

The Fortnightly Rant

Permanently Endangered

Just when we thought the Supreme Court had done all the damage it could in one session, it decided to kill off more of us.

Yes, we know, this is getting monotonous. We Ranted about the Court just last fortnight, and now here we go again. We are so sorry—sorrer than we can say. When the Court rules, though, that the EPA cannot regulate poisonous emissions from coal-fired electrical power plants, we can hardly be expected to remain silent.

Air pollution currently causes one out of every six deaths, scientists say. Apparently that's not enough.

Having attended neither Harvard nor Yale, we have no idea how the Six Horse's Asses of the Apocalypse Court arrived at this conclusion. Perhaps they consulted with The Founding Fathers by huddling over a Heritage Foundation™ Ouija Board.

Whatever the process was, now we know: God's intention was that the rights of the stockholders of utilities and coal companies to make a profit should transcend any putative rights of post-born fetuses to inhale air that has not been poisoned. If only someone had warned us while we were still in the womb, we might have made other arrangements before entering such a world.

Now that it has wrapped up this session by stimulating the economy's deathcare sector, the Court indulged once again, as it did with its *Roe v Wade* leak, in a bit of ominous foreshadowing. When they reconvene in the fall, in addition to their robes, the Justices will wear spiked golf shoes, the better to dance on the shredded remains of our beleaguered democracy. Not literally—so far as we know—but that seems to be their general intent.

Democracy, you see, is a problem.

Democracy can be kind of icky, when you really think about it. It presumes that everyone has equal rights. That sounds fine in the abstract, but let's get real—what kind of cockamamie system gives equal power to a guy on the back of a garbage truck and a guy in the back of a limo? When considered from a certain perspective—the back seat of a limo, for example—it just doesn't make any sense.

Moore v Harper, though it looks to be yet another garden variety gerrymandering case, may actually be a Trojan Horse—one which might solve that nagging problem for the limousining class.

One might have thought that the gerrymandering question had been settled. For a change, one would actually be right. Gerrymandering is fine, as long as it's not about race. And, since it's now un-American to talk about race, gerrymandering is basically court-approved.

Republicans across the country did quite well in the 2010 mid-term elections. Democrats would have us believe that the high turnout was inspired in part by the presence of a Black man in the White House; such slanderous assertions, though, while obvious on their face, are difficult to prove in a court of law—especially when the law won't allow them into the courtroom.

In North Carolina, they made the most of their opportunity by creating “districts [which were] more severely gerrymandered than any districts in modern history,” according to *FacingSouth.org*.

Why, then, to return to our question, would our Supreme Beings waste their beautiful minds on a gerrymandering case? Because it will give the GOP a chance to further de-democratize our political system.

Open the trap door in the belly



of that Trojan Horse, and out falls the “independent state legislature theory.”

This theory, as Eliza Sweren-Becker of the Brennan Center recently explained in the *L.A. Times*, interprets the Constitutional clauses which give states the authority to regulate federal elections in a new and radical way. It contends “that these clauses grant state legislatures near absolute power over the laws governing elections for federal office—leaving state courts, state constitutions, state governors and other state entities powerless to stop even the most extreme gerrymanders and voter suppression laws that a state legislature could devise. It's just as nutty as it sounds.”

This independent state legislature theory may sounds familiar—because it's the same one Sidney Powell and her ilk used when they tried to steal the last election for Dolt #45. Should our unelected Justices ap-

pointed by Presidents who lost the popular vote give the thumbs-up to this nutty theory, Sweren-Becker warns that they would be removing “many checks and balances on state legislators, unleashing the very bodies that have been enacting laws that make it harder to vote—particularly for Americans of color—and easier to interfere in election outcomes. Under this theory, the only remaining arbiter as to the lawfulness of state legislatures' handiwork? The Supreme Court—which has been steadily dismantling what little remains of federal law protections for our elections.”

Gee—what are the odds that a clique of power-mad freaks might decide to increase their own power? A dissent in a previous case, signed by Gorsuch, Alito, Kavanaugh and Thomas, suggests that all four may be on board already.

Where could all this lead? Michael Luttig, the retired Republican

Judge who recently testified before the January 6th committee, said it was part of a plan to “overturn the 2024 election if Trump or his anointed successor loses again in the next quadrennial contest.”

This full-court press to reduce the political power of ordinary citizens really should come as no surprise. The “all men”—kindly note the gender—who were created equal in 1776 were white and owned property. Working stiff, non-whites and women need not apply.

To whatever extent such riff-raff finally managed to finagle their way into voting booths, it was only due to herculean efforts on their part, against great resistance. As Frederick Douglass said in 1857, “Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will.”

May Douglass forgive us for adding to that, power will reclaim power whenever it can, unless the people prevent it.

The Alleged News®

Privatizer Nominated for Social Security Board

by Jake Johnson

Defenders of Social Security on Tuesday urged the U.S. Senate to block President Joe Biden's little-noticed nomination of Andrew Biggs—an American Enterprise Institute senior fellow with a history of supporting Social Security privatization—to serve on the independent and bipartisan Social Security Advisory Board.

Social Security Works, a progressive advocacy group, is leading the charge against Biggs, highlighting his role in the George W. Bush administration's failed attempt to privatize the New Deal program in 2005. At the time, Biggs worked on Social Security as an associate director of Bush's National Economic Council.

“Andrew Biggs has advocated for

Social Security cuts throughout his career. And now, he's been nominated to oversee Social Security,” Social Security Works tweeted on Tuesday.

The group, whose president currently serves on the Social Security Advisory Board (SSAB), is also sharing a sample call script for those who wish to contact their representatives about Biggs.

“The Senate can, and must, block this terrible nomination,” the organization wrote. “Please call your senators at 202-224-3121 and tell them to vote NO on Andrew Biggs.”

The White House announced Biggs' nomination in May, to little notice at the time.

Last month, *The Lever's* Matthew Cunningham-Cook called attention to the president's pick and warned it suggests “there could soon be a coordinated push in Washington

to cut the Social Security program, which provides retirement, disability, and survivor benefits to 66 million Americans.”

While Biden vowed on the campaign trail to back an expansion of Social Security, he has previously supported cutting the program's benefits. Biden was vice president when former President Barack Obama proposed a “grand bargain” with the GOP that would have entailed cuts to Social Security.

Biggs, too, has a long record of advocating Social Security cuts. As Cunningham-Cook wrote last month, “For years, Biggs has been a vocal critic of expanded Social Security and workers' right to a secure, stable retirement free from the vagaries of the stock market.”

“He has dismissed the retirement crisis as a non-issue and as recent-

ly as 2020 blamed problems with the Social Security system on ‘older Americans' game of chicken,” he added. “While the seat on the bipartisan board is by tradition assigned to a Republican, Biden could have chosen a moderate candidate—or even leaned on precedent to avoid the nomination process altogether. Former President Donald Trump routinely refused to nominate Democrats for seats on boards and commissions.”

Simmering outrage over Biggs' nomination to serve on the SSAB, formed in 1994 to advise the president and Congress on Social Security, comes as progressives are demanding expansion of the program's modest benefits—while Republican lawmakers, as usual, eye cuts.

Last month, Sens. Bernie Sand-

ers (I-Vt.) and Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) led the introduction of the Social Security Expansion Act, which would lift the cap on income subject to the Social Security payroll tax and boost the program's annual benefits by \$2,400.

“At a time when half of older Americans have no retirement savings and millions of senior citizens are living in poverty, our job is not to cut Social Security,” Sanders said at the time. “Our job must be to expand Social Security so that every senior citizen in America can retire with the dignity they deserve and every person with a disability can live with the security they need.”

