run for*

*their money.*  
The Editor

=====  
**“They Forever Attack, That Which They Truly Fear The Most!”**

To the Editor:

“Rudy Giuliani” is no different in many respects than any other human being with a great many things of value to say! And his name, like those who are forever feared by the status-quo, will hopefully echo forth (loud and clear), for a great many years to come!

In short, this man fears not to relate that which he perceives to be truth, even if his detractors often find his words counterproductive to their schemes and to their vested agendas? And in this respect, and as “a fellow man of words and thoughts,” and even if I am not always in agreement with his sentiments, I applaud him, over the slashing barbs of those who will always seek to silence any voice of contradiction that they perceive to be a mortal danger to their weak and transparent attacks against those things which they fear the most—those being the opinions and the ideas of others—and thus it so often is!

“And as such (and once again in my opinion), this is the purest nature of the glorious beast of editorial license—maybe not forever factual, or even amenable to the end games of all who partake of it, but eternally enlightening, quintessentially reflective and overtly opinionated!”

“And so it often is—with all such men of wisdom and new ideas!!”

H. Rick Tavares (Hardcore)  
Campo, California

H.:

*Well, that certainly was...something. Did you write that yourself, or do you have a computer program that spontaneously generates gibberish?*

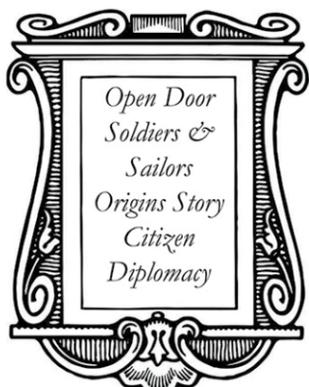
*If there's any justice in this world, Giuliani's name will indeed “echo forth”—his and many others from the former guy's administration. The acoustics are terrible at Leavenworth.*

The Editor

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

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# The Real Fraud: Republicans' Voter-Fraud Scare

by Frances Moore Lappé  
and Richard R. Rowe

This week, Senate Republicans in lockstep blocked key reforms of the For the People Act that would address gerrymandering and big money in politics, plus enhance ethics for federal office holders. The Act would also strengthen voting rights—on which a big battle is now underway across the country.

While Democrats in more than half the states have lowered barriers to voting, Republicans are pushing them higher, with campaigns for at least 389 restrictive voter laws in 48 states. Already, 17 states have enacted 28 such bills. But now, the Justice Department is suing Georgia over its new voting restrictions.

We cannot allow fraudulent messaging about voter fraud to stymie us from expanding voting equality, rights, and access.

Republicans often justify their opposition to lowering voting barriers with the argument that it encourages voter fraud. Arizona's Republican Representative John Kavanaugh told CNN earlier this year that Democrats are "willing to risk fraud" because they "value as many people as possible voting." Republicans, he underscored, "are more concerned about fraud, so we don't mind putting security measures in that won't let everybody vote—but everybody shouldn't be voting."

So, now is the critical moment to tackle the myth of significant voter fraud. Here we show how Republicans base their efforts on misleading evidence.

Republicans' claims of fraud to oppose enhanced voting rights has been fueled by the Heritage Foundation, describing itself as a "pillar of American conservative thought." For years it has published an online database claiming to show that fraud "threatens the integrity of the voting process." It prominently describes its database as "A Sampling of Recent Election Fraud Cases from Across the United States," proclaiming "1,328 proven instances of voter fraud."

But this database is deeply flawed as evidence to support Republican claims.

Note first that one-fourth of the findings reported are not voter fraud, but instead involve election officials, not voters.

Digging deeper, the evidence that voter fraud is significant melts away.

While the database claims its findings are "recent," the data cover widely varying periods of time—some going back almost four decades.

Heritage also fails to inform users of the sources of its state-by-state data, its methodology for selecting its "sampling," the diversity of its sample, why it includes only 47 states, or how its data were verified. We queried Heritage on these points but got no answers.

Given these failings, it is impossible to determine the scale of the problem. However, if Heritage's "sampling" over almost four decades is indicative of the whole population of voter fraud in the US, it would invalidate the Foundation's assertion that fraud is significant.

In 2020, 155 million Americans voted. On an annual basis, Heritage reported only three states with more than one voter fraud per million voters. Minnesota had the highest annual rate per million: 12. In the 2020 presidential election, for which Republicans are claiming worrisome voter fraud, the Heritage Foundation reports only 17 voter fraud cases nationwide.

While Republicans suggest the problem is worsening, Heritage data show a national decline over the last ten years.

A few years ago the Brennan Center for Justice published an in-depth critique of this database covering the 2016 election, "Heritage Fraud Database: An Assessment." But since then, Heritage has apparently done nothing to correct its presentation fueling claims of significant fraud.

