

The Fortnightly Rant

Let the Games Battle Begin

Typical run-of-the-mill media outlets are obliged by industry standards to employ quotes from accredited experts to convey even obvious statements of fact.

In our case, we are imbued with expertise as a consequence of our seniority. Therefore we can confidently proclaim *ex cathedra* that things have been rather grim of late.

The U.S. death toll from Covid hit another milestone on January 31st. Officially the total is now over 900,000. Omicron—the “mild” variant of Covid-19—took just 51 days to knock off the latest tranche of 100,000 Americans. That’s the equivalent of another 9/11 every 36 hours.

Awful as it is, that’s an understatement. *The Wall Street Journal*—no lefty rag—pointed out that the true death toll is nearly a million already, as calculated by the number of “excess deaths” since the pandemic began.

Every day NPR interviews health care workers, shell-shocked from treating an endless stream of patients dying of Covid after refusing the vaccine. Meanwhile, patients with cancer and heart disease go untreated. If that’s too depressing, of course, you can always switch to Fox “News,” where Covid only causes flu-like symptoms.

On the international news front, there’s an actual front between Ukraine and Russia. In this case, an actual expert opinion might be useful to determine the likelihood of World War III. Unfortunately, The Google has been unable to find us anyone in Las Vegas who has calculated those odds.

As is often the case with current events, these things aren’t so much news as they are variations on old themes. At last, though—and, coin-

centally, at least here in northern New England, just when it’s most needed, as the days finally begin to turn that cold corner and get longer rather than shorter—at least, and at last, we have something new to laugh at. We speak, of course, of the Republican Civil War.

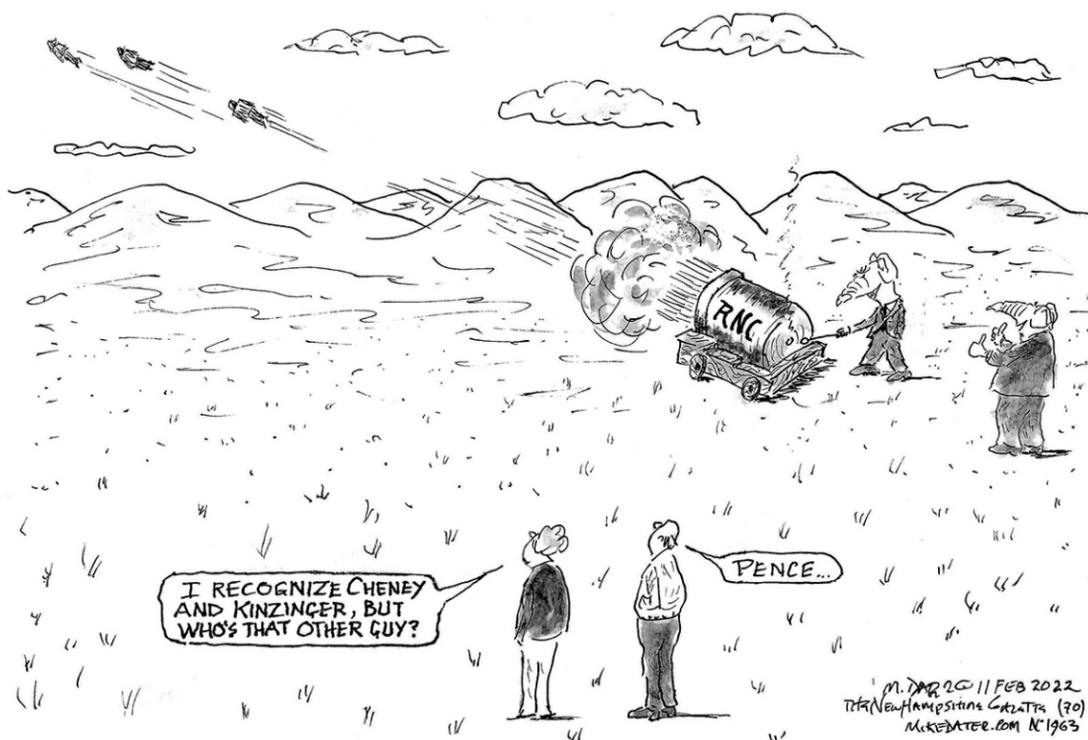
Last Friday Dolt #45’s very own Veep went to Florida and fired on Fort Mar-a-Lago. Somehow, a man who’s afraid to be alone in a room with a woman to whom he’s not married mustered the courage to appear before a gathering of the Federalist Society—the veritable Vatican of vetting for our Supreme Court—kissed the ring of its long-time leader Leonard Leo, and called out his ex-boss by name: “President Trump is wrong. I had no right to overturn the election.”

Granted, Pence did no more than speak the truth. Still, for a 21st century Republican, that’s the equivalent of a vampire in a Speedo sitting in the sun, quaffing holy water as he reads the Bible. Disdaining half measures, Pence also reiterated a previous heresy, calling January 6, 2020 a “dark day in the history of the United States Capitol.”

That same Friday the Republican National Committee made the battle lines clear. It excommunicated two Representatives for what it called behavior “destructive to the institution of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Republican Party and our republic.”

A rational but confused person might think from this language that the RNC was accusing errant members of beating up cops, breaking into the Capitol, smearing feces on the wall, and pilfering random whatnots. But nooo....

No, the RNC was charging Representatives Liz Cheney (R-Wyo.)



and Adam Kinzinger (R-Ill.) of participating in a “Democrat-led persecution of ordinary citizens who engaged in legitimate political discourse”—to wit, beating up cops, breaking into the Capitol, smearing feces on the wall, and pilfering random whatnots. The resolution passed by a voice vote in less than a minute.

Appearing in Texas the following day, the former guy, unsurprisingly, came down on the side of the smearers. He promised that if he is somehow elected—or perhaps appointed by the Supreme Court, or installed by the Proud boys through some other as-yet undreamed of process—“we will treat those people from January 6 fairly...and if it requires pardons, we will give them pardons because they are being treated so unfairly.”

To their credit, a group of former Republican big- and medium-wigs calling themselves the Renew America Movement quickly and boldly condemned the RNC “for

excusing the actions of men and women who battered police officers, ransacked our nation’s Capitol, called for hanging the Vice President of the United States, and sought to overturn a free and fair election.” The list included Anthony “Ten Day” Scaramucci, ex-Rep. Bob Dold, (not to be confused with the late Sen. Bob “Bob Dole” Dole, New Hampshire’s own ex-Rep. Charles Bass and ex-Sen. Gordon Humphrey, and noted hiker and former Governor of South Carolina Mark Sanford. Senator Susan Collins of Maine did not sign the manifesto, but did say she was deeply concerned by Trump’s promise of pardons. She even told ABCs “This Week” she would be “very unlikely” to support him if he runs in 2024.

The Civil War of 1861–1865 was famously tragic for scenes in which brother fought brother. The present GOP dustup has yet to match that, but the next Romney family reunion may be awkward. The RNC Chair who led the censure was Ronna Mc-

Daniel. Her uncle, Mitt Romney, chastised that action in Biblical—or Book of Mormonical—language: “Shame falls on a party that would censure persons of conscience, who seek truth in the face of vitriol. Honor attaches to Liz Cheney and Adam Kinzinger for seeking truth....”

It was on Tuesday, though, this whole kerfuffle got real. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell—the closest thing the GOP has to a brain trust—stepped up to slap down the RNC for censoring Cheney and Kinzinger. Now we know: this thing is on.

Perhaps some day in hindsight, none of this will seem so amusing. Surely it’s no joke that the divide between left and right in this country has made civil war such a common metaphor. But when push comes to shove within the ranks of the side that’s causing all the trouble...well, what can one say?

“Lay on, Macduff, And damn’d be him that first cries, ‘Hold, enough!’”

The Alleged News®

All Will Be Well...Maybe

An unrelenting barrage of distressing news can be bad for the digestion. We have therefore prepared the following bit of good news as an *apertif*.

Human tests may soon begin on a new technology designed to help people with paralysis regain independence through the control of computers and mobile devices. Specifically, this new device will enhance the ability of paralyzed people to “communicate more easily via text or speech synthesis, to follow their curiosity on the web, or to express their creativity through photography, art, or writing apps.”

That’s just the beginning. According to Neuralink, “As our technology develops, we will be able to increase the channels of communication with the brain, accessing more brain areas and new kinds of neural information. This technology has the

potential to treat a wide range of neurological disorders, to restore sensory and movement function, and eventually to expand how we interact with each other, with the world, and with ourselves.”

Sounds great, right? This technology has been tested on rats and monkeys. Recently the company, Neuralink, posted a job opening for a Clinical Trial Director to conduct human studies.

So, how does this work? Is it safe? “[S]afety has been at the core of the design process,” says Neuralink. “In particular, the Link includes technical innovations for improving the safety of the surgical procedure....”

“There is always risk associated with general anesthesia, and that risk is reduced by shortening the time of the procedure. The Neurosurgical Robot is capable of efficient

and reliable electrode insertion. Also, the robot is being designed to insert threads through a hole in the skull as small as 23 mm diameter. Combined with other advancements in robotic surgical tooling, this may allow us to eliminate general anesthesia and to implant the device under conscious sedation.”

In other words, a robot drills a .9-inch hole in your skull, connects a few wires to your gray matter, and bingo—you’re good to go. Not to get all reductionist, here, but how’d that work out for “Johnny Mnemonic?”*

We’re beginning to have second thoughts about this outfit. Who’s behind Neuralink, anyway?

