

The Fortnightly Rant

Isn't 32 Years Long Enough?

With the Republican Party hell bent on capturing Congress once and for all this November, and the White House two years hence, it may be time to ask if perhaps someone ought to consider taking a few prudent preventive measures, lest our democracy—such as it is—should be snatched away forever.

We hasten to add that, in proposing that somebody actually do something, we do not mean to give offense to anyone. As others before us have observed, there is more than enough incivility in the public discourse already.

Besides, one can't be too careful these days. One never knows when a partisan from either camp might conclude that the time has come to armor up, lock and load, and exercise their God-given right to prevail with a little help from the 2nd Amendment.

Nevertheless, we shall persist, at least far enough to say that it seems unlikely, should Republicans succeed in establishing control over the conduct of elections in enough states to control the Electoral College, that they will suddenly and spontaneously have a change of heart and offer to share power with a rival party they've been bullying for nearly thirty years.

If our analysis is correct, then Lincoln's "last best hope of earth" has another 158 days. After that we start turning into Victor Orban's Hungary.

As a news organization, it is not our place to offer a value judgment on this potential turn of events. A little historical context may be useful, though.

In 1990, Republican candidates across the country received a mailing from GOPAC, a tax-exempt 527 racket run by Rep. Newton Leroy

"Newt" Gingrich [R-Ga.].

"We have heard a plaintive plea," said Newt's pamphlet: "I wish I could speak like Newt."

"Language: A Key Mechanism of Control," was the answer to those prayers. It provided helpful slurs for candidates to sling at their opponents, their records, their proposals, and their party. A representative sampling: *abuse of power, betray, bizarre, bosses, cheat, coercion, collapse, corrupt, criminal rights, cynicism[!], decay, destroy, devour, disgrace, endanger, failure, greed, hypocrisy, ideological, incompetent, insensitive[!], intolerant, liberal, lie, machine, mandate(s), pathetic, radical, red tape, self-serving, selfish, shame, sick, spend(ing), steal, taxes, they/them, threaten, traitors[!!!], waste, and welfare.*

Five years after its release, the pamphlet had curdled enough Republican brains to elect Gingrich Speaker of the House of Representatives. Over the course of his four-year reign of terror—with a little help from Rush Limbaugh on the radio and Roger Ailes at Fox "News"—the better angels of the nation's nature seemed to wither up and die.

Hypocrisy has been one of Gingrich's most consistent and revolting traits. Ever ready to cast stones at horndogs like President Bill Clinton, the Speaker himself had the morals of a tom cat. His marital history was an epic of serial adultery. He divorced his first wife because she was "not young enough or pretty enough to be the wife of a President. And besides," he noted, "she has cancer."

Surveying this history, a reasonable person might well ask, "How did a presumably-innocent baby ever turn into such a miserable bas-



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UNILATERAL BIPARTISANSHIP

tard?" Blogger E.H. Hail may have the answer.

During the ex-Speaker's ill-fated bid for the 2012 GOP Presidential nomination, Hail discovered that Gingrich is an *hereditary* miserable bastard. His father was born out of wedlock, and so was his father before him. The reader can find the sordid details at hailtoyou.wordpress.com.

Despite his unfortunate lineage, and his rejection by the nation in 2012, Newt continues to devote attention to public policy. Sadly, the results are as deplorable as ever. Last week he offered a solution to the problem of schoolchildren being killed by gunfire: put more guns in schools.

"Every school in the country ought to have five or 10 people paid \$500 a month or more extra—that would be a rational federal program to pay every teacher who's willing to be trained and armed to protect the

children—teachers and administrators."

To be fair, there is a precedent, and it's one which makes his proposal appear generous. Combat pay from the Pentagon is measly \$225 a month.

That generosity is one reason the proposal is a non-starter. The *Washington Post's* Philip Bump ran the numbers: to cover all the nation's 131,000 public schools, Congress would have to give 655,000 teachers a pay raise costing a minimum of \$4 billion a year. The sun will rise in the west before that happens.

Bump is too smart to take Gingrich's proposal seriously. It's just "something to say," he writes, "that met the needs of his position as a Fox News contributor: giving primacy to toughness over rationality and focusing first on coming up with solutions that don't involve limiting guns."

It would be pointless to ask

whether Gingrich is a highly-paid stooge of the GOP or the NRA. What, after all, is the difference? In the decade since the Sandy Hook shooting, the NRA is alleged to have spent about \$100 million supporting the Republican Party—including \$30 million to elect The Former Guy.

Yet, on Monday, asked about the prospects for legislation aimed at preventing the bloody massacres, President Biden called Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell and Texas Senator John Cornyn "rational Republicans."

Technically he is correct, of course. Unlike some other members of the World's Greatest Deliberative Body™ and half of the House, neither the Majority Leader nor the senior Senator from Texas appear to be completely delusional.

Biden must be delusional, though, if he thinks they're playing by the old, pre-Gingrich rules.

The Alleged News®

A Guide to Listings of Mass Shootings in the United States

Rather than writing about the 28 mass shootings which have occurred in the U.S. since we last published, on May 20th, we thought it might be useful to create a guide to online resources keeping track of these events.

We'll begin with Wikipedia's "Mass Shootings in the United States" page, which will be six years old on June 16th. It has been revised approximately 2,000 times since then, for reasons which should be obvious.

This page provides a helpful overview of the topic, including discussions of definition and data sources—both matters of surprising complexity. Its section on demographics is deftly written; a sentence on gender carries a whiff of British-style understatement: "The proportion of male mass shooters is considerably larger than the proportion of males in the general popu-

lation."

"Contributing Factors" is a key section, presuming that there is a public interest in reducing the number of mass shootings. Naturally the astonishing number of guns in this country—more than double the number per capita as second-place Yemen—tops the list. Mental illness comes next, with a focus on individuals. If national sanity is a legitimate topic of discussion, it does not arise here.

For reasons unknown to us, and though the topic does come up under the heading "Effects," politics are not discussed under "Contributing Factors."

The Mass Shootings page includes a list of "Deadliest mass shootings since 1949," two-thirds of which have occurred since the turn of the century. The information contained therein is public, and we would be hard pressed to argue that

it should be censored, but we can easily imagine someone trying to use it the wrong way.

Wikipedia's other notable contribution to this genre is its series of lists. On the page, "Lists of mass shootings in the United States," which serves as a directory, the 20th century is broken down by decades, starting with the 1920s. Mass shootings in the 2000s are treated in one group, but due to the number of events, the section is unwieldy.

From 2011 through 2017, each year's worth of mass shootings gets its own section. Beginning with 2018, those sections begin to include a link to another page: "For a more comprehensive list, see List of mass shootings in the United States in 20__."

The Gun Violence Archive [GVA] does not restrict itself to mass shootings, but also tallies up single murders, suicides, accidental

shootings, and defensive uses of firearms. A map of the U.S. on its front page makes it clear that, where there are humans in this country, there is gun violence. Along with basic data for each incident, GVA offers a link to a primary source. A handy "Seven Year Review" table breaks down each year's tragic losses into nine helpful categories.

A similar page, massshootingtracker.site, seems to have less analysis, but offers the option of downloadable data.

Mother Jones magazine also offers a downloadable database, originally published in 2012, and since updated.

"Behind the Bloodshed," a *US-AToday* effort, was last updated in 2017. It's worth a mention, though, for its discussion of why so many mass shootings do not appear in FBI reports.

Vox, as is its wont, created a web-

site—last updated in 2020—with a good deal of visual whizbangery to make the case that nowhere else on earth do *Homo sapiens* shoot each other with such lethal effect. In that unenviable regard we are, without doubt, #1.

Out of the Mouths of Boobs

George W.[MD] Bush condemned the "brutal, unjustified invasion of Iraq" on May 19th.

His remark, however, was not a sign of personal growth or increased self-awareness, much less repentance. He quickly made clear he was referring to Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine. The continuing obliviousness of the Court-appointed President was underscored by the topic of the conference at which he spoke: election integrity.

The Alleged News®

from page one

Covid Early Warning System Coming?

Back in February the CDC had a bad Covid problem. The map showing community transmission of the virus was looking way too scary—red and yellow nearly everywhere. That made it hard for responsible public officials to justify encouraging consumers to get out there and consume. After all—think of the poor, downtrodden shareholders!

In keeping with the nation's general approach to this once-in-a-century public health emergency which has killed more than a million Americans so far, the problem was solved by defining it away. Forget about community transmission, look at hospital capacity instead.

Suddenly that scary red map turned a peaceful green! Just the thing to inspire a person to go out and rub elbows with the rest of the crowd.

Meanwhile, echoing the "Throw Away That Truss" ads in the back pages of old comic books, the CDC said masks were no longer needed in public. "Laissez les bon temps rouler," or, *en Anglais*, spin the roulette wheel and take a gamble on your health,

and the health of those around you.

