

The Fortnightly Rant

Pick Your Poison

Oh, woe is us. Whatever shall we do? The first 2024 Republican Presidential Debate is scheduled to begin at 9:00 p.m. tonight, and our deadline falls before that! Heavens to Murgatroyd—how will we ever manage this?

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As for our alleged peers in the news racket, the Nation's Oldest Newspaper™ does not follow the example of others—it sets the example. So there.

Having freed ourselves from any perceived obligation to pretend anything substantial is likely to come out of Wednesday evening's ritualized buffoonery in Milwaukee, what is there to say about the Republican attempt to come up with a plausible candidate for President—bearing in mind, of course, that as a family newspaper striving to avoid the use of language that some might deem offensive, we must abjure curses, obscenities, &c.—regardless of how appropriate they might otherwise be.

That last stipulation narrows down our task considerably. Let us also rule out *ad hominem* attacks. That, too, should make a big difference, especially in such a target-rich environment.

What, then, are we left with? Eight individuals vying for a single position at the very apex of an institution which they uniformly profess to distrust, if not despise.

That, in itself, is a pretty weird internal contradiction. If this were

true of only one of the candidates, it would seem to be a personal matter—one in which therapeutic intervention might be indicated. That is not the case, though.

None of them has any choice in the matter. "Government is Bad" is the central tenet of Party doctrine. It has been since the dawn of the era of its previous Big Executive Personality, more than forty years ago. Every Republican president since Reagan, whether he be dim or grandiose, has done his level best to prove that government is bad.

Judging by that metric, they have all succeeded remarkably well—which is to say, the nation has suffered terribly. Under Reagan, under both Bushes, elected and selected, and under The Former Guy, job creation has lagged and the national debt has soared.

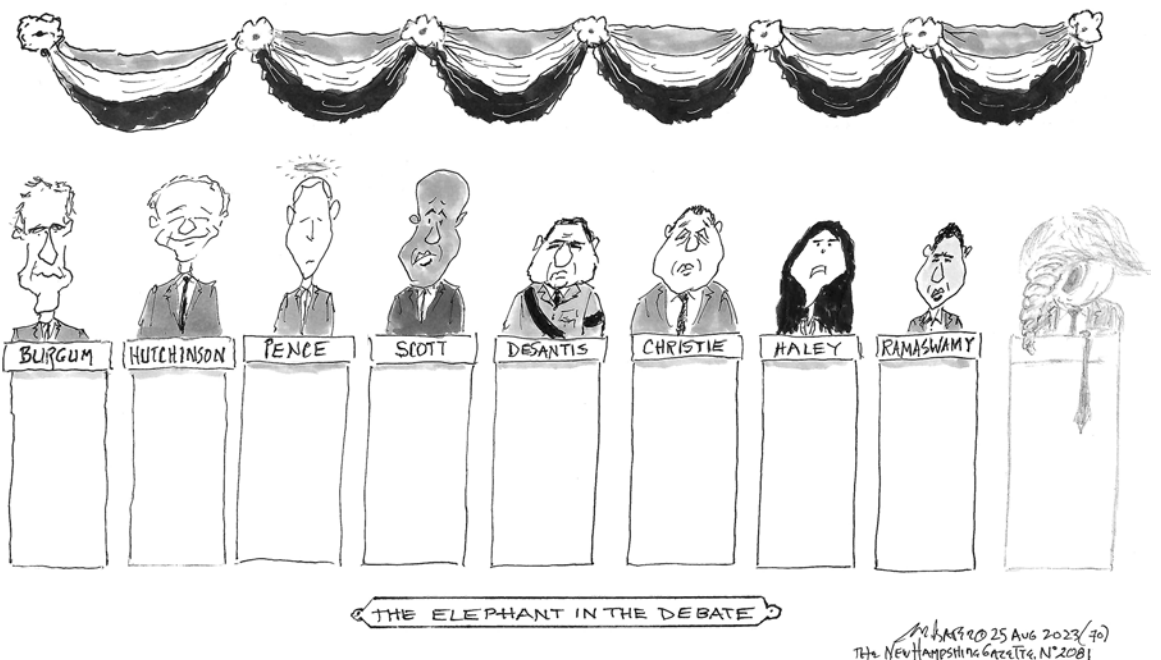
Our point here is not to say that deficit spending is bad *per se*. No, the point is that, never mind what they do, *that is what all Republicans say*.

By their own measure, their presidents consistently fail. That, however, seems not to matter.

This blatant disconnect drives nit-picking non-partisan citizens crazy—for a while, when they first notice it. Eventually, though, like everyone else, they succumb to outrage fatigue and just get used to it.

For Republicans it's easier. They simply pretend that isn't true. If some obstreperous journalist—were there any such creatures left in the White House press room—pointed it out, in response they'd get a diversionary reply which was carefully crafted by a well-funded think tank to bury the simple truth in bushels of bafflegab.

Despite the transparency of this



chicanery, the Republican party has been allowed for decades to strut around as if it were wearing the ermine mantle of fiscal prudence.

That's just money, though—let's look at a more important measure of national health—namely, national health.

Democratic presidents since Harry Truman have tried to pass a national health insurance plan. The Republican response has invariably been, "Universal health care? Over your dead body!"

At the time Ronald Reagan kicked off his 1980 presidential campaign—which somehow happened, strictly by chance, of course, at the nearest available campground to the site of the murders of civil rights martyrs James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner—U.S. life expectancy at birth was only slightly below that of 20 other high income countries. By the end of his second term, we were near the bottom of that group.

At the beginning of the George W.[MD] Bush administration, we

were the bottom; by the end of it, the bottom had dropped out.

Now, a person who has made the personal choice to inhabit a body of the species *Homo sapiens* might find this fact alarming. For a Republican, though, this is a success story.

The important thing isn't how long any individual person may live. The important thing is that the government has been effectively prevented from standing in the way of a business making a profit as *it* determines how long a person lives.

To hear Republicans tell it, the Commandment God forgot to issue is this: "The government hath no business doing that which any random capitalist might choose to do."

One of the consequences of adherence to that Commandment is playing out over our heads right now.

NASA—which was putting people on the Moon back when we were still fighting to keep the Viet Cong out of Long Beach—has since been reminded of its place in the greater scheme of things, to wit: as a

procurement agency responsible for rubber-stamping lunatic schemes put forth by billionaires.

When NASA sends astronauts to the International Space Station, it books flight through Space-X, a company belonging to a super-annuated South African teenager with a taste for ganja and ketamine.

That arrangement may not last, though. Half the satellites in orbit are his. If too many of those little StarLinks go haywire, like some of his heavily-subsidized Teslas, they could crash into each other and form a shell of debris, making future space travel difficult if not impossible. They are already degrading visibility enough to have a deleterious effect on astronomy.

That would be what's called a Low Probability, High Consequence event. Civilization—or what's left of it today—is far more likely to end through a High Probability, Drastic Consequence event—any one of these Republicans—including the one who's not on stage—getting into the Oval Office.

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Trump's Actions Have Already Disqualified Him From the Presidency

by Joseph Ferguson and Thomas A. Durkin

After three indictments of former President Donald Trump, the fourth one in Georgia came not as a surprise but as a powerful exposition of the scope of Trump's efforts to remain in power despite losing the 2020 presidential election.

New conservative legal scholarship spells out how and why those actions—which were observed by the public over many months—disqualify Trump from serving in the presidency ever again. And our read of the Georgia indictment, as long-time lawyers ourselves, shows why and how that disqualification can be put into effect.

The key to all of this is the 14th Amendment to the Constitution, which states that "No person shall... hold any office, under the United States... who, having previously taken an oath... to support the Con-

stitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof." Trump took that oath at his inauguration on Jan. 20, 2017.

Both Trump's Georgia indictment, and his federal indictment in Washington, D.C., cite largely public information—and some newly unearthed material—to spell out exactly how he engaged in efforts to rebel against the Constitution, and sought and gave aid and comfort to others who also did so.

Legal scholars William Baude and Michael Stokes Paulsen, conservatives themselves and members of the conservative Federalist Society, have recently published a paper declaring that under the 14th Amendment, Trump's actions render him ineligible to hold office.

We believe the Georgia indictment provides even more detail than the earlier federal one about

how Trump's actions have already disqualified him from office, and shows a way to keep him off the ballot in 2024.

Disqualification is automatic

Trump's supporters might argue that disqualifying him would be unfair without a trial and conviction on the Jan. 6 indictment, and perhaps the Georgia charges.

But Baude and Paulsen, using originalist interpretation—the interpretive theory of choice of the powerful Federalist Society and Trump's conservative court appointees, which gives full meaning to the actual, original text of the Constitution—demonstrate that no legal proceeding is required. They say disqualification is automatic, or what's known in the legal world as "self-executing."

Recent public comments from liberal constitutional scholar Laurence Tribe and conservative jurist and former federal judge Michael

Luttig—who has characterized the events before, during and since January 6th as Trump's "declared war on American democracy"—suggest an emerging bipartisan consensus supporting Baude and Paulsen.

Backed by history

This is not a theoretical bit of technical law. This provision of the 14th Amendment was, in fact, extensively used after the Civil War to keep former Confederate leaders from serving in the federal government, without being tried or convicted of any crime.

Few former Confederates were charged with crimes associated with secession, rebellion and open war against the United States. And most were pardoned by sweeping orders issued by President Andrew Johnson.

But even though they had no relevant convictions, former Confederates were in fact barred from office in the U.S.

In December 1865, several who had neither been convicted nor been pardoned tried to claim seats in the U.S. House of Representatives. But the House clerk refused to swear them in. It took an act of Congress—the 1872 Amnesty Act—to later restore their office-holding rights.