Today, perhaps to defend itself against such criticism, Heritage site clearly states that its "database is not an exhaustive or comprehensive list," but "intended to demonstrate the vulnerabilities in the election system."

Here, the Foundation seems to try to avoid responsibility for contributing to deepening distrust of election integrity. Yet, its database was used as evidence, for example, by the Trump's Fraud Commission to try to show that a serious problem exists.

And, just last month, despite the Heritage Foundation's acknowledgement of the limits of its database, its vice president John Malcom ramped up fear of fraud. He told KTRH radio in Texas: "We have unfortunately a lot of vulnerability, and lax laws in our states, and our voter rolls in those states are in terrible shape," and added: "So vot-

er fraud is unfortunately a relatively easy crime to commit, and it's very difficult to catch after the fact."

In fighting measures to make voting more accessible, mail-in ballots are a particular target of Heritage Foundation and Republican attack. Yet, this option has been in widespread use for some time, without evidence that it increases risk of fraud.

In 2016, more than 33 million US voters—a quarter of the US total—used mail-in ballots. Seven states—Colorado, Hawaii, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Vermont, and Washington—use mail-in voting predominantly. Yet, in these states the Heritage database suggests voter fraud of any kind is virtually nil.

Beyond the US, forty nations used mail-in ballots in their most recent national election prior to COVID-19. Among them are Austria, Germany, Switzerland, and the UK; and note that these countries rank much higher than the United States in "perceptions of electoral integrity," according to the Electoral Integrity Project based at Harvard and the University of Sydney. Drawing on its data, US News and World Report notes the U.S. comes in 61st—on par with Mexico and Panama.

In this battle over expanding voter participation, Americans might become more motivated to support reforms in the For the People Act once we register how poorly the U.S. voter-turnout ranks relative to other democracies. In 2018, for example, voter turnout in Sweden was 87 percent and in 2017 in France, 75 percent. In sad comparison, our 2020 voter turnout was 67 percent.

Republicans have freely admitted why they don't want us to vote: They fear that the more people who vote,

the greater the chance Republicans will lose power.

Therefore, we cannot allow fraudulent messaging about voter fraud to stymie us from expanding voting equality, rights, and access. Now is the time for citizen action to protect and advance our democracy. Note that without basic federal standards, we face ever-greater barriers to the franchise.

So let us jump in before it's too late.

Nationally, Democrats are pushing ahead with the For the People Act, and we citizens can insist our representatives to get on board. We can join in state and local action to improve access to the vote. Check out great resources at the Voting Rights Lab in addition to the Brennan Center. You can call your Senators to ask them to support the For the People Act and sign Equal Citizens' letter to Senator Manchin. And for news of the wider democracy movement, visit Democracy-Movement.US.

Let's spread the word that claims of significant voter fraud used to justify restrictive measures are the real fraud. Because they undermine trust, setting the record straight is our duty to democracy itself.

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*Frances Moore Lappé is the author of nineteen books, beginning with the acclaimed "Diet for a Small Planet." Most recently she is the co-author, with Adam Eichen, of the new book, "Daring Democracy: Igniting Power, Meaning, and Connection for the America We Want." She is co-founder of the Small Planet Institute.*

*Richard R. Rowe is on the board of the Small Planet Institute and is the publisher of the Small Planet media.*

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

### A Few Recent Mash Notes

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press how much all your work has entertained and informed us for so many years."  
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—==—  
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## Whatever Happened to Chance?

by Jean Stimmell

Today nothing happens by chance: It's always someone's fault. Even illness is now seen as personal failure: We blame the victim, saying it is their fault because of what they ate or didn't eat, the amount they drank, or whether or not they exercised. Absurdly, after the 9/11 terrorist attacks in 2001, the architects of the World Trade Buildings were threatened with lawsuits, alleging the design of their buildings was faulty because the occupants couldn't get out safely.

Legal scholar Jeffrey Rosen noted in the aftermath of that attack, "contemporary Americans, in particular, are not well equipped to deal with arbitrary threats because, in so many realms of life, we refuse to accept the role of chance."<sup>1</sup> This quote comes from Jackson Lear's book, *Something for Nothing*, documenting how the concept of chance has fallen out of favor in modern society.

And it's not just modern society: it's been that way for Americans since the beginning. The mantra has always been: if you work hard and follow the rules, you will succeed. Chance isn't part of the equation. Conversely, if you fail, it is because you are lazy with sketchy morals.

