

*The Fortnightly Rant***New GOP Platform:
Old School Fascism**

Long ago, in the year 2020—because in times like these, two years can seem interminable—there was a minor flap because, for the first time in living memory, a major political party held a presidential nominating convention without bothering to write a new platform. Many will have forgotten all about that breach with tradition; these days they do die like mayflies.

Instead, in what now seems a quaintly reality-based gesture, the GOP admitted that it had “significantly scaled back the size and scope of the 2020 Republican National Convention in Charlotte due to strict restrictions on gatherings and meetings, and out of concern for the safety of convention attendees and our hosts.”

We do not know if plans have been announced for a 2024 Republican Convention. Perhaps the party will ditch that next. At the rate they're going, extrapolating two years out, we would not rule out a candidate selection process derived from the script of Sam Raimi's underrated western flick *The Quick and the Dead*: set 'em up in brackets, and let 'em shoot it out; last one standing gets the nod.

What's that you say? You think that's preposterous?

Here's some preposterous for you: On Saturday, December 3rd, a former president, whose name we will feign to have forgotten just to spare ourselves the tedium of typing it yet again, posted on his failing, misleadingly-named social media platform Truth Social:

“So, with the revelation of MASSIVE & WIDESPREAD FRAUD & DECEPTION in working closely with Big Tech Companies, the DNC, & the Democrat Party, do you throw the Presidential Election Results of 2020 OUT and declare the RIGHT-

FUL WINNER, or do you have a NEW ELECTION? A Massive Fraud of this type and magnitude allows for the termination of all rules, regulations, and articles, even those found in the Constitution. Our great 'Founders' did not want, and would not condone, False & Fraudulent Elections!”

“Termination of all rules...even those found in the Constitution”—an unusually clear statement, coming from this blather-scatterer. To paraphrase this message in a way that eliminates the false statements and weeds out verbal clutter while maintaining and clarifying its intent, we offer the following re-write: “Ignore the facts, throw out the law, and make me your ruler.”

Two days later, squid-like, the perpetrator of this seditious bid for power emitted more ink, in one of his signature “Don't believe what I plainly wrote, instead believe what I'm writing right now, directly contradicting what I recently” moves:

“The Fake News is actually trying to convince the American People that I said I wanted to ‘terminate’ the Constitution. This is simply more DISINFORMATION & LIES...”

We see three possibilities here, of which no more than two could be true: the man may take his followers for fools; he could be suffering from brain-damage; or, he may be a secret student of such postmodern philosophers as Jean-François Lyotard and Jacques Derrida.

Senator Mitch McConnell has been criticised for taking even longer to come up with a statement in response than it took the Mango Mussolini to attempt to cover his tracks. In all fairness, the Minority Leader's spirit animal is the turtle.

Besides, this is hardly one of those routine situations for which



canned responses may be prepared in advance. When was the last time a political leader in this country has had to respond to a high party official calling on his supporters to overthrow the duly-elected government? [Let's see here...2022 - 1861...161 years.]

What McConnell said to reporters was, “Anyone seeking the presidency who thinks that the Constitution could somehow be suspended or not followed, it seems to me would have a very hard time being sworn in as president of the United States.” Now, that's bold leadership. In other news, Jeffrey Dahmer would be unlikely, were he still alive and not in prison, to become the head chef at the Old Ebbitt Grill.

McConnell had it easy. Some of his Republican colleagues in the Senate could plausibly be described as not-insane. House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy isn't so lucky.

TalkingPointsMemo.com [TPM] released on Monday a trove of text messages received by White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows from “at least 34 Republican members of Congress as they plotted to overturn President Trump's loss in the 2020 election.” TPM gave top billing to the following text from Rep. Ralph Norman [R-S.C.]:

“Mark, in seeing what's happening so quickly, and reading about the Dominion law suits attempting to stop any meaningful investigation we are at a point of *no return* in saving our Republic !! Our LAST HOPE is invoking Marshall [sic] Law!! PLEASE URGE TO PRESIDENT TO DO SO!!” Our Appropriateness Desk is disappointed to report that Norman represents the Palmetto State's 5th Congressional District, while Fort Sumter lies in the 1st District.

Rep. Mike Kelly [R-Pa.] is similarly unafraid to violate his oath of office. Why not? He won the Key-

stone State's blood-red 16th District with a whopping 59.3 percent of the vote.

Kelly wrote to Meadows, “...Let me know if there's anything I can do to fight these MF'ers in Pa.? Our President is heroic !! Thank you for all you've done and please let the President know just how much he's loved and appreciated in Pennsylvania!” Kelly's car dealership—started by his father—has received unwanted attention from a local TV station for selling defective vehicles. *Quelle surprise*. His dealership collected about a million bucks in PPP loans, most of which has apparently not been repaid. Not to mention the accusations of insider trading, &c.

The true Queen of the May [Try to Overthrow the Gummint Again, Given Half a Chance], though, is Marjorie Taylor Green. She said last weekend, “If Steve Bannon and I had organized that, we would have won. Not to mention, it would have been armed.”

*The Alleged News®***Why Workers Are Up in Arms Over the Rail Strike Intervention**

by Sonali Kolhatkar,
Independent Media Institute

The United States Senate acted in a show of rare unity recently in voting 80 to 15 to pass a bill forcing rail workers to accept their employers' contract offer without a strike. There was no such unity to pass an amendment introduced by Senator Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) that would have given rail workers seven paid sick leave days. That bill did not pass even though 52 senators voted for it, as it failed the requisite 60-vote threshold.

According to the Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen, “Almost every elected member of Congress campaigns on being ‘for the working class.’” But, in response to the failure

to pass the sick leave amendment, the Brotherhood pointed out that Congress's actions “demonstrated they are for the corporate class.”

The Brotherhood is among several unions representing a little more than 100,000 people working in the rail industry. This is more than half of all rail workers in the U.S. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, “Because trains operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, railroad workers' schedules may vary to include nights, weekends, and holidays. Most work full time, and some work more than 40 hours per week.” A job so crucial that the entire U.S. economy is dependent on it pays a median salary of less than \$65,000 a year with no paid sick leave whatsoever.

Explaining why Congress felt it necessary to pass a bill to make it illegal for rail workers to strike for better conditions, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said, “A nationwide rail shutdown would be catastrophic—a shutdown would grind our economy to a halt, and every family would feel the strain.” President Joe Biden similarly explained that the congressional intervention in averting a rail strike would help avoid “devastating economic consequences for workers, families, and communities across the country.”

An economy that devastates workers, leaving them underpaid for a high-pressure job with no sick days, is apparently just fine.

Instead of using its power to force the private rail companies to grant

paid sick leave to rail workers, Congress used its levers of power to side with corporate forces rather than with workers. It chose to uplift profits over workers' needs.

The cost of those profits is tangible and minuscule. Sanders pointed out in a tweet on November 29 that, “Guaranteeing 7 paid sick days to rail workers would cost the rail industry a grand total of \$321 million a year—less than 2 percent of its profits.” Meanwhile, he added, “Rail companies spent \$25.5 billion on stock buybacks and dividends this year.”

To help private rail companies secure \$321 million a year in profits, Congress and the president inserted themselves into contract negotiations and sold out more than

100,000 workers.

As President Biden said in September 2021, “I intend to be the most pro-union president leading the most pro-union administration in American history.” But nearly 30 years ago as a U.S. senator—on the matter of the rail industry in particular—he was more pro-labor than he is today, becoming one of a handful of senators to vote against averting a rail strike. Then-Senator Biden, explaining his “no” vote, said in 1992, “I am...concerned that we are rewarding a concerted decision of the railroads [to negotiate in bad faith] that would have caused fevered expressions of outrage by industry had

The Alleged News®

from page one

the unions taken a similar step.”

Today’s congressional intervention indeed rewards the private rail industry that has been engaged in a relentless bid to cut costs in the service of profits.

Corporate media outlets, whose business model is in line with rail companies, have disproportionately amplified lawmakers’ pro-industry talking points. But what are worker unions saying?

The International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers, one of the unions involved, said it “does not support the notion of Congress intervening in our collective bargaining negotiations to prevent a strike.”

Instead, the union said, “If Congress truly wants to take action to improve the industry for our members, then we recommend legislation

that will work to reverse the devastation of Precision Scheduled Railroading [PSR].”

Buried near the end of one article, Associated Press explained the gist of PSR without mentioning it by name, saying that, “The rail industry has aggressively cut costs everywhere and shifted its operations to rely more on fewer, longer trains that use fewer locomotives and fewer employees.”

According to rail company Union Pacific Railroad (UP), this method “keeps inventory (and supply chains) moving.” UP touts PSR’s “benefits to Shippers and Receivers,” who are the company’s primary customers. The company makes no mention at all of the toll this “efficiency” has taken on its workers.

