

The New Hampshire Gazette

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The Fortnightly Rant

Onward and Sideways — at Best

The final fortnight leading up to the inauguration proceeded exactly as could be expected.

It began with a shocking news report: representatives of “The Intelligence Community,” herein-after “The IC,” had briefed President Obama and President-elect Trump about their conclusion that Russian President Vladimir Putin had ordered and run a campaign to “undermine public faith in the U.S. democratic process, denigrate Secretary Clinton, and ... help President-elect Trump’s election chances.”

The unprecedented nature of the twin briefings was reinforced by The IC’s release of a 25-page declassified summary of its findings, apparently on the novel principle that, since people would be talking, they ought to have some idea what they’re talking about. That document, though, quickly became the target of mockery, since it seemed to consist largely of warmed-over material, much of it drawn from public sources.

That shocking news report was soon followed by another: a mysterious 35-page dossier was said to be circulating on Capitol Hill which contained unspecified but highly scandalous allegations concerning a certain real estate ~~but~~ ~~from~~ magnate. This item, said to be one of the sources used to create The IC’s more decorous document, was alleged to have been commissioned by a PAC working for sad, low-energy Jeb! Bush.

This being the 21st century, when instant gratification is widely perceived as taking far too long, by the time the *hoi polloi* had heard about the once-secret dossier, the digital *cogniscenti* had already read it.

Unlike its official predecessor, the Christopher Steele version really delivered. As a family paper, we’ll just say that use of the word “salacious” has suddenly skyrocketed and the White House staff is pricing rubber sheets.

The Usual & Unusual Suspects

The obvious conclusion to be drawn from this unseemly sequence of tawdry events is that someone really, really wants to shame Donald Trump into oblivion. That conclusion, though, gets us nowhere: he’s already proven that he can’t be shamed, and any comprehensive list of likely suspects would be too huge to be useful.

Nevertheless, we have two suspects. Living as we do now in a world where nothing can really be known one way or the other, we consider ourselves licensed to flesh out both hypotheses.

Our lead suspect is President Obama. Up until noon today, the dude worked in the Oval Office. He had the means.

He also had the motive. Most Americans put Trump somewhere on the spectrum between annoying and appalling. Now recall that Trump spent four years lying loudly about Obama’s birth certificate. How must *he* feel towards the Donald?

Finally, there’s the MO. On the night of the White House Correspondents Dinner in 2011, just hours after sending a team of SEALs to take out Osama bin Laden, President Obama, basking in applause and laughter, beamed with delight as he fired a volley of punchlines at the stone-faced Trump.

Hell, if Obama released that document, it would have been his *second* attempt on the man’s political life. Such a takedown would also have been remarkably similar to one carried out by a predecessor, more than 60 years earlier.*

* In the fall of 1953, life was good for Wisconsin Senator Joe McCarthy: his Senate committee was scaring people all over the country out of their wits. Then he and his chief counsel, New Yorker Roy Cohn, went an accusation too far. Cohn, a closeted homosexual, had been pressuring the Army to assign buck private G. David Schine to a post in New York City. Schine’s only apparent qualification was his good looks, which the Army deemed insufficient grounds for the reassignment. Outraged by the Army’s lack of respect for his authority [sic], McCarthy used his committee to air wild allegations about Commies running the Army. This did not sit well with President Eisenhower, who had devoted his life to building said Army. So, on March 11, 1954, Ike secretly ordered the release of a 34-page



Our second most-likely suspect as the dossier’s leaker is the alleged victim himself: ex-spoiled brat, draft-dodger, deadbeat, reality TV star, and probably-*faux* billionaire Donald J. Trump.

While it might seem absurd at first glance to suggest that any man would set himself up for the ridicule which would surely follow such sordid accusations, let us remember who it is we’re talking about. The man knows no shame.

The leak of those 35 salacious pages may actually be serving Trump quite well. Whether Christopher Steele’s 35-page *Sexual Perversity in Moscow* is fact

or fiction, it distracts the general public — and, more importantly, the knee-jerk corporate media — from the details of his business dealings with Russians.

During his January 11th medicine show — billed as a press conference — so dishonest — Trump claimed to have no deals or loans in Russia. He said nothing about Russian investments in New York, where corrupt oligarchs come from around the world to stash their ill-gotten gains in high-end real estate.

Trump’s son reportedly said in 2008, “Russians make up a pretty disproportionate cross-section of

a lot of our assets. We see a lot of money pouring in from Russia.”

Barack Obama swept into office on a tidal wave of hope. Despite his best efforts — and thanks to the worst efforts of Messrs. McConnell, Boehner, &c., &c., that particular commodity seems a bit shopworn now.

