

## The Fortnightly Rant

### The Worst and the Weirdest

Except for a few Amazonian tribes, all of us Earthians have by now been introduced to the MCU, the Marvel Cinematic Universe. A movie franchise making that much money becomes culturally unavoidable.

Those celluloid shenanigans may be safely ignored, of course. At least, so we presume. If only we could say that about the RCU—the Republican Criminal Universe.

True, the nation's plunge into competitive weirdness does seem to roughly coincide with the release of *Iron Man* in 2008. We suspect, though, that other events that year may have had a more disruptive effect.

For example, the presidential election was won by a Black man. If Barack Obama had gone to the White House to work as a waiter, no one would even have noticed. Suddenly, though, everyone was expected to display—even if only for the office—some measure of respect to a man who was not white.

That perceived alteration in “the natural order of things” caused a sizable number of Americans to have hurt feelings. A single election, though, no matter the outcome, does not an apocalypse make. The roots of our discontent run deep.

From 1619 until the mid-1960s, blatant displays of racism had been tolerated in most parts of the country, and mandatory in others. Then Lyndon Baines Johnson—that traitorous Texan—went and screwed all that up.

By signing laws responding to the demands of an overwhelming social movement, LBJ disrupted the lives of a lot of people whose identity was based on their ability to look in the mirror and confirm that—yup—they were still white.

Another major project of Johnson's also had a disruptive effect. Katherine Belew's book *Bring the War Home: The White Power Movement And Paramilitary America*, describes how the Vietnam War helped created the militia movement.

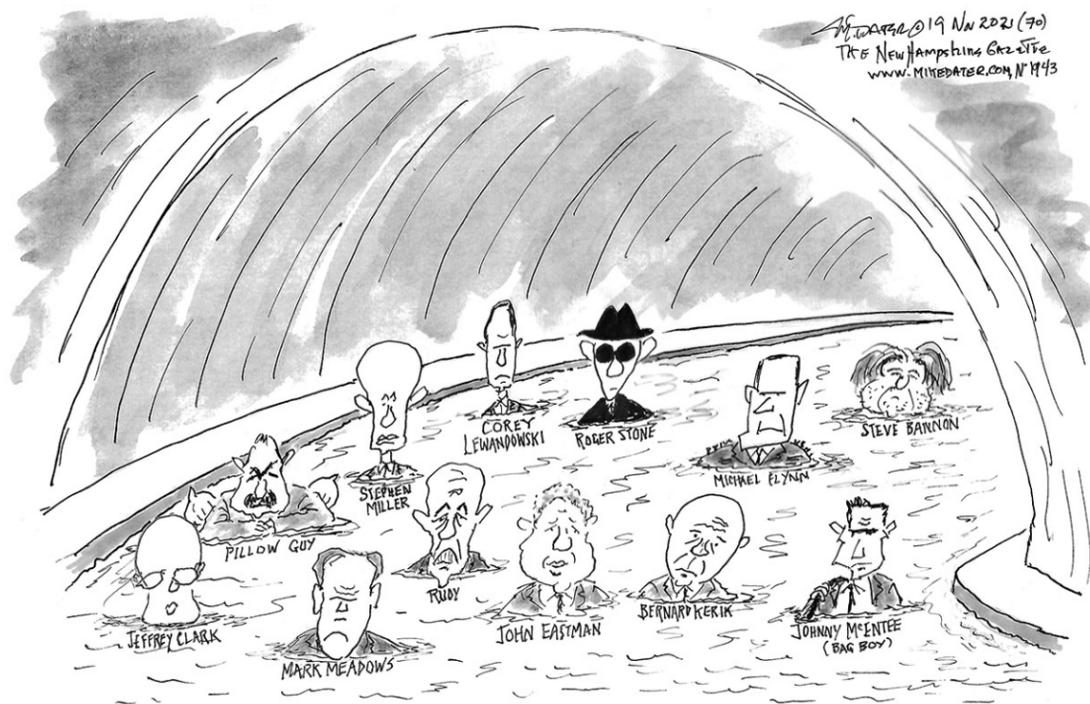
Most veterans of that war agree that it was a colossal something or other—either a colossal mistake, or a colossal failure. We shouldn't have killed any of those people, or we didn't kill enough.

Those in the latter camp generally believed they had been betrayed by people in authority, and had not been “allowed to win.” A sub-set of this group also believed that having gained pale skin was a sign of inherent superiority.

Belew explained in a 2018 interview that while these men represented only “a tiny, tiny percentage of returning veterans,” they became “a large and instrumental number of people within the white power movement, and [played] really important roles in changing the course of movement action.” Their presence in the white power movement had a catalytic effect.

“The Vietnam War narrative works, first of all, to unite people who had previously not been able to be in a room together and to have a shared sense of mission. So, for instance, Klansmen and neo-Nazis after World War II had a very difficult time aligning because Klansmen tended to see neo-Nazis as enemies... the people that they were confronting in World War II. But after Vietnam, they see common cause around sort of their betrayal by the government and around the failed project of the Vietnam War.”

Belew's book culminates with Army veteran Timothy McVeigh's



THE INSURRECTIONIST A-TEAM CONVENES AT THE HISTORIC WILLARD HOTEL TO SAVE THE NATION FROM DEMOCRACY, 1/5/2021

1995 bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City. Not many hard-core so-called “patriots” dare to rally round McVeigh, but he sure did give the Overton Window a hard yank to the right; witness, for example, the support for the Bundy standoff.

We could all use a little comic relief by now, so let's visit France. Alexandre Auguste Ledru-Rollin was a wealthy, jowly lawyer, politician, and newspaper publisher. His *La Reformé* is said by an anonymous Wikipedia to have had “a left-wing radical liberal republican editorial line,” which must have made for a lively reading experience.

Alex is reported to have said, “There go the people. I must follow them, for I am their leader.” The attribution is dubious, but that's neither here nor there.

What matters is that the principle being described may explain the GOP's increasingly insane idiosyncratic behavior.

New Hampshire's gerrymandered Republican Executive Council demonstrates this principle nicely. A right wing mob effected a *de facto* veto over a \$27-million contract—exacerbating the already-worsening pandemic. The Council had to resort to agenda-fiddling in order to reconsider the contract without the din of obscene abuse.

With their old guard dying off, and their support dwindling among those with moderate political views, the Party welcomed and encouraged all the highly motivated nut cases they could lure into their sideshow tent. The resultant feedback loop between unscrupulous leaders trying to stay ahead of a mob of unhinged followers—coupled with appalling but apparently inevitable Democratic fecklessness—has created a situation in which our next President may be foisted upon us by the brain trust depicted immediately above.

Having quoted a French left-winger saying something in-

supportable, let's quote an insupportable British right winger saying something we can get behind:

“Politics, as I never tire of saying, is for social and emotional misfits, handicapped folk, those with a grudge. The purpose of politics is to help them overcome these feelings of inferiority and compensate for their personal inadequacies in the pursuit of power.” – Auberon Waugh

It's supposed to be a free country, so people ought to be able to engage in competitive grotesquerie if they want. We just wish they'd quit insisting on killing off the rest of us in the process.

There once was a time when, at this stage in a drama, one could have hoped for a *deus ex machina* to appear and save the day. Sadly, the requisite lifting apparatus broke down thousands of years ago.

Common sense has become an uncommon virtue; the worst and the weirdest now run the show.

## The Alleged News®

### The Hole at the Heart of the PUC's Heartless Order on Energy Efficiency

By Donald M. Kreis, Consumer Advocate at the New Hampshire Office of the Consumer Advocate

At the heart of last Friday's astonishing, destructive, and radical order from the Public Utilities Commission is a gaping hole.

But before leaping into that hole, let's start with wisdom from media critic and New York University journalism professor Jay Rosen. Because, let's face it, even though I hung up my reporter's spurs 28 years ago when I graduated from law school, this column is journalism, at least kinda sorta.

Rosen urges journalists to reframe what they do, at least when covering politics and public policy, so as to get out of he-said-she-said reporting mode. Instead, Rosen thinks journalists should start by asking people what they care about—and then fin-

ish by pressing public officials about those things.

Confession: As the state's Consumer Advocate, I don't know what my constituency (residential utility customers) wants. But I think I know: They want their electricity, natural gas and water to be as inexpensive and reliable as possible.

Here's how Amory Lovins put it, in his now-famous 1976 article in *Foreign Affairs*, titled “Energy Strategy: The Road Not Taken:” “People do not want electricity or oil, nor such economic abstractions as ‘residential services,’ but rather comfortable rooms, light, vehicular motion, food, tables, and other real things.”

In that article 45 years ago, Lovins saw a nation at an energy crossroads: a “hard path,” consisting of continued reliance on legacy technologies like fossil fuels and nuclear technology, or a “soft path” that would give

people what they want more simply and affordably (and without contributing to climate change which, yes, he did mention). And at the top of Lovins' “soft path” list was energy efficiency—simply squeezing more work out of every unit of energy consumed.

Since taking office in 2016, I have enthusiastically supported New Hampshire's ratepayer-funded, utility-provided energy efficiency programs (which fly under the NHSaves banner) not because I want to give Amory Lovins an “I told you so” or even because energy efficiency is the ultimate low-carbon, low-impact resource. I like energy efficiency because it is the cheapest way to meet the next unit of demand.

That's not true out to infinity—but almost. Because New Hampshire lags so far behind our

neighboring states on energy efficiency, we could deploy more energy efficiency measures before we would have to start worrying about whether it would be cheaper simply to make more electricity. A lot more.

