

The Fortnightly Rant

Profiles in Incivility

Another fortnight spent scanning the headlines, searching for any glimmer of a glimpse of a shred of a sliver of a hope for any sort of national reconciliation....

Any luck? Of course not. How absurd. No sign of any such chimera was to be found.

As the nation's oldest newspaper, we accept our responsibility and blame ourselves. Far too often, in attempting to provide the best approximation possible of the truth as it stands at a given moment, we have yielded to temptation and used language that was less than moderate.

Whenever those in leadership roles—whether high and mighty, as in the halls of Congress, or obscure and diminished through past decades of neglect, as here in our newsroom—the use intemperate language gives license to others, fostering a downward spiral.

History abounds with dire precedents. One of the most extreme took place when New Hampshire's own Franklin Pierce was president.

Paradoxically, if “Handsome Frank” were alive today, he'd make a perfect poster boy for the sort of politician many say we could use a lot more of. His greatest achievement—or so he'd hoped—was finding a middle ground to solve the greatest issue of the day.

Vast swathes of western land had been ethnically-cleansed, the original inhabitants decimated by gunfire and disease and subdued by force and chicanery. Now railroad barons were salivating over the prospect of free land to exploit. What was lacking was law and order—organization. States.

The nagging obstruction to all this potential progress was, ironically enough, a compromise: the Missouri Compromise, barring any

more slave states north of a certain latitude.

Pierce helped two fellow Democrats, Senator Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois and Senator Andrew Butler of South Carolina, solve that problem by signing their Kansas-Nebraska Act, putting the decision into the hands of the citizens.

What could be more democratic? What could possibly go wrong?

“For over six years,” wrote Albert Castel, in *Civil War Kansas: Reaping the Whirlwind*, “ever since Kansas was opened up as a territory by [the Kansas-Nebraska Act] of 1854, its prairies had been the stage for an almost incessant series of political conventions, raids, massacres, pitched battles, and atrocities, all part of a fierce conflict between the Free State and pro-slavery forces that had come to Kansas to settle and to battle.”

Just a third of the way into this protracted bloodbath, on May 19th and 20th, 1856, Senator Charles Sumner [R-Mass.] made a nearly fatal mistake.

Abandoning verbal prudence—not to mention economy and concision—Sumner spent two days arguing for the admission of Kansas as a free state—no slavery allowed. In doing so he vehemently denounced the Kansas-Nebraska Act and had harsh words for its authors. Sen. Butler was subjected to particularly insulting language:

“The Senator from South Carolina has read many books of chivalry, and believes himself a chivalrous knight with sentiments of honor and courage. Of course he has chosen a mistress to whom he has made his vows, and who, though ugly to others, is always lovely to him; though polluted in the sight of the world, is chaste in his sight—I mean



THE SUPREME DWARFS OFF ON A TEAR

the harlot, Slavery.”

This was, of course, going too far.

Butler's cousin, Rep. Preston Brooks [D-S.C.] felt obliged to defend family honor. Ever alert to slights, as a young man Brooks had suffered the indignity of being thrown out of South Carolina College for brandishing firearms while threatening police officers.

Accordingly, on May 22nd, Brooks entered the Senate and quietly approached Sumner as he bent over his desk, franking copies of his speech for mailing to his constituents. Without warning, Brooks brought his stout, gold-headed cane down on Sumner's head. With more than a dozen blows, he nearly bludgeoned him to death.

In so doing, Brooks was adhering to an oft-overlooked point of ethics. Initially, he had considered challenging Sumner to a duel. A colleague, however, Rep. Laurence M. Keitt [D-S.C.], reminded him that dueling was a practice reserved for gentlemen of equal social standing.

No gentleman would have spoken as Sumner had, therefore Sumner was no gentleman. Keitt did Brooks the additional service of standing by with a drawn revolver, to hold at bay anyone who might try to interrupt Sumner's chastisement.*

Dramatic as it was, this demonstration of the dangers of inflammatory language failed to achieve its desired effect. Northerners continued denouncing slavery in terms that Southerners found insulting, eventually resulting in a Civil War.†

Despite centuries spent observing and reporting on unfortunate events such as these, we regret to say

* Neither of these sticklers for proper decorum died of old age, though Brooks did die in bed. “He died a horrid death,” said an official dispatch, “and suffered intensely. He endeavored to tear his own throat open to get breath.” Keitt, unsurprisingly, joined the Confederacy. He was mortally wounded on his first day in combat, leading an infantry regiment which then collapsed in disarray.

† We hope today's Republicans will forgive us the use of this term. Calling it “The War of Northern Aggression” would confuse too many of our readers.

we have no simple solutions to offer. No one is advocating a return of race-based chattel slavery—at least, not literally. Yet public discourse is rancorous, and only becoming more so. Where it might end, we fear to guess.

In 2011, Barack Obama, who had been falsely accused of lying about his birthplace, mocked Donald Trump, the loudest source of those lies, at a televised dinner. He could have done it without a microphone: Trump was in the audience, gritting his teeth.

Last month, Trump posted online Obama's home address in Washington, D.C. Hours later, a few blocks from Obama's home, Secret Service agents spotted a wanted man who had taken part in the January 6th insurrection. They gave chase and soon arrested Taylor Taranto, 37, a Navy veteran. In the van he was driving, they found guns and explosive components. A little earlier, he had posted, “We got these losers surrounded! See you in hell...”

The Alleged News®

Corporate Windfall Profits Surge to \$1 Trillion a Year as Working People Suffer

by Jake Johnson

An analysis released July 6th shows that 722 of the world's top corporations made combined windfall profits of \$1 trillion per year in 2021 and 2022 as people across the planet struggled to meet basic needs due to the price hikes that businesses have used to pad their bottom lines.

The humanitarian groups Oxfam and ActionAid found that the companies raked in \$1.09 trillion in windfall profits—defined as profits significantly above a given corporation's average—in 2021 and \$1.1 trillion last year.

That's an 89 percent increase in total profits compared to the average between 2017 and 2020, according to Oxfam and ActionAid's analysis of Forbes' “Global 2000” ranking of the world's largest companies—a major windfall during a period in

which extreme poverty and global hunger surged.

The two groups found that “45 energy corporations made on average \$237 billion a year in windfall profits in 2021 and 2022” while “food and beverage corporations, banks, Big Pharma, and major retailers also cashed in on the cost-of-living crisis that has seen more than a quarter of a billion people in 58 countries hit by acute food insecurity in 2022.”

The windfall profits of leading food and beverage companies in 2021 and 2022 would be “enough to cover the \$6.4 billion funding gap needed to deliver life-saving food assistance in East Africa more than twice over,” Oxfam and ActionAid noted.

“People are sick and tired of corporate greed,” Amitabh Behar, Oxfam's interim executive director, said

in a statement. “It's obscene that corporations have raked in billions of dollars in extraordinary windfall profits while people everywhere are struggling to afford enough food or basics like medicine and heating.”

“Big business is gaslighting us all—they're hiking prices to make monster profits, plundering people under the cover of a polycrisis,” Behar added.

“Government policy should not allow mega-corporations and billionaires to profiteer from people's pain.”

Even the International Monetary Fund (IMF) recently conceded that corporate profiteering has been a major contributor to price increases that have fueled cost-of-living crises worldwide. Last month, IMF economists estimated that “rising corporate profits account for almost half the increase in Europe's inflation

over the past two years as companies increased prices by more than spiking costs of imported energy.”

Oxfam and ActionAid argued that governments should “claw back gains driven by profiteering” by imposing a 50-90 percent windfall tax on the profits of major corporations.

The groups said such a tax would generate hundreds of billions of dollars a year in revenue that could be used to lift people out of poverty, reduce hunger, slash energy bills, and support Global South nations on the frontlines of the climate crisis.

“Enough is enough,” said Arthur Larok, secretary-general of ActionAid. “Government policy should not allow mega-corporations and billionaires to profiteer from people's pain. Governments must tax windfall profits of corporations across all sectors—and invest that money back in helping people and

deterring future profiteering. They must put the interests of their great majorities ahead of the greed of a privileged few.”

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

Wall Street's Favorite Scheme: What Is A Stock Buyback?

by Kojo Acheampong

Corporations are buying... themselves?

Companies are buying back their stocks at an eye-popping rate. They recently set a new record with over \$1 trillion spent on these “stock buybacks” in 2022. Chevron, Exxon, and Meta have each announced plans to

The Alleged News®
from page one

massively increase their buyback plans this year by tens of billions of dollars. But what exactly do these buybacks do? What purpose do they serve?

Stock buybacks are a strategy that corporations use in order to artificially increase the value of their stock. When a company buys its own shares, it reduces the amount of shares available to the public while the value of the company itself remains the same. Because there are fewer shares on the market, the value per share increases. Not only this, but the shareholders' stake in the company necessarily increases with fewer shares available.

