

## The Fortnightly Rant

### The Original Was So Much Better

When you run a newspaper that's two decades older than the nation in which it's published, nostalgia is an occupational hazard. Out of respect for our readers, we try not to let it get out of hand. That has recently become more and more difficult. We'll stop short of yelling "Get off our lawn," but some other things simply must be said.

The phrase "disappointing sequel" has bordered on redundant ever since comics took over the movie business. Now that term has become relevant once again.

Tim Burton's 2010 version of Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland* drew mixed reviews. Today's Republican party considered that lackluster result and proudly said, "hold my beer." Never in history has there been a more calamitous rendering of Lewis Carroll's opus than the recently seated 118th Congress.

Drawn from carefully-engineered Congressional districts—not so much "from coast to coast," as safely distanced from the coasts—have come such a collection of mad hatters, March hares, grinning cats, and enraged queens, that a hoo-kah-smoking caterpillar would not be much of a surprise. Let's meet a few.

#### Rep. Jim Banks

Indiana's Third District sits in the northeast corner of the Hoosier State. It has a Cook Partisan Voting Index [PVI] rating of R+18; no Democrats need run for office. It is represented by Jim Banks, who, despite his habit of trying to expand the use of the death penalty, falls into the category commonly referred to by profit-driven corporate media as "pro-life."

Republicans often boast of pro-small government, but Banks seems eager to expand the government's power to control womens' behav-

ior. His latest kick seems based on a time-tested Saudi technique.

Banks said recently on the Pat Miller radio show, "Our work as a pro-life movement is far from over. If a young lady can hop in a car in Fort Wayne and...achieve what she was able to do with [now shuttered] abortion clinics here in Indiana, the fight is far from over."

Have no fear: the Federalist Society, Godlike overseers of our Supreme Court, will surely find a solution to this alleged problem—a sequel to the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, perhaps. Require all citizens of the other 49 states to imprison pregnant Hoosiers until they can be returned in shackles.

Anyone shocked by Banks' retrograde impulses would do well to remember: a hundred years ago Indiana fostered its own independent Ku Klux Klan. At its high point nearly a third of the state's native-born white men were members. The Indiana Klan's influence rapidly declined, though, after its organization genius, D.C. "Steve" Stephenson, was sentenced to life for rape and murder.

#### Rep. Jack Bergman

Jack Bergman, having won Michigan's First District (PVI R+13) in 2016, is pretty safe. All he's got to do to maintain his job security is keep his Republican base happy. There is no incentive for him to stray from orthodoxy. All that's required is for him to present the proper façade.

In his case, he's got the perfect costume. Though the Uniform Code of Military Justice says he can't wear it while campaigning, the public record has plenty of photos of him in the uniform of a U.S. Marine Corps Lieutenant General. (Back when he was but a career-grade officer, Bergman flew CH-46 Sea Knight helicopters in Vietnam and elsewhere.)



ALICE IN MCCARTHYLAND

Putting together the man and the situation, it is hardly surprising that Bergman introduced House Resolution 26, on January 11th: "This resolution expresses the support of the House of Representatives for the phrase 'Thank you for our freedom' as the way to respect members of the Armed Forces and veterans." Threat to the status quo? None. Effort to appeal to the base's most predictable emotions? Utter, complete, and shameless.

#### Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene

For the purposes of this rant we were going to ignore Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene—a former QAnon follower given to loose talk about executing high-ranking Democrats—on the grounds of fatuosity. When a target is so easily hit, any self-respecting archer is drained of motivation.

Then on Wednesday NBC reported that Greene, who represents, to its eternal embarrassment, Georgia's Fourteenth District, "sees her-

self on the short list for Trump's VP," according to Steve Bannon. What's more, a source "with ties to Trump [who] spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe private conversations" told NBC "he also believes Greene would be on Trump's short list."

So as not to queer her Veep pitch, Greene has apparently dialed back the lunacy a bit—from 12 down to 11. She's also thrown in her lot with House Speaker Kevin McCarthy. Greene now represents an insurance policy for McCarthy, protecting him to some degree from the whims of the Freedom Caucus. In return, Greene got a seat on the Select Subcommittee Coronavirus Pandemic.

Benghazi!!!!? Emails!!!!? You ain't seen nothin' yet.

Could a Trump/Greene ticket win in 2024? Remembering 2016, we are ruling out nothing. Such an eventuality would obviously be an unspeakable catastrophe, though there would be one infinitesimal

silver lining: Greene would be replaced, therefore the collective wisdom of the U.S. Congress inevitably would rise.

#### You Call That a Congress?

With McCarthy leading the House, and the likes of Greene, Bergman, and Banks following, Representatives are about to try to sell the public on a scheme to balance the budget by cutting Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid.

If a surgeon said he'd cut off your leg to alleviate a toothache, you might seek a second opinion. Americans have no such option, though. We must go with the Congress we have, not the Congress we want.

Data for Progress recently polled likely voters. A solid majority—58 percent—say Congress should raise the debt ceiling. A majority of Republican voters said the debt ceiling should be raised—without cuts to Social Security or Medicare.

This Congress, though, may decide it knows better.

## The Alleged News®

### BlackRock says we're all doomed. It's being optimistic.

by James Meadway

The working assumption, for governments and central banks across the world, is that at some point soon everything will get back to 'normal'—our economies will return to either pre-pandemic or, sometimes, even pre-2008 crash levels.

These beliefs are reinforced by media economics commentary and across political parties.

But what if they're wrong? The world's largest asset manager, overseeing \$10trn in assets across the globe, thinks we are, instead, entering a period of increased risk and uncertainty, defined by unavoidable recession and much higher inflation.

BlackRock—a well-connected, influential and hugely profitable pillar of global capitalism—made the predictions in its '2023 Global Investment Outlook' report. It

states: "The Great Moderation, the four-decade period of largely stable activity and inflation, is behind us."

Instead, BlackRock forecasts a new regime with a "brutal trade-off"—falling living standards for the many becoming profits for the few.

This reality, of a world undergoing fundamental transformations and disrupting our settled modes of existence, has so far barely entered the economic mainstream.

For BlackRock to break with this consensus might, potentially, be one of the first signs of a broader shift in how major institutions in the Western economies view the world.

#### Systemic Chaos

Annual food inflation in the UK rose to 13.3 percent—an all-time high—last month, according to trade body the British Retail Consortium, ahead of the official gov-

ernment figures out later this month.

This situation—though slightly worse in the UK due to a flawed Brexit deal and the falling value of the pound (critical as a major food importer)—is common across the globe. Even as wholesale energy prices have dropped from their summer 2022 peak, the price of food everywhere is soaring. United Nations' forecasts show a major risk of widespread famine in the Global South over the next year, with harvests continuing to underperform.

This global spike in prices over the past 18 months was initially described by the economic establishment as "transitory." Then, as inflation continued remorselessly upwards, familiar explanations reappeared: notably, excessive worker power (but real wages in the Global North are still falling) and excessive

printing of money through quantitative easing (but we've been running QE since 2009).

The economic profession as a whole, and institutions such as the major central banks, have typically written down the obvious evidence of global instability as temporary factors, rather than something more systemic.

This means we're trapped with central banks that still think pushing up interest rates to induce a recession is a smart way to bring down inflation. Governments are committed to holding down wages and salaries while allowing profits to explode.

But BlackRock believes the world is now "shaped by supply that involves brutal trade-offs"—in other words, the world economy is less effective at supplying goods and services than it was.

The after-effects of the pandemic have caused supply chain problems, as we all know, but they also think an ageing population means fewer workers, pushing up the cost of labour; that "geopolitical tensions" will disrupt global supply chains; and that the shift to net-zero carbon emissions will involve "demand and supply mismatches."

Put all this together, and BlackRock thinks inflation will come down to the 2 percent level we've been used to only if central banks are prepared to 'crush' their economies into a severe recession. Since that's unlikely, inflation will stay much higher than we are used to—combined with a miserable recession over the next year or so.

**The Alleged News®**

from page one

**Massive Profits for the Lucky Few**

But BlackRock's predictions don't cover everything.

Its report misses the longer-term effects of Covid—both in terms of the impact on healthcare and, as we're currently seeing, continuing waves of infection.

It also misses, critically, the wider ecological impacts of climate change, biodiversity loss and resource depletion.

