

## The Fortnightly Rant

### Looking Back and Looking Forward

Let us begin with a brief look back, and end with a concise look forward. It's the only way we can imagine making the middle—the present—tolerable.

We are approaching the quarter-century mark for our appearance in this format: a fortnightly tabloid, broadly distributed for free, and available for subscription by First Class mail. We hope to continue in this form... well, basically forever. It works so well for us that a casual observer might think it was arrived at by design. Such was not entirely the case; we found our path mostly by stumbling in the dark.

We acquired the legal rights to this newspaper in 1989, thanks to inattention in the offices of the *Portsmouth Herald*, then owned by the world's biggest press baron, a Canadian, Kenneth Thomson, 2nd Baron Thomson of Fleet. The daily *Herald* and the weekly *Gazette* had been published in tandem since the turn of the 20th century. Such arrangements have been common in newspapering since the 19th century.

Early in 1960, the same year as the Nixon-Kennedy debates, the management of the *Herald* made an inexplicable decision: change the name of the Saturday *Gazette* to the *Herald Weekend Edition*. That would have been the end, had they not also added a line to the *Herald's* masthead: "Continuing the *New Hampshire Gazette* - America's Oldest Newspaper." Again, an old tradition: newspapers have been absorbing and continuing other newspapers since the beginning.

By 1989, though, the Baron's local minions had grown careless. They allowed the registration of the tradename to lapse. A \$40 check to the Secretary of State, and it was ours—with a cherry on top. The certificate bearing Bill Gardner's official seal was signed on May Day.

We saw two potential paths forward: present some ginned-up business plan to some theoretical group of investors, or simply blunder ahead, bankrolled by pocket lint, and get back into print. By framing that moment in this way, we disingenuously imply that a thought process was involved and a decision was made. That's not actually true. No notion of surrendering an iota of independence ever entered our editorial head. Not that anyone would have staked a dollar on us anyway.

So, for a decade, we published in several short-run formats, from a few locations, on an unscheduled, episodic basis, mailing the paper to subscribers.

Then, in 1999, here in Portsmouth, we managed to get the required pieces in place. We went from short runs on a sheet-fed press to runs in the thousands, on newsprint, from a big web press.

We had no idea how the reading

public might respond. Would they public accept the paper? Or laugh us out of town? Well, there has been a certain amount of laughter—but we are still here. We met, not just acceptance, but welcome. Long known as the City of Open Doors, Portsmouth has certainly lived up to its reputation in our case.

A small contingent of allies quickly appeared—and pitched in. More people joined in. We all learned, together, that putting out a newspaper can be a lot of fun.

It's paradoxical, we'll admit. Especially in a world where the news can be like this:

—==—

#### Bloodbath, Schmudbath

A fake billionaire and would-be despot who recently locked up the Republican presidential nomination said in Dayton, Ohio last weekend, "...if I don't get elected, it's going to be a bloodbath, for the whole—that's going to be the least of it. It's going to be a bloodbath for the country."

Cult followers attempted to minimize the unprecedented attempt to pitch a civil war as a campaign promise, citing the chronic blowhard's use of a "pig-in-a-blanket" propaganda technique. When your rhetorical style consists of rambling incoherence, violent code phrases wrapped in bullshit are more easily dismissed.

Even such allegedly august institutions as the Annenberg Public Policy Center still fall for this trick. *FactCheck.org's* Robert Farley tackled the issue on Monday. Well, maybe "tackled" is too strong a word. "Bent the knee" is more like it.

Writing about a *Washington Post* story in which the "Biden campaign characterized the comment as a promise of political violence," Farley turned to Steven Cheung for another perspective:

"If you actually watch and listen to the section, he was talking about the auto industry and tariffs," he wrote in an email, adding that "Biden's policies will create an economic bloodbath for the auto industry and autoworkers."

Farley's ruling? "That explanation seems the most plausible, given the context of [the candidate's] comments."

TPM's Josh Marshall summed up the "controversy" best: "If a mob boss says someone is going to go sleep with the fishes I'm not going to get into an argument about whether that person has a big aquarium in his bedroom. Because he's a mob boss and I'm not a chump and murdering people is what he does."

In other news from Dayton, the Republican candidate for president—who, according to his first wife, kept a book of Adolf Hitler's speeches in a cabinet by his bed—also called immigrants "animals" who "are not people."

### Hey—Where's Mike?

Time grinds on, and even the Nation's Oldest Newspaper™ must submit to its inexorable demands. Accordingly, readers will find a few changes in this edition, and in papers to come.

One is particularly worthy of note. As his term of Herculean service nears its quarter-century mark, our friend Mike Dater has elected to add Emeritus to his title, Starving Artiste.

This does not mean, we hasten to add, that we have seen the last of his work. See page three, for example.

Mostly it means Mike has been emancipated from this paper's rigidly-enforced fortnightly schedule, and management has relaxed the harsh Productivity Quota it formerly imposed.

Leonard Seagren first drew our attention to one of Mike's cartoons, affixed inside the front door of Federal Cigar, just a few months after our resumption of regularly scheduled publication and broad local distribution. The compatibility of interests was immediately apparent. Since then Mike has contributed at least 1,600 cartoons to this paper. They have drawn more compliments than any other feature.

Our papers are, of course, ephemeral by their nature. Fortunately Mike has collected his favorites in a series of books. An ad on page four, featuring the latest volume, aptly titled *The Godawful Years*, also provides the necessary details explaining where they may be obtained.

