

The Fortnightly Rant

Reality, By The Numbers

It's...interesting. The party which acts like it owns law and order—and does seem to own the courts—now has a leading candidate for the nation's top job who is running for the White House to stay out of the Big House.

Situations like that make it a challenge to treat the news with the seriousness it deserves. Then along comes a missile exploding in Poland and suddenly everyone on Twitter is pointing to NATO's Article 5 and calculating the odds of a nuclear war with Russia.

We exaggerate, of course. "Everyone on Twitter" amounts to more than 200 million people. They can't all be debating the merits of attacking the guy with the world's largest arsenal of nukes—there'd be no one left to track that day's school shootings.

Earth's population just hit eight billion people. It's shocking to realize that out of every forty, one of them is playing with Elon Musk's new toy. We know what our excuse is—we're running this newspaper. We wonder, though, about the rest of you.

It's so easy to lose track of the scale of things, especially when they don't seem to make much sense. Musk paid \$44 billion for Twitter, seemingly on a whim. One user recently put that sum into perspective. If everyone on Earth gave him five bucks, he'd still be \$4 billion short of Twitter's purchase price. That's apparently not a problem for Musk, though. He's said to be the world's richest man, supposedly worth \$200 billion.

That would put Musk in the category of "job creator," according to the definition made popular by former President George W.[MD] Bush. Funny how we don't hear much about #43 any more. It's enough

to make you nostalgic for the days when disgraced former Republican Presidents used to hide themselves away in shame.

The first thing Musk did at Twitter, though, was to fire nearly half the staff. If he keeps monkeying around like that, he could end up destroying his new plaything. Don't put it past him. This is a man, let us remember, who once fired a convertible into space with a mannequin in the driver's seat.

We're not complaining, mind you. If Twitter goes belly-up, our productivity will probably double. If it came with calories we wouldn't fit through the newsroom door.

There are serious people on this planet, though, who find Twitter useful for organizing actions against oppressive governments.... Wait a minute. What are we saying? Isn't that exactly what we're trying to do?

If Musk simply must destroy a social media platform, why on Earth couldn't he make it Facebook? According to CNN, one of the muckety-mucks running Mark Zuckerberg's cash cow sent out a memo Tuesday to its fact-checkers, reminding them of a company policy: "political speech is ineligible for fact-checking. This includes the words a politician says as well as photo, video, or other content that is clearly labeled as created by the politician or their campaign."

Allow us to reiterate, because we take perverse pleasure in stunning ourselves with random facets of reality: Facebook has third-party fact checkers who get paid to throw down penalty flags when they encounter lies. Politicians, though, are exempt. Suddenly we are reminded of General William Westmoreland's "free-fire zones."

The brass at CNN are in no position to sneer about low standards



at Facebook. After long-time boss Jeff Zucker was pushed out over an undisclosed relationship with a co-worker, Chris Licht took over the network. Licht seems willing to do whatever it takes to make the big boss, John Malone, happy, including firing Brian Stelter. Stelter, a bright enough guy, covered the media beat, so it's little wonder he had to go. Fun fact: in addition to owning a huge chunk of CNN, Malone holds title to 2.2 million acres of land—that's an area twice the size of Rhode Island.

One recent bit of scintillating CNN programming: a Town Hall featuring ex-VeeP Mike Pence. We can't vouch for it because we lost the link to the original post, but there's a rumor going round that the GOP platform will include a plank opposed to the hanging of Vice Presidents. We'll just file that under the heading, "Important If True."

Considering what we have to

cover—not to mention the myriad catastrophes which we blithely skip over—there is always a temptation to just sum things up with a pithy phrase like "everything is terrible" or "we're all doomed." Those, too, though, are getting filed, under the heading, "Not Just Yet." When things look that bad we just fire up Ian Dury and the Blockheads 1979 hit: "Reasons To Be Cheerful, Pt. 3."

Last week brought a brand new reason: on Thursday, page one of the *New York Post* featured an egg-shaped cartoon showing "Trumpty Dumpty" atop a great wall. Down at the diner, they call that treatment "over, hard."

This Monday, the *Wall Street Journal's* editorial board wrote that "the GOP, and the country, would be best served if Mr. Trump ceded the field." In a final rebuke it called him "the man most likely to produce a GOP loss." When you've lost Rupert Murdoch...well, you're a loser.

At press time, Republicans seem likely to gain control of the House of Representatives—regardless of the 14th Amendment's prohibition against seating insurrectionists as Members. Once the new gang gets in we can surely expect unending investigations into weighty matters such as the contents of Hunter Biden's laundry bag. There's a good chance they'll decide to impeach Joe Biden. Beyond that, considering the past performance of some of those Members, we hesitate to imagine the twisted hijinks they'll come up with. In the meantime here's a pair of home grown reasons to be cheerful:

Gen. Dan "Cat Box" Bolduc lost, depriving Mitch McConnell of the gavel. For failing to call for a recount, the General has been called a "traitor" and a "turncoat."

Karoline Leavitt also lost. McCarthy will have to look elsewhere for loonies to back his shenanigans.

The Alleged News®

Covid Inaction Leaves U.S. Facing "Major Storm Without Even an Umbrella in Hand"

by Kenny Stancil

Refuting President Joe Biden's recent claim that "the pandemic is over," a group of physicians, epidemiologists, and other experts warned in an open letter published last month that Covid-19 remains a deadly and disabling threat, including in the United States, which is ill-prepared for a possible winter surge "fueled by the emergence of new Omicron strains."

"We know from our clinical and research experience that the pandemic is far from over, and that national efforts to secure the health and well-being of the American public are far from complete," the scholars wrote in the esteemed *British Medical Journal*. "We are deeply concerned that the Biden administration is minimizing Covid at a

time when it needs to be redoubling its efforts to ensure funding and resources to prevent another surge."

"The U.S. hasn't put in the effort needed to move into a new phase with confidence," states the letter. "Booster coverage, even among older Americans, is abysmal, with only half of vaccinated adults having received a booster. This places the U.S. 73rd globally for booster coverage. Fewer than six percent of immunocompromised Americans—a group that accounted for nearly one in five hospital admissions during the BA.2 surge—have received Evusheld, a therapy to help prevent Covid-19."

To make matters worse, just four percent of eligible Americans have so far received the new bivalent booster tailored to protect against the dominant subvariant. Recent polling found that over half of fully

vaccinated adults don't know they are eligible for the shot, and less than one-third say they plan to get their fourth vaccine dose "as soon as possible."

Rampant right-wing anti-science campaigns have played a significant role, to be sure, but so too has the nation's for-profit healthcare model as well as efforts to normalize the ongoing dangers posed by the continuously mutating coronavirus.

Soon after Biden downplayed the pandemic in his "60 Minutes" interview, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced that masking will no longer be universally required in healthcare facilities and nursing homes.

"If Biden's recent comment indicates that the administration is positioned to pull back further pandemic mitigation," the public health

experts warned, "the U.S. will be preparing for a major storm without even an umbrella in hand."

"Pandemics do not end with a flip of a switch," they wrote, adding:

"Despite the widespread belief that the pandemic is over, death and disruption continue. As Americans embrace what McKinsey and Company has called "individual endemicity"—in which people let their risk tolerance dictate the preventive measures they take—transmission rates remain at dangerous levels in nearly every county of the U.S. Throughout the summer, the U.S. recorded approximately 3,000 deaths per week, at least the equivalent of a 9/11's worth of deaths each week, and often more. The Delta and Omicron surges took 350,000 American lives in seven months, almost seven times as many fatal-

ities as claimed by the most severe flu season in years. In early September 2022, Covid-19 was the second leading cause of death in the United States, claiming more lives than stroke and common cancers.

"Beyond its outsize death toll, Covid-19 is leaving many Americans in diminished health and with less economic security. More than seven percent of Americans report experiencing protracted post-Covid symptoms; recent estimates suggest long Covid has forced at least 500,000 people out of the workforce. The continuing impact of the pandemic is particularly devastating given its unequal burden on communities of color and socioeconomically vulnerable populations, who are

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from page one

less likely to have private insurance to cover prevention, testing, and treatment costs.”

The U.S. is in a different position than it was when the pandemic first emerged thanks to the increased availability of vaccines, tests, and treatments made possible by robust government funding. But the money underpinning the free provision of those medical tools is rapidly disappearing, leading to what Adam Gaffney, an assistant professor of medicine at Harvard University and a pulmonary and intensive care unit doctor, calls “the rationing of Covid-care by ability to pay.”

While Biden has repeatedly asked Congress to authorize billions of dollars in additional spending to address Covid-19 and Monkeypox—including resources that would be directed toward international efforts—lawmakers, led by Senate Republicans, have refused for months to allocate new money. The president’s premature assertion about the end of the pandemic, meanwhile, has only bolstered right-wing demands for austerity, and the continuing resolution passed last month excluded funding for both infectious disease outbreaks.

“Biden’s claim is almost guaran-

teed to sap political will for funding the public health and medical resources Americans need to ‘live with Covid,’” says the letter published October 7th. “But even as a prematurely ‘post-pandemic’ order takes shape, cities are beginning to report spikes in wastewater surveillance—an ominous sign of trouble ahead.”

