

## The Fortnightly Rant

### The Radical Wrecking Crew

Focus groups have determined that when given a choice, people prefer hearing about lost puppies being found to staring into an existential abyss. Oh, well...here we go again, anyway.

Pardon us while we state the obvious. While we're at it, let's print something that's not even news: ordinary Americans haven't been screwed this hard since Herbert Hoover was President. A couple of recent tweets can sum it up as well as anything we could write:

Kimberly Nicole Foster [@KimberlyNFoster]: "it's wild that 'unskilled' labor is the labor that society literally collapses without."

Andrew Lawrence [@andrew\_lawrence]: "What if the reason kids are depressed is [because] they realize they're living in a dying state with no hope for upward mobility and they're expected to start their adult lives [with] \$100k in debt and no real job prospects, but [I'm] no expert maybe it's actually masks and zoom classes."

Now for the news—bad news, of course: under plans long in the works, this current dismal state of affairs is just a warmup for what's coming.

The nation slowly sank into its present condition over the course of forty years of unscupulous post-Gingrichian Republicanism and feckless Democratic "resistance"—resistance, primarily, against offending wealthy campaign donors—mostly according to the provisions of the U.S. Constitution. The 2000 Presidential election was, of course, a brazen theft.

Now Republicans, having gotten their greedy hands around the neck of this goose that lays golden eggs, want to lop off its head. The usual suspects are pushing an Article V Convention of States. It would

have essentially unlimited power to rewrite—or throw out—the old Constitution.

According to *Sourcewatch.org*, potential outcomes "range from redefining the Commerce Clause to prohibit Congress from enacting protections against child labor laws, to adding a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. [The Koch-funded Aamerican Legislative Exchange Council] has published a "how-to" manual for an Article V constitutional amendment and offers a "model" resolution, the "Balanced Budget Amendment Resolution."

Why so radical? Again we turn to the Twitter, the poor man's AP news feed. On January 3rd, John Nichols [@NicholsUprising] wrote: "Republican have since 2016: Lost swing-state governorships in WI, MI and PA. Lost the U.S. House. Lost the U.S. Senate. Lost the presidency, as five swing states shifted to the Democrats. No wonder the GOP is desperate to dismantle democracy."

The men who wrested this country from Britain—and from its indigenous inhabitants—were tremendous fans of the Roman Republic. They consciously sought to emulate it when they founded the U.S.A., and they did a hell of a job. For half a millenium Rome was governed by a political system which—allowing for a few inconsequential technical distinctions—was nearly identical to the one Americans suffer today.\*

A small, wealthy, pampered sector of the population rotated through the positions of power and ran the show. Being in power, the policies

\* Caveat lector: this analysis is not based on years of academically-sanctioned, peer-reviewed scholarship. Rather, it draws whatever authority it may have on autodidactic chutzpah and a lifetime of observation.



these patricians pursued were ultimately based on providing benefit to themselves and their class. Conflicts between factions within this group were resolved by a range of tactics from negotiation to murder. The only limit on their pursuit of self-interest was an intuited feeling: "What can we get away with?"

A larger, semi-elite sector consisted of landed gentry—an early form of agribusiness. Many others were rural farmers with more modest holdings. The majority of Romans were either working stiff—the lucky ones—or enslaved. Substitute "imprisoned" for "enslaved," and for all practical purposes you've pretty well got a match.†

† Some may object to this assessment; we USAians do love to pride ourselves on the permeability of our class distinctions. That permeability is a myth which survives only thanks to a fig leaf provided by a certain genre of "news" stories, long popular in the mass media. The fact that an occasional photogenic "exception" may be featured merely goes to illustrate that the underlying rule—our class structure—is intact.

As if the familiarity of these ancient stratifications were not sufficient evidence of the success of our Founding Patricians, try this on for size: the Roman Republic was at war almost constantly throughout its 500-year run.

There was an inherent weakness in this system. The fault line lay in the accuracy with which pampered patricians could divine the mood of the plebians—a huge mass of people whose life experiences were radically different from their own.

On at least four occasions, the patricians guessed so badly wrong that something had to give.

In 494 BC an ex-military official showed up at the Forum in a state of disarray. Unable to pay a tax, he had borrowed to do so at usurious rates. When he was unable to repay, his creditors had him thrown in prison and beaten. Empathetic plebians sided with the bedraggled official, and a rowdy crowd assembled.

The consul Appius Claudius Sa-

binus Regillensis misread the room. In a bold but stupid move, he passed decrees reinforcing the rights of creditors to jail debtors.

At this point a plebian named Lucius Sicinius Vellutus—whom our Founders seem not to have quoted much—proposed that the plebians leave Rome *en masse*, set up camp on Mons Sacer, three miles out of town, and let the patricians find out how they liked fending for themselves.

The people put Vellutus' plan into action, and lo and behold: it worked. Representatives from the Senate went to Mons Sacer and negotiated with the plebians. Debts were cancelled, and the Tribune of the Plebs was established—with the power to veto actions of the Senate.

The plebians found this result of the first *secessio publicis* so gratifying that they repeated the process four more times over the next 200 years—each time winning significant concessions.

Imagine that....

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### Still True 108 Years Later

"What did you tell that man just now?"

"I told him to hurry."

"What right do you have to tell him to hurry?"

"I pay him to hurry."

"How much do you pay him?"

"Four dollars a day."

"Where do you get the money?"

"I sell products."

"Who makes the products?"

"He does."

"How many products does he make in a day?"

"Ten dollars worth."

"Then, instead of you paying him, he pays you \$6 a day to stand around and tell him to hurry."

"Well, but I own the machines."

"How did you get the machines?"

"Sold products and bought them."

"Who made the product?"

"Shut up. He might hear you."

—United Automobile Worker, October 1937

Oh, for the days before consultants got involved, and workers organized by talking to each other in language everyone understood.

Stumbling across the little gem reprinted above got our curiosity cranked up. A little digging revealed that—*quelle surprise*—the *Automobile Worker* cribbed the bit from a 1912 issue of *Land & Liberty Magazine*.

To our surprise, *Land & Liberty*, founded in 1894 to represent the ideas and policies of Henry George, is still being published, and is available online at *henrygeorgefoundation.org*.

Ask someone nowadays about Henry George and all you'll get for an answer is Henry who? In his day, though, he was somebody. He

deserve to have his somebodyhood restored—and we the living would certainly benefit from his ideas and policies.

According to our old fiend Wick E. Pedia, Henry George (1839 – 1897) was an American political economist and journalist whose writing was immensely popular in 19th-century America, sparked several reform movements, and inspired the economic philosophy known as Georgism. His 1879 book *Progress and Poverty*—which sold millions of copies worldwide—"investigates the paradox of increasing inequality and poverty amid economic and technological progress."

Somehow that still sounds vaguely relevant today. We won't try to sum up his life's work here; his death will provide a measure of his impact. Weakened by a stroke in



1890, George ran for Mayor of New York in 1897 anyway. He died four days before the election. A hundred thousand people viewed his coffin; two thousand marched across the Brooklyn Bridge for his funeral.

Largely forgotten now, his influence can be found. Unfortunately, those who run our economy prefer not to upset a system which serves

them so well—and the rest of us so poorly.

FDR, MLK and Einstein all spoke highly of George and his works. The most ubiquitous evidence of his existence, though, can be found in closets all across the country. Elizabeth Magie (1866–1948) was an advocate of Georgism. In 1904 she was granted a patent for "The Landlord's Game"—a board game designed to show the principles of Georgism at work.

After thirty years of permutations, Parker Brothers bought the rights, and turned a game designed to promote fairness and equity into one which celebrates acquisition, greed, and, of course, "Monopoly."

