

The New Hampshire Gazette

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The Fortnightly Rant

Slowdown at the Sausage Factory

As the month of July drew to a close, members of the House of Representatives looked forward to leaving the sweltering, politically-tainted Capitol and returning to the virtuous sanctity of their home districts for a supposedly-deserved five-week recess.

A great problem loomed, however. Lurking on our southern border was a seething horde of juvenile delinquents, unvaccinated, disease-ridden — perhaps even carrying the deadly Ebola virus.

Speaker of the House John Boehner [R-OH] put forward a \$659 million emergency spending bill on Thursday, July 31st which would have expedited the deportation of these pestilential children.

Recent changes in House leadership, though, seem to have doomed his effort.

Eric Cantor [R-VA], the erstwhile House Majority Leader, had never been a particularly trustworthy second-in-command. The two were often seen in the same room, but rarely with Boehner's back turned towards Cantor, who clearly coveted his boss's job.

Boehner did not have to worry about Cantor when it came time to vote on the immigration bill; Cantor had suffered a shocking primary election defeat in June to David Brat, a hardcore Tea Party candidate. But the Minority Leader's place had been taken by someone with even greater ambitions, apparently, and, to confuse the issue further, he was from the other chamber.

Ted Cruz, a Republican Senator from Texas, was organizing the House's Tea Party caucus to put the kibosh on Boehner's border bill on the grounds that it would not have deported children

fast enough.

Will Rogers used to say, "I don't belong to any organized political party — I'm a Democrat." On July 31st, almost eighty years after Rogers' death, his aphorism seemed equally applicable to the GOP.

After spending the last several months talking up the border threat, House Republicans had just voted to do nothing constructive. Naturally, their primary concern was how that might look to voters in the coming general election, just 90 days away.

So, on a day when they could have been at home basking in the admiration of their constituents, House Republicans were instead on Capitol Hill, crafting and passing an immigration bill. It will, in fact, do nothing about immigration; because no matching bill would ever pass in the Senate. Further, if any such a bill were to pass, it would be vetoed in an instant.

Passage of the bill, however, will perform one vital function: it will allow House Republicans to say that they passed a fierce and draconian bill. Having dutifully accomplished that much, they fled.

A Tax Cut for the Poor Rich

Reflecting on such behavior, a cynic might say that Congress has accomplished nothing this term. To the contrary, it had recently contrived a way to apply a tax break far more "fairly."

Since 1998, the Child Tax Credit [CTC] has given low-income parents a tax break of up to \$1,000 per child. According to compassionate conservatives like Rep. Dave Camp (R-MI), the time had come to "make some simple improvements to the child tax credit, so it keeps up with the



cost of raising children."

According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities [CBPP], under the CTC Improvement Act of 2014, passed on July 25th, "couples with two children making between \$150,000 and \$205,000 would become newly eligible for the credit; a family making \$150,000 a year would receive a new tax cut of \$2,200 in 2018."

Of course, every quid must have its quo. Somebody's got to pay. Guess who? "A single mother with two children who works full time throughout the year at the minimum wage and earns \$14,500 would lose \$1,725 in 2018, as her CTC would be eliminated," according to CBPP.

That's not all. Parents who pay income taxes but are ineligible for Social Security numbers — read undocumented workers — who used to be able to use their Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers to qualify for the tax

break, cannot do so any longer. No tax break for them.

Do As We Say — No, Don't

Further perplexing those with a rudimentary grasp of logic, Republicans left town admonishing President Obama to take executive action to "do something" about the border — while simultaneously threatening to sue him for exceeding his authority.

Congress—What Is It Good For?

Mark Twain famously said, "no man's life, liberty, or property are safe while the legislature is in session." If only the converse were true and its absence from the Capitol assured our safety.

A Congress that functioned as intended — allow us to delve into science fiction here — could, among other things, repeal a few tax breaks for billionaires and put the proceeds towards research on a vaccine against the Ebola virus.

Vox.com reported July 31st that "according to Daniel Bausch, a Tulane professor who researches

Ebola and other infectious diseases ... really significant progress" is being made towards such a vaccine.

"The obstacle ... isn't the science ... the problem, instead, is the economics of drug development. Pharmaceutical companies have little incentive to pour research and development dollars into curing a disease that surfaces sporadically in low-income, African countries. They aren't likely to see a large pay-off at the end — and could stand to lose money."

Phil Gingrey, [R-GA] the Representative most worried about Ebola at the Border, is also a steadfast protector of the rights of knuckle-draggers who oppose mandatory vaccinations — and he's reputed to be an M.D.

'Tis better that the human race perish while vomiting blood than a government of the people, by the people, and for the people, interfere with the Invisible Hand of the Market.

The Alleged News

That Was Then, This Is Now

Last March, Sen. Diane Feinstein [D-CA] charged that CIA operatives had hacked into the supposedly-secure computers of Senate staffers attempting to oversee the CIA.

CIA Director John Brennan responded on March 11th with a furious denial: "As far as the allegations ... nothing could be further from the truth. We wouldn't do that. I mean, that's just beyond the, you know, the scope of reason in terms of what we do."

Brennan's denial is no longer an operative statement. In a three-hour private briefing on July 31st, McClatchy reported, CIA Inspector General David Buckley told members of the Senate Intelligence Committee that "five

CIA employees, two lawyers and three information technology specialists improperly accessed or 'caused access' to a database that only committee staff were permitted to use."

While rooting around in the computer's database, CIA employees did keyword searches of Senate staffers' emails "and reviewed some of them."

