

The Fortnightly Rant

Is Stochastic Homicide A Crime?

The good news is that everybody's worried. They should be. The bad news is that a third of the country is having a connoption over fictional problems.

That would be all right if those people would stick to tradition by sitting back and doing nothing. Our rule of thumb here in the office is that half of all real problems solve themselves without intervention.* You can't say it doesn't work—we're still here in our 266th year.

But *noo*—millions of people are so cranked up that they're bound and determined to fix what ain't broke—and many of them think guns are the right tool for the job.

Glocks and AR-15s are not tools, though—the tools are the fools toting them around in public.

Now, that last clause just violated a couple of tenets held sacred by all the nation's best J-schools. Not only did we express an opinion, we insulted one-third of our potential readers.

We would argue, in response, that when the house is on fire and people are trapped inside it's perfectly OK to knock the god damn door down.

Hyperbole, you say? If only... Our problem is choosing which catastrophe to use as an example. The potential second term of an obnoxious former president who staged an *autogolpe* his first time around? The minority party now holding Congress hostage, hell bent on the eradication of democracy? Perhaps the unending litany of climate stories featuring scientists uttering some version of "it's much worse than we thought"? Each of these calamities is being exacerbated by the way it gets reported.

In fact, given the way the news racket runs, it's a wonder so many of us are still alive.

* With fake problems, our success rate approaches one hundred percent.

Of course, nearly one million of us aren't. That's how many Americans Covid has killed so far. And—how can we say this without courting a libel suit?—we suspect that a reasonable person might conclude that one or more of those deaths could fairly be laid directly at the feet of Murdoch's Fox "News"?

Nearly a year before Covid hit, Wayne H. Merritt wrote to us about Stochastic Terrorism, offering this definition: "the use of mass communications to incite lone wolves to carry out unpredictable violent acts." The practitioner is "someone who is certain that their inflammatory rhetoric will stir up violence but does not know exactly what will happen or who will do it, or where or when."

Throughout the pandemic, Fox has been a fount of misleading twaddle. The network has a mandatory vaccination policy, but its so-called "talent" routinely casts doubt on vaccine efficacy. Impeccably attired bimbos and himbos have filled the screen all day and night, eroding the best science available to humanity.

Sitting atop this dungheap of lies and inanity are the terrible twins of TV, Tucker Carlson and Sean Hannity. We'll know we live in a just world when these birds have each been charged with a hundred thousand counts of stochastic homicide—aggravated stochastic homicide, considering their displays of depraved indifference to human life.

Many of their victims had surely been avid members of their audience. Some wretched souls—certainly not us—will take ironic satisfaction in that.

Let us remember, though, when these martyrs to disinformation still wandered among us, unmasked and unvaccinated, they surely managed to infect some unknown number of innocent victims.



The Original Gangster in this prolonged massacre is, of course, The Former Guy. His administration's general ineptitude gave the virus a boost right out of the gate. Then the Leader of the Cult put it into overdrive by dismissing the danger it presented.

Dolt #45 doesn't seem to have the mental horsepower to design and coordinate any complicated policy—not even one that screws things up. Neither do Carlson or Hannity. But don't worry, that's not a problem—that's what propaganda mills are for.

Enter the American Institute for Economic Research [AIER], a "nonpartisan research and education nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization focused on the importance of markets," which "educates people on the value of personal freedom, free enterprise, property rights, limited government and sound money." In other words, it's a cabal of libertari-

an free-market fetishists. They hang out in a huge stone "Cotswold 'cottage'" in the Berkshires, which sits on a greensward the size of Rhode Island. [*Free market megalomaniacs are suckers for big stone buildings. See the photo on page seven. —The Ed.*]

In October, 2020, AIER issued its Great Barrington Declaration. Isolate the vulnerable, it said, and let everybody else live without precautions. Open up everything and go about your business, people—it's time for herd immunity. Or, as virologist Greg Gonsalves calls it, "culling the herd of the sick and disabled."

The Declaration is named after the Massachusetts town where AIER hangs out. It has a population of 7,172. Covid is currently killing that many people every 3.9 days.

Various countries around the globe proved that by taking a serious approach to prevention, the virus could have been kept under far

better control. Americans, of course, scoff at such displays of weakness.

Moreover, our advertising industry has inculcated in us a pathological perceived need to have whatever we want, right now, regardless of the consequences. Speaking of weaknesses...

Thanks to denial, crackpot schemes like "herd immunity," and self-indulgence, this thing just kept on rolling—and mutating. Delta appeared in mid-April 2021, and there went everyone's hot wet summer. Omicron showed up around December, so everyone had something to give to their relatives for the holidays.

If the disgruntled minority were ever to decide *en masse* that the time had come to lock and load, they could certainly cut a broad swathe through the rest of us.

It's hard to conceive, though, how they could kill as many with bullets as they already have with the virus.

The Alleged News®

Some Good-Ish News For a Change

A bipartisan bill passed the House last week by a vote of 342 to 92. Yeah, you read that right. Congress passed a bill, and by a very healthy margin.

All 222 Democrats voted "yea" on the Postal Service Reform Act, and 120 Republicans voted "yea" with them; 92 Republicans chose instead to meet our low expectations.

Among other things, H.R. 3076 "repeals the requirement that the USPS annually prepay future retirement health benefits." That means \$57 billion just got subtracted from the Postal Service's \$200 billion in liabilities.

As the *Washington Post* opined, though, "This overhaul is not a panacea for all the Postal Service's ills."

To improve the bill's chances, Democrats abandoned provisions to protect mail-in voting. Funny how

Republicans would balk at protecting democracy...

There had been language in the bill that would have steered the USPS towards electric delivery vehicles. That got nixed, too. Who needs a future when you're trying to go in the opposite direction?

Had it not been for Sen. Rick Scott [R-Fla.], the bill could have zipped right over to the Senate, where 14 Republicans are said to be in favor. The House initially sent the Senate the wrong text. Majority Leader Chuck Schumer asked for unanimous consent for a quick legislative fix. Rather than acquiesce, Scott chose to grandstand for a while.

CNN quoted Schumer saying, "It's regrettable and it's sad. There's good news though. Even though this will delay the bill, we will pass

it. We will have to just go through this elaborate process, the old fashioned and often discredited rules of the Senate that the Senator from Florida's employing. We'll have to use them. But we will pass this bill because America needs it."

Scott became the Chairman of the Republican National Senatorial Committee on January 1st, and he's apparently feeling his oats.

Last month reporters asked Mitch McConnell what the Republicans would do with Congress if they take it back in 2022. "That is a very good question," he replied. "And I'll let you know when we take it back." In other words, why should we warn you peons about your fate?

Scott didn't get the message. Yesterday he released a 21-page memo full of bad news for everybody—himself and McConnell included.

"An 11 Point Plan to Rescue America," it's titled, "What Americans Must Do To Save This Country." Next comes a quote: "Americans deserve to know what we will do when given the chance to govern.—Rick Scott".

It's a slap to McConnell's face, but otherwise it's a perfectly reasonable statement. Then, though, we suddenly get a good look at what goes on in Scott's enormous bald dome.

"The militant left now controls the entire federal government, the news media, academia, Hollywood, and most corporate boardrooms—but they want more. They are redefining America and silencing their opponents." Wow—it's dark in there. And not exactly reality-based.

Among the Scott Plan's zany provisions: Raise Taxes on the Poores. No kidding: "All Americans should

pay some income tax to have skin in the game," the Plan says, "even if a small amount. Currently over half of Americans pay no income tax."

Uh...woops.

As MSNBC's Steve Benen reports, "Scott apparently felt the need to clean up the mess, so he sat down with Fox News' Sean Hannity last night. 'Did you see Chuckie Schumer saying that your plan is to raise taxes on more than half of Americans?' the host asked. 'I didn't see that in your plan. Did you have that in your plan? Was it in invisible ink in the copy that I got? Because I didn't see that.'"

Scott denied his Plan said what it said, and Hannity accepted that as gospel.

The Alleged News®

DeJoy Accused of Exploiting Loophole to Buy Gas Trucks

by Jake Johnson

Did the U.S. Postal Service purposely calculate the weight of its new delivery vehicles at 8,501 pounds so as to skirt anti-pollution regulations by a single pound?

Watchdogs are leveling that charge after the Environmental Protection Agency revealed that the USPS—led by major Trump donor Louis DeJoy—assigned its forthcoming fleet of largely gas-powered trucks a weight rating “a mere pound over the threshold for light-duty vehicle efficiency standards,” which are more strict than those pertaining to heavier vehicles.