**The Alleged News®**

**The Flag Police Are Appalled**

According to the City of Portsmouth's tax map, the three big apartment blocks on Madison Street were sold on December 13th. This is of interest because, as a general rule, few things matter more in this country than who owns what.

On a practical level, for local readers, this means that rents which were formerly collected by one quasi-anonymous LLC are now being collected by another quasi-anonymous LLC with a different name and mailing address.

Looking at the matter from another angle, the monthly difference between the rental income from these buildings and the cost of ownership has been diverted from the bank accounts of one group of anonymous investors into the accounts of a different group of anonymous investors.

The Flag Police, of course, take no position on these matters. It is their

custom, however, to routinely consider property ownership in order to establish who may be responsible for any given U.S. flag.



Ordinarily, the City's tax map would make it clear whether the previous owner, 184 Madison St LLC, or the current owner, AAM Portsmouth Residences LLC, allowed this nearly-bifurcated flag to deteriorate into its present deplorable condition.

Thanks, though, to the high quality image provided by a stalwart but anonymous member of the Flag Police, it has been established after



M. D'APALO © 14 JAN 2022  
THE NEW HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE (58)  
WWW.NHKEEPAID.COM, N 1956

INSIDE THE LITTLE BLACK BOOK, THE PLOT THICKENS



It's a signature object of the early 21st century: a corrugated plastic sign. They're cheap and durable—probably too durable—and therefore ubiquitous. This one, though, at the corner of Marcy Street and New Castle Avenue, is a little different. We first saw a photo of it January 3rd, on the Twitter feed of former Herald reporter Elizabeth Dinan. It says, "Jake, Tell Biden: No First Use — No New Nukes." Our Wandering Photographer went out last Saturday and found that it's still in place, though plastered with snow. Such are the times in which we live: you may find a plea on a street corner from one neighbor to another, asking him to use his influence on the President to lessen the chances we'll all die in a nuclear war.

careful analysis that there is no way a flag could possibly have suffered so much damage in a matter of one month.

So, they're both busted.

The parties behind 184 Madison are no longer in a position to remedy this situation. It's all on AAM Portsmouth now. Can they handle it?

As it turns out, the founder and CEO of that LLC lists himself openly on LinkedIn. We'll not get into the personal details, but the LLC's general condition seems worthy of consideration:

"Currently AAM15 owns and manages 10 full and limited hotels in six states including 6 Marriott Hotels (Residence Inns, Courtyard, Springhill Suite), 3 Hiltons (Doubletree, Hilton Garden Inn, and Embassy) and one IHG product (Crowne Plaza)."

With all the cushions in all the couches in all those properties, surely AAM can scrape up enough change to retire this flag and replace it with a new one.

**"Operating in Bad Faith" Manchin Won't Support His Own Bill**  
by Jessica Corbett

U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin came under fire Saturday after *The Washington Post* reported that the West Virginia Democrat "does not currently support" passing even his own recent \$1.8 trillion counteroffer to President Joe Biden's Build Back Better agenda.

"Sen. Manchin is operating in bad faith," tweeted Nida Allam, a progressive congressional candidate in North Carolina. "We need to be electing Democrats who are accountable to the American people and working families—not Dems who are renegeing on deals which would support millions."

Journalist Judd Legum, who runs the newsletter *Popular Information*, said that "if you were a fossil fuel lobbyist and had to construct an ideal strategy not only to kill BBB but to gum up the works for as long as possible it would look a lot like what Manchin has been doing."

In a secretly recorded conversation published last summer by *Unearthed*, Greenpeace U.K.'s investigative journalism arm, a lobbyist for fossil fuel giant ExxonMobil said of Manchin, "I talk to his office every week."

Since then, House Democrats have passed a watered-down version of the Build Back Better package. However, progressives within and beyond Congress have grown increasingly alarmed about the bill's future, especially after the lower chamber caved to a few members of their own party and decoupled it from bipartisan infrastructure legislation.

Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.), one of the six progressives to oppose the decoupling, warned at the time that "passing the infrastructure bill without passing the Build Back Better Act first risks leaving behind child care, paid leave, healthcare, climate action, housing, education, and a roadmap to citizenship."

Noting the new reporting, former Ohio state Sen. Nina Turner said

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Saturday that “the Squad was right to not trust Joe Manchin.”

Manchin—who, along with Sen. Kyrsten Sinema (D-Ariz.), has long held up a vote on the Build Back Better Act in the upper chamber—confirmed Tuesday that he is not currently talking with the White House about the package, telling reporters that “there is no negotiation going on at this time.”

Citing three unnamed sources, the *Post’s* Jeff Stein revealed that “privately, he has also made clear that he is not interested in approving legislation resembling Biden’s Build Back Better package and that Democrats should fundamentally rethink their approach.”

“Senior Democrats say they do not believe Manchin would support his offer even if the White House tried adopting it in full—at least not at the moment—following the fall-out in mid-December,” Stein continued, referencing a pair of White House statements that called out the senator by name and a Fox News appearance in which Manchin blasted

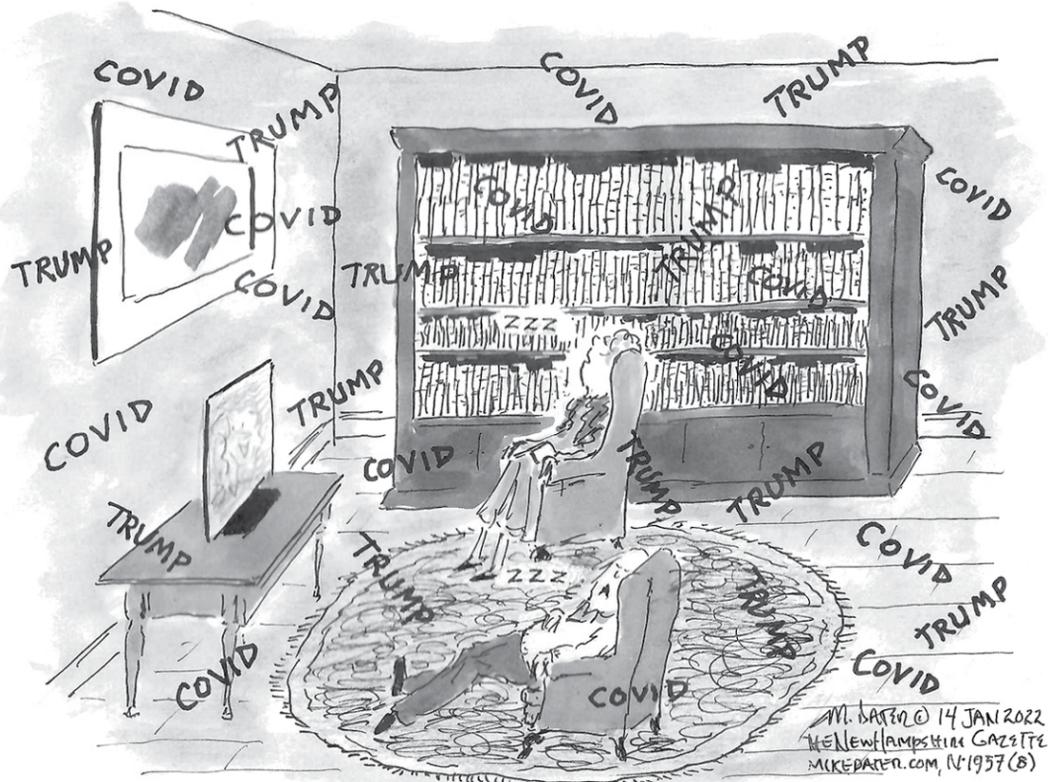
the bill.

In response to Stein’s revelation that Manchin’s offer “may no longer be on the table,” Jake Sherman of *Punchbowl News* tweeted that “it’s definitely not.”

