

The Fortnightly Rant

Good Riddance, Tucker

It had been so long since there had been any good news that it came as quite a shock: Fox News had fired Tucker Carlson.

There is a limit to what one might reasonably expect from the firing of a single demagogue. The Former Guy was evicted from the Oval Office more than 27 months ago. Bill O'Reilly, Carlson's own predecessor, has been gone for six years. Yet here we are, still on the brink of a dozen different catastrophes.

But what the hell—it's a start. Let us be grateful for what we've been given. Maybe, if we're lucky, he'll fade forever from public view. Surely that wouldn't hurt.

In anticipation of that blessed possibility, let's cross our fingers and celebrate by digging into this weirdo's background. Perhaps, if we go deep enough, we may even find in ourselves a smidgen of empathy for this creep.



A photograph of Carlson at the age of six or seven shows him wearing the uniform of The Buckley School in Sherman Oaks, Calif.

Aww... that's so sweet. Or is it? If Hollywood has taught us anything, it's that you don't really know who the villain is until the credits roll.

The Buckley school has an uplifting motto: "Dare To Be True." Apparently it doesn't always stick.

Buckley School Board member Adam J. Bass, for example, lied when he initially denied hiring infamous college admissions consultant Rick Singer.

The truth is, Bass used Singer's services to get his daughter—billed as an "African-American tennis whiz, ranked in the Top 10 in California"—into Tulane. Actually, she's white, and doesn't even play tennis.

An online list of notable Buckley alumni includes Paris Hilton, Christian Brando, and Kim Kardashian. Carlson's name, though, does not appear. Perhaps Buckley threw him out.

If so, it might have been the first time, but it wasn't to be the last. According to a 2018-ish profile in the Swiss weekly, *Die Weltwoche*, "As a teenager, [Carlson] had a brief stint at a Swiss elite college at Lac Lemman. I got kicked out," he sheepishly confesses but refuses to reveal why."

In the fall of 1984, Carlson would have been 15. According to a profile in *Business Insider*, he was then attending the St. George School, just east of Newport, Rhode Island. So, not elitist at all.

One Sunday Richard Wayner, a Black student from the Bronx, while delivering an address during the mandatory chapel service, spoke about another Bronx resident, Eleanor Bumpurs. Disabled by arthritis and mental illness, Bumpurs had recently been killed by two shotgun blasts during an attempted eviction.

"[Wayner] concluded with the words: 'Does anyone think that woman deserved to die?'"

"Near the front of the chapel, a single hand went up for a few brief seconds.

"It was Tucker Carlson."

Hmmm... that doesn't do much to increase our empathy. Who raised this wretch?

Before he was shucked off to a succession of boarding schools, Tucker was brought up by his dear old dad, Richard "Dick" Carlson. In a self-published hagiography titled, *10 Characters with Character: Politics With Principle*, Michael J. Kerrigan tells his story.

"Dick was an orphan," Kerrigan writes. His mother, 16, "a pretty blonde girl from a small town near Boston," dropped him off at the



Home For Little Wanderers "in the snowy winter of 1941, when Dick was six weeks old."

From this inauspicious beginning, Dick went on to thrive. "Name a job and Dick Carlson has mastered it... magazine writer, newspaper columnist and reporter... private detective... anchorman... organized crime expert... merchant seaman... counter-terrorism expert."

Kerrigan doesn't bring it up, but Carlson the magazine writer put *Look* out of business. He and co-writer Carl Brisson wrote a piece falsely linking San Francisco Mayor Joseph Alioto to organized crime.

Actual malice is a strict legal term that's hard to prove in court. Alioto succeeded, though, eight years later. Carlson was in the clear due to technicalities, but the legal expenses ruined the magazine.

As *Look* was still clinging to the ropes, Dick was playing journalist on TV. In 1976, as professional tennis player Renée Richards was trying

to compete in the U.S. Open tennis tournament, Dick Carlson outed her as transsexual.

Carlson's outing of Richards was anything but a one-time *faux pas*. At about the same time he was outing Richards, he conducted a televised crusade against another transsexual woman named Elizabeth "Liz" Carmichael. A con artist, as well, Liz was featured in the 2021 HBO mini-series "The Lady and the Dale."

"[Dick] Carlson," Nick Schager wrote in a *Daily Beast* review of the series, "became fixated on Liz, doing 20+ pieces on her during which he not only uncovered her business' shadiness, but went out of his way to condescendingly refer to her with male pronouns, and to suggest that she was a guy pretending to be the opposite gender in order to disguise her fugitive identity and to garner publicity. Even today, Carlson seems unrepentant, going so far as to say that if Liz's behavior is normal, then so too is Jeffrey Dahmer's."

Zackary Drucker, the director and executive producer of "The Lady and the Dale," and a trans woman herself, told *Out Magazine*:

"These battles with trans women weren't just fleeting moments in [Dick] Carlson's life. In the years he covered Carmichael, he grew afraid of her, and even started carrying a gun because he was afraid she'd try to kill him.

"Liz Carmichael is the trans boogymen of Tucker Carlson's childhood," Drucker told *Out*. "And just to extrapolate a little bit, Tucker Carlson thinks that his father is heroic. And his heroic father was only afraid of one person, who happened to be trans."

Alas, after dredging through his past, we can find no reason—even after finding this likely Rosebud—to cut Tucker Carlson any slack. So, may the nation's foremost advocate of testicle tanning retreat forever to his lair in Bryant Pond, Maine—and good luck to the poison ivy.

The Alleged News®

The Deadbeat Caucus

Paraphrasing a recent lede in the *New York Times*, Treasury Secretary Janet L. Yellen said on Monday that come the first of June, the last loose quarter underneath the cushions of the federal couch will likely have been found and spent.

That metaphor is idiotic, but it's only a slight twist on the absurd "kitchen table/household budget" trope with which the public is constantly bludgeoned.

Shorthand such as this can be quite useful if your goal not to inform, but to switch off your target audience's gray matter.

Being contrarians, we thought we'd try something completely different: describing the present moment as clearly as we can.

First a brief bit of background. During every Republican admin-

istration since the inauguration of Ronald Reagan, GOP Members of Congress have voted to cut taxes, raise defense spending, cut social services, and raise the debt ceiling. They have done much the same during Democratic administrations, exception whenever the debt ceiling looms, they balk. The inevitable consequence of this behavior, over the course of forty years, is a national debt of considerable size.

The current national debt is nothing that can't be handled—but it can be made to seem so. Those who created the debt, and their ideological successors, simply—very simply—turn towards it and say, in feigned astonishment, "Goodness gracious—we must act immediately!"

"Act how?" one might ask, if one were foolish enough to play their

stupid game.

Their answer: leave lavish tax cuts for the rich in place, maintain defense spending at astronomic levels, and slash whatever might be left of social benefits.

And by the way—if you don't cooperate, we'll torch the joint.

In other words, never mind the legislative process as it has been conducted over the past many years. We have hit the magical, arbitrary figure we established a few years ago, and, according to the rules of this playground, now our side gets another, retroactive bite at the previously-established budget apple.

Those who will not pay their bills are deadbeats. Those who threaten others if they won't do as they're told are thugs.

Republicans, right now, are both.

Trust Me, Says Election Denier

Last week the House passed a bill that would raise the debt ceiling, leave defense spending unchanged, and gut the rest of the budget. Spending on veterans would be reduced by 22 percent.

Shortly before the bill passed, Mike Bost [R-Ill.], Chair of the Veterans Affairs Committee, put out a video in which he accuses Democrats of "lying about the fact that this will cut veterans benefits."

Despite Bost's protestations to the contrary, the cuts to veterans spending are in the bill. Bost says that's just a negotiating tactic.

"We've got letters of commitment from the Speaker, we've got letters of commitment from the head of the budget, and you've got this word from me. My word will stand. No

veterans benefits will be reduced at all. At all. Know that.

"What this will do, this will drive it to the negotiation table, I believe, and then, also, the most important thing is, we can try to reduce this long-term debt on our children and grandchildren."

Army veteran Fred Wellman [@FPWellman] took Bost and his argument apart on Twitter:

"They're not actually screwing veterans—they're just using us as political tools. Isn't that better?"

In case it were not sufficiently clear what he and fellow Republicans were doing—using the Department of Veterans Affairs as a political hammer, and using veterans

The Alleged News®

from page one

as pawns in a political game—on Sunday, Bost accused Democrats of doing just that.

“In my nine years as a member of Congress,” Bost said, according to *The Hill*, “I have never seen the use of an agency that is so vitally important to so many people be used as a political hammer, to deliver a message that is false, so that it would stir people up to cause our veterans to be used as pawns in a political game.”

According to Wikipedia, in December 2020, Bost was one of 126 Republican members of the House of Representatives to sign an amicus brief in support of *Texas v. Pennsylvania*, a lawsuit filed at the United States Supreme Court contesting the results of the 2020 presidential election, in which Joe Biden defeated incumbent Donald Trump.