There is no requirement in the Constitution that the disqualification be imposed by any specific process—only that it applies to people who take certain actions against the Constitution.

A path through the states

For the most realistic avenue to enforce the 14th Amendment's ban on a second Trump presidency is through state election authorities. That's where the Georgia indictment comes in.

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from page one

State election officials could themselves, or in response to a petition of a citizen of that state, refuse Trump a place on the 2024 ballot because of the automatic 14th Amendment disqualification.

Trump would certainly challenge the move in federal court. But the recent disqualification proceedings against former North Carolina Congressman Madison Cawthorn provide a road map and binding legal precedent affirming the 14th Amendment as a valid legal ground for disqualification of a candidate for federal office.

The Georgia indictment against Trump and allies exhaustively details extensive acts of lying, manipulation and threats against Georgia officials, as well as a fraudulent fake elector scheme to illegally subvert the legitimate 2020 Georgia presidential vote tally and resulting elector certification.

Trump's failure to accomplish what is tantamount to a coup in Georgia and other swing states set the stage for the violent insurrection of January 6, 2021, that sought to achieve the same result—Trump's fraudulent installation to a second

term.

In fact, the Georgia scheme is included in Special Counsel Jack Smith's federal indictment as one of the methods and means in "aid" of the larger January 6th federal conspiracy against the United States.

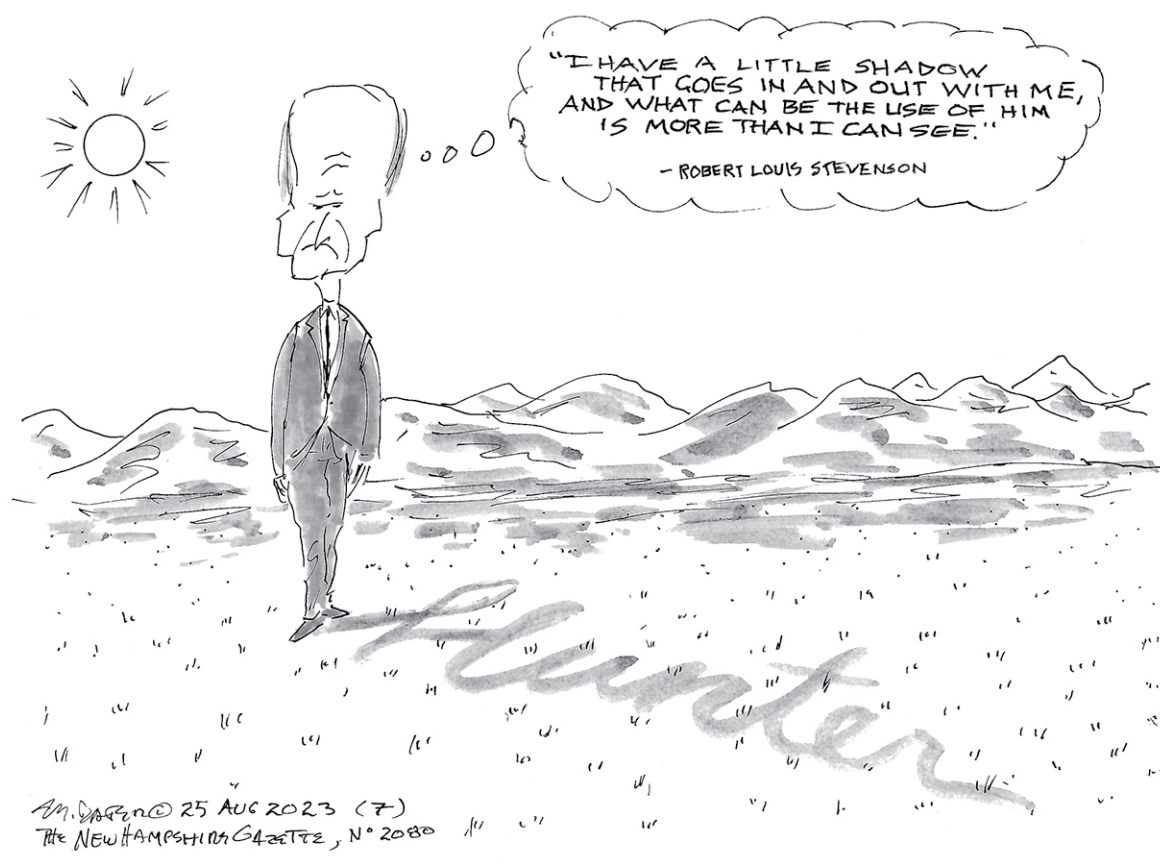
Baude and Paulsen acknowledge that "insurrection and rebellion" are traditionally associated with forced or violent opposition. But we see the broader set of actions by Trump and his allies to subvert the Constitution—the Georgia vote count and fake elector scheme included—as part of a political coup d'etat. It was a rebellion.

Georgia as a bellwether

So what makes the Georgia scheme and indictment compelling for purposes of disqualifying Trump from the 2024 Georgia ballot?

There are minimally six aspects revealed in the latest indictment that we believe justify Georgia—under Section 3 of the post-Civil War Fourteenth Amendment—keeping Trump off the ballot:

1. The racketeering scheme was a multifaceted attempt to subvert Georgia's own part of the 2020 electoral process;
2. The officials on the receiving end of the unsuccessful racketeering scheme were elected and appointed



Our incorrigible Wandering Photographer insisted on lurking past Trumpville Sunday. A couple of the usual suspects were in attendance, but half the lawn chairs were empty. Flags certainly outnumbered the faithful.

Georgia officials. . .

3. . . whose actions to reject election subversion vindicated their own oaths to uphold the Constitution and laws of the United States as well as Georgia's;

4. Most of these officials were and are Republicans—including Secretary of State Brad Raffensberger, Governor Brian Kemp and former Lt. Governor Geoff Duncan;

5. These officials will, in 2024 as in 2020, collectively determine who is qualified to be on Georgia's presidential ballot; and

6. These officials' testimony, and related evidence, is at the heart of the proof of the Georgia racketeering case against Trump.

In other words, the evidence to convict Trump in the Georgia racketeering case is the same evidence, coming from the same Georgia officials, who will be involved in determining whether, under the 14th Amendment, Trump is qualified to be on the 2024 presidential ballot—or not.

Little if any additional evidence or proceedings are needed. The Georgia officials already hold that evidence, because much of it comes from them. They don't need a trial to establish what they already know.

How could Trump avoid this happening? A quick trial date in Atlanta with an acquittal on all counts might do it, but this runs counter to his strategy to delay all the pending criminal cases until after the 2024 election.

With no preelection trial, there will likely be no Trump on the 2024 Georgia ballot, and no chance for him to win Georgia's 2024 electoral college votes.

Once Georgia bars him, other states may follow. That would leave Trump with no way to credibly appear on the ballot in all 50 states, giving him no chance to win the electoral votes required to claim the White House.

Joseph Ferguson is Co-Director of the National Security and Civil Rights Program at Loyola University in

Chicago. Thomas A. Durkin is Distinguished Practitioner in Residence at Loyola. This article may be republished for free, online or in print, under a Creative Commons license, CC BY ND.

"Climate Scam": 180+ Groups Tell Biden to Drop Support for Hydrogen

by Jake Johnson

More than 95 percent of hydrogen produced in the United States is made using fossil fuels, but that hasn't stopped its backers—including industry groups such as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce—from touting the energy source as critical to the fight against climate change.

A diverse coalition of advocacy organizations on Tuesday implored the Biden administration to stop buying into the hype.

In a letter to officials at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), more than 180 groups called on the administration to abandon plans to invest in hydrogen projects, warning that "a large-scale buildout of hydrogen infrastructure will further

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exacerbate the climate crisis and disproportionately harm people of color, low-income communities, and Indigenous peoples.”

Two recently enacted pieces of legislation—the Inflation Reduction Act and a bipartisan infrastructure measure championed by oil industry ally Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.)—include benefits for the hydrogen industry.

The latter bill authorized the Department of Energy to spend roughly \$8 billion on developing Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs (H2Hubs), drawing outrage from community organizers in Colorado, New Mexico, and other states behind the Western Interstate Hydrogen Hub, a project aimed at expanding U.S. hydrogen production.

“We recognize that the Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act directs DOE to fund these hubs, but we ask DOE to find a different path and reject this false solution. It’s time for DOE to do the right thing,” the groups wrote in their letter on Tuesday.