#### Intel Briefings for Fake Billionaire?

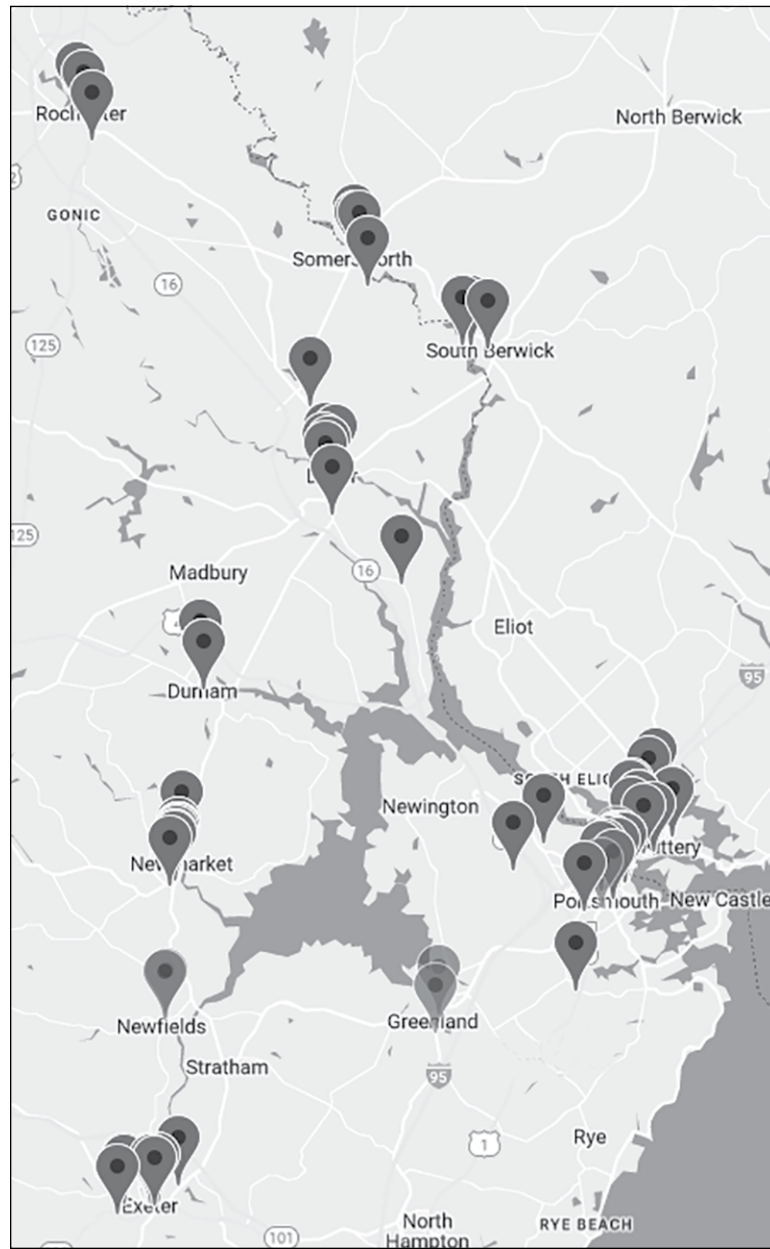
Lawyers for the Republican Party's 2024 presidential nominee recently informed a New York judge that their client—alleged by many former business associates to be a notorious deadbeat—cannot find a financial institution willing to risk half a billion dollars on a guy who's run six companies into bankruptcy.

On Monday, the *New York Times* reported that Paul Manafort "is in discussions to return to help with the Republican National Convention... Mr. Manafort's potential role at the party's convention in Milwaukee has not been decided."

Let's see... what job experience does he have? Money laundering? Check. Tax fraud? Check. Bank fraud? Check. Witness tampering? Check. Conspiracy to defraud? Check. "Grave counterintelligence threat due to opportunities for Russian intelligence services to exert influence over, and acquire confidential information on, the Trump campaign"? Check—according to a Republican-controlled Senate committee.

Still no word on any cancellation of the routine intelligence briefings normally given to presidential candidates.

In local news, Governor Sununu and would-be Senator Kelly Ayotte are still on record backing the GOP nominee.



**Where You Can Get the Gazette**—Long overdue, but here at last—at least, so we hope. The plan is for our website to go live today with a map that shows the current locations at which our newspaper may be found. Visit [nhgazette.com](http://nhgazette.com) to see if we made the deadline.

#### Is Failure an Option? Of Course It Is!

This rant began by reminiscing about re-aquainting readers in Portsmouth and its environs with a paper it hadn't seen since in print since Eisenhower was president. Our odds were probably better than we'd guessed; we are still here, so we must have succeeded, but that outcome was certainly not a given.

A certain idiotic catchphrase\* notwithstanding, failure has always been an option, and forever will be. In the long run it's a certainty. In five billion years the Sun will run out of hydrogen and begin burning helium. It will then expand until Earth—or whatever's left of it after the Anthropocene—burns to a crisp.

To be afraid to fail is to be afraid to live. Having liberated our minds, what shall we risk next?

Let's risk looking like fools by redoubling our efforts to expand our system of distribution by volunteers.

That is the point behind the map shown above, which should now be live on our website.

Our aim is to increase our readership, by increasing the number of our distribution locations. For that,

we will need assistance from two types of volunteers.

We will need couriers—people who regularly commute, and are willing to carry a bundle or two of papers.

We will also need local distributors—people willing to receive those bundles, and distribute them to locations near where they live.

There may be some people who are willing to do both these things, but the default plan is to divide up the tasks, so as to minimize the disruption from peoples' daily routines.

If you regularly travel a certain route in this general area, and you like the paper well enough to consider being part of our team, drop us a line at [editors@nhgazette.com](mailto:editors@nhgazette.com). Putting "Distribution" in the subject line will help.

Organizing this system will take some time—if it works at all. There will be a lot of moving parts, particularly coordinating between couriers and distributors. But as our long-time volunteers can tell you, it's actually fun. Kind of like painting a fence in Hannibal, Mo.

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\* Terminally tired of this fatuous trope, we tracked it backwards in the vain hope we might kill it. We expected to find John Wayne in its first instance, cosplaying a Marine in the Pacific, circa 1943. What we found was even better. Google Books' Ngram Viewer says "failure is not an option" appeared first in 1970—just about the time that even "realists" were admitting that success was not an option in Vietnam. It disappeared, statistically speaking, in 1972, only to be resurrected in 1979—the time of the Iranian Hostage Crisis. Another blip came in 1986, about the time the Sandinistas shot down Eugene Hasenfus' C-123. It achieved liftoff during the Clinton administration, and has been annoying the hell out of us ever since.



# The 2024 Election is About the Rich Stealing From the Public

*A fight over extending provisions of Trump's tax cuts is at stake in November's election.*

*Ultimately, the race is about money.*

by Sonali Kolhatkar

There are many issues on the line this election year but one that gets little attention is former President Donald Trump's 2017 tax reform law that cut taxes on the wealthiest Americans and corporations. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act permanently reduced the tax rate for big corporations from an already-low 35 percent to a ridiculously minuscule 21 percent. It also lowered tax rates for the wealthiest people from nearly 40 percent to 37 percent. Several provisions of that law are set to expire in 2025, making this November's Congressional and Presidential elections particularly critical to issues of economic fairness and justice.

A few months after Trump signed the bill, he boasted, "We have the biggest tax cut in history, bigger than the Reagan tax cut. Bigger than any tax cut." It became a common refrain for him when touting his achievements. But, Trump, who was known for breaking all records on lying to the public while in office, conflated many different facts to come up with a positive-sounding falsehood in a nation already primed by the likes of Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton to view taxation as anathema. Trump's tax cuts as a whole were the eighth largest in history. But his corporate tax cut was in fact the single largest reduction ever in that category.

Wealthy corporations have for years lobbied for and won so many carve-outs and loopholes to the U.S. tax system, and hidden so much money in offshore tax havens that their pre-2017 effective tax rates were already far lower than the official rates. Then, Trump lowered them even more. Imagine telling the American public that you are re-

sponsible specifically for the biggest tax cuts to the biggest corporations in U.S. history. It wasn't a good look. And so, he lied, saying that he signed history's biggest tax cut overall.

In the simplest terms, taxes are a way to pool collective resources so we can have the things we all need for safety and security. Progressive taxation is when wealthier individuals (and corporations) are taxed at higher-than-average rates because the richer one is, the less excess money one needs beyond one's basic necessities. Progressive taxation ensures that wealth inequality doesn't spiral out of control and helps ensure money that's being sucked upwards, gets redistributed downward. When wealthy elites pay fewer taxes, they are effectively stealing from the public.