This benefits both the company itself and those who own large shares in a company—which just so happen to be executives and ultra-rich investors. In other words, the rich and powerful are the only ones who benefit from this scheme; 84 percent of all stock shares are held by the richest 10 percent of the population. Executives, unlike workers, often are paid in shares of the company—52.3 percent of CEO

compensation in 2022 at the biggest companies was in the form of stock. But just how much money is being used for these stock buybacks? Between 2003 and 2012, companies used 54 percent of their total profits to buy back their stocks. This amounts to about \$2.4 trillion. Companies are using a majority of the wealth they squeeze out of our labor in order to create more money for themselves. In most cases, this money remains untaxed as well!

This is money that could be going to us—used to increase our wages, or invested for the benefit of society in things like better housing, schools, roads, &c. These same corporations are constantly exclaiming that they must freeze or lower wages in order to survive, yet they never seem to run out of money for their stock buyback schemes. During the most severe period of the pandemic, a time when most people in society were struggling just to get by, corporations spent \$521 billion on their own stock. Yet during this time, employers laid off over 100,000 workers. This is a key example of how inequality under capitalism continues to grow more and more rampant.

It is important to note the role



that the government played in sanctioning this. Prior to 1982, stock buybacks were illegal in most cases, correctly identified as market manipulation. But then, the Securities and Exchange Commission issued a new rule allowing that practice. The effect of this change in policy was massive. Before 1982, only two percent of corporations' profits were spent on buybacks.

The officials in Washington write the rules for the benefit of the rich and powerful. These record stock buybacks—and the very existence of this outrageous practice in the first place—are another reminder of this fact.

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Protecting Our "Opportunity" to Remain Plutocratic
by Sam Pizzigati

In our United States today, all of us do not have an "equal opportunity" to become rich—or even comfortable. Rich people like things that way. Grand fortunes only grow grander when the richest among us have plenty of exploitable people

around to exploit. To keep things that way, rich people have gone out of their way over the past half-century to make sure all of us do not have "equal opportunity" to a quality education. This week, with the Supreme Court's stunning ruling that strikes down affirmative action in higher ed admissions, the most fervent advocates of plutocratic privilege have now completed their squashing of the world's most ambitious attempt to create a system of public education that can truly guarantee all kids a quality education.

That ambitious effort began all the way back in 1787 when our new nation's earliest lawmakers, in the Northwest Ordinance, required towns in future states to reserve prime real estate for public schools. Their goal: to ensure that "the means of education shall forever be encouraged."

"Without education, the founders feared democracy would devolve into mob rule and open doors to unscrupulous politicians and hucksters," the University of South Carolina Law School's Derek Black has

pointed out. "Our democratic experiment might very well just fail."

Realizing the founders' goal of "forever" encouraging public education would end up taking almost forever. Not until the years after World War II would the United States have anything remotely close to a public school system that extended equal opportunity to young people of all colors and classes, to children with and without disabilities. In the 1960s, federal tax dollars finally began helping every community offer all children a quality educational experience.

Those dollars came via progressive tax rates that actually had most of America's richest contributing something close to their fair tax share.

In those same mid-20th-century decades, we overhauled American higher education. We created networks of public community colleges, all with free or low-cost tuition. We created student grant and loan programs that enabled millions of young people to earn four-year and postgraduate degrees without build-



It's summertime—more or less, the weather being what it is—and the living is complicated by hordes of people attending the usual plethora of events. Our grumpy old Wandering Photographer had to smile, though, upon seeing Megan Stelzer, of Stelzer Metalworks fame, at the recent Great New England Craft & Artisan Show at Strawberry Banke.

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ing up debts that would take them lifetimes to pay off.

Americans who wanted to opt out of this ambitious new world of public education remained free to do so. The rich could still send their kids to private academies. Any families that so chose could send their kids to religious schools—but not on the public dime. Public tax dollars went to fund public education. Those dollars, we believed, were building democracy, teaching people of all backgrounds how to work with and learn from each other.

These noble goals would, of course, regularly go unmet. But the goals themselves—the rhetoric of “equal educational opportunity”—did really matter. Parents and communities, armed with this rhetoric, ventured forth and did noble battle against the still formidable barriers to equal opportunity. They even won many of those battles. We were moving, as a nation, in the right direction.

And then rich people said stop. These rich felt like saps. High taxes on their “hard-earned” incomes were bankrolling the education of other people’s children. Their almaters, our wealthiest fretted, might

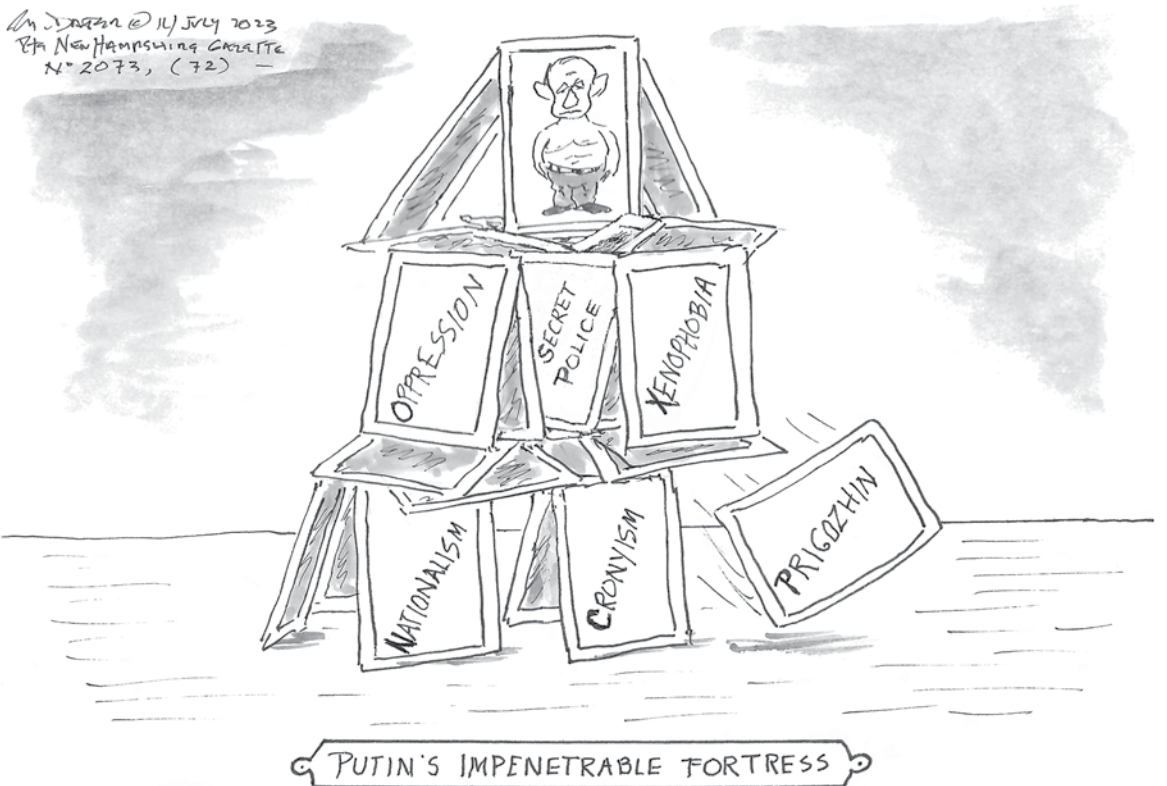
even start cutting back on the “legacy admissions” that guaranteed their offspring easy entry into the nation’s most prestigious colleges and universities.

The “indignities” these wealthy endured went well beyond the “disrespect” they felt. They saw the source of their fortunes, their “right” to run Corporate America as they saw fit, under direct threat as the United States entered into the 1970s. The federal government—under a Republican president no less—seemed to be hobbling business at every turn.

At the end of 1970, Richard Nixon had signed into law legislation that created a new federal agency to protect workers from injury and illness. Just a few weeks earlier, the first administrator of another new federal office, the Environmental Protection Agency, had announced his intention to give business polluters no quarter. As an independent agency, William Ruckelshaus pronounced, the EPA had “only the critical obligation to protect and enhance the environment.”

Things were clearly getting out of hand. Business seemed to be taking a shellacking from every direction.

by J. D. [unclear] 11/11/2023
By New Hampshire Gazette
N° 2073, (72) —



Which is more relentless? Entropy, the gradual, universal decline of all matter into chaos and disorder, as seen here, fraying the fly end of a flag on State Street? Or the Flag Police, resolutely pursuing cases of flag desecration by neglect? The smart money is on entropy, of course. The Flag Police are merely striving for a respectable second place.

New federal agencies. A restless labor movement. Campuses full of profs and students who felt free to ridicule business values. Corporate America clearly had to respond. But how? The U.S. Chamber of Commerce would put that question to Lewis Powell, a leading corporate attorney.

Powell’s answer would come in a confidential 1971 memo, just two months before his nomination to the U.S. Supreme Court. The time had come, Powell declared, “for the wisdom, ingenuity, and resources of American business to be marshalled against those who would destroy it.”