The budget cuts which passed last week will result, Wellman says, in

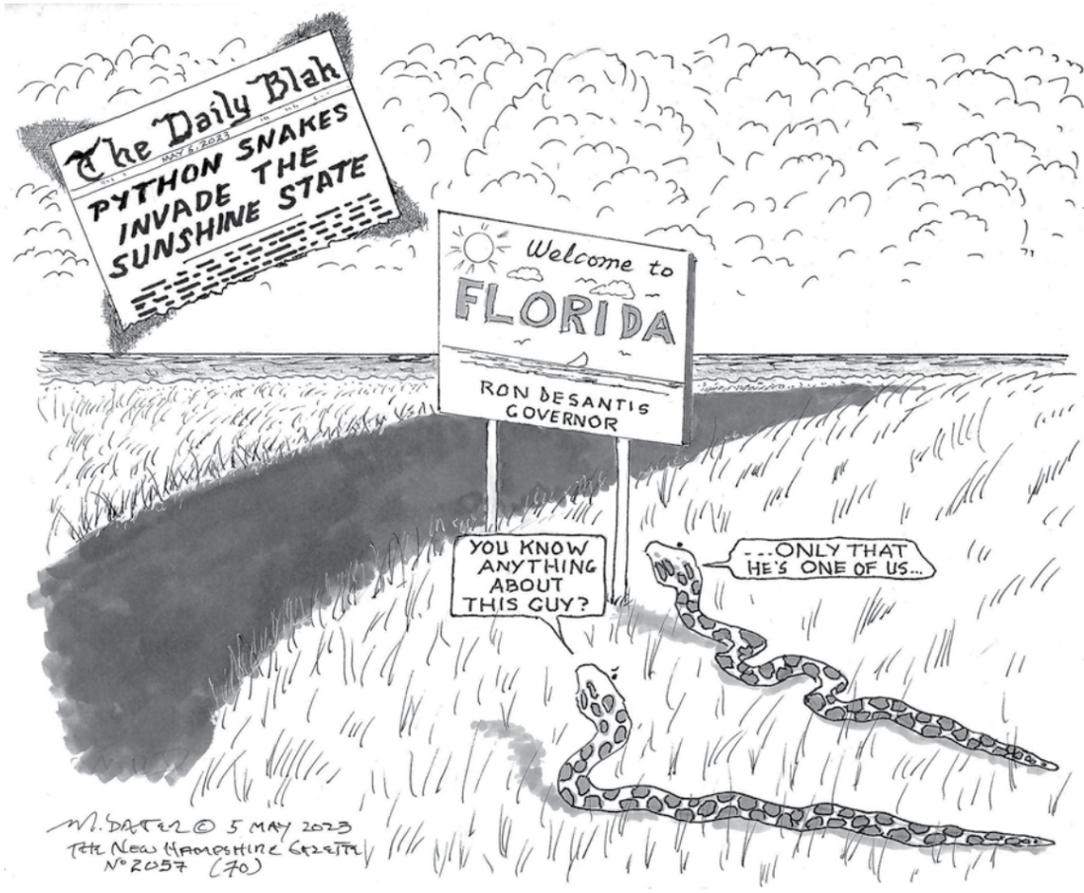
30 million fewer outpatient health care visits, cuts to telehealth for rural vets, lengthened wait times for appointments, an end to construction of new clinics, cuts to cemetery staffing, cuts to housing vouchers for homeless veterans, and cuts to food aid for senior vets.

Ocean Warming Study So Distressing, Some Scientists Just Clam Up

by Julia Conley

Scientists are so alarmed by a new study on ocean warming that some declined to speak about it on the record, the BBC reported last week.

“One spoke of being ‘extremely worried and completely stressed,’” the outlet reported regarding a scientist who was approached about research published in the journal *Earth System Science Data* on April 17th, as the study warned that the ocean is heating up more rapidly than experts previously realized—posing a greater risk for sea-level rise, extreme weather, and the loss of



It must be asked—what is one supposed to make of this shocking display? This U.S. flag, its fly end tattered from top to bottom, is mounted on a brand new cyclone fence. All the seams between stripes are ripped. A final fillip: the fly end seam has torn loose, and dangles off towards the lower right of the frame of the photo. The Flag Police discovered this enigma not long ago, on the north side of County Road in Westbrook, Maine, just west of Portland. They still don't know what to make of it. Could this be some manifestation of seditious defiance? If so, what are we to make of its context, i.e., a obviously commercial venture squeezing profit from a facile claim to a popular trend. Is there some complex form of irony at work here? Or is this a simple case of neglect? The case remains unresolved.

marine ecosystems.

Scientists from institutions including Mercator Ocean International in France, Scripps Institution of Oceanography in the United States, and Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research collaborated to discover that as the planet has accumulated as much heat in the past 15 years as it did in the previous 45 years. The majority of the excess heat has been absorbed by the oceans.

In March, researchers examining the ocean off the east coast of North America found that the water's surface was 13.8°C, or 24.8°F, hotter than the average temperature between 1981 and 2011.

The study notes that a rapid drop in shipping-related pollution could be behind some of the most recent warming, since fuel regulations introduced in 2020 by the International Maritime Organization reduced the heat-reflecting aerosol particles in the atmosphere and caused the ocean to absorb more energy.

But that doesn't account for the average global ocean surface temperature rising by 0.9°C from pre-industrial levels, with 0.6°C taking place in the last four decades.

The study represents “one of those ‘sit up and read very carefully’ moments,” said former BBC science editor David Shukman.

Lead study author Karina Von Schuckmann of Mercator Ocean International told the BBC that “it's not yet well established, why such a rapid change, and such a huge change is happening.”

“We have doubled the heat in the climate system the last 15 years, I don't want to say this is climate change, or natural variability or a mixture of both, we don't know yet,” she said. “But we do see this change.”

Scientists have consistently warned that the continued burning of fossil fuels by humans is heating the planet, including the oceans. Hotter oceans could lead to further glacial melting—in turn weakening

ocean currents that carry warm water across the globe and support the global food chain—as well as intensified hurricanes and tropical storms, ocean acidification, and rising sea levels due to thermal expansion.

A study published earlier this year also found that rising ocean temperatures combined with high levels of salinity lead to the “stratification” of the oceans, and in turn, a loss of oxygen in the water.

“Deoxygenation itself is a nightmare for not only marine life and ecosystems but also for humans and our terrestrial ecosystems,” researchers from the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the National Center for Atmospheric Research, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said in January. “Reducing oceanic diversity and displacing important species can wreak havoc on fishing-dependent communities and their economies, and this can have a ripple effect on the way most people are able to in-

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teract with their environment.”
The unusual warming trend over recent years has been detected as a strong El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is expected to form in the coming months—a naturally occurring phenomenon that warms oceans and will reverse the cooling impact of La Niña, which has been in effect for the past three years.

“If a new El Niño comes on top of it, we will probably have additional global warming of 0.2-0.25°C,” Dr. Josef Ludescher of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Research told the BBC.

The world’s oceans are a crucial tool in moderating the climate, as they absorb heat trapped in the atmosphere by greenhouse gases.

Too much warming has led to concerns among scientists that “as more heat goes into the ocean, the waters may be less able to store excess energy,” the BBC reported.

The anxiety of climate experts regarding the new findings, said the global climate action movement Extinction Rebellion, drives home the point that “scientists are just people with lives and families who’ve learnt to understand the implications of data better.”

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Here’s How the “Jet-Owning Oligarchy” Harms Both Planet and Workers
by Kenny Stancil

Research published Monday details how the working class is paying the price, in more ways than one, for the “jet-owning oligarchy” to hop around the globe in their personal luxury planes.

It’s well-established that private jet travel by the super-rich is worsening the fossil fuel-driven climate crisis. Adding insult to injury, this conspicuously carbon-intensive consumption is being subsidized by ordinary taxpayers, as the Institute for Policy Studies (IPS) and Patriotic Millionaires make clear in their new analysis.

Entitled *High Flyers 2023: How Ultra-Rich Private Jet Travel Costs the Rest of Us and Burns Up Our Planet*, the report catalogs alarming facts about the private jet industry and makes recommendations about how to rein in this potent symbol and manifestation of escalating in-



equality.
To begin with, “private jets emit at least 10 times more pollutants than commercial planes per passenger,” the report notes. “Unsurprisingly, approximately one percent of people are believed to be responsible for about half of all aviation carbon emissions.”

Amid a surge in wealth inequality since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, “private jet use has increased by about a fifth, and private jet emissions have increased more than 23 percent,” the report points out. “The private jet sector set industry records with regards to transaction and dollar volume in 2021 and 2022.”

While a coronavirus-era boom is evident, the industry has been growing steadily alongside wealth inequality since the turn of the century. As the report states: “The size of the global fleet has increased 133 percent in the last two decades from 9,895 in 2000 to 23,133 in mid-2022. This bonanza was accompanied by an unprecedented number of business jet operations, 5.3 million in 2022.”

According to the report, “The median net worth of a full and fractional private jet owner is \$190 million and \$140 million respectively.” A minuscule 0.0008 percent of the global population belongs to the jet-owning class, which consists mostly of financial and real estate tycoons.

Last year, billionaire Elon Musk, “the most active high flyer in the United States,” bought a new jet and took 171 private flights, or about one every other day, the report notes.

In so doing, he single-handedly “contributed to the consumption of 837,934 liters of jet fuel,” states the report, and he “was responsible for 2,112 tons of carbon emissions”—132 times more than the entire carbon footprint of an average person in the United States.

