

## The Fortnightly Rant

### Is Anybody Happy?

Well, at least that's over with. By "that," of course, we mean the 2024 First in the Nation™ Presidential Primary Election®—the least satisfying iteration to date of our state's *raison d'être*. The nightmare, no doubt, will continue.

How weird was this go-round? Let us count the ways.

On the Democratic side, the incumbent President won. So far, so normal—except he wasn't on the ballot.

Four years ago, New Hampshire Democrats picked Bernie Sanders and put Joe Biden in fifth place, just ahead of the long-forgotten Tom Steyer. A big win in South Carolina rescued his candidacy and put him on the path to the White House.

In recognition of that favor—and that humiliation—Biden has elevated South Carolina and snubbed New Hampshire. Rather than risking a tarring and feathering from outraged political junkies, state Democrats went ahead and held an unsanctioned primary.

Thus the state party, while defying its national leadership, hoped nonetheless—considering the existential threat to democracy posed by the openly traitorous opposition—that their temporary intramural antagonist would be rewarded with a win in the form of a write-in campaign.

That hope met with success. On Wednesday morning, with 94 percent of the votes counted, Biden had reaped an unassailable 54.2 percent of the votes cast. It's hard to imagine any future write-in candidate ever challenging that record.

Biden had a score of challengers, including, of course, the inimitable Vermin Supreme. His platform of mandatory dental hygiene and free ponies is more popular than ever.

\* This year's Primary was so bizarre that all future references to it in this newspaper will include an asterisk.

This year's vote count of 717 is 2.6 times higher than his last run as a Democrat in 2016. Rubber boots have yet to get traction as headgear, though.

Most other notable candidates had less-idiosyncratic platforms. Marianne Williamson, for example, did poorly. She drew less than five percent of the vote, despite having a platform that largely made good sense. Indeed, her only aberrational position of which we're aware is thinking that she had any kind of a chance.

Sharing that delusion is Minnesota Representative Dean Phillips.<sup>†</sup> Despite enjoying the marked advantage of actually being on the ballot, Phillips' share of the vote came in under 20 percent.

Phillips brought another significant advantage to the race: something like \$80 million in inherited booze wealth. At the rate he's been spending on offices and staff, though, that figure must now be but a fond memory.

A good chunk of that apparently went to formerly-Republican political consultant Steve Schmidt—the man to whom we largely owe our familiarity with Wasilla, Alaska's half-term, half-wit Mayor Sarah Palin.

Schmidt founded Pass the Torch, a Super PAC, for Phillips, which promptly drew a complaint from a non-profit watchdog to the SEC, accusing the PAC of coordinating with the Phillips campaign.

Making sure to tag all the bases in his gratuitous annoyance run, Phillips has also said he might run as an independent under the "No Labels" label, if, in his infinite wisdom, he finds Joe Biden unlikely to win against the Republican Candidate for Life. Then, to wring the last drop

† We explored Phillips' improbable background in our Volume 268, No. 3, published October 20, 2023.



of exasperation out of journalists everywhere, he said the next day that he would not.

If this country used a less-idiotic process of selecting political leaders, these vanity candidates might not be a problem. As things stand, though, we let billionaires spend as much money as they want so that their hand-picked lunatics can grease their way through the gates in a handful of battleground states in order to gain the nation's highest office.

As Amurricans, of course, we generally fail to appreciate just how weird this suicidal method is. And that's for good reason. If we were to come up with a better way, we'd be unable to implement it anyway.

Compounding the problem this time around—given the blatantly fascistic character of the aforesaid Republican Candidate for Life [RCfL]—is the broad and deep

lack of enthusiasm for the inevitable Democratic nominee.

Perhaps Biden believes that his intransigence on student debt forgiveness, and his largess in dispensing lethal munitions to Israel, will strengthen support among his base. That may be so, and geriatrics do vote reliably—as long as they are able. Pissing off "the youths" though, does seem shortsighted.

Turning ever so reluctantly to the Republican primary, we find nothing that deserves being categorized as "news."

The RCfL, having yet to be felled by a myocardial infarction, a burst cerebral artery, or any of the myriad other maladies so common among gluttonous men his age, won in New Hampshire.

His last opponent left standing, Nikki Haley, is making much of her second place finish. So much so that she closed out the evening by deliv-

ering what amounted to a victory speech. To be clear, in this age when the most ludicrous and outlandish claims are frequently accepted as gospel, she did not win. She lost.

In fact, her loss was a good deal worse than it appeared. Because Independents—and Democrats canny enough to register as Undeclared—could have a Republican ballot for the asking, Haley's total was undoubtedly inflated by strategic votes from outside the party.

Because this all sounds so catastrophic, we offer this cheerful observation from Andrew Lawrence, of Media Matters for America: "Democrats biggest advantage going into '24 continues to be that Republicans are a bunch of weird freaks pushing policy that everyone hates."

The question remains: how to convert that truth into results at the ballot box?

## The Alleged News®

### Did Stock Buybacks Knock the Bolts Out of Boeing?

**You'd think that Boeing would not compromise on safety, given that one small production error or software glitch could down a plane worth hundreds of millions of dollars while killing hundreds.**

**But you'd be wrong.**

by Les Leopold

On January 5th, a door plug blew out of the side of a Boeing 737 Max 9 plane flying for Alaska Airlines from Portland, Oregon, to Ontario, California. (A door plug is a section of the plane's fuselage bolted in to take the place of an optional emergency exit. It is meant to be an integral part of the plane's body.)

Miraculously, during the twenty minutes it took for the plane to circle back and land, no one was sucked out of the gaping hole. But for two

decades leading up to the incident, wealth has been sucked out of the company via legalized stock manipulation to benefit Wall Street and Boeing CEOs.

Since 2013, the Boeing Corporation initiated seven annual stock buybacks. Much of Boeing's stock is owned by large investment firms which demand the company buy back its shares. When Boeing makes repurchases, the price of its stock is jacked up, which is a quick and easy way to move money into the investment firms' purses. Boeing's management also enjoys the boost in price, since nearly all of their executive compensation comes from stock incentives. When the stock goes up via repurchases, they get richer, even though Boeing isn't making any more money.

As a result, Boeing has two mis-

sions: 1) Produce profitable and safe products for their airplane-buying customers, and 2) Produce stock buybacks for Wall Street and CEOs. Unfortunately, for the rest of us, these missions are in conflict.

Finding the money for stock repurchases inevitably leads to cost-cutting. Most often, the first move is to lay off as many workers as possible. But other more subtle strategies include cutbacks in preventive maintenance and environmental controls, the outsourcing of work to lower-wage firms, skimping on health and safety protections, and underfunding quality control. The goal is to become lean and mean, skating out to the very edge of cost reductions without jeopardizing the product. Or, well, at least not harming it too much.

You'd think that Boeing would

not compromise on safety, given that one small production error or software glitch could down a plane worth hundreds of millions of dollars while killing hundreds of people in one blow. But you'd be wrong.

Boeing is a world leader in stock buybacks. Between 1998 and 2018, the plane manufacturer also manufactured a whopping \$61.0 billion in stock buybacks, amounting to 81.8 percent of its profits. Add in dividends and Boeing's shareholders received 121 percent of its profits. (Data compiled by William Lazonick and The Academic-Industry Research Network, from Boeing 10-K SEC filings.)

How much is that really? Well, according to Lazonick and Mustafa Erdem Sakniç, writing in *The American Prospect* in 2019, Boeing, facing the obsolescence of its 737 planes,

could have created an entirely new airplane from scratch with fully modern technology. Instead, the company decided to re-engineer the older model, name it the 737 MAX, and save \$7 billion dollars. Perhaps not coincidentally, the \$7 billion dollars "saved" is the amount of the stock buybacks Boeing made each year between 2013 and 2019.

Rather than reinvesting more deeply in the company's products, Boeing chose to pay off stockholders and Boeing executives. In the three years before Boeing software glitches caused two 737 MAX crashes in 2018 and 2019 that killed 346 people, Boeing's CEO Dennis A. Muilenburg received \$95.9 million in gross pay. Lazonick and Sakniç



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from page one

report that nearly all of it was via stock incentives, since his annual salary never exceeded \$1.7 million. (Perhaps again, not coincidentally, a Texas court ruled in October 2022 that the passengers killed in the two 737 MAX crashes are legally considered “crime victims.”)

And just to make sure that stock buyback production would always be a top CEO priority, Boeing announced that “beginning in 2014, a significant portion of our named executive officers’ long-term incentive compensation will be tied to Boeing’s total shareholder return as compared to a group of 24 peer companies.” If shareholder return is the metric used to judge executive performance, stock buybacks become an executive’s most valued tool.

What CEO could possibly resist pushing stock buybacks, given that nearly all of his or her income is based on stock incentives?

Of course, every CEO, especially in the airline industry, will say that safety is their top priority. If pressed about stock incentives, they say there is no conflict between stock

buybacks and safety. They say that the door plug blow-out had nothing at all to do with years and years of massive stock buybacks, nor all the cost-cutting to find money for those repurchases.

Give me a break!  
Between November 1998 and January 2024, Boeing filed 491 Work. Adjustment and Retraining Notifications (WARN) amounting to approximately 45,000 layoffs. This is in a company with about 140,000 employees. Might those layoffs have had something to do with why the FAA grounded 171 Boeing 737-9 MAX airplanes after the door plug blew out of the fuselage? Might that be a reason why the FAA is now investigating “manufacturing practices and production lines, including those involving subcontractor Spirit AeroSystems, bolstering its oversight of Boeing, and examining potential system change?”

