

The Fortnightly Rant

No Cause For Alarm

Eight days ago a criminal defendant, currently out on \$200,000 bail, sent a funny video to millions of his social media followers.

For the benefit of those who have not seen it, the video shows a huge black “dually” truck, with two wheels on each end of the back axle. The front wheels are secured by special lugnuts sporting long, chrome, gladiator-style spikes, the better to intimidate other drivers and pedestrians. The truck is so big it's got its own flagpole, carrying a 3 x 5 foot “Thin Blue Line” flag. Black and white, with a single blue stripe, it's meant to signify support for the police—not the law, but the police. With its non-standard colors, the flag's mere existence violates the U.S. Flag Code.

While some might find the truck itself laughable, the punchline is on the vinyl-wrapped tailgate. Through clever use of the painter's technique known as *trompe l'oeil*, the tailgate creates the illusion of being invisible, or simply not present. This allows a full view of the truck bed, and what it seems to be carrying: President Joe Biden, lying on his side, bound and gagged like a kidnap victim.

If the poster of this video had just been some ordinary run-of-the-mill felon, up on charges of bank robbery or arson, this incident would be unremarkable. It was, however, Donald J. Trump, the self-professed “very stable genius” and acknowledged former President who is the *fürher* of the cult known as the Republican Party and quite possibly the next President of the U.S.A.

A Home-Grown Cheerleader for Fascism

Despite having Windham, New Hampshire's very own Corey Lewandowski for his campaign manager in 2016, Donald Trump lost this state's four electoral votes to Hillary Clinton.

This time around, Trump has an Atkinson, New Hampshire native, Karoline Leavitt, as his national press secretary. Will the results be the same? One can only hope.

Lewandowski was notorious, eight years ago, for manhandling protestors and a woman reporting for Breitbart. While Leavitt has yet to show any predilection for physical violence, she seems eager to make up for that through verbal bellicosity. Here she is talking about what Team Trump has planned for polling places in November:

“We have the team, now it's time to deploy the troops on the ground. ... We're gonna have soldiers, poll watchers on the ground who are making sure that there are no irregularities and fraud like we saw in the last election cycle.”

All perfectly harmless, of course—mere metaphorical campaign rhetoric. Nothing to be alarmed about. It's not as if there's

any chance that some gun-totin' Trump follower would ever decide to strap on his Glock when he heads for the polls on election day.

Standing, Schmanding, or “Because We Say So”

The state of New Hampshire installed a historical marker in Concord last year, noting the birthplace of Elizabeth Gurley Flynn. It went up after Mary Lee Sargent and Arnie Alpert went through the usual lengthy process: research the subject, establish valid reasons why a marker would be appropriate, submit the application, and hope that the Division of Historical Resources verifies your argument and grants its approval.

Two weeks later the state removed the marker. Why? Because the Governor said so.

Sargent and Alpert took the case to court. They asked to have the marker re-installed. The court said no, justifying its decision by declaring that Sargent and Alpert “lack standing.”

After all, what do Sargent and Alpert have to do with Flynn's historical marker? Who do they think they are? Chris Sununu?

“Standing” is one of those legal terms that can cause confusion among mere mortals. When it comes to being lawyers, we plead not guilty, therefore we cannot explain it.

We do, however, edit a newspaper. We are therefore free to exercise our rights under the First Amendment. In our book—well, in our newspaper—“standing” is the legal equivalent of Silly Putty™.

As evidence that our argument is valid we submit to the reader as evidence the case of *FDA v. Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine*, now before the Supreme Court.

The Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine is a recently-assembled group of medical associations. None of them perform abortions. None of its member organizations work in Texas. Its mailing address is in Tennessee.

What the Alliance does have is a beef against the abortion pill mifepristone. According to the Progressive Caucus Center, the Alliance “alleged the FDA lacked the authority to approve mifepristone, that studies regarding drug's safety were insufficient, and that mifepristone's approval violates a 150-year-old anti-obscenity law. ...”

Tennessee, Texas—what's the difference? That was close enough for Judge Matthew J. Kacsmaryk, whom Donald J. Trump appointed to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas.

Bingo. Suddenly mifepristone—proven for over 23 years to be both safe and effective—is verboten *be-*



cause the Alliance has standing.

Appeals of cases in Kacsmaryk's court are handled by the Fifth Circuit. One might expect the Fifth Circuit to notice that Tennessee is not in their district and throw out the case for lack of standing but noo....

Surely, then, the Supreme Court will look at the case and say, “Can't anyone on the Fifth Circuit read a map? Dismissed for lack of standing.” What fools ye editors be....

The paragraphs above exhaust our understanding—or misunderstanding—of legal standing. To mitigate the confusion they may have generated, we now offer a slightly truncated press release which we received from the litigants on Monday:

Flynn Marker Sponsors Ask Court to Reconsider Standing Issue
CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE—In a motion filed Friday by their attorney, Andru Volinsky, Mary Lee Sargent and Arnie Alpert have asked Merrimack County Superior Court Judge John Kissinger to reconsider his ruling that they lack standing to sue the State for removing a historical marker about Elizabeth Gurley Flynn.

Sargent and Alpert led an effort for the Division of Historical Resources (DHR) to install a marker near the Concord birthplace of Flynn, who gained notoriety as a labor activist, civil libertarian, and advocate for women's equality in the early twentieth century. Later, she became a leader of the Communist Party for which she was jailed under the Smith Act during the McCarthy Period.

The Flynn marker was installed at the corner of Court and Montgomery Streets in Concord on May 1, 2023 but was taken down only two weeks later on the orders of Governor Chris Sununu, apparently on the grounds that Flynn's involvement in the Communist Party disqualified her from historical recognition.

When Sargent and Alpert sued the State in August, the Attorney General moved to have the case dismissed on the grounds that they

lacked legal standing. Judge Kissinger agreed.

“While no one disputes the time and effort expended by the plaintiffs in relation to the Flynn marker, the Court finds no support for a determination that such efforts give rise to a legal right interest, or privilege protected by law,” Kissinger wrote in a March 20 order.

“The Court's ruling protects the decision to remove the marker no matter the reason,” Volinsky wrote in the motion for reconsideration. “All removal decisions are protected from review by the Court's ruling on standing. No one could challenge a similar decision to remove a marker because the subject of the marker was a Republican or Democrat, woman, LGBTQIA, Black, Brown, Asian, or any other factor an executive councilor or a governor deems objectionable.”

Volinsky's motion also reasserted his clients' views that their recognized status as the marker's sponsors gives them legal standing.

“The purpose of the marker program is educating the public about places, events, and people of historical significance, a category which certainly includes Elizabeth Gurley Flynn,” said Mary Lee Sargent, a Bow resident who taught American history and women's studies at colleges and universities for several decades. “There is no provision in statute or in the rules governing the marker program that says established markers can be removed based on ideological rather than historical grounds.”

If Judge Kissinger accepts the motion for reconsideration, the case would move to the discovery phase and perhaps to a trial. If the judge sticks to his previous opinion, the plaintiffs' only legal recourse would be an appeal to the N.H. Supreme Court.

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 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 became a fierce defender of civil liberties during the first “Red Scare” 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 affiliation which attracted the ire of Executive Councilor Joe Kenney, who two days after the marker was installed demanded it be removed. Governor Sununu agreed, and the marker was taken away by the Department of Transportation on May 15th. It is believed to be still in the custody of the Department of Transportation. ...

Abandoning, now, the orderly text of the press release, we'll resume our own barbaric editorial yawp to note that Flynn, though a commie, never tried to overthrow the government.

Sununu has stated on record, though, that he'll vote for Trump, who has.

Going, Going ... ?

A little over a year ago the *Portsmouth Herald's* presses at Pease fell silent. It now trucks papers in from Massachusetts or Rhode Island. More recently, home delivery ended. Subscribers get their papers from the postman now. Last month the paper's parent company, Gannett, dropped its contract with AP.

What's left?

“Let Them Eat GDP Reports”:

44 Million Americans Are Food Insecure

by Jessica Corbett

A U.S. anti-hunger group marked April Fools’ Day on Monday with a snarky statement suggesting that hungry Americans “can eat positive economic statistics about the soaring stock market or the growing gross domestic product.”

“Let them eat GDP reports,” Hunger Free America declared of the 44 million Americans—including 13 million children—who live in food insecure households, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

GDP is the market value of all the finished goods and services produced in a country over a certain time period. Critics have long argued against using it as the premier indicator of how a nation is doing.

“The old school way of the elites fighting hunger was to say, ‘let them eat cake,’” said Hunger Free America CEO Joel Berg. “But the more modern approach is to say, ‘let them eat a report of the nation’s growing GDP, although the report offers empty calories.’”

“By focusing mostly on economic statistics that benefit mostly the wealthy—like stock indices—the nation’s political and media elites blithely overlook hard evidence that the economy is still structurally unsound for large swaths of the public, and then those same elites are flummoxed as to why the public tells pollsters they are still not satisfied with the economy,” Berg explained.

“But the good news is that, none of that matters now, because truckloads of positive economic reports are being shipped to food banks, soup kitchens, and food pantries nationwide, and the country’s impoverished multitudes can now get all they can eat—assuming they can digest paper report pages and card-

board report covers, and don’t mind a bit of poisonous ink,” he quipped.

While inflation has eased in the United States over the past two years in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, corporations have engaged in price gouging that has kept costs high for Americans, everywhere from gas pumps to grocery stores to fast food restaurants.