In a statement, report co-author Kalena Thomhave, a researcher with the Program on Inequality and the Common Good at IPS, called private jets “a microcosm of our system of wealth inequality even beyond their image of extravagance.”

“Private flyers pay just two percent

of the taxes that primarily fund the Federal Aviation Administration, yet nearly 17 percent of flights handled by the FAA are private,” said Thomhave. “Meanwhile, private jets contribute disproportionately to carbon emissions while often representing significant tax savings for their wealthy owners.”

As the report observes: “Thousands of municipal airports in the U.S. are funded by the public, but many primarily serve private and corporate jets. These airports may not offer scheduled passenger service, but they still offer airport runways subsidized by taxes.”

Such regressive taxation is the product of industry lobbying, the report explains:

“The largest player in the private jet lobby, the National Business Aviation Association, has spent an average \$2.4 million each year since 2008 lobbying the federal government, primarily for tax giveaways. During the Covid-19 pandemic,

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to page seven



Having served downtown since 1954, the Modern Launderette is no more. A sign on the door says this humble convenience is “Permanently Closed.” We learned of this on Twitter, because we follow Elizabeth Dinan. Our thanks, and a tip of the hat, to that former reporter for the Portsmouth Herald, which seems poised to go the way of the Modern Launderette.

Murph’s Fortnightly Quote
“I’ll never forget that my father said,
“No matter what you have,
you always have enough to share.”
— Mel King (1928–2023) community organizer,
Massachusetts State Representative, 1973–1983

“We live in the age of the overworked and the undereducated;
the age in which people are so industrious that
they become absolutely stupid.”
john@wordpraxis.com — Oscar Wilde

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“The Rebel Girl” receives a N.H. Historical Highway Marker

[Note: To our bug-eyed surprise, the following message appeared in our email inbox on Tuesday, May 2nd. — The Ed.]

The N.H. Division of Historical Resources is pleased to announce that a New Hampshire Historical Highway Marker honoring Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, a well-known labor, women’s rights and civil liberties activist, has been installed at the corner of Court and Montgomery Streets in downtown Concord, near the site of her birthplace.

The marker reads:
**“ELIZABETH GURLEY FLYNN
“The Rebel Girl”**

“Born in Concord in 1890, Elizabeth Gurley Flynn was a nationally known labor leader, civil libertarian and feminist organizer. She joined the Industrial Workers of the World at age 17 where her fiery speeches earned her the nickname ‘The Rebel Girl.’ As a founder of the American Civil Liberties Union, Flynn advocated for women’s rights, including supporting their right to vote and access to birth control. She joined the Communist Party in 1936 and was sent to prison in 1951 under the notorious Smith Act.”

An unveiling ceremony for the marker was held on May 1. It is the 278th marker in New Hampshire’s Historical Highway Marker program, and the 12th that highlights the accomplishments of an individual woman.

Any municipality, agency, organization or individual wishing to propose a historical highway marker to commemorate significant New Hampshire places, persons or events must submit a petition of support signed by at least 20 New Hampshire residents. They must also draft the text of the marker and provide footnotes and copies of supporting documentation, as well as a suggested location for marker placement.

New Hampshire’s historical highway markers illustrate the depth and complexity of our history and the people who made it, from the last Revolutionary War soldier to contemporary sports figures to poets and painters

who used New Hampshire for inspiration; from 18th-century meeting houses to stone arch bridges to long-lost villages; from factories and cemeteries to sites where international history was made.

An interactive map of all of the state’s historical highway markers is available at the N.H. Division of Historical Resources’ website, nh.gov/nhdhr.

The New Hampshire Historical Highway Marker program is jointly managed by the N.H. Division of Historical Resources and N.H. Department of Transportation.

—30—

Geologists, check your seismometers for unusual activity in Orford, N.H. and Pride’s Crossing, Mass. Mel Thomson and Bill Loeb cannot be resting in peace.

An event like this would have been unthinkable when Thomson ran the state and Loeb ran the Union Leader.

As Flynn herself said, though, “History has a long-range perspective. It ultimately passes stern judgment on tyrants and vindicates those who fought, suffered, were imprisoned, and died for human freedom, against political oppression and economic slavery.”

The Editor

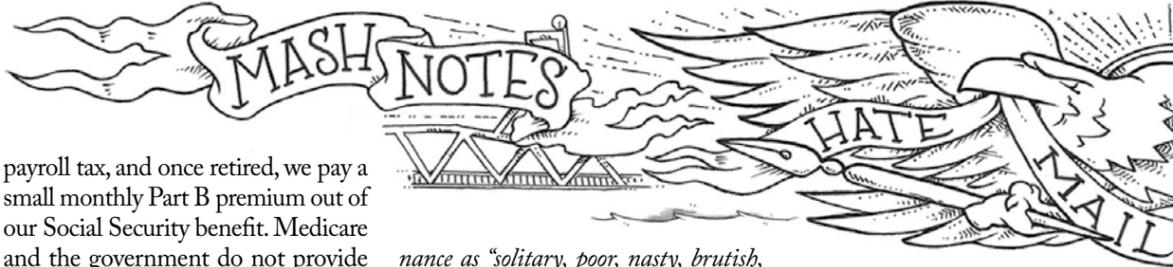
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What Medicare Did for Ray Brighton

To the Editor, and Ray Brighton:

Thank you, Mr. Brighton, for sharing the cost of your recent 24 hour plus experience in the emergency room, and the benefits of having Medicare, with the *Portsmouth Herald*. As reported, Mr. Brighton was billed \$14,692 for his care. Since I assume that he was not admitted to the hospital, Medicare Part B covered 80 percent of the cost. If Mr. Brighton had been admitted, he would have been covered under Medicare Part A at 100 percent of the cost of his care. Fortunately, Mr. Brighton had Medicare supplemental insurance which covered most of the 20 percent not covered by Medicare Part B.

However, there is a bigger story here that must be considered. Medicare is a universal single payer system managed by the federal government for the elderly and disabled. We all pay into Medicare while working through a



payroll tax, and once retired, we pay a small monthly Part B premium out of our Social Security benefit. Medicare and the government do not provide the medical care, they simply pay the appropriate medical expenses just like a private insurance company. However Medicare has an administrative overhead of about five percent, while most private insurance is about 20 percent. While Mr. Brighton appropriately praises his supplemental Medicare insurance for covering most of the 20 percent not covered by Medicare Part B, without Medicare in the first place there would not be a Medicare Part B or the opportunity to buy supplemental insurance for him to rely on. In the absence of Medicare where would Mr. Brighton and millions of seniors and the disabled be? Without a Medicare system seniors and the disabled would either go without insurance, or considering their age and health conditions, be faced with buying very expensive private insurance if they could get it at all. And if they were able to obtain insurance, it would certainly come with very high copays and deductibles.

Republicans opposed Medicare in 1964, and have been trying to eliminate or privatize it ever since. If they had succeeded, Mr. Brighton and tens of millions of others would have a much different financial outcome than the one he shared with us.

This case study simply illustrates how better off all Americans would be if we had a Medicare-For-All System like most other industrialized nations.

Thank you Mr. Brighton for highlighting with such a personal real life experience the benefits of Medicare.

Rich DiPentima, RN, MPH
Portsmouth, N.H.

Rich:

Republicans deride modest Democratic proposals as unworkable, then commit acts of sabotage to prove themselves correct.

The philosopher Thomas Hobbes described life without any form of gover-

nance as “solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short.”

In today’s GOP, that dire description passes for Utopia.

The Editor

—==—

A Simple Comparison

Good morning, Editor,

Couldn’t help but notice the passion displayed in resident MAGA correspondent Don Ewing’s latest on schools’ subjecting pink-cheeked innocent children to the horrifying effects of “pornography.” Apparently fond of spewing “statistics,” he conveniently left one out; how does the childhood death rate from being exposed to “pornography” compare to that of the discharge of AR-15’s in the classroom? HmMMM?

John C. Ficor
Richmond, Va.

John:

It’s now illegal for the state of Texas to provide tampons and sanitary napkins in schools.

However, students there are being taught first aid to assist classmates and teachers suffering from gunshot wounds.

The Editor

—==—

Hoods are Optional

To the Editor:

We sweat out disasters

Daily check

Review statistics

Killed, and injured

Yesterday, last week

This month’s mourning

Repeated. America’s

Endless cycle. America,

Home for freedom-loving

Vigilantes. Hoods are optional

As they display

Their 2nd amendment

Right, to kill at will.

Genevieve Harris-Fraser

Orange, Mass.

—==—

Why Not Both?

To the Editor:

How many times have you heard a politician say after a mass shooting “It isn’t a gun problem. It is a mental health problem”? Actually, it is both.

Every country has people with mental health issues, but most have fewer mass shootings in a year than we average per day. The reason is simple. When another country suffers from a mass shooting, their politicians enact laws to limit access to guns. Their politicians are sane.

Many of ours are not. Since the Sandy Hook school shooting many states, including New Hampshire, made it easier to get weapons, to legally carry weapons and conceal weapons. They legalized ownership of semiautomatic weapons with large magazines. Even worse are the states that passed laws making it legal to shoot unarmed people by claiming you were afraid of them.

How do states address the so-called mental health problems and guns? They do not. They only think someone has a mental health problem after they commit a mass shooting. How sane is it to allow the sale of weapons to people the politicians said had mental health problems. It is not sane.