Congress could have used its power to force rail companies to address the impact of PSR on workers. But instead, it used its power to side with corporate rail industry profits.



After a thrilling ride up the shaking, rattling elevator of the Foundry Place Parking Garage, our Wandering Photographer obtained this image of the local railyard, its tracks standing out clearly against freshly-fallen snow. Back in the bad old days, railroad barons hired Pinkertons to infiltrate unions, threaten workers, and, when necessary for the maintenance of profits, beat the living hell out of them. In these ever-so-much more civilized times, Congress and the Biden administration have taken over the role of maintaining an obscene level of profits. Fewer workers running longer trains will inevitably result in more accidents. Where they will occur is anyone’s guess. Not to worry, though—between the laws of corporate governance and the laws of probability, there are surely enough loopholes for management to evade responsibility and personal liability.

It is an underlying assumption of how our society and government are structured that any intervention in the acquisition of profit is seen as a threat to the economy.

It’s no wonder rail workers feel betrayed. One Chicago worker named Rhonda Ewing told the *New York Times* ahead of the congressional vote, “We know it’s holiday time, which is why it’s the perfect time to raise our voices. If Biden gets involved, he takes away our leverage.”

Coming so soon after the 2022 midterm elections and far enough from the 2024 presidential election, lawmakers have few worries about losing reelection bids based on their voting record. This suggests that Congress and the president timed the votes to maximize their political leverage.

But rail workers are not likely to forget the government’s betrayal. “The political pandering and showboating by the elected officials in the Railroad’s pockets will not diminish our resolve nor remove the respect each Signalman is owed for keeping the economy afloat on a daily basis,”

said the Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen in a press release.

And other workers who are increasingly in solidarity with one another in an economy obviously rigged to benefit wealthy corporate employers, are angry too. The National Day Laborer Organizing Network, for example, accused Biden of siding with “wealthy bosses,” and reiterated its support for unions saying, “we will always be in solidarity with all workers.”

Unions are drawing battle lines, demanding that the government flip the script of who the national economy is supposed to benefit.

“The Federal Government inserted itself into the dispute between the railroads and the Railroad Workers under the premise that it must protect the American economy,” wrote Tony D. Cardwell, president of BM-WED-IBT, one of the rail unions involved in negotiating contracts. “Yet,” he said, “when the Federal Government makes that decision, its Representatives have a moral responsibility to also protect the interests of the citizens that make this

nation’s economy work—American Railroaders.”

In other words, we need an economy that works for the people, not the other way around. Cardwell warned that the lawmakers’ actions are “nothing less than anti-American, an abdication of their oath of office,” and that, “you are deemed, in my eyes, unworthy of holding office.”

This article was produced by Economy for All, a project of the Independent Media Institute. It is published here under a Creative Commons license.

“Public Rap Sheet” Proposed for Corporate Criminals

by Julia Conley

Consumer advocates on Tuesday welcomed a new proposal from a key government agency for a registry of nonbank financial institutions, which would be required to list themselves when they are subject to court orders and other legal actions.

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) issued a new proposed rule calling for a “Registry of Nonbank Covered Persons Sub-

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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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ject to Certain Agency and Court Orders,” which would require financial corporations to register “upon becoming subject to a public written order or judgment imposing obligations based on violations of certain consumer protection laws.”

The proposed registry would help the CFPB track and mitigate risks posed by corporations that have repeatedly broken consumer protection laws and would allow the bureau to share information with other regulators and law enforcement agencies.

The public registry would also help consumers access crucial information about companies before entering business relationships with financial companies such as mortgage servicers, title companies, and payday and installment loan companies.

American Banker reported that the registry, if adopted, could include federally insured banks and credit unions in the future.

“A public rap sheet for corporations is a welcome proposal,” said Bartlett Naylor, financial policy advocate for Public Citizen. “This not only would help law enforcers spot repeat offenders; the public would be able to look at a trusted registry to

see if a particular company is worth the risk.”

Naylor added that the registry could “become a powerful tool for consumers and small businesses alike to track corporate offenders who have embraced fines and litigation as a cost of doing business and rely on forced arbitration to keep consumers from having their day in court.”

Consumers would also have access to information about what companies are doing to end their lawbreaking, as large corporations on the registry would be “required to designate an individual to attest whether the firm is adhering to registered law enforcement orders,” according to the CFPB.

The bureau noted that the proposed registry would help the CFPB fulfill the mandate it was given by Congress when it was established in 2011 at the urging of progressive Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.).

The proposed rule will be open for public comment for 60 days following its publication in the Federal Register.

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New Fuels for Old Nukes

According to some Protestants, it was Martin Luther who first had the bright idea of putting lit candles among the branches of evergreen trees. Despite what now seems to be an obvious flaw in this practice, the death toll remained low enough for this experiment to become a tradition.

Early in the last century, candles began to be replaced by strings of electric lights. While we will grant that correlation does not imply causation, we will note here that life expectancies have increased dramatically since that time.

This is not to say that all risks associated with arborial illumination have been eliminated. Let us consider the tree at left. Fittingly for a town with a history of devastating December fires in 1802, 1806, and 1813, there is nary a candle in sight.

Whence cometh, then, all them sparkly lumens? From a certain four-loop Westinghouse pressurized-water nuclear reactor, 16 miles down I-95 in Seabrook, of course.

Apparently having too much time on our hands, we got to wondering exactly what kind of atoms are getting smashed in order to bring us all this holiday cheer. Does Seabrook use Hi-Test, or some generic off-brand?

We didn't have so much time on our hands that we felt like wasting it waiting on hold for some NextEra flack to deny us that information on the grounds that it's proprietary. So, we settled instead for scanning open sources—and quickly became unsettled.

Now, we assume that the U.S. Department of Energy—or, as former Secretary Rick Perry called it, the Department of Oops—was trying to reassure, if not us in particular, then certainly the public at large. Somehow, though, its web page devoted to “Accident Tolerant Fuels” failed to achieve that purpose. A cheerful stylized graphic matches a promise—“New Fuels For Today's Reactors That Survive Longer Under Accident Conditions”—with a caveat: “Coming Soon 2025.”

Posted in 2018, the page also notes that “Accident tolerant fuels are industry-led.” Manufacturers of nuclear fuel are “leading the charge to aggressively develop new reactor fuels in an accelerated timeframe. DOE and the national labs are supporting these efforts with irradiation and safety testing, along with advanced modeling and simulation to help qualify their fuels with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

A more recent page, from January, 2020, goes into more detail. It also suggests that safety may not have been the sole motivator for this development: “These new fuel and cladding mixtures could help improve the overall economics and performance of today's reactors—and allow for longer response times at high temperatures in severe, beyond design basis, accident situations.

“Accident tolerant fuels are expected to last longer...and...extend the time between refueling...leading to...a reduction in fuel costs over the life of the reactor.”



This majestic blue spruce—seen in our previous issue in a quasi-natural state—has now been adorned according to time-honored annual ritual: gaily festooned with ornaments, brilliantly illuminated by distant, freshly-smashed atoms of uranium dioxide. See story at right for details.

Murph's Fortnightly Quote
“The American fascist would prefer not to use violence. His method is to poison the channels of public information.”
 — Henry A. Wallace (1888-1965) Sec. of Agriculture, Vice-President, Sec. of Commerce

“May the forces of evil become confused on the way to your house.”
 — George Carlin
 john@wordpraxis.com

“The setting up of a new, invisible and all powerful government in this country, within the last twenty years, in open violation of fundamental and statutory law, could not have been accomplished under the steady fire of a free and independent press.”
 Robert Marion “Fighting Bob” La Follette Sr., (1855 – 1925), U.S. Representative, Governor of Wisconsin, U.S. Senator from Wisconsin
 — Not-So-Random Thoughts from an Oregon Subscriber

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Damn Good Question

To NBC, MSNBC and other media outlets (N.H. newspapers):

Since Donald Trump has announced he is running for President in 2024 and there have been many indications in the past reporting that he has been intending to run, why have you not consulted your legal experts, on the air, like Neil Katyal, Jill Wine Banks, Glenn Kirschner and others, why is he being allowed to run when he is clearly disqualified Constitutionally from holding the office of President? See the 14th Amendment, "Citizenship Equal Protection of Citizenship and other Rights of Citizenship," enacted in 1866, Section 3, "Disqualification for Holding Office," which says in part, "No Person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress, or elector of President and Vice President, or hold any office...shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the [United States]..."

Your failure to address this point is giving potential MAGA donors insufficient information thereby letting them send money to Trump's re-election campaign when constitutionally he cannot hold that office. Trump has previously sought donations (and received them) for legal fees to contest the last election. He will do anything (apparently) to amass and acquire money. (See N.Y. Attorney General's case against the Trump Organization).

