

## The Fortnightly Rant

### The Dead Letter of the Law

Three good things might be said about the fortnight which just ended: 1) It's over; 2) We won't have to go through it again; 3) It may help clarify the nature of the power structure in our much-vaunted, supposedly democratic republic.

Two statements are sufficient to sum up how most people in this country stand in relation to our justice system: they are protected by it and unrestrained; or, they are restrained by it and unprotected.

At the very apex of this justice system, doing his level best to assure that it stays the way it is—or becomes even more unjust—sits Clarence Thomas, on a rich man's bench, smoking an expensive cigar.

Strictly speaking, the statement above is inaccurate. As it is currently constituted, the Supreme Court is often called "The Roberts Court." That honorific is applied because John Roberts is the Chief Justice—a trifling technicality.

Thomas is the oldest member of the Court, and the longest-serving, with a decade and a half of seniority over Roberts. More to the point, he has the boldness and audacity to leave Roberts in the dust. Thomas acts—or, as in the case of filing financial disclosures, fails to act—and Roberts struggles to keep up.

Thomas is the second Black Justice to serve on the Supreme Court. The first was Thurgood Marshall. He had been appointed by President Lyndon Johnson after a long and stellar career as a civil rights lawyer. "I was appointed to a life term, and I intend to serve it," he sometimes said. Announced his retirement on June 27, 1991, he said he was only leaving because "I'm getting old and I'm coming apart!"

Just four days later, an eager President George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush nominated Marshall's antithesis.

"In retiring when he did, Marshall very reluctantly gave the opportunity to name his replacement to a man he truly scorned and had publicly ridiculed on a major television network news show, George Bush. On Primetime Live, he told his interviewer, Sam Donaldson, what he thought of the President: 'Let me put it this way. It's said that if you can't say something good about a dead person, don't say it. Well, I consider [Bush] dead.' When Donaldson, incredulously, said, 'He's still alive, Mr. Justice,' Marshall said: 'You're damn right he is! I just don't understand it.'"

Marshall had just cause. Bush's 1988 presidential run set a new, low standard for race-based, dog whistle politics. Speaking of Bush's Democratic opponent, Michael Dukakis, Bush's campaign manager, Lee Atwater, vowed to "strip the bark off the little bastard" and "make Willie Horton [a Black convicted murderer] his running mate."

In 1987, as Bush and Atwater sought to use race to their advantage, Marshall delivered a speech commemorating the bicentennial of the drafting of the U.S. Constitution. He said the government it devised "was defective from the start, requiring several amendments, a civil war and momentous social transformation to attain the system of constitutional government, and its respect for the individual freedoms and human rights, we hold as fundamental today."

Its framers, he said, "could not have imagined, nor would they have accepted, that the document they were drafting would one day be construed by a Supreme Court to which had been appointed a woman and the descendant of an African slave."

*\* A Defiant Life: Thurgood Marshall and the Persistence of Racism in America, by Howard Ball, (1998).*



The management is pleased to announce that Mike Dater, our Starving Artiste, is regaining his strength and eager to resume his duties. In other words, he's measurably healthier than his subject, above.

'We the people' no longer enslave, but the credit does not belong to the Framers. It belongs to those who refused to acquiesce in outdated notions of 'liberty,' 'justice' and 'equality,' and who strived to better them."

Marshall's replacement appears to disagree. He seems to believe the nation should hold itself bound to the intentions of rich white men, many of them slaveholders, who have been dead for centuries.

Further, he claims to be capable of divining those intentions himself. This, even after he has demonstrated that he either cannot, or will not, correctly complete a financial disclosure form.

In 2011, Thomas was obliged correct many such forms, after they were exposed by Common Cause, most involving his wife Ginnie. As she pulled in six-figure incomes from right wing institutions, Thomas was reporting her income as "None."

Then, a week ago yesterday, all those blotches on Thomas' escutcheon suddenly seemed to pale, in light of a report from ProPublica:

"For more than two decades, Thomas has accepted luxury trips virtually every year from [Dallas businessman Harland Crow] without disclosing them... he has vacationed on Crow's superyacht around the globe... flies on Crow's Bombardier Global 5000 jet... gone with Crow to the Bohemian Grove... to Crow's sprawling ranch in East Texas... [and] spends about a week every summer at Crow's private resort in the Adirondacks."

A week later we learned that Crow "was in an unusual position: He now owned the house where the justice's elderly mother was living."

Thomas, protected and unrestrained, enjoys Crow's cigars; President Biden is restrained from appointing judges because Sen. Diane Feinstein has shingles.

Longtime readers know of our skepticism regarding the efficacy of military solutions. That comes in no small part from direct personal experience. Violence organized in service of the state makes perverted justice look benign in comparison.

The extreme situations which wars create do offer a unique window, though, into what humans may accomplish when truly challenged.

Considering everything that's at stake right now—which is to say, everything: droughts, deluges, atmospheric catastrophes in general, mass extinction, famine, pollution, economic chaos, the resurgent threat of nuclear war—this seems as good time a time as any to draw upon the spirit of Marine Col. Lewis Burwell "Chesty" Puller at the Chosin Reservoir, Korea, 1950:

"We've been looking for the enemy for some time now. We've finally found him. We're surrounded. That simplifies things."

## The Alleged News®

### Oxfam Shows U.S. Billionaires Almost a Third Richer Today Than When Covid Hit

by Brett Wilkins

As the deadline for Americans to file federal income tax returns approached, on April 14th Oxfam America renewed calls for taxing the ultrarich while publishing an analysis showing America's growing number of billionaires saw their wealth increase by nearly one-third since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic and by nearly 90 percent over the past decade.

"Wealth inequality in the U.S. is more extreme and dangerous than income inequality; and we need to change our approach, so we effectively tax wealth as well as income," the charity said in an introduction to the report, *Tax Wealth, Tackle Inequality*.

Based on *Forbes* data, the report

found that "U.S. billionaires are almost a third richer (over a trillion dollars, in real terms) than they were at the onset of the pandemic in 2020," while overall U.S. billionaire wealth has soared 86 percent since 2013.

The number of U.S. billionaires—of which there are now more than 700—is also nearly 60 percent higher than it was a decade ago, according to the analysis.

As the report notes:

"At the same time, our country has a 'permanent underclass' of working families who are denied their economic rights, trapped in poverty, and unable to accumulate wealth no matter how hard they work. Oxfam data shows that almost a third of the U.S. labor force earns less than \$15 an hour; half of all working women

of color earn less than \$15.14.

"The racial wealth gap is actually growing wider since the 1980s, and today is close to what it was in 1950. The average Black American household currently has only about 12 cents in wealth for every dollar of the average white American household.

"And while the gender pay gap has barely budged in two decades, the gender wealth gap is much wider. One study found a raw gender wealth gap of women owning 32 cents for every dollar of male wealth. For women of color, the gap is even more profound.

"At a time when the ultrawealthy are amassing historic and dangerous levels of wealth, a federal wealth tax offers a vital and necessary tool for directly redressing extreme wealth inequality, as well as advancing racial

justice, tackling the climate crisis, and protecting democracy," Oxfam argued. "It also offers a reminder that today's debt ceiling gridlock is a consequence of giving tax breaks to the ultrawealthy."

Oxfam urges Congress and the Biden administration to enact legislation like Sen. Elizabeth Warren's (D-Mass.) Ultra-Millionaire Tax Act, which would impose a 2 percent annual tax on the net worth of households and trusts exceeding \$50 million, plus a 1 percent annual surtax on billionaires.

According to an analysis by University of California, Berkeley economists Emmanuel Saez and Gabriel Zucman, the tax would bring in at least \$3 trillion in revenue over 10 years without raising taxes on 99.95 percent of American households

worth less than \$50 million.

Citing figures from the Institute for Policy Studies and Patriotic Millionaires, Oxfam's analysis showed that:

- The wealth tax proposed by Sen. Warren, based on taxing U.S. billionaires alone, would raise \$114 billion annually—more than enough to pay for reinstating the Child Tax Credit;

- An annual net wealth tax could raise over half a trillion dollars (\$582.6 billion) each year, by taxing more than only billionaires and using marginally higher rates: 2 percent for wealth above \$5 million, 3 percent above \$50 million, and 5 percent above \$1 billion; and



**The Alleged News®**  
*from page one*

• If there had been a net wealth tax of 6.9 percent since 2013, it would have kept billionaire wealth simply constant.

“Tax Day is a reminder that the tax system isn’t working for ordinary Americans. It’s built to favor the richest in our society,” said Nabil Ahmed, Oxfam America’s director of economic justice. “The ultrawealthy are sitting on mountains of wealth that remain largely untouched by taxes, and their wild riches are in no small part a result of intentional public policy.”

