

The Fortnightly Rant

Justice Deferred? Or Defunct?

Watching Vladimir and Estragon on a nearly bare stage as they wait for Godot can, paradoxically, be a thrilling experience.

Waiting for Merrick Garland to slap the cuffs on The Former Guy, on the other hand, is beginning to get tedious.

Talk about pent-up demand. If Ticketmaster could sell seats to a DJT Perp Walk, its ensuing collapse would make last year's Taylor Swift fiasco look like business as usual.

And yet, we wait... and wait...

What—a seething nation might ask, boiling over in exasperation, had it not already been beaten down by a bitter succession of past disappointments—is the #@\$ing hold up?

Being about as far out of the loop as the former planet Pluto, we recently resorted to a well-known search engine, the former motto of which was “don't be evil.”

Our query was, “what is Garland waiting for?” The leading results included an article in *Time*—“These Are the Factors Garland Is Likely Weighing as He Mulls Charging Trump”—and a podcast in which Julián Castro interviews Elie Mystal, aptly titled, “What's Merrick Garland Waiting For?”

Well, then—at least someone else is asking. But the *Time* article was published eight months ago and the podcast is eleven months old. This newspaper is 266 years old. It would therefore be most unseemly if we were to act in a manner suggestive of fretful impatience.

Despite this we are compelled to repeat—on our own account, this time: **What is the #@\$ing hold up?**

As our alleged Justice Department dithers, throwing an insurrectionist in the hoosegow every once in a while, an Everest of evidence has mounted proving that the nutjobs really are running this asylum.

CPAC, the Conservative Political Action Conference, convened over the weekend. Writing about it makes us nostalgic for the days when we would have had to explain CPAC due to its obscurity. Now, like the symptoms of some loathesome disease, the concept is all too familiar. Formerly annual, this was the seventh such shindig since January, 2021. It must have become too painful to pass up all that grift.

The weekend's highlight was a speech Saturday night by America's Most Unwanted—perhaps his most unhinged performance yet. The once and potentially-future president displayed all the usual tics of his oratorical style. He preened, he simpered, he attempted to project an aura of power and menace. It ought to be archived as a perfect specimen of full-bore—and, as it were, full-boor—lunacy.

“In 2016, I declared, ‘I am your voice.’ Today I add, I am your warrior, I am your justice, and, for those who have been wronged and betrayed, I am your retribution. I am your retribution.”

This, from a guy who recently declared that he wants to expand the use of the death penalty, including firing squads, and bring back mass executions. Hmmm... what do you suppose he *really* means?

We cannot help but wonder how this bizarre performance would strike a person who had never heard or seen this guy before? It's impossible to know because he has been in the public eye—like some permanently-implanted grain of sand, or other noxious irritant—for some forty years. Laughter and revulsion, one would hope. Anything less would lead one to despair over the innate gullibility of our species.

And yet by using this style of



blather, he has built a base. It may be slightly diminished, what with all the losing, in elections and in lawsuits. It is certainly tarnished, considering all the mayhem. Most shocking of all, it's largely pilfered—and from what was once the Party of Abraham Lincoln.

For all of that, though, it's still hearty enough to have won him three times as many votes as Ron DeSantis, the runner-up in the CPAC straw poll. So, despite four ongoing criminal investigations, this grotesque buffoon is the presumptive Republican nominee.

We don't mean to exacerbate anyone's existential despair, but even if Attorney General Merrick Garland were suddenly to swoop onstage like some *deus ex machina* and personally serve McDonald's biggest customer with a sheaf of warrants, it might not make all that much difference. On Wednesday ABC News reported that “there's nothing in the Constitution disqualifying individuals con-

victed of crimes from running for or serving as president.”*

Be of good cheer, though, as Sean Hannity likes to say. Better yet, be like the irrepressible Ian Dury, and make a list of reasons to be cheerful.

Perhaps we cannot gloat over the immediate prospect of #45 in an orange jumpsuit. We can remind ourselves that he only made it to the Oval Office through the assistance of Rupert Murdoch. Therein lies all the *schadenfreude* one could want, thanks to the disarray in which his enablers now find themselves. Internal Fox documents revealed due to a \$1.8 billion libel lawsuit show that—paraphrasing Mary McCarthy on Lillian Hellman—every word out of their mouths is a lie, including ‘and’ and ‘the.’

At 91, Rupert Murdoch cannot

* Any good socialist knew that already, of course. Eugene V. Debs ran for President five times on the Socialist ticket, the fifth time from the federal penitentiary in Atlanta, Georgia. He got nearly a million votes, too.

live long enough to fully expiate all his sins. Besides, in order to do that, first he'd have to repent—not a likely prospect. That's OK. We'll settle for his torment, watching Dominion pick over the bones of Fox News.

Fox had already been losing advertisers before its internal emails revealed that the whole operation is nothing but a cynical sham. The network doesn't depend on advertising as heavily as its competitors, but reputable businesses are loathe to associate themselves with complete pariahs. That leaves Fox dependent on the pillow guy and big pharma.

Most of Fox's revenue comes from inflated carriage fees, paid to Fox by cable providers. According to Media Matters for America, 60 percent of those contracts are coming up for renewal next year.

Will the law ever catch the worst waste of oxygen to ever escape from Queens? Maybe, or maybe not. It does look like the market might punish his creator, though.

The Alleged News®

A Brief Dispatch Regarding the Impending Coronation

The U.S. and the U.K., said George Bernard Shaw, are two nations separated by a common language. Further distinguishing us from our former colonial master is our form of government—though GOP opposition to monarchy seems increasingly squishy.

Our editorial position on monarchy was most recently published on February 10th, with a selection from Thomas Paine's, *Common Sense*; herewith, a more succinct version: Britain's first king was “nothing better than the principal ruffian of some restless gang, whose savage manners of pre-eminence in subtlety obtained him the title of chief among plunderers.”

Unimpressed by William the Conqueror, Paine wrote he was a “French bastard landing with an armed Banditti and establishing

himself king of England against the consent of the natives... a very paltry rascally original... [which] certainly hath no divinity in it.”

Our jaundiced view notwithstanding, we are encumbered with certain information about the impending coronation, a burden we can only shed by sharing it with—imposing it upon?—our readers. According to Hearst's monthly *Town & Country*—apparently America's pre-eminent Anglophile rag—“The Christ oil which will be used to anoint His Majesty The King on 6th May 2023 has been consecrated in Jerusalem today, Friday 3rd March 2023.”

The BBC reported last week that “reflecting modern animal-friendly sensitivities, this oil will not include any ingredients from animals. ... Previous versions have included civ-

et oil, from the glands of the small mammals, and ambergris from the intestines of whales.”

Certain users of Twitter find this innovation unacceptable.

@JenJudson averred that, “To truly become the king, one must be anointed in whale guts and cat pee. Pretty sure the court jester slipped that into the coronation requirements as a joke back in the 1500s.”

@rob_sheridan, on the other hand, saw an opportunity for, if not progress, then change, at least: “Now if you show up to the palace absolutely drenched in sperm whale intestinal wax they have to give you the crown right off that false king's pasty lil head, it's in the rules.”

Some of the olives from which the oil was derived came from the Monastery of Mary Magdalene, on the Mount of Olives—the buri-

al place of King Chuck's paternal grandmother, Princess Alice of Greece.

Often portrayed as being slightly peculiar, King Charles III seemingly acquired those traits naturally. According to *Brewer's Rogues, Villains, and Eccentrics: An A-Z of Roguish Britons Through the Ages*, between 1925 and 1936, when Charles's father Philip, the future Duke of Edinburgh, was between the ages of four and 15, Princess Alice “alternated between being harmlessly eccentric (playing Ouija, receiving messages from packs of cards) and clinically insane (announcing a dinner engagement with Jesus, cutting out objects and putting them in parcels, believing herself to be magnetic, and thinking she had a band of disciples in Bedfordshire). ... [She] was interned in a succession of Freudian

clinics... she talked incessantly about prostitutes and pulled faces at her doctors. Dr. Binswanger diagnosed her a neurotic pre-psychotic libidinous condition and sedated her with morphine.”

Transcending this treatment, during World War Two, living in Athens in conditions described as “humble, not so say somewhat squalid,” she worked for the Red Cross, organized soup kitchens and medical supplies, and hid a Jewish family from the Gestapo.

In 1994 she was honored at Yad Vashem as “Honored Among Nations.” Her last years were spent at Buckingham Palace, where the staff remembered her as “strange but likeable.”

The Alleged News®

from page one

Iowa Bill Aims to Expand Child Labor
by Alec Johnson

On Jan. 30, Iowa State Sen. Jason Schultz (R-Schleswig), introduced Senate File 167. The bill seeks to rollback long established protections governing child labor. This piece of legislation is yet another link in a chain of recent attacks on children and worker's rights occurring across the country.