“It’s one thing for corporations to pass reasonable increased costs to consumers. It’s another for them to line their coffers by exploiting Americans who are just trying to get by,” the Groundwork Collaborative’s Liz Pancotti said in January, as the group released a related report. “It’s time to rein in corporate price gouging—or families will continue to pay the price.”

Data released last month by the Federal Reserve show that the top one percent of Americans are the richest they have ever been, with a collective \$44.6 trillion in wealth, a record largely driven by the stock market. President Joe Biden and some progressive Democratic lawmakers recently renewed calls for wealth taxes, but such proposals are not expected to pass the divided Congress.

Meanwhile, the federal minimum wage is \$7.25 an hour, and has been so since 2009. Although state policymakers have taken action to raise pay for some or all workers, national legislation to boost wages also has not been able to get through Congress.

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.

GOP’s Latest ‘Clear Call to Genocide’: Rep. Calls for Nuclear Bombing of Gaza
by Julia Conley
U.S. Rep. Tim Walberg became



Leon and Leona Rockingham got dolled up for Easter.

the latest Republican lawmaker to openly call for the genocide of Palestinian people in Gaza, saying at a town hall that instead of sending humanitarian aid to starving civilians there, the U.S. should “get it over quick” by dropping a nuclear bomb on the besieged enclave.

The Michigan Republican was asked by a voter why taxpayer money was being spent to build a port off the coast of Gaza at an event in the town of Dundee, in a video that was apparently recorded on March 25th and posted to social media on Saturday.

“We shouldn’t be spending a dime on humanitarian aid. It should be like Nagasaki and Hiroshima,” said Walberg, referring to the two Japanese cities where the U.S. detonated two atomic bombs in 1945, killing an estimated 214,000 people and leaving survivors with the effects of radiation, including chronic and deadly diseases.

Walberg’s comments were made public a day after it was reported that the Biden administration had approved the transfer of new weapons to the Israel Defense Forces, including 2,000-pound bombs like those that have already made Israel’s bombardment one of the deadliest and most destructive in modern history.

The White House has called on Israel to allow more humanitarian

aid into Gaza, where at least 31 people—including 27 children—have already died of starvation as a result of Israel’s near-total blockade on aid since October. Parts of northern Gaza are now experiencing famine, according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification global initiative (IPC), after months of warnings from experts that a man-made famine would eventually take hold unless humanitarian aid increased significantly.

The Israel Defense Forces’ U.S.-backed bombardment of the enclave has killed at least 32,705 Palestinians so far.

Dawud Walid, executive director of the Michigan chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, said Walberg’s “clear call to genocide... should be condemned by all Americans who value human life and international law.”

“To so casually call for what would result in the killing of every human being in Gaza sends the chilling message that Palestinian lives have no value,” said Walid. “It is this dehumanization of the Palestinian people that has resulted in the ongoing slaughter and suffering we see every day in Gaza and the West Bank.”

Mitchell Rivard, chief of staff to Rep. Dan Kildee (D-Mich.), said Walberg’s comments illustrate “the Republican position on Gaza.”

Earlier this month, Rep. Chuck Fleischmann (R-Tenn.) told a group of Palestinian rights advocates, “Goodbye to Palestine”—leading Rep. Becca Balint (D-Vt.) to say he had called “for the genocide of the Palestinian people.”

Rep. Andy Ogles (R-Tenn.) in February told an activist, “I think we should kill ‘em all,” when asked about Palestinian children who have been killed by Israel with U.S. military support, while Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) called for Israel to “level the place” soon after the war started.

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New Video Details Billionaire Trump Donors Bankrolling RFK Jr.’s Run
by Brett Wilkins

A video published March 26th by More Perfect Union sheds light on the ultrawealthy Republican donors to presumptive GOP nominee and former President Donald Trump’s campaign coffers who are also financing Robert F. Kennedy Jr.’s independent White House run—which many observers see as a potential spoiler for President Joe Biden’s reelection bid.

The video—which came as Ken-

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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

nedey announced that California lawyer and philanthropist Nicole Shanahan is his running mate—underscores that the conspiracy theorist and former Democrat’s biggest campaign contributor was also Trump’s top donor in 2020.

“Who exactly is bankrolling RFK Jr.’s presidential push?” asked Brian Tyler Cohen, who narrates the seven-minute video. “It turns out the answer has a lot more to do with Trump than putting a Kennedy back in the White House.”

Kennedy said that he had nothing to do with the multimillion-dollar ad supporting his campaign that aired during the Super Bowl last month.

“American Values 2024, a super political action committee (PAC) backing Kennedy, dropped a cool 7 million bucks for the spot, which about 124 million people saw,” Cohen said. “And propping up American Values 2024 is a large group of big donors... a bunch of millionaires and billionaires who are driven by one goal: to get RFK Jr. on the ballot in all key states across the country.”

“Doing a majority of the legwork here is the super PAC’s biggest donor, Timothy Mellon,” the video notes. “More than half of the \$38 million raised by American Values this cycle has come from Timothy Mellon alone.”*

The video continues:

Mellon, who hails from the 34th-richest family in America, and likened anti-poverty programs to slavery, has long been a significant Republican donor. He’s given tens of millions to Republican congressional super PACs. He’s generously funded Trump’s super PAC, Make America Great Again Inc., to the tune of \$16.5 million over the span of just two years. He was even Trump’s top donor in 2020, and it doesn’t look like he’s going to stop tossing money at Trump anytime soon. His last donation of \$5 million to the pro-Trump PAC came on January 30, 2024. Just 22 days prior, he sent the same amount to

* Mellon formerly owned the Portsmouth-based railroad known as Pan Am.

the pro-Kennedy PAC, making it pretty clear that Timothy Mellon doesn’t want Kennedy, he knows Kennedy can spoil a Biden win, so he’s keeping him afloat.

Boston Globe reporter Lissandra Villa de Petzelka noted earlier this month that Mellon’s donation record “is not linear.”

“He has supported Democrats such as Sen. Joe Manchin, a centrist from West Virginia; progressive Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York; and former Rep. Tulsi Gabbard of Hawaii and Sen. Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona, both Democrats before they left the party.”

“But overwhelmingly, Mellon’s money has funded conservative causes,” she wrote. “According to *The Texas Tribune*, he donated millions in stock to Texas for a fundraising effort for a border wall. The *Wall Street Journal* reported he also donated more than a million dollars to a legal defense fund set up by Jan Brewer, then-governor of Arizona, for an immigration crackdown law that received national backlash and was partially struck down in the courts.”

Mellon isn’t the only GOP megadonor funding Kennedy’s campaign. According to the video, billionaire security specialist and author Gavin de Becker has donated more money to Kennedy—\$10 million, so far—than to any other cause he’s ever supported. Kennedy’s campaign has paid de Becker’s security firm \$1.9 million for services and travel expenses during the 2024 run.

Cohen said that “one of the more mysterious sources of funding” for American Values 2024 is Planeta Management LLC, “which has given the super PAC \$4 million.”

Because there is no listed name for the organization’s leader on its filing papers, “we have no idea who the third-biggest donor to Kennedy’s bid is,” the video states.

“We do know his fourth-biggest donor, though,” Cohen said. Leila Centner—who has supported Trump and disgraced former New



Islington Street, just about midnight.

York Republican Congressman George Santos—has given \$1 million to Kennedy’s campaign.

The video notes that Centner is the co-founder and CEO of Centner Academy, a private school with a policy of “trying to keep teachers and staff from getting lifesaving Covid vaccinations” because she believes that “tens of thousands of women all over the world have had adverse effects including hemorrhaging and miscarriages just by being near someone who had the vaccine.”

Perhaps the nation’s most prominent vaccine skeptic, Kennedy told Fox News last year that he still believes the thoroughly debunked theory that vaccines cause autism. A 2019 measles epidemic in Samoa that killed scores of people, most of them children, has been linked to a prior visit by Kennedy in which he, his wife Cheryl Hines, and anti-vaccine activists spread deadly misinformation.

The DNC has a dubious history

of crushing third-party and independent challengers.

The new video notes that “all of these pro-Kennedy donations have so far been bearing fruit in a big way.”

“With the help of American Values 2024, Kennedy has gotten on ballots in key states like Nevada and New Hampshire,” Cohen said. “Additionally, he’ll appear on the ballot in Hawaii and Utah... and Georgia, Arizona, and Michigan, three critical swing states with razor-thin margins.”

“Kennedy’s donors know that he’ll never step foot in the White House, but that was never their goal,” he added. “Their goal is to ensure that Trump does.”

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Portsmouth in the Civil War

Local historian Dick Adams will give a talk on Portsmouth in the Civil War at the next meeting of the Civil War Roundtable of New Hampshire on April 19th. The public is invited.

Topics to be covered will include the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, the Portsmouth-built USS *Kearsarge* and its famous battle against the CSS *Alabama*, a local draft riot, and the Portsmouth-born husband of Confederate spy Belle Boyd.

This meeting of the Civil War Roundtable of New Hampshire will take place at the Harvey-Mitchell Library, 151 Main Street, Epping, N.H. Doors will open at 6:45pm, the talk will begin at 7:15 p.m. For more information visit the website www.cwrt-nh.org or call Bill at (978) 994-4717.

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The Alleged News®

to page seven

Murph’s Fortnightly Quote

“Beware of false knowledge; it is more dangerous than ignorance.”

