

## The Fortnightly Rant

### Those Stabby Invisible Hands

It's shocking, this cartoon—let's admit that right up front. Sadly, it's also accurate.

Some might say it's offensive to depict the revered personification of our great nation being stabbed in the back. Most likely to voice that objection, we'd wager, would be those who wielded the blades to begin with. If they were to be honest—some imagination is required here—these people would say that the old buzzard has outlived his usefulness.

God knows there's a certain cohort of people in this country—we'd use the term "class," but that's *verboten*—who have worked Uncle Sam like a rented mule. Their next move will be to take him out behind the barn and shoot him. Then, when the owner comes 'round looking, they'll feign innocence and ask, "What mule are you talking about?"

Before we go much further we should make it plain exactly who we're accusing—as if you did not know already. We'll go ahead anyway because we've got a few knives of our own, and we need to make room to fit them all in.

To get properly started we need to go back to the Civil War. That's the one that was started by a few rich white people in order to preserve what they claimed was their right to profit from the brutal enslavement of millions of Black people. Hard to believe now, but once upon a time, that premise actually got lots of traction. It took a lot of doing but eventually the pro-slavery crowd laid down their guns and quit shooting. Unfortunately a lot of them never got their minds right about what had just happened.

**An Unfortunate But Necessary Aside**  
Since that time we've had a two-party political system. That's just the way it is. It doesn't have to be that way. All we'd have to do to have more viable parties would be to

quit awarding elections to whichever yahoo gets one vote more than whoever comes in second. Switching to ranked-choice voting would fix that problem and give other parties a fighting chance.

There's a catch, though. Call it Catch 23: before we could make such a salubrious change, our broken system would have to miraculously start working. So, until further notice we are stuck right where we are.

One might think that in a country playing host to two non-stop parties, it shouldn't be so damn hard to have a little fun. But, one would be wrong, so very wrong.

As anyone paying attention knows by now, adherents to these parties are sorted regionally. Those who are so fortunate as to earn a living by writing tend to attribute this sorting to people's inexplicable tastes. That facile assessment seems to assume that opportunities for mobility abound everywhere. We suspect it's just as likely that limited opportunities create hard-bitten politics.

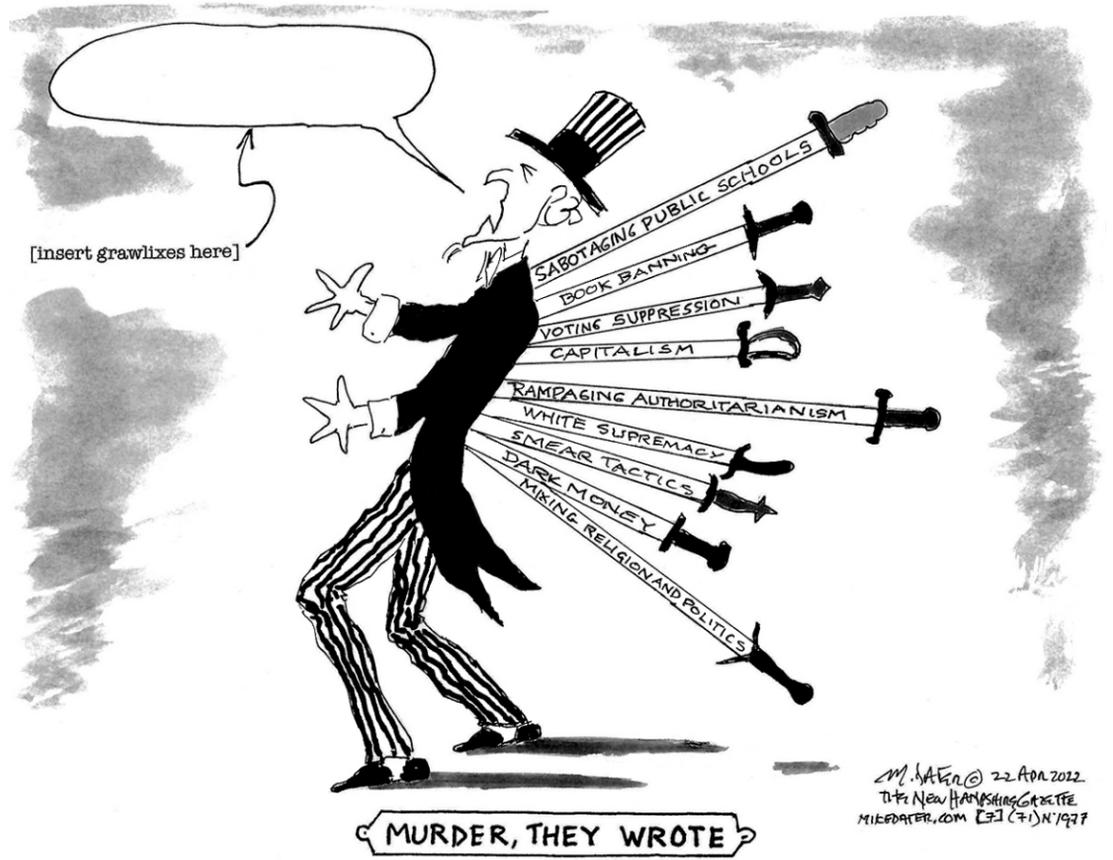
#### Election vs. Governance

A similar sorting seems to have occurred along what we'll call the election vs. governance spectrum. People who think governance is important become Democrats. People who think winning elections is important become Republicans.

Republicans' lack of interest in governing stems from their fundamental opposition to the concept. In their view, the only legitimate role for government is to protect their personal property and defend The Market™ from its victims. Eventually, of course, even the cops should be privatized; their salaries would be paid by the people they arrest.

#### Our Narrative Resumes

Less than twelve years after defeating the Slavocracy, the Party of



Lincoln went from siding with the angels to worshipping Mammon. In exchange for the Presidency, Republicans abandoned Reconstruction. A capitalized and industrialized nation, now at peace, was a wonderful and lucrative place to be a servant of the people.

The formerly enslaved, no longer protected by Federal troops, were left to the tender mercies of the Democrats. The South went into suspended animation, dreaming of the good old days and acting very much as if they were still going on.

Life was probably better for the average American than for a serf in the Russian Empire. Most lived on farms and were acclimated to unrelenting toil, but at least they didn't have to fear the knout. Factory workers, many of them children, routinely put in hours that would fell a modern American.

Neither party displayed much interest in improving anyone's lot.

Why would anyone want to make changes? For a man with enough capital to hire a critical mass of legislators, the era of the robber barons was a great time to be alive.

In the late 19th century, fed-up Progressives began injecting some new ideas into politics. Some watered-down versions eventually made it into law. Ironically, it took the 1929 Crash to set things on a course towards what could be called Prosperity for Most. The depression that followed gave workers a choice: organize or starve.

Organize they did. Bosses discovered that they couldn't exploit labor that workers refused to provide. The bosses fought back, metaphorically and literally. They hired goons and mobsters to break picket lines and usher scabs into factories, beating, clubbing, and shooting strikers in the process. Strange, how a nation full of nostalgia junkies so rarely recalls those days.

By the end of the Thirties it was finally established that workers had the right to organize. Another war disrupted things for a while, but once certain fascists had been dealt with it became quite clear: things were now very different. For white people, anyway. What followed were two pretty good decades in a row. Houses, cars, college educations—a prosperous middle class.

Certain people, of whom we spoke earlier, saw this as a catastrophe: an ever-increasing share of the GDP was going to plebians who worked for a living. Shockingly, this wasteful profligacy was being conducted under the protection of the Federal government.

The solution to that problem is obvious: sentence Uncle Sam to the Death by a Thousand Cuts. Let The Market™ provide whatever the people need—for a price, of course.

The solution to *that* solution is the same as it ever was: organize.

## The Alleged News®

### Jackie Robinson Was A Radical—Don't Listen To The Sanitized Version Of History

by Peter Dreier

In our new book, *Baseball Rebels: The Players, People, and Social Movements That Shook Up the Game and Changed America*, Rob Elias and I profile the many iconoclasts, dissenters and mavericks who defied baseball's and society's establishment.

But none took as many risks—and had as big an impact—as Jackie Robinson. Though Robinson was a fierce competitor, an outstanding athlete, and a deeply religious man, the aspect of his legacy that often gets glossed over is that he was also a radical.

The sanitized version of the Jackie Robinson story goes something like this: He was a remarkable athlete who, with his unusual level of

self-control, was the perfect person to break baseball's color line. In the face of jeers and taunts, he was able to put his head down and let his play do the talking, becoming a symbol of the promise of a racially integrated society.

With this April 15 marking the 75th anniversary of Jackie Robinson's breaking baseball's color line, Major League Baseball will celebrate the occasion with great fanfare—with tributes, movies, TV specials, museum exhibits and symposia.

I wonder, however, about the extent to which these celebrations will downplay his activism during and after his playing career. Will they delve into the forces arrayed against Robinson—the players, fans, reporters, politicians and baseball

executives who scorned his outspoken views on race? Will any Jackie Robinson Day events mention that, toward the end of his life, he wrote that he had become so disillusioned with the country's racial progress that he couldn't stand for the flag and sing the national anthem?