At the time of writing, SF 167 is making its way through the legislative process which is difficult to predict in Iowa. As of March 1, the bill has survived the first legislative funnel deadline and has advanced with amendment. Defending the bill Schultz promised, "We're going to end up with a generation of skilled leaders because of these efforts." Senate Democratic Minority Leader Zach Wahls counters, "My hope is that this bill does not advance ... and then we can get back to focusing kids on actually having reward-

ing, enriching childhoods and that their employment opportunities are age-appropriate and are safe."

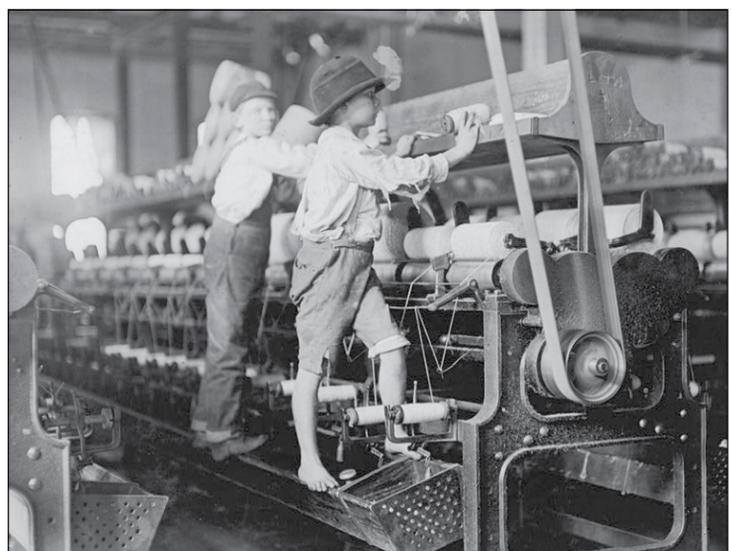
SF167 includes provisions to allow 14- to 17-year-olds to work in previously prohibited jobs so long as they are part of an approved training program. Given Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds' very cozy relationship with the business sector, skepticism about how rigorous the approval process is seems entirely warranted.

These "training programs" would allow minors to work in, "slaughterhouses, meatpacking or rendering plants; mining; operating power-driven metal forming, punching or shearing machines; operating band or circular saws, guillotine shears or paper balers; or being involved in roofing operations or demolition work." The law also now allows 14- and 15-year-olds to work in freezers and meat coolers.

Another provision of the bill "exempts businesses from civil liability if a student is sickened, injured or killed due to the company's neg-



WHERE THE "FREEDOM" CAUCUS CONVENES TO CONCOCT LEGISLATION



A man can't snap open his crisp, freshly-ironed morning paper these days without encountering the whining complaints of some parvenu job-creator or other, groaning about the difficulty of obtaining a sufficient number of wage-slaves to keep his factories humming. It is shocking to see such a lowering of standards. Back when titans of industry were truly titanic, ways were found, and that was that. Making excuses about this restriction or that prohibition would have gotten a man thrown out of his club. No, sir—so long as the lower classes keep reproducing, there will always be ways to maintain production—and profits!

ligence." It continues, "A business also would be free of civil liability if a student is hurt because of the teen's negligence on the job — or is injured traveling to or from work. A company could face fines of up to \$10,000 for violations under the bill, but the state's labor commissioner could reduce or waive the penalty."

Beyond this example in Iowa, labor violations and attempts to further exploit workers are taking place across numerous sectors all over the United States. As Liberation News reported on Aug. 22, 2022, Hyundai Motor Co. was exposed exploiting children as young as 12 to manufacture auto parts in Alabama. There were also recent reports of systemic abuse of children performing sanitation services in meatpacking plants in Minnesota and Nebraska. These experiences in Alabama, Minnesota and Nebraska make it clear that children's safety, much less their welfare, are not the foremost priority, profit is.

This issue was the focus of a recent Socialist Program podcast: "Bosses Want More Child Labor," where

Brian Becker and Professor Richard Wolff shared the history of the campaign to end child labor in the United States. They share why capitalists are rolling back protections for children hard fought and won over decades early last century.

The last few years saw major changes in the labor market, according to Wolff. Older workers and women left the workforce in large numbers. Years of demonizing the immigrant community has, in Wolff's words, "hounded them out" of the country, significantly changing the workforce composition. Preferring not to address the labor shortage by offering wages and conditions that would increase the adult workforce, some employers are turning their attention to exploiting children.

Most of the children exploited in Alabama, Minnesota and Nebraska were Latino from migrant families. Instead of efforts to protect these children, in Iowa we find the GOP has introduced legislation that generalizes the exploitation of all children.

Taking into account Governor Reynolds' track record on the pandemic, public education and gun violence, if SF167 gets to her desk, Iowa's children may have much to fear. Her mishandling of the pandemic cost thousands of Iowans their lives and earned her the nickname, "Killer Kim." Having already undermined public education with the successful passage of a school voucher bill, Reynolds continues to lead the attack on Iowa's transgender youth. Allowing corporations to dangerously exploit minors is cut from the same cloth. Serving up Iowa's children as the answer to the state's labor shortage is no stretch for her. Efforts to confound Reynolds' ambitions in Iowa may well be essential to protect not only Iowa's children, but children across the country.

This article appeared March 4, 2023 at LiberationNews.org, which publishes news and analysis from the Party for Socialism and Liberation [PSL]. PSL is comprised of leaders and activists, workers and students, of all backgrounds, across the country.

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Majority of U.S. Voters Want the Fed to Stop Raising Rates Before It Tanks the Economy: Poll

by Jake Johnson

Survey data released Monday shows that a majority of U.S. voters want the Federal Reserve to stop raising interest rates before it plunges the economy into recession, a position that aligns with the view of many economists and lawmakers who fear the central bank is on the verge of needlessly throwing millions out of work.

Conducted by Lake Research Partners and published by the Groundwork Collaborative, the new poll found that 56 percent of U.S. voters believe the Fed should bring its rate hikes to a halt as top central bankers indicate that more increases are coming in the near future—even though rates are already at their highest level in 15 years.

“Our new poll makes it clear that people across the country want the

Federal Reserve to stop raising interest rates before it pushes us toward a devastating and completely avoidable recession,” said Rakeen Mabud, chief economist at the Groundwork Collaborative.

“People understand that pushing millions of workers out of a job is a terrible way to address inflation and will do nothing to address root causes of inflation like supply-chain interruptions, the war in Ukraine, and big corporations manipulating the market to increase profits,” Mabud added. “And they want a Federal Reserve that prioritizes workers and families, not Wall Street and Big Business.”

The survey, which reached 1,240 registered voters nationwide, found that just 14 percent believe the Fed is on the side of “average Americans.” Nearly 40 percent said they feel the central bank serves the interests of big businesses or banks.

“Voters believe overwhelmingly



The elegant Treadwell mansion at 93 Pleasant Street, was the home for many years of Ron Bourgeault's Northeast Auctions. Buyers came from across the country and all over the world to attend his high-end sales. Almost certainly it was he who placed what appears to be a magnificent Bellamy eagle over the front door. The eagle remains, but the auctioneer has left the premises. Soon the parking lot out back will be converted into the foundation of a brand new building. At the lower right of this photo, just past the scaffolding, a bit of the westernmost end of a stone wall can be seen. According to paperwork filed with the Historic District Commission, that wall was probably built in the early 18th century as part of the town pound—a place to safely contain stray farm animals, mostly cows and pigs. For a better look at that wall, please turn the page.

that the Federal Reserve is on the side of Big Business, banks, and Wall Street,” Celinda Lake, the president and founder of Lake Research Partners, said during a press call Monday.

The findings were released a day ahead of Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell's scheduled appearance before the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee, where he will likely face sharp questioning from central bank policy critics such as Sens. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) and Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.).

On Wednesday, Powell was set to testify before the House Financial Services Committee.

The Fed is widely expected to raise interest rates again during its policy meeting later this month, even with inflation easing and despite mounting calls for a pause as previous increases—which are taking a toll on wage growth and the housing market—work their way through the economy.

Powell and other central bankers

have repeatedly claimed that the U.S. labor market—which has thus far remained strong in the face of the Fed's rate increases—is running too hot and must be weakened in order to curtail inflation, sparking accusations that the Fed is prioritizing just one side of its dual mandate and “trying to engineer a recession.”

The latest U.S. job figures are set to be released today.

Critics have said the Fed's chosen policy approach—aggressive attempts to curb demand—is misguided and will do little to tackle the primary drivers of inflation, including corporate concentration and profit-seeking price increases.

During Monday's press call, economist J.W. Mason argued that “it's absolutely possible for inflation to drop without much job destruction.”

“Over the past few months, we've seen a substantial fall in inflation without significant job destruction,” said Mason. “You can have disinflation without falling wages and without unemployment. The question is: Are higher interest rates really a tool

that can deliver that? I think the answer is no.”