As *Motherboard's* Aaron Gordon reported Tuesday, “If the vehicles weighed just one pound less, they wouldn’t be permitted on American roads because they pollute too much.”

“According to [the Postal Service’s] environmental review of the procurement, the new gas delivery trucks have a curb weight of 5,560 pounds and a payload of 2,941

pounds, for a combined vehicle weight of 8,501 pounds,” Gordon wrote. “That is almost double the weight of the current USPS delivery vehicle.”

“However the USPS and Oshkosh Defense, the manufacturer, came to calculate the payload at 2,941 instead of 2940, it was an incredibly important pound,” Gordon added. “If the trucks had a gross vehicle weight of just .01% less, the delivery fleet would almost certainly have to be electric to meet the EPA’s new fuel efficiency standards.”

Katherine García, director of the Sierra Club’s Clean Transportation for All Campaign, told *Motherboard* that she suspects an “intentional” effort by the USPS to dodge climate regulations.

Another commentator described the Postal Service leadership’s use of the loophole as “supervillain stuff.”

At issue is the Postal Service’s multibillion-dollar contract with the Wisconsin-based company Oshkosh Defense, which the mail agency has tapped to produce its Next Generation Delivery Vehicle fleet of up to 165,000 new trucks starting in 2023.



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Environmentalists and Democratic lawmakers have voiced outrage over the contract in recent days, arguing it runs directly counter to the Biden administration’s effort to transition to zero-emission government vehicles.

The agreement with Oshkosh Defense currently includes an initial order of just 5,000 electric trucks, a small fraction of the total fleet.

DeJoy has characterized the order of a largely gas-powered delivery fleet as a “fiscally responsible” decision, pointing to the mail service’s long-strained finances and arguing that an all-electric fleet would be too costly.

On Tuesday, the House passed legislation that would relieve some of the agency’s financial burdens, but the final bipartisan bill excluded a provision that would have provided the USPS with \$6.5 billion to purchase electric trucks.

The USPS had previously suggested that a portion of the gas-powered vehicles could be converted to electric in the future, but García told *Motherboard* that such a

move “would be even more expensive than moving forward with an electric fleet to begin with,” pointing to recent research detailing how 97 percent of the current aging postal fleet could be replaced with electric vehicles “at a lower total cost of ownership...than comparable gas and diesel vehicles.”

Under pressure from environmentalists to play “hardball” over the contract, the Biden administration has urged the Postal Service to put its deal with Oshkosh on hold—but the USPS doesn’t appear inclined to do so.

As the *Washington Post* reported Tuesday, it is “likely” that “environmental groups will sue the Postal Service over the contract” if it moves forward as planned.

“However, litigation could drag out for years,” the *Post* noted. “And postal trucks are built to stay on the road for at least 20 years, unlike their private-sector competitors or other international post offices. That means the first trucks that roll off the Oshkosh assembly line next year could be on the roads in 2043 and

beyond.”
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Physicians Warn Russian War On Ukraine Risks Global Nuclear “Catastrophe”

by Jake Johnson

A renowned organization comprised of U.S. and Russian physicians warned late Tuesday that a military conflict involving the two powers in Ukraine risks a nuclear “catastrophe” that could have horrific effects on all of Europe—and potentially the entire planet.

In a new statement, nuclear energy specialists joined members of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW)—a coalition of medical groups that won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1985 for its non-proliferation work—in noting that while Ukraine does not possess nuclear weapons, it does maintain more than a dozen nuclear power reactors that could be in the line of fire should the current situation descend into all-out war.



A week ago yesterday, in dim light and busy traffic, this badly battered banner called out to the Flag Police. They may be patrolling less these days, but their vision is undimmed. What drives these defenders of the dignity of a designated bit of cloth? Their motto: “Eternal vigilance is the price of upholding the fetishization of material objects which symbolize the values of a purported republic in the absence of any perceptible functionality.”

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Linda Pentz Gunter, founder of the advocacy group Beyond Nuclear, said a conflict in Ukraine could result in a disaster on par with—or even worse than—the devastating 1986 Chernobyl reactor crisis.

“No matter the genesis, the cause, or who started what, the reality remains that there are 15 operating nuclear reactors in Ukraine that, if conflict breaks out there, could be in peril,” said Gunter. “If the reactors find themselves amidst a conflict or war, they cannot simply be abandoned by the workforce. This makes the prospects of a war in Ukraine all the more alarming, and the imperative to avoid this all the more urgent.”

Additionally, physicians voiced concerns that the present crisis could ultimately escalate to the use of nuclear weaponry. While the U.S. and Russia—which together control more than 90 percent of the world’s nuclear arsenal—signed a joint statement earlier this year affirming that “a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought,” the military doctrines of both nations allow for the first use of nukes in conflict.

“If even a single 100-kiloton nuclear weapon exploded over the Kremlin, it could kill a quarter of a

million people and injure a million more, completely overwhelming the disaster response capability of the Russian capital,” said Dr. Ira Helfand, co-president of IPPNW. “A single 100 kiloton bomb detonated over the U.S. capital would kill over 170,000 people and injure nearly 400,000.”

“But it is unlikely that an escalating nuclear conflict between the U.S. and Russia would involve single warheads over their respective capitals,” Helfand added. “Rather it is more likely that there would be many weapons directed against many cities and many of these weapons would be substantially larger than 100 Kt.”

Over the weekend, Dr. Olga Mironova—a cardiologist in Moscow and president of IPPNW’s Russian affiliate—led an emergency discussion focused on the health impacts of a potential nuclear war involving the U.S. and Russia, which have roughly 6,000 nuclear warheads each.

The physicians’ dire warnings came as tensions between Russia and the West continued to grow in the aftermath of President Vladimir Putin’s decision Monday to send troops into breakaway regions of



eastern Ukraine—a move that the U.S. and European countries met with a barrage of economic sanctions.

Citing Russia’s deployment of troops into Ukraine, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced late Tuesday that he canceled his planned meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, a potential blow to diplomatic negotiations that peace groups say are the only way to step back from the brink of war.

In recent weeks, observers have lamented how little attention the possibility of a nuclear conflict has received from political leaders and the press relative to the threat it poses. Further heightening peace advocates’ concerns was Russia’s recent staging of nuclear drills, exercises that included practice launches of intercontinental ballistic missiles.

“Of all the obvious dangers that come with war, one of the most far-reaching in the current Russia-Ukraine conflict has been woe-

fully underappreciated. Even if commanders took pains to avoid striking Ukraine’s 15 nuclear power reactors, that might not be enough to avoid a catastrophe,” Bennett Ramberg, an expert on nuclear weapons, wrote in an op-ed for *Project Syndicate* last week.

“The reactors present a daunting specter. If struck, the installations could effectively become radiological mines. And Russia itself would be a victim of the ensuing wind-borne radioactive debris,” Ramberg observed. “Were a reactor core to melt, explosive gases or belching radioactive debris would exit the containment structure. Once in the atmosphere, the effluents would settle over thousands of miles, dumping light to very toxic radioactive elements on urban and rural landscapes. And spent nuclear fuel could cause further devastation if storage pools were set afire.”

But Dr. Barry Levy, a leading expert on the health consequences of military conflicts, stressed Tues-

day that even if a nuclear disaster is averted, “much death and illness could occur among noncombatant civilians from explosive weapons, population displacement, and damage to hospitals and clinics, water treatment plants, and the food supply system” in the case of a conventional war.

“As a result, children and pregnant women would suffer from malnutrition, more infants would be born prematurely, and more women would die during childbirth,” said Levy. “More people would contract communicable diseases, including Covid-19. More older people, who comprise more than one-sixth of Ukraine’s population, would develop complications of heart disease, lung disorders, and diabetes. And many Ukrainians would suffer from depression and posttraumatic stress disorder.”

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What is so rare as a balmy Saturday, February 12th? The Square was warm and aswarm with people, taking advantage of the opportunity in various ways. These buskers put on a concert and collected money for Gather, the Seacoast food pantry—singing for someone else’s supper.

Murph’s Fortnightly Quote
 “They can be counted on to tell us who our enemies are, But they’re never the ones to fight or to die.”
 — Jackson Browne (1948-) from “Lives in the Balance” (1986)

“The economic insecurity of today induces repression for two reasons. It puts fear into the hearts of governments, and fear drives out tolerance.”
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“If a political party does not have its foundation in the determination to advance a cause that is right and that is moral, then it is not a political party; it is merely a conspiracy to seize power.”
 — Dwight D. Eisenhower, March 6, 1956, to the Fourth Annual Republican Women’s National Conference
 — Not-So-Random Thoughts from an Oregon Subscriber

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We Cannot Go Back

by Oge Young

The House Judiciary Committee listened to public testimony on five abortion bills and a constitutional amendment last week.