#### Laying the groundwork

Robinson was a rebel before he broke baseball's color line.

When he was a soldier during World War II, his superiors sought to keep him out of officer candidate school. He persevered and became a second lieutenant. But in 1944, while assigned to a training camp at Fort Hood in Texas, he refused to move to the back of an army bus when the white driver ordered him to do so.

Robinson faced trumped-up

charges of insubordination, disturbing the peace, drunkenness, conduct unbecoming an officer and refusing to obey the orders of a superior officer. Voting by secret ballot, the nine military judges—only one of them Black—found Robinson not guilty. In November, he was honorably discharged from the Army.

Describing the ordeal, Robinson later wrote, "It was a small victory, for I had learned that I was in two wars, one against the foreign enemy, the other against prejudice at home."

Three years later, Robinson would suit up for the Dodgers.

His arrival didn't occur in a vacuum. It marked the culmination of more than a decade of protests to desegregate the national pastime. It was a political victory brought about by a persistent and progressive

movement that confronted powerful business interests that were reluctant—even opposed—to bring about change.

Beginning in the 1930s, the movement mobilized a broad coalition of organizations—the Black press, civil rights groups, the Communist Party, progressive white activists, left-wing unions and radical politicians—that waged a sustained campaign to integrate baseball.

#### Biting his tongue, biding his time

This protest movement set the stage for Brooklyn Dodgers executive Branch Rickey to sign Robinson to a contract in 1945. Robinson spent the 1946 season with the Montreal Royals, the Dodgers' top

**The Alleged News®**

from page one

farm club, where he led the team to the minor league championship. The following season, he was brought up to the big leagues.

Robinson promised Rickey that—at least during his rookie year—he wouldn't respond to the verbal barbs from fans, managers and other players he would face on a daily basis.

His first test took place a week after he joined the Dodgers, during a game against the Philadelphia Phillies. Phillies manager Ben Chapman called Robinson the n-word and shouted, "Go back to the cotton field where you belong."

Though Robinson seethed with anger, he kept his promise to Rickey, enduring the abuse without retaliating.

But after that first year, he increasingly spoke out against racial injustice in speeches, interviews and his regular newspaper columns for *The Pittsburgh Courier*, *New York Post* and the *New York Amsterdam News*.

Many sportswriters and most other players—including some of his fellow Black players—balked at the way Robinson talked about race. They thought he was too angry, too

vocal.

Syndicated sports columnist Dick Young of the *New York Daily News* griped that when he talked to Robinson's Black teammate Roy Campanella, they stuck to baseball. But when he spoke with Robinson, "sooner or later we get around to social issues."

A 1953 article in *Sport* magazine titled "Why They Boo Jackie Robinson" described the second baseman as "combative," "emotional" and "calculating," as well as a "pop-off," a "whiner," a "showboat" and a "troublemaker." A Cleveland paper called Robinson a "rabble rouser" who was on a "soap box." *The Sporting News* headlined one story "Robinson Should Be a Player, Not a Crusader." Other writers and players called him a "loudmouth," a "sorehead" and worse.

Nonetheless, Robinson's relentless advocacy got the attention of the country's civil rights leaders.

In 1956, the NAACP gave him its highest honor, the Spingarn Medal. He was the first athlete to receive that award. In his acceptance speech, he explained that although many people had warned him "not to speak up every time I thought there was an injustice," he would continue to do so.



JUSTICE JACKSON JOINS WITH HER COLLEAGUES FOR A FORMAL PORTRAIT

**'A freedom rider before the Freedom Rides'**

After Robinson hung up his cleats in 1957, he stayed true to his word, becoming a constant presence on picket lines and at civil rights rallies.

That same year, he publicly urged President Dwight Eisenhower to send troops to Little Rock, Arkansas, to protect Black students seeking to desegregate its public schools. In 1960, impressed with the resilience and courage of the college students engaging in sit-ins at Southern lunch counters, he agreed to raise bail money for the students stuck in jail cells.

Robinson initially supported the 1960 presidential campaign of Sen. Hubert Humphrey, a Minnesota Democrat and staunch ally of the civil rights movement. But when John F. Kennedy won the party's nomination, Robinson—worried that JFK would be beholden to Southern Democrats who opposed integration—endorsed Republican Richard Nixon. He quickly regretted that decision after Nixon refused

to campaign in Harlem or speak out against the arrest of Martin Luther King Jr. in rural Georgia. Three weeks before Election Day, Robinson said that "Nixon doesn't deserve to win."

In February 1962, Robinson traveled to Jackson, Mississippi, to speak at a rally organized by NAACP leader Medgar Evers. Later that year, at King's request, Robinson traveled to Albany, Georgia, to draw media attention to three Black churches that had been burned to the ground by segregationists. He then led a fundraising campaign that collected \$50,000 to rebuild the churches.

In 1963 he devoted considerable time and travel to support King's voter registration efforts in the South. He also traveled to Birmingham, Alabama, as part of King's campaign to dismantle segregation in that city.

"His presence in the South was very important to us," recalled Wyatt Tee Walker, chief of staff of King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference. King called Robin-

son "a sit-inner before the sit-ins, a freedom rider before the Freedom Rides."

Robinson also consistently criticized police brutality. In August 1968, three Black Panthers in New York City were arrested and charged with assaulting a white police officer. At their hearing two weeks later, about 150 white men, including off-duty police officers, stormed the courthouse and attacked 10 Panthers and two white supporters. When he learned that the police had made no arrests of the white rioters, Robinson was outraged.

"The Black Panthers seek self-determination, protection of the Black community, decent housing and employment and express opposition to police abuse," Robinson said during a press conference at the Black Panthers' headquarters.

He challenged banks for discriminating against Black neighborhoods and condemned slumlords who preyed on Black families.

And Robinson wasn't done holding Major League Baseball



The Brick Market—possibly the grandest architectural experiment ever seen in this town's nearly 400-year history—is beginning to take shape. It's bold. It's different. It's distinctive. Ergo, it's only a matter of time before the complaints begin rolling in.

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to account, either. He refused to participate in a 1969 Old Timers game because he didn't see "genuine interest in breaking the barriers that deny access to managerial and front office positions." At his final public appearance, throwing the ceremonial first pitch before Game 2 of the 1972 World Series, Robinson observed, "I'm going to be tremendously more pleased and more proud when I look at that third base coaching line one day and see a black face managing in baseball."

No major league team had a Black manager until Frank Robinson was hired by the Cleveland Indians in 1975, three years after Jackie Robinson's death. The absence of Black managers and front-office executives is an issue that MLB still grapples with today.

**Athlete activism, then and now**  
Athletes still face backlash for speaking out. When NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick protested racism by refusing to stand during the national anthem, then-President Donald Trump said that athletes who followed Kaepernick's example "shouldn't be in the country."

In 2018, after NBA star LeBron

James spoke about a racial slur that had been graffitied on his home and criticized Trump, Fox News' Laura Ingraham suggested that he "shut up and dribble."

Even so, in the past decade, athletes have become more outspoken on issues of racism, homophobia, sexism, American militarism, immigrant rights and other issues. They all stand on Robinson's shoulders.

It was Robinson's strong patriotism that led him to challenge America to live up to its ideals. He felt an obligation to use his fame to challenge the society's racial injustice. However, during his last few years—before he died of a heart attack in 1972 at age 53—he grew increasingly disillusioned with the pace of racial progress.

In his 1972 memoir, *I Never Had It Made*, he wrote: "I cannot stand and sing the anthem. I cannot salute the flag; I know that I am a Black man in a white world."

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*Peter Dreier is E.P. Clapp Distinguished Professor of Politics, Occidental College. This article was published at theconversation.com under a Creative Commons license.*



APRIL 22, 2022  
THE NEW HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE  
MIKEDATER.COM, N-1978 (8)

**Tax Day Study Shows U.S. Billionaires Now Own \$4.7 Trillion**  
by Jake Johnson

An analysis released Monday to mark Tax Day in the United States shows that the country's 735 billionaires have seen their collective wealth soar by 62 percent over the past two years while worker earnings have grown just 10 percent, modest gains eaten away by the rising costs of food, housing, and other necessities.

According to new calculations by Oxfam America, U.S. billionaires now own a combined \$4.7 trillion in wealth, much of which goes completely untaxed. As ProPublica recently found in an examination of data from the Internal Revenue Service—an agency that disproportionately targets the poor—the 25 richest people in the U.S. paid a true tax rate of just 3.4 percent from 2014 to 2018.

"The billionaire wealth explosion in this country comes at a time of

historic inflation hitting working families, compounded by the expiration of critical social safety nets put in place at the start of the pandemic to protect America's most vulnerable," said Gina Cummings, vice president of advocacy alliances and policy at Oxfam America.

"The impact on real people is devastating, leading countless families to slip into poverty," Cummings added. "The ongoing failure of our nation's leaders to implement a more equitable tax system is a stain on democracy."