Business confronts, Powell would contend, critics “seeking insidiously” to “sabotage” free enterprise. “Extremists on the left,” he insisted, have become “far more numerous, better financed, and increasingly are more welcomed and encouraged by other elements of society, than ever before.”

Corporate America, Powell would exhort, must show more “stomach for hard-nose” combat. Yet individual corporate leaders, Powell

understood, can only do so much. Real strength, he would go on to explain, lies “in careful long-range planning” and “consistency of action over an indefinite period of years.” Real strength demands a “scale of financing available only through joint effort” and “the political power available only through united action and national organizations.”

Powell’s 1971 musings, notes historian Kim Phillips-Fein, “crystallized a set of concerns shared by business conservatives in the early 1970s”—and gave “inspiration” to corporate leaders who would later become familiar names and powerful forces, men like arch Colorado right-winger Joseph Coors.

Together, these newly energized corporate leaders would unleash upon America what political scientists Jacob Hacker and Paul Pierson have called “a domestic version of Shock and Awe.” The number of corporate public affairs offices in Washington, D.C. would quintuple between 1968 and 1978, from 100 to over 500. In 1971, only 175 U.S. corporations had registered lobbyists

in Washington. The 1982 total: almost 2,500.

Corporate leaders also bankrolled a series of new militantly “free market” think tanks and action centers: the Heritage Foundation and American Legislative Exchange Council in 1973, the Cato Institute in 1977, the Manhattan Institute in 1978, among many others. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, for its part, would double its membership between 1974 and 1980 and triple its budget.

Complementing this new ideological infrastructure: a torrent of campaign contributions to rich people-friendly pols. In the mid-1970s, U.S. senators were depending on labor for almost half their campaign funding. By the mid-1980s, senators were getting less than a fifth of their funding from union PACs.

By the early 2000s, adds Jacob Hacker, the Republican Party had solidified its intimacy with “very, very, very rich billionaire donors”

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Murph's Fortnightly Quote

"Curious that we spend more time congratulating people who have succeeded than encouraging people who have not."

— Neil deGrasse Tyson (1958 -)
astrophysicist, author

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War Criminals Do Not Belong
On The United States Advisory Commission
On Public Diplomacy

Dear Friends,

Elliott Abrams was instrumental in setting up and propping up death squads in Central and South America, and was convicted of lying to Congress during the Iran-Contra Scandal as well as being a chief proponent of the Iraq war and an advocate for a U.S.-supported coup against President Maduro of Venezuela to install Juan Guaido. Read more about Abrams' background in *The Nation* or Responsible Statecraft. President Biden has nominated Abrams to serve on the United States Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy; diplomacy is something that Abrams is firmly on the record as being universally against.

Luckily we do have a chance to speak out against this selection, as the members of this commission must be confirmed by the Senate.

Please take a moment to call Senators Shaheen and Hassan and ask them to oppose his appointment. Please tell our Senators that a convicted liar and known war criminal should not represent the American people on the world stage.

Sen. Maggie Hassan: (603) 622-2204

Sen. Jeanne Shaheen: (603) 647-7500

Thanks All!

Will Hopkins

New Hampshire Peace Action

Will:

Elliott Abrams and public diplomacy—[that] form of international political advocacy in which the civilians of one country use legitimate means to reach out to the civilians of another country in order to gain popular support for negotiations occurring through diplomatic channels”—what an interesting juxtaposition.

Here's a little anecdote about Abrams, summarized from Theodore Draper's A Very Thin Line: On August 8, 1986, Abrams, then the Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, went for a stroll in a London park with the Foreign Minister of Brunei.

Abrams explained to the minister that Congress was being unreasonable. Elected representatives of the people were

making it difficult for shadowy operatives of the Executive branch to overthrow the democratically-elected government of Nicaragua.

Abrams asked the minister if the Sultan of Brunei would be so kind as to deposit \$10 million in a secret Swiss bank account, to help make up for that which Congress refused to provide. If he did so, Abrams told the minister, the Sultan would henceforth enjoy "the gratitude of the Secretary and of the President." Eleven days later the Sultan's minions wired the money.

All's well, right? Except for the beleaguered Sandinista government of Nicaragua, of course.

Not exactly. Ollie North's secretary Fawn Hall had transcribed the account number incorrectly. The Sultan's \$10 million ended up in the account of a Swiss shipping magnate.

The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence asked Abrams about these shenanigans on November 25, 1986. He lied to them, saying, "...the State Department's function in this has not been to raise money, other than to try to raise it from Congress."

George Schultz, his boss, advised Abrams—through intermediaries, thereby covering his own ass—that he might want to withdraw that testimony. Granted a chance to tell the truth, Abrams met again with the committee on November 25, 1986, and proceeded to spit hairs.

Abrams, to Sen. Thomas Eagleton: "You've heard my testimony."

Eagleton, to Abrams: "I've heard it, and I want to puke."

Now that Abrams has been nominated for this position, we want to puke.

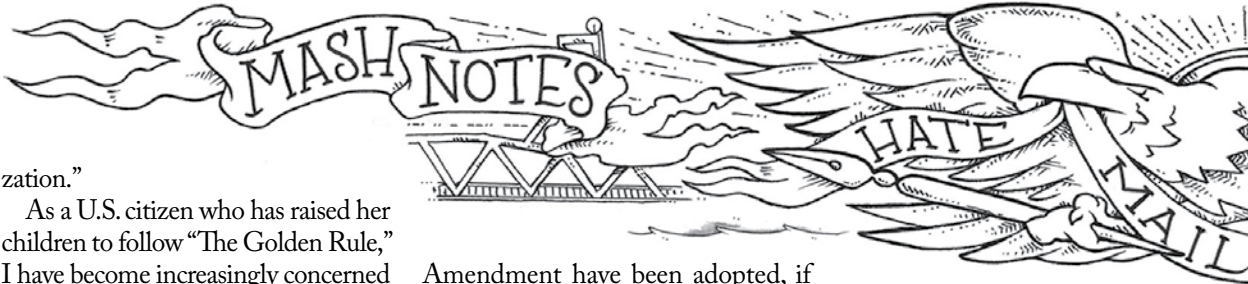
The Editor

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Is Being Right Enough?

Dear Editors:

On this Fourth of July weekend, I am reminded of our forefathers vision for America as well as of the words quoted by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, "We must scrupulously guard the civil rights and civil liberties of all citizens, whatever their background. We must remember that any oppression, any injustice, any hatred, is a wedge designed to attack our civi-



zation."

As a U.S. citizen who has raised her children to follow "The Golden Rule," I have become increasingly concerned about the attack on our civilization. My children are now grown adults, and they are keenly aware of the ever increasing divide within our nation. It is for them and for the nation's newest generation that I have become proactive in the civic responsibility of "guarding the civil rights and civil liberties of all citizens."

With that said, the 2024 Presidential candidate who aligns most with my moral compass and vision for our nation is Marianne Williamson.

I have been to several of her speaking engagements located here in the Seacoast of N.H.

I have witnessed her articulate her vision for Americans; to listen to Ms. Williamson speak is to witness the rebirth and next step to what our founding fathers intended for us.

Over the last few decades, America has taken a U-turn, however, Ms. Williamson's vision will course-correct America.

I invite all U.S. citizens to peruse her 2024 campaign website, www.marianne2024.com.

Please read through her posted policies and then check out the "Events" link for upcoming appearances.

I invite you to join us in the most patriotic action any American can take: become an informed voter and participate in the N.H. Primary.

God Bless Us All.

Suzanne Barton

Rye, N.H.

Suzanne:

Williamson's positions do tend to make sense. Perhaps that's why we have trouble seeing her fitting into our political system.

The Editor

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The Right to Bear Hand Grenades

To the Editor:

Our Constitution wouldn't have been ratified, nor would its Second

Amendment have been adopted, if Americans believed either would limit their individual rights to "keep and bear arms." Beliefs to the contrary show, IMHO, a misunderstanding of history and our Constitution's purpose.

When our Constitution was adopted, firearms were essential tools in everyday life for many, perhaps most, people. Firearms were used for hunting, protection (people often lived far apart) from human and animal predators which threatened people and livestock, and were essential in winning freedom from England, and in conducting earlier and possibly future wars.

The purpose of the U.S. Constitution is to protect, not limit, people's rights. Our Constitution gives government specified authorities/powers which don't include the power to limit Citizens' "arms" (weapons).

Our Constitution's authors didn't believe specifying protections of Citizen's rights were needed, but to allay fears, they promised Amendments to specify individual protections from government oppression. The first ten Amendments, our Bill of Rights, protects Citizens' Rights, including the Right to "keep and bear arms," from infringement by Government.

No Constitutional Amendments authorize Government to take away law-abiding Citizens' firearms. Guns were legally bought through the mail until 1968. Nevertheless, the Supreme Court approved, seemingly violating our Constitutional rights, some local laws on firearm use and some restrictions on things like automatic weapons and hand grenades.