“As of now, I have no reporting that Manchin will get back up to [\$1.8 trillion]. I talk to him nearly every day and he continues to be exceedingly skeptical of anything,” Sherman said. “Now, could something happen? Sure. Could it happen at [\$1.8 trillion]? Maybe. Is that likely today? It doesn’t seem so.”

Along with cutting the expanded child tax credit, “Manchin’s offer included no funding for housing and no funding for racial equity initiatives,” according to the *Post*. His proposal also retained tax increases opposed by Sinema, and though it featured “substantial new climate funds, the underlying policy details of his proposed climate provisions remain unclear and could have proved difficult for the White House to ultimately accept.”

Getting the Build Back Better



TWO YEARS OF BREAKING NEWS



For 98 fortnights now, since a fire destroyed the old State Street Saloon, we have either complained, or been remiss in failing to complain, about the way the Times Building was being left exposed to the ravages of the elements. From time to time some fitful effort would be made, but flimsy plastic is no match for New England weather. Eventually, this historic link to the past—the newspapering past, at that—would collapse. This past Saturday, though, our Wandering Photographer captured this semi-glorious sight: all the burned-out windows are now protected with plywood! What could be more welcome than a sign of hope in the depths of winter?

Act through the Senate requires support from every single member of the Democratic caucus. Though they can use the budget reconciliation process for that package, other bills are being blocked by the legislative filibuster—which Democrats could abolish with majority support, but Manchin and Sinema oppose doing so.

With the Build Back Better agenda stalled, Senate Democrats have shifted their focus to voting rights legislation. While Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) recently vowed to change the chamber’s rules to advance such bills by January 17th, progressives argue picking between the sweeping package and protecting U.S. democracy is a “false choice.”

Progressive campaigners plan to keep pushing for Congress to get the Build Back Better Act to Biden’s desk, Alex Lawson, executive director of Social Security Works, told the *Post*.

“The policies we’re fighting for—like letting Medicare negotiate prices—are incredibly popular in West Virginia, and Manchin is clearly not listening to people in his state,” he said. “Biden has to bring the full weight of the presidency to bear on Joe Manchin to get his vote to get Build Back Better across the finish line.”

“I know the grassroots are not in any way giving up on Joe Manchin,” Lawson added, “and we’ll make it harder and harder for him to not listen to what the people in West Virginia are demanding he do.”

Our Revolution agreed that the president “must use his power to deliver his full agenda,” declaring that “it’s the bare minimum to address the crises we face and begin to restore the trust of voters.”

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**Flotsam & Jetsam**  
A New Hampshire House committee is taking up a bill which would decriminalize the use of psilocybin mushrooms, NHPR’s Josh Rogers reported Wednesday. Rogers quoted Ian Freeman, a Free Stater from Keene, telling lawmakers, “It can be a life-changing experience to take mushrooms.”

We can’t argue with that. Advocacy of mushrooms, though, coming from Ian Freeman, merely shows that mushrooms alone do not necessarily confer enlightenment.

Another item on Freeman’s agenda: promoting New Hampshire Constitutional Amendment Concurrent Resolution 32, in which the state “peaceably declares independence from the United States and proceeds as a sovereign nation.”

Freeman’s freedom is currently contingent on \$200,000 bail. Feds have charged him with money laundering in connection with his Bitcoin business.

**Murph’s Fortnightly Quote**

“What did you dream? It’s alright we told you what to dream.”

—Pink Floyd, from “Welcome to the Machine” (1975)

“[L]et be who is without anything anybody wants cast the first vote.”

—P.J. O’Rourke

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—Henry George

—Not-So-Random Thoughts from an Oregon Subscriber

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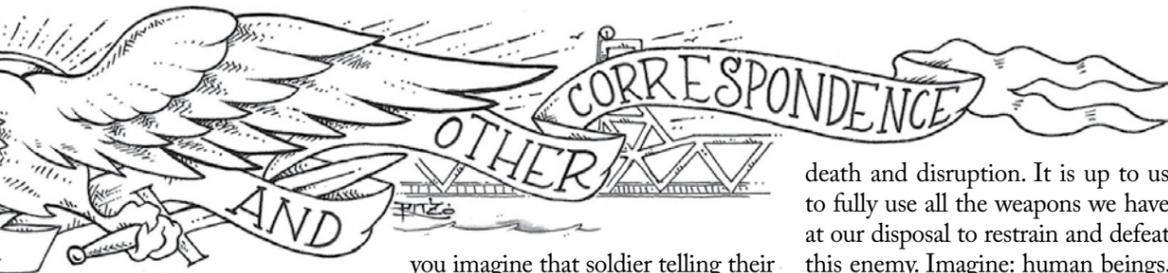
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ganda mill to divert public scrutiny. Once minority rule is firmly established, the GOP will then do what hard-core conservatives have always promised to do. It will deregulate, privatize, and hand day-to-day operation of the country over to the Wall Street Oligarchs and special interests responsible for bankrolling the party.

In a perfect world, Main Street America could easily defend and protect its interests, overturning the GOP's minority power grab. However, culture-war propaganda has successfully turned what should be a vertical conflict with a wealthy elite into a horizontal conflict pitting brother against brother.

To halt the death of democracy, Main Street Americans must somehow agree to disagree on cultural matters, temporarily set those issues aside, and engage in a joint custody plan that will save our system of government. We must do it because the fall of American's democracy will roll out a rude awakening few of us belonging to either political party are prepared to face.

Rick Littlefield  
Barrington, N.H.

Rick:

*On the one hand, it's scary seeing such open discussion of the anti-democratic plans of a major—indeed, a dominant—political party.*

*On the other hand, how terrifying would it be if no one dared to talk about it?*

The Editor

=====

**How Can We Be Losing To a Virus?**

Dear Editor:

Try to imagine a soldier going into combat with a deadly enemy without wearing all his/her protective equipment such as armored vests, helmets, and not taking their weapons. Can

you imagine that soldier telling their superior that they would not wear or use such equipment because they did not want to give up their freedoms? Of course not. Every soldier knows that doing the most to protect oneself not only protects them, and protects all their comrades as well. By not getting wounded or killed, they are possibly saving the lives of others, as well as not requiring limited medical and other resources that their comrades might need.

Whether we want to believe it or not, we all have been drafted to fight an invisible deadly enemy. We all have been offered the only weapons available to prevent us from being severely "wounded" or killed by this enemy, and to defeat that enemy. These include protective gear such as face masks, vaccines, science-based information, social distancing, hand sanitizers, and the human intellectual capacity to think, reason, and make sound decisions—all things our enemy lacks.

Of course, none of these are of any value if they are ignored and rejected, not only for ourselves, but for others as well. It would be almost impossible to defeat an enemy when a substantial segment of our soldiers have decided not to fight the enemy with the weapons that they have at their disposal.

Many of them claim that to use these weapons would somehow take away some undefined freedoms. They don't seem to appreciate the fact that our enemy has already taken away many of our pre-pandemic freedoms. Having so many of our soldiers sitting out the fight will only make it drag on longer. It certainly doesn't help to have some of our commanders passing laws, joining counterproductive lawsuits, and failing to act responsibly.

The enemy we are facing has no political, economic, or social restraints limiting its ability to cause illness,

death and disruption. It is up to us to fully use all the weapons we have at our disposal to restrain and defeat this enemy. Imagine: human beings, the most complex of all species, with a unique intellectual ability to think, reason, and understand, being defeated by a small collection of genetic code wrapped in a protein coat, all because of our arrogance and distorted view of freedom.

Rich DiPentima, LTC, USAF, Ret.  
Portsmouth, N.H.