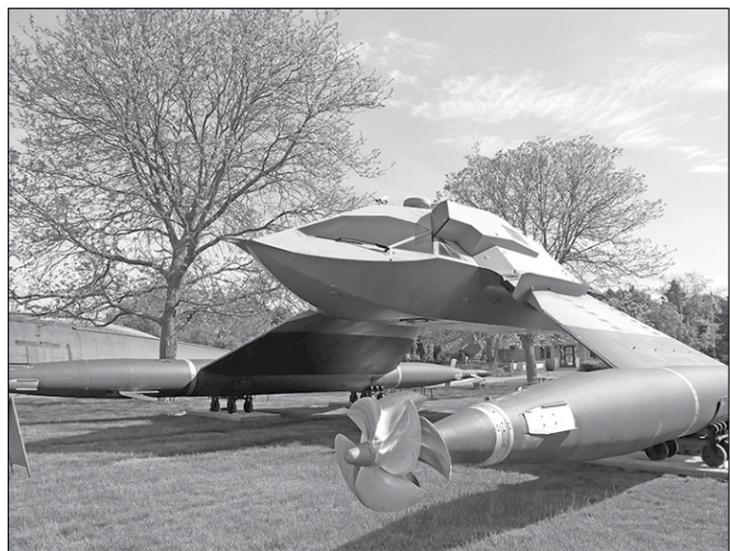
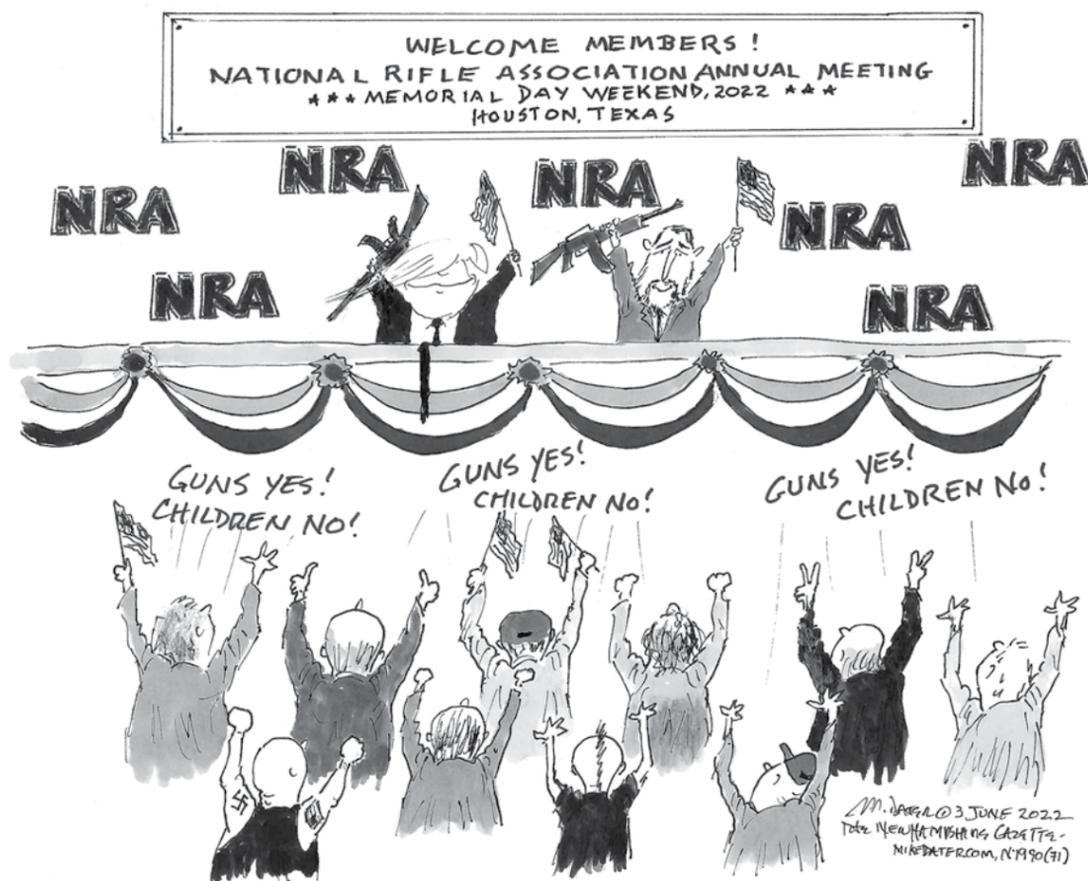
After all, there's only a seven-percent chance that a person you might infect will, like certain people we know all too well—have a compromised immune system which probably prevents their vaccination from having its full effect. Reports that the CDC is now adopting YOLO as its slogan remain unconfirmed.

According to a related rumor, seismographs in Litchfield County, Conn. are said to have reported unusual rumblings coming from Lime Rock Cemetery, the last resting place of Alfred Korzybski. The founder of the field of General Semantics, Korzybski is best known for the adage, "The map is not the territory."

Meanwhile, the Granite State's Official Covid-19 Dashboard shows that the surge which took off in early April may or may not be subsiding. As a guide to the prevailing level of risk, it's marginally more useful than a Magic 8 Ball.

We wallow in all this transparent disgruntlement by way of introducing some actual good news.

The University of New Hampshire has been working since early in the pandemic on a program to gauge local levels of infection by monitor-



Formerly hidden away and quite hush-hush, The Ghost has now gone public. This innovative and stealthy prototype is now right out in plain view, just off the Market Street Extension. The Ghost's new home is Albacore Park, named after another ground-breaking warship.

ing wastewater.

UNH put out a call recently, inviting communities to take part. The testing program expects to sign up 25 municipalities.

The City of Portsmouth has applied to be one of those participants. The final list will probably be announced within a couple of weeks.

Actual results of the testing should be available in the fall.

"The Ghost" Now On Public Display
The Ghost used to have a bright future. Now, it's hard to say.

Whatever else happens it has a new home now—and it will always have a terrific back story.

According to the legend, after terrorists in Aden nearly sank the U.S.S. Cole in 2000, Gregory Sancioff thought to himself, "Some yahoo terrorists in a cheap little boat and \$500 worth of explosives can kill 17 sailors on a billion-dollar ship?"

Funding the project with some of

the proceeds of earlier entrepreneurial work—and ignoring the niceties of the Pentagon procurement process—he came up with a radical countermeasure.

Two pontoons, each containing a turboshaft engine ordinarily used in helicopters, pulled through the water by four propellers which, through super-cavitation, surround the pontoons with a layer of air bubbles, reducing drag and allowing for higher speed.

Struts atop the pontoons support an above-the-water cabin capable of holding a crew of 3-5 sailors and up to 16 passengers—which, one would assume, would be Navy SEALs or other combatants. Videos available online show The Ghost practically flying over the water smoothly enough to allow enjoyment of a cup of coffee, practically undisturbed by the waves.

It was a fantastic success until the Pentagon got involved. Patents were

withheld, according to news reports, and gag orders applied. Not only did the Pentagon decline to buy the new boat, it prohibited Sancioff from marketing it to other nations.

As things stand now, The Ghost still belongs to Sancioff's company, Juliet Marine. Albacore Park is its new home, though, according to the Park's Executive Director, Patricia Violette.

It may still hit the water from time to time, for testing purposes. So, if it's not next to the Albacore, look for it on the Piscataqua.

How Corporations Are Using Inflation to Take Your Money
by Robert Reich

Inflation is a cover corporations are using to squeeze more money out of you. But as I'll explain, there are five things we can do to fight back.

Corporations are using inflation as an excuse to raise their prices,

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hurting workers and consumers while they enjoy record profits. Prices are surging—but let's be clear: corporations are not raising prices simply because of the increasing costs of supplies and labor. They could easily absorb these higher costs, but instead they are passing them on to consumers and even raising prices higher than those cost increases.

Corporations are getting away with this because they face little or no competition. If markets were competitive, companies would keep their prices down to prevent competitors from grabbing away customers. But in a market with only a few competitors able to coordinate prices, consumers have no real choice.

As a result, corporations are raking in their highest profits in 70 years.

Are they using these record profits to raise their workers' real wages? No. They're handing out meager wage increases to attract or keep workers with one hand, but effectively eliminating those wage

increases by raising prices with the other. Wages grew 5.6 percent over the past year—but prices rose 8.5 percent. That means, adjusted for inflation, workers actually got a 2.9 percent pay cut.

So what are corporations doing with their record profits? Using them to boost share prices by buying back a record amount of their own shares of stock. Goldman Sachs expects buybacks to reach \$1 trillion this year—an all-time high.

This amounts to a direct upward transfer of wealth from average working people's wallets into CEOs' and shareholders' pockets. Just look: billionaires have become at least \$1.7 trillion richer during the pandemic, while CEO pay (based largely on stock values) is now at a record 350 times the typical worker's pay.

The Federal Reserve wants to curb inflation by continuing to raise interest rates. That would be a grave mistake, because it doesn't address corporate concentration and it will slow job and wage growth. The labor market isn't "unhealthily tight," as Fed Chair Jerome Powell claims.