And it gets worse, because Boeing’s subcontractor, Sprit AeroSystems, subcontracted the faulty door plug production to another facility based in Malaysia, reports the National Transportation Safety Board. Good luck with that investigation.



Will government regulators have the guts to expose the chain that connects Wall Street-induced stock buybacks to cost cutting to layoffs to subcontracting to safety problems? The jury is out.

While the door-plug investigation will certainly put the spotlight on Boeing, the problem is systemic. All research for my book, *Wall Street’s War on Workers*, we found that more than 30 million workers have lost their jobs in the last three decades due to mass layoffs. Money that could have been spent on research, development, safety, and employee compensation in all kinds of industries was instead used to enrich shareholders. Literally trillions of dollars in stock buybacks have killed jobs and corporate reinvestment, leading to countless production problems throughout the economy. And that’s in addition to how workers, their families, and their communities have suffered indirectly during mass layoffs.

It’s a massive problem. Overall, approximately 70 percent of all corporate profits go into stock buybacks, up from 2 percent in 1982. (Data compiled by the Academic-Industry Research Network.)

Until stock repurchases are outlawed, as they essentially were before 1982, Wall Street and its CEO partners in corporation after corporation will continue to deploy what Lazonick correctly calls a license to loot.

Next time you stuff yourself into an airline seat that is ridiculously cramped, just remember that seat you’re sitting in was shaped by stock buybacks. And if you get a coveted exit row seat to stretch out a bit, you’d better think good thoughts about the underpaid, overworked, sub-contracted workers who may have made the door.

Les Leopold is the executive director of the Labor Institute and author of the forthcoming book *Wall Street’s War on Workers: How Mass Layoffs and Greed Are Destroying the Working Class and What to Do About It*. This work is licensed under Creative Commons (CC BY-NC-ND 3.0). Republish and share widely.



UAW Chief Says Billionaires  
—Not Migrants—Are Real Threat  
to Working Class

by Olivia Rosane

United Auto Workers president Shawn Fain argued that the current fear-mongering around the U.S. border with Mexico is an attempt by the wealthy and political elites to divide workers.

The remarks came in a wide-ranging speech at the UAW’s National Community Action Program Conference in Washington, D.C. on Monday, in which Fain repeated the union’s call for a cease-fire in Gaza, confirmed plans for a 2028 general strike, and laid out a vision for a wider U.S. political movement led by the working class.

“They try to divide us nationally by nationality,” Fain said. “Right now, we have millions of people being told that the biggest threat to their livelihood is migrants coming over the border. The threat we face at the border isn’t from the migrants. It’s from the billionaires and the politicians getting working people to point the finger at one another, when in reality, we’re all on the same side of the war against the working class.”

Fain added that the issue of immigration was personal to him because his grandparents had traveled between states to get jobs as autoworkers and become UAW members.

“They went somewhere else to find a better life. That’s all these people are trying to do,” Fain said.

The UAW has emerged as a major leader in a reinvigorated U.S. labor movement after its “stand up” strike won historic contracts against the Big Three automakers in 2023. As part of the final deal, the UAW negotiated a shared April 30, 2028 expiration date for all three contracts, opening up the possibility of a May Day strike. Fain has previously called on other unions to coordinate their contract expiration dates for the same date to allow the working class to “flex our collective muscles.”

Fain repeated and strengthened that call on Monday, endorsing a general strike.

The U.S. has not seen a mass, cross-union walkout in decades, according to *The Guardian*, and Fain argued that this was a mistake.

“We have to pay for our sins of the past. Back in 1980 when Reagan at the time fired PATCO [Port Authority Transit Corporation] workers, everybody in this country should have stood up and walked the hell out,” Fain said. “We missed the opportunity then, but we’re not going to miss it in 2028. That’s the plan. We want a general strike. We want everybody walking out just like they do in other countries.”

Fain said the union’s success in 2023 gave him hope.

“We shocked the billionaires,” he said, “and you know what that tells me? That if we can do things we’ve



Just another mid-winter Saturday at Strawberry Banke, with skaters gracefully gliding over the ice, while being reflected in... what’s this? The waters of Puddle Dock? After a torrential rainstorm the night before, followed by a high tide, the zombie inlet staged a comeback on January 13th.

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never tried before as a new UAW, we can win things we've never won before."

He also pointed to the 75 percent support the strike had from the U.S. population.

"Our issues are the public's issues," he said.

Fain said that the union's fight was larger than just its own contracts. For example, he noted that the union had failed to end the two-tiered system for retirement benefits. Those hired after 2007 receive a 401(k) with matching contributions instead of a pension and post-retirement healthcare, as *The Detroit News* pointed out. Fain argued that the UAW could resolve this in part by broadening the fight for retirement security to include the whole nation, though he said they would continue to push the Big Three as well.

"Either the Big Three guarantee retirement security for workers who give their lives to these companies or an even bigger player does: the federal government," he said.

He added: "We can't just fight for good contracts for our members alone. We fight for a society—from union contracts, to federal legis-

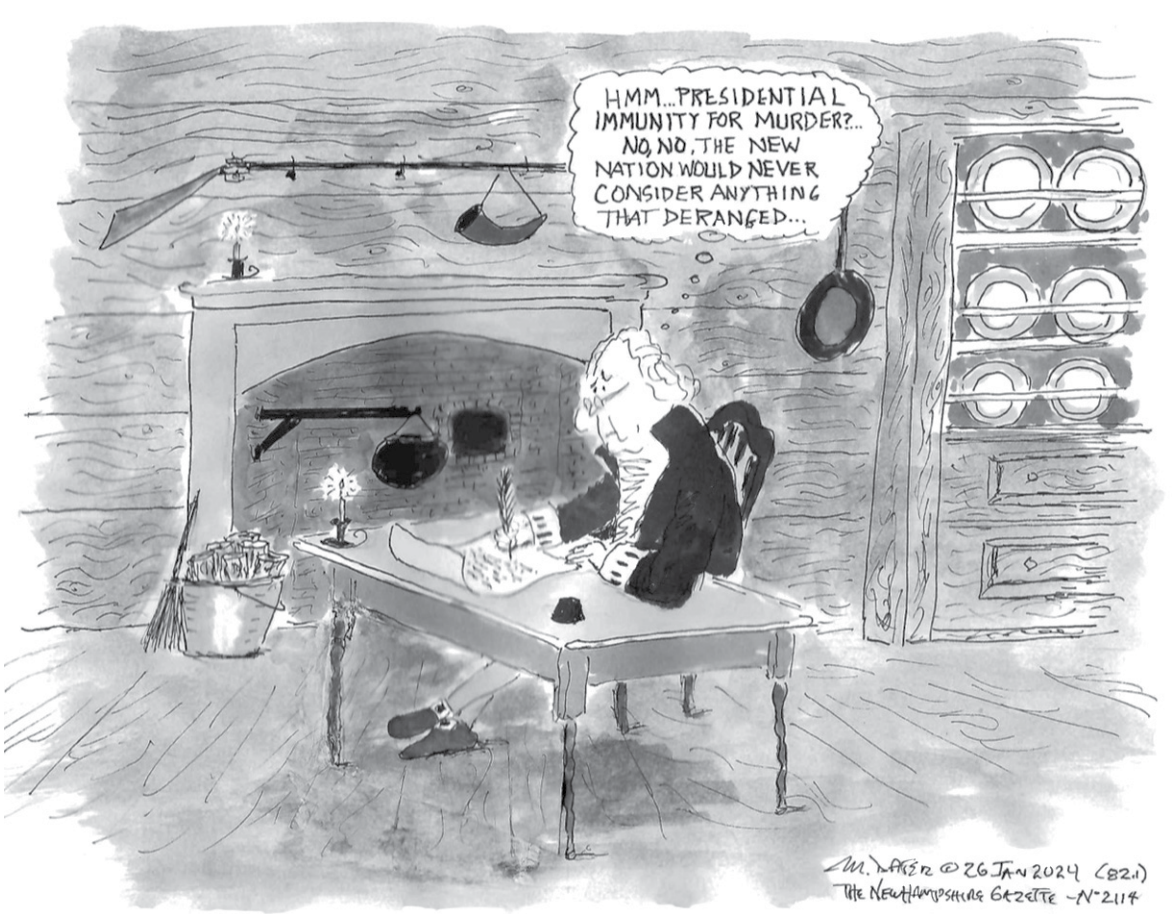
lation, to our political system as a whole, that serves the working class and poor, that serves the people. We fight for a political program that serves humanity, not the inhumane interest of the wealthy and corporate greed."

He also criticized the wealthy for using issues like gender identity, sexual orientation, race, and nationality to divide the working class, and it was in this context that he criticized the scapegoating of immigrants. He also emphasized the UAW's history of backing civil rights and environmental justice.

"We have to, as a union, lead in the area of environmental safety," Fain said. "It does no good to bargain for another dollar an hour or another week's vacation, if on the vacation you take you can't swim in the lake, because it's dirty, and you can't breathe clean air."

Further, he emphasized the importance of international solidarity. The UAW was also the largest union at the time to officially demand a cease-fire in Israel's war on Gaza, a demand he repeated Monday to chants of "cease-fire now!"