Earlier this year, the White House sounded the alarm about a potential coronavirus surge in the coming months that could infect up to 100 million people nationwide, resulting in a million hospitalizations and nearly 200,000 additional deaths in a worst-case scenario.

People in the U.S.—already home to more than one million of the world’s Covid-19 deaths—have died at a significantly higher rate than their counterparts in other wealthy nations, where universal healthcare, paid sick leave, and other lifesaving rights were won decades ago. Notably, average life expectancy in the U.S. has declined substantially over the past two years.

“We need a full-court press this fall to reverse these trends and reach more of the public with boosters and antivirals,” the experts wrote.

Echoing recommendations made recently by the People’s CDC, the letter continues:

“The U.S. must make smart in-



vestments in the future of our country’s response. We need to continue prioritizing tests, masks, treatments, and ventilation. Failing to produce these resources and make them widely accessible will effectively waste the benefits of the scientific advances we’ve made thus far. Inadequate funding may also slow or stop our progress towards developing new and more protective nasal and pan-coronavirus vaccines and therapies.

“The Biden administration, with the support of Congress, must be clear: The pandemic is not over—and with strategic investment and planning, we can greatly mitigate its impact. We need a robust national booster campaign, more investment in tests, treatments, and next-wave vaccines, better protections for the immunocompromised and other high-risk groups, and healthier buildings that protect against Covid and other diseases. Leaders and policymakers must not accept or normalize our dangerous current status quo: dramatic reductions in life expectancy, declining health and

economic security for many, and the ongoing loss of hundreds of lives per day.”

Globally, the pandemic has caused more than 15 million deaths. People in low-income countries have been deprived of equal access to lifesaving Covid-19 medical tools, leaving billions of people in Africa and other parts of the Global South completely unprotected.

The Lancet’s Covid-19 commission declared last month that “widespread failures during the Covid-19 pandemic at multiple levels worldwide have led to millions of preventable deaths and a reversal in progress towards sustainable development for many countries.

“The best chance to stop this pandemic is to make vaccines available for everyone, everywhere,” a pair of experts wrote recently in *Lancet Infectious Diseases*. “The efforts to provide booster doses should be balanced with the efforts to attain vaccine equity.”

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New Ruling Leads to Fresh Call For Impeachment of Clarence Thomas

by Kenny Stancil

A long-standing call for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas to face impeachment proceedings was renewed Monday after the right-wing judge indicated in an unsigned dissent that he would have blocked enforcement of the House January 6 panel’s subpoena for the communications records of Arizona Republican Party Chair Kelli Ward.

The House committee investigating the deadly January 6 insurrection “is seeking Ward’s records related to her role in former President Donald Trump’s effort to steal the 2020 election as a fake elector casting ballots in the Electoral College for Trump,” HuffPost reported.

In a 7-2 vote, the Supreme Court on Monday paved the way for the panel to obtain Ward’s phone records, rejecting the Arizona GOP chair’s appeal. Right-wing Justice Samuel Alito joined Thomas in dissenting.

This marked the second time Thomas has tried to hinder the



Saturday, November 5th was pretty dang glorious, provided you could ignore the implications of a warm late afternoon at that time of year. The al fresco dining and balmy weather lent a Mediterranean feel to the day; sealing the deal was this scooter-sidecar combo cruising through the Square.

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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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committee's probe of the Trump-led effort to remain in office despite his 2020 election loss—a plot in which Thomas' wife, right-wing activist Ginni Thomas, played a major role.

Thomas, in January, was the only justice to vote against the release of White House records to the panel. Two months later, text messages between former White House chief of staff Mark Meadows and Ginni Thomas showed that she had been in communication with Trump's team about efforts to overturn President Joe Biden's electoral victory.

Weeks later, it was revealed that Ginni Thomas had lobbied Republican lawmakers in Arizona and other states to reject Biden's electors and appoint fake ones who would support Trump. Since late March, congressional Democrats have called on Clarence Thomas to recuse himself, resign, or be impeached for apparently trying to shield his wife's anti-democratic political activities from scrutiny.

"His wife, Ginni Thomas, pressured Arizona officials to illegally overturn Trump's loss," Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW), a D.C.-based watchdog, noted Monday. "It's ab-

surd that Thomas did not recuse."
"Justice Thomas must face an impeachment inquiry," the pro-democracy advocacy group Free Speech for People tweeted.

A petition calling for the impeachment of Clarence Thomas has garnered more than 1.2 million signatures since details about Ginni Thomas' direct participation in Trump's failed coup were first made public.

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Seabrook False Alert Report Inadequate

At 10:50 a.m. on the morning of July 12th, vacationers relaxing on the beaches of Rye, North Hampton, Hampton, and Seabrook, New Hampshire were startled to hear loudspeakers broadcasting an alarming message: "Attention. Attention. There is a problem at Seabrook Nuclear Power Station. The beaches are closed. Leave the beach area at once and turn on your radio for more information." In addition, some local citizens began driving around the area, urging people to evacuate.

Fortunately it was all just a big mistake. The plant was running



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On that same November 5th, with a certain national holiday looming, this jaunty gent showed that prior military service shouldn't be taken as an automatic sign of support for a certain former President. The hat says "Da Nang," and sports the three service ribbons we associate with Vietnam. The red t-shirt advertises "Donald's Cheaties." It features the faces of ex-A.G. Barr, Mitch McConnell, and the aforementioned Former Guy. "Cheaties" claim to be a product of the General Dysfunction of Values Co. The product's tag-line: "The taste that takes your breath and Rights away."

normally. The system was just being tested, and someone had pushed the wrong button. Unfortunately, it took authorities an hour to convey that message to a literally alarmed public.

On September 21, 2022 the Department of Safety [DoS] issued a report on the incident, titled: "NextEra Seabrook Station Siren Activation Report." Not surprisingly, members of the New Hampshire House Committee on Science, Technology, and Energy have been taking interest in this incident.

According to Rep. Peter Somsich, Chair of the Committee, the report "provides more details about the July 12th incident and also suggests some corrective actions, [but] it is still not enough to address all the issues that were raised as the result of the accidental 'Field Test.'

"The July 12th incident demonstrated the need for the "ReadyNH.gov" evacuation pamphlet to undergo a serious review, since New Hampshire residents did not behave as this plan envisioned. In addition, the phone notification procedures appeared to be haphazard with

many households in the Evacuation Planning Zone (EPZ) not receiving a phone alert, while others vacationing in Florida were sent the alert. The incident also underscores the need for the State of New Hampshire to have its own independent 24/7 radiological monitoring system, whether by contracting with C-10 for such services (which Massachusetts has been doing) or by creating its own comparable network of monitors. Relying entirely on information from the operators of Seabrook Station for timely and reliable information may be wishful thinking, as the September 21st report illustrates. Finally, any report should address the remote possibility of a cyber-attack or a terrorist incident, in which case New Hampshire must have its own reliable communications procedures in place.

"In a letter dated November 14, 2022 I called on Director Rob Buxton to undertake an additional investigation so that areas not addressed by the September 21 report can be thoroughly reviewed and additional actions implemented."



A Long Winter for Old Glory?

A Flag Police volunteer from Kittery reports, "While the Frisbees Wharf Restaurant seemed to thrive this season, their American flag needs replacement."

Flag Police H.Q. salutes the volunteer for his initiative, but has a quibble with his assessment of the situation.

"Given the current presentation of this flag," reads the persnickety memo, "i.e., streaming from a single grommet, apparently due to halyard failure, its true condition cannot be determined at this time." Whatever.

According to its website, the restaurant is now closed for the season.

That's understandable enough, given the weather...but is this to be the status quo until spring?

Murph's Fortnightly Quote
"Those who lack the capacity to achieve much in an atmosphere of freedom will clamor for power."
— Eric Hoffer (1902-1983) author, philosopher

"People who want to share their religious views with you almost never want you to share yours with them."
— Dave Barry
john@wordpraxis.com

"Talent is insignificant. I know a lot of talented ruins. Beyond talent lie all the usual words: discipline, love, luck, but most of all endurance."
— James Baldwin
— Not-So-Random Thoughts from an Oregon Subscriber

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A Note on Letters, Timing, and History
As we had anticipated—not having recently fallen off a turnip truck—the mid-term elections prompted a flood of correspondence on that vitally important topic. Unfortunately, mid-term elections are not timed to mesh well with our publishing schedule. We will write to Mr. Pappas soon, and ask if he can do something about this rude oversight.

This unfortunate asynchrony left us with lots of letters urging voters not to make a terrible situation even more dire—none of which we would be able to publish until long after the matter was out of our readers' hands.

Such times test the mettle of an editor. Those of us born to the task understand: sovereignty is of no use if one is unprepared to wield it arbitrarily.

If we cannot, for example, prevent the re-election of a hereditary tool to a certain office in Concord, at least we can assure that the historical record shows a far better choice was available.