Rich:

*When you put it that way—Homo sapiens vs an itty-bitty ball of protein—it makes our present situation sound kind of...pathetic.*

*Here's hoping we soon transcend the trap our complexity has laid for us.*

The Editor

=====

**The Musician Persecuted By Spain Will Not Be Extradited**

To the Editor:

The Belgian Justice ratified on 28th December 2021 that the Majorcan rapper Valtònyc will not be extradited to Spain because it understands that condemning the lyrics of the songs goes against freedom of expression. He was sentenced in 2018 by the Audiencia Nacional (a court of exception originating from the Franco dictatorship) to three years and six months in prison, among other things, for singing that King Juan Carlos I was a thief. One day before entering prison, he fled to Belgium where he is still in exile now. This is not the only case. Another rapper, Pablo Hásel, has been sentenced to more than three years and has been imprisoned since February 2021, for various issues including "insulting the King."

But by the ironies of fate in March 2020, the Tribune of Geneva and the Daily Telegraph uncovered that the former king Juan Carlos I allegedly has secret accounts in Switzerland to evade Spanish taxation, where he hides more than 100 million euros of fraud-



Photo © Aditya Koenigsberg @adivakoenigsorg at <https://1lweb.cat>

Tens of thousands of Catalonians assemble in support of independence.

ulent commissions coming from the Saudi king. He is being tried in Switzerland and Spain but, in order not to risk imprisonment, the ex-monarch is living in Abu Dhabi, which has no extradition agreements, as a special guest of the Arab regime. We have recently learnt that the former Spanish king is a friend and neighbour in Abu Dhabi of the arms dealer Al-Assir, also being prosecuted by the Spanish justice system.

The judges who sentenced the two rappers are highly politicized and exercise doctrine with a very marked ideological bias. One of the judges who sentenced Valtònyc, Enrique López López, is linked to the Popular Party and had reached the Constitutional Court (the highest within the Spanish hierarchy), but in 2014 he had to resign because he was caught driving a motorcycle without a helmet whilst drunk. Another of the magistrates, Concepción Espejel, closely linked to the Civil Guard and the Popular Party, with a controversial record of controversial rulings such as that of Valtònyc, has just been promoted to the Constitutional Court.

This Spanish Justice, which promotes this type of judges, has no problem in interfering in political issues as it did in the case of Catalan independence. An independentism that

is democratic and peaceful and that has been persecuted only because its political project does not fit with the ultranationalist and monarchist vision that permeates all Spanish institutions since Francoism, especially Justice, the police, and the army. In fact, Valtònyc was able to flee and explain himself before the Belgian Justice thanks to the help of President Carles Puigdemont and other pro-independence Catalan politicians who are exiled in Belgium to avoid a vindictive trial on the part of the Spanish Justice.

More information:

Valtonyc: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/valt%C3%B2nyc>

Pablo Hásel: [https://ca.wikipedia.org/wiki/pablo\\_has%C3%A9l](https://ca.wikipedia.org/wiki/pablo_has%C3%A9l)

Jordi Oriola Folch  
Barcelona, Catalonia

Jordi:

*We see irony knows no borders.*

The Editor

=====

**The Spanish State And Catalonia**

To the Editor:

I am sending you my writing about Catalonia from a different point of view from the one you will probably find in the Spanish press agencies.

The Spanish State boasts of being

*Mash Notes, Hate Mail, &c.*

to page six

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## Edited by Real Life

by Jean Stimmell

Last month I started a column contending that, emotionally speaking, events in the 1960s were as disjointed and perilous as the existential angst we face today. My mind had flashed back to those olden days as I cut kindling with my hatchet to start the first fire of the season with wood I had harvested off my land.

The war in Vietnam War raged. Each day the news reported, like a sports score, how many of the enemy we had killed, as if that number justified the death of many of our brothers and sisters who also became cannon fodder that day. Things flew further out of control as the decade unfolded.

Our beloved president, JFK, was assassinated, along with his brother Bobby when he ran for office. Tragically, the murders continued to accelerate, not only MLK and Malcolm X but “almost every major national leader of the black struggle in the United States.”<sup>1</sup> The National Guard was patrolling our streets. Our cities were on fire. Polarization between pro-war and anti-war Americans reached a fever pitch. It felt like the apocalypse had arrived.

We tried fighting for social and environmental justice; we tried to

stop the war any way we could, some of us after fighting in it, but to no avail. Finally worn out, overwhelmed by events outside our control, we retreated back to the land, looking for solace and simplification in our lives. For many, including me, it was a revelation.

I found refuge in the land: it was soothing to my soul to get off the consumer-driven rat race by living as simply and sustainably as I could. My apprenticeship with the natural world changed my life, teaching me the importance of living in harmony with the rhythms of nature. That’s when the true significance of the well-known Zen saying “Chop wood, carry water” became clear to me.

The origin of this saying goes back into ancient times when a young boy who had become a monk complained to his Abbot that all he did was chop wood and carry water for the monastery. I want to learn, he said. I want to understand things.

The Abbot replied, “When I started I was like you. Every day I would chop wood and carry water. Like you I understood that someone had to do these things, but like you I wanted to move forward. Eventually I did. I read all of the scrolls, I met with Kings and gave council. I

became the Abbot. Now, I understand that the key to everything is that everything is chopping wood and carrying water, and that if one does everything mindfully then it is all the same.”<sup>2</sup>

That’s the lesson I wanted to write about, but it got edited by real life: I underwent surgery and discovered I have cancer, again.

Not surprisingly, this had a sledgehammer impact on me, smashing the words I was going to write so blithely about chopping wood and carrying water. Because of the intervention of real life, it struck me how I was “talking the talk rather than walking the walk.” Or, in Dale Carnegie’s words, I was “dreaming of some magical rose garden over the horizon.”

This week I can feel the actual prick of the rose thorns in the ouch of my stitches. Now it is real: The chickens have come home to roost, forcing me to ask again: how do you cope gracefully when things go to shit?

Yes, I can bloviate about watching our ecosystems and societal structures self-destruct around us. But that is still abstract, different from how it feels when my body is the target, when the comforts of middle-class life and the supportive



The author surveying his woodpile, a few years back.

armor of white privilege can no longer protect me. The question then becomes visceral: what do I do now, coming face-to-face with the grim reaper of old age, illness, and death?

I found great solace in Jon Aaron’s discussion of this in “Finding Joy in Uncertainty.”<sup>3</sup> His radical solution is to refine the focus of “chop wood, carry water”—and our entire existence—down to just this: breath right now. We can receive each breath with gratitude. We can receive each breath as an opportunity. “Oh, here I am, another moment to

be fully present.” Then we can start to see the contrast between conditional joy and unconditional joy.<sup>4</sup>

It works. I breathe in with joy in this perfect moment, the sun shining through the window, writing to you.

—==—

1 <https://www.history.co.uk/article/why-were-so-many-american-political-figures-assassinated-in-the-1960s>.

2 <https://www.slowww.co/enlightenment-chop-wood-carry-water/>.

3 <https://tricycle.org/dbarmataalks/finding-joy-in-uncertainty/>.

4 *ibid.*

from page five

very strong, but it proves to be very insecure if it can only hold Catalonia by using violence.

The Spanish state shies away from talking about the right of self-determination with Catalonia because this makes it feel vulnerable, but dodging a conflict has never helped to resolve it.

The Spanish state has historically used plunder and indebtedness to satisfy its delusions of grandeur, while Catalonia relies on its own efforts.

The Spanish State lies, persecutes its adversaries judicially and cheats



thinking that when the foul play comes to light the game will have been won, the situation will have changed and the damage will be irreparable, but it only succeeds in sullyng its reputation, while Catalonia persists.

The Spanish State hypocritically condemns totalitarian attitudes and abuses elsewhere in the world while perpetrating them itself.

