

The Fortnightly Rant

A Little Inconvenient History

It's an odd contradiction. From airplanes to zippers, we USAians* are quick to boast of our countrymen's inventions. That eagerness is conspicuously absent, though, when it comes to one particular political innovation.

This mystery becomes all the more curious when one considers that fascism is enjoying a worldwide revival.

What's that you say? It's news to you that the U.S.A. played a central role in the development of fascism? Don't feel bad. It was news to us, too. When you think about it, though, it's no wonder we're surprised.

Will Rogers†—whose career just happened to be in full flourish simultaneous with fascism's first wave, despite the two phenomena being diametrically opposed—used to say, "All I know is what I read in the papers."

We have many more options for getting information now, so we have fewer excuses. As it was then, though, so it is now: advertisers get anxious when certain things are made too clear.

The papers that Rogers both read and wrote for were careful not to upset the tender feelings of large advertisers. Get too controversial and—*whoops!*—there goes your revenue.

* We know. It is customary to refer to people living in the United States of America as "Americans." Well, not in this Rant. We who so casually refer to ourselves as "Americans" are outnumbered, two to one, by more than 600 million other people living in 34 other nations on the two continents, North and South, which are collectively known as "the Americas." With our own nation now so close to renouncing democracy, we just can't muster the arrogance necessary to carry off such a stunning feat of presumption.

† If you don't know who Will Rogers (1879–1935) was, you should 1) feel bad for yourself, because you've been missing something good; and, 2) look him up.

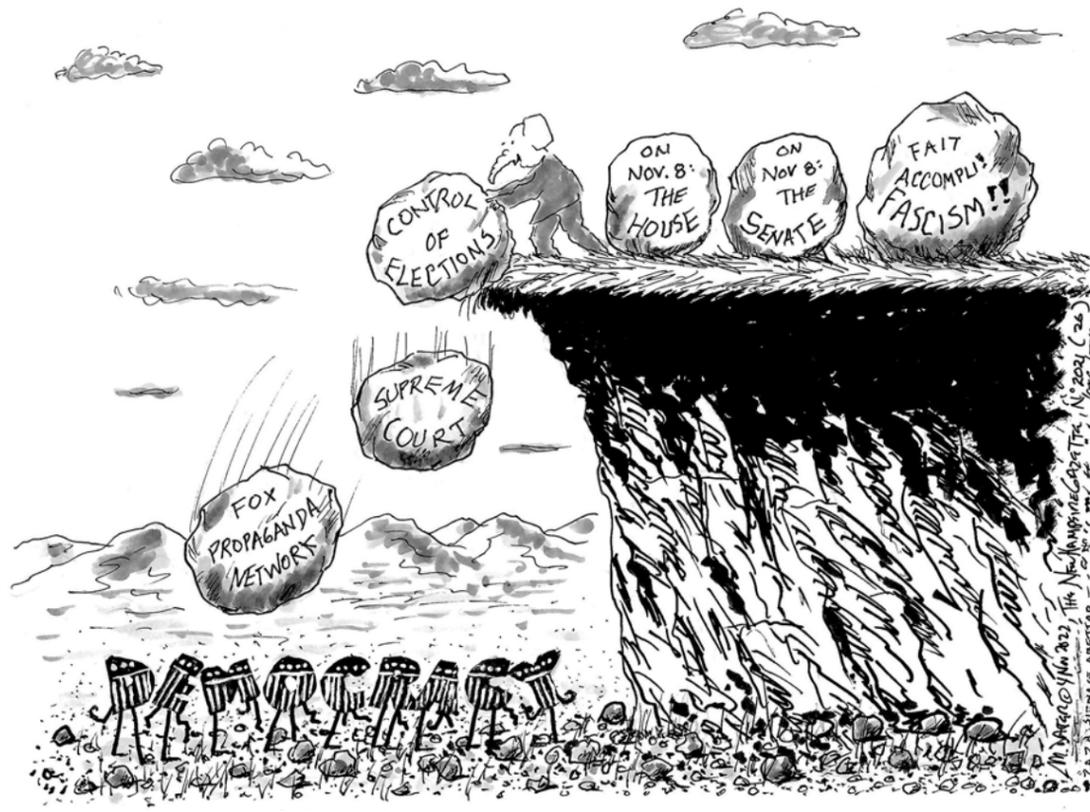
Here at the Nation's Oldest Newspaper,™ though, we have honed the art of making do with less.

Bear with us, then, as we revive a few distressing but pertinent moments when the good ol' U.S.A. led the world towards fascism. We are indebted, here, to the philosopher Jason Stanley, whose article, "One Hundred Years of Fascism" was recently published at Project Syndicate. The headline of Stanley's essay refers, of course, to October of 1922, when Benito Mussolini marched on Rome and took power in Italy. Pope Pius XI said he was "sent by divine providence." On the secular side, his 30,000 Blackshirts also deserve some credit.

Quoting the historian Robert O. Paxton, Stanley notes that "the earliest phenomenon that can be functionally related to fascism is American: The Ku Klux Klan...the first version of the Klan was arguably a remarkable preview of the way fascist movements were to function in interwar Europe."

The catch phrase "America First" was adopted by the Klan in 1921. Not everyone who took up that call, though, wore white robes and a hood. Stanley reports that in that same year, the genteel pages of *Good Housekeeping* magazine carried an essay by Vice President Calvin Coolidge, under the headline, "Whose Country is This?" According to Silent Cal, "Our country must cease to be regarded as a dumping ground." It should only accept "the right kind of immigration." And what, pray tell, would the right kind be? "Nordics."

Having seen wholesome Jimmy Stewart playing Lucky Lindy in "The Spirit of St. Louis" at an impressionable age, we were shocked to learn from Stanley's article that



our erstwhile childhood hero had actually been a rabid racist at heart. "It is time to turn from our quarrels," Lindbergh wrote, in *Readers Digest* in 1939, "and to build our White ramparts again. This alliance with foreign races means nothing but death to us. It is our turn to guard our heritage from Mongol and Persian and Moor, before we become engulfed in a limitless foreign sea."

Adolf Hitler's admiration of Henry Ford has never really been a secret. Still, it's sobering to learn, thanks to Stanley, how the hand of Detroit's leading anti-semitic helped to shape the Third Reich: "Hitler drew inspiration from the U.S., which, following the rise of the America First movement, had adopted immigration policies that strictly favored Northern Europeans. Looking to the early American settlers' genocide of the continent's native peoples in the name of 'Manifest Destiny,' he found a model for his own later actions in pursuit of Lebensraum (ter-

ritorial expansion). And as historian Timothy Snyder shows in his 2015 book, *Black Earth: The Holocaust as History and Warning*, Hitler hoped to recreate the American Antebellum South's slavery regime in Ukraine."

When emulating structural racism in the U.S., *Der Führer* did not limit himself to historical examples. "Nazi ideology," Stanley writes, "borrowed straightforwardly from the Jim Crow regime's use of legal practice to structure the nature of citizenship. While the Allied victory eventually ended German racial fascism in 1945, America's Jim Crow regime would survive for another generation."

Black shirts are out these days, and red hats are in. The ideology and the general tactics, though, largely remain the same.

What does all this history tell us? That, when used in the context of political violence, the phrase "this is not who we are" is just another lie.

Political violence is, as H. Rap Brown said, as American as cherry pie. Just days ago a deranged right winger on the left coast—taking a leaf, perhaps, from a Stephen King novel—set out to bust the knees of the Speaker of the House. Thwarted, he settled for nearly killing her husband.

There was a time when even Newt Gingrich might have publicly denounced this barbaric act. Our politics have now devolved, though, to the point where the Republican candidate for Governor in Arizona is cracking jokes about the incident onstage.

How did GOP Chair Ronna McDaniel respond to Lake's gag? By blaming the assault on Democrats.

Meanwhile, our colleagues in the news racket are still reporting as if the mid-terms were a horse race between two political parties—rather than a gang of thugs unilaterally attacking the democratic process.

The Alleged News®

Nation Spared Colossal Tragedy

Judging from the news reports, it could have been tragic: "Rainbow fentanyl," produced by evil drug lords, handed out like candy to unsuspecting children from coast to coast. Halloween, 2022 was threatening to become the most tragic holiday since....

Well, since New Years Day, 2000, when, after months of breathless reporting and endless speculation about civilization grinding to a halt. When 1999 ended and 2000 began, as cable TV anchors held their breath...computers kept running and the world kept spinning. It turns out the programmers running the mainframes knew their jobs and how to do them.

The true catastrophe of the year 2000 came in December, when the Supreme Court made George W.[MD] Bush President.

Now—abhorrent though it is—let us return our attention to the present, and to actual news about things that are really happening.

CNN reported two weeks ago that "An 'unprecedented' rise in respiratory viruses in children is overwhelming some hospitals."

One week ago, *The Hill* reported that "In the United States, respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV, is creating a health care crisis in the pediatric system, which already has smaller capacity than the adult health system, placing the youngest and most vulnerable children at risk."

RSV is "a common, and very contagious, virus that infects the respiratory tract of most children before their second birthday," according to *WebMD*. "For most babies and young children, the infection causes nothing more than a cold. But for

a small percentage, infection with RSV can lead to serious, sometimes life-threatening problems such as pneumonia or bronchiolitis, an inflammation of the small airways of the lungs."

It's a good thing "rainbow fentanyl" was a no-show on Halloween. That "small percentage" of kids needing professional medical care is now flooding pediatric care units.