Even so, we hold out the hope that one day — perhaps today, from under the voluminous black robes of Chief Justice John Roberts, as he prepares to swear in No. 45 — some agent from a non-Giuliani branch of the FBI will appear with an extra-small pair of gold-plated handcuffs.

dossier detailing McCarthy’s shenanigans on behalf of Cohn and Schine. It took all of five days for McCarthy’s committee to vote for an investigation. During the summer of 1954, the nation sat spellbound in front of their Zeniths during eight weeks of Army-McCarthy hearings. By the time they were over, so was McCarthy’s reign of terror. Ike’s central role in McCarthy political demise is told for the first time in a book to be published this spring, *Eisenhower and McCarthy: how the President toppled a reckless Senator*, by David A. Nichols. An excerpt has been published online by the National Archives. For the theory that Obama leaked the Trump dossier, see “Is Obama Behind the Hit on Trump?”, by Peter Lee, at counterpunch.org/2017/01/13/is-obama-behind-the-hit-on-trump/.

The Alleged News®

Washington, D.C. becomes Ben Tre

The *New York Times* recently published an excellent column by Karl Marlantes, headlined, “Vietnam: The War That Killed Trust.” The legacy of that war still shapes America, writes Marlantes, a Marine combat veteran of that war, “even if most of us are too young to remember it,” and he’s absolutely right.

In January of 1968, the brass were telling the press that the enemy was on the ropes. Then came the Tet Offensive. A week after that started, an unnamed U.S. Army major, explaining why the provincial capital of Ben Tre had been nearly levelled by aerial bombardment, said, “It became

necessary to destroy the town to save it.”

Now, after 50 years of Richard Nixon, Ronald Reagan, Lee Atwater, Grover Norquist, Newt Gingrich, Frank Luntz, and Dick “Dick” Cheney, we have the logical conclusion: Donald J. Trump.

We doubt if even he has the chutzpah to order the Air Force to bomb Washington, D.C., but he’s doing the next best thing: in place of a Cabinet, he’s appointed a wrecking crew. And, since in place of Congress we have Congress, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Goldman Sachs, that “thwack” you hear is the sound of a gold-plated rubber stamp.

Slippery Customer

After weeks of grandly-staged searching, Trump picked Rex Tillerson to be Secretary of State. He’s the former CEO of Exxon Mobil, which has enormous holdings in Russia. Trump, of course, has his own set of issues with Russia. And yet, during his confirmation hearing, Tillerson told Sen. Bob Menendez that he hadn’t yet had any discussions about Russia with the President-elect. That sounds either awfully cavalier or like a bold-faced lie.

It’s probably the latter. Tillerson testified under oath that Exxon never lobbied against sanctions on Russia. Byron Tau, who cov-

ers Congress for that leftist rag the *Wall Street Journal*, has found reports showing Exxon lobbied Congress about sanctions 14 times between 2006 and 2014.

One of his responsibilities would be to uphold American values in places where Americans do business. Before he became CEO, Tillerson was an executive vice president of an Exxon subsidiary doing oil field development around the world, including Indonesia’s Aceh Province. There, “Exxon’s Army” — Indonesian soldiers hired by Exxon to provide security — were notorious for their brutality. Tillerson has pleaded ignorance.

Mr. Oops

While we’re on the topic of ignorance and destroying things, Rick Perry is on track to run the Department of Energy, which he once said he wanted to eliminate, although he could not remember its name.

In a sane world the Department of Energy would be running a Manhattan-style Project to develop renewable energy sources so as to drastically reduce carbon emissions keep us from choking to death on our own exhaust. We live on Earth, though. That means

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to page two

The Alleged News®
from page one

Mr. Oops will be in charge of designing, testing, and producing nuclear weapons. The nomination is quite a step up considering that his last paid gig was as hooper on a TV show, and he finished in 12th place.

If he survives the confirmation process — and, fortunately for him he's the only contestant — Perry will also be in charge of a little problem people tend to forget: trying to take out America's radioactive garbage.

Strangely, [Now, there's a tick we're going to have to overcome. Everything that happens these days seems to happen strangely. — *The Ed.*] that is the one facet of his new job he's actually got some experience with ... unfortunately. As the Governor of Texas, Perry assisted the late Harold Simmons in his effort to develop a nuclear garbage dump in desolate, poor, largely-Hispanic Andrews Coun-

ty. It was a great success: Simmons got to build his lucrative private nuke dump, and Perry got \$620,000 in campaign contributions. Not that there's anything wrong with that, at least according to Texas law.

(Simmons donated \$3 million to the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth, which spread malicious lies about a combat-wounded Naval officer so as to help out a politically-connected shirker — further evidence supporting the previously-noted theory of Karl Marlantes about the ongoing significance of the Vietnam War.)

Loaded for Bear

Every Constitution Day the Annenberg Public Policy Center releases a survey designed to gauge how well Americans understand their government. Perhaps they do this to make us feel bad. We'll say this for their survey: it goes a long way towards explaining our present state of affairs.

To put things in perspective, in 2011 only 38 percent of



A new group calling itself *The Resistance Seacoast* rallied on Sunday in Market Square to protest the looming repeal of Obamacare, and, we assume by extrapolation, cruel and idiotic government in general. This demonstration failed to fit what had seemed like a fairly fixed pattern: left-leaning protestors gathering in front of the North Church, facing a smaller group of counter-protestors across the street. On Sunday, *The Resistance* seemed to be holding both sides of Congress Steet, unopposed. Perhaps Trump partisans were unable to find anyone willing to hold up a sign saying, "Please take away my healthcare."