The Spanish State gives its own account of events, which fewer and fewer people believe.

The Spanish State is incapable of exercising self-criticism regarding its history because it has no will to amend its ways.

The Spanish State seeks to degrade Catalonia’s self-image. It reckons that by denying Catalonia’s historical rights it will gain power over it.

The Spanish State resorts to blackmail to obtain favours of “friendly” powers, therefore owing more and more favours to others.

The Spanish State labels the Catalan independence supporters as criminals in order to dehumanize them, but the democratic way is the only one that the Catalan independence movement has ever considered and is considering.

The Spanish State is trying hard to hide the Catalan people’s longing for freedom, but the underlying river currently still flowing underground will sooner or later end up gushing out like a beautiful waterfall.

The Spanish State wishes to es-

tablish in the collective imaginary the concept that Catalonia is a problem, but we Catalans know that we are the democratic solution that the world needs.

Pepi Oller i Comellas

Terrassa, Catalonia

Pepi:

Once again, for the record: we have no idea how we came to be on the receiving end of these dispatches from somewhere we previously only knew by way of George Orwell’s Homage to Catalonia. The more we hear from it, though, the more we love the place and its people.

The Editor

—==—

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# This is Democracy?

by W.D. Ehrhart

So here we are at the outset of another new year. A Happy New Year? Well, as Shakespeare's Lady Anne replies to Richard III in Act I, Scene 2, when he asks if he can live in hope, "All men I hope live so." Of course, she's talking to one of the Bard's most villainous characters. And though he eventually gets his in the end, we folks (men and women both) these days can—well—only hope that our future works out so nicely.

I can't help finding myself wondering how much longer our American version of democracy is likely to last. Will it survive the 2022 congressional elections? How about the 2024 presidential election? Let's do a little review:

In 1789, when the U.S. Constitution took effect, each congressional district represented about 30,000 citizens. Today, each district represents an average of 710,000 citizens. Okay, the population has grown to such an extent that if districts were still that small, our House of Representatives would have about 10,000 members. Still, Montana's one member of the House represents 994,000 people while Rhode Island's two members each represent only 527,000 people. This is democracy?

But the Senate is even worse...

or better, depending on your sense of humor. Each Wyoming senator represents 568,000 people while each California senator represents 18,671,000 people. That's 18 & 1/2 million vs. 1/2 million. This is democracy?

While we're on the subject of Congress, how about those gerrymandered electoral districts? If you want to have some fun, Google "worst gerrymandered districts" and see what you get. Both parties, of course, have been doing this since Massachusetts governor Elbridge Gerry first did it in 1812. But districts are determined by state legislatures, and Republicans currently control twice as many state legislatures as Democrats.

Thus, in Texas, for instance, the heavily Democratic city of Austin is divided among six districts, only one of which holds a Democratic majority. On the other hand, the Republican-controlled 2nd District around Houston is shaped like the letter C and is only a block or two wide in several areas.

Only one state has a nonpartisan redistricting process. This is democracy?

Or consider this: because of the Electoral College, an anachronism left over from the days of the 3/5th Clause designed to mollify the southern slave states whose popu-

lation was much smaller than the northern industrial states, the presidential candidate who received the most popular votes lost the election five times. This happened only three times in the first 211 years of our history. But it has already happened twice in the first 16 years of this century. This is democracy?

Meanwhile, in 2010, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 5-4 that \$\$\$\$\$ equals free speech. The more \$\$\$\$\$ you have, the more free speech you get to buy. If you haven't got any \$\$\$\$\$, tough luck; get a job. This is democracy?

Speaking of the Supreme Court, the Constitution says that the president gets to appoint justices with the approval of the senate. It doesn't say anything about the president not being allowed to appoint anyone in his last year in office, yet a Republican senate majority leader refused to allow a Democratic president to make an appointment in his last year in office only to turn around four years later and allow a Republican president to appoint one less than a month before the 2020 election. This is democracy?

As for Republicans and Democrats, the U.S. Constitution says not one word about political parties, but if you're not a Republican or a Democrat, good luck getting elected Dog Catcher, let alone President. The last



Stairs, U.S. Supreme Court, 1920, by Theodor Horydczak.

successful creation of a new national political party happened in 1856. That would be one hundred and sixty-six years ago. Even "Independent" Bernie Sanders had to start calling himself a "Progressive Democrat" if he wanted to be a player in the 2016 and 2020 elections. This is democracy?

And of course, all of this is layered on top of a soundly defeated former president who over a year later still insists that his re-election was stolen from him, supported and egged on by Fox News Talking Heads, gun-toting elected representatives like Lauren Boboert and Thomas Massie and Josh Hawley, and some-

thing on the order of 74 million of our fellow citizens.

But here we are at the beginning of another New Year. Another one of Shakespeare's plays is titled *All's Well That Ends Well*. Will this New Year end well? We can always hope so. But I'm not making any predictions. Only a resolution, lame as it may sound, to do whatever I can to see that it does. Which probably isn't much, but it beats sitting around waiting for Doomsday.

*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.*

## How Corporate Greed is Causing Tornado Deaths

by Jim Hightower

Corporate America has proudly elevated good moral values to a special place. That place is the trash can.

Indeed, free market gurus assert that the only ethical obligation a corporation has to society is to deliver as much profit as possible to its big investors — everybody else be damned. And they excuse any awfulness they cause by claiming that

they "broke no laws." But—hello—they write the laws, so corporate immorality is always technically legal.

America experienced this corporate dodge just before Christmas, when a line of super-cell tornados ripped through the Midwest states, demolishing buildings and whole towns, killing more than 90 people. It was called "a tragedy"—but those deaths were not destiny. While a twisting 190-mph vortex can be cataclysmic, we're not helpless in

the face of its fury, for an effective, cheap defense is readily available: Safe rooms.

Built inside homes, schools, factories, shopping centers, and elsewhere, people can shelter safely in these simple concrete rooms during big blows, surviving even if the building around them is shredded. They've been proven to provide "near absolute protection" from tornados; and safety officials, insurers, consumer advocates, and others have

long proposed amending our building codes to require them in new commercial and public buildings. Such a provision would've saved many workers who were crushed inside an Amazon warehouse, a candle-making factory, and other buildings destroyed by December's storms.

But they died, because in 2012, members of a little-known industry-controlled group, the International Code Council, quietly vetoed

the proposal, calling it "overly restrictive," even declaring it "way too soon to do a knee jerk reaction" to tornado deaths.

All those buildings smashed by December's tornados were corporate death sites because their shoddy construction "broke no laws." Let's ask Corporate America if it's still too soon for Congress to mandate tornado-safe rooms.