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The Alleged News®
from page one

**Voters Want Social Security Expanded—
Not Cut or Privatized**
by Kenny Stancil

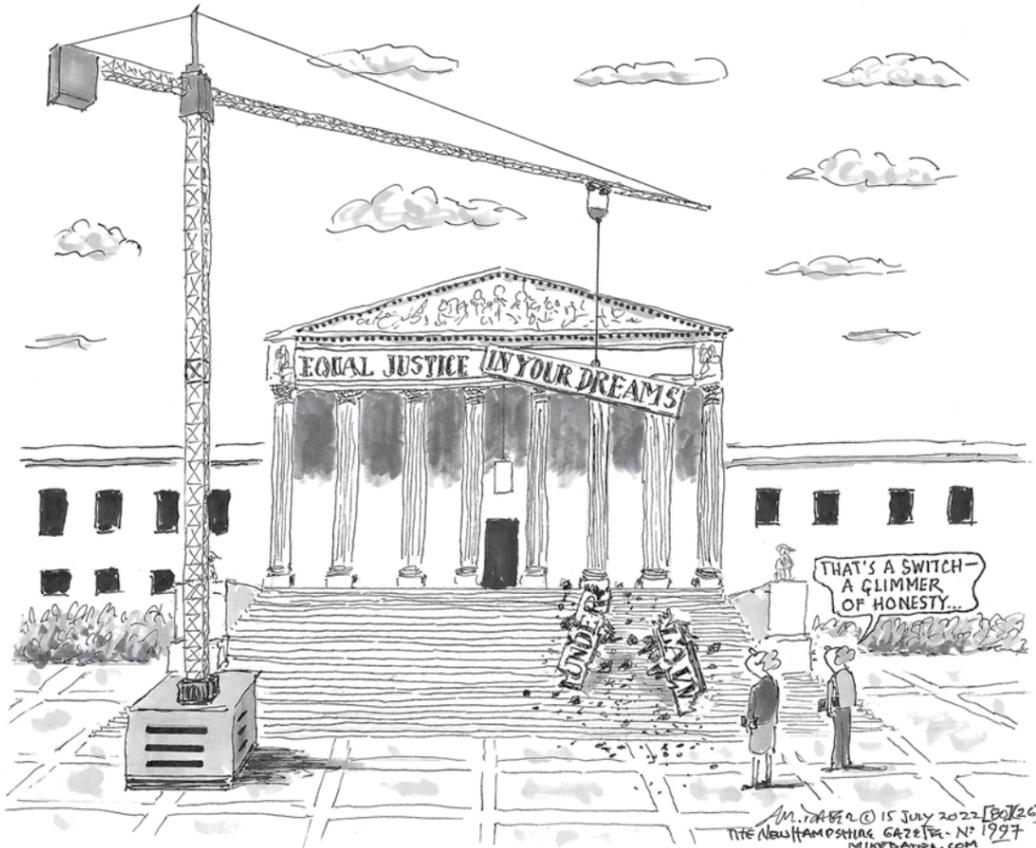
Voters in the United States overwhelmingly support Democratic proposals to expand Social Security for all recipients to cover higher costs of living and oppose Republican proposals to completely end the federal program—established during the New Deal era to improve economic security for retirees, people with disabilities, and widows and widowers—before the end of the decade.

That's according to a new survey conducted from June 17-21 and published Monday by Data for Progress, which found that a whopping 83 percent of likely voters support expanding Social Security benefits to keep up with rising costs, including 86 percent of Democrats, 84 percent of Republicans, and 79 percent of independents.

Nearly two-thirds (65 percent) of likely voters are very concerned about Congress cutting monthly cash transfers for the program's 66 million current beneficiaries, and more than half (53 percent) are very concerned about lawmakers privatizing Social Security.

Privatization of the program remains unpopular across the political spectrum, with 68 percent of likely voters—including 75 percent of Democrats, 70 percent of Republicans, and 59 percent of independents—opposed to Wall Street-backed schemes that would facilitate the movement of Social Security benefits from a guaranteed government fund into the volatile stock market.

While Biden pledged on the campaign trail to support an expansion of Social Security, he has previously backed slashing the program's benefits. Biden was vice president when former President Barack Obama proposed a "grand bargain" with congressional Republicans that would have included cuts to Social



Supporters of the Treasonous Former Guy—tired, perhaps, of camping out next to the Prescott Park parking lot, and not content to concede downtown to the usual run of peace-loving riff-raff—have taken to bringing their lawn chairs and Trump banners to Market Square on Sunday afternoons. The chair-to-Trumpazoid ratio seemed high, perhaps about five to one. The flag-to-follower ration might have been twice that. The left end of the spectrum, as usual, was well represented. There didn't seem to be much in the way of discourse between the two camps. No harm done, so far as we know, except perhaps to the overtime budget of the Police Department.

Security.

According to Data for Progress, 76 percent of likely voters—including 83 percent of Democrats, 73 percent of Republicans, and 73 percent of independents—support imposing, for the first time, payroll taxes on individuals with annual incomes above \$400,000 per year to fund an expansion of Social Security benefits. Currently, only earnings up to \$147,000 are subject to the Social Security payroll tax.

Meanwhile, a little-noticed budget document published last month by the Republican Study Committee (RSC)—a group to which nearly 75 percent of House Republicans belong—reiterates right-wing myths that the program is headed toward insolvency and calls for raising the retirement age by three months per year through 2040. As a result, people born after 1978 would not be eligible to receive full Social Security benefits until the age of 70.

The RSC's bid to postpone Social Security eligibility, outlined in their

so-called Blueprint to Save America, is not even the most extreme GOP proposal on offer, considering what Sen. Rick Scott (R-Fla.), chair of the National Republican Senatorial Committee (NRSC), has put forward.

Scott's widely panned 12-point "Plan to Rescue America" proposes hiking taxes on the poorest 40 percent of U.S. households and sunseting "all federal legislation" after five years—a move that would eliminate Social Security, Medicare, civil rights laws, and other measures unless Congress actively votes to reauthorize them.

Just seven percent of likely voters support ending Social Security in five years, according to Data for Progress, which may help explain why Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) refused to endorse Scott's policy agenda in March.

Nevertheless, Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), ranking member of the powerful Senate Budget Com-

mittee, said last month during a debate with committee chair Sanders that "entitlement reform is a must," indicating that the GOP is once again laying the groundwork to gut Social Security, Medicare, and more if it regains control of Congress in November's pivotal midterm elections.

Likely voters, when informed that congressional Democrats are proposing to expand Social Security benefits while their Republican counterparts are proposing to swiftly terminate the program, told pollsters that they would be most likely to support a Democratic candidate over a Republican one by a margin of 55 to 31.

This suggests that campaigning on Social Security expansion could help Democrats maintain or even bolster their slim majorities in the House and Senate.

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

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One More Mission

We treat Twitter as the poor newspaper's AP. It's always got the latest news first. If you curate your feed wisely, it can be very useful. We have an account—@NHGazette—but we rarely use it to post. We're a fortnightly, for pete's sake. Why would we try to compete with all that?

We did break radio silence on July 6th, though, to draw attention to a Kickstarter project. Just making a pledge would not have been enough. We'd have posted a tweet about *One More Mission* even if its producer-director Ed Gray had not been a high school classmate. Ed always was a couple of steps ahead; it was he who first introduced the Editor to Paul Krassner's *The Realist*.

One More Mission seems assured of reaching its \$47,000 goal by the Thursday deadline. As of 8:00 p.m. Tuesday it was just \$823 shy.

The following promotional text comes from the film's Kickstarter campaign. We're running it here because it goes a long way toward explaining how America got to where it is today.

Breaking The Cycle Of War

Our documentary film *One More Mission* tells a 50-year-old story. But it's one that most Americans have never heard—and one that urgently needs re-telling today.

Remember what happened in 2001? And again in 2003? Our leaders said, yes, we'd have to sacrifice. But the benefits of going to war would far outweigh the costs. And in the end, we'd achieve victory.

But the costs proved to be much greater than we expected. Thousands of Americans were killed. Hundreds of thousands were wounded or afflicted with traumatic brain injuries or PTSD. In Iraq, Afghanistan and other countries, the death toll runs into the hundreds of thousands, and millions were injured or forced to become refugees. Yet in spite of America's overwhelming military power, and the courage of its men and women in uniform, it didn't win those promised victories. Iraq still teeters in instability. And in Afghanistan, the Taliban is back in power.

What will happen the next time a president tells us that Americans



must fight and die? Are we doomed to keep repeating this cycle? Isn't there some way to make people appreciate the horror and futility of war?

What few Americans realize is that fifty years ago, thousands of young veterans of the war in Vietnam succeeded in doing just that. They were members of a group called Vietnam Veterans Against the War—VVAW. And they were the first veterans in U.S. history to demand that their country end the war they had fought in. VVAW played a crucial role in turning the tide of public opinion against the war and pressuring President Nixon to finally end it.

Many Americans were shocked by these outspoken young people. They were breaking with a deeply rooted belief: that people owe their country unquestioned loyalty during wartime. But these veterans took the radical step of denouncing what their country was doing in Vietnam. Why? Because they had discovered—while serving in that war—that it violated the even deeper moral values on which they'd been raised. And because of the physical

courage they had proved on the battlefield, their acts of moral courage earned the respect—and won the support—of huge numbers of Americans.

But unfortunately, the story of VVAW has faded from American memory. Today, as the world is once again confronted by war, it is vitally important that we reclaim that story. By bringing the hard-won insights of these courageous veterans to a new generation, our hope is that we can help prevent yet another war.

The Plan

One More Mission is a feature-length documentary film that tells the story of VVAW by interweaving the personal stories of eight featured characters. We follow the arcs of their stories going back to childhood. How did their families, schooling, and popular culture influence their decisions to enlist? (The majority of VVAW members had volunteered to serve in the military.) How did the reality of Vietnam change them? What was it like to publicly oppose your own government during wartime? What was it like to have your government strike back at you? And how did the choices they made as

young people shape the course of their lives?

