

The Fortnightly Rant

The Countdown to... What?

We face another 354 days of uncertainty, then: November 5th. Even the best outcome will bring a mixture of relief and dread.

Two-thirds of the country will sigh with relief if #45 fails to mutate into #47. Then they'll hold their breath as the remaining third—armed, angry, and impervious to reason—decides what it's going to do about it.

If they were Democrats they would argue amongst themselves then splinter into factions. That is a law as inexorable as gravity.

Not this crowd, though. These are rough and ready Republicans, eager to follow a strong, inspiring leader, right into the Gates of Hell!

There will be no shortage of applicants for the position. This, too, is a law. Appropriately enough, it's market-based—the law of supply and demand.

The gold rushes of yore have all petered out, but with the right wing forever standing there to be fleeced, would-be demagogues will be scrambling to grab the shears.

To appreciate the scope of this market, just turn on your car radio: "Prepare for the future with Patriotic Survival Food." "Protect yourself from the Looming Financial Collapse by Investing in a Gold IRA." "You say you just shot somebody? No sweat—so long as you bought that insurance policy Sean Hannity has been selling." If those ads weren't profitable, you wouldn't be hearing them.

It's a sordid job, but maybe that adds to the appeal.

So much for our best-case scenario. Let's now look at what could happen if the faction that now dominates our political landscape manages to accomplish what it's clearly trying to do.

[checks notes...] Um... don't know quite how to put this, but...

are you ready for a fascist dictatorship?

We are emboldened to put this matter so bluntly because it is now an approved journalistic practice to report on "not the odds, but the stakes."

The foremost proponent of this fresh approach is Jay Rosen, a professor of journalism at NYU. He argues that "the organizing principle we most need from journalists covering the 2024 election [is not] who has what chances of winning, but the consequences for our democracy." As the nation's senior news organization, we have done this instinctively since taking over the paper. It's reassuring to see others catching up.

Having thus calmed and fortified our editorial selves, perhaps we can now confront recent events.

Former President Donald Trump, taking time out from his many court appearances in which he has been answering a long list of felony charges, appeared in Claremont, New Hampshire on Veterans Day, as part of his campaign to regain the White House.

"We pledge to you," he told his followers, "that we will root out the communists, Marxists, fascists and the radical left thugs that live like vermin within the confines of our country..." Because we did not watch the video, we cannot say if he was wearing an armband as he spoke.

The *New York Times* clearly did not get Jay Rosen's memo. Its headline read, "Trump Takes Veterans Day Speech in a Very Different Direction." It was later changed to a somewhat less obsequious "In Veterans Day Speech, Trump Promises to 'Root Out' the Left."

The *Washington Post* was less circumspect. Its headline read, "Trump calls political enemies 'vermin,'



echoing dictators Hitler, Mussolini."

The *Post* quoted Columbia University's Timothy Naftali saying, "When you dehumanize an opponent, you strip them of their constitutional rights to participate securely in a democracy because you're saying they're not human. That's what dictators do."

NYU historian Ruth Ben-Giat told the *Post*, "calling people 'vermin' was used effectively by Hitler and Mussolini to dehumanize people and encourage their followers to engage in violence."

With resources to spare, the *Post* took time to offer the Trump campaign an opportunity to respond.

"[T]hose who try to make that ridiculous assertion," said spokesman Steven Cheung, "are clearly snowflakes grasping for anything because they are suffering from Trump Derangement Syndrome and their entire existence will be crushed when President Trump returns to the

White House."

"Cheung later clarified," according to the *Post*, "that he meant to say their 'sad, miserable existence' instead of their 'entire existence.'"

Well, that's certainly much better.

A hundred years ago last week, Adolf Hitler and two thousand of his fascist followers attempted a violent coup in Munich. It failed, but they persisted.

Less than ten years later Hitler was elected Chancellor. Over the course of 20 months, through a series of ten acts passed in the Reichstag, Germany went from being a democratic parliamentary republic to Nazi totalitarianism.

Playing into their stereotyped image, Germans have a word for this process. Among electrical engineers, *Gleichschaltung* means "all on the same circuit." For historians of the Third Reich, *Gleichschaltung* connotes "coordination."

In American English, it's Project

2025—a 920-page blueprint published by the Heritage Foundation. It may be named for the year when the Foundation's funders hope that #45 will become #47. Many of its hundreds of authors were officials in his administration.

On the other hand—since there is a chance that by that time, #45's presidential designation may be superseded by an eight-digit ID from the Bureau of Prisons—2025 may just be the last year our ruling class intends to put up with democracy. They know they can always find an as-yet unindicted figurehead.

Whatever the details of its origin story, Project 2025 is ready to go: an elaborate plan to coordinate a broad swath of objectives—tearing down the wall between church and state, eliminating the IRS, gutting Social Security, tightening voting restrictions—to create an explicitly reactionary state.

We had better be ready.

The Alleged News®

Seeing Through the Economic Bait and Switch

The values of the U.S. public are not the same as those of the wealthy and corporations. It took a UN official—an outsider—to point out the dissonance.

By Sonali Kolhatkar

Olivier De Schutter, the United Nations special rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, recently issued a scathing statement about the shameful state of the United States economy. On October 31, 2023, De Schutter called out several top private employers in the U.S., Amazon, Walmart, and DoorDash, for trapping their workers in a cycle of poverty.

He said, "Jobs are supposed to provide a pathway out of poverty, yet in all three companies the business model seems to be to shift operating costs onto the public by relying on

government benefits to supplement miserably low wages."

In a related letter to the U.S. government, De Schutter wrote, "Despite being one of the wealthiest countries in the world, the United States has a high rate of poverty among workers."

Such public statements by the representative of a top international body ought to be a mark of shame for the U.S., which has historically marketed itself as being a place where people's dreams come true.

In contrast to De Schutter's rhetoric, the corporate media's assessment is quite rosy, relying increasingly on the word "resilient" as a popular descriptor for the economy as a whole. According to the *Financial Times*, "The stunning resilience in the U.S. economy to date has stemmed from one primary force: consumer spend-

ing." Economist Kathy Bostjancic, who was interviewed for the story, cited, "incredible job growth," and lauded how "[b]alance sheets look in really good shape, stocks have generally performed really well."

The U.S. government also sees nothing but cause for celebration. Officials at the Treasury Department on October 26, 2023, boasted how the nation's economy this year "outperformed expectations along three key dimensions: growing economic output, labor market resilience, and slowing inflation," and that the nation's economic progress, "stands out across the globe."

How to explain these striking contradictions in assessments between the United Nations and those of the corporate media and the U.S. government?

In short, evaluations by the U.S.

media and politicians are based on corporate prosperity while the UN's evaluation is based on individual prosperity.

If we look closely, there is a dissonance on display. We, the people, are being sold the lie that the values of the wealthy are the same as ours. But what's on offer does not reflect reality.

Merriam-Webster defines the term "bait and switch" as "a sales tactic in which a customer is attracted by the advertisement of a low-priced item but is then encouraged to buy a higher-priced one." It's an apt phrase to understand the way in which mainstream economists, corporate media outlets, and many politicians promote the idea of stock values as something ordinary Americans should care about.

A year after dropping to a record

low in 2022, child poverty in the U.S. more than doubled, partly as a result of COVID-19 related government benefits expiring. Additionally, median household income fell significantly. Economists rarely address such pesky details when celebrating the "resilience" of the stock market, preferring instead to focus on the fact that more people are employed, not whether their wages and benefits support a decent standard of living.

Occasionally there are stories that undermine the corporate narrative, such as an NBC story in March 2023, headlined, "Most people have jobs, but many are unhappy about their money." But such coverage is the exception.

Work” Laws. Having buried the lede here under a load of macho posturing, let’s dig into the sordid history of these legislative travesties.

Down to Bidness

First, let’s give credit where it’s due: Michael Sainato, a *Guardian* reporter, sent us down this rabbit hole with the following tweet:

“Republicans testifying against PRO Act during Senate hearing today keep mischaracterizing ‘right to work.’