— George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950) playwright

“Our profoundly unequal society... conditions us to believe that what we have is what we earned. That individual hard work and virtue, or the lack thereof, explains our place in the world. That’s a bunch of crap.”

john@wordpraxis.com

— Eric Liu, *Become America*, 2019, p. 126

Beware of Cruise Ships

— a Bar Harbor reader

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A Warning to Wannabe Dictators
To the Editor:

Seeing the results of the Republican New Hampshire Primary and subsequent primaries, I am horrified that Republicans who voted in those States voted for Donald Trump. This means that most Republicans who voted would like to see Trump as President again—a man who has been shown to be a liar, a thief, a cheat, and a rapist, who aspires to be an authoritarian dictator on day one. He has also told us that he is a racist and a fascist. This is who the Republican party wants to represent the U.S.A. to the rest of the world???

I lived in Europe in the 1930's and 1940's and learned firsthand what dictators do and what fascism is. I am not a fan of either, to put it mildly.

The "Unite the Right" rally in Charlottesville, Va. in August, 2017, consisted of white supremacist groups, neo-nazis, neo-fascists, antisemitic, anti-Islamic groups, and KKKlansmen, to name a few, and Trump called these "good people"! I saw on TV the nazi and southern racist flags. These are the groups the Right (Republican Party) wants to unite. These are the ideologies the Republican Party wants to absorb?? These primary Republican votes indicate that is what most Republicans want!

When Dwight Eisenhower became Supreme Allied Commander and occupied the European theatre of WW II by pushing fascists and Nazis out of territories they had occupied, I was a big fan. When he became the U.S. President, I identified with him and his party, and even voted Republican. Not any more, though. That party no longer exists. It has morphed into what it is today, which is a party that votes against measures they once requested, because Trump does not want it, because he wants it to become an election issue. I, for one will never vote Republican again and I now have a different opinion of people who I know are Republicans who may have voted in the primary for a man that has no moral compass.

Trump should check on how other dictators have fared. I can only refer

to European dictators, and how they ended up: Mussolini, while trying to flee to Switzerland, was shot by his own countrymen near Lake Como, and strung upside down by his feet in the town square in April, 1945. His mistress, Clara "Claretta" Petacci, was treated the same way.

Hitler, also in April 1945, shot Eva Braun, his wife of only a few hours, and then shot himself, thereby avoiding the Nuremberg trials.

Going back to the 1630's in England, about the time of the *Mayflower* voyage, Charles 1st was crowned King of England (and Scotland and Ireland), but he did not like Parliament telling him what to do (I think it had to do with collecting taxes), so he dissolved parliament and reinstalled "The divine right of Kings." That led to a civil war between the Cavaliers (ruling class) and the Roundheads (parliamentarians). Charles was captured, accused of treason, tried in a court of law, found guilty, and sentenced. The sentence was carried out in 1649. They chopped off his head. With those precedents, I would think more than twice about being a wannabe dictator.

Chris Mills
Nottingham, N.H.

Chris:
Thanks for writing. We do appreciate the historical perspective. Plus, you make us feel young[er] again.

Thanks, too, for expressing, in a subtle manner fit for publication, a repressed desire shared by many of our readers.

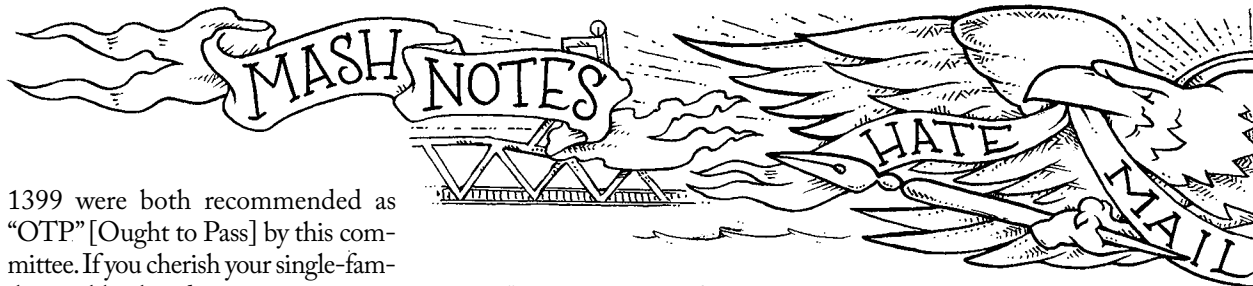
The Editor

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NIMBY Today, NIMBY Tomorrow...
To the Editor,

Bills pertaining to housing would normally get vetted by the House Municipal and County Government Committee. But a recently created "stacked" committee is vetting housing bills and sure to give them a good recommendation, whether they deserve it or not.

Did you think the "House Special Committee on Housing" would conduct fair hearings considering it is made up of seven of the eight sponsors of some bills?

As predicted, HB 1291 and HB



1399 were both recommended as "OTP" [Ought to Pass] by this committee. If you cherish your single-family neighborhood you **must** write to the full House and tell them to vote **no** on "OTP" when these bills come to the floor.

Likewise, a Senate committee deemed SB 538 as "OTP". You must write to all 24 Senators to ask them to vote **no** on "OTP". (Senators@leg.state.nh.us) SB 538 is called the HOMEnibus bill, and would be completely devastating to towns that want to preserve single-family zoning.

Most homeowners have no idea what is going on and may end up finding out the hard way if these outrageous power grabs pass.

Please visit <https://bedfordresidents.com/bra/2024/03/20/housing-forum-march-20-2024/> for more details on how to contact your legislators.

The American Policy Center has a good article that tells the history of this movement which has been going on for a very long time. Look it up: "YIMBYs, Workforce Housing, and Community Land Trusts: All Means to an End to Private Property".

Jane Aitken
Bedford, N.H.

Jane:

Your adamant defense of single-family zoning brings to mind Charlton Heston, raising a flintlock rifle over his head and yelling, "from my cold, dead hands..."

Citing the American Policy Center doesn't help your argument much, though.

Grover Norquist, a classic American political entrepreneur, set himself up in 1985 as a one-man, one-policy think tank which he branded as Americans for Tax Reform. It's been his meal ticket ever since.

The Patent Office will not protect a gift, though, so Tom Deweese was free to set up his own, which he calls the American Policy Center. Where Norquist is a monomaniacal sniper whose creed is "Kill

all taxes", Deweese is more of a generalist. If it's right wing enough, he's on board. His creed is "Support my crusade to save the Republic," and support my policy center to support me.

The fact that Deweese and the John Birch Society are tight ought to alert most folks: whatever he's on about is based on old-fashioned paranoia.

The Editor

=====
...NIMBY Forever

To the Editor;

California has ended single-family zoning statewide.

Email immediately and tell your N.H. Reps to VOTE NO on HB 1291, HB 1399 and your Senators to vote NO on SB 538. Email info@bedfordresidents.com for instructions.

These bills attack single-family neighborhoods and promote "new urbanism," a movement based on the "climate change" agenda.

The HBs were heard before a "special" committee stacked with their own sponsors, and rubber-stamped, instead of being heard by the usual House Committee!

All three bills would be dangerous to single-family neighborhoods. Some Reps want to impose a top-down state-controlled "one-size-fits-all" approach to zoning as opposed to your voice and your vote. And they think this protects our rights! To the contrary, it removes our choices and lowers property values. As any realtor will tell you, the most important factor in the value of property is location, location, and location!

Attacking established neighborhoods is not going to remedy any "housing shortage," which ultimately is not even the state's responsibility.

One can only imagine why Republican Reps Yokela, Osborne, Sweeney, and Alexander have fallen for this so-

cialistic approach which is similar to what is promoted by any number of left-wing NGOs such as @Strong-Towns. Strong Towns stated mission is to "replace the Suburban Experiment".

InDepthNH.org was right: "It is interesting that those who scream the loudest about individual freedom and personal rights are so quick to take them away from others and do not see that as government overreach."

[At her request: info@bedfordresidents.com, (603) 472-7488]

Jane Aitken
Bedford, N.H.

Jane:

The quote you pulled from InDepthNH intrigued us, so we Googled. That piece is headlined, "Housing Crisis Caught in Battle Between State and Local Control", posted March 23, 2024. The writer, as it happens, is Garry Rayno, a former colleague of ours on a small weekly. In the decades since we last saw him, he's covered the State House for Foster's Daily Democrat and the Union Leader. Now, like so many others, he's with an online outfit.

We recommend to our readers Garry's March 30 column, headlined "What Is Your Legislature Doing?" It's a real barn burner.

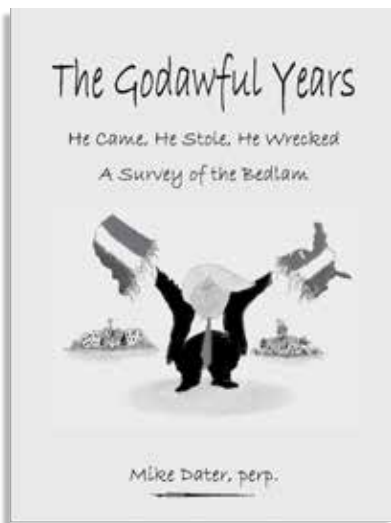
"The last two legislatures elected should be a warning to anyone who has lived in the Granite State before the influx of the mob owned by the Koch Foundation and others of the same ilk who have used their fortunes to put people who do not represent the views of a majority of the state's residents into the legislature.

"They want to make the minority the majority by turning the state's political landscape into such a wasteland it will attract more of their like-minded minions."