Why is his name being allowed on the First in the Nation Primary in New Hampshire when he is disqualified from holding that office?

Why are you not reporting this?

Chris Mills
Nottingham, N.H.
Chris:

We hope this isn't directed at us. After all, while we may not have specifically brought up the constitutional point you raise, we have expended enough ink to fill an Olympic-sized swimming pool cataloging the qualities that make Dolt #45 unfit for office.

This just in: Rep. Jamaal Bowman [D-N.Y.] has called for Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene to be removed from office for making seditious threats.

The Editor

Living With Long Island Nazis

To the editor:

It would be reasonable to have any number of reactions upon learning that USAians played a central role in the development of fascism (A Little Inconvenient History, Nov. 4, 2022), but surprised shouldn't be one of them. Growing up on the north shore of Long Island in the 1970's, I had friends who told me their grandfathers had been members of the Ku Klux Klan. Camp Siegfried, now the subject of a play whose characters spend their summer living on streets named for Hitler and Goebbels, is based on life at a real camp run by the German American Bund before World War II.

Philip K. Dick's *The Man in the High Castle*, set in an alternate timeline in which the Germans and Japanese have won World War II, is a study of behavior under fascist occupation. The television version of the story nailed it in a brief scene when John Smith, former U.S. Army officer now senior member of the SS, greets his neighbors in the morning as he heads off to his office in New York City. Having grown up among some of Smith's neighbors, I shuddered at the all too realistic depiction of their comfort with having actual Nazis in charge.

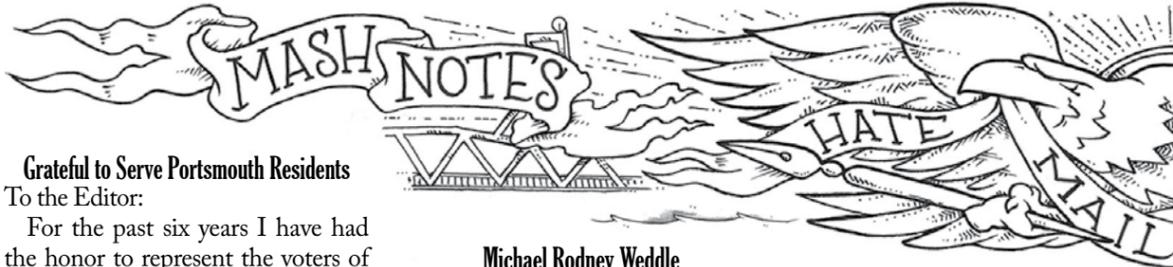
Peter C. Dolan
Gloucester, Mass.
Peter:

Our first job in this racket, back in the late 1970s, sometimes took us into the courtroom of a certain Judge Sterling—not as a defendant, we hasten to add. Sterling was the last non-lawyer ever to have been appointed to a New Hampshire judgeship. He held court in a room in the Hillsborough Fire Station, which the Chief—can't recall his name—had decorated with Currier and Ives prints.

Far from depicting wholesome Christmas scenes of one-horse sleighs and the like, these were from the infamous Darktown Fire Brigade series: racist stereotypes exuberantly executed with the highest standards of graphic excellence. One can only imagine what a person of color felt, surrounded by such mockery in the courtroom of a home-baked judge.

The Editor

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Grateful to Serve Portsmouth Residents
To the Editor:

For the past six years I have had the honor to represent the voters of Ward 3 in Portsmouth as your State Representative in Concord. If you cast your vote at the Senior Center, you are a Ward 3 voter. I have attempted to make sure that the opinion of the majority of voters in Ward 3 was reflected in the way that I voted. During the years of my three terms, I served on the Science Technology & Energy Committee. This committee, in my opinion, deals with some of the most technically complicated issues faced by the legislature, e.g., utility issues, energy issues, climate change, EVs, biomass and others. Sometimes the votes I was asked to cast prevented bad policies, in other cases I was able to support good policies. Since I see myself as a lifelong community activist and not a lifetime politician, I decided that six years was enough for me. It was definitely a learning experience and I now know more about how our state functions. I wish to express my gratitude to all of the voters who trusted me to represent them in the New Hampshire House. Thank you.

As the result of the 2022 elections, Ward 3 will be represented by newly-elected representative Ned Reynolds, and by one-term representative Joan Hamblet. They are good and smart people who, I am confident, will do a good job. I also join in congratulating the other elected Portsmouth representatives: Robin Vogt, David Meuse, Rebecca McBeath, Gerry Ward and Kate Murray.

Peter Somssich
Former State Representative
Portsmouth N.H.

Peter:

We work out of Ward 2, but that's merely a technicality. We have always been confident that you were representing us—and, indeed, all Granite Staters—in an exemplary manner.

The Editor

Michael Rodney Weddle

[The following item was brought to our attention by a faithful subscriber, for which we thank him. It was originally published in The Hull Times, November 10, 2022.]

Michael R. Weddle, phenom of Nantasket Beach, passed away on Oct. 17, 2022, following a lengthy period of declining health.

Born in Portsmouth, N.H. on October 29, 1949, the son of Rodney and Jewell (Otis) Weddle. Mr. Weddle considered himself a child of the "American Dream." Moving to Hampton, N.H. in the '50s, Mr. Weddle had an idyllic childhood, summering at family camps in the White Mountains, playing sandlot baseball, and ice skating at the neighborhood pond. He was the perfect cub/boy scout, a noble school patrol leader, and a rising Little League star.

If it weren't for Mr. Weddle later becoming a '60s flower child and an A+ student of counterculture, he truly believed he would have played professional baseball. Instead, this free spirit traveled the country and got himself into lots of good trouble. Drafted into the Army the same week as Woodstock, Mr. Weddle always said he "lived his life as revenge for being deprived the opportunity" to attend.

During the '70s, after being honorably discharged from the Army as a conscientious objector and having taken a vow of poverty at a local monastery, Mr. Weddle relocated to Cambridge. It was here where he continued to advocate for the peace movement, working closely with Vietnam Vets Against the War and the Legal In-Service Project. Later, he went on to manage rock-n-roll bands and was a regular at the Rathskeller in Boston.

In the '80s he returned to Portsmouth, where he had a brief stint as a janitor at the Navy Shipyard, drove

a cab, and worked as a sports correspondent for the local paper. He played softball for a team sponsored by a local nursing home and began hosting charity events in their honor. It was during this time that Mr. Weddle taught himself guitar and became a self-described "back-bench folk singer." A five-year stretch in New Hampshire politics as a state Representative rounded out the decade.

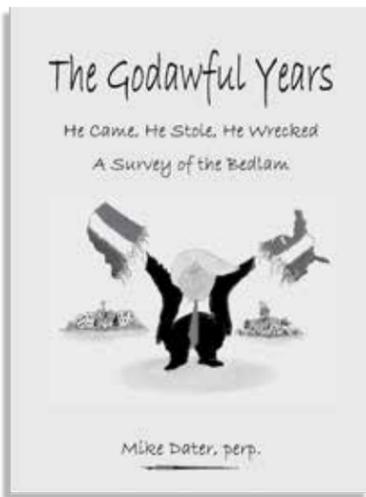
In 1990, following a lost bid to Congress where he'd run on drug legalization, Mr. Weddle returned to Cambridge with his rollerblades to coast upward on the career ladder. He became a Harvard Square musician while on the side starting a freelance transcription business and even dabbling in online stock trading. It was also during this time that he threw "the greatest parties planet Earth ever saw," and his Thursday night spaghetti suppers that lasted three days will certainly live in infamy.

The turn of the century found Mr. Weddle in Hull, painting houses, playing music, and splurging on fried clams. He finally started his own all-original rock-n-roll band, Climate Change, and organized countless charitable concerts for local causes—fire victims, veterans, opiate awareness, animal shelters, and the local high school music department. Mr. Weddle always lived in the spirit of living for others.

Mr. Weddle was predeceased by his parents and sisters. He is survived by a daughter, two grandchildren, two nieces, a nephew, and a cousin, along with more friends than anyone can even begin to imagine. In Mr. Weddle's own words, "There will come a time when I no longer cast a shadow upon Earth, when my smile becomes unseen and when the goodness in my heart has quivered. . . My hope is to

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fade into a memory that'll sometimes awaken among those who've known me and also among those I've touched but never known."

There will be a memorial benefit in his honor at the C-Note in Hull on April 8, 2023.

May Michael's memory be a blessing. Peace to you all.

Now He's a Believer

To the editor,
I was happy to learn Believer Meats is breaking ground on a cultivated-meat facility in North Carolina, which the company says is the largest of its kind in the world. For those who don't know, cultivated meat is grown from livestock cells, without slaughter. It's better for the environment, public health and animal welfare.