Aha. Elon Musk, the man behind Tesla and SpaceX.

Associated Press, February 1: “Tesla is recalling nearly 54,000

cars and SUVs because their ‘Full Self-Driving’ software lets them roll through stop signs without coming to a complete halt.

Boston Globe, February 2: “We took a ‘self-driving’ Tesla for a spin in Boston. Here’s how it did. ... Pretty soon, things started going awry.” Artificial Intelligence seems an odd term for software that steers cars into snowbanks.

CBS News, February 8: “Dashcam video released to CBS 17 show the moment a Nash County deputy’s cruise was hit by a Tesla on autopilot in 2020.”

Space.com, February 4: “the coming SpaceX moon crash is quite different, marking ‘the first time that a human-made debris item unintentionally reaches our natural satellite....”

Good luck to Neuralink’s test subjects. Talk about “boldly going....”

* Granted, he did survive, but....

The Alleged News®

advocacy of any 'doctrine' or 'theory' promoting a 'negative' account of U.S. history, including the notion that the United States was "founded on racism."

"Additionally, the bill describes itself as designed to ensure teachers' 'loyalty,' while prohibiting advocacy of 'subversive doctrines.'"

Sargent refers to HB 1255. It would make explicit something that was already implied in a law that passed last summer. House Bill 2 inserted the following into New Hampshire law:

Section 354-A:29 - Right to Freedom from Discrimination in Public Workplaces and Education

I. The general court hereby finds and declares that practices of discrimination against any New Hampshire inhabitants because of age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, creed, color, marital status, familial status, mental or physical disability, religion, or national origin are a matter of state

concern, that discrimination based on these characteristics not only threatens the rights and proper privileges of New Hampshire inhabitants but menaces the institutions and foundation of a free democratic state and threatens the peace, order, health, safety and general welfare of the state and its inhabitants.

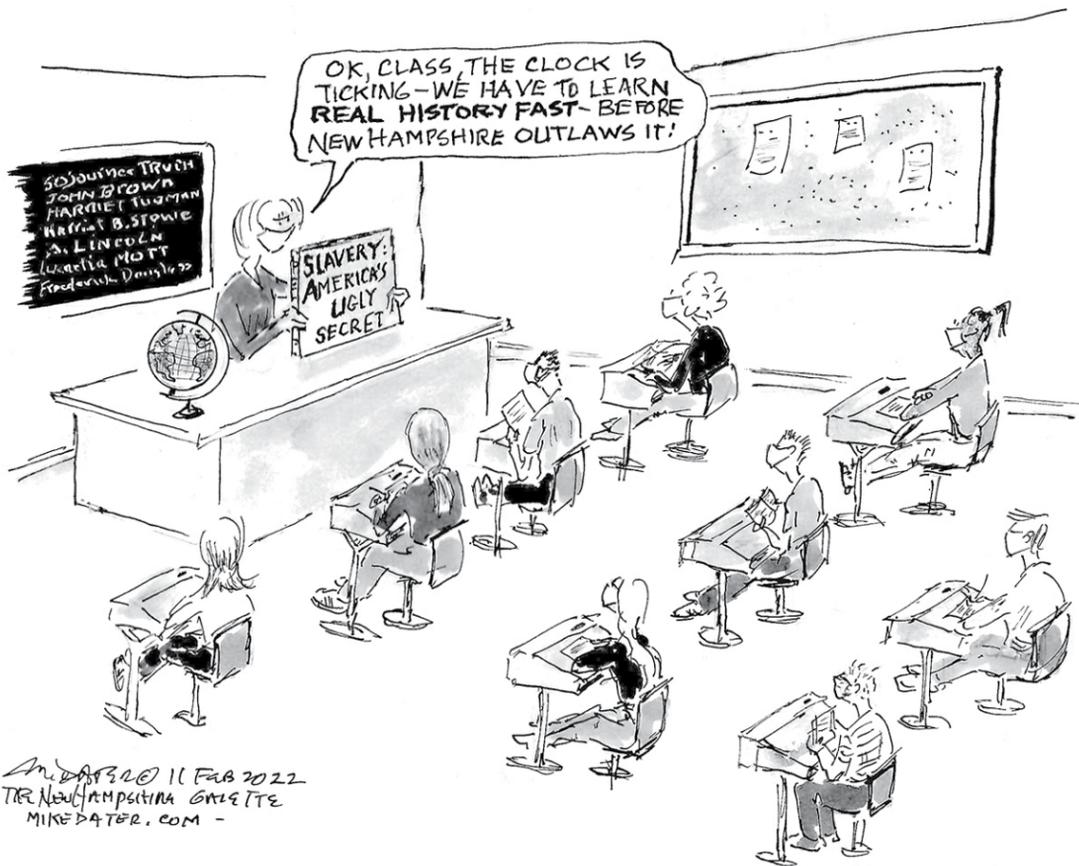
II. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to prohibit racial, sexual, religious, or other workplace sensitivity training based on the inherent humanity and equality of all persons and the ideal that all persons are entitled to be treated with equality, dignity, and respect.

III. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to limit the academic freedom of faculty members of the university system of New Hampshire and the community college system of New Hampshire to conduct research, publish, lecture, or teach in the academic setting.

So far, so what? All is sweetness and light here—what's the big deal?

Section 354-A:31 - Prohibition on Public Employers

No public employer, either directly or



With every landmark lost, this unique town is diminished. Invariably, the motive is money. But what shall it profit a community to increase its tax base, and lose its soul? According to the February 3rd edition of the Hollowed-Out Local Daily, this modest dwelling at 212 Woodbury Avenue will be the next distinctive edifice to fall in the name of "development." What, we ask, is wrong with it? Yes, the paint is peeling, the grounds are unkempt, and its style is, frankly, not very stylish. In fact it reminds us of Frank Jones's gauchly tarted-up mansion about a quarter mile up the road. For the record, we're not suggesting that this place should be lovingly restored. We like it as it is—as a sort of mememto mori.

through the use of an outside contractor, shall teach, advocate, instruct, or train any employee, student, service recipient, contractor, staff member, inmate, or any other individual or group, any one or more of the following:

I. That people of one age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, creed, color, marital status, familial status, mental or physical disability, religion, or national origin, are inherently superior or inferior to people of another age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, creed, color, marital status, familial status, mental or physical disability, religion, or national origin;

II. That an individual, by virtue of his or her age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, creed, color, marital status, familial status, mental or physical disability, religion, or national origin is inherently racist, sexist, or oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously;

III. That an individual should be discriminated against or receive adverse treatment solely or partly because

of his or her age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, creed, color, marital status, familial status, mental or physical disability, religion, or national origin; or

IV. That people of one age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, creed, color, marital status, familial status, mental or physical disability, religion, or national origin cannot and should not attempt to treat others equally and/or without regard to age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, creed, color, marital status, familial status, mental or physical disability, religion, or national origin.

Category Errors²

The problem with this new layer of legislation prohibiting discriminatory language—setting aside the little matter of the First Amendment—is this: lately some white people seem to think that they're the victims of racial discrimination. This trend seems to have begun with *Regents of the University of California v. Bakke*. Allen Bakke, a former Marine of-

ficer, applied to medical school but was rejected because, at about 33, he was considered too old. He also, according to one interviewer, "had very definite opinions which were based more on his personal viewpoints than on a study of the whole problem.... He was very unsympathetic to the concept of recruiting minority students."

Their big gripe seems to be—or purports to be—that some mean teacher might point at little tow-headed Jimmy—or Tucker—and say, "You! Yes, you! You rotten little WASP! You're personally responsible for the oppression of millions of enslaved Blacks, and of their decendants, down through the generations. You should feel bad about that for the rest of your days." So far we have not heard any reports of this actually happening. This is not the first instance, though, of conservative minds trying to use the law to solve a non-existent problem. The Salem witch trials and Joe McCa-

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Sometimes Old is Good

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

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rthy come to mind.

Race relations have been a hot topic in recent years, largely because cell phone cameras have made police killings of Black people harder to sweep under the rug. Black people seem to resent being shot, having to worry about being shot, and having to worry about friends and relations being shot. These concerns give rise to a legitimate question: "What is it about the American system that results in so many Black people getting shot, especially by cops?"

There is an obvious answer, of course, but it's controversial. Systemic racism explains the shootings, suffocations, deaths in the back of police vans, &c. It's controversial,

though, because some people are not convinced it's real. The trouble is, these tend to be the same people who don't want to hear the evidence that systemic racism is real.