For good measure, CIA employees provided "inaccurate information" to the Justice Department, alleging that Senate staffers had "removed classified documents from a top-secret facility without authorization."

Brennan apologized to Feinstein and Sen. Saxby Chambliss [R-GA] and said he would "set

up an internal accountability board to review the issue [and] recommend 'potential disciplinary measures' and 'steps to address systemic issues.'" The board will be led by former Democratic Senator Evan Bayh of Indiana.

It appeared to be a remarkable turnaround for the apparently-chastened Brennan. But was it?

As journalist Matt Stoller [matthewstoller] tweeted, "CIA apologizes for spying on Congress, hires corporate lobbyist/Fox News contributor Evan Bayh to oversee reforms."

Bayh had left the Senate as a man of principle, writing a scathing critique of that institution's out-of-control filibusters and the influence of anonymous cam-

paign money, but he soon went over to the dark side.

Ezra Klein wrote in March of 2011 that Bayh had gone to work for McGuire Woods, a "massive" law firm whose clients include "national energy companies, foreign countries, international manufacturing companies, trade associations and local and national businesses."

Bayh also became "a senior adviser to Apollo Management Group, a giant public-equity firm. And, finally ... he joined Fox News as a contributor. It's as if he's systematically ticking off every poison he identified in the body politic and rushing to dump more of it into the water supply."

Klein wrote that in March

Department of Corrections

Our paper of July 25th erroneously stated that FAA Regulation 91.119 (b), requiring aircraft to maintain "an altitude of 1,000 feet above the highest obstacle within a horizontal radius of 2,000 feet of the aircraft" over congested areas, applies to helicopters.

It does not. Paragraph (d)(1) of that same regulation, pertaining to "Helicopters, powered parachutes, and weight-shift-control aircraft," provides that "A helicopter may be operated at less than the minimums prescribed in paragraph (b) ... provided each person operating the helicopter complies with any routes or altitudes specifically prescribed for helicopters by the FAA"

The Alleged News

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The Alleged News

from page one

of 2011. Had he waited three months he could have really teed off. In June of 2011, the Center for Public Integrity revealed that Bayh had teamed up with former George W. Bush spokesperson Andy Card to form what its backers were calling a bipartisan "road show," touting the alleged benefits of "regulatory reform."

The backers of this venture? The U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Based on that outfit's track record, a more appropriate descriptor of the Bayh/Card effort would be "snake oil show."

If Sen. Feinstein invites the allegedly-chastened Brennan over to the Senate for tea, she should be sure to count the spoons when he leaves.

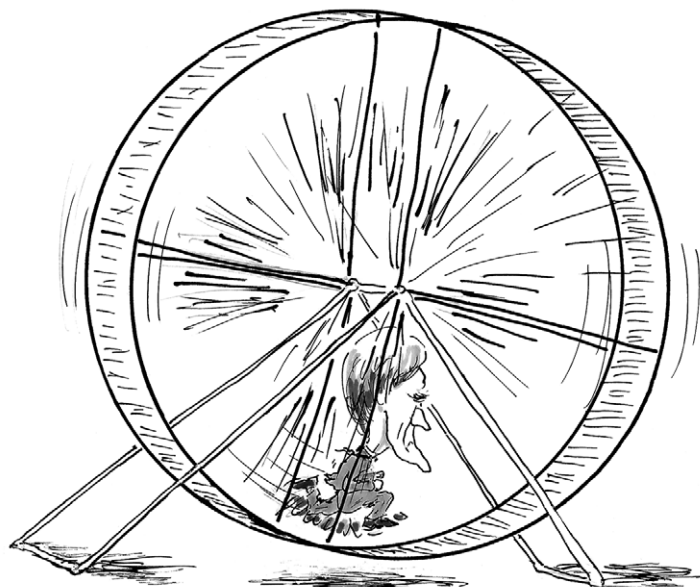
Punished for Compliance

Speaking in Prague in 2009, President Obama declared, "I state clearly and with conviction America's commitment to seek the peace and security of a world

without nuclear weapons." Four years later, in February of 2013, a contractor for the Los Alamos National Laboratory named James E. Doyle wrote an article — on his own time — expanding on that speech in Prague.

"Obama, and others who seek a world without nuclear weapons, are right," Doyle wrote. "Eliminating nuclear weapons is profoundly in the national-security interest of the United States and its allies and friends." Doyle challenged prevailing myths that favor the retention of nuclear weapons, re-assessed the risks of maintaining nuclear arsenals, and proposed a target date for their elimination: 34 years hence, in 2045, on the 100th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima.

Doyle submitted his article to the laboratory's security officers, who approved it for publication. It was printed in the February issue of a professional journal called *Survival: Global Politics and Strategy*, and was posted online February 1, 2013.



KERRY TO THE RESCUE!



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Little did Doyle know the trouble he would reap for supporting official U.S. policy. A few days after the article went online his manager requested copies of everything he'd ever published. Then a Security Inquiries Team visited and informed him that his article contained classified information. His home computer was searched. His pay was docked. His "Q" Clearance was suspended.

Doyle was finally fired on July 8th, one day after the Center for Public Integrity [CPI], which reported this story on July 31st, called Los Alamos to inquire about "the dispute."

Doyle was a 17-year employee with a spotless record — why was he really canned?

"It was a sensitive moment for an anti-nuclear message to emerge from within the lab," according to CPI's article. "During this period, Los Alamos officials and their Republican supporters on the House Armed Services committee were trying to find the funds for a new \$6.5 billion factory at Los Alamos for plutonium 'pits,' the baseball-sized spheres that form the core of most nuclear weapons."