Despite this and other progress from the private sector, more public funding is needed for cellular-agriculture research so cultivated meat can achieve price parity with slaughtered meat. By advancing this technology, we can reduce our greenhouse-gas emissions, pandemic risk, and the suffering we inflict on God's creatures.

Jon Hochschartner
Granby, Conn.

Jon:
Every time we publish one of your letters, the future you herald seems less and less unlikely.

The Editor

Multitudinous Demonstrations In Catalonia Against Unjust Spanish Laws

To the Editor:
On December 6th, Day of the Spanish Constitution, a massive demonstration was held in Barcelona to reject the future reform of the penal code. The Spanish State has an improper crime in Europe, the crime of sedition with which the politicians

who organized, in 2017, the Catalan independence referendum were convicted.

This crime, created in 1822, condemns with very high penalties mass demonstrations that prevent the enforcement of laws even if no violence is used. In Europe it would be considered an anti-democratic law because it can impede the right to demonstrate. That is why the justice in Belgium, Germany and Italy, not observing violence in the investigated facts, rejected the delivery to Spain of the Catalan president Carles Puigdemont for sedition.

For all this and by request of the Council of Europe, Spain was forced to eliminate this crime, but wants to replace it with a new crime of "aggravated disorder," which aims, according to the members of the Spanish Government, to be able to continue condemning any type of large non-violent demonstration made by the Catalan independence movement.

Apparently the maximum penalties for this new crime would be lower than the previous one, but ultimately the same sentences could be reached for the organizers of the 2017 referendum (from 9 to 13 years in prison). Moreover, in this new interpretation, a mass demonstration would be a crime if it is considered to "obstruct the public road," to "intimidate" (a very ambiguous term), to "occupy a building or facility" without violence, or if "a crowd suitable to seriously affect public order" (very ambiguous) is summoned or attended. To make matters worse, the minimum sentence for this crime (which could involve participating in a non-violent demonstration) is increased to 3 years in prison!

Also the Spanish government have justified this new crime because it will allow to extradite from Belgium the president Puigdemont, as if they had

written this law ad hoc to lock up in prison the "number one enemy" of Spain.

The pro-independence movement rejects this change of one crime for another, because a crime that had its days numbered is repealed, but is replaced by another crime that is designed to prevent the Catalan pro-independence project, without caring about violating fundamental rights. And all this for the simple fact that the ultra-nationalist Spain, which emerged from the Franco dictatorship, does not accept what this legitimate political movement proposes and thinks that anything goes to maintain the unity of Spain. But that is not so, democracy and the right of self-determination of peoples are superior values that must be respected.

Jordi Oriola Folch
Barcelona, Catalonia

Jordi
Thank you for continuing to bring us these illuminating dispatches. Jaded as we have become, from witnessing the American justice system in action, it's interesting to see what may result from the lack of certain things we take for granted, e.g., the bar against ex post facto laws.

The Editor

No Coal No Gas Activists Pack ISO-NE's Consumer Liaison Group Meeting

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS—On Wednesday [November 30th], No Coal No Gas activists elected a slate of climate activists and allies to the Coordinating Committee of the Consumer Liaison Group (CLGCC) of the regional grid operator, ISO New England (ISO-NE). The result of the election effectively remove fossil fuel interests from leadership of the CLG, which is a forum for the exchange of information between ISO-NE and electricity ratepayers in the region. A record number of attendees were present in-person and online to vote for grassroots climate justice activists, ratepayer advocates as well as rep-

resentatives from an environmental policy nonprofit organization and an energy advisory company whose work supports businesses to meet their sustainability goals.

The Consumer Liaison Group (CLG) is organized by ISO-NE to facilitate interaction between ISO and regional electricity consumers. Meetings are open to the public and usually include panel discussions, presentations from ISO, and remarks from guest speakers on topics related to the region's energy grid. Despite its liaison role, CLG has not been a particularly welcoming space for the average energy consumer—beginning with the fact that most people do not know it exists. No Coal No Gas activists plan to make space within CLG for frontline communities and residential ratepayers to have a say in regional energy processes.

"ISO New England is also an ecosystem," said Nathan Phillips (he/they), a Boston University professor who was elected to the CLG board as a ratepayer from Massachusetts. "I want to elevate what we're calling 'consumers' in this ecosystem to have full ecological agency to reform the grid to one that's transparent, democratic and just. ISO-New England is currently organized as an exclusive country club with rules to protect incumbents, exclude innovators, and maintain the status quo. Yet swift and just change is what today's and future generations demand."

In a first for a CLG meeting, the large crowd of residential ratepayers outnumbered corporate interests. As a result, questions for keynote speakers made it clear that New Englanders believe that just and reasonable electrical rates are defined by more than the cost per kilowatt hour. Questioners pointed to the full cost of existing energy markets, and they made it clear that they expect ISO-NE to do a lot more to facilitate a just transition to renewable energy.

FERC Commissioner Danley, and ISO-NE Board Chair Cheryl LaFleur both delivered keynote addresses and took questions from the attendees. Commissioner Danley was frustrat-

ingly ambivalent about the transition, claiming to be "agnostic" about state policy while advocating for new natural gas pipeline construction in the region. Danley, who has repeatedly voted against considering greenhouse gas emissions in FERC dockets, also deflected questions about climate change, claiming that FERC has a "narrow mandate."

ISO Board Chair LaFleur, who is a former FERC Commissioner and past CEO of National Grid, expressed frustration with Danley's remarks, at one point stating that she knew he was likely to make statements with which she disagreed, but she "didn't expect him to throw bombs into the room that [she] would have to get up here and defuse."

"I think Cheryl LaFleur was working hard to address the people who were actually in the room, responding to the unexpected number of ratepayers in the room and laying aside many of the remarks she had prepared for the few dozen attendees in business suits," said Marla Marcum with the Climate Disobedience Center. "She signaled in her address that hearing from us is important and tried to convey that she is on our side. I hope she understands that our experience tells us that officials must show their true commitments through actions and not just words. As long as she is the ISO-NE Board Chair, she will be receiving genuine feedback from frustrated ratepayers."

Over the past three years, No Coal No Gas and other climate organizing groups across the region have put public pressure on ISO-NE to take their role in addressing the climate crisis seriously as part of their mandate to "[keep] electricity flowing across the six New England states and ensuring that the region has reliable, competitively priced wholesale electricity today and into the future." Yet ISO's limited interactions with the public and inaccessible processes has left little space for ratepayer participation in decision making. Despite multiple protests and

Mash Notes, Hate Mail, &c.
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Radical Hope to Heal a Divided Nation

by Jean Stimmell

The Crow people were a proud and thriving Native American Nation until the U.S. defeated them in battle while killing off the buffalo, the primary source of their subsistence. As their legendary chief, Plenty Coups, explained, “When the buffalo went away the hearts of my people fell to the ground,” he said, “and they could not lift them up again.”¹

This example of human vulnerability—that of a people faced with the end of their way of life—prompted Jonathan Lear, philosopher and psychoanalyst, to write a book about the human suffering that comes about from societal collapse.

To my perhaps warped way of thinking, I see a similarity between the psychological consequences of what happened to the American Indians and what is happening to a sizable segment of our fellow Americans today: those still imbued with that macho frontier spirit personified by John Wayne. (Please excuse the following exaggeration.)

This segment of our fellow citizens, often followers of Trump, to one degree or another, still attempt to live by the creed of the Wild West: They sneer at regulations and community and worship their version of the Bible which declares nature is meant for them to possess. They march under a flag that says don’t tell me what to do, or prevent me from riding out of town on my trusty steed packing my trusty six-shooter to patrol against dark-skinned immigrants, a constant threat like the “Injuns” were.

Writing this will probably get me run out of town on a rail. I’m only exaggerating this comparison to emphasize Lear’s more significant point. Losing one’s way of life—

whether a Crow or a Trump believer—is excruciating, a psychological death. One’s first inclination to fight on, as many Indian tribes did, or hold a lasting grudge, as the confederacy did after our civil war.

The Sioux and most other tribes viewed Plenty Coups as a coward for not battling the white man, but the chief understood that fighting back

“Plenty Coups’ radical action flew in the face of the age-old warrior ethic never to concede, to fight to the end for your beliefs. ... Needless to say, this warrior ethic still flourishes, underlying U.S. Foreign policy today.”

against the endless convoy of settlers moving west was futile. Instead, he chose to work with the newcomers by leading a delegation to Washington and negotiated a treaty with the U.S. that allowed the Crow to keep their ancestral land. “Today members of the tribe express pride that the Crow were able to keep their mountains.”²

Plenty Coups’ radical action flew in the face of the age-old warrior ethic never to concede, to fight to the end for your beliefs. That way of thinking was pervasive at the time, held by everyone from the cowboys to the Indians to the U.S. Army cavalry. Needless to say, this warrior ethic still flourishes, underlying U.S. Foreign policy today.