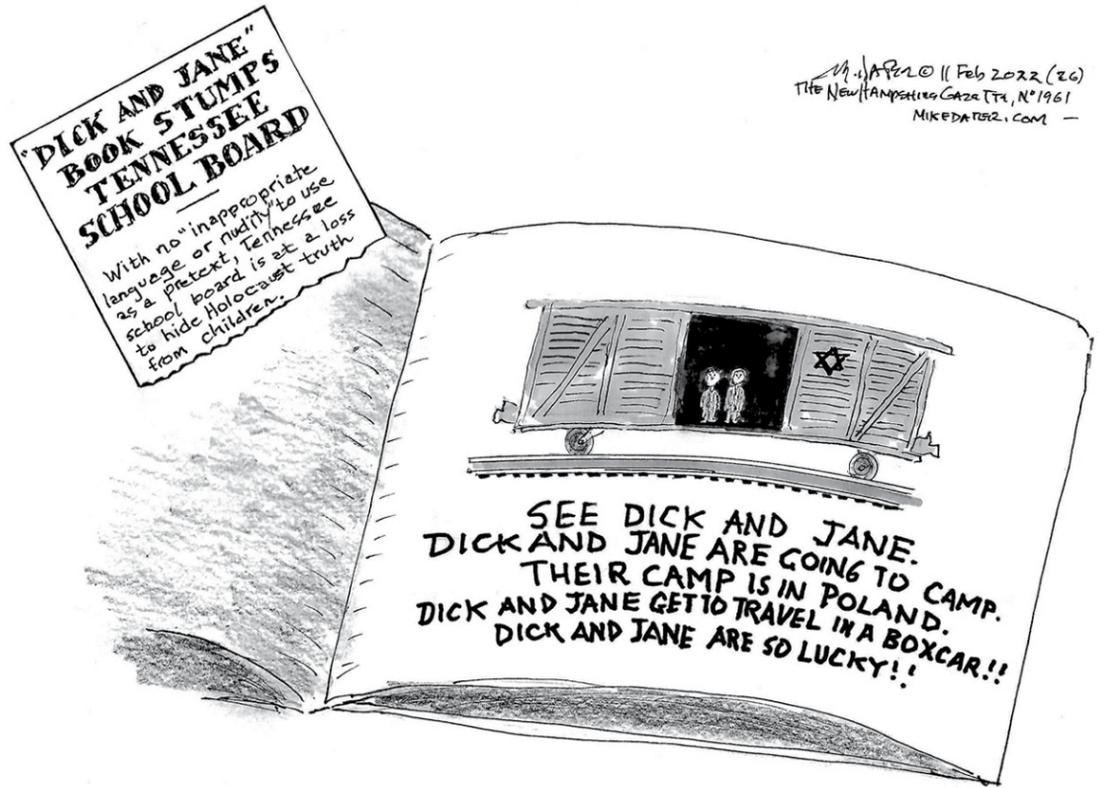
This subset of white people, well-represented in the New Hampshire legislature, seem to feel that making any sort of societal change to reduce, remediate, and make reparations for these shootings would be an undue imposition. They would apparently prefer that we worry about the feelings of little tow-headed Jimmy.

This is the most generous explanation we can come up with for this situation.

On the other hand maybe they're racists.



Shelly Angers, of the New Hampshire Department of Natural & Cultural Resources, has informed us that a Historical Highway Marker has been installed on Route 13 in Brookline near Lake Potanipo, a site where ice was harvested by the former Fresh Pond Ice Company. We're glad to hear it. Ice cutting, storage, and consumption is one of those now-obscure and obsolete customs that rattles pleasantly in our amorphous editorial awareness. Rummaging through our files we found this image, taken, we believe, by Robert Wild, the editor's uncle, in the 1940s. Pictured from left to right are Frank Fowle, Fred Hill Sr., and Robert Fowle—the editor's father. Frank and Robert are somethingth cousins by guess and by gorry. The other two figures, almost out of frame on the left, and in the distance on the right, are likely Maurice and Ermine Barnes. Fred owned a camp just out of sight on the shoreline. Naturally it was equipped with a one-holer; that necessary amenity bore a modest sign which read, "The Palace." Rounding out the improvements was an ice house. Planking inside and out allowed for about four inches of insulating sawdust. Decades before electricity became available, Fred and his friends enjoyed ice all summer long.



M. J. PETER © 11 Feb 2022 (26)
THE NEW HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE, N° 1961
MIKEDAT@21.COM —

Free Staters and School Choice

School choice is either the greatest thing since July 7, 1928—the day sliced bread was invented—or an obvious ploy to drain resources from the public school system until it withers away.

Now, finally, thanks to the Free State Project, we know which. Jeremy Kauffman, a member of the board of the Free State Project, can be heard on tape at <https://twitter.com/miscellanyblue/status/1488869650733707272> explaining how it works.

"You kind of go through school choice as like a steppingstone towards reducing or eliminating state involvement in schools. We did just get a very expansive school choice program. ... We got school choice here and the entire program is run by Free State, right? You can get up to \$5,000 a child and you fill out a form and say I want to spend it on this. And you can say anything. And then the person who decides whether you get that money or not is a Free Stater. And so maybe you reject it if

they want to spend it on something a Free Stater doesn't approve of, but if they want to spend it on something a Free Stater does approve of you approve it, right? This is the way you get in positions of power and exert your influence and continue to move things in the right direction."

Now, where's Governor Benson? Is Governor Benson in the audience? Step right up and take a bow, Governor. You deserve a hand—a backhand, maybe—for inviting the Free State Project to choose New Hampshire for its libertarian race-to-the-bottom game show.

And Governor Sununu? Are you lurking out there somewhere? Congratulations for recently co-authoring an article for the Cato Institute with Jason Sorens, the guy with the big brain who dreamed up the whole thing.

A Brief Note on Subscriptions

We regret to announce that we are not yet ready to resume the mailing of subscriptions. Every fortnight without a mailing doubles our hatred of anti-vaxxers. The best we

can do at the moment, however, is explain what we're waiting for.

First, we're waiting for the rate of daily infections to drop farther. The numbers are heading in the right direction, but they're still comparable to last December—too high.

Second, we're watching for increased availability of Paxlovid. When we do resume mailing we'll be taking every precaution, of course. Considering the age and health status of the mailing crew and the alleged editor, though, it would seem reckless to resume while this apparently effective remedy is just out of reach.

The Rebel Girl Says...

"I fell in love with my country—its rivers, prairies, forests, mountains, cities and people. No one can take my love of country away from me! I felt then, as I do now, it's a rich, fertile, beautiful land, capable of satisfying all the needs of its people. It could be a paradise on earth if it belonged to the people, not to a small owning class."

—Elizabeth Gurley Flynn

Murph's Fortnightly Quote

"When morality comes up against profit, it is seldom that profit loses."

— Shirley Chisholm (1924-2005)
U.S. Congresswoman (1969-1983)

"Being merciful, it seems to me, is the only good idea we have had so far. Perhaps we will get another good idea by and by—and then we will have two good ideas."

— Kurt Vonnegut

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"The young feel sorrows much more sharply than the old; the latter are nearer the safety exit."

— Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa, *The Leopard*

— Not-So-Random Thoughts from an Oregon Subscriber

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Time to Re-Brand the GOP

Dear *New Hampshire Gazette*,

The November elections are a referendum on the Republican Party. The party's never-ending efforts to undermine American democracy is *the* issue. We can talk about President Biden's success in reviving the economy, confronting the pandemic, restoring our image around the world, or standing up to Putin, but that is all secondary to the main event. The Republicans have finally erased any question about who they are with the head of the RNC declaring that the Trump-incited attack on the Capitol last year was "legitimate political discourse" (or as others in their party have purred: "They were really just tourists"). The Republicans are primed for a new name: The Sedition Party, The White Citizens Party, The New Fascist Party. Which do you prefer? I'm kind of partial to "The Traitor Party" myself.

Michael Behrendt

Durham, N.H.

Michael:

That works for us.

The Editor

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"Normal News" Media Still Failing Us

Dear Editor,

From Day One of President Biden's administration onward, the news media have filled us with speculation about who's going to run in 2024. Why aren't the media focused on what this duly-elected Administration is doing, instead of immediately looking to the next election, as if it were nothing more than a popularity contest?

Obviously, the extreme Right Wing media wants to promote trump's [*sic, passim*] lie that he didn't lose the 2020 election. But while Normal News media encase it in disclaiming words like "untrue assertion," they continue to repeat that lie.

Our trusted news sources are keeping trump's agenda alive in the minds of its audience; becoming the unwitting tool of trumpist propaganda. We don't need to speculate about who'll run in 2024 until 2023, but we do need to know what the Administration we elected in 2020 is trying to do now, and who is obstructing its agenda.

Bruce Joffe
Piedmont, Calif.

Bruce:

You make an excellent point.

"Normal News media..." We may have to borrow that in the future.

The Editor

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On Parole

Dear Editor,

N.H. HB1512, a bill to allow a parole hearing for individuals serving 25+ years, is currently before the House with a public hearing scheduled for February 2nd.

That individuals serving lengthy sentences are known to age-out of crime; that recidivism rates among this population returning to the community is miniscule; that the \$54,000 annual expense for incarcerating an individual in New Hampshire might be better spent on known effective justice improvements like youth diversionary programs, or victim services; are all good, pragmatic reasons to favor this legislation. If warehousing individuals with extreme sentences alone made us safer then we should have the safest nation on earth—sadly, we are not.

The "tough on crime" label is the sole property of no one. All of us, reform advocates included, want and need to feel safe in our homes and on our streets. Crime, especially violent crime, must be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. This bill is not about mercy but about accountability. It is about how we talk about and treat people who cause great harm, and begin to unwind an unsustainable and unwise policy of mass incarceration.