“‘Right to work’ was a movement started in the 1940s by Vance Muse, a Texas white supremacist lobbyist.”

This was an “aha moment” for our alleged editor. Barely off the turnip truck—this being the late 1970s—he first learned about Right to Work laws from a couple of public relations flacks working for Hill & Knowlton. Their immaculately-dressed presence in the offices of our two-bit weekly made it pretty clear: someone was hoping to profit substantially by getting a pending bill passed in Concord. Yet in all the ensuing 40-plus years, he’d never heard this origin story.

Influential Crackpots

According to the all-seeing, all-knowing Wikipedia, “Vance Muse [1890, Moran, Texas–1950, Houston, Texas] was an American businessman and conservative lobbyist who invented the Right-to-work movement against the unionization of American workers, and helped pass the first anti-union laws in Texas. Muse was editor of *The Christian American* and worked for the Southern Committee to Uphold the Constitution (SCUC), which used both anti-Semitic and anti-black rhetoric in their lobby work against the reelection of Franklin D. Roosevelt. The Christian American Association worked on the far right-wing in Texas labor politics. He also used segregationist views as an argument against unions, stating that “From now on, white women and white men will be forced into organizations with black African apes whom they will have to call ‘brother’ or lose their jobs.”

Vance was often aided by his sister, Ida Darden, who for ten years published an eight-page newspa-



Veterans Day was observed in Portsmouth at the appropriate time, on the appropriate day, with all the usual ceremonies. “Of course,” one might think, “that goes without saying.” Perhaps not. One might just as well expect that the Department of Veterans Affairs [VA] could be trusted to put veterans first in their management of VA Home Loans. But, on November 11th, NPR reported that 6,000 veterans are now in foreclosure because the VA ended a Partial Claim Payment program in October of 2022. Another 34,000 veterans are currently on track to face the same fate.

per, *Southern Conservative*. “Though most contemporary observers in Fort Worth in the 1950s regarded Darden as a crackpot,” the Texas Historical Association wrote in a brief bio, “she did not lack influence.”

‘Baby Steps’ Will Not Avert Climate Catastrophe, UN Warns
by Jessica Corbett

“The world is failing to get a grip on the climate crisis.”

That’s how United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres began his Tuesday remarks about a new U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) report on nationally determined contributions (NDCs), or countries’ plans to meet the goals of the Paris agreement, including its 1.5°C temperature target.

The UNFCCC analysis “provides yet more evidence that the world remains massively off track to limiting global warming to 1.5°C and avoiding the worst of climate catastrophe,” said Guterres. “As the report

shows, global ambition stagnated over the past year and national climate plans are strikingly misaligned with the science.”

Under current NDCs from the 195 Paris agreement parties, global greenhouse gas emissions are set to rise by nearly 9 percent by 2030, compared with 2010 levels, according to the analysis. While that’s a slight improvement on the 10.6 percent increase from last year’s assessment, it’s still nowhere near the cuts that experts say are needed.

The analysis of NDCs comes as scientists project that 2023 will be the hottest year in 125,000 years and just over two weeks before the U.N. Climate Change Conference (COP28) in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, a summit controversially led by Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, CEO of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company.

“As the reality of climate chaos pounds communities around the world—with ever fiercer floods, fires, and droughts—the chasm

between need and action is more menacing than ever,” Guterres declared. “COP28 must be the place to urgently close the climate ambition gap.”

U.N. Climate Change Executive-Secretary Simon Stiell echoed Guterres’ call to action, stressing in a statement that the new assessment makes clear governments are merely “taking baby steps to avert the climate crisis.”

“It shows why governments must make bold strides forward at COP28 in Dubai, to get on track,” Stiell said. “This means COP28 must be a clear turning point. Governments must not only agree what stronger climate actions will be taken but also start showing exactly how to deliver them.”

The UNFCCC document was released on the same day as State of Climate Action 2023, which its crafters called “the world’s most

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Murph’s Fortnightly Quote
“Let’s give it to the Palestinians, as long as there is security for us. No more occupying another people.”
– Yitzhak Rabin (1922-1995) Israeli prime minister, defense minister, ambassador


“Guard against the impostures of pretended patriotism.”
— George Washington
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We're No. 1!—In Inexplicability...
To the Editor,

What is the matter with this country? It is difficult to imagine a more vile person than Donald Trump. Yet, with all his horrid qualities, fully 45 percent of Americans would vote for him. I guess they are not bothered by the 91 indictments, two impeachments, efforts to overthrow the government, endless lies, rape conviction, accusations of sexual assault from dozens of women, storage of nuclear secrets in his bathroom, and utter unfitness for office. No matter how awful Trump is, his support does not fall.

And no matter what Joe Biden accomplishes, he does not receive the credit. His record over the past three years is remarkable. President Biden has passed laws and taken initiatives to rebuild our infrastructure, promote manufacturing, bring integrity to elections, address climate change, enhance gun safety, provide funding to the IRS to pursue tax cheats, require that corporations pay at least a minimum percent in income tax, bring down drug costs, distribute 500 million vaccinations, reduce child poverty, the list goes on and on. His policies have maintained one of the lowest unemployment rates in memory. He has re-established American leadership and standing on the world stage. He lead the fight to bolster Ukraine in defying Russian aggression (Exactly which aspects of the old Soviet Union's expansionism and totalitarianism are so many Republicans in Congress nostalgic about?). Biden is old, but he is smart, strong, and decent, and works every day to improve the lives of Americans. The unshakeable support for the whiny narcissist man-child Donald Trump is completely confounding.

Michael Behrendt
Durham, N.H.
Michael:

When you put it that way, the national frame of mind does seem remarkably un-binged.

Back in the days of our founding, a passing spasm of national delusion would have been less of a threat. But, given what we know now about our increas-

ingly destabilized climate and its predictable effects, it's fairly obvious that, in the absence of some countervailing force, the phenomenon to which you refer seems likely to end humanity's grand adventure in the ugliest manner imaginable.

Since preposterous claims from religious fanatics are all the rage these days, perhaps we may be permitted to indulge in a prophecy: one of these days a weather satellite will reveal an image of a pattern of clouds spelling out in Hebrew letters, "אִסְרָא לְקַיָּא אֲנִי" Rendered in the Roman alphabet, that's "Mene, mene, tekel, upharsin;" roughly translated for the monolingual, it's "You have been weighed in the balance and found wanting. Your days are numbered. Do not pass 'Go,' do not collect \$200."

If an extinction-level asteroid were to collide with Earth, mankind would suffer horrors galore. At least, though, our end would have a certain tragic dignity.

The way things are going, we might as well all be getting run over by Ralph Kramden's bus.

The Editor

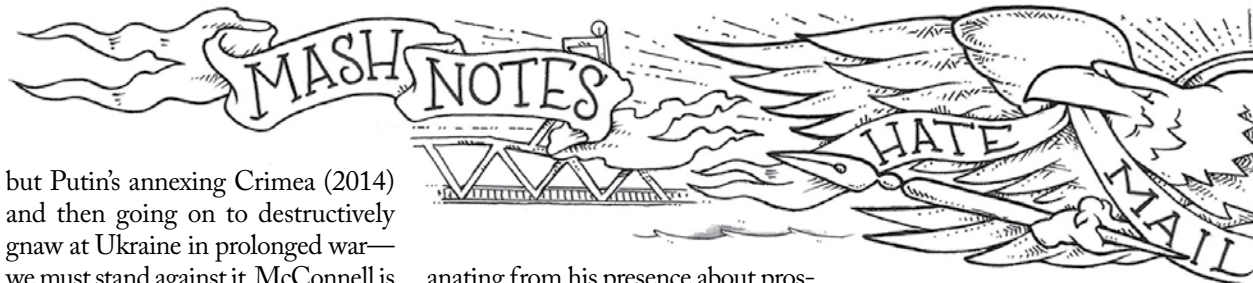
=====
Today's Stopped Clock: Moscow Mitch
Dear Editor:

With new House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) leading the move to cut off Ukraine from our military help, thus strengthening Russian President Vladimir Putin's hand—can these extremist Republicans be called by the old negative label, "reds"?