The new polling shows that an overwhelming majority of U.S. voters—77 percent—believe that “we should be focusing on the legislative tools Congress can use to fight inflation instead of simply relying on the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates.”

While the survey doesn't mention specific legislative fixes, campaigners and experts have floated a range of proposals over the past year, from a crackdown on Big Oil profiteering to targeted price controls.

Pointing to the public earnings calls of major corporations, Mabud noted Monday that “you don't actually have to look too hard to hear the CEOs being pretty crystal clear that they're jacking up their profit margins by raising prices on consumers.”

Jake Johnson 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.

Murph's Fortnightly Quote
 “My faith demands that I do whatever I can, wherever I am, whenever I can, for as long as I can with whatever I have to try to make a difference.”
 —James Earl “Jimmy” Carter Jr. (1924-)

“The country was founded on the principle that the primary role of government is to protect property from the majority.”
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 john@wordpraxis.com

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Woke and Anti-Woke

To the Editor:

I am old and don't keep up with today's slang. Now, so many GOP want to be presidential politicians say they are anti-woke that I had to look up woke's meaning. This is from Dictionary.com: "having or marked by an active awareness of systemic injustices and prejudices, especially those involving the treatment of ethnic, racial, or sexual minorities." It was originally an African-American term meaning awake to the injustices they faced. Its use has been expanded to include other minorities.

What does anti-woke look like? Look at Florida under Governor Ron Desantis and its GOP-controlled legislature. Schools cannot acknowledge gays or lesbians exist. Trans kids are under attack and blacks in history are out. When a corporation speaks out against the anti-gay legislation, they lose their tax breaks. In New Hampshire, schools can no longer teach anything about white discriminatory behavior for fear of being sued by parents.

People who watched the murder of George Floyd by a white police officer and thought that was a problem are accused of being woke. Those who thought the Black Lives Matter protests that followed were the problem are the anti-woke people the GOP are courting today.

After Kanye West declared war on Jews Donald Trump invited him and a holocaust denier to Mar-a-Lago for dinner. This is anti-woke!

This segment of the GOP is sending the message they are there to support those who are anti-black, brown or yellow, or anti-gay lesbian or trans, or

anti-Jews. Is it any wonder a neo-Nazi thought it was safe to come out of the closet to spray paint businesses and the Jewish Temple in Portsmouth?

Walter Hamilton
Portsmouth, N.H.

Walter:

Don't expect the GOP to suddenly awaken. It can satisfy its donor class by handing out lavish tax cuts. All it has to offer its base is its core dog whistle: at least you're white, and we'll fight for you on those grounds.

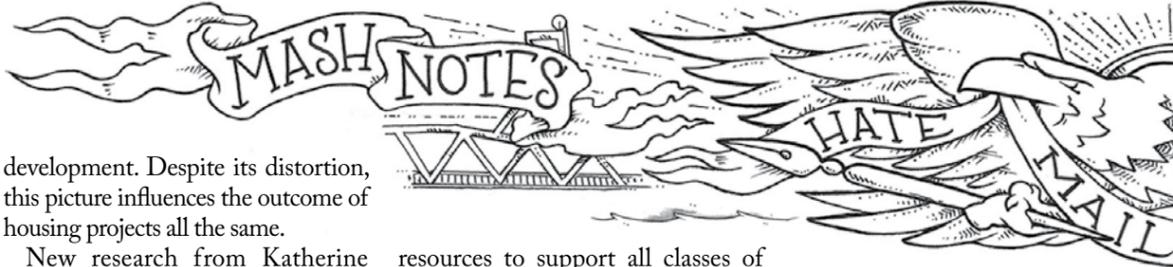
The Editor

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N.H.'s Housing Crisis: a Product of Vocal NIMBYs and a Silent Majority

To the Editor:

So how do Granite Staters really feel about the housing shortage? According to a recent Saint Anselm College poll, two-thirds of New Hampshire voters agree that their community needs more affordable housing. Considering N.H. is short of 20,000 units needed to balance the market, this finding should not come as a shock. However, what is shocking is how much the other third limits development across the state. That's right, often it's the minority of opponents who sway town's decisions over development, no matter how much broader support exists. Why? Because decisions are made by those who show up, and typically, those who show up to project approvals are homeowners who refuse changes to their neighborhood's status quo. In fact, 85 percent of development meeting attendees are opponents, and this leaves a small opportunity for support to shine through, despite its existence. The problem with this is how much it skews the picture of community perception toward



development. Despite its distortion, this picture influences the outcome of housing projects all the same.

New research from Katherine Einstein, a Boston University political science professor, reinforces these findings. According to Einstein, a distorted picture of public consensus is a staple of the housing approvals process in New England. And recognizing the sway that homeowners have over the development process, Einstein set out to identify the demographics of those who typically attend project meetings, specifically where affordable or multi-family housing is proposed. What she found was that those "who show up are privileged, whiter, older, homeowners, who also overwhelmingly opposed development, with only 15 percent who showed support." And this crowd has no problem influencing decisions that impact the wider community.

So what's the end result of all of this? Land use boards often yield to the wishes of the outspoken, meaning development proposals (outside the scope of single family homes) are squashed and the inventory remains stagnant. Without a diverse housing stock, communities have fewer resources to support residents of diverse economic backgrounds and less resources to support adults as they age.

Although development-dissenters may think they're "preserving" their neighborhoods with single family-only housing, we are seeing the opposite effect take place. Ultimately, communities suffer without adequate

resources to support all classes of people. Without enough multifamily homes, condos, or workforce housing, communities lose their young people, businesses lose their workers, and the remaining homeowners sacrifice what they intended to protect in the first place: community vitality and property values, compromised by lost workers and closing businesses. It's time to wake up and recognize that our resistance toward diverse forms of housing is not informed by fact, but fear. And the consequences of this fear spare no one—homeowner or not.

Alexa Carpenter
Communication Manager, Epping Workforce Housing
Epping, N.H.

Alexa:

Thank you for this cogent argument. We wonder if a frequent correspondent of ours from Bedford will recognize herself.

The Editor

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Is She "Too Woke?"

To the Editor:

At this point, it's been almost one month since the serious hazmat situation occurred, resulting from the railroad derailment in eastern Ohio, very close to the Pennsylvania border.

Rightly, there has been a lot of focus on the why of this incident, and also on the effects. Fingers have been pointed in many directions, for sure. It sounds as if the crew operating the train fol-

lowed protocol. Hopefully, the result of all this scrutiny will be thorough, long range cleanup and monitoring of health of the people and environment in the area...and better regulation of the transportation of hazardous materials.

One piece I've read since this accident indicated surprise about the attention it has received, pointing out that there are about 1,000 derailments annually in the U.S. Likely these numbers include some quite minor events, but 1,000 is a large number and was a surprise! Is there a task force or congressional committee looking into this, including the how and where and who is responsible, and how to reduce this? Of course, there are also 1,000 plus mass shooting events annually in the U.S...until very recently, tracking these in any official way was prohibited...and no one wants to take any steps to study how this happens and what measures should we take to reduce these sad numbers.

The people of Ohio and Pennsylvania received visits from a host of dignitaries, plus some hats and "branded bottled water." The victims of mass shootings and their bereaved communities usually receive generic "thoughts and prayers." More needs to be done!

One last depressing comment: the toxic chemicals being transported by Norfolk Southern were destined



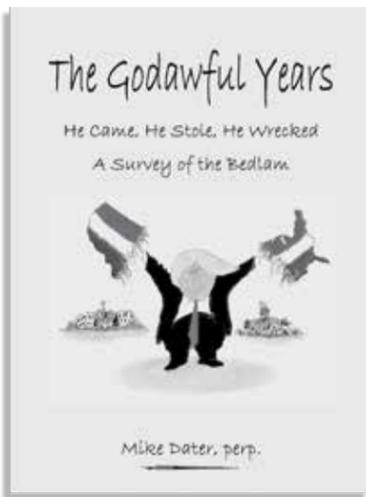
The Great Wall of Court Street, in the early afternoon of Thursday, March 2nd: standing over six feet high, about 140 feet long, it presents an imposing, rough-hewn surface: some 875 square feet of what we assume to be granite.

