

The Fortnightly Rant

Justice at a Glacial Pace

“The wheels of justice turn slowly, but grind exceedingly fine.”

—Anon

No newspaper could arrive at our advanced age without having a deep respect for tradition. By extension, then, the ancient bit of wisdom quoted above should help us calmly accept the pace of a certain trial in Manhattan. Alas, it does not.

The case itself seems solid enough. But will the jury have time to find the defendant guilty? Or will his apparent mental deterioration result in a compassionate release, on grounds of advanced senility? The first day of the trial saw the accused—who calls the incumbent President “Sleepy Joe”—nodding off at the defendants table. Some Twitter wag quickly dubbed him “Don Snorleone.”

That little gag set us to wondering: could that mid-trial nap have just been a ruse, borrowed from a former business associate? As the *Village Voice's* Wayne Barrett revealed in 1992, Don Snorleone built his signature Trump Tower using ready-mix concrete from a company partly controlled by Vincent “The Chin” Gigante, boss of the Genovese crime family. Gigante avoided prison for decades by shuffling around in a bathrobe while “Fat Tony” Salerno acted as front man.

But enough about speed. Let us consider the rest of that quote. Is “exceedingly fine” really necessary or appropriate? Given the defendant's usual deportment, we would argue that “extra coarse” would suffice.

Trump's Schnecksville Address
“The battle of Gettysburg. What an unbelievable... I mean it was so much, and so interesting, and so vicious and horrible and so beautiful in so many different ways. It represented such a big portion of the success of this country. Gettysburg. Wow. I go to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, to look, and to watch. And, uh, the statement of Robert E. Lee, who's no longer in favor, did you ever notice that? No longer in favor.”

—Donald J. Trump, April 13th, Schnecksville, Pa.

Naming Names

The news broke on April 1st, so we suspected the headline was a gag: “Rep. Guy Reschenthaler Moves to Rename Dulles Airport After Donald Trump.”

But no, it was straight news—if that term can be applied to *Breitbart.com*. Pennsylvania's Rep. Reschenthaler is being serious, or as serious as any Republican can be these days. He and a handful of others have actually filed such a bill.

Loathe to let a perfectly good farce go to waste, a group of Democratic legislators promptly filed a bill to name the Federal prison in Miami after our 45th President.

Though clearly intended as a satirical rebuke, the proposed legislation also reveals the party's characteristic inner marshmallow: should the express actually wind up in his eponymous hoosegow, his adoring wife will only have to take a 90-mile bus ride to visit her sweetheart.

Unfortunately, Dolt #45 is unlikely to get the chance to reminiscing in the rec room with his former Director of the Office of Trade and Manufacturing Policy. Peter Navarro, who is currently incarcerated at that facility, will have served his sentence before his ex-boss's first trial ends.

Plumbing New Depths of Self-Abasement
Part of a Governor's job is to draw national spotlight to his state. That is exactly what Chris Sununu did last weekend, by appearing on ABC's “This Week with George Stephanopoulos.” New Hampshire would have been better served if he had stayed home.

Stephanopoulos: “Just to sum up. You support Trump for president even if he's convicted in the classified documents case. You support him for president even though you believe he contributed to an insurrection. You support him for president even though you believe he's lying about the last election. You support him for president even if he's convicted in the Manhattan case. I just want to say, the answer to that is yes, correct?”

Sununu: “Yeah. Me and 51 percent of America.”

A couple of things about this exchange should be noted for the record. First, Stephanopoulos went easy on Sununu by leaving out, “even though he's a sex offender.”

Second, Trump has never been supported by “51 percent of America.” He lost the popular vote to Hillary Clinton—a woman, let's recall—in 2016, with just 46.1 percent to her 48.2. His highest approval rating in office was 49 percent, and his average was just 41—a record, four points lower than anyone else since Gallop began tracking. He left office with 29 percent approval.

Sununu's Pledge of Allegiance to the Cult of Trump drew immediate and well-deserved condemnation.

The online pile-on was so brutal we feel compelled to record one more detail, which mitigates in his favor: After Stephanopoulos put the question, Sununu noticeably hesitated before abasing himself.

Bananas Republicans

Sununu wasn't the only New Hampshire figure doing pratfalls on the national stage this fortnight, just the only one getting attention. But it's hardly the fault of Trump 2024 National Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt that her boss and her governor both hog the spotlight.

“Banana Republic tactics,” Leavitt



tweeted, after Judge Juan Merchan told Trump that failure to show up would result in his arrest—just like any other criminal defendant.

L'Etat, C'est Merchan?

The first U.S. President ever to have been let out on bail recently requested that court proceedings not be held on May 17th. That's the day his son Barron will celebrate his graduation from Oxbridge Academy, a private school in Palm Springs, Fla. Oxbridge was founded in 2011 by Bill Koch, the oleaginous oligarch.

Merchan replied, according to AP, that “he was not prepared to rule on [the] request, but that if the trial proceeds as planned he's willing to adjourn...”

For Trump and his cult of Magamaniacs, this was the most heinous act of official repression since August 24, 1669, when King Louis XIV jailed the Man in the Iron Mask.

Press Secretary Leavitt tweeted “WITCH HUNT,” inexplicably refraining from adding a few exclamation points. She made up for that lack with a screen shot from *Breitbart.com*, which ran the headline, “Judge May Force Trump To Skip Son Barron's High School Graduation.”

Among Magamaniacs, this alleged act of cruelty will no doubt live in infamy. Among the reality-based, it triggered a host of freelance fact-checkers. If Trump does make it to Barron's graduation, the boy may want to prepare for some sibling envy. The old man is said to have missed Junior's big day in 1996, Ivanka's in 2000, Eric's in 2002, and Tiffany's in 2012.

No Wonder They Hid His File...

Our readers are probably as tired of reading about the former guy as we are of writing about him. That is not a problem. This is New Hampshire, where startling events spring up as predictably as rocks in the cow pasture.

One such story appeared at *In-DepthNH.org*, two weeks ago today. A dogged reporter turned over a Stone, and what he found was shocking: a cop who “threatened to

kill fellow police officers in a shooting spree, and murder his chief after raping the chief's wife and children.”

Reporter Damien Fisher had struggled for several years to get access to records of an internal investigation into former Claremont police officer Jonathan Stone, who is now a State Representative for Claremont. After Fisher's story became public, it was clear why Stone had fought so hard against their release.

In February, 2006, Claremont Police Captain Mark Chase began investigating Stone over allegations of an inappropriate relationship with a 16-year old girl. Stone, who was doing drug investigations on the night shift, claimed she was a source. There was no sign, however, that she had actually provided any information.

Fisher relates that the investigation, by now deceased Claremont Detective Colby Casey, “brought out a violent and deranged side of Stone that had other officers scared...”

“If he gets fired, people are afraid he will go postal,” then Claremont Detective Jesse Vezina told Casey. “He makes me nervous as far as after a confrontation with him, he may try to do something to my wife or family. Generally people think he is crazy and wonder why he is a police officer.”

“Vezina told Casey he started staying up late with a loaded shotgun in case Stone ever came to his house.”

According to the website for his business, BlackOp Arms, in Claremont [see inset for logo], “Jon Stone is a professional firearms trainer. He and his staff at BlackOp Arms provide services to military, law enforcement, private security and students interested in basic and intermediate firearms self-defense.”

Predictably, Democrats are perturbed by Fisher's revelations, but Republicans not so much. The last paragraph of Fisher's article begins, “Stone currently sits on the House Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee...”

Does Ayotte Endorse Stone's Message?