Online I read of "red under the bed," meaning "a communist who has infiltrated capitalist society." If the Johnson-led Republicans don't know history, however, and the preponderance of red in the old communist country flags, they might ignorantly be "reds." Accidentally pro-Russia. Not good.

Republican Sen. Mitch McConnell says it is important for the U.S. to "help Ukraine win the war," or "Putin's appetite for empire will extend to NATO, and the risk of war for America, a much greater cost than we have provided to Ukraine." Also, "Russian victory would embolden Putin's growing alliance with fellow authoritarian regimes in Iran and China."

War machinery in itself is dreadful,



but Putin's annexing Crimea (2014) and then going on to destructively gnaw at Ukraine in prolonged war—we must stand against it. McConnell is reaching across the aisle, as experience leads him to do.

Lynn Rudmin Chong
Sanbornton, N.H.
Lynn:

McConnell didn't seem so anti-Russian in 2016, when Putin's thumb was on Trump's side of the electoral scale.

Sure, he's taking a stand against Russia, but it's in Ukraine, where the shrieks and groans of the dying are mostly inaudible to us.

Not to be cynical, but... oh, what the hell. Why stop now? War is good business, and the GOP is always the pro-business party, whether overtly or covertly. This is especially true when we can export arms without having to import American corpses.

The Editor

=====
"Only in America," Indeed
To the Editor:

Saturday morning, November 4th, reading the lead story from your latest issue ["Only in America"]... let us now expand on that theme.

Published in that little paper down the road from you, which claims to print all the news that fits, come two tidbits guaranteed to produce heartburn for the rest of the day.

A former State Dept. aide is sentenced to nearly six years in prison for absconding with police riot shields from certain officers, and then proceeding to beat them repeatedly over their heads during the "unguided tour of the Capitol" of January 6, 2021.

Meanwhile, the criminal mastermind and instigator of the aforementioned "tour," leading candidate of his cult for the office he trashed for four years, just had the gag order imposed by his judge in D.C. temporarily lifted for the second time, giving him free reign to smear, bully, threaten, distort, lie and generally add to the stench emanating from his presence about prosecutors, witnesses, law clerks, grocery clerks and anyone else he can think of for the next two weeks.

And all of this going on while the document that supposedly guides the course of events in this country clearly states in plain English, none of that Second Amendment nebulous gibberish, that if you try to overthrow the government it established, you don't get a second chance.

Is this a great country, or what?
John C. Fidor
Richmond, Va.
John:
Despite an avalanche of evidence to the contrary, our literal and unequivocal answer to your rhetorical question is "Yes."
How can we possibly say that? Because we intend to make it so.
What the hell. Might as well go down fighting.

The Editor
=====
America's Manifest Density
To the Editor:

What's up with America's servient rabble claiming the right to regulate the affairs of we, the dominant estate? How absurd! Liberal prattle that flies in the face of God's will, manifest destiny, and the natural order of things. In truth, it's our divine obligation to regulate those hapless devils so we may remedy society's folly. But to reach this end, we must first crush that godless and loathsome experiment they call "Democracy."

Or something like that.
No telling exactly what narcissistic fantasies rightwing overlords pleasure themselves with when they close their eyes at night. However, I do believe Voltaire nailed it when he wrote: "Those who can make you believe absurdities can make you commit atrocities."
If ever there were a warning worth

heeding, this is it. As election time approaches, sharpen your pens because I fear we're about to witness an avalanche of case studies proving the veracity of Voltaire's famous quote.

Rick Littlefield
Barrington, N.H.
Rick:
Brave of you, attempting to fathom the abyssal depths of the minds of our betters.
We have always suspected that unusually attractive people have a skewed view of the world because their outward appearance prompts us normals to treat them differently. That's a hard case to prove, though.
On the other hand, there seems to be plenty of evidence that the more money a person has, the less qualified they are to make decisions for us lesser mortals. And yet, our political system is engineered to put the rich in charge. We'd call that system broke, and say it's time to fix it.

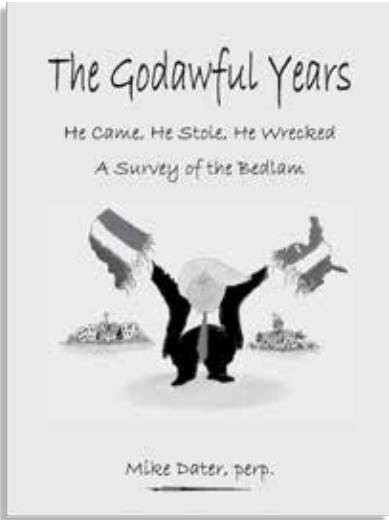
The Editor
=====
View From a Hurling Handbasket
To the Editor:

Has the Republican Party been replaced by the Trump Party? Prerequisites to becoming Speaker of the House were election denial and loyalty to Donald Trump. Mike Johnson of Louisiana filled the bill.

Who is Mike Johnson? Johnson, in a blatant attempt to undermine our democracy, had a leading role in efforts to overturn the 2020 election, and voted against certifying Biden's win even after the Jan 6th insurrection.

Mr. Johnson wants to criminalize abortion and gay sex. He questions climate science and opposes clean energy. Contributions from oil and gas companies support his campaign. He believes gun violence is an unchangeable, immutable fact of the human condition and the price you pay for being human.

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He also believes God ordained his becoming Speaker. He does not believe in the separation of church and state outlined in the First Amendment.

Every Republican in the House, apparently comfortable with these views and bowing to Trump, voted for Johnson as Speaker. Johnson in that important leadership role, and being second in the line of succession to the presidency is a chilling thought—almost as frightening as Trump being president again.

What has happened to the Grand Old Party?

Cynthia Muse
Rye, N.H.
Cynthia:

Not to put too fine a point on it, the GOP went to Hell, and is trying to drag us with it.

The Editor

=====
Defense Dept. Affirms Climate Change
To the Editor:

Back in 2016, Pentagon leadership called on military services to assess “the effects of climate change on the DoD mission” and act where necessary to overcome “risks that develop as a result of climate change” (DoD Directive 4715.21, January 14, 2016).

Few civilians think of climate change as a military concern. And given the currently partisan political nature of environmental discussions, senior military officials are not vocal about their response to climate change. But already in 2013, the DoD was installing solar panels and acquiring electric vehicles to reduce emissions and reduce dependence on long supply chains. The 2016 assessment found that more than half of our 3500 military installations were vulnerable to climate impacts.

The military identified cli-

mate-caused extreme weather events, flooding, fires, drought and deadlier pandemics as threats to national security. Globally, “stresses such as water shortages and crop failures... can lead to state failure, uncontrolled migration, and ungoverned spaces,” according to Rear Admiral David Titley.

Please join N.H. Network for “How the U.S. Military is Preparing for Climate Challenges,” a panel discussion on Zoom, November 13, 5:30-7:00 p.m. Register at https://bit.ly/Military_Climate. Learn why Lieutenant General Norman Seip would state “Assessing and addressing the threat of climate change is critical for the future viability of our force” (11/2/2018).

Susan Richman
Durham, N.H.

Susan:

Obviously and unfortunately, due to our publishing schedule, our readers will have missed the boat for that panel discussion on Zoom. For those who are interested in this issue, we can recommend Seip’s article “Climate Change and U.S. Military Bases,” at <https://tinyurl.com/33staau4>.

The Editor

=====
Sad

To the Editor,

It’s sad that the U.S.A. is supporting genocide of Palestinians. Helping to “cut the grass,” as it is bemusedly described, in a fenced-in camp, a dense concentration of lives of all ages, aiming for it to be the final mowing. Always having your back but, pretty please, would you pause to let supplies in, before you recommence. Dumb proclamations like that, all while the talk is that they are animals, there’s no civilians—everyone’s a combatant, and “We need another Nakba.” October 7th did not happen in a vacuum.