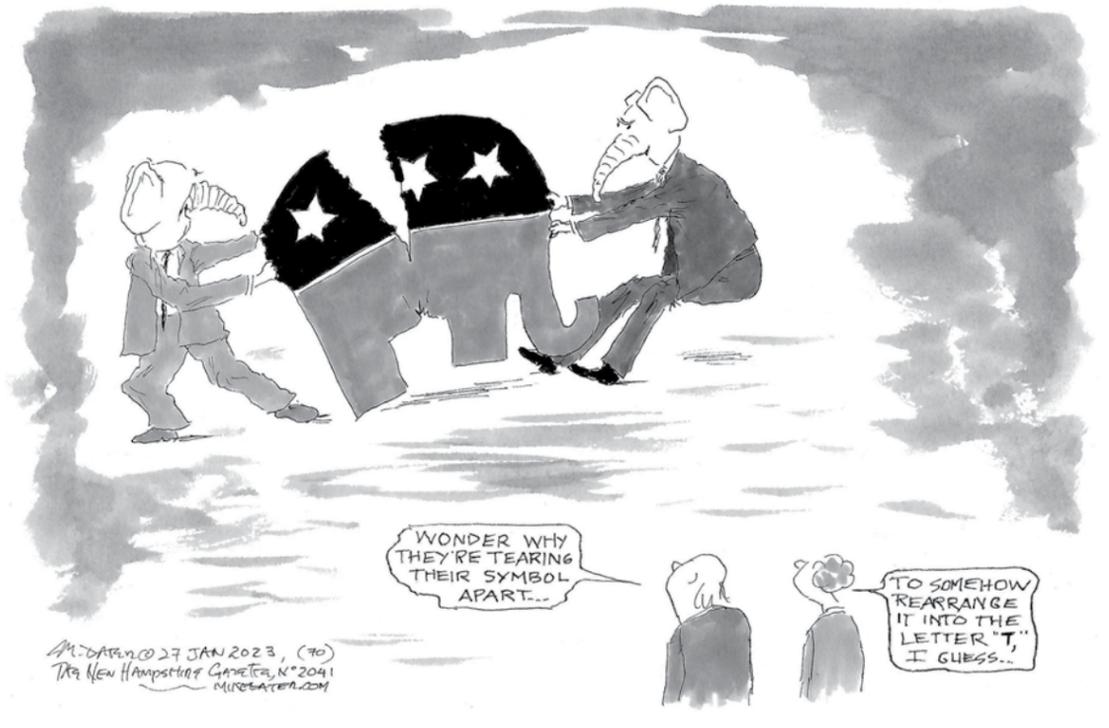
It is possible to imagine a world where peace returns rapidly to Ukraine, and the subsequent disruptions to global food and fertiliser trade are reduced. It is not possible to imagine a world where climate change and ecological destruction are thrown into reverse—indeed, some of the effects felt today, nota-

bly, biodiversity loss, are irreversible. This twofold combination has led ecologist Nicholas Beuret to describe a "climate supercycle" of food shortages and rising prices running well into the future. (A recent episode of my podcast 'Macrodose' examines the coming food shortages for UK farmers.)

And, finally, BlackRock misses the extreme profits that shortages over the last year have generated for a select few multinationals, such as those supplying oil and gas.

It's the last part that's critical. A more unstable world affects everyone, but it will affect everyone differently.

For most of us, on the wrong side of food price hikes and extreme weather, the future is not great. But for the lucky few, shortages have been turned, through price rises, into massive profits.



*James Meadway directs the Progressive Economy Forum. This article was published at OpenDemocracy.net. It is reprinted here under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International licence.*

**Sanders Denounces Manchin-Romney Attack on Social Security**

by Kenny Stancil  
Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) on Saturday slammed Sen. Joe Manchin's (D-W.Va.) widely panned proposal to explore slashing Social Security benefits as part of a debt ceiling pact with Republicans.

In an interview with Fox Business at the ruling class' annual gathering in Davos for the World Economic Forum, Manchin suggested that members of both major U.S. political parties "work together" on solving the nation's so-called "debt problem." Although Manchin didn't explicitly demand cuts to Social Security and expressed opposition to GOP calls for privatization, he singled out the program for intervention, saying that Congress "should be able to solidify it."

Given that Republicans are currently threatening to tank the global

economy unless Democrats agree to reduce social spending, Manchin's unilateral call for appeasement has set off alarm bells.

What's especially concerning to progressives is that the corporate-backed lawmaker is the co-author, alongside Sen. Mitt Romney (R-Utah), of the TRUST Act, a bill that would enable Congress to create bipartisan "rescue" committees for the nation's trust fund programs—including Social Security and Medicare—and give the panels 180 days to develop "legislation that restores solvency and otherwise improves each." Measures put forth by the bipartisan committees would be fast-tracked for floor votes in both chambers of Congress, with no amendments allowed.

Not only is Social Security legally incapable of adding to the federal deficit, but budget analysts have shown that the program is financially sound, requiring just a small increase in payroll tax revenue to ensure full benefits beyond 2035.

"The last thing we need is another commission to propose cuts to Social Security and Medicare," Sanders (I-Vt.) tweeted Saturday.

"The last time we had one, it proposed cutting Social Security benefits for middle-class seniors by up to 35 percent and cutting tax rates for billionaires," Sanders added, referring to the notorious 2010 Bowles-Simpson Commission, on which Manchin and Romney's bill is based.

Former Clinton White House Chief of Staff Erskine Bowles and former Republican Sen. Alan Simpson (Wyo.), the Obama-appointed chairs of that commission, both endorsed the TRUST Act in 2021, calling it "important and vital."

Historically informed critics, by contrast, have condemned Manchin and Romney's legislation as "a Trojan horse to cut seniors' benefits."

Sanders' staff director Warren Gunnels provided additional historical context on Saturday, linking to a 2012 essay in which the senator explained that in addition to seeking to cut wealthy households' tax rates and current retirees' Social Security benefits, the panel also proposed raising the retirement age to 69 years, slashing veterans' benefits, increasing interest rates on student loans, and eliminating 450,000 federal jobs,



*Sunday was a normal winter's day for a change: cold, overcast, and dank. Oh, well. As people say, might as well enjoy it—it's likely to be the coldest winter of the rest of your life. Taking advantage of traversable sidewalks and a temporary lack of freezing rain, our Wandering Photographer visited McNabbville, to photograph the imposing stone wall seen here. Located behind the Federal building which long housed Ron Bourgeault's auction house, it extends about 150 feet east along the north side of Court street, between Pleasant and Washington. Behind the wall, Bourgeault's former parking lot is now a construction site. From it a new building will eventually rise. Currently at issue is whether the wall will survive the process. If the weather had been more clement perhaps ol' W.P. would have been more diligent, and created a visual record of the full length of this venerable structure. For now, this will have to do. From what we've read, this wall might have gone up about the time this newspaper turned 50—give or take a few decades. Let's hope we, and it, are both still standing a few decades down the line.*

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among other harmful measures.

On Wednesday, Manchin asserted that his and Romney's bill could be used to secure a debt ceiling deal with House Republicans, many of whom have vowed to not lift the country's borrowing cap—an arbitrary and arguably unconstitutional figure set by Congress—unless Democrats agree to shred vital social programs.

The U.S. government's outstanding debt officially hit the statutory limit of \$31.4 trillion on Thursday, at which point the Treasury Department started repurposing federal funds.

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen told congressional leaders last week that "the use of extraordinary measures enables the government to meet its obligations for only a limited amount of time," possibly through early June. She implored Congress to "act in a timely manner to increase or suspend the debt limit," warning that "failure to meet the government's obligations would cause irreparable harm to the U.S.

economy, the livelihoods of all Americans, and global financial stability."

Notably, Capitol Hill's deficit hawks do not support reducing the Pentagon's ever-expanding budget or hiking taxes on the rich to increase revenue. On the contrary, the first bill unveiled by House Republicans in the 118th Congress seeks to rescind most of the Inflation Reduction Act's roughly \$80 billion funding boost for the Internal Revenue Service—a move that would help wealthy households evade taxes and add an estimated \$114 billion to the federal deficit.

A 2011 debt ceiling standoff enabled the GOP to impose austerity and also resulted in a historic downgrading of the U.S. government's credit rating, but the country has never defaulted on its debt. Economists warn that doing so would likely trigger chaos in financial markets, leading to millions of job losses and the erasure of \$15 trillion in wealth.

Knowing that a painful recession is at stake, "many leading Repub-



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lican lawmakers are demanding that their new House majority use the debt limit as leverage to force the Biden administration to accept sweeping spending cuts that Democrats oppose, creating an impasse with no clear resolution at hand," the *Washington Post* reported last week.

Manchin claims to have spoken "briefly" with House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) about the TRUST Act. Asked about the White House's opposition to attaching any policy concessions to a debt ceiling agreement, Manchin said he believes the Biden administration will change its tune and negotiate with Republicans.

Alex Lawson, the executive director of Social Security Works, told *Common Dreams* earlier this week that President Joe Biden should "reiterate his commitment to only signing a clean debt limit increase, and specifically rule out a closed-door commission designed to cut Social Security."

Lawson's sentiment was echoed Saturday by Gunnels, who wrote on social media: "I'm old enough to remember that the disastrous Bowles-Simpson 'fiscal commission'

came very close to passing Congress some ten years ago. Bernie led the fight against it. It was a bad idea then, it is an even worse idea now."

Rather than allowing a bipartisan commission to propose devastating cuts, Sanders argued, "we must instead expand Social Security."

Surveys have shown that U.S. voters are strongly opposed to cutting or privatizing Social Security and want Congress to expand the program. Last year, Sanders and Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) led the introduction of the Social Security Expansion Act, which would lift the cap on income that is subject to the Social Security payroll tax and boost the program's annual benefits by \$2,400.

According to Data for Progress, 76 percent of likely voters—including 83 percent of Democrats, 73 percent of Republicans, and 73 percent of independents—support imposing, for the first time, payroll taxes on individuals with annual incomes above \$400,000 per year to fund an expansion of Social Security benefits. Currently, annual earnings above \$160,200 are not subject to the Social Security payroll tax.

*Kenny Stancil is a staff writer for Common Dreams. This work is licensed under Creative Commons (CC BY-NC-ND 3.0). Feel free to republish and share widely.*

**New Brett Kavanaugh Documentary Sparks Call for DOJ Probe**

by Brett Wilkins

The surprise premiere of a documentary revealing "shocking new allegations" of sexual crimes committed decades ago by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh sparked new calls on Monday for Senate and Justice Department investigations.