Never shy about delving into its northern neighbor's piquant politics, the *Boston Globe* ran an item on Stone by Steven Porter, one week ago today:

“[Kelly] Ayotte,” Porter wrote, “who is running in a contested GOP primary for New Hampshire governor, has touted Stone's endorsement and posted photos on social media from her visit to Stone's gun store while on the campaign trail. Her spokespeople did not respond to requests for comment from the *Globe*, and Democrats have been criticizing her for remaining silent.”

“Aside from the endorsement, Ayotte has another potential connection to this case. She was New Hampshire attorney general from 2004 to 2009. In that capacity, she served on the Police Standards & Training Council. Her spokespeople did not respond to questions about whether authorities took adequate steps in 2006 and 2007 to hold Stone accountable.”

Dark Horse Democrat in Gov. Primary

With Sununu out of the running, the corner office is wide open. On the Democratic side, former Manchester Mayor Joyce Craig and Executive Councilor Cinde Warmington seem to be getting all the coverage. There is another Democratic candidate: Newmarket businessman Jon Kiper: votekiper.org.

RiverRun Bookstore Recommends ...

... *Bad Blood*, by John Carryrou.

Not related to Taylor Swift, this is the story of Elizabeth Holmes, the wunderkind of Silicon Valley until it was revealed by Carryrou, a *Wall Street Journal* reporter, that her company, Theranos, was lying. Despite the fact that the tech she was selling never worked, Holmes assembled a high-profile board of non-medical people and raised over one billion dollars in venture capital. Spoiler alert: She's in prison now.

Readers: Because we love and depend on RiverRun Bookstore, we signed up for membership at riverrunbookstore.com/Patreon. We hope you will, too. —The Ed.



Last Year, You Spent More Than a Month's Rent on Pentagon Contractors

A dollar by dollar look at how our taxes enrich military contractors — at the expense of things that actually make us secure

By Lindsay Koshgarian

Ever wonder where your taxes go? Each year, the Institute for Policy Studies releases a tax receipt so you can find out.

One item always stands out: the Pentagon—and the contractors who profit off it.

In 2023, the average taxpayer spent \$2,974 on the Pentagon. Of that, just \$705 went to salaries for the troops, who often have to rely on programs like food stamps. A much larger sum—\$1,748—went to corporate Pentagon contractors. That's more than the average American's monthly rent, \$1,372.

From Lockheed Martin (the top federal contractor and long-time weapons maker) to SpaceX (which Elon Musk runs when he's not spewing racist and anti-semitic tropes), these corporations don't need your support. And they aren't operating with your well-being in mind.

Enriching them comes at the cost of better health care, education, clean air and water, disaster management, and more. Here are just five examples from the average tax bill.

1. Pentagon contractors (\$1,759) vs. the Child Tax Credit (\$110).

In 2024, the Pentagon budget is set to increase by \$27 billion, bringing the department's budget to about \$825 billion. About half of that will go to for-profit contractors.

Meanwhile, an expansion of the Child Tax Credit during the pandemic succeeded in cutting the child poverty rate almost in half—progress that was almost immediately reversed when the expansion expired in late 2021.

Lifting kids out of poverty can have lifelong effects on their health,

education, and employment. Isn't that worth more than a tiny fraction of our spending on military contracts?

2. Lockheed Martin (\$249) vs. renewable energy (\$11).

Lockheed Martin is perhaps best-known as the maker of the always over-budget, never-quite-ready F-35 jet fighter, which has spontaneously caught fire three separate times. Despite claims that programs like this are job creators, Lockheed recently made moves to cut jobs.

Meanwhile, despite the necessity of addressing climate change and reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, the average taxpayer's contribution to renewable energy programs tops out at just \$11.

3. Boeing (\$87) vs. the Federal Aviation Administration (\$23).

From commercial flights that crashed to others that fell apart in midair, Boeing's commercial safety record lately has been abysmal. Yet the company is also among the top five Pentagon contractors. Among other military aircraft, it's the maker of the V-22 Osprey that crashed and killed eight service members in November.

The FAA, of course, is the understaffed, underfunded government regulator responsible for the safety of commercial flights. Maybe we should spend more on regulating companies like Boeing than subsidizing them?

4. Federal prisons (\$32.29) vs. substance use and mental health programs (\$31.69).

With about 2 million people incarcerated nationally, about one in three Americans will have an immediate family member who has been in prison or jail. Your federal income tax dollars support this sys-

tem, which often treats substance use and mental health challenges as issues best confined to a prison cell.

By contrast, help for substance use disorder or mental health issues can still be profoundly hard to get, as any affected person or family member will tell you. What if we spent more on treating these health conditions than punishing them?

5. Foreign militaries (\$112) vs. wildfire management (\$14).

From Afghanistan and Iraq to Ukraine and now Gaza, it feels like the U.S. is always either starting a war, fighting a war, or subsidizing a war. These wars are increasingly unpopular—and they're not making us any safer.

Meanwhile, a growing number of Americans have experienced the direct or indirect effects of wildfire in recent years. These disasters cost upward of \$394 billion each year. Isn't that threat worth addressing?

Pentagon contractors want us to think we need what they're selling, but wrong-headed priorities like these mean we're actually worse off. Spread the word: every taxpayer deserves better.

Federal budgeting expert Lindsay Koshgarian directs the National Priorities Project at the Institute for Policy Studies. This op-ed was distributed by OtherWords.org.

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This Fortnight in 1892

Up To His Old Antics Again

George Stover, well known in police circles, is at his old antics again and recently beat his wife and cruelly abused his horse by prodding the animal with a pitchfork, and has since got out of town to avoid arrest. Stover used to make south-end howl when a resident there, but this is his first escapade since he moved into the country.

Annie Gammon, Portsmouth, keeping a disorderly house, pleaded guilty, three months in jail.

— *New Hampshire Gazette* April 21, 1892, pg 6.



A class from the Paul Mitchell School of Cosmetology and Cosmology took a field trip to the top of the Foundry Parking Garage and Observatory on the afternoon of April 8th, the better to observe the partial solar eclipse.

Billionaires Are Bad for Democracy. Taxing Them Is Good for It.

By Omar Ocampo

A new, disturbing milestone has been confirmed in the latest Forbes World Billionaires List. The U.S. billionaire class is now larger and richer than ever, with 813 ten-figure oligarchs together holding \$5.7 trillion.

This is a \$1.2 trillion increase from the year before—and a gargantuan \$2.7 trillion increase since March 2020.

The staggering upsurge shows how our economy primarily benefits the wealthy, rather than the ordinary working people who produce their wealth. Even worse, those extremely wealthy individuals often use these assets to undermine our democracy.

Billionaires have enormous power to influence the political process. They spent \$1.2 billion in the 2020 general election and more than \$880 million in the 2022 midterms. Even when their preferred candidates aren't in office, our institutions are still more likely to respond to their policy preferences than the average voter's, especially when it comes to taxes.

The vast majority of Americans, including 63 percent of Republicans, support higher taxes on the wealthy. Yet our representatives consistently fail to deliver. A quintessential example was Donald Trump's 2017 tax cuts for corporations and the rich—the most unpopular legislation signed

into law in the past 25 years.

Though backers promised the tax cuts would benefit all Americans, a recent report by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities revealed that the primary beneficiaries were the top 1 percent.

The good news? Those cuts are set to expire after next year. So we'll have an opportunity for a new tax reform—one that raises more money for the services we rely on while protecting our democracy from extreme wealth concentration.