To tell our characters' stories, we weave together powerful interviews with personal photos, archival footage of VVAW's dramatic protests, impressionistic cinematography that retraces their life journeys, and contemporary footage that brings us into their lives today. The veterans' stories differ in many ways. But there is one strong conviction that all of them share. We have to find a way to stop repeating the lethal mistakes of the past.

The film also looks at VVAW's impact on America. VVAW members led the fights to win official recognition for PTSD and to help the victims of the toxic herbicide Agent Orange. VVAW's example influenced many Iraq and Afghanistan veterans to speak out against those wars.

UPDATE: The Kickstarter campaign has succeeded—but additional support will still be needed to complete the film. People can make tax deductible charitable contributions through Ed's nonprofit sponsor at www.catticus.org/one-more-mission.



Our Wandering Photographer, who through sheer force of habit is fairly adept at maintaining situational awareness, didn't spot a single Viet Cong at the Pic 'n' Pay last Friday. Nor did he see any Taliban or al-Qaeda. Perhaps his good fortune was due to an unsolicited security perimeter established by the gentleman in the center of this photo, the remainder of which has been intentionally washed out to highlight the 9 mm semi-automatic pistol on his right hip. Though the man, the woman, and the child all share the same frame here, the guy with the gun was clearly on his own.

Murph's Fortnightly Quote
 "The man who views the world at 50 the same as he did at 20 has wasted 30 years of his life."
 — Muhammad Ali

"We are in the process of creating what deserves to be called the idiot culture.... For the first time, the weird and the stupid and the coarse are becoming our cultural norm, even our cultural ideal."
 — Carl Bernstein
john@wordpraxis.com

"The worst government is often the most moral. One composed of cynics is often very tolerant and humane. But when fanatics are on top there is no limit to oppression."
 — H. L. Mencken
 — Not-So-Random Thoughts from an Oregon Subscriber

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Haunted by Our Original Sin

Dear Sir:
 Many Christian Religions use Baptism to wash away the original sin inherited from Adam and Eve. Unfortunately, the Emancipation Proclamation could not wash away our original sin of slavery. Legal slavery was ended by the Proclamation, but the social, economic, and, most importantly, the political and constitutional legacies of slavery, are alive and well today in the United States.

The Electoral College enshrined in the Constitution is one of slavery's most pernicious and anti-democratic legacies. In the absence of slavery at the time the Constitution was written, the election of the president would likely have been by the popular vote of all the states combined. James Madison, one of the drafters of the Constitution and the fourth president, strongly supported the popular vote method. He said "the people at large were the fittest to select the chief executive."

However, to gain support from the southern, slave-holding states, a compromise was required. With their non-voting slave population excluded, they were much smaller than the northern states. The three-fifths compromise counted the enslaved as three-fifths of a person, but did not allow them to vote. That system increased the southern states' delegation by 42 percent, thus creating the very undemocratic Electoral College system that still exists today.

We have painfully witnessed its negative effects. Since 2000, Republicans have won the popular vote only once, but won the presidency three times. George W. Bush lost the popular vote in 2000, but narrowly won the Electoral College. During his second term—which would not have taken place if the 200 election had been based on the popular vote—he named Samuel Alito and John Roberts, both conservatives, to the Court.

In 2016, Donald Trump won the White House despite losing by over three million votes. During his one term he named three very conservative justices to the Court: Gorsuch, Kavanaugh and Barrett. Add Justice Clar-

ence Thomas, who was nominated by a President winning the popular vote, to the already majority of five, and the result is a super majority of very conservative Justices,

The Electoral College has turned the Supreme Court into a radical, out-of-touch, anti-democratic nightmare. This court has overturned the 50-year precedent of *Roe v. Wade*, which had been called "settled law" by a number of justices during their confirmation hearings. Beyond *Roe*, the so-called "pro-life" Court overturned a 100-year old gun safety law in New York, weeks after the slaughter in Uvalde, Texas; allowed taxpayer funds to be used for religious schools in Maine; and now allows public school teachers to lead students in prayer on public property, regardless of the children's beliefs.

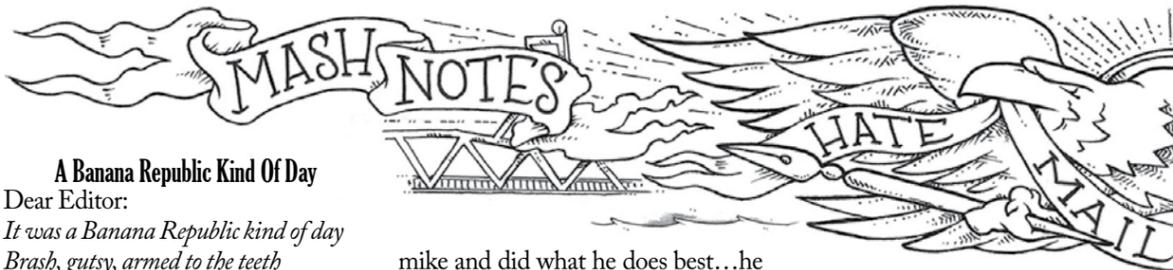
Unfortunately, as radical as this court has already proven to be, it is poised to make even more precedent-breaking decisions in the years to come. As Justice Thomas stated in his concurring statement on *Roe*, his sights are set on overturning marriage equality, contraception, and the private consensual sexual practices of individuals. Considering the extreme positions of his five conservative colleagues, people should be very concerned with what lies ahead. Considering their life-time appointments, the radical makeup of this Court will be in place for years to come. All this and more is the legacy of slavery. Our original sin lives on and continues to destroy the lives of millions now and into the future.

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

Rich:

As you have so clearly laid out, not only was the foundation of our much-vaunted Republic built by the enslaved—on land stolen from the indigenous, to boot—its present-day inequalities stem directly from a compromise with the wealthy practitioners of that heinous institution. We should know. For the first few decades of its existence, this newspaper was dependant on the enslaved labor of an African man named Primus, and ran paid advertising promoting the sale of enslaved Africans.

The Editor



A Banana Republic Kind Of Day

Dear Editor:
*It was a Banana Republic kind of day
 Brash, gutsy, armed to the teeth
 A racist rebellion sort of grandstand
 An ideal vision of bell-on-earthnews
 Emboldened by a defeated president
 With unprecedented gall
 The throng amassed at his command
 Envisioning American Carnage
 Wrought and paid for by the power
 Of an Emperor-King, a Grand Poobah
 proclaiming
 An Imperial Presidency, Donald J's
 self-grandeur
 Emboldened the gathering to mob up and
 march
 To the Capital, they went smashing
 norms
 So the Pretender-to-the-ReElection
 Throne
 Might live another day as Ruler-in-
 Chief
 Clothed in the gauze of legitimacy.
 LOCK HIM UP!...before he strikes
 again.*

Genevieve Fraser
 Orange, MA

Are Coups D'Etat Legal Now?

Dear Editor:
 The question on the minds of many Americans: will Merrick Garland follow the endless trail of irrefutable evidence and charge Donald Trump and his co-conspirators for the crimes for which they are clearly guilty, or will he let them off the hook? Whether the Attorney General chooses to restore the independence and integrity of the Department of Justice, or not, by charging the former president for inciting a deadly attack on the Capitol in a failed attempt to overturn the 2020 election and prevent the peaceful transfer of power, Merrick Garland's actions will mark a life-changing crossroad for our Republic.

The morning after the election in November, 2020, Donald Trump, instead of conceding an election he lost by seven million votes, strolled to the

mike and did what he does best...he lied. He said, "we won and we won big," calling the results of the election, "a fraud on the American people." He purposely gave birth to the Big Lie, the cock and bull story he and his devoted followers trumpet to this day.

Donald Trump exploited America's growing divisions over class, race, gender, and religion for political purposes. That's deplorable, but it's not against the law. Inflaming a mob to attack the Capitol (an act the former president of the United States perpetrated and which is no longer in dispute) is.

The events surrounding January 6th forced Americans (and citizens around the globe) to recognize and understand how vulnerable democracy really is and how very close we came to losing it.

Men who remembered their oath to protect and defend died that day (or soon after because of it). Men, and women, who didn't flinch in the line of duty were injured, some with life-long wounds because one man chose to incite a horde in a futile attempt to overturn an election he knew he lost.

Speaking to the investigative committee, J. Michael Luttig (a retired, conservative, federal judge) said Trump's attempt to overturn the vote brought the nation to the edge of a "revolution within a constitutional crisis and that Trump and his allies are laying the groundwork to try again in 2024," adding, "they are a clear and present danger to American democracy and I don't speak those words lightly."