Oxfam's new analysis estimates that a series of tax proposals that have been introduced in Congress but have yet to pass would bring in \$252 billion in additional federal revenue each year. The version of President Joe Biden's Build Back Better agenda that the House passed in November would cost just \$175 billion per year over the next decade.

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**Will There Be A 2024 First in the Nation™ Presidential Primary Election®?**  
Maybe. Maybe not.

We're not going to make any predictions on this one, but New Hampshire's unique First in the Nation™ Presidential Primary Election® certainly seems poised to follow the Old Man of the Mountain into oblivion.

Corporate consultants swooping in to reorganize a failing company frequently announce that everyone's been fired and if they want to keep working they'll have to re-apply to get their old jobs back.

New Hampshire got that treatment from the Democratic National Committee's Rules and Bylaws Committee on April 13th.

Iowa got the same but worse: their serving of bad news came with a side of warnings about their Rube Goldberg caucus system.

Top state Democrats responded by whistling past the graveyard.



President Joe Biden—no stranger to Portsmouth—was in town again on Tuesday. Officially he came to tout the benefits which will ensue from the widening of the harbor's upper turning basin. That is considerably farther upriver from the part of the harbor shown here, but our Wandering Photographer, a very pedestrian fellow, charges by the yard. He also refuses to go out on this deck unless we give him hazard pay.

**Murph's Fortnightly Quote**  
"The way a government treats refugees is very instructive because it shows you how they would treat the rest of us if they thought they could get away with it."  
— Tony Benn (1925-2014), former British MP

"We are one species, we came out of Lake Turkana three million years ago and we have to recognise we're all in the same house."  
— Richard Leakey  
john@wordpraxis.com

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"Of the old, violent anarchist groups it was said that they always contained one pathological killer, one selfless idealist and one police spy. It was difficult, at first glance, to tell which was which, but the idealist was always the most dangerous."  
— John Mortimer  
— Not-So-Random Thoughts from an Oregon Subscriber

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**What of the Palestinians?**

To the Editor:

Several people have asked me, where is the Palestinian leader in the likeness of Zelensky of Ukraine, Mandela of South Africa, or MLK of America? My reply is that any potential or possible powerful Palestinian leader has either been exiled (Mohammed Dahlan), imprisoned (Marwan Barghouti) or assassinated, (Ghassan Kanafani).

Obviously, the world's attention has shifted to Russia and Ukraine, but some recent news stories have focused on the violent attacks by Palestinians upon Israeli residents, including the killing, ironically, of two Ukrainians working in Israel. No one I know condones these murders, nor do I. However, the mainstream media seldom provide any informational context for such horrible crimes.

At about this time last year, Palestinians were preparing to celebrate Ramadan. Many Palestinians had gathered at the Damascus Gate in Jerusalem to prepare to go to Al Aqsa Mosque, the third holiest Muslim site, and to the compound outside to pray. However, Israel occupation forces attacked, beat, and arrested some Palestinians outside the Gate. Inside the Mosque, praying Palestinians were attacked as occupation troops entered the holy site, and some also stormed Muslims who were in the compound area and injured many with clubs, besides using tear gas, rubber bullets and stun grenades.

At the same time, Palestinians living in East Jerusalem, especially in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood, were either being threatened with expulsion from their homes or actually being forcibly evicted from their homes to make way for illegal Jewish "settlers," even as some houses were being demolished to prepare for the construction of a theme park modeled upon the life of King David. Israel's plan is to eventually "Judaize" all of East Jerusalem. This is called "ethnic cleansing," says the largest Israeli human rights organization, B'Tselem.

While the attacks on Palestinian Muslims in Al Aqsa, in Sheikh Jarrah, and at the Damascus Gate were occur-

ring, the ruling Palestinian body in the West Bank, the Palestinian Authority, did little to stop or criticize the Israeli actions. It was the ruling body in Gaza, Hamas, that sent Israel an ultimatum to end the attacks or else it would take action.

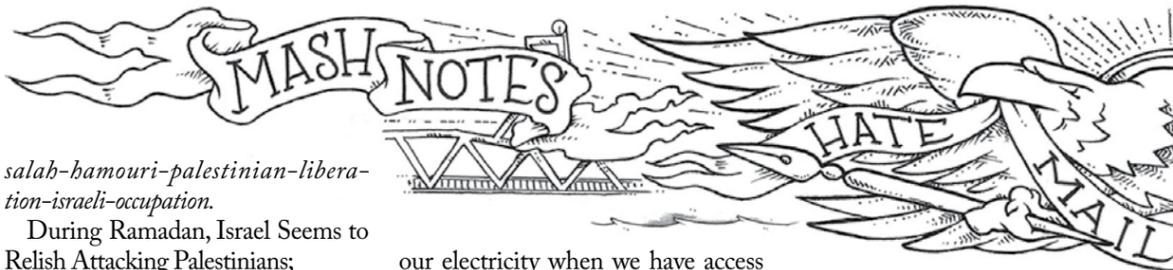
Israel ignored the ultimatum and thus, Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad did fire many unguided rockets—not missiles—into Israel. The Israeli military responded with an 11-day military assault on Gaza in May of 2021 that caused 254 deaths, including those of 66 children. This was the fourth major Israeli offensive in 14 years. Does the press ever mention the psychological trauma Gaza's children suffer from Israeli tank shells, missile dropped from drones, U.S. Apache helicopters shooting live ammunition, and U.S.-made planes dropping bombs? According to UNICEF, prior to 2021, one in three Gazan children have mental health issues. An earlier Israeli military attack in 2014 caused over 2,000 deaths, including 520 Palestinian children. Tragically, one Israeli child was killed.

Sadly, we may be witnessing a third intifada as a growing number of young Palestinians are "exploding" with anger and despair while living under a brutal Israeli occupation for 55 years. While thinking about this situation, I thought of Langston's Hughes' poem, "What Happens to a Dream Deferred?" It says, in part, "Does it dry up like a raisin in the sun, Or, does it explode?"

In closing, let us recall abolitionist Wendell Phillips' quote and Martin Luther King, Jr.'s use of it later that, "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." And, as Jewish Voice for Peace, "If Americans Knew," and "If Not Now," state, there cannot be true peace until justice and human, civil and political rights are guaranteed for all Israelis and for all Christians and Palestinian Christians and Muslims living in the Holy Land.

Sources:

We Are Palestinians, and We Refuse to Leave Our Homeland;  
<https://jacobinmag.com/2022/03/>



*salah-hamouri-palestinian-liberation-israeli-occupation.*

During Ramadan, Israel Seems to Relish Attacking Palestinians;

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Gaza: Israel's May Airstrikes on High-Rises | Human Rights;

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11 May 2021 – Israeli Attacks on Al-Aqsa Mosque and Gaza Strip;

[palestineun.org/11-may-2021-israeli-attacks-on-al-aqsa-mosque-and-gaza-strip](https://palestineun.org/11-may-2021-israeli-attacks-on-al-aqsa-mosque-and-gaza-strip).

Will Thomas  
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N.H. Veterans for Peace  
Will:

*Bracing for the inevitable over here....*  
The Editor

**A Victim of the System Writes...**

To the Editor:

My name is Loreley Godfrey and I am 17 years old from Portsmouth, New Hampshire. I am the Policy Director of the student-led organization Seacoast Students for Sustainability. As a coalition of eco clubs across the region, we are rallying in Market Square on April 22nd (Earth Day) at 3:30 p.m. to celebrate our planet and advocate for sustainability.

In the past couple decades, we have made incredible strides for climate action in New Hampshire—from writing a Climate Action Plan (CAP), joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), and phasing in renewable energy.

But there is still more to do. Our 2007 CAP has unenforceable & outdated goals. Only a fraction of funds from RGGI are devoted towards renewables, a 19 percent margin that pales in comparison to states like New York that direct 40 percent to energy efficiency. And finally, our state still largely relies on fossil fuel to power

our electricity when we have access to incredible solar and offshore wind power.

After a week of Earth Awareness at the Portsmouth, Oyster River, and Dover High Schools, join us in honoring the Earth, appreciating our accomplishments, & calling for more action! We will be hearing from local students and prominent legislators on the successes and failures of our response to rising global temperatures.

Reach out to Loreley Godfrey at [loreyg@gmail.com](mailto:loreyg@gmail.com) for more information on this Earth Day Rally.

Join us in celebrating our planet and advocating for sustainability. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Loreley Godfrey  
Policy Director  
Seacoast Students for Sustainability  
[s4snh.org](mailto:s4snh.org)

*Loreley:  
As a certified Old Fart, on behalf of everyone over, say, the age of 40, the Editor would like to apologize to you, your generation, whatever generations of Homo sapiens may follow, and the biosphere in general, for what we are pretty sure must be the most grotesque example of environmental degradation in the Solar System.*

*This will be published too late to steer many readers to the demonstration. Please don't be discouraged by that. Keep us posted.*

The Editor

**Frost Tries to Share Russian Propaganda**  
*[Our occasional correspondent sent the following unedited word salad sans salutation. By publishing it just as we received it, we're trying to subtly suggest that the gist of this message is about as credible as its grammar.—The Ed.]*

Watch the one attached first then the one below -be careful not to let your kids see it it is directly from war unfiltered uncut.