One bill (HB 1181) would allow any male to claim to be the biologic father of an unborn child and petition the court for an injunction prohibiting the woman from having an abortion. The claim would be made prior to any scientific evidence of paternity and with no penalty for a false claim. It would delay a termination of pregnancy four to six weeks, making the procedure more complicated and less safe. Rep. Majorie Smith importantly asked if the bill guarantees the father's support of the baby and mother. It does not.

A second bill (HB 1625) would repeal the "buffer law" prohibiting protesters from entering or remaining on a public way adjacent to a reproductive health facility. This law has been in effect since 2014, protecting patients and their providers. It also protects the facility. Attacks on reproductive health clinics continue to escalate. A Planned Parenthood in Knoxville, Tennessee, was destroyed by arson two months ago.

Finally, on February 9th, Judiciary heard testimony on HB 1477, prohibiting abortions after detecting a "fetal heartbeat." A vaginal ultrasound can identify an electrical impulse (not a heartbeat) five to six weeks following the first day of a woman's last menstrual period or three to four weeks after conception, a time when women do not know they are pregnant. This bill is similar to the Texas abortion law that essentially bans all legal abortions.

The next day, there was testimony on a bill (HB 1673) that would fully repeal the controversial 24-week abortion ban law, enacted January 1st. The ban passed and was signed by our Governor as an amendment to our state budget HB 2. Representing New Hampshire obstetricians on the gen-

eral council of our New Hampshire Medical Society, I can tell you no physician in this state terminates normal, healthy pregnancies at 24 weeks. The law serves no purpose.

Unfortunate consequences of this law prohibit women from terminating a pregnancy when there is death of the baby (intrauterine fetal demise) or when there is the diagnosis of a lethal fetal anomaly made after 24 weeks. In these tragic circumstances, obstetricians are able to provide an early termination of the pregnancy. A woman carrying a dead baby can develop a serious coagulation disorder (disseminated intravascular coagulation) resulting in the death of the mother. It is unsafe and inhumane that New Hampshire has a law prolonging these pregnancies, which are extremely difficult situations.

The law also criminalizes physicians (Class B felony) with a fine of \$10,000 to \$100,000 and incarceration up to seven years. Criminalization has the potential of dismantling our state's superb maternal-fetal medicine health care system by creating an environment deterring obstetricians and, in particular, maternal-fetal medicine and neonatology sub-specialists from practicing in our state. New Hampshire has had the second lowest perinatal mortality rate in the country for years.

Finally, the law mandates that a woman have an ultrasound prior to an abortion. Ultrasounds are expensive, invasive, and unnecessary. For all these reasons the "24-week ban on abortion" law does no good and has potential to create great harm.

Also, on Feb. 10, there was testimony on a bill (HB 1674) and a state constitutional amendment (CACR 18) that would ensure women in New Hampshire have access to safe, legal abortions, regardless of what happens nationally. The amendment would prohibit the state from "infringing upon or inconveniencing the right to reproductive medical decisions." If adopted, the right to make personal



reproductive medical decisions would be guaranteed by the New Hampshire Constitution. It was a long and grueling, but important, two days of testimony.

Before closing, let me share one short story: Years ago as a third-year medical student at St. Paul Ramsey County Hospital, I admitted a young woman who presented with vaginal bleeding, fever/chills, and hypotension. She confessed to having had a botched back-alley abortion days before. We gave her IV fluids and the best antibiotics we had at the time and then took her to the operating room, where we removed a perforated uterus full of infection. That day, I witnessed a classic septic abortion, so common in the era prior to the U.S. Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision in 1973.

This young woman was an honor student and star of her high school basketball team. To this day, I can clearly see her face. When I asked if she had informed her parents, she confided that her father was responsible for the pregnancy. She said she would rather die than tell her mother she was pregnant. Unfortunately, she died two days later.

In almost 40 years of practice, I never saw another woman with an illegal septic abortion. During this time, women had access to legal, safe, elective terminations of pregnancy. We cannot go back. Lawmakers, who know nothing of a woman's life, should not have a voice in her health care decisions, particularly when it comes to her pregnancy. Let us not substitute politics for compassionate care.

Dr. Oge Young is a retired obstetrician and gynecologist who practiced in Concord for 35 years. He is the past president of the New Hampshire Medical Society. This item originally appeared at NewHampshireBulletin.com. We republish it here under the terms of Creative Commons license CC BY-NC-ND 4.0.

VVAW Statement on Ukraine

By Vietnam Veterans Against the War
February 15, 2022—In our 55 years as an organization, Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW) has witnessed way too many preludes to war. We know first hand the consequences and devastation of imperial wars.

As we write this, the Biden administration has returned to out-dated Cold War protocols. We are disheartened by this. We had hoped the botched pull out from Afghanistan was a lesson learned. But now the pattern of arrogance and aggression continues.

VVAW calls out Russian aggression as well as NATO militarism. The world and the U.S. need to move beyond the saber-rattling and towards alternative methods of internationalist support and conflict resolution.

Just as VVAW supported the self-determination of the Vietnamese people, we support the rights of the Ukrainian people to determine their own destiny, free of outside influences and threats.

The escalating situation is a sad, shabby attempt at rekindling the burnt-out embers of 20th Century nationalism. The desperate strongman of an exhausted superpower versus a declining, nostalgic president, desperate for a remembered enemy.

Ukrainians, Russians, citizens, soldiers—all will pay the price of their leaders' war-mongering. Working people are paying the price already, watching, fearing the moribund dance of the decaying giants. No one is really in control. No one will be held responsible. The one inescapable truth is that the poor and working people will pay, first in dollars, and perhaps soon, in blood.



Stop This Monkey Business

To the Editor:
 A month ago, a truck transporting a hundred macaque monkeys from New York to a quarantine facility in Florida was involved in a traffic accident. The monkeys, packed in wooden boxes, were thrown from the truck; three escaped. Once found, the three were shot and killed by the police. How the other monkeys fared in the accident was not reported.

The monkeys are from the island nation of Mauritius. They were going to a quarantine facility to precheck for any diseases or viruses they might be carrying before being used for research. The officials who purchased the macaques have not released information about the monkeys that survived the accident. A passerby stopped at the accident out of concern. She looked in one of the boxes, later became ill, and was awaiting test results for monkey-borne diseases!

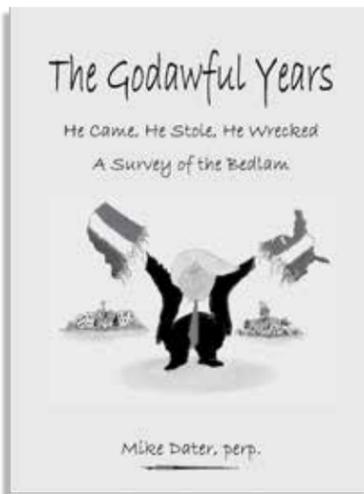
Have we learned nothing from Covid-19 and other animal-borne diseases that have jumped to humans, such as we also witnessed with Ebola? There are alternatives to using animals in research that are much safer and would cost the taxpayer less money. Imagine how much money it costs to purchase a hundred monkeys, fly them to the U.S.A., and then house and quarantine them for several months before possibly using them for research.

It is time to stop exploiting, confining, and in most cases torturing animals for research. We need to transition to only non-animal research. Please support organizations that are working towards that goal. If we leave the animals alone, they will leave us alone.

Linda Dionne
 Raymond, N.H.

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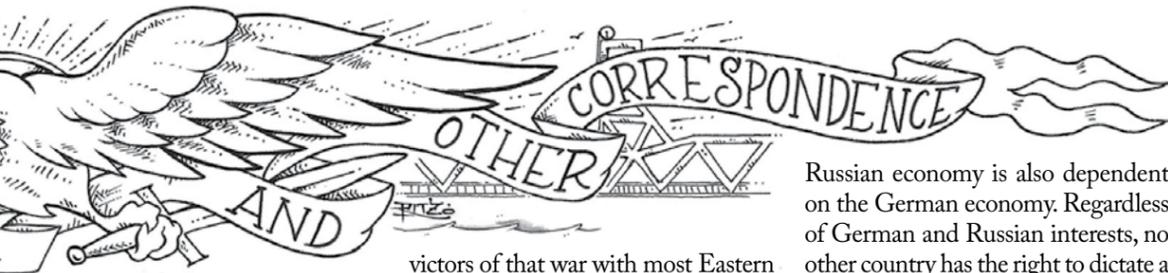
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Linda:
Thank you, we think, for informing us of a threat to human health about which we had previously been blissfully unaware.