The Republican Party continues to be an accomplice in Trump's wrongdoing; denying, defying, obstructing and preventing (by any means available) the January 6th committee from completing its duty. History will record, as Representative Liz Cheney [R-Wyo.], speaking to her Republican

colleagues, so eloquently and forcefully said, "There will come a day when Donald Trump is gone, but your dishonor will remain."

Cheney also spoke of those who "honored their oath of office," January 6th, and "did their duty." I would remind my fellow veterans who are choosing to remain silent, even as our Republic teeters on the brink of collapse, that we took that same oath. I took it five times in my Navy career, serving under presidents Eisenhower to Carter. "We take our oath to defend the United States Constitution," Rep. Cheney stated, "and that oath has to mean something." Yes, I agree, it does.

By his actions, confirmed many times over by his own words, Donald Trump grossly and continuously abused the power of his office. I don't know what Merrick Garland is going to do but his choices seem clear.

Choosing not to prosecute Trump would signal that presidents are above the law and would be a transparent invitation to future presidents to do whatever they want. To not prosecute, ends democracy in America as we know it.

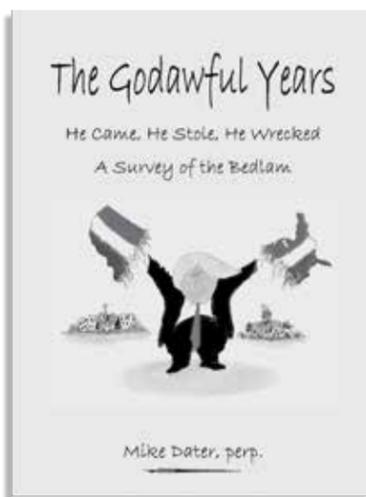
Merrick Garland must defend democracy and that means upholding the rule of law by "following the facts wherever they lead, by holding all January 6th perpetrators, at any level, accountable under the law," as Merrick Garland stated and promised to do.

Granted, no previous Attorney General has faced such a momentous challenge given no other president has ever instigated a coup d'etat against the United States of America. Whatever Merrick Garland decides will surely have consequences well beyond our lifetime...and the world is watching.

David L. Snell
 Franklin, N.C.

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Another Ewing Flight of Fancy

[A Caution To The Reader: Long experience has taught us not to assume that a statement of fact coming from Don Ewing has any resemblance to the truth. While many readers will no doubt find this egregious flaw annoying—and we acknowledge a certain degree of risk, should anyone take his letters as anything other than deranged political fan fiction—we like to think that they offer valuable insight into one of America's major malfunctions. — The Ed.]

gan. Knowing of likely violence, why weren't reinforcements provided? The January 6th Committee isn't interested.

The January 6th Committee criminalizes questioning the election and seeking remedies. But this is legal, common, and was done by Al Gore, John Kerry, Chairman Thompson, and Maxine Waters and many others.

Trump attempted to quell the January 6th violence. Biden, Pelosi, Schumer and other Democrats still haven't condemned the Justice Kavanaugh assassination attempt weeks ago, or tried to quell, rather than encourage, the violent pro-choice rioters.

The January 6th Committee is Democrats' attempt to avoid the electoral defeat they deserve because of the pain they chose to inflict on the American people. Even worse, after 30+ years of relative safety, Biden's incompetence has resulted in a real threat of nuclear world war and the possible annihilation of the human race.

Don Ewing
Meredith, N.H.

Don:

To begin with, where'd you get that laughable \$100 million figure? Newsmax? Alex Jones? Sadly, we must rule out the late, lamented Weekly World News.

The Mueller investigation only spent about \$40 million. That might have been enough to jail the Chief Executive, had his Attorney General not interfered. If you want to save taxpayers' money, don't put career criminals in the Oval Office. Perhaps you've forgotten that Ken Starr blew \$39.2 million investigating Bill Clinton's sex life? Compared to that, Trump's first impeachment was a bargain at a mere \$2 million.

The Washington Post says the January 6th Committee will spend less than \$10 million to investigate an attack which did \$2.7 million worth of damage

to the U.S. Capitol.

Five people died as a result of that day. Hundreds were injured and traumatized. Many will never be the same. Yet you and the RNC call that "legitimate political protest." Your Clintonesque wordplay cannot diminish those facts.

We see you fell for Sean Hannity's claim about Trump authorizing National Guard troops.

The Poynter Institute—a highly reputable organization—fact-checked that. Here's what it found:

"There is no record of former President Donald Trump officially authorizing 20,000 National Guard troops for the U.S. Capitol ahead of the Jan. 6, 2021, attack.

"There is no evidence that House Speaker Nancy Pelosi denied such an authorization, and experts said she doesn't have the authority to do so in the first place.

"A Vanity Fair report said Trump made a passing remark to his acting defense secretary about potentially needing 10,000 National Guard troops, not 20,000. But there's no evidence the comment was treated as a formal authorization."

You complain that "The January 6th Committee criminalizes questioning the election and seeking remedies. But this is legal, common, and was done by Al Gore, John Kerry, Chairman Thompson, and Maxine Waters and many others."

You're flipping something on its head while turning it inside out. Nobody is seeking to criminalize legitimate inquiries into crooked elections. Gore and Kerry feebly questioned stolen elections and quit too soon. Thompson and Waters are legitimately questioning a criminal attempt to overturn a legitimate election.

Far from "attempting to quell the January 6th violence," Trump fomented it. Apparently he nearly got his Vice President hanged.

That's about as much pig-wrestling as we have time for today. Please excuse us as we go and hose ourselves off.

The Editor

Failed Attempt at Propaganda Insertion

Sirs,
Thank you for opportunity [sic] to publicize our great service to Mothers and Babies in your *N.H. Gazette*.

Please use our same address + whatever will fit; most importantly include "Love them both."

[Redacted]

Dover, N.H.

Redacted:

Not on your life.

People faced with unwanted pregnancies already have enough trouble—and more every day.

Add as many zeroes as you like to your check, we would never help you publicize an organization which, by its very design, aims to assist religious extremists in their crusade to coerce those in a vulnerable position into bearing an unwanted child so that you and your ilk can boost your already overweening self-righteousness.

Your check #1109 has been shredded.

The Editor

—==—

Herald Column Misses the Point Entirely

Dear Sir:

In her recent *Portsmouth Herald* column regarding West Virginia vs. EPA, Ms. Alicia Preston Xanthopoulos completely missed the most important long-term implications of the Supreme Court ruling in favor of West Virginia. Her focus was on the fact that the proposed rule the Court voided was a regulation that had never been adopted. She also failed to mention that the Court's decision was based on a relatively new conservative legal idea called the "Major Question Doctrine." It states that federal agencies need explicit authorization from Congress to decide issues of "major economic and political significance."

Since this ruling does not only apply to the EPA, but to all federal regulatory agencies, it has opened the door for industries of all types to challenge regulations from any and all federal regulatory agencies beyond the EPA, claiming that the regulation violates the Major Question Doctrine. Agencies such as the Food and Drug Administration, The Occupational Safety and Health Administration Securities and Exchange Commission, Federal

Aviation Administration, Homeland Security, Health and Human Services and others could have current regulations challenged based on their "major economic or political significance" and because Congress did not give explicit authorization to the agency to regulate the item in question. The implications for the potential harm to the environment, public health, commerce, public safety, worker safety, education, and so much more are enormous, and totally ignored in Ms. Xanthopoulos's column.

For example, could a drug manufacturer claim that the FDA has no authority to regulate a specific drug or class of drugs that have "major economic or political significance" because the FDA was not given explicit authorization to regulate that drug or class of drugs by Congress when the FDA laws were written? Can a chemical manufacturer now claim that the EPA cannot regulate a chemical or class of chemicals because of its "major economic or political significance," and that the chemical or class of chemicals were not given explicit authorization by Congress when the EPA Law was written? The same objection can be used by a host of industries, regulated by any federal regulatory agency to challenge any regulation that they consider of "major economic or political significance" that was not granted explicit authority by Congress when their authorizing legislation was passed. because the Supreme Court has now codified in law the "Major Question Doctrine."

As a result, will every federal regulatory agency need to identify any item they regulate that might have potential major economic or political significance and request that Congress grant them the explicit authority to regulate the items identified? Not only would this be a political nightmare and a total waste of the time of the agencies and Congress, with the Congress as divided as it is, nothing will be passed, leaving many important regulations at risk of being ruled unconstitutional

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The Mystery of Life

by Jean Stimmell

A couple of weeks ago, I wrote about Ayana Elizabeth Johnson, a positive voice raised against today's doomsday handwringing. Krista Tippett also exudes hope for the future: She has become a leading spiritual voice of our times through her podcasts, interviewing exceptional people "whose insights kindle in us a sense of wonder and courage."¹

In her latest book, *Becoming Wise*,² she uncovers how wisdom is gained, not by denying the most tragic aspects of our lives but by facing them. Time and time again, she has drawn out stories of folks who have walked through darkness and hardship but "integrated them into wholeness on the other side." They became not fixed but "whole and healed," not despite their trauma, but because "they let it become part of who they are."