The Flag Police have asked us to inform the public of a particularly blatant violation of the Flag Code, to wit: 4 USC § 8 (i): "The flag should never be used for advertising purposes in any manner whatsoever..." Of course, if this prohibition were strictly followed, half the flags in the country would instantly disappear in a vexillological rapture. Here, though—less than a mile south of Water Country on Route 1—the shark has clearly been jumped. The travesty depicted in the photograph above, and three more examples just like it, surround the lot of a certain dealer in motor vehicles.

Corporations are unhealthily fat.

So what's the real solution?

First, tougher antitrust enforcement to address the growing concentration of the economy into the hands of a few giant corporations. Since the 1980s, over two-thirds of American industries have become more concentrated, enabling corporations to coordinate price increases.

Next, a temporary windfall profits tax that takes corporation's record profits and redistributes them as direct payments to everyday Americans struggling to cover soaring prices.

Third, a ban on corporate stock buybacks. Buybacks were illegal before Ronald Reagan's SEC legalized them in 1982—and they should be made illegal again.

Fourth, higher taxes on the wealthy and on corporations. Corporate tax rates are at near-record lows, even as corporate profits are at a near-record high. And much of billionaires' pandemic gains have

escaped taxes altogether.

Lastly, stronger unions. As corporate power has grown, union membership has declined, and economic inequality has risen—the reason most workers haven't seen a real raise in 40 years. All workers deserve the right to collectively bargain for higher wages and better benefits.

In short, the real problem is not inflation.

The real problem is the increase in corporate power and the decline in worker power over the past 40 years. Unless we address this growing imbalance, corporations will continue siphoning off the economy's gains into their CEOs' and shareholders' pockets—while everyday Americans get shafted.

This work is licensed under Creative Commons (CC BY-NC-ND 3.0). Feel free to republish and share widely. Robert Reich, is the Chancellor's Professor of Public Policy at the University of California, Berkeley, and a senior

fellow at the Blum Center for Developing Economies. He served as secretary of labor in the Clinton administration, for which Time magazine named him one of the 10 most effective cabinet secretaries of the twentieth century.

"Old men delight in giving good advice as a consolation for the fact that they can no longer provide bad examples."

— François de La Rochefoucauld

"Solon used to say that speech was the image of actions;... that laws were like cobwebs,—for that if any trifling or powerless thing fell into them, they held it fast; while if it were something weightier, it broke through them and was off."

— Diogenes Laërtius

"The peak of the [Presidential] campaign happened in Albuquerque, where a local reporter said to me, 'Dr. Commoner, are you a serious candidate or are you just running on the issues?'"

— Barry Commoner

Murph's Fortnightly Quote

"A thing is not necessarily true because a man dies for it."

— Oscar Wilde (1854-1900) poet, playwright

"It is a tragedy, perhaps, that human beings can get so much energy and enthusiasm from hate."

— Kurt Vonnegut

john@wordpraxis.com

"As the world changes the forms of corruption also gradually become more cunning, more difficult to point out—but they certainly do not become better."

— Soren Kierkegaard, Works of Love (1847)

— Not-So-Random Thoughts from an Oregon Subscriber

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New Hampshire's Sturm Ruger, the NRA, and an Executed Journalist

To the Editor:

Palestinian authorities have concluded that Shireen Abu Akleh, killed in May in Palestine, was murdered with a bullet from a Ruger gun. Palestinian Attorney General Al-Khatib said tests showed that the bullet that killed Abu Akleh was a 5.56 mm round fired from a Ruger semiautomatic rifle, which is used by the Israeli military. This rifle is produced by Sturm Ruger whose headquarters are in Fairfield, Connecticut but it has a factory in Newport, N.H. It is possible that the weapon that took the life of this reporter was manufactured in New Hampshire.

Abu Akleh was a prominent Arab journalist, known all over the Middle East, who worked for Al Jazeera for 25 years. CNN described her as "a household name across the Arab world for her coverage of Israel and the Palestinian territories."

Stanley Heller, Executive Director of the Middle East Crisis Committee, said, "For years we've been calling attention to sales of Ruger guns and ammunition to the Israeli military which is a serial human rights violator. We're part of a coalition called "No Rugers to Israel" (website *NoRugers2Israel.org*). We can document over 200 Palestinians killed or injured by Rugers though we believe the true number to be far higher."

N.H. Veterans for Peace says that Sturm Ruger should not be selling its weapons or ammunition to the Israeli government. Sturm Ruger, the U.S.' largest firearms company, is known to have given millions of dollars to the National Rifle Association, which, after the Uvalde Massacre, itself has come under harsh criticism for its rejection of gun control measures and its promotions of gun sales. Apparently, for Sturm Ruger and the NRA, it is profits over the lives of precious, innocent children.

Will Thomas, N.H. VFP
Auburn, N.H.

Will:

Thank you for pointing out the direct connection between one of New Hamp-

shire's highly-esteemed corporations and the recent sniper killing of a Palestinian-American journalist. We can almost hear the pro-market apologists now, bowling with outrage over the explicit assertion of this link: "But...but...the jobs!"

Of course, only a Communist would dare to suggest that the State of New Hampshire ought to favor the development of green energy technology over the manufacture of firearms.

The Editor

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Pro-Life's Persistent Questions

To the Editor:

Why is it that so many people who call themselves pro-life vote for politicians who believe guns are more important than humans? Isn't it time they call themselves what they actually are, which is pro-gun and anti-abortion, but not pro-life?

Walter Hamilton
Portsmouth N.H.

Walter:

It's only natural for so-called "pro-lifers" to mis-characterize themselves.

We would like to know why supposedly neutral news media allow them to get away with it.

The Editor

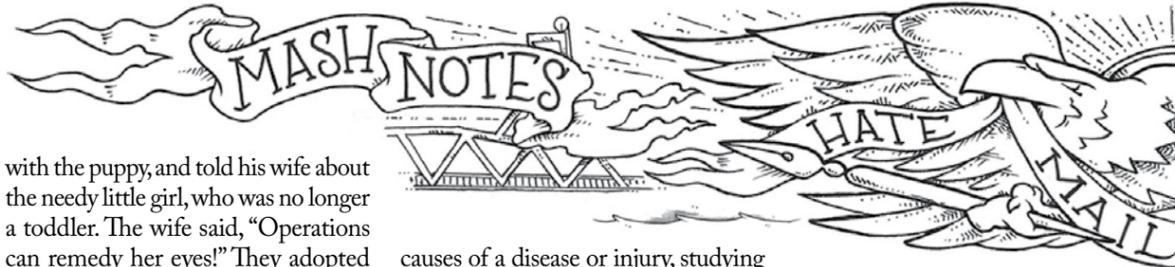
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Alito's Draft is Revealing

Dear Editor:

A phrase in Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito's draft of the upcoming *Roe v. Wade* decision deserves scrutiny: "...domestic supply of infants relinquished at birth or within the first month of life." This is about the product of forced, full-term pregnancies if *Roe v. Wade* is overturned. We accept moves towards more domestically-produced steel and more domestically-produced solar panels. Those are commodities in a business world, and all might benefit. But, babies? Slave babies were profitable commodities in America's early centuries.

Good friends, when young marrieds, adopted two children (children now in their 60s). First was a girl with such badly crossed eyes she was considered unadoptable, and so was in foster care. The husband went to that house to adopt a puppy, went home



with the puppy, and told his wife about the needy little girl, who was no longer a toddler. The wife said, "Operations can remedy her eyes!" They adopted her, and returned for an older foster-child boy, who was already like a sibling to their adopted daughter. They paid for eye surgeries. The daughter's eyes were normalized—not just for looks, but for a good life. Those kids were loved.

Justice John Roberts has adopted kids, as does Justice Amy Coney Barrett. Do they and others think only in terms of perfect babies, as in looked-for-then-favored, the way a car by model, year, color, and warranty is wanted and bought? This is heartless, if applied to babies, and the girls and women forced to produce them. Alito's language shows him to be tone-deaf. However, his wording helps by revealing a big flaw in overturning *Roe v. Wade*.

Lynn Rudmin Chong
Sanbornton, N.H.

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Mass Shootings: a Public Health Problem

Dear Sir:

Since 1854, when John Snow ended a cholera outbreak in London by removing the handle from the Broad Street water pump, the public health epidemiological approach has been successfully applied to reduce, and in some cases eliminate, the burden of disease, as well as intentional and unintentional injury. This same public health approach can also be applied today to reduce the burden of gun violence in America. Unfortunately, the NRA has successfully pressured Congress to prevent the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) from conducting gun violence prevention research. Gun violence, which kills tens of thousands of Americans each year, is the only epidemic that the CDC is specifically prohibited from investigating.

The epidemiological approach to a public health problem analyzes the

causes of a disease or injury, studying the agent causing the disease/injury, how the agent is spread, and if the susceptible host at risk of the disease or injury can be protected from the threat. This is called the chain of causation, where each link in the chain being connected to each other can spread a disease or cause an injury. Searching for the weakest link in this chain of causation, and removing it, is how the public health approach prevents or at least reduces preventable disease or injury. In some cases like polio, a vaccine is used to make the host non-susceptible. Air bags and seat belts are added to automobiles, to reduce the level of injury during a crash. A condom is used to prevent HIV from entering a susceptible host.