I will never forget, nor forgive. Since I am a member of the U.S.A., having

always lived among them, the least I can do now is never again vote for the enablers, from top down. That way, I can wash off some of the blood on my hands, although the stains are forever.

William M. Trently
Stratham, N.H.

William:

If we understand your letter properly—we hope we’re wrong—you’re saying you won’t vote for Biden. That way, your conscience will be clear.

We’re going to give you the benefit of the doubt and presume that that does not mean you will vote for Trump. A vote withheld from Biden, though, might as well be a vote for Trump.

We find it lamentable that our system of electing officials seems ill-equipped to simultaneously keep fascists out of the White House and satisfy your desire for a positive self-image.

The Editor

=====
Donald and the Mini-Chumps

Dear Editor,

Doesn’t it seem incredible to you that the more the breadth and depth of the former President’s mischief is exposed in the courts, the more wildly popular he gets in the polls?

Not only that, but his followers insist ever more loudly that they stand on the moral high ground above all others. Trump has demonstrably done God’s work by swinging the Supreme Court over to the anti-abortion side, and that’s all MAGA Christians really need to know about him.

These MAGA Americans devoted to Julius Trump, or Donald Chump (take your pick), have two additional propositions they would like the rest of us godless Americans to consider. First, we must champion the idea that an individual recently judged to have committed large scale civil fraud

should be allowed to hold civil office again.

Second, a politician who is charged with many counts of penal crime, and very likely will be convicted of some of them before the next election, should still be able to stand for re-election to the office that supervises the highest department of criminal justice in the land.

Pappas Votes to Censure Tlaib
To the Editor:

The recent censure vote of Rep. Rashida Tlaib [D-Mich.] approved by the U.S. Congress is one of the most hypocritical ever. Americans can now be assured that our rights to speak out against tyranny at home and abroad has been officially dismissed and our 1st Amendment rights to free speech

One Little, Two Little, Three Little Indians

In this photograph, I’m six years old. I’m standing by my father’s church, St. John’s Evangelical Reformed. On the back, my mother’s written: “Billy’s costume, May Day – 1955.”

I think I’m supposed to be an Indian. I’m wearing what appears to be a paper feathered headdress, and a shift or robe that could be made of burlap bags; it’s hard to tell.

What this has to do with May Day I have no idea sixty-nine years later, but it must have been for school, me in Mrs. Weaver’s 1st grade class at Third Street Elementary.

Native peoples lived in Union County; so did buffalo, American bison, though both were gone for centuries before I dressed up in my homemade May Day Indian burlap costume.

The Susquehanna River is the only local landmark with an Indian name, but there’s Little Buffalo Creek nearby and the Buffalo Valley Riding Club, and of course, the Bucknell Bisons.



There’s also a roadside historical marker noting the massacre of the Lee family by “an Indian war party” in 1782. No explanation why they were at war. No context. Just those savages.

I don’t look very savage in this photo. I’m even smiling. It’s a sunny day. I’m probably anticipating having fun. It was a long time ago, but I remember Mrs. Weaver. She was nice.

– W.D. Ehrhart

Putting the fox in charge of the chicken coop just makes perfect sense to MAGA folks.

Kimball Shinkoskey
Woods Cross, Utah
Kimball:

Those Mini-Chumps are salivating because they mistakenly believe that they’re the ones who will be getting all them tasty chickens.

The Editor

be damned. The insidious march of intolerance of American citizens’ efforts to shout down infamy, bigotry, inhumanity, and even genocide will not be accepted unless of course you support the government position or be silent. Politicians in both parties, including New Hampshire representative

Mash Notes, Hate Mail, &c.

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

Origins Story

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

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from page five

Chris Pappas voted with “strings attached” to censure a member of congress for stating the obvious. We are “obviously” now all victims of future censures of our previously constitutionally granted right to free speech. Thanks Mr. Pappas, and may your pockets be full while we work toward marching you out of office.

Daniel Del Caro
Warner, N.H.
Daniel:

Great. Another hot-button issue, another vow to withhold future votes—in a precariously-balanced swing district. [See letter from William Trently, above.]

Sometimes some Democrats seem no more rational than your average Republican.

You wrote us a letter. Did you write Pappas?

The Editor

—==—

The GOP is Coming for Granny's Grub

To the Editor:

As Congress struggles to fund our government, Republicans are preparing to sneak into the next government funding bill the “Fiscal Stability Act” that is intended to destroy Social Security and Medicare.

The Fiscal Stability Act is legislation that would establish a Commission to “strengthen America’s fiscal health and stabilize our debt,” according to its sponsors. But the bill’s sponsors have a long, consistent, history of trying to diminish or eliminate Social Security and Medicare by making false and misleading claims. This legislation should never be introduced or considered by Congress.

With this legislation, the GOP is continuing its effort to gut these programs. Advocates will assert that the trust funds for these programs will run out at some near-future date—only true if Congress fails to act. They will claim that “entitlements are killing us.” Proponents will advocate for various methods that they say will “save” these programs, such as reducing benefits, raising the eligibility age, privatizing



the programs, etc. Sponsors will *not* advocate for the obvious solution: raise the cap on FICA wages and raise the rate on Medicare deductions to cover the current cost of benefits and insure the long-term viability of Social Security and Medicare.

The trust funds for these programs do not hold cash; they hold U.S. Treasury securities. When securities must be cashed in to cover benefit payments, the U.S. Government must use tax dollars to buy back the securities. This is debt service, pure and simple. The U.S. Government is required to honor this debt; it is not an option. Legislation to establish a Commission to “study” ways to circumvent paying U.S. Government debt, and gut these long-standing social programs should never see the light of day.

Paul Cully
Dover, N.H.

Paul:

The media can no more prevent politicians from lying than King Canute could stop the tide. What they could have done, though—and should have done, in our view—it tell the truth about politicians’ lies.

The Gipper was so charming, though... and JFK before him. Use it or lose it, the saying goes. By the time Newt Gingrich came along, the media had seemingly forgotten what a lie is.

Republicans, in particular, saw an opportunity. They could say any damn thing that served their purposes and get it before the public, no matter how absurd.

Media cowardice helped these bogus concepts lodge themselves in the public mind.

The Editor

—==—

Some Things Never Change, Part 1

Dear Editor:

Over 2,500 years ago the Greek philosopher Sophocles wrote, “The tyrant is a child of Pride / Who drinks from his sickening cup / Recklessness and vanity, / Until from his high crest headlong / He

plummets to the dust of hope.” These words are just as applicable today as they were when first written. We are still dealing with tyrants whose pride, vanity, and recklessness put nations and the world at risk.

If Sophocles were alive today, he would not be surprised to see the likes of Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin, who, blinded by their own pride, vanity, and thirst for power, are prepared to destroy themselves and their nations. No matter how many years pass we remain plagued by the same flaws.

Donald Trump, who has been charged with 91 felonies, has committed enormous tax and bank fraud, and sexual assaults against women, remains the leading candidate for the Republican presidential nomination in 2024. Talk about plummeting headlong to the dust of hope!

The fate of the nation rests with us. Despite the efforts of the tyrant and his allies to deny people the right to vote, distort the truth, create false narratives and enemies, deny reality, science, and truth, hope is still alive, as we saw from the results of the recent elections. However, make no mistake about it, the next election will determine whether we keep that light of hope alive or take the path that will lead us to a headlong plummet to the dust of hope.

Rich DiPentima
Portsmouth, N.H.

Rich:

It hardly seems possible, but barring a well-deserved medical emergency or a prompter-than-expected felony conviction, there’s a pretty good chance that a year from now the nation’s fate—and the world’s—will depend on whether sane people outnumber loonies at the polls.

