

The Fortnightly Rant

Our Shattered Porcelain Anniversary

A fortnight from tomorrow, the nation will mark a twentieth anniversary of great historical importance. It would be lovely to think that we are all prepared for it, but there is no evidence of that.

Customarily, the head of the Executive Branch would lead any national commemoration. Fairly or not, though, recent events on the other side of the world have lowered most people's expectations from that quarter. Besides, everyone knows who really does the heavy lifting when it comes to conducting such national events. [Cue Frank Zappa's *I Am the Slime*.*]

Nevertheless, we still have a problem. Over the past two decades, television news networks have...underperformed, if we may employ an industrial-strength euphemism here.

At least, that is our view. Much depends on one's perspective. They can't help being less seasoned than ourselves. The vast size of their audience though, would seem to call for more rigorous standards. Once again, though, evidence is lacking.

Also, much depends on what the meaning of the word "perform" is. Stockholders in the half-dozen corporations which own every other upstart rag and blowhard-enabling broadcast network in the country may be quite happy with the return on their investment. We just don't share their values.

Though unsure that we're up to the task, in the absence of anyone else who is, we'll assess this occasion ourselves.

—==—

The nation was transfixed: an airliner disappeared into a building from

*"I may be vile and pernicious/But you can't look away/I make you think I'm delicious/With the stuff that I say/I'm the best you can get/Have you guessed me yet?/I'm the slime oozin' out/From your TV set."

which a jet of flame erupted. Smoke billowed upwards.

Then the same thing happened again: airliner, flame, and smoke. Before anyone could make sense of the chaos, it got worse. One building collapsed, then the other. Two more planes went down. The Pentagon, holed, was burning.

It was as terrible a day as most people could remember. Then true American exceptionalism kicked in: we made things worse.

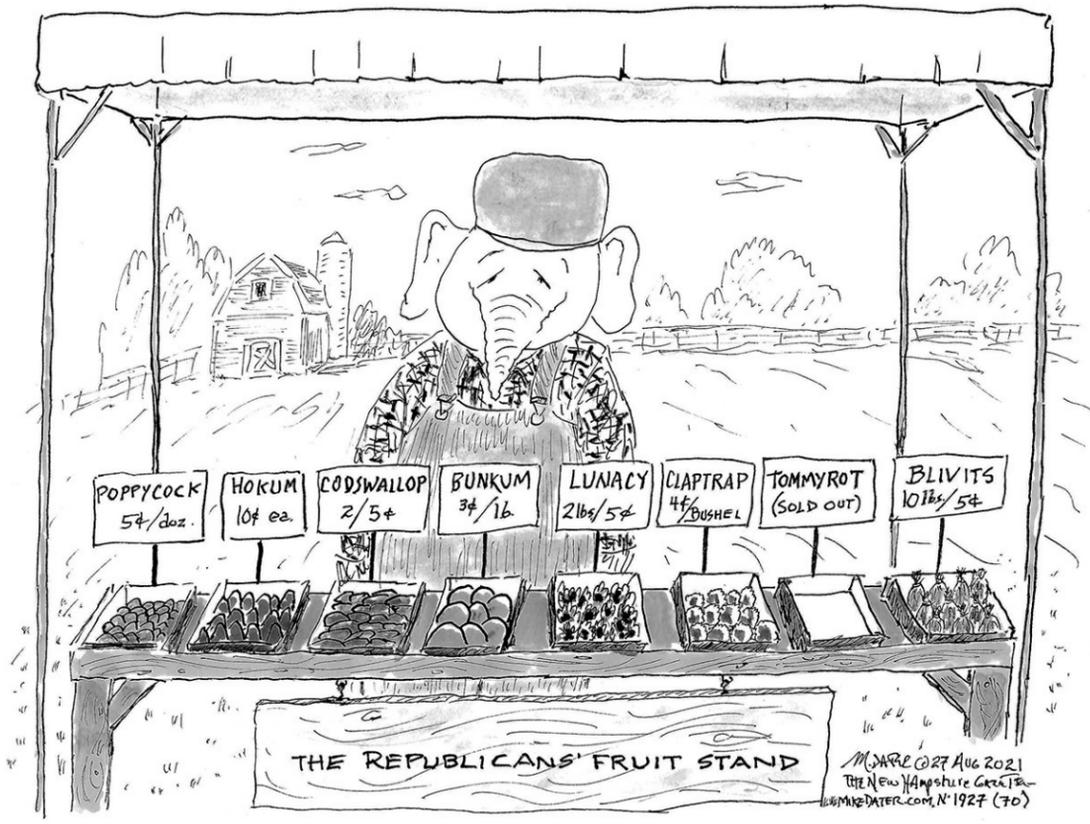
As always, in times of crisis, television network execs sought out authority figures. George W.[MD] Bush and Rudy Giuliani stepped up, posing as heroic yet humble saviors, prepared to do whatever it took to keep us safe from harm in the future.

To be fair, the network execs did not yet know that Bush had spent his summer vacation blowing off explicit warnings of impending terror attacks. And they probably didn't know that Giuliani had sited his Emergency Operations Center exactly where al-Qaeda was most likely to strike, or that his Fire Department was still using the old radios that had not worked the last time the World Trade Center was bombed. As we shall see, though, knowing those things would not have made any difference.

A week later Congress† handed the administration a license to kill terrorists, suspected terrorists, and innocent civilians, and ignore inconvenient elements of the U.S. Constitution and the rule of law.

A few weeks after that we invaded

† With the notable lone exception of Rep. Barbara Lee, representing California's 13th District, "elected as a Democrat to the One Hundred Fifth Congress, by special election, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of United States Representative Ron Dellums, and reelected to the twelve succeeding Congresses (April 7, 1998-present)." — *Biographical Dictionary of the United States Congress*.



one of the countries thought to be responsible for the attack. Given the broad latitude offered by the Authorization for Use of Military Force, it's unclear why the Bush/Cheney administration came down so hard on Afghanistan. Fifteen of the 19 hijackers, and the instigator Osama bin Laden, were all from Saudi Arabia—as was the funding.

Another lingering mystery is how a gaunt, bearded giant—dependent on a cane and a dialysis machine—could have scooted away from our fittest, most highly-trained warriors, over high mountain passes, as winter was setting in.

It has been established by reputable journalists that at this very critical juncture, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld was diverting Pentagon resources towards a plan for attacking Iraq. Unfortunately, blow-dried talking heads have had a hard time retaining this fact. Others prone to harping on this point will eventually find themselves the target

of pointed fingers and "conspiracy theorist" whispers.

We can now hit the fast-forward button, and screech our way through to the present. Stopping at any particular point along the way would not be particularly edifying. It can all be summed up thusly:

Go ahead and spend \$300 million per day—per day—for twenty years in a desperately poor and dysfunctional country, ruled by warlords and crushed by corruption. You will find local entrepreneurs ready, willing, and able to tell you anything you would like to hear.

Somehow, putting such an operation under the control of an authoritarian dictatorship—we're talking about the Pentagon, here—in which the top brass win promotions by saying "We can do that sir," and in which underlings are required, under threat of court-martial, to do what they're told, even if it gets them killed—does not necessarily guarantee a positive outcome.

Of course, we do have civilian control over the military. From a practical point of view, that means conservatives in Congress—all Republicans and half the Democrats—will vote to keep on fighting, regardless of the facts on the ground, lest some used-car salesman decide to challenge them in the next primary election.

And what about The Decider, the Commander-in-Chief?

Check this morning's paper and see for yourself what happens when he tells the generals it's time to go. Pulling us out of Afghanistan is the non-lethal equivalent of jumping on a live grenade. It's enough to make you wonder if Uncle Joe has any intention of running for re-election.

The Pentagon is almost done with Afghanistan, at least for the time being. The Blow-Dried TV News Brigade is not. They're still speed-dialing all the experts on their contact lists who've been wrong about the war all along.

The Alleged News®

DeJoy: "Run the Postal Service? I Thought You Said 'Ruin the Postal Service.'"

It's easy to feel overwhelmed when you are facing more catastrophes than you can count. Where do you even begin?

This disagreeable sensation, once confined to an unlucky few, is now widespread among those who read the news. Our policy for staving off catatonia: expect the worst, hope for the best, and deal with one thing at a time.

At the moment, because it's dear to our ink-stained heart, let's consider the U.S. Postal Service [U.S.P.S.]. Because it certainly qualifies as a catastrophe.

Incredibly, there's good news on this front. The District Court in Washington, D.C. ruled August 17th that the U.S.P.S. must turn over documents about potential conflicts of interest involving Postmaster General Louis DeJoy.