Altogether, by our calculation, it may weigh as much as 200 tons. The next time you visit Court Street, though, it may have disappeared—temporarily. After considerable debate and a few reversals, the developer, McNabb Group, has

sought and received permission from the state to dismantle the wall and rebuild it in place by installing about 20 drill-

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a compendium of drawings by Mike Dater most of which first appeared in *The New Hampshire Gazette*
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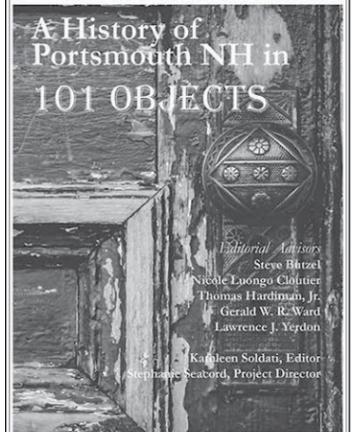
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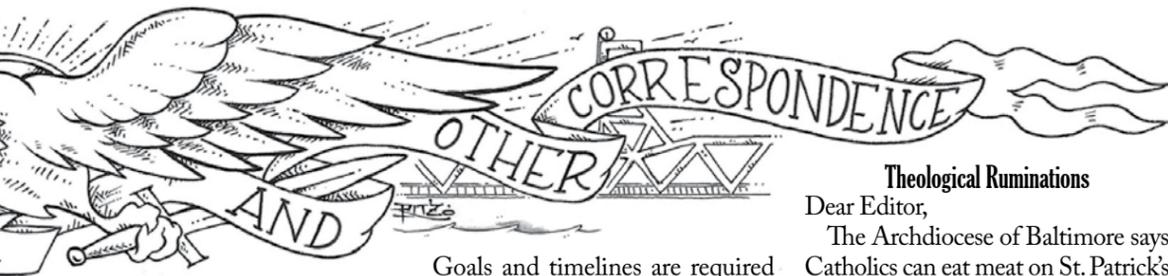
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Goals and timelines are required in a CAP. For example, the other five New England states all have mandated greenhouse gas reductions of 80 percent or more by 2050. We have no goal to reduce emissions.

That could change, if our state representatives vote to pass HB 208, “establishing greenhouse gas emission reduction goals for the state and establishing a climate action plan.” Wouldn’t it be wise to create a plan that could slow down the crazy weather changes and bring in lots of new green energy jobs? If we had goals to get more of our energy from renewable sources, our energy money would remain in the N.H. economy. Without any CAP, \$4 billion annually leaves the state to buy fossil fuels.

Please help N.H. prepare for the future with a Climate Action Plan. Go to <https://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/house/members/> to get the name and phone number for each of your representatives, and ask them to SUPPORT HB 208, so N.H. can have its own CAP and some IRA millions.

Susan Richman
Durham, N.H.

Susan:

Before it could go into effect, this sensible and prudent measure would also need the approval of our glad-handing, glib-talking Governor. We will trust him to do the right thing—once the ink has dried.

The Editor

Theological Ruminations

Dear Editor,

The Archdiocese of Baltimore says Catholics can eat meat on St. Patrick’s Day, which this year falls on a Friday during Lent, when meat is normally forbidden. (“*Cue the corned beef, Baltimore Sun*, February 28, 2023.)

How can God change his mind about such an important issue as Christian imitation of Christ’s famous forty-day fast, to fit piddly circumstances like the St. Paddy’s Day tradition of corned beef?

According to a plain reading of the Biblical event, one of the temptations Jesus avoided was administering his new church like the autocratic “kingdoms of the world.” Jesus chose to govern based on democratic principles like inclusion and consent.

Highly institutionalized churches today have taken a different road, imposing and withdrawing policies from on high, not seeking permission or forgiveness.

Kimball Shinkoskey
Woods Cross, Utah
Kimball:

We do not know your religious affiliation, but your address might tempt a betting person to lay a wager on the matter.

If our guess were to prove correct, that might raise the question of whether you mean to foment religious discord.

Even as we type this, we realize we’re only exposing our own dark and churlish nature. Surely that cannot be the case. We apologize.

The Editor

People And Planet Healing Summit

To the Editor:

This is a call to anyone and everyone who wants to help heal ourselves, our communities, our Nation, and our planet. Leaders, educators, health care professionals, environmentalists, and especially young people and students are urged to get involved—it’s your future!

The People and Planet Healing Summit is not just for one town or area, not just for New Hampshire, but can be held anyplace and in every State. The issues we face here are everywhere, and the solutions can be applied where-ever a group of caring people get organized and welcome all to participate!

If we are strong in spirit then we can overcome anything, but most people are afraid to get involved, divided, and uninformed. These summits can give folks support and courage, form local groups that can learn about issues and work together to address them, unite us in common goals, and bring about the healing that our communities, country, and Mother Nature need.

For more information contact the N.H. Community Rights Network (info@nhcommunityrights.org). We will assist you in holding local summits that can empower people in every town and turn the silent majority into the informed and active majority that our democracy needs to work!

United we stand, divided we fall, so it’s up to each one of us to do what we can to work together to move our Nation forward!

Peter A. White, Treasurer, N.H. Community Rights Network inc.
Nottingham, N.H.

Peter:

Thank you. We are happy to put the good word before our readers.

The Editor

Don Ewing Returns for More Abuse

To the Editor:

Leftists complain about the “banning” (“like the National Socialists (Nazis) in the 1930s”) of books and expression that never should have been in schools in the first place.

First, leftists object to removing sexually explicit, pornographic books from schools.

When did providing pornography to children become acceptable? Parents didn’t demand that schools provide pornography to their children. Society never debated and decided that providing pornography to young children provides a public benefit.

No sane person expected that school personnel would be so irresponsible as to surreptitiously bring immoral and potentially harmful pornographic materials into schools.

Second, leftists complain about the N.H. law outlawing discrimination in our schools. Since discrimination was outlawed nationally about 50 years ago, no one expected that children would be discriminated against in school.

That law doesn’t prohibit, as falsely alleged, teaching history, civics, or anything else. All subjects can be taught without discriminating against or assigning blame or victimhood to today’s children for the sins of others.

Republicans certainly want a clear factual presentation of history including the Democrat Party’s horrible racist history and current oppression of black people. Slavery, the KKK, Jim Crow Laws, and today’s refusal to

for plastic manufacturers in western Pennsylvania. Think for just a moment of the insatiable need for plastic straws, takeout containers, disposable forks, bottles for beverages (“branded bottled water”) and a host of other doodads which we’ve been convinced we “need.” It seems any effort to ban/reduce these things causes outrage.

See a common theme here: mass shootings, corporate greed, lack of political will? Or am I being too “woke”?

Beth McCarthy
Tamworth, N.H.

Beth:

Too woke? Not hardly. You may be too aware for the comfort of those who are profiting from the status quo, though.

The Editor

Put Some Teeth In It

To the Editor:

Will N.H. leave \$3 million on the table? These are Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funds that New Hampshire can receive—if only we create a Climate Action Plan (CAP).

“Wait,” you might say, “didn’t our shiny new Department of Energy just do this?”

“Well no,” I would have to answer. “We did create a 2021 State Energy Strategy, with nice phrases promising to be cost-effective—but we did not specify goals or timelines or ways to measure our progress.”



the Historical District Commission to face. Initially the plan had been to shore up piles distributed along its length. The

existing wall would then be subjected to all the vibration and stress inherent in the excavation of a foundation extending seven feet below the sidewalk. Unsurprisingly, the contractor warned McNabb that the process could “open

up a can of worms and the area of damage can expand as the repairs are being made.” Time grinds on in its inexorable fashion, and what the future holds, no one can say; here’s how the Great Wall looked, the last time we laid eyes it.

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

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

HUD-VASH HELPS VETERANS GET AND STAY HOUSED. YOU CAN HELP, TOO.

HUD-VASH is a partnership between the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the VA’s Supportive Housing unit. It helps homeless Veterans with housing, employment, recovery (both mental health and substance abuse) and independent living.

HUD-VASH is no longer accepting donations of used furniture, &c. The Homeland Heroes Foundation in Salem, N.H. does: homelandheroesfoundation.org.

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.

For more information, contact:
VA Supportive Housing Program Manager
(603) 624-4366 X6883

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Why Student Debt Cancellation Is Reasonable, Not Radical

The right has narrowed the parameters of discussion on student debt forgiveness, and President Biden is not fighting back aggressively enough. We should, in fact, center the idea of fairness in this debate.

By Sonali Kolhatkar

“Nobody’s telling the person who is trying to set up the lawn service business that he doesn’t have to pay his loan,” said U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts during oral arguments about President Joe Biden’s student debt forgiveness plan. Roberts continued his logic on behalf of this hypothetical lawn service operator, saying, “he still does, even though his tax dollars are going to support the forgiveness of the loan for... the college graduate, who’s now going to make a lot more than him over the course of his lifetime.”

It’s remarkable how concerned Roberts and other conservatives have been about the exploitation of the average American when it comes to loan forgiveness. The Supreme Court’s chief imagines that college graduates will go on to make enough money to pay back their loans and they are choosing not to—apparently in order to take advantage of business owners like lawn care operators.

Does Roberts not think the lawn business operator may be college educated and have student debt? Or that perhaps a college graduate might like to open a business but is financially stuck paying off huge loans?

Associate Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, the newest member of the court and the first Black woman in the nation’s history to be appointed, had a very different take. She rightly asked, “I’m wondering whether or not the same fairness issue would arise with respect to any federal benefit program.”

Indeed, why is it fair for only people over the age of 65 (and a few other categories of people such as veterans and very low-income people) to qualify for government-fund-

ed health care? Those who don’t qualify for such government programs pay for others’ benefits via our taxes because that’s the point of taxes—to pool together a cut of everyone’s personal income and help pay for the things that make society better, fairer, more livable.