Elections have consequences politicians are all talk and no hat or in this case no helmet and weapon.

What they are is the destiny of the world at the level that Biden and Putin and Jenping in China and others around the world will be challenging this president for years to come if he lives that long or is an article 25 right out along with Kamala Harris

God help us YES elections do have consequences this last election was based on four years of character and reputation assassination and people bought into it and were blinded by it instead of the policies and the achievements. Like a high school popularity contest. Now watch this second film you can put it in the English but the Russian TALKING is still Russian live.

Subject: Horrific Video Shows Russian Prisoners Murdered in the Street by Ukrainian Soldiers [URL deleted because the point is made by the Subject Line. —The Ed.]

Jeff Frost  
Alexandria, N.H.

**What We Should Do**

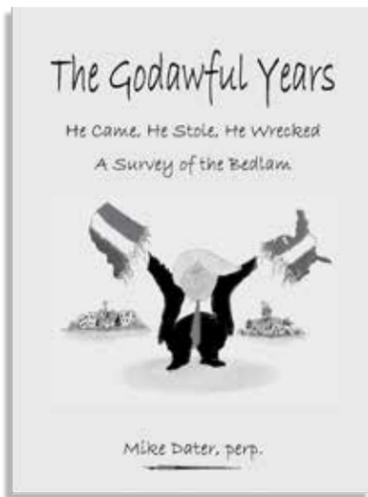
To the Editor:

When Bosnian Serbs were committing war crimes they termed ethnic cleansing, the U.S. and NATO eventually stepped in militarily to stop the bloodshed. A peace deal was then brokered. Today, Russia is committing war crimes in Ukraine. While sanctions will cost Russians financially, they won't bite quickly enough to stop Russia from continuing its attacks on civilians or its seizure of Ukrainian soil.

The U.S. needs to join Ukraine in its fight to oust Russia from its territories. We can use our drones, and F-35 fighter jets to take out Russia's armored vehicles and rocket launchers. We can install our Patriot Mis-

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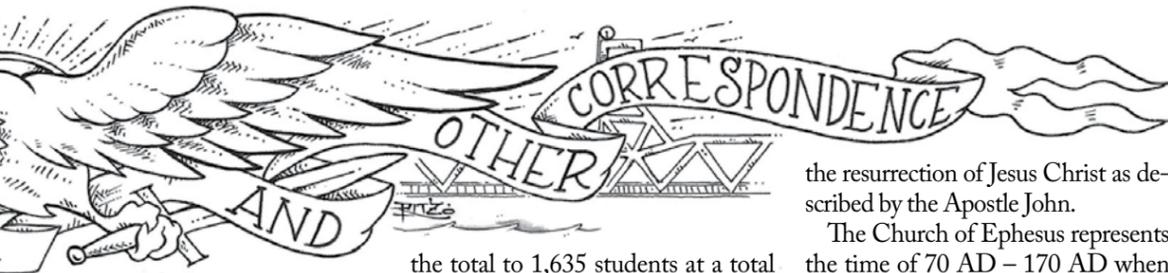
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the resurrection of Jesus Christ as described by the Apostle John.

The Church of Ephesus represents the time of 70 AD – 170 AD when the church became backslidden, leaving their first love for Christ and being less devoted.

The Church of Smyrna represents the time of 170 AD – 310 AD when the church faced persecution under the Roman emperors, facing a martyr's death.

the Church of Laodicea, which represents 1900 AD – to the last period of time. Laodicea was known as the “lukewarm” church. The city of Laodicea had access to two rivers nearby, the hot springs of Hierapolis and the cool freshwater from the snowcapped mountains near Colossae. The city built aqueducts to have the hot and cool water flow into the Laodicea; but by the time the water traveled through the aqueducts, it was lukewarm, tepid, and nauseous. Revelation 3:16, “So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue [sic] thee out of my mouth.”

As prophesized, the church of this

position to show respect to the Oval Office. Shouldn't our church leaders and pastors show “reverence” to the House of God by wearing their “Sunday best”?

The Christians of Laodicea also didn't attract others to Christ. There was nothing different about them. They looked like, acted like non-Christians of the city. They were living in a time of compromise—much like today.

The “lukewarm” church has become a social club with the absence of spiritual heat. Revivals have become entertainment venues with paid singers. The “lukewarm” church has selectively censored God's word to make those in attendance “to feel good” while wanting “not to offend” anyone of their own sin or make them feel “uncomfortable.” Will the church preach on the sin of homosexuality, abortion, or that tattooing your body is against God's will? Will the church teach that the Bible says your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit and you are not your own? (1 Corinthians 6:19) We are to love all sinners; but hate the sin. All of those who sin are welcomed into the church; but the church is not to become part of the world by becoming “lukewarm” by accepting or compromising sinful behavior within the church.

I am sure there are many who will be either offended or convicted by this letter; but it is the responsibility of the church to set the standards set by God's word.

Often people use the verse where Jesus says, “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him and he with Me.” Many believe that verse is directed toward people; but it is directed to the Church of Laodicea (Revelation 3:20). The “lukewarm” church is blinded with ignorance and pride while Jesus stands outside, excluded, and waiting for admittance back into the church of the last generation.

Frank Aquila  
Greenland, N.H.

*Mash Notes, Hate Mail, &c.*

to page six

the total to 1,635 students at a total cost of more than \$8 million. This is the law that gives our public tax dollars to private and religious schools.

They were dismayed Edelblut has posted a complaint form for parents and others to “report” any teacher they feel violates the N.H. law that prohibits the teaching of so-called “divisive concepts” related to race and gender by public schools, state agencies and contractors. HB 1255 virtually bans the mention of Indigenous genocide and race-based chattel slavery in New Hampshire classrooms.

My older friends harkened back to the 1950's, learning N.H. Republicans had submitted a “Cold War Era” Teacher Loyalty bill that teachers would have had to sign to teach.

As we deal with the corrosive forces of Autocracy within and without, please consider how critical a good, honest public education is for the continuation of our American Experiment in Democracy.

Herb Moyer  
Exeter, N.H.

*Herb:*

*To truly appreciate the awfulness of this attack on public education, let's remember that it seems to be the work of a cynical coalition. If one were to wander among the pot-smoking, sbroom-ingesting Free Staters attending their annual PorcFest, we suspect the only thing you'd find them worshipping is Bitcoin, i.e., Mammon. Yet home-schooling fundamentalists team up with them to erode taxpayer-funded public education.*

*The Editor*

====

**Laodicea: The Last Church of the Last Generation—An Easter Letter**

To the Editor:

The Book of Revelation addresses seven letters to seven churches during 70 AD as a prophetic forewarning to seven future periods of time since

**Poetry in Motion**

So my buddies and I are eating a pizza in a picnic pavilion in a public park in Bridgeton, New Jersey, and this guy in a Bridgeton Municipal pick-up truck pulls up and stops, gets out, pulls the top off a trash barrel next to us, pulls out a loaded trash bag, ties it shut, and without even looking, throws it back over his shoulder one-handed twenty feet into the truck bed. Clunk. Perfect. Beautiful.

—W.D. Ehrhart

The Church of Pergamum represents the time of 310 AD – 606 AD when the church compromised and united with Emperor Constantine allowing paganism into the church.

The Church of Thyatira represents the time of 606 AD – 1520 AD, which was the time of idolatry, where teachings of the church were superior to the Word of God. This was during a time of the War of Crusades.

The Church of Sardis represents the time 1520 AD – 1750 AD as the dead church, where Martin Luther protested against false teachings and tyranny.

The Church of Philadelphia represents the time 1750 AD -1900 AD, an era of brotherly love and faithfulness; but became more business and less spiritual.

The last letter to the last church was

generation has become lukewarm, willing to compromise with the world in becoming like the world to bring others into the church. However, Jesus does not want a lukewarm church and warns, “Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in that thy name?... And then I will profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.” (Matthew 7:22-23)

Churches today have left Christ out of the church with mega churches more focused on their appearances of luxury outward; but spiritual poverty inward. Church leaders have forgotten their “reverence,” which means to show a “deep respect” of which the term “reverend” comes from to represent the leader of the church. Presidents today use “reverence” of the

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from page five



Frank:

We are not worthy to comment on these ecclesiastical issues, to which you have clearly given considerable thought. For example, we too were taught that our body is a temple, yet we treat it like a garage. Nevertheless, here we are. Is it God's will? Is it Fate? Or is it just the luck of the draw? We're assuming it's the latter; that seems to lower the pressure.

We wish you had been more explicit about the source for your assertion about the relationship between the seven letters and certain periods of history. If what you say is accurate, we've got a feeling that something's badly out of kilter. The most prominent religious people we know of these days are all in Congress, and there's nothing lukewarm about any of them.

The Editor

====

**No Bread, Just a Circus**

To the editor:

Pundits have described the Trump takeover of the Republican party as a populist revolution that has transformed party priorities and displaced traditional party leaders. This characterization may be broadly accurate but it is overly simplistic and ignores the history and context that led to the emergence of Trump. Harvard political scientist Daniel Ziblatt has studied a concept known as "the conservative dilemma" that provides a more nuanced explanation of the relationship between Trump and the Republican Party.