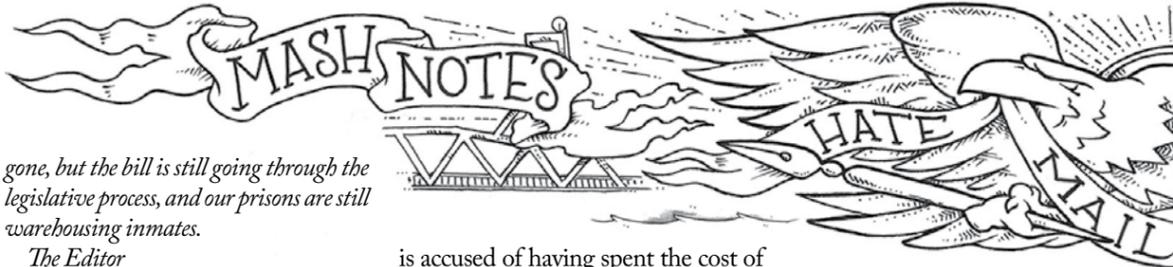
Not all who would become eligible for a hearing under this bill will be deserving of parole—discerning that is a job that I entrust to the professionalism of our parole board. But a hearing will provide the opportunity for an offender to make their case for how they have accepted responsibility, expressed remorse in word and deed, and undergone the personal transformation needed to never cause harm again.

Russell Roy

Manchester, N.H.

Russell:

The hearing you mention has come and



gone, but the bill is still going through the legislative process, and our prisons are still warehousing inmates.

The Editor

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The Alay Affair And The Honor Of France In The Catalan "Issue"

To the Editor:

Josep Lluís Alay is a history professor at the University of Barcelona who works as Office Manager for the president of Catalonia, Carles Puigdemont, who was illegally deposed by the Spanish government in 2017 following a self-organized referendum on self-determination for Catalonia. This was intended to force Spain to negotiate and provide a democratic outlet for the Catalan people's desire to exercise sovereignty with a referendum to determine the percentage of Catalans who wanted independence. Spain has refused to negotiate anything and is fraudulently using the judicial system to try to destroy a totally legitimate political movement.

As an emblematic example of the recurrent persecution of Catalan pro-independence activists, Alay is the subject of wild accusations. For example, the Spanish police allegedly discovered the preparation of an invasion of 10,000 Russian soldiers, supported by the Kremlin, to achieve Catalan independence. The incriminating evidence was a document recovered by the police that turned out to be a translation of a Russian espionage novel commissioned from Alay (who is very multilingual) by a Catalan publisher.

He was also arrested in Germany, at Spain's request, for accompanying Puigdemont on a return trip from Finland, without specific charges being brought against him.

What is more, Alay is accused of having travelled to New Caledonia at the invitation of pro-independence Kanaks as an international observer of one of the self-determination referendums held in the archipelago. He

is accused of having spent the cost of the plane ticket. This participation gave credibility to the referendum process in New Caledonia organized by the French authorities; therefore, they should consider Mr. Alay as their guest. For France's honour's sake, Alay should not be bothered on this account.

Another charge of embezzlement concerns a highway toll of 11 euros paid by Alay and charged to the Catalan government to visit Catalan political prisoners.

For these last two trips, the Spanish prosecutor is asking for 3 years in jail and 17 years of disqualification! This is reminiscent of the accusation against Puigdemont of embezzlement of public funds for the referendum, when the Spanish Minister of Economy, Mr. Montoro, admitted that he was sure that no embezzlement that could be attributed to Puigdemont had taken place.

It is ironic that Catalan leaders are being prosecuted for embezzlement of public funds in a country where it is common knowledge that the king and members of the royal family have embezzled public funds, demanded bribes for oil contracts.... If corruption were really the judge's concern, he should start with the Popular Party and the royal family. The reality is that the Spanish judicial system has abandoned impartiality and has put itself at the service of the unity of the homeland threatened by Catalan independence.

Tiago Douwens Prats

Fontenay-le-Fleury, France

Tiago:

On September 3rd, the New York Times published an article by Michael Schwartz and José Bautista headlined "Married Kremlin Spies, a Shadowy Mission to Moscow and Unrest in Catalonia," which suggests Josep Lluís Alay is

a catspaw for Vladimir Putin. Of course, we're old enough to remember when, not so long ago, the Times allowed itself to be used as a catspaw for Dick "Dick" Cheney, so, as always, caveat lector.

The Editor

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"I Did It!"

To the Editor:

Yes, I did it! But it's okay because I did it for you, the lovely American people and all your beautiful children.

Oh, and did I mention the \$122-million war chest I use as a cudgel to enforce "party loyalty"? And should those nasty socialist Democrats charge me with insurrection, count on my followers to hit the streets with guns blazing.

They say the best defense is a good offense, and when it comes to being offensive, nobody does it better than Donald Trump.

Now some pundits are predicting that, with his back to the wall, Trump's best survival strategy might be to confess to sedition before he's formally charged. They say no one is above the law, but \$122 million in bag money and the ability to incite widespread violence can buy you a lot of altitude.

At any rate, it's always best to start negotiations from a position of strength.

So, will Trump confess to his sins and short-circuit a formal grand jury probe? Incriminating sound bites pulled from his recent rallies suggest he might. The question then becomes, will the Biden Justice Department lock him up or wimp out and negotiate what should be non-negotiable in the name of "looking forward"?

Stay tuned.

Rick Littlefield

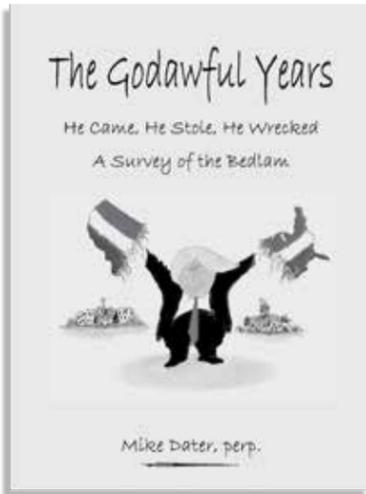
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Rick:

It's questions like this that make us re-

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alize just how little faith we have in the wisdom and courage of certain parties in a certain Party.

The Editor

Rigged Maps Mar Democracy

To the Editor:

Do your elected representatives care what you think? With maps currently proposed for New Hampshire's House, Senate and Executive Council Districts, elected representatives won't have to care. These maps keep districts safe for incumbents. No competition—no need to care!

New Hampshire was almost evenly divided in the 2020 presidential election: 49.8 percent Democratic, 50.2 percent Republican. Yet 15 of the proposed Senate districts heavily favor Republicans; only nine Senate districts lean Democratic.

Even more extreme, the Executive Council map favors Republicans four to Democrats one. Governor Sununu admitted on NHPR that the current Executive Council map, with its snake-like District 2, is visibly gerrymandered. He promised to veto any map that unbalanced. But the proposed new Executive Council map has made no changes!

When a district is "safe" for candidates of a given party, debate is not important. Ideas do not get scrutinized, candidates do not get vetted, voters realize their votes hardly matter. Less voter engagement, no competition between Democratic and Republican candidates, less competition of ideas—who will care about "democratic values"? And once a candidate is safely elected, there is less reason to listen to constituent concerns.

The only competition to expect—when districts have a clearly dominant party—is competition in the primaries between mainstream and extreme

candidates. We can expect greater polarization, more leaders elected from the extreme right or extreme left. We will have less possibility of collaboration or compromise.

Please urge your lawmakers to reject these rigged maps. Insist on new districts, fostering healthy competition.

Susan Richman
Durham, N.H.

Susan:

Thanks for so thoughtfully and specifically examining the pernicious effects of gerrymandering on our democracy. We feared you might give in to the temptation to deploy a certain true-but-backneyed cliché about who gets to pick what, but you did not. Well done!

The Editor

The Anti-Fact Rabbit Hole

To the editor;

Hope that the Biden presidency would restore civility and compromise in government and begin to heal the corrosive partisan divide has been dashed by the events of the past year. Even before Biden's victory had been confirmed, Donald Trump began spreading the "Big Lie" that the election was fraudulent. Using the lie as a pretext, he and his minions began a series of illegal maneuvers designed to overturn the election. These efforts culminated in the January 6th insurrection that nearly resulted in the violent overthrow of a Constitutionally valid election. Republican efforts to subvert the election process continue with bogus audits and legislation aimed at controlling state elections and suppressing minority turnout.

A rational person might expect that these activities would discredit Trump and his allies. This has not been the case within the Republican party where support for Trump remains strong. Recent polls indicate that over 60 percent of Republicans believe the

Big Lie as well as the outlandish conspiracy theories that have emerged to support it. Few Republican elected officials reject Trump's lies and most continue to seek out his favor as mid-term elections near.

There are a few explanations for the Republican disconnect from reality. Regarding the members of his base and a few legislators that actually believe in crackpot conspiracy theories such as those promulgated by QAnon, the only explanation is that they are cognitively challenged and lack the ability to think critically. Their drivel deserves to be fully discredited and assigned to the looney bin. The majority of Republicans, however, most likely retain the ability to think rationally. They have simply (hopefully temporarily) suspended their belief in fact-based reality in order to validate their membership in the Trump cult. To maintain membership in the Republican cult, homage must be made to a mythology that ratifies a series of fabrications regarding the validity of the election as well as the pandemic and the efficacy of vaccines. Both of these groups of Trump supporters are beyond persuasion by rational argument. The only hope for them is that their rejection of reality will eventually pass like a fever passes from a sick person.

The worst condemnation must be reserved for elected Republican legislators, most of whom undoubtedly understand fact-based reality yet have participated in the attempt to overturn a Constitutionally valid election and continue to support the prevarications of Trump supporters. Their primary motivation is to maintain political power and influence. Their failure to speak out is a rejection of their oath to defend the Constitution. They have revoked their right to hold elected office.