“Those who don’t qualify for such government programs pay for others’ benefits via our taxes because that’s the point of taxes—to pool together a cut of everyone’s personal income and help pay for the things that make society better, fairer, more livable.”

But it’s this very point that conservatives see as anathema to their grim worldview, the one that Ayn Rand brought to life in her (unintentionally) dystopian novels.

Justice Jackson continued her thought process, saying, “I just don’t know how far we can go with this notion of, to the extent that the government is providing much-needed assistance to people in an emergency, it’s going to be unfair to those who don’t get the same benefit.”

Indeed, student debtors are in trouble precisely because they didn’t get the same government benefits compared to their predecessors. According to *Business Insider*, “From fall 1973 to spring 1977, boomers paid around \$39,780 in today’s dollars for four years of public college. That’s a little more than half the cost for millennials attending public college from fall 2006 to spring 2010: \$70,000. And what Gen Z is paying today is more than double that: \$90,875.” This is directly the result of the federal and state governments paying less toward the cost of higher education and shifting more of the cost of college to individuals.

If Roberts’s hypothetical lawn

care business owner hails from the baby boomer generation, then the question of fairness is turned on its head: Why should older generations have benefitted from tax-subsidized college education (thereby helping them avoid debt), when younger generations have not had the same advantage?

If the Rand-ians could travel back decades in time to rectify this, they certainly would roll back all government benefits aimed at middle- and working-class boomers.

If Biden could go back a few months in time, he would have done better to be more aggressive in his approach to debt relief. In August 2022, after dragging his feet for years to make good on his campaign promise, the president invoked emergency powers in light of the COVID-19 pandemic—a weak basis—for justifying debt cancellation.

Debt experts like Harvard Law School’s Eileen Connor make a persuasive case that Congress has given the secretary of education the authority to make—or waive—college loans. In other words, with the stroke of a pen, Education Secretary Miguel Cardona could forgive all student debt. According to Connor, he would have the legal right to do this under the 1965 Higher Education Act signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson.

Instead of using the 1965 law as the legal basis for his actions, Biden chose the 2003 HEROES Act, saying that he had the authority to pause student loan repayment because of the emergency conditions created by the COVID-19 pandemic. Dalié Jiménez, a law professor at the University of California, Irvine, called this an “unsurprising compromise,” and added that “[t]ime will tell if it was the right thing” to do.

Time will indeed tell. Emergencies are, by definition, temporary. In August 2022, Biden used the pandemic to make his case for debt cancellation. Then, in September, he declared the pandemic over. He ran out his own clock.

Nebraska’s Republican attorney general, Mike Hilgers, pointed out in a *Wall Street Journal* op-ed that, “The president can’t have it both ways. He can’t tell the country the pandemic is over while claiming that it justifies this unilateral action.”

As I explained in an analysis last year when the president first announced his plan, it was a paltry gesture that could have gone so much further. Given that Biden would face the same stiff opposition whether he forgave \$10,000 or \$100,000, he should have aimed higher and been more aggressive. Instead, his actions indicate that he too may be unswayed by the unfairness of student loan burdens.

Conservatives are also predictably touting the high cost of debt relief—“We’re talking about half a trillion dollars and 43 million Americans,” reminded Justice Roberts during the February 28 oral arguments. Lawmakers, including most of the liberal ones, rarely balk at the much, much higher annual cost of funding the Defense Department.

“Lawmakers, including most of the liberal ones, rarely balk at the much, much higher annual cost of funding the Defense Department. Unlike the cost of maintaining a perpetual war machine, Biden’s (far too modest) debt relief can impact the lives of 43 million living, breathing human beings.”

Unlike the cost of maintaining a perpetual war machine, Biden’s (far too modest) debt relief can impact the lives of 43 million living, breathing human beings. One debtor, 26-year-old Ella Azoulay, told Associated Press that her 2018 degree from New York University has left her with \$40,000 of debt. Her father is even worse off, having taken out more than \$400,000 in loans to educate his three children. For many borrowers, Biden’s plan would eliminate just a fraction of their debt.

What does \$10,000 to \$20,000 in debt forgiveness mean for an individual? For those people whose re-

payment plans were paused during the pandemic, a CNBC survey found that resuming payments would impact their ability to pay off other loans, as well as save for retirement or buy a home. A small minority said it would impact their decisions to get married or have a child. So, we’re talking about serious life decisions.

Ayn Rand, near the end of her life, benefitted from the same welfare system she railed against. Government benefits are easy to dismiss and denounce—until you need them.



Meanwhile, what does \$10,000 to \$20,000 mean for the wealthiest Americans? So little that it would not even cover the price tag of this \$32,500 Hermes handbag. According to the *Financial Times*, the market for luxury goods is booming. Further, “wealthy people have more time in which to spend their money, since they now live roughly a decade longer than their low-income counterparts, thanks to better health care, diet, nutrition and rest.”

There you have it. If fairness is the basis for deciding whether or not to forgive student loans, conservatives would do well to examine such disparities.

—==—

Sonali Kolhatkar is the founder, host, and executive producer of “Rising Up With Sonali,” a weekly television and radio show that airs on Free Speech TV and Pacifica stations, a writing fellow for the *Economy for All* project, and the racial justice and civil liberties editor at *Yes! Magazine*. Her forthcoming book is *Rising Up: The Power of Narrative in Pursuing Racial Justice*.

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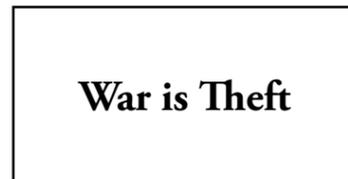
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King Kong and Fay Wray

by W.D. Ehrhart

I was doing a crossword puzzle a few weeks ago, and one of the clues was: “author of *On the Other Hand*.” The answer was Fay Wray. I didn’t know she’d written an autobiography. I simply had to read it because Fay Wray is indelibly etched in my heart. And when I read it, I discovered that she had lived into the 21st century, and had been in something like a hundred films, starring in many of them. I had no idea. The only movie I could ever have told you she was in is the original 1933 “King Kong.”

I first saw that movie when I was a young teen just becoming aware of my own sexuality, but still too young to do much about it beyond my own imagination and resourcefulness. And when I saw Fay Wray—as Ann Darrow—in that slinky medieval gossamer gown doing the screen test for Carl Denham (played by Robert Armstrong), I was instantly and totally smitten. I was in love. Or at least in lust. And sixty years later, I still have a warm spot in my memory for Fay Wray.

Moreover, I have had multiple opportunities to share my—interest in, affection for, obsession with, whatever you want to call it—Fay Wray as a teacher of high school boys. I taught U.S. history for several decades at the Haverford School for Boys, retiring in 2019, and every year I would show my students the original “King Kong” in class.

But my students were not allowed simply to sit there and drool over Fay Wray the way I did when I used to watch the movie when I was their age. They have work sheets, and they have to take notes and answer three questions:

What evidence do you see that locates the movie at the time of the Great Depression?

What evidence do you see of sexism?

What evidence do you see of racism?

Some of the boys, of course, are more observant than others. The first question is answered early in the film when we see a line of women waiting for a bowl of soup and a place to sleep for the night with, as one woman says, “coffee and sinkers in the morning.” And when we first see Wray (as Darrow) she is caught trying to steal an apple because she has no money for food.

As for sexism, aside from a few extras, there is only one woman in the movie. She is helpless, utterly dependent on men, and though Denham introduces her to his New York audience as the bravest woman he’s ever known, all she does from beginning to end of the movie is scream. She doesn’t actually do much of anything else. (To her credit, in her autobiography, she even comments that all the screaming was too much.)

When it comes to racism, most of the boys always get the part where the native chief tries to trade six Black women for petite blonde Darrow (Wray was wearing a wig, I learned in her book, not being a natural blonde). Many of them pick up on the outlandish costumes worn by the Black people on Skull Island (I guess they’re supposed to be Africans), and their superstitious worship of Kong, complete with an incredibly stupid dance where they walk around in circles, periodically shouting, “Kong!”

Some of the boys will notice that the only Asian in the movie, the Chinese cook on the ship that takes them all to Skull Island is shown peeling potatoes, and speaks only broken English. When Ann is kidnapped by the islanders, he frantically runs around shouting, “All han’ on

deck! All han’ on deck!” And when he volunteers to join in the rescue of Ann, he’s told, “This is no job for a Chinaman.”

A few even notice that when a smartly dressed woman who has come to see “the Eighth Wonder of the World” asks what she’ll see and is told, “I hear it’s a kind of gorilla,” replies, “Haven’t we got enough of them in New York?”