“We need to implement strategic wealth taxes if we want to stand any chance at reining in this kind of Gilded-Era wealth inequality that allows the super-rich to have a stranglehold over our economy,” Ahmed continued.

“Taxing the ultrawealthy is essential to tackle extreme wealth inequality and protect our democracy from the threat of oligarchy—but it is also central to advancing racial and climate justice, connections that we must pay more attention to,” he

added. “It’s also clear that political gridlock around the debt ceiling is a consequence of tax cuts on the richest.”

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**The Highest U.S. Marginal Tax Rate Is Too Damn Low**

by Sylvia Allegretto

With Tax Day just behind us, it is a good time to put post-WWII top marginal tax rate into context. Many find it hard to believe that the top rate was 91 percent during the Eisenhower years. No, that didn’t mean that high earners paid a 91 percent tax on all of their income.

Take the 2022 tax brackets for single filers. The lowest rate is 10 percent and applies to taxable income (after deductions) up to \$10,275. The first \$10,275 is taxed at the same rate for everyone regardless of whether total taxable income is \$10,000 or \$750,000. The same logic applies to each successive tax bracket.

The highest marginal rate this



*Our Wandering Photographer meandered into the courtyard of the Brick Market, aka McNabbville, last Saturday. Partially enclosed by multi-story structures, it's somewhat suggestive of nearby Commercial Alley. This more-spacious central area, though, is accessible from three or four directions. Very interesting.*



*Obviously defective, yet still in service: a textbook violation of the Flag Code. And on display in a most prominent place; i.e., about 75 feet north-west of Wet Weather Combined Sewer Outflow #10B! Is this intended as a taunt to the Flag Police, who vow that “Eternal vigilance is the price of upholding the fetishization of material objects which symbolize the values of a purported republic in the absence of any perceptible functionality?”*

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**Wealthy Americans Warn  
U.S. Democracy 'Will Not Survive'  
Unless Rich Are Taxed Heavily**  
by Jake Johnson

A group of rich Americans marked Tax Day on Tuesday by calling on the U.S. Congress to aggressively tax wealthy people like themselves, warning that the U.S. will remain in a state of “perpetual chaos” until lawmakers boldly confront the worsening inequality crisis.

“Tax Day isn’t just a filing deadline—it’s also an annual reminder that the ultra-rich exist in an entirely separate world when it comes to taxes,” said Morris Pearl, chair of the Patriotic Millionaires, an advocacy group that supports progressive taxation.

“For us, the loopholes are bigger, the rates are lower, and many rules are entirely optional,” Pearl, a former managing director at BlackRock, continued. “The tax code has been contributing to growing inequality for decades, and we’re reaching a point where the concentration of wealth is simply unsustainable. We need a change, or our economy and our democracy will not survive. For my future, my grandchildren’s future,

and our country’s future, we need to tax the rich.”

Ahead of a Tuesday morning event on Capitol Hill, which featured Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-Wash.) and other progressive lawmakers, Patriotic Millionaires released a tax reform agenda that called for, among other changes, a 90 percent top marginal tax rate for people with annual incomes above \$100 million and a federal tax exemption for people who earn less than a “cost-of-living wage.”

The group also proposed legislation titled the Oppose Limitless Inequality Growth And Restore Civil Harmony (OLIGARCH) Act, which would create a progressive wealth tax structure aimed at countering the vast concentration of fortunes at the very top.

Patriotic Millionaires explained that the bill would establish “wealth tax bracket thresholds based on multiples of median American household wealth.”

“The bracket thresholds are set at 1,000, 10,000, 100,000, and 1,000,000 times median household wealth, with marginal rates at 2, 4, 6, and 8 percent respectively,” the



*It's a shame that 212 Woodbury Avenue wasn't on the Portsmouth Halloween Parade route. Just picture this haunted house in late October, under half-bare trees—especially if some imp had snuck in and planted a speaker playing spooky noises.... It would have been perfect—before the plywood went up, anyway. Now, it's too late. According to city records this Addams Family Special was sold on March 31st for a cool \$2,425,000.*

group said. “It will wax and wane with wealth concentration, intensifying during periods of extreme inequality when wealth at the top is increasing faster than wealth in the middle, and tapering off to near non-existence when median household wealth increases and inequality moderates.”

Erica Payne, founder and president of Patriotic Millionaires, said in a statement Tuesday that the heavily skewed U.S. tax code contains “the seeds of our destruction.”

A massive trove of Internal Revenue Service documents obtained by ProPublica last year showed that the 25 richest Americans—including Amazon founder Jeff Bezos and Tesla CEO Elon Musk—paid an average true tax rate of just 3.4 percent between 2014 and 2018 in large part because unrealized capital gains from stock appreciation are not taxed.

Patriotic Millionaires on Tuesday called for a Billionaire Minimum

Income Tax that would “impose a minimum tax on a wealthy household’s true economic income, including unrealized capital gains, thereby eliminating the incentive for billionaires to hoard assets and avoid selling, and instead live on low-interest personal loans.”

“Elites over decades have broken the social contract,” said Payne. “The only way to restore stability to this nation, the only way to fix this country, is to tax this country appropriately. That includes 90 percent tax rates on centi-millionaires and an aggressive wealth tax designed to make billionaires less rich.”

According to an Oxfam America analysis published last week, U.S. billionaires have gotten 86 percent richer over the past decade, with \$37 of every \$100 of wealth created between 2012 and 2021 going to the top 1 percent. The bottom 50 percent only received \$2 for every \$100 of wealth generated during that period, according to Oxfam.

“Tax Day is a reminder that the tax system isn’t working for ordinary Americans. It’s built to favor the richest in our society,” said Nabil Ahmed, Oxfam America’s Director of Economic Justice. “The ultrawealthy are sitting on mountains of wealth that remain largely untouched by taxes, and their wild riches are in no small part a result of intentional public policy.”

“We need to implement strategic wealth taxes if we want to stand any chance at reining in this kind of Gilded-Era wealth inequality that allows the super-rich to have a stranglehold over our economy,” Ahmed added.

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**Murph's Fortnightly Quote**

*"Not seeing the truth, they knocked at the door of fables."*

— Hafez (circa 1325-1390) Persian poet

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**Gun Violence and the Scarlet Letter “R”**  
To the Editor:

It is 3:11 a.m. on Tuesday, April 11, 2023, and I can't sleep. I keep having the titles of articles on gun violence reverberate in my mind. There are so many, and they are all compelling. Some have refrains of common songs of our nation, such as “Gun Violence, when will we ever learn?” Others feature the locations of mass shootings, such as at a “car wash” in Pennsylvania in 2018, or a particular feature of the guns used, like learning about “bump stocks” in the mass shooting on October 1, 2017, in Las Vegas when 58 were killed and almost 500 injured in the deadliest shooting in our country so far. Some titles could, of course, feature the type of gun: “AR-15s, the gun of choice in mass shootings” (which the gun rights folks say are not assault rifles, just sporting guns, or tactical rifles, whatever that means).

So yesterday, it was a mass killing in Louisville, Kentucky, in a bank. The first thought of most: I hope it was not kids again, not nine-year-old children again like in Nashville just a week or so ago, or six- or seven-year-old children again, like in Sandy Hook in December 2012, when twenty first graders were murdered along with seven adults. No, it was only five adults killed this time, and eight reported injured including three officers, as if that is a consolation.

Here are the simple facts of gun violence.

The country known for gun violence everywhere around the world is the United States—not Great Britain, or Canada, or Australia, but the United States. We have more than twenty-five times the mass shootings and gun violence of those similar nations. We've had 377 school shootings since Columbine in 1999 (*Washington Post*) and we still offer only “thoughts and prayers.” So far this year we've had 11,628 killed by guns, including 146 mass shootings. So far this year 71 children aged 0-11 were killed and 403 teens aged 12-17 were killed by guns (Gun Violence Archives). We still, as a country, offer only “thoughts and prayers.” Leading the world in

gun violence is embarrassing, humiliating and shameful.

The political party supporting gun violence is the Republican Party, the party with a scarlet letter “R” after their name. The votes that such legislators make repeatedly, in any state (including our New Hampshire Republican legislators and Governor, or in Tennessee, for example) or nationally in Washington D.C., are always to keep things basically unchanged, or even worse, make guns easier to acquire and carry. They offer only “thoughts and prayers,” nothing more. In Tennessee they even expel legislators who are crying, pleading to do something to end this scourge of gun violence, along with thousands in the streets of Nashville crying, pleading for actions, not words. The political party with legislators who have a scarlet letter “R” after their name do everything in their power to keep things unchanged or worse, and to keep the epidemic of gun violence growing, with guns unfettered, gun violence undeterred.