But, as several new books have shown, this mantra no longer works, if it ever did. Today the scales are tilt-

ed. Well-to-do, well-educated folks are still on a glide path to success; the rest of us not so much. Adding insult to injury, as noted by Michael Sandel in *The Tyranny of Merit*, "lack of success now implies not only a failure of mental power, but a failure of moral character. There's still that sting of moral judgment about it."<sup>2</sup>

Working folks have had enough, feeling humiliated and angry, at being belittled by the cultural elite for circumstances beyond their control. As a result, many have jumped ship, helping fuel the rise of Donald Trump, who then exploited their plight for his own ends.

Whatever remaining role that chance, luck, fate—whatever you want to call it—plays in our lives is threatened by the growing control that big government, big business, and Silicon Valley has over us. The question becomes, how can we exist under these conditions? And does chance still have a role to play?

Over the years, I have always encouraged my clients to be active, involved citizens while making clear how unfair society can be. Often the root of their problems is not a personal failing but the result of a public issue.

Rather than becoming a crushed bug on the windshield of our careening culture of control, I invite them to look at the world through a

new lens. I acquaint them with sages of ancient cultures who have revealed at how unpredictable, yet generous, the world can be—or, translated into Lear's academic lingo—"more at ease with randomness and irrationality, more doubtful that diligence is the only path to success, than our dominant culture of control."<sup>3</sup>

I have always been a fan of chance, which I prefer to call fate. Believing in fate helps to keep me humble and open to the wonders of the universe beyond the scope of my feeble understanding. As I wrote in a previous column, "Even with all we've learned, we are still in the stone age of human development: still, small bits of protoplasm totally enmeshed within a glorious universe that defies human understanding."<sup>4</sup>

If we can let go of our ego and its need to control, something magical happens: We get to glimpse a new world, fresh and unmediated, teeming with possibilities. My favorite quote is by Zen scholar Suzuki: "In the beginner's mind there are many possibilities, in the expert's mind there are few."<sup>5</sup>

Great thinkers have long devised schemes to regain "beginner's mind" by invoking chance. Carl Jung looked to his dreams for guidance, in which, he believed, were encoded the collective wisdom of all human evolution. Frank Gehry, the famous architect, found inspiration for his



An etching made in the sand by the incoming tide. CC Jean Stimmell.

best work from making mindless doodles.

According to Lear, the way Gehry uses chance to create art, suggests that chance is connected to beauty—as well as grace. "Flashes of beauty appear and disappear quickly—especially in nature. Caprice is of their essence." Finding beauty, therefore, becomes the "pursuit of grace in what often seems to be a graceless world."<sup>4</sup>

The environmental movement is a good example of that: "Saving natural beauty required a willingness to leave things to chance, an openness to the experiences of grace that nature gives. This in turn ironically demanded a conscious effort to resist

the managerial agenda of control. The preservation of a place of grace could be a profoundly political act."<sup>5</sup>

John Lennon made a powerful political statement with his song, "Give Peace a Chance." My song, if I could write one, would be, "Give Chance a Chance."

====

1 Lears, Jackson. *Something for Nothing*. Penguin Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

2 <https://www.amacad.org/news/does-meritocracy-destroy-common-good>

3 *Ibid.*

4 *Ibid.*

5 *Ibid.*

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## Can GOP Autocracy Outlaw American Democracy?

by Jim Hightower

Ralph Waldo Emerson told of a dinner guest who went on and on about the virtue of honesty, offering his own life as a model of perfect rectitude. "The louder he talked of his honor," said Emerson, "the faster we counted our spoons."

That's my reaction to the cacophony of phony piety arising from Republican governors and legislators who are trying to enact more than 250 new state laws to stop Black, Latino, Asian-American, Indigenous, and other non-Caucasian voters from casting ballots. Yet they

proclaim, "We're not racists, we're righteous crusaders protecting the sanctity of the vote."

Really? So why are they specifically targeting people of color with their repressive voting restrictions? For example, panicky Republican lawmakers in Georgia tried to outlaw any early voting on Sundays. Odd. Why?

It's a flagrantly racist attack on the Black church. For years, a joyous civic tradition called "Souls to the Polls" has played out in Southern Black churches on Sundays prior to election day. After the sermon and prayers, congregants, ministers,

musicians, and others in the church family travel in a caravan to early voting locations to cast ballots. It turns voting into a civic, spiritual, and fun experience. What kind of shriveled soul tries to kill that?

Apparently, the same shameful souls in the Georgia GOP who want to stop local groups from providing water and snacks to citizens forced to wait for hours in line to vote. They're actually trying to make it a crime to give water to thirsty voters! Hey, Republicans: What would Jesus do?

Excuse me, but voting in America should not be made a misery.

The goal (and duty) of every public official ought to be maximizing voter turnout—after all, the more Americans who vote, the stronger our democracy. But there's the ugly political truth—Republican officials no longer support democracy.