The Editor

—==—

Some Things Never Change, Part 2

Dear Editor:

Let me propose a metamorphosis suggesting some things never change: From Demagogue To Authoritarian.

Demagogue: from the Greek demos, people + agogos, leading.

A leader or orator who appeals to popular desires or prejudices to further personal interests, a rabble-rouser (OED).

The Authoritarian, from “Characters,” by Greek philosopher Theophrastus (c. 370-287 BC):

“Of the poems of Homer there is one single line he has made his own: ‘From many rulers no good comes, let one man rule.’ Of all the rest of Homer he knows nothing.

“Typical of him are utterances like this. ‘We must get together by ourselves and discuss these matters, out of reach of the rabble and the street-corner. It’s time we stopped kow-towing to every jack-in-office, and ourselves accepting kicks or compliments from them. Either they or we must run this city [Athens].’

“He will go out about midday, with his cloak thrown well back, his hair tastefully trimmed, his nails pared, and strut about declaiming statements like this: ‘These blackmailers make Athens impossible to live in;’ or, ‘People who meddle in politics—I can’t imagine what they want;’ or, ‘The working classes—they’re always the same: ungrateful, and ready to obey anyone who offers a bribe or a bonus.’

“Or he will tell you how ashamed he feels in the Assembly, when some mean-looking, scruffy citizen sits down next to him. ‘The rich are being bled to death,’ he says, ‘with subsidizing the navy, the theatre, and everything else. When is it going to end? Democratic agitators—how I detest them!’ Then he names Theseus as the original cause of the country’s deterioration; for it was he who concentrated the twelve small States in one, thus elevating the lower classes, putting power into the hands of the majority...”

— As translated by Philip Vellacott.

Umble Servant,
Bob Begiebing
Newfields, N.H.

Bob:

Theophrastus, we understand, was a pretty big deal in his day. A student of Aristotle, he became his successor, and was, for 36 years, the leader of his

school, the Peripatetics. Their name was derived from the fact that, Aristotle, as a non-citizen, could not own land in Athens. He and his students met on the walkways of the Lyceum. So, it appears they were homeless. No wonder Theophrastus had a beef with the well-groomed fat cats of his day.

Here’s another line from Theophrastus: ‘Life is ruled by fortune, not wisdom.’ Ain’t that the truth!

The Editor

—==—

Hand the GOP a Big Enough Loss

To the Editor:

After the election of the new Speaker of the House, the House voted to support Israel by over 400 votes. This was not a vote to support Israel financially. It was just to say they were on Israel’s side. The vote to back Israel financially was different. The GOP insisted on tying aid to Israel with keeping America’s biggest tax cheats from getting audited. That vote passed without Democratic support.

This vote was followed by a bill slashing the Environmental Protection Agency’s budget by 39 percent. They slashed the National Park Services budget by 13 percent and reduced the salaries of the EPA administrator, the director of the Bureau of Land Management, and the Secretary of the Interior to \$1 each.

These actions show the extremist minority of the House GOP’s disdain for government and governing. There are GOP members who do want to govern but are unwilling to stand up to this minority. Instead, they vote for these bills and hope the bipartisan Senate’s versions are the ones that become law. Their cowardice is allowing the extremists to hold their party hostage.

There is only one solution to save the country. That is for the voters to hand the GOP a big enough loss in 2024 that the GOP becomes tired of losing and decides to run candidates who want Congress and the government to work.

Walter Hamilton
Portsmouth, N.H.

Walter:

Tuesday saw voters in Ohio, Kentucky, Pennsylvania and New Jersey give the GOP a good swift kick in the pants. There’s a long way to go, but there’s reason for hope.

The Editor

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Sorrow, grief, and trouble sit like vultures on my psychic fence

by Jean Stimmell

A few years ago, I photographed five vultures attempting to warm up on a cold winter morning by spreading their wings toward the sun. I am using it to illustrate this rant.

The title¹ reflects how I feel.

I can't get images of maimed and bloody bodies out of my mind, first in Ukraine and now doubling down in Israel and Palestine. They are broadcast nonstop on the news and haunt my dreams.

Especially disturbing are the corpses of dead babies. As I write this, 4104 children have been killed so far, just in Gaza, according to the United Nations.²

Seeing their bloody, lifeless bodies was the final straw that broke me, stacked, as they are, on top of a cacophony of other pre-existing existential threats and mind-numbing dysfunctions that we already face. Let me name a few:

Congress is fiddling as the world burns while Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene blathers about conspiracies like Israel using "state-of-the-art Jewish space lasers" to shoot down Santa Claus. Closer to home, our neighbors in Lewiston, Maine are burying their dead struck down by a deranged mass shooter.

Not that New Hampshire has been a guiding light.

Our "Live Free or Die" state is proud to reject all restrictions on as-

sault weapons and reject any red flag laws that might prevent crazy people from getting them. Having no mercy is the New Hampshire way: We tax working people at a rate three times that of the rich, rejecting any broad-based taxes indexed to a person's ability to pay. And to complete the trifecta, we have a governor who privileges fossil fuel over the dangers of climate change.

Meanwhile, on the national scene, our leading Republican candidate for president is a crook while the democratic one shuffles around, muttering like an old man. Many Republicans want to move on from Trump but don't dare because they think he is the only one who can win. Sadly, Democrats are doing the same, knowing Biden is not the best candidate but, like the Republicans, supporting him nevertheless.

Looking around at the climate disasters, escalating war, and growing inequality around the world, it's natural for folks to wonder why God puts up with all this suffering. Jim Palmer, the founder of the Center for Non-Religious Spirituality,³ says we have it backwards: What we should be asking is, why do we put up with it?

That's an excellent point.

If we are ever going to act, now is the time to pull our heads out of the sand, stand up, and demand change. After all, in so many areas, we, the people, are ahead of the politicians. And what we want most in our



Photo by Jean Stimmell.

hearts is for our children to prosper.

Ayman Odeh wrote recently in the *New York Times*,⁴ "A nation is defined as a group of people with a common language, a common past and common dreams." By this definition, paraphrasing Odeh, any parent will tell you babies are children of a single nation, not a Trump or a Biden one.

But Odeh is not speaking about particular babies. As an Arab Palestinian citizen of Israel and a member of Israel's Knesset, he is talking about all babies. Due to his unique position, he is able to see a higher truth.

Babies, he says, "have a common language, a common past, common dreams. They speak the same, get angry and cry at the same things, laugh the same way... communicate effortlessly with other babies, no matter the language of the lullabies

their parents sang them at night."

The entirety of this nation of infants—including those who are Jewish, Arab, Palestinian, Israeli, American, Ukrainian, and Russian—"want just one thing: to grow up to a good life. It's a simple dream. Our role as leaders is simple too: to make that possible."

For the sake of our babies—all our babies—let us wake up before it is too late.

—==—

1 My apologies for amending a line from Winnie Gravitt's poem "ippokni Sia" She was a Native American poet of Choctaw descent, who was born in 1895. You can read it here: <https://tinyurl.com/2reh7kfk>

2 <https://tinyurl.com/yfjz2b9m>

3 <https://www.jimpalmerauthor.com>

4 <https://tinyurl.com/4efdjf9n>

The Alleged News®

from page three

comprehensive roadmap of how to close the global gap in climate action across sectors."

Published under Systems Change Lab, the latter report highlights that only one of the dozens of indicators assessed, the share of electric vehicles in passenger car sales, is on track to meet its 2030 target.

As the publication details:

"Recent rates of change for 41 of the 42 indicators across power, buildings, industry transport, forests and land, food and agriculture, technological carbon removal, and climate finance are not on track to reach their 1.5°C-aligned targets for 2030. Worryingly, 24 of those indicators are well off track, such that at least a twofold acceleration in recent rates of change will be required to achieve their 2030 targets. Another

six indicators are heading in the wrong direction entirely. Within this subset of lagging indicators, the most recent year of data represents a concerning worsening relative to recent trends for three indicators, with significant setbacks in efforts to eliminate public financing for fossil fuels, dramatically reduce deforestation, and expand carbon pricing systems."