Americans could name the three branches of government, which is obviously a pitiful result. Now it's worse — this year, we're down to 26 percent. Thanks, Obama.

Fortunately, though, Donald J. Trump is going to Make America Smart Again, by putting Betsy DeVos in charge of the Department of Education.

DeVos is the wife of Dick DeVos, heir to the Amway fortune. Amway is probably one of the world's most successful cults, second only, perhaps, to Scientology. Where Scientology uses a few tin cans and wires to extract money from the gullible, Amway at least gives its followers some exercise: they hustle around selling cleaning products and such, as part of a multi-level marketing racket.

Momentarily reverting to a hypothetical sane world, Amway and the DeVos family would serve as a prime example of the merit — indeed, the necessity — of a fairly rigorous progressive income

tax, and a positively ravenous estate tax.

Instead, we have a system of laws that allow the wealthy to divert what would otherwise be tax revenue, and use that wealth to promote whatever peculiar whims may have entered their quite possibly vacant heads.

Over the past several decades Betsy DeVos has thrown literally hundreds of millions of dollars at the Republican Party.

She boasted in 1997 that her family had been the largest single contributor of soft money to the Republican party. "I have decided," she wrote at the time, "to stop taking offense at the suggestion that we are buying influence. Now I simply concede the point. They are right. We do expect some things in return."

What she expects is the destruction of public education. Not that she sees it that way, of course. Like Pol Pot, she simply believes that everyone will be better off

if they carry out her vision. Part of that vision is, of course, school vouchers and private schools, and just about anything that would justify abandoning the public school system.

Also, she opposes federal laws banning guns in schools, because you never know when a grizzly bear might attack.

Best TV Listing Ever

We never thought we'd have occasion to quote a TV listing from the [Glasgow, Scotland] *Sunday Herald*, but these are extraordinary times. We would be remiss in our duties if we failed in this case.

"President Trump: The Inauguration; 4:00 p.m., BBC One — After a long absence, 'The Twilight Zone' returns with one of the most ambitious, expensive, and controversial productions in broadcast history. Sci-fi writers have dabbled often in alternative history stories ... but this huge, interactive virtual reality project, which will unfold on TV, in the

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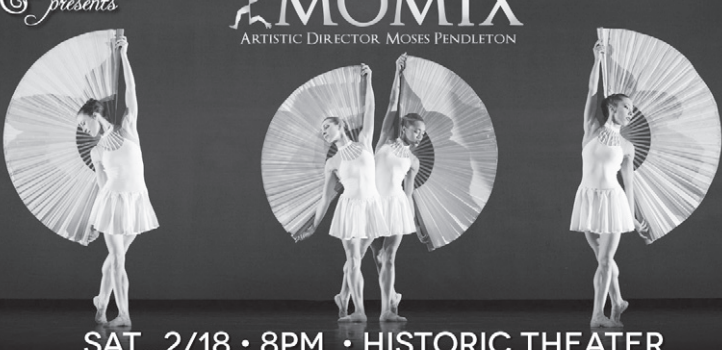


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press, and on Twitter over the next four years, sets out to build an ongoing alternative present. The story begins in a nightmarish version of 2017 in which huge sections of the U.S. electorate have somehow been duped into voting to make Donald Trump president. It sounds far-fetched, and it is, but as it goes on it becomes more and more chillingly plausible. Today's feature-length opener concentrates on the gaudy inauguration of President Trump, and the stirrings of protest and despair surrounding the ceremony, while pundits speculate gravely on what lies ahead. It's a flawed piece, but a disturbing glimpse of the horrors we could stumble into, if we're not careful."

How About Them Tourists?

New England's largest daily paper has been at it again. On January 13, *The Boston Globe* ran a piece by freelancer Lauren Daley extolling this town's culinary virtues. "Trip by trip," it began, "over the last few years, this close observer has witnessed this Seacoast gem's metamorphosis from a neat day trip into a hip foodie 'it' town."

It may be too late to do much good, but we recently found a piece by Leigh Cowart, published in *The Asheville Blade* of January 13, 2015, offering "An important