====

Populist author, public speaker, and radio commentator Jim Hightower writes *The Hightower Lowdown*, a monthly newsletter chronicling the ongoing fights by America's ordinary people against rule by plutocratic elites. Sign up at [HightowerLowdown.org](http://HightowerLowdown.org).

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### J.T. Adams Coins "The American Dream"

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— James Truslow Adams  
*The Epic of America*, 1931

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SUNDAY, JULY 4	MONDAY, JULY 5	TUESDAY, JULY 6	WEDNESDAY, JULY 7	THURSDAY, JULY 8	FRIDAY, JULY 9	SATURDAY, JULY 10
<p><b>1994</b>—Nye County, Nev., Commissioner Dick Carver re-opens a Federally-closed road with a bulldozer, reigniting the Sagebrush Rebellion.</p> <p><b>1975</b>—Eleven years after Goldwater got the GOP nod there, the Ant Farm's "Media Burn" crashes a customized Caddy into a wall of burning TVs at San Francisco's Cow Palace.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—At "Honor America" day in D.C., Billie Graham and Bob Hope preach and joke, protestors smoke pot atop a truck shoved into the Reflecting Pool, and neo-Nazis snarl and jeer.</p> <p><b>1951</b>—In Madison, Wisc., 99.2 percent decline to sign a petition containing excerpts from the Declaration of Independence and Bill of Rights.</p> <p><b>1947</b>—The Boozefighters, a subset of "The Greatest Generation®," take over Hollister, Calif. Three days of debauchery inspire <i>The Wild One</i> and spawn a generation of posers.</p> <p><b>1925</b>—The Pickwick Club, a five-story Boston speakeasy with 125 people doing the Charleston inside, collapses at 3:00 a.m.; 44 die in the rubble.</p> <p><b>1924</b>—Four thousand Klansmen march in Long Branch, New Jersey.</p> <p><b>1892</b>—The People's Party meets in Omaha, calling for an 8-hour day, regulation of railroads and communication, and a graduated income tax.</p> <p><b>1857</b>—With New York City's two rival police forces distracted by their own feud, tension between the Dead Rabbits and the Bowery Boys escalates into an unrestrained gang war.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8:06                      8:28</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1:50                      2:00</p>	<p><b>2009</b>—Terry Herbert finds a spectacular hoard of Anglo-Saxon gold ornaments on Fred Johnson's farm in the West Midlands. It makes both men rich—and bitter enemies.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—The US. Congress effectively tramples on the First Amendment to ineffectually "protect" the flag.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—The Marine base at Khe Sanh is abandoned 90 days after the lifting of a 78-day siege which cost 737 lives.</p> <p><b>1950</b>—Shipped out hastily, without a plan, ill-equipped and outnumbered ten to one, Task Force Smith is decimated by North Koreans at Osan. Gen. "Dugout Doug" MacArthur lets his troops take the blame.</p> <p><b>1937</b>—Leaving Berlin, IBM President Tom Watson thanks Adolf Hitler for a big order and assures the anti-Semitic tyrant he will "do all in [his] power to create more intimate bonds between our two great nations."</p> <p><b>1935</b>—Workers finally get some help: FDR signs the Labor Relations Act.</p> <p><b>1934</b>—During a dock workers' strike in San Francisco, Joseph Roush, a Federal Laboratories sales rep, fires a long-distance tear gas shell at strikers. Hit in the skull, one later dies. Roush writes to his boss, "as he was a Communist, I had no feeling in the matter and I am sorry that I did not get more."</p> <p><b>1894</b>—A massive fire, probably arson, destroys six buildings at the World's Columbian Exposition. Machinery Hall, where Daniel Fowle's printing press was last seen, is among them.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9:03                      9:17</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2:47                      2:52</p>	<p><b>2013</b>—A runaway fuel train derailed and burns, destroying half of downtown Lac Megantic, Quebec.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—Ex-FBI Special Agent, devout Catholic, patron of strippers, and exhibitionist Robert Hanssen pleads guilty to selling U.S. secrets to the U.S.S.R., then to the Russians.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—President Nixon sets up a "Plumbers Unit" to stop leaks.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—To test its dirt-moving capacity, the AEC sets off a buried nuke in Nevada. It creates Sedan Crater—the nation's biggest—and irradiates more Americans than any other test.</p> <p><b>1924</b>—Democrats "deplore and condemn...religious or racial dissension" during the longest convention ever held, but balk at naming the Klan.