— The Editor

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Please Vote For Tom Sherman

To the Editor:

Governor Sununu is not the governor we elected in 2016. He has dramatically changed. If you need proof to fully understand how much our once-purple governor, who found middle ground in supporting all of us in New Hampshire, has transformed his message and demeanor, becoming unrecognizably frightening, please watch his recent October 30th interview on "Meet the Press."

For 35 years, I've been comfortable living with the swing state voting of New Hampshire. Our history of fluctuating between Republican and Democratic leaders throughout the years has helped us all become more tolerant. When Trump came to New Hampshire during Covid, Sununu didn't greet him in big crowds—showing his understanding of the importance of staying safe—while promoting vaccinations.

Last week, when simply asked if he thought the inflation issue is enough to rationalize support of Don Boldoc, an election denialist, Sununu's explosive language and frantic behavior was

uncharacteristic. His answer shot back with an attack in the mold of Republican extremism.

Chris Sununu has always been known to speak out of both sides of his mouth on any issue, but now appears to be firmly entrenched in radical Trumpism. Let's not let New Hampshire lose its way. We must return to government for all the people.

Vote for Dr. Tom Sherman. Vote for a sane and rational New Hampshire government.

Amy Feitelson, MD

Rye, N.H.

Amy,

We cannot help but wonder if the Governor Sununu you saw in his earlier terms was, in fact, a mirage.

Underneath his ostensibly folksy demeanor, we have always thought, lurked certain unpleasant characteristics of his pater familias—just carefully hidden.

Something about this state, though—and it can't be gerrymandering—seems to favor Republicans for that office.

Win or lose, New Hampshire Democrats who accept their party's gubernatorial nomination deserve some kind of battle ribbon.

The Editor

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The Peaceful Transfer of Power is Essential

To the Editor:

For democracy to survive, citizens must trust and respect the outcome of the vote, ensuring a peaceful transfer of power. Otherwise, democracy dies, and power is transferred only upon death, violence or the rare abdication.

Lorraine L. Hansen

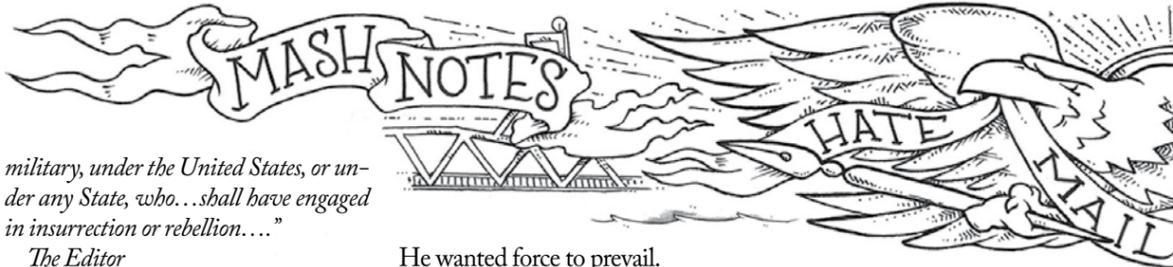
Rollinsford, N.H.

Lorraine,

You are, of course, absolutely right. It's a measure of the Republican Party's degradation—and the corporate media, as well—that this point even needs to be articulated.

Here's another point that should be obvious, yet can't be yelled loudly enough: Congress has no business seating anyone who took part in the January 6th insurrection.

The 14th Amendment says "No person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress, or elector of President and Vice-President, or hold any office, civil or



military, under the United States, or under any State, who...shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion...."

The Editor

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This Conspiracy Is No Theory

To the Editor:

How is it, that the "leaders" of the far-right believed they could con their way into owning the Presidency? That simply by concocting made-up rationalizations, lacking even a scrap of real evidence, they might actually replace the Rule of Law with their own fantasies?

Until recently, the far-right had mostly been relegated to the sidelines of public policy. But also, they had long convinced themselves that, if only they could gain, and stay, in power, they would know how to run this country so much better than the left. That when they finally had the chance to make the bold moves, the American people would come to their side once and for all. They can't accept that the American voters legitimately chose otherwise in 2020.

But consider their track record. Pushing the big lies of their times, these people railroaded the U.S. toward the gigantic blunders of Viet Nam (Gulf of Tonkin incident, My Lai, Domino Theory), and Iraq (greeted as liberators, WMD), among others (Bay of Pigs, Afghanistan).

As soon as Mr. Trump showed up he quickly became the Republicans' ticket to potential fame and fortune for anyone willing to bend to him—at a great price, to themselves and ultimately to the country.

How is it they were so confident of success for January 6th? With his well-placed co-conspirators in business, military, intelligence, secret service, National Guard, and the police, Trump was able to minimize awareness of the threat in advance, and able to slow the response once the insurrection began. The President alone could have stopped them; he alone didn't try.

He wanted force to prevail.

Parroting untruths, those at the top have let loose an avalanche of self-serving, outlandish, proclamations. These have heedlessly been taken as gospel by so many of our fellow citizens. Many have shrewdly been played, and used, for suckers.

Now, hovering so near yet still so far away, these forces will stop at nothing. They have resolved that their lofty ends will justify any unlawful, unconstitutional, means they deem necessary (see: January 6th). If they grab control, there may be no more free-and-fair elections, no recourse to law. It will be Might Makes Right. It will also be too late to turn back.

Mr. Trump demanded loyalty, then fired any of his hires who slighted him. Throughout his term, however, he did issue 240 pardons and commutations, many if not most for (illegal) pay. These included Steve Bannon, Michael Flynn, Charles Kushner, Paul Manafort, Roger Stone Jr. (twice), George Papadopoulos, Alex van der Zwaan, Joe Arpaio, Rod Blagojevich, Dinesh D'Souza, Bernard Kerik, Scooter Libby, and Michael Milken. In his final days he issued executive pardons and commutations to dozens of people, including supporters and former aides facing federal indictments and serving sentences for convicted crimes. Yet Mr. Trump gave no pardons or commutations to any of his loyal rioters. Oh yes—he has now promised, if elected, to pardon any still in jail in 2025. Maybe.

To those who have joined this tribe: enjoy your new causes, your new friends. But please realize that in the privacy of a voting booth, you can still choose reason.

Ralph Peabody

Portland, Maine

Ralph:

Nice to see we're not the only ones

taking this long view of Republican wrong-headedness. You did well to be so concise. Given almost any opportunity, we're wont to drag readers back to the Harding administration. What the hell, it's only a week since Veterans Day—let's remember, briefly, Charles R. Forbes.

Forbes swung Washington state for his poker-playing pal at the GOP convention in 1920. Harding rewarded Forbes by making him the first Director of the newly consolidated Veterans Bureau.

The Bureau was pretty stingy towards veterans, denying 85 percent of disability claims from those who were wounded. Under the table, though, it was more than generous to Forbes and his cronies. Director Forbes once bought—and took a kickback for—"a 100-year supply of floor wax...for 25 times the regular price." [Washington Post, May 30, 2014.] He's estimated to have looted the Bureau of about \$2 million—worth some \$33 million today.

Forbes made the mistake of visiting the White House as his misdeeds were surfacing. His old pal Warren—a big, strong guy—grabbed him by the throat and shook him "as a dog would a rat," saying, "you double-crossing bastard!"

Forbes eventually spent about twenty months in Leavenworth. Presumably there's a record of which cell was his. We have some thoughts about its future occupancy.

The Editor

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Karoline For Congress? Not!

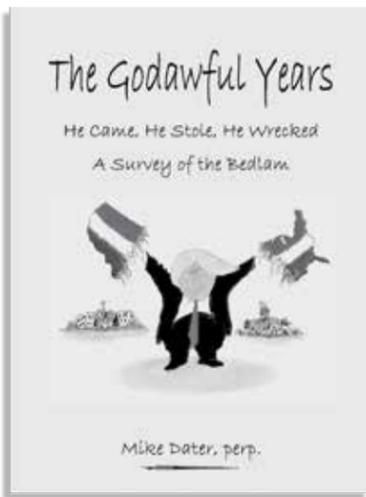
To the Editor:

I read Karoline Leavitt's issues page online. It was filled with Fox News Talking Points, but left out a few rather vital facts.

For example, she is strongly in favor of privatizing Social Security. Social Security runs very well (in spite of what Fox says). The only purpose of privatizing Social Security is to allow

You Suffered Through Them...

Now Enjoy Them!