President Joe Biden's Billionaire Minimum Income Tax (BMIT) is one promising proposal. By raising the top tax rate and taxing unrealized capital gains, the BMIT seeks to repair a system where billionaires pay a lower average tax rate than working people. It would raise \$50 billion a year over the next decade, making our tax system a bit more equitable.

Senator Ron Wyden's (D-OR) similarly named Billionaire Income Tax (BIT) is more straightforward. It would target asset gains that can easily be tracked by the public, like a billionaire's stock holdings in a publicly traded company.

Another idea? A well-designed progressive tax on billionaire wealth.

A modest 5 percent tax on all wealth above \$1 billion would raise more than \$244 billion this year alone. And that's likely an underes-

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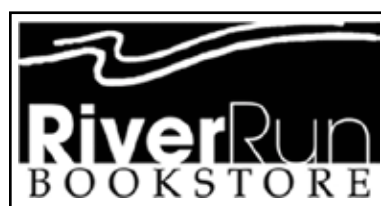
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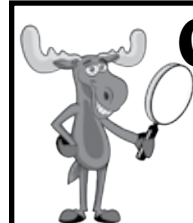
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timate, since some billionaires keep their wealth concealed from Forbes. Wealth-X, a private research firm, identified 955 billionaires in their Census last year, 142 more than what Forbes just registered.

A wealth tax wouldn't hurt investment and innovation—most innovation in the U.S. is driven by people worth less than \$50 million. But for billionaires, it would function “as a constraint on their rate of wealth accumulation,” according to Patriotic Millionaires, a group of wealthy people who support higher taxes on the rich.

Of course, a wealth tax alone isn't enough to ensure the safety of our democracy. We also need campaign finance reform to limit political spending. And stronger labor unions could prevent extreme concentrations of wealth from occurring in the first place. Unions not only increase the collective power of workers, they also close wage gaps between workers and CEOs.

Finally, we need better tax enforcement. The Inflation Reduction Act gave the IRS more resources to track down wealthy tax dodgers, and now the agency is projecting an unexpected windfall in tax revenue over the next decade.

That's a great first step towards strengthening our democracy and democratizing our economy. Now let's take the next step and fix the tax code itself.

Omar Ocampo is a researcher for the Program on Inequality and the Common Good at the Institute for Policy Studies. This op-ed was adapted from a longer version at Inequality.org and distributed for syndication by OtherWords.org.

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**This Fortnight in 1892
An Aged Officer**

Capt. James E. Rand began his 93rd consecutive year as a member of the police force of Concord on Saturday. — *Exchange*

A lively fistic encounter took place on Water street Sunday evening.

— *New Hampshire Gazette*, April 21, 1892, pg 6.

**'Lawless Con Man'
Leonard Leo Defies
Senate Subpoena Over
Supreme Court Gifts**

by Julia Conley

“Incredible,” said one journalist on Friday of right-wing legal activist Leonard Leo's reasons for refusing to comply with a subpoena from the Senate Judiciary Committee as the panel investigates conservative Supreme Court justices' relationships with Leo and other Republican operatives and donors.

The Federalist Society co-chairman told the *Washington Post* that the subpoena was “politically motivated.”

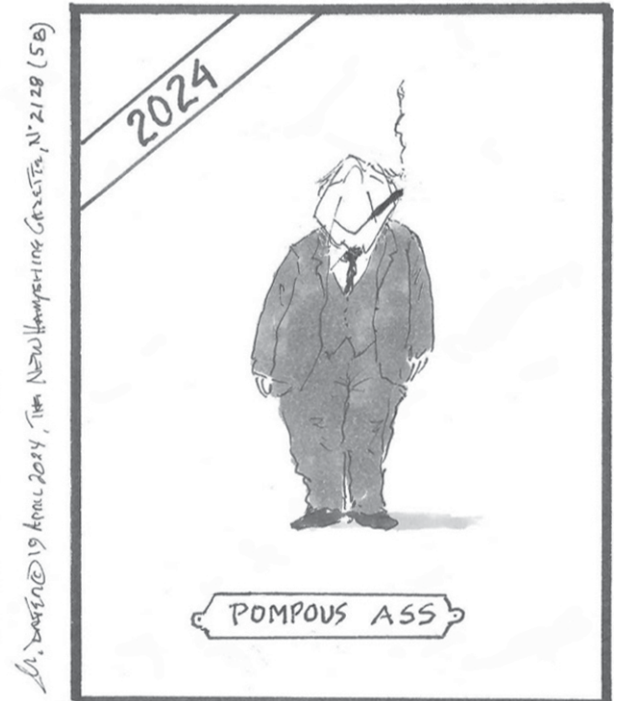
“I am not capitulating to [committee Chair Dick Durbin's (D-Ill.)] lawless support of Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse and the left's dark money effort to silence and cancel political opposition,” said Leo, who has lobbied for the appointments of far-right judges to federal benches, in a statement.

The subpoena came over four months after the committee voted along party lines to subpoena Leo and billionaire GOP donor Harlan Crow following numerous reports about luxury travel and gifts they and others bestowed on Justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito.

ProPublica revealed last June that Leo organized a luxury fishing trip to Alaska for Alito, with lodging and private jet travel paid for, in 2008. The trip was not included on Alito's federally required financial disclosure forms, continuing a pattern that ProPublica first reported on last April with several luxury vacations, real estate transactions, and other financial gifts to Thomas that were paid for by Crow.

Durbin said Thursday that the subpoena was issued because of the “blanket refusal to cooperate” with the investigation that Leo has displayed since last July.

“His outright defiance left the committee with no other choice



EVOLUTION OF A BABY BOOMER

but to move forward with compulsory process. For that reason, I have issued a subpoena to Mr. Leo,” said Durbin. “Mr. Leo has played a central role in the ethics crisis plaguing the Supreme Court and, unlike the other recipients of information requests in this matter, he has done nothing but stonewall the committee. This subpoena is a direct result of Mr. Leo's own actions and choices.”

The ethics violations revealed by ProPublica's reporting forced the Supreme Court last fall to adopt a code of conduct for the first time, modeled on the rules followed by judges on lower federal courts.

But ethics watchdogs labeled the code a “toothless PR stunt” and a “cover-up for Clarence Thomas,” as it did not include an enforcement mechanism and provided the justices with discretion over recusal decisions.

Debt relief advocates called on Alito to recuse himself last year from two cases pertaining to Biden's student debt cancellation program, citing the reporting on Leo's gifts to the justice. The plane Alito took to Alaska was owned by billionaire investor Paul Singer, who has finan-

cially backed groups that lobbied the court to overturn Biden's plan.

The court struck down the debt relief program last June.

Like former President Donald Trump, said Alex Aronson, former chief counsel for Judiciary Committee senior member Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.), “the other man most responsible for shaping our Supreme Court's runaway majority is a lawless con man and crook.”

Caroline Ciccone, president of government watchdog *Accountable.US*, said Friday that “Supreme Court billionaire matchmaker Leonard Leo” is the force behind “a full-blown corruption crisis has plagued the high court for over a year, undermining its credibility and plummeting public trust in the court to record lows.”

“Today's subpoena is a critical step toward accountability, and toward ensuring that our high court adheres to the highest possible ethics standards,” said Ciccone. “As a result of the strong leadership of Chairman Durbin and the Judiciary Committee, we can now begin to get to the bottom of the corruption crisis per-

vading the Supreme Court.”

With Leo refusing to comply with the subpoena, Democrats would need to hold a vote in the closely divided Senate to seek enforcement.