Last Friday, the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) issued a bombshell order that will, if allowed to stand, eviscerate the NHSaves programs. You don't have to love energy efficiency, or groove on energy policy, to be outraged. You just have to care—and I think you do care—about comfort, light, transportation, food, tables, and other real things.

Which brings me to the gaping hole at the center of the PUC's order. That hole consists of the notable lack of any reference to anything that happened from 2014 to 2020. Why does that period matter?

In September of 2014, at the direction of the Legislature, the ad-

ministration of Governor Maggie Hassan issued New Hampshire's first official Ten Year Energy Strategy. Front and center was a recommendation to “increase investments in cost effective energy efficiency,” which, the report noted is “the cheapest, cleanest, most plentiful energy resource.”

The 2014 Ten Year Energy Strategy called for the establishment of an “over-arching statewide goal” for energy efficiency. One mechanism, the report noted, is the creation of an Energy Efficiency Resource Standard (EERS), which involves the adoption of specific energy-savings targets rather than simply setting a budget and buying as much savings as possible

The following year, the PUC

opened a docket and met the Energy Strategy's challenge. On August 2, 2016, the Commission approved the creation of the EERS, setting specific savings targets for an initial triennial period from 2018-2020. In particular, the PUC noted the EERS was "a significant step toward addressing the business community's concerns about remaining competitive in today's economy."

A broad coalition of stakeholders, including the state's electric and natural gas utilities as well as the Office of the Consumer Advocate, supported the creation of the EERS. The coalition then came together again to develop a specific plan for the first triennium, which the PUC readily approved.

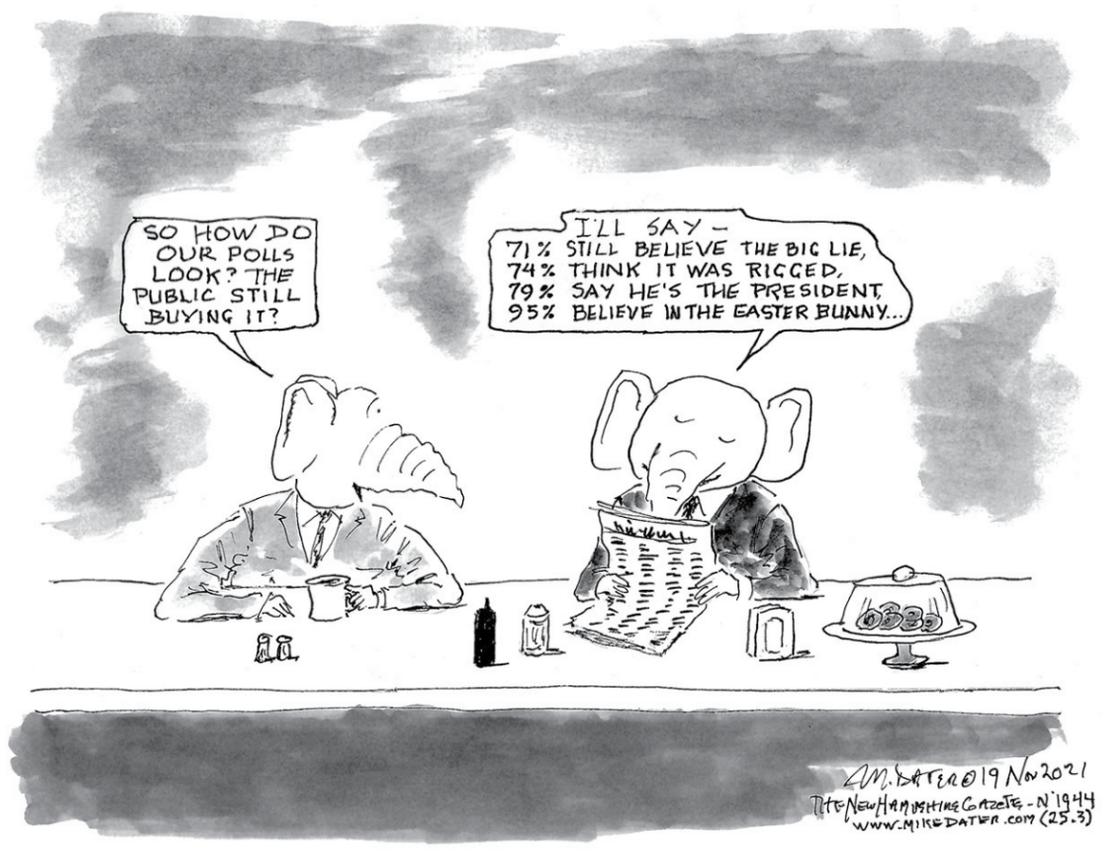
Finally, on December 30, 2019, the Commission adopted a new, coalition-built cost-benefit test for use in determining whether a particular energy efficiency program is worthy of ratepayer money. Sweeping away decades of muddle about "societal benefits" and the like, the new

"Granite State Test" is based on the straightforward principle that if all ratepayers save money via their utility bills, the program is cost-effective.

If you read only the PUC's November 12th order about energy efficiency, you'd think none of this had happened. There is simply no mention of it, even though the PUC reached back to decisions on energy efficiency from the early days of electric industry restructuring more than 20 years ago, that were more to its taste.

The fate of the Granite State Test for cost-effectiveness is especially galling. The PUC dismisses it now as "overly dependent upon subjective factors such that any desired outcome could potentially be obtained from its application."

The two commissioners who ruled last Friday adopted that statement even though one of them signed the December 2019 order approving the Granite State Test, proclaiming that it will "improve energy efficiency program screening



Back in July our Wandering Photographer was lurking in the vicinity of Summer and Middle streets when he came upon the joyous conglomeration depicted above. "Aha," he said. "A Fenwick, I suspect." A little snooping soon revealed that the item had just been acquired by a local resident at the Brimfield, Mass. Antique Flea Market. Like a bottle upon the ocean, an email was sent off into the aether. That was about four months ago. A week ago—Bingo! A reply from much-beloved Portsmouth-born sculptor Mark Fenwick, from his studio Knuckleburg, in the hills above Brattleboro, Vermont: "Oh yeah, there it is! That is it! Wow....," going on to mention that it had last been seen at... Brimfield.

by placing a greater emphasis on the utility system impacts," i.e., ratepayer impacts (since it's the customers who pay for the utility system).

That 2019 order also praised the utilities and other stakeholders, noting that they had "consistently worked in a collaborative manner and serve as an example of how constructive stakeholder processes can aid the Commission in its decision-making duties and allow parties to reach a result in line with their expectations."

So much for that! The proposed 2021-2023 triennial energy efficiency plan, swatted away by the Commission, was hammered out by the same broad coalition of stakeholders that had been working successfully together since 2016. All of that coalition's good and hard work has now been wiped out.

Look. The Public Utilities Commission is not a court. In the regulatory realm, there is essentially no *stare decisis*—the idea that the tribunal is bound by its precedents. Just

because your predecessors—or even you—liked the work of the stakeholder coalition then does not necessarily mean you have to like it now.

But there are limits. The PUC is bound by the case law of the New Hampshire Supreme Court, which knows how to constrain rogue administrative agencies. In New Hampshire, an agency like the PUC can't make arbitrary decisions and it can't make stuff up. It has to base its rulings on the evidence before it, even in cases where all the parties are asking for "yes" and the Commission wants to say "no."

Even if you don't care what standard of review will apply when the PUC's order reaches the New Hampshire Supreme Court, you probably like having a comfortable home with light and heat that you can afford. And you would like to be able to do that not just during the upcoming winter but for something closer to forever.

It's the forever part the PUC has just tried to decimate. But it doesn't

necessarily get the last word. Donald M. Kreis and his staff of four represent the interests of residential utility customers before the NH Public Utilities Commission and elsewhere.

**The Grand Experiment Has Begun**

Two Gazette volunteers have successfully completed the first cycle in what could be a newspaper distribution revolution. This happy occasion calls for a recapitulation.

Not long ago a reader in Exeter responded to a call we published in the paper seeking volunteers to help with our distribution. With that volunteer standing ready, we then placed a "house ad" in the paper. That ad sought help from anyone who regularly travels the route between Portsmouth and Exeter. In short order—exactly a fortnight after the ad was published, in fact—we had our first volunteer courier.

On November 5th, the first bundle went out. Those papers are now in the hands of readers. That cycle will repeat itself again today.

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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.

**THE NEW-HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE**

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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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In the abstract, an experiment which began with nothing but X thousand readers and the ability to put before them certain interpretable, two-dimensional patterns of ink on paper, has resulted in the physical transportation of a five-pound bundle of newsprint a distance of fifteen miles at a cost of \$0.00. Zezero. Nada. Diddly-squat.

After eliminating distribution costs, our primary remaining expense for papers distributed locally is printing. That bundle of 100 papers can easily reach 250 readers. Our cost per reader, then, is six cents. As we increase our distribution we can drive that figure down to four cents. Eventually it could approach three cents.

What we have before us is an



ability to communicate with thousands of people on a regular basis at a cost that approaches nothing—a newspaper that is truly free editorially, and damn near free as to operating expenses. Benjamin Day (left), legendary publisher of the *New York Sun* and father of the revolutionary penny press, would be slapping the palm of his hand on his desk and excitedly yelling something archaic at the top of his lungs.

We have been trying to jump start this devious scheme for about a decade. Now, we finally see it running, thanks to these two volunteers. In case you can't tell, we are excited.

We'll be looking to replicate this arrangement in other towns soon—after we catch our breath.