The groups behind the letter—including the Center for Biological Diversity and Food & Water Watch—note that hydrogen pro-

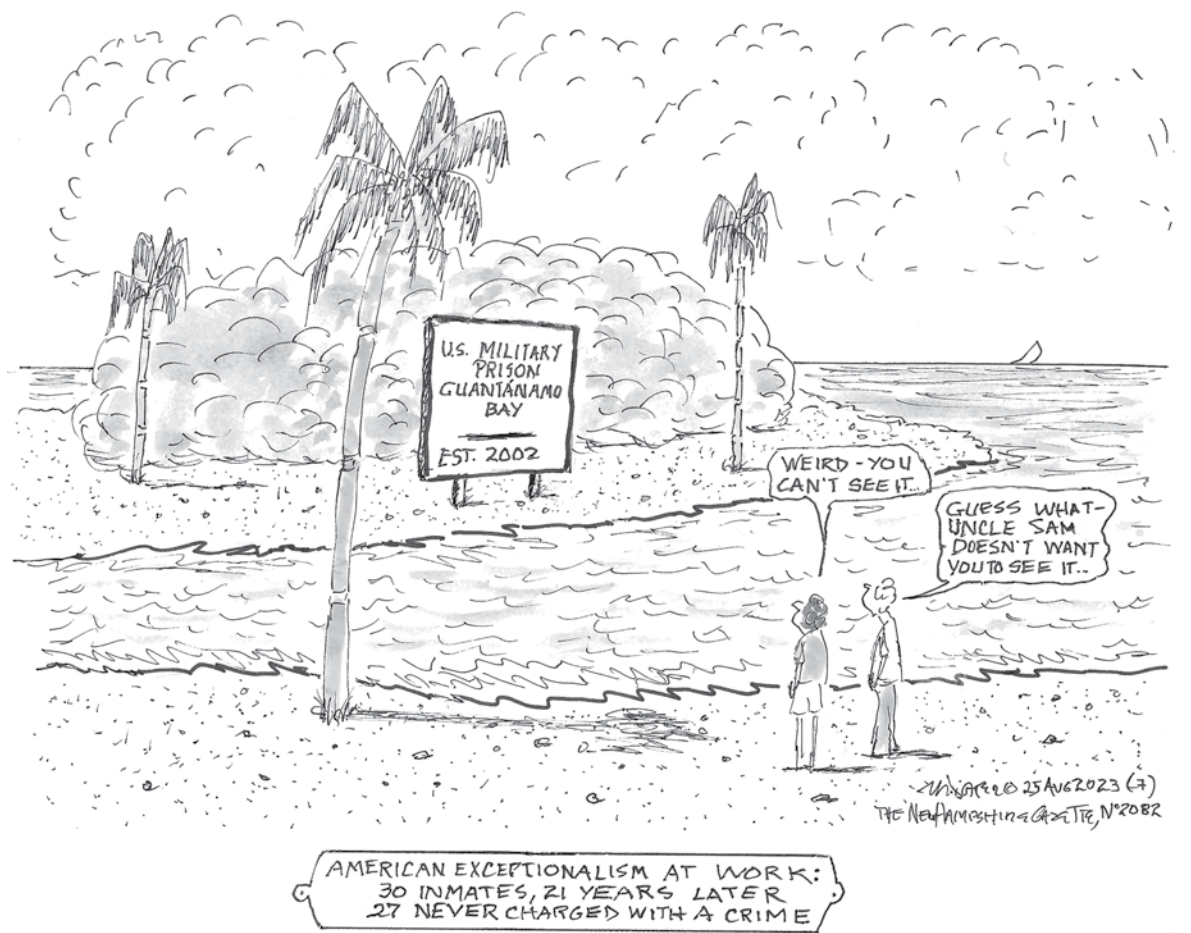
duction generates significant planet-warming emissions.

“Hydrogen lifecycle emissions which use carbon capture and storage are 20 percent greater than directly burning natural gas or coal, and 60 percent greater than burning diesel oil, because of the increased fossil fuels required to power it,” the letter states. “The process of producing gray and blue hydrogen is a major source of fugitive methane emissions from flaring, transportation, and other upstream processes—releasing even more potent greenhouse gases and exacerbating atmospheric warming over the next two decades.”

As *Nature* explained in an editorial warning against “overhyping” hydrogen, “Most hydrogen is currently made by processes—such as steam reformation of natural gas (methane)—that produce large amounts of CO2 as a by-product.”

“Although ‘green’ hydrogen can be made by using electricity from renewable sources to split water molecules,” the outlet added, “this process is costly compared with more conventional production methods.”

Silas Grant, a campaigner with the Center for Biological Diversity,



said Tuesday that “calling hydrogen clean energy is a scam to prop up the oil and gas industry.”

“The Biden administration’s plans to expand this dirty energy will only increase oil and gas extraction at a time when the climate emergency demands the opposite,” said Grant. “We need investment in affordable, reliable, community-supported renewable energy like wind and solar.”

The coalition’s letter comes two months after New Mexico-based advocacy organizations urged the Biden administration to reject funding for the Western Interstate Hydrogen Hub, arguing the initiative would “devastate public health, clean air, Indigenous sacred places, and the climate.”

“The climate crisis poses a grave threat to all life on Earth,” the groups wrote in a letter to the U.S. Energy Department. “DOE has the power to help lead a transformation to a more sustainable future. To do

so, you must help phase out fossil fuels and reject false solutions like hydrogen.”

But the Biden White House has yet to waver in its support for hydrogen, claiming in a brief last month that “clean hydrogen has the potential to play an important role in decarbonizing the U.S. economy.”

Jim Walsh, policy director at Food & Water Watch, countered Tuesday that investments in hydrogen are “a distraction from real climate action that will cause more pollution, more strain on water resources, and more extraction of climate warming fossil fuels.”

“President Biden can’t claim to be a climate leader while his administration continues to embrace the hydrogen climate scam and other policies that continue to perpetuate fossil fuel production and infrastructure,” Walsh added.

Jake Johnson is a staff writer for Common Dreams. This work is licensed

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Wealthiest 10 percent of US Households Responsible for 40 percent of Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Study

The richest tenth of U.S. households are responsible for 40 percent of all the nation’s greenhouse gas emissions, a study published Thursday revealed, underscoring what progressives say is the need for regulations and taxes on carbon-intensive investments.

Published in *PLOS Climate*, the study—which was led by University of Massachusetts, Amherst sustainability scientist Jared Starr—analyzed 30 years of U.S. household income data and the greenhouse gas emissions generated in creating that

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In a rare instance of compliance with the hackneyed old Journalistic Commandment, “Thou Shalt Be Balanced,” Ol’ W.P. strolled through Market Square on Sunday, as well. Somewhat surprisingly, considering the latest indictment of the former Felon-in-Chief, the assemblage was fairly modest. It was enthusiastic, though, as was the beeped response from passersby.

Murph’s Fortnightly Quote
“Quantity is being confused with abundance and wealth with happiness.”
 –Tom Waits, *True Confessions*, Published May 20, 2008

“Only entropy comes easy.”
 –Anton Pavlovich Chekhov (1860–1904) Russian writer, physician
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Got A Hand Fulla Gimme...

Dear Sir:
 In today's Seacoast Online there was the story headlined, "Will three Seacoast Bridge projects face delays? N.H. politicians sound the alarm, urge action." The story goes on to state that Governor Sununu and Executive Councilor Janet Stevens sent a letter to New Hampshire's all-Democratic congressional delegation, complaining that the U.S. Coast Guard has yet to issue bridge permits for the General Sullivan and the Neil R. Underwood bridge projects. They also were concerned about the the updated preliminary navigation determination for the bridge connecting New Castle to Rye on route 1B. They went on to say, "It is incumbent on our federal partners to be timely and efficient in helping to deliver these needed infrastructure projects and to fulfill on the promises of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)."

While I agree that these are very worthwhile and important infrastructure improvement projects that need to be completed as quickly as possible, I find it somewhat interesting that we have two conservative Republicans pushing for these projects to fulfill the promises of the IIJA which was opposed by most Republicans in Congress. In fact the IIJA passed the House of Representatives with a vote of 228 to 206. The 206 nay votes included six Democrats and 200 Republicans. Only 13 Republicans voted for the bill to pass. In the Senate the vote was 69 yeas and 30 nays. All the 30 nay votes were from Republicans.

So while Mr. Sununu and Ms. Stevens can complain about the delay in getting these projects moving, if it had not been for President Biden and the Democrats in Congress they would not have had any bridge infrastructure project to complain about the timing of. Without President Biden there would not have been an Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act at all. A "Thank you President Biden and Congressional Democrats" coming from Mr. Sununu and Ms. Stevens would have been appreciated in their letter complaining about timing.

Rich DiPentima, LTC, USAFR, Ret
 Portsmouth, N.H.

Rich:
 Anyone remember the Sixties, when stiff-necked conservatives like Mortimer Adler were warning everybody about those dope-smoking leftists and the moral hazards of their situational ethics? Don't worry, no one else does, either—especially today's so-called conservatives.

No one is more fluid these days than a Republican deciding whether something is right or wrong.

The Editor

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Trumpazoids as Cheezy Imitation Pirates

Dear Editor:
 We have our pirate-themed mini-golf courses for entertainment. Each has worked-up histories of real pirates as another entertainment element.

I've heard Donald Trump's slick voice on air waves, glorying in his own version of successful (he wishes) piracy, attempts to have an election win he can only imagine. *Not* ever entertaining, but deadly serious, however, as he racks up criminal indictments and boasts about them.

Now I read this about pirates' flags, using Blackbeard's history: "Pirates hoisted the skull-and-bones flag to show what their prey could expect if they resisted capture. The flags could also be plain black or plain red without any pictures—everyone knew what they meant."

For us now it's Orange Man and his crew's anti-Biden and pro-Trump flags, off the backs of trucks and hanging from trees, threatening. The flags intend to strike fear. They brazenly challenge: "What the f___ are your laws to us?" Their crafty leader, in true pirate tradition, works for his marauder's goal—taking down our ship of state, our democracy.

The mini-golf courses' pirate-histories don't end well for the pirates, however. May good prevail over evil.

Lynn Rudmin Chong
 Sanbornton, N.H.

Lynn:

You're onto something here, we think. Trump cultists do love to pose as bold and daring swashbucklers. Our mileage var-



ies: they appear to us to be so deluded as to be thoroughly pathetic. It's just a measure of the dysfunctionality of our politics that they can simultaneously represent a terrible threat to our democracy.

As you will see on page two, our Wandering Photographer likes to keep a lens on the local crew. They didn't seem to be doing much business on Sunday in the marketplace of ideas.