Sworn in on June 15, 2020, DeJoy immediately implemented a 10-year plan which purported to "fix" the Postal Service. Congress had previously "fixed" the Postal Service in 2006, by requiring it to create a \$72 billion fund to cover health care costs of retirees for the next 75 years—a unique burden faced by no other enterprise. DeJoy's "fix" ignored that problem, though, while creating others—so many, in fact, that there's a *Wikipedia* page titled, "2020 United States Postal Service crisis."

"There is controversy and speculation," the page says, "about whether the delays are unintended consequences of restructuring operations, or if they were intentionally created for political and/or financial gain. DeJoy has supported and donated to former President Donald Trump,

who has publicly linked his opposition to emergency funding for the Postal Service to his desire to restrict voting by mail in the 2020 elections."

The U.S.P.S. has a month to turn over the documents to Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington [CREW].

CREW noted on August 18th that, "Over the past seven years, the U.S.P.S. has reportedly paid approximately \$286 million to XPO Logistics, DeJoy's ex-employer, and has 'ramped up its business' with the company since DeJoy's appointment as Postmaster General. After his appointment, DeJoy continued to hold financial interests in XPO totaling between \$30 and \$75 million. DeJoy also held a significant amount of stock in Amazon, a major U.S.P.S. competitor."

If there's any justice in this

world—yes, we know: a long shot indeed—CREW will be able to make a case that will force the hand of the Postal Board of Governors, and they'll hit DeJoy's "Eject" button without further delay.

Wait—what's this?

On August 13th, the *Washington Post* reported, "Postmaster General Louis DeJoy purchased up to \$305,000 in bonds from an investment firm whose managing partner also chairs the U.S. Postal Service's governing board, the independent body responsible for evaluating DeJoy's performance."

Seriously—what the hell? Is there some kind of Corruption Olympics under way, that nobody told us about?

In other postal news, rates are being jacked up August 29th, well beyond the rate of inflation. "U.S.P.S.

will raise rates for regular, First-Class mail by 6.8 percent and for package services by 8.8 percent," according to *GovExec.com*. "A standard stamp will go from \$0.55 to \$0.58. Large-scale mail users are suing the Postal Service and the Postal Regulatory Commission, arguing the authority postal management used to implement the rate increase is unlawful."

Finally, here's this:

On August 13th, with a 2:24-minute video featuring Postmaster General Louis DeJoy, the U.S.P.S. proclaimed "its first Ethics Awareness Week from Aug. 16-22, aiming to educate employees about the importance of conducting themselves with integrity."

[*Catatonia sets in...*]

The Alleged News®

from page one

The Mixed Legacy of Teddy Roosevelt

We've had Teddy Roosevelt on the brain lately. It's a little weird, but it could be worse. Better T.R. than The Former Guy.

Perhaps it's an occupational hazard. William Loeb III, the bullet-headed publisher of the *Manchester Union Leader*—of whom John F. Kennedy said, "I believe that there is a publisher who has less regard for the truth than William Loeb, but I can't think of his name"—was a huge fan of our 26th President.

Loeb had a personal reason, though, for idolizing the man: T.R. was his godfather—the President had once bounced baby Bill Loeb on his knee. His papa William Loeb Jr. was Roosevelt's private secretary throughout his presidency.

Patrick Buchanan, the *Union Leader's* favorite Presidential candidate, was also in thrall to the famous Rough Rider. Did Loeb influence Buchanan, or did these two authoritarians naturally come to worship at the feet of their idol? Who can say?

And, who cares? Buchanan and Loeb are insignificant pawns compared to Roosevelt. He built the board on which we now struggle—by unconstitutionally evading Senatorial advice and consent.

In 1905, T.R. cut a secret deal with Japan that ultimately led, 36 years later, to the December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor. This disconcerting fact is thoroughly documented in James Bradley's eye-opening *The Imperial Cruise*, published to considerable acclaim in 2009. The book would have forever altered how Americans view recent history, if we Americans were capable of learning anything.

We are who we are, though, "[s]o we beat on, boats against the current, born back ceaselessly into the past." This is one reason why we publish Admiral Fowle's Piscataqua River Tidal Guide (Not for Navigational Purposes)—so we'll always remember that we never learn anything. Also, it keeps the Admiral out of the pool halls and gin mills, and consequently the hoosegow.

A far better side of T.R. is revealed by an item which made its first appearance in our Tidal Guide in our



Paul McEachern Park, dedicated August 22nd, is now complete. A large stone sign bears the name of the honoree, in remembrance of a long lifetime of service to his community. A flagpole has been erected behind the sign. The Flag Police are pleased to see that the arrangement is properly illuminated—by solar power, no less. As a finishing touch, future generations will no doubt have fond memories of riding this fine two-seater codfish.

paper of August 13th: "[August 20,] 1907—While laying the cornerstone of the Pilgrim Memorial in Provincetown, President Theodore Roosevelt accuses 'malefactors of great wealth' of causing 'as much financial stress as possible' in order to discredit the government trying to rein them in."

Stephen Kinzer recently elaborated on that event in the *Provincetown Independent*, in a piece headlined "Teddy Roosevelt's Precise Denunciation of Corporate Power." Kinzer is, according to the *Independent*, "a Truro Central School graduate and former *New York Times* foreign correspondent."

Kinzer quotes Roosevelt at some length, interspersing a few summaries in his own words:

"When the Constitution was created, none of the conditions of modern business existed," Roosevelt reasoned. "They are wholly new, and we must create new agencies to deal effectively with them." He went on to demand limits on working hours, compensation for job-related injuries, an income tax, an estate tax, and the breakup of monop-

olies. He said government should place corporations under "more efficient control" and lamented that existing laws were too weak.

"What wonder that gigantic corporations employ their enormous wealth and the highest legal talent to strain the laws to their utmost!" he railed. "What wonder that ill-gotten fortunes menace the liberties of the people!"

"There is unfortunately a certain number of our fellow countrymen who seem to accept the view that unless a man be proved guilty of some particular crime, he shall be counted as a good citizen, no matter how infamous the life he has led, no matter how pernicious his doctrines or his practices," he said. "Many men of large wealth have been guilty of conduct which from the moral standpoint is criminal, and their misdeeds are particularly reprehensible because those committing them have no excuse of want, of poverty, of weakness and ignorance to offer as partial atonement."

In his own mind, Roosevelt continued, "there is a growing determination that no man shall amass a great fortune by special privilege, by chicanery and

wrongdoing, so far as it is in the power of legislation to prevent; and that a fortune, however amassed, shall not have a business use that is antisocial."

Roosevelt contained multitudes. Sadly the one on display here, putting the bully pulpit to proper use, had, in the end, but little effect.

After a couple more decades of abuse, though, ordinary Americans achieved some of what T.R. called for in Provincetown. They did it by forming unions, and fighting the powers Roosevelt had condemned.

By the 1950s, it was possible for working families to live a decent life.

Some people, though—like a certain future Justice of the Supreme Court—saw that as a bug, not a feature.

50th Anniversary of the Powell Memo
We went whole hog on T.R.'s Provincetown speech in part because it resonates with another anniversary—a far more disconcerting one, also published in the Tidal Guide on August 13th:

[August 23,] 1971—The Powell Memo is published: a future Su-

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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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becomes languid, irritable and despondent, through loss of nerve vigor. Life seems a mockery. The courage, force, vigor and action which characterize full-blooded men, are lacking.
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preme Court Justice explains that billionaires can use propaganda to nullify the New Deal.

In a memo prepared for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Lewis Powell wrote, "No thoughtful person can question that the American economic system is under broad attack."

Epitomizing its assailants, according to Powell, was the dreaded Ralph Nader, "perhaps the single most effective antagonist of American business."

Powell quoted *Fortune*, which wrote, "The passion that rules in him—and he is a passionate man—is aimed at smashing utterly the target of his hatred, which is corporate power. He thinks, and says quite bluntly, that a great many corporate executives belong in prison—for defrauding the consumer with shoddy merchandise, poisoning the food supply with chemical additives, and willfully manufacturing unsafe products that will maim or kill the buyer. He emphasizes that he is not talking just about 'fly-by-night hucksters' but the top management of blue chip business."

For the record, we'll note that Nader's charges were consistently accu-

rate. He and his "crusaders" saved untold thousands of lives by forcing carmakers to adopt seatbelts and other safety measures—all of which the manufacturers fought against vehemently. Nader was inducted into the Automotive Hall of Fame in 2016.

To defend corporate America against such perfidy, Powell offered a slate of recommendations:

- corporations should designate executive vice presidents charged with combatting the likes of Ralph Nader;
 - the U.S. Chamber of Commerce should coordinate the activities of individual corporations;
 - capitalists should fund positions on college campuses, to subsidize stooges who will peddle the corporate line;
 - textbooks should be scrutinized for anti-capitalist heresies, and dealt with accordingly;
 - the FBI's annual list of on-campus speeches by Commies should be matched with counter-propaganda;
 - all of the above, but for high school;
 - the above, a warm-up, has now been applied to the public at large.
- "It is still Marxist doctrine," Pow-



ell wrote, "that the 'capitalist' countries are controlled by big business. This doctrine, consistently a part of leftist propaganda all over the world, has a wide public following among Americans.