Since the cuts have been in place, many studies have attempted to assess their impact on the U.S. economy. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities concluded in a March 2024 report that "[t]ogether with the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts enacted under President Bush (most of which were made permanent in 2012), [Trump's] law has severely eroded our country's revenue base."

Trump's law accelerated the draining of our collective revenues to fund the things we need. Even the fiscally conservative Peter G. Peterson Foundation concluded that, as a result of Trump's law, "The United States collects fewer revenues from corporations, relative to the size of the economy, than most other advanced countries."

Trump's tax cuts were quite literally regressive, rewarding the already rich. A 2021 ProPublica report

found that just one last-minute provision to the bill demanded by Senator Ron Johnson (R-WI) for so-called pass-through corporations benefited a handful of the wealthiest people in the nation: "just 82 ultrawealthy households collectively walked away with more than \$1 billion in total savings, an analysis of confidential tax records shows." It only cost about \$20 million in bribes to Johnson (*i.e.*, donations to the Senator's reelection campaign) to enact this windfall.



It's no wonder that the rich were thrilled with Trump's presidency and that his virulent white supremacy and fascist leanings were not deal breakers.

It's also unsurprising that wealthy elites are backing a second term for Trump. They want an extension of those tax bill provisions that are expiring in 2025, and perhaps an even bigger tax cut, if they can get it. If those provisions are left to expire, people making more than \$400,000 a year—the top 2 percent of earners—will see an increase in taxation in 2025.

This is a demographic that is already prone to tax cheating given the IRS's recent announcement that 125,000 Americans making between \$400,000 and \$1 million a year have simply refused to file taxes since 2017.

If the GOP wins control of the Senate and the House of Representatives this fall, and if Trump beats President Joe Biden, those cuts will become permanent. A GOP sweep in November will also usher in a new wave of threats to people of color, LGBTQ people, especially transgender communities, labor rights, and reproductive justice, as well as an escalation to the already-dire Israeli genocide in Gaza that Biden is fueling. It's hard to believe but many Americans seem to have forgotten the horrors of 2016 to 2020.

But, at its heart, this election will be about money, for it will take a lot of money to fund the GOP's reelection campaigns in order for moneyed forces to ensure they retain control of more money—democra-



Construction continues apace in the North End, because nothing says "Home" like diesels in the moonlight, steel wheels screeching on the rails, and the piquant scent of burned hydrocarbons wafting on the breeze.

cy, justice, and equity be damned.

For Trump, this is even more important given his legal challenges. He's relying on small-dollar donations from his base to cover his mounting legal fees and has had to post a \$91 million bond to cover the fines he faces from a defamation lawsuit by E. Jean Carroll. The more desperate Trump gets in his bid to secure the White House, the more willing he and his party will be to sell the nation to the highest bidder. And, he will lie to the public by conflating tax cuts for the rich with tax cuts for all.

We ought to think of tax cuts in terms of public revenue theft. When the wealthy win lowered taxes, they are stealing money from the American public as a whole. As per the U.S. Senate Budget Committee, permanently extending Trump's tax cuts will result in a loss of \$3.5 trillion in revenues through the year 2033. That's highway robbery.

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Sonali Kolhatkar is an award-winning multimedia journalist. She is the founder, host, and executive producer of "Rising Up With Sonali," a weekly television and radio show that airs on Free Speech TV and Pacifica stations. Her most recent book is *Rising Up: The Power of Narrative in Pursuing Racial Justice* (City Lights Books, 2023). She is a writing fellow at the Independent Media Institute and the racial justice and civil liberties editor at Yes! Magazine. This article was produced by *Economy for All*, a project of the Independent Media Institute.

## Corporations That Pay Their Executives More Than Uncle Sam

by Sarah Anderson, William Rice, and Zachary Tashman

Corporate tax dodging and CEO pay have both gotten so far out of control that a significant number of major U.S. companies are paying their top executives more than they're paying Uncle Sam.

Tesla is perhaps the most dramatic example. Over the period 2018-2022, the electric car maker raked in \$4.4 billion in profits but paid no federal income taxes. Meanwhile, Tesla CEO Elon Musk became one of the world's richest men.

When it comes to fleecing taxpayers while overpaying executives, Tesla is hardly alone. A new report we co-authored for the Institute for Policy Studies and Americans for Tax Fairness analyzes executive pay data for some of the country's most notorious corporate tax dodgers.

What did we find? In addition to Tesla, 34 other large and profitable U.S. firms—including household names like Ford, Netflix, and T-Mobile—paid less in federal income taxes between 2018 and 2022 than they paid their top five executives.

Another 29 profitable corporations paid their top executives more than they paid Uncle Sam in at least two of the five years of the study period.

One company on our list stands out for the infamous role its executives played in the 2008 financial crisis: American International Group. Back then, the insurance giant ignited a firestorm by pocketing a \$180

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## Distribution Help Wanted in Exeter

Our volunteer distributor in Exeter will soon be facing higher than normal demands on his time. It's just a seasonal thing. He'll be back.

We are looking for someone who could fill in for a while, beginning on March 8th.

Could you spare us an hour, once a fortnight?

If so, please drop us a line at [editors@nhgazette.com](mailto:editors@nhgazette.com)

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billion taxpayer bailout and then announcing plans to hand out \$165 million in bonuses to the very same executives responsible for pushing the company—and the nation—to the brink of collapse.

Today, AIG is playing the same greedy game of overpaying its top brass and sticking taxpayers with the bill. Between 2018 and 2022, the company paid its top five executives more than it paid in federal income taxes, despite collecting \$17.7 billion in U.S. profits. In 2022, CEO Peter Zaffino alone made \$75 million.

Lavish executive compensation packages and skimpy corporate tax payments are not unrelated phenomena. Executives have a huge personal incentive to hire armies of lobbyists to push for corporate tax cuts because the windfalls from these cuts often wind up in their own pockets.

The 2017 Republican tax law slashed the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 21 percent and failed to close loopholes that whittle down IRS bills even further. Many large, profitable corporations ended up paying no federal taxes at all.

Corporations took the savings from those tax cuts and spent a record-breaking \$1 trillion on stock buybacks, a financial maneuver that artificially inflates the value of executives' stock-based pay.

Wealthy executives became even wealthier while the nation lost billions of dollars in corporate revenue that could have been used to lower costs and improve services for ordinary people. Until this self-reinforcing cycle is broken, we'll have a corporate tax and compensation system that works for top executives—and no one else.

What can we do to break this cycle?

Congress can tackle the entwined problems of inadequate corporate tax payments and excess executive pay on several fronts. Raising the corporate tax rate to 28 percent (just halfway back to Obama-era levels) would generate \$1.3 trillion in new revenue over the next decade.

Congress must also close loopholes and eliminate wasteful tax breaks, for instance by removing the incentives for American firms to shift profits and production offshore.

Policymakers also have a wealth of tools to curb excessive executive pay, from tax and contracting reforms to stronger regulations to rein in stock buybacks and banker bonuses.

We know we need change when corporations are rewarding a handful of top executives more than they are contributing to the cost of public services needed for our economy to thrive.