We all want, and pass laws, to be safer. But laws don't stop criminals or terrorists.

As we have seen, disarming law abiding people, defunding and restricting police, and not punishing or

lightly punishing criminals only make life less safe. Criminals are emboldened to commit more crimes and victimize more innocent people.

Recognizing peoples' needs and human nature, our Founding Fathers wisely protected people's individual rights, including: "to keep and bear arms."

Don Ewing

Meredith, N.H.

Don:

So, the court was wrong to deprive citizens of the right to bear hand grenades and tommy guns? We're not so sure about that. We are pretty sure—and becoming more so with each massacre—that the court's biggest mistake regarding the Second Amendment has been its disregard for its first four words: "A well regulated Militia."

Don't get us wrong on this. We're not saying the justices—we use the term ironically—ought to practice "originalism." When last we checked, all the founders were dead. It's up to us—we, the living, if we might borrow the title of a bad novel—to decide how we ought to govern ourselves.

We're just saying that, if the justices were to take those first four words seriously, the U.S. population would likely be noticeably higher.

The Editor

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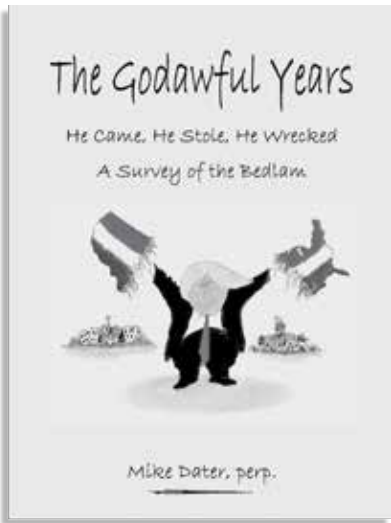
Court Acts To Preserve White Privilege

To the Editor:

The Supreme Court struck down affirmative actions for minorities in college admissions. It left in place affirmative actions for whites and the wealthy in college admissions. If you are a child of an alumni, you get preference over someone who is not. Given that many colleges did not accept blacks and some other minorities for decades or centuries the alumni are disproportionately white. Given cen-

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turies of employment discrimination minorities are less wealthy as well. Thus, white children and children of the rich are favored for admissions even when they are less qualified.

This is just one more example of a system rigged to favor white and wealthy Americans.

Walter Hamilton
Portsmouth, N.H.
Walter:

Congratulations. You have quite accurately assessed this recent decree from our Nine Infallibles.

Some may think they detect a note of mockery in the above paragraph. They would be reading it wrong.

The system is indeed rigged, just as you say. Among that system's important components is the one that disguises and denies that the system is rigged.

The Editor

=====
Evolve, You Carnivores!

To the Editor,
Any politician who claims to care about animal welfare should support increased federal funding for cultivated-meat research. For those who aren't familiar with the term, cultivated meat is grown from livestock cells, without slaughter. It has the potential to relegate so much nonhuman suffering to a less enlightened past.

We kill more than a trillion aquatic and land animals for food every year. Numbers that large are almost impossible to comprehend. For a little perspective, only about 117 billion humans have ever lived, according to the Population Reference Bureau [PRB].

While cultivated meat was recently approved for sale in America, increased public money for cellular-agriculture development will help the product achieve price parity with slaughtered meat. This is crucial for widespread acceptance of humane alternatives.

Compassionate legislators should support the effort.

Jon Hochschartner
Granby, Conn.

Jon:

Eight billion humans killing and eating more than 1,000,000,000,000 animals a year... it's enough to make one doubt the existence of a benevolent Maker, eh? Contemplating all that carnage nearly sent us plunging into the ol' existential abyss.

Once again, though, we were saved by our editorial responsibilities. Not only does the PRB corroborate your human population figures, it provides a very lucid, thoughtful—and comfortingly distanced—view of the entirety of humanity's existence. Here's the link:

<https://www.prb.org/articles/how-many-people-have-ever-lived-on-earth/>.

As for the number of animals, we'll take you at your word.

The Editor

=====
Litwin's Complaint

Dear Esteemed Editors:

First off, love your paper and its content!

Here's my gripe... have you noticed the age of the residents around here??? We're older, the old eyesight fading. Perhaps a larger font might be better for the archaic newspaper reading crowd, dummies!

The lovely combination of politics, art and snark is appreciated... wish I could see it better!!

Steve Litwin
York Harbor, Maine

Steve:

Flattery will get you... license to call us dummies, without riposte.

Every finished typographical job is the result of a series of decisions and compromises. We've been using our present set of styles for at least ten years, more likely fifteen. Because our space is limited, we

aimed, at that time, to achieve a high level of density, without unduly sacrificing either legibility or readability.

To that end we set our copy in 10.5 point Adobe Caslon Pro, with 12 points of leading. We'll grant you, "large print" it is not. Bumping up the text to 11 points, however, would require a host of other adjustments. A newspaper page is like a Jenga tower—shift one part and the whole thing could go sideways.

Our vision isn't what it once was, either. May we suggest that better light might help, and, perhaps, for page eight, a magnifier?

The Editor

=====
Parson Weems Redux

To the Editor:

What is it? Wikipedia says, "Independence Day (colloquially the Fourth of July) is a federal holiday in the United States commemorating the Declaration of Independence, which was ratified by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, establishing the United States of America."

Our founding fathers fought the British to give us freedom from tyrannical rule. They fought against taxation without representation. They fought for religious freedom, but most importantly they fought to establish a new nation.

Our founders never sought fortune for themselves, instead they literally wagered their fortune to create a new nation.

A new nation whose President, eighty-seven years later, would pen these famous words, "Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal... that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

These of course are excerpts from President Lincoln's Gettysburg Ad-

dress, delivered during the American Civil War at the dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery on November 19, 1863.

What have we done with the independence and freedom our founders fought so hard for?

What have we done with the "new birth of freedom" President Lincoln alludes to in his Gettysburg Address?

It's been one hundred and sixty years since President Lincoln reminded us of the fragility of our Nation.

Have we cherished that gift, have we nurtured it, preserved it, and treasured it, or have we taken it for granted?

Have our political leaders dedicated themselves to serving the people, as our founders intended, or do they only serve themselves?

Do we the people embody the words, "I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."?

Have we lived up to those words, or do we consider them outdated?

Do we love and appreciate our country, our independence, our freedom and our flag, or are we ashamed of our nation?

Yes, our country is not, and never will be, perfect.

So today, as we celebrate our two hundred and forty-seventh Independence Day, let us all take a moment to ponder the following quote:

"A simple way to take measure of a country is to look at how many want in... And how many want out." - Tony Blair

Happy Birthday America and God Bless you,

Michael Petruzzello
Major, USMC (Ret.)
Wolfeboro, N.H.

Michael:

We were right with you, all the way through the first paragraph. Then you started to lose us.

You say the founders "...fought [for] freedom from tyrannical rule... against taxation without representation... for religious freedom..." Well, more or less. But let's not quibble—especially when we've got raw meat on the table.

"Our founders never sought fortune for themselves, instead they literally wagered their fortune to create a new nation." Well, yes, in that they most definitely ran the risk of weighing down the wrong end of a rope. But "never sought fortune for themselves"?

May we recommend William Ho-geland's Autumn of the Black Snake? Read this rip-snorting history and you will never again see George Washington through Parson Weems's Patented Rose-Colored Glasses. Washington became a surveyor so that he might make advantageous land deals.

Many of his revolutionary cohorts also made out pretty well—particularly those who dabbled in finance. Wealthy speculators made out like the bandits they were, while common soldiers got screwed.

Speaking of common, without Thomas Paine's anonymously-published Common Sense, there would likely never have been a revolution. After the victory he went on risking his neck by promoting liberty in France. Paine appealed to Washington when the French were about to behead him, but his old comrade did nothing. Paine managed to survive, but eventually died penniless and shunned.

As a retired Marine Corps officer, you are, of course, at a disadvantage. God only knows how hard that rah-rah stuff must have been pounded into your skull.

You are now a free man. Make the most of it. Shed the fetters on your mind.

The Editor

=====
In Support of the "Defend the Guard" Act

Dear Editor,

I write today as a concerned citizen, a former N.H. Army National Guard Sergeant, deeply troubled by the alarming rate of suicides among our military personnel. Every day, it seems another is lost, emphasizing the urgent need for action.

In 2019, while waiting for a fire mission in my HIMARS, I stumbled upon the "Drone Papers," revealing the disturbing truth that 90 percent of those killed by drone strikes were unintended targets, often innocent civilians classified as "enemies killed in

Mash Notes, Hate Mail, &c.

to page six

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



Origns 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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from page five

action.” This revelation shook me to the core. I joined the military to protect the innocent, not to participate in misguided operations.

Some veterans were part of door-knocking raids in Iraq, where we forcibly disrupted the lives of impoverished Iraqis, who had no connection to our conflict. The guilt and weight of our actions haunt us to this day.