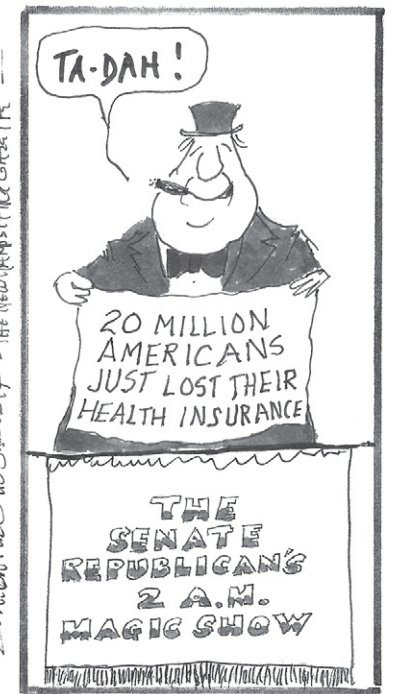
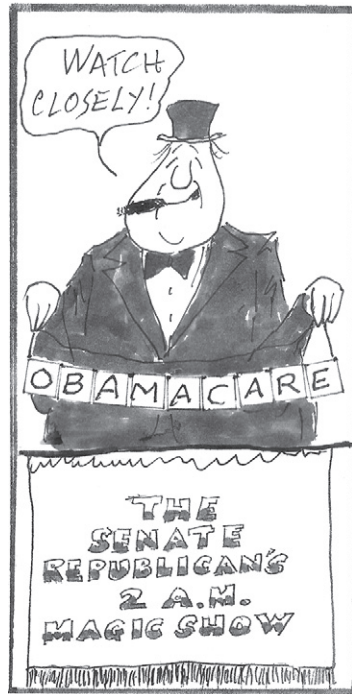
public service announcement to the citizens of Asheville about the strange, potentially lethal creatures migrating to our land.

"Due to the synergistic factors of anthropogenic climate change and Good Morning America, our community faces an increased likelihood of tourist encounters this year. ...

"Thankfully, the most important step in tourist interaction is what you can do to reduce the likelihood of encountering them in the first place. Tourists are very attracted to food, which means that trash should be secured indoors and not set out on the curb the night before pick-up. Remove bird feeders from the property, as those too are known to attract tourists. Do not feed them or alert them to your restaurant connections." The rest of the piece is available at <http://ashevilleblade.com/?p=826>.

A Style Tip for our Colleagues

The Young Republican group at UC Davis in California invited Milo Yiannopoulos, an editor for *Breitbart News*, to speak on Friday the 13th. Yiannopoulos was accompanied by Martin Shkreli, best known for jacking up the price on a generic AIDS drug by something like 5,000 percent. Naturally, the event drew protes-



tors. Unfortunately, some protestors behaved rather badly; one pelted Shkreli in the face with dog excrement. For the record, this behavior is unseemly, unsanitary, and illegal; we do not condone it, particularly in light of our final news item. We merely mention it to introduce a potentially valuable tip for our colleagues in the news racket, issued by the *Fake AP Stylebook*: "When getting the 5 Ws of the Martin Shkreli dog poop story, you probably don't need to worry about the 'why.'"

Hate is Everywhere — Fight It

A black gentleman was crossing Congress Street in Portsmouth on Martin Luther King Jr. Day when "a carload of kids" in a 2011 BMW with New Hampshire plates shouted a racial slur at him. His *Facebook* post revealing this verbal assault drew hundreds of appalled, supportive replies.

Perhaps the most useful was this: "How best can we support our friends who are the subjects of such vitriol and prejudice?"

He replied, "Be vocal, when you witness it. Disrupt it. Don't tolerate it from friends or relatives. Be an example."

In a fortuitous coincidence, the next day we received notification

that *ProPublica* has launched a project called, Documenting Hate.

"The 2016 election left many in America afraid — of intolerance and the violence it can inspire," according to *ProPublica*. "The need for trustworthy facts on the details and frequency of hate crimes and other incidents born of prejudice has never been more urgent."

"At this point, there is simply no reliable national data on crimes. And no government agency documents lower-level incidents of harassment and intimidation, such as online or real-life bullying. Documenting and understanding all of these incidents — from hate-inspired murders to anti-Semitic graffiti to racist online trolling — requires new, more creative approaches."

"That's why we have marshaled a national coalition of news organizations, civil-rights groups and technology companies intent on creating a database of reported hate crimes and bias incidents."

"The FBI is required by law to collect data about hate crimes, but local jurisdictions aren't required to report incidents up to the federal government. As a predictable

consequence, the FBI's data is incomplete.

"We're assembling a trove of data provided by law enforcement, community groups, local jurisdictions, news reports, search trends, social media and other nonprofit organizations. Volunteers, including journalism students throughout the country, will follow-up to fill in data and authenticate the social media reports. Our database will be available, with privacy and security restrictions, to civil-rights groups and journalists, to enrich a national understanding and conversation about hate crimes and bias incidents."

New Hampshire Women's March for Civil Rights

A one-hour rally will be held in Market Square tomorrow, January 21st. It is being organized by Occupy NH Seacoast, in support of the Women's March on Washington. Starting time is 1:00 p.m.

"We stand together defending the most marginalized among us and in doing so we are defending all of us. To do otherwise would be to dishonor those who came before us who championed human rights, justice and dignity."

The Leftist Marching Band will provide musical inspiration.



In "honor" of the inauguration of our 45th President, the Flag Police have issued a pardon to the person or persons responsible for this battered banner, which so well represents the condition of the nation for which it stands.

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Dark, Dire Days

To the Editor:

In these dark, dire days dominated by the Donald, we can only hope that the free press prevents things from spiraling out of control.

Unfortunately, freedom of the press is guaranteed only to those who own one — or who unleash legions of underpaid Russo-Republican trolls to advocate their version of opinionated factoids on social media under the headline of “news.”