These are some of the headlines in my mind, some of the horrendous thoughts that are keeping me awake night after night, as gun violence surges through the schools, banks, factories, churches, streets of our nation. It is now 4:49 a.m. and I still can't sleep. When will we ever learn?

Leonard Korn, MD  
New Castle, N.H.

Leonard:

*After a quick glance at your letter, we guessed you might be an emergency room doctor. A few years spent patching people back together—sometimes successfully, sometimes not—would certainly explain your views on gun violence.*

*As so often happens, though, we were wrong. WebMD tells us, “Board Certified in General Psychiatry since 1977, and Board Certified in Forensic Psychiatry from 1999-2009 ... [since] 2003 Dr. Korn has served on the Executive Council of the New Hampshire Psychiatric Society, including serving as President from 2007-2011. He is also a member of the Executive Council of the New Hampshire Medical Society. Dr. Korn's clinical practice includes all ages and the full range of psychiatric disorders. He sees*



*children, adolescents, adults, couples and families. His specialty is Forensic Psychiatry.”*

*Of course, a few years spent—a few decades, in your case—patching people's minds back together could also explain your views on gun violence.*

*When you get right down to it, anyone who spends any time at all considering the effect that guns have had on so many Americans might say your letter speaks for them.*

*In fact, you do speak for most Americans, according to a slew of public opinion polls going back for decades. The thing is, that doesn't matter.*

*Bear with us for a moment, because our blood is up. We want to try, once again, to explain why that is so.*

*It has long been our idiotic national practice to award an election to anyone—even a certifiable dingbat like Marjorie Taylor Greene or Paul Gosar—who gets one more vote than the next person, no matter if they might be the reincarnation of George Washington or Abraham Lincoln.*

*This practice has the inevitable result of boxing us into a two-party system. Proponents of ranked choice voting [RCV] can explain that better than we can. Check it out.*

*For the time being, we're stuck with Rs and Ds. The Ds, as we all know, are strong on hand-wringing and fecklessness. Meanwhile the Rs are, as Yeats wrote, “full of passionate intensity.”*

*Not towards democracy, though. Some of them are now stating openly what many of us have long suspected: they're just not that into it. So the people want gun control—so what? It doesn't matter what the people want. Who are they, compared to the free-spending, Russian-funded NRA?*

*Thanks to a forty year campaign of gerrymandering and naming nutjobs to the courts, we now have more mass shootings than days of the year.*

*Here's the tl/dr: RVC might be the key to effective gun control.*

The Editor

**Our Celebrity Governor**

To the Editor:

Our esteemed New Hampshire Governor has really been making the rounds!

It seems every week there is a news clip highlighting Governor Sununu appearing for an interview, chatting with another talking head about how the Governor is really popular, re-elected by overwhelming majorities, and isn't afraid to call bull\_\_\_\_\_ when it happens in N.H. or D.C.

Aren't we lucky? He could probably use his special powers and insights to... oh, maybe figure out how to help reduce the property tax burden for us regular folks? Or, maybe, really make all those education funds work for average kids all around the state? Or, maybe, use his leadership to figure out a meaningful way to address out-of-control Second Amendment enthusiasts' anxiety... so the rest of us can live in peace? Or, maybe, work hard to find a realistic solution to waste disposal and landfill planning? Or, plan to solve affordable housing shortages?

Nahhh; not gonna happen. There's talking heads to talk to, NRA gabfests to attend, deals to work with special forces from SigSauer to back their flagship “experience” store; maybe some other donors... er “constituents” to let tourism flourish atop Mt Washington. So much to do when you're so popular!

God Bless the Granite State. And hopefully help the Granite Staters, too.

Sincerely,  
Beth McCarthy  
Tamworth, N.H.

Beth:

*Didn't you hear what Governor Glib said on April 5th? “So I'm not saying I'm not running again, but, you know. I've got to get a real job. It is not a career, right?”*

*He's neglected all those issues you men-*

*tioned because he's bored up there in the Corner Office. Having pranced around on our little stage all these years, he's ready for his D.C. close-up—or thinks he is.*

*Why hasn't he announced? Because doing so would draw fire from the Major Domo of Mar-a-Largo? Maybe he's waiting for the courts to clear the field.*

The Editor

**Pass the Smelling Salts, Please**  
To the Editor:

Despite knowing there would be objections, some “educators” brought pornography into K-12 school classrooms and libraries without public approval, notice, debate, or justification. When discovered, caring parents and citizens object and demand removal of these materials from schools.

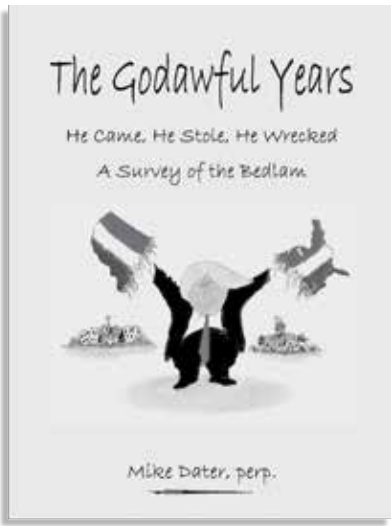
Verifying their inappropriateness for schools, some school boards have prevented parents from reading these explicit materials in public meetings (e.g., <https://tinyurl.com/3vacn8jy>). If materials can't be read in public meetings, then that material is not appropriate for school classrooms or libraries. (For more detailed information of what schools offer young children: <https://tinyurl.com/3h9udd7a>).

Nevertheless, some people call demands to remove pornography, not from them but, **from schools**, “book banning,” à la “Nazi (National Socialist) Germany.”

The people screaming “book banning” surely know that age-based restrictions are appropriate; surely they oppose letting young children buy guns and cigarettes, or drive cars. “Banning” is unlikely to be their real concern. I don't recall them complaining that the Bible and Ten Commandments are banned from schools (has that improved our society?), when students were prevented from handing out U.S. Constitutions, or when

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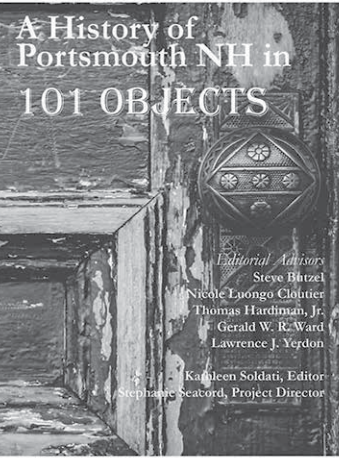
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teachers were fired for praying on school grounds. I suspect interfering with their harmful ideological goals is their concern.

Unfortunately, too many teachers can't adequately teach reading or math; why would any parent or rational person trust them to introduce pornography to children, some of whom already struggle with various aspects of growing up, and are vulnerable to exploitation?

Sadly, many children, one estimate is 361-500 annually, are sexually exploited by school employees (<https://tinyurl.com/2p89at3y>). Sharing pornography with children is a way to confuse children about sex and gender and enable their exploitation by adults. This might benefit deviant and predatory adults, but I don't understand how it benefits children, parents, or society.

Don Ewing  
Meredith, N.H.  
Don:

You cite a story which was posted on Alpha News. The Minnesota Star Tribune wrote, on March 10, 2015: "The launch of Alpha News was first promoted today by the Minnesota Tea Party Alliance on Facebook. Many of the initial news stories from Alpha News cover issues which have been advocated by the Minnesota Tea Party Alliance."

The Star Tribune noted that "[Alpha News Chief Capitol reporter Julia] Erynn...served as Miss Minneapolis 2014...a self-described Libertarian, [she] also served as the Emcee of the 2014 Libertarian Party of Minnesota Convention. In a podcast last year for the Minnesota Tea Party Alliance, Erynn discussed the career advice she received from journalist Ben Swann and her interest in focusing on journalism that calls out other journalists."

The story itself carries a Daily Caller byline. That site was co-founded by Tuck-

er Carlson, recently shown by court documents to be an inveterate liar, and his college roommate, Neil Patel. Patel had previously served as chief policy advisor to Vice President Dick "Dick" Cheney, who lied us into a war.

So, all in all it's no surprise that Alpha News and the Daily Caller would be up in arms over all this.

Jonathan Evison is the author of Lawn Boy, one of the books involved in this fracas. He said in a statement to the Washington Post, quoted by Wikipedia, "that he had received numerous death threats, and many instances of harassment as a result of the controversy. He said that, 'contrary to allegations circulating online, the book does not describe or contain pedophilia. The scene people seem to be upset about involves an adult man recalling a sexual encounter he had with another fourth-grader when he was in fourth grade. If I had a statement, it would be: 'Read the book or sit down.'"