If you go to Google Maps and look at the north side of Hill Street, you'll see a nice two-story wooden dwelling with sunny front porches on both floors, and one very nice, fairly old colonial. Here in the real world, if you look at the south side of Hill Street, you'll see the backs of three two-story wooden buildings. Their fronts, shown here, face Hanover Street. All are built to the same utilitarian pattern: four apartments in the front, four more in the back. Altogether the three buildings comprise 24 apartments, housing who knows how many people. Their rent is probably too high, but so is everybody else's. Admire these humble dwellings while you can—they're an endangered species: the owner wants to knock them down. Hard to believe? Look to the north side of Hill Street. That nice old colonial and the two-decker with the sunny front porches? Long gone, knocked down several years ago. Just like these, they were in the way of someone's money.

### A Peek in the Rear View

Having invoked the name of the great Benjamin Day, we ought to provide a sample from his paper. A quick rummage turns up a copy of the *Sun's* weekly edition, dated Saturday, June 11, 1836.

In an early journalistic form of recycling, the choicest bits from the daily were left in standing type. The paper could then be quickly assembled and printed "for the country," i.e., the area surrounding the city in which the daily circulated.

It was an early journalistic form of recycling—or a way to wring the last nickel out of the typesetter's labor. Either way, as a staunch supporter of this paper once remarked, "Better old news than new lies."

**Polish Turnspits:** Bears are very common in Poland; the peasants catch them when quite young and teach them to perform all sorts of domestic labors. These animals possess great intelligence and dexterity, particularly with their fore paws. Many innkeepers have bears, who

adroitly turn the spits for roasting meat. It is an extraordinary sight to see a stranger who enters a Polish kitchen, to see a bear seated gravely on his hind legs, and turning with his fore paws, an immense spit, by means of a handle artistically constructed.

—*Le Cameloën.*

But we get ahead of ourselves. In this edition of the *Sun*, trained Polish bears were dessert. The main course was murder.

Helen Jewett's murder, to be specific. Just 22, Helen, born Dorcas Doyen in Temple, Maine, was killed by three blows from a hatchet in the New York brothel where she worked as a prostitute.

The trial of Richard P. Robinson, 19, for her murder, was a sensation. We turn now to that august authority, The Wikipedia, for an illuminating paragraph about press coverage of the trial.

"Jewett's murder excited the press and the public. The coverage of the murder and trial was highly polar-

ized, with reporters either sympathizing with Jewett and vilifying Robinson or attacking Jewett as a seductress who deserved her fate. The *New York Herald*, edited by James Gordon Bennett, Sr., provided the most complete (if not unbiased) coverage of the sensational murder. Almost from the beginning and throughout the trial, Bennett insisted that Robinson was the innocent victim of a vicious conspiracy launched by the police and Jewett's madam. He also emphasized the sensational nature of the story and worked to exploit the sexual, violent details of Jewett's death. The *New York Sun*, in contrast, whose readers tended to come from the working class, argued that Robinson was guilty and that he was able to use money and the influence of wealthy relatives and his employer to buy an acquittal. This theory continued to gain traction for many years later."

What a relief to know that class no longer plays a role in how the news is presented.

**Murph's Fortnightly Quote**

"We need to stop just pulling people out of the river. We need to go upstream and find out why they're falling in."

— Bishop Desmond Tutu (1931- )

"[W]e have palaeolithic emotions; medieval institutions; and god-like technology."

— E. O. Wilson

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— Chapter heading from *On Tyranny*, by Tim Snyder

— *Not-So-Random Thoughts from an Oregon Subscriber*

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**Insidious Attempt to Subvert Our Purpose Fails**

To the Editor:

Commuter rail and high-density housing pose imminent threats to the New Hampshire Advantage of low taxes, low unemployment, low crime, high income, solid property values, and clean air.

Commuter rail is being pushed by our federal delegation with Biden's infrastructure bill. Sununu has been an enabler by not doing much to stop those pushing it from within the state (SB 241).

[The] proposed system will cost New Hampshire taxpayers \$11M+ for annual operation and management. N.H. DOT suggests new taxes including \$5 vehicle registration fee, increasing property taxes \$15.7 million statewide, diversion of five percent state lottery revenue away from schools, hiking gas taxes on those that can least afford it.

According to N.H. DOT final report on Nashua-Manchester commuter rail project, "[m]ost state transit funding comes from General Fund appropriations or through traditional taxes and fees, such as motor fuel taxes, sales taxes, and vehicle fees."

This system [MBTA], most bankrupt in the country, derailed or crashed 43 times in 5 years!

[Note— Eighty-two words deleted, a redundant rehash of an old, bad argument. For the tedious details see Vol. 265, No. 23, July 30, 2021; Vol. 265, No. 21, July 2, 2021; Vol. 265, No. 14, March 26, 2021, ad nauseam. — The Ed.]

Jane Aitken  
Bedford, N.H.

Jane:

Pardon us for deleting most of your tired diatribe against a policy change which may help to slightly reduce the scourge of high rents. As our note states, we've heard it all before.

What's new and mildly interesting is your new anti-rail screed. "What," we asked ourselves at an editorial meeting, "has got Jane so worked up about an effort to reduce fossil fuel consumption, traffic congestion, &c.?"

Scratching around in the usual manner we found to our utter lack of surprise an

online petition being foisted on a gullible public by that infamous astro turf outfit founded by the Koch Brothers, Americans for Prosperity. The third paragraph of your letter matches a part of that petition word for word.

Had we not been so diligent, we might have published your letter without redaction. In doing so we would have served as a conduit of lies from the heart of the oligarchy to our readers. We thank the Flying Spaghetti Monster, our Diety of the Fortnight, that we are almost paranoid enough.

Let us be perfectly clear: it is our position that anything coming from AFP is a lie. Anything—even the truth! Nothing coming from that organization can be true—not the time of day, not the weather—nothing. As a source it is irretrievably tainted.

AFP's most brazen lie is its true identity. Though it masquerades as a citizens group, it is funded by our ruling oligarchy, and works against the interests of ordinary citizens. Billionaires for Skulduggery—BS, for short—would be far more accurate.

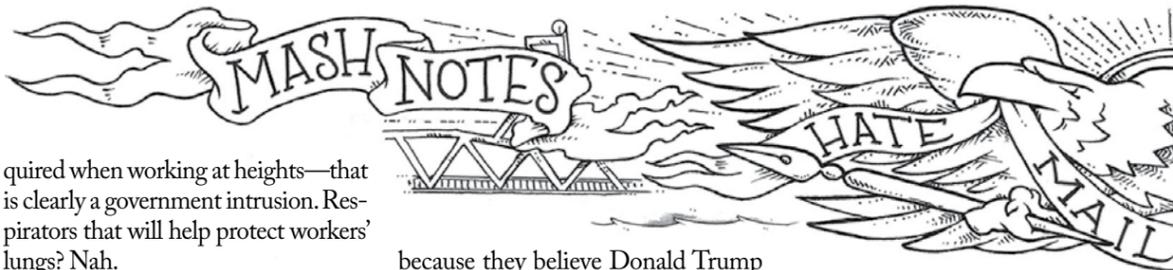
There is one thing about AFP of which we may be sure. Its sole motive is to serve the interests of capital, and those who at the moment hold it.

Our own motive, of course, has not changed in the three decades since we snatched this unique entity—the Nation's Oldest Newspaper™—from the enfeebled grasp of the world's ninth-richest man, Sir Kenneth of Fleet: level the playing field by spreading that ill-gotten wealth around in a more equitable manner.

Have a nice day.  
The Editor

**Tyrannical Intrusive Government**  
Dear Editor:

I hope the people who call it government intrusion to require masking or vaccinations against Covid-19 will also throw off their hard hats on those jobs where OSHA has required them. They should not wear reflective vests while alongside traffic, but wear whatever they choose. They should be rid of the burden of protective goggles over their eyes, especially if OSHA has said, "You must...". As for harnesses re-



quired when working at heights—that is clearly a government intrusion. Respirators that will help protect workers' lungs? Nah.

It's back, it seems, to rugged individualism, and dying the way one randomly shall, without the benefit of good, tested ideas for safety. So much freedom in the good old days!

Of course, some insurers may then justifiably cross off some customers' coverage, and surviving families may object to being moneyless when their earner is gone.

Lynn Rudmin Chong  
Sanbornton, N.H.

Lynn:

As you say, some survivors of those lost to workplace injuries will likely regret the loss of insurance benefits.

We would not be too surprised to learn though, in these peculiar times, that some might find their cognitive dissonance capable of blaming themselves of their deceased breadwinner.

The Editor

**You Want Me to What?**

To the Editor:

According to my dictionary, obedience is defined as "compliance with an order, request, or law—or submission to another's authority."

While obeying an order might lead someone to commit an unpalatable deed, acting in a subservient role can be freeing because it transfers responsibility for the act to a higher authority. "Hey, don't blame me! I was just following orders."

In fact, one of the more seductive fringe benefits of Trumpism is the golden opportunity it provides to abdicate personal responsibility for committing unruly acts.

For example, Kyle Rittenhouse dons his vigilante hat, guns down three demonstrators, then claims to be the victim. Or, insurrectionists breach the U.S. Capitol, get caught red handed on video destroying property and assaulting police, then proclaim innocence

because they believe Donald Trump "sent them there."

You get the idea.

However, for a more comprehensive primer on the pitfalls of blind obedience, I recommend looking up some of the classic psychological studies conducted in the 50s and 60s following World War II. Then draw parallels to what's happening now.

It turns out, once freed from the constraints of our own conscience, it becomes very difficult to reverse direction. Witness anti-vaxers who swear they don't have Covid-19 with their last dying gasp. Or consider politicians who continue to propagate Trump's Big Whopper, claiming against all evidence that Joe Biden lost the election.