The Editor

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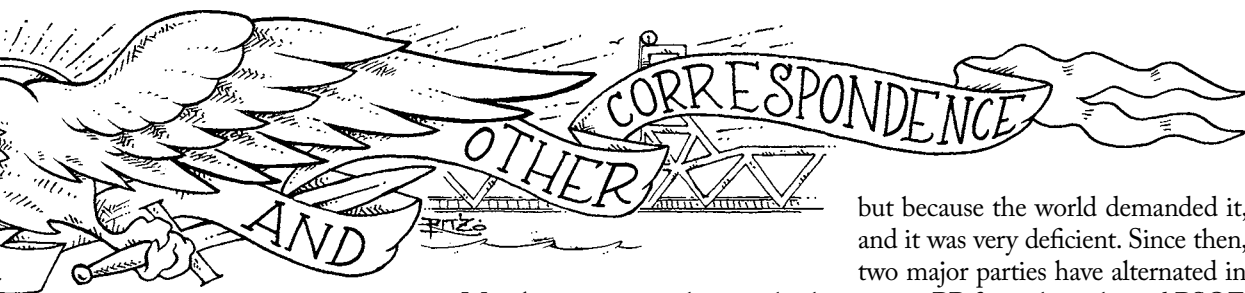
A MAN

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Which Is It, Sen. Ayotte?

Dear Editor:
 In her recent column in the *Portsmouth Herald*, former Senator Ayotte's words reminded me of the play *Hamlet* where Queen Gertrude states "The lady doth protest too much, methinks." Ms. Ayotte, twists herself into knots trying to declare her support for IVF while at the same time trying to distance herself from the recent Alabama IVF case. Unfortunately, Ms. Ayotte never addresses the key question. Does Ms. Ayotte believe that life begins at conception, which is the basis for the Alabama case? If she believes that life begins at conception, her statement regarding her support for IVF is not consistent with her true beliefs.

IVF involves the fertilization of multiple eggs resulting in the creation of a number of embryos. Since not all the embryos are actually implanted, the unused embryos are either kept frozen for future use or eventually destroyed. The Alabama Court decision declared that embryos were in fact "extra uterine children," and that destroying those unused embryos was committing a wrongful death. As such, anyone who believes that life begins at conception cannot at the same time state that they support IVF, since those unused embryos must be either kept frozen forever, which is not consistent with life, or, eventually destroyed.

Ms. Ayotte's record would indicate that she believes that life begins at conception. In 2010 then Senator Ayotte called for *Roe v. Wade* to be overturned, and in 2014, she led a group of 33 Republican senators demanding a vote on a national abortion ban. A national abortion ban would make abortion at any stage of gestation illegal thus codifying in law that life begins at conception.

Ms. Ayotte cannot have it both ways. Either she believes that life begins at conception and that unused embryos are "extra uterine children" that can never be destroyed and must be kept "alive" in a frozen state forever, or she does not. Her attempts to dance around the issue and obfuscate simply demonstrates how concerned she is about her previous record on abortion and the fallout from the Alabama ruling on her political future. However, she can quickly end this debate by clearly and unambiguously stating that she does not believe that life begins at conception and that embryos are not "extra uterine children." Only then can she legitimately claim that she truly supports IVF. Otherwise, her words are meaningless.

Rich DiPentima
 Portsmouth, N.H.

Rich:
The Republican Party is demonstrating what happens to the dog that catches the car and sinks its teeth in a tire: it gets slammed to the pavement with every rotation.

The Editor

Catalonia's Pro-Independence Movement Forces Spain To Approve An Amnesty
 To the Editor:

In the Middle Ages, Catalonia was one of the great European nations, but after 1714 it was subjugated by Castile (Madrid) and lost its sovereignty. The Spanish way of being (vertical, authoritarian, conquering and warlike) is opposed to the Catalan way (horizontal, pacifist, democratic, and merchant). That is why Catalonia has always tried to become independent, but Spain has violently prevented it. From 1939 to 1978, Spain had a fascist dictatorship, which was not defeated as in the case of Germany and Italy. The transition to democracy was not by conviction

but because the world demanded it, and it was very deficient. Since then, two major parties have alternated in power, PP from the right and PSOE from the center. The PP is the direct heir of fascism and the PSOE is the heir, by environmental osmosis, of the same intolerant nationalism.

Catalonia's ongoing independence attempt is the most powerful in history because now Spain cannot consider killing us in the institutional framework of the EU. In 2017 we held and won a self-determination referendum. The PP fought it using anti-democratic methods: judges, secret services, police... and now the PSOE is doing the same: repression and denial of any option towards freedom for Catalonia.

In the recent electoral campaign, the PSOE ridiculed Catalan independence, assured that it would arrest and lock up in prison Carles Puigdemont (the president of Catalonia who carried out the referendum in 2017 and who is in exile in Belgium) and denied the possibility of an amnesty for pro-independence criminals or any referendum on self-determination for Catalonia. The PSOE was showing off its chest by exhibiting the aggressive nationalism that is typical of the Spanish identity.

But the PP and the extreme right of VOX won the elections of July 23, 2023 without an absolute majority. Then the PSOE, seeing that it does not govern in any large region or city council, wanted to get the government of Spain so that its party has economic viability. And everything has changed. They no longer blaspheme the Catalan independentism, but they make a pact because they need their seven votes to govern.

On March 7th, the amnesty law that the PSOE said it would never approve was passed. And they have approved it with the Catalan pro-independence parties and other parties, in total eight parties (179 seats and 12.3 million

votes). It is a success for the Catalan independence movement because it has shown that they were falsely accused. Nobody would have been able to approve an amnesty that would pardon real terrorists. Spanish nationalism, in full fury, invented accusations against Catalan independence: rebellion, sedition, terrorism, treason, hate crimes, economic embezzlement... But it is quite the opposite, the Catalan independence movement is exemplary in its democratic approach (it does not want to impose independence but has always wanted to hold a referendum of self-determination for the Catalan society to decide democratically) and it is not violent (it has made massive and peaceful mobilizations). Aware that there had been "lawfare" (judicial dirty war), the PSOE has now accepted an amnesty.

But the right and the extreme right do not want to accept the amnesty, because they see it as a defeat. They have always imposed themselves by force and now they do not want to accept the law passed by the Spanish parliament. The judges threaten to sabotage the law and not to apply it. And the fact is that, there being no crimes, an amnesty law is needed because the judges accept the invented accusations and condemn the pro-independence supporters to destroy this political movement. With that motivation, the judges will look for subterfuges not to apply it and to continue condemning.

And all this is because now the PSOE needs the seven pro-independence votes, but what will it do when it does not need them? What will it do when the Catalan pro-independence movement, remade from this chapter of repression, mobilizes again to free itself from Spain? We know: Both PP and PSOE will go back to repression. But for the moment, the independence movement has managed to demonstrate that it is not guilty of any crime and that it only wants freedom from a country that only increases the desire of the Catalans to free themselves from it.

The EU cannot continue tolerating these abuses and will have to intervene sooner or later, because the European

Justice is about to issue judgments against Spain (this imminence has also motivated the PSOE to approve the amnesty). In order not to waste time, or energy, or increase the Spanish institutional crisis, it would be better for the EU to force Spain to accept the result of the 2017 referendum or hold a new one in which the Catalans can decide their future free of impositions and authoritarianism.

Jordi Oriola Folch
 Barcelona, Catalonia

Jordi,
The passage of an amnesty law seems like a genuinely positive development, however difficult its implementation may prove to be.

Americans should note how Catalans have had to struggle to shed the burden of fascism. An ounce of prevention surely equals at least a pound of cure.

The Editor

Are We Becoming Nazis?

Dear Editor,
 Congress recently passed legislation, signed into law by President Biden, that banned funds for UNRWA. Are we becoming Nazis? Our behavior towards Palestinians reflects that trend. We seem to be using the Nazi playbook.

Residents of Gaza, their homes, infrastructure, and cultural institutions are bombed with our bombs. Through this legislation, we are greenlighting starving and withholding clean water and medicine from Palestinian refugees in Gaza, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem as well as those in Jordan, Lebanon, and elsewhere in the Middle East. UNRWA also funds schools, a police force, and social services.

Today, Gaza residents are locked up in a concentration camp—basically, a death camp. And we just approved \$4 billion more for Israel to continue their genocide. What does that say about us—the U.S.A., a country that supported the creation of the state of Israel and the expulsion of the Palestinians from their homes and lands? They once were a thriving people, respected throughout the world as the people of the Holy Land. Now we

to next page

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from page five

have condemned them to a grizzly death. What does that say about us? Genevieve Harris-Fraser Orange, Mass.

Genevieve:
It's horrifying to think that anyone might compare the U.S. with the Nazis.

What a pity that there are any grounds for comparison.

The Editor

Who Said It?

To the Editor:

"Nobody knew health care could be so complicated"

"We fight like hell. And if you don't fight like hell, you're not going to have a country anymore," he said.

"All of us here today do not want to see our election victory stolen by emboldened radical-left Democrats, which is what they're doing. And stolen by the fake news media."

"While in politics it is often smart to send out false messages..."

Immigrant "vermin" coming to the U.S. are "poisoning the blood of our country," ...a Hitler-like comment... at a recent rally in N.H.

"There were very fine people on both sides." Referring to a Charleston, NC White Supremacy rally where Heather Heyer was killed.

"We're not going to support that loser's funeral" Referring to John McCain's funeral.

"Why should I go to that cemetery? It's filled with losers...and suckers." On a visit to a U.S. ceme-

tery in Normandy, France.

"I don't get it. What was in it for them?" Asked of the father of a fallen U.S. soldier.

"The Fake News Media...it's not my enemy, it's the enemy of the American people."