The other book which was so successful at getting conservative knickers in a twist was Gender Queer, by Maia Kobabe. A graphic memoir "centered on coming out to friends and family," according to NPR. "In illustrated panels in the book, readers learn about Kobabe feeling physically different from a young age but unable to openly express it. The book has been praised in some circles for how it talks about identity...." For its honesty, it has been "banned from shelves in more states than any other book."

May we suggest, Don: if you're really concerned about protecting children, try Googling this: "List of Convicted Republican Pedophiles." Or maybe "Clergymen Convicted of Pedophilia."

The Editor

#### "The Greatest Generation"

To the Editor:

Hey, thanks so very much (as we used to say) for putting quotes around the two words "Greatest Generation"

in the 3rd column of your "From Our Mobile Bureau" piece in the March 24th issue. I want to vomit every time that I see/hear those two words in our stupid media. Tom Brokaw's book made him a hero. Obviously he has never heard about the Revolutionary War Generation or the War of 1812 generation—the one in which Washington was burned—or the Rebellion of 1861-5 (renamed Civil War afterwards) generation.

J.K. Folmar I  
California, Pa.

J.K.:

Maybe we're prejudiced, but we think more highly of generations that did not send 2.9 million of its children to fight Commies in Vietnam.

The Editor

==

#### Let's Not Scapegoat the Victims, Here

Dear Editor:

I could not avoid a keen interest in one of your more recent rants, that of March 24th, the Armed Services missing their 2022 recruitment goals. You stated "the Navy met its recruitment goals—by lowering its admission standards."

No doubt true enough, but think not this is a first time practice. The military (as well as the rest of this country) has been lessening its standards for decades, since at least the early 1970's when Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity were introduced into our culture and thus began the loss of expertise and the beginning of the end of American exceptionalism.

Granted (and well understood) there is an enormous amount of discrimination exercised in America; always has been, perhaps always will be. But you cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong without spawning severe and detrimental consequences.

Long story short, who could have imagined that a well-intended but ill-conceived plan to level the playing field for citizens perceived as "dis-

advantaged" would (a half-century down the road) give birth to a Donald Trump. That someone like him would emerge with an imposing following and all the while brazenly declaring, "I love the uneducated," would not have seemed remotely logical 50 years ago.

However, in retrospect, how easily those dots connect. A most difficult lesson to master as evidence surrounds us proving we're relentlessly committed to the pursuit of mediocrity and so deep into perpetuating our downward spiral I fear it can never be reversed.

I served the Navy as a recruiter, based in Claremont, New Hampshire, in 1977-78. I was responsible for nine high schools in Vermont, my counterpart nine in N.H. In recruiting school our instructor clearly avowed, "do not recruit anyone you would not personally serve with," and followed that up with a wink and a smile and "if you don't make your quota you'll go back to sea," (which, in fact, became my destiny). Our station repeatedly proved too big for one recruiter, too small for two. There are always reasons to lower expectations.

I, and many others, tried to explain why modifying, decreasing and dropping well-established standards, principles and guidelines was a bad idea and doomed to failure but our pleas fell on deaf ears, closed minds and hardened hearts. I watched good Naval officers reprimanded and forced to apologize for simply voicing legitimate opposition to popular claims favoring some vague quest of social equity because they believed it compromised our mission.

It cannot escape even the most casual observer, the government of the United States is dysfunctional, our institutions are in a state of disrepair and unhealthy, our democracy, our form of representative government and system of checks and balances are at risk and near collapse.

We have a family restaurant in the small town where I live which no longer uses pennies, nickels and dimes because the wait staff has trouble making change... and it's not unusual to see four to six school buses from our county, or neighboring counties, out-

side our cinema on a school day.

In my opinion, we need to reverse course, raise across the board standards, and increase our expectations and I mean right now or we're going to lose our republic.

Or, as Tom Nichols, Professor of National Security Affairs at the U.S. Naval War College, succinctly phrases, "We no longer have principled and informed arguments. The foundation knowledge of the average American is now so low that it crashed through the floor of uninformed, passed misinformed on the way down, and is now plummeting to aggressively wrong."

David L. Snell  
Franklin, N.C.

David:

You're right, of course This is certainly not the first time the Department of Defense has lowered its standards.

Most infamously, Secretary of Defense Robert Strange McNamara instituted "Project 100,000" in October, 1966. That name proved to be misleading. Eventually, some 320,000 men who scored between the 10th and 30th percentile range in the Armed Forces Qualification Test were inducted. The program's informal designation, "McNamara's Morons," heaved closer to the truth. According to Hamilton Gregory, author of the book McNamara's Folly: The Use of Low-IQ Troops in the Vietnam War, "inductees of the project died at triple the rate of other Americans serving in Vietnam and following their service had lower incomes and higher rates of divorce than their non-veteran counterparts." [Wikipedia.]

If we read you correctly, though, you seem to be pinning the decline of Western Civilization on Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity. There are a couple of things we'd like to say about that.

We will readily grant that Earth in general, and the U.S. of A. in particular, are ride-sharing in a broken-down handbasket headed straight for hell—and accelerating at an alarming rate.

Far more worthy of blame, though, than Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity, we would argue, are neoliberal

Mash Notes, Hate Mail, &c.  
to page seven

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Open Door April is Volunteer Month  
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Meta-Gazette

# Hitching a New Ride to Exeter

Welcome to the Meta-Gazette, the part of the paper that's about the paper. This fortnight we'll dig into distribution. We may stay on this topic for some time because, next to our seniority in the U.S. news racket, it is probably our most distinguishing feature.

One Friday years ago, on the sidewalk by the health food store, Deb Murray spontaneously volunteered to help deliver papers downtown. We took her up on her offer, and things grew from there.

Deb no longer lives in town, but over the years a couple of dozen people have literally followed in her footsteps. This is only possible, of course, because of our modest size and relatively infrequent schedule. It turns out there are plenty of people willing to lend half an hour every other week to a paper that hasn't been muzzled by capitalism.

Last year we added a wrinkle: a long-time distribution volunteer, then living in Exeter and working in Portsmouth, brought a bundle of papers to Exeter and handed them off to a resident who distributed to a string of locations there. Sure enough, it worked; proof of concept: confirmed.

Alas, over time, situations change. Our courier no longer lives in Exeter. We may have a replacement courier lined up for Exeter—but there's another hiccup: our Exeter distributor's workload peaks at this time of year. A gentleman of our acquaintance has offered to drive to Exeter and distribute. We are declining his offer, though. That's too much like work.

Our goal is to make the paper widely available with a total distribution cost of \$0.00—and no carbon footprint. We believe it can be done, but only if we hitchhike—using miles that are going to be driven anyway.



# The Myth of the Spat-Upon Veteran

by W.D. Ehrhart

I have been speaking about the American War in Vietnam in high school and college classrooms ever since the spring of 1973. Over the course of half a century, I have probably spoken in 250 to 300 classrooms. Maybe more. In all those years and all those visits, I have never had a single person make the kind of fuss that a student made a few years ago in response to remarks I had made refuting the mythology of the spat-upon Vietnam War veteran. This young woman, a high school senior honors student, lodged a major complaint with the upper school head and the school's headmaster, making life hot for the two of them and the teacher in whose class I'd been speaking.

But when I sent a letter to this young woman, through her upper school head, explaining my position and my reasoning, she absolutely refused to read it. She would not discuss the matter. Her mind was closed. This 18-year-old girl knew the truth of what had happened long before she was born, and I who had lived through it did not.

I recently came upon that letter, however, and because this mythology continues to thrive in American popular culture and American collective memory, it strikes me as worth sharing its contents, especially because its original recipient utterly refused to entertain any reality but her own. Here is what I wrote to her:

"I am very sorry that my visit to your class back in February has so deeply upset you and apparently continues to do so these many months later. That was certainly not my intention.

"I am only guessing here, but my guess is that someone close to you—a grandparent or an uncle perhaps—has insisted that he was spit on, called 'baby killer,' or otherwise abused by members of the antiwar movement. I have heard these stories hundreds of times over the past

45 years, including from people I know well and respect.

"All of us who fought in Vietnam came home one at a time, over many years, with no fanfare or closure, and little recognition of and for what we had been through. We were largely ignored or at least went unnoticed. It was no fun, even painful. But that is very different from being actively abused. Indeed, the stories of abuse only begin to circulate after the end of the war in 1975. In each case, a veteran says, 'This happened to me. Take my word for it.'