Doug Liman's "Justice" premiered Friday as a last-minute addition to the lineup of the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah. According to Free Speech for People, the film "includes important new details about specific allegations of sexual misconduct by Kavanaugh" and "also reveals disturbing new evidence of misconduct by Kavanaugh and his associates" surrounding the right-wing justice's 2018 Senate

**The Alleged News®**

to page seven



Light traffic on a dreary Sunday afternoon made it seem less reckless to squat in the middle of the intersection of Daniel and Penhallow, the better to see and appreciate McNabb's New Ark. It's bold. It's interesting. It's certainly no safe, hide-bound effort to blend seamlessly into the existing urban fabric. Though it's not yet open, it's now possible to get a glimpse through the front door of the three-story foyer. If the timbers on the exterior don't seem to make sense now, a look inside will likely resolve any questions. The only thing missing, as we see it, is a battery of 8-inch Parrott guns on the roof. Their sustained fire across the intersection, in a northeasterly direction, might be the best way—perhaps the only way—to resolve the question of the future of the McIntyre Federal Building.

**Murph's Fortnightly Quote**

*"If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything."*

— Mark Twain

*"The warlike nations do not inherit the earth; they represent the decaying human element."*

— Norman Angell

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**We Must Fight For Reproductive Justice**  
To the Editor:

This month Roe, the landmark Supreme Court case which ruled that the right to choose an abortion was protected by the Constitution, would have turned 50. We should have been celebrating 50 years of legal abortion, but unfortunately, this past June a conservative Supreme Court struck down this critical precedent. As a result, more than half of our states have imposed harmful abortion bans and restrictions, leaving millions of people without access.

It's important to note that as reproductive justice advocates, we have always believed that Roe should be the floor not the ceiling. Even during the Roe era, abortion was not accessible to everyone. Throughout the nation, extreme right wing legislators have been chipping away at abortion access for years, through access barriers such as parental consent laws, mandatory waiting periods and ultrasound requirements.

And while abortion remains safe and legal in New Hampshire up until 24 weeks, our state has also succumbed to extreme public policy that has chipped away at abortion access, including a parental notification law, a gestational ban and an ultrasound mandate (the latter was overturned after public outrage).

This moment requires a multi-pronged approach for reproductive justice. First, we need to fight off continued attacks on abortion access. There are several bills this legislative session, including HB 591, the so-called fetal heartbeat bill that would essentially outlaw all abortion. We also need to work to advance proactive bills, including enshrining abortion rights into state law with HB 88, the Access to Abortion Care Act, and CACR2, New Hampshire's Reproductive Liberty Amendment. We must also provide direct support to reproductive health centers and abortion funds as they continue to do everything they can to ensure abortion-seekers are still able to get the care they need.

True reproductive justice, in line with the values of Granite Staters,

supports giving people the agency and ability to choose abortion, but also the opportunity to choose to raise children in a society that is healthy, safe and just. In a post-Roe world, we must fight hard for this on the state level. We truly believe we have the power to build this world beyond Roe, a world where people have true autonomy and access, but we'll only get there if we all work toward this vision together.

Rep. Amanda Elizabeth Toll [Cheshire-16]

Keene, N.H.  
Josie Pinto, Executive Director, The Reproductive Freedom Fund of New Hampshire [RFFNH]

Amanda and Josie:  
We read your letter online at Sentinel-source.com. Thanks for giving us permission to publish it here.

In a saner nation, RFFNH would not be necessary. Abortion would be available on request, and health care would be free for all. With no cap on payroll taxes, we could easily afford it.

The ostentatiously pious will surely find this proposal outrageous. Consider, though, for a moment: Peace-loving people from Maine to California are currently being forced to help Saudi Arabia wage war on Yemen—to pick just one example out of dozens. Explain to us how that's any different.

The nation and the world are what they are. With the Supreme Court in the hands of the American Taliban, your work is vital. Your direct approach is inspiring.

The Editor

=====  
**A Convenient Memory Lapse**

To the editors:  
How convenient for Jeffery Frost, of Alexandria, N.H. to forget that it was D.J. Trump who pulled the CDC employees who worked at the Infectious Disease facility in Wuhan, China, before the Covid pandemic began. That same president also disbanded the small U.S. agency that was specifically tasked with pandemic preparedness. All this to promote "smaller government."

And let's never forget the disjointed, anti-science "Presidential Briefings" that advocated for using



smallpox medicines to cure Covid, killing countless citizens who foolishly believed him that it was a cure, as well as the other quack cures like injecting Clorox in our veins. Those briefings, full of false, misleading "facts," led to hundreds of thousands of deaths that could have been avoided if "science" had been followed as it evolved over the course 2020.

Paul Cully  
Dover, N.H.

Paul:  
Jeffrey—and Don Ewing—seem to have an enviable ability to ignore certain facts.

It's a hell of a talent, and it must make life easier—right up to the point when it gets you into trouble.

We prefer paranoia. It's worked for us so far.

The Editor

=====  
**McCarthy's Pre-Sold Soul**

Dear Sir:  
It has been said that Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) sold his soul to gain the Speaker of the House position by promising all sorts of favors to the far-right members of his party. Unfortunately, Mr. McCarthy already sold his soul to Donald Trump in 2021. Immediately after the January 6, 2021 insurrection, Mr. McCarthy correctly blamed Trump for inciting the attack on the Capitol. However, soon after realizing his political lack of judgement, he quickly reversed course and made a pilgrimage to Mar-A-Lago to kiss the ring of Mr. Trump and beg for his forgiveness.

To become Speaker, Mr. McCarthy, having no soul left to sell, sold the nation and our national security down the river. He has done this by placing the most extreme and dangerous members of his party on key committees, such as Homeland Security, House Oversight, Ways and Means, and Natural Resources. The consequences of such appointments will have a chilling effect on our de-

mocracy and turn the "Peoples House" into a madhouse.

However, as disastrous as the above will be, the greatest threat comes from McCarthy promising that the House will not approve an increase to the debt ceiling without the Democrats agreeing to \$130 billion in cuts to Medicare, Social Security, and other domestic spending. Refusing to raise the debt ceiling means that the U.S. will default resulting in creating havoc on both our economy and the international markets. The results could be a severe global recession or even a depression.

The reasoning behind the McCarthy gang for not raising the debt ceiling is their claim that Democrats have raised our budget deficit and national debit with their spending. However, the facts show that it has been their party that is responsible for those problems. According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), Trump's big tax cuts for corporations and the wealthy added \$2 trillion to the deficit. Under Trump, in 2019, before the pandemic, the debt had grown to \$22 trillion. At a GDP of 5.2 percent the growth of the deficit under Trump was the third largest in history, behind only George W. Bush, who grew the deficit by 11.7 percent, and President Lincoln fighting the Civil War. (Heather Cox Richardson, January 17, 2023)

Unless some level of sanity returns to those in charge of the House of Representatives, the nation will be heading toward financial and national security catastrophe. And we know who will be responsible.

Rich DiPentima, LTC, USAFR, Ret.

Portsmouth, N.H.

Rich:

There's responsible, and then there's responsibility. If the U.S.A. does go off the fiscal rails, Republicans will be responsible

for the train wreck, but they'll never admit responsibility.

The Editor

=====  
**A Sudden Dread Descends Upon Mr. Ewing**  
To the Editor:

The U.S. hit its debt ceiling yesterday. Hysterical lies are told to get you to demand raising the debt limit so that Congressional leadership can continue its irresponsible and wasteful spending.

You'll hear that seniors won't get their Social Security payments, Medicare, &c. That's a lie. You'll hear that our nation's credit is jeopardized. That's a lie. Hundreds of billions of tax dollars are received every month and can be used to pay for essential spending. Some other spending should, and will have to end.

It's irresponsible spending that jeopardizes national security. Our \$31.5 trillion debt is growing by \$1 trillion annually. Interest costs about \$1 Trillion annually...and we have to borrow that!

Our Senators and Congressmen were sent to Washington to ensure our tax dollars are spent appropriately, but past Congressional leadership kept them from doing that.

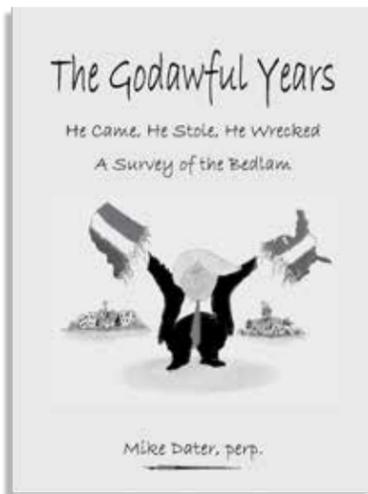
National Security is threatened by Congressional leadership that avoids the normal budgeting process and demands immediate passage of enormous Omnibus spending bills, created mostly in secret, to avoid a government shutdown.

All bills should go through the committee processes so our elected representatives can eliminate waste and inappropriate spending (as the new Republican House Leadership has committed).