Dire days indeed, with only a few voices of dissent in the wilderness. Which is why I’m renewing my subscription to at least maintain some sanity in this sad world where the movies, TV, and literature seem to be demanding that the impending Armageddon is overdue, and we should be looking forward to it.

Enclosed please find a check for my renewal, plus a bit extra to ensure the wheels of a proper newspaper are well lubricated.

John Hirtle
Greenland, N.H.

John:

Thanks for renewing, and thanks for helping to keep our wheels well lubricated.

The Editor

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**About That Swamp**

To the Editor:

Trump claimed if elected he’d drain the swamp. His Cabinet nominations indicate he drained the swamp, brought out all the snakes and lizards, changed them

into foxes and nominated them to be in charge of the hen houses of our government. The basket of deplorables have spoken — hail to the Chief!

Gene Murphy  
Melbourne, Fla.

~~~~~

Which Great America?

To the Editor:

Make America great again?

Which “great” America do we want to bring back? The one that oversaw the distribution of smallpox-infested blankets to Indian men, women, and children? The one in which African-Americans who objected to being bought and sold and their families dispersed were whipped or lynched? The one that imported by the thousands Chinese laborers essentially forced to construct a transcontinental railroad? All were great periods for the capitalists. Not so much for the Indians, African-Americans, and Chinese.

Or maybe we’d like to go back to the “great” America that blew up its own shipful of sailors to provoke a war with a neighboring country. Or the “great” post-World War II America that exposed African-American soldiers to radiation because military doctors thought perhaps something in the skin of black soldiers might protect them. Or the “great” America of the ‘60s and ‘70s that exposed not only U.S. soldiers, but Vietnamese farmers and their families to Agent Orange, assuring the former, “it’s only to kill plants.” Whatever “greatness” America has achieved has been purchased at no small cost from its indigenous population, minorities, the disenfranchised, and foreigners. Hardly a legacy of which to be proud.

Make America great again? How about finally making America great, with compassion, cooperation, empathy, equality, integrity, intelligence, love, reason, and tolerance, among other qualities that, not being mentioned by

one side in what resembled more a military than political campaign, one can only surmise are not even in the vocabulary of the incoming administration?

Best of luck, America.
Best of luck, world.
John Simon
Portsmouth, N.H.

John:

Thanks a lot! As if we didn't have enough stuff in our "To Read" pile, now we've got to look into whether William McKinley was the first U.S. President to sign off on a black flag attack!

The Editor

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**Remember January 17th**

To the Editor:

“I won’t be able to make that appointment as I’ll be in jail next Tuesday,” I told the nurse who was setting the date for my checkup to remove stitches. She appeared a bit shocked that this aging, white, middle-class male was going to jail. I tried to assure her that I would return — just not on the 17th.

I explained to the nurse that January 17, 2017 is the 40th anniversary of the first execution in the United States since the Supreme Court reinstated capital punishment in the case of *Gregg v Georgia*, back in 1976. On that date in 1977, Gary Gilmore was executed by firing squad in Utah. Every five years a group of abolition activists opposed to the death penalty appears on the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, D.C., holding a “Stop Executions” banner. I was arrested there on the 17th in 2007 and again in 2012. On January 17, 2017, I will return to Washington and once again mount the steps of the Court and be one of those holding the banner. I know I’ll be arrested and likely held overnight before being arraigned for violating the Supreme Court rule which prohibits demonstrations of any kind on the grounds or inside the building of the Court. I will likely

serve time in jail for my witness.

At my last trial in 2012, I told the judge that I hoped that would have been the last time I would have to face arrest for prayerfully holding a banner as it appeared our nation was inching closer to finally ending capital punishment. Internationally the death penalty is now being questioned around the globe.

Our nation has the distinction of being the only country in the Western Hemisphere still carrying out executions. Our use of it puts us in a league with Syria, Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and North Korea. Strange fellows that we choose to share a bed with, to be sure.

I witness at the Supreme Court because my Christian faith calls upon me to choose life rather than death. Unfortunately, many of us still prefer to follow the Hammurabic dictate of an eye for an eye. I well understand that gut reaction to murder but I follow a Lord who told his followers to put away the sword; who punished Cain by exile for the murder of his brother Abel, but put a mark of protection upon Cain that allowed him to carry on his life. It is that belief that draws me back once again to the steps of the Supreme Court. I go to petition my government to stop killing in my name, to pray for an end to execution.

Since 1977, 1,443 men and women have been executed in the United States; during that same time frame more than 150 have been exonerated and walked off death rows because they were proven innocent only after having been condemned to death. That means for every 10 executed, one was wrongfully convicted. I wouldn’t buy a car that failed to start one out of every 10 times I put the key in the ignition. Would you?

I return to the Court steps this

*Mash Notes, HATE MAIL*

year to call for an end to state killing, to witness for life, to call on the sitting judges to Stop Executions. I will pray while awaiting arrest for both the victims of murder and their families and for those who kill, for the Dylann Roofs, and the Gary Gilmores. It is perhaps easier to pray for the victims of murder than it is for the perpetrators who face execution. But God’s call is to love our brothers and sisters regardless of whether they love us back. Consider joining me in praying for an end to executions.

Jack Payden-Travers  
Lynchburg, Va.

Jack:

*Unlikely God wants to hear from us; there are things we'd have to get off our chest He wouldn't want to hear. But let the Court know, we're with you in spirit.*

The Editor

~~~~~

Noble or Scoundrel?