"We don't stop our fight for jus-



Our Wandering Photographer drifted over to Ward 2's polling place on Tuesday. Who turned up in his viewfinder? None other than Murph himself, seen here, somewhat ironically, on the right. Known formally—though formality would be out of character—as Michael Murphy, Murph has, for years, been one of the Gazette's stalwart Distribution Volunteers.

tice at the workplace. We don't stop our fight for justice because it's not the right time. When and where there's a war, whether it's in Vietnam or Gaza, we call for peace," Fain said.

The UAW has not yet endorsed a candidate for president in the 2024 election. Fain criticized former President Donald Trump on Monday, telling reporters he was "pretty much contrary to everything we stand for," according to *The Guardian*. But he did not endorse his presumptive opponent President Joe Biden.

"We have to take the issues that matter to the working class and poor, and we have to make our political leaders stand up with us," Fain said. "Our message in doing this is simple: Support our cause, or you will not get our endorsement."

Olivia Rosane 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.

### Wednesday Was Elizabeth Gurley Flynn's Day In Court

We are pleased to present the following press release from Mary Lee Sargent, Andru Volinsky, and Arnie Alpert, edited only to reflect the passage of time since its arrival. — The Ed.

The controversy over the State's installation and removal of a historical marker for 20th century labor activist and civil libertarian Elizabeth Gurley Flynn was aired in Merrimack County Superior Court on Wednesday, January 24th.

At issue was the State's motion to dismiss a legal complaint filed by the historical marker's sponsors, Arnie Alpert and Mary Lee Sargent, who claimed that the State violated the law and its own policies when it ordered the marker removed based on political objections to Flynn's politics from Governor Chris Sununu and Executive Councilor Joe Kenney.

In a legal complaint filed on August 7th, Alpert and Sargent's attorney, Andru Volinsky argued that there is nothing in the law or the guidelines of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) which provide for historical markers to be removed "on grounds of political or personal ideology."

Representing DNCR, which administers the Historical Marker Program along with the Department of Transportation, the Attorney General argued that Alpert and Sargent lacked legal standing to file their complaint because they suffered no personal harm from the State's action.

Born in Concord to an Irish immigrant family on August 7, 1890, Elizabeth Gurley Flynn was already a well-known speaker before reaching her twentieth birthday. As

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**Murph's Fortnightly Quote**

*"I'm not upset that you lied to me, I'm upset that from now on I can't believe you."*

— Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900) philosopher

*"What is called sound economics is very often what mirrors the needs of the respectably affluent."*

— John Kenneth Galbraith  
Money: Whence It Came, Where It Went

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**Don't Be Reckless, Vote Fascist**  
To the Editor:  
If I were to write about Trump's reckless personal life, tainted business history, draft-dodging, constant unchallenged lying, cheating donors, squishy liberal record and surrender to the establishment, it would be too much to publish. His past administration demonstrates a massive failure as a "conservative" Republican. If only five percent of Republicans who supported him in 2020 (before he engaged in questionable activities) refuse to vote for him in another general election, he can't win. And from what I see, that is exactly what they're saying they'll do. We only need to look at the losses suffered at all levels since 2018 by candidates who tout his lies.

His recent self-absorbed, name-calling rants on social media are indicative of someone with serious mental issues, not someone whose finger should be near the nuclear button. His delusions of grandeur defy reality. What more does he have to do before people will find him unacceptable?

Whenever one questions his supporters why Trump's focus is always on himself and his problems, or points out his functional and political illiteracy, incoherence, and feckless moves such as imposing inflation-causing debt of \$8 Trillion (twice as much as Obama) all we get is clueless, word-salad excuses. His ineptitude meant that promises were not kept, Republican policy not followed.

Let's get America on track by making a stable, well-educated veteran, loyal family man, accomplished public servant, and qualified constitutionalist our nominee.

DeSantis 2024  
Jane Aitken  
Bedford, N.H.  
Jane:

Our condolences on your candidate's loss of nerve, days before the moment of truth.

In recent interviews, if he spoke at all, he appeared to be playing the dummy in his wife's ventriloquist act. If theirs had been a vaudeville act, though, they'd have gotten the hook: the dummy's supposed to be funny and animated, not catatonic.

The Editor

**Trump, Angel of Light?**  
Dear Editor:  
Trump, who held the Bible upside down while posing for TV cameras, early in his Presidential term, regularly self-promotes his "goodness." He's in our presence to take care of us, conveyed in a mastered holy voice. Yeah, right.

Visit 2nd Corinthians 11:14-15: "Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds. We are warned that Satan can appear to be good and righteous, but his true intentions are evil."

Satan, I mean Trump, walks out of our courtrooms, charged with wrong-doing, taking many public servants many employment hours to gather the sound evidence of his wrong-doing, and sweetly says, "I have done nothing wrong," his whining replaced with, "I'm so good" tones.

Our actions reveal our true nature and intentions. A 2016 *Wall Street Journal* article is headlined: "Donald Trump's Business Plan Left a Trail of Unpaid Bills." He not only pretends to be good and holy, but also does it having stiffed working people.

Lynn Rudmin Chong  
Sanbornton, N.H.

Lynn:  
*Why are we not surprised that the book of the Bible which Trump was unable to properly name has him so accurately pegged?*

*Naturally we assume that all evangelical Christians assiduously read their Bibles daily. What we can't understand is how with all that practice, their reading comprehension can remain so low.*

The Editor

=====  
**Peddling Fear, Anger, and Hate**  
Dear Editor:  
Donald Trump's entire political career has been built on exploiting three of the most powerful of human emotions; fear, anger and hate. While each one of these emotions by themselves can be destructive to the individual, they become more dangerous to the individual and society when they are

combined. These powerful emotions interfere with rational thinking and analysis, and cause people to act in a manner that they otherwise would never consider. Trump has used these emotions to create a political movement—and even a cult.

He uses fear to target the other—the black, the brown, Muslims, immigrants, LGBT people and others—as the cause of all his followers' problems. The strongest emotion guiding and directing people's behavior, fear activates our fight or flight survival response. Once fear is established it is easy to turn it into anger and hate. Through a continuous onslaught of lies, distortions and misrepresentations, people are convinced that their fear is based on reality. History is full of examples of civilizations and nations taken over by leaders using fear, anger and hate, and then subsequently destroyed as a result. Germany in the 1930's and 40's comes to mind. It can happen here.

In the absence of any clear and rational policy initiatives, Trump's entire 2024 campaign is based on fear, anger and hate as witnessed by his expressed desires for revenge, destruction of government institutions, unlimited power and escaping accountability for his crimes. Unfortunately a sizable number of former Republicans have bought into this agenda and are prepared to name Trump as their 2024 candidate for President. Trump's campaign is working quite well. However, rarely does anything good result when behavior is guided by fear, anger and hate. Hopefully enough Americans will see through this looming catastrophe and vote with the more stable emotions of reason, love, understanding, empathy and compassion.

Rich DiPentima  
Portsmouth, N.H.

Rich:  
*Peddling fear, anger and hate is a tawdry way to make a buck. Apparently, though, the market is eternal.*  
The Editor



**Israel and the Right to Exist**  
Dear Editor,  
Is Ali Egizi saying that the state of Israel has no right to exist? In 2024? Good luck selling that argument to anyone but Hamas, Hezbollah, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and maybe the Houthis.  
Bill Ehrhart  
Bryn Mawr, Pa.  
Bill:  
*As we understand it, Ali was making a narrow legal point—one which purportedly applies to all nations. In practice, of course, Israel's existence is constantly being threatened.*  
The Editor

=====  
**What the Candidates Haven't Said**  
To the Editor:  
Unlike past candidates, this year's presidential hopefuls aren't demonstrating the factual and policy rigor a presidential campaign merits.

One candidate said that CO<sub>2</sub> from fossil fuels feeds agricultural crops. What he didn't say is that plants only absorb 25 percent of the excess carbon we generate. Nor did he say that the historical record shows crop yields decreased one percent every year since 1974 due to the weather extremes and shifting patterns caused by climate change (Friedlingstein *et al.*, *Earth System Science Data*, 2019; Ray *et al.*, *PLoS One*, 2019).

Another candidate said that a warming planet is beneficial because fewer people die from heat than cold. He didn't say that the CDC's data showing more deaths in winter includes illness like the flu, while NOAA concludes that extreme heat causes more deaths than extreme cold. He also said that Earth is greener now than 100 years ago, but didn't say that, while leaf coverage has increased as a result of more agriculture, plant growth as measured in crop yields and

carbon storage has been declining over the last 20 years (NASA and Scientific American, 2019).

A third candidate advocated for nuclear energy without being able to explain why that makes economic sense given wind and solar are so much cheaper. Two others were asked how N.H. communities with extreme flooding this year could become resilient without funding from the Inflation Reduction Act. Neither answered the question.

New Hampshire, and the nation, deserve candidates who understand science and apply it in their policy platforms.