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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

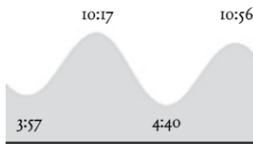
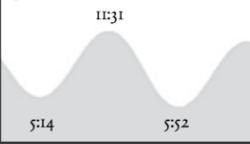
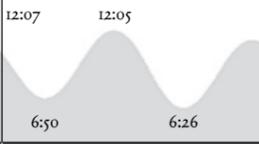
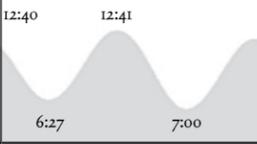
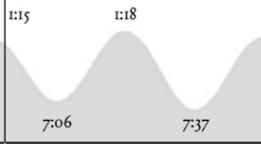
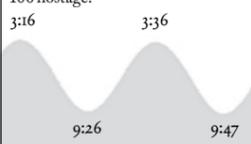
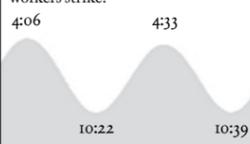
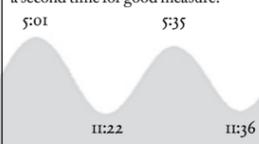
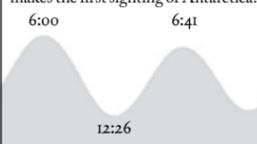
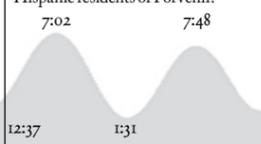
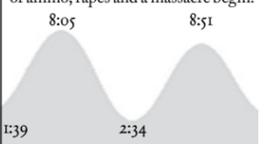
drags about seventeen billion gallons of seawater — enough to fill 2,125,000 tanker trucks — up the river and into Great Bay. This creates a roving hydraulic conflict, as incoming sea and the outgoing river collide. The skirmish line