The Hill says "RSV, which usually peaks in late fall and continues through the winter, has presented early this year, with dramatically rising cases in recent weeks, creating undue strain on hospital emergency rooms, inpatient units and critical care services."

None of these stories bother to mention the fact that three out of four children in the U.S. have had Covid by now.

Not that Covid could have knocked these kids' immune systems out of whack, making them more vulnerable to RSV. No, if that were even remotely possible, someone surely would have warned us.

==~==

General "Cat Box" Bolduc Is On Guard! Take Senate candidate Don Bolduc, for example. As an ex-Army Brigadier General [Ret.], he's got the security angle nailed down tight. He's not about to let any threat go sneaking under the radar.

Not even kids who think they're cats and pee in school-provided litterboxes.

A week ago he told an audience "Listen. I was up in Claremont. I was in Dover. I was in, you know...down in Pinkerton country...Derry. Guess what? We have furrries and fuzzies in classrooms. They

lick themselves, they're cats. When they don't like something, they hiss. People walk down the hallway and they jump out. And get this, get this. They're putting litter boxes, right? Litter boxes. These are the same people that are concerned about spreading germs, yet they let children lick themselves and then touch everything. And they're starting to lick each other."

Pinkerton Academy apparently decided that in the present environment, silence might be taken for a confession. The school's response is destined to live forever in the annals of crisis management:

"It has come to our attention that at a recent event in Claremont [CNN reported that the audio was

The Alleged News®

from page one

recorded in North Hampton] Don Bolduc named Pinkerton in false claims suggesting that unhygienic, disturbing practices are taking place in our classrooms and spaces on campus. We want to assure our community that Mr. Bolduc's statements are entirely untrue."

On Wednesday, NBC's Ryan Nobles spoke to Bolduc about Pinkerton's statement. "The school has come out and said that's completely false." Bolduc replied, "I'm not backing down, OK? You got the wrong guy. Just because they say it? They need to prove it. Prove it."

Only time will tell whether Bolduc sticks to his guns on litter boxes. When he first claimed school buses were bringing unqualified voters into New Hampshire to steal elections, he was quite adamant. Later, he backed off. Then last week, during an NHPR debate with incumbent Senator Maggie Hassan,

he regurgitated the now-familiar line about "school buses loaded with people."

The longer the election drags on, the more difficult to say which politician is currently holding which entirely insupportable claim.

Chris Sununu—who, as far as we know, originated the Magic School Bus myth during his first gubernatorial campaign, only to see it taken up later by Dolt #45—used to say that Bolduc was "not a serious candidate"—a refreshing surprise, coming from him.

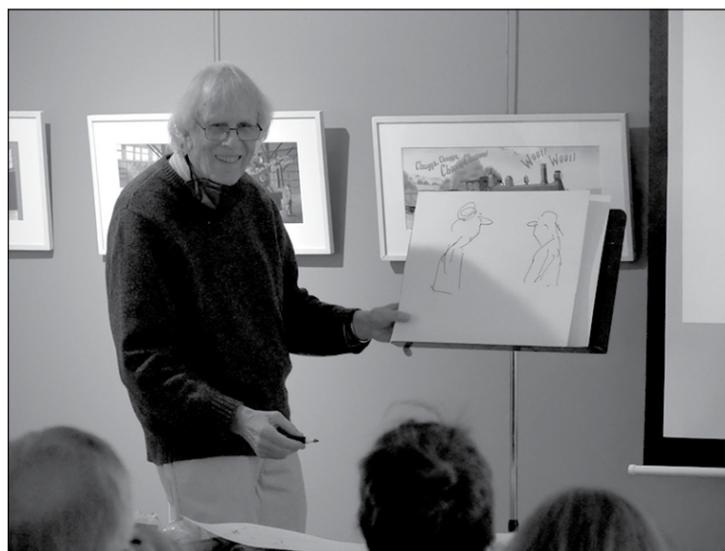
Now Sununu backs Bolduc. Guess we know now who's not serious.

Not-So-Random Thoughts on Elections
Vote, n. The instrument and symbol of a freeman's power to make a fool of himself and a wreck of his country.

— Ambrose Bierce,
The Devil's Dictionary (1948).
Originally published in 1906 as
The Cynic's Word Book.



Mike Dater 4 Nov 22
The New Hampshire Gazette
MIKEDATER.COM, N°2022 (71)



Mike Dater, our Starving Artist, recently emerged briefly from the subterranean dungeon where he's usually chained. He spoke at the Discovery Center to a sizeable audience about the vanishing art of political cartooning. The event was organized by two local State Representatives, Peter Somssich and David Meuse, as a way for the community to express its appreciation to Mike for having spent twenty-something years making reality somewhat less intolerable by drawing approximately fifteen hundred of his distinctive pen-and-ink cartoons. That plan somehow managed to morph into Mike—live, audibly, and in three dimensions—entertaining fifty or sixty people with a one-hour course on cartoons and cartooning.

"Multivariate analysis indicates that economic elites and organized groups representing business interests have substantial independent impacts on U.S. government policy, while average citizens and mass-based interest groups have little or no independent influence. The results provide substantial support for theories of Economic-Elite Domination and for theories of Biased Pluralism, but not for theories of Majoritarian Electoral Democracy or Majoritarian Pluralism."

— Martin Gilens and Benjamin I. Page, "Testing Theories of American Politics: Elites, Interest Groups, and Average Citizens," *Perspectives on Politics*, vol. 12, no. 3 (September 2014)

"The capitalist class is represented by the Republican, Democratic, Populist and Prohibition parties, all of which stand for private ownership of the means of production, and the triumph of any one of which will mean continued wage-slavery to the working class."

— Eugene V. Debs, *The Socialist Party and the Working Class* (1904)

"The proletariat cannot vote for socialism in a bourgeois parliament because the capitalists will not permit themselves to be destroyed by their own instrument. The machinery of the capitalist state has been fashioned by the bourgeoisie to suit the needs of their class; therefore, in the achievement of its ends, the working class must contrive its own institutions."

— Oliver Cox, *Caste, Class, and Race: A Study in Social Dynamics* (1948)

"These amazingly recent achievements were built on dead bodies. For centuries ordinary people struggled against absolute monarchs, rich aristocrats, princely bishops, colonisers, landowners and industrial magnates for a say in the running of their own lives. They did it on barricades, in demonstrations charged by saber-wielding mounted cavalry, in sit-ins crushed by tanks. These people are dishonored by stay-at-homes on polling day."

— A. C. Grayling, *Life, Sex, and Ideas: The Good Life Without God* (2002), Chapter 22, "Voting"

Study: GOP Policies Killing Americans
by Kenny Stancil

The Republican Party's regressive policies are not just unpopular, but a new study released last week suggests they are also deadly to those who live under them.

Working-age mortality rates have been rising for decades across the United States, but premature deaths are more pronounced in states where "conservative" policies predominate and less common in states that have adopted more "liberal" policies, according to peer-reviewed research published in PLOS ONE.

Policies that "expand state power for economic regulation and redistribution, protect the rights of marginalized groups, or restrict state power to punish deviant behavior" were defined by the study's authors as "liberal," while those with opposite aims were deemed "conservative."

For eight policy domains—criminal justice, marijuana, environment, gun safety, health and welfare, private labor, economic taxes, and tobacco taxes—the authors scored

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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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AND OTHER DRAWINGS BY THE NEW HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE'S VERY OWN
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state-level measures enacted from 1999 to 2019 on a 0-to-1 continuum, with zero representing the maximum conservative score and one the maximum liberal score.

Using annual data from the National Vital Statistics System, the authors calculated state-level age-adjusted mortality rates during the same time period for deaths from all causes and from cardiovascular disease (CVD), alcohol-induced causes, suicide, and drug poisoning among adults aged 25 to 64.

When they merged the data on working-age mortality with data on state policy contexts, the authors found that liberal policies were associated with fewer early deaths among 25- to 64-year-olds between 1999 and 2019.

“Changing all policy domains in all states to a fully liberal orientation might have saved 171,030 lives in 2019,” the researchers estimate, “while changing them to a fully conservative orientation might have cost 217,635 lives.”

Study co-author Dr. Steven Woolf, director emeritus of the Center on Society and Health at Virginia Commonwealth University,

told *USA Today*: “As an academic who does scientific research, I studiously avoided talking about politics in my professional work... But the data are pointing us to that as a determinant of health.”

Even after controlling for state-specific environmental conditions and demographic characteristics, the authors found that states that invested more in public education and economic security had lower working-age mortality rates than states that gutted workers’ rights, environmental regulations, and access to healthcare, including abortion.

“If a state policymaker were to say to me, ‘it’s unfair to criticize my state because I have a low-educated, low-income population,’ I would ask them, ‘why do you have a low-educated, low-income population?’” lead study author Jennifer Karas Montez, a professor of sociology at Syracuse University, told *USA Today*. “It’s because of your policy environment.”

Demonstrating how state policy contexts influence individual behaviors associated with premature deaths, researchers observed “especially strong associations... between certain domains and specific causes of death: between the gun safety do-



main and suicide mortality among men, between the labor domain and alcohol-induced mortality, and between both the economic tax and tobacco tax domains and CVD mortality.”

Darrell Gaskin, a health economist at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, said that some people “like to think about (working-age mortality) as failures of individuals, that they eat too much or use drugs, but that’s all in context.”

“If we don’t have the proper regulations in place to protect people, then what happens is that they could be exploited,” said Gaskin. “We always get the promise from conservative states that we’re going to cut your taxes and regulation and make the environment better for business, and it comes with a cost.”