Most thought Plenty Coups’ approach of having “compassion, empathy, and the willingness to seek understanding” as weak and naive. Yet he persevered, creating a better future for his tribe through understanding and dialogue. Even today, he is remembered by his people for telling them: “With what the white

man knows he can oppress us. If we learn what he knows, he can never oppress us again.”³

Although it may appear that I am writing this column to infuriate both sides of our cultural divide, what I’m attempting to do is promote Plenty Coups’ vision of radical hope. As Lear describes it: “What makes this hope radical is that it is directed toward a future goodness that transcends the current ability to understand what it is. Radical hope anticipates a good for which those who have the hope as yet lack the appropriate concepts with which to understand it.”⁴

It’s impossible to summarize Lear’s book in 700 words because it is dense and complex, relying on nuance. Let me close by defining radical hope in terms of how I think it could help mend our fractured nation.

For liberals, it means not viewing Trump supporters as “a basket of deplorables.” If we resist our first impulse to make moral judgments, perhaps we can feel empathy for how psychologically devastating it is to lose a way of life—the ethic of the American wild frontier—whether it is factual or increasingly hyped up on social media.

Conversely, it’s equally important that my friends who support Trump foster radical hope: to hold out the possibility that supporting community and diversity will not spell the end of a way of life but be the start of a more productive and meaningful one.

1 Jonathan Lear. *Radical Hope: Ethics in the Face of Cultural Devastation*, Kindle Edition.

2 *Ibid.*

3 *Ibid.*

4 <https://www.themarginalian.org/2016/11/28/radical-hope-jonathan-lear/>

—==—



Plenty Coups, center, flanked by White Man Runs Him, left, and Medicine Crow, right. The three Crow chiefs were attending the February 22, 1913 groundbreaking ceremony for the National American Indian Memorial at Fort Wadsworth, Staten Island, New York.

The National American Indian Memorial?

If there is anything certain about life, it is that one thing leads to another. Search for a photograph of the Crow chief Plenty Coups, and there he is: taking part in the groundbreaking for the National American Indian Memorial...

The what? Why have we never heard of this? Thanks to our old friend Wikipedia, now we have.

The story begins with Buffalo Bill Cody, then performing at the Hippodrome in New York City, attending a dinner in his honor at Sherry’s restaurant on May 12, 1909. Among the hundred or so people attending were General Nelson Miles and the western artist Frederick Remington. Buffalo Bill proposed the building of a giant statue of a Native American—as big as the Statue of Liberty—on the shore of New York Harbor. Like Lady Liberty, the monumental indigene would welcome “everyone to this shore.”

Needless to say, there is no lack of irony here, as this ‘graf from Cody’s Wikipedia entry makes clear:

“Cody received the nickname ‘Buffalo Bill’ after the American Civil War, when he had a contract to supply Kansas Pacific Railroad workers with buffalo (American bison) meat. Cody is purported to have killed 4,282 buffalo in eighteen months in 1867 and 1868. Cody and another hunter, Bill Comstock, competed in an eight-hour buffalo-shooting match over the exclu-

sive right to use the name, which Cody won by killing 68 animals to Comstock’s 48. Comstock, part Cheyenne and a noted hunter, scout, and interpreter, used a fast-shooting Henry repeating rifle, while Cody competed with a larger-caliber Springfield Model 1866, which he called Lucretia Borgia, after the notorious Italian noblewoman....”

The eventual proposal called for a 165-foot-tall (50 m) bronze statue of a representative American Indian warrior atop a substantial foundation building housing a museum of native cultures, similar in scale to, but higher than, the Statue of Liberty. It was to have been erected on a bluff overlooking the Narrows, the main entrance to New York Harbor, a few miles south of Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi masterpiece.

Congress authorized use of federal land in 1911. A bronze plaque was installed at the groundbreaking, President Taft made a speech, and the first buffalo nickels were distributed.

Such were the high points of the project. The movers and shakers behind the project declined to fund it themselves. Apparently only \$143.10 was ever raised. The bronze plaque disappeared. Even the buffalo nickels were a flop; the dies wore out too fast, and the dates wore off too quickly.

Fitting, perhaps, in a sad sort of way.

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What's the Point of History?

by W.D. Ehrhart

The writer and philosopher George Santayana is credited with saying, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." Mark Twain gets credit for saying, "History never repeats itself, but it often does rhyme." Pearl Buck said, "If you want to understand today, you have to search yesterday." Howard Zinn wrote, "If you don't know history, it's as if you were born yesterday. If you were born yesterday, then any leader can tell you anything."

I found myself thinking about that quote of Zinn's soon after September 11th, 2001, when President George W. Bush explained that terrible day by declaring, "They hate us because of our freedoms," which simply negates, obliterates, and erases centuries of world history.

More recently, I heard counterterrorism expert John Nagl declare that ISIS "wants to drag the world back to the Middle Ages." As I listened to him, I found myself thinking, "Well, Saudi Arabia has never left the Middle Ages, and we've got no problem

with them. So what's really going on here?"

Why am I writing about this? I recently learned that the school board in the community where I grew up is trying to get World History removed from the courses required for a student to graduate from high school.

Proponents seem to think "the move would give students more flexibility to pursue career-relevant courses, boosting their chances of acceptance into more select universities." One advocate argued that the U.S. is in a battle with China and Russia, so supremacy in technology is vitally important, "a lot more important than a lot of history[.]"

I don't know how many high school teens already know what careers they wish to pursue when they graduate from college. I sure didn't know when I was a high schooler. And very few of the high school students I've taught over multiple decades had any clear idea, either.

Moreover, high schoolers get admitted to "more select universities" on the basis of how well they have performed in the courses they did

take rather than on whether or not they had taken courses in computer technology or fundamentals of engineering or whatever.

And as for the U.S. battle with Russia and China, don't you think it might be useful to know how and why that "battle" has come to be? If you know the origins of a struggle, it might be helpful in choosing how one responds to that struggle. Let me give you a very personal but relevant case in point:

Back when I was graduating from Pennridge High School in Perkasié, Pennsylvania in 1966, I could have gone to college, but I chose instead to enlist in the U.S. Marines. Less than a year later, I ended up in Vietnam. I survived, but 58,000 young Americans didn't, and millions of Vietnamese, Laotians, and Cambodians lost their lives. And in the end, the Vietnamese sent us packing.

Imagine my surprise when I finally learned enough history to discover that, while Ho Chi Minh was a communist, he was not taking orders from the Soviets or the Chinese, but had been engaged in a lifelong struggle to free his country from

foreign domination, first French and then American. That Vietnam and China were—historically and to this very day—bitter enemies. That Vietnam had resisted Chinese occupation for millennia. Millennia! Going all the way back to the 2nd century BCE.

It would have been nice to know a bit of that history. It would have saved me a lot of trouble. It would have saved a lot of people a lot of trouble. And a lot of money. And a lot of lives. And a lot of anguish and pain and misery. It might have made me a lot less gullible when Lyndon Johnson told me, "If we do not stop the communists in Vietnam, we will one day have to fight them on the sands of Waikiki."

So if you are going to tell me that history—not just American history, but also world history—doesn't matter and isn't important, you are pretty much telling me that you are willfully ignorant and wish to remain so. Understanding the world you live in, and how it came to be so, is fundamental to making good decisions in what you choose to believe and not believe, in your career,



Ho Chi Minh (alias Nguyễn Ái Quốc, 1890–1969), future founder of the Indochina communist party (in 1930) and Vietnamese President (1946), in 1922, when he edited the paper *Le Paria* in Paris.

in your daily life, and perhaps most importantly, in the voting booth.

W. D. Ehrhart is a retired Master Teacher of History & English, and author of a Vietnam War memoir trilogy published by McFarland & Company, Inc.



from page five

record numbers of comments on ISO-NE's filings with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), ISO-NE's resistance to interaction with the general public continues to keep them insulated from collaboration focused on the needs of the ratepayers who fund their entire business.