"He did some good things." Referring to Adolf Hitler.

"Now, 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." Said at a recent rally in Ohio.

"Why don't they go back and help fix the totally broken and crime infested places from which they came?" Tweets that targeted a group of House Democratic women.

"I'm being indicted for you, the Black population."

"Don't tell me it doesn't work. Torture works. Okay folks?"

"The corrupt establishment knows that we are a great threat to their criminal enterprise."

"Climate Change is a big scam for a lot of people to make a lot of money."

"If I don't with this election, there may never be another election in America."

Herb Moyer Exeter, N.H.

Herb:

You know, reading all these together, you begin to get the sense that the speak-

er may not have what they used to call "presidential stature."

The Editor

Channeling the Founding Fathers

Dear Editor,

Recently I channeled this message from our Founding Fathers concerning the state of politics in America.

"A Republican National Committee official announced the MAGA faction's new constitutional doctrine: 'God does not call the qualified, He qualifies the called.' This is like saying public offices don't need well-educated administrators, they just need people who go to evangelical church and then follow the mandates of their pastors once they get into power. We decided upon separation of church and state in 1787. Why are you trying to overthrow this sacred principle in 2024?"

"Why even pretend to have a compulsory education system dedicated to teaching good citizenship? The Presidency is so steeped in autocratic government that law-making by the Congress and participation in civic affairs by the citizenry no longer have a place in society. Parliament had more power in England in 1776 than Congress has in America in 2024."

"Your hyper-partisan politicians all have the same philosophy today.

They have replaced the Lord's Prayer with 'Let us prey.'

"The American flag needs to be lowered from half-mast to quarter-mast. There isn't half a republic left to justify your enthusiasm."

Don't blame me for these cynical comments. I'm just the messenger.

Kimball Shinkoskey Woods Cross, Utah

Kimball:

Yes, we understand. They're just as cynical when they rattle our Ouija Board.

The Editor

Equal Justice? Are You Joking?

Dear Editor:

Among groundbreaking, or we could say earth-shaking, behaviors of the worst possible Presidential candidate ever seen, Donald Trump has caused federal-level U.S. District Judge Reggie Walton to try to curb Trump's nasty, un-Presidential behavior as Trump threatens the judge's daughter. Not a plot in a highly imaginative comic book pleasing to pre-teens, but real-days life with law and order scoffed at, devalued, by Trump.

Walton said, "The rule of law can only be maintained if we have independent judicial officers who are able to do their job and ensure that the laws are, in fact, enforced and that the laws are applied equally to everybody who appears in our court-

house."

Threats of violence are part of Trump's performance. Anyone who thinks this is the way to go, note what is happening in Haiti with laws gone, violent gangs running things. You may appear old and foolish, ignoring for the thrill of it what future Americans will live with, if lawless Trump wins the highest power-seat in our land. Or does your right-wing news source omit reporting on Haiti? If alive now, your grandparent would take you to the woodshed for showing such dangerous disrespect of an underlying American value: law and order.

Lynn Rudmin Chong Sanbornton, N.H.

Lynn:

It's all fine and dandy that Judge Walton spoke out against lawless scoundrels like our former President threatening officers of the court. His implication that "the laws are applied equally to everybody" is infuriating, though.

The slippery scoundrel in question has been making a mockery of the rule of law for his entire shady career, but has yet to spend a single night in a cell on Rikers Island.

Crystal Mason, a Black woman in Texas, was sentenced to five years in prison for mistakenly voting once. Brian Pritchard, the white first vice chair of the Georgia Republican Party, voted illegally nine times and was let off with a fine.

We're going to shut up now before we get ourselves in trouble.

The Editor

The Alleged News®

from page three

Container Ship That Destroyed Baltimore Bridge Has Troubled History

by Brett Wilkins

The mega-container ship that lost propulsion before toppling Baltimore's Francis Scott Key Bridge was involved in a previous crash, and was cited last year for propulsion-related problems.

Newsweek reported that the Maersk Line Limited-chartered MV Dali collided with a wall in

the harbor at Antwerp, Belgium in 2016. The accident, which was reported by Vessel Finder and other outlets at the time, was attributed to errors made by the ship's master and pilot.

The 9-year-old Dali was also detained by port officials in San Antonio, Chile last June after inspectors discovered a problem related to the vessel's "propulsion and auxiliary machinery," according to The Washington Post, which cited records from the intergovernmental shipping regulator Tokyo MOU.

The ship's owner, Grace Ocean Private Ltd., and operator, Synergy Marine, "have been sued at least four times in U.S. federal court on allegations of negligence and other claims tied to worker injuries on other ships owned and operated by the Singapore-based companies," according to The Associated Press.

Maersk was also sanctioned last year by the U.S. Labor Department for allegedly stopping employees from reporting safety concerns, documents published by The Lever revealed.

According to a July 14, 2023 Labor Department letter to Maersk regarding an Occupational Safety and Health Administration investigation, the Danish company

"suspended and then terminated" a worker "in retaliation for reporting unsafe conditions and contacting the U.S. Coast Guard."

The fired employee "engaged in numerous protected activities" including reporting a leak and the need for repairs to a ship's cargo hold bilge system, alcohol use aboard the vessel by crew members, and inoperable equipment including an emergency fire pump and lifeboat block and releasing gear.

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

RiverRun Bookstore Recommends:

The Fourth Monkey, by J.D. Barker.

Set in Chicago, this creepy thriller by a local author is reminiscent of Silence of the Lambs, but Barker goes one further by really delving into the mind of the killer through a series of diary entries. It's a dark, gruesome, fast-paced ride with sparks of wit spread throughout. You will immediately want to read the sequel, The Fifth to Die, so you might as well grab that, too. — Tom Holbrook

Ports. Dem. Roundtable on April 9th

Portsmouth Democrats hold a roundtable at a local restaurant on the 2nd Tuesday of every month. The next will be on April 9th from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. It's an opportunity

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Goodbye to All That

by W.D. Ehrhart

I have had a very long, though unusual, career as a teacher. I first entered the classroom as a graduate student at the University of Illinois at Chicago Circle teaching freshman composition in 1977. Later I taught high school for a year, then went off to write a book. I taught high school for another two years, then spent several more years writing books. I taught high school for three more years when my daughter was born, then returned once again to writing books.

All three of those high school jobs ended badly because, though I did great with the kids in all three schools, I was not very good at playing nicely with adults, especially adults who are mostly hypocritical liars and windbags, which includes most adults who rise to power at institutions like schools.

However, in my early 50s, I was offered a position, unsolicited, teaching history and English at a boys' private school by a headmaster who knew me through my writing. By then, I had finally learned that when confronted with a brick wall, it is better to go find a ladder than to lower one's head and try to run through the wall.

So I ended up staying at that school for nearly twenty years, retiring on my own terms at the age of 70, and going out on a wave of good will such as I had never before experienced in my working life. And as fortune would have it, I retired six months before Covid arrived, which would have been my downfall because I would have failed miserably

at remote computerized teaching. And I mean miserably. I have the technological skills of a Chesapeake Blue Crab.

And as I watch what has been happening in education these past five years, I consider myself incredibly lucky to have gotten out when I did. I used to teach a Joseph Conrad novel called *The Nigger of the Narcissus*. Can you imagine what would happen if I tried to teach that book today? Teachers can't even teach *Huckleberry Finn* anymore without being accused of racism. But if you try to teach Ta Nehisi Coates, the right-wingers go bugfuck over extremist woke-ism. It seems you can't win for losing. How about *The Great Gatsby*? Can we still teach that one?

Speaking of which, why in the 21st century United States of America should we even have to have Diversity, Equity & Inclusion programs? We should be ashamed of ourselves, at this point in our history, that we are not as a matter of course diverse, equitable, and inclusive.

But of course, large numbers of us are not, and over the past decade, Donald J. Trump has actually made it okay to be openly and flagrantly not diverse, equitable, and inclusive. Indeed, localities and whole states are now passing laws not only removing DEI programs, but making them illegal.

As for Critical Race Theory, well, that's never been taught anywhere but in law schools. What most people, especially CRT's critics, call CRT is actually something better known as history. Just plain history.

What actually happened. I've been teaching it for as long as I've been teaching history going back to my first history teaching job in 1981.

At the school where I taught most recently, there is presently a huge controversy generated by some students—no doubt supported by their parents—who have publicly complained that their opinions and points of view are being suppressed by liberal faculty members who discriminate against them because of their political conservatism. (What the current Republican party is conserving, I'd like to know, but that's a different debate.) That their grades are actually being lowered because of their political opinions.

I made no secret of my own political point of view when I was teaching. My classroom was festooned with posters of Marine Corps Major General Smedley Darlington Butler saying that he had spent his career as "a racketeer for capitalism," I.F. Stone declaring that "every government is run by liars and nothing they say should be believed," Laurel Thatcher Ulrich's assertion that "well-behaved women seldom make history," Scott Ritter's "I can train a monkey to wave an American flag; that does not make the monkey patriotic," a rainbow-colored triangle indicating a safe space for LGBTQs, and similar stuff. Lots of it.

I never had a student complain that I was discriminating against him because of his politics, or a student's parents either. But I wonder if that would still be true five years later. I wonder if students and their parents would still accept that I can accept their kids just as I find them,

and treat them fairly and respectfully.

I wonder if I could teach my history unit on the European Conquest of North America, or my unit on Race in America from 1619 to the present, or my English unit on the poetry of Langston Hughes and Claude McKay in which we compared "I, Too" and "The Lynching," or my course on Smedley Butler and the Rise of American Imperialism.