"Yet, as every business executive knows, few elements of American society today have as little influ-

About This Rick Scott Person...

Senator Rick Scott [R-Fla.], left, swung by this swing state Sunday in hopes he could help dislodge Jeanne Shaheen, a Democrat, from the U.S. Senate.

Scott, as a co-founder of Hospital Corporation of America, made hundreds of millions of dollars while presiding over a corporation that ended up paying the largest fraud settlement in U.S. history.

Google "Why wasn't Rick Scott sent to prison for fraud," and you will learn that all the legal wrangling took place in civil court.

The next question, we suppose, is "why wasn't Rick Scott charged in criminal court?"

ence in government as the American businessman, the corporation, or even the millions of corporate stockholders. If one doubts this, let him undertake the role of 'lobbyist' for the business point of view before Congressional committees. The same situation obtains in the legislative halls of most states and major cities. One does not exaggerate to say that, in terms of political influence with respect to the course of legislation and government action, the American business executive is truly the 'forgotten man.'

Looking back, one has to wonder about Powell's mental stability. One can easily picture him, like Nixon a couple of years later, drunk as a loon, overcome with self-pity, and talking to portraits on the wall.

Perhaps, though, that's only because so much has changed in 50 years. Clearly his program was adopted, and with huge success. Maybe his lugubrious self-portrait was more accurate that we think.

All we know for sure is, it's past time to reverse the effects of the

Powell Memo.

RIP, John Russo

We were sorry to read in the local daily that John Russo has died.

Since the day we resumed regularly-scheduled publication, on May 1, 1999, John graciously allowed us to distribute our paper in his barber shop on Daniel Street, where he had been cutting hair and making cutting comments since about the second Cleveland administration. Graciously doesn't really seem like the right word, though... acerbically allowed us, perhaps?

Some might find it surprising that he would allow us in—and that we would go in. In fact, delivering the paper to John's was an enjoyable challenge. Like fencing, but without all the protective gear. What the hell—it's a barber shop. A little nick here or there is nothing to get upset about. It was all in fun... we think.

Upon reconsideration, we'll stick with, "he graciously allowed us..."

Thank you, John. It was good to know you, and we will miss you.



Senator Rick Scott [R-Fla.], Chairman of the National Republican Senatorial Committee, tweeted on Sunday—shouldn't he have been in church?—"It was great to be in New Hampshire for @heritage_action's #SaveOurPaychecks event with @NHGOPChairman and the wonderful people of the Granite State. We will continue to fight back against the weak and harmful policies of @JoeBiden and @SenateDems." Before swallowing any of this poppycock, readers are advised to consider the note at right.

Murph's Fortnightly Quote
 "The practical importance of the preservation of our forests is augmented by their relations to climate, soil and streams."
 —John Muir (1838-1914)
 naturalist, author, philosopher

"Never try to discourage thinking for you are sure to succeed."
 —Bertrand Russell
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"The army causes taxes, the taxes cause discontents, & the discontents are alleged to make an army necessary. Thus you go in a circle."
 William Pulteney, 1st Earl of Bath (1684 – 7 July, 1764)
 —Not-So-Random Thoughts from an Oregon Subscriber

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Hungarian Goulash

To the Editor:

Tucker Carlson and the folks at Fox News have taken up cooking and the current dish du jour appears to be Hungarian goulash. Guess we shouldn't be surprised because, in a world where the U.S. is threatened by authoritarian regimes such as China, Russia, and North Korea, it only makes sense to fight fire with fire.

Really, we should not underestimate the appeal of a strong-man leader who possess the alacrity to leapfrog Congress, the electorate, and the courts in a single bound. These guys are decisive, agile, and able to get things done. It's good to get things done long as the things getting done are good.

The problem with lightweight authoritarians like Hungary's Victor Orban is they always morph into despots. Political power is like fentanyl. Once you're hooked, it overtakes you. To quote a famous book title, *Too Much is Never Enough*.

So, all you high-school debaters, let's state Tucker's premise and let the wild rumpus begin:

"Hereby resolved, in a world dominated by dictatorial regimes, the United States should adopt authoritarian rule as a strategy to better preserve our heritage and remain competitive on the world stage."

Possibly not the plan America's founders had in mind, but if you're white, male, paranoid, and all puffed up with self-entitlement, it has merits.

Rick Littlefield
Barrington, N.H.

Rick:

Your letter is a challenge. Our natural reaction to Tucker Carlson is to turn off whatever device is reminding us of his existence. Yet, here we are: duty calls.

A quick perusal of Wikipedia only serves to reinforce all our prejudices against the bow-tied buffoon. Kicked out of private school in Switzerland. Member of the "Dan White Society" in college—named, apparently, after a murderous homophobe. Rejected by the C.I.A. Became a journalist because his father told him, "they'll take anybody."

We'll leave off here...we just can't take anymore. As it is we know we'll be

plagued by nightmares in which we're pelted with frozen Swanson TV Dinners—the Hungarian Goulash Special.

The Editor

Poll Workers Safeguard Voting Rights

To the Editor:

Currently we hear much about the need to strengthen and support voting rights and democracy in our country. Many of us have advocated and lobbied our elected officials in support of these issues. However, we can do more. We need to strongly support those issues locally, by filing as candidates for local office, including as poll workers in Wards 1 - 5 in Portsmouth. During the pandemic some municipal elected officials, including poll workers, worked under stressful conditions, so many have decided not to file as candidates this year. But these local workers are the critical workforce that protects voting rights and our democracy for everyone. Please consider doing your part by filing as a candidate. The filing period for candidates in Portsmouth for municipal elections on November 2nd is August 30th to September 13th at 6:00 p.m.

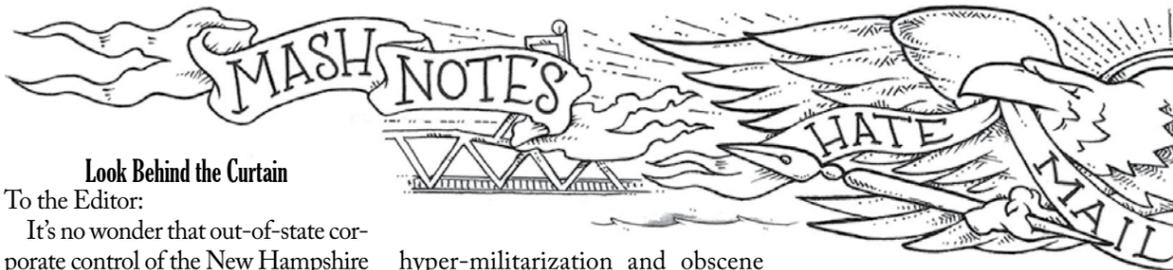
To qualify as a candidate, you must pay a fee of \$1 for poll worker positions or \$5 for other positions (waived if submitting a petition with 50 signatures of qualified voters). While municipal candidates can file independent of a particular party affiliation, the candidates for poll workers must be decided in the respective party caucuses. The Democratic caucus is scheduled for August 28th, 9:30 a.m. (for information contact Democratic Chair Shanika Amarakoon at (617) 512-6294 or by email: shanika217@gmail.com). For detailed information, please contact the Portsmouth City Clerk, Kelli Barnaby, at tel. 610-4148.

State Rep. Peter Somssich
Portsmouth, N.H.

Peter:

Thanks for writing—this is important. We hereby tip our editorial eyeshade to all the poll workers out there—in Portsmouth, and elsewhere. Without you, where would our beleaguered democracy be?

The Editor



Look Behind the Curtain

To the Editor:

It's no wonder that out-of-state corporate control of the New Hampshire legislature spawned a state budget that not only undermines public education, human services, adequate wages and progress toward addressing the climate crisis, but also includes language that perpetuates systemic racism and removes the right of women to make decisions about their bodies.

Over the years the populace has not remained vigilant about evolving legislation and how it affects the quality of human lives and the living world. This neglect has allowed our path to democracy to falter. We have stepped aside and surrendered our power to the corporate elite. But as writer, comedian, commentator Baratunde Thurston explains in the introduction to his podcast, *How to Citizen*, "It's hard to citizen when you can't pay the bills."

The policies that have chipped away at our ability to engage in meaningful decision-making have trapped us in a vicious cycle that keeps us too busy making ends meet—and too skeptical about our power to change the status quo—to be aware of the very policies that have, over the decades, created the climate crisis and perpetuated racism, poverty, cynicism, distrust and fear.

Whether already living without housing, healthcare or education, or merely facing those essentials eating up increasing chunks of our paychecks, we live with fear of drowning in debt or worse. But we are simply too busy, too tired and too skeptical to do the work necessary to grow and sustain a democracy and a decent quality of life.