To the Editor:

The presidency of Barack Obama is history. It is a tragic history, having started with the hopes and good wishes of not only the United States, but of the entire world. This hope was so great that it awarded him the Noble Peace Prize in anticipation of great strides towards peace that would overturn the legacy of Bill Clinton, Bush/Cheney, and the neoconservative agenda of empire and perpetual war.

Obama failed, and we will always wonder why. Was he a tragic figure in the true sense of one who is noble of spirit but who like Othello was destroyed by the “poison poured into his ear” by Iago, absorbed the poison poured into his ear by the neoconservatives; or was he just the typical Chicago politician with a gift of oratory who lied his way into the White House then reneged on his promises, leaving the entire world

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And Other Correspondence

disappointed? Was he noble but misguided, or a scoundrel from day one?

Everyone will have to answer that question for himself. It is unfortunate that the question has to be asked?

John Dente
Wilmington, Del.
John:
Good Lord

President Obama has his flaws: too aloof as a politician, too willing to grant the benefit of the doubt to obvious, die-hard partisan hacks, too centrist in his politics

There is, of course, the little matter of his killing U.S. citizens with drone strikes: New Mexico-born Anwar al-Awlaki and his son, Colorado-born Abdulrahman al-Awlaki, for those who have forgotten. Anwar got his first taste of terrorist training from our then-friends the mujahideen, then went rogue on us. Abdulrahman was apparently "collateral damage."

Do those deaths make Obama a scoundrel? If so, all Presidents are scoundrels, because they all end up with blood on their hands.

If you're looking for scoundrels, try the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue! There's nearly 300 of them there in a huge white building with a big-ass dome on top! You can't miss it!

The Editor

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## Partisan Blindness

To the Editor:  
The *New York Times* recently ran a story highlighting all those working-class people who voted for Trump and other Republicans during the election. Many of these people are the victims of chronic unemployment or underemployment resulting from the unrelenting forces of globalization and technological advances that have greatly reduced manufacturing jobs. By voting as they did, they supported a party and a man who have done almost nothing

to help the working class people of America. In fact, history shows that many of their actions have been specifically aimed at limiting the benefits available to the middle and working class.

For more than 100 years, Republicans supported the wealthy, and elites of America. They supported the Robber Barons as they accumulated large fortunes at the expense of their workers and the environment. They opposed child labor laws, workers compensation, a shorter work week, unemployment benefits and minimum wage laws. During the Great Depression, Republicans opposed almost every action by President Roosevelt and his New Deal designed to help the working and middle class, including the landmark Social Security Program. Over the past 50 years, Republicans opposed Medicare, Medicaid, occupational health and safety regulations, eliminated medical and education debt as a justification to claim bankruptcy, opposed increasing the minimum wage and extending unemployment benefits during the great recession of 2008.

Now Republicans are poised to repeal the Affordable Care Act, aka "Obamacare," without providing an alternative, even though they have had six years to craft one, leaving as a result over 20 million people and an entire health care industry in limbo regarding their fate. Of course, while gutting programs for the working and middle class, Republicans will continue to provide huge tax cuts to their wealthy supporters, with a few crumbs falling to the rest of us.

If those working class voters who voted for Trump and his Republican colleagues think that they will reap the benefits of their programs they are in for a very sad realization. Trump's cabinet, if confirmed as expected, is load-

ed with fellow billionaires, and will represent the richest cabinet in history. Do you actually believe that they have the best interests of the middle and working class as part of their agenda? Unfortunately, it will be the working and middle class who will bear a disproportionate share of the pain and suffering resulting from the coming Republican assault.

The history of Republican opposition to the best interests of regular people, while safeguarding the interests of the wealthy is clearly documented for everyone to see. No amount of spin or obfuscation can change what is the historical truth. However, there are none so blind as those who will not see.

Rich DiPentima  
Portsmouth, N.H.

Rich:

*Some people learn in school, some people only learn by making mistakes. When people make big mistakes in politics, all of us get sent to detention.*

The Editor

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A Workforce Housing Theory

To the Editor:

There has been a lot of discussion recently about what the City of Portsmouth should do to promote "workforce housing." What the City and local leaders should be doing is applying pressure to Portsmouth's neighbors (New Castle, Rye and Newington) to do their part before Portsmouth offers any more subsidies, variances, or zoning changes for higher density development. Portsmouth already has 580 subsidized housing units (the largest housing authority per capita in New Hampshire) when our neighbors have *none*! Is Portsmouth only the dining, arts, shopping, and drinking playground for our neighbors so they can have lower property tax rates? Also, maybe the lack of interest for developing affordable housing in those towns has something to do with not wanting to have any

more liberal, progressive or Democrat voters that might change political control in the community.