Former Trump aide Peter Navarro was found guilty of contempt of Congress for defying a subpoena from the committee that investigated the January 6, 2021 insurrection, and reported to a federal prison last month to serve his four-month sentence.

“Leonard Leo thinks he's above the law just like Navarro did,” said one attorney. “We'll see if he's right.”

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

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**This Fortnight in 1892
Granite State Journalism
Will Be Less Acid**

H.H. Metcalf, of the *Concord People and Patriot*, has sold out his share

The Alleged News®
to page seven

Murph's Fortnightly Quote
“Music was my refuge. I could crawl into the space between the notes and curl my back to loneliness.”
— Maya Angelou (1928-2014)

“People who believe in absurdities will eventually commit atrocities.”
— Voltaire
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N.H. Jews say "Not in My Name"

To the Editor:

A letter signed by 67 Jewish residents of New Hampshire calling for a ceasefire in Gaza was delivered to the state's U.S. Senators and Representatives today. The statement also calls for halting U.S. military aid to Israel, release of hostages, and allowing humanitarian aid to be delivered in Gaza.

"We, as New Hampshire Jews, are horrified by the atrocities Israel is committing in Gaza, backed by U.S. military aid. Incessant Israeli bombing and military action has killed more than 30,000 people, the majority of them women and children, and wounded tens of thousands more," the letter begins. "These numbers don't count many more deaths due to disease and famine caused by Israel's intentional destruction of the Palestinian infrastructure, its blockage of the vast bulk of humanitarian aid, and its brazen attacks on hospitals," it says.

The signers of the letter said, "We strongly condemn Hamas's despicable and barbaric attacks on October 7. Yet that horror does not excuse killing at least 25 times as many Palestinians, whether it be in the name of revenge or security."

"Israel's actions serve no long-term strategic purpose. For every actual Hamas terrorist killed, Israel is creating many more potential terrorists in their place. We understand Israel's right of self-defense, and we vigorously oppose anti-Semitism, but Israel's morally indefensible overreaction has only fueled Jew-hatred that is putting both Israel and all Jews at greater risk," the letter said.

The signers of the letter, from more than two dozen New Hampshire towns and cities, called on Senators Shaheen and Hassan, and Representatives Kuster and Pappas to work for three goals:

1. An immediate and sustained ceasefire. Besides the importance of stopping the war, a ceasefire must lead to the immediate release of all hostages so they can be returned to their loved ones.

2. Full humanitarian aid via UN-RWA (United Nations Relief and

Works Agency for Palestine Refugees). This group has been providing aid on the ground for years, and it is the only entity with the capability to reach the masses of people in need. Air drops and seaport shipments with no ground network in place simply aren't enough to prevent mass starvation and a humanitarian crisis of unimaginable proportions.

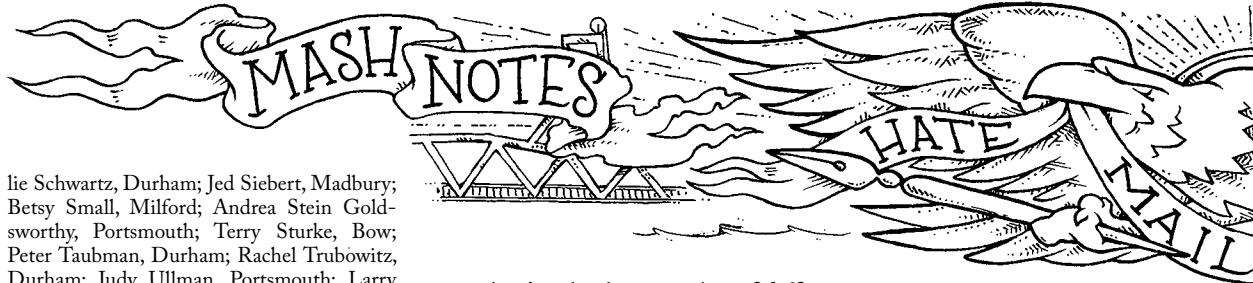
3. Suspension of military aid to Israel for its actions in Gaza and the West Bank. Our tax dollars and our weapons should not go to massacre any more people, especially children. By its reckless and brutal actions, Israel has forfeited the right to receive additional, unrestricted American military aid.

"We, as Jews, know all too well that dehumanizing others can lead to unimaginable tragedy. When six million Jews were murdered in the Holocaust, so many people and nations said nothing. This history is why we cannot remain silent in the face of Israel's conduct," the letter concludes. "We want to make it clear that this is not being done in our name. That is why we must speak out to end this war now."

Bob Sanders

Concord, N.H.

And: Joshua Meyrowitz, Durham; Jonathan P. Baird, Wilmet; Sharon D. Racusin, Hanover; Ruth Abelmann, Durham; Ron Abramson, Bow; June Adinah, Contoocook; Arnie Alpert, Canterbury; L.R. Berger, Contoocook; Elliott Berry, Manchester; Ann C. Bliss, Portsmouth; Jessica Bolker, Dover; Marla Brettschneider, Portsmouth; Henry Bromberg, West Lebanon; Deborah Brown, Warner; Nancy Jo Chabot, Hopkinton; Stephen A. Cherry, Henniker; Burt Cohen, New Castle; Jonathan Cohen, Contoocook; Teresa Cohn, Durham; Hannah Darking, Cornish; Marcela Dorfsman-Hopkins, Durham; Mark Fischler, Thornton; Ruby Fogg, Contoocook; Harriet Forkey, Durham; Phil Ginsburg, Newmarket; Elizabeth Goldman, Dover; Amy Goldstein, Concord; Daisy Goodman, Lyme; Holly Grossman, Barrington; Ken Grossman, Barrington; Phyllis Heilbronner, Durham; Lori Hopkins, Durham; Philip Isenberg, Durham; Barbara Keshen, Concord; Donald Kollisch, Hanover; Dorothy G Krasner, Manchester; Emmanuel Krasner, Farmington; John M. Lewis, Durham; Ted Lothstein, Concord; Grace Mattern, Northwood; Andrew Merton, Durham; Adam Meyrowitz, Durham; Beth Olshansky, Durham; Briane Pinkson, Cornish; Ilsa Pinkson-Burke, Plainfield; Robert Racusin, MD, Hanover; Anne Romney, Portsmouth; Jack Ruderman, Contoocook; Susan Russo, Plainfield; Deborah Schachter, Concord; Mindy Schorr, West Lebanon; David M. Schwartz, Durham; Les-



lie Schwartz, Durham; Jed Siebert, Madbury; Betsy Small, Milford; Andrea Stein Goldsworthy, Portsmouth; Terry Sturke, Bow; Peter Taubman, Durham; Rachel Trubowitz, Durham; Judy Ullman, Portsmouth; Larry Vogelmann, Durham; Andru Volinsky, Concord; Frank Weber, Mont Vernon; Jill Weber, Mont Vernon; Jane-Holly Weintraub, Mont Vernon; and Leonard Ziefert, Enfield.

Our Ethics-Free Court

Dear Editor:

The Supreme Court's authority to overturn legislation or executive actions that, in the Court's judgment, conflict with the Constitution, is based in America's democratic system of checks and balances. Through the power of judicial review, the Court is charged with assuring citizens' individual rights as guaranteed by the Constitution, as well as in maintaining a "living Constitution" (balanced with "original intent"), broad provisions are constantly applied to complicated new situations.

From these two viewpoints emerged a third type of interpretation: the "plain meaning of text" doctrine. Under this doctrine, a law's constitutionality is measured against what the words of the Constitution obviously seem to say. This is not without controversy since the framers themselves included ambiguous language in order to win ratification.