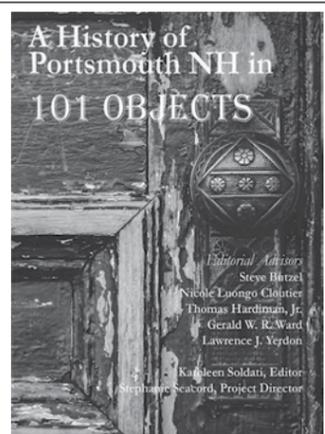
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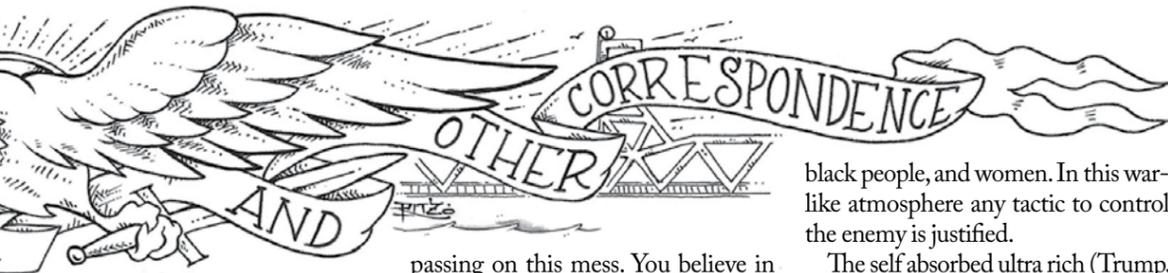


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some big Republican donors to skim billions of dollars at the expense of retirees. She is also in favor of raising the retirement age. Great plan, Karoline.

She is against allowing the government to negotiate lower drug prices for Medicare and she is against capping insulin at \$35/month for seniors.

Karoline Leavitt strongly supports the January 6th rioters. Against overwhelming evidence, she still insists that the 2020 election was stolen, she spreads the lie that there were widespread voter irregularities.

Karoline Leavitt stands for higher prescription drug costs, tax cuts for the wealthy, the destruction of Social Security, the January 6th rioters, and the big lie that Trump won the election.

What she cannot explain, because no one can, is why Trump lost 60 of 61 court cases claiming voter fraud and irregularities! Facts are just so inconvenient.

For decent government, vote Chris Pappas.

Michael Frandzel
Portsmouth, N.H.

Michael:

You know, when you put it like that, Leavitt does seem a bit too detached from reality to represent the First District down in D.C. What a relief to wake up Wednesday morning and learn that we were spared not only her but General Cat Box, too.

Pappas took the district by a margin of about eight percent. That's respectable, we suppose. Leavitt's lunacy seemed to us to warrant, though, a margin about three or four times greater.

The Editor

=====
Boomer: Don't Do As We Did!

Dear New Hampshire Gazette,

Hello Gen Y and Gen Z! Young people care very much about the future of our planet. We boomers are

passing on this mess. You believe in science and science can address many of our problems. But countless Republican candidates don't believe in anything, other than attacking the liberals, cutting taxes for the rich, and cozying up to Donald Trump. They have no plan to deal with any of our problems, including inflation and the economy. (Have you heard them offer even one idea for dealing with any of it?) They deny the reality of Joe Biden's victory, they deny that climate change is caused by human beings, the Christian nationalists reject evolution, and their more noxious fellow travelers deny the Holocaust. You *do* care about the future. Why on Earth would you vote for any of these people?

Michael Behrendt

Durham, N.H.

Michael:

You're not wrong. Being of the same spoiled vintage, though, we can see why today's young people might be reluctant to listen to the likes of us.

The Editor

=====
Fascism as a Tactic

To the Editor:

Is fascism the word to describe what's happening? There are various styles of fascism. Jason Stanley, a professor of philosophy at Yale and the author of *How Fascism Works*, sees it more as a political tactic to gain power and/or money, rather than a type of government.

There are beliefs and qualities that undergird fascism: authoritarianism, ultra-nationalism based on patriarchy, militarism, hierarchy with obedience to the leader, belief in a mythic past of greatness that has been taken away (which justifies violence to get power "back") and projection onto opponents of what they themselves are doing. In the U.S., they may see the enemy as liberal elites, intellectuals, immigrants,

black people, and women. In this war-like atmosphere any tactic to control the enemy is justified.

The self absorbed ultra rich (Trump, Koch, &c., fossil fuel industries, politicians, lobbyists, moneyed interests) encourage these distraught people to think the "liberal elites" are the cause of their sense of disempowerment, fear and anger. It distracts this working class from seeing how the ultra rich elites exploit them. They use the democratic process to turn democracy into a dictatorship of the entitled, greedy oligarchy.

This extremism in some of the public and N.H. legislators is fascism.

Are these people thinking about our most critical problem, global warming?

If you care about global warming, don't let these misguided people take power through your vote or lack thereof. Sununu has been obstructing progress in dealing with climate change so those who make a lot of money can make even more. Vote Democratic.

Dorothy Currier

Concord, N.H.

Dorothy:

We have to agree with Stanley that normalization is a large part of the problem. In this, the GOP leadership and the corporate media—including NPR, we might add—are all guilty.

The GOP normalizes fascism for its own self-interest. Why do the media do it? Mostly out of gutlessness.

Wikipedia has a useful section on what's called "the view from nowhere." Here are some relevant excerpts:

Journalism scholars and media critics have used the term view from nowhere to criticize journalists' attempt to adopt a neutral and objective point of view in reporting, as if reporting "from nobody's point of view." Jay Rosen has argued that journalists may thereby disinform their audience by creating the impression that they have an authoritative impartiality between conflicting positions on an issue.

Jeremy Iggers quoted Richard S. Salant, former president of CBS News, who stated: "Our reporters do not cover stories from their point of view. They are presenting them from nobody's point of view." Iggers called Salant's assertion "plainly incoherent, as is the notion of observations untouched by interpretation."

Rosen has used the term to criticize journalists who hide behind the appearance of journalistic objectivity so as to gain an unearned position of authority or trust with their audience. He advocates for transparency as a better way of legitimately earning trust. . . .

Writer Elias Isquith argues in a 2014 article for Salon that "the view from nowhere not only leads to sloppy thinking but actually leaves the reader less informed than she would be had she simply read an unapologetically ideological source or even, in some cases, nothing at all."

The Editor

=====
Can We Keep It?

Dear Editor:

Although Tuesday's election results were better than expected, I think it is way too soon to think the threat to our democracy has ended. While the predicted "red wave" did not materialize, the resulting damage to our democracy will still be serious. It appears that Republicans will narrowly control the House and may take the Senate. The result will be two years of House Republicans investigating Hunter Biden, members of the January 6th Committee, Dr. Fauci and impeaching President Biden. They will also attempt to undo what President Biden and the Democrats accomplished by holding the debt ceiling hostage, threatening to cause a default which would cause economic chaos.

A Republican Senate will severely limit and delay all judicial nominations, leaving the courts without sufficient judges to administer justice quickly. With all the Republican talk of inflation, crime and immigration during the campaign, they will do nothing to address those problems, they will be too busy focusing on phony investigations and impeachments

to actually try governing.

Another serious and less noticed threat to our democracy on the horizon is the ongoing efforts by Republican led States to pass laws restricting voting rights. This will have been and will continue to be supported by the Republican-controlled Supreme Court. Of particular concern is that the Court will hear the case *Moore v. Harper* this term. This case deals with the fringe legal theory of the Independent Legislature. This decision could give nearly unchecked power to State Legislatures to set rules for federal elections. The result would be what Trump tried to accomplish in 2020 by having Republican State Officials or Legislatures in battleground states change the results of the election in favor of their party's candidate. This has been the Republican game plan all along, to ensure never losing another Presidential election, since they control enough states and their Electoral College votes to determine the winner.

Once all the levers of government control have been corrupted, it will be almost impossible to return to our former Democratic Republic. A Democratic Republic that Ben Franklin said the founders gave us, "if you can keep it." What happens over the next two years, and especially the 2024 election will determine if we can keep the Republic the founders gave us.

Rich DiPentima, LTC, USAFR, Ret.

Portsmouth, N.H.

Rich:

We've have been spared, it seems, the horrors of a Republican Senate in the hands of Mitch McConnell. Good thing, too, since it appears we'll be suffering under a House under the so-called leadership of Speaker Kevin McCarthy.

The Supreme Court will, of course, continue to roll over our rights like a deranged juggernaut, crushing the spirit of the Constitution as it goes.

What we'd like to know is this: why shouldn't the Senate Judiciary Committee hold some hearings to investigate a few sitting Justices? It seems to us there's ample evidence of perjury. How about an impeachment over conflict of interest?

The Editor

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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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War: What Is It Good For?

by Jean Stimmell

In 2002, Vernon Klinkenborg, known for his odes to country living, wrote *The Rural Life*, assigning a chapter to each month of the year. In his November entry, he veers off subject, observing that World War I veterans “are impossibly old by now.” He appears to be making reference to what we now call Veterans Day, celebrated on November 11—but first observed in 1919 on the first anniversary of the armistice that ended World War I.

Rather than dismissing these old-timers, Klinkenborg argues, we should bring them front and center to remind us of “the intractable knowledge that comes from a place like the battlefields of WWI,” where every faith “especially the faith in moral and technical advancement seems to totter.”¹

Now, twenty years later, it is us Vietnam veterans who have grown old. Like our WW I forebears, we fought another protracted, brutal conflict that achieved neither peace nor victory. Again, like the architects of the first World War, America has

continued to be deluded, blundering ahead into more debacles rather than learning a lesson. Most egregious were our Iraq and Afghanistan wars, attempting to install democracy through the barrel of a gun, but leaving behind a legacy of chaos, charred bodies, and civil war.