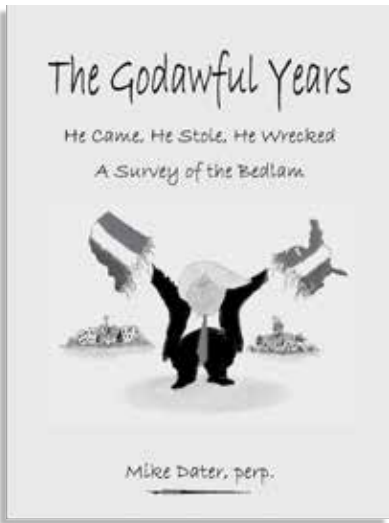
Em Friedrichs  
Durham, N.H.  
Em:  
*Let us guess: all three of these examples of misleading hogwash being foisted on New Hampshire voters came from candidates of the same political party.*  
The Editor

=====  
**Pretzel Logic**  
To the Editor:  
Donald Trump's lawyers claimed presidents and ex-presidents can only be tried for crimes if they are first impeached by the House and convicted by the Senate. That is strange because during his defense at his second impeachment trial his lawyers were saying he was out of office and could no longer be impeached. That he could be tried in court, not Congress. This gave some senators from his own party an excuse to vote against convicting him while stating that he was guilty.

Now his lawyers are asserting the opposite. When asked if a president could order an assassination of a rival and be immune from trial, his lawyers said yes, if he was not impeached first and convicted by the Senate.

Thus, if Joe Biden lost the election,

**You Suffered Through Them...**  
**Now Enjoy Them!**



a compendium of drawings by Mike Dater most of which first appeared in  
*The New Hampshire Gazette*  
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he could order the assassination of Trump and Trump's vice-presidential candidate. And, if necessary, kill enough members of the House to assure a Democrat would be Speaker of the House and become the next President. Biden could then resign and be free from prosecution.

Joe Biden would not do that, but Donald Trump spent four years trying to prove there is no crime he could not get away with committing. On January 6, 2021 he encouraged a mob to attack Congress and his Vice President to prevent Biden from being declared president.

If the Courts agree with Trump, then presidents will be able to become dictators. I hope that does not happen.

Walter Hamilton  
Portsmouth N.H.

Walter:

You're a brave man, Walter, trying to follow GOP logic. Remember Theseus, and always bring a ball of string.

The Editor

====

#### How Long Can This Go On?

Good Day,

Now, more than ever, the Election process seems to be an expensive charade.

Some are still litigating the 2020 U.S. national election, with even more misguided fervor. Meanwhile, many millions of dollars and words are spent on the current election cycle. We have numerous polls telling us what's going to happen, with never a disclaimer or explanation of how they arrived at their proclamations. We have lots of think pieces about candidates' ages, footwear, smiling efforts... oddly, very little about actual policies. There are events called "Town Halls," where if an attendee asks a factual question, said attendee is termed "a plant." I always thought Town Hall type things

were events where one could ask factual questions. I didn't get the memo that these events are actually "Rallies"... but "Town Hall" sounds more serious. Ditto for "Debates," where zingers abound, as opposed to any serious discussion.

Oh well, a mere ten months from now, we will have a newly chosen government to carry on The Peoples' Business. Going by the current government's work, we may expect more fiscal crises (every few months) and lots of really serious, really angry committee members working on impeaching someone, getting someone else fired, or ranting about weaponizing the government, whilst proclaiming their deeds on "X" (formerly known as twitter), and then being described as a "firebrand," often hypocritically ignoring the smelly deeds among their select group.

How much more??

In Despair,  
Beth McCarthy  
Tamworth, N.H.

Beth:

Short answer: lots more. Recommendation: spin Lee Dorsey's "Working in the Coal Mine." It won't change circumstances, but you'll probably feel much better.

The Editor

====

#### Time to Grow Up

To the Editor:

Democracy is frustrating, complicated and takes work! Citizens must stay informed, listen to others, consider the good of the country, be willing to compromise, vote, and wait for long term results. Whew! Maybe a dictator in complete control would be better—easier and more efficient!

Donald Trump admits, by his words and actions, he would be a dictator. And probably not a benevolent one. He does not score highly on empathy or concern for the greater good.

Trump's personality is that of a malevolent dictator who, while exercising absolute political power over the state, focuses on their supporters and their own self interests. They have a deep sense of entitlement and see themselves as exceptional individuals. Their insatiable need for admiration makes it difficult for them to empathize with the feelings and needs of others. This consistent pattern of grandiosity, coupled with a vindictive nature, is commonly associated with narcissistic personality disorder. Historical examples include, Hitler, Saddam Hussein, and Kim Jong-un, all people whom Trump admires.

Good idea for America? Maybe freedom is better, even if it's hard! Guess we will just have to grow up and take responsibility for our democracy—if we want to keep it.

Cynthia Muse  
Rye, N.H.

Cynthia:

Grow up? You're asking a lot. Remember, we're Americans!

The Editor

====

#### Bottle Bill Possibilities

To the Editor:

Manufacturers and distributors earn profits from products that produce trash. Municipalities pay the greatly increasing disposal fees. House Bill 1636 would change that, with a Container Deposit System.

A number of states have such a system, actually designed and run by manufacturers and distributors through a Producer Responsibility Organization. Customers pay a 10 or 15 cent deposit when purchasing a bottled or canned beverage, which is fully returned to the customer upon returning "empties" to the store or any redemption center. Hannafords in Maine participates in such a system. Let's bring it to New Hampshire!

Benefits? Municipalities are spared handling and transportation costs. Containers tossed into regular trash

cost our communities a tipping fee—considerable for heavy glass bottles. Deposit containers remain in good condition, unlike those often broken or contaminated when tossed into municipal recycling bins. Uncontaminated, unbroken containers are truly recycled, the materials used over at a fraction of the expense of extracting materials to manufacture new containers.

Return rates can reach 91 percent, as consumers seek return of their deposit. For beverage containers not on deposit the U.S. recycling rate is stagnant at 24 percent, meaning more bottles end up as litter, useful aluminum and glass is tossed out. There is no cost for customers who return their bottles. States with these systems find it's paid for by the customers who don't collect their deposits.

Contact your N.H. Representative and urge support for HB1636, which would open the discussion on this important avenue for our communities to save money.

Susan Richman  
Durham, N.H.

====

#### Let's Try Some Critical Thinking

To the Editor:

The capacity to think critically and freely express the results is essential to the development of knowledge and human progress. The critical thinking process, often embodied in the scientific method, has been responsible for every advance in scientific knowledge and implementation of new technologies for the past 300 years. Its application to social problems has contributed to the creation of effective policy solutions. The critical process entails a rigorous, impartial investigation of relevant facts followed by rational analysis and evaluation of problems. Although the process is not a panacea for all social problems, it is the closest approach that humans have devised for achieving objective knowledge. The absence of critical thinking contributes to confusion, chaos and conflict as unsubstantiated and false opinions proliferate and dogma replaces informed opinion.

The ability to think critically is a

scarce commodity today. A prominent example of the dearth of critical thinking is the MAGA Republican Party. It is led by an egotistic ignoramus whose actions are driven only by the gratification of his personal desires. Much of the Republican electorate resembles a cult, blindly accepting Trump's election lies and uncritically supporting crackpot conspiracy theories. The absence of critical thinking among Republicans is a major contributor to the political chaos that we see today.

Another threat to critical thinking is the intrusion of a toxic ideology in American universities. The recent controversy over antisemitic sentiment on college campuses and the disastrous performance of three elite university presidents called to testify before a House investigative committee are indicators. The reluctance of some Progressive campus groups to condemn the October 7<sup>th</sup> Hamas massacre of innocent Israelis, justifying the attack as an appropriate response to "colonial" Israeli oppressors is an example of the identity-based ideology. The tone-deaf testimony of the three Ivy League presidents who could not condemn blatant calls for the genocide of Jews without legalistic hedging is indicative of the inroads a harmful DEI [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion] ideology has made in the administrations of elite universities.

Make no mistake, diversity and inclusion are noble goals. Inclusion of disadvantaged individuals in problem-solving groups can add diverse opinions that improve group and organizational performance. In this sense, properly implemented inclusion can facilitate critical thinking by broadening the perspectives under consideration. This is an example of inclusion by collaboration. It requires mutual self-respect and sharing on the part of all participants whether advantaged or disadvantaged and, over time, may help eliminate the conditions that are responsible for the advantage gap.

DEI policy in some universities, however, has been captured by an

Mash Notes, Hate Mail, &c.

to page six

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

Origins Story

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

To learn more about memorials and what else we choose to remember go to PortsmouthGenome.org Join the conversation.  
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from page five

identitarian ideology that sees all interactions between so-called elites and disadvantaged groups in terms of oppression. According to this ideology, elites (usually white males) use their control of social power to oppress the disadvantaged (e.g. women, black Americans, colonized Gazans). Since elites' use of power is persistent and pervasive, Draconian policies must be enacted to counter their influence. Thus, high level administrators are appointed primarily because of their membership in one of the identity groups rather than merit. Campus speakers whose opinion does not conform to identity ideology must be denied a platform. Faculty that express ideas that conflict with the identity synthesis must be suppressed or not hired. DEI administrators and woke faculty members should enforce speech restrictions to avoid imagined "microaggressions" and require "trigger warnings" on well-established texts. These restrictions are enacted with all the subtlety of the Iranian Morality Police.

The teaching and enforcement of identity dogma is the very antithesis to the bedrock values of the academy that cherish free expression and unrestricted investigation of ideas. Noxious ideas are not defeated by banning but by open debate. Universities contribute to society through the education of students to be creative and critical thinkers and by sponsoring research and scholarship that extends useful knowledge. To the extent that they abandon this mission to engage in social engineering driven by an unsupported dogma, they are derelict to their duty. Such abandonment threatens a wellspring of free expression and critical thinking that if extinguished may not be revived.