What would the founders think of today's High Court where, in most cases heard, either the government or a public interest group acts as an *amicus curiae* (third party)? Remember, the framers intended the Supreme Court to rule on cases solely on the basis of facts and law, and to be above the pressure of the general public.

Keep in mind the framer's design for the Supreme Court as we analyze and size up the Robert's Court 234 years later. What do we find... not quite what the framers had in mind I suspect.

Not only are the Justices having a hard time interpreting the Constitu-

tion, they're also having a bit of difficulty with terms like "the appearance of impropriety," and words such as ethics, standards, moral code, and integrity.

The Roberts Court has given a green light for public officials to accept generous gifts from "friends", some of whom clearly have business with the Supreme Court. It's been reported that Justice Thomas has taken at least 38 luxury vacations, 26 private jet flights and other special favors worth millions from partisan benefactors, particularly billionaire Harlan Crow. Justice Alito secretly enjoyed lucrative "gifts" from hedge fund billionaire Paul Singer, and then voted in his favor in a court case.

Supreme Court improprieties are common but Chief Justice Roberts turned down an invitation to testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee about the court's ethics rules. Roberts cites "separation of powers" concerns and the importance of "preserving judicial independence." Regarding one ruling, Roberts stated: "It may be distasteful for public servants to cash in on their power, but it's an inevitable part of democratic discourse."

In the court's 5-4 Citizens United ruling striking down campaign finance law, Justice Thomas argued "the court had not gone far enough, it should invalidate all mandatory disclosure and reporting requirements." I guess in the Court's ideal world, wealthy "friends" of politicians and Supreme Court justices could shower them with donations and no one would know.

The framers would not be pleased....

David L. Snell
Franklin, N.C.

David:

We're generally holding our tongue this fortnight to accommodate the volume of correspondence, but here we must kibitz.

While your indictment of the Court is unimpeachable, you have left out a co-conspirator: the fourth estate. The corporate media showed the Justices what they could get away with in 2000. It only whetted their appetites.

The Editor

Khrushchev's Prophecy Coming True

Dear Editor:

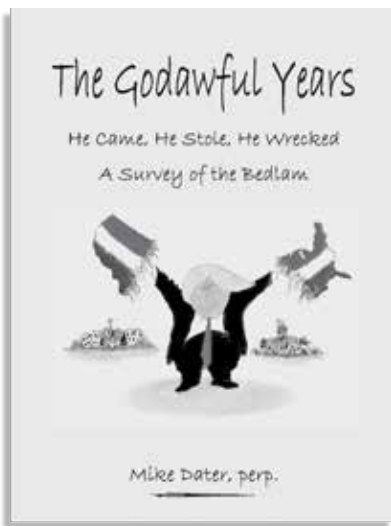
It is quite obvious that Donald Trump, who holds no position in government, is dramatically impacting foreign policy and damaging our national security. Despite strong bipartisan support to supply the necessary funding for Ukraine's battle for survival against Putin, Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) is preventing the funding bill from coming to the House floor for a vote. Mr. Johnson is bowing to the demands of Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin in defiance of his own oath of office and the survival of democracy in Ukraine and threatening the stability of Europe and America.

Despite a host of foreign leaders coming here to urge Congress to support Ukraine, including Japan's Prime Minister Kishida, Italian Prime Minister Meloni, German Chancellor Scholz and British Foreign Minister Cameron, Trump and Johnson refuse to change their position. Prime Minister Kishida warned lawmakers that the United States is abdicating its role in world affairs by its apparent abandonment of Ukraine. And to highlight the gravity of the situation, U.S. ambassador to Ukraine Bridget A. Brink reported that "Russia launched more than 40 drones and 40 missiles into Ukraine.... The situation in Ukraine is dire; there is not a moment to lose."

Since the Trump take over of the Republican Party there has been a very disturbing relationship between

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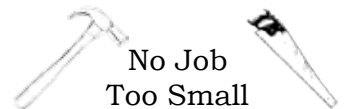
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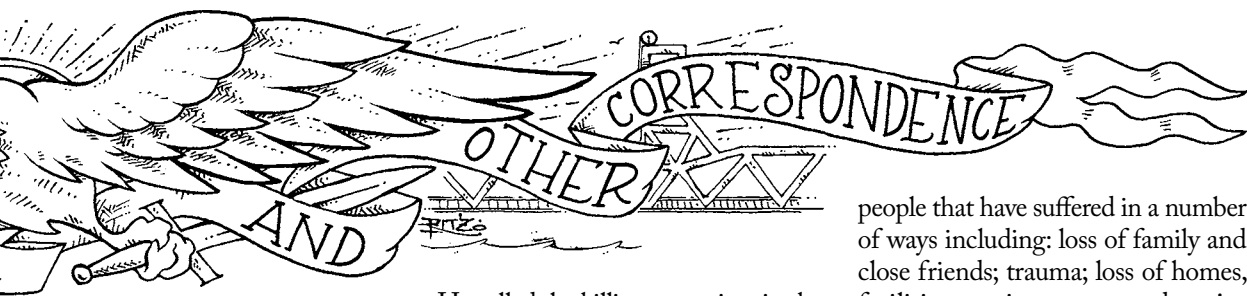
A MAN

becomes languid, irritable and dependent, through loss of nerve vigor. Life seems a mockery. The courage, force, vigor and action which characterize full-blooded men, are lacking.



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them and Russia. This concern is evident even among some Republicans. For example, Michael R. Turner (R-OH), chair of the House Intelligence Committee, said it is “absolutely true” that Republican members of Congress are parroting Russian propaganda. “We see directly coming from Russia attempts to mask communications that are anti-Ukraine and pro-Russia messages, some of which we even hear being uttered on the House floor”, he said on CNN’s State of the Union. And Representative Michael McCaul (R-Texas), chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, told Russia specialist Julia Ioffe that “Russian propaganda has made its way into the United States, unfortunately, and it’s infected a good chunk of my party’s base.”

This all raises some very disturbing questions as to why Trump and other Republican leaders are so tightly aligned with Putin and what are the implications for the future of democracy if Trump were to be reelected. How ironic that Putin, who dreams of recreating what Ronald Reagan called the “evil empire”, is being given aid and comfort by many in Reagan’s Party. As former Soviet Leader Khrushchev stated, “We do not have to invade the U.S. We will destroy you from within.”

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

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We Should Stop Helping Israel Starve Gaza
To the Editor:

The U.S. should not be supporting a country using starvation as a weapon. After the killing of 7 aid workers for the World Community Kitchen in Gaza, a spokesman for the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) was interviewed by the British Broadcasting Corporation.

He called the killings a tragic mistake, but that the IDF conduct in the war was the most ethical in the history of wars. He then bragged that the IDF had allowed 18,000 truckloads of aid into Gaza since the war began.

Prior to the war Gaza received 500 truckloads of aid each day; 18,000 truckloads constitute 36 days of aid in 180 days. Instead of proving how ethical Israel was in conducting the war, it proves Israel was deliberately starving the people of Gaza. Even our own Secretary of State has stated that all of Gaza is facing starvation, though he diplomatically called it food insecurity.

The Public Broadcasting Service’s Newshour reported that Israel has damaged or destroyed 800 schools in Gaza. It has all but rendered hospitals unable to operate by depriving them of fuel for their generators as well as medical supplies.

Israel is a signatory of the Geneva Convention. The time has come for America to stop arming Israel until it comes into full compliance with the Convention and all international rules of war.