Ziblatt notes that conservative political parties in democracies are generally aligned with traditional economic elites and function to preserve and promote the financial interests and power of the elites. In democracies with large middle and working class constituencies policies that benefit elites are usually unpopular. The dilemma for conservatives arises from the fact that they must attract electoral majorities that include middle and working class voters in order to win elections. Economic policies that meet the needs

of the majority of voters, however, are likely to be opposed by the elites who provide financial support. To resolve the dilemma, conservative parties often turn to advocacy of social or cultural issues based on racial, religious or ethnic differences to attract voters while promoting economic policies to support the elites. If such a strategy is successful, the conservative party generates voter loyalty among the masses from cultural issues while retaining the support of wealthy elites.

Jacob Hacker and Paul Pierson use the conservative dilemma concept to analyze the Republican Party. Long known as the party of the wealthy, Republicans have traditionally supported the interests of the economic elite through an unrelenting focus on tax cuts for corporations and the rich as well as the deregulation of economic activities. At the same time, they have sought to use social issues to attract voters. In the '70s, their "southern strategy" was designed to appeal to southern white working class voters dissatisfied with Democratic civil rights policies. This strategy was later extended to the Midwest and rural areas to exploit racial divisions. Republicans have forged a strong relationship with evangelical Christians on the basis of opposition to abortion and LGBT rights. Likewise, their association with the NRA seeks to exploit voters concerned with second amendment rights and larger issues related to perceived loss of individual freedom to large government.

The common element in Republican efforts to attract social issue voters has been to exploit fear and anger among certain social groups regarding cultural and religious issues. Republicans are well versed in generating votes by manipulating populist outrage. In Trump, they encountered a demagogic party outsider who magnified the outrage

in the white working class voter base better than the party hierarchy while promising economic relief to displaced blue collar workers.

It would be a mistake, however, to suppose that the ascendance of Trump to the leadership of the Republican Party ended their support of the economic elite. This was demonstrated by the first two major policy initiatives of the Trump administration. The first was the abortive attempt to eliminate Obama's Affordable Care Act, an initiative overwhelmingly promoted by the financial elite. The second was the successful tax act of 2017, touted as a middle class tax cut, but which provided over 80 percent of its benefits to corporations and the top 10 percent of the wealthy. The irony, of course, is that both of these policy proposals acted against the economic interests of the Republican base while enhancing the wealth of corporations and economic elites. None of the Trump promises to improve the economic conditions of the working class came to fruition. Instead, he embarked on a mission of deregulation through executive orders to provide relief to corporations. This reveals the paradox that a disaffected base of white, non-college educated voters (57 percent of the party) provide the Republican Party with the political power to enact economic policies that overwhelmingly benefit the wealthy and disadvantage themselves.

As long as Trump maintains his hold on the base, it is unlikely that many Republican politicians will oppose him. Despite his unhinged ramblings, he provides the votes that enable Republicans to enact policies that benefit their financial masters. As long as Trump does not disrupt this relationship, Republican leaders are likely to support him no matter how dangerous he may be to the democratic process.

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

Robert:

As the heading we put over your letter suggests, this analysis had us thinking of Roman emperors. They controlled their public with bread and circuses; the GOP has done those tyrants one better.

The Editor

====

**Religion Has Lost Its Capacity To Inspire Civic Good**

Dear Editor,

At a time when America could use its traditional services, religion has receded into a deep obscurity occasioned by its own narrow view of life.

In ancient times, religion was unquestionably the leading force of nature, in no small part because it was all about unraveling the mysterious laws of the physical world and of its various societies. High priests were the leading scientists, historians, and ethicists of their time, and the number two seat in government everywhere was drawn from their ranks.

Today, priests and pastors hide behind glitzy pulpits in front of almost nonexistent congregations inviting all to join with them in exclusive private societies having little credibility in the community and even less social governing power among the citizenry. They display contempt for science, an inability to decipher their own historical scripture, and leaders sporting the ethical capacity of common politicians, lawyers, and product marketers. Preaching about forgiveness, love and service seems their one remaining strong suit.

If America was founded on divine guidance mediated through its faith-inspired founding fathers and mothers, it is easy to see why it has gone off the rails today. America's faith is flopping around like a fish out of water with no one available to release it back into the stream.

Kimball Shinkoskey  
Woods Cross, Utah

Kimball:  
Congratulations: you keep making us think...

The Editor

====

**Denigrating Our Newest Justice**

To the Editor:

You can expect Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson to replace the established will of the American people with her own views. Justice Jackson will do what President Biden and her supporters put her in place to do, i.e., to undermine our "Democracy."

...

Justice Jackson will likely show leniency for criminals, overrule the laws created by the people's representatives, limit our Freedoms including our First and Second Amendment Rights, vote contrary to the views of the overwhelming majority of Americans, and overrule the original meaning of our Constitution established by the people. Justice Jackson will vote to overthrow our "Democracy."

Don Ewing  
Meredith, N.H.

Don:

You begin by talking about "the established will of the American people"? What exactly is that? Are we to presume that you know what that will is? Based on your oeuvre to date, we heartily dispute this unlikely assertion.

You conclude by predicting that Justice Jackson will prove to be a fount from which a whole slew of right wing bugaboos will flow. Even if those were her aims, how do you suppose she would accomplish them, outnumbered by the troglodytes so accurately depicted elsewhere in this issue by our Starving Artiste?

In between you doubt Justice Jackson's word. Your letter decrying Justice Kavanaugh's confirmation perjuries must have gone to our spam folder.

You've begun throwing quotes around the word democracy. That tallies with the fascist campaign to denigrate the one remaining aspect of our political system which is most in need of support and preservation.

On a more personal note, your letters seem to come from a very dark place. Constant negative thinking can have deleterious effects on your mental health. Cheer up. Sorry, by the way, about deleting 338 words.

The Editor

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# Nuclear weapons and cranial winter

by Robert C. Koehler

**Nuclear sanity:** ultimate (or, God help us, immediate) disarmament.

**Nuclear insanity:** ongoing development and deployment, endless investment, eventual (either accidental or intentional) use.

Senator Ed Markey, [D-Mass.], addressing Congress several weeks ago, made a heartfelt and powerful case for nuclear sanity, for a revamping of the system of mutually assured destruction, which gives certain national leaders “Godlike powers known as sole authority to end life on the planet as we know it....”

He went on: “We cannot uninvent the atom, its military applications, and technological knowhow. The nuclear Pandora’s box is sadly forever opened. We must, however, do everything in our power to be able to look the next generation in the eye and say that we did everything—everything—in our power to avert the unfathomable, a nuclear war on this planet; and that includes supporting negotiations that not only end Russia’s war in Ukraine, but also future negotiations to end the budding 21st century nuclear arms race which is spinning out of control.”

Until the other day, I thought all I needed to do was grasp the sanity of nuclear disarmament—help spread the word—and the world would eventually come around. Then, out of the blue, I stumbled upon the “rationality” of nuclear insanity, and it

shocked me into a new level of understanding. Suddenly, against my will, I’m starting to get it and, ever since, I’ve been trying (psychologically) to duck and cover. This transcends geopolitics.

Here’s the beginning of a recent, miniscule Reuters story:

“The global market for nuclear missiles and bombs should surpass \$126 billion within ten years, up nearly 73 percent from 2020 levels, according to a report by Allied Market Research on Monday, as Russian aggression in Ukraine spurs military spending.”

I could hardly read beyond this paragraph. There’s a “global market” for nuclear missiles? You mean, like there’s a market for oil, for gold... for bananas? I had always fathomed nukes solely as geopolitical, as harbingers of hell, birthed by World War II and the Manhattan Project, forever entwined with the words Robert Oppenheimer quoted from the Bhagavad Gita when the world’s first atomic bomb was detonated at Alamogordo, N.M. in July 1945: “Now I am become Death, the destroyer of worlds.”

But obviously somebody has to build them. There are more than 12,000 nuclear warheads here and there on Planet Earth, with more coming. Just because their use is suicidal, that doesn’t mean the builders shouldn’t profit from them.

I had no choice but to visit the source of the Reuters article, the Allied Market Research report, which discussed the nuclear arms market with such a creepy-cold objectivity,

I started to sense the mental equivalent of nuclear winter (I started calling it cranial winter), e.g.:

“There is expected to be a nuclear arms acquisition race by superpowers such as the U.S. and Russia, to accelerate business opportunism within coming years. In 2021, the U.S. and Russia had 5,550 and 6,255 nuclear warheads and are expected to reach 6,380 and 6,734 in 2030 respectively. The expenditure done by major companies such as Lockheed Martin, BAE Systems, Airbus, and Boeing toward research, development, management, conducting exhibitions and seminars to conduct importance and feasibility of nuclear weapons will encourage nations to increase their budget allocation... “The rise in border disputes among neighboring nations, plans for territorial expansion, and efforts to establish strategic and political dominance at the global level remain primary factors that support the nuclear bombs and missiles market. The ongoing dispute between Ukraine and Russia as of March 2022 will notably impact the business dynamics in the coming years.”