Now we are fighting again in eastern Europe, the birthplace of WWI. While we haven't sent troops, it's still a proxy war between Russia and the United States. Suddenly the Cold War era has returned and gets hotter by the day. Pulverizing artillery and missile barrages shake Eastern Europe, triggering traumatic memories of WWI as described by Klinkenborg:

“The clouds have the texture of steel wool. Winter could come the next minute or the next month. But what November has ever been like November in the embattled salience of the Great War, where the earth itself was dismembered, its flesh, confused with the flesh of soldiers, horses, and mules?”²

This November in Ukraine, history is repeating itself. The sheer inhumanity of it is too much to bear.

The shriek of chainsaws, echoing over our New Hampshire hills from folks cutting their firewood, now brings to mind the plaintive cries of Ukrainian civilians, mourning the smoldering ruins of their lives.

Why has war been our constant companion throughout history, despite its malevolent nature? According to the Jungian psychologist James Hillman, when we are in the throes of war's passion, we are aroused into a frenzy that's not rational. “It is a human accomplishment and an inhuman horror, and a love that no other love has been able to overcome.”³

However, because war may stir our passions doesn't make it acceptable. Just as cultures around the world reinforce rules against rape and incest, so it must do the same for war because it has no redeeming qualities. As Chris Hedges states in his new book, *War is the Greatest Evil*: “War destroys all systems that sustain and nurture life—familial, economic, cultural, political, environmental, and social.”⁴

No matter how obsessed we are with war, it is not normal. War is a

cancer: a bad gene within us, a destructive force that must be excised before it kills us. The way to stop a war is not by upping the ante but by declaring a ceasefire followed by negotiations to de-escalate the situation.

Time is not on our side.

Rather than prioritizing peaceful alternatives, Congress steams full speed ahead, doubling down on war: Each year, we significantly expand the military budget, continually granting more than the Pentagon requests. Who are we competing with?

We already have 750 bases worldwide and spend more money on war than the next nine countries combined. We spend 12 times what Russia spends. Yet, rather than more peace and safety, we become ever more embroiled in forever wars.

Perhaps that's the problem: because we have the world's biggest military hammer, the whole rest of the world looks like a nail.

We have an immense war establishment, now deceptively called the U.S. Department of Defense, seamlessly connected to major cor-

porations that make money for its shareholders through war—the military-industrial complex. We have myriad think tanks, bought-off politicians, and lobbying outfits that thrive off this immense beast like pilot fish prospering by eating the parasites on a great white shark, feasting on leftovers the beast does not have room to eat.

It defies the imagination that we have no Department of Peace to offset the military's institutional juggernaut. Instead, we have only small grassroots organizations, like Veterans for Peace, to which I belong. We must support our local peace-seeking places of worship and dedicated nonprofits like New Hampshire Peace Action and AFSC.

They may well be our saviors. War will never be.

—==—

1 *The Rural Life* by Verlyn Klinkenborg. Little, Brown and Company: 2002. p. 183

2 *Ibid* p. 184

3 *A Terrible Love of War* by James Hillman. P. 214

4 <https://therealnews.com/chris-hedges-war-is-the-greatest-evil>

Lessons from the Midterm Elections

by Jim Hightower

What hit the Republican party on election day was... well, the Republican Party.

Blow number one, of course, was from the party's president and cult boss, Donald Trump, who wields his narcissism like a political bludgeon. But then Republicans got an even more damaging gut punch from the party's own Supreme Court majority of six partisan hacks. They chose this election year to assert their personal ideological view that the government should control every woman's birth decisions. Not popular! Then, like a karate chop to the party's own neck, its congressional leaders let loose with a pre-election

announcement that, if put in charge, the Grand Old Party would go after people's Social Security and Medicare benefits.

But Republicans also got hit with something beyond their control: A bevy of new, unabashedly-progressive Democratic candidates running on real populist issues that matter to workaday people, backed up by legions of energized grassroots activists. Candidates like Summer Lee, who'll be the first Black woman elected to Congress from Pennsylvania. Championed by Working Families Party, Our Revolution, and other little-d democratic groups, she beat back concerted attempts by corporate powers in both major parties that tried to demonize and

defeat her, including a last-minute dump of \$1 million into her GOP opponent's campaign by the American-Israeli SuperPAC. Another is Lina Hidalgo, the feisty people's advocate who is the top county official in Houston, Texas. She faced down a pack of ultrarich oil magnates, developers, and other corporate interests who put up \$9 million in a failed effort to boot her.

The Republican Party has put its future on the rutted road of right-wing extremism and corporate sovereignty. Grassroots progressives, however, showed in this election a promising path to democratic rejuvenation: Run aggressive campaigns offering real change from the business-as-usual politics and policies of both parties.

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It was beginning to look as if the season might pass without our Wandering Photographer catching sight of a motorcycle worthy of any note. Then, on the 5th, this Moto Guzzi rolled up Market Street into the Square. Moto Guzzi began building great motorcycles 101 years ago, on the shores of Lake Como in Lombardy. In 1928, the company produced the first bike with rear suspension worthy of the name. To test it—and promote it—Giuseppe Guzzi rode a G.T. (for Grand Turismo) from Italy to Capo Nord, Norway, on the Arctic Circle, in four weeks. We're not sure exactly what model this one is, or what year it was built. Clearly it's a classic, though.

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A technologically advanced society is choosing to destroy itself. It's both fascinating and horrifying to watch.

by Christopher Wright, Vanessa Bowden, and Daniel Nyberg

As world leaders assemble for the United Nations climate change conference (COP27) in Egypt, it's hard to be optimistic the talks will generate any radical departure from the inexorable rise in global carbon emissions over the past two centuries.

After all, before last year's Glasgow talks, experts warned the summit was the world's last chance to limit global warming to 1.5° C this century. And yet, a UN report last week found even if all nations meet their climate goals this decade, the planet would still heat by a catastrophic 2.5° C.

There were hopes the global pandemic might have shifted the world's economies from their fossil fuel dependence as lockdowns reduced energy consumption, and progressive politicians proposed alternative policy agendas.

But after borders reopened, our fossil fuel addiction returned with a vengeance. In fact, the International Energy Agency projects net income for oil and gas producers will double in 2022 to an alarming U.S. \$4 trillion.

As social scientists, this is both horrifying and fascinating to observe. How is it that a technologi-

cally advanced society could choose to destroy itself by failing to act to avert a climate catastrophe?

We've had decades to act

Like watching a slow-motion train crash, the world's leading climate scientists have for decades warned of the dangers of ever-increasing greenhouse gas emissions.

Political and corporate leaders knew of the threat more than a decade before it was key public knowledge. Back in 1977, United States President Jimmy Carter was briefed on the possibility of catastrophic climate change. That same year, internal memos at one of the world's largest oil companies made it clear that continued burning of fossil fuels would dramatically heat the planet.

So why, in the 45 years since, has there been so little action in response? Why do we condemn today's children and future generations to live on a dangerous and hostile planet?

We've sought to answer this question in our research into business and climate change over the years, including our latest book.

The answer, we argue, rests on a prevailing assumption organized by corporate and political elites: that endless economic growth fuelled by fossil energy is so fundamental and commonsensical it cannot be questioned.

We term this all-consuming ideology the "fossil fuel hegemony". It asserts that corporate capitalism based on fossil energy is a natural state of being, one that's beyond challenge.

How fossil fuel hegemony works

The concept of "hegemony" was developed by the Italian intellectual Antonio Gramsci. In the 1920s, Gramsci sought to explain how dominant classes maintained their power beyond the use of force and coercion.

He argued hegemony involved a continuous process of winning the consent of key actors in society such as industrialists, the media, and religious and educational institutions, to form a ruling bloc. Civil society would thus accept the prevailing order, dampening any threat of revolution.

Gramsci's ideas help us understand the lack of action in response to the climate crisis. In particular, it helps explain the business sector's inordinate influence on climate policy across the world.

For instance, a range of recent studies have explored the "fossil fuel hegemony" in countries such as Australia, Canada and the U.S. These studies argue such hegemony comprises a coalition of corporate and political actors with interests aligned around carbon-dependent

economic growth. This leads to limited progress on legislation to reduce carbon emissions.

The hegemony has also extended to corporate-political activity seeding doubt about climate science, lobbying against emissions reduction and renewable energy, and the capture of political parties by interests aligned with fossil fuels.

This helps explain why environmentalists advocating to keep fossil fuels in the ground are attacked by conservative politicians and right-wing media.

They are presented not only as a threat to "our way of life," but as deluded and dangerous radicals, or even terrorists.

There is another way

Of course, there are alternatives to the fossil fuel hegemony. It involves immediate and dramatic decarbonisation of the global economy, as COP27 in Egypt aspires to achieve.

But it also requires alternative economic models of "degrowth." Degrowth involves a planned and equitable contraction of rich economies, until it operates steadily and within the capacity of the planet's resources.

This includes carbon trading systems with a rapidly lowering cap, fossil fuel extraction limits, worker autonomy and shorter working hours, and job guarantees with liv-

ing wages.

These types of policies rest on tax reforms to limit resource use and reduce carbon emissions, while promoting work sharing and limiting production and consumption.