Of course, not all orders are bad, and researchers tell us our inclination to obey them is baked into our DNA. In fact, a degree of obedience is necessary to prevent anarchy and hold the tribe together.

Case in point, most of us believe stop signs improve our odds for survival, so we stop. It's the "patriots" who believe stop signs infringe on their God-given right to travel freely we need to worry about.

And, worry we should, because once it begins, there doesn't appear to be a simple way to turn back the clock.

Rick Littlefield  
Barrington, N.H.

Rick:

It's a tragic thing to watch. It often takes the better part of a couple of decades to turn a willful, freshly-minted Homo sapiens into a tolerable person. The corrosive hyper-individualistic philosophy that's been pushed on the nation since the mid-70s, though, has now borne fruit. All those repressed inner two-year-olds have come out to play—only now they have AR-15s.

The Editor

**Shirkers, Abdicators, and Obstructionists**  
Dear Editor:

On November 12, 2021, 1,007 new cases of Covid-19 were reported by the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, the largest number of cases in a single day since January.

Most of the cases, 657, were in children less than 18 years of age, and there were 255 hospitalized and five new deaths. The most recent seven-day average number of cases was 725, a 20 percent increase over the previous week. There are currently 6,466 active cases in the State.

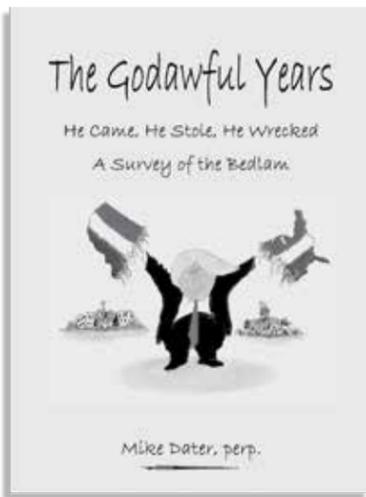
To date, New Hampshire has reported a total of 144,626 cases and 1,622 deaths from Covid-19. All of these cases and deaths have occurred in less than two years, an unprecedented amount of mortality and morbidity resulting from a single infectious disease in less than two years in our history.

Yet despite this terrible burden of death and disease, New Hampshire is treating this epidemic like no other where there is such efficient transmission of the disease from person to person in public places. In fact, the State has taken specific steps to either prevent actions that they require with other communicable diseases, or to delegate their responsibility to implement appropriate public health control measures to non-public health entities.

The manner in which the State is responding to the Covid-19 Pandemic is inconsistent with established State law. The State policy regarding communicable diseases is contained in RSA 141-C:1 Policy, which states, "The outbreak and spread of communicable disease cause unnecessary risks to health and life, interfere with the orderly workings of business, industry, government, and the process of

**You Suffered Through Them...**

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a compendium of drawings by Mike Dater most of which first appeared in *The New Hampshire Gazette*  
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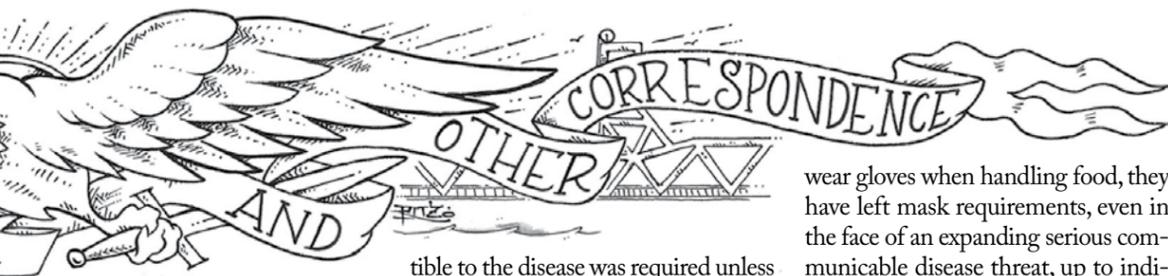
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education, and disrupt the day-to-day affairs of communities and citizens. Because the control of communicable disease may be attained by personal actions, the timely intervention of medical practices, and cooperation among health care providers, federal, state, and municipal officials, and other groups and agencies, it is hereby declared to be the policy of this state that communicable diseases be prevented, and that such occurrences be identified, controlled, and, when possible, eradicated at the earliest possible time by application of appropriate public health measures and medical practices.”

Unfortunately, unlike any other communicable disease with this level of person-to-person transmission, disease incidence and mortality, the State has taken an approach inconsistent with its stated policy, and the manner in which it has managed other communicable disease outbreaks. In my many years of experience in public health in New Hampshire, including Chief of Communicable Disease Epidemiology. I had been involved in the investigation and control of many disease outbreaks. These included tuberculosis, meningitis, hepatitis, chickenpox, measles, pertussis, norovirus, shigella, *E. coli*, salmonella, and many others.

In every outbreak the investigation and implementation of appropriate control measures were taken by the State Division of Public Health Services, or by the two local health departments’ authorized to do so. In no case of a vaccine-preventable disease was a State law passed to prohibit vaccination by government against that disease, as has been done with Covid-19. When we had outbreaks of measles, chickenpox, or pertussis for example, requiring vaccination for those suscep-

tible to the disease was required unless there was a documented medical or religious exemption.

If requiring vaccination was prohibited in those cases, the outbreaks would have continued, expanded and caused many more cases, as we are seeing now with Covid-19. If there was no vaccine available, or the disease outbreak was caused by a non-vaccine-preventable agent, we would order other appropriate control measures to prevent the outbreak from spreading and to end the emergency. The decision to implement the appropriate control measures was a decision made by the appropriate public health agency responsible for the investigation. In no case was the decision to implement control measures, or what type of control measures to implement, delegated to non public health individuals.

If the outbreak involved a school for example, the required control measures would be discussed with the school administration as to how best to implement the measures, but the decision to implement the measures was ultimately a public health decision.

Unfortunately, with Covid-19 the State has again taken an approach that is not consistent with its stated policy on communicable disease control. Since requiring Covid-19 vaccination of children age five and older in public schools is prohibited by State law (the only vaccination prohibited by the State), one of the few remaining effective measures to control the spread of the disease in schools is through requiring appropriate face coverings of all students and staff while within the school building. Unlike with any other communicable disease outbreak in a school, the State has left the decision to implement appropriate Covid-19 public health control measures up to the local School Board. While the State requires school food handlers to

wear gloves when handling food, they have left mask requirements, even in the face of an expanding serious communicable disease threat, up to individuals with no public health expertise. This would not happen with any other communicable disease, let alone one causing historical numbers of cases, hospitalizations and deaths, and for which we still do not fully understand the scope of its long-term effects on those who have been infected and survive.

Why?

When the history of how New Hampshire, and for that matter, the U.S.A., handled the great Covid-19 Pandemic, it will not be kind to many of those individuals in positions of authority who either shirked their duties, abdicated their responsibilities, or who took direct action to prevent or impede the actions that would save lives.

They will deserve their place in infamy and disgrace.

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

Rich:

*Thank you for once again reporting with such clarity on this issue.*

*If only it were not so sad, so terrifying, and so infuriating.*

The Editor

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### Hair-Trigger Armageddon

To the editor:

With all of the present attention to the global warming crisis, we should not fail also to attend to the other most urgent issue of our time: nuclear hair triggers that could wipe out most of civilization within hours.

For many years, nuclear experts have tried to call our nation’s attention to an act of sanity that could save the planet from unspeakable horror.

Unlike the nuclear weapons on submarines and airplanes, the 400 land-based Minuteman ICBMs that sit in silos in our midwest are vulnerable to a surprise attack. On hair-trigger alert, once launched they cannot be recalled.

That gives the President less than 30 minutes to make the terrible decision, whether to go to the sort of war that can only be lost by all of humanity.

In 1961, Daniel Ellsberg drafted the Pentagon’s top-secret guidance of operational planning for nuclear war. Recently, he and Norman Soloman, author of *War Made Easy*, point out, in the Nov. 1-8 issue of *The Nation*, that “The single best option for reducing the risk of nuclear war is hidden in plain sight...shutting down all of the nation’s ICBMs.”

Most of our people don’t know that many false alarms have already brought the world dangerously close to disaster. Rather than dismantle the weapons that serve no useful purpose, our government plans to pay Northrup Grumman \$364 billion to modernize the vulnerable ground-based leg of our nuclear triad—at more expense than building it in the first place. Former Defense Secretary William Perry has called that “insane.”

That’s the political power of the military industrial complex [MIC] about which President Eisenhower warned us. Five years ago Secretary Perry wrote that “the U.S. can safely phase out its land-based forces.” It can be done unilaterally by the U.S. with no downside if Russia chooses otherwise. Many other nuclear experts agree, but several Senators continue with the false assumption that there is safety in numbers.

What will it take to wake them up?

Neal W. Ferris  
Durham, N.H.

Neal:

*Well, presuming that they survive—as they might, if they happen to be back home in, say, just picking a state at random, West Virginia—we suppose that the first wave of Russian nukes might open their eyes.*

*Then again it might not. The record shows that water-carriers for the MIC have a remarkable capacity to overlook the interests of the voters in favor of their true constituents: those who own the arms industry. The safest thing to do, therefore would be to drive every one of them out of Congress.*

*A huge task, we know. Yet, taken in*

*the right spirit—we advocate a mindset best characterized as perversely joyous existential anarchy—it can be strangely rewarding.*

The Editor

====

### Conservative National Figure Makes Strong Recommendation: “Vote Democrat”

Editor,

To my Republican and Undeclared friends.