And there you have it: the upside of World War III. The upside of Armageddon. There’s money to be made in border disputes and superpower clashes—lots of money. Keep at it, boys! As *The Nation* noted: “In 2015, the defense industry mobilized a small army of at least 718 lobbyists and doled out more than \$67 million dollars pressuring Congress for increased weapons spending generally.”

We should go along with their rulings only if they appear to be fair and honest, not based on personal whim or partisan ideology, and not meant to extend plutocratic power over the people. As Justice Elena Kagan rightly put it, “The only way we can get people to do what we think they should do is because people respect us.”

That’s where the present majority of far-right-wing appointees have failed so abjectly. Rather than meet-



Vice Admiral William H.P. “Spike” Blandy and his wife slice into a mushroom cloud cake while Rear Admiral Frank J. Lowry looks on.

Money makes the world go around, and if you can control its flow, you make the world go around. Or so it seems. And I confess, I’m not sure what the takeaway is on all this. As *The Nation* story pointed out, nuclear-weapons contracts are welfare-sated. The business model is called “cost-plus,” that is: “no matter how high cost overruns may be compared to original bids, contractors receive a guaranteed profit percentage above their costs. High profits are effectively guaranteed, no matter how inefficient or over-budget the project may become.”

And: “The continuing pressure of Congressional Republicans for cuts

in domestic social programs are a crucial mechanism that ensures federal tax dollars will be available for lucrative military contracts.”

Nuclear winter begins with cranial winter: with a coldly abstracted reality in which profit trumps sanity. Duck and cover won’t save us.

Those of us who want a future have some serious negotiating to do, not with Russia but with Congress—with ourselves.

Robert Koehler ([koehlercw@gmail.com](mailto:koehlercw@gmail.com)), syndicated by PeaceVoice, is a Chicago award-winning journalist and editor. He is the author of *Courage Grows Strong at the Wound*.

# The Republican Supremes Are Defrocking Themselves

by Jim Hightower

What is so supreme about the Supreme Court?

I mean besides being housed in an imposing marble building, being the final stop on America’s judicial train, and having its nine members look photogenically authoritarian in those full-body black robes. And, yes, its existence is written into the Constitution—but so is Congress, and no one thinks of it as anything

supreme. We 330 million Americans are told we must obey “the law,” as defined by a half dozen unelected lawyers on this court. Why should we democratic citizens do that? After all, these legalistic elites have no actual power to force their personal beliefs on us—there’s no Supreme Court army. In fact, their sole source of power is one that is intangible, extremely fragile, and easily frittered away: Public trust.

ing a lofty standard of judiciousness, all six have pulled the court down into the mire of crass Republican politics. They’ve corrupted the system and jiggered the law to decree that corporate campaign cash is “free speech,” that the state can take over women’s bodies, that the Republican Party can unilaterally shut millions of voters out of America’s voting booths... and so awful much more that enthrones the few over the many.

Respect? Trust? The Republican court is already down to 40 percent public approval rating, having surrendered its legitimacy to be a governing authority over us.

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](http://HightowerLowdown.org).

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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

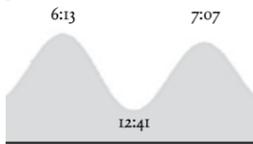
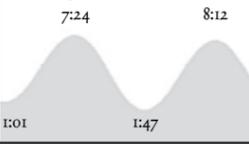
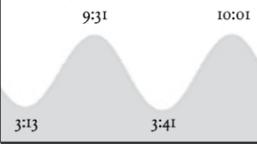
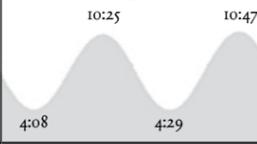
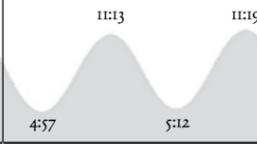
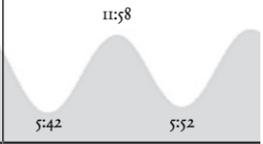
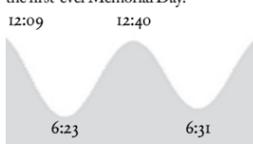
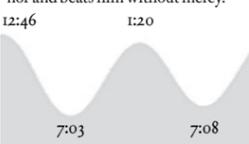
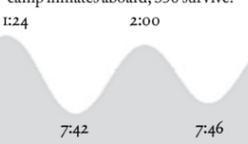
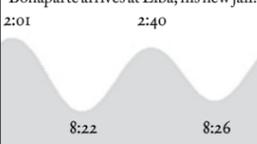
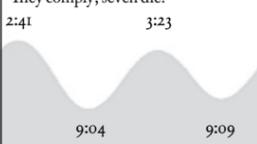
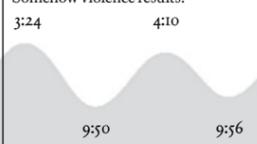
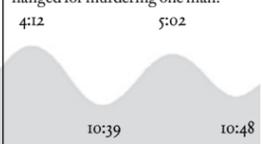
moves about seventeen billion gallons of seawater — enough to fill 2,125,000 tanker trucks — up the river and into Great Bay. This creates a roving hydraulic conflict, as incoming sea and the outgoing river collide. The skirmish line