With regard to gun violence we know the agent causing the violence, people prone to violence, the vector (that which spreads the disease), a gun, and the susceptible host, all of us. To reduce gun violence we need to attack the cause at its weakest link. We cannot eliminate the agent, or even all the mental health issues that cause a person to use a gun to kill people, and we cannot make humans non-susceptible to bullets. That leaves the agent, the gun, as the weakest link in the chain of causation.

Reducing the number of guns, especially those capable of killing many people very quickly, and eliminating high capacity magazines, would reduce the burden of gun violence. Like malaria, one of the deadliest diseases on the planet, the mosquito does not cause the disease, the agent parasite does, but eliminating or reducing the number of mosquitoes is the best method in the absence of a vaccine, of reducing the number of malaria cases. While in both the gun violence and malaria examples, the disease or injury is not eliminated, by using sound

public health science the burden of both these scourges can be reduced significantly. As with John Snow, the Broad Street pump, working like an assault-style weapon spreading many deadly bacteria with each pull of the handle, was not the cause of the cholera outbreak, but eliminating the pump ended the problem.

Rich DiPentima, MPH
Portsmouth, N.H.

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On Regulating Guns

Dear Editor:

The 2nd Amendment enshrines gun ownership, nevertheless, gun usage can and should be regulated, to preserve our safety and security.

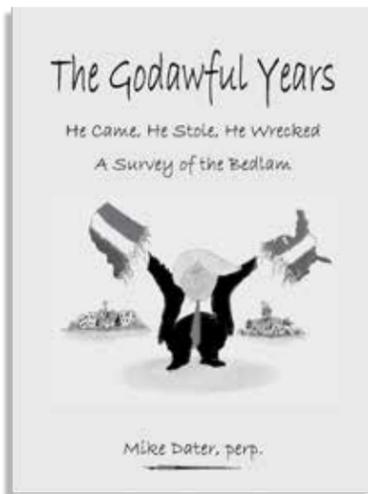
We need laws to regulate gun use like automobile use is regulated:

- License gun owners for usage only after they pass periodic safety tests.
- Require periodic inspection of licensed people's arsenals to enforce modification prohibitions (like smog checks on automobiles).
- Require gun users to carry insurance for damage done by their guns.
- Maintain and enforce background check databases to restrict guns from criminals, terrorists and mentally ill people.
- Require a three-day pause before gun delivery.
- Enable "red flag" powers for police to temporarily confiscate a person's armaments.
- Prohibit gun makers from marketing their lethal products to minors.
- Raise the minimum age for gun ownership to 21, or even 25.
- Prohibit sale, transfer, and ownership of military-grade weapons.

These are sensible regulations; they are not radical and they do not conflict with the 2nd Amendment. Opposing these regulations, Republican officials are actually enabling and condoning

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the ability of mass-murderers to kill innocent children, women, and men.

Bruce Joffe
Piedmont, Calif.

Bruce:
We thought of tackling these proposals point by point, but soon gave up.

Enacting effective gun regulations which have broad public support would be a simple matter if we lived in a functioning democracy.

Until we do, it's all deck chairs on the Titanic.

The Editor

=====
The Truth About Inflation

To the Editor:

Inflation-driven prices are causing pain to U.S. consumers affecting a wide range of goods. Although there is disagreement regarding causes, some reasons for inflation are clear.

The proximate cause for inflation can be explained by basic economics. When demand for goods exceeds the economy's capacity to supply them, price will increase until equilibrium between supply and demand is achieved. After two years of pandemic isolation and restrictions, huge pent-up demand for consumer goods aided by significant government support and stimulus payments overwhelmed the ability of supply chains to deliver the goods. Asian supply chains were hindered by continued Covid outbreaks in Chinese factories and container ports. Moreover, the container shipping companies had reduced capacity and mothballed cargo carriers in anticipation of a global recession due to the pandemic. Space on container ships has become almost impossible to find especially for small businesses. The cost of a trans-Pacific container has increased from \$4,000 to \$5,000 to \$15,000. The Russian invasion of Ukraine further roiled already tight

energy and commodity markets driving food and energy prices higher. All these factors contribute to the current inflation, but they do not tell the full story.

There is an additional cause for inflation—excess profit-taking by corporations. This factor has been discounted by conservatives and some economists who claim that impersonal market forces alone explain inflation. These market fundamentalists consider markets as objective mediators of price beyond the control of individual buyers and sellers. They are not. Markets are social constructions. Their structure and conduct are determined by human decision makers. Markets where neither buyer or seller has little power to affect price are rare. Increasingly, industries are made up of a few, large corporations that have significant power to influence price and the incentive to do so. Their decisions are guided by a Wall Street culture that places profit and returns to shareholders first and customers and employees second. In markets dominated by corporations with great bargaining power, it is disingenuous to claim that excess profit seeking is not part of the current inflation.

Corporate concentration has been on the increase across several industries since the '80s, driven by mergers and acquisitions often designed to exploit growing global markets. In the U.S., consolidation has been accompanied by a decline in antitrust prosecutions. An example is the meat processing industry. Since 2000, the concentration of the industry has doubled without intervention from antitrust regulators. Today, only four companies control 80 percent of the beef processing capacity as well as significant portions of chicken and pork processing. This gives them significant market power over suppliers of beef, chicken and pork as

well as wholesalers and retailers. In the past year, beef prices have increased by approximately 24 percent while processor profits increased 300 percent. In the face of skyrocketing profits, it defies logic to claim that retail price increases are simply market adjustments to supply chain problems. In a competitive industry, these firms would minimize price increases because they would fear the loss of market share to a competitor. In an industry characterized by monopoly power, however, supply chain chaos provides the cover for price increases that include profit maximizing.

Concentrated markets also contribute to inflation by restricting industry capability to respond to shortages, as the case of Intel illustrates. In the 2000s, Intel, the largest U.S. producer of semiconductors, began to acquire smaller competitors. The acquisitions were often supported by government regulators, as Intel was perceived to be the U.S. champion in the global chip industry. As Intel's size and power grew, it offshored or sold off most of its U.S. chip capacity, relying on lower cost Asian manufacturers to supply standard chips. To the delight of Wall Street investors, Intel's profits improved, but when the pandemic virtually eliminated Asian chip supply, it lacked capacity in the U.S. to expand production. The result has been persistent shortages of vital semiconductors contributing to price increases in a variety of products.

Inflation is a serious problem with a complex set of causes. Some are the result of impersonal market forces, but this explanation often masks deeper causes that grow out of market structures and behaviors. Markets are not an act of God; they are a human creation and often favor powerful actors that influence prices to their benefit. Too often markets are used to enforce the philosophy of maximizing shareholder value to the detriment of consumers and workers. Imperfect

markets must be regulated to protect the social interest rather than the financial interests of the economic elites.

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

Robert:
Thank you for this concise disquisition on a highly relevant topic. Let us hope another of our correspondents takes the time to read it.

The Editor

=====

Our Errant Supreme Court

To the Editor:

The Supreme Court (majority) was and is wrong about the 2nd Amendment.

It was written by two Virginia slave holders (Madison and Monroe) who wanted a well-regulated militia in order to be able to put down a slave insurrection.

"The people" who they wrote have "the right to bear arms" (not modern military assault weapons) were white, male, property owners. No others counted in those days.

Those (mostly Republican) Senators who gladly take money from the gun-makers care more for their political futures than the people (many times that of any other country) who are murdered every year by weapons that should never be available to the public.

The only solution is to elect Senators who understand that the 2nd Amendment was written for a time long gone by.

Neal W. Ferris
Durham, N.H.

Neal:
Clear, concise, and correct—no wonder you've never been appointed to the Supreme Court.

The Editor

=====

Good Guys, Guns, and Hypocrisy

To the Editor:

Republicans and the gun lobby and Fox News love to tell us that, "The answer to a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun." I have heard this mantra *ad nauseam* after each slaughter.

Well, there's one place in Texas filled with "good guys" and it is safe! But

that's not why it's safe. It's safe because everyone is frisked at the door, no one is allowed to carry, open or concealed. It's called the NRA convention!

Now why would the NRA ban guns? It's because the NRA hierarchy knows that in a room full of people carrying guns, the chances of someone, or lots of people, getting shot is very high; they know their "good guy with a gun" mantra is total BS.

Britain, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Norway all had a culture of gun ownership, and all tightened restrictions after a mass shooting. Their gun violence statistics are now sharply lower than those of the U.S. Obviously America needs gun legislation to protect citizens. If other countries can do it so can we!

Michael Frandzel
Portsmouth, N.H.

Michael:
As with our friend Bruce Joffe, you seem to be operating on the assumption that the will of the people might be done here in these allegedly United States.

Well, we have not given up hope.

The Editor

=====

Working the Polls

To the Editor:

As a recent retiree, I now have time to be a poll worker. It is an honor.

I can only speak to the process I personally experienced. Everyone connected with the election realized we were stewards of an awesome legacy. Poll workers were required to attend two hours of training, learning routines and becoming prepared for exceptional circumstances. We took our oath of office, recognizing its weight.