The Market Basket Saga (cont.)

For almost two weeks Market Basket's stores, normally packed with people, have looked more like sets for a zombie movie: eerily quiet with empty shelves and hardly a soul in sight.

Strangest of all: in a chrome-plated stand that would typically hold a sign saying "buy this" or "buy that," a hand-drawn placard read, "Please Boycott M[arket] B[asket] for A[rthur] T. D[emoulas]!"

On Tuesday, at least, it was clear where everybody was: down in Tewksbury, at company headquarters. According to press reports, about 12,000 of the company's employees, along with their supporters and customers, rallied there to demand reinstatement of fired CEO Arthur T. Demoulas.

It's a story whose "man bites dog" appeal has now crossed the Atlantic. Brian Groom, a reporter for London's *Financial Times*, wrote about Market Basket on Monday, "in four decades of following industrial relations, I had not come across a case of workers striking in support of a sacked chief executive."

This amazing struggle is, in a

way, reminiscent of Occupy Wall Street: no one saw it coming, but when it arrived people were transfixed. It's all about how we divvy up the profits in a capitalist system.

Occupy Wall Street changed the way Americans think about the economy. After decades in which people shrugged off massive inequalities in income, many people now ask, "Why?"

If Arthur T. prevails, maybe the Market Basket Mutiny will have a similar effect on the way we see corporations. In the cut-throat grocery business, Arthur T. won an unprecedented degree of loyalty from his employees and his customers by treating them all with dignity; as if they mattered.

Why can't other bosses do that, too?

Market Basket's small circle of shareholders — all wealthy by inheritance, and largely spared taxation thanks to voodoo economics — saw "extra" pay making employees' lives liveable and thought to themselves "that should be mine, too." Stockholders of other corporations do that all the time.

Why should any of them get away with it?



Sunday afternoon at the Market Basket store on Woodbury Avenue: three customers, one cashier, and one bagger. The produce and meat aisles: totally devoid of product. The place looked post-apocalyptic.

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“Look — Up In the Sky”
 “Helicopter complaints spur offer of free rides to City Council,” read a headline in the July 31st Award-Winning Local Daily, “Businessman wants to give councilors bird’s-eye view of local tourist flights.”

The Herald’s Jeff McMenemy reported that Seacoast Helicopters’ Bruce Cultrera made his offer after Portsmouth’s City Manager relayed complaints from City Councilors to the Executive director of the Pease Development Authority. The article did address the question of whether the City Attorney had weighed the propriety of an apparent offer of something of value to a city official.

“Maybe,” Cultrera said, a free ride would “allay some of the rumors of hovering over neighborhoods” — as if helicopters are obnoxious only when hovering, and dozens of traversing flights every weekend are barely noticeable.

The Herald article stated accurately — see our correction on Page One — that “there are no Federal Aviation Administration regulations that dictate how low a helicopter can fly. It quoted Cultrera saying his pilots “stay at

1,000 feet because we try to be good neighbors.”

Cultrera went on to say, “we don’t fly directly over downtown,” thereby inviting a broader discussion of exactly where the boundaries of “downtown” lie.

On a more quantifiable point, Cultrera was quoted by the Herald saying that when one of his helicopters flies by, “you’re going to hear the noise of the helicopter for about seven seconds, then it’s going to be gone.” We think he’s off by a factor of twelve.

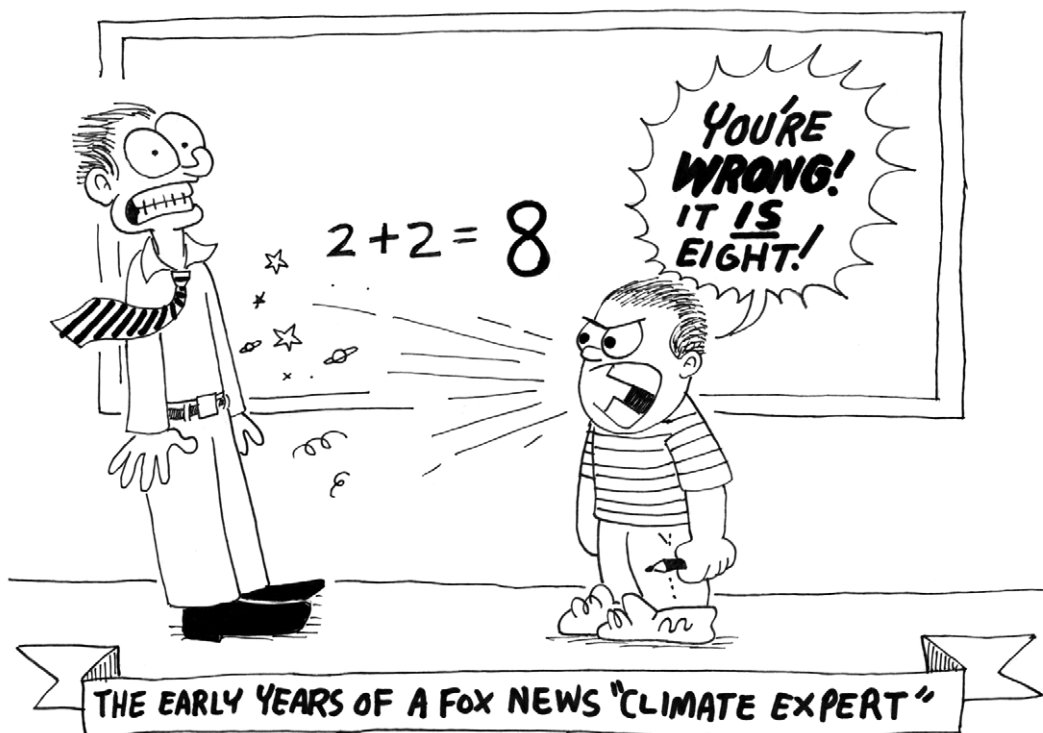
Between August 1st and August 3rd, we were able to visually identify five overflights of red Robinson R-44 helicopters flying in an easterly direction, apparently crossing over the North Mill Pond at about the location of the old factory on McDonough Street. We wrote down how long each flight was audible. The times ranged from a minimum of 90 seconds to a maximum of 180. The average time was two minutes and nine seconds.