"If you study psychology, you will learn that it is possible for people to believe something happened that in fact did not happen. It does not make those people liars. For all sorts of complex reasons, people can convince themselves sometimes that something happened when in fact it did not happen. Memory is fallible. Memory is, in fact, highly unreliable.

"Moreover, when someone is already in pain and feeling defensive, that person can interpret events and experiences in ways unrelated to what has actually taken place. I have a friend who insisted that he was disrespected by antiwar demonstrators while he was in uniform, but when I asked him what happened, he replied that they were out in the street in Washington, D.C., carrying signs that said things like, 'Bring the troops home' and 'Napalm kills babies.' Donn himself was never approached or spoken to or singled out. No one was calling him a baby-killer, let alone spitting on him.

"There is a book called *The Spitting Image: Myth, Memory, and the Legacy of Vietnam* written by a Vietnam War veteran named Jerry Lembcke. Dr. Lembcke delves deeply into these stories of abused veterans, and he can find not one single contemporary account of a soldier or veteran being confronted and abused by antiwar demonstrators. Not one. Not in newspapers or news magazines or on TV news.

"This is the point I was trying to make with you. If this sort of behavior took place, and with the astounding frequency that so many veterans claim, surely there would have been a reporter who would

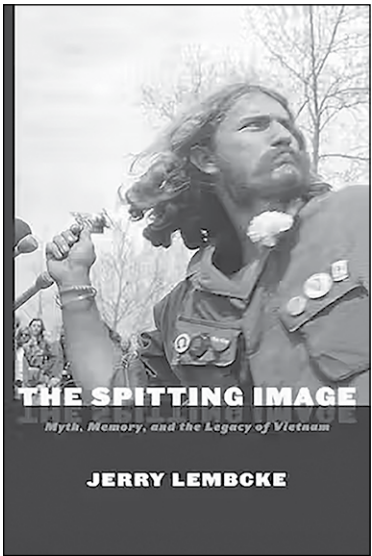
have written it down and reported it. Or a photographer. Or someone with a Kodak 104 Instamatic. But there is nothing. Not one shred of documentary evidence that antiwar demonstrators ever engaged in this kind of behavior.

"Your classmate suggested that this was because the media were so antiwar that they wouldn't report such incidents. But this is completely and wildly incorrect, and based quite frankly on a profound lack of historical knowledge. During the Vietnam War, the media were overwhelmingly supportive of the war, with very few exceptions reporting uncritically the government's take on the war right up until very near the end of the war. This was irrefutably demonstrated by the research of Lawrence Lichty, a professor of journalism at Northwestern University. The few reporters critical of the war—David Halberstam, Neil Sheehan, later Gloria Emerson—were the exception, not the rule. (Incidentally, that classmate of yours came and spoke to me after the class, and we parted on good terms. I wish I'd had the chance to speak with you, too.)

"I must also add, as I did that day in your class, that as a returning Marine in uniform in both March 1968 and June 1969, and later as a participant in the antiwar movement after May 1970, I never experienced or witnessed any untoward behavior directed at soldiers or veterans. Never. The anger I witnessed was directed entirely at the U.S. government, senior military leaders like William Westmoreland, and corporations like Dow Chemical. No one I knew or ever saw blamed the soldiers themselves for what was happening in Vietnam.

"The only violence I ever saw was violence by pro-war supporters who frequently attacked antiwar demonstrators, including veterans like myself who got involved with Vietnam Veterans Against the War.

"And I can tell you in no uncertain terms that if anyone had approached me on my return from Vietnam and spit on me, I would have ended up in jail for assault & battery. You would have had to pull me off the person



Library Journal: "a stunning indictment of this myth, an illusion created... by the Nixon-Agnew administration and an unwitting press to attribute America's loss in Vietnam to internal dissension." Berkshire Eagle: "Well-argued and documented."

who had spit on me. More than anything else, I cannot believe that hundreds and thousands of returning soldiers were spit on or verbally assaulted, and meekly turned away without responding vigorously. This, more than any documentary evidence or lack thereof, convinces me that these incidents simply did not happen, no matter how sincere and insistent the storyteller may be. As I said, I do not necessarily believe these people are lying, but I do believe that memory is playing tricks on them.

"Once again, I do apologize for having caused you so much distress. If you would be gracious enough to accept it, I would like to send you a copy of my book *Thank You for Your Service: Collected Poems*."

Sadly—to me, at least—she never did read this letter, and I never got the chance to share my poems with her. But if somehow someday under the sun, she ever does read what I've written, the offer to share one of my books with her will remain good for as long as I'm on the right side of the sod.

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

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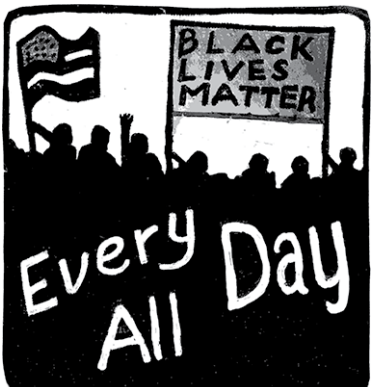
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The Alleged News®

from page three

Average U.S. Taxpayer Spent \$1,087 on Pentagon Contractors in 2022

by Brett Wilkins

The average U.S. taxpayer in 2022 spent over four times as much on Pentagon contractors than on primary and secondary education, according to the annual Tax Day analysis published in recent days by the Institute for Policy Studies' National Priorities Project.

NPP found that, on average, American taxpayers contributed \$1,087 to Pentagon contractors, compared with \$270 for K-12 education. The top military contractor—Lockheed Martin—received \$106 from the average taxpayer, while just \$6 went to funding renewable energy.

According to the analysis, the average 2022 U.S. taxpayer:

- Paid \$74 for nuclear weapons, and just \$43 for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;
- Spent \$70 on deportations and border control, versus just \$19 for refugee assistance;
- Contributed \$20 for federal prisons, and just \$11 for anti-homelessness programs; and
- Gave \$298 to the top five military contractors, and just \$19 for mental health and substance abuse.

"The main message? Our government is continuing to invest too much in the military, and in militarized law enforcement, and not nearly enough on prevention, people, and our communities," NPP said.

The annual analysis shows how individual income taxes—the portion withheld from workers' paychecks—were spent in 2022. It does not include corporate or individual payroll taxes that fund Social Security and Medicare. To determine what constitutes the average tax bill, NPP divided the total amount of federal income tax collected by the number of applicable returns filed.

NPP's analysis comes just over a month after the White House released President Joe Biden's \$1.6 trillion budget request for fiscal year 2024. More than half of that amount—\$886 billion—would go to the military.

Responding to the \$886 billion request, NPP program director Lindsay Koshgarian said last month that "this military budget represents a shameful status quo that the country can no longer afford."

"Families are struggling to afford basics like housing, food, and medicine, and our last pandemic-era protections are ending, all while Pentagon contractors pay their CEOs millions straight from the



Ground was broken last week for the Residences at Foundry Place. The work site is located behind these apartment buildings on Hanover Street. For the next year or so the residents of these charming older dwelling units won't need to wind their alarm clocks—not on weekdays, anyway. After the hubbub is over, the top floor of the new four-story building will probably be visible from this location on Parker Street. That's progress, y'all.

public treasury," Koshgarian noted.

"A responsible budget would restore the Pentagon's spending to previous reduced levels from just a few short years ago, and reinvest that additional money at home where we need it the most," she added.

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.

"Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. ... This is not a way of life at all, in any true sense. Under the cloud of threatening war, it is humanity hanging from a cross of iron."

President Dwight D. Eisenhower, to the American Society of Newspaper Editors, April 16, 1953.

What If Democrats Decided to Campaign as Real Democrats?

by Jim Hightower

Way to go, Wisconsin! In a momentous progressive win, voters there elected County Judge Janet Protasiewicz to their state supreme court. She thumped a mega-MAGA-Republican by 11 points in a pivotal race, ending a dark decade of unbridled right-wing partisan extremism by that court's GOP majority.

But the vote has profound implications reaching far beyond the Badger State. Its deeper meaning was brought home to me on election eve when the Republican candidate—a Trump-hugging, gerrymandering, antichoice lawyer—complained that, "Doing a statewide campaign... is kind of hard." Well, yes, but to paraphrase a song by a band called the Austin Lounge Lizards, "Campaigning is hard/But it's harder when you're stupid."

Not that the lawyer lacked intellect, but smart is as smart does. What the swing state of Wisconsin showed is that this right-wing candidate and other arrogant GOP fanatics are stupid if they think people won't care that (1) Republicans are shutting people out of the voting booth, and (2) they're running as ideological autocrats promising to use state power to outlaw the inherent right of a woman to make her own, deeply-personal decision about abortion.