Walter Hamilton
Portsmouth N.H.

====

Gaza is a PTSD Factory

To the Editor,

As a combat veteran from the Vietnam War who has PTSD, I have a growing concern and fear for the people of Gaza.

When I returned ‘to the World’ as we called it, PTSD was not recognized as a medical condition. When it finally was recognized and for a long period of time, it was defined as a soldier’s condition from being in war. Earlier terms had been ‘battle fatigue’ and ‘trench fever’.

As more studies were undertaken, it was realized it could affect many

people that have suffered in a number of ways including: loss of family and close friends; trauma; loss of homes, facilities, environment; and major changes in life.

All of these conditions have happened, are continuing to happen, and from all appearances will continue to happen to the people in Gaza. The consequences will be major with long term mental health problems affecting their society as a whole.

I encourage all to press your Congressional Representatives and Senators to have the U.S. stop sending military aid being used in the slaughter which is being done in violation of a number of our own U.S. laws.

To press for an immediate and permanent ceasefire for peace to be established, and to press for humanitarian aid and reconstruction to be undertaken.

W.D. Flierl
Rochester, N.H.

WD.:

Netanyahu says he'll end the slaughter once he's eliminated Hamas. Westmoreland said he'd end the war by eliminating the V.C. Neither would admit the respective preconditions for success: elimination of the Palestinians and the Vietnamese.

The Editor

====

The Spring of Our Discontent

To the Editor:

Recent commentary has noted the disconnect between the healthy state of the economy and dissatisfaction expressed in opinion polls regarding economic conditions. Most economic markers indicate a strong and growing economy. Inflation has significantly moderated, coming down from a high of approximately 9 percent to about 3.4 percent (although it appears that it has hit a sticking point for the last two months). Job growth has been consistently strong, and the unemployment rate is at historically low levels. Wage growth has exceeded inflation since

February, 2023 by approximately 3 percent allowing the working class to gain a bit on inflation. Consumer spending continues to be robust and GDP growth has been consistent at around 3 percent. The recession that many economists had predicted as the Federal Reserve raised interest rates to combat inflation has not materialized. Yet, polls consistently indicate that most respondents are dissatisfied with the economy (although most also say that their personal economic situation is good). What accounts for this dissatisfaction?

There are a few proximate factors that may explain the discontent. There has been a constant drumbeat from right wing media to the effect that we are suffering through a Biden-induced recession. Although the facts deny this, the negative coverage certainly influences the opinion of MAGA Republicans. Prices are still well above levels seen just before the pandemic and short-term fluctuations in fuel and grocery prices can mask economic progress. Another important dissatisfier is that the price of housing (both rents and homes) has skyrocketed beyond many consumers’ ability to afford. It is useful to examine this factor in more detail.

The price of buying a home has increased significantly since the pandemic. The median price of a house in 2000 was \$165,300 while in 2023, it was \$417,000. Redfin estimates that to comfortably purchase a median-priced house today requires an income of at least \$115,000 (this figure varies depending on what part of the country you live in). Rental prices, which usually move with the price of homes, have also increased 30 percent since the end of the pandemic. Commentary has focused on market factors to explain the rise in housing prices and rents but the decline in affordability is a result not only of rising costs but also trends in income.

Pew Research Center estimates that middle class incomes today range from approximately \$39,000 to \$119,000. This indicates that a large portion of the middle class may have been priced out of the housing market. Only the

very top of middle-class incomes and above are considered qualified to purchase a median priced home today. The ability to acquire affordable housing used to be widespread in America. What has changed?

A look at the growth in income inequality may provide some insights. GDP has increased 79 percent since 1980. Most of the benefits of this increase were captured by economic elites at the top of the income distribution. During this period working class wages remained flat or showed small increases. Income for middle class workers showed moderate increases although they badly trailed GDP growth.

It’s a different picture for the wealthy. Their incomes increased by 420 percent during this period. The share of aggregate income going to the middle class declined from 62 percent to 43 percent from 1970 to 2018. During the same period, the top earners increased their share from 29 percent to 48 percent. The rise in income inequality following forty years of income transfer from the working and middle classes to economic elites has endangered the expectation of affordable housing. While earners at the top of the distribution are relatively unaffected by price increases, the middle and lower classes struggle.

The increase in income inequality was the result of conscious decisions made by corporate leaders and government policy makers. It was not the outcome of impartial market forces as claimed by some economists. These decisions have contributed to the privatization of the working class and the enrichment of elites. It should be noted that many who have suffered economically are also some of the most fervid MAGA supporters. It is past time for policy makers to begin to undo past damaging decisions.

Robert D. Russell, Ph.D.
Harrisburg, Pa.

Robert:

Do you suppose there'd be less confusion if U.S. teachers could criticise capitalism in the classroom without being fired?

The Editor

to next page

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



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

Legal Notice

Please take notice that Todd Bookman, 32 Williams Ave., Kittery, ME 03904 is intending to file a Natural Resources Protection Act permit application with Maine Department of Environmental Protection pursuant to the provisions of 38 M.R.S. §§ 480-A thru 480-BB on or about April 3, 2024. The application is for: Residential dock at 32 Williams Ave., Kittery.

A request for a public hearing or a request that the Board of Environmental Protection assume jurisdiction over this application must be received by the Department in writing, no later than 20 days after the application is found by the Department to be complete and is accepted for processing. A public hearing may or may not be held at the discretion of the Commissioner or Board of Environmental Protection. Public comment on the application will be accepted throughout the processing of the application. For Federally licensed, permitted, or funded activities in the Coastal Zone, review of this application shall also constitute the State’s consistency review in accordance with the Maine Coastal Program pursuant to Section 307 of the federal Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. § 1456.

The application will be filed for public inspection at the Department of Environmental Protection’s office in Portland during normal working hours. A copy of the application may also be seen at the municipal offices in Kittery, Maine. Written public comments may be sent to the regional office in Portland, where the application is filed for public inspection: MDEP, Southern Maine Regional Office, 312 Canco Road, Portland, Maine 04103

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from page five



Our Lobotomized Electorate

Dear Editor:

“How is it possible, what has lobotomized people who cheer and celebrate the most transparent fraud, the most outrageous liar, the most straitjacket-ready psycho ever visited on the body politic?” Those are the words of Hal Crowther, longtime journalist and essayist.

As I so often am, Crowther will be written off by some people as suffering “Trump Derangement Syndrome.” But are we really, or is it more likely that someone simply neglected to make a burnt offering to the god of common sense.

Here is a former President who has slightly less than 100 felony indictments against him. He’s the only president in history to ignite a deadly armed assault on his own Capitol in an attempt to overturn an election he knew he’d lost. Presently that same former president is endeavoring to discredit the people trying to bring him to justice, attacking judges, prosecutors, jurors, court staff (and their families), anyone who dares attempt to hold him accountable.

What can I say about Donald Trump that has not been said ad nauseam? “His tweets and his lying, the change of stories, the lack of preparation, he has no principles, none. It’s the phoniness and this cruelty, Donald is cruel.” Those are the words of the late Maryanne Trump Barry, his older sister. Mary Trump (his niece) refers to Donald Trump as “the world’s most dangerous man”.

Also, have we not heard enough from people who worked in the Trump Administration or those closely associated with him: Mark Esper, Rex Tillerson, William Barr, John Kelly, Mark Milley, John Bolton (the list is virtually endless); and the descriptions of Trump relentless: “a phoney, a fraud, a moron, contemptuous of our democratic institutions and the rule of law, an existential threat to democracy, a consummate narcissist”—and the

ever-present underlying truth—“unfit to be President of the United States”.