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, APRIL 24                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       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| <p><b>2020</b>—The lead item on all news broadcasts: the manufacturer has announced that, contrary to what the President has said, people should not inject themselves with Lysol.</p> <p><b>1980</b>—Eight Americans die and five are wounded trying to get American hostages out of Teheran.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—“The military situation [in South Vietnam] is favorable,” says Gen. Wm. C. Westmoreland, but protests at home might lose the war.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—<i>Soyuz T3</i> chutes fail; misfiring retro-rockets incinerate the remains of Cosmonaut Vladimir Komarov.</p> <p><b>1959</b>—Michigan native Capt. John S. Lappo, piloting a six-engine RB-47, flies under the Mackinac Bridge at 425 mph; clearance: 155 feet.</p> <p><b>1953</b>—A B-29 with an F-84 bolted to each wingtip is inexplicably test-flown over Long Island Sound. The B-29 and an F-84 crash with no survivors.</p> <p><b>1916</b>—The Easter Rising: the Irish Republic is proclaimed in Dublin.</p> <p><b>1904</b>—A prohibition debate becomes a gunfight in Waller County, Texas courthouse square; four die, including Rep. John M. Pinckney.</p> <p><b>1877</b>—Reconstruction ends as Federal troops leave Louisiana. Best of luck, all you Black folks...</p> <p><b>1778</b>—<i>Ranger</i>, under John Paul Jones, captures <i>Drake</i>—the first U.S. victory over a British ship in British waters.</p> <p><b>1704</b>—John Campbell begins <i>The Boston News-Letter</i>, the first newspaper to succeed in the Americas.</p>        | <p><b>2005</b>—Charles Duelfer, the CIA's man in charge of finding WMDs in Iraq, says there are none.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—George W.[MD] Bush fires his Secretary of the Army for saying we don't have enough troops in Iraq.</p> <p><b>2002</b>—George W.[MD] Bush and Saudi Prince Abdullah play kissy-face at the President's Texas "ranch."</p> <p><b>1984</b>—Asked if he's ever been to a communist country, Reagan Chief of Staff James A. Baker III replies, "Well, I've been to Massachusetts."</p> <p><b>1962</b>—The U.S. re-starts atmospheric nuclear testing with a bang—actually, 26 bangs over 77 days.</p> <p><b>1959</b>—Accused of raping a white woman, Mack Charles Parker is dragged from Mississippi's Pearl River County Courthouse and lynched with help from a deputy sheriff.</p> <p><b>1944</b>—RIP George Herriman.</p> <p><b>1915</b>—Australian and New Zealand troops under British command attack Turks at Gallipoli. They die in droves.</p> <p><b>1898</b>—The U.S. obliges William R. Hearst by declaring war on Spain.</p> <p><b>1847</b>—Leftovers from the Donner Party struggle out of the wilderness.</p> <p><b>1846</b>—Mexicans attack a U.S. "scouting party" near the border. As U.S. Grant later writes, "We were sent to provoke a fight, but it was essential that Mexico should commence it."</p> <p><b>1523</b>—Henry VIII, the King of England, restricts private ownership of firearms to those with incomes greater than 100 pounds a year.</p>                                     | <p><b>1986</b>—Murphy visits Chernobyl: Ukrainian real estate values plummet, northern Earth is irradiated, and thousands are condemned to death.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—Someone dynamites the Louisiana Senate Chamber; a pencil remains stuck in the ornate ceiling.</p> <p><b>1952</b>—The captain of the <i>U.S.S. Hobson</i>, disregarding an underling's advice, takes his destroyer across the bow of the <i>U.S.S. Wasp</i>. Cut in half, the <i>Hobson</i> sinks with more than half its crew, captain included.</p> <p><b>1944</b>—The U.S. takes over Montgomery-Ward after it defies the National Labor Relations Board.</p> <p><b>1937</b>—German and Italian planes destroy Guernica, Spain.</p> <p><b>1931</b>—Lou Gehrig hits a home run, but is called out for passing another runner on the basepath.</p> <p><b>1922</b>—On the Detroit street where he'd parked it, Henry Ford discovers someone has stolen his Ford.</p> <p><b>1901</b>—"I'll be in Hell before you start breakfast!" says train-robber Tom "Black Jack" Ketchum, whose head flies off after the hangman drops him.</p> <p><b>1865</b>—Hatter-turned-cavalryman Boston Corbett, who had earlier castrated himself with scissors to better resist prostitutes, shoots and kills John Wilkes Booth.</p> <p><b>1717</b>—A Nor'easter takes <i>Whydah</i> to the bottom off Wellfleet. Captain "Black Sam" Bellamy—richest pirate ever—goes down with his ship, most of his crew, and four tons of booty.</p>                                                         | <p><b>2017</b>—"This is more work than my previous life," whines Dolt #45. "I thought it would be easier."</p> <p><b>2016</b>—Calling Sen. Ted Cruz "Lucifer in the flesh," former Speaker John Boehner tells Stanford students he "never worked with a more miserable son-of-a-bitch in my life."</p> <p><b>2011</b>—On the worst day of the largest tornado outbreak in history, 324 people are killed from Texas to Ontario.</p> <p><b>1994</b>—In South Africa, ex-prisoner Nelson Mandela is elected President.</p> <p><b>1986</b>—Protesting high rates for dish owners, John R. "Captain Midnight" MacDougall hijacks HBO's satellite.</p> <p><b>1978</b>—A cooling tower being hastily built at Willow Island, W.Va. by N.J.-based Research-Cottrell collapses, killing 51 construction workers. The company is fined \$1,700 per death.</p> <p><b>1951</b>—An Air Force B-36—biggest bomber ever—is cut in half by an F-51 fighter during a training flight over Oklahoma; 13 die, four live. One, TSgt. Dick Thrasher, survived a B-36 "Broken Arrow" crash a year earlier.</p> <p><b>1932</b>—Hart Crane, 32, says "Good-bye, everybody," and leaps from the <i>Orizaba</i> into the Gulf of Mexico.</p> <p><b>1911</b>—Rep. Victor Berger [Socialist-Wisc.] files a Resolution to Abolish the Senate, which he calls "obstructive... useless... a menace to... liberties... and an obstacle to social growth..."</p> <p><b>1865</b>—The steamboat <i>Sultana</i> explodes on the Mississippi; 1,800 dead; 1,450 are just-freed Union POWs.</p> | <p><b>2011</b>—During a speech in Las Vegas, Donald Trump drops about seven f-bombs, promising to tell the Chinese, "listen you mother_____s, we're going to tax you 25 percent."</p> <p><b>2006</b>—Rush Limbaugh's lawyers announce that their fine work will keep their dope-addled client out of prison.</p> <p><b>2004</b>—The SEC says banks can risk more money and keep less on hand.</p> <p><b>2004</b>—Frank Lautenberg [D-N.J.] says on the floor of the Senate, "We know who the chickenhawks are. They talk tough on national defense and military issues...but when it was their turn to serve, they were AWOL."</p> <p><b>1988</b>—Aloha Airlines 737 develops a 20 foot hole in its fuselage; stewardess Clarabelle Lansing falls to her death.</p> <p><b>1987</b>—Contras in Nicaragua, "moral equivalent of our Founding fathers" according to President Reagan, murder American volunteer Ben Lindner.</p> <p><b>1975</b>—Daniel Schorr reports on CBS that the CIA plotted to assassinate the leaders of Chile, Congo, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and Vietnam.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—Hot brakes start a fire in the Roseville, Calif. railway, and a trainload of bombs explodes. No one dies but 5,500 buildings are damaged and the town of Antelope disappears.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—Benito Mussolini, his mistress, and three accomplices are summarily executed by partisans and hanged by their heels at a gas station.</p> <p><b>1789</b>—<i>HMS Bounty</i> undergoes an unscheduled change of command.</p>             | <p><b>2014</b>—Despite nine tries, Okla. prison officials miss Clayton Lockett's veins; the poison goes into muscle. Without enough left to kill, they discuss options as he writhes. He ends their debate by dying of a heart attack.</p> <p><b>2006</b>—During the Correspondents Dinner, Stephen Colbert performs the first autopsy of a sitting President.</p> <p><b>2004</b>—The Commission "investigating" 9/11 allows George W.[MD] Bush and Dick "Dick" Cheney to "testify" without taking an oath.</p> <p><b>1992</b>—A mostly-white jury in Simi Valley finds L.A. police not guilty of assaulting Rodney King. Soldiers and Marines end the rioting six days later.</p> <p><b>1975</b>—As helicopters begin evacuating Saigon, Marines Charles McMahon and Darwin Judge become the last two Americans to die in Vietnam.</p> <p><b>1974</b>—The term "expletive deleted" enters the English language when the Nixon White House releases redacted transcripts of Oval Office recordings.</p> <p><b>1961</b>—The Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army says "we cannot win a conventional war in Southeast Asia."</p> <p><b>1938</b>—FDR to Congress: "[T]he liberty of a democracy is not safe if the people tolerate the growth of private power to a point where it becomes stronger than their democratic state itself. That, in its essence, is Fascism..."</p> <p><b>1899</b>—Hundreds of union miners hijack a train in Idaho, haul 1.5 tons of dynamite to the mill of the Bunker Hill Mine, and blow it to bits.</p>                 | <p><b>1993</b>—The first website goes online.</p> <p><b>1977</b>—The Clamshell Alliance assembles at Seabrook to fight the nuke.</p> <p><b>1975</b>—Saigon falls.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—Rabid Nixon supporter Rev. Sun Myung Moon gets a green card.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—Announcing their resignations, Richard Nixon calls felons-to-be John D. Ehrlichman and H.R. Haldeman "two of the finest public servants I have ever known."</p> <p><b>1971</b>—Medal of Honor recipient Dwight H. Johnson is shot to death while robbing a Detroit grocery store.</p> <p><b>1966</b>—Rep. Melvin Laird (R-Wisc.) says that the problem with Vietnam is "an administration that fails to inform the people fully and frankly about the objectives and progress of the war."</p> <p><b>1961</b>—Leonid I. Rogozov, the sole doctor at a Soviet station in Antarctica, removes his own appendix.</p> <p><b>1956</b>—Ex-Veeep Alben Barkley concludes his keynote speech to the Washington and Lee Mock Convention, then keels over dead.</p> <p><b>1900</b>—The Illinois Central's <i>Cannonball Express</i> slams into a freight train at Vaughan, Miss. Engineer John Luther "Casey" Jones is the only fatality.</p> <p><b>1871</b>—Despite having surrendered, Apaches living at Camp Grant in the Arizona Territory are attacked by a mob of American vigilantes and Tonono O'odham; 144 die, all but eight are women and children.</p> <p><b>1844</b>—Hank Thoreau accidentally sets 300 acres of Concord forest afire.</p> |