Every once in a while some would-be tough guy in a colossal pickup truck with a gargantuan Trump flag in the back will go roaring through Market Square, determined to make sure everyone knows he's fallen completely for the most transparent fraud in American history. His truck probably tickles the seismograph up in Tamworth as it rumbles through the Square, but the driver's self-awareness probably measures somewhere around Absolute Zero.

Marcus Rediker, a Marxist historian, wrote Villains of All Nations: Atlantic Pirates in the Golden Age (Beacon Press, 2005). In this highly-praised book, Rediker transcends the simplistic notion of pirates as evil but entertaining. They may have been depraved, but they were living in a depraved time. Ocean-going ships were the high-tech of their time. Working conditions on board, though, ranged from barely tolerable to unimaginable. Such things were possible in a world where slavery was rarely questioned.

An excerpt from the description at marcusrediker.com:

"This novel interpretation shows how sailors emerged from deadly working conditions on merchant and naval ships, turned pirate, and created a starkly different reality aboard their own vessels. At their best, pirates constructed their own distinctive egalitarian society, as they elected their officers, divided their booty equitably, and maintained a multinational social order.

"This unprecedented social and cultural history of pirates proves that the real lives of this motley crew—which included cross-dressing women, people of color, and

the 'outcasts of all nations'—are far more compelling than contemporary myth. Pirates challenged and subverted prevailing conventions of race, class, gender, and nation, posing a radical democratic challenge to the society they left behind. They dared to play the rebellious villain on a floating international stage."

Just as Trump tries to steal anything he can get his tiny, ketchup-stained hands on, his Trumpazoid followers try to steal pirate glory. In fact, they're all delusional.

The Editor

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Our National Lunacy

Dear Editor,

Retired Professor (I'm assuming) W.D. Ehrhart writes a great piece in your latest asking, with visible frustration, "How is this possible?" Like Mr. Ehrhart, millions of us have been wondering exactly the same thing ever since the infamous gold-plated escalator ride, actually and metaphorically downhill, in July 2015. After eight years of tortuous and self-abusive cogitating over this seemingly intractable situation, one has arrived at the conclusion for his own self preservation that it just doesn't matter anymore.

Simply put, 45 percent of this country has taken leave of its senses. The why is a mystery. Or maybe it's that a perfect storm formed after decades of brewing under the national radar. A narcissistic con artist/criminal who spends his entire life perfecting his schtick meets up with a right-wing media juggernaut which for years has been feeding its gullible audience a non-stop diet of grievance, bigotry and extreme crackpottery. Voila! America today.

It's dire, no doubt about it. National lunacy has obviously gripped other countries in the past, in some cases far worse than where we are today. But national lunacies eventually die out, and ours will too. The only question, of

course, is when.

John C. Ficor
 Richmond, Va.

John:

Eventually, yes—but how much time do we have?

We're surprised to say it, but we're slightly less pessimistic than you about the percentage of Americans who are actively delusional. We'd peg it about ten points lower. That's not very encouraging, though.

We've got more than enough trouble now. Take the housing market. It was sketchy for decades. Then came the deregulated financial hooliganism of the early 21st century. Mortgage rates drop to the floor, then get all jacked up. Now, with rates where they are, no one who could afford to buy a house will sell the one they're in.

Now the inevitable disruptions of climatic chaos come along. The insurance industry isn't there to protect you, it's there to make a profit. Whole swathes of territory are becoming uninsurable—which is to say, borderline uninhabitable. If a third of the country is enraged over nothing now, what will be the tenor of our discourse after big chunks of the economy have been chucked into the wastewater treatment system?

As ever, your bearer of glad tidings,
The Editor

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The Orange-Faced Loser

Dear Editor,

Remember when Lehman Bros. collapsed in 2008?

Who could forget?

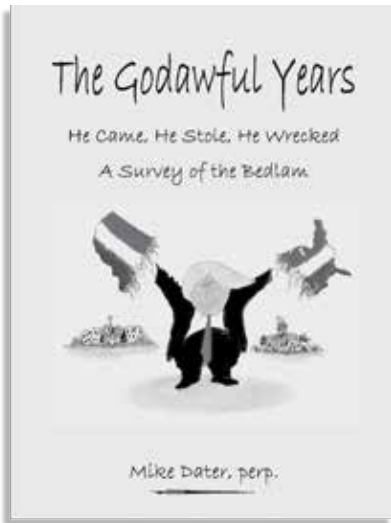
That sparked Federal bailouts to banks and insurance companies that were deemed

"Too Big To Fail."

It looks like The Donald is making a similar page in history, by earning 91 criminal charges in four indictments.

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Legal pundits are wondering how so many trials can even be scheduled?

And, how would an ex-President serve prison time if convicted?

The Orange-faced Loser's strategy is becoming

"Too Corrupt To Be Convicted."

Bruce Joffe

Piedmont, Calif.

Bruce:

Due, perhaps, to an irrational and ingrained prejudice, we generally try not to encourage poetic efforts. Yet, somehow you made it past our defenses. Must have been, "Orange-faced Loser."

The Editor

====

First In The Nation... What?

To the Editor:

Once again, I take pen in hand (I actually mean tap on keyboard, but it sounds less poetic) to ask: "Who Believes This Crock of ___t?"

We exist in a never ending state of election "news," with breathless reporting on (1) "town halls," (2) "debates," meetings of interested voters with candidates to discuss (3) "issues," and... my favorite: the latest Poll telling us "what voters think." Sorry for all the quotation marks!

It's just the same old same old: these are (1) Rallies, staged by those involved in the Election Industry; (2) pointless and meaningless 1-3 minute smack-down rants; (3) vapid talking points. This all uses a lot of energy and costs a bundle of money, in a huge marketing scam that gives us "leaders" (those pesky quotation marks again) who seem to do little besides demand more money so we can all go through this again, with barely a moment to pause.

One of the chief culprits keeping this whole circus going are The Pollsters. Who are they? How do they gather this "information"? Who pays them? Yet every day there is a new poll

telling us that some percentage of "the Voters" don't like x or y or this or that candidate.

Issues? Policy?? Who wants to talk about that boring stuff when this flim-flam show is so exciting (and so lucrative).

Bah, humbug....

Beth McCarthy

Tamworth, N.H.

Beth:

Well, now—that's bold.

It's not often that someone dares to cast aspersions at our beloved state's most hallowed tradition, the First in the Nation™ Presidential Primary Election®. Pardon us as we make a courtly bow and brush the floor with the extravagant feather adorning our most formal chapeau.

Next thing we know, you'll be describing, in startling detail, the very epidermis, warts, tattoos, and all, of our Emperor—despite his being sumptuously arrayed in the finest raiments.

The Editor

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Another Trip to Planet Ewing

To the Editor:

Remember this about slavery and racism:

As of three hundred years ago slavery had been a normal practice nearly worldwide throughout human history. In the U.S., free blacks as well as whites owned slaves, e.g., in 1830 about 3,770 blacks owned slaves (<https://tinyurl.com/42f6jab5>).

What changed the worldwide attitude towards slavery? Christianity: the Christian principle that all men are created in the image of God and therefore slavery is a sin.

Christians began arguing about slavery in Roman times. In the late 18th and early 19th Century Christians who favored abolishing slavery gained enough power in Great Britain to begin the effort to abolish slavery.

Following Britain's lead, other Eu-

ropean powers joined, fought, and eliminated slavery in their empires by about the end of the 19th Century.

It was European (white) Christians who provided the military power and paid the great human and financial cost to change the worldwide attitude towards, outlaw, and abolish slavery; it wasn't Africans or Asians or another religion that led the fight and paid the cost to eliminate slavery.

Some say that all white Americans benefit from slavery, that's ridiculous. In the Civil War, hundreds of thousands of wives and children lost their husbands, fathers, and main providers. Most formerly rich slave owners became destitute, having contributed their fortunes to the war effort and had their formerly valuable slaves (some worth \$40,000 each) freed without compensation.

Since the Civil War, Democrats have been dividing Americans by race while blaming Republicans for the problems that Democrats themselves create.

The U.S. outlaws discrimination on the basis of race. The only obvious apparent systemic racism against black Americans is in the bad schools, dangerous neighborhoods, government abuse, and the poor jobs, housing and other services provided in Democrat [sic] controlled cities.

Don Ewing

Meredith, N.H.

Don:

Thanks for this lovely apologia. It induced in us a truly transcendent religious experience. As we read it, a celestial chorus appeared, made up of those who were slaughtered at Drogheda, Omdurman, Amritsar, and a thousand other far-flung outposts of the British Empire. They sang the praises of recently-crowned Chuck Three, "by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of His other Realms and Territories King, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith."

By your account, the monarchical Brits



M/V Thomas Laughton chugging upstream on Sunday, past a fence still full of love locks. We shall never tire of reminding readers that this spiffy 90-foot Maine-built vessel was named for one of our former editors. In partnership with Abner Greenleaf, Jr., Thomas Bell Laughton [1805 – 1866] published the Gazette from an office in the Glebe building, behind North Church, from July 4, 1835 to December 27, 1836. We like to think that at some point during that year and a half, his wife, Eliza Rymes Laughton must surely have brought their baby daughter, the future poet Celia Thaxter, into the office. In 1837, Thomas was off to the State Capitol in Concord, where he served as a State Senator through 1839. After "a political disappointment"—he lost the election, and was man enough to admit it—the allegedly eccentric Laughton took up a position as the lighthouse keeper on White Island. In 1847, with Levi Thaxter, he built the famous Appledore House, cementing his place in history.

were gallantly eliminating slavery at the

end of the 19th century. Want to know what else they were up to? On August 27, 1896, unenthusiastic about the recent succession of the insufficiently Anglophile Sultan Khalid bin Barghash to the throne of the Zanzibar Sultanate, Rear-Admiral Harry Rawson ordered three ships under his command to fire high explosive shells at the Sultan's wooden palace. It promptly burned to the ground. About 500 died or were wounded, including women and children. Granted, some of those dead had been enslaved, so we suppose you could say they were emancipated.