No Coal No Gas supported the 12 successful candidates for the CLGCC, including a slate of their own members and allies in the climate movement. The new members of the CLGCC (serving a two year term) include six grassroots activists: Reverend Kendra Ford (N.H.), Dr. Sonja BIRTHSEL (Maine), Dr. Nathan Phillips (Mass.), Dr. Regine Spector (Mass.), Jacob Powsner (Vt.), and Ian McDonald (Conn.). NCNG supported six additional nominees who were already serving on the Committee. NCNG endorsed the six other elected members: Hank Webster (R.I.), Elizabeth Mahony (Mass.), Donald Kreis (N.H.), Bill Dornbos (Conn.), Andrew Landry (Maine), and August Fromuth

(N.H.). As a result of these efforts, two long-time board members were not re-elected. Newly-elected CLGCC members hope that this shift will allow the CLG to be a stronger voice in pushing ISO-NE to prioritize climate justice as one component of advocacy for ratepayers.

"I have worked closely with many agencies which help people who struggle to keep their homes, have enough food, and pay their energy bills. I want those people to have a voice in the halls where decisions are made to be able to heal their lives and their communities by being part of the choices that affect their daily lives," said Rev. Kendra Ford (she/her), Climate Organizer with the No Coal No Gas campaign, and newly elected CLGCC member. "I have watched our society spin in denial about the ravages of climate change. We can no longer wait for it to be convenient or profitable for the few. We must take bold action on behalf of ordinary ratepayers and all global citizens."

The No Coal No Gas campaign,

launched in 2019 with support from the Climate Disobedience Center and 350 New Hampshire Action, set its sights on Merrimack Station upon recognizing that coal is the worst and dirtiest fossil fuel source for electrical generation, and that this power plant is the last of its kind in New England. The campaign's goals include building community, showing what is possible when we take collective action, and shutting down the coal-fired power plant.

For more information about the campaign to end coal in New England, visit nocoalnogas.org.

"Hitler was undoubtedly a genius but he lacked self-control. He recognized no limits. Otherwise the thousand-year Reich would have lasted more than twelve years."

— Dr. Wilhelm Frick (1877–1946), participant—as the head of Munich's *Kriminalpolizei*, no less—in the Beer Hall Putsch of 1923, and later a member of the Council of Ministers for Defense of the Reich, speaking six days before he was hanged for war crimes.

What Does Congress Think of You?

by Jim Hightower

Dick Tuck, a political prankster who made a satirical run for public office years ago, got less than 10 percent of the vote. Conceding defeat, he quipped, "The people have spoken, the bastards."

Tuck's jab at voters was in jest, but it exposed an awkward political truth: While people generally have little respect for today's elected officials, many officials harbor even less regard for The People they supposedly serve.

Exhibit A: Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia. A multimillionaire coal baron, Manchin is devoted to serving the machinations of profiteering fossil fuel corporations, so he doesn't even disguise his disdain for "busybodies" (unions, town leaders, nature defenders, farmers, climate activists, et al) who dare stand up to any God-awful scheme of plunder and pollution the barons dream up.

In the last year, Joe's been especially POed at thousands of commoners who've blocked his latest political pipe dream—the 300-mile-long Mountain Valley Pipeline. Pushed

by a consortium of huge utilities, it would pump toxic fracked gas through watersheds, towns, farms, etc. in three states for export abroad. "NO!" shouted locals, who spent years exposing the destruction MVP posed, successfully denying permits to build the thing. The people won!

Then, thanks to Joe, they lost. Manchin cut a secret dirty deal with top Democrats, including Joe Biden and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, to pass a special federal requirement that the MVP be built—the people be damned. Worse, the cabal agreed to slip it into law without Congress even voting on it.

But hold it—progressives in Congress rallied grassroots people all across the country to rebel against the raw stench of this arrogant, autocratic power play. In October, they defeated it, forcing Manchin into a Dick Tuck moment, blasting his own constituents as radical bastards for opposing his pipe dream.

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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

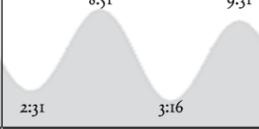
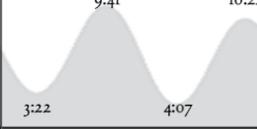
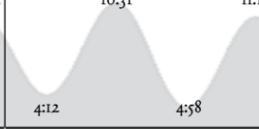
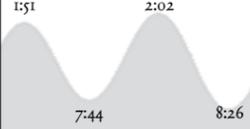
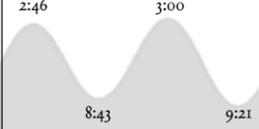
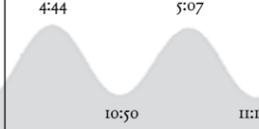
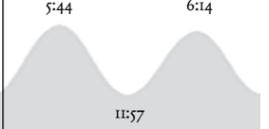
drags about seventeen billion gallons of seawater — enough to fill 2,125,000 tanker trucks — up the river and into Great Bay. This creates a roving hydraulic conflict, as incoming sea and the outgoing river collide. The skirmish line