Not only are we at risk from loose lab monkeys, we're at risk from monkey shines inspired by them. The Poynter Institute's Politifact found it necessary to fact check some knucklehead's online speculation that the CDC might have staged the accident to provide cover for "releasing the next bioweapon."

The most effective bioweapon known to man at this point is exactly that sort of brainworm.

The Editor

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Ukraine Should Decide About NATO Membership

To the Editor:

As a regular reader of the *New Hampshire Gazette*, I have greatly appreciated the contributions from W.D.Ehrhart. Almost all of the time, I am in complete agreement with him, and often he sheds new light for me on issues that I did not know. However, I do disagree with him on his recent piece regarding the Ukraine crisis and the role of Russia.

Full Disclosure: I was born in Budapest, Hungary, in 1950 during the reign of Joseph Stalin and my parents emigrated with their children to the U.S.A. in 1956 after the Hungarian Revolution against the Soviet Union. Nonetheless, I am not a blind anti-communist. In fact for more than 30 years I worked as a case worker in the organization of Amnesty International to obtain the release from prison of "Prisoners of Conscience" worldwide.

It is important to remember some of the circumstances that existed after WW II, as Mr. Ehrhart mentioned. After that war, the countries of Europe were divided among the

victors of that war with most Eastern European countries assigned to the authority of the Soviet Union (e.g. Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and East Germany). These countries as well as those under the authority of the French, British and Americans were promised that at a latter time they would be able to democratically elect their own governments. This did happen in Western Europe, but not in the Eastern European countries controlled by the Soviet Union. When in 1989 the Berlin Wall came down, and the Soviet Union withdrew from Eastern Europe they agreed to respect the sovereign rights of those countries, including their right to decide whether they wanted to join the NATO or any other alliance of their choosing. It is too bad that Russia does not like to have NATO countries on its borders, but Eastern European countries did not like to be occupied by the Soviet Union either.

That NATO saw such a dramatic increase in membership is no mystery to anyone who had lived in the East block countries. They wanted to ensure that Russia would never again control the fate of their country, but that their citizens have the final say. Neither the U.S.A. nor any other country has the right to dictate to another sovereign country, what is allowed or not.

Mr. Ehrhart may be right about the Soviet Union/Russia adhering to treaties that they have made with the U.S. However, Russia is notorious for breaking many promises and treaties with other countries and leaders, when it is convenient for them.

I personally do not believe that Russia really wants a war over Ukraine. The condition of the Russian economy is marginal, with their only real export product being gas and oil. Yes, Germany has become somewhat dependent on Russian fossil fuels, however, the

Russian economy is also dependent on the German economy. Regardless of German and Russian interests, no other country has the right to dictate a decision to Ukraine.

State Rep. Peter Somssich
Portsmouth, NH

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"Legitimate Political Discourse"

Dear Editor:

Ever since the Republican National Committee (RNC) declared that the violent events of January 6, 2021 represented "legitimate political discourse," I have been trying to comprehend the full anti-democracy sentiment it expressed. How could one of the two major political parties in America openly admit that they support the violent overthrow of democracy in the name of "legitimate political discourse?" Would the RNC also consider the bombing of the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, or the attack on Fort Sumter, or Kristallnacht (The Night of Broken Glass) in 1938 Germany "legitimate political discourse?"

In my opinion, any political party or any of its members who subscribe to the claim that the events of January 6, 2021 represented "legitimate political discourse" should be disqualified from nominating candidates or holding any political elected office. The Republicans represented by the RNC have forfeited their right to hold political office, since holding political office requires them to take an oath to protect and defend the Constitution, an oath that is inconsistent with their belief that what happened on January 6, 2021 was "legitimate political discourse." What took place that day was a violation of and an attack on our Constitution and our Democratic Republic.

The events of January 6, 2021 were anything but "legitimate," and were in no way a form of "political discourse." It was clearly a violent insurrectionist mob bent on overturning a legitimate

election, an assault on police, and the threatening of members of Congress and the Vice President. It was nothing less than a failed violent coup attempt incited by Donald Trump and his allies.

The Republican Party, in declaring that the events of January 6, 2021 represented "legitimate political discourse," has forfeited any claim to be a Party that supports the Constitution, the rule of law, or the basic principles on which this nation was founded. They no longer represent "the loyal opposition," they can now only be referred to as a disloyal, destructive cult.

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

Rich:

On good days we like to think that any day now Merrick Garland and the FBI are going to round up a few thousand of these lunatics and charge them all under the RICO statute. Then we remember all the times we've had similar hopes in the past. We're not suggesting that despair is the answer. It never is. The answer to every problem begins with facing it squarely, just as you have done here. The challenge of our time is to right our capsize ship of state.

The Editor

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An American Newt-Mare

To the Editor:

Somewhere in America resides a charismatic leader possessing great intellect and wisdom. A person whose optimism is more infectious than Covid and more uplifting than an Atlas booster. Kennedy 2.0 without the warts.

Clearly that individual isn't Newton Leroy Gingrich, godfather of permanent-minority rule and co-author of the Republican Party's latest "Contract with America" manifesto.

Yes, the GOP is charging up the paddles in hopes of reviving the only politician on Earth arguably more toxic than Donald Trump.

So, watch out all you nasty witch-hunting socialist wolves. Once Republicans regain control, Newt promises to reclassify you as sheep and toss you into the "pen"—right along with Hillary.

How bad might it get? With Pence out of favor and Trump headed for Club Fed, I'm betting the GOP's Machiavellian mad dog will emerge from his crypt ready, willing, and able to sign on as Donald's replacement.

Hope you're not eating when you read this.

Rick Littlefield
Barrington, N.H.

Rick:

Ab, for the good old days, when political hopes revolved around a better-functioning, more equitable society. Now we're reduced to hoping we won't be sent to some gulag in Georgia—again. Eight weeks of Basic in Fort Jackson was enough.

The Editor

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Take Action on Carbon

To the Editor:

See signs of climate change? There's less snow this winter, we've had several heavy rain events, but mostly New Hampshire has been spared the devastating tornadoes, wildfires and droughts attacking other parts of the country with increasing ferocity.

It's not easy to talk about something this drastic or seemingly remote. (Consider "Don't Look Up.") But there are options and good ideas for controlling carbon emissions linked to climate change. Let's talk about them now!

Uh-oh. The New Hampshire House might pass HR17, "opposing all federal and state efforts to establish a carbon tax on fuels..." Why cut off an option? We're paying for fossil fuels now. Medical costs due to fossil-fuel caused air pollution and extreme temperatures now exceed \$820,000,000,000 annually in the U.S.

A carbon fee can help families. Carbon fees collected can be rebated to every household as a monthly check. Families spending this new income would create 210,000 new jobs annually. "Border Carbon Adjustments" would protect U.S. manufacturers from overseas companies without a carbon fee. No wonder a carbon fee has been endorsed by over 3,600 U.S.

Mash Notes, Hate Mail, &c.

to page six

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

To learn more about memorials and what else we choose to remember go to PortsmouthGenome.org Join the conversation. A Portsmouth Peace Treaty Forum project.

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HUD-VASH is no longer accepting donations of used furniture, &c. The Homeland Heroes Foundation in Salem, N.H. does: homelandheroesfoundation.org.

HUD-VASH does have a dedicated fund for purchasing new items veterans may need. Donations to that fund may be sent to The VA Medical Center, 718 Smyth Rd., Manchester, N.H. 03104-7007. HUD-VASH should be included on the subject line. Every penny will go into home goods for veterans.

For more information, contact:
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Befriending My Winter of Discontent

by Jean Stimmell

Wandering through life for the last 76 years, I've wintered in various places: from cruising the rivers of Vietnam to laying water lines in the frozen sand of Cape Cod to vacationing off-grid in New Mexico at 7200 feet. But this Winter has been unique, spending six weeks at the Hope Lodge in Boston, an excellent refuge run by the American Cancer Society, accommodating folks like me undergoing chemo and radiation treatment. Here at Lodge, we are quite a club: forged by our common affliction, we combat the noxious side effects of cancer treatment with humor and compassion.