This also requires far more democratic politics than the current hegemony allows—one that challenges the illusion that economic growth can continue even as Earth's life-support systems begin to fail.

But the true test of the fossil fuel hegemony will be how long this image can persist as the weather becomes more extreme and climate activism grows.

Because as more people acknowledge the reality of the climate crisis, those seeking to maintain the fossil fuel hegemony will need to work harder to maintain their grip on climate politics.

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Christopher Wright is Professor of Organisational Studies at the University of Sydney. Daniel Nyberg is Professor of Management, at the Newcastle Business School, University of Newcastle. Vanessa Bowden is a Lecturer at the University of Newcastle. Wright, Nyberg, and Bowden all receive funding from the Australian Research Council. This article first appeared at The Conversation. It is published here under a Creative Commons license.

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A Meditation on Pronouns

by W.D. Ehrhart

I recently became aware that the 14-year-old daughter of a friend of mine wants to be referred to not as "she" and "her," but as "they" and "them." My friend is really struggling with this because he wants to be 100 percent supportive of his "kid" (her choice, rather than "daughter" or "son"), but there is the practical problem of "they/them" meaning "more than one." Like my friend, I find it simply confusing when individuals want to be referred to by plural pronouns.

"They're a ramblin' wreck from Georgia Tech." "They love me; they love me not." "They maketh me to lie down in green pastures; they leadeth me beside the still waters." "They walk in beauty, like the night

/ Of cloudless climes and starry skies; / And all that's best of dark and bright / Meet in their aspect and their eyes." "There they come; Miss America!" (Okay, that one should be banned regardless of the pronoun, but I hope you get my point.)

I've managed to find ways around gender-loaded terms by substituting "firefighter" for "fireman," "letter carrier" for "postman," "chairperson" for "chairman," even "first year student" or "9th grader" for "freshman." Once you get used to doing that, it becomes habitual.

When I was teaching high school (I retired a few years ago), I never allowed my students to use "man" or even "mankind" when referring to the human race. "Man" is a single individual of the male persuasion, period. If you mean all of humanity,

including females, say "humanity" or "the human race." Not that hard. Even "man-made" can become "artificial" or "constructed by people."

But this "they/them" thing is different. "He" or "she" is one human being; "they" is more than one. If I am told that "they" are coming to dinner, how much food should I prepare? Do I set out one extra plate, or two, or six? I'm not being smart-ass here. There are lots and lots of situations where it is useful to know just how many bodies are involved.

I have the same problem with using a plural pronoun when you have a singular noun of unknown gender. Back when I was in school about ten years after Columbus discovered America, I was taught that if the gender of the noun is indefinite, you use the masculine "he" as a pronoun.

Thanks to a wonderful professor named Judith Gardiner at the University of Illinois Chicago Circle, who taught me that Women's Liberation was not about liberating women, but actually about liberating me (nothing like self-interest to get one's attention), I learned to work around the dilemma of indefinite nouns with "she/he" and "her/him"; once you get used to it, it's not that hard to do.

But "they" for the indefinite singular noun? No, that just doesn't cut it. Call me old-fashioned, but singular and plural are not interchangeable. Whether a person is trans-gender or no-gender or whatever, there is still only one physical body. If I am confronted by Proud Boys who want to beat me to a pulp, it is useful to know whether I'm fac-

ing one person or multiple people so that I can decide whether to stand and fight or run away.

But in my friend's case, he can't constantly be referring to his kid as "he/she" and "her/him," if for no other reason than that's not what the kid wants. Can one create a brand new word that would mean "a single individual who does not want to be identified with a particular gender"? So far, I haven't been able to come up with a work-around for that one. Anybody got any ideas?

====

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

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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

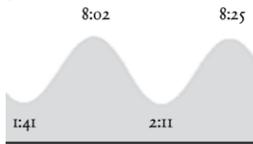
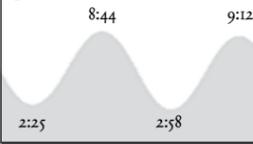
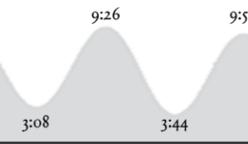
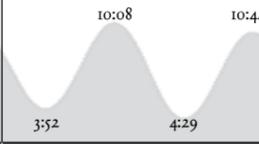
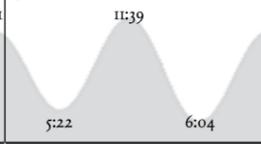
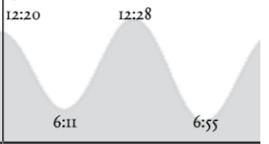
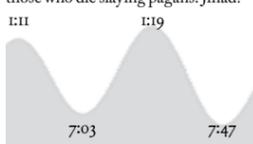
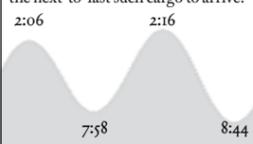
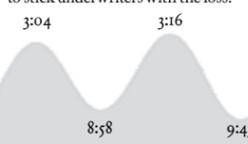
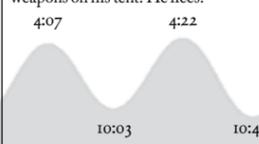
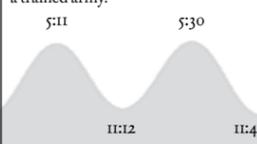
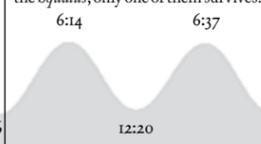
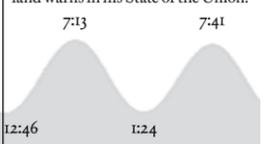
moves from the mouth of the river, up past New Castle, around the bend by the old Naval Prison, under Memorial Bridge, past the tugboats, and on into Great Bay. This can best be seen when the tide is rising.