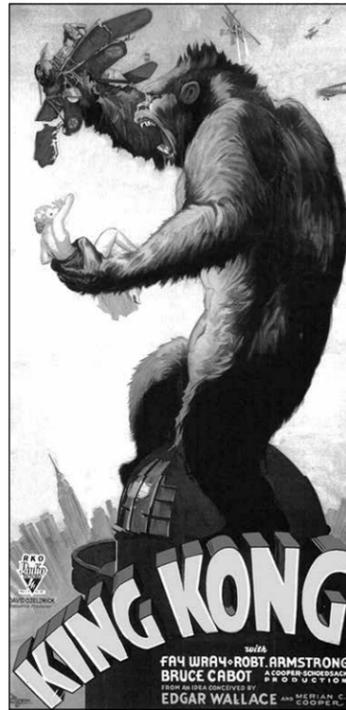
But in a dozen years of showing this film to my students, not one of them has ever identified the most racist element of all: the big black ape lusting after the blonde white woman. I always have to point that one out myself.

I honestly have no idea why they miss it, but it always leads to some amazing, provocative, and productive discussions because the central trope of the film is a complete reversal of reality: historically speaking, it is not white women who have had to fear being raped by Black men, but rather Black women who have repeatedly over centuries been raped by white men.

I ask the boys to look around the room and notice the range of skin tones that we consider to be Black or African American. I ask the boys how this range of skin colors came to be. Year after year, the discussions we’ve had in the wake of watching “King Kong” have been among my favorite—and most meaningful and productive—classes.

Though the filmmakers had no idea they were doing so, what they have left us is an historical window into mainstream white America’s prevailing attitudes of both women and Blacks. The film is, in the 21st century, almost a documentary.

But it’s more than that because it always allowed me to bring into the discussion more recent instances of racism in the United States. The choking death of Eric Garner



by New York police for the crime of selling individual cigarettes. The shooting of 12-year-old Tamir Rice by a Cleveland policeman who mistook his toy gun for a real one. The shooting of 18-year-old Michael Brown by Ferguson, Missouri police, who left his body lying in the street uncovered for hours.

On a few occasions, some of my Black students would even feel comfortable enough and safe enough to share some of their own experiences with their white classmates.

Who would have thought that a classic 1930s SciFi movie would be so powerful a tool of education? And I would get to see Fay Wray again at least once a year for more than a decade. Sexist? Come on! I saw that movie in, like, 1963. I was only, like, fourteen years old. Gimme a break. I’ve learned a lot since then.

—==—

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

—==—

Are the Women in Your State Legislature Properly Attired?

by Jim Hightower

Many of today’s right-wing governors and state legislators have a problem. By constantly pushing an extremist ideological agenda of nonsense about nutty conspiracy theories—while imposing autocratic laws to ban everything from voting to library books—they’ve become widely ridiculed as some combo of kooky, clownish, and embarrassingly corrupt.

That’s why it’s significant that Missouri’s GOP lawmakers have not only recognized their image problem, but have actually made an effort to demonstrate that they are serious-minded public officials concerned about their professionalism. Namely, the state house of representatives has adopted a dress code. Seriously.

Specifically, the “attire mandate” addresses the pressing state issue of female lawmakers who come to work dressed normally—but without jackets. Disapproving legislative leaders clucked that this fashion *faux pas* was undermining the public’s respect for them. But now, says GOP Rep. Ann Kelley, sponsor of the new code, “It has been fixed.” Henceforth, all women legislators in the “Show Me” state must wear blazers or cardigans in order to, as Kelley explained, “always maintain a formal and professional atmosphere” in the House.

Professional? Excuse me, but these far-right state legislatures totter between being goofy policy forums and carnival sideshows. The only proper attire for many of these so-called legislative “leaders” would be straitjackets. Indeed, trying to rationalize the Missouri legislature’s expenditure of state time, money, and credibility on dictating women’s attire, Kelley’s GOP colleague Brenda Shields declared it was about protecting freedom! The clothing mandate, she explained, eliminates the possibility that the state will “be the clothing police.”

I don’t know about you, but I’m thinking of moving to Missouri! It must be wonderful to live in a state where the government has already fixed all the big problems people really care about, letting the legislative body focus on properly clothing its women members.

—==—

Populist author, public speaker, and radio commentator Jim Hightower writes “The Hightower Lowdown,” a monthly newsletter chronicling the ongoing fights by America’s ordinary people against rule by plutocratic elites. Sign up at HightowerLowdown.org.

Mash Notes, Hate Mail, &c. *from page five*

provide the decent schools and safe neighborhoods that provide economic opportunities are all oppression of blacks done by Democrats.

Why do leftists demand to be able to discriminate against children? Perhaps to brainwash children into accepting the blame for Democrats’ evil racist actions.

Decent people who care about

children wouldn’t allow pornography or discrimination in our schools, so there shouldn’t need to be laws against them. When you hear people complaining about these laws/restrictions, you know who cares more about something other than what is best for America’s, and perhaps your, children.

Don Ewing
Meredith, N.H.

Don:

You start off insinuating a connec-

tion between the left and Nazis. Such arrant gibberish deserves no response, but your letter finds us spoiling for a fight.

Have you ever actually laid eyes on any of the books you proclaim to be pornographic? If not, according to Justice Potter, you’re not qualified to judge. The law you cite, purportedly “outlawing discrimination in schools,” is in fact one of those classic Republican maneuvers intended to achieve the opposite of what it claims to accomplish. Case dismissed.

You drag out the rotting corpse of the Southern Dixiecrat, and prop him up like the character in “Weekend at Bernie’s.” Do you think we’ve been napping for the past half-century? The Southern racists to whom you refer, being white, faced no challenges as they changed their allegiance from the Democratic Party to the GOP.

Your arguments are specious, but a mystery remains. Are you aware of that? Or are you really that confused?

The Editor

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

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

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

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.