On election day, floaters in every room helped as needed. Voters proceeded in the assurance that each vote mattered. As we voted or enabled the voting, we rededicated ourselves to democracy.

Governor Sununu has announced "New Hampshire is the gold standard" in elections. So why is there a Special Committee on Voter Confidence? Their website states "New Hampshire

Mash Notes, Hate Mail, &c.

to page six

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Supreme Court's latest decision devastating for death row inmates

by Laura Finley

On May 23, 2022, the Supreme Court issued yet another decision that does greater injustice to the U.S. criminal (in)justice system. It ruled that state prisoners cannot submit claims of inadequate counsel to federal courts, thereby adding yet another barrier to those on death row who are seeking relief amidst serious concerns that justice was not served.

In a 6-3 opinion, Justice Clarence Thomas wrote for the majority and did not defend a constitutional right, purportedly the Court's job, but rather expressed system concerns, asserting that the federal courts must "afford unwavering respect to the centrality of the trial of a criminal case in state court" and claiming that allowing relief regarding inadequate counsel in the federal court system would encourage inmates to "sandbag" state courts.

This, from the justice who is infamous for falling asleep during hearings. Respect the courts, indeed. He was joined by all of the conservative

justices on the Court. The decision overturns a 2012 ruling that determined when state courts "substantially" interfere with a defendant's constitutional right to be represented by adequate counsel, he or she may use new counsel and appeal via the federal court system.

The review of previous court decisions should be an essential check and balance on the justice system but seemingly is not, according to these conservative justices. While appeals on the grounds of ineffective counsel are allegedly an option, as Clarence Thomas's comments express, this is a system that overwhelmingly reifies itself. Placing another obstacle in the way of assuring that a defendant received a fair trial is not and should not be permitted.

It is absolutely abhorrent that a democracy would not only still allow the death penalty but would do so knowing that appointed counsel in many cases has not only slept through proceedings but in some situations has been visibly drunk as they allegedly offered "adequate" counsel to their clients. According

to the Death Penalty Information Center, persons facing capital charges are much less likely to face death row when they are represented by qualified lawyers.

Justice Sonia Sotomayor captured the essence of the problem. She wrote about how this decision flies in the face of the sixth amendment, calling the majority opinion "perverse," "illogical," and saying it "makes no sense."

Further, Sotomayor commented on the repercussion of the decision, writing in her dissent: "To put it bluntly, two men whose trial attorneys did not provide even the bare minimal level of representation required by the Constitution may be executed because forces outside of their control prevented them from vindicating their constitutional right to counsel."

In one of the cases considered in the ruling, it was not until federal public defenders were involved that anyone questioned the medical evidence or other details that landed Barry Jones on Arizona's death row. Experts testified before

a federal judge that the injuries that killed the four-year-old girl Jones was allegedly responsible for could not have been the result of his actions, as he was not near the child at the time. That judge determined, rightfully, that Jones did not receive adequate counsel in the initial trial nor in his appeal, as neither attorney

"It is absolutely abhorrent that a democracy would...allow the death penalty... knowing that appointed counsel...has not only slept through proceedings but in some situations has been visibly drunk as they allegedly offered 'adequate' counsel to their clients."

brought these issues to the attention of the court. A unanimous panel of the Ninth Circuit Court of appeals agreed, which would have required that the state either release Jones or retry him.

The Supreme Court's decision will likely result in the execution of an innocent man.

Since 1973, 187 people have been exonerated from death row, with one of the main reasons being inad-

equated counsel. This will only worsen that situation.

The other case the Court considered did not involve innocence but is also problematic. David Ramirez was convicted of killing his girlfriend and her daughter despite no mitigating circumstances being presented by his defense attorney that could have spared his life. In reality, Ramirez has an intellectual disability and grew up with horrendous abuse, which the jury may have considered had his attorney done even the bare minimum. Defendants are supposed to have the opportunity to present mitigating evidence, just as the prosecution can present aggravating evidence.

According to Justice Thomas and the other conservatives, it matters little if defense counsel actually does their job of presenting a defense, even in death penalty cases.

====

Laura Finley, Ph.D., syndicated by PeaceVoice, teaches in the Barry University Department of Sociology & Criminology and is the author of several academic texts in her discipline.

Mash Notes, Hate Mail, &c. from page five



is one of the easiest places for voters to register and cast their ballots, but concerns about declining voter confidence have been voiced in the state, as well as nationally."

How can such doubt exist? Lies about stolen elections and bad machines have influenced public opinion. There is no evidence of bad actors in our election process, except those who want to change the outcome by any means necessary. Do not allow this "misinformation" to poison our faith in New Hampshire elections.

Please send a quick email to VoterConfidence@sos.nh.gov. Let the Special Committee know you admire the integrity of elections in your town. What needs fixing? The

ability of citizens to believe rumors, contrary to their own experience! Become a poll worker and see for yourself.

Susan Richman
Durham, N.H.

Susan:

Poll workers deserve the nation's unstinting respect. Instead, in too many places they're being burdened with pointless extraneous tasks as part of a cynical power grab.

The Editor

====

Why Does Biden Hate America?

To the Editor:

How rich, ignorant, and/or uncaring must people be to not realize that President Biden's policies have

been disastrous, especially for middle- and lower-income Americans?

Today's over eight percent inflation means a family with a \$60,000 income last year now needs an extra \$5,000 to maintain the same modest lifestyle. The gasoline price jump from \$2.099, just before Biden's attack on our petroleum industry, to yesterday's price of \$4.589 hurts most families.

Biden now imports dirty oil... [xenophobia, paranoia]...clean oil here, enriching American workers, generating American taxes, protecting our national security, and reducing prices.

Wealthier Americans' incomes,

safety, health, and children's future success are less directly harmed by the millions of illegal aliens flooding through President Biden's open border.

Illegal aliens... [xenophobia, paranoia]...degrading their schools and hospitals.

Crime skyrocketed... [disinformation, cheap political slur]...without bail to victimize others.

Democrats... [disingenuous BS]...depriving them of decent educations and prosperous futures.

Democrat taxes... [simplistic bog-wash]...taking many millions of good paying jobs with them. [Fantasy-based economics]...middle- and lower-income families.

[Pious condescension]...but they need to awaken to the fact that today's Democrat leaders are not the patriotic, pro-American worker Democrats of the distant past.

Don Ewing
Meredith, N.H.

Don:

Thank you for continuing to favor us with these screeds. By publishing them we hope to preserve a record of misinformed, bad faith arguments in the early 21st century.

Thank you, too, for your forbearance. Unlike so many others who share your views, you consistently refrain—despite clearly viewing Democrats as evil incarnate—from threatening to murder them.

You cast inflation as an evil Democratic plot. See page five for Robert Russell's excellent primer on the topic.

The Editor

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A Farewell to Arms?

by W.D. Ehrhart

Back in 1990, at the first Conference of U.S. & Vietnamese Veteran-Writers in Hanoi, Le Minh Khue, a novelist who had been a teenager with a young volunteers team assigned to the military engineering command, told me that she had gone off to the war with several books in her knapsack: translations of Ernest Hemingway and Jack London.

"I learned a love of life from Jack London, as well as the courage to transcend death, to keep up hope against any odds," she said. "I cherished the anguish of Hemingway, whose wonderful short stories deal with loneliness, death, and love of life, eternal topics of literature and human thought."

Over the next few days, I would discover that many more of the Vietnamese I had fought against were reading Hemingway and London, Emerson, Thoreau, and Walt Whitman even as I and my country were trying to kill them.

That encounter with Khue occurred over three decades ago, but I was recently—and painfully—reminded of it while reading a new book of poems, *Things You May Find Hidden in My Ear*, by the young Palestinian poet Mosab abu Toha (City Lights, 2022). During the 2014 Israeli assault on Gaza, when Toha was a college student, he recalls:

"The Israelis bombed the administration building of my school,

the Islamic University of Gaza. The English Department was destroyed. The many books resting on the shelves of my professors were just lying under the rubble of the building. The first book that I could extract was the *Norton Anthology of American Literature*. Of course, it's very ironic that we in Gaza and Palestine read and appreciate and value American literature, we study it, we just love it. But then all of a sudden, a rocket, or a heavy bomb that was paid for and manufactured in America, is killing, not only me, but the books that we read and studied in classes."

It is a dangerous thing to speak supportively in the U.S. about the plight of Palestinians, to question the policies and practices of Israel. The brilliant journalist Gloria Emerson discovered this when she published *Gaza: A Year in the Intifada* way back in 1991. She was followed from reading to book-signing to lecture by radical Zionists who vocally disrupted her presentations, accusing her of anti-Semitism and worse. Gloria was a tough lady, but she said they made her life hell.

Carolyn Karcher, editor and contributor to a 2019 book called *Reclaiming Judaism from Zionism*, says that she has not had to endure "any significant abuse" as a result of her book; but some of her fellow contributors have been subjected to significant abuse in response to their advocacy of Palestinian rights.