To get back on track, the international community must "dramatically increase growth in solar and wind power" while also phasing out "coal in electricity generation seven times faster—which is equivalent to retiring roughly 240 average-sized coal-fired power plants each year through 2030," the report warns.

The publication also emphasizes the need for shifting to healthier, more sustainable diets eight times faster, increasing the coverage of rapid transit six times faster, reduc-

ing the annual rate of deforestation four times faster, and scaling up global climate finance by nearly \$500 billion annually until 2030.

"Despite decades of dire warnings and wake-up calls, our leaders have largely failed to mobilize climate action anywhere near the pace and scale needed," declared the report's lead author, Sophie Boehm of the World Resources Institute (WRI). "Such delays leave us with very few routes to secure a livable future for all. There's no time left to tinker at the edges. Instead, we need immediate, transformational changes across every single sector this decade."

Every world leader is under pressure to ramp up efforts to cut emissions, including U.S. President Joe Biden, who on Tuesday received a letter from hundreds of scientists urging him to "increase the ambition of domestic climate action—including through accelerating a just and

equitable clean energy transition, rejecting the expansion of new long-lived fossil fuel infrastructure, investing in climate resilience, and ramping up climate finance—while working toward the strongest possible agreement at COP28."

The United States now ranks behind China as the top emitting country but still leads the world in cumulative planet-heating emissions. According to a U.S. government assessment released Tuesday, the nation is "warming faster than the global average," and "the effects of human-caused climate change are already far-reaching and worsening across every region."

—==—

Jessica Corbett is a senior editor and 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.

How Things Work: Congress's Revolving Door

by Jim Hightower

Hear it? What's that sound? "Whoop-whoop-whoop." Oooo, it's Washington's revolving door, allowing corporate interests to come directly inside Congress to pervert public policy.

That door is now spinning fast, because there's a new boss operator in Congress. He's Mike Johnson, who was recently unanimously chosen by Republicans to be their Speaker of the House. He's a corporate wet dream—an affable ultra-conservative from Shreveport, who consistently backs the plutocratic agenda of Big Business over workers, the poor, consumers and most other Americans. Moreover, Johnson maintains it was God (!) who elevated him to his new position of authority, and that the Bible will guide his policy views.

Well, selected parts of the Bible—don't expect much mercy, justice, and peacemaking from this hard-core laissez-faire ideologue. For example, guess who he's chosen to be his director of policy? Big Pharma's top Washington lobbyist! Dan Ziegler has been the chief influence peddler for a dozen multibillion-dollar drug giants, including Eli Lilly, Merck, and Pfizer. Ziegler has furiously opposed every legislative effort to stop the rampant price gouging by profiteering drug makers—even though 90 percent of Americans are clamoring for Congress to clamp down on their rip-offs. But we 90-percenters don't control the revolving door... Mike does.

Johnson piously cloaks himself in both the Christian gospel and libertarian myth of "free markets," yet he has consistently pushed government action to restrict competition and protect drug monopolies. Now, in his first substantive action as speaker, he is literally bringing Big Pharma inside to sit beside him in the seat of legislative power.

Drug pricing reform will soon come up for a vote in Congress. Before Mike's lobbyist buddy tells him what to do, let's demand that he reread the Sermon on the Mount.