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<p>2014—Austin Ruse, head of the Catholic Family and Human Rights Institute, says on American Family Radio, “the hard left, human-hating people that run modern universities... should all be taken out and shot.”</p> <p>2013—Jim Clapper, Dir. of Nat'l Intelligence, swears to Congress citizens aren't being spied on. He's lying.</p> <p>2009—Frank Gaffney says Saddam Hussein may have been involved in the Oklahoma City bombing.</p> <p>2003—News reports say VP Dick “Dick” Cheney is still being paid up to \$1 million a year by Halliburton.</p> <p>1990—ADA activists visit the Capitol the only way they can: leaving their wheelchairs and crawling up the steps.</p> <p>1956—Bill Fulbright, Sam Ervin, Hale Boggs—Cokie Roberts' dad—and 98 other Congressmen sign a “Southern Manifesto” pledging to maintain school segregation.</p> <p>1947—President Harry announces the Truman Doctrine: we'll fight Commies everywhere and anywhere.</p> <p>1947—Piper pilot Carmen Onofrio of Milan, N.H. makes the first of 43 landings atop Mt. Washington, delivering ice research equipment.</p> <p>1888—Roscoe Conkling, the most powerful man in the U.S., walks home to dodge a New York cabbie's jacked-up blizzard day. Weeks later, at 58, he's dead of pneumonia.</p> <p>1804—N.H. Federal Judge John Pickering is impeached for his “drunkenness, profanity, & violence.”</p>	<p>2020—Dolt #45 states the obvious: “I don't take responsibility at all.”</p> <p>2019—Gambino family mob boss Frank Cali is whacked in front of his Staten Island home by a QAnon follower who thought “he was enjoying the protection of President Trump.”</p> <p>2002—Asked about Osama bin Laden, George W.[MD] Bush says, “We haven't heard much from him...I don't know where he is...I truly am not that concerned about him.”</p> <p>1968—Nerve gas drifting from the Army's Dugway Proving Grounds in Provo, Utah, poisons 6,400 sheep in nearby Skull Valley.</p> <p>1962—General Lyman L. Lemnitzer, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, OKs Operation Northwood, a false flag campaign of lethal domestic terrorism intended to build public support for an attack on Cuba.</p> <p>1957—Georgia's General Assembly votes to impeach five U.S. Supreme Court justices.</p> <p>1954—Viet Minh forces besiege French troops at Dien Bien Phu.</p> <p>1930—The Smoot Hawley Act jacks up tariffs; Crash becomes Depression.</p> <p>1921—Monarchist Roman von Ungern-Sternberg, aka “The Mad Baron,” takes over Mongolia, briefly.</p> <p>1881—Russian nihilists use bombs to assassinate Czar Alexander.</p> <p>1877—Chester Greenwood, 18, of Farmington, Maine, receives the first of his 130 patents, this one for earmuffs.</p>	<p>2018—Hoping not to get shot like their late peers, a million American students walk out of school to demand gun control that works.</p> <p>1977—RIP Fanny Lou Hamer, organizer of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, who said, “Nobody's free until everybody's free.”</p> <p>1965—“Except for Vietnam,” the AP reports Richard Nixon saying, “U.S. foreign policy is in a shambles.”</p> <p>1964—We still don't know who killed JFK, but on this day a jury decided Jack Ruby killed Lee Harvey Oswald.</p> <p>1961—A B-52, its cabin temps over 130° due to a heater snafu and its crew's performance perhaps sub-par due to bennie use, runs out of fuel over Yuba City, Calif, and crashes with two nukes on board. All aboard survive.</p> <p>1927—Edward Abbey, writer and anarchist, is born in...Pennsylvania?</p> <p>1912—Strikers in Lawrence, Mass. win more bread—and a few roses, too.</p> <p>1891—A mob of 20,000 in New Orleans lynches 11 Italian immigrants recently acquitted of murder.</p> <p>1888—Kentucky's State Treasurer, James “Honest Dick” Tate, vanishes with \$247,000 in state funds.</p> <p>1883—Ex-journalist Karl Marx dies in London, impoverished, of course.</p> <p>1757—For not “doing his utmost” in battle at Minorca, the Royal Navy has Admiral John Byng shot.</p> <p>1471—Sir Thomas Malory, author of <i>Le Morte d'Arthur</i>, dies months after being sprung from Newgate Prison.</p>	<p>2018—Six die and eight are injured in Miami when a bridge, designed by the same firm as the new Sarah Mildred Long Bridge, collapses.</p> <p>1999—The “Hockey Stick” graph shows that global warming's real; corporate liars get a big career boost.</p> <p>1989—To flatter veterans without incurring actual additional expenses, the Veterans Administration is elevated to Departmental status.</p> <p>1982—Donald Trump gets a New Jersey casino licence—normally a months-long process—in hours.</p> <p>1980—A <i>Boston Globe</i> editorial about a speech by Jimmy Carter is headlined, “Mush from the Wimp.”</p> <p>1969—The National Security Council OKs the Nixon/Kissinger plan to illegally bomb Cambodia.</p> <p>1962—Flying Tiger Flight 739 from Travis AFB to Saigon disappears with 107 soldiers and crew on board.</p> <p>1948—“Without superior air power America is...easy prey to any yellow dwarf with a pocket knife,” says LBJ on the floor of the House.</p> <p>1940—The <i>Grapes of Wrath</i> premiers.</p> <p>1910—Oil driller Charlie “Dry Hole” Woods hits a wet one in Kern County, Calif. The Lakeview Gusher spews 9 million barrels in 18 months; the largest single spill in history.</p> <p>1874—A French “protectorate” takes over in Annam (Vietnam).</p> <p>1760—Governor Benning Wentworth, 64, marries his housekeeper, Martha Hilton, 23.</p>	<p>2008—JPMorgan buys Bear Stearns, with the New York Fed's \$30 billion.</p> <p>2003—On “Meet the Press,” Dick “Dick” Cheney claims that Saddam Hussein “has, in fact, reconstituted nuclear weapons,” and that “we will, in fact, be greeted as liberators.”</p> <p>1993—“The Storm of the Century” kills 318 on the East Coast.</p> <p>1990—GOP race whisperer Lee Atwater “repents” on his deathbed; no lie detectors are present, however.</p> <p>1988—Kurds in Iraq are gassed with ingredients Saddam Hussein bought from the U.S. and Europe.</p> <p>1970—Sen. Roman Hruska (R-Neb.) defends G. Harrold [sic] Carswell as nominee to the Supreme Court: “there are a lot of mediocre judges and people and lawyers. They are entitled to a little representation, aren't they?”</p> <p>1968—U.S. GIs massacre hundreds of civilians at My Lai, in Vietnam.</p> <p>1965—Alice Herz, 82, self-immolates in Detroit to resist the Vietnam War. She dies 10 days later.</p> <p>1965—In Montgomery, Ala., police attack civil rights marchers.</p> <p>1914—Henriette Caillaux, wife of the French Minister of Finance, pumps four slugs from a Browning .32 into Gaston Calmette, editor of <i>Le Figaro</i>. He dies, she skates.</p> <p>1862—Four years of digging by hand pays off in Brighton, England; a 1,285-foot deep well hits water.</p> <p>1846—Jurgis Bielinis' birth inspires Lithuanians “Book Smugglers Day.”</p>	<p>2017—Arguing <i>Apocalypse Now</i> in the Oval with 'Nam vets, Dolt #45 confuses Agent Orange with napalm.</p> <p>2008—His high-priced hooker habit exposed, N.Y. Gov. E. Spitzer resigns.</p> <p>2007—<i>Navy Times</i>: before he was a U.S.M.C. Cpl. and Fox News reporter, Matt Sanchez was a gay porn star.</p> <p>2004—To honor St. Patrick, narcs and off-duty cops duke it out in Pad-dy's parking lot at the Tradeport.</p> <p>2003—George W.[MD] Bush tells Saddam Hussein that Iraq isn't big enough for the both of them. Hitler 2.0 has 48 hours to get out.</p> <p>1992—Dick “Dick” Cheney and two other members of G.H.[H.]W. Bush's cabinet admit they wrote rubber checks on the House bank.</p> <p>1960—Genial ol' Ike signs off on a clandestine plan to violently overthrow the government of Cuba.</p> <p>1923—Waterbury cops halt a meeting to prevent editor Carlo Tresca from reading the Connecticut Constitution's Declaration of Rights.</p> <p>1922—Washington, D.C.'s suburbs are littered with racist propaganda dropped by the Klan from a biplane.</p> <p>1921—Checka officers use machine guns to encourage Bolshevik Neva to charge across the ice-covered Neva River into machine gun fire from rebellious sailors at Kronstadt.</p> <p>1892—Mercy Brown, dead at 19 and buried two months, is exhumed and de-vampirized in Exeter, R.I.; relatives eat her burned heart and liver.</p>	<p>2004—At Gilley's, Portsmouth narcs and off-duty cops hold round two of a fight begun at Paddy's on St. Pat's Day.</p> <p>2003—“Why should we hear about body bags and death and how many?” asks Barbara Bush. “It's not relevant... why should I waste my beautiful mind on something like that?”</p> <p>1997—Two L.A.P.D. undercover cops have a road rage shootout; one, Kevin Gaines, ends up dead in a big SUV that belongs to the estranged wife of Death Row Records' “Suge” Knight. Exposure of massive corruption at the Rampart Division ensues.</p> <p>1990—Fake cops bluff guards and steal Rembrandts and a Vermeer from Boston's Gardner Museum.</p> <p>1986—William F. Buckley's column in the <i>New York Times</i> calls for all gay men to be tattooed on the buttocks.</p> <p>1970—Offered a 4% raise while inflation is at 5.8%, postal workers stage a wildcat strike; after a week they win.</p> <p>1969—The U.S. begins secretly and illegally bombing Cambodia.</p> <p>1953—Cowed by Sen. Joe McCarthy [R-Bourbon], the State Dept. vows books by “suspect” authors will be purged from its overseas libraries.</p> <p>1937—In oil-rich New London, Texas, a school saving money by heating with un-scented gas explodes; 300 die.</p> <p>1925—A tornado kills 695 along a 235-mile path from Mo. to Ind.</p> <p>1741—Fort George—center of New York's government, then—is torched by conspiring blacks and whites.</p>
SUNDAY, MARCH 19	MONDAY, MARCH 20	TUESDAY, MARCH 21	WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22	THURSDAY, MARCH 23	FRIDAY, MARCH 24	SATURDAY, MARCH 25