Hope for Tippett is connected to her unique understanding of theology. While she says optimism is

only wishful thinking, hope is a reality-based, spiritual force. "It sees the darkness. It takes that seriously. It sees the possibility for good and redemption. And takes that seriously. And it's a choice. And it's also—it's an action. It's something you put into practice."

Redemption is a radical notion for Tippett. Although she doesn't think humans are innately sinful, it is clear we all screw up. "Every single one of us. And collectively, we're making massive mistakes."³ Despite our flaws, she believes we are all redeemable, relating the example of what Mother Teresa told a group of death row inmates at San Quentin Prison: "If you want to see the face of God, look at the prisoner standing next to you." Then she adds, "I see the face of God when I look at you."⁴

She believes hope is fostered from practicing rituals within a community. "Hope, like every virtue, is a choice that becomes a habit that becomes spiritual muscle memory. It's a renewable resource for moving through life as it is, not as we wish

it to be."⁵ Modern neuroscience agrees that habits determine who we are: What we practice is who we become. One can become "more patient, being more hopeful, being more compassionate just like it goes for any other skill."

Tippett admits it was a turning point for her to discover theology has more to do with humans than god: While psychology can make sense out of part of who we are, only theology and philosophy explore in-depth "our contradictoriness, and our complexity, and our beauty, and strangeness, and our possibilities."

Sadly, she relates how soaring political rhetoric, which traditionally helped hold us together as a nation, has sunk into a divisive, knife-throwing contest between parties. Generous and inclusive words, what some might call spiritual, have fallen by the wayside: "Peace is strangely divisive. Justice is somehow partisan."⁶

None of us can know the ultimate truth, Tippett says, quoting the renowned physicist Brian Greene: "The fundamental nature of reali-

ty, as far as we can grasp it now is fundamentally hidden from us at this stage in our development as a species."⁷ While we may think our dining room table is made out of 100 percent solid wood, it is actually 99 percent empty space in a force-field of spinning atoms, just like our bodies. In other words, we are made up of nothingness.

Children, Tippett writes, have a natural affinity for exploring this unknown: the inquiry, the enormous curiosity about this universe, and the hope that somehow those answers will come about. "What children and religion have in common is a burning desire to answer these questions. 'Mystery is such an important part of it.'"⁸

That's my biggest takeaway from her book: Understanding spiritual practice as a mystery.

We don't know any more about the big questions in life than our cave-dwelling ancestors. The difference is that the ancients worshipped the mystery of it all while we moderns, the sophisticated ones,

deny it. Cutting across the myopia of our increasingly secular society, Tippett looks to theology as the one force that can bring us together on a higher plane, celebrating the holy mystery of life itself.

I will conclude with my own more pagan-like example illustrating the mystery of growing old that I once sent to my mentor, the psychologist Peter Baldwin: "Ah, isn't life wonderful in its multifaceted mystery, so mind-blowing if we could just let go...fearlessly riding bareback into the sunset on a run-away stallion."⁹

1 <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/25894085-becoming-wise>
 2 Tippett, Krista, *Becoming Wise*. Penguin Publishing Group. Kindle Edition
 3 *Ibid.* Page 215-216.
 4 *Ibid.* Page 207-208.
 5 *Ibid.* Page 11.
 6 *Ibid.* Page 16.
 7 *Ibid.* page 183.
 8 *Ibid.* Page 166.
 9 A Memoir, by Peter Baldwin. Xlibris, 2017. Page 53.

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by the courts. This will result in economic and political chaos—which, unfortunately, is exactly what many conservatives wish for in order to destroy the "deep state."

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

Rich:
 The Herald can generally be counted on to miss what's important. Ms. Alicia Preston Xanthopoulos has a particular talent for expressing a predictably benign comfort with the status quo. We look forward to calming ourselves with her dismissal of the consequences when Seabrook melts down.

We've become accustomed to thinking of the Supreme Court, and the far right in general, as being fundamentally reactionary. We're beginning to think it might be more accurate to call them anarchic—and not in the good sense of



that formerly honorable term.

The Editor

Has Doubts About the First Amendment To the Editor:

I was a big supporter of the Republican party starting back in the day when Eisenhower was President, before I was able to vote and when one could accept what you were told by elected officials as being accurate and truthful. Since then Republican Presidents can be identified by a lie they told—"I am not a crook"—"Read my lips: no new taxes"—"Mission accomplished"—"I will pay off the National debt in three years and have a surplus in the fourth." But that was just one lie each.

Now, in Trump's four-year term as President, it is not one lie that you can remember, because the number of lies runs into thousands, and many of his Republican elected or appointed officials repeat lies knowing they are lies.

One recent noticeable situation is Marjory Taylor Green, who, in her recent court appearance—under oath—has demonstrated that she either has an early and severe case of senility and memory loss or she lied under oath. Either of these makes her unfit for public office. And this is just one example of numerous Republican elected or appointed officials who have been shown to have lied.

There is an old Latin phrase which used to be used as instructions to juries (I do not know if it still is used that way), that says *falsus uno, falsus omnibus*. Juries were told that if you have been shown that a witness lied once, you can discount all his testimony.

With all of that in mind, I could easily be led to believe that if a Republican official's lips are moving, he or she is lying. The First Amendment is a very sad situation when you can't trust half of your government officials. And it is compounded by the fact that there are so many social media outlets (like Twitter) where anyone can broadcast to the whole world their conspiracy theories, their 'alternative facts' and their

downright lies because they have freedom of speech. I am a firm believer in freedom of speech, but I remember when we just had three or four media outlets—ABC, NBC, CBS and PBS. Only journalists had access to these outlets, not every resident, and they had to get confirmation from two or three sources in order to verify that their proposed broadcast was accurate.

When will lawmakers make similar laws governing social media outlets so that every person who posts online is subject to the same verification standards that journalists were (and maybe still are) subjected to, so that we are not inundated with all the conspiracy theories, 'alternative facts', and outright lies that anyone can post online. There should also

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Let's Talk About Original Intent

by W.D. Ehrhart

In a withering, indeed breathtaking, succession of recent decisions rendered by a U.S. Supreme Court now dominated by justices vetted by the Federalist Society and nominated by presidents who did not win the popular national vote, most of the past 120 years of legal progress and precedent have been obliterated.

The rationale for this assault on common sense and common decency is a doctrine called "Original Intent," which states that only those guarantees intended by the framers of the Constitution in 1787 and set forth in the document ratified two years later are valid. This is also sometimes defined as "strict construction," and is always trumpeted by so-called conservatives as a fundamental tenet.

I say "so-called" because their arguments and interpretations of our Constitution are neither conservative nor historically true. Abortion in this country, for instance, was legal from the nation's founding until well into the 19th century. But for now, let's take a closer look at just one example of the flagrantly lunatic application of original intent and strict construction.

The 2nd Amendment states: "A well regulated Militia, being neces-

sary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

The most common firearm of that day was a smooth-bore muzzle-loading flintlock musket that was over four and a half feet long, weighed over ten pounds, had a muzzle velocity of 785 feet per second, could fire no more than three rounds a minute in the hands of a very skilled person, and was accurate up to fifty yards. Today's AR-15s and their knock-offs are barely three feet long and weigh only seven and a half pounds, are fed by magazines holding 20 or more rounds, have a muzzle velocity of 3300 feet per second, are accurate up to 600 meters, and can fire 60 to 100 bullets a minute, even in the hands of a rank amateur. All you have to do is keep pulling the trigger.

I can't prove this, but I find it extremely hard to believe that George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, James Madison, and all those other Founding Fathers had the original intent to allow any American over the age of 18 to possess the ability to murder dozens and scores of men, women, and children.