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, JANUARY 16	MONDAY, JANUARY 17	TUESDAY, JANUARY 18	WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19	THURSDAY, JANUARY 20	FRIDAY, JANUARY 21	SATURDAY, JANUARY 22
<p><b>2020</b>—The former guy goes on trial in the Senate, but the jury is rigged.</p> <p><b>2018</b>—White House physician Dr. Ronny Jackson claims Donald Trump a) passed a cognitive test, and b) might live to be 200 if he had a healthier diet.</p> <p><b>2014</b>—Unable to acquire their standard poison, Ohio's official kill team tries a new drug combo. A witness later says seeing Dennis McGuire gasp and snort for 15 minutes was "ghastly."</p> <p><b>2008</b>—Bushian "Point of Light" Earl Paulk confesses to perjury and adultery: he <i>did</i> sleep with his sister-in-law. Also, his "nephew" is really his son.</p> <p><b>1986</b>—The DOE announces a seven-year, 26-contestant game show: loser gets a nuclear waste dump. One potential site: Hillsborough, N.H.</p> <p><b>1981</b>—Jeanne Kirkpatrick is made Ambassador to the UN. Within days she's griping: her office, limo, staff, and security are all "inadequate."</p> <p><b>1972</b>—Vesna Vulović falls 33,000 feet from a bombed DC-9, lands on a snow-covered slope, and lives.</p> <p><b>1936</b>—Serial killer and cannibal Albert Fish is executed at Sing Sing.</p> <p><b>1917</b>—German Foreign Secretary A. Zimmermann telegraphs his ambassador in Mexico, proposing a German/Mexican alliance and offering the return of Texas, Ariz., and N.M.</p> <p><b>1865</b>—Gen. Wm. Tecumseh Sherman issues Special Field Order No. 15, granting the formerly enslaved 40 acres and a mule. President Andrew Johnson later reverses the order.</p>	<p><b>2014</b>—NRA Board Member Ted Nugent, on TV, calls President Obama a "mongrel," and says liberals should be prosecuted for treason.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—George W.[MD] Bush tells wounded troops at Walter Reed we "must provide the best care" for veterans the same day the VA cuts off health care for 164,000 veterans.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—Gertrude Janeway, the last known widow of a Union Civil War veteran, dies at 93. When they married, he was 81 and she was 18.</p> <p><b>1986</b>—Ronald Reagan, 74, has polyps removed and authorizes the secret (and illegal) sale of weapons to Iran.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—George W.[MD] Bush scores just 25 percent on Texas' Air National Guard's pilot aptitude test, but passes.</p> <p><b>1966</b>—An Air Force tanker and a B-52 collide over Spain, dropping H-bombs &amp; scattering radiation.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—An executive order gives federal workers the right to strike and plutocrats a reason to want JFK dead.</p> <p><b>1961</b>—Ike warns against the "acquisition of unwarranted influence" by the "Military-Industrial Complex."</p> <p><b>1961</b>—At the CIA's request, Katangan rebels murder deposed Congolese Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba.</p> <p><b>1953</b>—A "red letter" day—the first issue of <i>L.F. Stone's Weekly</i> is published.</p> <p><b>1920</b>—Prohibition kicks in, except for Andrew Mellon. Harding's Treasury Secretary issues Old Overholt—which he owns—a special permit to sell "for medicinal purposes."</p>	<p><b>2018</b>—So-called President Donnie Trump tells the Pentagon he wants a parade just like Emmanuel Macron's.</p> <p><b>1990</b>—Washington, D.C. Mayor Marion Barry is busted in a drug sting.</p> <p><b>1983</b>—Taking time out from dissing gays in the <i>Dartmouth Review</i>, Laura Ingraham pleads <i>nolo</i> to shoplifting.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—Peace talks begin in Paris between U.S. and Vietnam.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—At the White House, Eartha Kitt has the gall to speak her mind about the Vietnam War. Her career begins to recover a decade later.</p> <p><b>1943</b>—The Red Army breaks the 890-day Nazi siege of Leningrad.</p> <p><b>1911</b>—In San Francisco Bay, Eugene B. Ely becomes the first man to land a plane on a ship.</p> <p><b>1909</b>—The National Guard can suspend <i>habeas corpus</i>, says the high court.</p> <p><b>1884</b>—Five die and many are injured when a steam boiler explodes at the Wallace Brothers Shoe factory in Rochester, N.H. Its safety valve had been weighted down with bricks.</p> <p><b>1863</b>—Apache chief Mangas Colorado, having entered Fort McLane, N.M. under a flag of truce, is manacled, tortured, then shot. His skull is sent to a phrenologist.</p> <p><b>1876</b>—Accused of high treason during the Great Swamp Fight, Rhode Islander Joshua Tefft, the Algonquin-speaking widower of a Wampanoag woman, becomes the only Englishman ever drawn and quartered in North America.</p>	<p><b>2004</b>—Weeks after telling Chris Matthews, "we're going to break up the giant media enterprises," Howard Dean addresses a screaming crowd in Iowa. Video techs create a clip using sound from his mike only, which makes him sound unhinged. It is aired 633 times over the next four days.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—On his last full day in office, Bill Clinton admits he perjured himself when he denied having sex with "that woman," Monica Lewinsky.</p> <p><b>1996</b>—Hollywood producer Don Simpson [<i>Crimson Tide</i>], 52, succumbs to his \$2,000/day drug habit.</p> <p><b>1989</b>—Frank F. Fowle III, an actor whose favorite <i>Iliad</i> line was "Let me not then die ingloriously and without a struggle," succumbs to stab wounds suffered during a fight with a thief.</p> <p><b>1985</b>—At the Houston Astrodome, 35,000 watch Canadian daredevil Karel Soucek's 180-foot barrel drop go wrong; he dies hours later.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—The AEC sets off an H-bomb 90 miles from its usual test site in an attempt to placate Howard Hughes. Alas, the site is unsuitable.</p> <p><b>1920</b>—The ACLU is founded.</p> <p><b>1915</b>—Two Britons are killed and three are injured during the first Zeppelin attack of WWI.</p> <p><b>1915</b>—Factory guards in Roosevelt, N.J. shoot 20 rioting strikers.</p> <p><b>1847</b>—Charles Bent, the first Governor of the New Mexico Territory, is scalped at his Taos home in front of his wife and children.</p>	<p><b>2017</b>—After DJ. Trump gives his "American Carnage" speech, George W.[MD] Bush says to Hillary Clinton, "Well, that was some weird shit."</p> <p><b>2009</b>—"If I ever run for President," says Donald Trump, "please shoot me."</p> <p><b>2009</b>—The GOP's top Members of Congress gather to plot against the newly-inaugurated President.</p> <p><b>2009</b>—Swearing in President Obama off the top of his head, Chief Justice John Roberts blows his lines.</p> <p><b>2005</b>—J.P. Morgan Chase admits two banks it swallowed had taken enslaved people as collateral years before.</p> <p><b>1981</b>—As per arrangement with the GOP, Iran releases 52 U.S. hostages.</p> <p><b>1981</b>—Awakened at 9:00 a.m. and reminded that he'll soon be inaugurated, Ronald Reagan asks, "Does that mean I have to get up?" He will go on to trade arms for hostages, bankroll the future al-Qaeda, rob Social Security, and triple the national debt.</p> <p><b>1953</b>—Ike blurs the line between church and state by beginning his inaugural speech with a prayer.</p> <p><b>1944</b>—Against advice from subordinates, Gen. Mark Clark orders two regiments of the 36th to cross the Gari River in Italy. They're slaughtered.</p> <p><b>1936</b>—England's King George V is euthanized with an injection of cocaine and morphine, timed so his death could be reported in the more-dignified morning newspapers, rather than the evening rags. His last words are, "God damn you."</p>	<p><b>2001</b>—With George W.[MD] Bush duly sworn in, Paul Wolfowitz, Ahmad Chalaby, Doug Feith and other neons meet at Richard Perle's home to discuss regime change in Iraq.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—Ignoring the jeers of 20,000 demonstrators, the <i>New York Times</i> "reports" George W.[MD] Bush may usher in a "new era of...social justice."</p> <p><b>1997</b>—Newt Gingrich becomes the first Speaker of the House to be disciplined for unethical behavior.</p> <p><b>1996</b>—Bill and Monica enjoy their fifth illicit encounter.</p> <p><b>1981</b>—National Security Advisor Dick Allen does Nancy Reagan a favor, intercepting gifts from a Japanese reporter the law prohibits her from accepting. She repays the favor by exploiting that act to get Allen fired.</p> <p><b>1977</b>—Pres. Carter issues a blanket pardon to all Vietnam draft dodgers.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—The NVA begins a 78-day siege of U.S. Marines at Khe Sanh. Outnumbered 5 to 1 and suffering 737 KIA/MIA, Marines prevail.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—A heater SNAFU ignites un-authorized foam seats aboard a B-52 over Greenland. It crashes, scattering parts of four H-bombs—which are barred by treaty with Denmark.</p> <p><b>1867</b>—A San Francisco cop foolishly arrests Emperor Norton I; naturally civic unrest ensues. The Police Chief apologizes to the Emperor, and officers begin to salute him on the street.</p> <p><b>1793</b>—King Louis XVI of France is guillotined for treason.</p>	<p><b>2008</b>—The Center for Public Integrity documents 935 instances of "orchestrated deception" leading up to the Iraq War by President George W.[MD] Bush and seven top officials.</p> <p><b>1997</b>—Lottie Williams, walking in a Tulsa park, is hit on the shoulder by a small falling chunk of a Delta rocket.</p> <p><b>1987</b>—Pennsylvania Treasurer Budd Dwyer, charged with fraud, blows his brains out on live TV.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—The Supreme Court issues its <i>Roe v. Wade</i> decision.</p> <p><b>1959</b>—Illegally ordered to dig coal from under the Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania with nothing to gauge their clearance, twelve miners drown when the river breaks through.</p> <p><b>1958</b>—The FBI, developing a program to read Americans' mail, discovers the CIA is already doing that.</p> <p><b>1957</b>—George "The Mad Bomber" Metesky, stifled on a worker's comp claim, is arrested in New York for planting 30 bombs over 16 years.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—Arthur Kasherman becomes the third muckraking Minneapolis newspaperman in 11 years to be shot dead on the street.</p> <p><b>1932</b>—El Salvadoran authorities begin settling a peasant uprising; over six months they murder 25,000.</p> <p><b>1920</b>—Civil libertarians report that the Army is torturing conscientious objectors on Alcatraz.</p> <p><b>1862</b>—President John Tyler is buried in Richmond, Va.; his coffin is draped with a Confederate flag.</p>
10:17      10:56  3:57      4:40	10:55      11:32  4:37      5:17	11:31  5:14      5:52	12:07      12:05  6:50      6:26	12:40      12:41  6:27      7:00	1:15      1:18  7:06      7:37	1:51      1:59  7:48      8:16