Robert Najar
Portsmouth, N.H.

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## Right to Work For Less

To the Editor:

Already Right-to-Work legislation for New Hampshire is in the news, this new political year. I'm with those who think of it as Right-to-Work-for-Less. A 2011 Economic Policy Institute study finds that workers in RTW states earn on average \$1,500 less per year in wages. Fewer workers in RTW states get pension plans from their employers.

I found this written by libertarian, J.D. Tuccille, that RTW legislation, passed in a state, amounts to a state "putting its thumb on the scale in the never-ending game of playing labor and business off against one another." New Governor Sununu may call out that "New Hampshire is open for business" in a different, unprecedented way, by reducing wages, but will that come to be? Not if our newly-seated legislature hears otherwise from constituents who say we want to remain among the states fairer to labor by not passing RTW laws.

Lynn Rudmin Chong  
Sanbornton, N.H.

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Advise And Consent is now Conceal And Confuse

To the Editor:

The Republican Senate leadership is undermining our democracy.

Mitch McConnell and his accomplices have purposely rushed the confirmation hearings for Trump's cabinet picks. Senators have not been provided the information nominees are required to provide before the hearings commence. Confirmation hearings have been scheduled so closely together that Senators do not have adequate time to prepare. Why



the unseemly rush?

In what is widely considered to be the most ill-prepared and ill-suited group of individuals selected for cabinet positions in U.S. history, why the effort to ram them through without proper vetting? The most straightforward answer: because Republican leadership knows that the general view is correct — this really is the most ill-prepared and ill-suited group to ever be nominated for Cabinet positions. They would not stand up to the real vetting process the senate is supposed to provide, they can't be shown in the light of day.

The Republican senate leadership is serving the party and not the people. The country loses.

Sad.

Michael Frandzel
Portsmouth, N.H.

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## Trump's Wrecking Crew

To the Editor:

Are you concerned about the man-made increases in temperature that steadily raise ocean levels? Do you believe in the ability of public education to bring children of different faiths and races together to share experiences and learn from one another? Are you a supporter of renewable forms of energy, such as wind, solar, and geothermal, as a way to create jobs and solve our energy needs without destroying the environment? Are you in favor of an increase in the minimum wage to a level allowing the poorest amongst us to sustain themselves?

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The Northcountry Chronicle

West from Hebron

by William Marvel

No, this is not a memoir of a visit to the West Bank: Hebron is a little town in Grafton County. One of New Hampshire's Civil War governors, Nathaniel Berry, lived there for nearly half a century. I remember Hebron, as I do many other towns, for its cemetery, where I once found a blackberry bush growing from the decayed crotch of a maple tree, nearly a dozen feet off the ground. A lot of Pikes live over there. Ralph and Maribah Pike raised at least ten children on a hardscrabble farm in Hebron between 1823 and 1850. Most of those children stayed home with their parents into their late 20s or 30s, but the youngest son — also named Ralph — left early. Like most boys in his generation, he finished school in his early teens and went to work. Other than Nathaniel Berry's tannery, which stank unbearably, there wasn't much employment in Hebron beyond agriculture, so Ralph lit out for Manchester and took a job as a weaver in the Amoskeag Mills. Evidently wishing to see more of the country, Ralph stopped in at a Manchester recruiting office

and enlisted in the new 10th U.S. Infantry on June 20, 1855 — a few days after he turned 18. By midsummer he was learning the rudiments of army life at Carlisle Barracks, some 20 miles west of Harrisburg, Pa. Late that autumn the regiment ventured out to Fort Snelling, Minnesota, on the upper Mississippi. That quiet sojourn ended in the summer of 1857, after Utah's territorial governor Brigham Young refused to turn over his office to a successor appointed by President Buchanan. A 2,500-man column including Ralph Pike and the 10th Infantry headed south and west, by steamer and on foot, to reprimand the recalcitrant Mormons. By then Pike, with his grade-school education, had been appointed first sergeant of his company, much of which was filled by recent German and Irish immigrants of limited literacy. Late in November the army reached Fort Bridger, in what is now southwestern Wyoming, and remained there through the winter. In the spring of 1858 the soldiers marched into Utah, passing Salt Lake City without incident and establishing Camp Floyd in the Cedar Valley, west of Utah

Lake. The mere presence of so many troops inspired general cooperation from the Mormons, but individuals continued to defy federal authority. One day early in 1859 Sergeant Pike took a file of soldiers to eject some ranchers who were rounding up cattle at Camp Floyd, but a young man named Howard O. Spencer declined to leave. He brandished a pitchfork, and Pike clubbed him over the head with the butt of his rifle, leaving a sizable dent. The post surgeon "trepanned" Spencer's skull, cutting out some of the broken bone to relieve the pressure, and he survived, but in August a Mormon grand jury indicted Sergeant Pike for assault with intent to kill. He came into Salt Lake City to answer the charges, escorted by Major Fitz John Porter (also a New Hampshire native) and four comrades who would double as witnesses. When Pike left the courthouse for lunch, Spencer ran up behind him and shot him in the side before the sergeant could draw his own revolver. Mormon spectators blocked the other soldiers from