Cultrera called this newspaper on August 2nd, to correct our reporting on the FAA’s altitude regulation [See Department of Corrections, page



Mystic, a 170-foot gaff-rigged schooner, tied up at the Peirce Island Fish Pier, along with the privateer Lynx [not shown], as part of the Piscataqua Maritime Commission’s Sail Portsmouth 2014.

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 DW



one]. He was so civil about our error that that we ventured to ask him what his intentions were regarding the ADS-B system we wrote about in our previous issue. (ADS-B transponders would provide an easily accessible public record giving the altitude and path of each helicopter flight.)

Cultrera said he does plan to install ADS-B equipment in his machines — when the FAA requires it in 2020.

Rough Measurements

Being by nature relentless, reasoning that if there’s ever to be any control over these flights they will first have to be somehow quantified, and knowing that the tower at Pease Tradeport is staffed by air traffic controllers, we called the Airport Manager, Bill Hopper, and asked him how we might get access to whatever records the tower keeps of the takeoffs and landings there.

He directed us to the website www.gcr1.com/5010web, which holds all the available data for

every flight in and out of KPSM, aka Pease Tradeport.

Here is that data, covering the full, twelve month period ending September 30, 2013 — every blessed bit of it: Air Carrier, 617; Air Taxi, 5,956; General Aviation Local, 19,699; General Aviation Itinerant, 2,345; Military, 7,712; Total Operations, 36,329.

Th-th-th-that’s all, folks: an average of 99.5 flight operations per day, broken down into five categories.

It seems that the air traffic controllers at Pease — who are civilian employees of the Defense Department — are primarily concerned with keeping your physician’s Cessna a safe distance from the Air National Guard’s fuel-laden KC-135 Stratotankers. Certainly that’s important; apparently, it’s not easy.

The controllers count each takeoff and each landing of any aircraft — whether it be Air Force One or Bruce Cultrera’s Robinson R-22 — as a single flight operation. But their records make

no distinction among them. Talk about egalitarian.

You Call That a Plan?

So, what about flight plans? According to Hopper, if a pilot files a flight plan, then that flight plan is recorded. But flight plans are not required for flights operating under visual flight rules — as do most flights in and out of Pease. No one doing little hops such as Cultrera’s training and sightseeing flights would ever bother to file a flight plan.

It seems that the only way to quantify Seacoast Helicopters’ flights over Portsmouth will be to enlist and train a squad of volunteers even more demented than our alleged editor, equipped with binoculars and laptops. Perhaps one could be stationed in the North Church, and another near the tarmac at Pease

Unique! Historic!

Former Senator Scott Brown [R-MA] is on track to become the first politician to lose two U.S. Senate races to female candidates.

Getting a Leg Up on the Competition
 A Great Moment in Gender Equality

There are large glasses and there are small glasses but when the local Moose Lodge held an outing, even the largest glass could not keep local contender Mildred Cuddeback from entering the famed beer drinking contest, where (much to the surprise of onlookers) she took home the blue ribbon.

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If Twain Were Alive Today

To the Editor:

In *The Bohemians*, a splendid new work about four pioneering western writers who set American literature in new directions, author Ben Tarnoff observes this about one of the writers, Mark Twain:

"Ever since moving East in the late 1860s, Twain had noticed a new shamelessness in American life. Nearly every day the papers carried reports of widespread corruption, from the endless scandals of Ulysses S. Grant's sleazy administration in Washington to the thuggery of Boss Tweed's Tammany machine in New York. Private greed and public crookedness conspired to create 'an era of incredible rotteness,' in Twain's phrase. Politicians bought elections, stole taxpayer dollars, and cut backroom deals with plutocrats. The country was becoming one big boomtown, an economic frontier of fast, ungovernable prosperity, and everyone wanted in on the bonanza."

As bad as things were in those days, they are immeasurably worse now, thanks in large measure to the damage wrought by George W. Bush, arguably our worst president ever, as well as to a Congress incapable of meaningful action and to a Supreme Court dominated by five shamelessly partisan ideologues.

Were he to return to life, even the great Mark Twain might not be capable of finding words ad-

equated to describe the woeful state of the Republic today. The bloated war machine sopping up desperately-needed money to repair our crumbling infrastructure, the surveillance state, unbridled corporate welfare, the rape of the middle class, kleptocrats apparently immune to well-earned prison terms — all these would likely make him think that the problems of the 1860s were trivial by comparison. But it's a near-certainty that he would echo the words of a contemporary, Henry George, who observed, "So long as all the increased wealth which modern progress brings goes to build up great fortunes, to increase luxury and make sharper the contrast between the House of Have and the House of Want, progress is not real and cannot be permanent."

Richard Adams
Portsmouth, NH

Richard:

The parallels between Twain's "Gilded Age" and our own are indeed quite clear — and disgusting.