Congressional leadership passed a \$1.7 Trillion Omnibus spending bill like this just last month; few, if any, of

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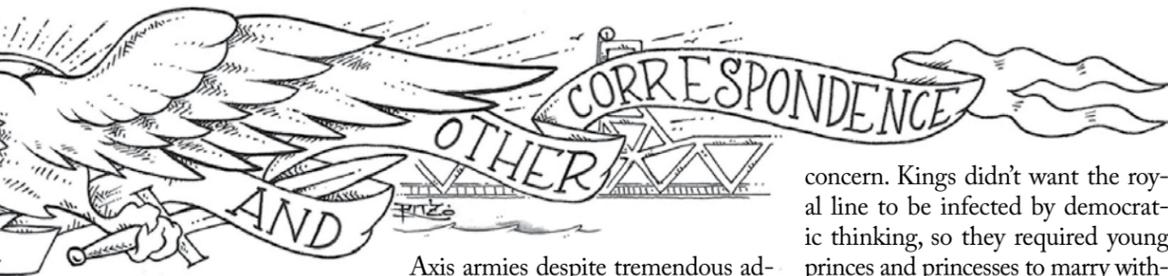
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our Representatives had time to read it. Little of this money has been spent; most of the allocated money should be cancelled and a proper budget passed.

Apparently there's about \$1 Trillion of unspent and uncommitted money from the Infrastructure and Covid Relief bills; those allocations should be cancelled.

We don't have a debt limit problem; we have a debt problem, a Congressional mismanagement problem, and a wasteful spending problem. Don't let them scare you into approving more wasteful spending.

Don Ewing  
Meredith, N.H.

Don:

Where did you acquire the dandy on/off switch that controls your concern about our national budget? Its powerful effects are a wonder to behold!

Ever since Saint Ronny, the pattern's been the same: Rs drive up the debt, and Ds bring it down.

What do you care, though? Like the rest of the right wing, you just absorb the pre-packaged thought-substitute spewed out by the likes of Sean Hannity and Tucker Carlson, and vomit it forth when the mood strikes.

We let you do it because we enjoy bating practice.

The Editor

**Thorniest Problem of the Day**

Dear Editor,

The generous support from the Soviet Union was inadequate to enable the Republicans to withstand the terror unleashed by the German and Italian backed Nationalists during the Spanish Civil War. The Spanish people suffered for decades under the Nationalist government and the Spanish army fought alongside the Germans during the Siege of Leningrad in which the Soviet people defeated the

Axis armies despite tremendous adversity.

The government of the Russian Federation made a serious commitment to support the peoples of the Donbas in their fight for self-determination against the illegitimate Ukraine government backed by the U.S. and U.K. Thousands of Donbas residents were killed in the violence unleashed by the Nationalists before the Russian parliament voted to recognize their independence and provide the military support they requested. Residents of the U.S. and U.K. must demand that our two governments end the arms shipments to Nationalist Ukraine and pursue peace talks between the interested parties.

Your Loyal Reader,

Gregory Kalkanis

Gregory:

We can certainly vouch for your loyalty as a reader. And, unlike our next writer here, you have made your position pretty clear.

Needless to say, that position is at odds with the prevailing sentiment in our circles. We do wish you had offered suggestions for further reading.

The Editor

**Monarchy, Religion, and... What?**

Dear Editor,

Catholics, Mormons, and some Jews still require their youth to marry within the faith or suffer consequences.

Historically, democratic societies placed legal restrictions on marriage in order to avoid polluting society with foreign ideologies brought in by outside marriage partners. One worrisome ideology in particular was the philosophy of monarchy. Under monarchy, folks turned over most power to only one decision-maker.

Monarchy itself had a similar but slightly more challenging marriage

concern. Kings didn't want the royal line to be infected by democratic thinking, so they required young princes and princesses to marry within "the blood." Royals everywhere claimed God ordained their families to rule society "forever."

The common denominator in all these marriage customs? Special human beings must not entertain strange bedfellows who would almost certainly be a drag on the closed society of the very special people.

Kimball Shinkoskey

Woods Cross, Utah

Kimball,

Once again, we're not sure we got your point. Also, we're not sure we buy your premise. "...legal restrictions on marriage in order to avoid polluting society with foreign ideologies brought in by outside marriage partners..."? Which democratic societies? What restrictions?

As for monarchy, and monarchical theories—which, by the way, seem hardly susceptible to broad generalization—whenever we hear "monarchy," we reach for Thomas Paine:

"...what is called monarchy, always appears to me a silly, contemptible thing. I compare it to something kept behind a curtain, about which there is a great deal of bustle and fuss, and a wonderful air of seeming solemnity; but when, by any accident, the curtain happens to be open—and the company see what it is, they burst into laughter."

The Editor

**Relevant History Hidden in Plain Sight**

To the Editor:

Recently you ran a piece mentioning William Greider and his great Opus, *The Secrets of the Temple*. I couldn't find that article, but as I recall, he wrote of the management of the Fed by Marriner Eccles, appointed by Roosevelt in 1934. Under Eccles, the Fed was supportive of the New Deal, and was liberal in providing money for loans to various programs, buying up bonds from agencies directly, saving

fees that would accrue to the "primary dealer" banks for marketing the bonds. During the war, the Treasury bonds went directly to the Fed, which had to return the interest to the Treasury for any bonds that it held. (Interestingly, and un-reported by the mainstream media, the "Quantitative Easing" that the Fed made by purchasing Treasuries from the banks sent the interest back to the taxpayer).

It wasn't until the Republican Congress in 1951 passed an act that changed this policy, the year in which Eccles resigned.

Greider also went into painful detail of Volcker's monetarism, which was uncharted waters in which Volcker floundered, raising and lowering rates, hoping to stem inflation. Another underreported event that furthered inflation was the hot money "Eurodollars" that accumulated in Europe due to U.S. trade deficits. The major investment banks would bring these back to purchase high interest debt.

I wish I hadn't given away my copy some years ago so I could thumb through for references, but Greider told a masterful story of the Fed's history from its inception through the Volcker period.

Jim Tartari

Wellesley, Mass.

Jim:

Why are we not surprised that a Republican Congress discontinued Eccles' wise policies?

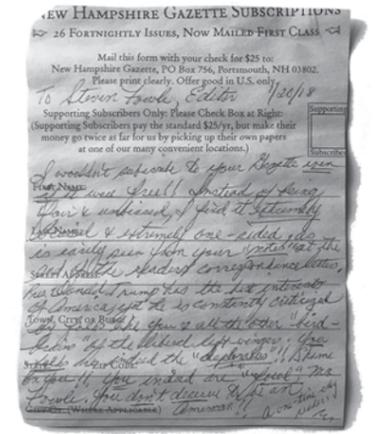
Chances are that only the most dedicated of our readers will follow up on these facts. We publish them nevertheless to make this point:

Thanks to endless repetition by politicians who may be either duplicitous or ignorant—i.e., Sen. Ted Cruz or Rep. Louis Gohmert—there isn't an American alive who has not heard ad nauseam the bone-stupid analogy comparing the federal budget with a household budget. Like this damned Covid virus, that idiotic canard has probably become ineradicable.

Just try to explain to someone, though, that the Federal Reserve's role in our economy is to serve as the bond market's Goon Squad, and in less than a minute you'll be rewarded with a blank stare.

The Editor

**Recycling a Favorite Bit of Hate Mail**  
[Note: On our newsroom wall we keep a yellowed subscription form, retrieved from P.O. Box 756 in January of 2018 [see below]. In lieu of a name, address, and check, it bore a bit of proper old-school, handwritten hate mail. In celebration of the fifth anniversary of its receipt, we publish its transcribed contents here. —The Ed.]



To Steven Fowle, Editor,

I wouldn't subscribe to your Gazette even if it were free!! Instead of being fair + unbiased, I find it extremely biased + extremely one-sided, as is easily seen from your "notes" at the end of readers' correspondence letters. Pres. Donald Trump has the best interests of America, yet he is constantly criticized by folks like you + all the other "bird-brains" of the liberal left-wingers. You folks are indeed the "deplorable"!! Shame on you!! You indeed are "fowl, Mr. Fowle. You don't deserve to be an American!!

A one-time only reader.

Dear One-Time:

You were admirably clear, and certainly made your point. Yet it's true what they say: hope springs eternal. Whenever we visit the Post Office, we look for a letter from you.

The Editor

**2023 Doomsday Clock Statement of the Science and Security Board of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists**

This year, the Science and Security Board of the Bulletin of the Atomic

Mash Notes, Hate Mail, &c.

to page six

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

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from page five



Scientists moves the hands of the Doomsday Clock forward, largely (though not exclusively) because of the mounting dangers of the war in Ukraine. The Clock now stands at 90 seconds to midnight—the closest to global catastrophe it has ever been.

The war in Ukraine may enter a second horrifying year, with both sides convinced they can win. Ukraine's sovereignty and broader European security arrangements that have largely held since the end of World War II are at stake. Also, Russia's war on Ukraine has raised profound questions about how states interact, eroding norms of international conduct that underpin successful responses to a variety of global risks.

And worst of all, Russia's thinly veiled threats to use nuclear weapons remind the world that escalation of the conflict—by accident, intention, or miscalculation—is a terrible risk. The possibility that the conflict could spin out of anyone's control remains high.

Russia's recent actions contra-

vene decades of commitments by Moscow. In 1994, Russia joined the United States and United Kingdom in Budapest, Hungary, to solemnly declare that it would "respect the independence and sovereignty and the existing borders of Ukraine" and "refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of Ukraine..." These assurances were made explicitly on the understanding that Ukraine would relinquish nuclear weapons on its soil and sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty—both of which Ukraine did.