With the midterm elections less than two weeks away, experts say it’s important for working-age Americans to know whether they are voting for officials who support

right-wing policies that increase the risk of early death or those who favor humane interventions that can help people lead longer and healthier lives.

As Woolf put it, the conservative policies associated with higher working-age mortality revolve around “helping the private sector to thrive in hopes that the economic gains would trickle down to those who need more assistance,” while the liberal policies associated with lower working-age mortality focus on improving economic fairness and social and environmental well-being.

With their efforts to impose anti-union “right-to-work” laws, ban abortions, and curtail Medicaid, and their insistence on ignoring gun violence and the life-threatening climate crisis, Republicans have firmly established themselves in the camp that is actively increasing premature deaths among the nation’s working-age population.

Although there is a wide range of positions among Democrats that

stretch from more progressive to less so, lawmakers in the party are overall much more likely than their GOP counterparts to support life-affirming public goods and services of the sort detailed in the study.

The analysis precedes the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, which has killed Americans at a significantly higher rate than people in other wealthy countries.

While the nation’s deadly for-profit healthcare model, lack of paid sick leave, and other federal policies associated with 40 years of bipartisan neoliberalism have received much blame from progressives, studies show that state-level Republicans’ lackadaisical public health measures and the GOP’s anti-vaccination propaganda have also exacerbated suffering during the pandemic.

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We have it on good authority that the image above was created by a leftist pumpkin grower, and was intended as a rebuke towards the right wing. In theory, the obverse could be true, and given the tenor of the times, we’re confident someone will make that claim.. However—two things would seem to render that argument null and void. 1) Everyone knows that right wing humor is an oxymoron, and 2) this is funny. Thanks, Wes!

Murph’s Fortnightly Quote

“We know now that government by organized money is just as dangerous as government by organized mob.”

— Franklin D. Roosevelt

“Free speech carries with it some freedom to listen.”

— Warren Earl Burger, Chief Justice of the United States

john@wordpraxis.com

“I fear what we may be witnessing right now is that private/corporate ownership of the media has now become fundamentally incompatible with democracy.”

— Prof. Michael E. Mann, Director, Center for Science, Sustainability & the Media, U. Penn

— Not-So-Random Thoughts from an Oregon Subscriber

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All Black People are Not the Same
To the Editor:

In the lobby of the movie theater last weekend—Oct 22nd—A woman came up to me and said “Are you Viola Davis?! I can’t believe that Viola is here in Newington!”

I was somewhat stunned, but not surprised. Although I don’t look a thing like Viola Davis aside from my skin color I have been somehow been mistaken for; Oprah, Whoopi and Halle Berry to name a few.

Later, as I was discussing the movie we had just seen with my family the same woman came up to me again insisting that I was Viola Davis. Both times my attitude was conciliatory, but I should have told her the comments were offensive. In that moment I felt tired of educating white people, but I wish I had spoken up.

Anyone who reads this may be shaking their heads and wondering why any black woman would be upset for being mistaken for the beautiful Viola Davis. I hope my explanation does this article justice; I am upset because all black people do not look alike. We do not look alike, do not act alike and are only similar to one another by the color of our skin. Even our skin color has different shades and mine is not the same color as beautiful Halle Berry’s, who is a light skinned African American.

I suppose my message is to please be respectful of your black and brown neighbors. Our skin color does not make us alike, nor did it make me Viola Davis.

Dear Jackie,

Thank you for writing, and for sharing this with our readers.

What a classic no-win situation: stifle yourself, or—history and present circumstances being as they are—take a more assertive stance and risk making an already uncomfortable situation even worse.

You say you wish you had spoken up. We find your forbearance—especially during the second round of this incident—impressive. But then, as a white male, your editor is accustomed to having lots of leeway.

Strange, isn’t it? The societal conditions which led up to this incident are as obvi-

ous as can be. Yet some would argue that in this country there’s no such thing as structural racism.

The Editor

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You Can Pay Now or You Can Pay Later
Dear Editor,

Education costs a lot.

Not educating people costs a lot more.

Basic instruction provided by basic schools is necessary for children to grow into adults and adequately participate in our society.

If that didn’t happen it wouldn’t take more than a couple of generations, perhaps even one, for everything to collapse. Everyone needs to know the minimum about what is going on in order to not only participate but to take care of themselves and others in this confusing framework that we have built for ourselves.

Schools in large cities and many rural areas are teaching the bare minimum.

We see on the news parents fighting local school boards about bizarre social experiments that are going on but we see very little in the news about other things school boards and parents are involved in. Sometimes they don’t even see it themselves.

The costs of textbooks are frightfully high.

Our schools may be teaching children about competition and capitalism but very little is seen in the school textbook industry. It’s big business.

McGraw-Hill Education, in 2017, earned more than \$1.7 billion in sales. Pearson saw \$1.7 from testing alone and a total of \$6 billion overall. In the same year Scholastic generated \$1.7 billion, as did Cengage. Numbers are hard to collect for the other major players. It is a high profit, closed industry. They are providing a necessary service but at a high cost.

If parents and school boards aren’t looking at these things what are they doing?

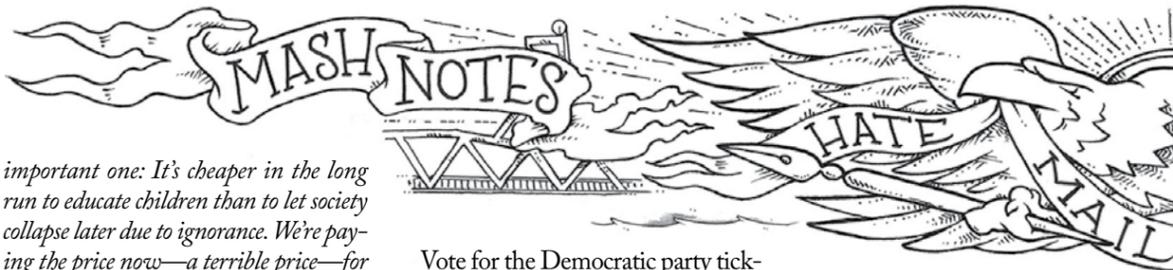
Alfred Brock,

Wayne, Mich.

Alfred:

You make two good points here.

Your first point is, we think, the more



important one: It’s cheaper in the long run to educate children than to let society collapse later due to ignorance. We’re paying the price now—a terrible price—for having long failed to teach civics and critical thinking. The reality-based community seems to lack the guts required to take on the forces of authoritarian ignorance.

Your second point is perhaps less important, but a more curious one, in its way: how in hell does a racket like the textbook market persist? Any “wisdom of the free market” experts out there who would care to explain that to us?

The Editor

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Defeat Republicans in November
Dear Editor:

In an online op-ed piece, Heather Cox Richardson reports of armed people “in tactical gear” standing at a ballot drop box, in Mesa, Arizona, where early voting has started. Voter intimidation was the goal. One voter was falsely accused of being “a mule,” dropping in illegal ballots favoring Democrats. Baloney. Law enforcement officers arrived. The armed people left. Cox Richardson details the history of voter intimidation, starting when, post-Civil War, black men could vote and Southern whites tried to interfere, instituting the Ku Klux Klan. She details federal legislation passed over decades, so we arrived at (as she ends her piece), “not the vision of the Confederates but that of Lincoln, working to create a government of laws, not of men, and of equal access to opportunity for all.”

What’s to object to? Except that radical Republicans (Gov. DeSantis of Florida, Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas, now New Hampshire candidate for House Karoline Leavitt who parrots Trump) are intent on screwing Democracy as it has evolved. If they can whittle down Democratic voter numbers, perhaps they can have us a one-party system, essentially, and end the unpredictable representation of all. Honest Abe takes a beating.

Vote for the Democratic party ticket on November 8th, promoting the equality-vision of Lincoln.

Lynn Rudmin Chong
Sanbornton, N.H.

Lynn:

Life in these United [hab!] States is like being stuck in a restaurant with only two items on the menu. You may not want to order either item, but if one of them is poison, it’s easy to make a choice.

The Editor

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GOP Says One Thing, Facts Say Another
Dear sir:

In her daily letter to America, Boston College Political Science Professor Heather Cox Richardson listed a number of very positive economic measures accomplished by the Biden administration. For example, “since Biden took office, we have added 10 million jobs and the unemployment rate is down to 3.5 percent, a 50-year low. In 11 states, unemployment is at all-time lows, and 17 states have unemployment under 3 percent. The country has added almost 700,000 manufacturing jobs and that companies are continuing to invest in new industries, at the same time rebuilding our roads, airports, bridges and ports.”

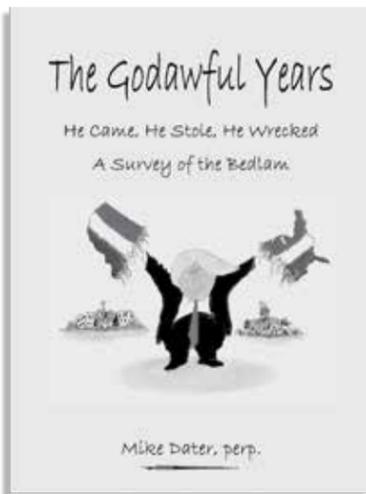
She also noted that while Republicans claim that President Biden is blowing up the nation’s finances, the data does not support their claims—in fact the opposite is true. For example, the Biden Administration announced that the budget deficit this year fell by \$1.4 trillion, the largest decline in the federal budget deficit in history. She noted that the budget deficit grew every year of the Trump administration. Trump and the Republican-controlled Congress added \$400 billion to the deficit, most a result of the \$2 trillion tax cut for the wealthy and corporations. This is not an exception, but what we have seen as a result of

Republican fiscal policies since 1981. According to Politifact, “Republican administrations since Ronald Reagan have exploded deficits, while Democrats have brought deficits down. Reagan sent the deficit from \$70 billion to \$175 billion. George H.W. Bush took it to \$300 billion. Bill Clinton, with help from Bush’s willingness to raise taxes, got the deficit to zero. George W. Bush took it back to \$1.2 trillion with unfunded wars. Barack Obama cut that back to \$600 billion. And Trump’s tax cuts sent it skyrocketing again, even before pandemic spending sent it higher still.”