Thanks for bringing Henry George to our attention — he's such an inspiring character: born into a lower-middle class family and a school dropout at 14, he shipped out for Calcutta at 15, later became a typesetter, then eloped with his sweetheart. In his early 30s he became the editor of San Francisco Daily Evening Post, his own newspaper — the very pinnacle of success.

Now nearly forgotten, George, who lived from 1839 to 1897, was quite influential in his day. He was a major proponent of the secret, or Australian, ballot. Now almost universal, it was first adopted in Massachusetts in 1888. In his time, George was the leading proponent of the "land value tax," or single tax on land, a view which came to be called "Georgism."

His ideas inspired Elizabeth Magie to invent "The Landlord's Game," which patented in 1904 as a "practical demonstration of the pres-

ent system of land grabbing with all its usual outcomes and consequences," i.e., the enrichment of property owners and the impoverishment of tenants. Eventually Parker Brothers bought the rights and renamed the game "Monopoly."

The Editor

§

Blowback at the Border

To the Editor:

I occasionally read *The New Hampshire Gazette* over the years, liked it, but only recently subscribed. The piece by William Blum ("Yankee Blowback") in your July 25th issue is alone worth my annual subscription. Thank you for that.

I had been hoping in vain to hear a single analysis among all the talking heads (whether from the right, the "left," or the middle media) nattering on about our "immigration crisis" from Central America that took into account the decades of America's egregious foreign policies south of our border as the fundamental cause of horrific conditions that would motivate tens of thousands of people to put everything, including their lives, on the line to escape those conditions we left in the wake of our policies. Banana republics, puppet dictatorships, destabilized governments, assassinations, training sessions for torturers and thugs — all the tricks we got up to out of our Cold-War communist paranoia and our obsession with making Central and South America readily profitable for corporate America.

And now in the befogged atmosphere of media coverage that looks only for draconian solutions to latter-day, tragic effects, that ignores our own moral transgressions and obligations, that avoids any analysis of whatever might be the root cause of some "mysterious" motivating source for thousands of illegal immigrants to flee their countries in a state of biblical desperation, one columnist

Mash Notes, **HATE MAIL,**

alone named William Blum has the *cojones* to look at the causes of the disease rather than its symptoms. To see our chickens coming home to roost. Will we ever learn, or is Shakespearean hubris a human constant? I'm reminded of our similar refusal to look at the causes, rather than the symptoms, of so much enmity directed toward us and the West generally from the Middle East. Perhaps Mr. Blum would be willing to write 1,000 words on our state of denial of our foreign policies on that front. He seems to be just the man for the job.

Bob Begiebing
Newfields, NH

Bob:

Thank you for your kind words.

William Blum is an author, historian, and renowned critic of U.S. foreign policy. He is the author of Killing Hope: U.S. Military and CIA Interventions Since World War II and Rogue State: A Guide to the World's Only Superpower, among other books.

He issues a new Anti-Empire Report every month, available at: WilliamBlum.org/aer.

The Editor

§

Shea-Porter Understands

To the Editor,

I am a veteran and I'm so happy to see that the House and Senate have voted on a VA bill that will help vets. Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter was the first on the scene in 2008 with her bill calling for a full-service hospital or access to local care for states without a full-service hospital. It was great to see Senator Shaheen introduce Shea-Porter's bill in the Senate in 2009, and then in 2011 to watch Senator Ayotte support it also. It has been a long road, but the New Hampshire women of the House and Senate got the job done.

It took time for the rest of Con-

gress to understand what Congresswoman Shea-Porter, wife of a veteran, understood from the beginning. This nation needs to keep its promises to its vets. I send a big "thank you" to Congresswoman Shea-Porter and Senators Shaheen and Ayotte.

Low Henry
Gilmanton Iron Works, NH

§

From Apartheid to Genocide

To the Editor:

In 1948 the Palestinians were ethnically cleansed from the lands they occupied for thousands of years, their homes destroyed, their lands expropriated, their women raped or slaughtered, and the remaining population confined to two hellholes in what amounted to open air gulags. And the rest of the world stood by. Even those who condemned South Africa remained silent in the face of the ethnic cleansing and the subsequent Israeli apartheid.

And the humiliation and suffering of the Palestinians grew, interspersed with massacres as the Israelis continued their policy of *lebensraum* with the expansion of settlements, while at the same time — and with the help of the West, the cowardly politicians, and the controlled media which guarantees a pink slip for anyone questioning Israel — claiming themselves to be the victims.

And now apartheid has led to its natural conclusion: genocide. And the same apologists — cowardly politicians, the controlled press, Europe, and especially the United States not only remain silent, they send material support in the form of finance and money. In fact the genocide would stop tomorrow with withdrawal of American support, but cowards like Harry Reid want to send even more money.

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And Other Correspondence

make the truth go away.

The tragic irony and hypocrisy is that the Jews condemn the world for remaining silent during their suffering which lasted at most five years, but demand the world stay blind and silent to the sixty-two years of suffering they impose on others.

They would have made good Nazis.

John Dente
Wilmington, DE

John:

Good Lord, we're both going to catch hell — you for writing this incendiary screed, and us for printing it.

We're not saying you're entirely wrong, but you've certainly made your case in the most inflammatory manner possible.

As for your statement that the suffering of the Jews "lasted at most five years," we have to say, your definition of suffering must be mighty narrow.

All that said, the intransigence of the Right Wingers running the State of Israel is as infuriating as it is self-defeating.

The Editor

§

First, Do No Harm

To the Editor:

Doctors take an oath before they get to practice swearing something like "first, do no harm." It is too bad our elected officials don't have to recite a similar oath.