In the final balance, reality is a harsh and impartial selector. Mythologies and conspiracy theories do not sway its course as the thousands of unvaccinated patients overwhelming hospital

Covid wards attest. Complex problems such as dealing with a global pandemic, resolving the ravages of climate change and coming to terms with international threats require complex solutions which can only be achieved through a fact-based, rational process. Political mythology based on lies does not provide an effective base for formulating policies necessary for dealing with existential threats. The question is how far down the anti-fact rabbit hole will we go before reality-based thinking reasserts itself?

Robert D. Russell, Ph.D.
Harrisburg, Pa.

Robert:

How far? We shudder to think...

The Editor

Mom's Wisdom Misses the Mark

Dear Editor,

A well-intentioned Mom titled her opinion piece in a Wyoming newspaper, "Instead of molding kids, behold them."

This philosophy of child rearing suggests children are born with all the equipment they need to negotiate the treacherous terrain of the modern American world. Just let them be, and see what happens!

However, it turns out, kids are not quite like wildflowers. They don't just grow up straight and tall and beautiful in whatever rocky soil they find themselves in.

Human beings have a lot of moving parts that have to be trained to interact with the environment, including the complex institutions of society.

When we relieve children of proper parenting, of healthy schooling, of gainful work and dignity, they wilt and die like wildflowers pulled from the ground. Human beings are the neediest species on planet earth.

The soil for human wildflowers is history, law, science, and ethics/religion. Their sunshine is parental love. Their rainwater is good counsel, regular employment, and the opportunity to live out their dreams.

We've got a long way to go in America, and in Wyoming, before we can behold the beauty God intended our children to radiate. Beauty isn't

in the eye of the beholder; it's in the hands of the community.

Kimball Shinkoskey
Woods Cross, Utah
Kimball:

Interesting. We never expected to see this point of view come in postmarked "Utah."

The Editor

Nostalgic for a Functioning Democracy

Dear Editor:

Almost from the moment WW II ended we have watched in horror as one dictator after another forced their people into submission never imagining such a calamitous circumstance could occur in the United States of America.

The thought of that improbability is no more. Visions of our own leaders cowering under their desks in our own Capitol (the "People's House") a little over one year ago alerted us not just to the possibility but the likelihood we face a genuine threat from inside our own country.

We have viewed, *ad nauseam*, for over a year, the replay of what amounted to a presidential coup or (at the very least) a failed attempt to undermine the electoral process which many members of Congress seemed to have embraced even as it put their own lives in grave danger.

The former president sabotaged public confidence in our electoral process by making it clear long before the election was even held that he would not accept the results if he lost (one of very few promises he kept). His futile attempt to subvert the certification of the Electoral College results incited the deadly attack on the United States Capitol on January 6th, 2021.

Trump's activities surrounding the insurrection present religious leaders and Trump's Christian following quite a dilemma. They have to decide whether or not to endorse Trump's coup attempt, stand behind the "Big Lie," and foster his commitment to anti-democratic practices (which includes), an armed attempt to overturn

Mash Notes, Hate Mail, &c.

to page six

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from page five



the U.S. government.

Their alternative (obviously) is to recognize the true results of the election, support the orderly transfer of power in our constitutional democracy thereby acknowledging “God’s President” was a liar, a scam artist, and a major player in the attempt to overturn a free and fair election he lost by over seven million votes. Their decision is still pending.

For the rest of us, the nightmare is not over. We have every reason to be concerned—I defer to Barton Gellman, who succinctly declared in *The Atlantic*, “Technically, the next attempt to overthrow a national election may not qualify as a coup. It will rely on subversion more than violence, although each will have its place.” If laws being presently pursued by Republican legislatures across the U.S. are passed, ballots cast by voters will not decide the presidency in 2024. Votes could be discarded, the winner could be declared the loser and the loser certified president-elect. That will mark the end of American democracy.

In a functioning democracy (which many of us are old enough to recall having lived in) a grand-standing, opportunistic, narcissistic demagogue like Trump would have been long since judged a once-in-a-lifetime kind of miscreation and deemed most certainly unfit and unworthy of the exalted office of President of the United States. His ridiculous and corrosive lies distorting and demeaning everything that we once valued in America, and cherished by freedom-loving citizens around the globe, would be enough to disqualify and bar him from any political consideration.

However, somehow, for reasons yet to be entirely defined, Trump has managed (and in a relatively short period of time) to transform a once highly valued and principled political party into some kind of unethical, discredited, nonsensical cult.

Whether America and American democracy can (in a world as cha-

otic, unpredictable and demanding as ours) weather and outlast Donald Trump’s unparalleled assault on our way of life remains to be seen.

David L. Snell
Franklin, N.C.

David:

Your reference to remembering life in “a functioning democracy” takes us back...all the way to December 12, 2000.

The Editor

Teaching Critical Thinking

To the Editor:

As a young teacher searching for a job in education in the 1960s, I applied to be a substitute in Boston. I was asked to sign a loyalty oath, an oath to be “loyal” to the United States, and I wasn’t sure I should do it. (I did sign.) Now in New Hampshire, the loyalty oath is back in a different form. House Bill 1255 prohibits that any teacher *advocate* for “communism, socialism, or Marxism” among other provisions.

I taught high school for 12 years in Boston and Brockton, Mass. While I taught many subjects, *i.e.* history, English, and reading, I always thought I would be teaching some version of critical thinking. As a teacher of critical thinking, I did not advocate for any particular theory hoping that my students would learn to think for themselves. I thought it was important for my students to know about these theories, however, in order to make sense of the crazy world that we all are part of.

That included studying the events that gave rise to racism as well. To my surprise, the textbooks had only a paragraph or so about slavery. As a former public school teacher and then as a curriculum coordinator in New Hampshire, I never thought my students had been adequately informed. I believe it is unethical (to borrow a phrase from the bill) to keep our students uninformed about

these very important issues.

To members of the New Hampshire legislature, please vote against this bill.

Judy Ullman
Portsmouth, N.H.

Judy:

Good for you. Years ago we wrote that the widespread lack of critical thinking skills accounted for a good deal of this country’s problems. We noted then that it takes a brave teacher to encourage students to question authority.

The Editor

Street Justice

To the Editor:

Okay, I must be missing something. Can anybody please explain why Donald Trump and his conspiratorial band of election-stealing banditos still roam free? Shouldn’t the boys from Quantico be storming Mar-a-Lago, slapping on the cuffs, and frog-marching the Lord of the Manor off to Club Fed? When it comes to insurrection and treason, doesn’t “no” mean no?

Apparently not! According to the RNC, riots, insurrection, and treason merely constitute “normal political discourse.”

Fortunately, the RNC no longer speaks for all Republicans. Count Mike Pence’s recent speech to the Heritage Foundation as the opening salvo in what promises to be a rip-snorting power struggle between Trump’s insurrectionists and the rapidly emerging Oligarch wing of the party.

Yes, the Oligarch wing, backed by the Koch family, the Heritage foundation, and a growing legion of serious well-heeled conservative fundamentalists.

Why is Liz Cheney unconcerned about her RNC censure? Why is Chris Sununu openly spitting with Trump? Why is the formerly silent Mike Pence coming out with guns blazing? All are emboldened be-

cause the Oligarch wing promises safe harbor for uncomfortable GOP politicians and their well-heeled donors.

Ready for a Pence-Cheney ticket in 2024? The only major obstacle standing in the way is Donald Trump.

If I were Trump, I’d be worried.

In fact, Merrick Garland’s reluctance to issue a Trump indictment—one that could touch off a messy constitutional crisis—may be intentional. Perhaps the Biden Administration is waiting for the party’s right-wing powerbrokers to take care of the Trump problem in their own way.

Call it street justice in lieu of criminal justice.

Rick Littlefield
Barrington, N.H.

Rick:

We wonder if future generations will take time out from cursing us for our failure to act more decisively on climate change to ponder why we also let a gang of goons run roughshod over democracy. Then we realize that the app monitoring their productivity won’t give them time to think at all.

The Editor

Don’t Get Lumped In With the Whackos

Dear Editor,

San Jose is the first city to mandate gun owners carry liability insurance. Within minutes of the vote, a federal lawsuit was filed to challenge the ordinance.

“A well regulated militia” is the necessary condition upon which the 2nd Amendment enables and allows citizens to bear arms. Requiring gun owners to have liability insurance, in case their guns cause harm to others, is a reasonable regulation. Liability insurance, therefore, is a reasonable requirement of a well-regulated militia.

There is nothing unconstitutional in San Jose’s gun regulation. Responsible, law-abiding gun owners

risk being seen as extreme, crazy whackos when lawsuits are filed opposing such necessary regulation of lethal weapons.

Bruce Joffe
Piedmont, Calif.

Bruce:

We still can’t figure out why all these gun nuts aren’t required to muster with the National Guard one weekend a month. How else are you going to regulate a militia? And judging from some of the photos we’ve seen, the annual physicals are going to be a boot.

The Editor

“The Truth Will Out”

Dear Editor:

In 1983 we saw the TV movie “The Day After,” starring Jason Robards, about middle America (Kansas) devastated by a nuclear exchange. I was a high school teacher in Canaan. Our principal ordered us not to discuss the movie.