Republicans like to claim that they are the party of fiscal responsibility, however the facts say otherwise. Fiscal responsibility is more than just cutting taxes. Fiscal responsibility is assuring that both the revenue and the spending side of the budget are considered while assuring that the government provides the essential services to the people. Excess tax cuts, which significantly reduce revenue, are just as destructive to a budget as excessive overspending. In fact, tax cuts to the extreme as we have seen over the past 20 years, may be even more fiscally and socially irresponsible than overspending as the above data reflect. Cutting revenue reduces the ability of the government to provide for the sustaining of the nation’s infrastructure, environment, education, health, security and many more vital functions. This is not living within your means, but living below your means which benefits the few at the expense of the majority of people and the nation as a whole. Cutting unnecessary and unproductive wasteful spending is always necessary, but cutting programs like Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, education, infrastructure and the environment are counterproductive and result in

You Suffered Through Them...

Now Enjoy Them!



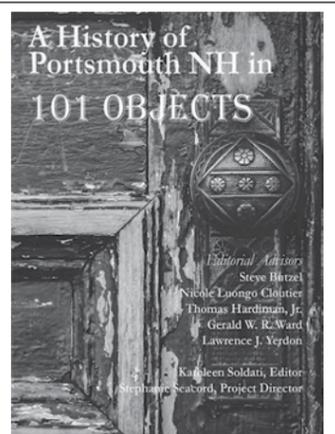
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greater harm and costs in the future. Saying you are fiscally responsible means nothing unless you can prove that claim with hard facts and figures. All the data provided above is easily verifiable and accurate, not “fake news.”

Rich DiPentima, LTC. USAFR. Ret.

Portsmouth, N.H.

Rich:

The maddening thing about the facts Richardson cites is that one-third of the electorate does not give a... a boot, let's say.

By the way: we would argue with your phrasing when you write, "Fiscal responsibility is more than just cutting taxes." That sentence implies that cutting taxes is inherently responsible, from a fiscal point of view. We see no evidence of that—in fact, the last forty years have demonstrated that cutting taxes is nothing but a reckless raid on the Treasury.

We don't have a budget problem. We have a greed problem.

The Editor

====

Sen. Stevens is Harming N.H. Citizens

Dear Editor,

The Executive Council is a five-person governmental body in New Hampshire functioning since 1679 as a check on the governor. Its approval is required on all federal and state contracts over \$10,000, and the appointments of many officials (such as judges, commissioners, and state board members.)

Janet Stevens has been the Councilor for District 3 since 2021. During her time, she has voted to harm the health of New Hampshire citizens.

She voted in September 2021, December 2021, January 2022, and July 2022 to deny funding to Planned Parenthood even though no state planning funds are used for abortion care. These votes jeopardized access to con-

traception, cancer screenings, and STI testing for thousands of New Hampshire citizens.

In October 2021, Ms. Stevens, and three other Republican members of the Council, voted to reject \$27 million in federal funding that would have assisted New Hampshire's response to the COVID pandemic. Only after of a sustained public outcry did she and the Council reverse their position.

Katherine Harake is running for Executive Council for District 3. Born in New Hampshire and a graduate from Winnacunnet High School, she is a successful business owner. Smart, experienced and capable, she has been a state representative and served on the budget committee. She understands the importance of supporting the healthcare system. She will strengthen our public education system, address climate change, and support small businesses.

Ted Drummond

Rye, N.H.

Ted:

As far as we can tell, the primary function of the Executive Council is to give the Republican Party another opportunity to practice their gerrymandering and pack a panel with reactionaries.

If we had an Executive Council and a Governor who genuinely reflected the wishes of Granite Staters, this state would be a lot better off.

The Editor

====

Ruminations On Republican Talking Points

To the Editor:

Inflation: The U.S. rate is high! But, at 8.2 percent it is one of the lowest rates in industrialized nations, and the U.S. is one of only three countries in which the rate is falling! So, I guess we Republicans should give a big round of applause to Joe Biden.

Crime: Crime in 2020 was 60 percent lower than in 1980. The crime

rate began to consistently decline in the early 1990s, and fell every year between 2001 and 2020. But for some reason we're calling it a crime wave—despite the facts.

Abortion: We are pretty much against it, no matter what the mother, father, and doctor want. Our motto: “politicians know best.” Or maybe our motto is “the church knows best”?

Open Border: Customs and Border Patrol turned back two million people crossing the Mexican/U.S. border so far in 2022, an all-time record. So, I guess we need to thank Joe Biden for keeping our border closed.

Defund the Police: Only we Republicans have even mentioned defunding the police in the last year or more. Maybe the Dems have just lost interest?

Law and Order: We are all for it—when it comes to people of color. The Jan 6th riots at the Capitol, that attempt to overthrow the results of the election, injuring 115 police officers— not so much.

Being a Republican sure gets complicated!

Michael Frandzel

Portsmouth, N.H.

Michael:

Complicated, indeed! Thanks for helping us keep it sorted out!

The Editor

====

Sununu to Students: No Food for You!

To the Editor:

Chris Sununu offered \$100 million in federal funds to developers this spring, but turned down \$33 million to provide school lunches to New Hampshire students. Is it because students cannot vote and their parents don't contribute to his campaign?

We do not need a governor who showers the rich with taxpayer funds while letting children of the poor and middle class go through school on empty stomachs.

We need a governor who would do the opposite. We need Tom Sherman.

Walter Hamilton
Portsmouth, N.H.

Walter:

The Gov'nor goes to great lengths, at his frequent and interminable press conferences, to present himself as a friendly, folksy kind of guy.

Thanks for reminding us that when it really matters, he's taking food out of the mouths of hungry school children.

The Editor

====

General Don "I Got Mine" Bolduc

To the Editor:

Has anyone called out Bolduc on his issues of eliminating Social Security and Medicare?

As a retired Brigadier General, he receives a generous taxpayer funded retirement and almost free lifetime medical care for himself and his wife, not to mention other perks such as PX and Commissary privileges, etc.

According to *Wikipedia*, his service years are 1981-2017, a rather long tour, but there was probably some interruption as he received an ROTC commission in 1989. Doing some numbers, giving him a minimum of 30 years multiplied by 2.5 percent multiplied by the average base pay of a Brigadier General, 2015 through 2017, I arrived at a monthly retirement pay of approximately \$13,431/mo. That's \$161,176 a year.

Well, he earned it, but so did all the retirees collecting Social Security payments of a mere fraction of that. That includes Veterans who didn't qualify for retirement but did their bit. Takes some balls to decry government expenditures while making a career of government work, then grabbing a nice retirement and trying to pull the rug out from under the rest of us.

Jim Tartari

Wellesley, Mass.

Jim:

As a former enlisted person during the War to Defend Long Beach from the Viet Cong—in which we were victorious, of course—your editor has never believed in the myth that brass hats inevitably contain any measurable amount of wisdom. We must admit, though, that General Don has surprised us. 50r, rather, that the Army has surprised us. How does it

continue to function with men like him running the show?

Wait, what are we saying? No wonder it functions as it does.

The Editor

====

Five Years of Catalonian Independence

To the Editor:

On 27 October 2017, after a decade of mass demonstrations, Catalonia organised a referendum on self-determination without the consent of the Spanish state. It did so in spite of everything because Spain refused to debate and wanted to impose its will. A total of 2.3 million people took part, with 90 percent in favour of independence. With the referendum, the Catalan government wanted to push Spain to negotiate, but the state continued to refuse dialogue, sent 10,000 police to repress the vote, and Europe did nothing to demand that the conflict be dealt with democratically.

Faced with this reaction from Spain, the Catalan government of Carles Puigdemont found no alternative but to proclaim Catalonia's independence, which was what the people had voted for. The declaration of independence was unanimously approved by the Catalan Parliament and is now historically proclaimed. More than 70 countries pronounced themselves on the matter, mostly against it, as is normal in this type of case so as not to contradict the existing state, until independence is confirmed by the facts and the international recognition of the new state is made official.

At that time, the Catalan government did not want to ask citizens to defend independence in the streets, as they were certain that the Spanish state would react violently to a people who resisted massively and peacefully. That is why President Puigdemont, faced with his imminent arrest, went into exile in Belgium. He has been elected to the European Parliament, where he defends Catalonia's right to independence, and is battling in EU courts.