We have more guns in this country than people. If guns made us safer, we would be the safest country on earth. We are the opposite because of our insane politicians.

Walter Hamilton
Portsmouth, N.H.

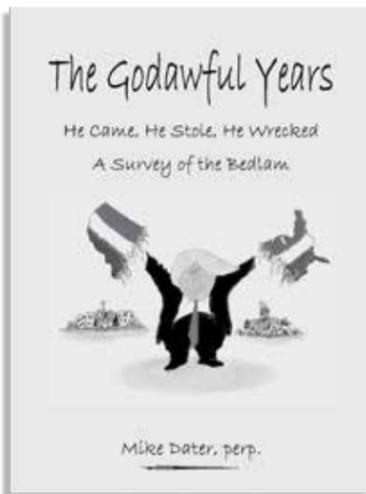
Walter:

Far be it from us to argue that anyone in the GOP is sane. The general level of paranoia they display would be comical if it were not so damaging.

The full panoply of their perverse policies can hardly be the consequence of individual madness, though. This gun-frenzy

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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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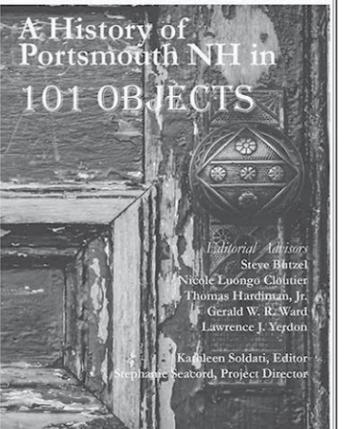
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is a component of the culture war, the ultimate aim of which is to eradicate democratic government in favor of an unfettered market.

Greed, to put it more simply.
The Editor

John:

A very good friend once remarked that in the unlikely event that he someday meets his alleged maker, he's going to pose a few pointed questions.

The Editor

=====
The Pernicious Effects of Inequality

To the editor;

Kudos to the *Gazette* for publishing three "Tax Day" articles by Wilkens, Allegretto and Johnson (*The New Hampshire Gazette*, April 21, 2023). The authors aptly describe how the U.S. tax system shelters wealth and bakes in wealth inequality. The tax advantages preserve the status of an economic elite and reinforce the economic forces that created the inequality. Wealth inequality has been increasing in the U.S. since the '80s so that the wealthiest 10 percent of Americans now own approximately 70 percent of all wealth while the bottom 50 percent owns only three percent. These are levels not seen since the Gilded Age and place the U.S. as one of the most unequal countries in the industrialized world.

The dangers of excessive wealth inequality have been known for a long time. Both Plato and Aristotle note that large imbalances of wealth are a cause of social unrest within societies. Plato states that economic disparities cause the lower classes to seek out a protector who will defend them against the elite. The protector is often a demagogue who promises reform to the people while establishing himself as a tyrant. History is replete with examples to include Julius Caesar, Napoleon, Franco, and Hitler.

Populist revolutions are a threat to modern democracies. Hungary, Poland, Brazil, Venezuela and our own recent experience stand as examples. The fact is extreme levels of wealth inequality are not compatible with de-

mocracy. As economic distress builds in disadvantaged classes, trust in ruling elites vanishes and, as Plato notes, they seek out leaders who will promote their interests. The elites, seeking to preserve their wealth, act to eliminate the influence of the lower classes by denying them democratic representation. Any attempt to co-operate for the common good is impossible as the groups engage in a death match for power.

This process is well underway in America. Former blue-collar workers who had established a comfortable middle-class lifestyle following World War II watched manufacturing jobs disappear with globalization and automation. As middle-class incomes disappeared and working-class communities crumbled, white factory workers without a college degree became increasingly frustrated and angry. As working-class incomes stagnated, the incomes of more educated financial and tech workers skyrocketed. The displaced cohort was ripe for a demagogue like Trump and quickly adopted him as their defender. His supporters clearly regard themselves as a populist party, claiming to represent the interests of the forgotten working class while scorning so-called coastal elites. Trump is a wannabe autocrat as his rejection of the 2020 election and subsequent effort to foment an insurrection proves. If he had succeeded, it would have marked the end of constitutional democracy in America. His statements and actions demonstrate that he has neither understanding nor respect for the principles of liberal democracy. He is the threat that Plato warns about.

The threat to American democracy from Trump and the far right is not over. Trump maintains a strong hold on a considerable portion of working-class supporters and the violent rhetoric from many of his supporters indicates that many would engage in a violent attempt to overthrow constitu-

tional democracy a la January 6th. The populist threat will not subside unless the conditions that have bred dissatisfaction and distrust are confronted. We can begin by introducing tax policies that address the accumulation of great wealth by a few and begin to reduce the unconscionable inequality in the U.S.

Robert D. Russell, Ph.D.
Harrisburg, Pa.

Robert:

Could not agree more. The difficulty is making it happen—but what else do we have to do with our time?

The Editor

=====
Credible Pathways to 1.5°C:

Four Pillars for Action in the 2020s

[Note: The following dispatch from *The International Energy Agency (IEA)* was forwarded to us by Roy Morrison. — *The Ed.*]

To support preparations for upcoming major events such as the COP28 Climate Change Conference, the IEA is releasing *Credible Pathways to 1.5°C: Four pillars for action in the 2020s*, a new report on the key actions needed to keep within reach the Paris Agreement's target of limiting the global temperature rise to 1.5°C. That possibility is narrowing rapidly, with energy-related CO2 emissions continuing to rise in 2022 despite declining costs for clean energy technologies and the dynamic deployment of renewables, electric cars and other solutions.

Declining costs for clean energy technologies and new policies have shaved around 1°C from projected 2100 warming compared to the pre-Paris baseline. The ambitions that countries have put on the table go a significant way to meeting the 1.5°C goal. If implemented on time and in full, countries' net zero pledges would be sufficient to hold warming to around 1.7°C in 2100. The key question is therefore what needs to be done now to strengthen near-term action to put the world on a credible pathway consistent with the 1.5°C goal. Four pillars are key:

- In the energy sector, decarbonising electricity, accelerating energy efficiency and electrification are the critical

tools. Capacity additions of renewables need to triple from 2022 levels by 2030, reaching around 1,200 GW annually, representing on average 90 percent of new generation capacity each year. Electric car sales should reach a market share of around 60 percent by 2030, while zero emissions medium and heavy freight trucks should reach a market share of around 35 percent by the same year.

- Reducing deforestation to net zero by 2030 – in line with The Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use – provides the largest share of CO2 emissions reductions from the land-use sector.

- Tackling non-CO2 emissions is vital to limiting peak warming. Assuming strong action on CO2, meeting or exceeding commitments like the Kigali Amendment on HFCs and the Global Methane Pledge, and acting on non-CO2 emissions from agriculture, could make the difference between a scenario which substantially overshoots 1.5°C, risking triggering irreversible climate tipping points, and one which does not.

- Even in a low overshoot scenario, carbon capture and storage and atmospheric carbon dioxide removal will be required to mitigate and compensate hard-to-abate residual emissions. Projects capturing around 1.2 Gt CO2 by 2030 need to be implemented, against the roughly 0.3 Gt CO2 currently planned for 2030.

A credible pathway to the 1.5°C goal needs strong, immediate action on each of these four pillars, to deliver immediate and rapid emissions reductions; strong contributions from all countries, especially advanced and major economies; and clear policy signals to enable actors to anticipate and achieve change.

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The International Energy Agency (IEA) is a Paris-based autonomous intergovernmental organisation, established in 1974, that provides policy recommendations, analysis and data on the entire global energy sector. The 31 member countries and 11 association countries of the IEA represent 75 percent of global energy demand.

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

Origins Story
In 1623, David Thomson settled at Odiorne Point. 2023 celebrates 400th Anniversary

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
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Mission: Impossible

by W.D. Ehrhart

What follows is a list of mass shootings with firearms in the United States of America since the massacre at Columbine High School in Colorado on April 20th, 1999 that resulted in 13 dead and 24 wounded. Each one of these killings has resulted in at least three dead. Most have involved many more dead, along with many others wounded. The worst incident resulted in 58 dead and 546 wounded.