Every morning my students sat down and wrote for ten minutes about whatever was on their minds. They had all watched the gut-wrenching movie, so they wrote about that, then shared what they wrote. Rapidly the students’ cares arose. I especially remember their wonder about EMP, electromagnetic pulse, causing the highway’s cars to die.

It was eye-opening. The students paid attention to an engineering concept in the movie and wanted to understand. This comes to me now with HB1255, aiming to stymie inquiry.

Our principal thought he could lay down a law for the students and teachers. I saw that not work. Mother always said, “The truth will out,” as one cannot forever quell it. HB1255, if passed, will cause mockery of law-making and those lawmakers trying to quell truth, and inquiry leading to truth.

Lynn Rudmin Chong
Sanbornton, N.H.

Lynn:

We are reminded of King Canute, commanding the tide not to rise.

The Editor

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Does This Mean War?

by W.D. Ehrhart

The headlines these days are ominous.

“Russia warns of retaliation if its demands are not met.”

“U.S. allies are stepping up to counter Russia’s Ukraine threats.”

“Blinken: No concessions in response to Russia on Ukraine.”

“Will there be a war over Ukraine?”

It’s enough to keep you awake at night. Russia may no longer be the Soviet Union, but it’s still the original Evil Empire: unrepentantly aggressive, a bully, eager to needle the West at every opportunity, willing to risk war to achieve its selfish aims.

Or so our government and our mainstream media would have us believe. But once again—as Americans have always been so adept at—we ignore the facts in order to present ourselves as the righteously aggrieved.

At the end of World War Two, the Soviet Union quickly gobbled up all of eastern Europe, installing sympathetic governments and creating the Warsaw Pact. Proof positive of Communist aggression.

But during that war, the Soviet

Union lost 27,000,000 soldiers and civilians—more than half of all casualties suffered by all of the nations involved in that war. I am not for a moment arguing that Joe Stalin was a nice guy, but he was protecting his country from future depredations by a hostile West by making sure that the next time the West attacked Russia, they’d have to kill a lot of other people before they actually got to the Russians.

And then there was the Cuban missile crisis. Imagine the gall of those war-mongering Russians (okay, Soviets) to put nuclear missiles only 90 miles from our very shores. Talk about naked aggression. How much more blatant can you get?

Only years later did we learn that just prior to the Soviet introduction of missiles into Cuba, the U.S. had installed ballistic nuclear missiles in Italy and Turkey. So the U.S. is not threatening Russia with missiles on or near its borders; but when the Russians reciprocate, they’re obviously completely unjustified.

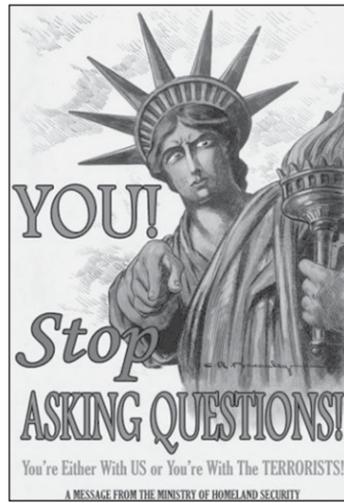
And what did Nikita Khrushchev ask for in return for removing the missiles from Cuba? Simply that the U.S. remove its missiles from Italy and Turkey. And he didn’t even demand that we admit we’d put

missiles there in the first place. So the American missiles were quietly removed while the whole dangerous affair was portrayed as a great American victory and proof that we could and would stand up to the Russian bully.

And that brings us to the current crisis. There is a good deal of disagreement as to whether or not the U.S. promised Russia, after the break-up of the USSR, that NATO would not try to expand to include former members of the Warsaw Pact. But promise or not, it must surely be unsettling to anyone living in Russia that NATO now includes three former Soviet Socialist Republics, all with borders on Russia, and six former Warsaw Pact nations, several of these bordering directly on Russia.

Once again, don’t mistake me. I am not saying that Vladimir Putin is a nice guy. But I’d like to know how Americans in general and the U.S. government in particular would respond if Russia signed a military alliance with Canada and Mexico. By way of NATO, we’ve already done much the same thing to Russia, and now we want to include Ukraine in NATO as well?

Moreover, what purpose does NATO serve these days? NATO



stands for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Turkey is in the North Atlantic? Albania is in the North Atlantic? And Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia? And then consider that nations like Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, and Turkey make American democracy look like the Golden Age of Athens.

I have no illusions, and certainly no expectation, that the Biden Administration will muster the courage to choose the sensible and reasonable course of action here: promise Putin that Ukraine will never be part of NATO in return for a Russian promise not to invade Ukraine.* After the pummeling Biden got for

ending our forever War in Afghanistan, I expect he feels enormous pressure to demonstrate that he’s really a tough leader who won’t back down from aggression.

And of course, if we do go to war with Russia, most of you reading this won’t actually be doing anything or going anywhere at all. It’ll just be that tiny little One Percent of our citizenry who will bear the blood price while the rest of us stand up and remove our hats for the Star-Spangled Banner at basketball games and hockey matches.

But I can tell you one bunch who are going to be really happy to see the U.S. and Russia go to war: that would be the Chinese. I just hope it doesn’t go nuclear.

*Here’s another fact few Americans know: ever since 1918, the Russians have never once broken any treaty they’ve signed with the U.S., though the U.S. has broken a number of the treaties it’s signed with the USSR/Russia.

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.

The deadly economic disease behind Covid-19

by Jim Hightower

In this horrible time of economic collapse, it is truly touching to see so many corporate chieftains reaching out in solidarity with the hard-hit working class.

We know they’re doing this because they keep telling us they are—practically every brand-name giant has been spending millions of dollars on PR campaigns in recent weeks asserting that they’re standing

with us, declaring over and over: “We’re all in this together.”

Except, of course, they’re really not standing anywhere near us. While we’re waiting in endless lines at food banks and unemployment offices, the elites are still getting fat paychecks and platinum-level health care. The severity and gross disparity of our country’s present economic collapse is not simply caused by a sudden viral outbreak, but by a de-

cadec-long plutocratic policy of intentionally maximizing profits for the rich and minimizing everyone else’s wellbeing. As the eminent economist Joseph Stiglitz rightly put it, “We built an economy with no shock absorbers.”

Jobs, once the measure of a family’s economic security, have steadily been shriveled to low-wage unreliable work, untethered to a fair share (or any share) of the new wealth that workers create. In a relentless

push for exorbitant, short-term profits, today’s executives have abandoned any pretense that a corporation is a community of interdependent interests striving to advance the common good. Instead, while the honchos are richly covered, they’re washing their hands of any responsibility for the health, retirement, and other essential needs of their workforce. “Rely on food stamps, Obamacare, and other publicly-funded programs,” they say,

even as their lobbyists and for-sale lawmakers slash the public safety nets so rich shareholders and speculators can take ever-more profit.

These forces of American greed have shoved millions of working families to the economic precipice—and all it takes is a virus to push them over.