Robert D. Russell, Ph.D.  
Harrisburg, Pa.  
*Robert:*  
*Our experience with academia has, by mutual agreement, been limited. We are in no position to say what the effects of DEI may have been.*



*We can say with some confidence, though, that the usual suspects—right wingers looking out for the interests of the haves, at the expense of the have-nots—have taken up DEI as a spiffy new club with which to bludgeon anyone who's not on their side.*

*So, color us suspicious.*  
*The Editor*

=====  
**Our Fellow Americans**  
Dear Editor,

It's my right, even if you think I'm wrong, for me to express the truth about what I see in America.

Americans could not care less about others who exist anywhere past the ends of our noses.

Americans could not care less about the lives of Muslim citizens in Gaza. Not our problem, let the President handle it.

Folks trying to get past our southern border to start a life free of the savage conditions in their homelands? We're full, go back home.

Folks in neighboring states? State borders might as well be closed to them too unless they bring money in here to spend.

Next door neighbors? Don't know 'em. Don't want to meet 'em. Only way we'd tolerate their faces is if they agreed to come to church with us.

Employees? No loyalty to employers, vice versa too.

People we hook up with socially? Don't stumble for a second, or we'll cancel your sorry butts.

Spouses? Marriage is only good if it works for me. If it works best for spouse or children, too bad, we'll exit the situation anyway.

Celebrities? Get as close as humanly possible and worship forevermore.

Kimball Shinkoskey  
Woods Cross, Utah  
*Kimball:*  
*You make us grateful to know a hell of a lot of people who are nothing like what you describe.*  
*The Editor*

**Got The Downtown Portsmouth Blues...**  
Most-Esteemed Mr. Fowle,

... Back to local woes. Book & Bar is closing. Thud. The trap door we never knew was there suddenly opened and out dropped Portsmouth's final heart, or, to quote an astute commenter, "one of the last living rooms of Portsmouth." Such a statement rings louder than the North Church's persevering bell. B&B is a place that embodies safety and warmth. Good food and drink, wonderful staff, comfy atmosphere, Beat Nights among other brilliant events that even the most hobbbit-like introvert would venture out to enjoy—AND a most affordable and diverse array of readable treasures? I never would conceive of its end.

Oh Portsmouth, what in the ever-loving H-E-Double-Hockey-Sticks have you done to yourself?! Sure, one could say, "ahh, hooey (or something more unkind), you just don't like change!" And yes, I concede change of any sort, good or bad, can feel new and scary and difficult. But Portsmouth has not just been changed, it has been ransacked, abused, contorted, and stuffed with the architectural equivalent of Botox and fillers and other superficial, commercialized, overpriced nonsense. My sweet city, whoever dared to tell you that you weren't beautiful before? All that drew people to this vanilla-hued, money-sucking, salt and sea-smelling former brothel city—its charm, warmth, connectivity, good food, instantly recognizable horizon—gone. Mind you, I exaggerate just a tick, a few gems remain (don't you ever, ever, E-V-E-R lay a hand or hammer on Sheafe Street Books), but what used to be a shining crown of community hubs now renders as a bleak, unwelcoming comb-over of poorly-conceived, small-d\*ck-energy-pretending-to-be-"avant-garde" shoeboxes. How many banks does one town need? How many of the same mid-quality restaurant chains, "micro-housing" units (odd rebrand of "slums," I dare say), and unused castaway parking garages within albatross-flying dis-

tance? How many more hostile fences? And don't get me started on the parking kiosks...

I was recently informed that Hearth is the new "community hub" of downtown. Now, I apologize if my next statement attracts ire, and I would never wish a local business anything but luck and success, but I often do wish I could carefully carve out the development with a scalpel and transplant it into Boston. Clearly a great deal of effort went into the impressive endeavor and a great many folks are at their employ—facts I neither wish to diminish nor deride. And the swing is cool. But the building, quite literally, does not fit here. Rather, it towers over mainstays like Massimo's and Ceres Street Bakery like a playground bully pointing its bulky finger and sneering "you're next!" I think back to the real hubs of Portsmouth—the open patio of the former Breaking New Grounds where everyone, customer or otherwise, could sit leisurely catching up with acquaintances and watching this small slice of world stroll by. My first visit to Hearth was ironically cold. People were siloed off from one another, few smiled, and the noise and crowd were overwhelming. It was, for lack of a better word, "off." I couldn't bring myself to try the food despite the hard work that went into its making. I simply walked in, gazed around, and walked out feeling vaguely sadder than I was on entry.

In short (too late, I know), the parking situation feels hardly worth the hassle anymore. If you were among those relocating to Portsmouth from the likes of big cities, we took no issue with your arrival (though the NY-ers who brazenly asked my mother if she would sell her house at the beginning of the pandemic—approaching her unmasked—can still suck the largest of eggs), but we had sincerely hoped you would leave your large cities in the rearview, not pack them with you. Whoever is behind these vast perversions of Portsmouth, and I have a mind to think it is just a small handful of over-resourced corporate goons, would do well to hang their

heads in shame as they have ours in grief. You city-mangling thieves would make the pope curse.

Molly Simon  
Newmarket, N.H.  
*Molly:*  
*Taking no prisoners, eh?*  
*The Editor*

=====  
**Biden and Gaza**  
To the Editor:

I am writing from West Virginia, with an urgent message for the people of New Hampshire, particularly the Democrats. In Gaza, 24,750 people have been killed in three months. Israel's genocidal siege is targeting refugee camps, hospitals, homes, and UN-run schools. Israel is waging war on a civilian population, making no attempt to target combatants because the nation has labeled all Palestinians as its enemy. It is blocking all food, water, and fuel. More than two million people in Gaza are in danger of starving, and none of them can leave.

President Biden vetoed a United Nations ceasefire resolution that would have saved tens of thousands of lives. Sixty-six percent of Americans and 80 percent of Democrats support a ceasefire—as does virtually every other nation on the planet—because genocide and mass murder of civilians is generally considered immoral. Yet Biden doubled down on his support for Israel, bypassing Congress to sell the nation more weapons.

The only candidate in the Democratic primary who supports a ceasefire is Marianne Williamson. Democrats and Republicans who believe in a world without genocide should vote for her in the upcoming Democratic primary. I know that I and millions of other Americans of conscience will not vote for President Biden. The only way to end genocide forever is by holding our leaders accountable when they support genocide. You can never be in the moral wrong by refusing to vote for someone who supports genocide.

Siegfried Tuttle  
Hillsboro, W.Va.  
*Siegfried:*  
*Vote for Williamson in the primary. Little harm in that. Refuse to vote for Biden in the General and you may consign democracy to the dustbin of history.*  
*The Editor*

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# More Unsung American Heroes

by W.D. Ehrhart

Back in 1970, after the Ohio National Guard murdered four college students at Kent State University, I set out to understand what had happened to me and my country in Vietnam. In the process, I stumbled upon the history of my own country. More than a half a century later, I'm still learning.

I recently wrote an essay called "Unsung & Oversung Heroes" occasioned by a biography of Elizabeth Jennings titled *America's First Freedom Rider*, in which I discussed significant Americans that history has largely forgotten or never recognized in the first place.

And the very next book I happened to read, *The World's Fastest Man*, introduced me to yet another American I'd never heard of: Marshall Walker "Major" Taylor, the first African American ever to become a world champion in any sport, in his case bicycle racing, which was a wildly popular sport in the last decade of the 19th century.

Racing in Europe and Australia, Taylor defeated the national champions of England, Wales, France, Denmark, Germany, and Belgium. Even more amazing, he actually won the U.S. Championship in spite of being barred—on account of being Black—from many of the races in which points were counted toward that championship. In other races, white cyclists ganged up to box Taylor in or even cause him to crash.

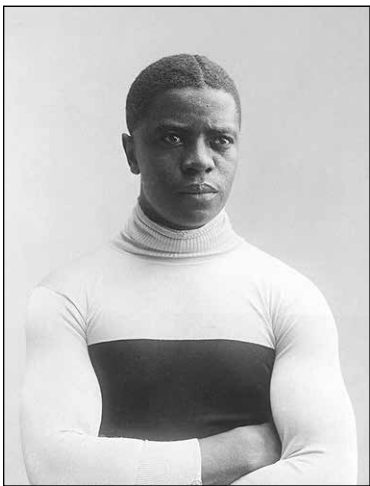
Another new hero of mine is Louis de Franklin "Birdie" Munger, the former champion bicycle rac-

er who recognized Taylor's talent when Taylor was still a teenager, vowed to train Taylor to become "the world's fastest man," and made that ambition a reality. Munger, who remained a lifelong friend and supporter of Taylor, was white.

But with the rise of automobiles and auto racing, bike racing was relegated to the back pages of the sporting news, and with the rise of Jim Crow America in the wake of *Plessy v. Ferguson*, Taylor was all but forgotten. Toward the end of his life, he wrote, "Throughout life's great race I always gave the best that was in me. Life is too short for a man to hold bitterness in his heart." He died alone and in poverty at the age of 53.