- Littleton, Colo., April 20, 1999
- Atlanta, Ga., July 29, 1999
- Fort Worth, Texas, September 15, 1999
- Honolulu, Hawaii, November 2, 1999
- Tampa, Fla., December 30, 1999
- Wakefield, Mass., December 26, 2000
- Melrose Park, Ill., February 5, 2001
- Meridian, Miss., July 8, 2003
- Columbus, Ohio, December 8, 2004
- Brookfield, Wisc., March 12, 2005
- Red Lake, Minn., March 21, 2005
- Goleta, Calif., January 30, 2006
- Seattle, Wash., March 25, 2006
- Nickel Mines, Pa., October 2, 2006
- Salt Lake City, Utah, February 12, 2007
- Blacksburg, Va., April 16, 2007
- Crandon, Wisc., October 7, 2007
- Omaha, Neb., December 5, 2007
- Kirkwood, Mo., February 7, 2008
- DeKalb, Ill., February 14, 2008
- Henderson, Ky., June 25, 2008
- Carthage, N.C., March 29, 2009
- Binghamton, N.Y., April 3, 2009
- Fort Hood, Texas, November 5, 2009
- Parkland, Wash., November 29, 2009
- Manchester, Conn., August 3, 2010
- Tucson, Ariz., January 8, 2011
- Carson City, Nev., September 6, 2011

- Seal Beach, Calif., October 12, 2011
- Norcross, Ga., February 21, 2012
- Oakland, Calif., April 2, 2012
- Seattle, Wash., May 20, 2012
- Aurora, Colo., July 20, 2012
- Oak Creek, Wisc., August 5, 2012
- Minneapolis, Minn., September 27, 2012
- Newtown, Conn., December 14, 2012
- Mohawk, N.Y., March 13, 2013
- Federal Way, Wash., April 21, 2013
- Santa Monica, Calif., June 7, 2013
- Hialeah, Fla., July 26, 2013
- Washington, D.C., September 16, 2013
- Alturas, Calif., February 20, 2014
- Fort Hood, Texas, April 3, 2014
- Santa Barbara, Calif., May 23, 2014
- Marysville, Wash., October 24, 2014
- Menasha, Wisc., June 11, 2015
- Charleston, S.C., June 17, 2015
- Chattanooga, Tenn., July 16, 2015
- Roseburg, Ore., October 1, 2015
- Colorado Springs, Colo., October 31, 2015
- Colorado Springs, Colo., November 27, 2015
- San Bernardino, Calif., December 2, 2015
- Kalamazoo, Mich., February 20, 2016
- Hesston, Kan., February 25, 2016
- Orlando, Fla., June 12, 2016
- Dallas, Texas, July 7, 2016
- Baton Rouge, La., July 17, 2016
- Burlington, Wash., September 23, 2016
- Fort Lauderdale, Fla., January 6, 2017
- Fresno, Calif., April 18, 2017
- Kirkersville, Ohio, May 12, 2017
- Orlando, Fla., June 5, 2017
- Tunkhannock, Pa., June 7, 2017
- San Francisco, Calif., June 14, 2017
- Las Vegas, Nev., October 1, 2017
- Edgewood, Md., October 18, 2017
- Thornton, Colo., November 1, 2017
- Sutherland Springs, Texas, November 5, 2017
- Rancho Tehama, Calif., November 14, 2017

- Melcroft, Pa., January 28, 2018
- Parkland, Fla., February 14, 2018
- Yountville, Calif., March 9, 2018
- Nashville, Tenn., April 22, 2018
- Santa Fe, Texas, May 18, 2018
- Annapolis, Md., June 28, 2018
- Cincinnati, Ohio, September 6, 2018
- Bakersfield, Calif., September 12, 2018
- Perryman, Md., September 20, 2018
- Pittsburgh, Pa., October 27, 2018
- Thousand Oaks, Calif., November 7, 2018
- Chicago, Ill., November 19, 2018
- Sebring, Fla., January 23, 2019
- State College, Pa., January 24, 2019
- Aurora, Ill., February 15, 2019
- Virginia Beach, Va., May 31, 2019
- Gilroy, Calif., July 28, 2019
- El Paso, Texas, August 3, 2019
- Dayton, Ohio, August 4, 2019
- Odessa, Texas, August 31, 2019
- Pensacola, Fla., December 6, 2019
- Jersey City, N.J., December 10, 2019
- Milwaukee, Wisc., February 26, 2020
- Springfield, Mo., March 16, 2020
- Atlanta, Ga., March 16, 2021
- Boulder, Colo., March 22, 2021
- Orange, Calif., March 31, 2021
- Indianapolis, Ind., April 15, 2021
- San Jose, Calif., May 26, 2021
- Oxford, Mich., November 30, 2021
- Sacramento, Calif., February 28, 2022
- Buffalo, N.Y., May 14, 2022
- Uvalde, Texas, May 24, 2022
- Tulsa, Okla., June 1, 2022
- Smithsburg, Md., June 9, 2022
- Birmingham, Ala., June 16, 2022
- Highland Park, Ill., July 4, 2022
- Greenwood, Ind., July 17, 2022
- Heddingham, N.C., October 13, 2022
- Charlottesville, Va., November 13, 2022
- Colorado Springs, Colo., November 19, 2022

- Chesapeake, Va., November 22, 2022
- Monterey Park, Calif., January 21, 2023
- Half Moon Bay, Calif., January 23, 2023
- East Lansing, Mich., February 13, 2023
- Nashville, Tenn., March 27, 2023
- Louisville, Ky., April 10, 2023
- Dadeville, Ala., April 15, 2023
- Yarmouth, Maine, April 18, 2023

By the time this is published, the list will be longer. Prayers and vigils will make no difference. Background checks and smaller magazines will make no difference. Elimination of military-grade assault rifles will make no difference. (I can squeeze off eight rounds from a semi-automatic pistol in four seconds, reload in no more than another four seconds, and continue doing this until someone stops me.)

And who's going to stop me? Another man with a gun? You obviously don't know about the armed guard who sat in his car at Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School while the gunman blasted away or the collection of armed police officers who stood outside of Robb Elementary School for an hour listening to children screaming as the gunman blasted away.)

You want to get rid of gun violence in this country? Get rid of the guns. Repeal the 2nd Amendment. Impossible? Read this list over again. Tape it to your refrigerator door. Memorize it. Tattoo it on your forehead. It isn't going to go away until the guns do. And in the meantime, it will just keep growing. And growing. And growing.

And who knows? Maybe you'll even be one of the victims one of these days.

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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.

The Alleged News® from page three

the industry specifically lobbied for Covid relief, particularly medium to long-term liquidity assistance and relief from air transportation excise taxes, even though industry demand was quickly climbing."

As wealth inequality soars, so too does the value of the private jet market, which grew from \$32.3 billion

in 2021 to \$34.1 billion in 2022, the report notes. With wealth being concentrated in fewer and fewer hands and little to no downward redistribution on the horizon, the private jet industry is projected to expand further in the coming years.

Report co-author Omar Ocampo, a researcher with the Program on Inequality and the Common Good at IPS, said that the private jet industry's expected growth this decade

"provides us with a great opportunity to levy a luxury transfer tax on private jet sales." He added that "the revenue raised from this tax can be invested towards developing a green transportation system."

According to the report, "A 10 percent and 5 percent transfer fee on pre-owned and new private aircraft would have raised \$2.4 billion in 2021 and \$2.6 billion in 2022."

In addition to imposing a transfer tax on all private jet sales, IPS and Patriotic Millionaires recommend the following steps be taken:

- Levy a private jet fuel tax;
- Institute a "short hop" surcharge;

• Resist efforts to increase passenger facility charges until private jet owners pay their fair share;

• Create a sustainable transportation equity trust fund;

• Increase TSA security oversight of private jets; and

• Pass the Aircraft Ownership Transparency Act.

According to the report, Musk would have paid nearly \$4 million in additional taxes last year if a transfer fee and jet fuel tax had been in place.

"Private jet travel by billionaires and the ultra-wealthy imposes a tremendous cost on the rest of us," said Chuck Collins, another co-author of

the report.

"Not only do ordinary travelers and taxpayers subsidize the air space for private jets, but the high flyers also contribute considerably more pollution than other passengers," said Collins. "If we can't ban private jets, we should at least tax them and require them to pay to offset their environmental damage and subsidies."

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

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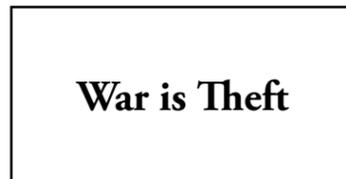
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White power movements in U.S. history have often relied on veterans — and not on lone wolves

Author Kathleen Belew, interviewed at *TheConversation.com*.

For decades, the white power movement has gained steady momentum in the U.S. Kathleen Belew is an expert on the history of the white power movement and its current impact on American society and politics. Her book *Bring the War Home: The White Power Movement and Paramilitary America* examines how the aftermath of the Vietnam War led to the birth of the white power movement.

In March 2023, Belew spoke at the Imagine Solutions Conference in Naples, Florida, about how the narrative of the “lone wolf” actor distracts from the broader threat of the white power movement in America. The Conversation asked Belew about her work. Her edited answers are below.

What is the white power movement?

The white power movement is an array of activists that is, in all ways but race, remarkably diverse. Since the late 1970s, it has convened people of a wide variety of belief systems, including Klansmen, neo-Nazis, white separatists, proponents of white supremacist religious theologies, and, starting in the late 1980s, racist skinheads and militia movement members. These activists represent a wide range of class positions. The movement has long included men, women and children; felons and religious leaders; high school dropouts and holders of advanced degrees; civilians and veterans and active-duty military personnel. They have lived in all regions of the country, including suburbs, cities and rural areas.

How has the legacy of U.S. warfare fueled white power groups?

After every major American war, the historical record shows a surge in membership and activity among extremist groups like the Ku Klux Klan. In each example, these groups also adopt elements of military activity, like uniforms, weapons and the latest military tactics. But this doesn't mean that these surges are entirely composed of veterans. All measures of violence rise after warfare, including acts carried out by women, children and older people. Groups like the Ku Klux Klan have been able to use this postwar opportunity for their own purposes: recruitment and radicalization.

When and why did the white power movement emerge in the U.S.?