But I can prove—because the words are right there in the 2nd Amendment itself—that what those men had in mind was "a well regu-

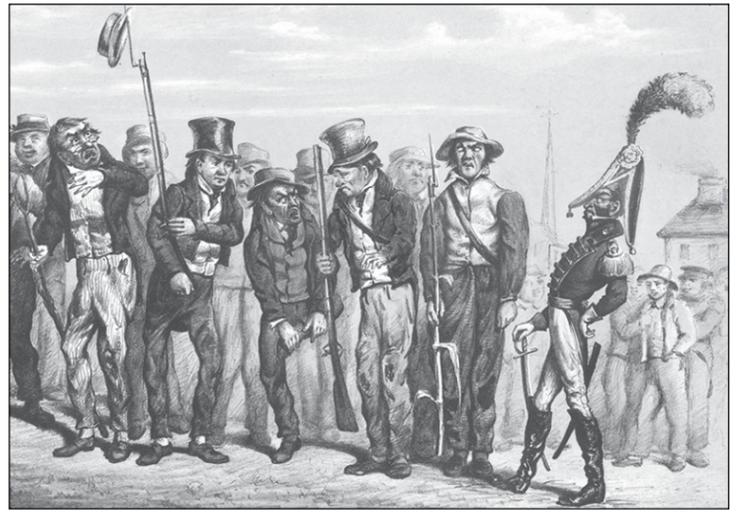
lated Militia." And what did they mean by that?

While regulations varied somewhat from state to state, during the late colonial era and into the 18th century, every able-bodied free male between the ages of 16 and 50 was required to enlist in his state's militia. He was required to provide his own firearm. Local militias were organized into companies of 32 to 68 men. Companies were organized into regiments with regimental commanders appointed by state governors.

Militia companies were required to train six days a year, with regimental musters held periodically. Failure to appear for training could result in fines or corporal punishment. Repeated absentees could be sent to prison.

That is what is meant by a well-regulated militia. That was the original intent of the framers of our Constitution. The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed in order for them to participate in a well-regulated militia. It's right there in front of your eyes, in print, on paper, in every copy of the Constitution I've ever read.

Though I sometimes find myself scratching my head, in fact I'm pretty certain that John Roberts, Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito,



Neil Gorsuch, Amy Coney Barrett, and Brett Kavanaugh all read, write, speak, and understand the English language.

The National Rifle Association is not a well-regulated militia. The Proud Boys are not a well-regulated militia. Lauren Boebert, Thomas Massie, and Marjorie Taylor Greene are not a well-regulated militia. Nor were Eric Harris, Dylan Klebold, Adam Lanza, Stephen Paddock, Omar Mateen, Dylann Roof, Nikolas Cruz, Salvador Ramos or any of the other mass murderers whose names we've come to know in the past 25 years.

Clarence Thomas writes in his decision in *New York State Rifle and Pistol Association v. Bruen* that the 2nd Amendment guarantee of the right to bear arms is "not a second

class right." Okay, fine, but where's your "well-regulated militia"? Where is your "strict construction"? Where is the framers' "original intent"?

Even the late-though-hardly-lamented-in-some-quarters-at-least Antonin Scalia, when asked what the difference was between himself and Justice Thomas, replied, "Look, I'm an originalist, but I'm not a nut." Alas, it seems that at least six members of our highest court—from which there is no appeal—bear a remarkable resemblance to a large can of Planter's Mixed Nuts.

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W.D. Ehrhart, PhD, is a former Marine Corps sergeant and veteran of the American War in Vietnam. He is the author of a memoir trilogy: Vietnam-Perkasie, Passing Time, and Busted.

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be penalties for public officials who promulgate such inaccuracies.

The situation that is currently in place is detrimental to the entire country. It leads to division and distrust throughout and therefore is a stake in the heart of a true democracy when a majority will be misinformed.

We now have three (Republican appointed) Supreme Court justices who lied under oath at their 'job interview' when testifying at their confirmation hearings! What are you going to do about that? Impeach them? And there is another one whose vocabulary does not include the word 'recuse'.

When will we get government oversight on social media outlets

and laws that would punish lawmakers for misleading the populace?

Christopher J. Mills
Keene, N.H.
Christopher:

We share your astonishment at the apparent ease with which one-third of the country swallows the most incredible—indeed, almost unimaginable—horseshit. One has to wonder how the species has survived this long.

To impinge upon the right to free speech, though, strikes us as ill-considered.

We are seeing now, on a daily basis, the damage that a lunatic fringe can impose on the nation by half a dozen nutjobs on the Supreme Court.

Give those crackpots half a chance and they'll quickly have their hands on our own throats.

The Editor

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Beware: The GOP Has Chosen to Embrace The Crazy

by Jim Hightower

Perhaps you remember Sen. Barry Goldwater, the GOP's fringy, far-right-wing 1964 presidential nominee who famously said, "Extremism in the defense of liberty is no vice." Today, however, the core of the Republican Party has gone so far beyond the fringe that they would boo Goldwater's right-wingism as insufficiently rabid. Instead, their new rallying cry is: "Nut-tiness in the defense of extremism is no vice."

The GOP's mainline officialdom now proclaim themselves The Party of Extremism. They are openly embracing The Crazy, including conspiracy theorists, neo-confederates, and Q-Anon cultists, hoping to

harness the fanatical horsepower of these antidemocratic groups to the party's true purpose of entrenching the supremacy of corporate and moneyed elites.

Now, this extremism is about to erupt in the GOP's presidential primary, for a whole covey of these cooing right-wingers have fantasies of taking the groups' radical agenda to the White House. All of them are trying to out-extreme each other with raw meat bigotry and autocratic posturing, but two wannabes have emerged as both the most bullish and bullying: Greg Abbott of Texas and Ron DeSantis of Florida.

For months, these big state governors have been locked in a far-right kook-off including outlawing free speech, banning books, viciously at-

tacking immigrants, preempting local elections and governments, and denying health care to poor people. Bear in mind that Abbott and DeSantis are not merely pontificating, posturing, and promising what they might do in the White House—as governors they're actually practicing it right now!

I don't know if Abbott and DeSantis are the worst that the GOP will try to put in the Oval Office in 2024, but please pay attention now, for today's Republican elites intend to pull our democracy down into the plutocratic, autocratic, and theocratic maelstrom they are creating.

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ADMIRAL FOWLE'S PISCATAQUA RIVER TIDAL GUIDE (NOT FOR NAVIGATIONAL PURPOSES)

Portsmouth, arguably the first town in this country not founded by religious extremists, is bounded on the north and east by the Piscataqua River, the second, third, or fourth fastest-flowing navigable river in the country, depending on

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

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

moves from the mouth of the river, up past New Castle, around the bend by the old Naval Prison, under Memorial Bridge, past the tugboats, and on into Great Bay. This can best be seen when the tide is rising.

Twice a day, too, the moon lets all that water go. All the seawater that just fought its way upstream goes back home to the ocean. This is when the Piscataqua earns its title for xth fastest current. Look for the red buoy, at the upstream end of

Badger's Island, bobbing around in the current. It weighs several tons, and it bobs and bounces in the current like a cork. The river also has its placid moments, around high and low tides. When the river rests, its tugboats

and bridges work their hardest. Ships coming in laden with coal, oil, and salt do so at high tide, for more clearance under their keels. They leave empty, riding high in the water, at low tide, to squeeze under Memorial Bridge.