Speaking of *Plessy v. Ferguson*, I learned recently that the fateful decision legalizing segregation was not unanimous. One Justice, John Marshall Harlan, dissented, saying, "The white race deems itself to be the dominant race in this country, [but] in view of the Constitution, in the eye of the law, there is in this country no superior, dominant, ruling class of citizens. Our Constitution is color-blind[.]" Harlan was a white man, of course. Imagine the courage his dissent took.

Here are some other fun little tidbits of American history I'll bet you've never encountered. Ever heard of the 1st Alabama Cavalry Regiment? Made up of volunteers from northern Alabama, they spent the entire Civil War as part of the Union army, playing a key role in General William Sherman's capture of Atlanta and his subsequent



Marshall Walter "Major" Taylor (Nov. 26, 1878 – June 21, 1932)

"March to the Sea."

Though not particularly abolitionist, they came from a region that had no slaves, nor any fondness for the rich southern Alabama aristocratic planters, and didn't want to secede from the Union. Indeed, their core homeland, Winston County, tried to secede from Alabama, calling itself the "Free State of Winston," and had to be militarily occupied by Alabama secessionist soldiers throughout the war.

And how many of you can name the first African American regiment in the Union army? If you say it was the 54th Massachusetts, you will be wrong. It was actually the 1st South Carolina Regiment of Colored Volunteers. Beginning in the late summer of 1862, freed slaves from the Union-occupied Sea Islands and other runaway slaves from South Carolina and Florida asked to be allowed to fight.

Union General Rufus Sax-

ton thought that was a good idea, equipped and armed them, and had them organized and trained. Their first regimental commander was Colonel Thomas Wentworth Higginson. As an editor of *The Atlantic*, alas, he holds the distinction of having declined to publish both Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson. But he was otherwise an extraordinary man who championed equal rights for both women and African Americans.

Higginson himself is not really "unsung," since he is certainly well-known, at least in abolitionist and literary circles, though you may not know about his Civil War service. And in recent years, the former slave Bass Reeves, who spent decades as a dedicated U.S. Deputy Marshal in Oklahoma's Indian Territory, is finally beginning to receive some long-overdue recognition.

Meanwhile, at the age of 75, I'm still learning about American history. And these days, confronted by spineless politicians who continue to support an ignorant criminal grifter, and so many of our fellow citizens who misremember the January 6th Insurrection as a largely peaceful exercise in the Constitution right of free speech, I'm fervently hoping that the rest of us might rise to the occasion and yet become our very own unsung heroes.

—==—

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

—==—

## Why You Were Not Invited to Davos

by Jim Hightower

Once again, my invitation to the big shindig in Davos never arrived. Davos is the posh resort village in the Swiss Alps where some 3,000 global power elites gather every January for a weeklong, corporate-funded Schmooze-and-Booze-Fest to solve the world's problems.

You and I are never invited to this confab, grandiosely titled "World Economic Forum." That's because (1) we're not corporate or governmental VIPs, and (2) we might raise rude questions like, "Who the hell elected you plutocratic know-nothings and screw-ups to solve world problems—which you largely created?" See? We the People can't be trusted to be polite.

Indeed, the theme of this year's forum is, "How Can We Rebuild Trust?" By "we," they mean the Davos clique itself—the Wall Street bankers, Silicon Valley speculators, various oligarchs, industrial barons, billionaire campaign donors, labor abusers, war mongers, mass polluters, high-tech futurists, and other architects of... well, the mess we're in.

In our country, only about 10 percent say democracy is working for most Americans today, with the Powers That Be not even trying to serve what the majority believes in, wants, and needs. Economic fairness, social justice, and equal opportunity—our society's fundamental, unifying values—are being trampled by the greed of moneyed elites and the fear and hatred of small-minded ideological extremists. They squabble over even keeping our government operating and fritter away their time and credibility on crap that undermines public trust.

So, no, Davos crowd, you cannot "rebuild trust," for no one can trust you. You could gain a real measure of credibility if your elite forum would do something truly significant for democracy, like taking corporate money out of our politics. That would make Davos historic. Otherwise, you're just partying... and stroking your egos.

—==—

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—==—

### The Alleged News®

from page six

a member of the Industrial Workers of the World, a labor union which sought to organize workers without regard to race, sex, or national origin, Flynn crisscrossed the country lifting the spirits of striking workers, raising funds for their defense, and helping to organize textile, mining, timber, and other workers to win better pay and working conditions. A staunch defender of women's equality, Flynn also became a strong advocate for free speech and was among the founders of the American Civil Liberties Union.

At the age of 46, Flynn joined the Communist Party at a time the group was campaigning against

fascism and promoting a "popular front" in support of President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal. She soon rose to prominence within the party, for which she was indicted, tried, convicted, and sent to prison under the Smith Act.

It was Flynn's communist associations which aroused the ire of Governor Sununu and Councilor Kenney after the Division of Historical Resources (DHR) installed the Flynn marker.

Alpert and Sargent worked for months researching and gathering support for the historical marker, all the while following DHR guidelines. After giving its approval to the Flynn marker in 2022, the DHR unveiled the Flynn marker on May 1, 2023 at a ceremony organized by

Alpert and Sargent. Two weeks later it was gone, apparently moved to a Department of Transportation storage facility. According to internal DHR messages the plaintiffs discovered in a right-to-know request, the order for the marker's removal came directly from Gov. Sununu.

According to the DHR, historical markers are meant to educate the public about people, places, events, organizations, and innovations that "had a significant impact on its times and has demonstrated historical significance."

"That is certainly an apt description for Elizabeth Gurley Flynn," commented Sargent, who spent decades teaching American and women's history at the university and college levels in Illinois and New

Hampshire.

For Alpert and Sargent, the marker's removal ironically gave more notoriety to Elizabeth Gurley Flynn than might have occurred had the State left it alone.

Also ironically, the Courthouse where the January 24 hearing was held sits within shouting distance of the site where the marker used to be and from the home where Flynn was born.

—==—

"... they have capital; they have the power of the government, the slugging community of the capitalist class; they have the power of the state; they have the power of international capital—and we have but our power of organization."

— Elizabeth Gurley Flynn



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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


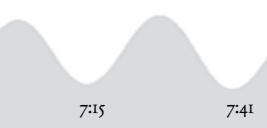
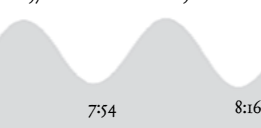
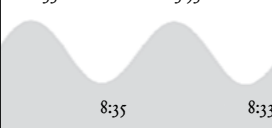

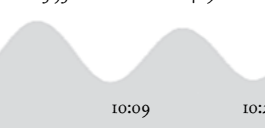

drags about seventeen billion gallons of seawater — enough to fill 2,125,000 tanker trucks — up the river and into Great Bay. This creates a roving hydraulic conflict, as incoming sea and the outgoing river collide. The skirmish line