On a recent segment of Christian Amanpour’s “Amanpour & Company” (a terrific PBS current events news show), the guest was notable and long-time Republican conservative columnist and reporter Max Boot. Below is the link to the 17-minute video (well worth watching, whether you are a Republican or not) and Max’s message to fellow Republicans & Independents: “Vote Democrat.”

Why would such a noted Republican stalwart recommend people vote Democrat? Watch the interview with Walter Isaacson and learn why this conservative luminary feels the Republican Party is shamelessly working to undermine our very Democracy! Once again, Max Boot’s mantra: “Vote Democrat.”

Max has worked for many Republican presidential candidates (John McCain and Mitt Romney among them). Witnessing the 180-degree turn Rubio made from initially opposing Trump to wholeheartedly supporting him, made Senator Rubio the *only* Republican candidate he was sorry for having supported.

\*Spoiler Alert! Max Boot uses the word “lickspittle” in reference to Florida Senator Marco Rubio becoming Trump’s lickspittle. (Definition: A Toady, somebody who shows unique deference toward social superiors or powerful people).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tj4UiNjIV3I>

Herb Moyer  
Exeter, N.H.

Herb:

*A quick referral to the record confirmed*

**Mash Notes, Hate Mail, &c.**

*to page six*

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from page five

our view of Boot. He's a walking, talking, warmongering example of the old adage that even a stopped clock is right twice a day.

That said, there may well be some Republicans who might give his arguments some consideration.

The Editor

====

### GOP Courts Radicalization

To the Editor:

In New Hampshire there are more undeclared or independent voters than either registered Republican or Democrat voters. They decide who will represent us in the House of Representatives. That will end if the Republicans in our state house have their way.

Today, the 1st District is roughly the eastern half of the state and the 2nd District the western half. Under the proposed new map, heavily Democratic Seacoast towns would be moved into the 2nd District and replaced by heavily Republican towns. This would guarantee a Republican winning the 1st District and a Democrat the 2nd District.

Candidates in the majority party would know that winning their primary guaranteed winning the general election. Because primaries attract the most loyal and usually partisan voters, candidates would have every incentive to court the most left- or right-wing voters of their party.

Incumbents would base their votes on pleasing their party's base ignoring independent voters.

If you are an independent voter who wants your vote to matter or a citizen who does not want rigged elections make sure this radical undemocratic change to our voting districts does not happen. Contact Governor Sununu and let him know he should veto this map or get voted out of office.

Walter Hamilton  
Portsmouth N.H.

Walter:

The map proposed by Republicans would indeed have the effect you predict. We believe you left out two salient



points, though.

Locking a Republican into the 1st District would eliminate one of the few remaining "swing districts" in the country—the political equivalent of harpooning a right whale.

Also, there's a huge qualitative difference between electing a "most left-wing Democrat" and a "most right-wing Republican."

What "most right-wing Republicans" have done is bad enough. They tried to overthrow the government, to reinstate a megalomaniac who killed hundreds of thousands of people.

What our "most left-wing Democrats" would do if we let them would be to create a liveable nation in which everyone would have a roof over their head, health care, an education, &c., and profit-seeking ghouls would be forced to pay enough taxes to pay the damn bill for a change.

We would like nothing better than for readers to do as you suggest and call the Governor. We only wish we had any that he might do the right thing.

The Editor

====

### The Party Problem

Dear Editor,

Forget the gerrymandering and redistricting of the electorate. There is a crisis that has been going on for a long time, called party politics. Think out of the box. The box is television without any thought from the viewer. All attention is drawn by the surface sense of a fantasy, unrelated to the actual fact of what is happening right now. Take away this fix and on comes the panic attack. The fix is a substitute for the bare necessities—a reasonable standard of living. Party politics is a very absurd outcome of the delusion that it's the other party that is the problem.

In the democracy of a republican form of government, the authority is derived by the consent of the governed. It is the party leadership who call on the representatives to vote what is dictated from the top down.

A two-party system is about coming together and finding mutual standing in defining the politics of the guiding principle rules of the Bill of Rights. It's time to face the actors of self interests, using the power of party leadership.

Local Self-government is not a theory but a tried and true form of a democratic republic from the bottom up. An educated public acting responsibly, rather than an entertained social disorder of ignorance, can and will bring forward a vision of a better a future. It just takes perseverance, honesty and a potential for good.

All can learn more about Local Self-governance at [nhcommunityrights.org](http://nhcommunityrights.org), a non-profit organization educating people about what you need to know when taking on needed activist tasks in your communities.

Douglas Darrell  
Ctr. Barnstead, N.H.

====

### Gerrymandering Without Representation

To the Editor:

"Will my town receive its own representative?" This was the most frequent request I heard at the "listening sessions" I attended last month, offered by the Special Committee on Redistricting.

The New Hampshire Constitution (Articles 9 & 11) stipulates that a town meeting a population threshold shall have its own unique representative. This year, a town with a population of 3,444 or more should have its own representative.

With 400 members in New Hampshire's House of Representatives, it seems we should be able to achieve our state Constitution's goal—that as closely as possible, each eligible municipality has its own representative.

The new maps haven't achieved this. Look at an analysis from the "Map-a-Thon" citizen mapping

project,

[https://www.opendemocracy-action.org/nov\\_7\\_review\\_special\\_committee\\_maps](https://www.opendemocracy-action.org/nov_7_review_special_committee_maps).

For example, Belknap County would have eight towns without a dedicated House district—eight "violations"—under the Majority (Republican) party map. Belknap would have six violations under the Minority (Democratic) party map, and five violations under the Map-a-Thon's maps.

Maps for Coos County had the fewest violations: none from Minority and Map-a-Thon maps, one from the Majority (Republican) map.

Rockingham would have the most violations: 17 from the Minority (Democratic), 14 from the Majority (Republican), and 12 from the Map-a-Thon.

House maps proposed by the Republicans had 19 more "violations" than one of the other two maps acquired. That's 19 towns deprived of a representative who lives in town, understands the local issues, and will fight for the town's interests.

We should not settle for the Majority's substandard maps. We should demand the most representative maps we can get.

Susan Richman  
Durham, N.H.

Susan:

Given what the Republicans are trying to pull with the Congressional District maps, it's no wonder they're trampling the rules on this one.

The Editor

====

### I've Fallen and I Can't Get Up

To the Editor:

Let's face it, unless you're well set up, it's too expensive to live in America. Housing, medical care, transportation, food, and all the rest. Millions of people are living paycheck to paycheck or worse despite having jobs. And we wonder why people join cults.

Unfortunately, Donald Trump doesn't wonder why people join cults. He's got it figured out.

The power of a charismatic American President isn't anything new. As a young sprout during the Kennedy era, I recall Camelot vividly. The veneer may have been thin, but despite the cold war, it was time of hope, great promise, and optimism. It felt good to work hard and to aspire. At least until JFK and his brother were gunned down like dogs and Lyndon Johnson decided to harvest the flower of America's youth for cannon fodder in Viet Nam.

However uninspiring he may be, President Biden has it right. We who manage to eke out a decent living send a healthy chunk of it down to Washington every year. Nice someone is giving serious thought to spending it on something useful. According to honest Abe, the income tax was instituted to take care of jobs too big for state and local government to handle. Perpetual warfare, bank bailouts, tax breaks for people who don't need them, and oil company subsidies probably wouldn't top Abe's list.

But I digress. Given the current atmosphere of institutionalized greed and disrespect for labor, if Donald Trump dropped dead tomorrow it would only be a matter of time before another pathological autocrat took his place. As long as our so-called democracy continues to betray the interests of main-street America in favor corporate power, then expect Americans to continue abandoning democracy for the false promise of white nationalism and authoritarianism.

Who wouldn't long for better treatment?

Rick Littlefield  
Barrington, N.H.

Rick:

Let the government provide the same basic services that are available to everyone in other industrialized nations, take the fat cats at the top off the no-tax gravy train, and there'd be a whole lot less angst and tsuris.

The Editor

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# It's a Big Universe Out There

by W.D. Ehrhart

In December 1985, I made my first postwar trip back to Vietnam. I had gone there in 1967 as an 18-year-old Marine, which had turned out to be a very bad idea and a life-changing experience. Eighteen years later, I wanted to see and experience the country of Vietnam, not the Vietnam War. It turned out to be both a humbling and a healing trip.

Very early on, my interpreter, a young man old enough to remember the war but not old enough to have fought in it, asked me if I had been wounded. When I said I had, and then explained that I'd received a few small shrapnel wounds and a hearing loss, he shrugged and quietly said, "Oh." Clearly, to him, my "wounds" were of no significance, Purple Heart Medal or not.

Later we visited the War Crimes Museum in Ho Chi Minh City. It contains several rooms dealing with the American War, but many more rooms dealing with Pol Pot, the old regime in Saigon, Thailand, the French colonial era, and the millennia-long struggle with China. (An even more elaborate museum in Hanoi also details that long history of resistance to Chinese domination. The American War doesn't even rate a mention in that museum.)

For eighteen years, I had been imagining that the Vietnam War was something that had happened to me. I was the star of the show. But on that trip I came to realize that I was an infinitesimally insignificant part of something much, much larger. Of course the war was not about me. In fact, the American War itself was hardly a pimple-on-a-pumpkin in the long history of Vietnam. The experience forced me to re-think my entire relationship to Vietnam and to that war.

Fast forward thirty-six years. It's 2021. Donald Trump has been kicked out of the White House, but refuses to concede defeat. Dozens of allegedly responsible politicians at the federal, state, and local level—as well as television and radio talking heads—continue to parrot his claim that the election was stolen by devious and conniving Democrats. Millions of American citizens believe this to be true.