Meanwhile, Karcher's collection

of essays led me to two books by the Israeli historian Ilan Pappé, *The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine* (2006) and *The Biggest Prison on Earth* (2017). Pappé, who teaches at the University of Exeter in the UK, is treated like an enemy of the state in Israel. His detractors have accused him of cherry-picking facts, distorting facts, making up facts, blatantly lying, and being a self-hating Jew.

Mosab abu Toha is neither a journalist nor a historian, but simply a young man whose four grandparents were forcibly removed from their homes in 1948, whose parents were born in refugee camps, and who himself was born in a refugee camp called al-Shati in 1992. He is married, and the father of three young children. These poems, written in English—he is fluent in English as well as Arabic—are alternately sweet, bitter-sweet, angry, bewildered, and heart-breaking.

Here is "Seven Fingers":

*Whenever she meets new people, she sinks
her small hands into the pockets of her jeans,
moves them
as if she's counting
some coins. (She's lost seven fingers in the war.) Then she moves away,
back hunched,
tiny as a dwarf.*

And here is "Olympic Hopscotch Leap":

*We sit and drink tea
in the hot night of Ramadan.
Boys play hide and seek.
Girls hopscotch around.
Mothers chat and laugh.*

*A buzzing sound of drones flying
above my family and friends
stops the games, the chatting, and the laughter.*

*A missile fails,
only falling into farmland nearby.
Shrapnel cuts electric wires.
Dust tops off our tea, like latte foam.*

*More missiles come flying in,
on the lookout for anything that moves.*

*Angels get hold of my infant niece.
We look around and find only
her milk bottle.*

I am not going to wade into the debate over who is right and who is wrong in that part of the Middle East. The history is long and bitter and multi-layered. Mistreatment of the Jews all over the world and reaching back millennia is a fact. What happened to European Jews between 1932 and 1945 is unspeakably horrendous; it would be unimaginable except that we have evidence in irrefutable abundance.

And it is also true that militant Palestinians have strapped bombs to

themselves and suicidally murdered Israeli Jews, have repeatedly fired missiles into civilian areas of Israel, and have sworn the destruction and obliteration of the State of Israel.

But there is something just plain unfair about war where Israeli forces kill 2,251 Palestinian men, women, and children, while Palestinians kill 71 Israelis, 67 of them soldiers. Where one side is armed with drone missiles, F-16 fighter-bombers, and tanks, while the other side is armed mostly with rocks.

Moreover, at least since the first intifada over three decades ago, it has become abundantly clear that massive Israeli retaliation against Palestinian provocations simply does not deter the Palestinians from continuing to resist military occupation and an apartheid system that strips them of freedom, justice, and human dignity.

As far back as the early 1990s, Gloria Emerson made it clear that the Israelis had only two options: learn to live with the Palestinians or kill them all. That is still true today: learn to live with them, or kill them all. Which is it going to be?

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.

A Rube Goldberg Inflationary Spiral

by Jim Hightower

Last July, several GOP senators combined their 5-watt intellects to charge that inflation was rising because of the "insane tax and spending spree of President Biden and the Democrats."

Never mind that the "insane" spending is for such sensible, productive, and enormously popular national needs as childcare and jobless benefits, Mitch McConnell's rabidly partisan flock saw the chance to politicize the public's legitimate

worries about rising prices. *You poor consumers are made to pay more for basics, they squawked, because of "Socialist Joe's" investments in grassroots people!*

Follow the ricocheting pinball of the GOPs logic:

ONE, they say that helping hard-hit families induces them to refuse to go to work; TWO, this creates blockages in the global supply chain; THREE this causes shortages of everything; FOUR, this "forces" corporate bosses to raise all prices; which, FIVE, slams the middle class and poor; so SIX, lazy workers cause

inflation.

Whew! Rube Goldberg couldn't have dreamed up a more fantastical diagram to deflect attention from what's really happening, namely that instead of an inflation problem, *we have a corporate greed problem.*

Of course, the greedmeisters insist that their pursuit of excess corporate profit has not driven any price surges. In our economy of free market competition, they snap, prices are established by the Law of Supply and Demand. It's the magic of the marketplace, they explain.

But magicians don't do magic, they perform illusions. And the illusion of free market competition implodes when it hits the reality that our economy doesn't remotely resemble a competitive marketplace. For some 40 years, corporate-directed government policies have intentionally promoted mega-mergers and green-lighted anticompetitive business tactics.

Thus, in short order and with practically no public awareness, much less discussion, America has been transformed into Monopoly

Nation—letting the few gouge the many. That's where inflation comes from.

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. Contact Melody Byrd (melody@jimhightower.com) for more information.

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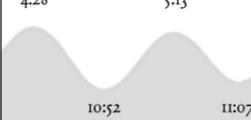
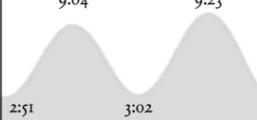
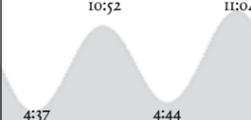
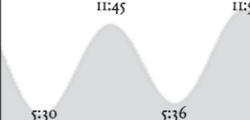
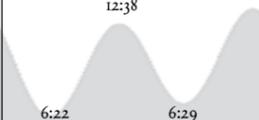
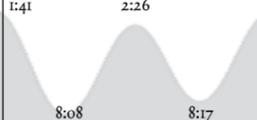
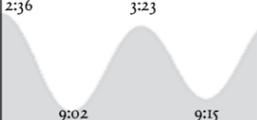
whom you choose to believe. The Piscataqua's ferocious current is caused by the tide, which, in turn, is caused by the moon. The other player is a vast sunken valley — Great Bay — about ten miles upriver. Twice a day, the moon