We are shocked and confused by your statement that "it wasn't Africans or Asians or another religion that led the fight and paid the cost to eliminate slavery." What in the name of God are you talking about? You don't think the resistance of the enslaved played a role in slavery's abolition? That assessment strikes us

as—dare we say it?—racist.

To be fair, the £20 million in compensation which was paid to the enslavers probably did not come from the formerly-enslaved.

Your sympathy for formerly-wealthy plantation owners is touching, and entirely in keeping with the general drift of conservative thought: Kiss up, punch down. You, too, are a potential multi-billionaire. Support all policies that favor the rich; some day you may benefit. Stomp on the fingers of those below you on the ladder; solidarity is for chumps.

Yes, it's all the fault of those evil Democrats—always keeping the Black folks down.

Just keep ignoring the past sixty years of U.S. history, during which all the real rat-bastard Democrats jumped ship, signing on to the Good Ship GOP, under captains like Tricky Dick and the Gipper.

The Editor

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

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

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

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

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

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

For more information, contact:
VA Supportive Housing Program Manager
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The Alleged News®

from page three

income.

“We find significant and growing emissions inequality that cuts across economic and racial lines,” the paper notes. “In 2019, fully 40 percent of total U.S. emissions were associated with income flows to the highest earning 10 percent of households.”

“Among the highest-earning one percent of households (whose income is linked to 15-17 percent of national emissions), investment holdings account for 38-43 percent of their emissions,” the publication continues. “Even when allowing for a considerable range of investment strategies, passive income accruing to this group is a major factor shaping the U.S. emissions distribution.”

The study’s findings are consistent with research published in 2021 by the Institute for European Environmental Policy and the Stockholm Environment Institute that estimated the wealthiest one percent of humanity was on track to produce 16 percent of all global CO2 emissions by 2030. Additionally, a 2022 Oxfam report found that a single billionaire produces a million times more carbon emissions than the average person.

Starr told *The Washington Post* that “as you move up the income ladder, an increasing share of emissions is associated with investments.”

According to the *Post*:

“Then there were ‘super-emitters’ with extremely high overall greenhouse gas emissions, corresponding to about the top 0.1 percent of households. About 15 days of emissions from a super-emitter was equal to a lifetime of emissions for someone in the poorest 10 percent in America.

“The team found that the highest emissions linked to income came from white, non-Hispanic homes, and the lowest came from Black households. Emissions peaked until age 45 to 54, and then declined.”

Starr said, “It just seems morally and politically problematic to have one group of people reaping

so much benefit from emissions while the poorer groups in society are asked to disproportionately deal with the harms of those emissions.”

The study asserts that “results suggest an alternative income or shareholder-based carbon tax, focused on investments, may have equity advantages over traditional consumer-facing cap-and-trade or carbon tax options and be a useful policy tool to encourage decarbonization while raising revenue for climate finance.”

Lucas Chancel, a French economist who was not part of the study, told the *Post* that “all Americans contribute to climate change, but clearly not in the same way.”

“Without policies such as regulations or taxes on very polluting investments,” he stressed, “it’s unlikely that wealthy individuals making a lot of money from fossil fuel investments will stop investing in them.” *Brett Wilkins is a staff writer for Common Dreams. This work is licensed under Creative Commons (CC BY-NC-ND 3.0). Feel free to republish and share widely.*

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A Changing Climate, Growing Human Populations And Widespread Fires Contributed To The Last Major Extinction Event — Can We Prevent Another?

by Emily Lindsey, Lisa N. Martinez, and Regan E. Dunn

Over the past decade, deadly wildfires have become increasingly common because of both human-caused climate change and disruptive land management practices. Southern California, where the three of us live and work, has been hit especially hard.

Southern California also experienced a wave of wildfires 13,000 years ago. These fires permanently transformed the region’s vegetation and contributed to Earth’s largest extinction in more than 60 million years.

As paleontologists, we have a unique perspective on the long-term causes and consequences of environmental changes, both those linked to natural climate fluctuations and those wrought by humans.

In a new study, published in Au-

gust 2023, we sought to understand changes that were happening in California during the last major extinction event at the end of the Pleistocene, a time period known as the Ice Age. This event wiped out most of Earth’s large mammals between about 10,000 and 50,000 years ago. This was a time marked by dramatic climate upheavals and rapidly spreading human populations.

The last major extinction

Scientists often call the past 66 million years of Earth’s history the Age of Mammals. During this time, our furry relatives took advantage of the extinction of the dinosaurs to become the dominant animals on the planet.

During the Pleistocene, Eurasia and the Americas teemed with enormous beasts like woolly mammoths, giant bears and dire wolves. Two species of camels, three species of ground sloths and five species of large cats roamed what is now Los Angeles.

Then, abruptly, they were gone. All over the world, the large mammals that had characterized global ecosystems for tens of millions of years disappeared. North America lost more than 70 percent of mammals weighing more than 97 pounds (44 kilograms). South America lost more than 80 percent, Australia nearly 90 percent. Only Africa, Antarctica and a few remote islands retain what could be considered “natural” animal communities today.

The reason for these extinctions remains obscure. For decades, paleontologists and archaeologists have debated potential causes. What has befuddled scientists is not that there are no obvious culprits but that there are too many.

As the last ice age ended, a warming climate led to altered weather patterns and the reorganization of plant communities. At the same time, human populations were rapidly increasing and spreading around the globe.

Either or both of these processes could be implicated in the extinction event. But the fossil record of any region is usually too sparse to know exactly when large mammal species disappeared from different regions. This makes it difficult to determine whether habitat loss, resource scarcity, natural disasters, human hunting

or some combination of these factors is to blame.

A deadly combination

Some records offer clues. La Brea Tar Pits in Los Angeles, the world’s richest ice age fossil site, preserves the bones of thousands of large mammals that were trapped in viscous asphalt seeps over the past 60,000 years. Proteins in these bones can be precisely dated using radioactive carbon, giving scientists unprecedented insight into an ancient ecosystem and an opportunity to illuminate the timing—and causes—of its collapse.

Our recent study from La Brea Tar Pits and nearby Lake Elsinore has unearthed evidence of a dramatic event 13,000 years ago that permanently transformed Southern California’s vegetation and caused the disappearance of La Brea’s iconic mega-mammals.

Sediment archives from the lake’s bottom and archaeological records provide evidence of a deadly combination—a warming climate punctuated by decades long droughts and rapidly rising human populations. These factors pushed the Southern California ecosystem to a tipping point.

Similar combinations of climate warming and human impacts have been blamed for ice age extinctions elsewhere, but our study found something new. The catalyst for this dramatic transformation seems to have been an unprecedented increase in wildfires, which were probably set by humans.

The processes that led to this collapse are familiar today. As California warmed coming out of the last ice age, the landscape became drier and forests receded. At La Brea, herbivore populations declined, probably from a combination of human hunting and habitat loss. Species associated with trees, like camels, disappeared entirely.

In the millennium leading up to the extinction, mean annual temperatures in the region rose 10 degrees Fahrenheit (5.5 degrees Celsius), and the lake began evaporating. Then, 13,200 years ago, the ecosystem entered a 200-year-long drought. Half of the remaining trees died. With fewer large herbivores to eat it, dead vegetation built up on the landscape.

At the same time, human populations began expanding across North America. And as they spread, people brought with them a powerful new tool—fire.

Humans and our ancestors have used fire for hundreds of thousands of years, but fire has different impacts in different ecosystems. Charcoal records from Lake Elsinore reveal that before humans, fire activity was low in coastal Southern California. But 13,200 to 13,000 years ago, as human populations grew, fire in the region increased by an order of magnitude.

Our research suggests that the combination of heat, drought, herbivore loss and human-set fires had pushed this system to a tipping point. At the end of this period, Southern California was covered in chaparral plants, which thrive after fires. A new fire regime had become established, and the iconic La Brea megafauna had disappeared.

Lessons for the future

Studying the causes and consequences of the Pleistocene extinctions in California can provide valuable context for understanding today’s climate and biodiversity crises. A similar combination of climate warming, expanding human populations, biodiversity loss and human-ignited fires that characterized the ice age extinction interval in Southern California are playing out again today.

The alarming difference is that temperatures today are rising 10 times faster than they did at the end of the ice age, primarily because of the burning of fossil fuels. This human-caused climate change has contributed to a fivefold increase in fire frequency and intensity and the amount of area burned in the state of California in the past 45 years.

While California is now famous for extreme fires, our study reveals that fire is a relatively new phenomenon in this region. In the 20,000 years leading up to the extinction, the Lake Elsinore record shows very low incidence of any fire even during comparable periods of drought. Only after human arrival does fire become a regular part of the ecosystem.

Even today, downed power lines, campfires and other human activities start over 90 percent of wildfires

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Reaping the Whirlwind

by W.D. Ehrhart

This past weekend, my wife and I went down to Margate, New Jersey, for a friend's birthday party. Driving on the Atlantic City Expressway, we passed a huge billboard that screamed: **STOP OFFSHORE WIND**. Below that, in somewhat smaller letters, it said: **Never Experience the Jersey Shore the Same Way Again**. Pictured was an array of wind turbines stretching from one edge of the billboard to the other.

Together we marveled at the mentality that wants to preserve the scenic beauty of the seashore until the planet turns into a cosmic cinder and there's no scenic beauty anywhere on the planet, or anyone to see it.