Russia has also brought its war to the Chernobyl and Zaporizhzhia nuclear reactor sites, violating international protocols and risking widespread release of radioactive materials. Efforts by the International Atomic Energy Agency to secure these plants so far have been rebuffed.

As Russia's war on Ukraine continues, the last remaining nuclear weapons treaty between Russia and

the United States, New START, stands in jeopardy. Unless the two parties resume negotiations and find a basis for further reductions, the treaty will expire in February 2026. This would eliminate mutual



inspections, deepen mistrust, spur a nuclear arms race, and heighten the possibility of a nuclear exchange.

As UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned in August, the world has entered "a time of nuclear danger not seen since the height of the Cold War."

The war's effects are not limited

to an increase in nuclear danger; they also undermine global efforts to combat climate change. Countries dependent on Russian oil and gas have sought to diversify their supplies and suppliers, leading to expanded investment in natural gas exactly when such investment should have been shrinking.

In the context of a hot war and against the backdrop of nuclear threats, Russia's false accusations that Ukraine planned to use radiological dispersal devices, chemical weapons, and biological weapons take on new meaning as well. The continuing stream of disinformation about bioweapons laboratories in Ukraine raises concerns that Russia itself may be thinking of deploying such weapons, which many experts believe it continues to develop.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has increased the risk of nuclear weapons use, raised the specter of biological and chemical weapons use, hamstrung the world's response to climate change, and hampered

international efforts to deal with other global concerns. The invasion and annexation of Ukrainian territory have also violated international norms in ways that may embolden others to take actions that challenge previous understandings and threaten stability.

There is no clear pathway for forging a just peace that discourages future aggression under the shadow of nuclear weapons. But at a minimum, the United States must keep the door open to principled engagement with Moscow that reduces the dangerous increase in nuclear risk the war has fostered. One element of risk reduction could involve sustained, high-level U.S. military-to-military contacts with Russia to reduce the likelihood of miscalculation. The U.S. government, its NATO allies, and Ukraine have a multitude of channels for dialogue; they all should be explored. Finding a path to serious peace negotiations could go a long way toward reducing the risk of escalation. In this time of unprecedented global danger, concerted action is required, and every second counts.

—==—

**The Alleged News®**

from page three

confirmation hearings.

This includes "evidence that Kavanaugh may have knowingly perjured himself" and that the justice's associates engaged in what his friend referred to as "a cover-up."

Kavanaugh—the second of three right-wing justices appointed to the nation's highest court by then-President Donald Trump—was accused of sexually assaulting Christine Blasey Ford, who is now a Stanford professor, when they were in high school. Kavanaugh also allegedly exposed himself without consent to Deborah Ramirez, a Yale classmate, during a college party. He has denied both allegations.

"Justice" producer Amy Herdy said during a post-premiere Q&A in Park City: "I do hope this triggers

outrage. I do hope that this triggers action, I do hope that this triggers additional investigation with real subpoena powers."

To that end, Free Speech for People wrote to U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland as well as to Senate Judiciary Committee Chair Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) and Ranking Member Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) seeking a probe of Kavanaugh based on details in the film.

"Some of these details were sent to the FBI during its brief, compressed investigation into similar allegations during Kavanaugh's 2018 confirmation hearings, although the FBI did not follow up or interview the relevant witnesses," the group said Monday in a letter to the senators.

The letter states: "Most disturbing, however, is new evidence of conduct by Kavanaugh and his associates (perhaps even before his accusers

came forward) concerning the 2018 Senate hearing itself. For example, the film shows a 2018 text message discussion amongst mutual acquaintances of Kavanaugh and Deborah Ramirez, regarding Ramirez's soon-to-be-public allegations that Kavanaugh had exposed himself to her. According to the text messages shown in the documentary, Kavanaugh asked a mutual friend to go on the record to defend him. Another friend referred to it as "a cover-up." This indicates consciousness of guilt—and therefore evidence that he may have knowingly perjured himself in the confirmation hearings—and a potential conspiracy to obstruct and defraud the Senate by coordinating a false information campaign."

The *Washington Post* reports that "the FBI's national press office did not have a comment on the documentary but reiterated that their services in a nomination process are limited to fact-finding and background investigations."

"The scope of the background

investigation is requested by the White House," an FBI spokesperson told the *Post* in a statement. "The FBI does not have the independent authority to expand the scope of a supplemental background investigation outside the requesting agency's parameters."

Speaking about the women who stepped forward to share their stories in the film, director Liman told *The Guardian*: "This was the kind of movie where people are terrified. The people that chose to participate in the movie are heroes."

*Brett Wilkins is a staff writer for Common Dreams. This work is licensed under Creative Commons (CC BY-NC-ND 3.0). Feel free to republish and share widely.*

**"Wall Street Loves Layoffs": Tech Slashes Jobs, Rich Investors Demand More Carnage**

by Jake Johnson

Amazon, Microsoft, Google, and other major tech companies have moved in recent days to lay off tens of thousands of employees, slashing jobs across the board amid mount-

ing fears of a Fed-induced recession.

But the sweeping job cuts—more than 18,000 at Amazon, 10,000 at Microsoft, and 12,000 at Google—were apparently not enough to satisfy ultra-rich investors, some of whom have taken large stakes in tech companies with the intention of forcing layoffs and other cost-cutting as a way of boosting profits.

"The decision to cut 12,000 jobs is a step in the right direction, but it does not even reverse the very strong headcount growth of 2022," billionaire hedge fund manager Christopher Hohn wrote in a January 20 letter to Google CEO Sundar Pichai.

"I believe that management should aim to reduce headcount to around 150,000," Hohn added, urging the tech behemoth to slash tens of thousands of additional jobs.

Elliott Management, a large U.S. investment firm, recently opened a multibillion-dollar position in the software giant Salesforce, which announced earlier this month that it will be cutting roughly 10 percent

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**FOWLE'S PILE AND HUMOR CURE**

# In Dreams Begin Responsibilities

by W.D. Ehrhart

I had a particularly weird dream last night in which I was giving the commencement address at a school where I'd taught for many years. For reasons known only in dreams, I ended up talking about post-traumatic stress disorder and how PTSD is the inevitable result of subjecting a healthy human brain to traumatic stress.

The consequences are unavoidable. If you are subjected to traumatic stress and it doesn't screw you up, you were screwed up before you encountered the traumatic stress.

You will not make the scarring go away with counselling or group solidarity (in the case of soldiers) or anything else I've ever heard of. There's a reason it's called traumatic stress. The best you can do with PTSD is learn to live with it. Most people manage to do that with varying degrees of success. Some people don't.

But as dreams will have it, the audience didn't like what I had to say—actually, in truth, that happens when I'm not dreaming, too—and began to heckle me. Someone shouted, "Why don't you go back to Russia?" I know, that doesn't make much sense in the context, but this was a dream.

With the mention of Russia, that led me to the current war in Ukraine. I think most of us here in the United States admire the brave resistance of the Ukrainians in the face of Russian aggression, the endurance and

persistence of the Ukrainian people.

But I asked my now-hostile audience how the United States would respond if Mexico and Canada signed a military alliance with Russia. In effect, this is what the U.S. and NATO began to do in the 1990s with the fall of the Soviet Union. "We're going to push our alliance right up to your borders, you Cold War losers, and there's nothing you can do about it. Nyah, nyah!"

The long-term result was both predictable and inevitable. This is not to say that Tsar Putin's actions are justifiable or in any way excusable. They and he are not.

But framing this war as good versus evil, democracy versus dictatorship is more than a little problematic, especially when you consider that NATO includes Poland, Hungary, and Turkey, not exactly stellar examples of democracy.

And have we Americans forgotten that Iraq in 2003 neither played any role whatsoever in the attacks of September 11th, 2001, nor possessed weapons of mass destruction, two facts which were known within U.S. policymaking circles prior to our invasion? The *casus belli* of our war in Iraq was as fabricated and phony as Putin's excuse for invading Ukraine.

Well, you can just imagine my dream audience's reaction to all this.

There was pandemonium in the auditorium. People were standing on their seats, shaking their fists, shouting obscenities at me. I was trying to tell the graduates themselves that this is what happens when you exercise your First Amendment right to express unpopular opinions; this is what you can expect as you prepare to set out on your journey into the Brave New World that awaits you.

Just as the mob that had once been an audience began to clamber onto the stage and surround me, I woke up. The thing I always appreciate about dreams is that they aren't real, they don't actually happen, they're all in my head. Whatever emotions have caused my heart to race and my scalp to sweat are dissipated quickly as consciousness returns.

Nevertheless, I found myself reflecting on where this dream had come from and what it meant. I've been thinking about PTSD because a friend who is an ex-Marine and Vietnam War veteran had recently read a book of mine and written: "Passing Time is a fine book, Bill. And the gradual evolution of PTSD was especially good, and as I remember it. I didn't know what was happening to me—how could I have all these 'symptoms' and disabling rages and anxieties? I was glad to be home, so I was embarrassed at having episodes that checked off

most of the PTSD parade of hits." If you survive traumatic stress, you come away with PTSD. That's just the way it is.

As for the war in Ukraine, I'm not taking sides. I'm not urging the U.S. government to send Patriot Missile Systems, nor am I arguing that the U.S. should mind its own business and stay out of this entirely. Indeed, whatever I might think is the best way to handle this miserable situation is of no consequence at all. The people running the show aren't asking for my opinion, and aren't going to take it into consideration. I can do nothing about this war.