If those eyewitnesses cannot convince the average voter of Trump’s unfitness, I certainly can’t. With the possible exception of his niece and his ghostwriter, all these warnings came from conservatives, Republicans, individuals who would ordinarily be on Trump’s side of the political divide.

The things that render Trump unfit for office are conspicuously transparent and absurdly obvious to anyone who is paying even marginal attention. In addition to his criminal activities, he is ridiculous, repulsive, crude, infantile and unquestionably unhinged from reality.

Donald Trump lacks any beliefs beyond self-gratification and self-glorification, and I say that as a lifelong conservative and an almost lifelong Republican. How the Grand Old Party of Lincoln and millions of seemingly intelligent men and women got drawn into the orbit of this shameless conman may forever remain the unsolved mystery of the ages.

History teaches us many things and recent history reveals that Germany’s Hitler was so thoroughly untruthful that he finally could no longer recognize the difference between lies and truth. And so it is with Trump, and with that handicap he has been able to seduce a large spectrum of our populace into his swamp of lies, distortions and half truths.

Consequently, Trump supporters (while many citizens remain deafeningly silent) are raining death threats on judges, prosecutors, states attorneys general and other elected and honest officials (and their families), anyone who tries to impose justice on or hold the former President accountable. This is the real life 21st Century threat of fascism and tyranny.

Will the American electorate wake up in time to save us from

ourselves, to rebuild and strengthen the foundations upon which America was conceived and established, in time to save our Republic and democratic form of government from this would be dictator? We will know the answer in approximately six months.

David L. Snell
Franklin, NC

Thank You, Councilors Cook and Denton To the Editor:

We have all witnessed a horrific attack in Israel on Oct. 7, 2023 with 1139 deaths and 250 taken hostage by the Hamas rebels. There is no excusing the violations of human dignity and human rights of that attack, no matter what the justification may be.

On the other hand, Israel’s non-proportional response to that attack which has now caused the death of over 32,000 residents of Gaza (the majority of which are women and children) should also be condemned. The U.S. government is currently providing many of the military weapons that Israel is using against residents of Gaza. These are being used to attack and drop hundreds of bombs on a civilian population. Yes, it is probably true that there are many Hamas fighters hiding within the population, but that does not justify collective punishment of all residents.

I am convinced that most Americans and most other countries support the right for Israel to have safe and secure borders. But that must also be the case for the Palestinians. American taxpayers should not be asked to subsidize perpetual wars in the Middle East. There must be a plan to provide safety and security to both Israelis and Palestinians.

That is why an immediate ceasefire is needed to avoid more deaths from bombs, starvation, and disease. That ceasefire will allow an opportunity for all parties involved to look for a long-term solution to this conflict.

The Portsmouth City Council should allow the ceasefire resolution proposed by Councilors Cook and

Denton to be discussed and it should vote in support of finding a peaceful solution to the current conflict.

Peter Somssich, former N.H. State Representative and former Portsmouth Democratic Chair
Portsmouth, N.H.

One Nation, Unrecognizable

Dear Editor,

America is unrecognizable in 2024.

Huge numbers of adult Americans are just fine with a politician abusing our judicial system by purchasing an indefinite delay of his day in court.

Citizens who should know better are okay with a candidate halting Congressional action on the biggest issue in generations because he wants to muscle in on its solution.

People who have gone to law school, occupy offices of public trust, and stoutly express their opinions in public forums have so little understanding of our Constitution that they don’t even know when it is being broken into pieces.

Those who serve jury duty, attend school board meetings, and regularly honor the fallen on Memorial Day are wildly enthusiastic about having an indicted and even convicted felon, sexual predator, and business fraudster running the county.

Those who claim to be color-blind suddenly have no qualms about responding to racist dog whistles that could turn America into a Yankee version of Aryan racial supremacy.

Those who proudly graduated high school, served our country overseas, and supervise others at work couldn’t care less about natural science, preferring politicized science instead.

Yep, not our ancestors’ America.

Kimball Shinkoskey
Woods Cross, Utah

Our Entertaining, Perplexing State House To the Editor:

As you may know, this is an Election Year!

We’re really excited, because we just love all the drama and entertainment this brings us, nationally and locally. Then, especially in New

Hampshire, after the candidates have (sometimes) appeared to meet their prospective constituents, the People Speak. Then, especially in New Hampshire, these candidates scurry into obscurity, every so often to Vote on matters of concern to the People.

So, recently, the N.H. legislature has been working in Concord, and the results are not pretty. This week the House voted down HB 593, one of several efforts to develop responsible gun use. HB 593 would have restricted carrying firearms in school safe zones. The House also “killed” HB 1212 which would have expanded school food programs and provided financial support for work with homeless youth. The “killer” was Speaker Sherm Packard, who broke the tie and thus tabled the bill. Tabling does sound a bit better than Killing, but the effect is the same.

Next week, we can look forward to Our Representatives bringing up bills to expand income eligibility levels for Education Freedom Accounts, sometimes called school vouchers. This is a program that was presented a few years ago as a pilot program to offer school choice. Since then, there has never been a thorough analysis of criteria for what sorts of school programs qualify. There has never been any explanation of how the quality of said school programs will be assessed. We only hear words to the effect that “it’s very popular!”, and that somehow the ballooning cost of this pet project can be met by the state’s education trust funds, while the state evades court orders to implement adequate and fair education funding for all public schools... not to mention that one of the arguments against the increased food program is that it’s too costly.

It’s very hard to follow all this, and even harder to communicate with one’s Representatives about the details of these baffling decisions. They are incommunicado... until the N.H. election cycle get rolling later this year. It’s going to be a rough ride!

Beth McCarthy
Tamworth, N.H.

Beth:
It sure is hard to follow—please continue trying to help us keep up!
The Editor

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Bombs Away!

by W.D. Ehrhart

Turned on my computer this morning and was greeted by this headline in the *Washington Post*: “Six months into Gaza war, Biden confronts the limits of U.S. leverage.”

It was all I could do to keep from shouting at the top of my lungs, “Are you freakin’ kidding me?” Can Joe Biden really pretend that he’s run up against “the limits of U.S. leverage”? Can an editor of the *Washington Post* write such a headline with a straight face, or the publisher print it without either gagging or laughing?

According to Axios, in 2022, the U.S. government gave \$3,300,000,000 to Israel, 99.7 percent of that money going to the Israeli military. According to the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, in 2023, the U.S. gave Israel \$3,800,000,000. Various other sources consistently report the same figures.

On the very day that the Israeli Defense Forces killed seven World Central Kitchen civilian aid workers with American-made weaponry while they were engaged in trying to provide food to starving Palestinians in Gaza, President Biden authorized the release of yet more bombs to the Netanyahu government.

This latest arms package included 1,800 MK84 2,000-pound blockbuster bombs and 500 MK82 500-pound bombs. In addition, Biden authorized the shipment of 25 more F-35A fighter-bombers to Israel. It is probably safe to assume that at least one task of those new

warplanes will be to drop those new bombs on the Palestinians of Gaza.

And President Biden thinks he’s reached the limits of U.S. leverage against Benjamin Netanyahu and the Israeli government?

Meanwhile, the death toll in Gaza has now surpassed 33,000 with thousands more injured and millions unhoused and displaced, the overwhelming majority of these people innocent civilians, one third of them children. According to the World Health Organization, over a million Gazans are facing catastrophic hunger, somewhere on the order of 12 percent to 17 percent of them children under the age of five (yes: 5).