Between the Snowflake Left Wingnuts who take offense at references to "the field" because it reminds them of slavery in the cotton fields, and the Snowflake Right Wingnuts who are convinced that reading *Heather Has Two Mommies* will convince their children to be gay, I don't think I would stand a chance of surviving two weeks in a high school classroom in the spring of 2024.

Lucky for me, I don't have to try. But I feel sorry for the teachers who continue to try to navigate this educational minefield. And I feel really sorry for their students. I truly miss the daily contact with young people that kept me young in mind and spirit if not in body. But whenever I hear someone say that the solution to gun violence in our schools is to arm the teachers, or that academia has been commandeered by the communist, atheist, radical, revolutionary left, I am glad I got out of the classroom when I did.

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

Why Big Corporations Get Special Tax Breaks and You Don't

by Jim Hightower

Free Market ideologues fabricate some of the most preposterous yarns trying to justify their assertion of corporate greed over public need.

Consider their far-fetched Laissez-fairlyland tale that by allowing corporate giants to dodge the billions of tax dollars they owe to our country, the top executives of those corporations will plow that money into new jobs, products, and services for the Common Good. The ideologues assure us innocents that this is the "magic of the marketplace."

But remember: Magicians don't perform magic—they perform illusions. In this case, since the law does not require that such tax windfalls be invested for the public good, they aren't. Instead, the corporate barons simply pocket the money.

A diligent watchdog group, Institute for Policy Studies, recently documented this by analyzing financial data of 35 enormously profitable giants, including Tesla, T-Mobile, and Duke Energy. Over a four-year period, these 35 lavished pay of \$9.5 billion on their honchos. Even for giants, that's an extravagant payout. Where'd the money come from? Tax dodging. Combined, these outfits paid zero in federal taxes, and even extracted nearly \$2 billion in refunds.

To rationalize this handout, free market ideologues claim that corporations are just like ordinary taxpayers, merely taking a few legal deductions to lower their tax bill. But wait—tax laws aren't handed down on stone tablets, applying equally to everyone. When's the last time Congress asked you to help write one law? Instead, America's tax code is an arcane work of gobbledygook literally written in back rooms by corporate lobbyists—which is why powerful corporations get special breaks to evade taxes... and you don't.

To see through such corporate scams and help end this corruption, connect with Institute for Policy Studies: ips-dc.org.

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from page six

for new residents and old friends to socialize without any agenda or rigid structure. New residents can meet those involved in the Portsmouth Democrats and learn of opportunities to get involved, suggest new ideas, or be supportive of planned initiatives. For location and other information contact Peter Somssich at (603) 436-5382 (No Texts Please) or email peter.somssich@gmail.com.

This Fortnight in 1892

Mooney on the War-Path

William Mooney of the Creek district went on the war-path Thursday evening and raised Cain generally.

Officer Foote attempted to arrest him but he got a pitchfork and showed fight, and assistance was summoned from the police station and officer Hennessey was despatched to the seat of war. Mooney was captured after a desperate resistance. During the melee Officer Hennessey received a slight wound from the pitchfork and a kick in the face. Mooney was arraigned before Judge Batchelder Friday morning, charged with assault upon an officer, and was held in default of \$200 for the jury.

— New Hampshire Gazette, April 14, 1892, pg 5.

Republican Election Thefts

Beer baron and ex-Congressman Frank Jones, asked by a New York

reporter if likely Democratic presidential candidate Grover Cleveland will carry New Hampshire, replies, "Why we've been carrying it for the the last dozen years, and the Republicans have been stealing it from us just as regularly."

— New Hampshire Gazette, April 14, 1892, pg 3.

Depradations at Point of Graves
The attention of the city authorities is called to the desecrations and depradations in the old cemetery at Point of Graves on Mechanic Street. The walls are used as fish flakes by some of the people living near, and boys are defacing the headstones daily by throwing stones at them. The beautiful Vaughan monument is suffering with the rest

and is apparently used as a dancing platform by some of the hoodlums of the vicinity. Something ought to be done to save this oldest graveyard in the city from further abuse.

— New Hampshire Gazette, April 14, 1892, pg 5.

Wholesale Bribery

The tales of wholesale attempts at bribery in New Jersey should prompt Governor [Leon] Abbott to veto the bill legalizing the Reading Railroad deal, for there is no possible doubt that the coal roads have spent money like water in their successful effort to influence the legislature of that state.

— New Hampshire Gazette, April 7, 1892, pg 4.

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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

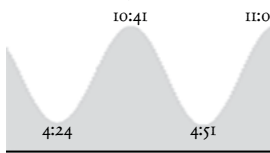
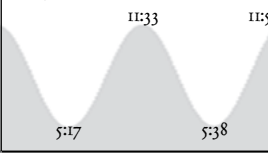
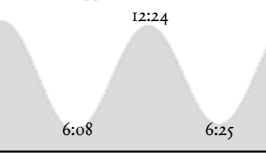
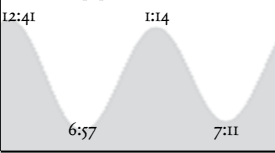
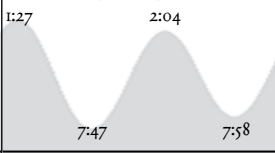
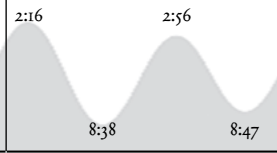
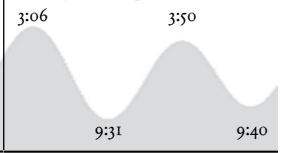
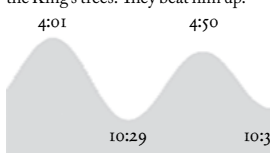
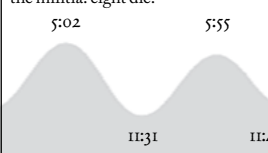
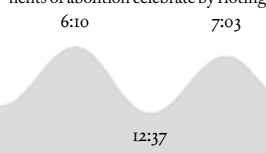
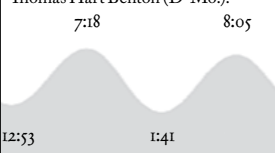
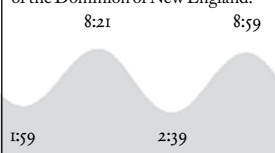
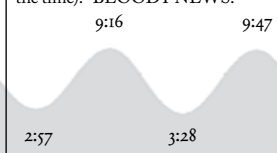
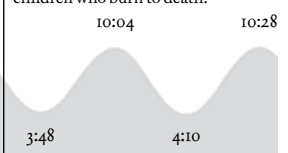
drags about seventeen billion gallons of seawater — enough to fill 2,125,000 tanker trucks — up the river and into Great Bay. This creates a roving hydraulic conflict, as incoming sea and the outgoing river collide. The skirmish line