As we neared the coast and drove through a town called Northfield, we saw a campaign sign on someone's lawn touting Republican Congressman Jeff Van Drew's opposition to offshore wind farms in New Jersey. It seemed odd to see a campaign sign in August 2023 with the next election—a party primary—the better part of a year away in the spring of 2024.

Then this morning I called up the *Washington Post* on my computer, and there was a lead article proclaiming: **"The beach town that could decide the future of wind power on the East Coast."** That community is Ocean City, New Jersey, often called "America's Greatest Family Resort."

It turns out that a Danish company has received federal permission to build a wind farm 15 miles off the Jersey coast, but an organization called Protect Our Coast, billing itself as "grassroots," is fighting the project, hoping to throw up so many legal delays that the Danish company, Orsted, will finally decide it's just

too expensive to continue and kill the project.

This is what happened to a wind farm proposed off the Massachusetts coast after billionaire beachfront owners like the Kennedy Family and William Koch plowed millions of dollars into opposing the project.

New Jersey's Protect Our Coast may well include a lot of locals, but also has the backing of the Caesar Rodney Institute that regularly opposes offshore wind projects and has ties to both fossil fuel interests and "dark money," donors to which don't have to be identified.

Admittedly, oceanfront communities like Ocean City depend almost exclusively on summer tourism to survive economically. But the wind turbines are going to be built 15 miles offshore. To an average person standing at sea level, the visible horizon is about 3 miles away. Years ago, I worked on an oil tanker. Our radar, mounted at the top of the mast of this massive ship, reached out to a radius of 12 miles. Turbines 15 miles offshore might be visible because they're pretty tall, but they're not going to spoil the view.

Other arguments for opposing this project include claims that the turbines will kill whales. Birds I kind of get; they fly around and maybe get whacked by a turbine blade. But whales? Seriously? Opponents also claim that the project will ruin fishing and clamming, but it's not like these turbines are going to take up a lot of space, leaving too little for the fish and clams.

Meanwhile, I wonder how the whales and fish and clams are going to hold up as the ocean temperature continues to rise. Earlier this summer, the ocean temperature off Florida reached over 100 degrees Fahrenheit. Oh, well, that's Florida, right? We're a thousand miles far-

ther north. Our whales and fish and clams will be just fine, won't they?

But the ocean isn't just warming. It's also rising. Very recently, there has been dire evidence of rising sea levels in the Gulf of Mexico that are threatening New Orleans and the Gulf Coast with disasters much greater than Hurricane Katrina. In Italy, Venice is flooded almost constantly now. The ice caps are shrinking at both poles, and glaciers all over the world are receding at unprecedented rates. Where do you imagine all that newly released water is going?

And as alarming as that is, sea levels in New Jersey are rising at a rate more than double the global average. I wonder how the seashore tourist economy is going to do when storms that rip up the Jersey Shore like Hurricane Sandy did in 2012 start happening every other year. I wonder how business will be at the boardwalk pizza shops and miniature golf courses and amusement parks when the boardwalk is washed away so many times that no one is willing to rebuild it, and insurance companies will no longer insure seashore properties, and the seashore is a mile or two inland from where it is now.

But that's just Chicken Little hysteria, surely. So let's not build any more offshore wind farms. Not in New Jersey. Not in Massachusetts. Not in North Carolina or any other coastal region in the United States of America. Let's not support solar power. Let's not develop thermal. Let's not be willing to pay the cost of avoiding global disaster. Let's not risk jeopardizing the economy. Let's just keep burning fossil fuels and enjoying our thriving economy and our beautiful beach vistas and our fishing and our clamming until life on Planet Earth ceases to be viable.

Global warming, after all, is just a liberal hoax, isn't it? Fake news.



Two wind turbines, in Federal waters, 27 miles off Virginia Beach, part of the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind project. Photo by U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

Thousand-year floods and five hundred-year forest fires twice a year are just the normal fluctuations of the planet. Perfectly natural. Like the Ice Ages. Nothing to worry about. Rich folks like the Kennedys and the Kochs can, after all, buy their way out of anything. Maybe they're all expecting to go to Mars with Elon Musk.

There is one small bright spot in all of this doom-and-gloom. Forty-eight years ago, I was pulled over by cop in Maple Shade, New Jersey, who told me to get out of the state and not come back. Seriously. Ever since then, I've wanted to live long enough to witness New Jersey disappear beneath the waves of the Atlantic Ocean, but I never dreamed I'd actually get to see it happen.

Now I'm not so sure.

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

Jesse James Now Wears Guccis

by Jim Hightower

Today's train robbers don't need masks or guns, for they are railroad executives wearing \$3,000 suits and robbing us by railroading the political system.

With their gangs of lobbyists and hopper cars of campaign cash, they get Congress to do their dirty work, gutting public safety protections and muting railway unions. Thus, rich investors get richer, while regular people are hit by an astonishing level of derailments, injuries, destruction... and death. Witness the horrific wreck of Norfolk Southern's nearly two-mile long toxic freight train this year in East Palestine, Ohio.

This was a product of the industry's prevailing ethic of profit over public safety, and the American people were outraged by the greed, demanding fundamental reform. U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg weighed in, correctly noting that calls to protect the public have too often "given way to industry pushback and inaction. That must not happen this time," he emphatically declared.

You go, Pete! But it is happening. A key reform he pushed was to allow rail employees to report safety dangers without fear of retribution from the corporate hierarchy. Such a "close call" reporting program has existed for years—but participation was voluntary. Hello—out of some 800 American railroad corporations, just 27 chose to volunteer, and all of the Big Eight freight giants (including Norfolk Southern) refused to join.

In the media glare of the East Palestine catastrophe, however, nearly all pledged to support the employee reporting reform. But that was then. Today, the media focus on East Palestine is gone, and the railroad lobbyists and their hopper cars of corporate cash have rolled back into Washington, watering down Buttigieg's safety agreement to nothing.

And that's why America's train system won't run right until we fix the crooked political money system that derails progress.

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The Alleged News®

from page six

in coastal California.

The parallels between the late Pleistocene megafaunal extinctions and today's environmental crises are striking. The past teaches us that the ecosystems we depend upon are vulnerable to collapse when stressed by multiple intersecting pressures. Redoubling efforts to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions, prevent reckless fire ignitions and preserve

Earth's remaining megafauna can help avert another, even more catastrophic transformation.

Emily Lindsey is Associate Curator, La Brea Tar Pits. Lisa N. Martinez is a Ph.D. Candidate in Geography, University of California, Los Angeles. Regan E. Dunn is Adjunct Professor of Earth Sciences, USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences. This article may be republished for free, online or in print, under a Creative Commons license, CC BYND.

"The basic principle of this government is the will of the people. A system was devised by its founders which seemed to insure the means of ascertaining that will and of enacting it into legislation and supporting it through the administration of the law. This was to be accomplished by electing men to make, and men to execute the laws, who, would represent in the laws so made and executed the will of the people. This was the establishment of a representative government, where every

man had equal voice, equal rights, and equal responsibilities. Have we such a government today? Or is this country fast coming to be dominated by forces that threaten... representative government?"

— Rep. (later Sen.) Robert La Follette, (R-Wisc.), 1897

"If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost; that is where they should be. Now put the foundations under them."