moves 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, JUNE 5	MONDAY, JUNE 6	TUESDAY, JUNE 7	WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8	THURSDAY, JUNE 9	FRIDAY, JUNE 10	SATURDAY, JUNE 11
<p>2013—News outlets reveal that the NSA, under a Top Secret court order, has been Hoovering™ up the phone records of millions of Americans.</p> <p>2008—Despite Mayoral objections and a lack of public hearings, Blackwater opens a training facility in San Diego; a judge says Blackwater's a person whose rights mustn't be violated.</p> <p>2003—Two top <i>New York Times</i> editors resign in disgrace. Curiously, many more do not.</p> <p>1989—One man, for a while, stops a line of tanks in Tiananmen Square.</p> <p>1976—In Idaho, the \$100 million federal Teton Dam fails, killing 14 and causing \$2 billion in damages.</p> <p>1970—Nixon orders Tom C. Huston to take action against anti-war protestors—he doesn't specify "legal action."</p> <p>1969—Taken three weeks earlier, at a cost of 72 American lives and 372 Purple Hearts, Ap Bia Mountain, aka Hamburger Hill, is abandoned.</p> <p>1968—RFK is fatally shot in Los Angeles. The LAPD convinces the gullible that Sirhan Sirhan did it.</p> <p>1967—Israel attacks Egypt and Syria. The Six Day War begins.</p> <p>1965—The State Department admits that U.S. troops are engaged in combat in Vietnam.</p> <p>1943—GIs and zoot-suited Hispanics rumble all over Los Angeles.</p> <p>1862—France gains sovereignty over three Vietnamese provinces under the Treaty of Saigon and the time-honored principle that might makes right.</p>	<p>2002—Donald Rumsfeld explains to the unknowing that unknown unknowns are "things we do not know we don't know"—and he should know.</p> <p>2001—Florida man Vance Flossenzer drags a seven-foot shark from shallow water; paramedics drag his nephew Jesse Arbogast's arm from its mouth; doctors successfully re-attach the arm.</p> <p>1989—Nuclear weapon manufacturing ends at Rocky Flats, Colo. when FBI and EPA agents raid the joint.</p> <p>1989—Greenpeace reports there are 50 nuclear weapons and nine reactors on the ocean floor.</p> <p>1980—Nuke-armed B-52s go on alert for the second time in three days after a computer glitch signals a Soviet attack on the U.S.</p> <p>1978—Voters nuke California's tax base and future by passing Prop. 13.</p> <p>1975—Governor Mel Thomson calls for the N.H. National Guard to be armed with nuclear weapons.</p> <p>1971—Native Americans briefly occupy the top of Mount Rushmore.</p> <p>1949—Orwell publishes <i>1984</i>. Originally a novel, it became non-fiction.</p> <p>1944—GIs, Brits, Canadians, &c. hit the beach at Normandy, France.</p> <p>1943—Leaders of a racist wildcat strike at Packard—who had fallen for the company's union-busting gambit of promoting Blacks—lose their jobs.</p> <p>1907—The U. of Bern denies Einstein a PhD: his theories about time and space are radical and his assumptions "more artistic than actual Physics."</p>	<p>2018—Attacked by a bobcat in her Georgia driveway, DeDe Phillips, 46, strangulates the rabid animal.</p> <p>1997—Activists are arrested for passing out the Bill of Rights outside the pro-nuclear Bradbury Science Museum in Los Alamos.</p> <p>1971—An article in the <i>Armed Forces Journal</i> says "our army...in Vietnam is in a state approaching collapse."</p> <p>1971—Busted for "disturbing the peace" in a California courthouse [i.e., wearing a jacket with "Fuck The Draft" on the back], Paul Cohen is sprung by the U.S. Supreme Court.</p> <p>1969—Marine PFC Dan Bullock is KIA in Vietnam. He is 15, and Black. His enlistment is deemed "fraudulent," so he's denied a grave marker.</p> <p>1966—Walking for voting rights and freedom, James Meredith, 32, gets three blasts from a shotgun in Hernando, Miss. He's now 87.</p> <p>1960—A BOMARC missile at a site in N.J. catches fire, melting the 10-kiloton nuclear warhead on board; eleven ounces of plutonium go missing.</p> <p>1943—In Los Angeles, 5,000 soldiers, sailors, and civilians strip and beat zoot-suited Hispanics.</p> <p>1924—George Mallory goes missing near the summit of Mt. Everest.</p> <p>1920—KKK Imperial Wizard William J. Simmons hires two PR experts: membership soon explodes.</p> <p>1917—Brits blow mines under Messines. The town and 10,000 Germans vanish; Dublin hears the blast.</p>	<p>2003—Condoleeza Rice admits Pres. George W.[MD] Bush's State of the Union claim that Saddam tried to buy uranium from Niger was "wrong."</p> <p>1991—In a National Victory Celebration, Abrams tanks and 85' heat wreck D.C.'s Constitution Ave.</p> <p>1967—Israeli planes and boats attack the unarmed U.S. spy ship <i>Liberty</i> with rockets, machine guns, and napalm; 34 sailors are killed, 171 wounded.</p> <p>1966—Five U.S.A.F. jets fly in formation over Barstow, Calif., for a photo requested by GE marketers. Two crash, including the Valkyrie, worth \$5 billion in today's money. Two pilots die.</p> <p>1956—Tech. Sgt. Richard B. Fitzgibbon, Jr. becomes the first U.S. serviceman to die in Vietnam. He's murdered by a fellow American airman.</p> <p>1952—"I would never send troops [to Vietnam]," says Pres. Eisenhower.</p> <p>1944—U. Chi. Pres. R.M. Hutchins warns the GI Bill will turn "colleges [into] educational hobo jungles."</p> <p>1943—The Zoot Suit Riots end after military brass put L.A. off-limits and civil authorities impose a dress code.</p> <p>1917—A 1,200-foot electrical cable, insulated by oil-covered cloth and being lowered into Butte's Granite Mountain mine for safety purposes, lands in a heap 2,400 feet down. As a miner inspects it his helmet lamp sets it alight; 168 miners die in the inferno.</p> <p>1844—With odds against them 70 to 15, Texas Rangers slay 23 Comanches in their first use of Colt revolvers.</p>	<p>2016—Donald Trump's son, son-in-law, and campaign manager meet at Trump Tower with a whole slew of Russians with peculiar associations.</p> <p>1989—James Watt, Ronald Reagan's Interior Secretary, admits to a House committee that he was paid \$400,000 for making a few phone calls on a topic about which he knew nothing.</p> <p>1978—The Mormon Church drops its policy of excluding black men from the priesthood.</p> <p>1963—Under orders from Winona, Miss. cops, jail inmates beat civil rights pioneer Fannie Lou Hamer, 45, nearly to death.</p> <p>1958—Atop an armored car in Cyprus, British writer Auberon Waugh shakes the barrel of a malfunctioning machine gun, accidentally shooting himself in the chest several times.</p> <p>1958—Jerry Lee Lewis takes out a full page ad in <i>Billboard</i> to explain his second divorce and third marriage; this one's to his cousin Myra, who's 13.</p> <p>1954—At a committee hearing, Army attorney Joseph Welch asks Sen. Joseph McCarthy, "Have you no sense of decency, sir?" As the gallery erupts in applause, McCarthy asks Roy Cohn, "What happened?"</p> <p>1946—Ted Williams hits a ball that lands in the 37th row of Fenway's bleachers, over 500 feet away.</p> <p>1893—As Edwin Booth, John Wilkes' brother, is being buried in Boston, the floors collapse at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C., killing 22 people.</p>	<p>1990—British Airways pilot Tim Lancaster is sucked half-way out of Flight 5390 when its windshield blows out over Oxfordshire. The plane lands safely; Lancaster resumes flying.</p> <p>1988—The Justice Dept. says "no entry" to a bike messenger in a T-shirt saying "Experts agree: Meese is a pig."</p> <p>1975—The Rockefeller Commission finds that the CIA's CHAOS operation spied on 300,000 Americans and infiltrated political movements.</p> <p>1968—The Supreme Court says cops can "stop and frisk" based on "reasonable suspicion." [Or racist whim?]</p> <p>1964—Muted by a tumor, weeks from death, Sen. Clair Engle [D-Calif.] points to his eye; his "aye" vote ends the filibuster of the Civil Rights Act.</p> <p>1963—JFK says in a big speech he'll negotiate with the USSR and seek world peace; he has 165 days to live.</p> <p>1945—The mishap-prone destroyer <i>William D. Porter</i> evades a kamikaze off Okinawa, but is over the sunken plane when it explodes. Though <i>Porter</i> sinks, all its crewmen survive.</p> <p>1944—The Reds' Joe Nuxhall gives up five runs in the 9th. Hey—he's 15.</p> <p>1940—Black nationalist Marcus Garvey dies of a stroke after reading his own obit in the <i>Chicago Defender</i>.</p> <p>1871—U.S. Marines avenge the 1866 loss of the <i>U.S.S. General Sherman</i> by attacking a number of Korean forts on Gangwha Island, killing 243 Koreans in the process. Three months later the Americans withdraw.</p>	<p>1995—In Claremont, N.H., Bill Clinton and Newt Gingrich shake hands and pledge to reform lobbying and campaign financing. Yeah, right.</p> <p>1990—The Supreme Court rules flag desecration laws are unconstitutional.</p> <p>1984—The Supreme Court gives prosecutors a new loophole for using illegally-obtained evidence.</p> <p>1963—In Saigon, motionless, burning, Thich Quang Duc bends history.</p> <p>1963—George Wallace takes a stand for segregation in the schoolhouse door—briefly; then he scuttles away.</p> <p>1962—John and Clarence Anglin, with Frank Morris, escape from Alcatraz. Maybe they drown, maybe not.</p> <p>1929—Forget Article One, Clause 3 of the Constitution, says Congress, the House shall have 435 members.</p> <p>1920—Republicans meeting in the original "smoke-filled room" select, to their discredit, Warren G. Harding.</p> <p>1914—A bomb explodes under the Coronation Chair in Westminster Abbey; British suffragists are thought to be the culprits.</p> <p>1851—Having, in four hours, caught, tried, convicted, and sentenced John Jenkins, the First San Francisco Vigilance Committee hangs him.</p> <p>1837—Drunken nativist firefighters encounter Irishmen at a funeral: Boston's Broad Street riot ensues.</p> <p>1345—The Chief Minister of the Byzantine Empire inspects a new prison without his bodyguards. Political prisoners hoist his head on a pike.</p>
<p>3:40 4:26</p>  <p>10:06 10:15</p>	<p>4:28 5:13</p>  <p>10:52 11:07</p>	<p>5:19 6:02</p>  <p>11:40</p>	<p>6:15 6:53</p>  <p>12:03 12:30</p>	<p>7:11 7:43</p>  <p>12:59 1:20</p>	<p>8:08 8:33</p>  <p>1:56 2:11</p>	<p>9:04 9:23</p>  <p>2:51 3:02</p>