It is not only active-duty personnel who face these challenges; approximately 45 percent of all deployed units are from the National Guard. Back in 2005, during Hurricane Katrina, the Louisiana National Guard was absent, as they were deployed in Iraq.

Our solution is “Defend The Guard.” This legislation would prevent the N.H. National Guard from being activated for overseas combat unless Congress fulfills its constitutional duty and declares war.

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 11 of the U.S. Constitution states that only Congress has the power to declare war. It is disheartening that we have not constitutionally declared war since 1942, straying far from the principles upon which our Republic was founded.

Let us pass the “Defend The



Guard Act” (HB229), ensuring that Congress fulfills its obligations before our friends and fellow Granite Staters in uniform are sent into harm’s way. It is time to uphold our Constitution, protect our troops, and restore the principles that define our great nation.

Sincerely,
Derek Proulx
Derry, N.H.
Derek:

We had not previously heard much about the Defend the Guard Act, so we Googled around, as one does. Brushing off the dirt acquired in a series of rabbit holes, we can firmly state that we have yet to come to any conclusions, and will not in time for this fortnight’s deadline.

Since one of our multiple personalities still reels from a military adventure which ended half a century ago, we find ourselves—all of us—naturally sympathetic to troubled veterans. Anyone who’s read the papers published under present management will know we’re no fans of an unfettered military. The incidents you cite are appalling—as are, we suspect, most military operations.

Yet we remain unconvinced. Why is that? As always, we considered the

source.

Unless there’s another person with the same name, living in the same town, we believe we’re addressing a Free Stater who’s also the Grassroots Engagement Director for the New Hampshire franchise of the Koch clan’s Americans for Prosperity machine. Hence our caution.

But, even a broken clock is right twice a day. We may end up being in favor of “Defend the Guard.” It’s too early to say.

Thanks for writing, however disingenuously.

The Editor

=====

Skeptical about Patriotism For a Reason?
Dear Editor:

In *The American Legion Magazine* (July, 2023), in an article titled “Flag Wavers,” Alan W. Dowd states: “The millennial generation and Generation Z are less proud of America than older generational cohorts, less likely to embrace the concept of American exceptionalism than older generations, and more likely than older generations to view the U.S. flag as a symbol of imperialism, greed and intolerance, rather than a

symbol of freedom.”

I do not choose to argue the validity of that statement standing on its own but I do question Dowd’s conclusion that (as he goes on to declare): “this is largely the result of inadequate and/or inaccurate civic education.” I disagree, and offer an alternative assessment of Dowd’s first statement.

Is it possible that millennials and Gen Z might be in the process of re-examining our understanding of American symbolism, American exceptionalism, American culture, and why there might exist a “patriotism gap” (as its been called), and other things older generations (like mine) always took for granted as absolutes but now find we can not?

Something Alan Dowd failed to include in his article, and something The American Legion, VFW (indeed, all veterans organizations) seem to overlook, disregard, or omit; America has a former president (twice impeached) who has been handed a 37-count indictment alleging that he stored some of the United States’ most closely held secrets—including information about nuclear programs, defense vulner-

abilities, and attack plans—in his home at Mar-a-Lago, in the ballroom, in a bathroom and shower, his bedroom, an office, a storage room, and then obstructed federal officials seeking their return.

The president in question (Donald Trump) has portrayed the special prosecutor in the case (Jack Smith) as “deranged,” a “thug,” and, of course, a “Trump hater.” That may appeal to the MAGA portion of the Republican Party base but maybe (just maybe) the Millennials, Gen Z, and a whole lot of the rest of us are not so enthusiastic about flag-waving at the moment.

David L. Snell
Franklin, N.C.

David:

Well, not to mention the Vietnam War, the Pentagon Papers, the Reagan tax cuts, the Bush tax cuts, the Trump tax cuts, the S&L bailouts, the 2008 Financial Crisis bailouts, the kicking people off Medicaid, the... [gasps for air, then goes silent].

The Editor

=====

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—J. & B. B., Traverse City, Mich.

=====

The Alleged News®

from page three

and corporate groups. The GOP now marched in total sync with the policy priorities of America’s most fortunate: more regressive tax cuts, more deregulation, and more extreme conservatives on the nation’s judicial benches.

The personal payoff from this synchronization would be huge for America’s deepest pockets. Between 1995 and 2007, sinking effective income tax rates saved America’s 400 richest households an average \$46 million per year. The “flip side” of this “aggressive pursuit of lower taxes by the rich”? Hacker and fellow analyst Nathan Loewentheil have

the consequential answer: chronic government budget deficits and insufficient funds for public goods like public education.

The predictable result? Everything from overcrowded elementary school classrooms to tuition rates that make higher education unaffordable for vast numbers of American households.

George Washington would not approve. In 1796, in his annual presidential address to Congress, Washington opined that our nation’s lawmakers had no duty “more pressing” than “the common education of a portion of our youth from every quarter.”

We are failing that youth. We are coddling our rich instead.

=====

Sam Pizzigati co-edits Inequality.org. His latest books include The Case for a Maximum Wage. Twitter: @Too_Much_Online.

=====

National Non-Profit Buys Maine Papers
By Dan Kennedy

The news about the news doesn’t get much better than this: The National Trust for Local News will acquire Maine’s *Portland Press Herald* and its affiliated four daily newspapers and 17 weeklies. The deal was announced earlier today. Although not all details of the sale are known, early indications are that the papers will remain for-profit entities under nonprofit ownership. The papers, known collectively as Masthead Maine, will continue to be managed by chief executive officer Lisa DeSisto.

According to Rachel Ohm of the *Press Herald*, the National Trust

emerged as the buyer after the recently formed Maine Journalism Foundation, or MaineJF, fell short in its efforts to raise enough money to buy the papers on its own. MaineJF, also a nonprofit, then started working with the National Trust. Elizabeth Hansen Shapiro, the co-founder and CEO of the National Trust, told the *Press Herald* that the two organizations are continuing to work together, although it was unclear what ongoing role the foundation might have. The foundation, by the way, would have reorganized the papers as nonprofits; based on Ohm’s story, it sounds like that’s no longer on the table.

The papers were purchased in 2018 by Reade Brower, a printer who acquired them from billionaire owner Donald Sussman. Brower built a reputation as a solid steward who nevertheless was not averse to making cuts in order to stave off

losses. Hansen Shapiro would not disclose what the National Trust paid, but it’s likely that Brower could have gotten more from a corporate chain looking to swoop in, gut newsrooms and squeeze out revenues. If that’s the case, then Brower deserves credit for putting his legacy above making every possible dollar.

The independently owned *Bangor Daily News* remains the only daily in the state that isn’t part of Masthead Maine.

The governance structure of the new ownership has yet to be announced, and maybe even the principals don’t quite know what it will look like yet. The National Trust is best known for rescuing a group of weekly and monthly papers in suburban Denver back in 2021, and now owns them in conjunction with *The Colorado Sun*, a well-regarded for-profit digital startup.

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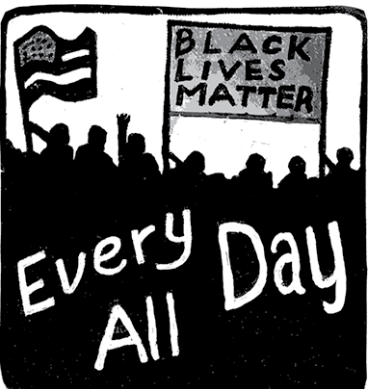
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Lifting the Lamp Beside the Golden Door

by W.D. Ehrhart

As I write this—July 4th, 2023—our nation is celebrating the 247th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. English settlers had first arrived along the Atlantic seaboard in 1607, and were soon joined by Dutch, Swedish, French, and more English settlers. The Spanish had already colonized Florida and what is today New Mexico. William Penn attracted Welsh and a large number of German settlers. Early on, others began arriving from Africa in chains. Even the people who were here when the Europeans arrived came from somewhere else, though a lot earlier. We are indeed, as has so often been said, a nation of immigrants. But though as school children, many of us learned that the United States is a “melting pot,” that melting pot has, from the very beginning, been fraught with con-

flict and violence and hatred. The Spanish wiped out the French settlement in what is now St. Augustine. The Powhatan Wars in Virginia began almost as soon as the English arrived, and wars against Native Americans went on almost continuously for another 280 years. The Swedes were absorbed by the English, and the Dutch were conquered in a war with the English. In the 19th century, Irish immigrants began to arrive in large numbers, resulting in creation of the American Party, called the “Know Nothings,” whose entire platform consisted mostly of keeping Irish immigrants out and disenfranchising those who were already here. Into the 20th century, one could regularly see signs that said: “Help Wanted. No Irish Need Apply.” Later in the 19th century, Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act, and it was not finally re-

pealed until 1943. In 1924, Japanese immigrants were banned entirely, and immigration from southern and eastern Europe was heavily restricted. In my lifetime, I’ve seen thousands of Haitian migrants on rickety boats turned back out to sea by the U.S. Coast Guard on the orders of George H. W. Bush, a policy continued by Bill Clinton. And now, of course, we have “that big beautiful wall” to keep out Central Americans fleeing the chaos and mayhem left in the wake of the Reagan Wars forty years ago. Back when I was teaching U.S. history, I always did a unit on post-Civil War industrialization and immigration. Every year, I would give my students—high school juniors—these two poems written less than ten years apart in the late 19th century:

“Unguarded Gates” by Thomas Bailey Aldrich, 1892 *

Wide open and unguarded stand our gates,
And through them presses a wild motley throng —
Men from the Volga and the Tartar steppes,
Featureless figures of the Hoang-Ho,
Malayan, Scythian, Teuton, Kelt, and Slav,
Flying the Old World’s poverty and scorn ;
These bringing with them unknown gods and rites,
Those, tiger passions, here to stretch their claws.
In street and alley what strange tongues are these,
Accents of menace alien to our air,
Voices that once the Tower of Babel knew !
O Liberty, white Goddess ! is it well
To leave the gates unguarded ? On thy breast
Fold Sorrow’s children, soothe the hurts of fate,
Lift the down-trodden, but with hand of steel
Stay those who to thy sacred portals come
To waste the gifts of freedom. Have a care
Lest from thy brow the clustered stars be torn
And trampled in the dust. For so of old
The thronging Goth and Vandal trampled Rome,
And where the temples of the Cæsars stood
The lean wolf unmolested made her lair.

“The New Colossus” by Emma Lazarus, 1883

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glowed world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
“Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!” cries she
With silent lips. “Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!”

I would then ask my students to explain what is going on in these two poems written well over a century ago and almost simultaneously, and how the debate on immigration has changed—or not changed—since the late 19th century. Most of the kids get it: the debate really hasn’t changed at all. Instead of Asians and eastern Europeans, we now have Mexicans and Gua-

temalans. But a significant number of Americans—though immigrants all—don’t really want the tired, poor, huddled masses of the world. Some Americans militantly and violently don’t want them. For too many Americans, Liberty remains a “white Goddess.”

W. D. Ehrhart is a retired Master Teacher of History & English, and author of a Vietnam War memoir trilogy published by McFarland & Co. *This is the second stanza of Aldrich’s poem. The first stanza is a paean to the United States, a new Eden fruitful and abundant, where “the humblest man stand(s) level with the highest in the law.”

Texas: What the Hell?

Stay hydrated, they say. unless you’re a construction worker.

by Jim Hightower

About 150 years ago, Gen. Philip Sheridan was sweltering in the relentless heat of a Texas summer. He was not happy: “If I owned Texas and all Hell,” he grouched, “I would rent out Texas and live in Hell.” Summer has always been hot here, but 2023 has been something else, thanks to a hellish “heat dome” that has been baking us since late spring, sending daily temps up to 116 degrees. But worse, a more punishing heat has hit us from an even stranger unnatural dome: The Texas State Capitol. That’s where our malicious governor Greg Abbott and his GOP majority of extremist right-wing lawmakers rig the rules to make life easier and richer for corporate elites—and much harder for working people. In this year’s legislative session they rammed a nasty piece of plutocratic meanness into law that critics dubbed “Death Star.” It annihilates the basic right of local officials and voters to govern their own cities and counties. In particular, it empowers autocratic state officials—and even corporate executives!—to nullify decisions by localities to protect workers and others from corporate abuse. In a cruel case of bad timing, the first local law targeted for nullification by the Texas GOP is a humane requirement in Dallas and other cities that developers provide 10-minute water breaks for construction workers. This in a state with America’s highest rate of heat-related deaths and presently suffering biblical-level heat. Triple-digit temperatures kill, yet Abbott, his air-conditioned legislative cronies, and his corporate campaign donors whined that a required water break was an “oppressive burden” on the extraordinarily-rich construction industry. Here’s a new rule I’d like to see: No lawmaker or lobbyist is allowed to oppose heat protections for workers unless they spend July and August with no air conditioning for themselves.

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At left: the Thomas Bailey Aldrich House, on Court Street. The author lived here with his grandfather from 1849 to 1852. After his death, his widow Lilian restored the house as a tribute to his memory. Among those present at the dedication ceremony was Samuel Langhorne Clemens, better known as Mark Twain. The pseudonym is widely but incorrectly believed to reflect the author’s time as a riverboat captain. In fact, according to his contemporary, the journalist Albert S. Evans, the “soubriquet was

given him by his friends as indicative of his capacity for doing the drink for two.” Though Twain and Aldrich were great friends for the last forty years of their lives, Lilian and Sam never became close. On their first meeting he called at the Aldrich home in Boston; mistaking him for a drunken tramp, she threw him out. He wrote of her in 1893, “Lord, I loathe that woman so! She is an idiot—an absolute idiot—& does not know it... & her husband, the sincerest man that walks, doesn’t seem aware of it.”