*Sarah Anderson directs the Global Economy Project and co-edits Inequality.org at the Institute for Policy Studies. William Rice is a senior writer and Zachary Tashman is a Senior Research and Policy Associate at Americans for Tax Fairness. This op-ed was distributed by OtherWords.org. This content is licensed under a Creative Commons 3.0 License*

**RiverRun Bookstore Recommends:**  
*Prequel*, by Rachel Maddow.

Everyone says we are living in unprecedented times, but Maddow shows that's not true with a close look at the rise of fascism in America in the late 1930s. Many people, including dozens of congressmen, thought that what Germany was doing was just fine, and none of our business. It was only when some extraordinary citizens stepped up in defense of our freedom that things changed. — *Tom Holbrook*

**"Working-Class People Aren't Lazy, They're Fed Up"**  
—UAW Leader Shawn Fain To Senate by Jessica Corbett

United Auto Workers president Shawn Fain last week made clear to a key U.S. Senate panel that working-class people nationwide are deeply frustrated with the "epidemic of lives dominated by work" and the fight for livable wages while executive compensation continues to climb.



"Are the employers gonna act? Will Congress act? How can working-class people take back their lives, and take back their time?" Fain asked during a Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee hearing on a 32-hour workweek. "And I know what people and many in this room will say. They'll say, 'People just don't want to work,' or, 'Working-class people are lazy.'"

"But the truth is, working-class people aren't lazy, they're fed up. They're fed up with being left behind and stripped of dignity as wealth inequality in this nation, this world, spirals out of control," he continued. "They're fed up that in America... three families have as much wealth as the bottom 50 percent of citizens in this nation. That is criminal. America is better than this."

"So, I want to close with this: I agree there is an epidemic in this country of people who don't want to work; people who can't be bothered to get up every day and contribute to our society, but instead want to freeload off the labor of others," Fain

added. "But those aren't blue-collar people; those aren't the working-class people. It's a group of people who are never talked about for how little they actually work and produce, and how little they contribute to humanity. The people I'm talking about are the Wall Street freeloaders, the masters of passive income."

The UAW leader stressed that "those who profit off the labor of others have all the time in the world, while those who make this country run, the people who build the products and contribute to labor, have less and less time for themselves, for their families, and for their lives. So our union's gonna continue to fight for the rights of working-class people to take back their lives, and take back their time, and we ask you to stand up with the American workers and support us in that mission."

After nearly seven minutes of opening remarks that led some to urge Fain to consider someday running for a political office in the United States, the UAW president took questions from Senate HELP

Committee Chair Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and other members of the panel, touching on topics including what it is like to work in a factory, corporate greed, and work-life balance.

When Sanders announced the hearing on a shorter workweek, he noted that U.S. workers "are over 400 percent more productive than they were in the 1940s," but work longer hours for lower wages. He argued that "the financial gains from the major advancements in artificial intelligence, automation, and new technology must benefit the working class, not just corporate CEOs and wealthy stockholders on Wall Street."

While the senator has been a friend to the UAW, backing its strike last year and previously inviting Fain to testify to the panel, the union chief in recent months has repeatedly taken aim at billionaires and anti-worker politicians, includ-

**The Alleged News®**  
to page seven

**Murph's Fortnightly Quote**  
*"I never considered a difference of opinion in politics, in religion, in philosophy, as cause for withdrawing from a friend."*  
— Thomas Jefferson

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**He's Got a Bad Feeling About This...**  
To the Editor:

It's beginning to seem almost inevitable, doesn't it? Super Tuesday has come and gone, and the sociopathic criminal is on his way back to the White House. A bought and paid for Supreme Court and millions of—I don't even know how to refer to them anymore—have voted to make this happen. And here's another reality to chew on; we're just going through the motions for the next eight months because whether he wins the popular vote by a whisker or goes down by 15 million, he will be waddling back into the Oval, fat, stupid and miserable, with his tiny little thumb on the nuclear button.

2020 was amateur hour. This year is the real deal. Whether through violence or shenanigans his Congressional brat packs and state legislatures have cooked up to ensure the next January 6th goes their way, put your money on his standing on the Capitol steps lying through his teeth again, January 20, 2025. I do solemnly swear, indeed. 91 felony counts, 4—or is it 5 trials?—and multiple convictions won't make the slightest bit of difference.

The arc of the moral universe has somehow been bent into a pretzel, turned in on itself, no longer bending towards justice but somewhere else, somewhere dark. The violent attempt to overthrow our government is now merely an afterthought, the attention-deficit disordered media predictably and infuriatingly returning to its old ways. Everything's normal again, not to worry, politics is entertainment, haha!, and the horse race is back on.

I've never hoped I was more wrong about anything like I am about this, but I can't shake the feeling. Is it me or is it just the darkest hour before the dawn?

John C. Ficor  
Richmond, Va.  
John:

First, a bit of context for our readers: this letter arrived well before the sociopathic criminal to whom John refers threatened a bloodbath if he is not restored to the presidency.

In other words, "Nice country you got

here. Be a shame if anything happened to it." We begin to wonder: is he daring the Justice Department to arrest him?

The core of his strategy is firing up his base. What better way to do that than to get arrested for incitement?

Nearly eight more months of this....  
The Editor

**Serve the People, Not the Parties**  
To the Editor:

It is time to vote and elect individuals who will serve the nation's and the peoples' needs, not what the political parties want.

The U.S. Senate finally had a comprehensive immigration bill the vast majority of the nation would approve, but former President Trump opposed it. It would help Biden. Movement on the legislation came to a halt.

Trump also opposes helping Ukraine. As a result only 22 of 49 GOP Senators voted for the foreign aid bill, which is in limbo in the House.

Ukraine, sadly, is left twisting in the wind thanks to Trump's affection for Putin.

E.A. Murphy  
Melbourne, Fla.  
E.A.,

It really is that simple: to get his butt back in the White House, and thereby stay out of the Big House, it's in Dolt .45's best interest for the nation and the world to descend further into chaos. He's shown himself to be a depraved, self-serving monster—and if that's libel, let him make the most of it.

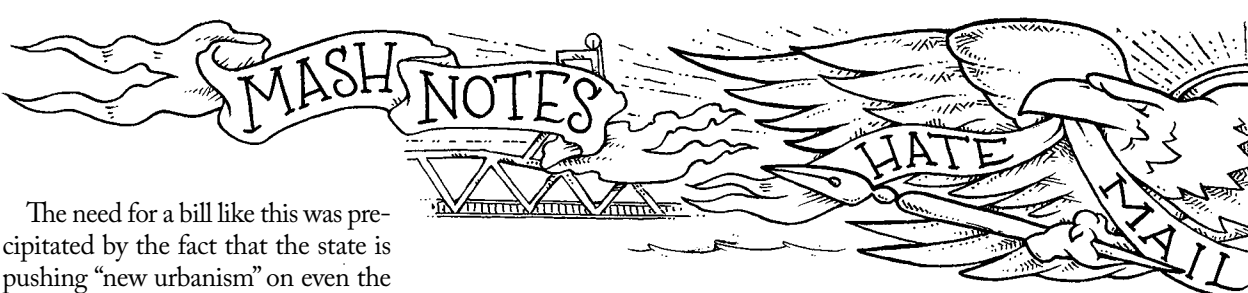
He's probably incapable of being even a marginally acceptable human being. What excuse do his supporters have, though?