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, NOVEMBER 20	MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21	TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22	WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23	THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24	FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25	SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26
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<p>2020—“What is the downside for humoring him,” says an anonymous high GOP official to <i>Washington Post</i> reporters. “It’s not like he’s plotting how to prevent Joe Biden from taking power on January 20th.”</p> <p>2008—Sarah Palin is interviewed on live TV while, in the background, turkeys are being slaughtered.</p> <p>1980—In Louisiana, an oil rig drilling in the wrong spot hits a salt mine under Lake Peigneur. The rig, 11 barges, and a tugboat disappear.</p> <p>1979—Fundamentalists seize Mecca’s Grand Mosque, full of hostages. The CIA blames guiltless Iran.</p> <p>1975—The Senate’s Church Committee issues its report on U.S. efforts to assassinate foreign leaders; 349 pages make it past CIA censors.</p> <p>1975—Spanish dictator Francisco Franco dies. He is still dead.</p> <p>1969—News reports say American GIs massacred hundreds of civilians at “Pinkville” on March 16, 1968.</p> <p>1969—At Alcatraz, 14 out of 89 Indians make it past the Coast Guard.</p> <p>1962—The Cuban Missile Crisis blows over, rather than up. With Armageddon postponed, President Kennedy orders an end to discrimination in federally-funded housing.</p> <p>1943—Marines land at Tarawa; the death toll is higher by hundreds because planners miscalculated the tides.</p> <p>1820—A whale attacks the Nantucket whaling ship <i>Essex</i>, inspiring the greatest fish story ever told.</p>	<p>2016—The <i>Guardian</i> reports that D. Trump’s grandfather was refused re-entry to Germany in 1905 because he had dodged military service.</p> <p>1974—The Freedom of Information Act passes over Gerry Ford’s veto.</p> <p>1973—Chief of Staff Al Haig ascribes an 18½ minute gap on an audio tape to “sinister forces.”</p> <p>1970—Fifty-six Green Berets raided the Son Tay POW camp 23 miles west of Hanoi, which had been evacuated three weeks earlier.</p> <p>1967—Comms in the ‘Nam are “unable to mount a major offensive,” says Westy, 71 days before Tet. “The end begins to come into view.”</p> <p>1964—The FBI sends a blackmail letter to Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., urging him to commit suicide.</p> <p>1927—The first Columbine Massacre: state cops in civvies machine-gun striking coal miners; six die.</p> <p>1901—The President of Alabama’s Constitutional Convention had said in May, “we want to...establish white supremacy.” With their work ratified on this day, they succeeded.</p> <p>1817—The U.S. Army begins thirty years of war by attacking Seminoles in Georgia at Fowltown.</p> <p>1801—The 2nd suspicious fire in 13 days destroys Treasury records after Republicans demand proof of Federalist Thomas Pickering’s expenses.</p> <p>1772—At Faneuil Hall, troublemakers establish Committees of Correspondence. Revolution ensues.</p>	<p>2003—AP reports on JFK conspiracy theories, including one saying he orchestrated his own assassination.</p> <p>2000—Two dozen well-dressed hoodlums, many on the GOP’s payroll, intimidate Miami election officials into shutting down a Presidential recount.</p> <p>1975—U.S.S. <i>John F. Kennedy</i> and U.S.S. <i>Belknap</i> collide in the night near Sicily. A two-hour fire aboard the <i>Belknap</i> stops 30 feet short of the nuclear weapons magazine.</p> <p>1963—In Paris, a CIA man hands a lethal pen to a Cuban for use on Fidel Castro, at the behest of Bobby Kennedy.</p> <p>1963—In Dallas, Texas, President John F. Kennedy is assassinated; at whose bidding is a matter of dispute.</p> <p>1963—Testimony before a secret Senate committee, saying LBJ took bribes, is halted by JFK’s assassination.</p> <p>1941—Fighter ace Werner Molders, a passenger, dies in a crash en route to the funeral of Luftwaffe Generaloberst Ernst Udet, a suicide.</p> <p>1910—Brazilian sailors in Rio mutiny against the lash. Seizing the Navy’s three most powerful ships, they end the lashings—and get amnesty.</p> <p>1909—Tired of talk from male labor leaders, Clara Lemlich, 23, moves that garment workers strike. Next day, 20,000 women walk off the job; they win shorter hours, higher pay, and better working conditions.</p> <p>1887—White militiamen put down a sugar cane strike by killing 35 to 300 Black workers in Thibodaux, La.</p>	<p>1981—R. Reagan signs a secret directive creating the [illegal] Contras.</p> <p>1976—Jerry Lee Lewis is arrested outside Graceland for waving a pistol and demanding to see Elvis.</p> <p>1970—A Lithuanian radio operator jumps from a Russianrawler onto the deck of the Coast Guard cutter <i>Vigilant</i>. Commander Ralph Eustis allows Soviet sailors to board the cutter and seize the radioman.</p> <p>1958—On TV: Ron & Nancy Reagan in “A Turkey for the President.”</p> <p>1946—To teach “a severe lesson”—namely, that Vietnam is ruled by the French—the cruiser <i>Suffren</i> shells the hell out of Haiphong, killing 6,000. So began the First Indochina War.</p> <p>1936—In San Antonio, bluesman Robert Johnson begins a legendary three-day recording session.</p> <p>1918—In Scotland’s Scapa Flow, the German submarine <i>U-18</i> is sunk by the fishing trawler <i>Dorothy Gray</i>.</p> <p>1903—Colo. Gov. James Peabody sends militia to Cripple Creek, and suspends <i>habeas corpus</i>, freedom of the press, and freedom of assembly, all to crush the Western Federation of Miners. He ends up inspiring the IWW.</p> <p>1899—The world’s first jukebox plays in a San Francisco saloon.</p> <p>1887—State militiamen massacre up to 300 Black, unionized cane cutters, on strike in Thibodaux, La.</p> <p>1876—After a year on the lam in Cuba and Spain, Tammany Hall’s “Boss” Tweed is jailed in NYC.</p>	<p>2006—“The only way we can win,” says George W.[MD] Bush, “is to leave [Iraq] before the job is done.”</p> <p>1979—The U.S. admits troops in ‘Nam were hit by Agent Orange.</p> <p>1976—Steven B. Williams rams a White House gate with his pickup truck at 25 mph. It doesn’t budge.</p> <p>1971—Toting \$200,000 in ransom cash, “D.B. Cooper” parachutes from a hijacked 727 over Washington State, into oblivion and America’s heart.</p> <p>1965—The <i>New York Times</i> runs a full-page ad signed by 500 WW II and Korean War vets protesting escalation of the Vietnam War.</p> <p>1963—Strip joint proprietor Jack Ruby, to spare Jackie Kennedy’s feelings, shoots Lee Harvey Oswald under the watchful eye of the Dallas Police Department and the TV cameras.</p> <p>1961—An overheated electric motor in Colorado cuts off all communications between SAC and NORAD.</p> <p>1953—Sen. Joe McCarthy (R-Wisc.) claims the Truman administration is “crawling with Communists.”</p> <p>1947—All but 17 Congressmen vote to cite the Hollywood Ten for contempt after they take the 5th.</p> <p>1922—Erskine Childers, a Brit supporter of Irish independence charged with carrying a pistol, is executed while his case is on appeal. He says to his firing squad, “Take a step forward, lads. It will be easier that way.”</p> <p>1759—Tobias Smollett gets three months in jail for libeling an admiral.</p>	<p>1997—In Plymouth, Mass., police serve Native American demonstrators a generous helping of pepper-spray.</p> <p>1986—As Ed “Meese is a Pig” Meese confesses that profits from illegal arms sales to Iran went to Nicaraguan <i>contras</i>, a reluctant Ronald Reagan fires Lt. Col. Oliver North.</p> <p>1974—Britain outlaws the IRA after two bombs kill 21 and injure over 100 in Birmingham.</p> <p>1968—Death of Upton Sinclair, writer and media critic.</p> <p>1955—The ICC bans racial segregation in interstate bus transportation; the ban is ignored, though, until Freedom Riders force the issue in 1961.</p> <p>1950—Great Appalachian Storm winds hit 110 mph in Concord, N.H.</p> <p>1947—For refusing to rat out their friends to Congress, the Hollywood Ten are fired by studio bosses.</p> <p>1915—William J. Simmons burns a cross at Stone Mountain, Ga., founding the new, improved Ku Klux Klan: it hates Catholics and Jews, too.</p> <p>1864—Confederate arsonists set more than twenty fires, attempting to destroy New York City.</p> <p>1783—Redcoats evacuate New York as General Washington and the victorious Continental Army arrive.</p> <p>1120—King Henry’s only heir William Adelin sails for England aboard the <i>White Ship</i>. The ship’s crew, drunk, is told to make haste; hitting a rock, it capsizes. All drown but a butcher. England is in chaos for decades.</p>	<p>2000—Katherine Harris, Florida’s Secretary of State and, coincidentally, the Bush campaign’s state co-chair, declares Dubya the winner.</p> <p>1975—George Gainous, son of a heroin importer, climbs the White House fence to ask for his father’s pardon. Arrested 90 minutes later while chatting with President Ford’s daughter Susan, he later says, “If [Ford] can pardon Nixon he can pardon my father.”</p> <p>1973—Rose Mary Woods takes the fall for the 18½ minute gap.</p> <p>1933—Thomas H. Thurmond and John M. Holmes are lynched in San Jose, Calif. Jackie Coogan—“Uncle Fester,” 30 years later—helps ready a rope. Judge Timothy Fitzpatrick says in his personal opinion, the mob “did a damned good job.” Gov. “Sonny Jim” Rolph vows to pardon anyone convicted, but no one is even charged.</p> <p>1932—In his newspaper column, Will Rogers mocks Herbert Hoover’s theory of “trickle-down economics.”</p> <p>1922—Howard Carter and his employer Lord Carnarvon desecrate the tomb of King Tutankhamun.</p> <p>1921—Former Lt. Col. Charles W. Whittlesey, 37, commander of the “Lost Battalion” and a pallbearer for the Unknown Soldier, leaps from a ship and drowns in the Atlantic.</p> <p>1910—Six workers burn to death and 19 die jumping from the fourth floor of a Newark textile shop. “Misadventure and accident” said the coroner’s jury; penalty for the owner: \$0.00.</p>
 <p>1:41 2:11 8:02 8:25</p>	 <p>2:25 2:58 8:44 9:12</p>	 <p>3:08 3:44 9:26 9:58</p>	 <p>3:52 4:29 10:08 10:44</p>	 <p>4:36 5:16 10:53 11:31</p>	 <p>5:22 6:04 11:39</p>	 <p>6:11 6:55 12:20 12:28</p>