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, DECEMBER 18	MONDAY, DECEMBER 19	TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20	WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21	THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22	FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23	SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24
<p>2020—A band of Dolt #45 cronies hold a boozy, shouty, six-hour sedition-fest in the White House.</p> <p>2019—Donald Trump is impeached.</p> <p>2005—"Not only can we win the war in Iraq," says George W.[MD] Bush 962 days after Mission Accomplished, "we're winning the war in Iraq."</p> <p>2004—"America's Most Wanted's" John Walsh says he most wants Jahbir and Alfonso Fowle caught.</p> <p>2000—"If this were a dictatorship," says George W.[MD] Bush on CNN, "it'd be a heck of a lot easier, just so long as I'm the dictator."</p> <p>1996—G-Man Earl Pitts is arrested for moonlighting for the KGB.</p> <p>1972—Richard Nixon begins Operation Linebacker: 12 days of B-52 strikes against North Vietnam. On the first night, surface-to-air missiles shoot down three Stratofortresses.</p> <p>1957—Neon signs and car lots get their first jolt of nuke-generated juice.</p> <p>1946—Eddie Rickenbacker flies a DC-3 over Broadway so Damon Runyon Jr. can scatter his father's ashes.</p> <p>1941—Outnumbered 10 to one, U.S. forces lose Guam to the Japanese.</p> <p>1917—Prohibition, also known as the Organized Crime Job Creation Act, goes to the states for ratification.</p> <p>1907—An explosion kills 361 coal miners in Monongah, W. Va.</p> <p>1867—Differing track widths cause a train to derail in Angola, N.Y. One wooden car drops 40 feet and catches fire; 49 passengers burn to death.</p>	<p>2020—Loser: "Big protest in D.C. on January 6th. Be there, will be wild!"</p> <p>2007—A fire breaks out near "Dick" Cheney's office. Probable cause: spontaneous inhuman combustion.</p> <p>1998—As Bill Clinton is being impeached for some hanky-panky, Speaker-elect Bob Livingston resigns to cover up a bit of his own.</p> <p>1997—Real headline, <i>N.Y. Times</i>: "C.I.A. Says It Has Found No Link Between Itself and Crack Trade".</p> <p>1974—Norris Cotton finagles a bill giving New Hampshire's senior Senator the right in perpetuity to commandeer Daniel Webster's old desk.</p> <p>1946—The Viet Minh take on the French in Indo-China.</p> <p>1944—Primarily due to bad generalship, two-thirds of the 106th Infantry, comprising 8,000 men, must surrender during the Battle of the Bulge.</p> <p>1941—Ex-corporal Hitler takes direct command of the German Army.</p> <p>1910—Spurred on by the <i>Baltimore Sun</i>, that city mandates the racial segregation of residential areas.</p> <p>1907—An explosion kills 239 coal miners, many minors, in Smithton, Pa.</p> <p>1865—South Carolina passes a law requiring all Black "servants" to sign contracts with their "masters" and be "polite" while working dawn-to-dusk.</p> <p>1777—Washington's army arrives at Valley Forge, Pa.</p> <p>1776—Thomas Paine's <i>American Crisis</i> is first published; "These are the times that try men's souls..."</p>	<p>2002—The ten largest U.S. brokerage houses cough up \$1.44 billion in fines rather than risk a trial over charges that they fleeced their customers.</p> <p>2002—Sen. Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-Miss.) is forced to step down after lamenting Strom Thurmond's failure to win the Presidency on a White Supremacy platform in 1948.</p> <p>1989—Ex-CIA boss George H. [Hoover] W. Bush invades Panama to arrest ex-CIA asset Manuel Noriega.</p> <p>1986—Chased by a mob of young white men, Trinidadian Michael Griffith is run over and killed in Howard Beach, Queens, New York.</p> <p>1983—Donald Rumsfeld visits Baghdad to shake mass murderer Saddam Hussein's hand and convey Ronald Reagan's best wishes.</p> <p>1973—Basque terrorists detonate a bomb which sends a Dodge Dart over a five-story building. Inside was Spanish Prime Minister Luis Carrero Blanco, aka "Spain's first astronaut."</p> <p>1960—CIA chief Allen Dulles meets with bigwigs from Standard Oil, Texaco, ITT, Domino Sugar, and other major U.S. corporations, who instruct him to overthrow Fidel Castro.</p> <p>1946—Businessmen Charles Luciano, Meyer Lansky, Frank Costello, Vito Genovese, Joseph Bonnano and others confer in Havana, Cuba.</p> <p>1786—Hannah Ocush, a cognitively-impaired 12-year-old Pequot Indian girl, thanks the executioner for his kindness before she's hanged.</p>	<p>2008—Todd Carmichael reaches the South Pole after traveling 692 miles on skis and on foot, solo.</p> <p>2006—Saparmurat Niyazov's term of office ends. Turkmenistan's President for Life leaves a legacy of many golden statues... of himself.</p> <p>2001—"All in all," says George W.[MD] Bush, "it's been a fabulous year for Laura and me."</p> <p>1996—After two years of denial, Rep. Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) admits to ethics violations.</p> <p>1989—Vice President J. Danforth Quayle sends out 30,000 Xmas cards in which "beacon" is spelled "beakon."</p> <p>1988—PanAm Flight 103 explodes over Lockerbie; 270 perish.</p> <p>1970—The Oval Office: Elvis gives Tricky Dick a chromed Colt .45; Dick gives Elvis a Narcotics Bureau badge.</p> <p>1956—Montgomery, Ala. buses desegregate—the boycott worked.</p> <p>1924—Real headline, <i>N.Y. Times</i>: "Hitler Tamed By Prison".</p> <p>1921—The anarchist Bonnot Gang robs a Paris bank then steals a limo—the world's first getaway car.</p> <p>1919—Emma Goldman is deported for speaking out against the draft.</p> <p>1913—The <i>New York World</i> introduces a new feature: they call it a "word-cross" puzzle.</p> <p>1907—The Chilean Army breaks a strike by machine gunning 2,000 Chilean nitrate miners.</p> <p>1620—Pilgrims and "Strangers" land in what is now Plymouth, Mass.</p>	<p>2001—Richard Reid's shoe-bomb fizzes, but all air passengers must now remove shoes before boarding.</p> <p>1989—RIP Samuel Beckett.</p> <p>1984—Asked for money on a New York subway, Bernhard Goetz responds with lead instead. Then he flees to New Hampshire. Of course.</p> <p>1981—Ronald Reagan gives the poor 30 million lbs. of moldy cheese.</p> <p>1974—Seymour Hersh exposes the CIA's Operation Chaos in the <i>New York Times</i>: 10,000 Americans under illegal surveillance since 1967.</p> <p>1973—"Dick" Nixon's paranoid agitation at a Joint Chiefs of Staff meeting leaves four-stars wondering, "did he just ask us if we'd back a coup?"</p> <p>1967—The CIA hands the President the second of four reports on its illegal surveillance of anti-war activists. Because it, too, refutes his belief in foreign influence, LBJ rejects it and demands another.</p> <p>1944—With his 101st Airborne surrounded in Bastogne, and Germans demanding surrender, General Anthony McAuliffe replies "Nuts."</p> <p>1909—Belgians boo their sovereign, King Leopold II, at his funeral.</p> <p>1813—In downtown Portsmouth, N.H., 18 acres burn, from Daniel to Court Streets, from Fleet to the river; 272 buildings are destroyed.</p> <p>1757—A Portsmouth mob, hundreds strong, incensed by British press gangs, drags <i>HMS Enterprise's</i> longboat two miles inland and burns it.</p>	<p>2004—NASA gives odds of 1 in 233 that an asteroid will hit Earth in 2029.</p> <p>1994—Tipped off by a Boston FBI agent that he's about to be arrested, James "Whitey" Bulger takes a powder. He's on the lam for 16.5 years.</p> <p>1986—The airplane <i>Voyager</i> completes its nonstop circumnavigation.</p> <p>1981—Basement digging causes the Foye Building, next to the Portsmouth Athenæum, to partially collapse.</p> <p>1971—With a million from the Mob in his pocket, President Nixon springs Jimmy Hoffa from federal prison; the Teamsters soon endorse Nixon.</p> <p>1963—FBI officials begin scheming to "neutralize" Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with wiretapping, bugging, infiltration, sabotage, and blackmail.</p> <p>1955—James Kutcher, a legless WW II vet, has his disability payments cut off, too, because he's a Socialist.</p> <p>1953—In Korea, 21 American POWs refuse to go home. In response, the CIA starts studying mind control.</p> <p>1944—Lax security combines with German industry: 25 Nazis escape from Phoenix's Papago Park POW camp through a 178-foot tunnel hacked out of rock-hard caliche.</p> <p>1924—The world's biggest manufacturers of light bulbs form the secret Phoebus cartel. Its aim: shorten the life-span of light bulbs by 60 percent.</p> <p>1849—Tied half-naked to a pole, Fyodor Dostoevsky is presumably pleased to learn he'll be going to Siberia for four years, instead of being shot.</p>	<p>2003—Responding to "credible intel," Mike Hayden tells his British counterpart to take over his NSA duties if al-Qaeda nuked D.C. on Xmas.</p> <p>1992—George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush pardons Caspar "Cap" Weinberger, Bob McFarlane, and 4 other Iran-Contra creeps, coincidentally protecting his own sorry self.</p> <p>1979—The Soviet Army enters Afghanistan to prop up the Marxist government. Oops. They correct their mistake after just nine years.</p> <p>1971—Her airliner having fallen apart after being hit by lightning two miles above the Amazon, Juliane Koepcke, 17, falls into the jungle. She survives with minor injuries.</p> <p>1963—Top CIA counterspy and Friend-of-the-Mob James Jesus Angleton shuts down the Agency's investigation of Lee Harvey Oswald.</p> <p>1926—Eight Americans die and 60 are hospitalized after President Coolidge says, "poison all alcohol."</p> <p>1913—During a union Christmas party at the Italian Hall in Calumet, Mich, thugs hired by copper bosses yell "Fire," 73 die, 59 are kids.</p> <p>1883—Increasingly deranged since his stabbing by John Wilkes Booth during Lincoln's assassination, Maj. Henry Rathbone murders his wife.</p> <p>1865—Six ex-rebels, boozing it up in Pulaski, Tenn., form the KKK.</p> <p>1814—The Treaty of Ghent ends the War of 1812; it accomplished nothing—the <i>status quo ante</i> prevails.</p>
 <p>6:23 6:48</p> <p>12:36</p>	 <p>7:13 7:44</p> <p>12:50 1:31</p>	 <p>8:02 8:38</p> <p>1:40 2:24</p>	 <p>8:51 9:31</p> <p>2:31 3:16</p>	 <p>9:41 10:22</p> <p>3:22 4:07</p>	 <p>10:31 11:13</p> <p>4:12 4:58</p>	 <p>11:22</p> <p>5:03 5:49</p>