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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, FEBRUARY 13	MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14	TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15	WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16	THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17	FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18	SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19
<p>2013—Justice Antonin Scalia goes to his final judgment.</p> <p>2008—The Senate tells the CIA to lay off the waterboarding.</p> <p>2007—An Al-Qaeda tape calls George W.[MD] Bush a drunk gambler.</p> <p>2002—Donald Rumsfeld's ex-assistant Ken Adelman predicts the Iraq War will be a "cakewalk."</p> <p>1991—A super-accurate, laser-guided U.S. bomb kills some 400 Iraqi civilians in a bunker in Baghdad.</p> <p>1983—Radicalized by anti-Semite Henry Ford, decorated WW II vet and anti-tax crank Gordon Kahl and his son Yorivon murder two U.S. Marshals and wound three other lawmen in a shootout near Medina, N.D.</p> <p>1981—Hexane gas illegally discharged from a Purina plant fills the Louisville, Ky. sewer system. A spark from a car causes two miles of sewer lines to explode. Purina denies liability.</p> <p>1968—Five soldiers are busted at Ft. Jackson, S.C.; they prayed for peace.</p> <p>1967—The National Student Association admits it's received \$3 million from the CIA over 15 years.</p> <p>1950—The crew of a burning B-36 jettisons its Mark IV A-bomb and bails out. With no plutonium core, it merely scatters 100 lbs. of uranium when it explodes over British Columbia. Five crewmen freeze to death.</p> <p>1837—Foco Loco Democrats protest rapidly rising food prices in New York City. Hundreds of barrels are liberated in the ensuing Flour Riot.</p>	<p>2016—A cargo jet linked to the CIA lands in Harare, Zimbabwe carrying 67 tons of South African currency and the decomposing body of a Blackman.</p> <p>2016—With wind blowing 20 m.p.h., and the thermometer at -13°, the wind chill in Portsmouth falls to -38°.</p> <p>2015—Another 18 inches of snow fall on Portsmouth, making nearly eight feet in under three weeks.</p> <p>2004—The White House releases some of George W.[MD] Bush's military records, but they fail to prove he was present for duty.</p> <p>1973—The first American POWs released from North Vietnam arrive at Travis AFB, Calif. [See tomorrow.]</p> <p>1971—Nixon's secret taping system is installed in the White House.</p> <p>1945—Forty U.S. B-17s intending to firebomb Dresden miss by 90 miles and hit Prague instead. Death toll: 701. Bomb weight per death: 433 lbs.</p> <p>1929—On St. Valentine's Day in Chicago, a cop asks Frank "Tight Lips" Gusenberg who shot him. "Nobody," he says, then dies.</p> <p>1879—Born into slavery, later escaping, Blanche K. Bruce [R-Miss.] presides over the U.S. Senate.</p> <p>1873—Eric Co. Sheriff and future President Grover Cleveland picks up a \$10 fee for hanging a man in Buffalo, N.Y. He botches the job, though: it takes John Gaffney 23 minutes to die.</p> <p>1349—A power struggle between gentle factions in Strasbourg results in a pogrom against Jews.</p>	<p>2001—Fox airs "Conspiracy Theory: Did We Land on the Moon?" Great.</p> <p>1989—After just a little over nine years in-country, quick-thinking Soviets pull out of Afghanistan.</p> <p>1988—Environmentalists, supporting striking workers, storm Int'l. Paper's Jay, Maine plant 10 days after scabs create a huge chlorine leak.</p> <p>1978—His first day at the Hillsboro, N.H. <i>Messenger</i>; our current editor is told, "Get over to Henniker; last night the cop shop was fire-bombed."</p> <p>1973—Nixon to Joint Chiefs: POWs' return is "an invaluable opportunity to revise the history of this War."</p> <p>1966—In place of Senate hearings on the Vietnam War, CBS shows reruns of "I Love Lucy." Fred Friendly, President of CBS News, quits in disgust.</p> <p>1962—"I support [JFK] to the hilt [in Vietnam]," says R. Nixon, "I only hope he will step up the build-up..."</p> <p>1944—Mistakenly believing that it's full of Nazis, Allies bomb the 6th c. monastery at Monte Cassino. Its historic treasures are OK, though, having been moved to the Vatican by Nazis in 100 trucks accompanied by monks.</p> <p>1898—The battleship <i>U.S.S. Maine</i> explodes in Havana harbor.</p> <p>1798—After Congress fails to reprimand Rep. Matthew Lyon (R-Vt.) for having spit tobacco juice in his eye, Rep. Roger Griswold (Fed.-Conn.) thrashes the ex-newspaper editor with his cane on the floor of the House. Lyon defends himself with fire tongs.</p>	<p>1982—Nancy Reagan says, via an aide, she'll no longer accept "loaned" threads from big name designers because she's "really...tired of people misinterpreting what she was doing."</p> <p>1978—The first computer bulletin board goes online in Chicago.</p> <p>1976—The <i>Village Voice</i> publishes excerpts from the House-suppressed Paper's Report; among other sins, the CIA, the FBI, and the NSA have been illegally spying on U.S. citizens.</p> <p>1964—A week after security in Saigon is "tightened," a V.C. bomb in an American movie theater kills three U.S. soldiers and wounds another 50.</p> <p>1962—A two-day anti-nuclear march on Washington begins.</p> <p>1959—Fidel Castro becomes Premier of Cuba.</p> <p>1938—Guy Stewart Callendar publishes a scientific paper (drawing in part on the work of F.E. Fowle) showing that mankind's carbon dioxide emissions are warming the planet.</p> <p>1916—Emma Goldman is busted for lecturing on birth control.</p> <p>1899—French President Félix Faure has a fatal stroke while being felled in his office in the Elysée Palace.</p> <p>1868—"The Jolly Gorks" change their name to "The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks."</p> <p>1848—The Women's Rights Convention is held at Seneca Falls, N.Y.</p> <p>1818—Charles W. Brewster begins his 50-year career as a Portsmouth, N.H. newspaperman.</p>	<p>2017—President Trump declares the press to be the enemy of the people.</p> <p>2015—A study finds that previous tallies of lynchings in the U.S. had under-counted by at least 800.</p> <p>2006—Harry Whittington apologizes to Dick "Dick" Cheney for having absorbed a face full of his birdshot.</p> <p>2003—Covert CIA agents grab Abu Omar in Milan, blowing an Italian surveillance program; 23 agents are later convicted of kidnapping.</p> <p>2000—"I hate the g...ks," Sen. John McCain tells reporters. "I will hate them as long as I live."</p> <p>1985—General William Westmoreland drops his libel suit against CBS. Apparently the network was right: he had covered up VC troop strength.</p> <p>1974—PFC Robert Preston takes a stolen Huey on a tour of D.C., landing in a hail of bullets on the White House Lawn. Superficially wounded, he smiles and laughs on the way to Walter Reed.</p> <p>1971—"The U.S. Army's top enlisted man is indicted for conspiracy to defraud enlisted men's clubs."</p> <p>1936—The Supreme Court rules that confessions obtained by police violence, i.e., relentless whipping when buckled leather belts, are inadmissible; the guilty verdict in question had been won by prosecutor and future Senator John Stennis [D-Miss].</p> <p>1864—The <i>U.S.S. Housatonic</i> becomes the first ship to be sunk by a submarine, the Confederate <i>H.L. Hunley</i>, which also sinks.</p>	<p>2012—Rep. Bob Morris [R-Ind.] says Girl Scouts use "feminists, lesbians, and Communists" as role models to promote a "homosexual lifestyle."</p> <p>2001—Robert Hanssen, a devout Catholic, exhibitionist, patron of strippers, and ex-FBI Special Agent, is arrested for selling U.S. secrets to the U.S.S.R., then to the Russians.</p> <p>1976—Jerry Ford accepts the CIA's word: if it breaks the law, it'll confess.</p> <p>1970—All of the Chicago 7 are found innocent of conspiring to incite riots; five are found guilty of crossing state lines to incite riots anyway.</p> <p>1962—"We are going to win in Vietnam," says RFK in Saigon. "We will remain here until we do win."</p> <p>1954—Ike's A.G. OKs a memo saying the CIA need not report criminal activity by its employees.</p> <p>1930—A majority of Congressmen are forced onto the wagon: their bootlegger, George Cassidy, aka "The Man in the Green Hat," is busted in a Prohibition Bureau sting.</p> <p>1916—Oscar Comery, who expected life in prison after confessing he'd poisoned his wife, is hanged in Concord, N.H. The jury changed its mind on learning he'd molested a child, too.</p> <p>1915—Pres. W. Wilson watches his first movie, also the first ever shown in the White House: <i>Birth of a Nation</i>.</p> <p>1820—"If you have a message you want to send to hell," screams Lavinia Fisher from Charleston, S.C.'s galleys, "give it to me, and I'll carry it!"</p>	<p>2009—Outraged that the government might assist mere homeowners, CNBC's Rick Santelli has a fit on the floor of the Chicago Board of Trade. His convulsions spawn a Tea Party.</p> <p>2000—"I understand small business growth," says George W.[MD] Bush, "I was one." A growth, we presume.</p> <p>1988—Prosecutors in Passaic County, N.J. drop the bogus case against Rubin "Hurricane" Carter after he'd been imprisoned for decades.</p> <p>1986—After due deliberation—37 years—Congress ratifies a UN treaty outlawing genocide.</p> <p>1975—Watergate burglar James W. McCord, Jr. admits that "basically, Martha [Mitchell]'s story is true"—she was abducted and drugged to cover up the break-in. Her abductor, Steve King, is later made ambassador to the Czech Republic by Donald Trump.</p> <p>1965—Protests against the Vietnam War are held in 30 U.S. cities.</p> <p>1964—The CIA informs the State and Defense departments that South Vietnam is making little progress against the Viet Cong.</p> <p>1948—Sen. Harry Byrd [D-Va.] says Truman is like Hitler and Stalin—because he supports civil rights.</p> <p>1945—In a Burmese mangrove swamp, several hundred Japanese soldiers are killed by crocodiles.</p> <p>1942—FDR puts 120,000 Americans into concentration camps.</p> <p>1847—Rescuers reach the leftovers from the Donner Party.</p>
<p>9:07 9:47</p> <p>2:44 3:31</p>	<p>9:51 10:27</p> <p>3:30 4:12</p>	<p>10:30 11:03</p> <p>4:11 4:49</p>	<p>11:06 11:37</p> <p>4:49 5:23</p>	<p>11:42</p> <p>5:26 5:57</p>	<p>12:10 12:18</p> <p>6:04 6:31</p>	<p>12:44 12:56</p> <p>6:44 7:08</p>