Meanwhile, Senator Joe Munchkin (who lines his pockets and the pockets of his family with fossil fuel money) and Senator Kyrsten Sinema (God only knows what's going on in her head) are the best allies Moscow Mitch McConnell and his Retrupmlican cronies could ever wish for, making their task of obstructing any forward progress the

Biden Administration might have made in repairing this grotesquely damaged nation ridiculously easy.

And thus it seems all-but-inevitable that the narrow Democratic majority in the House of Representatives and the even party split in the Senate will both shift in favor of the Republicans in 2022. And that, combined with the number of Republican state legislatures that are passing restrictive voting laws guaranteed to disenfranchise large numbers of poor people and people of color, means that Donald Trump himself—or someone dangerously smarter than him—will be back in the White House in 2024.

Add to that our already radically right-wing Supreme Court, the militarization of our domestic police forces, the lunatic gun laws in this country, a few other odds and ends, and, well, to put it bluntly, we're screwed.

Recently, a friend said to me that things are going to get worse before they get better. But even a cursory study of history makes it clear that things don't always get better. Ask the Egyptians. Or the Romans. And the sun never used to set on the British Empire.

Back in 1776, Edward Gibbon published *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*. Will someone

someday write *The Decline and Fall of the American Empire*? Then again, with global warming on the way, we may not last long enough for anyone to write that book.

Indeed, all this angst about the United States of America could be wasted energy in light of the approaching global disaster that seems even less avoidable than a Republican Congress in 2022. What are the odds that the entire human race will manage to change how we live significantly enough to stave off the terminal future that awaits this planet and everything on it? Talk about being screwed.

Ah, but there is a different way of looking at all this, and it harkens back to what I learned in Vietnam in 1985: humility. Putting things in proper perspective.

Not long ago, I watched a program on PBS's Nova about the Milky Way. Our galaxy contains 100 thousand million stars. Ours is one star—one teeny, tiny star—in the midst of all that.

And the universe itself, NASA estimates, contains at least 200 billion galaxies. Not stars. Galaxies. That translates into a number of stars, more or less like the one we see in

our sky every day, that is the equivalent of something like the number of grains of sand on every beach on Earth. Try wrapping your mind around that number.

New stars are born every minute, and old stars die every minute. This has been going on for something on the order of thirteen and a half billion years. That's 13,500,000,000,000 years. It will continue to go on for, well, God only knows how much longer, but I'm pretty certain it will be a very long time.

Much longer than Donald Trump or Joe Biden will be here. Much longer than the United States of America will be here. Much longer than Planet Earth will be here. Or even good old Sol, our dearly beloved Sun. We think it's all about us, but it's not. It never was. It never will be. The universe doesn't really care about us. It's doing its own thing.

I find that both humbling and comforting.

====

*W. D. Ehrhart is an ex-Marine sergeant who holds a PhD in American Studies from the University of Wales at Swansea, and taught for many years at the Haverford School for Boys.*

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# Once Again Congress Exposes Its Butt-Ugly Morality

by Jim Hightower

Sometimes, when watching Congress in action, I can't decide whether to laugh, cry, or check myself into an insane asylum.

Not all lawmakers are political hacks, quacks, and corporate toadies—but that contingent does seem to dominate. Most infuriating is that while purporting to represent the people, Congress routinely does what the American majority does not want done and fails to do

what people do want. Take a peek at the cuts Congress is making to Joe Biden's landmark infrastructure proposals.

This is a monumental, long-overdue undertaking to reinvest in America's physical house and social underpinnings (everything from roads and broadband networks to child care and paid family leave). The package would deliver real, tangible benefits across our nation, especially for low- and middle-income families, so it is enormously popu-

lar. Yet, when the first half of the plan recently came to a vote in the House, Republicans turned it into a partisan mudwrestling show, loudly voting "NO" on such obvious needs as fixing decrepit bridges, providing clean tap water in every community, and opening pre-school education programs to all three- and four-year-olds.

Cynical Republican gamesmanship aside, even more infuriating is the clique of self-described "moderate" Democrats who pose as cham-

pions of workaday Americans, but constantly scuttle public policies that would make their lives better. For example, the GOP and corporate Democrats have jointly demanded a trillion-dollar "compromise" in Biden's national investment plans. What's being compromised? Not proposals to fund the corporate wish list, but long-postponed needs of everyday Americans, including home health care, free community college, affordable housing, wage hikes, environmental justice, etc.

The wealthy and their political enablers complain that America can't afford such projects. But, hello—these aren't "projects," they're people! And permitting politicians and lobbyists to leave them behind yet again would be an abominable moral failure of our society.

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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

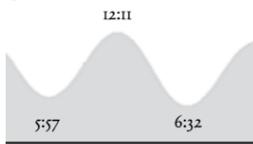
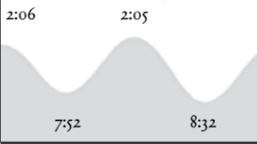
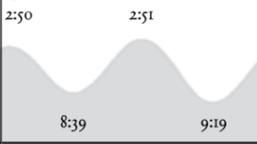
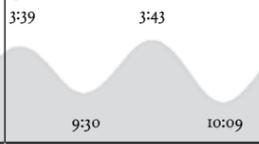
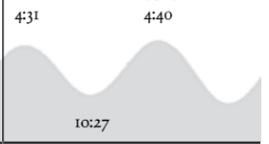
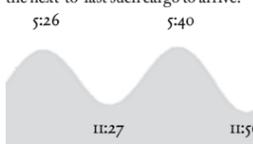
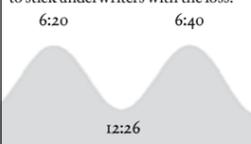
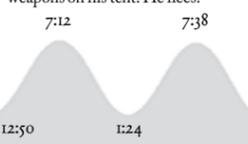
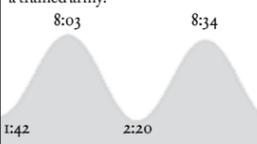
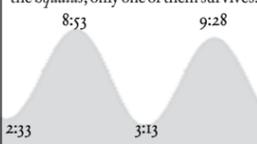
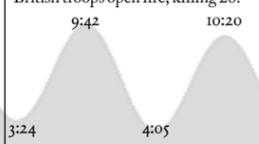
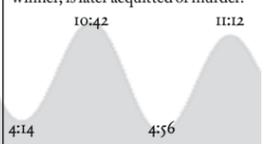
drags about seventeen billion gallons of seawater — enough to fill 2,125,000 tanker trucks — up the river and into Great Bay. This creates a roving hydraulic conflict, as incoming sea and the outgoing river collide. The skirmish line