</p> <p><b>1916</b>—Major Douglas MacArthur, newly-appointed censor at the War Department, says the General Staff approves of the bill just put before Congress at its request: it would impose censorship if there's a war.</p> <p><b>1907</b>—The Irish Crown Jewels are found to be missing. Several theories are put forth; none proven, all sordid.</p> <p><b>1894</b>—U.S. troops land in Nicaragua to "protect U.S. interests."</p> <p><b>1892</b>—Pinkerton "detectives" and striking miners have a shootout at Homestead, Pa.; 20 die.</p> <p><b>1854</b>—In white robes, with a trumpet, The Angel Gabriel, aka John S. Orr, appears in Bath, Maine and delivers an anti-Catholic sermon. Townspeople then burn an Irish Catholic church.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9:55                      10:03</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3:38                      3:40</p>	<p><b>1986</b>—Reagan's A.G., Ed Meese, attains quasi-legislative status for Presidential Signing Statements, which previously had had little impact, merely by persuading West Publishing to include them in law books.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—Near Danang, Battery B of the 82nd Field Arty. takes out four men from the 196th Inf. Bde. in the last major friendly fire incident of the war.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—His Tet Offensive plan OK'd by the Politburo, Gen. Nguyen Chi Thanh parties himself to death.</p> <p><b>1954</b>—As puppet Premier Diem arrives in Saigon, U.S. Gen. John W. O'Daniel, says "the war in Vietnam can be won without bringing in one single American soldier to fight."</p> <p><b>1950</b>—FBI Chief J. Edgar Hoover proposes permanent detention of 12,000 people "potentially dangerous to the internal security of the country."</p> <p><b>1905</b>—Kentucky hangs Robert Mathley, but he's six feet tall and the rope stretches. Officials with shovels dig until his feet don't touch the earth.</p> <p><b>1894</b>—During a railroad-caused financial panic, striking railroad workers in Chicago are fired on by the National Guard, under orders from Attorney General Olney—a railroad attorney; four are killed, 20 wounded.</p> <p><b>1863</b>—The U.S. starts selling draft exemptions for \$100 in cash.</p> <p><b>1844</b>—Nativists and Catholics conduct an ecclesiastical dispute via bilateral cannon fire at St. Philip Neri's in Philadelphia; seven perish.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:42                      10:46</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4:25                      4:24</p>	<p><b>2016</b>—Police in Dallas use a bomb-armed robot to kill a man suspected of having murdered five officers.</p> <p><b>1976</b>—The State of New York yanks Richard Nixon's law license.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—The U.S. begins withdrawing troops from Vietnam.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—The U.S. detonates a nuke 250 miles up, knocking out phones in Hawaii, 900 miles to the east, and crippling seven satellites.</p> <p><b>1959</b>—Viet Cong forces attack Bien Hoa air base, killing two U.S. advisors as they watch a movie.</p> <p><b>1947</b>—Radio reports say a UFO has crashed at Roswell, N.M.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—At a POW camp in Salina, Utah, Army Pvt. Clarence V. Bertucci machine guns 29 Germans; nine die.</p> <p><b>1898</b>—Jefferson Randolph "Soapy" Smith II, "King of the Frontier Con Men," dies in a Skagway shootout.</p> <p><b>1876</b>—In Hamburg, S.C., 100 white men attack 40 black militiamen, capturing 25, of whom they murder five. No one is ever convicted.</p> <p><b>1860</b>—<i>Clotilda</i> lands in Mobile Bay with an illegal cargo. It's the last ship to import enslaved Africans.</p> <p><b>1853</b>—Commodore Perry convinces the Japanese it's better to trade with Americans than get shelled by them.</p> <p><b>1835</b>—The Liberty Bell cracks tolling the death of Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall.</p> <p><b>1776</b>—Philadelphia's Liberty Bell summons citizens to hear the Declaration of Independence being read.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11:25                      11:25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5:08                      5:06</p>	<p><b>2004</b>—"I trust God speaks through me," George W.[MD] Bush tells a group of Amish people. "Without that, I couldn't do my job."</p> <p><b>1993</b>—To prove it's unbreakable, Toronto lawyer Garry Hoy hurls himself against a 24th floor window. It pops from its frame; he falls to his death.</p> <p><b>1986</b>—Ed "Meese is a Pig" Meese publishes a 1,960-page report on pornography packed with obscene titles.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—Senator Strom Thurmond [D-S.C.], 61, wrestles Senator Ralph Yarborough [D-Texas], also 61, to the floor to prevent a committee quorum.