As long as people are too busy to see the men behind the curtain spinning the narrative of fear that minorities are going to take away their power—the false narrative that that there is a "zero sum" of racial competition as described by the author Heather McGhee—we will continue to live in a polarized society which stokes fear and sustains

hyper-militarization and obscene wealth inequality.

And that is why, when the powers-that-be saw the massive awakening to systemic racism after the murder of George Floyd, they scrambled to inject divisive-concepts bills into legislatures all over the country and why they funneled millions of dollars into local races to seat officials that would carry their torches of white supremacy, fiercely support the censorship of historical truths, and revive policies that disenfranchise those who would vote to change this narrative.

The only way to begin to turn this around is by carving out some time to step back, look at the big picture, see that the system is fixed against us, and begin the work with the time and resources that we have. That work won't get done by the likes of Jeff Bezos who, after enjoying his privileged view of the big picture, remains blinded by greed and disconnectedness from those whose blood, sweat and tears created his wealth.

We need to begin in our communities. A good place to start would be to look at our Departments of Safety and ask ourselves, "What actually makes us safe?" Is it men with guns responding to a mental health crisis or burglary, or is it creating communities in which each individual cares about the well-being of others and works toward a better life for all?

We must envision a different world, one not predicated on fear, but on people interacting to create the kinds of communities where we can live in peace, without fear and where needs are met.

This work has begun in many communities in New Hampshire and numerous other states which have passed rights-based ordinances protecting their resources and their natural world and upholding human rights.

The Community Rights movement plays a role in addressing the democracy crisis which we now face. We must begin to carve out the time to actively engage as decision-makers in rewriting the narrative and creating a genuine democracy that is truly of, by, and for all people.

For more information visit the New Hampshire Community Rights Network website at www.nhcommunityrights.org and contact NHCRN at info@nhcommunityrights.org to get involved in this work.

Diane St. Germain
Bedford N.H.
NHCRN, Board member
Diane:

As you point out so astutely, most citizens rarely fulfill their roles as citizens because it's all they can do to keep their noses above water. The longer we live the more firmly we believe that that is a key point in the reactionary, authoritarian austerity program.

This is one reason why organizations like the Community Rights Network are so important. They pool the energy and power of individuals into something capable of achieving that which no one person could accomplish.

The Editor

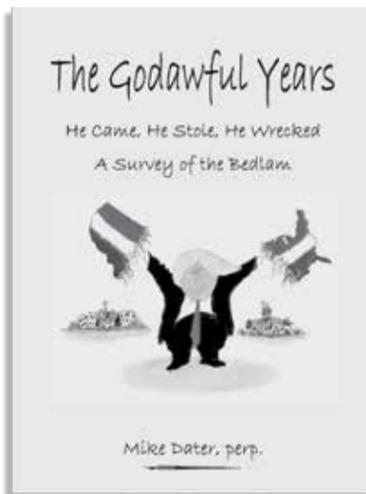
Gerrymandering is Election Fraud

To the Editor:

Gerrymandering is election fraud. Its effect is to intentionally defraud. Yet, in 2019, the U.S. Supreme Court's "conservative" majority, in an anti-gerrymandering lawsuit brought by Common Cause, failed to recognize government was established For the People, not political parties, when it ruled that prohibiting partisan gerrymandering was beyond its reach. The ruling is expected to produce an avalanche of manipulated maps benefiting parties, using highly sophisticated

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software, and powerful analytics about voters.

In 2012, the Republican-majority legislature created Executive Council District #2, a packed, blue, gerrymandered district. Gov. Sununu refers to the salamander shape of the district as “weird,” inferring a harmless happenstance, or void of intent or consequence. However, the district was purposely drawn so his party could form politically favorable districts elsewhere in the state. Thus, the value of Republican votes cast in 49 municipalities were sacrificed in the interests of his party maintaining the majority. The governor also said gerrymandering in New Hampshire is “rare,” as if of little concern, but since it is an intentional act with negative consequences to the voter, it need not occur at all.

I reject Gov. Sununu’s repeated justifications for vetoing bi-partisan efforts to enact an independent redistricting commission. With Democracy hanging by a string, and autocracy in sight, it is incumbent upon our legislature to recognize the dangers, and work in good faith to produce fair district maps this year that serve people over politics.

Bob Perry
Strafford, N.H.

Bob:

Thanks for writing. We would encourage you—and anyone who’s following this process—to keep us informed. We are deeply concerned about the horrors that could be wrought by our present crop of libertarian Republicans using census data produced under the reign of The Former Guy.

The Editor

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Get Serious, Governor

Dear Sir:

Last week there was a front page headline in the *Portsmouth Herald* that

read, “Sununu’s COVID plea: ‘You gotta get the vaccine.’” In the body of the article the Governor stated, “We know our fall surge in October, November could be worse than anything we’ve seen. We want to make sure we prepare for that.” I agree totally. Not only do we need to prepare for what the Governor admits is coming, more importantly, we need to do whatever is necessary now to prevent it from happening, or at least minimize the consequences as much as possible.

So how is the Governor and State preparing for the fall surge? What plans and what specific actions and policies are being put in place now to prepare or prevent the coming surge? One policy the State has made is to leave mask mandates policies totally up to the local cities, towns and School Administrative Units. They are telling the communities to use the State data to guide their decisions. This represents nothing less than an abdication of responsibility and leadership. The State is the recognized expert in New Hampshire on matters of public health, epidemiology and disease control. The State employees the scientists to collect, analyze and interpret this very complicated epidemiologic data on what the pandemic is doing, and to make recommendations to the Governor for necessary policy actions. Other than a handful of communities like Manchester, Nashua, and Portsmouth, most of the States cities and towns do not have full-time public health staff to guide their communities. These communities rely on the State for this guidance and expertise and it is absurd to think that they have the required expertise to substitute for State leadership.

The other action the State has taken to prepare for the coming surge, was to pass a law preventing any city, town, water districts, school districts, school

administrative units or quasi public entities from requiring COVID vaccination. The bill allows unvaccinated people free access to any “public facility,” which is not defined in the law. So while the Governor is pleading with New Hampshire residents to get vaccinated, he signed a bill that in effect, rewards and accommodates those who refuse vaccination.

If the above represent the totality of how New Hampshire is preparing for the coming surge, we are in for a long difficult and painful fall and winter. Rather than simply preparing for the worst, the State must act decisively, aggressively and bravely now to prevent the worst from ever happening. As Dr. David Itkin said in the *Portsmouth Herald* today, it is time to take this completely seriously, if it is not too late already.

Rich DiPentima, RN, MPH
Portsmouth, N.H.

Rich:

Perhaps the Governor is distracted by his ambition. Maybe he’s tired of abdicating his responsibilities in the corner office, and wants to let Mitch McConnell tell him how to not do his job.

The Editor

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It’s Biden’s Fault For Doing the Right Thing
To the Editor:

President Biden’s incompetent withdrawal from Afghanistan demonstrates a shocking disregard for the lives of others. Withdrawing troops without first withdrawing the 5,000 to 40,000 American civilians and our allies’ civilians working on behalf of our government’s goals is shameful, unpardonable, and displays Biden’s moral bankruptcy.

Biden’s incompetence was not surprising, former Secretary Gates said that Biden has been wrong on every foreign policy issue for the last 40 years. But what explains the total incompetence of the rest of his administration, the State Department, or the Military whose motto is “Leave no

man behind!”? Apparently winning wars and protecting Americans is a lower priority than Climate Change, implementing Critical Race Theory, and expelling Trump supporters.

Our State Department tells civilians to get to the Kabul Airport. But, the airport is surrounded by Taliban fighters who prevent passage and seize, beat, and execute some people. All have been left to the mercy of the merciless Taliban.

Biden promised that the withdrawal from Afghanistan would be nothing like the withdrawal from Saigon. He was right; this is much worse. Thousands of Americans and our allies have been left behind to be slaughtered, enslaved, or held hostage; this is far worse than the Iran hostage situation.

Biden also left behind billions of dollars’ worth of military equipment. These weapons can be used to enslave the Afghan people who mostly despise the Taliban, to arm terrorists, or to use in military adventures elsewhere, perhaps to take over nuclear equipped Pakistan.

Afghanistan is now an even stronger sanctuary for terrorists than it was before 9/11. The Taliban now controls more territory. It has billions of dollars of modern weapons and equipment, including advanced helicopters.

Making the situation even worse, China and Russia are now lining up behind the Taliban solidifying its control over Afghanistan and enhancing its ability to make mischief around the world.

Taliban spokesmen say that women will be treated well, in accordance with Islamic Law. What this means is TBD, but past Taliban practices indicate that women can be beaten, mutilated, raped, deprived of educations and medical care, and even killed. Apparently America’s Women’s Rights Groups don’t care.