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, JANUARY 28  | MONDAY, JANUARY 29  | TUESDAY, JANUARY 30   | WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31  | THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1   | FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2   | SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3  |      |      |      |       |       |       |       |
|---|---|---|--|--|--|---|------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| <p><b>2008</b>—In his last (yay!) State of the Union speech, George W.[MD] Bush promises his budget will keep the U.S. “on track for a surplus in 2012.”</p> <p><b>2004</b>—U.S. weapons inspector David Kay tells the Senate pre-war WMD intelligence was “almost all wrong.”</p> <p><b>2003</b>—In his State of the Union, George W.[MD] Bush lies about tubes, viruses, alliances, and uranium to justify his next war.</p> <p><b>1998</b>—Lawyer John Morton-Finney, son of a formerly-enslaved man, dies two years after retiring. He’s 108.</p> <p><b>1986</b>—Ronald Reagan’s State of the Union is rescheduled; his <i>Challenger</i> applause line turned into a tragedy.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—Unocal drillers using sub-standard pipe cause a 100,000-barrel oil spill off Santa Barbara, creating an 800 square mile oil slick and an environmental movement.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—CIA head John McCone and FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover meet at U.C. Berkeley Regent Edwin Pauley’s request and agree to provide Pauley with intel to make it appear that U.C. President Clark Kerr is a Commie.</p> <p><b>1944</b>—U.S. B-26s bomb a train on a bridge at Alleronia, Italy. It’s full of Allied POWs being evacuated from a prison camp; at least 400 are killed.</p> <p><b>1922</b>—The roof of the Knickerbocker Theatre in Washington, D.C. collapses under thirty inches of snow, killing 98 and injuring 133.</p> <p><b>1918</b>—Texas Rangers murder all 15 Hispanic residents of Porvenir.</p> | <p><b>2002</b>—Qassem Suleimani, Commander of the Quds Force—who had been considering a rapprochement between Iran and the U.S.—goes ballistic after George W.[MD] Bush’s “Axis of Evil” speech. Also: Bush asks Senate Majority Leader Daschle to limit investigations into 9/11.</p> <p><b>1991</b>—“Our forces in the Gulf will not stay there one day longer than is necessary,” says George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush.</p> <p><b>1979</b>—“I don’t like Mondays,” replies Brenda Spencer, 16, when asked why she shot eleven people, killing two, at a San Diego elementary school.</p> <p><b>1976</b>—The House, under Speaker Carl Albert [D–Okla.], votes to cover up the Pike Committee’s report on the crimes of U.S. intelligence agencies.</p> <p><b>1925</b>—The sub <i>S–48</i>, enroute to the Shipyard, grounds itself off Jaffrey’s Point, then again in Little Harbor.</p> <p><b>1912</b>—Anna LoPizzo, 34, is killed by a shot through the heart during the Bread and Roses strike in Lawrence, Mass. A cop probably did it, but anarchists are blamed.</p> <p><b>1889</b>—In an election featuring armed white men stealing ballot boxes, Congressional candidate John M. Clayton [R–Ark.] is shot through his boarding house window. He’s declared the winner; the seat is left vacant.</p> <p><b>1863</b>—U.S. Army troops and Shoshone Indians clash at the Bear River in Utah. After the Shoshone run out of ammo, rapes and a massacre begin.</p> | <p><b>2005</b>—A U.S. official reports that \$9,000,000,000 is ... well ... sort of ... missing in Iraq.</p> <p><b>1981</b>—An FB-111A “Aardvark” based at Pease AFB crashes near homes at Mariner’s Village, about 1.25 miles northwest of Market Square. One apartment building is destroyed; no one is injured.</p> <p><b>1976</b>—The Supreme Court decides that limiting campaign contributions would unfairly restrict the speech of a privileged minority group: people with unlimited amounts of money.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—“Bloody Sunday” in Northern Ireland: British soldiers gun down 14 Catholic civil-rights marchers.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—Two hundred colonels in the U.S. MACV staff attend a pool party in Saigon. “Not one ... knew Tet was coming” the next day, an analyst says later.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—A Soviet sub sinks the MV <i>Wilhelm Gustloff</i>; some 9,400 drown, mostly civilians, half children.</p> <p><b>1933</b>—Destabilized by austerity, largely self-inflicted, Germany allows the Nazis to seize power.</p> <p><b>1798</b>—Called a scoundrel on the House floor by Rep. Roger Griswold [F–Conn.], Rep. Matthew Lyon [D–R–Vt.], spits in Griswold’s face.</p> <p><b>1661</b>—Oliver Cromwell, two years dead, is exhumed and decapitated. His head spends 20 years on a pike, and goes unburied until 1960.</p> <p><b>1649</b>—The limits of divine right finally dawn on Charles I, thanks to Oliver Cromwell and an executioner’s ax.</p> | <p><b>2003</b>—At the White House, George W.[MD] Bush tells Tony Blair he’s going to invade Iraq with or without WMDs, and diplomacy will have to fit around the military strategy.</p> <p><b>1984</b>—President Reagan alleges the U.S. has a problem with “people who are sleeping on the grates...homeless...you might say, by choice.”</p> <p><b>1971</b>—In Detroit, Vietnam Veterans Against the War testify about U.S. policies in Vietnam. Few listen.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—It’s Tet: the VC and NVA attack from the Delta to the DMZ. Saigon—even the U.S. Embassy—is a war zone. U.S. brass don’t get the point—Gen. Wm. “Clueless” Westmoreland says Hue’s been retaken; he’s off by a month—but the public does.</p> <p><b>1963</b>—“The war in Vietnam is going well and will succeed,” says R. Strange McNamara, Secretary of Defense.</p> <p><b>1957</b>—A DC-8 on a test flight over the San Fernando Valley loses a wing when it’s hit by an F-89, also on a test flight. Four airmen die. Flaming debris kills three kids on a junior high playground; 74 are injured.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—Private Eddie Slovik gets to be the one U.S. deserter out of 21,000 to be executed by a firing squad.</p> <p><b>1933</b>—The fascist Silver Legion goes public in Asheville, N.C. Within a few years it claims 15,000 members.</p> <p><b>1900</b>—The day after he’s shot a by conspiracy’s hit man, William Goebel is sworn in as Governor of Kentucky. Three days later he dies.</p> | <p><b>2005</b>—Though Canada OK’s same-sex marriage, the world does not end.</p> <p><b>2004</b>—Janet Jackson’s nipple is briefly bared on TV; the world nearly ends.</p> <p><b>1974</b>—Richard Nixon meets for twenty minutes with the Messiah, aka Reverend Sun Myung Moon.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—Rev. Billy Graham explains to President Nixon that a group of Jews, the Biblical “synagogue of Satan,” had the U.S. in a “stranglehold,” via banking and the media. Nixon replies, “I can’t ever say it, but I believe it.”</p> <p><b>1971</b>—“The President is aware of what is going on in Southeast Asia,” Ron Ziegler tells reporters. “That is not to say anything is going on in Southeast Asia.” Certainly not an invasion of Laos one week later.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—In Saigon, AP photographer and former Marine Eddie Adams snaps the anti-Iwo Jima Flag Raising photo of the Vietnam War: General Nguyen Ngoc Loan shooting VC Captain Nguyen Van Lem, whose hands are tied, in the head.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—The Kingsmen’s incompressible song “Louie Louie” is declared obscene by filthy-minded Indiana Governor Matthew E. Welsh.</p> <p><b>1963</b>—Fleetwood Lindley, the last living person to have looked upon the face of the dead Abraham Lincoln, dies at the age of 75.</p> <p><b>1960</b>—Civil rights sit-ins begin at Woolworth’s in Greensboro, N.C.</p> <p><b>1951</b>—It was inevitable: the first televised A-bomb explosion.</p> | <p><b>2018</b>—A Tesla roadster goes to space, but the CEO isn’t behind the wheel.</p> <p><b>2015</b>—A week after a two-foot snowstorm, Po’Town gets 18 inches more.</p> <p><b>2014</b>—Mayor Bill de Blasio, fumbling, drops Chuck, the Staten Island Groundhog. Days later Chuck dies.</p> <p><b>2009</b>—Mayor Michael Bloomberg gets a bitten finger as he grapples with Chuck, the Staten Island Groundhog.</p> <p><b>1991</b>—Before Desert Storm ground combat begins, the Pentagon bans the press from the Dover morgue.</p> <p><b>1979</b>—Zbigniew Brzezinski advises Jimmy Carter, “Islamic revivalist movements...are not likely to be the wave of the future.”</p> <p><b>1966</b>—Australians burn their conscription papers in Sydney.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—Protesting a protest against the jailing of MLK, Daniel P. Skelley pours water from a can labeled “gas” all over his American Nazi uniform. Cops take him away after a TV cameraman offers him a match.</p> <p><b>1952</b>—Winnie Ruth Judd, the “trunk murderess,” makes her fifth escape from Arizona State Insane Hospital.</p> <p><b>1915</b>—German national Werner Horn bombs the railroad bridge connecting Vanceboro, Maine with St. Croix, Canada. There is little damage.</p> <p><b>1848</b>—The U.S. grabs half of Mexico via the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.</p> <p><b>1819</b>—N.H.’s own Daniel Webster wins <i>Dartmouth v. Woodward</i>; corporate charters are poised to become capital’s #1 tool for crushing democracy.</p> | <p><b>2012</b>—“Today is the day that in 1924 Woodrow Wilson died, that son of a bitch,” says radio-active dingbat Glenn Beck, “and I’m happy.”</p> <p><b>2006</b>—After Don Rumsfeld likens H. Chavez to Hitler, Venezuela’s VP compares the U.S. to the Third Reich.</p> <p><b>1959</b>—In Iowa, a plane crash kills Buddy Holly, “The Big Bopper,” and Richie Valens.</p> <p><b>1956</b>—Elvis Presley, Carl Perkins, Jerry Lee Lewis, and Johnny Cash rock out at Sun studio in Memphis.</p> <p><b>1933</b>—The Senate fires Sergeant at Arms David S. Barry for writing, “there are not many crooks in Congress...who sell their vote for money, and it is pretty well known who those few are; but there are many demagogues...that will vote [to] help their political and social fortunes.”</p> <p><b>1931</b>—Arkansas’ state legislature votes to pray for the soul of H.L. Mencken after he calls the state “the apex of moronia.”</p> <p><b>1916</b>—In Zurich, Hugo Ball opens Café Voltaire, hotbed of dadaism.</p> <p><b>1870</b>—The 15th Amendment is ratified: Black male Americans are told they can now vote.</p> <p><b>1811</b>—Future newspaperman and notable eccentric Horace Greeley is born on a farm in Amherst, N.H.</p> <p><b>1793</b>—Shot in the face and bayoneted 13 times by the British at Lexington 17 years earlier, Samuel Whittemore, a farmer, dies of natural causes at 98.</p> <p><b>1468</b>—RIP Johannes Gutenberg.</p> |      |      |      |       |       |       |       |
| 12:48   | 12:52   | 1:22  | 1:28   | 1:57   | 2:05   | 2:33  | 3:53 | 3:11 | 3:29 | 3:53  | 4:19  | 4:41  | 5:16  |
|    |    |    |    |   |   |    |      |      |      |       |       |       |       |
| 6:36  | 7:07  | 7:15  | 7:41   | 7:54   | 8:16   | 8:35  | 8:33 | 9:20 | 9:34 | 10:09 | 10:20 | 11:04 | 11:12 |

**2009**—While giving a TED Talk on malaria prevention at Long Beach, Calif., Bill Gates releases a jarful of mosquitoes to feast on the audience.