The Editor

**Them That's Got Shall Get ...**  
To the Editor;

Those of you who cherish your single-family zoned neighborhoods need to start paying attention!

Today, the House Municipal Committee voted to "ITL" [Inexpedient to Legislate] CACR 16, a bill that would have preserved local control, which is when townspeople vote at annual town meetings to determine how they want their towns organized.



The need for a bill like this was precipitated by the fact that the state is pushing "new urbanism" on even the most rural areas.

It is a blatant attack on the middle class and the family.

Our governor has created unelected boards and commissions (basically these are taxpayer-funded lobbies) who have proceeded to override town boards, and the speaker has allowed "stacked" committees to hear bills that were written by the members of those very same committees. This is corruption!

If you bought a home in a single-family zoned neighborhood and don't want the area suddenly turned into multi-unit apartments and watch your property values plummet as a result, you'd better sit up and pay attention.

HB 1291, HB 1399, and SB 538 are among the most damaging bills currently coming out of committee and due for floor vote. There are more.... Get off your butts and write to your State Reps and tell them to just say **no** to this overreach by the state.

We won't even get into the connection between the push for low income housing and illegals being allowed in the country to drive, vote, and collect benefits.

What's next, the takeover of your spare rooms by squatters?

Jane Aitken  
Bedford, N.H.

Jane:  
You've been sending dispatches from leafy Bedford for years, but this is the first mention of "illegals" we can recall. It was the missing piece of an ugly picture puzzle. All that's lacking now is a reference to the Bible. May we recommend Leviticus 25:44? That's where the Lord lays down holy law, allowing the enslavement of foreigners and their children. Under those conditions, would "others" finally be welcome in your neighborhood?

The Editor

**Can We Keep Our Republic?**

Dear Editor:

We have all heard the response Benjamin Franklin gave when asked what kind of a government they had given us; "A Republic if you can keep it." Whether we will be able to keep our Republic today is in serious jeopardy. The threat facing the survival of the Republic comes directly from Donald Trump with the aid of his loyal supporters.

Republicans had three opportunities to end the destructive autocratic political career of Donald Trump, in 2016, 2021 and 2024. In 2016 Republicans had the chance to defeat Trump and deny him their Party's nomination. They failed, and he went on to win the election without winning the popular vote thanks to the Electoral College system. Then in 2021, after having lost the 2020 election and being impeached by the House for his role in inciting and supporting the insurrection of January 6, 2021, most Senate Republicans voted against conviction, and thus opened the door for Trump to run for public office again. After the recent primaries, Republicans have given Trump enough delegates to secure the 2024 nomination. When it came to keeping our Republic, the Republicans struck out three times.

As a result of the Republicans abandoning democracy, the Constitution, and the rule of law, Donald Trump is on the brink of regaining the Presidency. Republicans have chosen to support a man twice impeached, four times indicted on 91 felony counts, a confirmed sexual abuser, declared a financial fraud, pathological liar and would-be dictator on day one of his second term. The entire former Republican Party, with few exceptions, have declared their loyalty to Don-

ald Trump over their loyalty to the Republic that we now face losing. In effect they have joined the domestic enemy to the Constitution by abandoning the oath that those elected Republicans swore to protect and defend it against all enemies foreign and domestic.

After failing three times before, in November it will be left to those Americans still loyal to the Constitution who will have one last chance to rid the nation of the existential danger and threat represented by Donald Trump and his followers. If we fail to stop him this time we may never get the opportunity again to save the nation from dictatorship and disaster. By the time the nation realizes what has happened, the damage will have been done, and it will take decades to undo the damage if it can ever be undone. The despots and haters of democracy in China, Russia, North Korea, Hungary, and elsewhere will celebrate the fall of the great experiment in democracy.

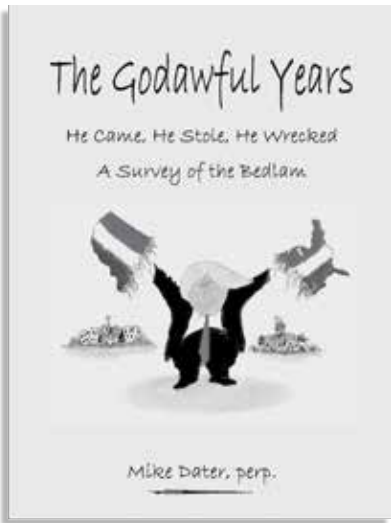
Ben Franklin knew that the Republic would one day face challenges to its survival from unscrupulous people. Unfortunately, after almost 250 years his admonishment may have fallen on too many deaf ears and blind eyes to keep the Republic.

Rich DiPentima  
Portsmouth, N.H.  
Rich:

Ah, Ben Franklin—one of our favorite Founders. A printer, a wit, a revolutionary, and a slaveholder-turned abolitionist. Also, although no record exists of any interaction between them, we believe Ben Franklin must have met with Daniel Fowle in 1763, when Franklin made a long tour through the colonies as Deputy Postmaster General.

Franklin was a brilliant man who did

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*much for mankind. Sadly, the upcoming Netflix docudrama about him appears likely to do to his legend what Dolt #45 wants to do to the Republic.*  
The Editor

#45 Worse Than Jack Teixeira

Dear Editor:

In early March, Jack Teixeira, the former Massachusetts Air National Guardsman who posted classified intelligence reports online, switched his pleas to guilty in exchange for a sentence of 16 years in prison, avoiding espionage charges and a possible 60-year term. Teixeira will be 38 when he's released as opposed to 82. Prosecutors found no evidence of espionage, he was just trying to impress his friends.

When I joined the Navy 64 years ago my first assignment was a communications school in California. On day one the instructor announced; "Gentlemen, everything you will see in this school, everything you hear, everything you touch, is classified, don't talk about it outside this space." I thought, this ain't rocket science, I can do this. Jack Teixeira apparently didn't get the same message, and times do change.

I was in the workforce over 30 years following retirement from the Navy, many years in and around schools in five states. Near the end of my career I had occasion to substitute teach. I was greeted one day, by an 8th grader, with "Morning Dude," and he followed that up with, "I do pretty much what I want in this class, if you have any trouble with that you can speak to my mother, she works in the office." Say what??? I cannot imagine any teacher I had in school having to accept that kind of disrespect... but times do change.

The last 60 years have exposed a notable decrease in acceptable stan-

dards, a consequential loosening of moral and ethical principles and after three generations of depreciating parenting skills underscored by a lack of discipline and accountability, we find ourselves witnessing the collapse of American society leading to the irrefutable fact that simply telling the truth is as immaterial as violating an oath of office.

It seems to me that bad behavior has become the accepted norm in our homes, in our schools, the workforce and throughout our society in general. Consequently the actions of the Jack Teixeira's of our world surprise me not at all. He was sent out into the human community unprepared for obligations, responsibilities or to be held accountable.