Biden went into hiding after ordering this disaster. Biden only appears to contradict his previous statements about the withdrawal and to try to blame others for the disastrous results of his orders which abandoned all of Trump’s conditions and controls.

Biden’s incompetent withdrawal

from Afghanistan makes the world much more dangerous. It endangers Americans at home, especially with Biden’s open borders policy. Many, many innocent people will pay with their lives. There’s no indication that Biden understands or cares.

Don Ewing
Meredith, N.H.

Don:

Clearly history began for you at noon on January 20, 2021.

We should have left Afghanistan shortly after it became clear that Osama bin Laden had escaped into Pakistan, i.e. early in 2002. Every year after that the task became more formidable.

We’re not going to defend Biden’s execution of the withdrawal other than to say it was inevitably going to be ugly, and it’s not over yet.

Whatever else happens, he deserves great credit for a rare display of political courage. He had to know it would result in an avalanche of cheap shots.

Congratulations: you’re proven him right about that, too.

The Editor

====

The Virus Mutates...

Dear Editor,

The shortest LTE that I have ever written!

A wise reader’s response to an excellent August 18th *New York Times* article by Sarah Mervosh and Giulia Heyward, headlined, “The School Culture Wars—You Have Brought Division to Us.”

“Covid 19: It started as a virus, and mutated into an IQ test.”

Herb Moyer
Exeter, N.H.

Herb:

Too true. Thanks for sending this—and special thanks for citing the source.

The Editor

====

From a Sad Reader

Hi Friends,

I am sad because I used to pick up my favorite fortnightly newspaper at our local health food store and that has just closed. I ask you, what good is

Mash Notes, Hate Mail, &c.

to page six

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

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Wild and crazy thoughts to save the world

by Jean Stimmell

Today, we navigate through our lives, autonomous contestants in a national gameshow called free-market capitalism, where winners live in mansions and losers on the street. Community, ethics, and our non-human neighbors don't matter much. How do we break out of this amusement park before it is too late? Let's try by thinking outside the box. What if our thoughts and imagination don't arise in us as individuals.

What if thoughts are socially constructed. Rather than our thoughts arising out of our brain, what if we are receiving them from outside: From the web of all our acquaintances, books we have read, and websites we click on. Wise gurus have always said this is true: Jung called our common connection the collective unconsciousness; Emile Durkheim called it social consciousness; neurologists call it mirror cells; Buddhists call it Indra's Net. Now ecologists are telling us that our thoughts come not just from other humans but the Earth itself!

We need to wake up. At this perilous time, our thoughts, foolishly misunderstood to be our own, are being manipulated by an insidious enemy, the demon of fear. This demon is being used to great advantage by demagogues to pit us one against another. They are successful because we have no overarching cause to ral-

ly around. We have nothing bigger than ourselves to believe in.

David Abram, ecologist and philosopher, tells us that imagination isn't a separate mental faculty within us but an ability our senses have to cast themselves out to bind with "other lives that surround it, the way the earth couples itself to our thoughts and our dreams."¹ We have this magical ability because we coevolved with the Earth: "The human eyes have evolved in subtle interaction with the oceans and the air, formed and informed by the shifting patterns of the visible world. Our ears are now tuned, by their very structure, to the howling of wolves and the honking of geese."² Becca Tarnas, scholar and artist, writes about how our imagination extends beyond our daily concerns...allowing us to see our human role in an enchanted cosmos by connecting us to our past and future.³

We do this through myth.

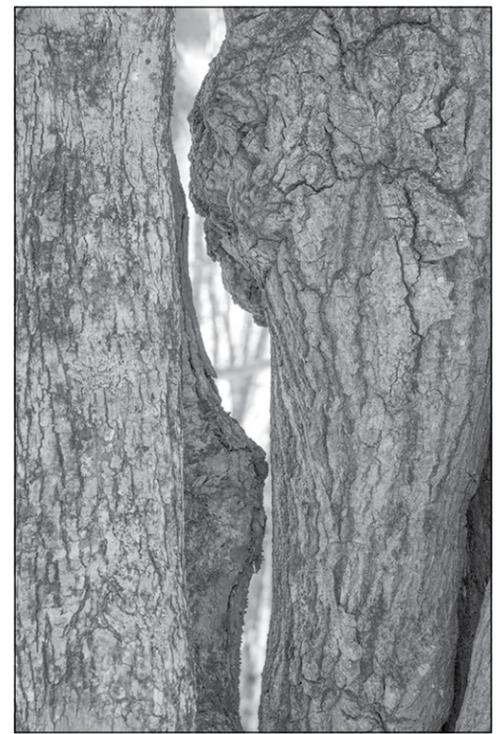
Imagination operates through myth to connect us to something bigger than us: the more-than-human world and the Earth itself. Myths are not tall tales and make-believe. As Charlotte Du Cann, author and Director of the Dark Mountain Project tells us, "They exist as a reminder of our place and meaning on the Earth; a reminder of what we have to undergo to become truly human, with a culture where art is the same as knowledge. Old mythologies con-

tain not only stories about our place on the Earth, but have the Earth speaking through them. In other words, as we turn ideas around in our head, we're not just thinking, but we are getting thought."⁴

"Whatever we are facing now we need to have a root system embedded in weather patterns, the presences of animals, our dreams, and the ones who came before us. Myth is insistent that when there is a crisis, genius lives on the margins not the centre. If we are constantly using the language of politics to combat the language of politics at some point the soul grows weary... We're not listening to the thoughts of the world. We're only listening to our own neurosis and our own anxiety."⁵

J.R.R. Tolkien, the English writer and poet, understood all of this. He is best known for writing *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*. Far from believing that the imagination dealt with make-believe, he considered it a direct connection to the divine. What we call myth, he named "Faërie," a world he believed humans never left: "Faërie contains many things besides... dwarfs, witches, trolls, giants, or dragons: it holds the seas, the sun, the moon, the sky; and the earth, and all things that are in it: tree and bird, water and stone, wine and bread, and ourselves, mortal men, when we are enchanted."⁶

Inspired by what I had learned about this strange, new world, I



Trees embracing. Photo © by Jean Stimmell.

re-watched *Fellowship of the Ring*, keeping in mind what the visionaries quoted here reveal about myth representing a higher truth. Part way through the movie I shivered in recognition about the magnitude of the task we face today as the wizard Gandalf spoke about confronting a similar existential crisis:

"Middle-earth stands upon the brink of destruction. None can escape it; you will unite or you will fall. Each race is bound to this fate, this one doom. No one wishes for times like these. All we can do is decide what to do with the time that's given to us."⁷

1 *The Spell of the Sensuous*, by David Abram, page 262

2 <https://wildethics.org/essay/waking-our-animal-senses/>

3 <https://beccatarnas.wordpress.com/tag/david-abram/>

4 <http://www.dailygood.org/story/1979/uncolonising-the-imagination-charlotte-du-cann/>

5 *Ibid.*

6 <https://beccatarnas.com/tag/david-abram/>

7 https://www.moviequotedb.com/movies/lord-of-the-rings-the-fellowship-of-the-ring-the/quote_32038.html

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from page five

a town without a health food store?

We have also, over the 41 years I have lived here, lost our downtown drug stores, hardware and stationary stores, our art supply store and many more that make a downtown worthwhile, at least to those of us who actually live here.

Fortunately, there are still a few places I go where I can pick up this



newspaper, including our local book store and our long-time local bakery. If they leave town, I may also.

Diane Stradling
Portsmouth, N.H.

Diane:

We have long missed Charley Beatty, dispensing screws, nails, and sagacity

at Peavey's Hardware...and Brian Light, dishing out insults, jokes in questionable taste, and obscure obsolete office supplies across the street at Hoyt's...

Soon, alas, we'll be missing Scott Nelson. We have always enjoyed his observations on the passing charade,

during the sidewalk conferences we have shared..

And as for Tom and the gang at RiverRun, and Penny and her crew at Ceres, we're with you—without them we'd be bereft. It can't be emphasized enough—buy local, everybody!

The Editor

52 Years Ago...

"We must stop burning up the house to keep the family warm. We have all the technology needed to tap vast cosmic energies of the sun but greedy big business and money drunk government won't allow it because they haven't found a way to place a meter on the sun."

— R. Buckminster Fuller
Operating Manual for Planet Earth
1969

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Afghanistan: Vietnam Redux

by W.D. Ehrhart

Way back in March and April of 1975, I watched with profound sadness but absolutely no surprise as the South Vietnamese army (ARVN)—with only a brief exception at a place called Xuan Loc—turned tail and retreated without a fight in the face of a North Vietnamese offensive, and the government the U.S. had installed, paid for, and supported for two decades collapsed like a house of cards.