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20	MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21	TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22	WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23	THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24	FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25	SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26
<p>1950—Joe McCarthy delivers a five-hour, fact-free rant in the Senate; a four-month investigation ensues.</p> <p>1945—At Iwo Jima, Jacklyn "Jack" Lucas, 17, dives onto one live grenade and pulls another under him. One goes off, one doesn't. He sets off metal detectors until dying at 80.</p> <p>1943—Hollywood embraces Office of War Information censorship.</p> <p>1939—Fritz Kuhn, a German veteran of WW I and naturalized U.S. citizen, leads 22,000 people in a pro-Nazi rally at Madison Square Garden.</p> <p>1933—At least 20 top German industrialists meet secretly at Reichstag President H. Göring's official residence and conspire—yes, we said it—to raise funds to get Nazis elected.</p> <p>1893—After the Reading Railroad fails, the free hand of the self-regulating market reaches for the economy's throat and nearly chokes it to death.</p> <p>1815—Almost two months after the Treaty of Ghent ends the War of 1812, the <i>U.S.S. Constitution</i> captures two British sloops off the coast of Portugal.</p> <p>1792—The United States Post Office Department is established! Yay!</p> <p>1725—Captain John Lovewell's soldiers take 10 Indian scalps in Wakefield, N.H., which they later redeem in Boston for £100 each.</p> <p>1524—In Germany, Count von Iggleheim is stoned to death by a mob angry at his refusal to let them board a three-story ark he had built to escape a predicted apocalyptic flood.</p>	<p>2012—Caught by the Piscataqua's mighty current during construction of the New Memorial Bridge, the tugboat <i>Miss Stacy</i> nearly sinks.</p> <p>1975—"Original Dick" Nixon's three top goons, John Mitchell [ex-AG], Bob Haldeman, and John Erlichman, each get 2 1/2 years in the slammer for conspiring—yes, we used that C-word again—to do more than will fit here.</p> <p>1965—A week after his home was firebombed, assassins come for Malcolm X; his last words: "Brothers! Brothers! This is a house of peace." The FBI knew it was coming but didn't tell the NYPD which didn't care anyway. One assailant, not the killer, is jailed, along with two innocent men.</p> <p>1934—The U.S.-backed Nicaraguan National Guard assassinates rebel leader Augusto Sandino. Legend says his head is then delivered to D.C.</p> <p>1931—In Arequipa, Peruvian revolutionaries make Pan Am's Byron Rickards the first pilot ever hijacked; 30 years later he's hijacked a second time.</p> <p>1930—Witnesses faint and Arizona abandons hanging after "Cheerful Dugan" accidentally-decapitated head rolls across the floor.</p> <p>1922—The U.S. Army airship <i>Roma</i> crashes in Norfolk, Va.; 34 die in the nation's worst air crash so far.</p> <p>1437—King James I of Scotland, fleeing assassins, enters a sewer under his tennis court. Blocked by a grate he had installed days earlier to prevent tennis ball loss, he's stabbed to death.</p>	<p>2018—After jabbing him in the legs and groin for 2.5 hours, Alabama prison officials wheel cancer patient Doyle Hamm out of the death chamber alive.</p> <p>2004—A Pentagon document leaks: climate change may spell doom.</p> <p>1994—The FBI arrests a spy: CIA officer Aldrich Ames.</p> <p>1974—Samuel Byck, planning to crash an airliner into the White House, carelessly shoots the pilot before takeoff. He's then shot dead, too.</p> <p>1966—Barry Bondhus dumps human digestive byproduct on draft files in Elk River, Minn. He gets 14 months.</p> <p>1965—<i>The New York Times</i> calls the late Malcolm X "an extraordinary and twisted man [who turned] many true gifts to evil purposes."</p> <p>1965—Sam Lovejoy cuts down a weather tower for a proposed nuke plant in Montague, Mass.</p> <p>1945—On the House floor, Rep. John Rankin [D-Miss.] calls Rep. Frank Hook [D-Mich.] a Communist, whereupon Hook calls Rankin a "God damned liar." Rankin, 63 and 140 lbs., attempts to punch out Hook, 52 and 195 lbs., to little effect.</p> <p>1902—In the Senate Chamber, John McLaughlin [D-S.C.] calls Ben Tillman [D-S.C.] a liar, whereupon Tillman belts McLaughlin in the jaw.</p> <p>1838—Penn. amends its Constitution to take the vote from free Black men.</p> <p>1837—In the White House, Andy Jackson celebrates Washington's Birthday with a 1,400 pound cheese.</p>	<p>2016—GOP Senators deny Obama's Supreme Court nominee a hearing.</p> <p>2008—Because one maintenance crew fails to warn another that humid air confuses its sensors, a \$1.4 billion B-2 bomber crashes in Guam.</p> <p>2004—Rod Paige, U.S. Sec. of Education, calls the nation's largest teachers union a "terrorist organization."</p> <p>1974—Days after presiding over his paper's 100th birthday, and owing mobsters thousands, <i>Oakland Tribune</i> owner and ex-Sen. William Knowland (R-Calif.) shoots himself dead.</p> <p>1971—Lt. William Calley confesses to mass murder, and says his CO, Capt. Ernest Medina, ordered it.</p> <p>1942—The huge [356-foot] Japanese submarine <i>I-17</i> fires more than a dozen 5.5 inch rounds at the Richmond oil refinery near Santa Barbara, Calif.</p> <p>1922—Henri Landru is executed in France for having 11 wives. (Hadn't he suffered enough?)</p> <p>1915—The First Amendment doesn't apply to movies, say the Supremes.</p> <p>1868—In Great Barrington, Mass., W.E.B. Du Bois is born.</p> <p>1836—The siege of the Alamo begins.</p> <p>1775—"Give me liberty, or give me death," says Patrick Henry—maybe.</p> <p>1669—Diarist Samuel Pepys, visiting Westminster Abbey with his family, kisses and fondles Katherine of Valois, interred more than 200 years earlier.</p> <p>1455—In Mainz, Germany, Johannes Gutenberg gets started on the world's first big print job. It's a Bible.</p>	<p>2001—"My plan reduces the national debt, and fast," says G.W.[MD] Bush, "...economists worry that we're going to run out of debt to retire."</p> <p>1989—On United Airlines Flight 811 from Honolulu to New Zealand, nine are sucked out a hole in the plane.</p> <p>1988—Larry Flynt's right to portray Jerry Falwell losing his virginity to his mother in an outhouse while intoxicated is upheld by SCOTUS.</p> <p>1988—At 1:17 a.m., Capitol police carry Sen. Robert Packwood (R-Ore.) into the Senate chamber feet first to make up a quorum.</p> <p>1942—Turned away from Istanbul, <i>MV Struma</i>, a decrepit bulk carrying 791 Jewish refugees, is torpedoed by a Soviet sub. Sole survivor David Stolar, 19, lives to be 91.</p> <p>1942—Anti-aircraft guns in Los Angeles fire 1,400 rounds at a weather balloon. Three are trampled to death in the resulting panic and dozens more are injured.</p> <p>1922—Lewis Vernon Harcourt, 1st Viscount Harcourt and former British Secretary of State for the Colonies, commits suicide rather than face exposure as a pederast.</p> <p>1912—On orders from mill owners, Lawrence, Mass. cops beat the hell out of women and children for trying to get on a train to Philadelphia.</p> <p>1836—Rep. and N.H. native Jonathan Cilley [D-Maine], is killed in the 3rd volley of a rifle duel by Rep. William Graves [Whig-Ky].</p>	<p>2020—"We will not see diseases like the coronavirus come here," says Dolt #45's Kayleigh McEnany. "Isn't that refreshing when contrasting it with the awful [Obama] presidency...?"</p> <p>2011—"I do not believe Hanoi can hold up under a long war," says Gen. William Westmoreland.</p> <p>1953—Ike advises vigilance, lest communist teachers sneak propaganda into math problems.</p> <p>1913—The IWW's Paterson, N.J. strike begins; Concord, N.H.'s Elizabeth Gurley Flynn helps organize.</p> <p>1899—Londoner Edwin Sewell, 31, is the first driver to die in a wreck.</p> <p>1870—Hiram R. Revels (R-Miss.) becomes the first Black U.S. Senator.</p> <p>1837—In Vermont, Thomas Davenport is granted the first patent for an electric printing press.</p> <p>1836—Colt patents the six gun.</p> <p>1836—Joice Heth, formerly exhibited by P.T. Barnum as George Washington's 162 year-old "Mammy," is autopsied in New York City at Barnum's behest before 1,500 paying spectators.</p> <p>1643—Under orders from the Governor of New Netherlands, 120 Wecquaesgeek Indians are murdered in their sleep at Pavonia, near present-day Hackensack.</p>	<p>2020—"Within a couple of days, it's going to be down to close to zero. That's a pretty good job we've done."</p> <p>2019—Wawarsing, N.Y. cop Harold Nunuvero leaps a fence to escape a charging fox, trips, falls, and shoots himself in the bulletproof vest.</p> <p>2015—Sen. James Inhofe [R-Okla.] proves global warming is a hoax—or perhaps something else—by brandishing a snowball in the Senate.</p> <p>2003—Saddam Hussein tells interviewer Dan Rather he would like to debate George W.[MD] Bush on TV.</p> <p>1993—A truck bomb explodes beneath the World Trade Center in NYC; six are dead, 1,000 injured.</p> <p>1991—George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush inherits the U.S. has been supporting the Khmer Rouge.</p> <p>1974—A Senate report finds close ties between Ford Motor Co. and Nazis.</p> <p>1972—Pittston Coal's cheap-jack dam on Buffalo Creek in West Virginia collapses killing 118, injuring 1,121, and leaving 5,000 homeless. The company ends up paying less than \$15,000 per casualty.</p> <p>1970—NPR incorporates.</p> <p>1954—Buzzing the courthouse in Huntingdon, Tenn., U.S.A.F. Lieut. Jack Jenkins pulls up too hard. The wings of his C-119 fall off; four on board die, two on the ground are hurt.</p> <p>1860—Egged on by the local paper, whites massacre about 150 Wiyot Indians, mostly old men, women, and children, in Humboldt County, Calif.</p>
<p>1:38</p> <p>7:26 7:47</p>	<p>2:02 2:24</p> <p>8:12 8:31</p>	<p>2:47 3:14</p> <p>9:03 9:19</p>	<p>3:37 4:12</p> <p>9:59 10:13</p>	<p>4:34 5:16</p> <p>11:01 11:13</p>	<p>5:38 6:26</p> <p>12:08</p>	<p>6:46 7:36</p> <p>12:19 1:16</p>

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