SUNDAY, JUNE 12	MONDAY, JUNE 13	TUESDAY, JUNE 14	WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15	THURSDAY, JUNE 16	FRIDAY, JUNE 17	SATURDAY, JUNE 18
<p>2000—The Energy Department admits that two hard drives holding top-secret data on nuclear weapons have been missing for over a month.</p> <p>1991—White House Chief of Staff John H. Sununu takes a government limousine from D.C. to New York City to attend a rare stamp auction.</p> <p>1981—Failing to recognize the only Black person in his Cabinet, President Reagan, calls Housing Secretary Samuel Pierce "Mr. Mayor."</p> <p>1971—As <i>N.Y. Times</i> presses roll with the "Pentagon Papers," Daniel Ellsberg and Howard Zinn, in a theater, watch "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid"—completely stoned.</p> <p>1969—The Army Corps of Engineers stops the American Falls at Niagara.</p> <p>1967—The Supreme Court rules interracial marriage is legal.</p> <p>1963—Medgar Evers is shot and killed in Mississippi; his murderer is convicted 31 years later.</p> <p>1957—"We have exactly 342 men," says General Samuel T. Williams, head of the U.S. MAAAG, Vietnam, "the number allowed by the Geneva Armistice Conference. It would be a breeze if we had more."</p> <p>1956—Under interrogation by the House Un-American Activities Committee, Paul Robeson declares, "You are the Un-Americans."</p> <p>1929—First Lady Lou Hoover sparks a national freakout by inviting Jessie DePriest, wife of the only Black man in Congress, to the White House.</p>	<p>2005—Congress apologizes for having failed to pass 200 anti-lynching bills between 1882 and 1968.</p> <p>1999—In Kosovo, British Lieut. Gen. Mike Jackson refuses NATO Commander Wesley Clark's orders to take the Russian-occupied Pristina airport, saying, "I'm not going to start the Third World War for you."</p> <p>1983—<i>Pioneer 10</i> exits the solar system.</p> <p>1971—The <i>Pentagon Papers</i> are published. Because they cover only the Kennedy and Johnson years, Kissinger and Nixon laugh in the Oval Office.</p> <p>1968—A U.S. attack helicopter accidentally kills Saigon's Chief of Police.</p> <p>1966—The Supreme Court rules that cops can't make you talk.</p> <p>1944—News reports say Rep. Francis E. Walter (D-Penn.) gave FDR a letter-opener made from the arm bone of a dead Japanese soldier. In 1955, Walter will become chair of HUAC.</p> <p>1942—U-202 lands eight Nazi saboteurs at Amagansett, Long Island.</p> <p>1920—Fuddy-duddies at the U.S. Post Office rule that children may no longer be mailed Parcel Post.</p> <p>1914—On Butte's Miner's Union Day, dissidents assault officials, snatch the union's safe, throw the sheriff out a 2nd-story window, blow open the safe, blow up a union official's house, and bust two members out of jail.</p> <p>1867—U.S. Marines and sailors abandon a punitive expedition against Taiwanese tribesmen after Lt. Cdr. Alexander S. MacKenzie is slain.</p>	<p>2016—Lane Graves, 2, is killed by an alligator at Disney World. In response, Disney installs signs warning that alligators are present.</p> <p>2001—Dennis Koslowski throws a \$2.1 million party on Sardinia for his wife Karen's 40th birthday. Half the cost is covered by Tyco International.</p> <p>1954—Dwight D. Eisenhower signs a bill adding "under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance.</p> <p>1951—Sen. Joe McCarthy (R-Booze) accuses President Eisenhower and General George Marshall of serving the policies of the Kremlin.</p> <p>1949—The U.S. sends Albert II, a rhesus monkey, into space.</p> <p>1943—The Supreme Court rules that children cannot be forced to salute the flag if it offends their religious beliefs.</p> <p>1928—Ernesto "Che" Guevara is born in Argentina.</p> <p>1924—The KKK attacks an IWW labor hall in San Pedro, Calif. Two kids scalded by coffee are left motherless when Lizzie Sunstedt later dies.</p> <p>1922—In D.C., 5,000 African Americans march silently for an anti-lynching bill which has passed the House. Democrats filibuster it, though.</p> <p>1905—Russian sailors mutiny aboard the battleship <i>Potemkin</i>.</p> <p>1864—Inept General Leonidas Polk, CSA, aka "The Fighting Bishop," is KIA by a 3-inch Federal shell.</p> <p>1662—Former Massachusetts Governor [1636-37] Henry Vane is beheaded in the Tower of London.</p>	<p>2006—Over Justice Souter's dissent, the Supreme Court rules that evidence seized by cops breaking "no knock" rules can still be used as evidence.</p> <p>2002—High class accounting firm Arthur Anderson is convicted of obstructing justice by impeding an investigation into G.W.[MD] Bush's top financial contributor, Enron.</p> <p>1967—Calif. Gov. Ronald Reagan signs a bill liberalizing abortion laws.</p> <p>1920—A mob of thousands drags three Black circus workers from the Duluth, Minn. jail; arrested for a rape that didn't happen, they're lynched.</p> <p>1917—Woodrow Wilson signs the Espionage Act. Emma Goldman and Alexander Berkman are promptly arrested for conspiring to "induce persons not to register" for the draft.</p> <p>1913—At Bud Bagsak in the Philippines, designer John Browning tests his new .45 pistol on Moro rebels.</p> <p>1904—The side-wheeler <i>General Slocum</i> burns during an excursion on New York City's East River. Of the 1,300 aboard, more than 1,000 die.</p> <p>1859—Near Vancouver, American Lyman Cutlar shoots a pig belonging to Charles Griffin, an Irishman, causing a U.S./British military stand-off lasting 12 years.</p> <p>1381—Wat Tyler's head gets piked for helping lead the Peasants' Revolt.</p> <p>1215—English barons force King John to sign the Magna Carta, thus protecting their rights. Peasants are left to fend for themselves.</p>	<p>2020—The <i>Wall Street Journal</i> publishes Mike Pence's op-ed, "There Isn't a Coronavirus Second Wave."</p> <p>2019—"Last Call" at The Hammer.</p> <p>2015—For \$50 each, 240 actors cheer on cue in the lobby of Trump Tower as the star of a [cancelled] TV show announces he's running for President.</p> <p>2000—The Energy Department finds missing top-secret computer hard drives in a location which had already been searched twice.</p> <p>1992—Caspar Weinberger, Ronald Reagan's Secretary of Defense, is indicted for lying to Congress.</p> <p>1991—Otis Nixon steals six bases.</p> <p>1966—Stokely Carmichael, continuing the March Against Fear as James Meredith recuperates from an assassination attempt, introduces "Black Power" to the nation's lexicon.</p> <p>1944—South Carolina kills George J. Stinney Jr., convicted in a three-hour trial before an all-white jury. Black, 14, 90 lbs., he is seated on phone books in the so the electrodes can reach him.</p> <p>1943—Charlie Chaplin, 54, marries Oona O'Neill, 18; only his death in 1977 does them part.</p> <p>1918—Eugene V. Debs delivers an anti-draft speech in Canton, Ohio that is so effective he is later charged with ten counts of sedition.</p> <p>1857—A riot erupts between New York City's two police departments. Corrupt Democratic Mayor Fernando Wood's recently-abolished Municipal Police retains its hold on City Hall.</p>	<p>2020—"The numbers are very minuscule compared to what it was," says Dolz #45, "[Covid is] dying out."</p> <p>2017—Brass on the <i>U.S.S. Fitzgerald</i> get their nimble destroyer rammed by a container ship; 7 enlisted sailors die, three are injured, repairs bill: \$367M.</p> <p>2015—Oxymoronic white "supremacist" murders nine in Charleston, S.C.</p> <p>1972—A Black Vietnam veteran catches Nixon's Watergate spies.</p> <p>1971—"I want it implemented on a thievery basis," President Nixon tells aides. "Goddamn it, get in [to the Brookings Institution] and get those files [that might reveal my treasonous interference with the Paris Peace talks]. Blow the safe and get it."</p> <p>1967—Defense Secretary Robert Strange McNamara commissions a secret history of the Vietnam War.</p> <p>1933—Syphilitic former sheriff and WWI hero Verne Miller, with three armed pals, tries to spring Frank "Jelly" Nash, a safe-cracker. Nash, in the custody of four G-Men and three cops at Union Station in K.C., Mo., ends up dead, as do a G-Man and three cops.</p> <p>1932—The Senate votes not to pay bonuses owed to thousands of Great War vets massed outside the Capitol, setting the stage for a violent riot.</p> <p>1775—With powder pilfered from Portsmouth's Fort William and Mary, New Hampshire men under Gen. John Stark—plus a few others—kill one-fourth of the British Army's officers in America at Bunker Hill.</p>	<p>2009—Manchester Mayor Frank Guinta steps over a man with a leg broken in a brawl to exit the Fish & Game Social Club before EMTs arrive.</p> <p>1989—RIP I.F. Stone, legendary journalist who said, "Every government is run by liars and nothing they say should be believed."</p> <p>1965—Operation Arc Light begins: 27 B-52s fly from Guam to bomb the 'Nam. Two collide and crash due to navigational errors, a third goes down after in-flight refueling fails.</p> <p>1959—Louisiana Gov. Earl Long is committed to a mental hospital; his governance continues unabated.</p> <p>1954—Alabama State Attorney candidate Alfred Patterson [D], who'd vowed to rid Phenix City of vice, is shot dead by ex-sheriff Albert Fuller.</p> <p>1954—Fred C. Trump is grilled about war profiteering from the FHA.</p> <p>1954—A CIA army invades Guatemala to topple democratically-elected President Jacobo Arbenz and make the place safe for the United Fruit Co.</p> <p>1948—Truman OKs plausibly-deniable propaganda, sabotage, demolition, & economic warfare by the CIA.</p> <p>1869—<i>New York Times</i> founder Henry J. Raymond dies of a stroke at 49 while entertaining his mistress.</p> <p>1865—Wrapped in a Confederate flag, slavery proponent Edmund Ruffin, unreconciled to "the perfidious, malignant, & vile Yankee race" and undeterred by a misfire, reloads and blows out the few brains he had.</p>
<p>9:59 10:13</p>  <p>3:44 3:53</p>	<p>10:52 11:04</p>  <p>4:37 4:44</p>	<p>11:45 11:55</p>  <p>5:30 5:36</p>	<p>12:38</p>  <p>6:22 6:29</p>	<p>12:47 1:31</p>  <p>7:15 7:22</p>	<p>1:41 2:26</p>  <p>8:08 8:17</p>	<p>2:36 3:23</p>  <p>9:02 9:15</p>



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