</p> <p><b>1958</b>—A 1,700-foot mega-tsunami hits Lituya Bay, Alaska.</p> <p><b>1951</b>—Dashiell Hammett, 57, tubercular author of <i>The Maltese Falcon</i>, is sentenced to six months in prison by the House Un-American Activities Committee for his reticence.</p> <p><b>1937</b>—Oliver Law, a battalion commander in the Abraham Lincoln Brigade and 1st African-American to lead white troops, is KIA in Spain.</p> <p><b>1918</b>—Two trains collide head-on in Nashville killing 101 and injuring another 171. It is the deadliest train wreck in U.S. history.</p> <p><b>1850</b>—Pres. Zachary Taylor dies, conceivably poisoned by pro-slavery southerners. If so, the first assassination paid off, at least for the short term.</p> <p><b>1846</b>—Marines from the U.S.S. <i>Portsmouth</i> row ashore at Yerba Buena (now San Francisco), and raise the flag, claiming California for the U.S.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12:05</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5:47                      5:45</p>	<p><b>2007</b>—China executes its Director of the State Food and Drug Administration for taking bribes that resulted in 40 deaths.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—A Phoenix FBI agent sends a memo to FBI HQ warning of "an inordinate number" of suspicious characters in local flight schools, possibly as part of a bin Laden plot. It's ignored.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—CIA boss George Tenet tries to warn George Bush and Condi Rice about Osama bin Laden and al-Qaeda, but can't get their attention.</p> <p><b>1985</b>—French secret police in the South Pacific blow up Greenpeace's boat, <i>Rainbow Warrior</i>.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—Water being used to fight an arson fire destroys the U.S.S. <i>Forrestal's</i> computers and nearly capsizes her.</p> <p><b>1949</b>—<i>Pamir</i>, a four-masted barque laden with barley, becomes the last sailing vessel to 'round Cape Horn with commercial cargo.</p> <p><b>1929</b>—The <i>Portsmouth Herald</i> reports that the Coast Guard has seized 129 cases of booze in Rye Harbor.</p> <p><b>1926</b>—Lightning hits a powder warehouse in Picatinny, N.J. Three days of explosions destroy 187 buildings, kill 19, and injure 38.</p> <p><b>1805</b>—RIP Revolutionary War soldier Col. William Butler, court-martialed for refusing to cut off his ponytail. "Bore a hole through the bottom of my coffin," his will said, "[so] the damned rascal [his ex-CO] will see that, even when dead, I refuse to obey his orders."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12:02                      12:42</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6:25                      6:23</p>
SUNDAY, JULY 11	MONDAY, JULY 12	TUESDAY, JULY 13	WEDNESDAY, JULY 14	THURSDAY, JULY 15	FRIDAY, JULY 16	SATURDAY, JULY 17
<p><b>2003</b>—Condi Rice lies about White House knowledge of Joe Wilson's Niger investigation; Ari Fleischer outs Valerie Plame as a CIA officer; Karl Rove lies to <i>Time</i> about Wilson's wife, Plame; and CIA head George Tenet takes the rap for the White House's lies about Iraq buying uranium.</p> <p><b>1991</b>—A defective heater sets a load-ammunition carrier afire at Camp Doha in Kuwait. It explodes, scattering bomblets; blasts and fires consume 102 other vehicles, including four M1A1 Abrams tanks. The fires injure 49, three die cleaning up the mess.</p> <p><b>1958</b>—Mildred and Richard Loving are rousted out of bed in Central Point, Virginia and arrested for being married while Black and white.</p> <p><b>1955</b>—Congress puts "In God We Trust" on all U.S. coins and paper currency; which god is not specified.</p> <p><b>1953</b>—Ike OK's the overthrow of Iran's Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadegh. What could go wrong?</p> <p><b>1917</b>—A Bisbee, Ariz. posse herds 1,186 striking copper miners into cattle cars and sends them by rail towards New Mexico with no food or water.</p> <p><b>1864</b>—Four miles north of the White House, at Ft. Stevens, Abraham Lincoln comes under enemy fire.</p> <p><b>1804</b>—At Weehauken, Hamilton fires into the ground in front of Burr. Burr aims and shoots Hamilton dead.</p> <p><b>1713</b>—Queen Anne's War ends as Indians sign the Treaty of Portsmouth. The settlers soon renege.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1:50                      2:00</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8:06                      8:28</p>	<p><b>1982</b>—FEMA pledges that the mail will get through, even in a nuclear war.</p> <p><b>1979</b>—The White Sox are forced to forfeit on Disco Demolition Night: the field was damaged by explosives.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—A fire in St. Louis, Mo. destroys the service records of 16 to 18 million Army and Air Force veterans.