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27	MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28	TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29	WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30	THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1	FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2	SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3
<p>2002—Donald Rumsfeld signs off on “Category III” interrogation techniques—namely, torture.</p> <p>2001—Gen. Tommy Franks, working on catching Osama bin Laden, is told by Donald Rumsfeld to drop that and revise plans to attack Iraq.</p> <p>1997—In New York, a lampost fatally stabs Macy’s Barney the Dinosaur balloon. Meanwhile, the Cat in the Hat knocks over a lampost, which then falls on two women, putting one in a month-long coma.</p> <p>1969—At the 71st Evacuation Hospital in Pleiku, 100 soldiers fast on Thanksgiving to protest the war.</p> <p>1965—The first Acid Test.</p> <p>1953—“I knew it,” says 65 year-old Eugene O’Neill. “Born in a goddamn hotel room, dying in a hotel room.”</p> <p>1932—Edward Marshall, future beat poet, is born in Chichester, N.H.</p> <p>1900—To convince a Filipino town’s president he should rat out local rebels, U.S. troops force salt water down his throat and burn down his town.</p> <p>1868—In the Battle of the Washita, General George A. Custer and his troops massacre Black Kettle and 102 other Cheyenne survivors of the Sand Creek Massacre.</p> <p>1729—The Natchez people repay decades of haughty brutality by massacring 230 Frenchmen. Women and enslaved Africans are spared.</p> <p>1095—Pope Urban II launches the Crusades, promising salvation for those who die slaying pagans. Jihad?</p>	<p>2014—Cards Against Humanity, to express its disdain for consumerism on Black Friday, removes all products but one from its online store: a \$6 box of “lateral feces, from an actual bull.”</p> <p>2008—At a Long Island Wal-Mart, shoppers literally bust doors and trample Jdimytai Damour, 34, to death.</p> <p>2005—Ex-Rep. Randy “Duke” Cunningham (R-Calif.) pleads guilty to selling votes and dodging taxes.</p> <p>1979—Bogus data from HQ sends Air New Zealand Flight 901 into Antarctica’s Mount Erebus; 257 perish. HQ’s “orchestrated litany of lies” eventually fails, and HQ’s busted.</p> <p>1945—“As I understand it from the doctors,” Gen. Leslie R. Groves tells a Senate committee, radiation poisoning “is a very pleasant way to die.”</p> <p>1942—The Coconut Grove in Boston burns; 492 die, 172 are injured.</p> <p>1936—Basil Zaharoff, the world’s fifth richest man, dies in bed at 87—four times older than those who died using the weapons he sold to all sides.</p> <p>1925—The American Legion’s “Americanism” honcho says communists have no right to free speech.</p> <p>1919—N.H.-born Maj. Gen. Leonard Wood—on active duty—says of radicals, “Ship ‘em or shoot ‘em.”</p> <p>1858—The luxury yacht <i>Wanderer</i>, sleek, fast, and refitted for a trade outlawed 50 years earlier, docks at Jekyll Island, Georgia. The 409 enslaved Africans who survived the passage are the next-to-last such cargo to arrive.</p>	<p>2015—Professing concern about the lives of fetuses, Robert L. Dear murders three adults and wounds nine more as he shoots up a Planned Parenthood clinic in Colorado.</p> <p>2011—Ex-Arapahoe County (Colo.) Sheriff Patrick Sullivan, arrested for exchanging methamphetamine for sex with a male informant, is incarcerated in an eponymous jail.</p> <p>1976—After Jerry Lee Lewis accidentally plugs his bass player in the chest twice with a .357 magnum, he’s charged with discharging a firearm within city limits.</p> <p>1963—LBJ sets up the Warren Commission to rule out a conspiracy in the assassination of John F. Kennedy.</p> <p>1960—On learning that, thanks to the CIA, the Congo’s Patrice Lumumba had been arrested, genial old Ike orders that agency to heighten its efforts to assassinate Fidel Castro.</p> <p>1947—French soldiers massacre over 300 civilians, mostly women and children, halving the population of My Trach, in Vietnam.</p> <p>1864—Ignoring a truce flag, Col. (& ex-minister) John Chivington leads a Colorado militia in the slaughter and mutilation of 150 Cheyenne women, children, and old men at Sand Creek. A local paper says the soldiers had “covered themselves in glory” (a typo).</p> <p>1781—His ship <i>Zong</i> low on water, captain Luke Collingwood orders 133 enslaved souls thrown overboard live, to stick underwriters with the loss.</p>	<p>2016—Trump spokesperson Scottie Nell Hughes—pro-gun despite her brother having been shot dead at eight by a 12-year-old—tells NPR’s Diane Rehm, “There’s no such thing, unfortunately, anymore, of facts.” [sic]</p> <p>1999—A WTO meeting in Seattle is called off due to anarchists.</p> <p>1974—Rep. Wilbur Mills (D-Ark.) appears onstage at Boston’s Pilgrim Theater with stripper Fanne Foxe.</p> <p>1972—Nixon spokesdrone Ron Ziegler says with only 27,000 Americans left risking their lives in Vietnam, the White House is done updating the nation on withdrawals.</p> <p>1965—Defense Secretary Robert Strange McNamara offers LBJ two Vietnam options: get out now, or go all-in, suffering 1,000 KIAs per month and perhaps losing anyway.</p> <p>1954—Failing to clear the summit by 500 feet, a DC-3 crashes on N.H.’s Mount Success. All seven aboard survive the crash, but only five survive two freezing nights at the crash site.</p> <p>1954—Liz Hodges of Sylacauga, Ala. is bruised by an eight-pound meteorite that busts through her roof.</p> <p>1835—A “hack writer,” in William Faulkner’s view, “who would not have been considered fourth rate in Europe,” is born: Samuel L. Clemens.</p> <p>1812—Troops under the bombastic and disorganized General Alexander “Apocalypse” Smyth disobey his orders to invade Canada and turn their weapons on his tent. He flees.</p>	<p>2017—One-time Trump National Security Advisor and ex-general Michael Flynn does the perp walk.</p> <p>2007—Presidential candidate Rudy Giuliani, at Federal Cigar in Portsmouth, refuses to autograph a <i>New Hampshire Gazette</i> for counterman Dave McNicholas, but agrees to sign a photo of himself—which he takes with him when he leaves.</p> <p>2003—Howard Dean, leading the pack in polling, tells Chris Matthews he’ll “break up the giant media enterprises,” giant media enterprises soon label Dean “unelectable.”</p> <p>1969—The U.S. Selective Service guts the anti-war movement by holding a draft lottery.</p> <p>1968—The Walker Commission reports that the Chicago PD rioted during the Democratic Convention.</p> <p>1964—In J. Edgar Hoover’s FBI office, purportedly for a reconciliation, the Director reveals information to Martin Luther King, Jr., demonstrating that he’s under illegal surveillance.</p> <p>1955—On a bus in Montgomery, Ala., Rosa Parks changes the world.</p> <p>1842—Secretary of War John C. Spencer’s son Philip, 19, a midshipman aboard the <i>U.S.S. Somers</i>, along with two sailors, and without benefit of court martial, is hanged for mutiny.</p> <p>1777—Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben lands in Portsmouth, N.H. from France, en route to Valley Forge, where he will turn Washington’s rabble into a trained army.</p>	<p>2020—Roger Stone says he’s seen “absolute incontrovertible” proof that to help steal the election, North Korean boats brought bogus ballots into the U.S. through harbors in Maine.</p> <p>1986—Pres. Ronald Reagan says he can’t remember what he knew about Iran-Contra, or when he knew it.</p> <p>1984—Union Carbide’s Bhopal, India plant kills 16,000. Union Carbide is forced to pay \$14,000 in fines.</p> <p>1980—Lyndon LaRouche’s <i>Executive Intelligence Review</i> breaks the story of the “October Surprise.”</p> <p>1980—U.S.-backed death squads murder four nuns in El Salvador.</p> <p>1975—Mary Jo Cook, repentant, testifies the FBI paid her to infiltrate Vietnam Veterans Against the War.</p> <p>1956—<i>Gamma</i> lands 82 rebels in Cuba. Only 12 make it to the Sierra Maestra, but that was enough.</p> <p>1954—The Senate votes to “condemn” Joe McCarthy. N.H. Senator Styles Bridges is one of 22 “No” votes.</p> <p>1949—The U.S.A.F. asks GE workers at Hanford, Wash. to turn off air filters for a test. Oops—twice the intended amount of radiation gets out.</p> <p>1946—In Oakland, 100,000 hold a General Strike. Two days later Teamster boss Dave Beck sells them out.</p> <p>1943—The <i>U.S.S. Squalus</i>, formerly the <i>Squalus</i>, sinks the Japanese carrier <i>Chuyo</i> near Truk. Aboard <i>Chuyo</i> are 21 survivors from the <i>U.S.S. Sculpin</i>, which had aided in the 1939 rescue of the <i>Squalus</i>; only one of them survives.</p>	<p>2013—In Londonderry, N.H., failed Senate nominee Scott Brown says “I don’t think I ever said I was thinking about running for president,” 16 weeks after telling the <i>Boston Herald</i> he was thinking about running for president.</p> <p>2004—George W.[MD] Bush nominates Bernard Kerik (later to be known as Federal Inmate 84888-054) to be Secretary of Homeland Security.</p> <p>1996—A New York company making Medals of Honor is fined \$80,000 for selling 300 bootleg copies.</p> <p>1983—U.S. Information Agency head Charles Z. Wick says Margaret Thatcher opposed the invasion of Grenada because she’s a woman.</p> <p>1980—Secretary of State Al Haig says four Maryknoll nuns recently murdered by Salvadoran death squads may have been gun-runners.</p> <p>1979—Fans stampeaded at a Who concert in Cincinnati, 11 die.</p> <p>1969—Protesters destroy files at eight N.Y. draft boards.</p> <p>1966—The AEC explodes a .38 kiloton A-bomb 10 miles west of Purvis, Miss., inside an underground cavity created by a 5 kiloton A-bomb blast conducted two years earlier.</p> <p>1964—In Berkeley, 600 police arrest 800 protesters; 900 faculty members call for amnesty.</p> <p>1888—“The citizen... is trampled... beneath an iron heel. Corporations... are fast becoming the people’s masters,” noted Commie Grover Cleveland warns in his State of the Union.</p>
 <p>7:03 7:47 11:11 11:19</p>	 <p>7:58 8:44 2:06 2:16</p>	 <p>8:58 9:43 3:04 3:16</p>	 <p>10:03 10:45 4:07 4:22</p>	 <p>11:12 11:46 5:11 5:30</p>	 <p>12:20 6:14 6:37</p>	 <p>12:46 1:24 7:13 7:41</p>



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