I wonder what would happen if the United States government simply stopped subsidizing the Israeli war machine. I wonder why Biden continues to provide material and direct support to what has become—not withstanding October 7th—a crime against humanity in its own right.

No sane person, no thoughtful or caring person, no person who deserves to be taken seriously, has excused or can excuse what Hamas did that day. But what Netanyahu and the IDF have done in Gaza over the past six months dwarfs by orders of magnitude what happened on October 7th, 2023. Almost the entire Gaza Strip has been bombed and shelled and beaten flat. Hospitals destroyed. Schools. Roads. Infrastructure of all kinds. Look at the photographs. Google the pictures. See for yourself.

And there seems to be no end in sight. It just goes on and on, day after day week after week, and now month after month. This is not self-defense. This is not defense of any kind. This is retribution. This is vengeance. This is not even an eye for an eye. This is eyes, ears, nose, arms, legs, and life for an eye.

Nevermind the insanity of Netanyahu and his supporters imagining that all of this will somehow irradiate Hamas or convince Palestinians to accept whatever oppression and discrimination and—yes—apartheid conditions the Israeli government chooses to saddle them with.

Does Biden really think his political fortunes are dependent on his continued support of an utterly inhumane and violent policy of mass destruction that increasingly looks like an attempt to leave Gaza depopulated and uninhabitable?

Some people might call me anti-semitic. They would be wrong. This is not “the Jews” who are doing this. It is the government of Israel, and more specifically the Netanyahu regime, who is responsible, and against whom I am “anti.”

Indeed, most of the Jewish people I know are equally appalled by what has been happening in Gaza these past six months. Back in February, I attended a presentation of the Middle Eastern antiwar organization Combatants for Peace that took place at a Jewish synagogue here in Philadelphia.

A month later, I took part in a silent march calling for a ceasefire in

Gaza that was largely organized by Jews and led by a rabbi. Shouting “anti-semitism” is simply a way of allowing yourself to dismiss rational discourse and go on turning a blind eye to what has become a blood-letting madness.

And if Biden thinks his schizophrenic approach to the destruction of Gaza is anything other than a political liability, he may find out otherwise on November 5th. Very few voters are going to vote for Donald Trump because of Biden’s approach to Gaza.

But a lot of them may vote for Robert Kennedy, Jr., or Jill Stein, or Cornel West, or not vote at all. I myself will vote for Biden only because a non-vote or a vote for a third-party candidate is actually a vote for the most disastrous candidate in American history. But I fear that a significant number of voters—especially younger voters—fail to grasp the consequences of not voting for Biden, however odious that choice has become.

And I fear that Joe Biden does not grasp the consequences of his continuing military support for the destruction of Gaza and the Palestinian people. I want the madness in Gaza to stop. And I don’t want another four years of madness in the White House.

—~—~—

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

—~—~—

Can’t Oil Barons Ever Be Honest? (Hint: No)

by Jim Hightower

Former New Mexico Gov. Bruce King once opposed a bill because, he said, he feared it would “open a whole box of Pandoras.”

An odd rhetorical twist, but it would be helpful if today’s ego-bloated, high-tech billionaires and corporate profiteers had a bit of self-restraint, rather than thinking their money equals genius. For example, such doofuses are presently pushing convoluted schemes to “solve” our globe’s technology-caused climate crisis with—what else?—technology.

Their latest box of Pandoras includes a grandiose plan to “geoengineer” carbon dioxide, the destructive gas spewed into our air by the production and use of fossil fuels. The geniuses say they have the techno-knowhow to suck-up that bad gas and pump it a mile deep into the Earth. See, problem gone! All they need, they say, is for taxpayers to put up trillions of dollars.

Who’s behind this hustle? Oil giants. Yes, the same prevaricating snake oil salesmen who cause most of the suffocating CO2 pollution that’s rapidly cooking our planet! Such petro-peddlers as Occidental Petroleum are now trying to re-brand themselves as “carbon management” experts, asking us to trust them to re-engineer our atmosphere. But they’re frauds—their magical “Vacuum Cleaner in the Sky” won’t remove even one-percent of the new carbon emissions released every year.

Worse, Occidental says it intends to keep much of the CO2 it vacuums up, using the gas to force more oil out of the ground—thus creating more global warming! As Occidental’s CEO gleefully puts it, geoengineering “gives our industry a license to continue to operate for... 60, 70, 80 years.”

Razzle-dazzle technology is not a climate solution. It’s a business-as-usual lie told by profiteers desperate to keep burning fossil fuels—and our globe.

—~—~—

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—~—~—

The Alleged News®

from page three

in the Democratic Press association, and resigned his editorship of the *Patriot*.

— *New Hampshire Gazette*, April 21, 1892, pg 6.

A Tale Told by an Idiot...

Steam Launch No. 132, the successor to the Emerald, on the route between the navy yard and this city, ran her first regular trip at ten o’clock a.m. Saturday on the navy yard. There is no knowledge of any attempt being made to get this boat away and she will doubtless continue here for many years. The sensational figures of the cost of this boat, printed a few days ago by the idiot who picks up navy yard items at Mrs. Chesley’s lunch counter at New-

market Junction, were evidently given him by a woodchopper at East Epping. ...

— *New Hampshire Gazette*, April 21, 1892, pg 6.

Rum Shops Open Sunday

We heard recently, through certain newspapers, that Sheriff Coffin was determined to suppress road houses, and stop the sale of rum on Sunday throughout Rockingham county. The statement was evidently a “roor back,” and not authorized by the sheriff, as Sunday a number of road houses within five miles of Portsmouth were running full blast, and young men not yet twenty-one years of age residing here, thronged these houses, and many of them came home in an intoxicated condition. At one house, on Sagamore road, where the Russell house for-

merly stood, there were more than a dozen half-grown boys under the influence of liquor Sunday afternoon, and making a noisy time of it. This house, and others of its kind, ought to be suppressed and its proprietor made to feel the penalty of the law. The talk of closing up road houses amounts to nothing. In this city it is notorious that gin mills and rum shops keep open on Sundays with the full knowledge of the city marshal and his police force. Last year, with a republican city marshal, the rum shops were kept closed on Sundays, but there is a different order of things now.

— *New Hampshire Gazette*, April 28, 1892, pg 3.

Professional Egg Eater

Frank Berry, the professional egg eater from Rye, managed to eat forty

eggs in a minute and twelve seconds on Saturday evening last at a resort on Fleet street. This is his best time. We are not informed whether the egg shells were part of the diet or discarded.

Beware the Tramps

The boys have made a hole in the front of the old mill building at the north mill bridge, and can gain access to the interior at any time. It should be boarded up, so that tramps and evil disposed persons cannot make a rendezvous.

Jubilation Over Sewer

The Market street and Market square merchants feel quite jubilant at the prospect of getting a sewer after years of hitherto fruitless appeal.

— *New Hampshire Gazette*, April 28, 1892, pg 6.

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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.

Table with 7 columns: SUNDAY, APRIL 21; MONDAY, APRIL 22; TUESDAY, APRIL 23; WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24; THURSDAY, APRIL 25; FRIDAY, APRIL 26; SATURDAY, APRIL 27. Each column contains a list of news events and tide charts for that day.

Table with 7 columns: SUNDAY, APRIL 28; MONDAY, APRIL 29; TUESDAY, APRIL 30; WEDNESDAY, MAY 1; THURSDAY, MAY 2; FRIDAY, MAY 3; SATURDAY, MAY 4. Each column contains a list of news events and tide charts for that day.

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