| <p>6:13                      7:07</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12:41</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <p>7:24                      8:12</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1:01                      1:47</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  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                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <p>9:31                      10:01</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3:13                      3:41</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     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                      | <p>11:13                      11:19</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4:57                      5:12</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        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| SUNDAY, MAY 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          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| <p><b>2003</b>—G.W.[MD] Bush says "major combat operations in Iraq have ended." U.S. death toll so far: 140.</p> <p><b>1999</b>—<i>The New Hampshire Gazette</i> resumes regular (fortnightly) publication in Portsmouth.</p> <p><b>1989</b>—"Bill" Gardner, Secretary of State for Life, assigns rights to the trade name <i>New Hampshire Gazette</i> to a collateral descendant of the founder.</p> <p><b>1977</b>—Seabrook: 1,414 Clams busted.</p> <p><b>1975</b>—Tom Polgar sends CIA's last cable from Saigon: "...we have lost.... Let us hope...that we have learned our lesson. Saigon signing off."</p> <p><b>1970</b>—U.S. troops join ARVN soldiers in the Cambodian "Incursion."</p> <p><b>1960</b>—Russian missiles bring down a U-2 piloted by the CIA's Gary Powers.</p> <p><b>1955</b>—To supplant Harding's failed "Americanization Day," Ike proclaims an equally-doomed "Loyalty Day."</p> <p><b>1944</b>—Jacob Coxey, 90, on the Capitol steps, completes the speech he began 50 years earlier.</p> <p><b>1921</b>—To supplant filthy leftists' subversive May Day, Warren G. Harding proclaims "Americanization Day."</p> <p><b>1894</b>—Jacob Coxey leads a 500-man "Army of the Unemployed" to the Capitol steps, where he calls for a federally-funded jobs program. Within minutes, police hustle him away.</p> <p><b>1865</b>—In Charleston, S.C., 10,000 people, most formerly enslaved, including veterans of the 54th Massachusetts and 104th U.S. Colored Troops, hold the first-ever Memorial Day.</p> | <p><b>2011</b>—After outliving the Administration of G.W.[MD] Bush, Osama bin Laden is whacked by its successor.</p> <p><b>2006</b>—With stereotypical inefficiency, state workers in Lucasville, Ohio jab Joseph Clark 19 times over 86 minutes to kill him by lethal injection[s].</p> <p><b>2003</b>—Richard Perle, its architect, writes that the Iraq War "ended without the Arab world rising up against us, as the war's critics feared, without the quagmire they predicted, without the heavy losses in house-to-house fighting they warned us to expect."</p> <p><b>1972</b>—The good die young; J. Edgar Hoover does it at 77.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—John Dean revokes a permit and tells 40,000 protesters to leave D.C. Some comply, but many say, if the government won't shut down the war, we'll shut down the government.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—The California State Assembly is visited by 26 armed Black Panthers.</p> <p><b>1963</b>—In Birmingham, Alabama, 959 schoolchildren are arrested for letting themselves be attacked by dogs, firehoses, and cops with billy clubs.</p> <p><b>1957</b>—Morphine-addicted Sen. Joe McCarthy [R-Wisc.] dies of liver failure at 48. Top U.S. dope cop Harry J. Anslinger, who's been slipping him government morphine "for reasons of national security," can quit now.</p> <p><b>1940</b>—Mississippi Governor Paul Johnson, 60, clubs <i>Jackson Daily News</i> editor Major Frederick Sullens from behind. Sullens, 62, floors the Governor and beats him without mercy.</p> | <p><b>2020</b>—Dolt #45 desecrates the Lincoln Memorial with a campaign event.</p> <p><b>2016</b>—Lindsey Graham tweets, "If we nominate Trump, we will get destroyed...and we will deserve it."</p> <p><b>2016</b>—After accusing Ted Cruz's father of being tied to the JFK assassination, Donald Trump wins Indiana and clinches the GOP nomination.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—The Old Man of the Mountain is busted by the Law of Gravity.</p> <p><b>1995</b>—Alabama Governor "Fob" James brings back the chain gang.</p> <p><b>1987</b>—E. J. Dionne's column quotes Sen. Gary Hart (D-Colo.): "Follow me around," meanwhile, the <i>Miami Herald</i> reports that a woman (not his wife) spent the night in his D.C. townhouse.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—Cops in D.C. set a record: 7,000 arrests in one day [12,000 over five days]—no food, no water, no toilets. Most charges are dropped, many arrests recoup damages.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—"The NVA has] been in a war for years and years," says Veep Spiro "Ted" Agnew. "I don't think they are capable...of continuing this fight."</p> <p><b>1968</b>—French students protest; administrators call cops. Big mistake.</p> <p><b>1946</b>—Wired by a drunken trustee, "Gruesome Gertie," Louisiana's electric chair, fails to kill Willie Francis; back to Death Row he goes. Gertie does get Willie a year later; he's 18.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—The RAF bombs the German ship <i>Cap Arcona</i>, believing it's carrying SS officers. Of 4,500 concentration camp inmates aboard, 350 survive.</p> | <p><b>1990</b>—Six-inch flames shoot from Jesse Joseph Tafero's head as Florida's "Old Sparky" takes three jolts and seven minutes to kill him.</p> <p><b>1989</b>—U.S.M.C. Lieut. Col. Oliver North is convicted of four felonies in the Iran-Contra scandal, but a Congressional screw-up lets him skate.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—In Haymarket Square, Chicago, a new cop statue replaces one destroyed by a bomb months earlier. This one gets blown up, too, months later.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—Ohio National Guard troops shoot 13 unarmed students, killing four, at Kent State.</p> <p><b>1961</b>—The Freedom Rides begin throughout the south.</p> <p><b>1942</b>—The Battle of the Coral Sea begins. In four days 14 ships are sunk or damaged, 159 planes destroyed, and 1,565 men killed; it was a great victory.</p> <p><b>1940</b>—Nora Joyce tells Jim, "I haven't read any of your books but I'll have to someday because they must be good considering how well they sell."</p> <p><b>1927</b>—A motorman "sick of seeing that policeman with his arm raised" drives his streetcar into a nine-foot statue of a cop commemorating the Haymarket bombing.</p> <p><b>1886</b>—In Haymarket Square, Chicago, demonstrators against May 3rd police brutality at the McCormick Reaper plant are attacked by more police. A bomb kills seven cops; a dubious trial later convicts eight anarchists.</p> <p><b>1814</b>—Former Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte arrives at Elba, his new jail.</p>                                                            | <p><b>1985</b>—In Bitburg, Germany, Republican President Ronald Reagan lays a wreath at a cemetery full of Nazis.</p> <p><b>1981</b>—Bobby Sands dies of hunger in Maze Prison, defiant to the last.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—Jerry Rubin speaks at UNH.</p> <p><b>1961</b>—New Hampshire's own Alan Shepard prays, "Please, dear God, don't let me f__k up." Prayer answered, he's the 1st American in space.</p> <p><b>1960</b>—Gary Powers is a "civilian employed by Lockheed" piloting a "weather research plane," says the U.S.</p> <p><b>1955</b>—U.S. TVs show a mock suburb complete with mannequins hit by a real nuke. The scorched, ragged figures are later displayed at J.C. Penney with a sign saying "This could be you."</p> <p><b>1945</b>—The collier <i>Black Point</i> is torpedoed by <i>U-853</i> within sight of the Point Judith, R.I. lighthouse.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—Sunday school picnickers in Bly, Ore., find a strange object. The Japanese balloon bomb explodes as they're dragging it out of the woods, killing five Sunday school children and a minister's pregnant wife.</p> <p><b>1925</b>—As local boosters had hoped, John T. Scopes is busted for teaching evolution in Tennessee. Prosecutors include a man named Sue K. Hicks.</p> <p><b>1904</b>—Cy Young pitches the American League's first perfect game for the Boston Americans (later the Red Sox).</p> <p><b>1886</b>—In Milwaukee, Gov. Jeremiah Rusk orders 250 National Guard soldiers to fire on a crowd of strikers. They comply; seven die.</p> | <p><b>2010</b>—An imaginary bus bomb inspires panic in Portsmouth, N.H.</p> <p><b>2010</b>—A Londoner scamming from his parents' basement gives The Invisible Hand of the Market™ jitters: the Dow drops nine pct. in five minutes.</p> <p><b>1996</b>—Missing for nine days, ex-CIA Director William Colby turns up in Chesapeake Bay, dead but remarkably fresh-looking, 20 feet from where searchers found his canoe eight days earlier. Verdict: a routine drowning.</p> <p><b>1982</b>—LAPD Chief Darryl Gates explains "some blacks [die in choke holds because] the veins or arteries do not open up as fast as they do in normal people."</p> <p><b>1978</b>—In Chicago, First Lady Rosalynn Carter is photographed shaking hands with Polish Constitution Day Parade chairman (and prolific serial killer) John Wayne Gacy.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—Gen. Wallace Greene, Jr., Bly, Ore., find a strange object. The Japanese balloon bomb explodes as they're dragging it out of the woods, killing five Sunday school children and a minister's pregnant wife.</p> <p><b>1937</b>—A huge Nazi gas bag ignites over Lakehurst, New Jersey, 14 years before Rush Limbaugh is even born.</p> <p><b>1868</b>—Angry that Samuel Mills had dropped from sight when the gallows opened under him, hundreds of observers riot in Woodsville, N.H.</p> <p><b>1862</b>—RIP Henry D. Thoreau.</p> <p><b>1844</b>—Nativist goons return to Philadelphia's Catholic Kensington district, armed to better defend their flag. Somehow violence results.</p> | <p><b>1999</b>—A U.S. B-2 drops five "smart" bombs on the Chinese embassy in Belgrade: three dead, 27 wounded.</p> <p><b>1998</b>—Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin and Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan successfully quash an effort to regulate credit default swaps.</p> <p><b>1992</b>—Reporters reveal Ross Perot's "concern" over U.S. POWs was mostly about Richard Nixon's presidency.</p> <p><b>1985</b>—New York throws a ticker tape parade for 25,000 Vietnam veterans. Better late than never.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—Marine Sgt. Robert Phleger, 1st Force Recon, is killed in the night by a tiger in Quang Nam Province.</p> <p><b>1955</b>—Black voting activist Rev. George W. Lee is gunned down in Midnight, Miss. No charges are ever filed.</p> <p><b>1954</b>—The Viet Minh overrun the French garrison at Dien Bien Phu.</p> <p><b>1931</b>—In NYC, 300 cops entertain 15,000 bystanders by directing 700 rounds of rifle and machine gun fire at a fifth-floor apartment in a rooming house on West 91st St. After two hours Francis "Two-Gun" Crowley, his 16-year old girlfriend Helen Walsh, and his partner Rudolph "Fats" Durringer surrender.</p> <p><b>1931</b>—In Corbin, Ky. Harland Sanders—later Col. Sanders—puts two bullets in a gas station manager for painting over a sign for his restaurant.</p> <p><b>1896</b>—Gilmanton-born Herman W. Mudgett, aka "Dr. H.H. Holmes," fiendish killer of over 100 women, is hanged for murdering one man.</p>                      |
| <p>6:23                      6:31</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  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                      | <p>9:50                      9:56</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            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