Five years later, the resolutions of

Mash Notes, Hate Mail, &c.

to page six

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

Legends
Oct 7, 1756
NH Gazette's first edition.
Oct 6, 1856
Portsmouth celebrates 100th birthday of NH Gazette

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

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

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from page five

the European judiciary are about to come out, so the Council of Europe has published, on 25 October, a new resolution (1) drafted by its Secretary General, Marija Pejčinović, which follows on from the Council of Europe's Cilevics Report (2) that criticised Spain's reaction against the Catalan independence movement. It also follows up on the report of the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (3) which found Spain's repression totally unacceptable. The new Council of Europe report argues that it is lawful to pursue the independence of a European territory as long as it is done without using or inciting violence. This completely disavows the Spanish justice system that is persecuting the peaceful Catalan independence movement as if it were terrorism.

Five years ago we already showed that we were committed to a negotiated solution. The next time we are at the same point, and it won't be long, we will not stop to look for negotiated solutions and we will go ahead with the non-violent struggle, Gandhi style, to control the territory with crowds that will disobey and overwhelm the Spanish state. If Spain uses the police and the army against a peaceful population, Europe will have to take that responsibility on its conscience.

(1) <https://english.villarweb.cat/noticies/council-of-europe-states-peaceful-pursuit-of-independence-is-freedom-of-speech/>

(2) <http://www.assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-EN.asp?fileid=29344>

(3) https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/Detention/Opinions/Session84/A_HRC_WGAD_2019_6.pdf

Jordi Oriola Folch
Barcelona, Catalonia

Jordi:

Thanks for writing. It gives us an excuse to publish the following excerpt from George Orwell's *Homage to Catalonia*, his indispensable account of the Spanish Civil War.

"...I defy anyone to be thrown as



I was among the Spanish working class—I ought perhaps to say the Catalan working class, for apart from a few Aragonese and Andalusians I mixed only with Catalans—and not be struck by their essential decency; above all, their straightforwardness and generosity. A Spaniard's generosity, in the ordinary sense of the word, is almost embarrassing. If you ask him for a cigarette he will force the whole pack upon you. And beyond this there is generosity in a deeper sense, a real largeness of spirit, which I have met with again and again in the most unpromising circumstances."

The Editor

Community Power To Stabilize Rates

To the Editor:
Fifty five percent of New Hampshire's electricity is produced by natural gas, much of it delivered by ship. As the price of natural gas fluctuates, so does the rate we pay for electricity.

New Hampshire electric utilities buy electricity from producers that rely mostly on natural gas. So, depending on the price at the time, the rate charged is based on the contracts they sign.

The way to minimize this price fluctuation is having the ability to purchase electricity made from a variety of fuels and contract lengths to create a portfolio of contracts. Recent legislation allows communities to combine their electric power use to purchase from producers offering contracts with the best prices.

The Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire, CPCNH, plans to do this. Currently, 23 cities and towns are members of the CPCNH, representing 20 percent of New Hampshire electric power use. The utilities will continue to deliver the electricity, while providing billing and customer service. If all goes as planned Community Power will launch spring of 2023.

Community Power will stabilize the rates we pay for electricity, allowing members to choose local

producers using technologies like solar, wind, and hydro, instead of commodities like natural gas. This reduces emissions, while producing more local business investment and jobs.

This launch of Community Power was a long time coming due to many efforts to derail the legislation and reduce its effectiveness. As you consider candidates for the November election, ask whether they support the business investment and jobs that transitioning to clean, lower cost and local energy will provide.

Howard Kalet and Tom Pfau
Rye, N.H.

Howard and Tom:

Hmm... interesting. You say "if all goes as planned," our electric rates could be lower. Good luck getting CPCNH past the GOP.

The Editor

A Pox On Both Their Houses?

Dear Editor,

The middle class in America has been trained by decades of propaganda to accept the extremely simple-minded notion that we must spend ourselves mindlessly into the grave.

When inflation is up, and we lose our freedom to buy whatever we want whenever we want, we want to throw the Congressional majority party out, thinking we are doomed unless we do.

Isn't it possible to cinch up our belts a little and open a few books to see how the democracies of the past, including our own, handled economic problems?

Oh no, we must believe what the one-percent class pours into our brains—that the only solution is to rotate national governance back and forth between two corrupt political parties.

Kimball Shinkoskey
Woods Cross, Utah

Kimball:

Perhaps we're not reading you right, but it seems like you're equating the two parties here.

Fecklessness, lack of imagination, dependence on the benevolent rich, and a general failure to improve material

conditions are certainly ample grounds for vigorous criticism. When compared to nihilistic greed, though—allowing billionaires to set the Earth on fire, to steal a few more billions—those are merely venial sins.

The Editor

Libertarian Would-Be Governors Duel

Dear Editor:

A woman candidate for New Hampshire governor is being interviewed on the radio. She's spouting the indoctrination done by Trump and his followers. She accuses teachers and public schools of indoctrinating our children. She herself is a victim of what she falsely decries, being a fervent Trumper. School teaching is about presentation of facts, but Trump's press secretary Kelly Ann Conway introduced the idea of "alternative facts," and there went or goes our reliable world. "Goes" if it's still in process and not a done deal. "Went" if irreversible.

Perhaps we'll never return to the days of my (now middle-aged) children when teachers in public schools were deservedly respected. Our school boards were competitively elected and duly respected. We parents back then didn't live with a paranoia induced by a miserable man who abused his high power and then called on followers to "stand by" and do whatever dirty work it took to perhaps have the reins in his self-serving hands.

God bless America by saving us from Trumplers, I pray. Or concerned voters do that good deed, I pray.

Lynn Rudmin Chong
Sanbornton, N.H.

Lynn:

As this state is blessed with two women running for governor, we can't say who you heard. It could have been either Karlyn Borysenko or Kelly Hall-dorson, both of whom are Libertarians.

Neither, of course, will be elected. Our winner-take-all method of deciding elections effectively rules that out.

Even if we were to adopt ranked choice voting, we'd still bet against them both. There are enough free staters now in New Hampshire to do some damage in Concord.

For a libertarian to take the corner office, though, would require too many Granite Staters to become unbinged.

The Editor

Yes-Independent Representatives

Dear Editor,

Most voters wish to see smart and intelligent State Representatives advocate for the interests of their towns. But labels such as Independent and/or Support Freedom, may not mean what voters think they mean. Candidates who use such labels must explain them clearly for voters.

Over the course of six years serving as a State Representative it was clear to me that while Republican Representatives almost always voted as their leadership advised them, the Democratic Representatives often would break with their leadership, if they were convinced that this would benefit their respective towns' residents.

Portsmouth is fortunate to have a group of smart and intelligent Democratic candidates who support reducing property taxes, spending state money frugally, and ensuring the state government makes good on its promises.

That is why I encourage you to cast your vote for State Representative for the following individuals: Ned Reynolds, David Meuse, Robin Vogt, Gerry Ward, Rebecca McBeath, Joan Hamblet and Kate Murray.

State Rep. Peter Somssich
Portsmouth, N.H.

We Can't Rely on Republicans

To the Editor:

New Hampshire has the 9th worst gun safety laws in the nation. In 2017, Governor Sununu signed a bill guaranteeing constitutional concealed carry without a permit. In 2019, our governor vetoed three bills passed by the Democratic majority in the Senate and House. One year later, the Red Flag Law was also vetoed, which would have provided temporary removal of a firearm through a court order if a family member or police felt a person was at risk of doing harm.

Gun violence is the number one public safety priority for many Americans. Yet, in our state, hidden and loaded guns can be carried

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When A Thing of Beauty May Not Be a Joy

by W.D. Ehrhart

I've been writing poetry since I was 15 years old. I've written hundreds of poems over more than a half century. That's a lot of poems and a long time. But no poem of mine has ever troubled me more or caused me more difficulty than this one:

Old Men Eating Lunch

for Paige

Once a month my pals and I eat lunch at the Amish Market in Mullica Hill. We chose that place because the food is cheap. And good. But we keep coming back to see the waitress. She's always there, month after month, and such a lovely girl, always smiling, always ready to deflect our stupid jokes, young enough to be our daughter, even younger. Don't get me wrong, there's nothing tawdry in it. Geez, we're all on Medicare, all three married, very much in love with our wives. But our eyes still work, and we're not too old to recognize "a thing of beauty" when we see one.

You can probably see what the problem is: "a thing of beauty" reduces the young woman to an inanimate "thing" in the eyes of three old men (one thinks of Jethro Tull's "Aqualung" "eyeing little girls with bad intent"), and thus we are guilty of "objectifying" women, turning them into faceless objects of sexual desire.

That is not at all what's going on here, I

would like to say and even insist. I've tried to make that clear by imbedding multiple obvious cues that we represent no threat to anyone female (or male for that matter). Just three old friends enjoying each other and the fleeting attention of an attractive waitress.

One male poet with whom I've been sharing poem drafts for decades warned, "You are certainly aware of feminist philosophy that attacks the 'male gaze.' Why leave yourself open to attack? Given the current political climate, I would rewrite the last three lines to eliminate any charge of sexism." Another man wrote, "I know you have 'thing of beauty' in quotation marks, but I would delete 'thing' as too objectifying of a woman."

Never mind that the three words in quotes are an homage to John Keats's "Endymion," which begins: "A thing of beauty is a joy forever." I tried multiple variations of those last few lines,

But she's delightful, bright, and willing to indulge three harmless aging men who wish her only well.

But we're not too old to recognize a good poem when we see it.

But we're not stupid, and we're not too old to appreciate a good poem when we see one.

But, well, I'm sorry (honestly, you have no idea how sorry), but nothing works for me without the reference to Keats.

So I decided to poll a few of my female friends. Here's what I got in reply:

- "It's fine with me! It's important and good to enjoy beauty, kindness, and skill in young women, men, people."