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, NOVEMBER 21	MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22	TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23	WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24	THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25	FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26	SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27
<p><b>2016</b>—The <i>Guardian</i> reports that D. Trump's grandfather was refused re-entry to Germany in 1905 because he had dodged military service.</p> <p><b>1974</b>—The Freedom of Information Act passes over Gerry Ford's veto.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—Chief of Staff Al Haig ascribes an 18½ minute gap on an audio tape to "sinister forces."</p> <p><b>1970</b>—Fifty-six Green Berets raid the Son Tay POW camp 23 miles west of Hanoi, which had been evacuated three weeks earlier.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—Commies in the 'Nam are "unable to mount a major offensive," says Westy, 71 days before Tet. "The end begins to come into view."</p> <p><b>1964</b>—The FBI sends a blackmail letter to Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., urging him to commit suicide.</p> <p><b>1927</b>—The first Columbine Massacre: state cops in civies machine-gun striking coal miners; six die.</p> <p><b>1901</b>—The President of Alabama's Constitutional Convention had said in May, "we want to...establish white supremacy." With their work ratified on this day, they succeeded.</p> <p><b>1817</b>—The U.S. Army begins thirty years of war by attacking Seminoles in Georgia at Fowltown.</p> <p><b>1801</b>—The 2nd suspicious fire in 13 days destroys Treasury records after Republicans demand proof of Federalist Thomas Pickering's expenses.</p> <p><b>1772</b>—At Faneuil Hall, troublemakers establish Committees of Correspondence. Revolution ensues.</p>	<p><b>2003</b>—AP reports on JFK conspiracy theories, including one saying he orchestrated his own assassination.</p> <p><b>2000</b>—Two dozen well-dressed hooligans, many on the GOP's payroll, intimidate Miami election officials into shutting down a Presidential recount.</p> <p><b>1975</b>—U.S.S. <i>John F. Kennedy</i> and U.S.S. <i>Belknap</i> collide in the night near Sicily. A two-hour fire aboard the <i>Belknap</i> stops 30 feet short of the nuclear weapons magazine.</p> <p><b>1963</b>—In Paris, a CIA man hands a lethal pen to a Cuban for use on Fidel Castro, at the behest of Bobby Kennedy.</p> <p><b>1963</b>—In Dallas, Texas, President John F. Kennedy is assassinated; at whose bidding is a matter of dispute.</p> <p><b>1963</b>—Don B. Reynolds' testimony to a secret Senate committee, that LBJ took bribes, is halted by assassination.</p> <p><b>1941</b>—Fighter ace Werner Mölders, a passenger, dies in a crash en route to the funeral of Luftwaffe Generaloberst Ernst Udet, a suicide.</p> <p><b>1910</b>—Brazilian sailors in Rio mutiny against the lash. Seizing the Navy's three most powerful ships, they end the lashings—and get amnesty.</p> <p><b>1909</b>—Tired of talk from male labor leaders, Clara Lemlich, 23, moves that garment workers strike. Next day, 20,000 women walk off the job; they win shorter hours, higher pay, and better working conditions.</p> <p><b>1887</b>—White militiamen put down a sugar cane strike by killing 35 to 300 Black workers in Thibodaux, La.</p>	<p><b>1986</b>—Two men escape from a maximum-security prison in Rome in a hijacked helicopter.</p> <p><b>1981</b>—R. Reagan signs a secret directive creating the [illegal] Contras.</p> <p><b>1976</b>—Jerry Lee Lewis is arrested outside Graceland for waving a pistol and demanding to see Elvis.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—A Lithuanian radio operator jumps from a Russian trawler onto the deck of the Coast Guard cutter <i>Vigilant</i>. Commander Ralph Eustis allows Soviet sailors to board the cutter and seize the radioman.</p> <p><b>1958</b>—On TV: Ron &amp; Nancy Reagan in "A Turkey for the President."</p> <p><b>1946</b>—To teach "a severe lesson"—namely, that Vietnam is ruled by the French—the cruiser <i>Suffren</i> shells the hell out of Haiphong, killing 6,000. So began the First Indochina War.</p> <p><b>1936</b>—In San Antonio, bluesman Robert Johnson begins a legendary three-day recording session.</p> <p><b>1918</b>—In Scotland's Scapa Flow, the German submarine <i>U-18</i> is sunk by the fishing trawler <i>Dorothy Gray</i>.</p> <p><b>1903</b>—Colo. Gov. James Peabody sends militia to Cripple Creek, and suspends <i>habeas corpus</i>, freedom of the press, and freedom of assembly, all to crush the Western Federation of Miners. He ends up inspiring the IWW.</p> <p><b>1899</b>—The first jukebox plays in a San Francisco saloon.</p> <p><b>1876</b>—After a year on the lam in Cuba and Spain, Tammany Hall's "Boss" Tweed is jailed in NYC.</p>	<p><b>2006</b>—"The only way we can win [in Iraq]," says George W.[MD] Bush, "is to leave before the job is done."</p> <p><b>1979</b>—The U.S. admits troops in 'Nam were hit by Agent Orange.</p> <p><b>1976</b>—Steven B. Williams rams a White House gate with his pickup truck at 25 mph. It doesn't budge.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—Toting \$200,000 in ransom cash, "D.B. Cooper" parachutes from a hijacked 727 over Washington State, into oblivion and America's heart.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—<i>The New York Times</i> runs a full-page ad signed by 500 WW II and Korean War vets protesting escalation of the Vietnam War.</p> <p><b>1963</b>—Strip joint proprietor Jack Ruby, to spare Jackie Kennedy's feelings, shoots Lee Harvey Oswald under the watchful eye of the Dallas Police Department and the TV cameras.</p> <p><b>1961</b>—An overheated electric motor in Colorado cuts off all communications between SAC and NORAD.</p> <p><b>1953</b>—Sen. Joe McCarthy (R-Wisc.) claims the Truman administration is "crawling with Communists."</p> <p><b>1947</b>—All but 17 Congressmen vote to cite the Hollywood Ten for contempt after they take the 5th.</p> <p><b>1922</b>—Erskine Childers, a Brit supporter of Irish independence charged with carrying a pistol, is executed while his case is on appeal. He says to his firing squad, "Take a step forward, lads. It will be easier that way."</p> <p><b>1759</b>—Tobias Smollett gets three months in jail for libeling an admiral.</p>	<p><b>1997</b>—In Plymouth, Mass., police serve Native American demonstrators a generous helping of pepper-spray.</p> <p><b>1986</b>—As Ed "Meese is a Pig" Meese confesses that profits from illegal arms sales to Iran went to Nicaraguan <i>contras</i>, a reluctant Ronald Reagan fires Lt. Col. Oliver North.</p> <p><b>1974</b>—Britain outlaws the IRA after two bombs kill 21 and injure over 100 in Birmingham.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—Death of Upton Sinclair, writer and media critic.</p> <p><b>1955</b>—The ICC bans racial segregation in interstate bus transportation; the ban is ignored, though, until Freedom Riders force the issue in 1961.</p> <p><b>1950</b>—Great Appalachian Storm winds hit 110 mph in Concord, N.H.</p> <p><b>1947</b>—For refusing to rat out their friends to Congress, the Hollywood Ten are fired by studio bosses.</p> <p><b>1915</b>—William J. Simmons burns a cross at Stone Mountain, Ga., founding the new, improved Ku Klux Klan: it hates Catholics and Jews, too.</p> <p><b>1864</b>—Confederate arsonists set more than twenty fires, attempting to destroy New York City.</p> <p><b>1783</b>—Redcoats evacuate New York as General Washington and the victorious Continental Army arrive.</p> <p><b>1120</b>—King Henry's only heir William Adelin sails for England aboard the <i>White Ship</i>. The ship's crew, drunk, is told to make haste; hitting a rock, it capsizes. All drown but a butcher. England is in chaos for decades.</p>	<p><b>2000</b>—Katherine Harris, Florida's Secretary of State and, coincidentally, the Bush campaign's state co-chair, declares DUBYA the winner.</p> <p><b>1975</b>—George Gainous, son of a heroin importer, climbs the White House fence to ask for his father's pardon. Arrested 90 minutes later while chatting with President Ford's daughter Susan, he later says, "If [Ford] can pardon Nixon he can pardon my father."</p> <p><b>1973</b>—Rose Mary Woods takes the fall for the 18½ minute gap.</p> <p><b>1933</b>—Thomas H. Thurmond and John M. Holmes are lynched in San Jose, Calif. Jackie Coogan—"Uncle Fester," 30 years later—helps ready a rope. Judge Timothy Fitzpatrick says in his personal opinion, the mob "did a damned good job." Gov. "Sonny Jim" Rolph vows to pardon anyone convicted, but no one is even charged.</p> <p><b>1932</b>—In his newspaper column, Will Rogers mocks Herbert Hoover's theory of "trickle-down economics."</p> <p><b>1922</b>—Howard Carter and his employer Lord Carnarvon desecrate the tomb of King Tutankhamun.</p> <p><b>1921</b>—Former Lt. Col. Charles W. Whittlesey, 37, commander of the "Lost Battalion" and a pallbearer for the Unknown Soldier, leaps from a ship and drowns in the Atlantic.</p> <p><b>1910</b>—Six workers burn to death and 19 die jumping from the fourth floor of a Newark textile shop. "Misadventure and accident" said the coroner's jury; penalty for the owner: \$0.00.</p>	<p><b>2002</b>—Donald Rumsfeld signs off on "Category III" interrogation techniques—namely, torture.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—Gen. Tommy Franks, working on catching Osama bin Laden, is told by Donald Rumsfeld to drop that and revise plans to attack Iraq.</p> <p><b>1997</b>—In New York, a lamppost fatally stabs Macy's Barney the Dinosaur balloon. Meanwhile, the Cat in the Hat knocks over a lamppost, which then falls on two women, putting one in a month-long coma.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—At the 71st Evacuation Hospital in Pleiku, 100 soldiers fast on Thanksgiving to protest the war.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—The first Acid Test.</p> <p><b>1953</b>—"I knew it," says 65 year-old Eugene O'Neill. "Born in a goddamn hotel room, dying in a hotel room."</p> <p><b>1932</b>—Edward Marshall, future beat poet, is born in Chichester, N.H.</p> <p><b>1900</b>—To convince a Filipino town's president he should rat out local rebels, U.S. troops force salt water down his throat and burn down his town.</p> <p><b>1868</b>—In the Battle of the Washita, General George A. Custer and his troops massacre Black Kettle and 102 other Cheyenne survivors of the Sand Creek Massacre.</p> <p><b>1729</b>—The Natchez people repay decades of haughty brutality by massacring 230 Frenchmen. Women and enslaved Africans are spared.</p> <p><b>1095</b>—Pope Urban II launches the Crusades, promising salvation for those who die slaying pagans. Jihad?</p>
<p>12:11 5:57 6:32</p> 	<p>12:49 12:46 6:33 7:09</p> 	<p>11:26 11:24 7:11 7:49</p> 	<p>2:06 2:05 7:52 8:32</p> 	<p>2:50 2:51 8:39 9:19</p> 	<p>3:39 3:43 9:30 10:09</p> 	<p>4:31 4:40 10:27</p> 