Moreover, Judge Janet's big win sends a gut-check message to meek Democratic Party officials and donors who continually admonish candidates and local activists to be middle-of-the-roads, compromising the people's "little-d" democratic principles in hopes of winning some Republican votes. Protasiewicz was straight with voters, proudly campaigning to be a pro-choice, pro-worker, pro-democracy justice.

Because of both the integrity and clarity of her message, she generated a record turnout, greatly increased participation by women and young voters, and—especially noteworthy—made significant inroads in rural and working-class counties that had been considered Trump country. She showed that if Democrats stand up for the people—hello—people will stand up for Democrats.

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Mash Notes, Hate Mail, &c.

from page five

al economic policies—tax breaks for the rich, austerity for everyone else—and capitalism in general. From a capitalist point of view, the sale of an AR-15 to homicidal maniac, the hospital bills of the wounded, and the funeral expenses of the dead, all go towards building up that ultimate good, the Gross Domestic Product.

What was so wrong about Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity anyway?

Surely, after 246 years of chattel slavery and nearly a century of Jim Crow, this country was under an obligation to do something by way of reparation. Let us not forget that capitalists have spent lavishly for half a century, paying their in-house propagandists to relentlessly denigrate and falsely malign those programs.

Nichols is correct in his assessment, but let's put the blame where it belongs. If one-fifth of the Pentagon's budget over the past half-century had been devoted instead to public schools and public health, the country in which we're trying to live would be a radi-

cally different—and dramatically better—place.

The Editor

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Our Gun-Promoting Governor

Dear Editor:

Before leaving for Indiana to pay homage to the NRA and to reinforce his "A" rating from them, Governor Sununu made one of the most heartless and profoundly offensive statements regarding the epidemic of gun violence in America. After two deadly gun violence attacks in Tennessee and Kentucky, in which 11 people, including three children, were gunned down, and the Portsmouth, N.H. schools were closed due to a threat from a man with an AR-15 and other weapons to "shoot up" the High School, Mr. Sununu said these threats represented "The new normal."

There is nothing "new" or "normal" regarding the epidemic of gun violence in America, and anyone who claims that this ongoing scourge is "normal" or is "new" is detached from reality. A 2021 report by Time Magazine reported that going back to 1982 there were 123

mass shooting incidents in which at least three people were killed, not including the gunman. Since that report, 952 people have been killed and 1,315 wounded.

Unfortunately, the only place on Earth where an unchecked epidemic of gun violence could be considered "normal" would be in America, where the NRA controls our gun policy. And in the face of this catastrophe the response we get from Republicans is to flock to the NRA Convention to pledge their support to oppose any reasonable, sane and constitutionally based gun safety measures.

As a result of this political cowardice and paralysis, we will continue to see more killings of babies in schools and people in stores, banks and malls, simply being in the wrong place at the wrong time. And our Governor calls this "normal."

Rich DiPentima, LTC, USAFR, Ret.

Portsmouth, N.H.

Rich:

In a piece recently published in the Portsmouth Herald, Portsmouth Mayor Declan McEachern wrote, "We

also need to move away from a recent trend in New Hampshire to eliminate any common-sense gun restrictions. In 1991, Portsmouth banned guns in schools and other municipal buildings. I've yet to meet a person who wants guns in schools but apparently they all run for the New Hampshire legislature, because they tried to preempt our ordinance in 2003 and again in 2011. We continue to enforce it, believing the federal law gives us authority, but last year our governor signed a law barring cities from enforcing any federal gun law. We will keep our schools safe despite these laws, not because of them."

From the podium at the NRA Convention in Indiana, Sununu bragged that, in the face of President Biden's vow to control guns with executive orders, "We quickly passed a law in New Hampshire that said, 'You're the federal government. We're the states. We go first. Federal government, shove it. We're not doing it.'"

Sununu has his father's arrogance, which he tries to hide behind a veneer of folksiness. McEachern has his father's wit; it requires no dissimulation.