Due to the combination of Covid, plus our lowered immune system, we stay locked down with no visitors allowed, which is fine with me. Hibernating in winter has long been my choice, like the bear in Finnish mythology, who hunkers down in winter hoping to be reborn in the spring.¹

That coincides with what Katherine May says in her well-received book, *Wintering*: If I befriend this cyclical rhythm, I can "emerge from the coldest season of the soul not only undiminished but revitalized."² Rainer Maria Rilke wrote similarly about winter as the season for tend-

ing to the inner garden of the soul: "Suddenly to be healed again and aware that the very ground of my being—my mind and spirit—was given time and space in which to go on growing."³

While it's fine and dandy for Rilke to putz around in his literary garden, my flesh and blood garden feels like it has been plowed under by a John Deere tractor. Of course, it's all for a good cause: the proton radiation machine combined with toxic chemicals is designed to break up and kill the malignant clots in my soil, the first step in promoting healthy new growth.

No one said it would be easy. According to May: "wintering's" not just a cold season, but "a fallow period in life when you're cut off from the world, feeling rejected, sidelined, blocked from progress, or cast into the role of an outsider."

For May, her winter of discontent began after a series of family crises piled on top of a long history of depression. The only way she was able to pull through—while, at the same time finishing her book—was by recognizing winter for what it was: "Winter is the time of withdrawing from the world, maximizing scant resources...and vanishing from sight; but that's where the transformation occurs. Winter is not the

death of the life cycle, but its crucible."⁴

She had some tricks up her sleeve: "When I started feeling the drag of winter, I began to treat myself like a favoured child: with kindness and love...I kept myself well fed and made sure I was getting enough sleep. I took myself for walks in the fresh air and spent time doing things that soothed me."⁵ I'm doing the same. Plus, having Russet here to tend to me has been a godsend.

But it is no cakewalk. In May's words, "wintering is usually involuntary, lonely, and deeply painful." It's about riding on the roller coaster of nature's whims. Sometimes I live up to my aspirations, mindful as a yoga meditating by a still pond under a clear sky. But other times, I lose it altogether; my brave words swept away in a tsunami of pain, diarrhea, and numbing fatigue.

I keep in mind what wise woman, Pema Chodon, has written: "when things fall apart, we have a real opportunity for transformative change, but without reflection, it may be squandered." May tells us: "This is a crossroads... a moment when you need to shed a skin. If you do, you'll expose all those painful nerve endings and feel so raw that you'll need to take care of yourself for a while. If you don't, then that skin will harden



Sunset on Jenness Pond

—Photo by Jean Stimmell

around you."⁶

Once, after taking pain-killing drugs, I had a nightmare about accruing bad karma, payback for those psychological experiments I conducted at Columbia, studying stimulus and response by shocking white rats. But mostly, I daydream about escaping from these invasive medical interventions, along with the hubbub of the big city, to return home to blossom anew amidst the lady slippers and trilliums.

1 <https://www.fairyorchamber.com/blog/bears-in-finnish-mythology-video>

2 <https://www.themarginalian.org/2021/03/06/wintering-katherine-may/>

3 <https://www.amazon.com/Letters-Young-Woman-Northwest-ern-Classics/dp/0810127407>

4 May, Katherine. *Wintering*. Penguin Publishing Group. Kindle Edition. P.13

5 *Ibid.* Page 237

6 *Ibid.* page 14

from page five

economists as "the most cost-effective lever to reduce carbon emissions at the scale and speed that is necessary." (*Wall Street Journal*, January 7, 2019).

Who wants to stop consideration of such an effective tool? Fossil fuel interests. Their spokespeople come to the State House, to ensure we never take effective action against carbon emissions. Please tell your legislators to vote against HR17, so we can consider effective methods for combating climate change.

Susan Richman
Durham, N.H.



Hey, You! Yeah, You, Senator!

To the Editor, Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, Sen. Maggie Hassan, and Rep. Chris Pappas:

A sincere question to our Washington politicians, referred to in this email as "you."

What are you going to do to secure our border?

I have no words to describe the disgust I have for our current political leadership, of both parties, and their complete indifference to securing our border.

Our VP travels to Europe to help secure the border of Ukraine.

We send our young military men and women, along with millions of dollars in military equipment, to defend a foreign country.

Yet you, and the rest of our apathetic political "leadership" in Washington, do nothing for the American people to secure **our border**.

[Deleted for lack of space: another 187 words of xenophobia. — The Ed.]

So please answer this simple question for me:

What are you going to do to secure our border?

Please refrain from responding with phrases such as: Let me refer

you to the department of... it's in committee, it's being debated, I'm reaching across the aisle, or someday we plan on passing "comprehensive immigration reform".

These are all overused political talking points, and they are just as tired and useless as the people who use them.

Here are two antithetical examples of responses you might want to consider:

"Truthfully, I'm a politician, only concerned with my political agenda and getting reelected. Therefore, I plan on actually doing nothing to secure our border. I am not interested in protecting the citizens and sovereignty of our nation."

"I plan on taking the lead on this issue. I will immediately be taking the following ACTIONS to secure our border in order to protect American citizens and their families. These actions include [fill in the blank]."

In other words, do you plan on protecting your constituents, or illegal immigrants?

So again, I ask you to directly, clearly and succinctly answer this simple question.

What are you going to do to secure our border?

Michael Petruzzello
Major, USMC (Ret)
Wolfeboro, N.H.

Michael:

Thanks for including your rank and branch of service, thereby confirming our suspicions.

The Editor

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Propaganda 101 : The Art of Creative Lying

by W.D. Ehrhart

Recently, I was stopped dead in my tracks by a news report saying law students at Georgetown University were so upset by a professor criticizing President Biden's determination to appoint a Black woman to the Supreme Court that they demanded "an office they can go to . . . if they want to cry, if they need to break down." They are demanding a Crying Room.

Seriously? I dutifully wrote up an irate essay excoriating the "Snowflake" sensibilities of many of my Left Progressive fellow travelers, whose sometimes frivolous and inane demands make it so easy for the Radical Reactionary Right to make the entire Progressive Left appear to be unhinged.

I sent the essay to the alleged editor of the *New Hampshire Gazette*, who is not so alleged as he often self-deprecatingly calls himself.

Steve Fowles' response was: "Yes, a bunch of students at Georgetown Law whimpering 'where's my crying room' is ridiculous. So ridiculous that it smelled to me like a set-up, another one of those ginned-up right wing finger pointing exercises. 'Look at these left-wing idiots. Aren't they ridiculous? By extension, aren't all their positions ridiculous?' The Ur-story seems to have been in the *Washington Examiner*. If there's one thing you can count on from the *Examiner*, it's a Tucker Carlonesque bias."

I had picked the story up from the website of a local ABC News

affiliate, and hadn't questioned it because I figured, "Well, ABC News." But when Fowle raised questions, I started digging deeper. Aside from two local ABC affiliates and an online *Newsweek* article written by a member of the American Enterprise Institute, every reference to the Georgetown Crying Room appeared on websites run by Fox News or clearly arch-conservative organizations like Breitbart, Conservative News Daily, Trending Politics, and others of that stripe.

When I queried Dr. Harry Haines, Professor of Communication and Media at Montclair State University, he replied, "I usually watch ABC network news, and I have not seen a national story about the Georgetown conflict. Sounds like the ABC story remained local. The story may not have risen to the level of worthiness, aside from the right-wing sources fascinated by the crying room angle. I found a lengthy article in the *Hoya* [Georgetown University's campus newspaper] about the conflict [over Prof. Ilya Shapiro], but it did not mention a crying room."

John Baky, Director Emeritus of Library Services at La Salle University, added, "In the end it is hearsay circumstance. The question was probably asked in a meeting by a student and has simply been 'decorated' by accretion via the Loudmouth Right. One tell-tale sign is that the *Chronicle of Higher Education* has been silent on the story." Baky suspects that the absence of clear coverage in sources such as the

Washington Post indicates the insignificance of whatever "truth" there might have been in the original story.

So, after some diligent searching by Fowle, Haines, and Baky, augmented by my own belated efforts, it seems very clear that the story of Black student demands for a Crying Room at Georgetown University Law School are at best highly embellished hearsay; at worst a deliberately fabricated lie.

I can hardly express my thanks to Fowle who, like Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, smelled a rat, and let me know it before I made a fool of myself in print. The really embarrassing part of all this is that I was so ready to believe the story. Why?