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28	MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29	TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30	WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1	THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2	FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3	SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4
<p><b>2014</b>—Cards Against Humanity, to express its disdain for consumerism on Black Friday, removes all products but one from its online store: a \$6 box of "literal feces, from an actual bull."</p> <p><b>2008</b>—At a Long Island Wal-Mart, shoppers literally bust doors and trample Jdimytai Damour, 34, to death.</p> <p><b>2005</b>—Ex-Rep. Randy "Duke" Cunningham (R-Calif.) pleads guilty to selling votes and dodging taxes.</p> <p><b>1979</b>—Bogus data from HQ sends Air New Zealand Flight 901 into Antarctica's Mount Erebus; 257 perish. HQ's "orchestrated litany of lies" eventually fails, and HQ's busted.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—"As I understand it from the doctors," Gen. Leslie R. Groves tells a Senate committee, radiation poisoning "is a very pleasant way to die."</p> <p><b>1942</b>—The Coconut Grove in Boston burns; 492 die, 172 are injured.</p> <p><b>1936</b>—Basil Zaharoff, the world's fifth richest man, dies in bed at 87—four times older than those who died using the weapons he sold to all sides.</p> <p><b>1925</b>—The American Legion's "Americanism" honcho says communists have no right to free speech.</p> <p><b>1919</b>—N.H.-born Maj. Gen. Leonard Wood—on active duty—says of radicals, "Ship 'em or shoot 'em."</p> <p><b>1858</b>—The luxury yacht <i>Wanderer</i>, sleek, fast, and refitted for a trade outlawed 50 years earlier, docks at Jekyll Island, Georgia. The 409 enslaved Africans who survived the passage are the next-to-last such cargo to arrive.</p>	<p><b>2015</b>—Professing concern about the lives of fetuses, Robert L. Dear murders three adults and wounds nine more as he shoots up a Planned Parenthood clinic in Colorado.</p> <p><b>2011</b>—Ex-Arapahoe County (Colo.) Sheriff Patrick Sullivan, arrested for exchanging methamphetamine for sex with a male informant, is incarcerated in an eponymous jail.</p> <p><b>1976</b>—After Jerry Lee Lewis accidentally plugs his bass player in the chest twice with a .357 magnum, he's charged with discharging a firearm within city limits.</p> <p><b>1963</b>—LBJ sets up the Warren Commission to rule out a conspiracy in the assassination of John F. Kennedy.</p> <p><b>1960</b>—On learning that, thanks to the CIA, the Congo's Patrice Lumumba had been arrested, genial old Ike orders that agency to heighten its efforts to assassinate Fidel Castro.</p> <p><b>1947</b>—French soldiers massacre over 300 civilians, mostly women and children, halving the population of My Trach, in Vietnam.</p> <p><b>1864</b>—Ignoring a truce flag, Col. (&amp; ex-minister) John Chivington leads a Colorado militia in the slaughter and mutilation of 150 Cheyenne women, children, and old men at Sand Creek. A local paper says the soldiers had "covered themselves in glory" (a typo).</p> <p><b>1781</b>—His ship <i>Zong</i> low on water, captain Luke Collingwood orders 133 enslaved souls thrown overboard live, to stick underwriters with the loss.</p>	<p><b>2016</b>—Trump spokesperson Scottie Nell Hughes—pro-gun despite her brother having been shot dead at eight by a 12-year-old—tells NPR's Diane Rehm, "There's no such thing, unfortunately, anymore, of facts." [sic]</p> <p><b>1999</b>—A WTO meeting in Seattle is called off due to anarchists.</p> <p><b>1974</b>—Rep. Wilbur Mills (D-Ark.) appears onstage at Boston's Pilgrim Theater with stripper Fanne Foxe.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—Nixon spokesperson Ron Ziegler says with only 27,000 Americans left risking their lives in Vietnam, the White House is done updating the nation on withdrawals.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—Defense Secretary Robert Strange McNamara offers LBJ two Vietnam options: get out now, or go all-in, suffering 1,000 KIAs per month and perhaps losing anyway.</p> <p><b>1954</b>—Failing to clear the summit by 500 feet, a DC-3 crashes on N.H.'s Mount Success. All seven aboard survive the crash, but only five survive two freezing nights at the crash site.</p> <p><b>1954</b>—Liz Hodges of Sylacauga, Ala. is bruised by an eight-pound meteorite that busts through her roof.</p> <p><b>1835</b>—A "hack writer," in William Faulkner's view, "who would not have been considered fourth rate in Europe," is born: Samuel L. Clemens.</p> <p><b>1812</b>—Troops under the bombastic and disorganized General Alexander "Apocalypse" Smyth disobey his orders to invade Canada and turn their weapons on his tent. He flees.</p>	<p><b>2017</b>—One-time Trump National Security Advisor and ex-general Michael Flynn does the perp walk.</p> <p><b>2007</b>—Presidential candidate Rudy Giuliani, at Federal Cigar in Portsmouth, refuses to autograph a <i>New Hampshire Gazette</i> for counterman Dave McNicholas, but agrees to sign a photo of himself—which he takes with him when he leaves.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—Howard Dean, leading the pack in polling, tells Chris Matthews he'll "break up the giant media enterprises;" giant media enterprises soon label Dean "unelectable."</p> <p><b>1969</b>—The U.S. Selective Service guts the anti-war movement by holding a draft lottery.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—The Walker Commission reports that the Chicago PD rioted during the Democratic Convention.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—In J. Edgar Hoover's FBI office, purportedly for a reconciliation, the Director reveals information to Martin Luther King, Jr., demonstrating that he's under illegal surveillance.</p> <p><b>1955</b>—On a bus in Montgomery, Ala., Rosa Parks changes the world.</p> <p><b>1842</b>—Secretary of War John C. Spencer's son Philip, 19, a midshipman aboard the <i>U.S.S. Somers</i>, along with two sailors, and without benefit of court martial, is hanged for mutiny.</p> <p><b>1777</b>—Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben lands in Portsmouth, N.H. from France, <i>en route</i> to Valley Forge, he will turn Washington's rabble into a trained army.</p>	<p><b>2020</b>—Roger Stone says he's seen "absolute incontrovertible" proof that to help steal the election, North Korean boats brought bogus ballots into the U.S. through harbors in Maine.</p> <p><b>1986</b>—Pres. Ronald Reagan says he can't remember what he knew about Iran-Contra, or when he knew it.</p> <p><b>1984</b>—Union Carbide's Bhopal, India plant kills 16,000. Union Carbide is forced to pay \$14,000 in fines.</p> <p><b>1980</b>—Lyndon LaRouche's <i>Executive Intelligence Review</i> breaks the story of the "October Surprise."</p> <p><b>1980</b>—U.S.-backed death squads murder four nuns in El Salvador.</p> <p><b>1975</b>—Mary Jo Cook, repentant, testifies the FBI paid her to infiltrate Vietnam Veterans Against the War.</p> <p><b>1956</b>—<i>Granma</i> lands 82 rebels in Cuba. Only 12 make it to the Sierra Maestra, but that was enough.</p> <p><b>1954</b>—The Senate votes to "condemn" Joe McCarthy. N.H. Senator Styles Bridges is one of 22 "No" votes.</p> <p><b>1949</b>—The U.S.A.F. asks GE workers at Hanford, Wash. to turn off air filters for a test. Oops—twice the intended amount of radiation gets out.</p> <p><b>1946</b>—In Oakland 100,000 hold a General Strike. Two days later Teamster boss Dave Beck sells them out.</p> <p><b>1943</b>—The <i>U.S.S. Squalus</i>, formerly the <i>Squalus</i>, sinks the Japanese carrier <i>Chuyo</i> near Truk. Aboard <i>Chuyo</i> are 21 survivors from the <i>U.S.S. Sculpin</i>, which had aided in the 1939 rescue of the <i>Squalus</i>; only one of them survives.</p>	<p><b>2013</b>—In Londonderry, N.H., failed Senate nominee Scott Brown says "I don't think I ever said I was thinking about running for president," 16 weeks after telling the <i>Boston Herald</i> he was thinking about running for president.</p> <p><b>2004</b>—George W.[MD] Bush nominates Bernard Kerik (later to be known as Federal Inmate 84888-054) to be Secretary of Homeland Security.</p> <p><b>1996</b>—A New York company making Medals of Honor is fined \$80,000 for selling 300 bootleg copies.</p> <p><b>1983</b>—U.S. Information Agency head Charles Z. Wick says Margaret Thatcher opposed the invasion of Grenada because she's a woman.</p> <p><b>1980</b>—Secretary of State Al Haig says four Maryknoll nuns recently murdered by Salvadoran death squads may have been gun-runners.</p> <p><b>1979</b>—Fans stampede at a Who concert in Cincinnati, 11 die.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—Protesters destroy files at eight N.Y. draft boards.</p> <p><b>1966</b>—The AEC explodes a .38 kiloton A-bomb 10 miles west of Purvis, Miss., inside an underground cavity created by a 5 kiloton A-bomb blast conducted two years earlier.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—In Berkeley, 600 police arrest 800 protesters; 900 faculty members call for amnesty.</p> <p><b>1944</b>—In Athens, Greece, 200,000 demonstrate against Churchill's policy of disarming anti-fascist guerrillas, whom he calls "miserable banditti." British troops open fire, killing 28.</p>	<p><b>2016</b>—To free the fictitious child sex slaves of the Democrat Party, Edgar Welch shoots up Comet Ping Pong in Washington D.C. with a real gun.</p> <p><b>1993</b>—R.I.P. Frank Zappa.</p> <p><b>1982</b>—Returning from a trip to Latin America, President Reagan says, "I learned a lot. You'd be surprised. They're all individual countries."</p> <p><b>1981</b>—President Reagan OK's CIA spying on U.S. citizens.</p> <p><b>1979</b>—French commandos "convert to Islam," then help the Saudi military drive rebels from Grand Mosque. The indiscriminate killing by these infidels enrages Osama bin Laden; the CIA concludes the episode is not a sign of widespread Islamic radicalism.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—Chicago cops, aided by the CIA, murder Black Panther security guard Mark Clark, then assassinate Fred Hampton, who's been drugged.</p> <p><b>1952</b>—A "Great Smog" so thick moviegoers couldn't see the screen descends on London. It lasts all winter and kills about 12,000.</p> <p><b>1950</b>—In <i>Feres v. U.S.</i>, the Supreme Court rules that servicemembers can't sue the U.S. for injuries.</p> <p><b>1947</b>—On orders from genial 'Ike, the Attorney General publishes a list of 51 "subversive organizations."</p> <p><b>1837</b>—In the Arkansas State House, Speaker John Wilson and Joseph Anthony debate wolf bounties with the aid of Bowie knives. Wilson, the winner, is later acquitted of murder.</p>
<p>11:27 11:56 5:26 5:40</p> 	<p>12:26 6:20 6:40</p> 	<p>12:50 1:24 7:12 7:38</p> 	<p>1:42 2:20 8:03 8:34</p> 	<p>2:33 3:13 8:53 9:28</p> 	<p>3:24 4:05 9:42 10:20</p> 	<p>4:14 4:56 10:42 11:12</p> 



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