Unlike the former president, who is best described as a sociopathic narcissistic incompetent self-worshipping liar, who was fully cognizant and mindful that the crimes he was committing could lead to two impeachments and a 37-count indictment for stealing and storing some of the United States' most closely held secrets—including information about nuclear programs, defense vulnerabilities and attack plans—in his home at Mar-a-Lago, in a ballroom, a bathroom and shower, his bedroom, an office, a storage room; and then obstructed federal officials seeking their return.

Jack Teixeira has not been a free man since the day he was caught for what, in comparison, was a far lesser offense than that committed by #45, crimes which had global repercussions affecting our national defense and our allies, gravely serious acts for which the former president may never be held accountable. Meanwhile, he enjoys his freedom and the luxury of portraying the prosecutor in the case (Jack Smith) as "deranged," a "thug,"

and of course, a "Trump hater."

That will appeal to the new Republican Party, the MAGA cult that Trump owns lock, stock, and barrel. However, I lean toward more equitable disciplinary action befitting the enormity of Trump's crimes against the United States. As Saint Augustine would say, "Justice for the Unjust." The lower level of the Pompeii dungeon seems appropriate. I've been there and it's not a pleasant place.

David Snell  
Franklin, N.C.  
David:

*Kids these days... Clearly Teixeira hasn't got sense enough to pour... liquid out of a boot with the instructions on the heel. Well, he'll learn now—if he lives.*

*We would not mind seeing Dolt #45 in the hoosegow you're recommending. Our preference, though, would be Leavenworth.*

The Editor

Pity the Poor Ewing

To the Editor:

In his State of the Union address President Biden seemed very angry that I don't feel better off now than during Trump's Presidency.

Am I better off when \$20 buys three gallons of gas fewer [sic] than under Trump?

Or when my normal groceries are now too expensive? And my taxes are up?

My fixed income doesn't buy what it bought before.

How do middle-income and poorer Americans support their families?

*[Two hundred words of misleading blather dispensed with due to a sudden spasm of editorial responsibility. — The Ed.]*

Most Americans don't feel better off under Biden because they aren't better off!!

Don Ewing  
Meredith, N.H.  
Don:

*Waaah, waaah, waaah. Really... do you expect us to accept this as an argument? You can do better. Try harder.*

The Editor

The Supreme Court Owes Many Apologies To the Editor,

How long before the Supreme Court apologizes to American voters for putting its thumb on the scale of the *Bush v Gore* election? There is a straight line from that disastrous election outcome to the lie-based invasions directed by Bush/Cheney that have killed or wounded thousands of American servicepersons, contractors, and an estimated 2-4 million Iraqi, Pakistani and Afghani citizens. Four times as many post-9/11 U.S. servicepersons have died by suicide than by combat.

When will the Supreme Court apologize to American citizens for unleashing torrents of unattributed political cash considered as "Speech" in the 2010 *Citizens United* decision to support political policies favored by the rich and well-connected, but opposed by huge margins of American voters?

When will the Court apologize for emasculating the Voting Rights Act of 1965 in its shortsighted 2013 decision *Shelby County v Holder*? Many southern and other states have now resurrected voter restriction activities and policies!

How long before the Court apologizes to women for repealing five decades of settled law; some jurists lying during their confirmation hearings [about their respect for *stare decisis*], and relegating to state legislatures the regulation of reproductive health decisions for women—something that demands nationwide recognition of women's rights?

When will Justice Roberts or the Congress rein in Supreme Court members (Thomas, Alito, & Gorsuch) from their clear ethics violations for accepting large gratuities... their unseemly courting of wealthy business leaders who ply some Court members with treasures to direct their decision-making on important cases?

Why does Justice Thomas *not* re-

cuse himself on cases where his wife has been involved in efforts supporting the insurrection of January 6, 2021?

Ultra-Conservative members of the Supreme Court have let the politics surrounding Donald Trump determine if they will even hear Trump cases *before* the Presidential Election, potentially depriving voters of critical information on whether they could be voting for a convicted felon. Conservative jurist decision-making, regarding totally unnecessary and irrelevant writings in the Colorado case about keeping Trump off the ballot, could have applicability to the upcoming case of Trump's claim for total immunity from the law.

America deserves much better!

Herb Moyer  
Exeter, N.H.  
Herb:

*We're going to stick out our collective necks here, emulate our profit-making colleagues, and blame both sides for the catastrophic consequences of the rulings made over the past several decades by the un-elected Justices of the Supreme Court.*

*The decisions you cite, and numerous others, have been exactly as you describe: disastrous. They can be directly attributed to the justices appointed by Republicans, selected from a menu of extremists put forward by the Federalist Society. This pattern has been obvious for decades.*

*What has been the Democratic response to this steady and unrelenting judicial assault? No strategy that we've been able to discern. Just feckless hand-wringing and relentless fund-raising.*

The Editor

Sununu Has Violated His Oath of Office

Dear Editor,

Governor Sununu took the following Oath each time he was sworn into office; "I, Chris Sununu, do solemnly swear, that I will bear faith and true allegiance to the United States of America and the State of New Hampshire, and will support the constitutions thereof, so help me God."

It was reported at *InDepthNH* that Governor Sununu, who has endorsed Donald Trump, has stated that "I am going to campaign hard for the Re-

to next page

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# Invasive Forces Plundering New Hampshire

by Jean Stimmell

Traditionally, New Hampshire folks have been known to be self-reliant—maybe to the extent of appearing standoffish—because of our “live and let live” philosophy. Yet, while flinty and frugal, we believe in community: coming together to raise barns, build schools, and practice home rule through direct democracy in our town meetings. That is, until three Republican governors came along to disrupt our Yankee ecosystem, just as invasive species are decimating our forests.

First came Mel Thompson, a law book publisher who became our 73rd governor, aided and abetted by William Loeb, the fiery, right-wing editor of the Manchester *Union Leader*. Both of these carpetbaggers were cosmic bad luck, warping our destiny to this day. They were the ones who brainwashed us with the motto, “No Broad-Based Taxes,” which is still reverberating in our heads like a stuck record, continu-

ing to wreak havoc on our poorer schools.

It was Meldrim, you may remember, who lobbied to arm the N.H. National Guard with nuclear weapons, coincidentally or not, at the same time the Clamshell Alliance was holding mass protests against the Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant. It was also Mel who led the push to construct a huge oil refinery in Durham—it would have been the biggest in the world at that time—defiling, in the process, the Great Bay Estuary, that precious jewel on our already miniscule 19 miles of ocean coastline.

Then we have Governor John Sununu, Chris’s Daddy. As chief of staff to President George H. Bush, he thwarted the U.S. from joining the international conference to address climate change. In addition, he single-handedly pushed through the completion of Seabrook, that colossal white elephant first championed by Mel.

The reactor ended up costing

seven times the original estimate, causing the utility owner, Public Service, to go bankrupt. Of course, we, the N.H. taxpayers, had to bail them out. We are still on the hook to shell out the fortune it will cost to decommission Seabrook, which is supposed to happen soon, hopefully before it blows a radioactive gasket.