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25	MONDAY, DECEMBER 26	TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27	WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28	THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29	FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30	SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31
<p>1989—Romania celebrates Christmas and freedom by putting former President Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife Elena before a firing squad.</p> <p>1956—In Birmingham, Ala., civil rights activist Fred Shuttlesworth survives the bombing of his home.</p> <p>1951—In Mims, Fla., a bomb explodes under the home of NAACP leaders Harry T. and Harriette Moore on the night of their 25th anniversary. Both die; no one is indicted; 55 years later the state concludes that four long-dead Klansmen did it.</p> <p>1946—Demonstrators at the White House demand the release of jailed conscientious objectors.</p> <p>1914—German and British troops leave trenches, sing Christmas carols, shake hands, and share smokes.</p> <p>1868—President Andy Johnson unconditionally pardons all those involved in the "Southern Rebellion."</p> <p>1837—At Lake Okechobee, Seminole under Billy Bowlegs trounce Zachary Taylor's regulars.</p> <p>1826—One-third of the Cadets at West Point stage a drunken "Egg Nog Riot;" 20 end up court-martialed.</p> <p>1802—In Portsmouth, N.H., 132 buildings are destroyed by fire.</p> <p>1793—After gathering the scattered bones of hundreds of soldiers massacred two years earlier by Indians and burying them in a massive pit, troops under General "Mad Anthony" Wayne build Fort Recovery, Ohio, atop the mass grave.</p>	<p>2010—H. Kissinger apologizes for having told R. Nixon in 1973, "[if the Soviets] put Jews into gas chambers... it is not an American concern. Maybe a humanitarian concern."</p> <p>2002—Americans learn a new euphemism from the <i>Washington Post</i>: "extraordinary rendition" means kidnapping and torture. A trial? Hah!</p> <p>1996—Of 1,500 candidates, Jon Benet Ramsey is named "most important child murdered this year in the U.S."</p> <p>1991—The Supreme Soviet meets one last time and dissolves the USSR.</p> <p>1971—Disgruntled Vietnam veterans occupy the Statue of Liberty.</p> <p>1969—Having fought a shifting cargo of bombs, missiles, and mines for nine days in heavy seas, the crew of the freighter <i>S.S. Badger State</i> abandons ship in mid-Pacific after a bomb explodes and blows a hole in the hull. Out of 40 crewmen, 11 survive.</p> <p>1966—<i>Time Magazine</i> names "The Younger Generation" the "Man of the Year," further exacerbating a pandemic of unwarranted self-esteem.</p> <p>1919—Harry Frazee sells Babe Ruth to the New York Yankees.</p> <p>1913—Writer and perennially-disgruntled Civil War veteran Ambrose Bierce allegedly pens one final letter before vanishing in Mexico.</p> <p>1908—Jack Johnson becomes the first Black heavyweight boxing champ.</p> <p>1862—Under orders from President Lincoln, the U.S. Army hangs 38 Sioux on one huge gallows.</p>	<p>1986—In San Diego, Cara Evelyn Knott is strangled by on-duty Highway Patrolman Craig Alan Peyer.</p> <p>1981—Supreme Court Associate Justice William H. Rehnquist checks into a hospital to kick his Placidyl™ habit and end the hallucinations.</p> <p>1953—Mass. bans EC Comics' version of "The Night Before Christmas." Illustrated by Will Elder, it features a just-divorced Santa driving a Cadillac sled and giving away poison.</p> <p>1900—Carrie Nation hatches-up her first saloon, at the Carey Hotel, in Wichita, Kan.</p> <p>1895—In Bill Curtis's St. Louis saloon, William "Billy" Lyons foolishly—and fatally—grabs "Stagger Lee" Shelton's brand new Stetson hat.</p> <p>1827—Georgia proclaims "the lands of Georgia belong to her absolutely. The Indians are tenants at her will." Indulgent solons give the indigenous inhabitants three years to get west of the Mississippi.</p> <p>1763—Sixteen of the few living Conestoga Indians, huddled for protection in the Lancaster, Pa. workhouse, are mysteriously deserted by their guards. A mob known as "the Paxton Boys" hacks 14 of them, mostly children, to death. There is no investigation; no one is ever charged.</p> <p>1739—A large crowd gathers to witness New Hampshire's first executions: Sarah Simpson and Penelope Kenny are hanged in Portsmouth for infanticide.</p>	<p>2013—Congress ends long-term unemployment benefits to 1.3 million Americans, damaging the economy to the tune of an estimated 240,000 jobs.</p> <p>1986—Terry Dolan, Republican critic of gay rights, dies of AIDS.</p> <p>1983—Dr. George Graham, of President Reagan's Task Force on Food Assistance, says Black children are "probably the best-nourished group in the U.S."—citing athletes as proof.</p> <p>1973—In space, the crew of Skylab goes on strike to protest over-work and micro-management. NASA meets the demands of the astronauts.</p> <p>1973—The Akron, Ohio Chamber of Commerce denounces the Soap Box Derby as a cheat and a fraud.</p> <p>1971—At the White House, 88 Nam vets are busted for protesting their war.</p> <p>1948—ADC-3 disappears with 32 on board in an area soon to be known as the Bermuda Triangle.</p> <p>1945—Congress recognizes the "Pledge of Allegiance," authored by Christian Socialist Francis Bellamy.</p> <p>1936—Sit-down strikers close Cleveland's General Motors plant.</p> <p>1917—H.L. Mencken publishes a phony history of the bathtub, now widely accepted as gospel.</p> <p>1879—As legendary stagecoach driver "One-Eyed Charlie" Parkhurst, 67, is prepared for burial in Watsonville, Calif., it becomes clear that he was a she—namely, Charlotte Darkey Parkhurst, born in Lebanon, N.H. in 1812.</p>	<p>2006—The UK pays off its \$100,000,000 WWII debt to the U.S.</p> <p>1989—Playwright Vaclav Havel becomes President of Czechoslovakia.</p> <p>1975—Eleven people are killed and 74 wounded when a bomb explodes in a storage locker at LaGuardia Airport. The crime remains unsolved.</p> <p>1972—Operation Linebacker II, which R. Nixon will call "my terrible personal ordeal," ends. U.S. losses: 15 downed B-52s, 12 other aircraft, 43 KIA, & 49 POWs.</p> <p>1930—Fred Newton arrives at New Orleans after swimming 1,826 miles down the Mississippi.</p> <p>1916—Poisoned, stabbed, beaten, shot three times, and thrown unconscious into the freezing Neva River, the Russian Tsarina Alexandra's favorite faith-healer Grigori Yefimovich Rasputin dies by drowning.</p> <p>1900—Harvard professor Albert B. Hart says states where lynching is prevalent should legalize the practice to maintain order.</p> <p>1890—The 7th Cavalry massacres about 300 Lakota Sioux men, women, and children on their reservation at Wounded Knee. For this, a grateful nation bestows 20 Medals of Honor.</p> <p>1876—A poorly-designed, uninspected railroad bridge collapses in Ashtabula, Ohio, killing 92.</p> <p>1837—In Buffalo, N.Y., Canadian militiamen burn the <i>U.S.S. Carolina</i>, which has been caught running guns to revolutionaries.</p>	<p>2019—Health authorities in Wuhan, China send hospitals an alert and begin investigating a rise in pneumonia.</p> <p>2015—At the North Pole, the temperature rises above 32° for six hours.</p> <p>2006—Saddam Hussein's inelegant demise is captured by cellphone.</p> <p>1994—In Brookline, Mass., John Salvi lives out his "pro-life" creed by killing two health care workers.</p> <p>1978—A House Select Committee concludes that conspirators "probably" helped kill JFK and MLK.</p> <p>1971—Daniel Ellsberg is indicted for having set free the truth.</p> <p>1970—An unsafe Kentucky coal mine explodes, killing 38 miners.</p> <p>1947—Irgun fighters kill six Arabs and wound 42 in a grenade attack at a Haifa oil refinery. Arabs retaliate by beating 39 Jews to death.</p> <p>1936—The General Motors sit-down strike spreads from Cleveland to Flint.</p> <p>1922—Godless Commies establish the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the ruins of a pious Empire.</p> <p>1905—Idaho's ex-Governor Frank Steunenberg opens his front gate; a bomb planted by miners blows him up.</p> <p>1903—At 3:15 p.m. fire breaks out in Chicago's new, "fireproof" Iroquois Theater. By 3:30, 600 people are dead.</p> <p>1828—In Dover, N.H., protesting a women-only wage cut, 400 "mill girls" conduct the first all-woman strike.</p> <p>1768—Teacher Ruth Blay, 31, is hanged in Portsmouth for concealing the birth of her illegitimate child.</p>	<p>1997—Quaker Oats pays \$1.8 million to settle a lawsuit over their secret feeding of radioactive oatmeal to developmentally-disabled kids.</p> <p>1995—Bill and Monica enjoy their third tryst in a White House study.</p> <p>1974—What a coincidence! Two columns defending the CIA's illegal spying on U.S. citizens share a dateline. [Their writers, Bill Buckley and Tom Braden, are both covert CIA assets.]</p> <p>1970—Congress repeals the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution.</p> <p>1970—Associated Milk Producers, Inc. gets \$100 million in price supports in exchange for its \$2 million donation to the Nixon campaign.</p> <p>1969—Hitmen hired by United Mine Workers President Tony Boyle murder his rival, Joseph "Jock" Yablonski, along with his wife and daughter.</p> <p>1952—The Tuskegee Institute reports that for the first time since 1881, a year has passed without a lynching.</p> <p>1929—"I see nothing in the present situation that is either menacing or warrants pessimism," says Treasury Secretary Andrew W. Mellon.</p> <p>1904—At midnight, for the first time, a ball drops in Times Square to mark the New Year.</p> <p>1901—This year's U.S. lynching toll: worst ever—105 Blacks, 25 whites.</p> <p>1879—Edison shows off the first practical electric light bulb.</p> <p>1761—Lydia (Hall) Fowle, wife of <i>N.H. Gazette</i> founder Daniel Fowle, dies in Portsmouth at the age of 36.</p>
 <p>12:04 12:13</p> <p>5:55 6:40</p>	 <p>12:57 1:07</p> <p>6:49 7:32</p>	 <p>1:51 2:02</p> <p>7:44 8:26</p>	 <p>2:46 3:00</p> <p>8:43 9:21</p>	 <p>3:44 4:02</p> <p>9:45 10:18</p>	 <p>4:44 5:07</p> <p>10:50 11:16</p>	 <p>5:44 6:14</p> <p>11:57</p>



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