What I can do is try in some small way to alleviate the suffering of the millions of non-combatant civilians caught in the midst of the carnage. My wife and I are making monthly contributions to a relief fund for Ukrainian civilians, and will continue to do so for as long as this war lasts.

I'm not looking for kudos or compliments or your recognition. I mention this only because, in the midst of a world I can do little to change or improve, this is one small thing I can do. Small as it may be, it is something I can do. Something about lighting a candle rather than cursing the darkness.

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



## The Alleged News® from page six

of its workforce—around 8,000 jobs.

Bloomberg reported Monday that Salesforce "will probably be urged by activist investors" such as Elliott "to cut more jobs, make changes to the board, and spin off big acquisitions in search of greater profit."

"Investors greeted the news Sunday that Elliott had taken a multibillion-dollar stake by sending shares up 3.1 percent Monday to close at \$155.87—the highest price since the company announced co-Chief Executive Officer Bret Taylor's departure on November 30," Bloomberg added.

The shares of other tech companies staged similar rallies in the wake of layoff announcements. The music streaming company Spotify an-

nounced Monday that it is cutting 6 percent of its global workforce—and the firm's stock surged as a result.

Facebook parent company Meta and Google parent company Alphabet also saw their stocks rise following their layoff announcements, which were met with outrage by employees and labor organizations.

"In one email, Alphabet executives took away the livelihoods of 12,000 of our coworkers," the Alphabet Workers Union tweeted Monday. "They are now being forced to find jobs along with the 200,000 other tech workers laid off in the last 14 months."

Some Google employees didn't realize they were laid off until they arrived at the office and found that their access badges were deactivated.

The Athena Coalition, an alliance of local and national groups

representing U.S. workers, called Amazon's job cuts and the company's decision to shut down its AmazonSmile charity donation program "sacrificial symbols for Wall Street, exposing again the world's second-wealthiest company's indifference to workers and all people."

On top of the tech layoffs, the online furniture retailer Wayfair said last week that it plans to slash 1,750 jobs, news that sent the company's share price more than 20 percent higher. Days later, JPMorgan analysts upgraded the stock, sparking another rally.

"Wall Street loves layoffs," Sarah Anderson, director of the Global Economy Project at the Institute for Policy Studies, tweeted Monday.

Whether the spate of Big Tech layoffs signals more pain to come for the broader U.S. economy or is

largely the product of industry-specific challenges remains to be seen, but the job cuts have heightened anxiety about the labor market as a whole as the Federal Reserve continues to raise interest rates, explicitly targeting workers and their wages.

Though the U.S. unemployment rate remains at historically low levels, hiring has slowed in recent months and wage growth has cooled substantially, intensifying calls for the Fed to stop raising rates.

"[I]t's a deliberate political choice by the Fed to provoke a recession, for political and cultural reasons," progressive strategist Robert Cruickshank wrote last week. "These layoffs didn't have to happen, and people should be furious at the federal government for not stopping it."

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# Singing Them Hard-Hit Wall Street Worker Blues

by Jim Hightower

I don't usually cover sob stories, but this one is so touching it might make you cry. Or throw up.

It's about some workers who toiled all last year in the caverns of New York City, only to find at year's end that their pay was being cut by up to 50 percent. Actually, it's not their salaries that were cut — but their bonuses. You see, these are Wall Street investment bankers whose annual salaries total only a few hundred-thousand-dollars each (poor babies), but they always expect to double or triple that in bonus money. After all, theirs is a dirty job—they engineer multibillion-dollar corporate mergers that increase monopoly power, eliminate the jobs of thousands of regular workers, and further enrich the superrich. It's devilish work—hence the big bonus payouts to keep them doing it.

Last year, though, the number of whopper deals plummeted, the revenues of Wall Street investment banks sank...and, oh, how sad it was to hear the wails of so many poor Wall Street millionaires whose bonuses were whacked.

See, I told you it was a sob story. But worse than the loss of money for these hard-hit financial toilers is the tragic crimping of their lifestyle.

The *New York Times* reports, for example, that Wall Street's bonus bust has already resulted in fewer of these dealmakers buying hundred-thousand-dollar luxury cars this year. Can you imagine the pain of that? The dinging of annual bonuses is even stirring radical sentiments among these restive rich workers—in one survey of financial professionals, 72 percent said they would consider quitting if their bank cut their bonus.

Now there's an enticing new source of labor activism for unions that're organizing at Starbucks, Amazon, McDonald's, etc. Why not a Wall Street banker union? Solidarity forever, brothers and sisters!

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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

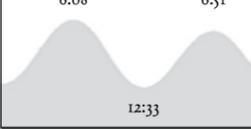
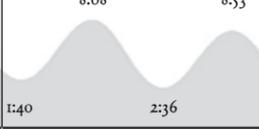
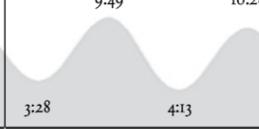
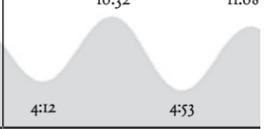
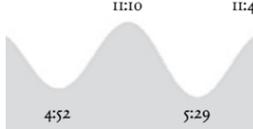
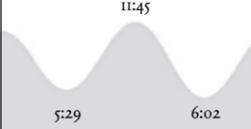
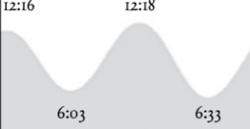
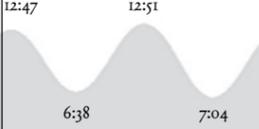
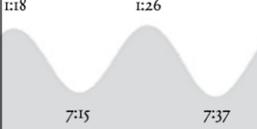
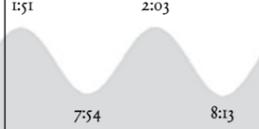
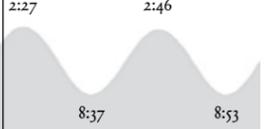
drags about seventeen billion gallons of seawater — enough to fill 2,125,000 tanker trucks — up the river and into Great Bay. This creates a roving hydraulic conflict, as incoming sea and the outgoing river collide. The skirmish line