</p> <p><b>1917</b>—After 30 hours in cattle cars without food or water, 1,286 striking copper miners are left stranded in the New Mexico desert. No relief comes until the next day.</p> <p><b>1908</b>—Milton Berle is born, America's first transvestite TV star.</p> <p><b>1892</b>—The Pennsylvania militia arrives at Homestead, Pa. to protect Andrew Carnegie's right to make a buck.</p> <p><b>1872</b>—Orangemen avoid casualties by refraining from marching through Irish tenements in New York.</p> <p><b>1871</b>—Orangemen are attacked as they march through Irish tenements in New York; 60 die this time.</p> <p><b>1870</b>—Orangemen are attacked by an Irish mob as they march through Irish tenements in New York; eight die.</p> <p><b>1864</b>—The Natchez [Miss.] <i>Courier</i> reports that Jones County has seceded from the Confederacy.</p> <p><b>1817</b>—Pencilmaker and troublemaker Henry David Thoreau is born.</p> <p><b>1626</b>—About to be hanged in Boston, pirate William Fly calmly mocks the executioner's noose-tying skills. Cotton Mather, informed by Fly's critique of nautical injustice, admonishes ship captains to be less brutal.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2:47                      2:52</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9:03                      9:17</p>	<p><b>1999</b>—Senator Bob Smith [R-N.H.] drops out of the Republican Presidential primary race—and the Party, to boot. Delusional, he'll run for President as an Independent.</p> <p><b>1987</b>—Senator Warren B. Rudman [R-N.H.] sets Ollie North straight during the Iran-Contra hearings: "The American people have the constitutional right to be wrong."</p> <p><b>1977</b>—During a heat wave and a financial crisis, with Son of Sam on the loose, lightning strikes cause a blackout in New York City. Chaos ensues.</p> <p><b>1959</b>—A sodium-cooled nuclear reactor in Simi Valley, Calif. has a partial meltdown, releasing 300 times more radiation than Three Mile Island—a fact kept secret for 20 years.</p> <p><b>1950</b>—A B-50 Superfortress crashes in Lebanon, Ohio, killing its crew of 16. Since the Mark 4 nuke on board has no fissile pit installed, the crater left by its explosion is just 25 feet deep.</p> <p><b>1948</b>—Israeli troops drive 70,000 Palestinians from their homes in Lydda and Ramleth.</p> <p><b>1943</b>—Student Alexander Schmorell and Professor Kurt Huber, co-conspirators in the anti-Nazi pamphleteering group White Rose, are guillotined in Munich.</p> <p><b>1863</b>—Enraged by draft laws exempting the rich, and egged on by Democrats, a New York mob goes on a three-day rampage. They level whole blocks and attack Horace Greeley's pro-Union <i>New York Tribune</i>.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3:38                      3:40</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9:55                      10:03</p>	<p><b>2004</b>—The GOP tries to ban gay marriage but can't rise to the occasion.</p> <p><b>2000</b>—Five tobacco companies are ordered to pay \$145 billion in damages, but they wiggle off the hook.</p> <p><b>1989</b>—Alabama tries twice, 19 minutes apart, to electrocute Horace F. Dunkins, who's Black and developmentally-disabled. The first try fails because the chair is wired wrong.</p> <p><b>1981</b>—New Hampshire businessman Max Hugel's stint as Deputy Director of Operations at the CIA ends after 64 days due to revelations of unseemly stock market shenanigans.</p> <p><b>1976</b>—Persons unknown in Traves, France celebrate Bastille Day by burning the home of Nazi war criminal Joachim Peiper—while he's in it.</p> <p><b>1975</b>—Boss Clarence Kelley confesses to Congress that the FBI has been burglarizing Americans since 1940.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—R. Nixon approves the Huston plan to burgle and surveil Americans. It's so bad J. Edgar Hoover nixes it.</p> <p><b>1948</b>—Southerners walk out of the Democratic convention to form the pro-segregation States' Rights Party.</p> <p><b>1943</b>—In two separate incidents, GIs in Sicily murder 73 Axis prisoners.</p> <p><b>1921</b>—Massachusetts' show trial of Nicolò Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti ends with a guilty verdict.</p> <p><b>1798</b>—The Sedition Act passes, making it a crime to criticize the government—especially President Adams.</p> <p><b>1791</b>—Swiss citizens yell "Live free or die" on the first-ever Bastille Day.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4:25                      4:24</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:42                      10:46</p>	<p><b>1995</b>—A derecho sends hurricane force winds through New York and New England, toppling thousands of trees and killing three people.</p> <p><b>1979</b>—President Carter delivers his infamous "malaise" speech, which does not include the word "malaise."</p> <p><b>1974</b>—In Florida, on live TV, newsreader Christine Chubbuck pulls a loaded pistol from a shopping bag and shoots herself dead.