- "I imagine the experience not just of seeing but also of interacting (flirting?) with the young woman makes you feel a bit more alive. I'm not offended by your appreciation of beauty, but beware of turning the subject into an object."

- "A thing of beauty is a joy forever. It's loveliness increases. It will never pass into nothingness." Keats. No offense taken."

- "I don't see any issue with this poem. Don't want to speak for anyone else, but no problem on my end."

- "I do find it offensive as you are objectifying the waitress here."

- "I don't find it offensive, but can imagine that some might. [My 16-year-old daughter] thought it was 'pervy' until I explained the 'thing of beauty' quote; then she thought it was sweet."

- "I love the poem! Offensive? Not at all!!!"

- "Definitely not offensive. Actually refreshing that you are being honest! '... a joy forever.'"

- "I love you and the image of you lunching with your buddies. But it's a little creepy from the female perspective—or at least this female."

- "... is a joy forever. I think it's lovely."

- "I have zero problem with it. In fact I like it. That's just me. Good to cast your net wide for feedback and sweet that you asked."

So what do I do when even the women I

know cannot agree on how they feel about this poem, let alone how I should feel? And I find myself wondering: are men supposed to pretend that there are no beautiful women in the world, or that we do not notice them? Certainly, that waitress has absolutely no reason to fear my friends and me, to see us as some kind of threat, or as anything other than appreciative customers who tip well.

But I am also well aware that women have much to fear from men, that there are far too many male predators constantly in search of victims, that some of them could even be old gray-haired married guys on Medicare. I have numerous female friends who have told me horrible experiences that each has personally endured.

I certainly do not want to be part of the problem, and if this poem leaves any woman feeling objectified, that's one too many. Nevertheless, it makes me sad that I cannot celebrate a bright and lovely woman in a poem without leaving myself open to accusations of sexism and objectification.

But then, a lot of things in today's world make me sad. And the list gets longer by the day. For better or worse, I doubt that this poem will ever see print again.

====

W.D. Ehrhart's latest collections are Thank You for Your Service: Collected Poems (2019), and a chapbook, Wolves in Winter: Poems 2019-2021.

====

The Sunshine State's Dark Bully

By Jim Hightower

How about Ron DeSantis? The Florida governor is the new darling of the right-wing media, funders, and other establishment powers who're pushing him to be your next president.

"Ron DeSantis is the new Republican Party," gushed one arch-conservative media maven. That's odd, since what characterizes Ron's tenure (and is causing a collective swoon for him within the rightist

hierarchy) is his Big Government authoritarianism. Just yesterday, these same so-called conservatives said such use of government power was evil. But here comes DeSantis, who puts the bull in bully—bellowing "culture war" hooey, demonizing immigrants, fabricating claims of voter fraud, promoting Covid lies, and so forth. Then he imperiously asserts government power to bully local communities, workers, the poor, Florida's environment, truth, fairness, honesty, and democracy.

Consider one of his recent maneuvers to overturn the people's democratic will. Like most other Republican-run states, DeSantis's Florida keeps trying to block African-Americans from the polls. In 2018, however, Floridians themselves rebuked the suppressors by approving a ballot measure to expand the electorate. A whopping 65 percent said **Yes** to eliminating a vindictive lifelong ban on voting by ex-felons—people who had served their time. This long overdue mea-

sure of simple justice (approved, in fact, by a much bigger margin of voters than DeSantis got that year) re-enfranchised about 1.4 million former felons.

But wait—DeSantis had old Jim Crow up his sleeve! In 2019, he rammed a technical gotcha into state law, preventing former felons from voting until they pay in full all court fines (many arbitrarily and unfairly assessed years ago for things like marijuana possession). The fines can run thousands of dollars, so De-

Santis' new law created a partisan poll tax to price a big percentage of these newly eligible voters out of democratic participation.

Remember, he's the "new" Republican Party.

====

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.

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

without a permit. Ghost guns are permitted, individuals over 18 can enter our schools while openly carrying or concealing a firearm, and a gun owner can legally use a "bump stock" to make a gun more like an automatic gun.

Governor Sununu and New

Hampshire Republicans have acted to weaken national bipartisan gun laws believing that the "responsible gun culture" in New Hampshire is static and the world and human nature don't change.

The citizens of New Hampshire deserve better and can no longer rely on our gun culture, the Republicans, or on Sununu. He is not supporting state and national laws that

will protect us all. We need to elect a Democratic majority that will. New Hampshire Democrats have proposed a package of bills to address the rising threat of gun violence.

Vote for Democrats on Tuesday, November 8th.

Barbara and Vincent Prien
Suzanne and Henry Sonneborn
Rye, N.H.

====

Major Mike Returns

To the Editor:

"Acta non verba"

Those words are Latin for "Actions, not words."

They also happen to serve as the motto of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, an organization whose graduates serve this country, with actions, not words.

It's also a great motto to live by,

and to use in our everyday lives.

Do our words carry weight...

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

Major Mike:

As you see, we ran out of room. We've been forced to trim your letter by 92 percent. Perhaps next time you write, you could try harder to get to the point.

The Editor

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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

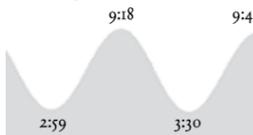
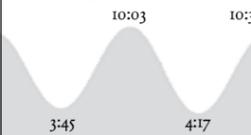
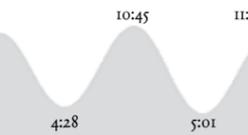
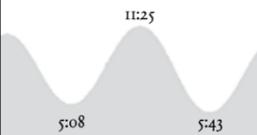
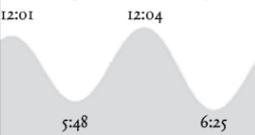
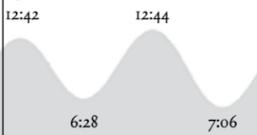
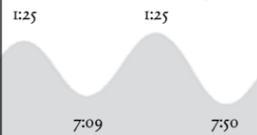
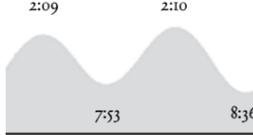
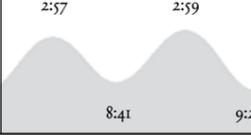
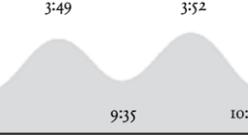
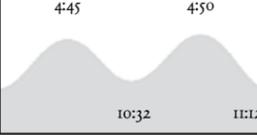
whom you choose to believe. The Piscataqua's ferocious current is caused by the tide, which, in turn, is caused by the moon. The other player is a vast sunken valley — Great Bay — about ten miles upriver. Twice a day, the moon