The Editor

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Admiral Fowle’s Piscataqua River Tidal Guide (Not for Navigational Purposes)						
<div>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.</div> <div>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.</div>						
Sunday, April 23	Monday, April 24	Tuesday, April 25	Wednesday, April 26	Thursday, April 27	Friday, April 28	Saturday, April 29
<div>2018—U.S. President #45 says, “If [George Washington] was smart, he would’ve put his name on [Mount Vernon]. You’ve got to put your name on stuff or no one remembers you.”</div> <div>2017—Proud papa Dennis Dickey, a U.S. Border Patrol agent in Arizona, reveals the gender of his pending progeny by firing a gun at an explosive target surrounded by dry grass. The resultant fire burns 70 square miles.</div> <div>1993—RIP Cesar Chavez.</div> <div>1971—National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger, speaking over the phone with Allen Ginsberg, agrees to meet personally but draws the line at doing so naked on live TV.</div> <div>1971—Concluding Operation Dewey Canyon III, “a limited incursion into the country of Congress,” Vietnam Veterans Against the War heave medals over a fence at the Capitol.</div> <div>1956—The USSR proudly announces it’s now got its own hydrogen bomb.</div> <div>1952—“Do you know who’s being discriminated against?” asks Rep. John E. Rankin [D-Miss.]. “The white Christian people of America, the ones who created this nation.”</div> <div>1734—The King’s Surveyor General visits Exeter, N.H. with a team of men, looking for misappropriated timber. Locals beat them mercilessly.</div> <div>1014—The Irish under High King Brian Boru defeat the Vikings at Clontarf. Boru is slain by Brodir, who in turn is disembowelled by Brian’s brother, Ulf the Quarrelsome.</div> <div>1:522:30</div> <div>8:138:19</div>	<div>2020—The lead item on all news broadcasts: the manufacturer has announced that, contrary to what the President has said, people should not inject themselves with Lysol.</div> <div>1980—Eight Americans die and five are wounded trying to get American hostages out of Teheran.</div> <div>1967—“The military situation [in South Vietnam] is favorable,” says Gen. Wm. C. Westmoreland, but protests at home might lose the war.</div> <div>1967—<i>Soyuz 1</i>’s chutes fail; misfiring retro-rockets incinerate the remains of Cosmonaut Vladimir Komarov.</div> <div>1959—Michigan native Capt. John S. Lappo, piloting a six-engine RB-47, flies under the Mackinac Bridge at 425 mph; clearance: 155 feet.</div> <div>1953—A B-29 with an F-84 bolted to each wingtip is inexplicably test-flown over Long Island Sound. The B-29 and an F-84 crash with no survivors.</div> <div>1916—The Easter Rising: the Irish Republic is proclaimed in Dublin.</div> <div>1904—A prohibition debate becomes a gunfight in Waller County, Texas courthouse square; four die, including Rep. John M. Pinckney.</div> <div>1877—Reconstruction ends as Federal troops leave Louisiana. Best of luck, all you Black folks....</div> <div>1778—<i>Ranger</i>, under John Paul Jones, captures <i>Drake</i>—the first U.S. victory over a British ship in British waters.</div> <div>1704—John Campbell begins <i>The Boston News-Letter</i>, the first newspaper to succeed in the Americas.</div> <div>2:363:18</div> <div>9:009:06</div>	<div>2005—Charles Duelfer, the CIA’s man in charge of finding WMDs in Iraq, says there are none.</div> <div>2003—George W.[MD] Bush fires his Secretary of the Army for saying we don’t have enough troops in Iraq.</div> <div>2002—George W.[MD] Bush and Saudi Prince Abdullah play kissy-face at the President’s Texas “ranch.”</div> <div>1984—Asked if he’s ever been to a communist country, Reagan Chief of Staff James A. Baker III replies, “Well, I’ve been to Massachusetts.”</div> <div>1962—The U.S. re-starts atmospheric nuclear testing with a bang—actually, 26 bangs over 77 days.</div> <div>1959—Accused of raping a white woman, Mack Charles Parker is dragged from Mississippi’s Pearl River County Courthouse and lynched with help from a deputy sheriff.</div> <div>1944—RIP George Herriman.</div> <div>1915—Australian and New Zealand troops under British command attack Turks at Gallipoli. They die in droves.</div> <div>1898—The U.S. obliges William R. Hearst by declaring war on Spain.</div> <div>1847—Leftovers from the Donner Party straggle out of the wilderness.</div> <div>1846—Mexicans attack a U.S. “scouting party” near the border. As U.S. Grant later writes, “We were sent to provoke a fight, but it was essential that Mexico should commence it.”</div> <div>1523—Henry VIII, the King of England, restricts private ownership of firearms to those with incomes greater than 100 pounds a year.</div> <div>3:244:10</div> <div>9:499:56</div>	<div>1986—Murphy’s Law at Chernobyl: Ukrainian real estate values plummet, northern Earth is irradiated, and thousands are condemned to death.</div> <div>1970—When the Louisiana Senate Chamber is dynamited, a pencil sticks in the ornate ceiling. It’s still there.</div> <div>1952—The captain of the <i>U.S.S. Hobson</i>, disregarding an underling’s advice, takes his destroyer across the bow of the <i>U.S.S. Wasp</i>. Cut in half, the <i>Hobson</i> sinks with more than half its crew, captain included.</div> <div>1944—The U.S. takes over Montgomery-Ward after it defies the National Labor Relations Board.</div> <div>1937—German and Italian planes destroy Guernica, Spain.</div> <div>1931—Lou Gehrig hits a home run but is called out for passing another runner on the basepath.</div> <div>1922—On the Detroit street where he’d parked it earlier, Henry Ford finds that someone has stolen his Ford.</div> <div>1901—“I’ll be in Hell before you start breakfast!” says train-robbor Tom “Black Jack” Ketchum, whose head flies off after the hangman drops him.</div> <div>1865—Hatter-turned-cavalryman Boston Corbett, who had earlier castrated himself with scissors to better resist enticement by prostitutes, shoots and kills John Wilkes Booth.</div> <div>1717—A Nor’easter takes <i>Whydah</i> to the bottom off Wellfleet. Captain “Black Sam” Bellamy—richest pirate ever—goes down with his ship, most of his crew, and four tons of booty.</div> <div>4:175:07</div> <div>10:4310:52</div>	<div>2017—“This is more work than my previous life,” whines Dolt #45. “I thought it would be easier.”</div> <div>2016—Ex-Speaker John Boehner: “I never worked with a more miserable son-of-a-bitch in my life” than Ted Cruz—“Lucifer in the flesh.”</div> <div>2011—On the worst day of the largest tornado outbreak in history, 324 people are killed from Texas to Ontario.</div> <div>1994—In South Africa, ex-prisoner Nelson Mandela is elected President.</div> <div>1978—A cooling tower being hastily built at Willow Island, W.Va. by N.J.-based Research-Cottrell collapses, killing 51 construction workers. The company is fined \$1,700 per death.</div> <div>1961—JFK tells newspaper publishers that if N.H.-born editor Horace Greeley had been less stingy, his correspondent Karl Marx might never have written the <i>Communist Manifesto</i>.</div> <div>1951—An Air Force B-36—biggest bomber ever—is cut in half by an F-51 fighter during a training flight over Oklahoma; 13 die, four live. One, TSgt. Dick Thrasher, survived a B-36 “Broken Arrow” crash a year earlier.</div> <div>1911—Rep. Victor Berger [Socialist-Wisc.] files a Resolution to Abolish the Senate, which he calls “obstructive... useless... a menace to... liberties... and an obstacle to social growth....”</div> <div>1865—The steamboat <i>Sultana</i> explodes on the Mississippi: 1,800 dead; 1,450 are just-freed Union POWs.</div> <div>1813—American troops take York [now Toronto], then they burn it.</div> <div>5:156:08</div> <div>11:4211:54</div>	<div>2011—During a speech in Las Vegas, Donald Trump drops about seven f-bombs, promising to tell the Chinese, “listen you mother_____s, we’re going to tax you 25 percent.”</div> <div>2006—Rush Limbaugh’s lawyers announce that their fine work will keep their dope-addled client out of prison.</div> <div>2004—The SEC says banks can risk more money and keep less on hand.</div> <div>2004—Frank Lautenberg [D-N.J.] says on the floor of the Senate, “We know who the chickenhawks are. They talk tough on national defense and military issues...but when it was their turn to serve, they were AWOL.”</div> <div>1988—Aloha Airlines 737 develops a 20 foot hole in its fuselage; stewardess Clarabelle Lansing falls to her death.</div> <div>1987—Contras in Nicaragua, “moral equivalent of our Founding fathers” according to President Reagan, murder American volunteer Ben Lindner.</div> <div>1975—Daniel Schorr reports on CBS that the CIA plotted to assassinate the leaders of Chile, Congo, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and Vietnam.</div> <div>1973—Hot brakes start a fire in the Roseville, Calif. railwayard, and a train-load of bombs explodes. No one dies, but 5,500 buildings are damaged and the town of Antelope disappears.</div> <div>1945—Shot the day before, the corpses of Mussolini, his mistress, and three accomplices are abused and hanged by the heels at a Milanese gas station.</div> <div>1789—<i>HMS Bounty</i> undergoes an unscheduled change of command.</div> <div>6:187:08</div> <div>12:42</div>	<div>2014—Despite nine tries, Okla. prison officials miss Clayton Lockett’s veins; the poison goes into muscle. Without enough left to kill, they discuss options as he writhes. He ends their debate by dying of a heart attack.</div> <div>2006—During the Correspondents Dinner, Stephen Colbert performs the first autopsy of a sitting President.</div> <div>2004—The Commission “investigating” 9/11 allows George W.[MD] Bush and Dick “Dick” Cheney to “testify” without taking an oath.</div> <div>1992—A mostly-white jury in Simi Valley finds L.A. police not guilty of assaulting Rodney King. Soldiers and Marines end the rioting six days later.</div> <div>1975—As helicopters begin evacuating Saigon, Marines Charles McMahon and Darwin Judge become the last two Americans to die in Vietnam.</div> <div>1974—The term “expletive deleted” enters the English language when the Nixon White House releases redacted transcripts of Oval Office recordings.</div> <div>1961—The Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army says “we cannot win a conventional war in Southeast Asia.”</div> <div>1938—FDR to Congress: “[T]he liberty of a democracy is not safe if the people tolerate the growth of private power to a point where it becomes stronger than their democratic state itself. That, in its essence, is Fascism....”</div> <div>1899—Hundreds of union miners hijack a train in Idaho, haul 1.5 tons of dynamite to the mill of the Bunker Hill Mine, and blow it to bits.</div> <div>7:208:04</div> <div>12:581:39</div>