— Henry David Thoreau, *Walden*

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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, AUGUST 27	MONDAY, AUGUST 28	TUESDAY, AUGUST 29	WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30	THURSDAY, AUGUST 31	FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1	SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2
<p>2014—Arthur T. Demoulas gets the OK to buy and run Market Basket.</p> <p>2012—New Hampshire “wasn't a battleground state in 2010,” says Executive Councilor Chris Sununu on C-SPAN. “We swept the vermin out and it's now a solid Republican state.”</p> <p>1991—An ABA panel rates Clarence Thomas. Two members find him “not qualified” for the Supreme Court; none find him “well-qualified.”</p> <p>1980—FBI agents use C-4 to disarm a half-ton bomb planted in Harvey's Resort Hotel in Stateline, Nevada. Result: a 50- by 30-foot crater.</p> <p>1979—Admiral of the Fleet Louis Mountbatten is assassinated by an IRA bomb which destroys his 27-foot fishing boat off County Sligo.</p> <p>1960—Whites in Jacksonville, Fla., react to Black lunch counter sit-ins with “Ax Handle Saturday.”</p> <p>1949—Three FBI agents observe as a mob attacks the audience at a Paul Robeson concert in Peekskill, N.Y.</p> <p>1938—Robert Frost, 64 and jealous, sets fire to papers to disrupt Archibald MacLeish's poetry reading.</p> <p>1919—On Churchill's orders, British biplanes drop poison gas on Russian villages in Arkhangelsk Oblast.</p> <p>1831—Maj. Thomas Biddle and Rep. Spencer Darwin Pettis [D-Mo.] meet on Bloody Island, just off St. Louis. Biddle is myopic so they duel with pistols at five feet. Both are mortally wounded; honor being satisfied, though, they forgive each other.</p>	<p>2005—Hurricane Katrina hits New Orleans and the levees break.</p> <p>1969—Judith Love Cohen completes the Abort Guidance System—later used to bring Apollo 13 back to Earth—while in labor in the maternity ward, then gives birth to Jack Black.</p> <p>1968—Police preserve disorder at the Democratic Convention in Chicago.</p> <p>1963—At the Lincoln Memorial, Martin Luther King, Jr. calls for freedom to ring from the prodigious hill-tops of New Hampshire ...</p> <p>1955—During a visit to family in Money, Miss., fourteen-year-old Chicagoan Emmett Till is murdered by whites for speaking to a white woman.</p> <p>1951—Killed in Korea, John R. Rice is denied burial at a Sioux City cemetery because he's a Native American.</p> <p>1947—In Linares, Spain, the fifth bull of the day helps even the score a little by fatally goring Manolete.</p> <p>1921—Ten thousand coal miners and two thousand hired goons start trading lead on Blair Mountain, W.Va.</p> <p>1919—Resigning as mayor of Seattle, Ole Hanson, the survivor of an assassination attempt, says “hang or incarcerate all anarchists for life.”</p> <p>1918—Fifteen Wobblies get 20 years in prison for draft obstruction.</p> <p>1869—The Mount Washington Cog Railway opens for business.</p> <p>1831—Rep. Robert Potter [D-N.C.] castrates two men he suspects of having sex with his wife. One, a minister in his 50s, is her cousin.</p>	<p>2013—Americans learn, thanks to Edward Snowden, that the annual “Black Budget” of the “Intelligence Community” is \$52.6 billion a year.</p> <p>2007—Due to careless accounting, an Air Force B-52 at Minot AFB in North Dakota is loaded with six live nukes, then left unguarded overnight.</p> <p>1977—Skynet becomes self-aware.</p> <p>1996—Dick Morris resigns; his habit of sucking hooker's toes bugs boss Bill Clinton, who just got re-nominated.</p> <p>1977—Memphis cops nab three people trying to steal Elvis's corpse.</p> <p>1970—A 23-member band of Native Americans scale Mount Rushmore and re-name it for Crazy Horse.</p> <p>1968—A week-long rebellion erupts at the Long Binh Jail in Vietnam.</p> <p>1957—Despite a 24 hr., 18 min. filibuster by Sen. Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.)—father, at 22, of a mixed-race child by his family's 16-year-old maid—the Civil Rights Act passes.</p> <p>1956—Jesus Christ “GG” Allin, the most depraved punk rocker in history, is born in Lancaster, New Hampshire.</p> <p>1921—Coal companies use hired airplanes to drop bombs on miners at Blair Mountain, West Virginia.</p> <p>1787—Though dropped the day before when two objected, on this day the Framers agree: fugitive slaves “shall be delivered up to the person justly claiming their service or labor.”</p> <p>1786—Farmers in Northampton, Mass.—many Revolution vets—close the courts to prevent foreclosures.</p>	<p>2011—The Federal Election Commission bestirs itself and OKs an investigation of Rep. Frank Guinta [R-N.H.].</p> <p>2007—Unbeknownst to the pilots, a B-52 takes off from N.D. with six live nukes onboard. Arriving in La., it sits unguarded from noon to 10:00 p.m.</p> <p>2004—To milk 9/11 for all it's worth, the RNC convenes in New York City. Attendees mock John Kerry and wounded vets in general by wearing “Purple Heart” band-aids.</p> <p>1979—Deftly wielding a canoe paddle, President Carter fends off a deranged swamp rabbit.</p> <p>1979—For the first time, astronomers observe a comet hitting the sun.</p> <p>1967—Thurgood Marshall becomes the first Black Associate Justice.</p> <p>1964—At the Democratic Convention, an all-white delegation from Mississippi is seated while a Black protest delegation is not.</p> <p>1963—The White House and the Kremlin get connected by “Hot Line.”</p> <p>1950—At a closed Senate Appropriations hearing, Sec. of State Dean Acheson takes a swing at Sen. Kenneth Wherry (R-Neb.) but is restrained by a State Dept. lawyer.</p> <p>1918—Fanya Kaplan, 28, shoots Lefnor, who's badly wounded but lives. She's summarily shot days later.</p> <p>1893—Huey “The Kingfish” Long is born in Winnfield, La.</p> <p>1813—Drunken officers are playing cards when 800 Creeks attack Ft. Mims, Ala.; of 500 whites, 15 survive.</p>	<p>2019—Portsmouth's Daniel Street Post Office closes for good. Thanks a lot, Councilor, Congressman, Governor, and Senator Judd Gregg.</p> <p>1973—The Gainesville Eight, anti-war veterans charged with conspiracy to riot at the 1972 Republican National Convention, are acquitted.</p> <p>1965—President Johnson signs a bill making draft card burning illegal.</p> <p>1963—Robert Bork publishes an article in <i>The New Republic</i> opposing the Civil Rights Act.</p> <p>1959—President Eisenhower says, “people want peace so much that one of these days governments had better get out of the way and let them have it.”</p> <p>1954—Hurricane Carol slams New England; 65 die.</p> <p>1948—An LAPD setup bears fruit: Robert Mitchum is busted for pot.</p> <p>1939—German operatives conduct Operation Himmler, 21 false flag attacks along the Polish border, to justify the next day's invasion.</p> <p>1925—After an 11-year occupation, U.S. Marines depart from Haiti leaving a dictatorship behind.</p> <p>1921—President Harding orders a cease-fire in the W.Va. Mine War under threat of Federal intervention.</p> <p>1919—The American Communist Party is formed in Chicago.</p> <p>1895—Julius A. Wyland founds <i>An Appeal to Reason</i>, an independent socialist weekly. Its peak circulation, in 1910, is over half a million.</p> <p>1803—Lewis and Clark go west.</p>	<p>2019—Meteorologist-in-Chief Donald J. Trump tweets that Hurricane Dorian will hit Alabama hard.</p> <p>2005—New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin calls for George W.[MD] Bush and FEMA to “get off your asses and do something” about his flooded city.</p> <p>1989—Narcs trying to score crack near the White House for a George H.[H.J.W.] Bush presidential photo-op get the drug on their third try but not the film—their camera operator gets mugged by a homeless person.</p> <p>1989—Bible-thumping huckster Jim Bakker's fraud trial is briefly interrupted when, professing that he's hallucinating, he's taken to a mental institution in handcuffs and leg shackles.</p> <p>1983—The USSR shoots down KAL Flight 007. Among the victims: Congressman [and John Birch Society President] Larry McDonald (R-Ga.).</p> <p>1982—The U.S. Air Force Space Command becomes operational.</p> <p>1970—“This [Senate] chamber reeks of blood,” says George McGovern.</p> <p>1952—A freak wind hits Carswell AFB in Texas knocking two-thirds of SAC's B-29s out of commission.</p> <p>1894—Thomas P. “Boston” Corbett, the self-castrating Cavalryman who shot John Wilkes Booth, dies in Hinckley, Minn. along with 800 others in a four-hour firestorm.</p> <p>1862—“The Rebel bullet that can kill me has not yet been molded,” boasts General Philip Kearny. Some Rebel worked fast: he's KIA this day.</p>	<p>1983—Mississippi's execution of Jimmy Lee Gray goes poorly; executioner T. Berry Bruce is drunk. Officials clear the witness room after eight minutes, as Gray gasps, moans, and bangs his head on a steel pole.</p> <p>1945—V-J Day—Japan surrenders to General “Dugout Doug” MacArthur aboard a battleship named after Pres. Harry S Truman's home state.</p> <p>1945—Cribbing freely from the U.S. Declaration of Independence, Ho Chi Minh declares Vietnam to be sovereign and independent.</p> <p>1939—G-Man J. Edgar Hoover creates a “Custodial Detention Index,” a list of left wingers to detain without trial in case of “national emergency.”</p> <p>1935—Recently rousted from Washington, D.C. by General Douglas MacArthur, 259 veterans working on the Overseas Highway are among those killed by the Labor Day Hurricane when it hits the Florida Keys.</p> <p>1921—Two battalions of U.S. troops finally convince miners on Blair Mtn., W.Va. to begin disarming.</p> <p>1898—At Omdurman, British Maxims firing Dum-Dums kill 15,000 spear-wielding Sudanese in one day.</p> <p>1885—White railroad workers rioting in Rock Springs, Wyo. massacre 28 Chinese railroad workers.</p> <p>1864—One day after Confederate troops bug out, Union forces enter and occupy Atlanta, Georgia.</p> <p>1666—The Great Fire of London begins; 10,000 buildings in three days.</p>
<p>2:00 2:08 8:16 8:33</p>	<p>3:02 3:11 9:19 9:34</p>	<p>4:01 4:10 10:17 10:32</p>	<p>4:54 5:06 11:10 11:26</p>	<p>5:45 6:00 12:00</p>	<p>6:33 6:52 12:18 12:48</p>	<p>7:20 7:43 1:09 1:36</p>