Now, let’s move on to John Sununu’s son, Chris, who has served as our popular governor for four terms now. His affable-appearing personality hides a dark agenda.

Governor Sununu has ties to Koch Industries, the Free State Movement, and the Libertarian Party. The Koch brothers (Charles is now deceased) own Koch Industries, the largest privately owned company in the country. The Kochs were instrumental in creating the Libertarian Party in 1989, using it to increase their business profits by maximizing individual liberty, no matter the social or environmental cost. They and their colleagues have spent hundreds of millions to weaken democracy

nationwide.<sup>1</sup>

At the state level, Sununu has installed Frank Edelblut, libertarian-leaning with a divinity degree, as our commissioner of education. Together, they are laying the groundwork to eliminate public education by promoting private charter schools and giving folks vouchers to defray the cost of private schools, which will be paid for by—you guessed it—our hard-earned tax dollars.

Governor Sununu also has ties to Jason Sorens, founder of the Free State Movement, who has recently moved to N.H. to become a professor at St Anselm’s College—conveniently appointed to the post after the Kochs donated \$1 million to the college in 2018.<sup>2</sup>

Another strand of this dark web is Koch’s Young Americans for Liberty (YAL), an anti-public education PAC based in Texas that has made significant inroads into our state, listing nearly 100 N.H. GOP state house representatives as members of its coalition.<sup>3</sup>

These extremist groups are planning a coup that would spell disaster for N.H. As Leonard Witt explains at *InDepthNH*, “Almost half of the GOP members of our state legislature have become YAL-inspired ideologues, not guardians of our children’s future and certainly not champions of fiscal responsibility.” Public schools are just the beginning, a wedge issue followed by plans to end Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid.<sup>4</sup>

If we do not confront these dark forces now, our traditional way of life will be dismantled in the same way invasive species like the emerald ash borer and Asian longhorned beetle are demolishing our forests today.

1. <https://mailchi.mp/granitestatematters/march2024?e=00177fab1c>
2. *Ibid.*
3. <https://indepthnh.org/2024/02/19/op-ed-dark-money-texas-pac-has-foothold-on-half-the-gops-nh-state-reps/>
4. *Ibid.*

## Mash Notes, Hate Mail, &c. *from page five*

publican ticket, for the Republican Party as a whole, without a doubt especially here in New Hampshire which is where the need is the largest.”

By supporting Donald Trump, Governor Sununu is violating his oath. He is supporting a man who stated that, referring to the 2020 election, “A massive Fraud of this type of magnitude allows for the termination of all rules, regulations, and articles, even those found in the Constitution.”

He is supporting a candidate for President who stated that he would be a dictator on day one of his presidency.

He is supporting a candidate for President who incited an insurrection in an attempt to overturn a legal fair election for which he is facing

numerous criminal charges.

He is supporting a candidate for President who has stolen very sensitive classified documents and obstructed the recovery of those documents for which he is facing a number of criminal charges.

He is supporting a candidate for President who has encouraged the murdering dictator Putin to attack our NATO allies and “do whatever the hell he wants.”

Sununu is supporting a candidate for President who by his own actions and words represents a clear and present threat to our Constitution and national security. By doing so, Governor Sununu has violated his sacred oath and has placed the interests of his Party, himself, and Donald Trump above the Constitutions of the United States and the State of New Hampshire which he swore to bear faith and true allegiance to. If there are no consequences for violat-

ing your oath to the nation and the state, why do we even bother to continue such meaningless charades?

Rich DiPentima  
Portsmouth, N.H.  
*Rich:*

*In our judgment, there has always been a significant gap between what Chris Sununu says he does, and what he really does. Perhaps we’re prejudiced, though. We’ve always been leery of those who seek the limelight, especially if they’re prone to a rapid delivery of an abundance of verbiage.*

*Thank you for paring his posturing down to what seems an undeniable truth.*

*The Editor*

====

**There Is No Comparison**

To the Editor:

Americans are not happy with either 2024 presidential candidate. They have been feeling so anxious, distressed and helpless about the choices they have in the upcoming election that Steven Stosny, a couples therapist, has coined the phrase “election stress disorder” to describe their condition.

Age has been exploited as a political tool. Both candidates being elderly, chronological age is a non-issue. Biological age, motives, experience, integrity, principles, policy, cognitive health and emotional stability are more important considerations. There are stark differences!

Donald Trump expresses his admiration for authoritarian figures such as Putin and Kim Jong Un, and sees himself in a similar role. He demonstrates his ignorance of NATO as a collective security system to preserve democracy, describes our booming economy and declining inflation as disastrous, our cities as crime ridden as the crime rate continues downward.

Trump frequently lapses into glibberish. At a recent NRA gathering in Pennsylvania, he said, “We have to win in November or we’re not going to have Pennsylvania. They’ll change the name. They’re going to change the name of Pennsylvania.”

In his State of the Union address Joe Biden demonstrated vitality, stamina and agile executive functioning. He clearly articulated the

needs of the country and his policies for meeting them. He displayed a knowledge of world events and an understanding of America’s vital role in them. He believes in the rule of law and democracy. These competencies, plus his experience and wisdom, qualify him for the demanding job of being president.

We *do* have a choice, an excellent one. I feel better!

Cynthia Muse  
Rye, N.H.  
*Cynthia:*

*We blame the advertising racket—in which, of course, we are a tiny cog. Hey, nobody’s prefect, right?*

*Since the early days of Ivy Lee and Edward Bernays, those who could afford their services have worked to accustom the public to the notion that it’s their right to have a vast array of choices, e.g., the cereal aisle at the supermarket.*

*We hate to break the bad news to the would-be artisanal election crowd, but this coming election is an on-off switch. Like Biden or not, a vote for the other guy is a nihilistic self-indulgence.*

*The Editor*

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FOWLE'S PILE AND HUMOR



# What's Wrong With This Picture?

by W.D. Ehrhart

Let me get this straight. The United States military, using our tax dollars of course, has begun air-dropping humanitarian aid packages into Gaza while the Israeli Defense Forces continue to pummel Gaza with bombs and artillery shells paid for with U.S. money—our tax dollars again—provided to the Israeli government. So the U.S. is concerned about civilian suffering in Gaza, but has so far vetoed United Nations ceasefire resolutions three times?

Does this seem strange to anyone other than me? No, not strange. Cockamamie. Schizophrenic. Stark raving nutso. It's like one of those kindergarten picture puzzles where there's a fish in a tree and bird in a pond, and the five-year-old is supposed to circle what's out of place, and maybe earn a gold star for finding all the mistakes.

Look, I know that what Hamas did on October 7th was barbaric, inhuman, unjustifiable, beyond the pale. Exact numbers vary, but Hamas killed somewhere around 1150 people, and took about 240 hostages, many of whom are still being held. One cannot and should not minimize the suffering of the many wounded and dead, or that of the hostages, and all of their families and loved ones.

But—sorry, folks, but there is a but—since October 7th, the Netanyahu government and the IDF have killed 30,000 Palestinians, injured another 70,000 with thousands more missing and presumed dead, and displaced nearly 2,000,000 (some 85 percent of the population of Gaza).