The white power movement came together in the late 1970s around a shared narrative of the Vietnam War. In this narrative, the war exemplifies the failure of government, the betrayal of the American people by the government and the betrayal of American men by the state.

Disillusioned veterans and civilians alike mobilized around a number of other social grievances, such as dissatisfaction with changes caused by feminism, the Civil Rights Movement and other movements at home, as well as frustrations with economic changes like the farms crisis and the general move to financialization in the 1970s that made it harder to find and keep a working-class

job. This disaffection allowed for the white power movement to recruit in two different ways: narrative force—the story that was used to hold these activists together; and contextual force—the social grievances many of them had in common.

What role do women play in the white supremacist movement?

People often think of the white power and militia movements as men's movements. It's true that the majority of media reports heavily feature men; that's because those who participate in public demonstrations and those who get arrested because of underground activity tend to be men. But this is a movement that has relied in extraordinarily heavy ways on women.

Women have been tasked with normalizing and legitimating violence, orchestrating recruitment and maintaining the relationships that allow this movement to operate as a social network. Take, for instance, the Aryan Nations World Congress, a 1983 meeting in which the white power movement declared war on the United States. This meeting featured men's speeches and ideological activities, a cross burning and a swastika burning. But it also featured matchmaking and a big spaghetti dinner, which socially bound activists together to enable the organization of violence. Women were indispensable for arranging these kinds of activities and for maintaining strong relationships between groups.

Where do U.S. veterans fit in?

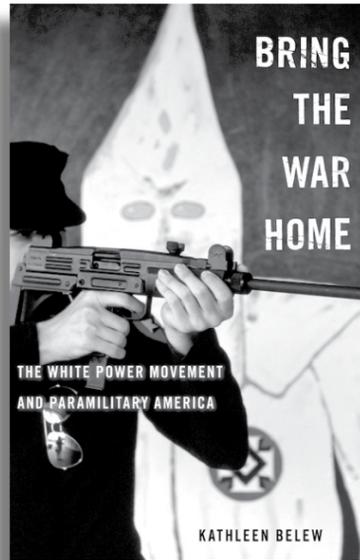
Veterans are specifically targeted for recruitment into white power groups because they and active-duty service members have a set of experiences and expertise that is very much in demand by these groups. Veterans have tactical training, munitions expertise and weapons training that the white power movement wants because it is trying to wage war on the American government—in fact, this movement has directed recruitment specifically aimed at veterans and active-duty troops.

While very few veterans returning from war join white power groups, the groups still feature an enormous percentage of people who are veterans or active duty—or falsely claim to be. This is because those military roles are in high demand among these groups—and their command structure within the movement mirrors military organization.

How can the U.S. address its lack of care toward veterans?

The white power movement is one example of a broader social failure to support veterans and to reckon with the cost of warfare. This movement is able to opportunistically mobilize disaffected people in the aftermath of war because our society lacks robust social structures to reintegrate people after warfare and to have a real public discourse about the price of war.

Before the fall of Kabul in Afghanistan, my undergraduate students at Northwestern and the University of Chicago had been at war for their entire living memory. These are kids who don't re-



“...a small group of veterans and active-duty military personnel and civilian supporters concluded that waging war on their own country was justified. They unified people from a variety of militant groups, including Klansmen, neo-Nazis, skinheads, radical tax protestors, and white separatists to form a new movement of loosely affiliated independent cells to avoid detection...operat[ing] with discipline and clarity, undertaking assassinations, armed robbery, counterfeiting, and weapons trafficking.”

— Harvard University Press

member 9/11. And yet that war has not featured prominently even in the list of the top five or 10 crises facing our nation. In the recent past, war has not been at the center of our political conversation. We don't reckon with the massive impact the people who serve in our armed forces shoulder for the nation.

In all of these ways, the global war on terror has continued the cycle of generating a recruitment opportunity for extremist groups. We are now in the middle of a massive groundswell of white power and militant right activity, both underground and in public-facing actions.

What are you working on now that people might not be aware of?

My next project departs from the white power movement to examine gun violence in America, specifically the Columbine shooting—which happened when I was in high school, not far from where I was in high school—as a fulcrum point between the 20th century and the 21st. There were mass shootings at schools and elsewhere before Columbine. But Columbine really marks the moment when mass shootings became normalized. I think the event signals major fissures in the social fabric and reflects other massive changes in how society thinks about place, politics and violence—not only in Colorado but in the nation as a whole.

—

Kathleen Belew is an Associate Professor of History, Northwestern University.

A Republican Death Star is Targeting Our Liberty

by Jim Hightower

While the Powers That Be constantly warn us about foreign threats to our democracy from Russian trolls, TikTok, etc.—there is scant coverage of an actual assault on our people's democratic liberties by forces on our own soil.

It's coming from extremist, right-wing Republican lawmakers who have autocratic control over more than a score of America's state governments. Their obscure anti-democracy weapon is called “pre-emption”—the dangerous power of state officials to nullify laws passed by local people.

It's supposed to be used rarely, carefully, and only in emergency situations, but today's radical Big Government Republicans have weaponized it, routinely overturning local actions that the GOP's corporate funders don't like. Local decisions to protect worker safety, outlaw loan sharking, shut down puppy mills, prevent workplace discrimination, stop pollution, control political corruption... and so many more popular democratic reforms are being abolished by Republican autocrats in service to plutocrats. Some 500 more of those usurpations are moving through state legislatures across the country now—with practically no public notice.

Embarrassingly, GOP leaders in my state of Texas have been leading this charge against the people's democratic will, and they're now enacting a nuclearized escalation of their attack. Their new weapon has been dubbed “Death Star”—a state law that will preemptively ban cities and counties from passing corporate regulations stronger than state regulation (which is infamously feeble). The ban—gleefully pushed by a horde of lobbyist for brand-name corporate elites—includes letting corporations overturn existing local protections for workers, consumers, small business, the environment, and others. “We hate cities and counties,” grumped the sponsor of the Death Star law.

This is a wholesale usurpation of your and my liberty to govern ourselves. In exchange for political funding, GOP officials are literally outsourcing the people's democratic authority to private profiteers. Learn more at www.supportdemocracy.org.

—

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

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

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

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

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

Twice a day, too, the moon lets all that water go. All the seawater that just fought its way upstream goes back home to the ocean. This is when the Piscataqua earns its title for xth fastest current. Look for the red buoy, at the upstream end of

Badger's Island, bobbing around in the current. It weighs several tons, and it bobs and bounces in the current like a cork. The river also has its placid moments, around high and low tides. When the river rests, its tugboats

and bridges work their hardest. Ships coming in laden with coal, oil, and salt do so at high tide, for more clearance under their keels. They leave empty, riding high in the water, at low tide, to squeeze under Memorial Bridge.