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, NOVEMBER 6	MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7	TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8	WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9	THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10	FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11	SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12
<p>2018—Nevada's 36th district elects brothel-owner Dennis Hoff to the State Assembly by a huge margin. He's been dead for three weeks.</p> <p>2016—FBI Director James Comey says never mind about those emails.</p> <p>2012—Trump tweets, "The electoral college is a disaster for a democracy."</p> <p>2000—Saddam Hussein stops accepting dollars for oil, thus undermining U.S. hegemony and possibly shortening his own life.</p> <p>1998—Newt Gingrich says he's resigning as Speaker of the House because he's "not willing to preside over people who are cannibals."</p> <p>1984—Reagan defeats Mondale—it's mourning in America.</p> <p>1971—The AEC detonates a 5-megaton nuke—the largest ever exploded in the U.S.—one mile below Amchitka Island, 87 miles from a Soviet naval base in Siberia.</p> <p>1965—In Times Square, five men burn their draft cards, the first such protest of the Vietnam War.</p> <p>1944—The Zionist Stern Gang assassinates Britain's Lord Moyne in Cairo. Israel honors the assassins with a stamp in 1982.</p> <p>1917—After three months of fighting in mud, Canadians take Passchendaele, ending the Third Battle of Ypres; Allies gain five miles at a cost of 250,000 casualties.</p> <p>1816—Founding Father Gouverneur Morris dies after catheterizing himself with a piece of whalebone.</p>	<p>2020—<i>The Wall Street Journal</i> runs an op-ed by Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney under the headline, "If he loses, Trump will concede gracefully."</p> <p>2020—Dolt 45's cracked legal team holds a press conference at the Four Seasons... Total Landscaping garage.</p> <p>2007—Private Jessica Lynch accuses the Pentagon of exploiting her capture for propaganda purposes.</p> <p>2000—Mel Carnahan defeats incumbent Sen. John Ashcroft [R-Mo.], despite being three weeks dead.</p> <p>1961—Under Sec. of State George Ball warns JFK, "Within five years, we'll have 300,000 men in the paddies and jungles and you'll never find them again." JFK tells Ball he's "crazier than hell. That just isn't going to happen."</p> <p>1957—Ike tells close aides that in the event of nuclear war, "You might as well go out and shoot everyone you see and then shoot yourself."</p> <p>1940—The mile-long Tacoma Narrows bridge wiggles, wobbles, and then falls down. Washington State can't collect on its insurance, because its agent pocketed the premiums.</p> <p>1874—A Thomas Nast cartoon establishes that Republicans are elephants and Democrats are donkeys.</p> <p>1837—An Alton, Ill. mob murders abolitionist editor Elijah P. Lovejoy.</p> <p>1775—Turning on his former land-grabbing cronies, e.g., George Washington, Lord Dunmore tells enslaved Blacks in Virginia he'll free them if they join the Redcoats.</p>	<p>2016—Donald J. Trump wins the Presidency. Everybody else is a loser.</p> <p>2013—Naval Intelligence boss Ted "Twig" Branch has his security clearance lifted. He can't do his job, but the Navy leaves him in it.</p> <p>2010—On TV, George W.[MD] Bush says his mom once asked him for a ride to the hospital, displaying a jar with a miscarried sibling in it.</p> <p>2000—At 2:16 a.m., Fox News "reporter" John Ellis calls Fla. in favor of his cousin, George W.[MD] Bush.</p> <p>1994—The GOP, led by serial philanderer Newt Gingrich, take Congress.</p> <p>1965—Dorothy Kilgallen's investigation into JFK's assassination ends due to an allegedly accidental overdose.</p> <p>1954—Ike writes his brother Ed that, "a tiny splinter group [e.g. Texas oil men] believes you can do" things like "abolish social security [and] unemployment insurance," but their "number is negligible and they are stupid."</p> <p>1932—Socialist Norman Thomas gets 884,885 votes for President.</p> <p>1923—Disgruntled corporal A. Hitler, with help from disgruntled general E. von Ludendorff, stages the "Beer Hall Putsch" in Munich.</p> <p>1897—Birth of Dorothy Day, anarchist founder of <i>Catholic Worker</i>.</p> <p>1876—The editor of <i>The New York Times</i> and the chairman of the Republican National Committee conspire to bribe election officials in Florida, South Carolina, and Louisiana to "elect" "Rutherford" B. Hayes.</p>	<p>2020—"What is the downside for humoring him...?" says "a senior Republican official" to the <i>Washington Post</i>. "It's not like he's plotting how to prevent Joe Biden from taking power."</p> <p>1998—Brokers who rigged the game at NASDAQ are compelled to pay their bilked customers \$1 billion.</p> <p>1989—The Berlin Wall suddenly becomes unexpectedly porous.</p> <p>1979—Zbigniew Brzezinski gets a call: "250 nuclear missiles incoming!" Then another: "Make that 2,000!" A third says, [Gilda voice.] "Never mind."</p> <p>1977—William C. Sullivan, former Hoover hatchet man who once predicted he'd be murdered in a faked accident, is accidentally shot by a fellow hunter in Sugar Hill, N.H.</p> <p>1969—Indians land on Alcatraz. Some are removed by the Coast Guard, others stay overnight.</p> <p>1965—One power plant in Ontario fails; the whole Northeast goes dark.</p> <p>1953—Dylan Thomas dies in New York at 39, mostly from bad doctoring.</p> <p>1938—German Nazis demonstrate their racial superiority during Kristallnacht by killing 91 Jews.</p> <p>1932—To restore order, the Swiss Army fires on a crowd of protesters in Geneva, killing 13 anti-fascists.</p> <p>1919—Columbia U. head Nicholas M. Butler tells veterans to "crush these [radical leftist] enemies of our nation."</p> <p>1863—Abraham Lincoln watches John Wilkes Booth perform in Selby's "The Marble Heart" at Ford's Theatre.</p>	<p>2004—George W.[MD] Bush nominates a new AG. Alberto Gonzales ends up making John Ashcroft look a tad less terrible by comparison.</p> <p>1982—The Vietnam Veterans Memorial, a gift to the nation from those it had shunned, opens in Washington, D.C.</p> <p>1975—The ore carrier <i>Edmund Fitzgerald</i> sinks on Lake Superior, taking with her a crew of 29.</p> <p>1973—In Drake, N.D. the school board fires a teacher and burns the book he assigned, <i>Slaughterhouse Five</i>.</p> <p>1972—Facing bogus charges in Detroit, anti-police-brutality activist Louis Moore skyjacks a DC-9. Days later he's in a Cuban prison and airline passengers are getting searched.</p> <p>1964—Australia re-introduces the draft to protect the Empire from Ho.</p> <p>1961—Estelle Griswold is busted for selling contraceptives to married couples. Her winning appeal established a right to privacy—enjoy it while it lasts.</p> <p>1950—Flying over Canada, a U.S. Air Force crew in a B-50 experiences engine trouble. They chuck the bomb (minus its plutonium core) which then explodes in Riviere du Loup, Quebec.</p> <p>1934—Declaring martial law, Gov. Benjamin Moeur sends 100 Arizona Guardsmen to stop Californians building a dam across the Colorado.</p> <p>1898—In Wilmington, N.C., 400 Democrats overthrow the city government and murder hundreds of Blacks. Newspaperman & future Sec. of the Navy Josephus Daniels is a ringleader.</p>	<p>2000—Republicans go to court to stop manual recounts in Florida.</p> <p>1956—The last pockets of resistance are suppressed in Hungary.</p> <p>1940—In Taranto, Brit biplanes sink half the Italian Navy at anchor.</p> <p>1933—"The Great Black Blizzard," first great dust storm, hits the Plains.</p> <p>1919—Centralia, Wash. Legionnaires attack an I.W.W. union hall. Oops—the Wobblies are armed. With four attackers dead, the surviving Legionnaires kidnap, torture, and kill Wobbly and fellow WW I vet Wesley Everest.</p> <p>1918—The War to End Wars ends, too late for 2,738 who die this day.</p> <p>1906—Last living widow of a Revolutionary War veteran, Esther Sumner Damon dies in Plainfield, Vt. at 92.</p> <p>1887—Albert Parsons, George Engel, Adolph Fischer, and August Spies, none of them accused of the act itself, are hanged in Chicago for the Haymarket bombing.</p> <p>1861—Confederate Gen. & ex-Bishop Leonidas Polk is wounded and denuded when "Lady Polk," a cannon named after his wife, explodes.</p> <p>1778—Brits and Iroquois massacre dozens of American settlers and soldiers at Cherry Valley, N.Y.</p> <p>1769—Thirteen days after the death of her first husband, Frances Atkinson marries her first cousin John Wentworth, Governor of New Hampshire.</p> <p>1620—Influential Pilgrims draft the Mayflower Compact to assure adequate control over unruly colonists.</p>	<p>2001—Flight 587 falls apart and crashes off Queens, N.Y., killing 261.</p> <p>1970—A half ton of dynamite set off by Oregon highway workers sends parts of an eight-ton sperm whale 100 feet in the air. The tail crushes Walter Umanhofer's new Olds, bought from a lot advertising "a whale of a deal."</p> <p>1941—Abe "Kid Twist" Reles earns the posthumous sobriquet "the canary who sang but couldn't fly" when he autodefenerates (or is defenestrated) from the sixth floor of a Coney Island hotel while under the protection of six New York City cops.</p> <p>1926—The first documented aerial bombing conducted in the U.S. leaves Shady Rest, bootlegger Charlie Birger's Benton, Ill. roadhouse, undamaged. The dynamite the Shelton Gang drops from a Curtis "Jenny" kills only Birger's bulldog and pet bird.</p> <p>1914—At a White House meeting, Monroe Trotter, a Black newspaper publisher, criticizes President Wilson's policy of segregating federal employees. Wilson tells him to leave.</p> <p>1816—T. Jefferson writes, "I hope we shall...crush in its birth the aristocracy of our monied corporations which dare already to challenge our government to a trial of strength, and to bid defiance to the laws of their country."</p> <p>1779—Twenty enslaved Granite Staters—Daniel Fowle's enslaved pressman Primus X being notably absent—petition the legislature for the abolition of slavery. They are ignored.</p>
 <p>9:18 9:46 2:59 3:30</p>	 <p>10:03 10:33 3:45 4:17</p>	 <p>10:45 11:18 4:28 5:01</p>	 <p>11:25 11:58 5:08 5:43</p>	 <p>12:01 12:04 5:48 6:25</p>	 <p>12:42 12:44 6:28 7:06</p>	 <p>12:25 12:5 7:09 7:50</p>