Eight years earlier, I had gone to Vietnam as an 18-year-old Marine believing that I would be defending the freedom-loving people of South Vietnam from the communist aggressors invading their country. I encountered, over and over again, ARVN forces that would not fight, though they had been trained and equipped and supported by the U.S., and Viet Cong guerrillas who were untrained, unpaid, and ill-equipped, but would not stop fighting.

I didn't then know anything about the history of the country or the war I found myself in. But I could readily see that one side believed in what it was fighting for and the other side did not. And it was painfully easy to see which side was which. So that final rapid collapse years later came as no surprise at all, though it did come with the unavoidable truth that what I and my comrades had endured had all been for nothing.

But at least, I had thought, perhaps somebody down there in Washington, D.C., had learned something. Perhaps policymakers would avoid such folly, such willful blindness to reality, such hubris, such wishful thinking in the future.

Fat chance, as it turns out. Only a few days ago, as the Taliban were storming into Kabul, the *Washington Post* had written: "It seems certain that in coming years the use of military force will be informed by this searing experience. U.S. foreign policy will be guided by more modest ambitions, especially when weighing the use of military power."

Seriously? Did the journalist who wrote this manage to do it with a straight face? I suspect that the person who wrote it is too young to know anything about the American War in Vietnam. I hope so because I shudder to imagine a mind that could remember the collapse of South Vietnam and still think U.S. policymakers will actually learn something this time.

So yet another house of cards collapses after two decades of U.S. blood and treasure poured into a government that had no more legitimacy in the eyes and hearts of most people in Afghanistan than the Saigon regime had among the people of Vietnam. At least Vietnam was and is a country. Afghanistan, a collection of tribal societies and ethnic

warlords, exists only in a cartographer's fantasy.

I feel badly for those Afghans who risked their lives to help the U.S. as interpreters and in other capacities, and are now in danger of who knows what. And I do honestly feel sorry for the women and girls of Afghanistan who had escaped the clutches of the Taliban at least temporarily. But if they are in such jeopardy, I wonder why their fathers and husbands and brothers will not fight to defend them.

Think about that: why should Americans fight and die to defend the women and girls of Afghanistan when their own fathers and husbands and brothers will not? We American taxpayers have spent \$88,000,000,000—that's 88 billion dollars—training the Afghan army and police, and it's painfully clear that we might as well have tossed that money into the ocean or burned it in my oven. (Or maybe spent it on health care, education, infrastructure, and other useful projects in our own country? Now there's an idea. But I digress.)

Indeed, it turns out that the Taliban are in possession of thousands of Humvees and MRAP vehicles, tens of thousands of M4 and M16 rifles, M2 .50 caliber machineguns, grenades, communications equipment, night vision goggles, even airplanes and drones, all abandoned by fleeing Afghan National Army soldiers or



A Marine from 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines, moves a Viet Cong suspect to the rear during a search and clear operation held by the battalion 15 miles west of Da Nang Air Base, August 3, 1965. Source: National Archives and Records Administration; photo by U.S. Marine Corps PFC G. Durbin.

simply handed over outright. Your tax dollars at work.

What has befallen the people of Afghanistan may or may not be a tragedy—apparently some significant segment of Afghan society wants the Taliban to succeed—but the chaotic images of terrified human beings cramming into the bellies of huge U.S. transport planes at Kabul airport are as heartrending as heartrending gets.

Still, the real tragedy in all this is that the United States of America invaded yet another foreign coun-

try, imagining that we could bend it to our will and create a "Mini-Me" version of ourselves, and then spent twenty years, trillions of dollars, and thousands of lives ignoring what was obvious from the very outset.

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W. D. Ehrhart received the Purple Heart Medal, Navy Combat Action Ribbon, and a Division Commander's Commendation for his service in Vietnam. He is author of *Thank You for Your Service: Collected Poems* (McFarland, 2019).
=====

Working From Home – While Your Boss Watches You on Video

by Jim Hightower

If you're a corporate employee, you know that something unpleasant is afoot when top executives are suddenly issuing statements about how committed they are to their employees, making sure that all of them are treated with dignity and respect.

For example, the PR chief of a global outfit named Teleperformance, one of the world's largest call centers, was recently going on and on about how "We value our people and their well-being, safety, and happiness." Why did the corpo-

ration feel such a desperate need to proclaim its virtue? Because it's been caught in a nasty scheme to spy on its own workers.

Teleperformance—a \$6.7 billion global behemoth that handles customer service calls for Amazon, Apple, Uber, &c.—saves money on overhead by making most of its 380,000 employees around the world work from their own homes. That can be a convenience for many workers, but a new corporate policy first imposed in March on thousands of its workers in Columbia, is an Orwellian nightmare. Teleper-

formance is pressuring them to sign an eight-page addendum to their employee contracts, allowing corporate-controlled video cameras, electronic audio devices, and data collection tools to be put in their homes to monitor their actions. "I work in my bedroom," one employee noted. "I don't want to have a camera in my bedroom."

Neither would I, and I doubt that Teleperformance's \$20 million-a-year CEO would allow one in his mansion. Uglier yet, the privacy-obliterating contract requires that even the children of employees can

be spied on at home. Nonetheless, the Columbian worker signed, because her supervisor said she could lose her job if she refused.

Of course, Teleperformance Inc. assures us that the data it collects on children is not shared elsewhere. But how do we know that? Trust us, they say.