More and more the Tea Party members of the U.S. House seem to think that doing nothing is doing no harm. They could not be more wrong. The negative consequences of their obstruction and inaction are serious, expensive, short-sighted and in several instances just plain stupid.

We all remember the TV ads where the mechanic would say, "pay me now or pay me later," with the implication that the ex-

pense would be much greater later than now. Nowhere is that more true than with infrastructure projects — roads, bridges, buildings, water treatment plants, and power grids.

Republicans in the U.S. House continue to obstruct attempts at fixing our crumbling and aging infrastructure and passing a comprehensive Highway Bill. What happened to the Republican Party that supported the needs and wishes of business?

Do these Congressmen really think that doing nothing in this case is doing no harm? They are hurting businesses, employment, the economy and American competitiveness. So says the Chamber of Commerce and The Business Roundtable, normally strong Republican supporters who are now referring to the Tea Party wing of the party as The Taliban.

Have they come to the point that they will do this kind of harm to the country and their own party just to deny President Obama the perceived victory of moving the economy forward with these major projects?

Isn't a more modern and robust business environment something everyone should strive for?

Dave Potter
North Hampton, NH

§

Explain, Guinta

To the Editor:

Now that former Congressman Frank Guinta has decided to run for Congress again, I think it's time for a reminder about his still unexplained 2010 campaign bank account of \$355,000 — the one that he "forgot" to report. To this day, Mr. Guinta refuses to say where he got a third of a million dollars on his thoroughly middle-class salary as mayor of Manchester, though he did deny getting it from his parents, who

had in 2010 sold their home in New Jersey.

In 2011 and 2012, Mr. Guinta falsely claimed that he had been cleared, but in fact he is still under investigation by the Federal Election Commission (FEC). Because of this scandal, a citizen watchdog organization named him one of the 14 most corrupt members of Congress in 2011. You can read about it in detail at crewsmost-corrupt.org/mostcorrupt/entry/frank-guinta.

His refusal to explain where he got the money caused the FEC investigation. State Senator Jeb Bradley said in August 2010 that if Guinta couldn't explain the money, he shouldn't run. That was good advice. Why won't he clear this up? A candidate for public office owes the public an explanation if he expects people to trust and vote for him.

Mr. Guinta refuses to explain "on principle." Please! The only principle he is violating is that of the public trust.

Charles Proulx
Raymond NH

§

Republican Mockery

To the Editor:

The Republican Majority in the House is making a mockery of our democratic system and turning Congress into a circus of political stunts. They are wasting precious time when they could be solving important problems Americans face. But they prefer to engage in political theater.

I hope New Hampshire voters remember this come the November elections.

Beth Olshansky
Durham, NH

§

Power Grab Coming?

To the Editor:

The demographics around the country have changed; and the extremists in the Republican Party see the Presidency as out of reach. In my opinion, John Boeh-



ner, the Speaker of the House, is moving forward wasting tax payers' money with a frivolous lawsuit against President Obama to pave the way for an anticipated trumped up phony impeachment attempt. The far right Tea Party extremists are looking toward taking both houses of Congress to ambush the Obama Presidency and weaken the Executive Branch of the Government. This can happen if the Senate and the House fall into the hands of Republicans after the midterm elections. As a result: it would insult the intelligence of majority voters that voted for President Barack Obama; it would weaken the power of the Executive Branch and give more power to the Legislative Branch. This type of power grab would create a serious sense of disenfranchisement and anarchy. It is my belief some of the most dangerous extremists masquerading as Tea Party members would rather start a civil war than go through four more years after the Obama Presidency with another Democratic president. It is sad that John Boehner has made himself part of this madness.

Alfred Waddell
West Barnstable, MA

§

Ukraine Reporting Dubious

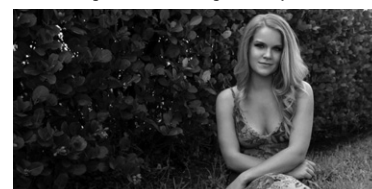
To the Editor:

I have been following the Ukraine crisis closely and noticed

More Hate Mail, &c.

to page six

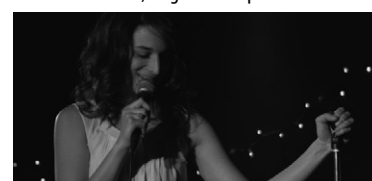
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*Northcountry Chronicle***The Gaza Ghetto**

by William Marvel

Israel's recent assault on Hamas-controlled Palestinian neighborhoods in the Gaza Strip followed almost directly from the June kidnapping and murder of three Israeli teenagers in the West Bank. A rocket salvo offered the immediate pretense, but such attacks happen frequently without igniting disproportionate retaliation. Without the orchestrated social-media campaign over the three young victims, which included the cultivation of a vengeful spirit, the current Israeli incursion in Gaza would not have been likely.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu claims to have indisputable evidence that the murderers were members of Hamas, but his refusal to share that evidence engenders much doubt. It may be true, but it is also true that Netanyahu's soldiers randomly beat, jail, or kill young Palestinians — sometimes in nothing less than murder. Nevertheless, the three young Jewish martyrs provided his excuse for an all-out attack on Gaza, a troublesome Palestinian ghetto that Israel has been blockading for years, with the obvious intent of starving it

into extinction.

The frenzy that gripped Israelis over the three murdered boys contrasted starkly with the ennuï that attends the killing of unarmed and often unoffending Palestinians by Israeli Defense Forces. Last March, guards on the Jordanian border shot a 38-year-old Palestinian to death, claiming he attacked them; turned out he was a Jordanian citizen, and a judge, but the guards stuck to their story, insisting that the standard video cameras at the crossing had "malfunctioned." On May 15, during a protest outside Ofer Prison, where hundreds of young Palestinians are detained without charges, Israeli guards shot and killed two Palestinian boys who were simply walking past the prison: you can see the videotape. They had no weapons, but perhaps they shouted insults that justify murder.