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, APRIL 7	MONDAY, APRIL 8	TUESDAY, APRIL 9	WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10	THURSDAY, APRIL 11	FRIDAY, APRIL 12	SATURDAY, APRIL 13
<p>2013—A new heel is inducted into the Professional Wrestling Hall of Fame: bankrupt blowhard Donald J. Trump.</p> <p>2003—U.S. troops take Baghdad. It is a great victory.</p> <p>1990—Once and future Bush appointee John Poindexter is found guilty of multiple Iran/Contra felonies; he later wriggles free on appeal.</p> <p>1972—With a toy grenade and empty pistol, 'Nam vet Richard McCoy, Jr. hijacks a 727, then parachutes out the back with \$500K. McCoy, a National Guard chopper pilot, is arrested days later while searching for himself.</p> <p>1970—California's Governor Reagan announces his highly nuanced position on student demonstrations: "If it takes a bloodbath, let's get it over with."</p> <p>1967—In Palo Alto, Robert Jones tells his students that they've been part of an experiment in fascism, then screens a documentary about Nazis.</p> <p>1966—The U.S. discovers an H-bomb it had lost off the coast of Spain.</p> <p>1954—In a news conference, likeable of Ike erroneously characterizes Southeast Asia as a row of dominos.</p> <p>1926—In Rome, Violet Gibson, 49, the tiny, frail, and deranged daughter of the Lord Chancellor of Ireland, shoots Mussolini in the face.</p> <p>1860—Challenged by Rep. Roger Pryor [D-Va.], Rep. John F. Potter [R-Wisc.] proposes dueling with bowie knives; Pryor's seconds decline.</p> <p>1775—"Patriotism is the last refuge of the scoundrel," says Samuel Johnson.</p>	<p>2018—Fox "News" accidentally broadcasts a graphic showing results of a poll: Fox is the least-trusted network.</p> <p>1984—R. Nixon gripes, "It's the media's responsibility to examine the President with a microscope...but when they use a microscope, it's going too far."</p> <p>1974—Hank Aaron breaks Ruth's homer record; death threats ensue.</p> <p>1956—USMC recruits are marched into a Parris Island swamp for disciplinary purposes. Six of them drown.</p> <p>1952—With the steel industry adamantly opposing wage increases, Truman orders its nationalization.</p> <p>1947—Frederick von Hayek, Ludwig von Mises, Milton Friedman, et al. issue a manifesto at Mont Pelerin obfuscating their goal: neo-feudalism.</p> <p>1945—Allied planes hit a German ammo train next to a train full of prisoners going to Bergen-Belsen; 100s of survivors are shot trying to escape.</p> <p>1917—At the U.S. Embassy in Bern, future CIA head Allen Dulles gets a call from V.I. Lenin begging for an immediate meeting. Dulles, who has a date with boxing Swedish twins, puts him off. Lenin boards a train to Petrograd and starts a Revolution.</p> <p>1885—U.S. troops invade Panama, "to defend our national interests."</p> <p>1826—To uphold their honor, Sec. of State Henry Clay and Sen. John Randolph [D-R-Va.] shoot at each other.</p> <p>217—As he pisses against a wall, Emperor Caracalla is stabbed to death by a disgruntled Roman soldier.</p>	<p>2018—Other networks report that the FBI raided the office of President Trump's lawyer; Fox reports that pandas—a non-native species, let's recall—are aggressive and sex-crazed.</p> <p>2006—"Scooter" Libby says "W" OK'd leaks of secret CIA intel.</p> <p>1967—"We appeal to North Vietnam," says a veteran-bought ad in the <i>N.Y. Times</i>, "if they really want peace, to stop bombing the United States—or else get the hell out of Vietnam!"</p> <p>1961—The two top planners of the Bay of Pigs invasion, now eight days off, tell their boss Dick Bissell that it is bound to fail. He says do it anyway.</p> <p>1927—In Massachusetts, death sentences issued against Nicolas Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti are upheld. Judge Webster Thayer, during their trial, called them "anarchist bastards."</p> <p>1923—The Supreme Court says a minimum wage would violate women's rights to negotiate their own terms with employers. Yes, you read that right, the Court just decided it wrong.</p> <p>1906—American Pentecostalism first erupts at William Seymour's Azusa Street Mission in Los Angeles.</p> <p>1892—In a Wyoming cabin under fire from 22 "Regulators" hired by cattle barons, Nate Champion writes to friends between killing four attackers. Cabin torched, he comes out shooting and dies with 28 slugs in him.</p> <p>1865—Gen. Robert E. Lee surrenders his Army to Gen. Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Courthouse.</p>	<p>2018—Goldman Sachs warns clients of a downside to gene therapy: there is no cash flow from a cured patient.</p> <p>2017—The State Street Saloon burns.</p> <p>2005—Huge mobs of Iraqis mark the 2nd anniversary of Saddam Hussein's fall, shouting "No, No to Satan!" and demanding that U.S. troops leave.</p> <p>1972—Crooked financier Robert Vesco slips \$200,000 to Nixon's re-election campaign; Attorney General John Mitchell then cuts him slack.</p> <p>1970—Dick "Dick" Nixon's lawyers backdate a deed giving his papers to the National Archives so he can illegally claim a tax deduction.</p> <p>1963—Lee Harvey Oswald takes a shot at U.S. Army General Edwin Walker because he's leader of a "fascist organization." Fact check: True.</p> <p>1963—The USS <i>Thresher</i> implodes 220 miles east of Boston killing 16 officers, 96 sailors, and 17 civilians.</p> <p>1947—Actors Guild head Ronald Reagan rats out members to HUAC.</p> <p>1945—Doctors at Oak Ridge inject Ebb Cade, a Black car wreck victim, with plutonium to see what happens.</p> <p>1928—Illinois holds the "Pineapple Primary," named for the 62 bombings which preceded the balloting.</p> <p>1919—Deceived by a colonel being blackmailed by a general, Emiliano Zapata is ambushed. His killers are cheated of half of their bounty.</p> <p>1865—Rioters in Portsmouth destroy the office of Joshua Foster's Copperhead newspaper <i>The States and Union</i>.</p>	<p>2011—Pres. B. Obama mocks birther Donald Trump at the White House Correspondents' Dinner. Uh-oh....</p> <p>2006—Veep Dick "Dick" Cheney's first pitch at the Nationals' home opener draws jeers and catcalls.</p> <p>2002—Venezuelan generals replace elected President Hugo Chavez with CIA-approved Pedro Carmona.</p> <p>1985—Reagan, it's said, will lay a wreath at Bitburg, where American and German soldiers lie buried. Nope—that's Waffen SS-only.</p> <p>1968—Lyndon B. Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act of 1968 into law.</p> <p>1966—Set out as bait at Xa Cam My by the CO of the Big Red One, Charlie Co., 2/16th Inf., 134 strong, is ambushed. Relief plans go awry, friendly fire happens; 36 KIA, 71 WIA.</p> <p>1955—Chiang Kai-shek, the GOP's pet warlord, bombs an airliner. Target Zhou Enlai is not on board, though.</p> <p>1951—President Truman fires General MacArthur for insubordination.</p> <p>1950—A nuclear weapon's high explosives go off when a B-29 crashes near Albuquerque. Luckily no fissile core had been installed.</p> <p>1938—Richard Whitney, President of the New York Stock Exchange, gets five to 10 for larceny.</p> <p>1913—President Wilson orders federal agencies to segregate by race.</p> <p>1862—An errant balloon takes Portsmouth's own Gen. Fitz John Porter over Confederate lines, then back to safety during the Siege of Yorktown.</p>	<p>2007—#43's minions say official emails about fired U.S. Attorneys, sent from RNC servers, are now "lost."</p> <p>2001—Veep Dick "Dick" Cheney files his 2000 return; 14% of his adjusted gross came from Halliburton.</p> <p>1937—Sixty thousand U.S. students elected President Hugo Chavez with CIA-approved Pedro Carmona.</p> <p>1933—In Oakland, brothers George and William Besler test fly a Travel Air biplane powered by a Doble steam engine; nearly-silent, it works fine.</p> <p>1927—Shanghai's Green Gang begins slaughtering as many as 10,000 Communists on orders from Chiang Kai-shek—famous hero of our GOP.</p> <p>1888—When D.C. cops raid his soirée, William Dorsey Swann, born into slavery, becomes the first recorded female impersonator ever arrested.</p> <p>1867—William Bullock, inventor of the revolutionary web-fed rotary press, dies of complications after his leg is crushed in one such marvel.</p> <p>1864—At Ft. Pillow, Tenn., hundreds of surrendered Union soldiers—a few white, but mostly Black—are slaughtered by rebels under Gen. Nathan B. Forrest, future Klan Grand Wizard.</p> <p>1862—Union spies steal <i>The General</i>, a Confederate locomotive, in Georgia and head north. Conductor William A. Fuller, on foot, on a handcar, and finally in another locomotive, chases down and retrieves <i>The General</i>.</p> <p>1782—American militia troops massacre 100 neutral, Christian Indians of the Delaware Nation.</p>	<p>2002—Venezuelans overrule the generals and their CIA advisors; Hugo Chavez is restored to the Presidency.</p> <p>1981—Rep. Jon Hinson (R-Miss.) resigns three months after being arrested for attempting to commit oral sodomy in a House restroom. He becomes an advocate for gay rights.</p> <p>1970—The <i>Apollo 13</i> moon shot lives up to its numeral.</p> <p>1953—CIA boss Allen Dulles says it's MKUltra time: start washing brains.</p> <p>1919—British troops following orders from Col. R.E.H. Dyer massacre at least 379 unarmed Indian men women and children at Amritsar, India.</p> <p>1917—President President W. Wilson establishes the Committee on Public Information, 67 years prior to 1984.</p> <p>1901—French anarchist Clement Duval, after 14 years on Devil's Island, begins his 20th escape attempt. This time he makes it to New York City. He lives to be 85 and inspires <i>Papillon</i>.</p> <p>1873—In Grant Parish, La., the White League and the Klan celebrate Easter Sunday by killing 280 African-Americans in what becomes known as the Colfax Massacre.</p> <p>1788—A medical student waving a disembodied human arm out the window of New York Hospital scares a child who then squeals to his Papa.</p> <p>1204—The Fourth Crusade ends victoriously: Christians take Constantinople for the greater glory of God. Murder, rape, looting, and the burning of the Imperial Library ensue.</p>