SUNDAY, JULY 17	MONDAY, JULY 18	TUESDAY, JULY 19	WEDNESDAY, JULY 20	THURSDAY, JULY 21	FRIDAY, JULY 22	SATURDAY, JULY 23
<p>2020—Asked if he'll concede if he loses, #45 says "I'll have to see." 2015—Portsmouth cops grill Mike Thiel at his office about a letter in which he complains about helicopters. 2014—Detained for selling loose cigarettes, Eric Garner, 43, suffocates as he tells NYPD cops, "I can't breathe." 1979—Anastasio Somoza flees Nicaragua for Miami, bringing family caskets and much of the national treasury. 1965—An American press officer in Saigon tells Morley Safer "if you think any American official is going to tell you the truth, then you're stupid." 1962—The U.S. conducts its last near-ground atmospheric nuclear test: the .018 kiloton "Little Feller." A company of soldiers is marched through ground zero 26 minutes later. 1955—Lightning hits a huge mine, near Ypres since '16. It only kills a cow. 1944—Two munitions ships explode at Port Chicago, Calif., killing 322, mostly Black bomb handlers. 1935—RIP Cudjoe Lewis, in Africatown, Mobile, Ala., last known survivor of the Atlantic slave trade. 1928—Partying with Mexican Revolution veterans, President Alvaro Obregon tells strolling caricaturist Leon Toral, "Make sure you make me look good." Toral says, "I will," and shoots him dead. 1877—Gov. Henry Mathews calls out a local militia company to suppress the Martinsburg, W.Va. railroad strike. It sides with strikers, instead.</p>	<p>1985—Doped up after cancer surgery five days earlier, Ronald Reagan OKs an arms-for-hostages deal with Iran. 1984—James O. Huberty tells his wife he's "going to hunt humans," then kills 21 and wounds 19 at a San Diego McDonald's. A sniper gets him. His widow sues Mickey D's for poisoning his mind with MSG, but to no avail. 1981—Norman Mailer's protegee Jack Abbott, on work release after a stretch for robbery and manslaughter, fatally stabs a waiter in the East Village. 1972—A sailor disables the U.S.S. <i>Ranger</i> for three months by dropping a paint scraper into its reduction gears. 1969—Senator Ted Kennedy gives Mary Jo Kopechne a ride part of the way home from a party, goes for a swim, then takes a nap. 1944—Ordered by <i>der Führer</i> to kill a fly, aide Fritz Darges suggests it's a job for the Luftwaffe. He's immediately banished to the Eastern Front. 1938—Douglas "Wrong Way" Corrigan lands in Ireland after an unauthorized trans-Atlantic flight. 1925—H.L. Mencken is nearly run out of Dayton, Tenn. on a rail by its pious Christian inhabitants. 1877—Governor Henry Mathews of West Virginia pleads for U.S. Marines to suppress the B & O railroad strike. 1863—Black soldiers of the 54th Mass. Infantry Regiment prove their worth at the Battle of Ft. Wagner. 1862—Confederate rangers capture Newburgh, Ill. using fake cannons.</p>	<p>2020—"I'll be right eventually," says Dolz #45. "I'll say it again. It's going to disappear, and I'll be right." 2011—As her husband Rupert is being grilled before Parliament about phone-hacking, his wife Wendi deflects a flying pie aimed at his head. 2010—Terrorized by a malignantly-edited YouTube clip, Sec. of Ag. Tom Vilsack uses USDA employee Shirley Sherrod pulled over by the side of the road and summarily fired. 2001—Lord Jeffrey Archer, Deputy Chair of the Conservative Party, is sentenced to four years for perjury. 1994—Dining with reporters, Sen. Howell Heflin (D-Ala.) reaches into his pocket for a hankie but somehow wipes his nose with a pair of panties. 1991—South Africa's government admits it paid Zulus to undermine the African National Congress. 1985—N.H.'s Christa McAuliffe is chosen to be first "Teacher in Space." 1979—Sandinistas march triumphantly into Managua. 1972—The AFL-CIO announces it won't support George McGovern. 1966—In an internal memo, Bill Sullivan, Chief of Domestic Intel, admits the FBI's "black bag" jobs are illegal. 1957—A two-kiloton nuclear warhead carried by an air-to-air missile explodes 18,000 feet above five Air Force "volunteers" at Yucca Flats. 1919—White Washingtonians enraged by racist headlines begin attacking Blacks in the nation's capital.</p>	<p>2017—Secretary of State Tillerson states the obvious to other Administration officials: Trump is "a moron." 2002—The FBI arrests three former NASA interns for stealing a 600 lb. safe holding moon rocks. 1984—Famed runner and fitness fanatic Jim Fixx, 52, dies of a heart attack while jogging. 1973—Martial artist and fitness fanatic Bruce Lee, 32, drops dead. 1971—William F. Buckley's <i>National Review</i> publishes what it claims are secret documents about the Vietnam War. They're fake, and he knows it. 1969—Neil Armstrong goes for a walk—on the moon. 1956—A scheduled election intended to reunify Vietnam is blocked by the South, with Ike's concurrence. 1948—Harry Truman kicks off the U.S.'s first peacetime draft. 1944—German generals try but fail to kill Hitler with a bomb. 1929—The Mt. Washington Railway's "Old Peppersass" busts an axle. Somehow only one man dies. 1923—Pancho Villa's return to politics is thwarted by assassination. 1919—A white mob beats Blacks in front of the White House. 1877—In Maryland, striking B & O Railroad workers threaten to blow up bridges and run trains into rivers. 1874—General George Armstrong Custer leads an expedition of 110 wagons and 1,000 men into the Black Hills, violating an 1868 treaty.</p>	<p>2007—George W.[MD] Bush invokes the 25th Amendment, making Dick "Dick" Cheney President while Bush gets his colon inspected. 2000—Long-time Texas voter Dick "Dick" Cheney registers in Wyoming to skirt a Constitutional proviso. 2000—The FBI and ATF are exonerated for killing 80 religious fanatics during a 1993 siege in Waco, Texas. 1954—As the Geneva Accords free Vietnam from French colonial rule, the U.S. steps in to preserve disorder. 1950—Bungling drunkard John C. Woods, the U.S. Army's hangman, electrocutes himself while attempting to repair some electrical equipment. 1919—The dirigible <i>Wingfoot Air Express</i>, on fire, crashes through the glass skylight of a Chicago bank, killing 13. 1919—With the cops on the sidelines, Blacks in D.C. arm themselves and fight back against white aggression. 1918—At Orleans, Mass., <i>U-156</i> conducts Germany's sole attack of the war on the U.S. mainland. Four barges sink, the tug <i>Perth Amboy</i> is damaged, and a few shells hit the beach. 1884—Buffalo <i>Telegraph</i>: Gov. Grover Cleveland [D-NY], the Presidential nominee, has a bastard child. 1877—Pittsburgh militiamen bayonet and shoot railroad strikers; 20 die. Surviving strikers burn 39 buildings and wreck 104 locomotives. 1748—Founding Father B. Franklin publishes instructions telling Americans how to perform home abortions.</p>	<p>2003—Ratted out by a cousin for a \$30 million reward, Uday and Qusay Hussein are shot dead by the 101st. 2001—"I know what I believe," says G.W.[MD] Bush. "I will continue to articulate what I believe and what I believe—I believe what I believe is right." 1991—Milwaukee police arrest Jeffrey Dahmer, infamous cannibal. 1975—Owen J. Quinn parachutes from the top of the South Tower of New York's World Trade Center. 1974—On the steps of the Capitol, 600 young Moonies begin a three-day fast and prayer-fest for Richard Nixon. 1946—Irgun bombs the King David Hotel in Jerusalem, killing 91. 1934—Chicago FBI agents kill John Dillinger by shooting him in the back. 1919—The Army, Navy, Marines, and a downpour finally end a four-day race riot in Washington, D.C. 1916—A bomb kills 10 and wounds 40 during a Preparedness Day parade in San Francisco. Perjured testimony sends two innocent men to prison. 1915—The excursion steamer <i>Eastland</i> nearly tips over at the dock in Chicago. The boat's instability is kept secret to prevent loss of business. 1905—Henderson's [annoying] Point vanishes from the Piscataqua, thanks to 60,000 tons of dynamite. 1877—Local labor leaders and the Workingmen's Party elect a Directorate of the St. Louis, Illinois Commune. It issues General Order No. 1, calling for a General Strike.</p>	<p>2014—Arizona authorities experimenting with new poisons find Joseph Wood's execution takes 12 times longer than the expected 10 minutes. 2001—Bank robber Gary Sampson calls the FBI to turn himself in, but a clerk disconnects him. Over the next week he murders three people, including a man in New Hampshire. 1970—The last clash between the U.S. & NVA ends in futility: the 101st Airborne evacuates Firebase Ripcord. Cost: 75 KIAs & 463 WIAs. 1967—Cops raid a blind pig in Detroit, interrupting a welcome home party for two Vietnam veterans. A five day riot ensues, and 43 die. 1966—Don Wetzel, 82, Research Director for the N.Y. Central, drives a jet-powered locomotive at 183 mph. 1944—The International Monetary Fund and World Bank are created in Bretton Woods, N.H. [where the first tax collector was Daniel Fowle]. 1933—Fascist "Khaki Shirts" gather in front of their Philadelphia HQ for an address by Commander Art Smith—from a balcony, of course. 1892—Anarchist Alexander Berkman shoots and stabs Henry Clay Frick, architect of the Homestead Massacre, but the capitalist survives. 1877—Workers seize the railyards and docks in East St. Louis, Ill. Knowing he's out-manned, the mayor deputizes strikers to maintain order. Meanwhile, in Reading, Pa., the State Militia shoots ten civilians dead.</p>