Well, the truth is that I have indeed gotten very frustrated and impatient with the "Snowflake Wing" of the Progressive Left with their demands for "Safe Spaces" on college campuses where no one is allowed to say anything that might hurt someone else's feelings, and "Defunding the Police" (the poorest choice of terminology since "Collateral Damage" and "Enhanced Interrogation").

But that is no excuse for failing to check my facts adequately before accepting any story at face value, especially a tale that plays so readily into the hands of the Radical Reactionary Right. As Edgar Allan Poe writes in "The System of Dr. Tarr and Prof. Fether": "Believe nothing you hear, and only one-half that you see."

I'm not quite so willing to be as



W.D. Ehrhart's column was partly inspired by Max Eden, a "Research Fellow" at the American Enterprise Institute [AEI]. The prestigious free-market think tank's HQ is shown above. That's one reason free markets are so great—prestige is just another commodity. AEI bought the building in 2013 with a \$20 million donation from Daniel A. D'Aniello, co-founder of the Carlyle Group. Among Carlyle's early backers was Richard K. Mellon, the nephew of Treasury Secretary Andrew Mellon (1921–1932), who used to live in this building. At the start of the Depression, Sec. Mellon advised, "Liquidate labor, liquidate stocks, liquidate the farmers, liquidate real estate. . . . It will purge the rottenness out of the system. High costs of living and high living will come down. People will work harder, live a more moral life. Values will be adjusted, and enterprising people will pick up the wrecks from less competent people. . . ." Andrew's grandson Timothy Mellon owns Portsmouth's Pan Am Railways. According to Bloomberg, "Mellon leads 2020 GOP donors, defends use of racial stereotypes. . . described food stamps and Obamacare as 'Slavery Redux.'"

skeptical as Poe suggests, but I've been forcefully reminded that one should never believe without question everything one hears or reads. It's hard enough these days to separate fact from fiction, truth from lies. For my own part, I hope I never again find myself the unwitting and gullible dupe of people who have no

use for truth, honesty, or integrity. I wish the same for each of you.

====

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

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A wealth tax for American progress

by Jim Hightower

The rich are different from you and me. For one thing, they're rich.

Among the super-rich, though, there tends to be a peculiar sense that their net worth is a testament to their true worthiness. Thus, they seem to cling desperately to the very idea of being extremely wealthy. This leads to one specific difference between them and us: Most of us fa-

vor a wealth tax to help bridge the gaping chasm of inequality in our society; the rich do not.

Indeed, we hear shrieks of abject horror and cries of doom coming from corporate board rooms and other defenders of the plutocratic order. It would be comical if they weren't so pathetic. They exclaim that such a tax will "destroy" entrepreneurial motivation, "sap" innovation, "punish" success, and—get this—"spur" a wave of divorces!

The psyches of the rich are so fragile, goes this line of bull, that a tiny tax on people with more than \$50 million in wealth would keep them from getting out of bed in the morning.

Jamie Dimon, a billionaire Wall Street banker, disingenuously asserts that super-wealthy people like him would "be happy to pay more in taxes." But he fears the government would just squander it on giveaways "to interest groups and stuff like

that." I have to admit that Jamie does know his "stuff"—after all, he weaseled billions of dollars from us taxpayers to bail out his bank during the 2007 Wall Street crash. Far from squandering revenues on such welfare cases as Dimon, those supporting the wealth tax specifically call for the money to fund universal access to higher education, free healthcare for all, restoration and expansion of our national infrastructure, and other direct efforts to restore the com-

mon good. To help advance passage of the wealth tax—and our nation's democratic ideals—go to Citizens for Tax Justice: www.ctj.org.

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

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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

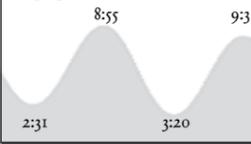
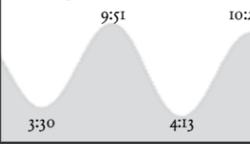
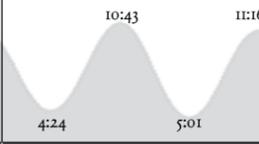
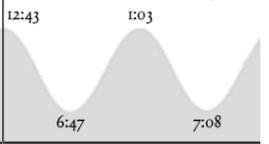
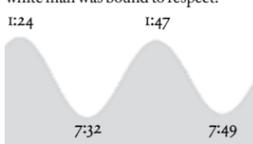
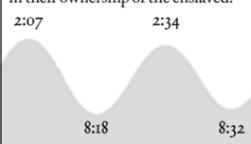
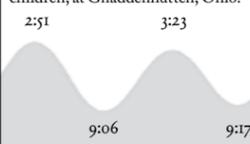
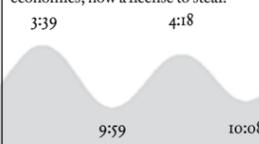
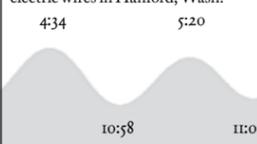
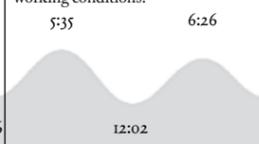
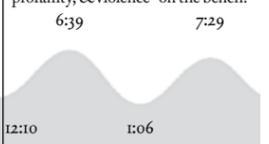
drags about seventeen billion gallons of seawater — enough to fill 2,125,000 tanker trucks — up the river and into Great Bay. This creates a roving hydraulic conflict, as incoming sea and the outgoing river collide. The skirmish line