 <p>10:41 11:07 4:24 4:51</p>	 <p>11:33 11:54 5:17 5:38</p>	 <p>12:24 6:08 6:25</p>	 <p>12:41 1:14 6:57 7:11</p>	 <p>1:27 2:04 7:47 7:58</p>	 <p>2:16 2:56 8:38 8:47</p>	 <p>3:06 3:50 9:31 9:40</p>
SUNDAY, APRIL 14	MONDAY, APRIL 15	TUESDAY, APRIL 16	WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17	THURSDAY, APRIL 18	FRIDAY, APRIL 19	SATURDAY, APRIL 20
<p>2006—Six retired generals sign an Op-Ed calling on Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld to resign.</p> <p>2004—Attorney General John Ashcroft blames Bill Clinton for terrorist attacks that took place seven months after Clinton left office.</p> <p>1999—Dan Quayle throws his cute little propeller beanie into the ring.</p> <p>1994—Over Iraq, U.S. fighter jets shoot down two U.S. helicopters.</p> <p>1988—An Iranian mine nearly sinks the missile frigate USS <i>Roberts</i>.</p> <p>1975—Idaho's Bunker Hill Mining Co. says all female workers at its smelter must get sterilized to keep their jobs.</p> <p>1945—A new high-tech head floods U-206 on its 1st patrol. Commander K.A. Schlitt scuttles the boat; four crewmen die, the rest are captured.</p> <p>1939—John Steinbeck's <i>Grapes of Wrath</i> is published.</p> <p>1935—A windstorm carries away vast amounts of Great Plains topsoil.</p> <p>1865—J.W. Booth shoots A. Lincoln.</p> <p>1861—Cannons salute the lowering flag at Fort Sumter. One explodes, giving Private Daniel Hough the honor of being the Civil War's first casualty.</p> <p>1860—The first Pony Express rider arrives in San Francisco.</p> <p>1788—A mob, led by the widower of a snatched and dissected woman, ransacks New York Hospital.</p> <p>1772—The County Sheriff tells South Wear, N.H. sawmill owners he's there to collect fines for their theft of the King's trees. They beat him up.</p>	<p>2015—Doug Hughes, a USPS mailman, lands a gyrocopter on the Capitol lawn to deliver 535 letters to Congress: "Overturn Citizens United."</p> <p>2015—Texan and safari guide Ian Gibson is crushed to death in Zimbabwe by the elephant he was stalking.</p> <p>2013—This year's Boston Marathon ends with two big, bloody bangs.</p> <p>2003—George W.[MD] Bush installs Gen. Jay Garner to administer Iraq "until an Iraqi government can be formed." He lasts less than a month.</p> <p>1994—Dick "Dick" Cheney tells C-SPAN G.H.[H.]W. Bush didn't topple Saddam because that would have created a "quagmire" in Iraq.</p> <p>1987—<i>Washington Post</i>: though Nancy had the house number changed to 668, officially the street address of the Reagans' Bel Air mansion is 666.</p> <p>1974—Press lord William Randolph Hearst's gun-totin' granddaughter Patty helps the Symbionese Liberation Army rob a San Francisco bank.</p> <p>1970—Rep. Gerald Ford: "Impeach Justice William O. Douglas."</p> <p>1961—The CIA bombs and strafes Cuban airfields with falsely-marked American B-26s.</p> <p>1953—Two grunts become the last U.S. ground troops killed by an enemy air strike: a bomb dropped by a North Korean flying a Russian Po-2 biplane.</p> <p>1788—In New York City, 5,000 rioters storming a prison to attack grave-robbing doctors are fired on by the militia; eight die.</p>	<p>2008—"Thank you, your holiness," George W.[MD] Bush says to Pope Benedict, "Awesome speech."</p> <p>1992—Afghanistan's commie President Najibullah resigns, making way for a more enlightened government.</p> <p>1992—The House Ethics Committee—no laughing, please—releases the names of 303 check-kiting Reps.</p> <p>1969—Reverend Billy Graham advises Nixon: bomb North Vietnam's dikes; estimated casualties: 1 million.</p> <p>1963—Martin Luther King, Jr., writes "Letter From Birmingham Jail," defending civil disobedience.</p> <p>1954—"There is no reason why French forces should not remain in Indo-China and win," says Richard Nixon, three weeks before the Viet Minh overrun Dien Bien Phu.</p> <p>1953—Ike says militarism hangs humanity "from a cross of iron."</p> <p>1951—Hiroshima survivor Shigeki Tanaka wins the Boston Marathon.</p> <p>1951—Use nuke waste to create an "Atomic Death Belt" across Korea, says Rep. Albert Gore [D-Tenn.].</p> <p>1947—The fertilizer-laden SS <i>Grandcamp</i> explodes in Texas City, Texas; 581 die in the 3-kiloton blast.</p> <p>1862—Lincoln emancipates the enslaved in the District of Columbia, and pays reparations to the oppressors.</p> <p>1848—In Washington, D.C., 77 Blacks board the <i>Pearl</i> to flee north. Ill winds and a betrayal foil the largest escape attempt in U.S. history. Opponents of abolition celebrate by rioting.</p>	<p>2013—A fertilizer plant located next to a middle school in West, Texas, uninspected since 1985, explodes. Fifteen are killed, mostly volunteer firemen, 250 others are injured.</p> <p>2002—G.W.[MD] Bush flip-flops again, vowing to rebuild Afghanistan.</p> <p>1986—Peace is declared between the Netherlands and the Isles of Scilly, ending a bloodless 335-year war.</p> <p>1981—The First Amendment notwithstanding, SCOTUS OKs a law banning religious use of peyote.</p> <p>1970—<i>Apollo 13</i> makes it home.</p> <p>1967—"The defeat of the Communist forces in South Vietnam is inevitable," says ex-Veep Richard Nixon. "The only question is, how soon?"</p> <p>1966—Timothy Leary is busted for pot possession by G. Gordon Liddy.</p> <p>1965—In New York City, 25,000 march against the Vietnam War.</p> <p>1961—The CIA escorts 1,511 Cuban exiles to the Bay of Pigs for slaughter.</p> <p>1959—In Times Square, 22 weirdos are arrested for declining to participate in an air-raid drill.</p> <p>1954—Affable old Ike threatens to nuke Red China.</p> <p>1935—Sun Myung Moon has a revelation: Jesus Christ asks him to complete His mission.</p> <p>1905—The Supreme Court says New York has no right to limit how many hours bakers must work in a week.</p> <p>1850—In the U.S. Senate, Henry S. Foote (D-Miss.) pulls a pistol on Thomas Hart Benton (D-Mo.).</p>	<p>2002—A U.S. F-16 pilot on "go pills" drops a 500-pounder: Four are KIA, eight are WIA in Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry regiment.</p> <p>1986—"When you meet...President [Reagan]," says Henry Kissinger, "you ask yourself, 'How did it ever occur to anybody that he should be Governor, much less President?'"</p> <p>1985—President Ronald Reagan says Waffen SS troops buried at Bitburg were "victims, just as surely as the victims in the concentration camps."</p> <p>1977—The federal frame-up of Leonard Peltier succeeds.</p> <p>1974—As Professor Irwin Corey accepts Thomas Pynchon's National Book Award for <i>Gravity's Rainbow</i>, a streaker dashes across the stage.</p> <p>1968—The Army admits that nerve gas from Dugway Proving Ground killed 6,400 Idaho sheep.</p> <p>1942—Eighty men in 16 B-25s, led by Jimmy Doolittle, take off from the USS <i>Hornet</i>, bomb Tokyo, and ditch their planes in China; 90 percent survive.</p> <p>1930—The BBC newscast reports "there is no news," then plays music.</p> <p>1906—San Francisco gets shook up.</p> <p>1891—The Toledo Express hits a mail train in Kipton, Ohio; eight die because a watch was four minutes off.</p> <p>1844—Believers in William Miller's Doomsday prediction are disappointed—for the second time.</p> <p>1689—A mob of Bostonians overthrow Sir Edmund Andros, Governor of the Dominion of New England.</p>	<p>2004—NORAD reveals it once ran a training exercise based on a hijacked airliner crashing into a building.</p> <p>1995—A Right Wing "militiaman" murders 168 souls in Oklahoma City.</p> <p>1993—For the good of the children—who end up among the 80 dead anyway—the FBI attacks David Koresh's Waco, Texas compound.</p> <p>1989—The USS <i>Iowa's</i> Gun Turret Two explodes, killing 47. First the Navy blames an innocent sailor, then, disregarding ancient powder, malfunctioning equipment, and unauthorized experiments, says it's untrumped.</p> <p>1971—President Nixon, recipient of a \$200K pledge from ITT—which is being prosecuted for anti-trust violations—tells Deputy A.G. Kleindienst "The ITT thing—stay the hell out of it. Is that clear? That's an order."</p> <p>1971—Officials at Arlington National Cemetery turn away Gold Star Mothers and Vietnam veterans.</p> <p>1951—"Dugout Doug" MacArthur tells Congress, "Old soldiers never die." That's a job for the young 'uns.</p> <p>1948—Costa Rica disbands its army.</p> <p>1939—Due diligence now done, Connecticut OKs the Bill of Rights.</p> <p>1861—Pvt. Luther C. Ladd becomes the first Union soldier killed in action in the Civil War; 17, he's from N.H.</p> <p>1775—Minutemen and British soldiers battle in Lexington and Concord. The <i>N.H. Gazette</i> reports two days later, under the headline (rare at the time): "BLOODY NEWS."</p>	<p>2017—The remains of South African hunter Scott Van Zyl are recovered from a crocodile in Zimbabwe.</p> <p>2010—<i>Deepwater Horizon</i> explodes and burns; 11 die and the world's largest oil spill ensues. Wrists are slapped.</p> <p>2008—The <i>New York Times</i> reveals that many "independent military analysts" appearing on TV are actually puppets of the Pentagon.</p> <p>2001—The Peruvian Air Force, with some help from CIA "contract workers," fires on a plane they think is full of dope. Nope; it's full of pro-seletyng American Baptists, two of whom die.</p> <p>1979—Canoeing near Plains, Ga., President Jimmy Carter fights off a deranged swamp rabbit.</p> <p>1977—The Supreme Court says N.H. residents are free to cover up "Live Free or Die" on their license plates.</p> <p>1971—Mistaking the National Mall for their lawn, Supreme Court Justices tell Vietnam Veterans Against the War to get off it.</p> <p>1971—In the White House, Md. builder Lester Matz hands \$10,000 cash to Vice President and freelance media critic Spiro "Ted" Agnew.</p> <p>1970—General Westmoreland tells the DAR, "Our own revolution has ended the need for revolution forever."</p> <p>1914—Colorado National Guardsmen, paid by John D. Rockefeller, machine gun striking miners in Ludlow, Colo. Then they burn the miners' tent camp; at least 19 die, including 11 children who burn to death.</p>
 <p>4:01 4:50 10:29 10:38</p>	 <p>5:02 5:55 11:31 11:43</p>	 <p>6:10 7:03 12:37</p>	 <p>7:18 8:05 12:53 1:41</p>	 <p>8:21 8:59 2:39</p>	 <p>9:16 9:47 2:57 3:28</p>	 <p>10:04 10:28 3:48 4:10</p>

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