Talk about what's wrong with this picture. These figures don't represent self-defense. This is retribution. This

is revenge, plain and simple. This is the inflicting of destruction and human misery on a colossal scale, far out of proportion to the unforgivable actions that have triggered it. There can be no more justification for this degree of violence against a largely innocent civilian population than there was for what Hamas perpetrated against innocent civilians on October 7th.

Moreover, if Netanyahu and the Israeli government think they will put an end to Hamas once and for all, they are completely out of their senses. Unless they can manage to kill every last Palestinian in the world, which is not possible, there will surely and inevitably be men and women and children who will crawl out from under the rubble of their bombed-out homes and cities, bury and mourn their dead, and swear vengeance on the people and the government that did this to them and those they loved.

This is absolutely guaranteed. It doesn't take a rocket scientist or a historian to understand that this is the perfectly predictable human reaction to injustice. It is worth remembering that Hamas did not even exist before the first Palestinian Intifada. Before Hamas, there was the Palestinian Liberation Organization. And if Hamas somehow doesn't survive the current Israeli onslaught, there will simply be another organization with another name.

A few weeks ago, I participated with several hundred other people in a silent march calling for a ceasefire in Gaza sponsored by the American Friends of Combatants for Peace, an organization of former Israeli and Palestinian fighters whose basic premise is that neither Israelis nor Palestinians are going to relinquish their claims to this land, and therefore the only solution to avoid per-

petual war is to learn to live together.

I had learned of the march while attending a presentation by representatives of Combatants for Peace that took place at Congregation Rodeph Shalom in Philadelphia, and clearly quite a few of the marchers were themselves Jewish, and very much supporters of Israel. Yet they are horrified by what the Israeli government is doing in Gaza, and are calling for an end to the violence. A ceasefire.

Which brings me back to where I began: the completely contradictory response to all this by the U.S. government. "Let's give the Palestinians humanitarian aid while continuing to underwrite their destruction." It's kind of like the proverbial "kiss and slap," but with consequences far beyond that of a puzzled suitor. Indeed, the consequences of the U.S. response are global.

While world response to the Hamas barbarity was almost uniformly in sympathy with Israel, the ongoing slaughter by the IDF has turned that initial response on its head. No one except the fanatical fringe supports Hamas, but most of the nations of the world have lost sympathy for Israel after months of merciless destruction.

Meanwhile, whatever the Biden Administration thinks it is accomplishing by sending humanitarian aid to Gaza while sending bombs and shells to Israel, such a schizophrenic policy is only alienating a large portion of the U.S. electorate, which is not a smart thing to do with another presidential election in the offing and Donald Trump and his MAGAsters astoundingly viable in spite of all he has foisted on the American people over the past decade and more.

I personally don't know of anyone who is likely to vote for Dolt

.45 (aka: the Trumpster) because of Biden's inability to bring himself to tell Netanyahu, "Enough. Stop this now," which he could do if he had the backbone for it.

But I do know people who have decided they cannot vote for Biden at least in part because of his irconcilable approach to Israel and Gaza. They will simply not vote at all. Consider, for instance, what happened in the Michigan primary, a state with a significant number of Muslim voters. Thousands of Democrats marked their ballots "uncommitted" in a crucial swing state that Biden barely won in 2020. And now the same thing has happened in Minnesota.

So if you think what is happening to Palestinians in Gaza doesn't have an impact on you, you can stuff that opinion into the same trash bin with Netanyahu's notion that he can put an end to Hamas.

But what can you do? Well, it may sound a bit corny, but you can write letters, send e-mails, and make phone calls to your elected representatives in the House, the Senate, and even the White House. Let them know you support an immediate ceasefire in Gaza. If you are writing to a Democrat, let that person know your support for Biden is wavering because of this issue. Believe it or not, politicians do take note of such communications, and even if they respond with stupid boilerplate letters that say nothing worth reading, they do keep track of opinion trends.

Help Uncle Joe circle the correct misplaced objects in his kindergarten picture puzzle. Help him earn a gold star.

—==—

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

# Why Are We Letting Financial Hucksters Dictate Our Local News?

by Jim Hightower

Too many American newspapers have shut down or shriveled to irrelevance, but, luckily, we still have such bastions of local journalism as the *Chicago Chronicle* and *New York News Daily*.

But wait... those aren't real newspapers, aren't local, and aren't even American. They are Russian fake-news outlets, created in recent weeks by Putin's propagandists to interfere in our presidential election. They are web publications with names and designs that mimic real U.S. news sites, but have no reporters or local newsrooms. Rather, they exist solely to fabricate "news reports" that appear legitimate, getting picked up and re-reported as fact in under-staffed, chain-owned newspapers, then promoted on right-wing social media sites.

This is what happens to people and democracy when local journalism is stripped away or hollowed out—no one is on regular watch, allowing charlatans, profiteers, and propagandists to dupe unsuspecting residents. Not only have hundreds of papers been eliminated, but *half* of the remaining dailies are now owned by Wall Street predators like SoftBank, the Japanese hedge fund that controls the huge *USA Today*/Gannett chain. Their interest is not in your town or quality journalism, but in slashing news coverage to jack up their profits. Such absentee owners have eliminated nearly 60 percent of America's reporters and other newsroom staff in just 20 years.

Let's be clear: Real journalism is labor-driven. No reporters on the ground, no local news. Hello—"news" is the lifeblood of democracy, so why hold it hostage to a handful of corporate profit-seekers? Are we such unimaginative clods that we can't figure out how to finance honest, non-plutocratic news for our democracy?

For ideas on how to revive local news in your town, contact [rebuildlocalnews.org](http://rebuildlocalnews.org)—and give news democracy a boost.

—==—

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## The Alleged News® from page three

ing former Republican President Donald Trump, who is set to face UAW-endorsed President Joe Biden in November.

"Donald Trump is a scab," Fain declared in January when the UAW officially backed Biden—who, during the union's walkouts, became the first sitting president to join striking workers on the picket line. "Donald Trump is a billionaire, and

that's who he represents... Donald Trump stands against everything we stand for as a union, as a society."

Since the UAW's "Stand Up Strike" led to new contracts with the "Big Three" automakers—Ford, General Motors, and Stellantis—that contain pay raises and other improvements for workers, the union has launched the largest organizing drive in U.S. history.

The new auto contracts are set to expire in April 2028, which was strategically chosen to coincide

with International Workers' Day, to enable unions to "begin to flex our collective muscles," Fain explained. "Even though May Day has its roots here in the United States, it is widely celebrated by workers all over the world. It's more than just a day of commemoration, it's a call to action."

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.

"Twas Ever Thus

*"If the historian of the year 2024 should consult the files of the daily press of 1924 he will not be to blame if he concludes that at this time our nation was governed by a venal cabinet; that all our politicians were grafters; that the heads of all our oil corporations were crooks, and that the leading industry of the United States was bootlegging."*

— Casper [Wyo.] *Daily Tribune*, March 25, 1924, tweeted by Paul Fairie, @paulisci, 10/21/23.



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