SUNDAY, MAY 7	MONDAY, MAY 8	TUESDAY, MAY 9	WEDNESDAY, MAY 10	THURSDAY, MAY 11	FRIDAY, MAY 12	SATURDAY, MAY 13
<p>1999—A U.S. B-2 drops five "smart" bombs on the Chinese embassy in Belgrade: three dead, 27 wounded.</p> <p>1998—Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin and Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan successfully quash an effort to regulate credit default swaps.</p> <p>1992—Reporters reveal Ross Perot's "concern" over U.S. POWs was mostly about Richard Nixon's presidency.</p> <p>1985—New York City throws a ticker tape parade for 25,000 Vietnam veterans. Better late than never.</p> <p>1970—Marine Sgt. Robert Phleger, 1st Force Recon, is killed in the night by a tiger in Quang Nam Province.</p> <p>1955—Black voting activist Rev. George W. Lee is gunned down in Midnight, Miss. No charges are ever filed.</p> <p>1954—The Viet Minh overrun the French garrison at Dien Bien Phu.</p> <p>1931—In NYC, 300 cops entertain 15,000 bystanders by directing 700 rounds of rifle and machine gun fire at a fifth-floor apartment in a rooming house on West 91st St. After two hours Francis "Two-Gun" Crowley, his 16-year old girlfriend Helen Walsh, and his partner Rudolph "Fats" Durringer surrender.</p> <p>1931—In Corbin, Ky. Harland Sanders—later "Col." Sanders—puts two bullets in a gas station manager for painting over a sign for his restaurant.</p> <p>1896—Gilmanton-born Herman W. Mudgett, aka "Dr. H.H. Holmes," fiendish killer of over 100 women, is hanged for murdering one man.</p>	<p>1979—Salvadoran police maintain order in a cathedral; 23 KIA, 70 WIA.</p> <p>1970—With flags at half mast for Kent State kids shot by National Guardsmen, students protesting in NYC at Wall and Broad streets are attacked by 200 "hardhats" organized by AFL-CIO leader Peter Brennan. Nixon will make him Sec. of Labor.</p> <p>1970—At the University of New Mexico, 11 people protesting the Vietnam War are bayoneted by National Guardsmen.</p> <p>1967—For refusing to be inducted, Muhammad Ali is indicted.</p> <p>1963—In Hue, Ngo Dinh Diem's goons kill nine Buddhists for flying their flag, then blame the 'Cong.</p> <p>1958—In Lima, Richard Nixon is stoned and spat on by Peruvians.</p> <p>1954—After flying over Murmansk on a recon mission, one of Curtis LeMay's B-47s returns to base with extra holes in it, thanks to a MiG-17.</p> <p>1844—Nativists in Philadelphia get serious, burning St. Michael's, St. Augustine's, and the Seminary of the Sisters of Charity, and killing a few more of those troublesome Irish.</p> <p>1755—In Portsmouth, murderer Eliphaz Dow becomes the first man executed in New Hampshire.</p> <p>1725—John Lovewell, who had marched into Boston a month earlier wearing a wig made of Indian scalps, is killed by an Abenaki near Pequawket (now Fryeburg). A mountain in Washington, N.H. bears his name.</p>	<p>2017—D. Trump fires J. Comey.</p> <p>1999—At the University of Chicago, two students competing in a scavenger hunt build a plutonium-producing reactor. They come in second.</p> <p>1991—Bush aide John Sununu is told to quit using military planes to see his Boston dentist and ski in N.H.</p> <p>1989—"What a waste it is to lose one's mind," says Veep Candidate Dan Quayle, addressing the Negro College Fund, "or not to have a mind is being very wasteful, how true that is."</p> <p>1980—The <i>SS Summit Venture</i> collapses Fla.'s Sunshine Skyway Bridge; a Greyhound on it plunges, killing 35.</p> <p>1974—Congress finally begins to ponder impeaching Richard Nixon.</p> <p>1971—Major General Carl C. Turner, once the Army's top cop, then the Chief of U.S. Marshals, pleads guilty to selling 136 confiscated guns he'd swindled from the Chicago P.D.</p> <p>1970—Richard Nixon talks football with antiwar students on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial at 4 a.m.</p> <p>1969—Enraged after reading in the <i>New York Times</i> that he's illegally bombing Cambodia, Richard Nixon orders the illegal tapping of his staff.</p> <p>1967—Because he won't fight in Vietnam, Muhammad Ali is stripped of the championship he won in the ring.</p> <p>1961—FCC chair Newton Minow calls U.S. TV "a vast wasteland."</p> <p>1864—Maj. Gen. John Sedgwick utters his last words: "They couldn't hit an elephant at this distance."</p>	<p>2021—N.H.'s own Dan Bolduc and 123 other ex-top brass sign a letter saying the 2020 election was rigged.</p> <p>2017—Dolt #45 lets the Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov and Ambassador Kislyak into the Oval Office; he divulges classified info, exposes a foreign agent, and says firing the FBI's boss relieved him of a "great pressure."</p> <p>1945—New Hampshire adopts John Stark's motto, "Live Free or Die."</p> <p>1919—In Charleston, S.C., white sailors foment the first of 33 U.S. race riots over a five-month period.</p> <p>1908—The first Mother's Day Service is held in W.Va. at the instigation of Anna Jarvis. She will be arrested on Mother's Day 40 years later for protesting its commercialization.</p> <p>1886—An ex-railroad president, now Reporter of the Supreme Court—seven of whom are ex-railroad attorneys—writes a headnote to their <i>Santa Clara</i> decision: corporations are now people under the 14th Amendment.</p> <p>1869—Leland Stanford is unable to drive his railroad's iconic "Golden Spike"; he's too hammered himself.</p> <p>1849—Nativist fans of Edwin Forrest bombard New York's Astor Opera House with bricks protesting a Brit performer. To preserve order, the 7th Militia Regiment fires into the crowd; 20 are killed, mostly bystanders.</p> <p>1740—South Carolina nixes assembling, raising food, earning money, or literacy for the enslaved, while legalizing slave holders killing the rebellious.</p>	<p>2012—The Kuala Lumpur War Crimes Commission finds George W.[MD] Bush, Dick "Dick" Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld, Tony Blair and others guilty of war crimes.</p> <p>2009—Ex-Gov. J. Ventura says, "You give me a water board, Dick Cheney and one hour, and I'll have him confess to the Sharon Tate murders."</p> <p>2006—<i>USA Today</i> reports that the NSA is tapping U.S. phones.</p> <p>1975—In New York, 80,000 celebrate the end of the Vietnam War.</p> <p>1969—Huey Cobras mistakenly fire on the 3/187 Battalion HQ on Hamburger Hill; two KIA, 35 WIA.</p> <p>1969—A fire at the Rocky Flats nuclear bomb plant results in a) the release of plutonium, and b) previously-suppressed news that a fire 12 years earlier had released 1,000 times more.</p> <p>1968—In France, labor unions turn out in support of student protests.</p> <p>1966—"It appears," says Defense Sec. Robert Strange McNamara, "that the Viet Cong is [sic] losing what support it had from the rural population."</p> <p>1963—Blacks in Birmingham, Ala. riot after two more KKK bombings.</p> <p>1894—George Pullman cuts his workers' wages but not their rent; they fight back with a wildcat strike.</p> <p>1886—The <i>Milwaukee Daily Sentinel</i> publishes an article headlined "No Poles Need Apply," praising the railroads for firing immigrants.</p> <p>1854—Birth of Ottmar Mergenthaler, inventor of the Linotype.</p>	<p>2015—An FEC report says that after denying wrongdoing for years, Rep. Frank Guinta [R-N.H.] has agreed to repay an illegal \$355K campaign loan and pay a \$15K fine to boot.</p> <p>1996—Sec. of State Madeleine Albright tells Lesley Stahl on "60 Minutes" that sanctions killing 500,000 children in Iraq is "a very hard choice, but... we think the price is worth it."</p> <p>1987—News reports say Oliver North lost a \$10 million contribution for the Contras by using the wrong Swiss bank account number.</p> <p>1984—Philip Abrams, HUD Undersecretary under R. Reagan, says Hispanics live in crowded homes out of "cultural preference," not poverty.</p> <p>1975—Khmer Rouge naval forces using ex-U.S. Swift Boats seize the U.S. container ship <i>Mayaguez</i> and 39 crewmen off Cambodia.</p> <p>1960—The remains of SSgt. Guy E. Shelley are found 97 miles from where he parachuted to Earth, 17 years after his plane crashed in the Sahara.</p> <p>1958—Future Defense Secretary Robert Strange McNamara says cabbage and broccoli will protect Americans from atomic fallout.</p> <p>1947—Trunk murderess Winnie Ruth Judd makes her third escape from the Arizona State Insane Hospital.</p> <p>1916—In deference to the wounds they inflicted during the Easter Uprising, the Royal Irish Constabulary put James Connolly in a chair so the firing squad can shoot him one last time.</p>	<p>2015—The day after eight die in a Philadelphia derailment, Congress votes to slash Amtrak's budget.</p> <p>2005—A Pentagon commission recommends closing the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.</p> <p>1985—A Philadelphia police helicopter bombs MOVE headquarters, killing 11 and leaving 250 homeless.</p> <p>1971—President Nixon tells his flunkies to get a new IRS head: "a ruthless son of a bitch... who will go after our enemies and not go after our friends."</p> <p>1957—Ngo Dinh Diem is treated to a ticker tape parade in New York City.</p> <p>1946—American military authorities in Germany order the destruction of 30,000 books.</p> <p>1945—After a brief court martial in Amsterdam—and Germany's surrender—Bruno Dorfer and Rainer Beck, deserters from the Wehrmacht's Kriegsmarine, are executed by German soldiers using German rifles provided by the Seaforth Highlanders.</p> <p>1930—The New Hampshire Historical Society announces it's acquired one of three known copies of <i>The Monster of Monsters</i>, the pamphlet that got Daniel Fowle thrown in prison in 1754.</p> <p>1929—Capone, Lansky, Luciano, Lucchese, Torrio, Nitti, Siegel, &c., &c. meet in Atlantic City, N.J.</p> <p>1862—Robert Smalls, enslaved helmsman of the Confederate military transport <i>Planter</i>, commandeers the vessel, pilots it out of Charleston harbor, and turns it over to the U.S. Navy.</p>