**1982**—Phoenix, Ariz. resident David Grundman is killed when the 26-foot, 500 lb. saguaro he shot falls on him.

**1976**—Lockheed admits to paying \$22 million in bribes to sell aircraft.

**1974**—William Randolph Hearst’s granddaughter Patty, 19, is kidnapped by the Symbionese Liberation Army.

**1968**—Ur-beat Neal Cassady, 41, dies alongside railroad tracks in Mexico.

**1968**—Cholon, Saigon’s Chinatown, is declared a free-fire zone; South Vietnamese pilots bomb their own capitol.

**1913**—Rosa Louise McCauley Parks is born in Tuskegee, Ala.

**1912**—Franz Reichelt’s parachute/overcoat fails the Eiffel Tower test.

**1899**—Five months after being liberated from Spaniards by Americans, Filipinos begin fighting the liberators.

**1887**—The ICC is established. A future Union Pacific president calls it “quite harmless...[it] will impress the popular mind with the idea that a great deal is being done, when, in reality, very little is intended to be done.”

**1875**—Pioneering photog Eadweard Muybridge, who shot Major Harry Larkyns dead for impregnating his wife, is found not guilty; Calif. jury-men say they’d have done the same. It’s the last time that works in the U.S.

**1794**—Congress gives enslavers the right to re-enslave people who escape.

**2021**—An inebriated man in a red hat with “mouse ears” spends five hours wandering around Joint Base Andrews, home to Air Force One.

**2007**—Astronaut Lisa Marie Nowak is arrested for attempting to kidnap another astronaut’s girlfriend and misappropriating NASA diapers.

**2003**—Secretary of State Colin Powell tells the UN that Saddam Hussein’s Iraq is bristling with WMDs.

**1981**—For her husband’s 70th birthday, First Lady Nancy Reagan flies her manicurist in from Los Angeles.

**1975**—Jack Anderson’s column reports the CIA has been running “honey traps” in N.Y.C. & San Francisco where hookers lure diplomats who are surreptitiously photographed and blackmailed into becoming informers.

**1958**—A B-47 bomber collides with a jet fighter near Tybee Island off the coast of Georgia and jettisons an H-bomb. It’s still buried in the mud.

**1953**— Ike starts a tradition and treads on the First Amendment by speaking at the National Prayer Breakfast.

**1937**—Roosevelt attempts to “pack” the Supreme Court.

**1858**—Rep. Laurence M. Keitt [D–S.C.] tries to strangle Rep. Galusha A. Grow [R–Pa.]. The ensuing mayhem, involving 50 Members, turns to laughter after Rep. Wm. Barksdale [D–Miss.], when replacing his wig, puts it on backwards.

**1830**—The *New York Daily Sentinel*, the first labor daily, begins.

**2020**—It’s 65° Fahrenheit at the Esperanza Base, in Antarctica.

**2013**—In Seabrook, N.H., Phantom Fireworks sells Tamerlan Tsarnaev 1.5 lbs. of black powder and gives him another 1.5 pounds for free.

**1978**—The worst blizzard in recorded history hits the northeast with hurricane winds and feet of snow; 100 die.

**1976**—Lockheed admits it’s paid \$7 million in bribes to a Japanese “ultra-right-wing militarist” faction the State Department abhors.

**1971**—Derry, New Hampshire’s favorite son Alan Shepard uses a nine iron to whack a golf ball on the moon.

**1968**—NVA troops in Soviet tanks overrun Lang Vei; 21 of 24 Green Berets are KIA, WIA, or captured.

**1951**—Trespassing at Argonne National Laboratory, blowhard Paul Harvey claims it was inadvertant. A script found in his car proves he’s lying.

**1919**—Seattle union leaders get a telegram intended for shipyard owners: “no raises.” A General Strike results. Workers run the city for a week, but union bureaucrats intervene. To maintain power they end the strike; the workers get called “Bolsheviks.”

**1819**—In a duel instigated by Gen. Andrew Jackson, Col. John Marmaduke McCarty kills Gen. Armistead Thomson Mason, his second cousin.

**1684**—Portsmouth’s first minister, Reverend Joshua Moody, is jailed by Governor Edward Cranfield over some inane doctrinal foafaraw.

**2013**—Mississippi abolishes slavery.

**1998**—GOP-run Congress names Washington National after the guy who fired all our air traffic controllers.

**1991**—The IRA drops a 140 lb. mortar round behind 10 Downing St.

**1982**—At Newark Airport, Ellen Kaplan, 54,” asks Henry Kissinger if he sleeps with young boys. Nancy Kissinger, 6, grabs her by the neck and asks, “Do you want to get slugged?”

**1968**—“It became necessary to destroy [the Vietnamese village of Ben Tre] in order to save it,” an American major tells reporter Peter Arnett.

**1965**—VC attack Camp Holloway near Pleiku killing 9 Americans and wounding 137. The U.S. responds by bombing North Vietnam.

**1951**—In Korea, Capt. Lewis Millett leads the U.S.’s most recent bayonet charge. This anachronistic victory earns him the Medal of Honor.

**1950**—Ex-Emperor Bao Dai [1926–1945], ineffectual serial puppet, first of the Japanese, then the French, is recognized by the U.S. as ruler of the bogus State of Vietnam.

**1926**—Negro History Week, the precursor to Black History Month, is celebrated for the first time.

**1919**—Michigan’s Supreme Court dooms *Homo sapiens* by ruling that corporations must put profits for stockholders above all else.

**1873**—It’s Sheriff and future Pres. Grover Cleveland’s 2nd hanging: John Gaffney takes 23 minutes to die.

**2020**—Given a choice between a second term for Trump or “a giant meteor [striking] the earth, extinguishing all human life,” a poll says 62% of N.H. Democrats would prefer the meteor.

**2015**—Another two feet of snow fall on Portsmouth. It’s five feet deep now.

**1996**—The Telecommunications Act gives corporations airwaves worth \$70 billion, eliminates ownership limits, deregulates cable rates, and protects licenses against citizen complaints.

**1971**—ARVN invades Laos in Operation Lam Son 719: a chaotic disaster.

**1968**—State Troopers fire on Black protestors in Orangeburg, S.C., killing three and wounding 27.

**1946**—For taking down a sign about Jim Crow laws in a Bessemer, Ala. bus, honorably discharged former Marine Timothy Hood is shot by a streetcar conductor. The Police Chief arrests Hood, then shoots him dead. The Coroner calls it “justifiable homicide.”

**1942**—HUAC recommends concentration camps for some Americans.

**1924**—Nevada becomes the first state to kill someone in a gas chamber: Gee Jon, a hit man for the Hop Sing Tong.

**1923**—Coal dust explodes in Stag Canyon No. 1 mine in Dawson, N.M.; 123 die. Many of them were orphaned in 1913 when coal dust exploded in Stag Canyon No. 2, killing 263.

**1887**—The Dawes Act—enabling the division of Indian reservations into lots suitable for sale to white settlers—becomes what we laughably call “law.”

**2007**—A Pentagon report concludes that Douglas Feith’s policy office inappropriately manipulated intelligence on Iraq. Punished? Hell, no.

**2001**—The USS *Greeneville*, demonstrating an emergency ballast-blowing maneuver to 16 “Distinguished Visitors,” half with Texas oil and Bush connections, sinks a Japanese high-school fishery training ship off Hawaii, killing five adult crew and four high-school students.

**1982**—George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush denies ever having used the term “voodoo economics.” NBC then plays him the tape.

**1980**—Ted Bundy gets married and is sentenced to die. In Florida, of course.

**1971**—Satchel Paige becomes the first Negro League player inducted into the Hall of Fame.

**1967**—NYC cops bust cellist Charlotte Moorman for playing Mathews’ “International Lullaby” while topless.

**1950**—“I have here in my hand,” says Sen. Joe McCarthy, “the names of 205 men that were known to the Secretary of State as being members of the Communist Party and who nevertheless are still working and shaping the policy of the State Department.” Years later he admits he held a laundry list.

**1945**—HMS *Venturer*, submerged, torpedoes and sinks *U-864*, also submerged, off the coast of Norway.

**1919**—Suffragists burn W. Wilson in effigy in front of the White House.

**1737**—Happy B-day, Thomas Paine.

**2020**—“You know, a lot of people think [Covid-19] goes away in April with the heat,” predicts Dolt #45.

**2014**—Donald J. Trump tells Fox “News,” “When the economy crashes, when the country goes to total hell, and everything is a disaster, then you’ll have riots to go back to where we used to be, when we were great.”

**2010**—Innovative tax protestor Joe Stack flies a fuel-laden Piper into the IRS Field Office in Austin, Texas, killing another person, injuring 13, and causing damage in the millions.

**2003**—The G.W.[MD] Bush Administration touts plastic sheeting and duct tape as a first line of defense.

**1968**—General Westmoreland, U.S. commander in Vietnam, sends a cable to the Navy’s top admiral in the Pacific. It’s a request for tactical nukes.

**1964**—HMAS *Melbourne* cuts HMAS *Voyager* in half. *Voyager* sinks; 82 die. It’s the first of two friendly ships *Melbourne* is destined to sink.

**1934**—A mural for which they paid Diego Rivera \$21,000 is destroyed by order of the Rockefellers because it includes a depiction of Vladimir Lenin.

**1918**—At the Power’s gold mine in Arizona’s Galileo Mountains, a four-man posse seeking two draft-dodgers ends up 3/4<sup>th</sup> dead. The Power brothers get out of Florence Prison in 1960.

**1910**—Five Bloomsbury Groupers, disguised as Abyssinian royalty, trick Royal Navy officers into giving them a tour of HMS *Dreadnaught*.

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