On June 22, while Israeli soldiers were ransacking Palestinian homes in the West Bank for "evidence" of the kidnapped trio, they killed two Palestinian boys, including one who was mentally ill. On July 1, persons unknown in Jerusalem kidnapped a 16-year-old Palestinian boy and apparently burned him alive. A couple of

days later two masked, uniformed Israeli police were caught on tape beating and kicking a 15-year-old Palestinian who, incidentally, is an American citizen. Just google "Israeli police beat Palestinian boy" to see it. From the looks of him, they worked him over quite a bit more after they got him to jail. These stories get short shrift from most Israeli news media, and little evident sympathy from the Israeli public (or, it seems, from the kid's congresswoman, Kathy Castor, who evinces the average American politician's horror of offending Israel).

"Anyone trying to harm Israeli citizens will be harmed in turn," warned Netanyahu on June 16. The beating his goons gave the Florida kid without a peep from Barack Obama, suggests that our president does not feel quite so strongly about his own citizens. Obama's response is to insist that Israel "has the right to defend itself" — I suppose in the same way several L.A. policemen defended themselves against Rodney King. Money talks, and evidently Israeli lobbyists spent enough to buy the president whose 2009 Cairo speech pretended such friendliness toward the Moslem world.

Given the origins of Netan-

yahu's country, it's tempting to compare his Israel to Hitler's Germany. Hardline Israelis' devotion to ethnic-based nationalism echoes eerily of the Nazi yawp of the 1930s, especially when combined with the practice of confining those lesser humans in squalid ghettos. Using a single unsolved crime as an excuse for the latest onslaught against Hamas brings to mind Hermann Goering crushing his communist rivals over the Reichstag fire — which he later claimed to have set. Israel violates international law and United Nations resolutions with impunity, much as the Third Reich gobbled up lebensraum unimpeded until 1939. Through its "Ambassadors Online" program, Israel has nurtured a vast network of pro-Zionist bloggers, whose pervasive propaganda would have made Joseph Goebbels drool: probably this column will inspire something from them.

Still, the Nazi analogy does not fit well — yet. For instance, Israeli oppression stops short of mass murder, unless you count artillery fire on civilian neighborhoods. A more obvious parallel is the stealthy, piecemeal genocide of indigenous Americans by European invaders. By dint of

successive wars the white man eventually took all the desirable land, killing only when the Indian refused to move on, or when there was nowhere else to move. Those wars usually started over some raid by a party of angry, frustrated, outgunned braves who had been pushed too far, whereupon the white "victims" attacked the entire tribe. By 1890 the last Indian resistance had been crushed, and the few survivors were corralled on dismal reservations, not unlike the West Bank and Gaza.

A glance at maps showing the disappearance of Palestinian land since the creation of Israel will explain why Netanyahu and his type are happy to delay or confound any peace accord. So little land is left to Palestinians, thanks to the proliferation of illegal Israeli settlements in the occupied lands, that soon there won't be any room for the Palestinian half of a two-state solution, which most people outside Israel recognize as the only solution possible. Once the last Palestinians have been driven onto their last hectare of land, heroic Israelis like the police who pummeled the helpless Florida kid can stage their own "battle" of Wounded Knee, solving their ethnic clash the same way we did.

More Mash Notes, HATE MAIL, And Other Correspondence, from Page Five

the latest eye catching headline on July 25 in the Associated Press, "U.S. says Russia is taking military action against Ukraine." Surely the Obama administration must have "bullet-proof" evidence to make such a damning claim that Russia is "firing artillery from its territory into Ukraine." But, the text of the article says, "the evidence derived from 'some intelli-

gence information' but [the State Dept.official] declined to elaborate...." Really, "some intelligence information" with no proof to show to the world? This follows an interview I saw on CNN on July 23 when the Kiev government claimed that Russia had shot down two Ukrainian fighter jets from Russian territory. The CNN reporter was interviewing

the Ukrainian ambassador to the U.S. on this and asked him for "what evidence do you have?" He had none. The following day, but not reported on CNN, the Kiev government retracted its allegations accusing Russia of shooting down its aircraft.

Hundreds of people have been killed in recent weeks in eastern Ukraine, many of them innocent

civilians, and yet our press has hardly mentioned this and the relentless artillery shelling and bombing by the Kiev government in this region. Our government vilified Saddam Hussein, Bashar Assad, and Muammar Gaddafi for "killing their own people." Yet, far-right fascist paramilitary groups, full of raw hatred for ethnic Russians, are now leading the

Ukraine "national guard" that is attacking the ethnic Russians in eastern Ukraine. The Kiev government, fully supported by the Obama administration, is killing its own people. The former prime minister Yulia Tymoshenko, who was the runner up in the recent presidential election, is on record for wanting to "nuke" all the ethnic Russians in Ukraine. Yes, there

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Far From a Loser, Post Office is a Money-Making Operation

by Jim Hightower

One public service that people really like and count on is the post office — which literally delivers for us.

Antigovernment ideologues and privatization dogmatists, however, hate the very word “public,” and they’ve long sought to demonize the U.S. Postal Service, undercut its popular support, and finally dismantle it. Their main

line of attack has been to depict it as a bloated, inefficient, outmoded agency that’s a hopeless money loser, sucking billions from taxpayers. Never mind that U.S.P.S. doesn’t take a dime of tax money to fund its operation — it’s actually a Congressionally-chartered, for-profit corporation that earns its revenue by selling stamps and services to customers. And here’s something that will come as a surprise to most people: The post

office makes a profit — expected to be more than a billion dollars this year.