<p>2011—The U.S. and France attack Libya—for its own good, of course.</p> <p>2003—George W.[MD] Bush starts his pre-emptive war; 40 Tomahawk missiles hit residential Baghdad.</p> <p>1987—Ed “Meese is a Pig” Meese endorses drug testing for schoolteachers.</p> <p>1983—On “Diff'rent Strokes,” Nancy Reagan tells “a true story” about “Charlie.” “Burned out on marijuana” at 14, he “brutally beats” Sis when she won't steal to buy him weed.</p> <p>1954—The U.S. government burns books by Wilhelm Reich.</p> <p>1948—Nobel Prize winner Mme. Irene Joliot-Curie is released from detention on Ellis Island; her work against fascism made her suspect.</p> <p>1945—Off Japan, Kamikaze attacks kill 800 sailors on the <i>U.S.S. Franklin</i>.</p> <p>1937—Clarence “Frogman” Henry is born in New Orleans.</p> <p>1935—Over 100 are injured in a Harlem riot. A study suppressed by Mayor LaGuardia blames police brutality.</p> <p>1916—Eight U.S. Army biplanes go after Pancho Villa.</p> <p>1840—Sixty-five Comanche men, women, and children attend a San Antonio peace conference; 35 are killed by Anglos and 30 imprisoned.</p> <p>1777—Moses Dunbar, found guilty of recruiting for the British, is hanged in Hartford, Conn. His father, a patriot, offers to supply the rope.</p> <p>1649—Since it's “useless and dangerous to the people,” the House of Commons abolishes the House of Lords.</p>	<p>2017—FBI Boss Jim Comey tells Congress the Trump campaign and Russia may have colluded.</p> <p>2012—One of the low loaded .45 pistols Rep. Kyle Tasker [R-Northwood] legally carries in shoulder holsters drops to the floor of a packed hearing room in the N.H. State Capitol.</p> <p>2003—U.S. troops invade Iraq to protect The Homeland from Saddam's innumerable WMDs.</p> <p>1992—UN weapons inspector Rolf Ekeus says Iraq has agreed to destroy its weapons of mass destruction.</p> <p>1976—Press Baron William R. Hearst's granddaughter Patricia is convicted of bank robbery.</p> <p>1954—“If the [Vietnamese] Communists continue to suffer the losses they have been taking,” says French Chief of Staff Gen. Paul Ely, “I don't know how they can stay in the battle.”</p> <p>1933—“Get to hell out of here, you son of a bitch,” would-be FDR assassin Giuseppe Zangara tells the chaplain before he's zapped for killing Chicago's mayor. “All capitalists lousy bunch of crooks. Goodbye to all poor peopies everywhere! Push the button!”</p> <p>1905—An old boiler explodes, shooting through the roof of the Grover Shoe Factory in Brockton, Mass. The building collapses, trapping hundreds of workers—then the naphtha barrels catch fire; 58 die and 150 are injured.</p> <p>1899—Gender pioneer Martha Place becomes the first woman to die in New York's electric chair.</p>	<p>2006—Twitter takes flight.</p> <p>2003—Richard Clarke, top counter-intel cop since Bush#41, says Bush#43 ignored al-Qaeda until 9/11.</p> <p>1995—Mississippi OKs the 13th amendment, outlawing slavery—except it goes unregistered, so, no dice.</p> <p>1981—In Mobile, Ala., two Ku Kluxers conduct the last recorded lynching. RIP: Michael Donald, 19.</p> <p>1973—“There is a cancer on the Presidency,” White House Counsel John Dean says, speaking to the cancer.</p> <p>1963—“Gents, this is an educational project,” says condemned murderer Frederick Wood in New York. “You are about to witness the damaging effect electricity has on Wood.”</p> <p>1960—South African police kill 89 unarmed black protesters in the Sharpeville Massacre.</p> <p>1952—DJ Alan Freed throws the Moondog Coronation Ball in Cleveland—the first rock concert.</p> <p>1947—“Red Scared” by the GOP, Truman orders “loyalty screening.”</p> <p>1937—Cops in Ponce, P.R. follow orders from the Governor and machine gun protesters; 21 KIA, 235 WIA.</p> <p>1925—Tennessee bans the teaching of evolution in public schools.</p> <p>1915—At a White House screening, Woodrow Wilson is enraptured by the racist masterpiece <i>Birth of a Nation</i>.</p> <p>1877—N.Y. State Grange members, in economic self-defense, form the Northern Farmers Alliance. Its successes are limited, mostly by its racism.</p>	<p>2006—<i>MV Queen of the North</i>, a Canadian ferry four miles off course, hits an island at 17 knots and sinks with a loss of two lives. Union reps deny crewmembers were having sex at the time.</p> <p>2003—The chief officer of <i>RMS Mil-beim</i>, getting out of his chair while on watch, catches his trousers on a lever, falls and hits his head, losing consciousness. The ship runs aground at Land's End in Cornwall, a total loss.</p> <p>1987—The <i>Mobro 4000</i>, a barge toting 3,168 tons of garbage, leaves NYC. After a 162 day, 6,000 mile joyride, it will return to NYC where its contents will be burned.</p> <p>1986—The U.S. executes its first Vietnam vet in Fla.'s electric chair: David Funchess, a black former Marine with a Purple Heart and PTSD.</p> <p>1975—A worker using a candle to find air leaks starts a fire at the Brown's Ferry nuclear power plant in Alabama. Damages: about \$100 million.</p> <p>1933—At Dachau, Germany opens its first concentration camp.</p> <p>1820—Two U.S. Navy Commodores meet at the Bladensburg Dueling Grounds. James Barron, disgraced in the <i>Chesapeake-Leopard</i> Affair, mortally wounds Stephen “Our Country, Right or Wrong” Decatur.</p> <p>1765—Great Britain attempts to impose a Stamp Act on the colonies. It does not go well.</p> <p>1622—Powhatans slaughter 400 English settlers—about one-third of the white population of Virginia.</p>	<p>2016—Tay, a Microsoft™ AI chatterbot, is released on Twitter. She's pulled 16 hours later for being a Nazi.</p> <p>2004—In a Senate office building, 19 Members of Congress watch a golden crown being placed on the head of convicted tax cheat and <i>Washington Times</i> owner Rev. Sun Myung Moon.</p> <p>2003—A lost U.S. Army convoy is ambushed near Nasiriyah, Iraq; 11 KIA, five WIA, & six POWs, including Pvt. Jessica Ryan. An Air Force A-10 kills six to 10 U.S. Marines. A U.S. Patriot missile downs an RAF fighter jet over Iraq.</p> <p>1983—Acting Pres. R. Reagan touts space-based anti-missile missiles, as seen in 1940's <i>Murder in the Air</i>, in which he played Lt. “Brass” Bancroft.</p> <p>1933—Support from the [Catholic] Centre Party trumps leftist opposition: the Reichstag passes the Enabling Act; Hitler becomes a dictator.</p> <p>1914—For helping organize Colorado coal miners, “Mother Jones,” 76, is thrown in the Huertano County Jail.</p> <p>1901—U.S. troops capture Filipino rebel leader Emilio Aguinaldo, whom the U.S. had earlier backed in his fight against Spanish colonial powers.</p> <p>1877—Mormon leader John D. Lee is executed by a firing squad for his role in the Mountain Meadows Massacre. He leaves 19 wives and 56 children.</p> <p>1842—The House of Representatives censures Congressman Joshua R. Giddings [W-Ohio] for introducing a resolution opposing slavery.</p>	<p>2004—A-list broadcast journalists crack up at a black-tie dinner as President George W.[MD] Bush jokes about “his” failed search for WMDs. Less amused: families of the 691 GIs killed in his pre-emptive war.</p> <p>1989—Exxon issues a message about its commitment to the environment through the hull of the <i>Exxon Valdez</i>.</p> <p>1985—Shot by a Soviet sentry while peeping at an East German tank shed, U.S. Army Maj. Arthur D. Nicholson becomes what the Pentagon calls “the last casualty of the Cold War.”</p> <p>1972—At Washington, D.C.'s Mayflower Hotel, E. Howard Hunt and G. Gordon Liddy try to score an “LSD-type drug” from an ex-CIA doctor. They even fail at that.</p> <p>1971—The <i>Washington Post</i> reports that stolen FBI documents show mailmen, a Swithmore switchboard operator, and a local police chief have been spying on Philadelphia activists.</p> <p>1971—Operation Lam Son 719, the ARVN invasion of Laos, ends. Casualty count: enormous; winners: none.</p> <p>1966—The Supreme Court rules that poll taxes—a key element of Jim Crow oppression—are unconstitutional.</p> <p>1944—At Stalag Luft III, 76 POWs exit via “Tunnel Harry,” three get away, 50 are shot. Not so great, really.</p> <p>1944—Parachute <i>kaput</i>, RAF tail-gunner Nicholas Alkemade jumps from 18,000 feet over Germany. Pine trees and snow break his fall; he lives until 1987—now <i>that's</i> a great escape.</p>	<p>2003—Four Air Force generals are sacked over a massive rape scandal.</p> <p>1997—Florida's “Old Sparky” sets Pedro Medina on fire as it kills him.</p> <p>1976—Execs at the Ford plant in Argentina begin doing the new military junta's bidding. Work incentives include torture, kidnapping, & murder.</p> <p>1971—Three dairy co-ops get \$600 million in milk price supports for a \$427,000 “contribution” towards Dick “Original Dick” Nixon's re-election.</p> <p>1966—“Of all the forms of inequality,” says MLK Jr., “injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane.”</p> <p>1966—Fifteen WW II and Korean War veterans burn discharge papers in NYC to protest the Vietnam War.</p> <p>1965—In Montgomery, Ala., 25,000 civil rights marchers arrive at the state capitol, thanks to the National Guard.</p> <p>1960—The head of Oliver Cromwell, struck off in an “execution” two years after his death and piked for decades, is buried at his Cambridge alma mater.</p> <p>1955—U.S. Customs seizes Allen Ginsburg's “Howl” as “obscene.”</p> <p>1947—A Centralia, Ill. coal mine, long the subject of ignored complaints and warnings, explodes, killing 111.</p> <p>1931—In Alabama, the Scottsboro Boys are arrested on bogus charges.</p> <p>1931—RIP, Ida B. Wells: fierce foe of lynching, born of enslaved ancestors.</p> <p>1911—The Triangle Shirtwaist Fire kills 146 sweatshop workers in New York City. The factory's fire doors had been locked shut to enhance profits.</p>

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