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, JANUARY 29	MONDAY, JANUARY 30	TUESDAY, JANUARY 31	WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1	THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2	FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3	SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4
<p><b>2002</b>—Qasem Soleimani, Commander of the Quds Force—who had been considering a rapprochement between Iran and the U.S.—goes ballistic after George W.[MD] Bush's "Axis of Evil" speech. Also: Bush asks Senate Majority Leader Daschle to limit investigations into 9/11.</p> <p><b>1991</b>—"Our forces in the Gulf will not stay there one day longer than is necessary," says George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush.</p> <p><b>1979</b>—"I don't like Mondays," replies Brenda Spencer, 16, when asked why she shot eleven people, killing two, at a San Diego elementary school.</p> <p><b>1976</b>—The House, under Speaker Carl Albert [D-Okla.], votes to cover up the Pike Committee's report on the crimes of U.S. intelligence agencies.</p> <p><b>1925</b>—The sub S-48, enroute to the Shipyard, grounds itself off Jaffrey's Point, then again in Little Harbor.</p> <p><b>1912</b>—Anna LoPizzo, 34, is killed by a shot through the heart during the Bread and Roses strike in Lawrence, Mass. A cop probably did it, but anarchists are blamed.</p> <p><b>1889</b>—In an election featuring armed white men stealing ballot boxes, Congressional candidate John M. Clayton [R-Ark.] is shot through his boarding house window. He's declared the winner; the seat is left vacant.</p> <p><b>1863</b>—U.S. Army troops and Shoshone Indians clash at the Bear River in Utah. After the Shoshone run out of ammo, rapes and a massacre begin.</p>	<p><b>2005</b>—A U.S. official reports that \$9,000,000,000 is ... well ... sort of ... missing in Iraq.</p> <p><b>1981</b>—An FB-111A "Aardvark" based at Pease AFB crashes near homes at Mariner's Village, about 1.25 miles northwest of Market Square. One apartment building is destroyed; no one is injured.</p> <p><b>1976</b>—The Supreme Court decides that limiting campaign contributions would unfairly restrict the speech of a privileged minority group: people with unlimited amounts of money.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—"Bloody Sunday" in Northern Ireland: British soldiers gun down 14 Catholic civil-rights marchers.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—Two hundred colonels in the U.S. MACV staff attend a pool party in Saigon. "Not one ... knew Tet was coming" the next day, an analyst says later.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—A Soviet sub sinks the <i>MV Wilhelm Gustloff</i>; some 9,400 drown, mostly civilians, half children.</p> <p><b>1933</b>—Destabilized by austerity, largely self-inflicted, Germany allows the Nazis to seize power.</p> <p><b>1798</b>—Rep. Matthew Lyon insults Rep. Roger Griswold on the House floor. Griswold calls Lyon a coward; Lyon spits in Griswold's face.</p> <p><b>1661</b>—Oliver Cromwell, two years dead, is exhumed and decapitated. His head spends 20 years on a pike, and goes unburied until 1960.</p> <p><b>1649</b>—The limits of divine right finally dawn on Charles I, thanks to Oliver Cromwell and an executioner's ax.</p>	<p><b>2003</b>—At the White House, George W.[MD] Bush tells Tony Blair he's going to invade Iraq with or without WMDs, and diplomacy will have to fit around the military strategy.</p> <p><b>1984</b>—President Reagan alleges the U.S. has a problem with "people who are sleeping on the grates...homeless...you might say, by choice."</p> <p><b>1971</b>—In Detroit, Vietnam Veterans Against the War testify about U.S. policies in Vietnam. Few listen.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—It's Tet: the VC and NVA attack from the Delta to the DMZ. Saigon—even the U.S. Embassy—is a war zone. U.S. brass don't get the point—Gen. Wm. "Clueless" Westmoreland says Hue's been retaken; he's off by a month—but the public does.</p> <p><b>1963</b>—"The war in Vietnam is going well and will succeed," says R. Strange McNamara, Secretary of Defense.</p> <p><b>1957</b>—A DC-8 on a test flight over the San Fernando Valley loses a wing when it's hit by an F-89, also on a test flight. Four airmen die. Flaming debris kills three kids on a junior high playground; 74 are injured.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—Private Eddie Slovik gets to be the one U.S. deserter out of 21,000 to be executed by a firing squad.</p> <p><b>1933</b>—The fascist Silver Legion goes public in Asheville, N.C. Within a few years it claims 15,000 members.</p> <p><b>1900</b>—The day after he's shot a by conspiracy's hit man, William Goebel is sworn in as Governor of Kentucky. Three days later he dies.</p>	<p><b>2005</b>—Though Canada OK's same-sex marriage, the world does not end.</p> <p><b>2004</b>—Janet Jackson's nipple is briefly bared on TV; the world nearly ends.</p> <p><b>1974</b>—Richard Nixon meets for twenty minutes with the Messiah, aka Reverend Sun Myung Moon.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—Rev. Billy Graham explains to President Nixon that a group of Jews, the Biblical "synagogue of Satan," had the U.S. in a "stranglehold," via banking and the media. Nixon replies, "I can't ever say it, but I believe it."</p> <p><b>1971</b>—"The President is aware of what is going on in Southeast Asia," Ron Ziegler tells reporters. "That is not to say anything is going on in Southeast Asia." Certainly not an invasion of Laos one week later.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—In Saigon, AP photographer and former Marine Eddie Adams snaps the anti-Iwo Jima Flag Raising photo of the Vietnam War: General Nguyen Ngoc Loan shooting VC Captain Nguyen Van Lem, whose hands are tied, in the head.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—The Kingsmen's incomprehensible song "Louie Louie" is declared obscene by filthy-minded Indiana Governor Matthew E. Welsh.</p> <p><b>1963</b>—Fleetwood Lindley, the last living person to have looked upon the face of the dead Abraham Lincoln, dies at the age of 75.</p> <p><b>1960</b>—Civil rights sit-ins begin at Woolworth's in Greensboro, N.C.</p> <p><b>1951</b>—It was inevitable: the first televised A-bomb explosion.</p>	<p><b>2018</b>—A Tesla roadster is launched into space. The car company's CEO is, unfortunately, not behind the wheel.</p> <p><b>2015</b>—A week after a two-foot snowstorm, Po'Town gets 18 inches more.</p> <p><b>1991</b>—Before Desert Storm ground combat begins, the Pentagon bans the press from the Dover morgue.</p> <p><b>1979</b>—Zbigniew Brzezinski advises Jimmy Carter, "We should be careful not to overgeneralize.... Islamic revivalist movements...are not likely to be the wave of the future."</p> <p><b>1970</b>—Capt. Gary Faust bails out after his F-106 goes into a spin over Montana. The pilotless plane lands in a cornfield and is returned to service.</p> <p><b>1966</b>—Australians burn their conscription papers in Sydney.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—Protesting a protest against the jailing of MLK, Daniel P. Skelley pours water from a can labeled "gas" all over his American Nazi uniform. Cops take him away after a TV cameraman offers him a match.</p> <p><b>1952</b>—Winnie Ruth Judd, the "trunk murderer," makes her fifth escape from Arizona State Insane Hospital.</p> <p><b>1915</b>—German national Werner Horn bombs the railroad bridge connecting Vanceboro, Maine with St. Croix, Canada. There is little damage.</p> <p><b>1848</b>—The U.S. grabs half of Mexico via the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.</p> <p><b>1819</b>—N.H.'s own Daniel Webster wins <i>Dartmouth v. Woodward</i>; corporate charters are poised to become capital's #1 tool for crushing democracy.</p>	<p><b>2012</b>—"Today is the day that in 1924 Woodrow Wilson died, that son of a bitch," says radio-active dingbat Glenn Beck, "and I'm happy."</p> <p><b>2006</b>—After Don Rumsfeld likens H. Chavez to Hitler, Venezuela's VP compares the U.S. to the Third Reich.</p> <p><b>1959</b>—In Iowa, a plane crash kills Buddy Holly, "The Big Bopper," and Richie Valens.</p> <p><b>1956</b>—Elvis Presley, Carl Perkins, Jerry Lee Lewis, and Johnny Cash rock out at Sun studio in Memphis.</p> <p><b>1933</b>—The Senate fires Sergeant at Arms David S. Barry for writing, "there are not many crooks in Congress...who sell their vote for money, and it is pretty well known who those few are; but there are many demagogues...that will vote [to] help their political and social fortunes."</p> <p><b>1931</b>—Arkansas' state legislature votes to pray for the soul of H.L. Mencken after he calls the state "the apex of moronia."</p> <p><b>1916</b>—In Zurich, Hugo Ball opens Café Voltaire, hotbed of dadaism.</p> <p><b>1870</b>—The 15th Amendment is ratified: Black male Americans are told they can now vote.</p> <p><b>1811</b>—Future newspaperman and notable eccentric Horace Greeley is born on a farm in Amherst, N.H.</p> <p><b>1793</b>—Shot in the face and bayoneted 13 times by the British at Lexington 17 years earlier, Samuel Whittemore, a farmer, dies of natural causes at 98.</p> <p><b>1468</b>—RIP Johannes Gutenberg.</p>	<p><b>2009</b>—While giving a TED Talk on malaria prevention at Long Beach, Calif., Bill Gates releases a jarful of mosquitoes to feast on the audience.</p> <p><b>1976</b>—Lockheed admits to paying \$22 million in bribes to sell aircraft.</p> <p><b>1974</b>—William Randolph Hearst's granddaughter Patty, 19, is kidnapped by the Symbionese Liberation Army.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—Cholon, Saigon's Chinatown, is declared a free-fire zone; South Vietnamese pilots bomb their own capitol.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—Ur-beat Neal Cassady, 41, dies alongside railroad tracks in Mexico.</p> <p><b>1913</b>—Rosa Louise McCauley Parks is born in Tuskegee, Ala.</p> <p><b>1912</b>—Franz Reichelt, an Austrian tailor, tests an experimental parachute/overcoat from the Eiffel Tower. His design is fatally flawed.</p> <p><b>1899</b>—Five months after being liberated from Spaniards by Americans, Filipinos begin fighting the liberators.</p> <p><b>1887</b>—The ICC is established. A future Union Pacific president calls it "quite harmless...[it] will impress the popular mind with the idea that a great deal is being done, when, in reality, very little is intended to be done."</p> <p><b>1875</b>—Eadweard Muybridge, the pioneering photographer who shot Major Harry Larkyns dead for impregnating his wife, is found not guilty by a California jury which says they'd have done the same. He's the last man to enjoy that loophole in America.</p> <p><b>1794</b>—The Fugitive Slave Act expands the fugitive-catching racket.</p>
5:07      5:44  11:27      11:38	6:08      6:51  12:33	7:09      7:55  12:40      1:37	8:08      8:53  1:40      2:36	9:01      9:44  2:37      3:28	9:49      10:28  3:28      4:13	10:32      11:08  4:12      4:53