This is Jim Hightower saying... Do you?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SUNDAY, AUGUST 29	MONDAY, AUGUST 30	TUESDAY, AUGUST 31	WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1	THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2	FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3	SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4
<p>2013—Americans learn, thanks to Edward Snowden, that the annual "Black Budget" of the "Intelligence Community" is \$52.6 billion a year.</p> <p>2007—Due to careless accounting, an Air Force B-52 at Minot AFB in North Dakota is loaded with six live nukes, then left unguarded overnight.</p> <p>1996—President William J. Clinton wins re-nomination, but loses advisor Dick Morris. His \$200-an-hour prostitute's-toe-sucking habit is too taboo.</p> <p>1977—Memphis cops nab three people trying to steal Elvis's corpse.</p> <p>1970—A 23-member band of Native Americans scale Mount Rushmore and re-name it for Crazy Horse.</p> <p>1968—A week-long rebellion erupts at the Long Binh Jail in Vietnam.</p> <p>1957—Despite a 24 hr., 18 min. filibuster by Sen. Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.)—father, at 22, of a mixed-race child by his family's 16-year-old maid—the Civil Rights Act passes.</p> <p>1956—Jesus Christ "GG" Allin, the most depraved punk rocker in history, is born in Lancaster, New Hampshire.</p> <p>1921—Coal companies use hired airplanes to drop bombs on miners at Blair Mountain, West Virginia.</p> <p>1787—Though dropped the day before when two objected, on this day The Framers agree: fugitive slaves "shall be delivered up to the person justly claiming their service or labor."</p> <p>1786—Farmers in Northampton, Mass.—many Revolution vets—close the courts to prevent foreclosures.</p>	<p>2011—The Federal Election Commission awakens and OKs an investigation of Rep. Frank Guinta [R-N.H.].</p> <p>2007—Unbeknownst to the pilots, a B-52 takes off from N.D. with six live nukes onboard. In La., it sits unguarded from noon to 10:00 p.m.</p> <p>2004—To milk 9/11 for all it's worth, the RNC convenes in New York City. Attendees mock John Kerry and wounded vets in general by wearing "Purple Heart" band-aids.</p> <p>1979—Defly wielding a canoe paddle, President Carter fend off a de-ranked swamp rabbit.</p> <p>1979—For the first time, astronomers observe a comet hitting the sun.</p> <p>1967—Thurgood Marshall becomes the first Black Associate Justice.</p> <p>1964—At the Democratic Convention, an all-white delegation from Mississippi is seated while a Black protest delegation is not.</p> <p>1963—The White House and the Kremlin get connected by "Hot Line."</p> <p>1950—At a closed Senate Appropriations hearing, Sec. of State Dean Acheson takes a swing at Sen. Kenneth Wherry (R-Neb.) but is restrained by a State Dept. lawyer.</p> <p>1918—Fanya Kaplan shoots Lenin, who's badly wounded but lives. Days later she's shot dead.</p> <p>1893—Huey "The Kingfish" Long is born in Winnfield, La.</p> <p>1813—Drunken officers are playing cards when 800 Creeks attack Ft. Mims, Ala.; of 500 whites, 15 survive.</p>	<p>2019—Portsmouth's Daniel Street Post Office closes for good. Thanks a lot, Councilor, Congressman, Governor, and Senator Judd Gregg.</p> <p>1973—The Gainesville Eight, anti-war veterans charged with conspiracy to riot at the 1972 Republican National Convention, are acquitted.</p> <p>1965—President Johnson signs a bill making draft card burning illegal.</p> <p>1963—Robert Bork publishes an article in <i>The New Republic</i> opposing the Civil Rights Act.</p> <p>1954—Hurricane Carol slams New England; 65 die.</p> <p>1948—An LAPD setup bears fruit: Robert Mitchum is busted for pot.</p> <p>1939—German operatives conduct Operation Himmler, 21 false flag attacks along the Polish border, to justify the next day's invasion.</p> <p>1925—After an 11-year occupation, U.S. Marines depart from Haiti leaving a dictatorship behind.</p> <p>1921—President Harding orders a cease-fire in the W.Va. Mine War under threat of Federal intervention.</p> <p>1919—The American Communist Party is formed in Chicago.</p> <p>1895—Julius A. Wyland founds <i>An Appeal to Reason</i>, an independent socialist weekly. Its peak circulation, in 1910, is over half a million.</p> <p>1869—In Ireland, Mary (King) Ward is thrown from a steam-powered automobile and run over: she's the first person to be killed by a car.</p> <p>1803—Lewis and Clark head west.</p>	<p>2019—Meteorologist-in-Chief Donald J. Trump tweets that Hurricane Dorian will hit Alabama hard.</p> <p>2005—New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin calls for George W.[MD] Bush and FEMA to "get off your asses and do something" about his flooded city.</p> <p>1989—Narcs trying to score crack near the White House for a George H.[H.J.W.] Bush presidential photo-op get the drug on their third try but not the film—their camera operator gets mugged by a homeless person.</p> <p>1983—The USSR shoots down KAL Flight 007. Among the victims: John Birch Society President and Congressman Larry McDonald (R-Ga.).</p> <p>1982—The U.S. Air Force Space Command becomes operational.</p> <p>1970—"This chamber reeks of blood," charges George McGovern on the floor of the U.S. Senate.</p> <p>1952—A freak wind hits Carswell AFB in Texas knocking two-thirds of SAC's B-29s out of commission.</p> <p>1921—A looted Gatling gun briefly gives miners an edge on Blair Mtn., W.Va. The Sheriff responds by hiring biplanes to drop bombs on them.</p> <p>1894—Thomas P. "Boston" Corbett, the self-castrating Cavalryman who shot John Wilkes Booth, dies in Hinckley, Minn. along with 800 others in a four-hour firestorm.</p> <p>1862—"The Rebel bullet that can kill me has not yet been molded," boasts General Philip Kearney. Some Rebel worked fast: he's KIA this day.</p>	<p>1983—Mississippi's execution of Jimmy Lee Gray goes badly, possibly because executioner T. Berry Bruce is drunk. Eight minutes after the poison gas is released, officials clear the witness room because Gray is still gasping, moaning, and banging his head on a steel pole.</p> <p>1945—VJ Day—Japan surrenders to General "Dugout Doug" MacArthur aboard a battleship named after Harry S Truman's home state.</p> <p>1945—Cribbing freely from the U.S. Declaration of Independence, Ho Chi Minh declares Vietnam to be sovereign and independent.</p> <p>1939—G-Man J. Edgar Hoover creates a "Custodial Detention Index," a list of left wingers to detain without trial in case of "national emergency."</p> <p>1935—Recently routed from Washington, D.C. by General Douglas MacArthur, 259 veterans working on the Overseas Highway are among those killed by the Labor Day Hurricane when it hits the Florida Keys.</p> <p>1921—Two battalions of U.S. troops finally convince miners on Blair Mtn., W.Va. to begin disarming.</p> <p>1898—At Omdurman, British Maxims firing Dum-Dums kill 15,000 spear-wielding Sudanese in one day.</p> <p>1885—White railroad workers rioting in Rock Springs, Wyo. massacre 28 Chinese railroad workers.</p> <p>1864—One day after Confederate troops bug out, Union forces enter and occupy Atlanta, Georgia.</p>	<p>2003—Because life is sacred, Florida poisons Paul Hill, who shotgunned Dr. John Britton and his bodyguard because life is sacred. Rinse & repeat.</p> <p>1991—Locked doors, dead phones, and a lack of fire alarms kill 25 workers in a North Carolina chicken plant.</p> <p>1971—As Richard Nixon speaks at a Milk Producers' convention in Chicago, an aide pockets his fee: a \$5,000 bribe, which will pay the Plumbers who are, this day, breaking into the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist—at Nixon's behest.</p> <p>1955—Mamie Till Mobley holds an open-casket funeral for her murdered and mutilated son Emmett.</p> <p>1950—American advisors arrive in Saigon to support NATO: France wants Vietnam, so the U.S. helps it fight Vietnamese anti-colonialists.</p> <p>1948—Duval County officials "find" 200 votes, making LBJ a Senator.</p> <p>1925—On a PR tour of the Midwest, ordered by Navy brass over the objections of its Commander, an Ohio native who knows its summer storms, the airship <i>U.S.S. Shenandoah</i> crashes in Ohio in a summer storm; 14 die.</p> <p>1923—Milo, Maine holds a Centennial Parade. Marchers include 75 Klansmen in full, hooded regalia.</p> <p>1903—Griffith J. Griffith, the closeted drunk who gave Los Angeles Griffith Park in 1896, shoots his kneeling wife for conspiring with the Pope to poison him. She loses an eye but lives, he gets two years in San Quentin.</p>	<p>2019—Showing proof that his Hurricane Dorian prediction was perfect, Donald J. Trump displays a fake map.</p> <p>1992—Ex-South Vietnamese fighter pilot Ly Tong hijacks an Air Vietnam Airbus out of Bangkok. As it flies low and slow over Ho Chi Minh City, he drops revolutionary propaganda, then safely parachutes—but into captivity.</p> <p>1976—George W.[MD] Bush is arrested for DUI in Kennebunk, Maine.</p> <p>1973—R. Nixon's flunkies John Ehrlichman and G. Gordon Liddy are indicted for felonious burglary.</p> <p>1967—"I just had the greatest brainwashing ... [in] Vietnam," says Gov. George Romney (R-Mich.).</p> <p>1957—Ford's Edsel debuts.</p> <p>1957—Gov. Orval Faubus [Dem.] orders the Alabama National Guard to keep nine Black children from entering Little Rock Central High school.</p> <p>1949—In Peekskill, N.Y., after a Paul Robeson concert, a mob, including cops, beats the audience, including Eugene Bullard, a Black WWI flier.</p> <p>1942—<i>The Washington Post</i> reports that an anti-aircraft gunner has accidentally hit the Lincoln Memorial with three .50 caliber rounds.</p> <p>1918—U.S. troops land at Archangel, Russia, to "protect American interests."</p> <p>1886—Apache chief Geronimo surrenders at Arizona's Skeleton Canyon.</p> <p>1875—Whites in Clinton, Miss. slaughter 50 Blacks at random.</p> <p>1833—<i>The [N.Y.] Sun</i> hires Barney Flaherty, 10, America's first newsboy.</p>
4:42 5:02	5:38 5:56	6:40 6:55	7:43 7:55	8:42 8:51	9:34 9:40	10:18 10:25
10:39 11:19	11:30	12:18 12:27	1:20 1:27	2:20 2:25	3:14 3:18	4:01 4:05