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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, JULY 16	MONDAY, JULY 17	TUESDAY, JULY 18	WEDNESDAY, JULY 19	THURSDAY, JULY 20	FRIDAY, JULY 21	SATURDAY, JULY 22
<p>2018—V. Putin gets Dolt #45 alone in a room for two hours in Helsinki.</p> <p>2013—Jimmy Carter says, “America has no functioning democracy.”</p> <p>1991—The Trump Taj Mahal files for bankruptcy 467 days after opening.</p> <p>1979—A dam, badly built on shaky ground, collapses in Church Rock, N.M. It spills 1,100 tons of radioactive mill waste, 93 million gallons of effluent, releasing as much radioactivity as the Three Mile Island meltdown.</p> <p>1973—Nixon aide Al Butterfield reveals he’s been bugging the Oval Office at the behest of The Man himself.</p> <p>1964—A white cop shoots James Powell—15, 112 lbs., and Black—dead. The Harlem riots begin.</p> <p>1945—The Atomic Age starts with a big bang at Alamogordo, N.M.</p> <p>1936—MI5 informant George McMahon nearly assassinate Nazi sympathizer King Edward VIII.</p> <p>1860—In San Francisco, Emperor Norton I issues a declaration calling for the dissolution of the U.S.A.</p> <p>1858—To bolster his ability to resist the allure of prostitutes, Thomas P. “Boston” Corbett uses a pair of scissors to castrate himself. Seven years later he will kill John Wilkes Booth.</p> <p>1854—A conductor in New York City tells Elizabeth Jennings Graham to get off his streetcar because she’s Black. She refuses. In court, she wins desegregation, \$250, and court costs.</p> <p>1790—Congress votes to build the nation’s capitol in a swamp.</p>	<p>2020—Asked if he’ll concede if he loses, #45 says “I’ll have to see.”</p> <p>2015—Portsmouth cops grill Mike Thiel at his office about a letter in which he complains about helicopters.</p> <p>2014—Detained for selling loose cigarettes, Eric Garner, 43, suffocates as he tells NYPD cops, “I can’t breathe.”</p> <p>1979—Anastasio Somoza flees Nicaragua for Miami, bringing family caskets and much of the national treasury.</p> <p>1965—An American press officer in Saigon tells Morley Safer “if you think any American official is going to tell you the truth, then you’re stupid.”</p> <p>1962—The U.S. conducts its last near-ground atmospheric nuke test: the .018 kiloton “Little Feller.” A company of soldiers is marched through ground zero 26 minutes later.</p> <p>1955—Lightning hits a huge mine, near Ypres since ’16. It only kills a cow.</p> <p>1944—Two munitions ships explode at Port Chicago, Calif., killing 322, mostly Black bomb handlers.</p> <p>1935—RIP Cudjoe Lewis, in Africatown, Mobile, Ala., last known survivor of the Atlantic slave trade.</p> <p>1928—Partying with Mexican Revolution veterans, President Alvaro Obregon tells strolling caricaturist Leon Toral, “Make sure you make me look good.” Toral says, “I will,” and shoots him dead.</p> <p>1877—Gov. Henry Mathews calls out a local militia company to suppress the Martinsburg, W.Va. railroad strike. It sides with strikers, instead.</p>	<p>1985—Doped up after cancer surgery five days earlier, Ronald Reagan OKs an arms-for-hostages deal with Iran.</p> <p>1984—James O. Huberty tells his wife he’s “going to hunt humans,” then kills 21 and wounds 19 at a San Diego McDonald’s. A sniper gets him. His widow sues Mickey D’s for poisoning his mind with MSG, but to no avail.</p> <p>1981—Norman Mailer’s protegee Jack Abbott, on work release after a stretch for robbery and manslaughter, fatally stabs a waiter in the East Village.</p> <p>1972—A sailor disables the <i>U.S.S. Ranger</i> for three months by dropping a paint scraper into its reduction gears.</p> <p>1969—Senator Ted Kennedy gives Mary Jo Kopechne a ride part of the way home from a party, goes for a swim, then takes a nap.</p> <p>1944—Ordered by <i>der Führer</i> to kill a fly, aide Fritz Darges suggests it’s a job for the Luftwaffe. He’s immediately banished to the Eastern Front.</p> <p>1938—Douglas “Wrong Way” Corrigan lands in Ireland after an unauthorized trans-Atlantic flight.</p> <p>1925—H.L. Mencken is nearly run out of Dayton, Tenn. on a rail by its pious Christian inhabitants.</p> <p>1877—Governor Henry Mathews of West Virginia pleads for U.S. Marines to suppress the B & O railroad strike.</p> <p>1863—Black soldiers of the 54th Mass. Infantry Regiment prove their worth at the Battle of Ft. Wagner.</p> <p>1862—Confederate rangers capture Newburgh, Ill. using fake cannons.</p>	<p>2020—“I’ll be right eventually,” says Dolt #45. “I’ll say it again. [Covid’s] going to disappear, and I’ll be right.”</p> <p>2011—As her husband Rupert is being grilled before Parliament about phone-hacking, his wife Wendi deflects a flying pie aimed at his head.</p> <p>2010—Terrified by a malignity-edited <i>YouTube</i> clip, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has USDA employee Shirley Sherrod pulled over by the side of the road and summarily fired.</p> <p>2001—Lord Jeffrey Archer, Deputy Chair of the Conservative Party, is sentenced to four years for perjury.</p> <p>1994—Dining with reporters, Sen. Howell Heflin (D-Ala.) reaches into his pocket for a hankie but somehow wipes his nose with a pair of panties.</p> <p>1991—South Africa’s government admits it paid Zulus to undermine the African National Congress.</p> <p>1985—N.H.’s Christa McAuliffe is chosen to be first “Teacher in Space.”</p> <p>1979—Victorious Sandinistas triumphantly march into Managua.</p> <p>1972—The AFL-CIO announces it won’t support George McGovern.</p> <p>1966—In an internal memo, Bill Sullivan, Chief of Domestic Intel, admits the FBI’s “black bag” jobs are illegal.</p> <p>1957—A two-kiloton nuclear warhead carried by an air-to-air missile explodes 18,000 feet above five Air Force “volunteers” at Yucca Flats.</p> <p>1919—White Washingtonians enraged by racist headlines begin attacking Blacks in the nation’s capital.</p>	<p>2017—Secretary of State Tillerson states the obvious to other Administration officials: Trump is “a moron.”</p> <p>2002—The FBI arrests three former NASA interns for stealing a 600 lb. safe holding moon rocks.</p> <p>1984—Famed runner and fitness fanatic Jim Fixx dies of a heart attack while jogging at the ripe old age of 52.</p> <p>1973—Martial artist and fitness fanatic Bruce Lee drops dead at 32.</p> <p>1971—William F. Buckley’s <i>National Review</i> publishes what it claims are secret documents about the Vietnam War. They’re fake, and he knows it.</p> <p>1969—Neil Armstrong goes for a walk—on the moon.</p> <p>1956—A scheduled election intended to reunify Vietnam is blocked by the South, with Ike’s concurrence.</p> <p>1944—German generals try but fail to kill Hitler with a bomb.</p> <p>1934—Minneapolis cops shoot striking Teamsters; two die; 67 wounded.</p> <p>1929—The Mt. Washington Railway’s “Old Peppersass” busts an axle. Somehow only one man dies.</p> <p>1923—Pancho Villa’s return to politics is thwarted by assassination.</p> <p>1919—A white mob beats Blacks in front of the White House.</p> <p>1877—In Maryland, striking B & O Railroad workers threaten to blow up bridges and run trains into rivers.</p> <p>1874—General George Armstrong Custer leads an expedition of 110 wagons and 1,000 men into the Black Hills, violating an 1868 treaty.</p>	<p>2007—George W.[MD] Bush invokes the 25th Amendment, making Dick “Dick” Cheney President while Bush gets his colon inspected.</p> <p>2000—Long-time Texas voter Dick “Dick” Cheney registers in Wyoming to dodge a Constitutional proviso.</p> <p>2000—The FBI and ATF are exonerated for killing 80 religious fanatics during a 1993 siege in Waco, Texas.</p> <p>1954—As the Geneva Accords free Vietnam from French colonial rule, the U.S. steps in to preserve disorder.</p> <p>1950—Bungling drunkard John C. Woods, the U.S. Army’s hangman, electrocutes himself while attempting to repair some electrical equipment.</p> <p>1919—The dirigible <i>Wingfoot Air Express</i>, on fire, crashes through the glass skylight of a Chicago bank, killing 13.</p> <p>1919—With the cops on the sidelines, Blacks in D.C. arm themselves and fight back against white aggression.</p> <p>1918—At Orleans, Mass., <i>U-156</i> conducts Germany’s sole attack of the war on the U.S. mainland. Four barges sink, the tug <i>Perth Amboy</i> is damaged, and a few shells hit the beach.</p> <p>1884—<i>Buffalo Telegraph</i>: Gov. Grover Cleveland [D-N.Y.], the Presidential nominee, has a bastard child.</p> <p>1877—Pittsburgh militiamen bayonet and shoot railroad strikers; 20 die. Surviving strikers burn 39 buildings and wreck 104 locomotives.</p> <p>1748—Founding Father B. Franklin publishes instructions telling Americans how to perform home abortions.</p>	<p>2003—Ratted out by a cousin for a \$30 million reward, Uday and Qusay Hussein are shot dead by the 101st.</p> <p>2001—“I know what I believe,” says G.W.[MD] Bush. “I will continue to articulate what I believe and what I believe—I believe what I believe is right.”</p> <p>1991—Milwaukee police arrest Jeffrey Dahmer, infamous cannibal.</p> <p>1975—Owen J. Quinn parachutes from the top of the South Tower of New York’s World Trade Center.</p> <p>1974—On the steps of the Capitol, 600 young Moonies begin a three-day fast and prayer-fest for Richard Nixon.</p> <p>1946—Irgun bombs the King David Hotel in Jerusalem, killing 91.</p> <p>1934—Chicago FBI agents kill John Dillinger by shooting him in the back.</p> <p>1919—The Army, Navy, Marines, and a downpour finally end a four-day race riot in Washington, D.C.</p> <p>1916—A bomb kills 10 and wounds 40 during a Preparedness Day parade in San Francisco. Perjured testimony sends two innocent men to prison.</p> <p>1915—The excursion steamer <i>Eastland</i> nearly tips over at the dock in Chicago. The ship’s instability is kept secret to prevent any loss of business.</p> <p>1905—Henderson’s [annoying] Point vanishes from the Piscataqua, thanks to 60,000 tons of dynamite.</p> <p>1877—Local labor leaders and the Workingmen’s Party elect a Directorate of the St. Louis, Illinois Commune. It issues General Order No. 1, calling for a General Strike.</p>
<p>11:27 11:31</p> <p>5:11 5:10</p>	<p>12:11</p> <p>5:56 5:53</p>	<p>12:13 12:52</p> <p>6:36 6:34</p>	<p>12:53 1:30</p> <p>7:14 7:13</p>	<p>1:30 2:06</p> <p>7:50 7:52</p>	<p>2:07 2:41</p> <p>8:25 8:31</p>	<p>2:44 3:17</p> <p>9:00 9:11</p>
SUNDAY, JULY 23	MONDAY, JULY 24	TUESDAY, JULY 25	WEDNESDAY, JULY 26	THURSDAY, JULY 27	FRIDAY, JULY 28	SATURDAY, JULY 29

2014—Arizona authorities experimenting with new poisons find Joseph Wood’s execution takes 12 times longer than the expected 10 minutes.

2001—Bank robber Gary Sampson calls the FBI to turn himself in, but a clerk disconnects him. Over the next week he murders three people, including a man in New Hampshire.

1970—The last clash between the U.S. & NVA ends in futility: the 101st Airborne evacuates Firebase Ripcord. Cost: 75 KIA’s & 463 WIA’s.

1967—Cops raid a blind pig in Detroit, interrupting a welcome home party for two Vietnam veterans. A five day riot ensues, and 43 die.

1966—Don Wetzel, 82, Research Director for the N.Y. Central, drives a jet-powered locomotive at 183 mph.

1944—The International Monetary Fund and World Bank are created in Bretton Woods, N.H. [where the first tax collector was Daniel Fowle].

1933—Fascist “Khaki Shirts” gather in front of their Philadelphia HQ for an address by Commander Art Smith—from a balcony, of course.

1892—Anarchist Alexander Berkman shoots and stabs Henry Clay Frick, architect of the Homestead Massacre, but the capitalist survives.

1877—Workers seize the railyards and docks in East St. Louis, Ill. Knowing he’s out-manned, the mayor deputizes strikers to maintain order. Meanwhile, in Reading, Pa., the State Militia shoots ten civilians dead.

2017—“Who the hell wants to talk about politics...in front of the Boy Scouts?” asks Donald Trump, who then talks politics at the Jamboree.