SUNDAY, MAY 14	MONDAY, MAY 15	TUESDAY, MAY 16	WEDNESDAY, MAY 17	THURSDAY, MAY 18	FRIDAY, MAY 19	SATURDAY, MAY 20
<p>2019—Joe Biden predicts that with Trump out of the White House, "You will see an epiphany occur among many of my Republican friends."</p> <p>2015—The <i>Union Leader's</i> editorial, in full: "Frank Guinta is a damned liar."</p> <p>1992—The George H.[H.]W. Bush administration opens up 1,400 acres of spotted owl habitat for logging.</p> <p>1987—Robert "Bud" McFarlane tells Congress that if he'd objected to arming Central American terrorists, "Bill Casey, Jeane Kirkpatrick, and Cap Weinberger would have said I was some kind of commie."</p> <p>1975—The Khmer Rouge take the captive crew of the <i>Mayaguez</i> to mainland Cambodia.</p> <p>1961—Klansmen in Anniston, Ala. celebrate Mother's Day by torching a bus. The Freedom Riders on board escape the fire, but not a savage beating.</p> <p>1960—<i>The New Yorker's</i> A.J. Liebling writes, "Freedom of the press is guaranteed only to those who own one."</p> <p>1932—Mayor Jimmy Walker leads 150,000 New Yorkers in a day-long "We Want Beer" parade.</p> <p>1930—<i>The New York Times</i>, in 157 words about the New Hampshire Historical Society's acquisition of a 18th century pamphlet, <i>The Monster of Monsters</i>, misstates who was jailed and for how long, cites the wrong printer (it was Zechariah Fowle, not Daniel), and misstates this paper's name.</p> <p>964—John XII's papacy is abruptly ended by a jealous husband.</p>	<p>2002—The White House admits it knew before 9/11 that al-Qaeda had plans to hijack U.S. airliners.</p> <p>2001—Two engineers, in a locomotive, chase & stop an unmanned train full of hazardous chemicals rolling 66 miles across Ohio at high speeds.</p> <p>1991—The Pentagon confirms: Manuel Noriega was on the CIA payroll.</p> <p>1975—Some Marines retake the abandoned <i>Mayaguez</i>. Others, green, chopper to Koh Tang Island. Khmer Rouge, dug-in there, kill 15 and wound 50. Three are left on the beach.</p> <p>1970—City and State cops shoot 14 protesting Black students, killing two, at Jackson State in Mississippi.</p> <p>1969—Governor Reagan and his flunky Ed Meese send 800 cops into Peoples Park with shotguns. To quell the ensuing riot, he sends 2,700 National Guardsmen. The butcher's bill: one dead, one blinded, 35 wounded.</p> <p>1968—J. Edgar Hoover orders the Chicago FBI office to tell the Mafia that Dick Gregory is bad-mouthing them—setting the comic up for a hit.</p> <p>1951—Gen. Omar Bradley calls Gen. MacArthur's Korea plan "[t]he wrong war, at the wrong place, at the wrong time, and with the wrong enemy."</p> <p>1943—A bat-borne napalm bomb project goes awry, setting an Army airfield in Carlsbad, N.M. on fire.</p> <p>1935—The Labor Relations Act gives U.S. workers the right to organize.</p> <p>1923—Upton Sinclair is arrested for reading the Bill of Rights out loud.</p>	<p>2017—Recep Tayyip Erdoğan watches two dozen goons attack protestors outside the Turkish Embassy in Washington, D.C. Four are arrested, but charges are then dropped.</p> <p>2001—Ex-FBI Special Agent, devout Catholic, patron of strippers, and amateur exhibitionist Robert Hansen is indicted for selling U.S. secrets to the U.S.S.R., then the Russians.</p> <p>1974—Bill Harris, terrorist, is caught shoplifting socks from Mel's Sporting Goods in L.A.; but he and wife Emily escape as heiress Patty Hearst blasts the storefront with a machine gun.</p> <p>1969—AP finds that on Hamburger Hill, some grunts are disgruntled.</p> <p>1965—Tons of bombs go off at Bien Hoa Air Base, and a million gallons of fuel go up. Dead: 28; injured: 105. Ten B-57s and 16 other planes destroyed.</p> <p>1948—CBS correspondent George Polk turns up murdered in Salonika Harbor. The U.S.-supported Greek government frames a Commie, and U.S. journalists cover up the frame.</p> <p>1918—Congress passes the Sedition Act. It's now a crime to "... willfully utter, print, write, or publish any disloyal, profane, scurrilous, or abusive language about the form of government of the United States, or the Constitution of the United States..."</p> <p>1879—Two men in Raleigh, N.C. are hanged twice: the ropes were too long the first time. In Utah, a firing squad misses the condemned man's heart; it takes him 27 minutes to die.</p>	<p>2017—Learning his election will be investigated for Russian involvement, President Trump says, "Oh my God. This is terrible. This is the end of my Presidency. I'm [bleeped]." Sadly, no.</p> <p>1987—Its weapons officer away from his duty station, its Phalanx gun operator absent "on personal business," and its radar countermeasure system unarmed, the frigate <i>U.S.S. Stark</i> is hit by two Exocets from an Iraqi plane; 37 sailors die on the Gipper's watch.</p> <p>1976—R. Reagan, in <i>Time</i>: "Fascism was really the basis of the New Deal."</p> <p>1974—Six members of the Symbionese Liberation Army armed with full-auto M-1 carbines, holed-up in a small house in L.A., fire 4,000 rounds at 400 cops surrounding them. Hitting none, they all die, shot or burned.</p> <p>1973—To help Continental Oil develop new drilling techniques, the AEC explodes three nukes underground in Colorado.</p> <p>1968—Nine people break into Catonsville, Md.'s draft board and burn 600 files with homemade napalm.</p> <p>1954—Border Patrol agents begin deporting a million people from five states in "Operation Wetback."</p> <p>1954—President Eisenhower creates the notion of "Executive Privilege."</p> <p>1954—The Supreme Court throws out "separate but equal" education.</p> <p>1934—At Madison Square Garden, tens of thousands of Friends of the New Germany rally under a swastika in support of Adolf Hitler.</p>	<p>1992—The 27th Amendment, barring any Congress from raising its own pay, is ratified after a 202 year process.</p> <p>1982—Sun Myung Moon, a Reverend, is now a convicted tax cheat, too.</p> <p>1980—Korean students in Gwangju, protesting closure of their university, are beaten and shot by paratroopers.</p> <p>1980—Mount St. Helens cuts loose for the first time in 123 years.</p> <p>1974—Operation Smiling Buddha is a success: now India has a nuke.</p> <p>1969—The commander at Hamburger Hill orders helicopters out of the area to hold down friendly fire deaths.</p> <p>1958—CIA pilot Al Pope is shot down while strafing an Indonesian port. The U.S. Ambassador claims he's a mere "soldier of fortune." Documents found on Pope prove it's a lie.</p> <p>1935—The propaganda plane Maxvelon Gorky, equipped with a printing plant and loudspeakers audible from the ground, crashes after it's hit by an escorting fighter plane; 45 die.</p> <p>1927—Edwin Hughes, last Charge of the Light Brigade survivor, dies at 96.</p> <p>1927—Anti-tax pest Andrew Kehoe blows up the Bath, Mich. school, killing 39 kids and four others. After murdering his wife, he blows up himself and the school superintendent with a truck full of dynamite and nails.</p> <p>1918—Congress creates the draft. Emma Goldman protests, for which she's soon arrested.</p> <p>1896—The Supreme Court OKs racial segregation in <i>Plessy v. Ferguson</i>.</p>	<p>2017—Big game hunter Theunis Botha, 51, dies in Zimbabwe when an elephant shot by a client falls on him.</p> <p>1956—A 15-megaton bomb test in the South Pacific raises radiation levels in the U.S. to 10 times normal.</p> <p>1954—The U.S.P.O. OKs a CIA mail-opening project.</p> <p>1953—Fallout from our dirtiest-ever nuke test, Upshot-Knothole Harry, hits St. George, Utah—H. Hughes's location for <i>The Conqueror</i> a year later.</p> <p>1950—Four barges carrying 467 tons of ammo explode in South Amboy, N.J., killing 30 and injuring 350.</p> <p>1945—<i>U-234</i> arrives at Portsmouth carrying cargo the Nazis intended for Japan; 1,232 lbs. of uranium eventually does arrive—at Hiroshima, on 8/6.</p> <p>1943—U.S. submarine-chaser <i>PC-815</i>, L. Ron Hubbard, Cmdr., battles non-existent Japanese subs off Ore.</p> <p>1941—Founding of the Viet Minh.</p> <p>1932—Rep. Claude Fuller (D-Ark.) introduces a bill requiring that Civil Service employees be able to "sing, write or recite the words to the Star Spangled Banner" from memory.</p> <p>1925—Malcolm Little, later Malcolm X, is born in Omaha, Neb.</p> <p>1920—In Matewan, W. Va., seven coal company stooges and four locals die in a main street shootout.</p> <p>1918—For protesting her husband's lynching the day before, Mary Turner, eight months pregnant, is lynched in Lowndes County, Ga.</p> <p>1890—Ho Chi Minh is born.</p>	<p>2009—The FBI entraps four Muslim men in a bogus Bronx bomb plot.</p> <p>2004—U.S. and Iraqi troops raid the home and offices of Ahmed Chalabi, formerly the neo-cons' most trusted source of Iraqi intelligence.</p> <p>1978—Mavis Hutchinson, 53, makes New York City after running across America for 69 days.</p> <p>1973—The Camden 28, who broke into a draft board office, are acquitted.</p> <p>1969—After 11 bloody assaults in 10 days, American troops take Hamburger Hill at a cost of 70 dead and 372 wounded. It's abandoned 16 days later.</p> <p>1937—George Orwell takes a bullet in the throat while fighting against Franco's fascists in Spain.</p> <p>1927—Charles Lindbergh leaves Long Island by air, heading east.</p> <p>1926—Thomas Edison announces that Americans prefer silent films to those newfangled talkies.</p> <p>1918—A tornado hits Codell, Kan.</p> <p>1917—A tornado hits Codell, Kan.</p> <p>1916—A tornado hits Codell, Kan.</p> <p>1899—New Yorker Jacob German gets the first speeding ticket—from a cop on a bike, for going over 12 mph.</p> <p>1856—Pres. Franklin Pierce recognizes Tennesseeas William Walker's pro-slavery government in Nicaragua.</p> <p>1631—Unpaid soldiers first conquer Magdeburg, then loot it. Disappointed with their booty, they slaughter 20,000 Protestants for the greater glory of the Holy Roman Emperor and the Mother Church.</p>

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