—==—

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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, NOVEMBER 19	MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20	TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21	WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22	THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23	FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24	SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25
<p>2005—Marines in Haditha murder 24 unarmed Iraqi men, women, and children. One Marine is tried and convicted of dereliction of duty.</p> <p>1967—A 500 lb. bomb from a Marine jet goes astray during the Battle of Dak To; 45 men from the 173d Airborne die, 45 are wounded.</p> <p>1963—In Havana, Frenchman Jean Daniel, sent personally by JFK, finds Fidel Castro “cautiously receptive” to a rapprochement with the U.S.</p> <p>1962—Dick “Dick” Cheney racks up his first drunk driving conviction, in Cheyenne, Wyo.</p> <p>1960—At a party in New York City to celebrate the launch of his mayoral campaign, Norman Mailer stabs his second wife, Adele Morales, twice.</p> <p>1932—A petition is signed by 19 of Germany’s top industrialists asking President Hindenburg to appoint a new Chancellor: Adolf Hitler.</p> <p>1929—A Cisco, Texas mob busts Marshall Ratliff out of jail and lynches him behind a theater at which the play “The Noose” is running. The first rope breaks, the second doesn’t.</p> <p>1924—Pioneering Hollywood producer Thomas Ince dies at 42, officially from a heart attack, but more likely from a [William Randolph] Hearst attack—a bullet to the head.</p> <p>1915—A firing squad executes framed IWW organizer Joe Hill; his last words: “Don’t mourn, organize.”</p> <p>1863—President Abraham Lincoln dedicates the cemetery at Gettysburg.</p>	<p>2020—“What is the downside for humoring him,” says an anonymous high GOP official to <i>Washington Post</i> reporters. “It’s not like he’s plotting how to prevent Joe Biden from taking power on January 20th.”</p> <p>2008—Sarah Palin is interviewed on live TV while, in the background, turkeys are being slaughtered.</p> <p>1980—In Louisiana, an oil rig drilling in the wrong spot hits a salt mine under Lake Peigneur. The rig, 11 barges, and a tugboat disappear.</p> <p>1979—Fundamentalists seize Mecca’s Grand Mosque, full of hostages. The CIA blames guiltless Iran.</p> <p>1975—The Senate’s Church Committee issues its report on U.S. efforts to assassinate foreign leaders; 349 pages make it past CIA censors.</p> <p>1975—Spanish dictator Francisco Franco dies. He is still dead.</p> <p>1969—News reports say American GIs massacred hundreds of civilians at “Pinkville” on March 16, 1968.</p> <p>1969—After evading the U.S. Coast Guard, 14 Indians occupy Alcatraz.</p> <p>1962—The Cuban Missile Crisis blows over, rather than up. With Armageddon postponed, President Kennedy orders an end to discrimination in federally-funded housing.</p> <p>1943—Planners’ failure to factor in neap tides makes the Marine landing at Tarawa far bloodier than necessary.</p> <p>1820—A whale attacks the Nantucket whaling ship <i>Essex</i>, inspiring the greatest fish story ever told.</p>	<p>2016—The <i>Guardian</i> reports that D. Trump’s grandfather was refused re-entry to Germany in 1905 because he had dodged military service.</p> <p>1974—The Freedom of Information Act passes over Gerry Ford’s veto.</p> <p>1973—Chief of Staff Al Haig ascribes an 18½ minute gap on an audio tape to “sinister forces.”</p> <p>1970—Fifty-six Green Berets raid the Son Tay POW camp 23 miles west of Hanoi, which had been evacuated three weeks earlier.</p> <p>1967—Commies in the ‘Nam are “unable to mount a major offensive,” says Westy, 71 days before Tet. “The end begins to come into view.”</p> <p>1964—The FBI sends a blackmail letter to Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., urging him to commit suicide.</p> <p>1927—The <i>first</i> Columbine Massacre: state cops in civvies machine-gun striking coal miners; six die.</p> <p>1901—The President of Alabama’s Constitutional Convention had said in May, “we want to...establish white supremacy.” With their work ratified on this day, they succeeded.</p> <p>1817—The U.S. Army kicks off thirty years of warfare by attacking Seminoles in Georgia at Fowltown.</p> <p>1801—The 2nd suspicious fire in 13 days destroys Treasury records after Republicans demand proof of Federalist Thomas Pickering’s expenses.</p> <p>1772—At Faneuil Hall, troublemakers establish Committees of Correspondence. Revolution ensues.</p>	<p>2003—AP reports on JFK conspiracy theories, including one claiming he orchestrated his own assassination.</p> <p>2000—Two dozen well-dressed hooligans, many on the GOP’s payroll, intimidate Miami election officials into shutting down a Presidential recount.</p> <p>1975—USS <i>John F. Kennedy</i> and USS <i>Belknap</i> collide in the night near Sicily. A two-hour fire aboard the <i>Belknap</i> stops 30 feet short of the weapons magazine where they store the nukes.</p> <p>1963—In Paris, a CIA man hands a lethal pen to a Cuban for use on Fidel Castro, at the behest of Bobby Kennedy.</p> <p>1963—In Dallas, Texas, President John F. Kennedy is assassinated; at whose bidding is a matter of dispute.</p> <p>1963—A secret Senate committee hearing in re: LBJ and bribes is called off due to JFK’s assassination.</p> <p>1941—Fighter ace Werner Mölders, a passenger, dies in a crash en route to the funeral of Luftwaffe Generaloberst Ernst Udet, a suicide.</p> <p>1910—Brazilian sailors in Rio mutiny against the lash. Seizing the Navy’s three most powerful ships, they end the lashings—and get amnesty.</p> <p>1909—Tired of talk from male labor leaders, Clara Lemlich, 23, moves that garment workers strike. Next day, 20,000 women walk off the job; they win shorter hours, higher pay, and better working conditions.</p> <p>1887—White militiamen put down a sugar cane strike by killing 35 to 300 Black workers in Thibodaux, La.</p>	<p>1981—R. Reagan signs a secret directive creating the [illegal] Contras.</p> <p>1976—Jerry Lee Lewis is arrested outside Graceland for waving a pistol and demanding to see Elvis.</p> <p>1970—A Lithuanian radio operator jumps from a Russian trawler onto the deck of the Coast Guard cutter <i>Vigilant</i>. Commander Ralph Eustis allows Soviet sailors to board the cutter and seize the radioman.</p> <p>1958—On TV: Ron & Nancy Reagan in “A Turkey for the President.”</p> <p>1946—To teach “a severe lesson”—that Vietnam is ruled by France—the cruiser <i>Suffren</i> shells the bejeezus out of Haiphong, killing 6,000 and beginning the First Indochina War.</p> <p>1936—In San Antonio, bluesman Robert Johnson begins a legendary three-day recording session.</p> <p>1918—In Scotland’s Scapa Flow, the German submarine <i>U-18</i> is sunk by the fishing trawler <i>Dorothy Gray</i>.</p> <p>1903—Colo. Gov. James Peabody sends militia to Cripple Creek, and suspends <i>babeas corpus</i>, freedom of the press, and freedom of assembly, all to crush the Western Federation of Miners. He ends up inspiring the IWW.</p> <p>1899—The world’s first jukebox plays in a San Francisco saloon.</p> <p>1887—State militiamen massacre up to 300 Black, unionized cane cutters, on strike in Thibodaux, La.</p> <p>1876—After a year on the lam in Cuba and Spain, Tammany Hall’s “Boss” Tweed is jailed in NYC.</p>	<p>2006—“The only way we can win,” says George W.[MD] Bush, “is to leave [Iraq] before the job is done.”</p> <p>1979—The U.S. admits troops in ‘Nam were hit by Agent Orange.</p> <p>1976—Steven B. Williams rams a White House gate with his pickup truck at 25 mph. It doesn’t budge.</p> <p>1971—Toting \$200,000 in ransom cash, “D.B. Cooper” parachutes from a hijacked 727 over Washington State, into oblivion and America’s heart.</p> <p>1965—<i>The New York Times</i> runs a full-page ad signed by 500 WW II and Korean War vets protesting escalation of the Vietnam War.</p> <p>1963—Strip joint proprietor Jack Ruby, to spare Jackie Kennedy’s feelings, shoots Lee Harvey Oswald under the watchful eye of the Dallas Police Department and the TV cameras.</p> <p>1961—An overheated electric motor in Colorado cuts off all communications between SAC and NORAD.</p> <p>1953—Sen. Joe McCarthy (R-Wisc.) claims the Truman administration is “crawling with Communists.”</p> <p>1947—All but 17 Congressmen vote to cite the Hollywood Ten for contempt after they take the 5th.</p> <p>1922—Erskine Childers, a Brit supporter of Irish independence charged with carrying a pistol, is executed while his case is on appeal. He says to his firing squad, “Take a step forward, lads. It will be easier that way.”</p> <p>1759—Tobias Smollett gets three months in jail for libeling an admiral.</p>	<p>1997—In Plymouth, Mass., police serve Native American demonstrators a generous helping of pepper spray.</p> <p>1986—As Ed “Meese is a Pig” Meese confesses that profits from illegal arms sales to Iran went to Nicaraguan <i>contras</i>, a reluctant Ronald Reagan fires Lt. Col. Oliver North.</p> <p>1974—Britain outlaws the IRA after two bombs kill 21 and injure over 100 in Birmingham.</p> <p>1968—Death of Upton Sinclair, writer and media critic.</p> <p>1955—The ICC bans racial segregation in interstate bus transportation; the ban is ignored, though, until Freedom Riders force the issue in 1961.</p> <p>1950—Great Appalachian Storm winds hit 110 mph in Concord, N.H.</p> <p>1947—For refusing to rat out their friends to Congress, the Hollywood Ten are fired by studio bosses.</p> <p>1915—William J. Simmons burns a cross at Stone Mountain, Ga., founding the new, improved Ku Klux Klan: now it hates Catholics and Jews, too.</p> <p>1864—Confederate arsonists set more than twenty fires, attempting to destroy New York City. They fail.</p> <p>1783—Redcoats evacuate New York as General Washington and the victorious Continental Army arrive.</p> <p>1120—King Henry’s only heir William Adelin sails for England aboard the <i>White Ship</i>. The ship’s crew, drunk, is told to make haste; hitting a rock, it capsizes. All drown but a butcher. England is in chaos for decades.</p>
<p>3:14 3:24</p> <p>9:07 9:53</p>	<p>4:15 4:29</p> <p>10:12 10:54</p>	<p>5:19 5:37</p> <p>11:19 11:55</p>	<p>6:21 6:44</p> <p>12:27</p>	<p>7:20 7:47</p> <p>12:55 1:31</p>	<p>8:14 8:45</p> <p>1:51 2:29</p>	<p>9:04 9:40</p> <p>2:43 3:23</p>
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26	MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27	TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28	WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29	THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30	FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1	SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

2022—An NRA tweet praises a clerk who plugged a shoplifter seven times.

2000—Katherine Harris, Florida’s Secretary of State and, coincidentally, the Bush campaign’s state co-chair, declares Dubya the winner.

1973—Rose Mary Woods takes the fall for the 18½ minute gap.

1970—After whites celebrate the 350th of the Pilgrims’ landing by rescinding Frank “Wamsutta” James’ invitation to speak, Wampanoags host the first annual National Day of Mourning at Plymouth, Mass.

1933—Thomas H. Thurmond and John M. Holmes are lynched in San Jose, Calif. Jackie Coogan—later TV’s “Uncle Fester”—helps ready a rope. A judge, Timothy Fitzpatrick, says the mob “did a damned good job.” Gov. “Sonny Jim” Rolph promises a pardon, but no one’s even charged.

1932—In his newspaper column, Will Rogers mocks Herbert Hoover’s theory of “trickle-down economics.”

1922—Howard Carter and his employer Lord Carnarvon desecrate the tomb of King Tutankhamun.

1921—Former Lt. Col. Charles W. Whittlesey, 37, commander of the “Lost Battalion” and a pallbearer for the Unknown Soldier, leaps from a ship and drowns in the Atlantic.

1910—Six workers burn to death and 19 die jumping from the fourth floor of a Newark textile shop. “Misadventure and accident” said the coroner’s jury; penalty for the owner: \$0.00.

2002—Donald Rumsfeld signs off on “Category III” interrogation techniques—namely, torture.

2001—Gen. Tommy Franks, working on catching Osama bin Laden, is told by Donald Rumsfeld to drop that and revise plans to attack Iraq.