2008—A tornado hits nine towns in N.H., killing a Deerfield woman.

2003—Congress says the FBI and the CIA blew off warnings of a possible al-Qaeda attack on the U.S.

2003—In Iraq, the U.S. proudly displays photographs of the corpses of Uday and Qusay Hussein.

2002—James Traficant (D-Ohio) is booted from the U.S. House of Representatives for taking bribes.

1998—To prevent a cannibal holocaust, Rusty Weston murders Rep. Tom DeLay’s bodyguard and another Capitol cop. Shot and near death himself, he is revived by Sen. Bill Frist.

1974—Nine out of nine justices agree: Nixon’s gotta hand over them tapes.

1967—From a Montreal balcony, DeGaulle declares, “*Vive le Québec libre!*”

1959—During the “Kitchen Debate” in Moscow, N. Khrushchev asks R. Nixon if Americans have machines to push food down their throats.

1951—Two officers from Hanscom AFB report a UFO flying over Portsmouth, N.H. at 800 to 1,000 mph.

1921—The Aerowagon, a high-speed, propeller-driven railcar, crashes on its way to Moscow, killing six, including its inventor Valerian I. Abakovsky.

1877—Thousands of strikers parade through East St. Louis, Ill., calling on shops and business to shutter.

2019—President Trump makes a phone call to Ukraine President Vladimir Zelensky. It’s “perfect.”

2000—In a touching display of *naïveté*, George W.[MD] Bush announces that he has picked Dick “Dick” Cheney as running mate.

1990—Ambassador April Glaspie tells Saddam the U.S. won’t take sides in an Iraq-Kuwait border dispute.

1975—Chester Plummer, Jr., a Black ‘Nam vet with a three-foot pipe in his hand, becomes the first person shot dead on the White House lawn.

1972—AP: The U.S. used Black men as guinea pigs for 40 years.

1965—Dylan’s choice of guitars shocks the Newport Folk Festival.

1952—Généreux Ruest, a disabled watchmaker who helped bomb an airliner, is wheeled to Quebec’s gallows and hanged in a chair. His hangman is inept; he strangles for 21 minutes.

1946—The first underwater A-Bomb hits Navy sailors at Bikini Atoll with far more radiation than expected.

1944—Erring Allied bombers kill 111 Americans—one a 3-star general—and wound 490 near St. Lo.

1853—The freshly-killed head of legendary bandit Joaquin Murietta is put in a jar of brandy for display—until it’s lost in the San Francisco Earthquake.

1826—“Nothing succeeds with me,” says Decembrist revolutionary Mikhail Bestuzhev-Ryumin after the hangman’s first rope breaks. “Even here I meet with disappointment.”

1968—Newly elected, the President of South Vietnam jails the runner-up.

1968—Mexico massacres its students.

1959—Lt. Col. William Rankin, U.S.M.C., ejects from his F-8 over a thunderstorm. He survives 40 minutes of lightning and hail at -58°.

1953—Arizona State Police and National Guard arrest the whole damn town of Short Creek for polygamy.

1950—The U.S. 7th Cavalry, backed by air support, kills between 200 and 400 Korean refugees at No Gun Ri.

1948—Harry Truman orders that the U.S. military be desegregated.

1947—The National Security Act creates the CIA and NSA and turns the War Department into the DoD.

1936—With dozens of fellow Commies along for cover, Bill Bailey rips a Nazi flag from the bow of the *Bremen* and throws it into New York harbor.

1924—Bath, Maine hosts a KKK rally, complete with burning cross and a parade led by the City Marshall.

1877—In Chicago, Federal troops kill 30 strikers in the Battle of the Viaduct. In East St. Louis, the Mayor sends 700 cops and goons to strike headquarters, ordering “shoot to kill.”

1758—The French fortress of Louisbourg, taken by New Englanders in 1744 and given back by Britain three years later, is re-taken by the British.

1184—Nobles crowd into St. Peter’s at Erfurt, in Thuringia, to settle a squabble. The floor lets go and they fall into the latrine; 60 of them drown.

2008—Citing Fox News’ Bernard Goldberg as inspiration, J.D. Adkisson shotguns a Knoxville church, killing two and wounding seven.

1996—Pro-life Eric Robert Rudolph bombs the Atlanta Olympics.

1974—Eleven Republicans out of 17 on the Judiciary Committee vote not to impeach Nixon for obstruction.

1957—Jimmy Wilson, who’s Black, is sentenced to death in Alabama for stealing \$1.95 from a white woman.

1954—Mercenaries overthrow the government of Guatemala at the behest of the CIA. Genocide ensues.

1946—*Hollywood Reporter* owner Billy Wilkerson, uncertain whether to name ten suspected Communists, consults Father Cornelius J. McCoy. He replies, “Get those bastards, Billy.”

1919—After a Black man is killed at a segregated Chicago beach, a white cop arrests a Black man. Nearby Blacks who object are attacked by whites.

1893—William Taylor survives a jolt in New York’s electric chair, but its dynamo doesn’t. Morphine and ether keep him under until a jury-rigged cable can tap the power to kill him.

1877—In East St. Louis, 8,000 Federal troops, militia, and railroad hirelings start a two-day battle to crush the Commune and end the Strike.

1816—Andy Jackson orders that the powder magazine of an old fort on the Appalachicola be blown up. The blast kills hundreds of Blacks and Choc-taws: both sexes, all ages, free and not.

2012—Three elderly troublemakers infiltrate Oak Ridge, Tenn. and spill blood on its nuclear weapons plant.

2006—A wild storm topples the partially-renovated steeple of North Church and its attendant scaffolding onto Pleasant Street in Portsmouth.

2003—Tom DeLay (R-Texas), who once said Americans smoke Cuban cigars “at the cost of our national honor,” is photographed in Jerusalem lighting up a \$25 Hoyo de Monterrey.

1967—Gov. Reagan signs a gun control bill, 87 days after armed Black Panthers visit the Calif. State House.

1945—A B-25 hits the Empire State Building; six floors burn, 13 die, 26 are injured. Among them: elevator operator Betty Oliver. The cable of the elevator evacuating her snaps; it plummets 80 stories. She survives that, too.

1945—A kamikaze biplane sinks the *U.S.S. Callaghan* off Okinawa.

1942—*U.S.S. YP-422* is commissioned in Neponset, Mass., commander: Lieut. L. Ron Hubbard.

1932—GLs under Gen. MacArthur, including six tanks under Maj. George S. Patton, drive the “Bonus Expeditionary Force”—20,000 hungry World War I vets—out of Washington D.C., killing two in the process.

1919—Chicago is engulfed by a race riot in which the Hamburg Athletic Club plays a leading role. Its president: future Mayor Richard J. Daley.

1914—Austria-Hungary attacks Serbia, getting WWI underway.

1994—Pro-life Reverend Paul Jennings Hill shotguns Dr. John Britton and his bodyguard James Barrett to death and wounds Barrett’s wife June.

1986—Ex-Chaplain Charlie Liteky, protesting U.S. policies in Latin America, renounces the Medal of Honor he got for heroism in Vietnam.

1981—Congress passes Ronald Reagan’s tax cut for the rich.

1974—Ten Republicans out of 17 on the Judiciary Committee vote not to impeach Nixon for abuse of power and violating his oath of office.

1970—Thanks to a five-year grape boycott, the United Farm Workers win their first contract.

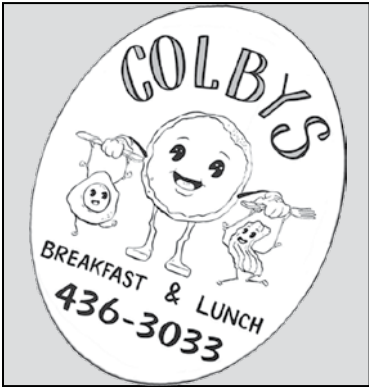
1967—Bum equipment and bad procedures create a stray electrical current that sends a Zuni rocket from an F-4 jet on the flight deck of the *Forrestal* into John McCain’s A-4. Eight half-ton bombs explode, killing 134 sailors and nearly sinking the ship.

1966—Bob Dylan wrecks his Triumph then disappears for a while.

1921—Disgruntled former corporal Adolf Hitler becomes President of the German Nazi Party.

1910—Responding to a bogus claim about a pending race war against whites, hundreds of armed white Texans begin a race war in the predominantly Black town of Slocum.

1848—Leaders of Young Ireland try to peacefully resolve a standoff with British constables in Tipperary. They get shot at for their troubles.





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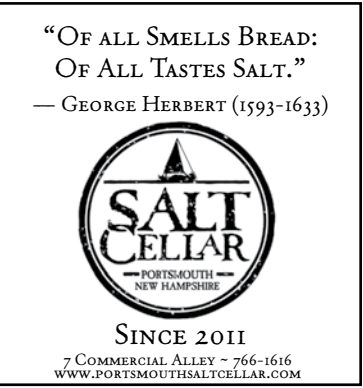
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