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—Nixon says he'll go to China.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—The Republican Party saddles itself with Barry Goldwater as a presidential candidate.</p> <p><b>1919</b>—The War Department—accurately named, at least—says 337,000 Americans dodged the recent draft.</p> <p><b>1877</b>—John W. Garrett, President of the B &amp; O Railroad, gives his shareholders a 10% dividend and his workers a 10% pay cut.</p> <p><b>1865</b>—In Rye, N.H. an optical illusion causes the Isles of Shoals to appear to be only a mile or two offshore.</p> <p><b>1779</b>—General "Mad Anthony" Wayne's troops take 700 prisoners with a bayonet charge at Stony Point.</p> <p><b>1685</b>—Executioner Jack Ketch eventually beheads the Duke of Monmouth, after eight ax blows.</p> <p><b>1381</b>—Lollard preacher John Ball, for inspiring the Peasants' Revolt, is hanged, drawn, and quartered as Richard II looks on with approval.</p> <p><b>1099</b>—Christian Crusaders carry out God's will by slaughtering nearly every inhabitant of Jerusalem.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5:08                      5:06</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11:25                      11:25</p>	<p><b>1991</b>—The Trump Taj Mahal files for bankruptcy 467 days after opening.</p> <p><b>1979</b>—A dam, badly built on shaky ground, collapses in Church Rock, N.M. It spills 1,100 tons of radioactive mill waste, 93 million gallons of effluent, releasing as much radioactivity as the Three Mile Island meltdown.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—Nixon aide Al Butterfield reveals he's been bugging the Oval Office at the behest of The Man himself.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—A white cop shoots James Powell—15, 112 lbs., and Black—dead. The Harlem riots begin.</p> <p><b>1963</b>—In NYC, Tom Cornell and Chris Kearns stage the first anti-Vietnam War demonstration.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—The Atomic Age starts with a big bang at Alamogordo, N.M.</p> <p><b>1934</b>—Workers in San Francisco conduct a four-day General Strike.</p> <p><b>1877</b>—B&amp;O RR firemen in Martinsburg, W.Va. strike against wage cuts.</p> <p><b>1860</b>—In San Francisco, Emperor Norton I issues a declaration calling for the dissolution of the U.S.A.</p> <p><b>1858</b>—To bolster his ability to resist the allure of prostitutes, Thomas P. "Boston" Corbett uses a pair of scissors to castrate himself. Seven years later he will kill John Wilkes Booth.</p> <p><b>1854</b>—A conductor in New York City tells Elizabeth Jennings Graham to get off his streetcar because she's Black. She refuses. In court, she wins desegregation, \$250, and court costs.</p> <p><b>1790</b>—Congress votes to build the nation's capitol in a swamp.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5:47                      5:45</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12:05</p>	<p><b>2020</b>—Asked if he'll concede if he loses, #45 says "I'll have to see."</p> <p><b>2015</b>—Portsmouth cops grill Mike Thiel at his office about a letter in which he complains about helicopters.</p> <p><b>2014</b>—Detained for selling loose cigarettes, Eric Garner, 43, suffocates as he tells NYPD cops, "I can't breathe."</p> <p><b>1979</b>—Anastasio Somoza flees Nicaragua for Miami, bringing family caskets and much of the national treasury.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—An American press officer in Saigon tells Morley Safer "if you think any American official is going to tell you the truth, then you're stupid."</p> <p><b>1962</b>—The U.S. conducts its last near-ground atmospheric nuke test: the .018 kiloton "Little Feller." A company of soldiers is marched through ground zero 26 minutes later.</p> <p><b>1955</b>—Lightning hits a huge mine, near Ypres since '16. It only kills a cow.</p> <p><b>1944</b>—Two munitions ships explode at Port Chicago, Calif., killing 322, mostly Black bomb handlers.</p> <p><b>1935</b>—RIP Cudjoe Lewis, in Africatown, Mobile, Ala., last known survivor of the Atlantic slave trade.</p> <p><b>1928</b>—Partying with Mexican Revolution veterans, President Alvaro Obregon tells strolling caricaturist Leon Toral, "Make sure you make me look good." Toral says, "I will," and shoots him dead.</p> <p><b>1877</b>—Gov. Henry Mathews calls out a local militia company to suppress the Martinsburg, W.Va. railroad strike. It sides with strikers, instead.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6:25                      6:23</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12:02                      12:42</p>



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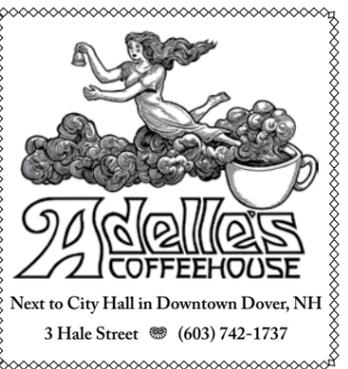


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