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3	MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4	TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5	WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6	THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7	FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8	SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9
<p>2003—Because life is sacred, Florida poisons Paul Hill, who shotgunned Dr. John Britton and his bodyguard because life is sacred. Rinse & repeat.</p> <p>1991—Locked doors, dead phones, and a lack of fire alarms kill 25 workers in a North Carolina chicken plant.</p> <p>1971—As Richard Nixon speaks at a Milk Producers' convention in Chicago, an aide pockets his fee: a \$5,000 bribe, which will pay the Plumbers who are, this day, breaking into the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist—at Nixon's behest.</p> <p>1955—Mamie Till Mobley holds an open-casket funeral for her murdered and mutilated son Emmett.</p> <p>1950—American advisors arrive in Saigon to support NATO: France wants Vietnam, so the U.S. helps it fight Vietnamese anti-colonialists.</p> <p>1948—Duval County officials “find” 200 votes, making LBJ a Senator.</p> <p>1925—On a PR tour of the Midwest, ordered by Navy brass over the objections of its Commander, an Ohio native who knows its summer storms, the airship <i>U.S.S. Shenandoah</i> crashes in Ohio in a summer storm; 14 die.</p> <p>1923—Milo, Maine holds a Centennial Parade. Marchers include 75 Klansmen in full, hooded regalia.</p> <p>1903—Griffith J. Griffith, the closeted drunk who gave Los Angeles Griffith Park in 1896, shoots his kneeling wife for conspiring with the Pope to poison him. She loses an eye but lives, he gets two years in San Quentin.</p>	<p>2019—Proving that his Hurricane Dorian prediction was perfect, Donald J. Trump displays a fake map.</p> <p>1992—Ex-South Vietnamese fighter pilot Ly Tong hijacks an Air Vietnam Airbus out of Bangkok. As it flies low and slow over Ho Chi Minh City, he drops revolutionary propaganda, then safely parachutes—but into captivity.</p> <p>1976—George W.[MD] Bush is arrested for DUI in Kennebunk, Maine.</p> <p>1973—R. Nixon's flunkies John Ehrlichman and G. Gordon Liddy are indicted for felonious burglary.</p> <p>1967—“I just had the greatest brainwashing ... [in] Vietnam,” says Gov. George Romney (R-Mich.).</p> <p>1957—Ford's Edsel debuts.</p> <p>1957—Gov. Orval Faubus [Dem.] orders the Alabama National Guard to keep nine Black children from entering Little Rock Central High school.</p> <p>1949—In Peekskill, N.Y., after a Paul Robeson concert, a mob, including cops, beats the audience, including Eugene Bullard, a Black WW I fier.</p> <p>1942—<i>The Washington Post</i> reports that an anti-aircraft gunner has accidentally hit the Lincoln Memorial with three .50 caliber rounds.</p> <p>1918—U.S. troops land at Archangel, Russia, to “protect American interests.”</p> <p>1886—Apache chief Geronimo surrenders at Arizona's Skeleton Canyon.</p> <p>1875—Whites in Clinton, Miss. slaughter 50 Blacks at random.</p> <p>1833—<i>The</i> [N.Y.] <i>Sun</i> hires Barney Flaherty, 10, America's first newsboy.</p>	<p>2005—Barbara Bush says Hurricane Katrina was “working very well” for thousands of homeless refugees.</p> <p>2002—Portsmouth loses Jay Smith, creator of the Press Room, Patron Saint of The Music Hall, &c. RIP.</p> <p>1991—The D.C. home of Sen. Jesse Helms [R-N.C.] is covered by a giant condom, courtesy of ACT UP.</p> <p>1990—L.A. Police Chief Darryl Gates tell the Senate Judiciary Committee that “casual drug users should be taken out and shot.”</p> <p>1934—N.C. Gov. John Ehringhaus [Dem.] calls out the National Guard to break a textile strike. Other states follow with pro-plutocracy actions.</p> <p>1931—Consolidated Edison worker George Metesky is injured on the job. Denied Workmen's Compensation, “The Mad Bomber” plants 32 bombs over 16 years before he's caught.</p> <p>1930—Carl Panzram to Leavenworth's hangman: “Hurry it up you Hoosier bastard. I could hang a dozen men while you're screwing around.”</p> <p>1925—Colonel Billy Mitchell blames the recent crash of the <i>Shenandoah</i> on the “almost treasonable negligence” of the Navy & War Dept.'s top brass.</p> <p>1917—The Justice [Hah!] Department raids Socialist Party and IWW offices nationwide and shuts down the newspaper <i>American Socialist</i>.</p> <p>1905—The Treaty of Portsmouth ends the Russo-Japanese War.</p> <p>1877—Crazy Horse, while in U.S. Army custody, is fatally bayoneted.</p>	<p>2010—Alabama prison officials ban the reading of a Pulitzer-winning history of Black forced labor.</p> <p>2002—George W.[MD] Bush Chief of Staff Andy Card says, “From a marketing point of view, you don't introduce new products [i.e., wars based on false premises] in August.”</p> <p>1978—The U.S. House opens hearings on the assassinations of JFK & MLK. On Dec. 30th they conclude that conspiracies were likely.</p> <p>1964—Thousands of white kids riot in Hampton Beach, N.H., causing extensive property damage. Bill Loeb's <i>Union Leader</i> blames it on the pinkos.</p> <p>1949—World War II vet and devout churchgoer Howard Unruh kills 13 of his N.J. neighbors in 12 minutes.</p> <p>1939—FDR OKs FBI investigation of “subversive activity.” Oops....</p> <p>1901—Pres. Wm. McKinley is assassinated by anarchist Leon Czolgosz.</p> <p>1872—Rather than pay his deputy a \$10 fee, Erie County Sheriff and future 22nd and 24th President Grover “Big Steve” Cleveland hangs mother-murderer Patrick Morrissey.</p> <p>1869—Pennsylvania's Avondale Colliery catches fire while 200 men are underground; 110 of them die. Management tries to blame the miners, but their union fights back and wins some basic mine safety regulation.</p> <p>1835—Esther Sumner, 21, weds Revolution vet Noah Damon, 75, in Vermont. She collects his pension from 1853 until her death in 1906.</p>	<p>2003—Warren Zevon sleeps.</p> <p>2000—“When I am President, we] will not have our veterans standing in line waiting for benefits that they've been promised,” George W.[MD] Bush falsely asserts.</p> <p>1996—Two women walk into the Norfolk (Va.) Naval Base with a banner reading “Love Your Enemies.” They're promptly arrested.</p> <p>1988—“Today is Pearl Harbor Day,” says George H.[H.J.W.] Bush.</p> <p>1974—R. Nixon, irate that G. Ford is demanding a show of contrition, issues a threat: if Ford doesn't pardon him, he'll accuse Ford of promising a pardon in exchange for the Presidency.</p> <p>1970—“Plant one, plant two [Secret Service agents] on [Ted Kennedy],” Richard Nixon says to aides. “We might just get lucky and catch this son-of-a-bitch—ruin him for '76. It's going to be fun.”</p> <p>1964—Lyndon Johnson's infamous “Daisy Ad,” airs, once. It's enough.</p> <p>1914—French generals send 6,000 infantrymen from Paris to the Battle of the Marne in taxis. They hold the line and save the city.</p> <p>1737—Thomas Penn's “Walking Purchase” swindles the Leni Lenape out of an area the size of Rhode Island.</p> <p>1676—Major Richard Waldron invites 400 natives to a mock battle with his militia. Their guns discharged, they're taken prisoner, sent to Boston, and executed or sold into slavery. Waldron is slain in revenge 12 years later.</p>	<p>2018—Secretary of the Army Mark Esper posts an anti-suicide message on Facebook. It features a photo of Army SSGt. Robert Bales, then doing life for murdering 16 Afghan civilians.</p> <p>2002—<i>The N.Y. Times</i> publishes lies about tubes based on a White House leak; the White House cites that story as proof Iraq plans to build nukes.</p> <p>1988—Dan Quayle says, “Republicans understand the importance of bondage between parent and child.”</p> <p>1978—The Shah uses U.S.-made weapons to crush Tehran riots; 89 die. In six months the Ayatollah is boss.</p> <p>1974—Ford pardons Nixon [see 9/7].</p> <p>1972—As the Federal Price Commission OKs a previously-denied price hike for McDonald's quarter-pounders, the Nixon re-election campaign from MacDonald's owner, Ray A. Kroc.</p> <p>1964—Concord, N.H.-born “Rebel Girl” Elizabeth Gurley Flynn is given a state funeral at the Kremlin.</p> <p>1935—One bullet kills Sen. Huey P. Long [D-La.]. Carl Weiss is shot 60 times by Long's bodyguards—one of whom might have actually shot Long.</p> <p>1934—In a no'r'easter off New Jersey, its captain dead of a heart attack, the <i>Morro Castle</i> catches fire. The blazing hulk runs aground with 137 passengers and crew dead.</p> <p>1923—Poor navigation leads a squadron of 14 new Navy destroyers astray off the California coast. Seven ships run aground and 23 sailors are killed.</p>	<p>2013—Five days of chaos begin in Fort Lee, N.J., due to a suspicious, un-announced bridge closure.</p> <p>2009—As President Obama addresses Congress, Rep. Joe Wilson (R-S.C.) yells at him, “You lie.”</p> <p>2008—Lehman Bros., the nation's fourth largest investment bank, loses 45 percent of its value.</p> <p>2005—“You know,” says Glenn Beck, “it took me about a year to start hating the 9/11 victims families...When I see a 9/11 victim family on television...I'm just, like ‘Oh, shut up.’”</p> <p>1999—Louis T. “Moondog” Hardin, American composer, street musician, and blind, Viking-helmet-wearing eccentric, dies at 83 in Germany.</p> <p>1988—Dan Quayle, who got into law school via an “equal opportunity” program for disadvantaged minorities, says the process was “fair and square.”</p> <p>1971—Rioting prisoners take nine guards hostage at the Attica Correctional Facility near Buffalo, N.Y.</p> <p>1949—Canadian Albert Guy becomes the first person to destroy an airliner with a bomb. His recently-injured wife was on board, he was not. He's hanged 16 months later.</p> <p>1776—The Second Continental Congress votes to ditch “United Colonies” in favor of “United States.”</p> <p>1739—In South Carolina, 20 enslaved Black people kill two storekeepers, steal guns and powder, recruit allies, kill about 20 whites, and march towards Florida.</p>
<p>1:59 2:24 8:07 8:35</p>	<p>2:51 3:13 8:55 9:29</p>	<p>3:46 4:06 9:45 10:26</p>	<p>4:44 5:03 10:38 11:28</p>	<p>5:48 6:06 11:38</p>	<p>6:57 7:13 12:34 12:44</p>	<p>8:05 8:19 1:43 1:52</p>



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