Yet, the media keep reporting that the U.S.P.S. is losing billions of dollars each year. What they fail to mention, however, is that those are phony paper losses manufactured by Congress at the behest of corporate privatizers.

Late in 2006, the lame duck Republican Congress rammed into law a cockamamie require-

ment that the Postal Service must pre-fund the retiree health benefits of everyone it employs or expects to employ for the next 75 years. Hello, that includes workers who’re not even born yet! No other business in America is required to pre-fund such benefits for even one year. To add to Congress’ cockamamie-ness, the service is being forced to put up all of that money within just 10 years — which has been costing U.S.P.S.

more than \$5 billion a year. That artificial burden accounts for 100 percent of the so-called “losses” the media keep reporting.

It’s like tying an anvil around someone’s neck, throwing the person out of a boat, and saying, “Swim to shore, sucker.”

§

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is much more to the Ukraine crisis that you will not hear in our media.

I witnessed the run up to the Iraq war and how the press simply echoed the State Department and the Bush administration fabricated claims of WMDs and the nonexistent danger of “mushroom clouds” Nothing appears to have changed in America’s media or government from then.

John Meinhold
Portsmouth, NH

§

Guns! Cold Dead Hands!

To the Editor:

It was extremely disappointing to see that Senator Shaheen voted to implement the United Nations Treaty that would have overturned the Second Amendment concerning our Right to keep and bear Arms.

The United Nations effort to collect all firearms was Resolution 2117, which had 21 Points. Number 11 called for member states to support weapons collection and disarmament.

Senator Shaheen was one of the 46 Senators that violated their oaths of office and voted for the Treaty, which thankfully was defeated by 53 Senators, faithful to their oaths.

All voters who enjoy their free-

dom should remember this when they vote this fall, remembering that it is *we*, the veterans who defended this country, bearing arms, and that provides them with the freedom to vote.

Dick Marple
Hooksett, New Hampshire

Dick:

As usual, this “they’re coming for our guns” alert is bogus; see snopes.com/politics/guns/untreaty.asp.

The Editor

§

Beware of Immigrants!

To the Editor:

Is illegal immigration good for our nation? No.

About 21.5 million more Americans could be employed (about 9.5 million unemployed and 12 million labor force dropouts who couldn’t find jobs) if there were available jobs. Millions of illegal aliens take jobs that unemployed Americans could take.

Most illegals are relatively uneducated and unskilled and so they join the labor pool of uneducated and unskilled Americans which already has our highest unemployment rate (almost 10 percent). Increasing the number of people looking for fewer jobs allows employers to pay lower wages which makes our working poor even poorer.

Does it help a nation to have lots of people on unemployment, welfare, food stamps, &c.? No. Poor people are supported by the people who do earn money. Many taxpayers struggle financially because of low wages, reduced working hours, and high prices (increased by government requirements and demand from taxpayer supported unemployment and welfare recipients).

It’s best for a nation, and its people can prosper if everyone has a job that provides goods and services that people and businesses need, want, and can afford.

Our nation has stringent requirements for immigrating legally, e.g., health, skills, and financial independence, to ensure that immigrants contribute to our country and don’t harm or burden others. Is it fair to the millions of legal immigrants and foreigners trying to come here legally that illegal aliens are rewarded with benefits and allowed to stay? No.

Illegal aliens may bring diseases that spread to others and require costly treatments. Illegal aliens burden taxpayers by obtaining benefits and services far in excess to the taxes they pay. A disproportionate number of illegal aliens commit crimes and accidents that hurt legal residents, burden our

justice system, and increase taxes.

If unrestricted immigration were good for our nation, then why is it illegal? Unrestricted immigration is illegal because it is bad for our nation and for our citizens, because the American people know that it is bad, and because politicians know that the American people are already angry at politicians for not enforcing our laws.

Nevertheless, Washington politicians tolerate, and even seem to encourage, illegal immigration. Why? Because illegal immigration benefits some powerful special interests which richly reward the politicians who allow it.

This November we have the chance to replace New Hampshire’s two Congresswomen and Senator Shaheen who put their own interests and those of special interests and illegal aliens above what is best for the American people.

Don Ewing
Meredith, NH
Don:
Your claim that undocumented immigrants wrecked the American economy is laughable. Wall Street goons did that, with a lot of help from your Republican pals in Congress, such as Kelly Ayotte.

The Editor

Article V, Convention of States

To the Editor:

As a citizen of Texas, I believe it is my duty to tell you about the best chance to save our Republic from the overreaching Federal Government. Article V of the Constitution authorizes state legislatures to call a convention to propose Amendments to the Constitution, like term limits for Congress, Fair Tax, Balanced Budget or voter ID amendments. Citizens for Self Governance has launched the Convention of States Project to limit the power and jurisdiction of Federal Government. The great state of Texas has a leadership team in place to spearhead this movement. To get involved visit ConventionofStates.com.

This project gives us, American citizens and State Legislators, a way out of the abusive Federal Government policies and together we can preserve liberty for our children and grandchildren.

George Anagnostis, MD
Arlington, Texas

George:

God help us all is if this half-baked idea ever gets off the ground. We can just imagine the havoc it would wreak when the Sovereign Citizens and Oath Keepers took it over — which they would.

The Editor

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- Lester Markel (1894-1977) journalist, editor

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