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13	MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14	TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15	WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16	THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17	FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18	SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19
<p>2003—Because he would not remove his Ten Commandments monument from the courthouse, Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore is himself removed.</p> <p>1982—The Vietnam Veterans Memorial is dedicated in Washington, D.C. Richard Nixon, Henry Kissinger, and Robert McNamara are no-shows.</p> <p>1974—Karen Silkwood, a disgruntled Kerr-McGee worker, turns up conveniently dead.</p> <p>1970—Up to half a million die as a cyclone hits Bangladesh.</p> <p>1965—The dysfunctional tinderbox <i>Yarmouth Castle</i> burns en route to Nassau; 90 passengers burn or drown, deserted by captain and crew.</p> <p>1942—The torpedoed cruiser <i>U.S.S. Juneau</i> sinks in 20 minutes, 100 of 673 surviving the explosion. Two other cruisers depart, assuming no survivors. Eight days later, ten are rescued. Among the dead are the five Sullivan brothers, of Waterloo, Iowa.</p> <p>1933—Hornel workers in Austin, Minn. invent the sit-down strike.</p> <p>1909—In a Cherry, Ill. coal mine, lit by torch due to an electrical outage, a cartload of hay for mules catches fire. The resultant inferno kills 259 miners.</p> <p>1887—On the original Bloody Sunday, British cops, soldiers, and cavalry charge the unemployed in Trafalgar Square, killing 3 and arresting 300.</p> <p>1877—A locomotive and three freight cars plunge from an open drawbridge into the Piscataqua, just missing three ships; there are no injuries.</p>	<p>2002—Donald Rumsfeld predicts the Iraq War will last "five days or five weeks or five months...[no] longer..."</p> <p>1968—In Quang Tri, Marine PFC Frank Baldino, 19, is killed by a tiger.</p> <p>1965—The First Cav, choppering into the Ia Drang Valley, is surprised to discover six battalions of NVA.</p> <p>1943—U.S.S. <i>W.D. Porter</i> accidentally launches a torpedo—in the direction of U.S.S. <i>Iowa</i>. FDR, aboard <i>Iowa</i> en route to Cairo, is amused.</p> <p>1942—Seaman Calvin L. Graham is wounded at Guadalcanal. He's 12.</p> <p>1932—Nison Miller is denied citizenship due to "ignorance." Dolt 45 will make his grandson Stephen his immigration policy czar.</p> <p>1927—Workmen in Pittsburgh, using an open flame blowlamp to fix a leak in the world's largest gasometer, ignite 5 million cubic feet of natural gas, clearing one square mile and killing 28.</p> <p>1925—D.C. Stephenson, ex-Grand Dragon of the Indiana KKK, is convicted of rape, torture, and murder.</p> <p>1917—Before locking up 33 women for protesting in front of the White House, guards beat them with clubs.</p> <p>1909—"A great American [whose] stature will grow with the passage of time," is born, according to N.H. Sen. Styles Bridges: Joe McCarthy.</p> <p>1908—A heart attack fells the Chief of the Imperial Military Cabinet, Dietrich Graf von Hülsen-Haeseler, at 56, while he dances before Kaiser Wilhelm II in a ballerina's tutu.</p>	<p>2010—Ex-cop James B. Fowler pleads guilty to the 1965 murder of civil rights activist Jimmie Lee Jackson in Ala. He gets six months.</p> <p>2008—Somali pirates take the <i>MS Sirius Star</i>. With a total value of \$250 million, it's the largest prize ever.</p> <p>1996—British officials return the Stone of Scone to the Scots from whom they stole it 700 years earlier.</p> <p>1995—President Bill Clinton begins abusing his power over White House intern Monica Lewinsky.</p> <p>1967—The NVA mortars the Dak To ammo dump; 1,100 tons of ordnance create the war's biggest explosion.</p> <p>1967—"I have never been more encouraged," says General Westmoreland. Tet is 77 days away.</p> <p>1967—The CIA hands LBJ the first of four reports on its illegal surveillance of anti-war activists. Because it refutes his belief in foreign influence, he rejects it and demands another.</p> <p>1904—Al Swearingen, ex-Deadwood, S.D. whoremaster, is found on a Denver street with his head bashed in.</p> <p>1887—F(ranklin) P(ierce) Adams, namesake of N.H.'s only president (so far) and the godfather of the newspaper column, is born in Chicago.</p> <p>1864—General William Tecumseh Sherman burns Atlanta, Georgia, thereby inspiring a popular movie.</p> <p>1558—In celebration of Queen Elizabeth's coronation, a wickerwork effigy of the Pope is burned. It's stuffed with live cats to simulate shrieking devils.</p>	<p>2000—Bill Clinton goes to Vietnam — finally, when it's safe, as President.</p> <p>1989—U.S.-backed pro-government "freedom fighters" in El Salvador murder six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper, and the housekeeper's daughter.</p> <p>1969—President Nixon's Communications Director Herb Klein says he opposes government intervention in the news but the networks are asking for it if they don't regulate themselves.</p> <p>1966—Strasbourg students blow the student government's annual budget to publish a pamphlet, "On the Poverty of Student Life." Hilarity ensues, including the Situationist Movement.</p> <p>1965—Mission accomplished with 79 KIA & 121 WIA, U.S. units in Ia Drang propose withdrawal. Gen. Wm. Westmoreland says "stay."</p> <p>1890—George Seldes is born. At 19 he'll start an 85-year career as a journalist, media critic, and author.</p> <p>1856—Siding with Britain and its opium smugglers, the U.S.S. <i>Portsmouth</i> bombards a Chinese fort on the Pearl River in Canton, China.</p> <p>1849—Fyodor Dostoevsky, 28, is sentenced to death for spreading "impudent words."</p> <p>1776—The American brig-of-war <i>Andrew Doria</i> receives the nation's first salute from a foreign power at Fort Oranje, St. Eustatius.</p> <p>1688—Boston hangs Ann Glover—old, Irish, and Catholic—as a witch.</p> <p>1384—Jadwiga, a ten year-old girl, is crowned King of Poland.</p>	<p>2008—Citigroup announces it will sack 52,000 workers.</p> <p>2006—"We'll succeed [in Iraq] unless we quit," says George W.[MD] Bush.</p> <p>2003—An Austrian musician becomes Governor of California.</p> <p>1995—President Clinton, multitasking, speaks on the phone with a Congressman while violating his marriage vows with an intern.</p> <p>1995—The Commander of the Pacific Fleet calls the rape of an Okinawan girl "stupid." The culprit should have hired a prostitute instead, he says.</p> <p>1992—<i>Dateline</i> broadcasts a rigged video of a GM truck exploding.</p> <p>1973—Speaking to newspaper editors at Disney World, Richard M. Nixon says, "I am not a crook."</p> <p>1965—First Cav survivors of the Ia Drang are marched into an ambush; 155 are KIA, and 126 WIA. It's the deadliest day of the war for the U.S.</p> <p>1953—An Air Force C-119 "Flying Boxcar" kills nine Fort Bragg paratroopers in mid-air; six more die when the C-119 subsequently crashes.</p> <p>1943—Soviet tank driver/mechanic Mariya Vasilyevna Oktyabrskaya is promoted to Sergeant for performing repairs under withering Nazi fire.</p> <p>1917—The destroyers <i>Fanning</i> and <i>Nicholson</i> sink the <i>U-58</i> off Ireland, the first sub sunk by the U.S. Navy.</p> <p>1747—Rioting sailors, laborers, and free Blacks fed up with naval press gangs take British officers hostage and shut down the city of Boston.</p>	<p>2020—Feds indict Kansan Shawn L. Parcells for wire fraud. He collected \$1.1 million from 375 clients for per-voiding autopsies, yet was neither a physician nor a pathologist.</p> <p>2005—Rep. Jean Schmidt (R-Ohio) apologizes to 'Nam combat vet Rep. Jack Murtha (D-Pa.) on the House floor for implying he's a coward.</p> <p>1999—Texas A&M's student-built Bonfire—a 59-foot stack of vertical logs—somehow collapses; 12 die.</p> <p>1997—Operation Northwoods is exposed: the 1962 plan would have murdered U.S. citizens on the street to build support for an invasion of Cuba.</p> <p>1988—Congress jacks up penalties for smoking crack. Lighter penalties for powder cocaine are unchanged.</p> <p>1978—Jim Jones and 913 followers drink cyanide-laced Flavor-Aid in Jonestown, Guyana.</p> <p>1977—"Dynamite Bob" Chambliss gets life for his 1963 bombing of Birmingham's 16th Street Church.</p> <p>1929—Marshall Ratliff, sentenced to the chair for robbing a bank in a Santa Claus suit, kills a man in a failed breakout from the Cisco, Texas jail.</p> <p>1916—The Battle of the Somme peeters out. The Allies have gained 2.5 square yards each for 1,250,000 British, French, and German casualties. Germans later re-take most of it.</p> <p>1883—U.S. railroad corporations are empowered to dictate what the time is.</p> <p>1755—New England's worst earthquake [Richter 6.2] hits Cape Ann.</p>	<p>2005—Marines in Haditha murder 24 unarmed Iraqi men, women, and children. One man is tried and convicted of dereliction of duty.</p> <p>1967—A 500 lb. bomb from a Marine jet goes astray during the Battle of Dak To; 45 men from the 173d Airborne die, 45 are wounded.</p> <p>1963—In Havana, Frenchman Jean Daniel, sent personally by JFK, finds Fidel Castro "cautiously receptive" to a rapprochement with the U.S.</p> <p>1962—Dick "Dick" Cheney racks up his first drunk driving conviction in Cheyenne, Wyo.</p> <p>1960—At a party in New York, Norman Mailer stabs his second wife.</p> <p>1932—A petition is signed by 19 of Germany's top industrialists asking President Hindenburg to appoint a new Chancellor: Adolf Hitler.</p> <p>1929—A Cisco, Texas mob busts Marshall Ratliff out of jail and lynches him behind a theater at which the play "The Noose" is running. The first rope breaks, the second doesn't.</p> <p>1924—Pioneering Hollywood producer Thomas Ince dies at 42, officially from a heart attack, but more likely from a [William Randolph] Hearst attack—a bullet to the head.</p> <p>1915—A firing squad executes framed IWW organizer Joe Hill; his last words: "Don't mourn, organize."</p> <p>1874—Tammany Hall's "Boss" Tweed is convicted on 204 counts of fraud.</p> <p>1863—President Abraham Lincoln dedicates the cemetery at Gettysburg.</p>
 <p>7:53 8:36</p>	 <p>8:41 9:25</p>	 <p>9:35 10:18</p>	 <p>10:32 11:12</p>	 <p>11:32 12:05</p>	 <p>12:29 12:44</p>	 <p>12:54 1:22</p>



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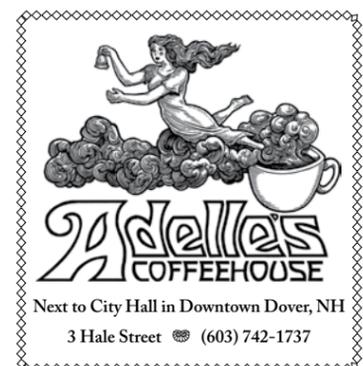
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