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 27	MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28	TUESDAY, MARCH 1	WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2	THURSDAY, MARCH 3	FRIDAY, MARCH 4	SATURDAY, MARCH 5
<p>2019—"I fear that if [Trump] loses the election in 2020," says his ex-lawyer Michael Cohen, "there will never be a peaceful transition of power." 2014—Senate Republicans block a bill to fund veterans health care because it would cost too much. 2001—Rep. David B. Vitter [R-La.] skips a House vote honoring 28 Desert Storm KIA's to take a call from Deborah Jeane Palfrey, the D.C. Madam. 1975—The FDA recalls a batch of 1,241 GE pacemakers—after they've all been implanted. 1973—The American Indian Movement occupies Wounded Knee. 1970—The <i>New York Times</i> reports that the U.S. Army no longer conducts illegal domestic surveillance; untrue then, and now. 1968—Walter Cronkite says on the <i>CBS Nightly News</i> that "we are mired in stalemate" in Vietnam. 1962—Renegade South Vietnamese pilots use U.S. planes to bomb Saigon's Presidential Palace. 1938—Britain and France grant diplomatic recognition to General Francisco Franco's fascist government. 1933—Nazis burn the Reichstag and blame the fire on Communists. 1902—Australian Lieutenant Harry "Breaker" Morant says to his firing squad, "Shoot straight, you bastards." 1859—Rep. Dan Sickles [D-N.Y.] shoots his wife's lover, D.C. District Attorney Philip Barton Key II, son of Francis Scott Key, in Lafayette Park.</p>	<p>2003—An ex-gay male escort begins attending White House press briefings with an official pass issued to him under the pseudonym "Jeff Gannon." 1997—That blue dress gets soiled. 1993—The ATF tries to serve a warrant on a religious community in Waco. It does not go well. 1986—Ronald Reagan calls reporters "sons-of-bitches" for asking questions during a photo-op; press aide Larry Speakes explains he really said, "It's sunny and you're rich." 1958—In New York, a first batch of 27 people die after drinking "King Kong" moonshine. 1947—Hooligans in Taiwan riot over routine government corruption. Kounting troops—brave anti-Communists—justly massacre thousands. 1933—On Hitler's say-so, Hindenberg sets the pattern, curtailing civil rights after the Reichstag Fire. 1921—The Kronstadt Rebellion against bolshevism begins in Russia. "Shoot them down like partridges," orders Leon Trotsky. 1893—Birth of Ben Hecht, newspaperman and author of <i>The Front Page</i>. 1877—The U.S. seizes the Black Hills, in violation of a treaty. 1854—A group of political activists meet in Ripon, Wisc.; they may or may not found the GOP. 1840—Joshua V. Hines begins publishing <i>Signs of the Times</i>, a newspaper devoted to William Miller's Doomsday prophecies.</p>	<p>1991—"By God," President George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush tells Koch-heads, "we've kicked the Vietnam Syndrome once and for all." 1985—President Reagan insults the Founding Fathers, saying the Contras are their "moral equivalent." 1978—The late Charlie Chaplin's tomb is raided by corpse-nappers. 1973—Kissinger tells Nixon, "...if they put Jews into gas chambers in the Soviet Union, it is not an American concern." Nixon replies, "I know." 1971—The Weather Underground bombs the U.S. Capitol. 1954—The "Justice" Department agrees to let the CIA decide which of its crimes should be prosecuted. 1954—H-bomb test Castle Bravo demerits thrice its expected yield at Bikini Atoll. Unanticipated winds spread millions of tons of radioactive debris over inhabited islands. 1954—Four Puerto Rican nationalists in the Gallery fire 30 rounds towards the floor of the U.S. House, wounding five U.S. Congressmen. 1953—Joe Stalin spends the day on the floor in a puddle of urine because his aides don't dare open his door. 1910—In Wellington, Wash., an avalanche pushes two trains 150 feet into the Nye River, killing 96. 1906—Emma Goldman publishes the first issue of her anarchist newspaper, <i>Mother Earth</i>. 1872—Yellowstone, the world's first national park, is created.</p>	<p>2004—UN weapons inspectors report that Saddam Hussein didn't have any WMD after all. Oops. 1991—At Ramaila, Iraq, under future-MSNBC military analyst Barry McCaffrey, the U.S. 24th Infantry Division kills about ten percent of the 7,000-man 1st Hammurabi Armored Division, two days after the Gulf War cease-fire. 1965—The U.S. begins a bombing campaign over North Vietnam, under the brand name Rolling Thunder. 1955—The Screen Actors Guild votes to expel any member who takes the Fifth to avoid self-incrimination. 1942—Lieutenant General John DeWitt tells all Japanese-Americans to move away from the West Coast, voluntarily, for their own good. 1877—The Electoral Commission, to which Congress had passed the buck, adopts a plan concocted by newspaper editors and railroad barons: Republicans gets the Presidency, Southern Democrats get white supremacy. 1860—Abraham Lincoln visits the Amoskeag mills, then speaks at City Hall in Dover. 1859—Pierce M. Butler, profligate grandson of a signer of the Constitution, holds a two-day auction in Savannah, Ga. to settle gambling debts. On the block: 439 human beings. 1808—At Bladensburg, Md., Rep. Barent Gardiner [F-N.Y.] and Rep. George Washington Campbell [DR-Tenn.] meet to shoot at each other.</p>	<p>2016—Dolt #45 asserts on live TV that his genitalia are adequate. 1991—LAPD cops savagely beat Rodney King—on tape, it turns out. 1981—Burlington, Vt. elects a new mayor: Socialist Bernie Sanders. 1969—An under-manned company of the 4th Division is sent after a crack NVA battalion west of Kontum; result: 47 percent end up KIA or MIA. 1934—John Dillinger busts out of the Crown Point, Ind. jail with a hand-carved wooden pistol and drives off in the sheriff's new V-8 Ford. 1931—In Laredo, Texas, 17-year old Harlon Carter murders Ramón Casiano, 15, with a shotgun. Sentenced to three years, Carter does two; 46 years later he takes over the NRA. 1903—Congress bars entry to whore-mongers, epileptics, and anarchists; its own members are not sanctioned. 1873—Congress passes the Comstock Act, banning obscenity, contraceptives, abortifacients, and sex toys from the U.S. Mail, and the "Salary Grab Act," giving itself a 50 percent raise, retroactive for two years. 1871—Congress passes an act effectively denying that Indian tribes exist: they're all individuals from now on. 1863—Congress passes the first U.S. draft law, exempting men who can pay the government a \$300 bribe. 1791—Congress passes Hamilton's whiskey tax. It pays tax-free interest to rich bond holders and puts small distillers out of business.</p>	<p>2001—Fox broadcasts a "Lone Gunman" show in which U.S. agents remotely hijack an airliner and try to crash it into the World Trade Center. 1987—Ronald Reagan admits trading arms to Iran for hostages. 1964—FBI agents stake out Frank Wilkinson's home in Los Angeles; they expect the activist to be assassinated but do not warn him. 1960—<i>La Coubre</i>, a French munitions ship, explodes in Havana harbor. Between 75 and 100 people die. CIA involvement is "suspected." 1937—The UAW wins a sit-down strike in Flint, Mich. 1933—"We have nothing to fear," says FDR, "but fear itself." 1929—Oscar Stanton de Priest [R-Ill.] becomes the first African-American to take a seat in Congress since Reconstruction. 1917—In Congress, Sen. Harry Lane (D-Ore.) prepares to stab Ollie James (D-Ky.) in the neck if James pulls out his pistol; meanwhile, Democrats prevent Sen. Robert La Follette (Progressive Rep.-Wisc.) from bashing the presiding officer with a spittoon. 1909—President Taft and First Lady Nellie move into the White House. Under the lawn is a voodoo doll of Mrs. Taft, buried by Teddy Roosevelt's daughter Alice. 1831—Daring to eschew the Christian Bible, John Quincy Adams takes the Presidential Oath with his hand on a book of Constitutional law.</p>	<p>2007—In Bloomington, Ill., Dee Riddle is startled by a meteorite crashing through her bedroom window. 2003—Dixie Chick Natalie Maines says she's ashamed that George W.[MD] Bush is a Texan. 2001—A Nor'easter begins which will dump 40 inches of snow on New Hampshire's Rockingham County. 1963—Patsy Cline, singer of "I Fall to Pieces," dies when her plane crashes. 1960—Alberto Korda takes a particularly popular photo of Che Guevara. 1953—Car thief and armed robber Pearl Miller, on the lam since an escape in 1948, on the FBI's most wanted list for one day, is arrested at a diner in Somersworth, N.H. 1953—Everybody dies; this time, to the relief of many, it's Joe Stalin. 1933—In Germany, the Nazi party wins a plurality in the Reichstag. 1933—On his first full day in office FDR declares a bank holiday. 1927—One thousand U.S. Marines land in China. 1877—"Rutherford" B. Hayes is sworn in as President. 1871—Rosa Luxemburg is born. 1854—"Know-Nothings" heave a stone the Pope sent for use in the Washington Monument into the Potomac. 1770—Evil British troops slaughter innocent Bostonians in the Boston Massacre. (Or, provincial terrorists attack duly constituted authority.) 1740—The boundary is set between Massachusetts and New Hampshire.</p>
<p>1:26 7:53 8:40 2:21</p> 	<p>2:31 8:55 9:38 3:20</p> 	<p>3:30 9:51 10:29 4:13</p> 	<p>4:24 10:43 11:16 5:01</p> 	<p>5:14 11:32 5:45</p> 	<p>6:01 12:01 12:18 6:27</p> 	<p>6:47 12:43 1:03 7:08</p> 
SUNDAY, MARCH 6	MONDAY, MARCH 7	TUESDAY, MARCH 8	WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9	THURSDAY, MARCH 10	FRIDAY, MARCH 11	SATURDAY, MARCH 12