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5	MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6	TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7	WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8	THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9	FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10	SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11
<p><b>2021</b>—An inebriated man in a red hat with "mouse ears" spends five hours wandering around Joint Base Andrews, home to Air Force One.</p> <p><b>2018</b>—At a rally, D.J. Trump says Democrats who didn't applaud his State of the Union speech are traitors.</p> <p><b>2007</b>—Astronaut Lisa Marie Nowak is arrested for attempting to kidnap another astronaut's girlfriend and misappropriating NASA diapers.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—Secretary of State Colin Powell tells the UN that Saddam Hussein's Iraq is bristling with WMDs.</p> <p><b>1981</b>—For her husband's 70th birthday, First Lady Nancy Reagan flies her manicurist in from Los Angeles.</p> <p><b>1958</b>—A B-47 bomber collides with a jet fighter near Tybee Island off the coast of Georgia and jettisons an H-bomb. It's still buried in the mud.</p> <p><b>1953</b>—Ike starts a tradition and treads on the First Amendment by speaking at the National Prayer Breakfast.</p> <p><b>1937</b>—Roosevelt attempts to "pack" the Supreme Court.</p> <p><b>1918</b>—Stephen W. Thompson becomes the first American pilot to down an enemy aircraft.</p> <p><b>1897</b>—Marcel Proust meets critic Jean Lorrain for a pistol duel at 3:00 p.m.—the earliest hour decent people are up and about.</p> <p><b>1830</b>—The <i>New York Daily Sentinel</i>, the first labor daily, begins.</p> <p><b>1637</b>—The price of tulip bulbs, up 2,500 percent in 33 days, top out in Holland at \$40,000 a pound.</p>	<p><b>2020</b>—It's 65° Fahrenheit at the Esperanza Base, in Antarctica.</p> <p><b>2013</b>—In Seabrook, N.H., Phantom Fireworks sells Tamerlan Tsarnaev 1.5 lbs. of black powder and gives him another 1.5 pounds for free.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—Derry, New Hampshire's favorite son Alan Shepard uses a nine iron to whack a golf ball on the moon.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—NVA troops in Soviet tanks overrun Lang Vei; 21 of 24 Green Berets are KIA, WIA, or captured.</p> <p><b>1951</b>—Trespassing at Argonne National Laboratory, blowhard Paul Harvey claims it was inadvertent. A script found in his car proves he's lying.</p> <p><b>1919</b>—Seattle union leaders get a telegram intended for shipyard owners: "no raises." A General Strike results. Workers run the city for a week, but union bureaucrats intervene. To maintain power they end the strike; workers get called "Bolsheviks."</p> <p><b>1858</b>—Galusha Grow [R-Pa.] and Laurence Keitt [D-S.C.] trade blows in the House; 30 Members join in. John "Bowie Knife" Potter [R-Wisc.] and Cadwallader Washburn [ditto] snatch the wig of William Barksdale [D-Miss.]; it all ends in laughter.</p> <p><b>1819</b>—In a duel instigated by Gen. Andrew Jackson, Col. John Mason McCarty kills Gen. Armistead Thomson Mason, his second cousin.</p> <p><b>1684</b>—Portsmouth's first minister, Reverend Joshua Moody, is jailed by Governor Edward Cranfield over some inane doctrinal foofaraw.</p>	<p><b>2020</b>—Li Wengliang, a Chinese doctor reprimanded for warning of a new SARS virus, dies of Covid-19.</p> <p><b>2013</b>—Mississippi abolishes slavery.</p> <p><b>1998</b>—GOP-run Congress names Washington National after the guy who fired all our air traffic controllers.</p> <p><b>1991</b>—IRA mortars 10 Downing St.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—"It became necessary to destroy [the Vietnamese village of] Ben Tre in order to save it," an American major tells reporter Peter Arnett.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—VC attack Camp Holloway near Pleiku killing 9 Americans and wounding 137. The U.S. responds by bombing North Vietnam.</p> <p><b>1951</b>—In Korea, Capt. Lewis Millett leads the U.S.'s most recent bayonet charge. This anarchistic victory earns him the Medal of Honor.</p> <p><b>1950</b>—Ex-Emperor Bao Dai [1926-1945], ineffectual serial puppet, first of the Japanese, then the French, is recognized by the U.S. as ruler of the bogus State of Vietnam.</p> <p><b>1926</b>—Negro History Week, the precursor to Black History Month, is celebrated for the first time.</p> <p><b>1919</b>—Michigan's Supreme Court dooms <i>Homo sapiens</i> by ruling that corporations must put profits for stockholders above all else.</p> <p><b>1873</b>—It's Sheriff and future Pres. Grover Cleveland's 2nd hanging: John Gaffney takes 23 minutes to die.</p> <p><b>1848</b>—<i>Le Représentant du peuple</i>, the first anarchist paper, is begun by Pierre-Joseph Proudhon.</p>	<p><b>2020</b>—Given a choice between a second term for Trump or "a giant meteor [striking] the earth, extinguishing all human life," a poll says 62% of N.H. Democrats would prefer the meteor.</p> <p><b>2015</b>—Another two feet of snow fall on Portsmouth. It's five feet deep now.</p> <p><b>1996</b>—The Telecommunications Act gives corporations airwaves worth \$70 billion, eliminates ownership limits, deregulates cable rates, and protects licenses against citizen complaints.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—ARVN invades Laos in Operation Lam Son 719: a chaotic disaster.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—State Troopers fire on Black protestors in Orangeburg, S.C., killing three and wounding 27.</p> <p><b>1946</b>—For taking down a sign about Jim Crow laws in a Bessemer, Ala. bus, honorably discharged former Marine Timothy Hood is shot by a streetcar conductor. The Police Chief arrests Hood, then shoots him dead. The Coroner calls it "justifiable homicide."</p> <p><b>1942</b>—HUAC recommends concentration camps for some Americans.</p> <p><b>1924</b>—Nevada becomes the first state to kill someone in a gas chamber: Gee Jon, a hit man for the Hop Sing Tong.</p> <p><b>1923</b>—Coal dust explodes in Stag Canyon No. 1 mine in Dawson, N.M.; 123 die. Many of them were orphaned in 1913 when coal dust exploded in Stag Canyon No. 2, killing 263.</p> <p><b>1887</b>—The Dawes Act—enabling the division of Indian reservations into lots suitable for sale to white settlers—becomes what we laughably call "law."</p>	<p><b>2007</b>—A Pentagon report concludes that Douglas Feith's policy office inappropriately manipulated intelligence on Iraq. Punished? Hell, no.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—The <i>USS Greeneville</i>, demonstrating an emergency ballast-blowing maneuver to 16 "Distinguished Visitors," half with Texas oil and Bush connections, sinks a Japanese high-school fishery training ship off Hawaii, killing five adult crew and four high-school students.</p> <p><b>1982</b>—George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush denies ever having used the term "voodoo economics." NBC then plays him the tape.</p> <p><b>1980</b>—Ted Bundy gets married and is sentenced to die. In Florida, of course.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—Satchel Paige becomes the first Negro League player inducted into the Hall of Fame.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—NYC cops bust cellist Charlotte Moorman for playing Mathews' "International Lullaby" while topless.</p> <p><b>1950</b>—"I have here in my hand," says Sen. Joe McCarthy, "the names of 205 men that were known to the Secretary of State as being members of the Communist Party and who nevertheless are still working and shaping the policy of the State Department." Years later he admits he held a laundry list.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—<i>HMS Venturer</i>, submerged, torpedoes and sinks <i>U-864</i>, also submerged, off the coast of Norway.</p> <p><b>1919</b>—Suffragists burn W. Wilson in effigy in front of the White House.</p> <p><b>1737</b>—Happy B-day, Thomas Paine.</p>	<p><b>2020</b>—"You know, a lot of people think [Covid-19] goes away in April with the heat," predicts Dolt #45.</p> <p><b>2014</b>—Donald J. Trump tells Fox "News," "When the economy crashes, when the country goes to total hell, and everything is a disaster, then you'll have riots to go back to where we used to be, when we were great."</p> <p><b>2010</b>—Innovative tax protester Joe Stack flies a fuel-laden Piper into the IRS Field Office in Austin, Texas, killing another person, injuring 13, and causing damage in the millions.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—The G.W.[MD] Bush Administration touts plastic sheeting and duct tape as a first line of defense.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—General Westmoreland, U.S. commander in Vietnam, sends a cable to the Navy's top admiral in the Pacific. It's a request for tactical nukes.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—<i>HMAS Melbourne</i> hits <i>HMAS Voyager</i>. Cut in half, <i>Voyager</i> sinks and 82 die. It's the first of two friendly ships <i>Melbourne</i> is destined to sink.</p> <p><b>1934</b>—A mural for which they paid Diego Rivera \$21,000 is destroyed by order of the Rockefeller because it includes a depiction of Vladimir Lenin.</p> <p><b>1918</b>—At the Power's gold mine in Arizona's Galuro Mountains, a four-man posse seeking two draft-dodgers ends up 3/4<sup>th</sup> dead. The Power brothers get out of Florence Prison in 1960.</p> <p><b>1910</b>—Five Bloomsbury Groupers, disguised as Abyssinian royalty, trick Royal Navy officers into giving them a tour of <i>HMS Dreadnaught</i>.</p>	<p><b>2014</b>—An FEC report confirms what his mom and sis said: U.S. Rep. Frank Guinta lied, that \$355,000 wasn't his.</p> <p><b>2013</b>—Bad news today from KRTV in Great Falls, Mont.: "the bodies of the dead are rising from their graves and attacking the living."</p> <p><b>2006</b>—Dick "Dick" Cheney becomes the second sitting Vice President to shoot a man when he "peppers" his pal Harry Whittington in the face.</p> <p><b>1992</b>—"I'd like to thank my family for loving me and taking care of me," says Johnny Frank Garrett (IQ under 70), as Texas prepares to poison him, "and the rest of the world can kiss my ass."</p> <p><b>1990</b>—Nelson Mandela is released from prison after 27 years.</p> <p><b>1963</b>—RIP Sylvia Plath.</p> <p><b>1963</b>—The CIA creates a "Domestic Operations Division." What could possibly go wrong?</p> <p><b>1937</b>—The Great Flint, Mich. Sit-Down Strike ends in victory for the workers. Good times start to roll.</p> <p><b>1926</b>—The Mexican government nationalizes all church property.</p> <p><b>1919</b>—Emma Goldman is arrested for the crime of telling women how birth control works.</p> <p><b>1861</b>—The House of Representatives unanimously resolves that it will do nothing about slavery in any state.</p> <p><b>1812</b>—Massachusetts gets "gerrymandered" by Republican governor Elbridge Gerry.</p> <p><b>1790</b>—Quakers petition Congress to emancipate the nation's enslaved.</p>
11:10      11:43  4:52      5:29	11:45  5:29      6:02	12:16      12:18  6:03      6:33	12:47      12:51  6:38      7:04	11:18      11:26  7:15      7:37	11:51      12:03  7:54      8:13	12:27      12:46  8:37      8:53



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