SUNDAY, JANUARY 23	MONDAY, JANUARY 24	TUESDAY, JANUARY 25	WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26	THURSDAY, JANUARY 27	FRIDAY, JANUARY 28	SATURDAY, JANUARY 29
<p><b>2016</b>—"I could stand in the middle of 5th Avenue and shoot somebody and I wouldn't lose voters," says the Republican nominee in Sioux City, Iowa.</p> <p><b>1986</b>—After getting an FOIA request from the son of the Agency's former station chief in Mexico City, the CIA destroys audio tape of Lee Harvey Oswald talking on the phone to the Soviet Embassy there.</p> <p><b>1986</b>—In a mixup, half a ton of uranium is pumped into the sea at Wind-scale, England.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—R. Nixon claims his "peace with honor" deal with Ho doesn't betray allies, abandon prisoners, or let the war go on. It does all three.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—North Korea seizes the <i>U.S.S. Pueblo</i> for spying within its waters.</p> <p><b>1957</b>—Klan members in Montgomery, Ala. force Willie Edwards Jr. to jump from a bridge. A judge quashes the indictment of 3 men 19 years later, saying "forcing a person to jump from a bridge does not naturally and probably lead to the death of such person."</p> <p><b>1870</b>—On the Marias River in Montana, Maj. Eugene Baker's soldiers massacre 173 Blackfoot women and children. Chief Heavy Runner dies holding a U.S. flag given to him to assure their safety.</p> <p><b>1570</b>—James Stewart, Earl of Moray and Regent of Scotland, is passing through Linlithgow in a cavalcade when he's shot from a window with a carbine, making him the first head of state to be assassinated with a firearm.</p>	<p><b>2015</b>—The winter's first snow falls in Portsmouth. It will not be the last.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—GOP hack Rich Galen reports (falsely) that outgoing Gore staffers slashed all the power cords in the Office of the Vice President.</p> <p><b>1999</b>—Joe DiMaggio, watching "Dateline NBC," is disturbed to read in the "crawl" that he has died.</p> <p><b>1992</b>—Gov. Bill Clinton flies to Arkansas so the execution of self-lobotomized cop-killer Ricky Ray Rector—who asks jailers to save the desert from his last meal "for later"—will enhance his campaign for President.</p> <p><b>1963</b>—The tail falls off a B-52 flying over Maine at 500 feet—one-seventieth of its design altitude—and it crashes into Elephant Mountain. Two men survive the crash, seven don't.</p> <p><b>1961</b>—A disintegrating B-52 releases a pair of 3.8 megaton H-bombs over Goldsboro, N.C. One parachutes "safely"—a single safety switch prevents detonation. The other falls freely, and remains 180 feet underground.</p> <p><b>1955</b>—RIP Iwo Jima flag raiser Ira Hamilton Hayes, of exposure, at 32.</p> <p><b>1946</b>—President Truman, swearing in Rear Admiral Sidney Souers to head the Central Intelligence Group, presents him with a cloak and dagger.</p> <p><b>1935</b>—The first-ever canned beer [Kreuger] goes on sale in Richmond, Va.</p> <p><b>1692</b>—French priest Louis-Pierre Thury and hundreds of Abenaki raid York, Maine killing 100 and taking 100 hostage.</p>	<p><b>2005</b>—Conservative columnist Maggie Gallagher admits taking \$21,500 from the government for plugging Bush Administration proposals.</p> <p><b>2004</b>—Senator John McCain confirms to Vermin Supreme that Karl Rove dynamited the Old Man of the Mountain "in a fit of anger" over McCain's defeat of George W.[MD] Bush in the 2000 N.H. Primary.</p> <p><b>2002</b>—White House Counsel Alberto Gonzales advises the Bush Administration that it can ignore the Geneva Conventions.</p> <p><b>2002</b>—Veep Dick "Dick" Cheney asks Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle to limit investigations into the events of 9/11.</p> <p><b>1996</b>—Billy Bailey, the 19th of 23 children raised in a two-room shack, is hanged by the State of Delaware, the last American to go that way.</p> <p><b>1995</b>—Aides to notorious drunkard Boris Yeltsin, getting a message about a rocket test gone wrong, hand him Russia's "nuclear suitcase."</p> <p><b>1979</b>—At a Ford plant in Flat Rock, Mich., Robert Williams, 25, becomes the first human killed by a robot.</p> <p><b>1966</b>—An SR-71 Blackbird flying at Mach 3.2 disintegrates 78,000 feet above New Mexico, but test pilot Bill Weaver lives to fly again.</p> <p><b>1927</b>—J. Frank Norris of Fort Worth, a Baptist preacher who fatally shot an unarmed man, is acquitted of murder.</p> <p><b>1926</b>—In Passaic, N.J. 16,000 textile workers strike.</p>	<p><b>2015</b>—Another two feet of snow fall on Portsmouth.</p> <p><b>2006</b>—On Sunset Blvd., Joaquin Phoenix is rescued from his rolled, gas-reeking car by Werner Herzog.</p> <p><b>2005</b>—Gay hustler and accredited White House correspondent Jeff Gannon asks Pres. G.W.[MD] Bush how he can work with insane people like Harry Reid and Hillary Clinton.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—Britain's <i>Guardian</i> reports [falsely] that Air Force One was "stripped bare" in "an orgy of pilfering" by outgoing Clinton staffers.</p> <p><b>1998</b>—The Project for a New American Century sends a letter, signed by E. Abrams, J. Bolton, W. Kristol, R. Perle, D. Rumsfeld, &amp; P. Wolfowitz, to Bill Clinton, urging him to overthrow Saddam Hussein. He's busy denying he had "sex with that woman." Her name's Monica Lewinsky.</p> <p><b>1979</b>—Ex-Veep Nelson Rockefeller, 70, alone in his townhouse with 26-year old Megan Marshak, dies of a heart attack. An hour later his corpse is found by a security guard, five blocks away at Rockefeller Center.</p> <p><b>1943</b>—Famine-fighter, agronomist, and geneticist Nikolai Vavilov, imprisoned due to criticism from quack Trofim Lysenko, dies of starvation.</p> <p><b>1940</b>—R. Reagan marries J. Wyman in a chapel at Forest Hills Cemetery.</p> <p><b>1894</b>—Illinois drops George Painter. The rope breaks and he lands on his head. Bleeding profusely, he's hanged a second time for good measure.</p>	<p><b>2015</b>—It snows so hard in Portsmouth that mail carriers fail to make their appointed rounds.</p> <p><b>2008</b>—The NSA warns that a malfunctioning satellite as big as a bus is about to fall out of orbit.</p> <p><b>2005</b>—Veep Dick "Dick" Cheney wears a down parka and ski cap to an Auschwitz memorial ceremony.</p> <p><b>2005</b>—<i>Salon</i> reveals that hack writer Michael McManus has been paid \$10,000 to promote Bush programs.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—Eleven hours before a cease fire takes effect, an artillery shell makes Col. William B. Nolde the last official American combat casualty of the Vietnam War.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—White house "plumber" G. Gordon Liddy presents Attorney General John Mitchell with a plan to disrupt the Democratic Convention using "mugging squads, kidnapping teams, and prostitutes." The plan is rejected—because it's too expensive.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—Nixon's Palace Guard gets new uniforms: white with gold buttons and aiguillettes, topped by comic opera hats. They last two weeks.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—"How are we going to get to the moon if we can't talk between two or three buildings," asks Gus Grissom during an Apollo launch rehearsal, minutes before a fire kills him, Ed White, and Roger B. Chaffee.</p> <p><b>1957</b>—Martin Luther King's home is bombed for the second time.</p> <p><b>1820</b>—The Russian sloop <i>Vostok</i> makes the first sighting of Antarctica.</p>	<p><b>2008</b>—In his last (yay!) State of the Union speech, George W.[MD] Bush promises his budget will keep the U.S. "on track for a surplus in 2012."</p> <p><b>2004</b>—U.S. weapons inspector David Kay tells the Senate pre-war WMD intelligence was "almost all wrong."</p> <p><b>2003</b>—In his State of the Union, George W.[MD] Bush lies about tubes, viruses, alliances, and uranium to justify his next war.</p> <p><b>1998</b>—Born in 1889, the son of a man once enslaved, John Morton-Finney retires from his law practice at 107.</p> <p><b>1986</b>—Ronald Reagan's State of the Union is rescheduled; his <i>Challenger</i> applause line turned into a tragedy.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—Unocal drillers using sub-standard pipe cause a 100,000-barrel oil spill off Santa Barbara, creating an 800 square mile oil slick and an environmental movement.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—CIA head John McCone and FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover meet at U.C. Berkeley Regent Edwin Pauley's request and agree to provide Pauley with intel to make it appear that U.C. President Clark Kerr is a Commie.</p> <p><b>1944</b>—U.S. B-26s bomb a train on a bridge at Allerona, Italy. It's full of Allied POWs being evacuated from a prison camp; at least 400 are killed.</p> <p><b>1922</b>—The roof of the Knickerbocker Theatre in Washington, D.C. collapses under thirty inches of snow, killing 98 and injuring 133.</p> <p><b>1918</b>—Texas Rangers murder all 15 Hispanic residents of Porvenir.</p>	<p><b>2002</b>—Qassem Suleimani, Commander of the Quds Force—who had been considering a rapprochement between Iran and the U.S.—goes ballistic after George W.[MD] Bush's "Axis of Evil" speech. Also: Bush asks Senate Majority Leader Daschle to limit investigations into 9/11.</p> <p><b>1991</b>—"Our forces in the Gulf will not stay there one day longer than is necessary," says George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush.</p> <p><b>1979</b>—"I don't like Mondays," replies Brenda Spencer, 16, when asked why she shot eleven people, killing two, at a San Diego elementary school.</p> <p><b>1976</b>—The House, under Speaker Carl Albert [D-Okla.], votes to cover up the Pike Committee's report on the crimes of U.S. intelligence agencies.</p> <p><b>1925</b>—The sub <i>S-48</i>, enroute to the Shipyard, grounds itself off Jeffrey's Point, then again in Little Harbor.</p> <p><b>1912</b>—Anna LoPizzo, 34, is killed by a shot through the heart during the Bread and Roses strike in Lawrence, Mass. A cop probably did it, but anarchists are blamed.</p> <p><b>1889</b>—In an election featuring armed white men stealing ballot boxes, Congressional candidate John M. Clayton [R-Ark.] is shot through his boarding house window. He's declared the winner; the seat is left vacant.</p> <p><b>1863</b>—U.S. Army troops and Shoshone Indians clash at the Bear River in Utah. After the Shoshone run out of ammo, rapes and a massacre begin.</p>
8:35      8:59  8:35      8:59	9:26      9:47  9:26      9:47	10:22      10:39  10:22      10:39	11:22      11:36  11:22      11:36	12:26  12:26	12:37      1:31  12:37      1:31	1:39      2:34  1:39      2:34



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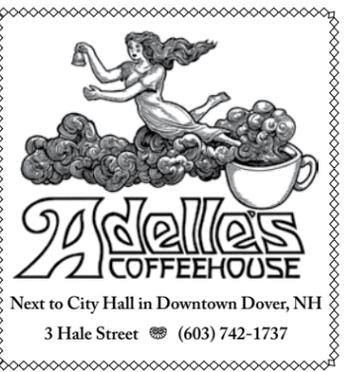


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