<p>2011—The Hooksett water treatment plant discharges two million two-inch plastic discs into the Merrimack after heavy rains. By August they're at Campobello Island and Rhode Island Sound, in 2014, the English Channel. 2007—The Vice President's Chief of Staff is found guilty of perjury and obstruction of justice. 2003—President George W.[MD] Bush claims Saddam Hussein has "biological and chemical agents" that move "every 12 to 24 hours...in vehicles...in residential neighborhoods." 1991—President George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush claims that his defeat of Saddam Hussein has ushered in a "new world order." 1981—President Reagan determines who to call upon at a press conference by drawing jelly beans from a jar. 1974—Ayn Rand addresses West Point cadets on the topic, "Philosophy — Who Needs It?" 1971—Lawrence Welk's singers perform "One Tuke Over the Line," the FCC bans songs that "promote or glorify the use of illegal drugs." 1944—The U.S. Army uses napalm for the first time, in Berlin. 1918—U.S. Army intelligence officers break into the New York office of the National Civil Liberties Bureau and steal documents. 1857—The Supreme Court rules in <i>Dred Scott</i>: "the unhappy [B]lack race [never possessed] rights which the white man was bound to respect."</p>	<p>1981—Stabbed at Disneyland, Mel C. Yorba becomes the Magic Kingdom's first murder victim because Disney employees feared the consequences if they called an ambulance. 1965—Civil rights marchers en route to Montgomery try to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma. They're mercilessly beaten by law enforcement officers and deputized goons. 1960—In front of the <i>Union Leader</i> building, JFK deftly paints the paper as irresponsible and its publisher as a liar. Next day he wins the primary. 1953—Newark, N.J. officials publicly burn allegedly lewd photos, movies, and books valued at \$100,000. 1932—Dearborn, Mich. cops fire on Ford hunger marchers; five die. 1908—In Cincinnati, Mayor Mark Breith announces that "women are not physically fit to operate automobiles." 1906—Finland's Senate OKs universal suffrage—except for the poor. 1905—NYC subway workers strike. The City hires James Farley, the notorious strikebreaker. In a week his thugs beat workers into submission. 1876—Alexander Graham Bell gets a patent for the telephone without having submitted a working model. It is remarkably similar to Elisha Gray's previously-submitted design. 1850—New Hampshire native Daniel Webster, representing Massachusetts in the U.S. Senate, argues that slaveholders are entitled to be secure in their ownership of the enslaved.</p>	<p>1985—A joint U.S./U.K./Saudi operation detonates a 440 lb. car bomb in Beirut; 83 innocent civilians die. The target—also innocent—is unscathed. 1983—Ronald Reagan runs the phrase "evil empire" up the flagpole. 1973—President Nixon gripes to Al Haig, "What the hell's Agnew doing? He's never spoken up once on this Goddamn [Watergate] thing." 1971—The Citizens Commission to Investigate the FBI breaks into the Bureau's Media, Pa. office, obtaining 1,000+ documents revealing COINTELPRO. The Bureau fails to find the perps. [See 1956.] 1965—The first U.S. combat troops—U.S. Marines—hit the beach at Da-nang ready to fight. Vietnamese girls greet them with flowers. 1956—At a meeting of the National Security Council, J. Edgar Hoover proposes a measure to include war-resistant wiretapping and break-ins: COINTELPRO. Despite the illegalities, Ike and his A.G. say, "OK." 1906—Winchester, N.H. native Maj. Gen. Leonard Wood proudly beholds his illegal order's results: 900 Filipinos of all ages and genders, massacred in a volcanic crater. TR later says it's "a brilliant feat of arms [upholding] the honor of the American flag." 1782—After granting them a night of prayer, Pennsylvania militiamen massacre and scalp 96 captive Christian Lenape Indians, men, women, and children, at Gnadenhutten, Ohio.</p>	<p>2007—Presidential candidate Newt Gingrich admits he committed adultery while impeaching Bill Clinton. 1992—Donald Trump files his second bankruptcy in eight months. 1986—Divers locate the crew compartment of the Shuttle <i>Challenger</i>. 1982—It's revealed that the Contras have gotten \$19 million in covert aid. 1969—Terrorized CBS execs nix the Vietnam drama "Sticks and Bones." 1969—Terrorized CBS execs cancel "The Smothers Brothers." 1965—Activists march again in Alabama; racist goons severely beat Boston minister James Reeb. 1954—WMUR-TV does it live. 1954—Ed Murrow dismantles Joe McCarthy on CBS. The network assures nothing like it happens again. 1941—Writer Sherwood Anderson dies of peritonitis after swallowing a toothpick at a party in Panama. 1920—Favorite Son and war hero Gen. Leonard Wood [See 3/8/1906.] wins the N.H. Presidential Primary. 1916—Pancho Villa leads nearly 500 guerrillas in a raid on Columbus, N.M. It does not go well: 190 are killed, wounded, or captured; but, a six-month "Punitive Expedition" fails to capture <i>El Centauro del Norte</i>. 1841—Black minneers who took the <i>Amistad</i> from enslavers are declared free men by the U.S. Supreme Court. 1776—Adam Smith publishes <i>The Wealth of Nations</i>, once a treatise on economics, now a license to steal.</p>	<p>2020—"Just stay calm," says Dolt #45. "It will go away." 2004—Pres. George W.[MD] Bush is surprised to learn his Terrorist Surveillance Program expires that day, his lawyers won't renew it, and his A.G., who will, has been in the ICU for a week. In a bedside standoff, Bush's team loses. 1993—Showing his respect for the sanctity of life, a Floridian puts three slugs in Dr. David Gunn's back. 1992—Injected with poison by Okla. state workers, Robyn Lee Parks gasps & gags for eleven minutes before dying. 1974—With police corruption "systematic at all levels," Philly Mayor Rizzo tries to block an investigation. 1968—At remote Lima Site 85 in Laos, 13 radarmen die; the greatest single U.S.A.F. combat loss of the war. 1966—U.S.A.F. Maj. Bernard Fisher sees a fellow A-1 pilot crash land at A Shau. With two NVA battalions Gen. Leonard Wood, and flies out. 1951—Genial old Ike says America might try a first-strike nuclear attack. 1950—Turned down once, Gen. Douglas again requests permission to nuke Korea. Bomb parts are gathered. 1945—Curtis LeMay's napalm-laden B-29s visit the deadliest six hours in history on Tokyo, Japan. 1945—Japan shuts down plutonium production for the Nagasaki bomb when its balloon-firebombs down electric wires in Hanford, Wash.</p>	<p>2020—Dolt #45 announces a travel ban; infected U.S. citizens turn airports all over into super-spreader sites. 2012—Freedom, Maine's Town Meeting votes to amend the Constitution, nixing corporate "personhood." 2011—An earthquake knocks Earth 10 inches off its axis, brings Japan four feet closer to the U.S., causes a tsunami that kills 15,850 people, and triggers three nuclear meltdowns. 2008—SEC Chair Chris Cox says "We have a good deal of comfort about the capital cushions at these firms," days before Bear Stearns collapses. 2002—Fox military expert Lt. Col Joe Caffasso, who boasts a Green Beret and a Silver Star, resigns. Weeks later the <i>N.Y. Times</i> reveals his true military career: 44 days in boot camp. 1965—In Alabama, Rev. James Reeb gives up his life for equal voting rights; a white jury will acquit his killers. 1958—A B-47 accidentally drops a Mark 6 A-bomb on Mars Bluff, S.C. Lacking a fissile core, its explosion only injures six and destroys a house. 1954—The U.S. Army charges that Sen. Joe McCarthy [R-Wisc.] and Roy Cohn used threats to get special treatment for Pvt. G. David Schine. 1942—"Dugout Doug" bugs out of Corregidor, leaving his troops behind. 1811—Luddites in Nottingham, England, destroy 63 knitting frames. It's not about the machines, though—they're protesting against inhumane working conditions.</p>	<p>2014—Austin Ruse, head of the Catholic Family and Human Rights Institute, says on American Family Radio, "the hard left, human-hating people that run modern universities... should all be taken out and shot." 2013—Jim Clapper, Dir. of Nat'l Intelligence, swears to Congress citizens aren't being spied on. He's lying. 2009—Frank Gaffney says Saddam Hussein may have been involved in the Oklahoma City bombing. 2003—The <i>Guardian</i> reports that Halliburton is still paying VP Dick "Dick" Cheney up to \$1 million a year in "deferred compensation." 1956—The Southern Manifesto, a promise to use "all legal means" to maintain school segregation, is signed by 101 Congressmen, including William Fulbright, Sam Ervin, and Hale Boggs, father of Cokie Roberts. 1947—President Harry announces the Truman Doctrine: we'll fight Communies everywhere and anywhere. 1947—Piper pilot Carmen Onofrio of Milan, N.H. makes the first of 43 landings atop Mt. Washington, delivering ice research equipment. 1888—Rather than pay a New York corker's \$50 blizzard rate, Roscoe Conkling walks home in a blizzard; 37 days later the most powerful man in America is dead of pneumonia at 58. 1804—John Pickering, Federal District Judge for N.H., is impeached by the U.S. Senate for "drunkenness, profanity, & violence" on the bench.</p>
<p>1:24 7:32 7:49 1:47</p> 	<p>2:07 8:18 8:32 2:34</p> 	<p>2:51 9:06 9:17 3:23</p> 	<p>3:39 9:59 10:08 4:18</p> 	<p>4:34 10:58 5:20 11:06</p> 	<p>5:35 12:02 6:26</p> 	<p>6:39 12:10 1:06 7:29</p> 



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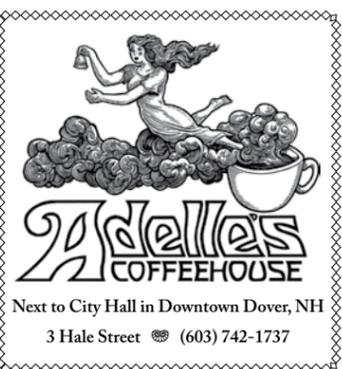


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