1997—In New York, a lampost fatally stabs Macy’s Barney the Dinosaur balloon. Meanwhile, the Cat in the Hat knocks over a lampost, which then falls on two women, putting one of them in a month-long coma.

1969—At the 71st Evacuation Hospital in Pleiku, 100 soldiers fast on Thanksgiving to protest the war.

1965—The first Acid Test happens.

1953—“I knew it,” says 65 year-old Eugene O’Neill. “Born in a goddamn hotel room, dying in a hotel room.”

1952—Winnie Ruth Judd, the Trunk Murderess, makes her sixth escape from Arizona’s State Insane Hospital.

1932—Edward Marshall, future beat poet, is born in Chichester, N.H.

1900—To convince a Filipino town’s president he should rat out local rebels, U.S. troops force salt water down his throat and burn down his town.

1868—In the Battle of the Washita, General George A. Custer and his troops massacre Black Kettle and 102 other Cheyenne survivors of the Sand Creek Massacre four years prior.

1095—Pope Urban II launches the Crusades. Everlasting heavenly glory is promised to those who die while righteously slaying pagans.

2008—At a Long Island Wal-Mart, shoppers literally bust doors and trample Jimytaï Damour, 34, to death.

2005—Ex-Rep. Randy “Duke” Cunningham (R-Calif.) pleads guilty to selling votes and dodging taxes.

1992—To amuse his teen daughter, Gregg Austin Gingrich, 38, leaps onto a Grand Canyon guard wall and pretends to lose his footing. He then loses his footing and falls to his death.

1979—Bogus data from HQ sends Air New Zealand Flight 901 into Antarctica’s Mount Erebus; 257 perish. HQ’s “orchestrated litany of lies” eventually fails, and HQ’s busted.

1945—“As I understand it from the doctors,” Gen. Leslie R. Groves tells a Senate committee, radiation poisoning “is a very pleasant way to die.”

1942—The Coconut Grove in Boston burns; 492 die, 172 are injured.

1936—Basil Zaharoff, the world’s fifth richest man, dies in bed at 87—four times older than those who died using the weapons he sold to all sides.

1925—The American Legion’s “Americanism” honcho says communists have no right to free speech.

1919—N.H.-born Maj. Gen. Leonard Wood—on active duty—says of radicals, “Ship ‘em or shoot ‘em.”

1858—The luxury yacht *Wanderer*, sleek, fast, and refitted for a trade around 50 years earlier, docks at Jekyll Island, Georgia. The 409 enslaved Africans who survived the passage are the next-to-last such cargo to arrive.

2015—To protect the lives of fetuses, Robert L. Dear kills three adults and wounds nine more at Colorado Planned Parenthood clinic.

2011—Busted for trading meth to a male informant for sex, ex-Arapahoe County (Colo.) Sheriff Patrick Sullivan is put in a jail named after himself.

1976—After accidentally plugging his bass player twice with a .357, Jerry Lee Lewis charged with discharging a firearm within city limits.

1963—LBJ’s Warren Commission is established to deny the possibility that conspirators assassinated JFK.

1960—On learning that Patrice Lumumba had been arrested on a CIA tip, genial ol’ Ike orders that agency to step up its efforts to assassinate Castro.

1947—French soldiers massacre over 300 civilians, mostly women and children, halving the population of My Trach, in Vietnam.

1864—Ignoring a truce flag, Col. (& ex-minister) John Chivington leads a Colorado militia in the slaughter and mutilation of 150 Cheyenne women, children, and old men at Sand Creek. A local paper says the soldiers had “covered themselves in glory” (a typo).

1781—His ship *Zong* low on water, captain Luke Collingwood orders 133 enslaved souls thrown overboard live, to stick underwriters with the loss.

1729—The Natchez people repay decades of haughty brutality by massacring 230 Frenchmen. Women and enslaved Africans are spared.

2016—Trump spokesperson Scottie Nell Hughes—pro-gun despite her brother having been shot dead at eight by a 12-year-old—tells NPR’s Diane Rehm, “There’s no such thing, unfortunately, anymore, of facts.” [sic]

1999—A WTO meeting in Seattle is called off due to anarchists.

1974—Rep. Wilbur Mills (D-Ark.) appears onstage at Boston’s Pilgrim Theater with stripper Fanne Foxe.

1972—Nixon spokesdrone Ron Zeigler says with a mere 27,000 Americans left risking their lives in Vietnam, the White House will no longer update the nation on withdrawals.

1965—Defense Secretary Robert Strange McNamara offers LBJ two Vietnam options: get out now, or go all-in, suffering 1,000 KIAs per month and perhaps losing anyway.

1954—Failing to clear the summit by 500 feet, a DC-3 crashes on N.H.’s Mount Success. All seven aboard survive the crash, but only five survive two freezing nights at the crash site.

1954—Liz Hodges of Sylacauga, Ala. is bruised by an eight-pound meteorite that busts through her roof.

1835—A “hack writer,” in William Faulkner’s view, “who would not have been considered fourth rate in Europe,” is born: Samuel L. Clemens.

1812—Troops under the bombastic and disorganized General Alexander “Apocalypse” Smyth disobey his orders to invade Canada and turn their weapons on his tent. He flees.

2017—One-time Trump National Security Advisor and ex-general Michael Flynn does the perp walk.

2007—Presidential candidate Rudy Giuliani, at Federal Cigar in Portsmouth, refuses to autograph a *New Hampshire Gazette* for counterman Dave McNicholas, but agrees to sign a photo of himself—which he takes with him when he leaves.

2003—Howard Dean, leading the pack in polling, tells Chris Matthews he’ll “break up the giant media enterprises,” giant media enterprises soon label Dean “unelectable.”

1969—The U.S. Selective Service effectively guts the anti-war movement by instituting a draft lottery.

1968—The Walker Commission reports that the Chicago PD rioted during the Democratic Convention.

1964—In J. Edgar Hoover’s FBI office, purportedly for a reconciliation, the Director reveals information to Martin Luther King, Jr., demonstrating that he’s under illegal surveillance.

1955—On a bus in Montgomery, Ala., Rosa Parks changes the world.

1842—Secretary of War John C. Spencer’s son Philip, 19, a midshipman aboard the USS *Somers*, along with two sailors, and without benefit of court martial, is hanged for mutiny.

1777—Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben lands in Portsmouth, N.H. from France, *en route* to Valley Forge, where he will turn George Washington’s disorganized rabble into a trained army.

2020—Roger Stone says that to help steal the election, North Korean boats brought bogus ballots into the U.S. through harbors in Maine.

1986—Pres. Ronald Reagan says he can’t remember what he knew about Iran-Contra, or when he knew it.

1984—Union Carbide’s Bhopal, India plant kills 16,000. Union Carbide is forced to pay \$14,000 in fines.

1980—Lyndon LaRouche’s *Executive Intelligence Review* breaks the story of the “October Surprise.”

1980—U.S.-backed death squads murder four nuns in El Salvador.

1956—*Granma* lands 82 rebels in Cuba. Only 12 make it to the Sierra Maestra, but that was enough.

1954—The Senate votes to “condemn” Joe McCarthy. N.H. Senator Styles Bridges is one of 22 “No” votes.

1949—The U.S.A.F. asks GE workers at Hanford, Wash. to turn off air filters for a test. Oops—twice the intended amount of radiation gets out.

1946—In Oakland, 100,000 hold a General Strike. Two days later Teamster boss Dave Beck sells them out.

1943—The USS *Sailfish*, formerly the *Squalus*, sinks the Japanese carrier *Chuyo* near Truk. Aboard *Chuyo* are 21 survivors from the USS *Sculpin*, which had aided in the 1939 rescue of the *Squalus*; only one of them survives.

1942—Leo Szilard says to Enrico Fermi, after their atomic pile in Chicago achieves a self-sustaining chain reaction, it’s a “black day in ... history.”

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