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5	MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6	TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7	WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8	THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9	FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10	SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11
<p>2005—Barbara Bush says Hurricane Katrina was "working very well" for thousands of homeless refugees.</p> <p>2002—Portsmouth loses Jay Smith, creator of the Press Room, Patron Saint of The Music Hall, &c. RIP.</p> <p>1991—The D.C. home of Sen. Jesse Helms [R-N.C.] is covered by a giant condom, courtesy of ACTUP.</p> <p>1990—L.A. Police Chief Darryl Gates tell the Senate Judiciary Committee that "casual drug users should be taken out and shot."</p> <p>1934—N.C. Gov. John Ehringhaus [Dem.] calls out the National Guard to break a textile strike. Other states follow with pro-plutocracy actions.</p> <p>1931—Consolidated Edison worker George Metesky is injured on the job. Denied Workmen's Compensation, "The Mad Bomber" plants 32 bombs over 16 years before he's caught.</p> <p>1930—Carl Panzram to Leavenworth's hangman: "Hurry it up you Hoosier bastard. I could hang a dozen men while you're screwing around."</p> <p>1925—Colonel Billy Mitchell blames the recent crash of the <i>Shenandoah</i> on the "almost treasonable negligence" of the Navy & War Dept.'s top brass.</p> <p>1917—The Justice [Hah!] Department raids Socialist Party and IWW offices nationwide and shuts down the newspaper <i>American Socialist</i>.</p> <p>1905—The Treaty of Portsmouth ends the Russo-Japanese War.</p> <p>1877—Crazy Horse, while in U.S. Army custody, is fatally bayoneted.</p>	<p>2010—Alabama prison officials ban the reading of a Pulitzer-winning history of Black forced labor.</p> <p>2006—Entering her Portland, Ore. home, Susan Kuhnhausen is attacked by a man with a hammer. She chokes Ed Haffney—custodian at her husband's porn shop—to death. Her husband is convicted and dies in prison.</p> <p>2002—George W.[MD] Bush Chief of Staff Andy Card says, "From a marketing point of view, you don't introduce new products [i.e., wars based on false premises] in August."</p> <p>1978—The U.S. House opens hearings on the assassinations of JFK & MLK. On Dec. 30th they conclude that conspiracies were likely.</p> <p>1964—Thousands of white kids riot in Hampton Beach, N.H., causing extensive property damage. Bill Loeb's <i>Union Leader</i> blames it on the pinks.</p> <p>1949—World War II vet and devout churchgoer Howard Unruh kills 13 of his N.J. neighbors in 12 minutes.</p> <p>1939—FDR OKs FBI investigation of "subversive activity." Oops....</p> <p>1901—Pres. Wm. McKinley is assassinated by anarchist Leon Czolgosz.</p> <p>1872—Rather than pay his deputy a \$10 fee, Erie County Sheriff and future 22nd and 24th President Grover "Big Steve" Cleveland hangs mother-murderer Patrick Morrissey.</p> <p>1835—Esther Sumner, 21, weds Revolution vet Noah Damon, 75, in Vermont. She collects his pension from 1853 until her death in 1906.</p>	<p>2003—Warren Zevon sleeps.</p> <p>2000—"When I am President, we] will not have our veterans standing in line waiting for benefits that they've been promised," George W.[MD] Bush falsely asserts.</p> <p>1996—Two women walk into the Norfolk (Va.) Naval Base with a banner reading "Love Your Enemies." They're promptly arrested.</p> <p>1988—"Today is Pearl Harbor Day," says George H.[H.J.W.] Bush.</p> <p>1974—R. Nixon, irate that G. Ford is demanding a show of contrition, issues a threat: if Ford doesn't pardon him, he'll accuse Ford of promising a pardon in exchange for the Presidency.</p> <p>1970—"Plant one, plant two [Secret Service agents] on [Ted Kennedy]," Richard Nixon says to aides. "We might just get lucky and catch this son-of-a-bitch—ruin him for '76. It's going to be fun."</p> <p>1964—Lyndon Johnson's infamous "Daisy Ad," airs, once.</p> <p>1914—French generals send 6,000 infantrymen from Paris to the Battle of the Marne in taxicabs. They hold the line and save the city.</p> <p>1737—Thomas Penn's "Walking Purchase" swindles the Leni Lenape out of an area the size of Rhode Island.</p> <p>1676—Major Richard Waldron invites 400 natives to a mock battle with his militia. Once the natives have discharged their guns they're taken prisoner, sent to Boston, and executed or sold into slavery.</p>	<p>2018—Secretary of the Army Mark Esper posts an anti-suicide message on Facebook. It features a photo of Army SSGt. Robert Bales, then doing life for murdering 16 Afghan civilians.</p> <p>2002—<i>The NY Times</i> publishes lies about tubes based on a White House leak; the White House cites that story as proof Iraq plans to build nukes.</p> <p>1988—Dan Quayle says, "Republicans understand the importance of bondage between parent and child."</p> <p>1978—The Shah uses U.S.-made weapons to crush Tehran riots; 89 die. In six months the Ayatollah is boss.</p> <p>1974—Ford pardons Nixon [see 9/7].</p> <p>1972—As the Federal Price Commission OKs a previously-denied price hike for MacDonald's quarter-pounders, the Nixon re-election campaign gets a \$200,000 contribution from MacDonald's owner, Ray A. Kroc.</p> <p>1964—Concord, N.H.-born "Rebel Girl" Elizabeth Gurley Flynn is given a state funeral at the Kremlin.</p> <p>1935—One bullet kills Sen. Huey P. Long [D-La.]. Carl Weiss is shot 60 times by Long's bodyguards—one of whom might have actually shot Long.</p> <p>1934—In a nor'easter off New Jersey, its captain dead of a heart attack, the <i>Morro Castle</i> catches fire. The blazing hulk runs aground, with 137 passengers and crew dead.</p> <p>1923—Poor navigation leads a squadron of 14 new Navy destroyers astray off the California coast. Seven ships run aground and 23 sailors are killed.</p>	<p>2013—Two out of three lanes to the George Washington Bridge are closed without warning in Fort Lee, N.J., delaying commuters and emergency personnel.</p> <p>2009—As President Obama addresses Congress, Rep. Joe Wilson (R-S.C.) yells at him, "You lie."</p> <p>2008—Lehman Bros., the nation's fourth largest investment bank, loses 45 percent of its value.</p> <p>2005—"You know," says Glenn Beck, "it took me about a year to start hating the 9/11 victims families...When I see a 9/11 victim family on television...I'm just, like 'Oh, shut up.'"</p> <p>1999—Louis T. "Moonog" Hardin, American composer, street musician, and blind, Viking-helmet-wearing eccentric, dies at 83 in Germany.</p> <p>1988—Dan Quayle, who got into law school via an "equal opportunity" program for disadvantaged minorities, and blind, Viking-helmet-wearing eccentric, dies at 83 in Germany.</p> <p>1971—Rioting prisoners take nine guards hostage at the Attica Correctional Facility near Buffalo, N.Y.</p> <p>1949—Canadian Albert Guay becomes the first person to destroy an airliner with a bomb. His recently-injured wife was on board, he was not. He's hanged 16 months later.</p> <p>1919—Boston cops go out on strike.</p> <p>1739—In South Carolina, 20 enslaved Black people kill two storekeepers, steal guns and powder, recruit allies, kill about 20 whites, and march towards Florida.</p>	<p>2008—Lehman Brothers execs say the firm has all the capital it needs, five days before it declares bankruptcy.</p> <p>2001—Donald Rumsfeld admits the Defense Department can't account for about \$2.3 trillion dollars. One day later, no one remembers—or cares.</p> <p>1980—"Approximately eighty percent of our air pollution stems from hydrocarbons released by vegetation," says GOP candidate Ronald Reagan.</p> <p>1977—One-legged Tunisian pimp Hamida Djandoubi is the last man to die by a French guillotine.</p> <p>1969—The AEC fires off a nuke beneath Grand Valley, Colo., to "liberate large quantities of gas." It worked, but no one wanted radioactive natural gas.</p> <p>1945—In Fruita, Colo., Lloyd Wilson chops the head off "Mike," a young rooster which then goes on to enjoy an 18-month career as "The Headless Wonder Chicken."</p> <p>1939—B&M Railroad Engineer John Beattie and Fireman Charles Towle are killed when the Old Piscataqua Bridge, damaged during construction of the Mildred Long Bridge, dumps their locomotive into the river.</p> <p>1939—<i>HMS Oxley</i> becomes the first British sub sunk in WW II. It was torpedoed by the sub <i>HMS Triton</i>.</p> <p>1897—A posse massacres 19 strikers and wounds 36 at a Lattimer, Pa. coal mine; most are shot in the back.</p> <p>1739—South Carolina militiamen overpower and kill the participants of the Stono Rebellion.</p>	<p>2016—The GOP nominee for President tweets "best wishes to all, even the haters and losers, on this special date, September 11th."</p> <p>2012—<i>Benghazi!!!</i></p> <p>2006—At Ground Zero, for a photo op, President Bush and the First Lady stand on an American flag carpet.</p> <p>2001—Four American airliners are hijacked by Saudis and crashed; thousands die. George W.[MD] Bush scurries to safety, Donald Rumsfeld looks for excuses to attack Iraq, and Dick "Dick" Cheney authorizes the shooting down of civilian airliners.</p> <p>1973—Salvador Allende, duly-elected President of Chile, is overthrown by CIA-backed thugs.</p> <p>1957—A Denver H-bomb factory burns, releasing a pound of plutonium particles. The AEC, lying, says there's only a minor risk of contamination.</p> <p>1942—Wheeler Lipes, a 22-year old dropout, successfully removes an appendix aboard the submerged <i>U.S.S. Seadragon</i>. The U.S. Surgeon General threatens to court martial him.</p> <p>1857—<i>En route</i> to California, 120 Arkansans are murdered by Mormons at Mountain Meadows, Utah.</p> <p>1777—Washington is defeated at Brandywine, the largest, longest battle of the Revolution—but N.H.'s Gen. Sullivan staves off catastrophe.</p> <p>1649—Oliver Cromwell's Roundheads, in "a righteous judgement of God," slaughter nearly 4,000 in Drogheda. Many are civilians.</p>
10:59 11:07	11:38 11:48	12:16	12:30 12:54	1:12 1:35	1:57 2:19	2:45 3:06
4:44 4:49	5:24 5:32	6:02 6:15	6:41 6:58	7:22 7:44	8:04 8:32	8:50 9:23



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