Sunday, April 30	Monday, May 1	Tuesday, May 2	Wednesday, May 3	Thursday, May 4	Friday, May 5	Saturday, May 6
<div>1993—The first website goes online.</div> <div>1977—The Clamshell Alliance assembles at Seabrook to fight the nuke.</div> <div>1975—Saigon falls.</div> <div>1973—Rabid Nixon supporter Rev. Sun Myung Moon gets a green card.</div> <div>1973—Announcing their resignations, Richard Nixon calls felons-to-be John D. Ehrlichman and H.R. Haldeman “two of the finest public servants I have ever known.”</div> <div>1971—Medal of Honor recipient Dwight H. Johnson is shot to death while robbing a Detroit grocery store.</div> <div>1966—Rep. Melvin Laird (R-Wisc.) says that the problem with Vietnam is “an administration that fails to inform the people fully and frankly about the objectives and progress of the war.”</div> <div>1961—Leonid I. Rogozov, the sole doctor at a Soviet station in Antarctica, removes his own appendix.</div> <div>1956—Former Vice President Alben Barkley concludes his keynote speech to the Washington and Lee Mock Convention, then keels over dead.</div> <div>1900—The Illinois Central’s <i>Cannonball Express</i> slams into a freight train at Vaughan, Miss. Engineer John Luther “Casey” Jones is the only fatality.</div> <div>1871—Despite having surrendered, Apaches living at Camp Grant in the Arizona Territory are attacked by a mob of American vigilantes and Tohono O’odham; 144 die, all but eight are women and children.</div> <div>1844—Hank Thoreau accidentally sets 300 acres of Concord forest afire.</div> <div>1:572:30</div> <div>8:178:52</div>	<div>2003—G.W.[MD] Bush says “major combat operations in Iraq have ended.” U.S. death toll so far: 140.</div> <div>1999—<i>The New Hampshire Gazette</i> resumes regular (fortnightly) publication in Portsmouth.</div> <div>1989—“Bill” Gardner, Secretary of State for Life, assigns rights to the trade name <i>New Hampshire Gazette</i> to a collateral descendant of the founder.</div> <div>1977—Seabrook: 1,414 Clams busted.</div> <div>1975—Tom Polgar sends CIA’s last cable from Saigon: “...we have lost... Let us hope...that we have learned our lesson. Saigon signing off.”</div> <div>1970—U.S. troops join ARVN soldiers in the Cambodian “Incursion.”</div> <div>1960—Russian missiles bring down a U-2 piloted by the CIA’s Gary Powers.</div> <div>1955—To supplant Harding’s failed “Americanization Day,” Ike proclaims an equally-doomed “Loyalty Day.”</div> <div>1944—Jacob Coxey, 90, on the Capitol steps, completes the speech he began 50 years earlier.</div> <div>1921—To supplant filthy leftists’ subversive May Day, Warren G. Harding proclaims “Americanization Day.”</div> <div>1894—Jacob Coxey leads a 500-man “Army of the Unemployed” to the Capitol steps, where he calls for a federally-funded jobs program. Within minutes, police hustle him away.</div> <div>1865—In Charleston, S.C., 10,000 people, most formerly enslaved, including veterans of the 54th Massachusetts and 104th U.S. Colored Troops, hold the first-ever Memorial Day.</div> <div>9:079:35</div> <div>2:503:15</div>	<div>2011—After outliving the Administration of G.W.[MD] Bush, Osama bin Laden is whacked by its successor.</div> <div>2006—With stereotypical inefficiency, state workers in Lucasville, Ohio jab Joseph Clark 19 times over 86 minutes to kill him by lethal injection[s].</div> <div>2003—Richard Reple gloats his Iraq War is over, “without the quagmire [his critics] predicted.”</div> <div>1972—The good die young; J. Edgar Hoover dies at 77.</div> <div>1971—John Dean revokes a permit and tells 40,000 protesters to leave D.C. Some do, but many reply, if the government won’t shut down the war, we’ll shut down the government.</div> <div>1967—Gov. Reagan says “There is absolutely no reason why...a civilian should be carrying a loaded weapon,” minutes after the State Capitol is visited by 26 armed Black Panthers.</div> <div>1963—In Birmingham, 959 kids are arrested for being attacked by dogs, firehoses, and cops with billy clubs.</div> <div>1957—Morphine-addicted Sen. Joe McCarthy [R-Wisc.] dies of liver failure at 48. Top U.S. dope cop Harry J. Anslinger, who’s been slipping him government morphine “for reasons of national security,” can quit now.</div> <div>1940—Mississippi Governor Paul Johnson, 60, clubs <i>Jackson Daily News</i> editor Major Frederick Sullens from behind. Sullens, 62, floors the Governor and beats him without mercy.</div> <div>1933—Hitler’s Brownshirts occupy the offices of Germany’s trade unions.</div> <div>9:5310:13</div> <div>3:373:55</div>	<div>2020—Dolt #45 desecrates the Lincoln Memorial with a campaign event.</div> <div>2016—Lindsey Graham tweets, “If we nominate Trump, we will get destroyed...and we will deserve it.”</div> <div>2016—After accusing Ted Cruz’s father of being tied to the JFK assassination, Donald Trump wins Indiana and clinches the GOP nomination.</div> <div>2003—The Old Man of the Mountain is busted by the Law of Gravity.</div> <div>1995—Alabama Governor “Fob” James brings back the chain gang.</div> <div>1971—Cops in D.C. set a record: 7,000 protestors arrested in one day [12,000 over five days]—no food, no water, no toilets. Most charges are dropped, many arrestees recoup damages.</div> <div>1970—“[The NVA has] been in a war for years and years,” says Veep Spiro “Ted” Agnew. “I don’t think they are capable...of continuing this fight.”</div> <div>1968—French students protest; administrators call cops. Big mistake.</div> <div>1946—Wired by a drunken trustee, “Gruesome Gertie,” Louisiana’s electric chair, fails to kill Willie Francis; back to Death Row he goes. Gertie does get Willie a year later; he’s 18.</div> <div>1945—The RAF bombs the German ship <i>Cap Arcona</i>, believing it’s carrying SS officers. Of 4,500 concentration camp inmates aboard, 350 survive.</div> <div>1844—Nativist “American Republicans” hold a “Save the [Protestant] Bible” rally in Philadelphia’s Catholic Kensington district. The ensuing chaos allegedly includes flag desecration.</div> <div>11:1411:24</div> <div>4:195:09</div>	<div>1990—Six-inch flames shoot from Jesse Joseph Tafero’s head as Florida’s “Old Sparky” takes three jolts and seven minutes to kill him.</div> <div>1989—U.S.M.C. Lieut. Col. Oliver North is convicted of four felonies in the Iran-Contra scandal, but a Congressional screw-up lets him skate.</div> <div>1988—Ron &amp; Nancy Reagan admit they’re “both deeply interested in astrology,” but deny acting on it.</div> <div>1970—In Haymarket Square, Chicago, a new cop statue replaces one destroyed by a bomb months earlier. This one gets blown up, too, months later.</div> <div>1970—Ohio National Guard troops shoot 13 unarmed students, killing four, at Kent State.</div> <div>1961—The Freedom Rides begin.</div> <div>1942—The Battle of the Coral Sea begins. In four days 14 ships are sunk or damaged, 159 planes destroyed, and 1,565 men killed; it was a great victory.</div> <div>1940—Nora Joyce tells Jim, “I haven’t read any of your books but I’ll have to someday because they must be good considering how well they sell.”</div> <div>1927—A motorman “sick of seeing that policeman with his arm raised” drives his streetcar into a nine-foot statue of a cop commemorating the Haymarket bombing.</div> <div>1886—In Haymarket Square, Chicago, demonstrators against May 3<sup>rd</sup> police brutality at the McCormick Reaper plant are attacked by more police. A bomb kills seven cops; a dubious trial later convicts eight anarchists.</div> <div>11:5411:24</div> <div>5:395:09</div>	<div>1985—In Bitburg, Germany, Republican President Ronald Reagan lays a wreath at a cemetery full of Nazis.</div> <div>1981—Bobby Sands dies of hunger in Maze Prison, defiant to the last.</div> <div>1970—Jerry Rubin speaks at UNH.</div> <div>1961—New Hampshire’s own Alan Shepard prays, “Please, dear God, don’t let me f___k up.” Prayer answered, he’s the 1st American in space.</div> <div>1960—Gary Powers is a “civilian employed by Lockheed” piloting a “weather research plane,” says the U.S.</div> <div>1955—U.S. TVs show a mock suburb complete with mannequins hit by a real nuke. The scorched, ragged figures are later displayed at J.C. Penney with a sign saying “This could be you.”</div> <div>1945—The collier <i>Black Point</i> is torpedoed by <i>U-853</i> within sight of the Point Judith, R.I. lighthouse.</div> <div>1945—Sunday school picnickers in Bly, Ore., find a strange object. The Japanese balloon bomb explodes as they’re dragging it out of the woods, killing five Sunday school children and a minister’s pregnant wife.</div> <div>1925—As local boosters had hoped, John T. Scopes is busted for teaching evolution in Tennessee. Prosecutors include a man named Sue K. Hicks.</div> <div>1904—Cy Young pitches the American League’s first perfect game for the Boston Americans (later the Red Sox).</div> <div>1886—In Milwaukee, Gov. Jeremiah Rusk orders 250 National Guard soldiers to fire on a crowd of strikers. They comply; seven die.</div> <div>11:5411:24</div> <div>5:395:47</div>	<div>2010—An imaginary bus bomb inspires panic in Portsmouth, N.H.</div> <div>2010—A Londoner scamming from his parents’ basement gives The Invisible Hand of the Market™ jitters: the Dow drops nine pct. in five minutes.</div> <div>1996—Missing for nine days, ex-CIA Director William Colby turns up in Chesapeake Bay, dead but remarkably fresh-looking, 20 feet from where searchers found his canoe eight days earlier. Verdict: a routine drowning.</div> <div>1982—LAPD Chief Darryl Gates explains “some blacks [die in choke holds because] the veins or arteries do not open up as fast as they do in normal people.”</div> <div>1978—In Chicago, First Lady Rosalynn Carter is photographed shaking hands with Polish Constitution Day Parade chairman (and prolific serial killer) John Wayne Gacy.</div> <div>1967—Gen. Wallace Greene, Jr., U.S.M.C., says in Manchester, N.H. that America is winning the war in Vietnam, “and I say that without any doubt whatsoever.”</div> <div>1937—A huge Nazi gasbag ignites over Lakehurst, New Jersey, 14 years before Rush Limbaugh is even born.</div> <div>1868—Angry that Samuel Mills had dropped from sight when the gallows opened under him, hundreds of observers riot in Woodsville, N.H.</div> <div>1862—RIP Henry D. Thoreau.</div> <div>1844—Nativist goons return to Philadelphia’s Catholic Kensington district, armed to better defend their flag. Somehow violence results.</div> <div>12:0112:34</div> <div>6:196:26</div>

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