SUNDAY, JULY 24	MONDAY, JULY 25	TUESDAY, JULY 26	WEDNESDAY, JULY 27	THURSDAY, JULY 28	FRIDAY, JULY 29	SATURDAY, JULY 30
<p>2017—"Who the hell wants to talk about politics...in front of the Boy Scouts?" asks Donald Trump, who then talks politics at the Jamboree. 2008—A tornado hits nine towns in N.H., killing a Deerfield woman. 2003—Congress says the FBI and the CIA blew off warnings of a possible al-Qaeda attack on the U.S. 2003—In Iraq, the U.S. proudly displays photographs of the corpses of Uday and Qusay Hussein. 2002—James Traficant (D-Ohio) is booted from the U.S. House of Representatives for taking bribes. 1998—To prevent a cannibal holocaust, Rusty Weston murders Rep. Tom DeLay's bodyguard and another Capitol cop. Shot and near death himself, he is revived by Sen. Bill Frist. 1974—Nine out of nine justices agree: Nixon's gotta hand over them tapes. 1967—From a Montreal balcony, DeGaulle declares, "Vive le Québec libre!" 1959—During the "Kitchen Debate" in Moscow, Khrushchev asks Nixon if Americans have machines to push food down their throats. 1951—Two officers from Hanscom AFB report a UFO flying over Portsmouth, N.H. at 800 to 1,000 mph. 1921—The Aerowagon, a high-speed, propeller-driven railcar, crashes on its way to Moscow, killing six passengers including its inventor. 1877—Thousands of strikers parade through East St. Louis, Ill., calling on shops and business to shutter.</p>	<p>2019—President Trump makes a phone call to Ukraine President Vladimir Zelensky. It's "perfect." 2000—In a touching display of <i>naïveté</i>, George W.[MD] Bush announces that he has picked Dick "Dick" Cheney as running mate. 1990—Ambassador April Glaspie tells Saddam the U.S. won't take sides in an Iraq-Kuwait border dispute. 1975—Chester Plummer, Jr., a Black 'Nam vet with a three-foot pipe in his hand, becomes the first person shot dead on the White House lawn. 1972—AP: The U.S. used Black men as guinea pigs for 40 years. 1965—Bob Dylan outrages the Newport Folk Festival with electricity. 1952—Généreux Ruest, a disabled watchmaker who queued bomb an airliner, is wheeled to Quebec's gallows and hanged in a chair. His hangman is inept; he strangles for 21 minutes. 1946—The first underwater A-Bomb hits Navy sailors at Bikini Atoll with far more radiation than expected. 1944—Erring Allied bombers kill 111 Americans—one a 3-star general—and wound 490 near St. Lo. 1853—The freshly-killed head of legendary bandit Joaquin Murietta is put in a jar of brandy for display—until it's lost in the San Francisco Earthquake. 1826—"Nothing succeeds with me," says Decembrist revolutionary Mikhail Bestuzhev-Ryumin after the hangman's first rope breaks. "Even here I meet with disappointment."</p>	<p>1968—The newly elected President of South Vietnam jails the runner-up. 1968—Mexico massacres its students. 1959—Lt. Col. William Rankin, U.S.M.C., ejects from his F-8 over a thunderstorm. He survives 40 minutes of lightning and hail at -58°. 1953—Arizona State Police and National Guard arrest the whole damn town of Short Creek for polygamy. 1950—The U.S. 7th Cavalry, backed by air support, kills between 200 and 400 Korean refugees at No Gun Ri. 1948—Harry Truman orders that the U.S. military be desegregated. 1947—The National Security Act creates the CIA and NSA and turns the War Department into the DoD. 1936—With dozens of fellow Communies along for cover, Bill Bailey rips a Nazi flag from the bow of the <i>Bremen</i> and throws it into New York harbor. 1924—Bath, Maine hosts a KKK rally, complete with burning cross and a parade led by the City Marshall. 1877—In Chicago, Federal troops kill 30 strikers in the Battle of the Viaduct. In East St. Louis, the Mayor sends 700 cops and goons to strike headquarters, ordering "shoot to kill." 1758—The French fortress of Louisbourg, taken by New Englanders in 1744 and given back by Britain three years later, is re-taken by the British. 1184—Nobles crowd into St. Peter's at Erfurt, in Thuringia, to settle a squabble. The floor lets go and they fall into the latrine; 60 of them drown.</p>	<p>2008—Shotgunning in a Knoxville church, Jim David Adkisson kills two and wounds seven. He cites Fox News' Bernard Goldberg as one inspiration. 1996—Pro-life Eric Robert Rudolph bombs the Atlanta Olympics. 1974—Eleven Republicans out of 17 on the Judiciary Committee vote not to impeach Nixon for obstruction. 1957—Jimmy Wilson, who's Black, is sentenced to death in Alabama for stealing \$1.95 from a white woman. 1954—Mercenaries overthrow the government of Guatemala at the behest of the CIA. Genocide ensues. 1946—<i>Hollywood Reporter</i> owner Billy Wilkerson, uncertain whether to name ten suspected Communists, consults Father Cornelius J. McCoy. He replies, "Get those bastards, Billy." 1919—After a Black man is killed at a segregated Chicago beach, a white cop arrests a Black man. Nearby Blacks who object are attacked by whites. 1893—William Taylor survives a jolt in New York's electric chair, but its dynamo doesn't. Morphine and ether keep him under until a jury-rigged cable can tap the power to kill him. 1877—In East St. Louis, 8,000 Federal troops, militia, and railroad hirelings start a two-day battle to crush the Commune and end the Strike. 1816—Andy Jackson orders that the powder magazine of an old fort on the Appalachian be blown up. The blast kills hundreds of Blacks and Choc-taws: both sexes, all ages, free and not.</p>	<p>2012—Three elderly troublemakers infiltrate Oak Ridge, Tenn. and spill blood on its nuclear weapons plant. 2006—A wild storm topples the partially-renovated steeple of North Church and its attendant scaffolding onto Pleasant Street in Portsmouth. 2003—Tom DeLay (R-Texas), who once said Americans smoke Cuban cigars "at the cost of four national honor," is photographed in Jerusalem lighting up a \$25 Hoyo de Monterrey. 1957—An Air Force C-124 with engine trouble jettisons two core-less nuclei 100 miles off Atlantic City. 1945—A B-25 hits the Empire State Building; six floors burn, 13 die, 26 are injured. Among them: elevator operator Betty Oliver. The cable of the elevator evacuating her snaps; it plummets 80 stories. She survives that, too. 1945—A kamikaze biplane sinks the U.S.S. <i>Callaghan</i> off Okinawa. 1942—U.S.S. <i>YP-422</i> is commissioned in Neponset, Mass., commander: Lieut. L. Ron Hubbard. 1932—GIs under Gen. MacArthur, including six tanks under Maj. George S. Patton, drive the "Bonus Expeditionary Force"—20,000 hungry World War I vets—out of Washington D.C., killing two in the process. 1919—Chicago is engulfed by a race riot in which the Hamburg Athletic Club plays a leading role. Its president future Mayor Richard J. Daley. 1914—Austria-Hungary attacks Serbia, getting WWI underway.</p>	<p>1994—Pro-life Reverend Paul Jennings Hill shotguns Dr. John Britton and his bodyguard James Barrett to death and wounds Barrett's wife June. 1986—Ex-Chaplain Charlie Litekay renounces the Medal of Honor he was awarded for heroism in Vietnam, protesting U.S. policies in Latin America. 1981—Congress passes Ronald Reagan's tax cut for the rich. 1974—Ten Republicans out of 17 on the Judiciary Committee vote not to impeach Nixon for abuse of power and violating his oath of office. 1970—Thanks to a five-year grape boycott, the United Farm Workers win their first contract. 1967—Bum equipment and bad procedures create a stray electrical current that sends a Zuni rocket from an F-4 jet on the flight deck of the <i>Forrestal</i> into John McCain's A-4. Eight half-ton bombs explode, killing 134 sailors and nearly sinking the ship. 1966—Bob Dylan wrecks his Triumph then disappears for a while. 1921—Disgruntled former corporal Adolf Hitler becomes President of the German Nazi Party. 1910—Responding to a bogus claim about a pending race war against whites, hundreds of armed white Texans begin a race war in the predominantly Black town of Slocum. 1848—Leaders of Young Ireland try to peacefully resolve a standoff with British constables in Tipperary. They get shot at for their troubles.</p>	<p>1975—Jimmy Hoffa is last glimpsed by anyone who's talking. 1974—Two of 17 Republicans on the Judiciary Committee vote to impeach Nixon for contempt of Congress. 1969—"History will record that this may have been one of America's finest hours," says Richard Nixon in Saigon. 1956—Congress adopts "In God We Trust" as the national motto. 1945—The U.S.S. <i>Indianapolis</i>, having delivered the Hiroshima A-bomb to Tinian, is torpedoed and sunk on its return trip. Its sinking goes unnoticed due to security precautions. Drowning, exposure, and sharks claim 879 of the 1,100 aboard. 1938—Adolph Hitler pins the Grand Cross of the Supreme Order of the German Eagle on his pal Henry Ford. 1917—A statement read in Parliament from Lt. Siegfried Sassoon says "the war is being deliberately prolonged by those who [could] end it." 1916—German saboteurs destroy a thousand tons of munitions stored on a barge at Black Tom Island in New York Harbor. Three men and a baby are killed; the Statue of Liberty's upraised arm is hit by shrapnel. 1866—Blacks march for civil rights in New Orleans; rioting whites kill 44. 1864—Union forces detonate a huge mine to breach Confederate defenses at Petersburg. A drawn straw puts Brig. Gen. James Ledlie in command. Drunk, he sends Union soldiers into the crater; 4,000 are slaughtered.</p>

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