The Camp Floyd, Utah, Cemetery, where one New Hampshire lad is spending eternity.

chasing Spencer as he ran away. Pike died three days later and was buried in the Camp Floyd cemetery, where he still lies. Spencer eluded pursuit for nearly 30 years. He was only tried for Pike's murder in the spring of 1889, after he had been arrested on charges of "unlawful cohabitation" for harboring more than the legal limit of wives. Spencer's defense counsel tried to suggest that his client was insane, perhaps offering as evidence that the defendant had been unbalanced enough to voluntarily collect a daunting assortment of mothers-in-law. Sympathizing either with Spencer's mental state or with all those mothers-in-law, the jury found him not guilty. The *Salt Lake City Herald* of May 12 reported that the judge said "if this is not a case of murder — speak-

ing from a practice of over twenty-three years — I have never seen one in a court of justice." Remark- ing bitterly that the law in Utah was no protection to anyone, he dismissed the jurors. Spencer was not even convicted of polygamy. He, all his wives, and their platoons of children simply returned to their ranch. Spencer outlived his victim by nearly six decades. His descendants still populate Utah, but they don't say much about the murder or the harm. Ralph Pike was the only U.S. soldier killed by Mormons in the Mormon War. By then his family had all moved to Long Island, becoming tenant farmers as their fortunes declined, so he would have had no home to return to even if he had survived the final ten months of his enlistment. Like most antebellum Regular Army soldiers, he would probably have reenlisted in 1860. His part of the regiment suffered devastating casualties during the Civil War, and he might only have found a grave in a less picturesque National Cemetery.

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

In a cruel bit of irony, minority president Donald Trump (he received 2.8 million fewer votes nationwide than Hillary Clinton) has appointed to his cabinet people who oppose these goals. According to the *New York Times* (December 18th), "Scott Pruitt, the Oklahoma state attorney general, who was picked to lead the E.P.A., rejects the established science of human-caused climate change and has built his career on fighting environmen-

tal regulations. At the Education Department, Betsy DeVos wants to steer government money away from traditional public schools. Rick Perry (Governor of oil-rich Texas for 14 years) was picked to head the Energy Department — unless he eliminates it as he once promised." Andre Puzder was chosen to be Labor Secretary. Billionaire Puzder, who owns fast-food chains, rejects increases in the minimum wage and favors elim-

inating workers through automation. "(Automated devices) are always polite, they always upsell, they never take a vacation, they never show up late, there's never a slip-and-fall, or an age, sex or race discrimination case," said Puzder, chief executive of CKE Restaurants Inc., in an interview with *Business Insider* earlier this year (quoted by *MarketWatch*, December 10th). Puzder's fantasy would be complete if he could only teach robots

to eat hamburgers and, most important, pay for them. So here we have Trumpland — a place where people associate only with people who are like themselves and avoid others. A place where the environment is destroyed for the sake of profit. A place where the rich grow richer from the sweat and toil of underpaid workers. Not exactly what Trump voters expected, I imagine. Vote in haste; repent in leisure. Gary Patton

Hampton, N.H.  
Gary:  
*The good news is, after they've starved to death or died of thirst, their suffering will have ended!*  
The Editor  
~~~  
Right to Work is Wrong
To the Editor:
The New Hampshire Senate began its 2017 session by introducing a "right-to-work" bill, SB11-FN, one of newly inaugurated Governor Chris Sununu's

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Has America turned right-wing? Or nuts?

by Jim Hightower

Buckle-up friends, it's going to be a hairy ride.

Start with Day One for President Trump (gotta get used to saying that). He will need to be up-and-at-'em no later than 12:01 a.m., for he promised during his campaign to get oodles of big stuff done on his very first day in office, including: "Repeal Obamacare;" "Begin working on impenetrable,

physical, tall, powerful, beautiful, southern border wall;" Fix the Department of Veterans Affairs; "Repeal every single Obama executive order;" Suspend Syrian refugee resettlement; "Get rid of gun-free zones in schools;" "End the war on coal;" "Defend the unborn;" and convene top generals and inform them they have 30 days to come up with a plan to stop ISIS.

Good grief! Americans have

actually put a xenophobic-misogynous-racist-nativist-narcissistic blowhard in the Oval Office. Has our country gone right-wing? Or nuts?

No. Indeed, the majority actually voted for Hillary — Trump lost the popular vote, but won in the Electoral College.

Also, even his his own voters disagree with much of his agenda (especially his grandiose wall across the Mexican bor-

der). Trump was not elected on issues, but on anger — a deep seething fury that the economic and political elite themselves have created by knocking down the working-class majority, then callously stepping over them as if they didn't exist. Exit polls revealed that most Trump voters don't think he's any more honest than Hillary Clinton, only 38 percent of all voters had a favorable opinion of him, and only a third

consider him qualified to be president.

But his core message — "The system is rigged" by and for the elites — came through loud and clear to them, so they grabbed him like a big Bois-D'arc stick to whap the whole establishment upside its collective head.

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legislative priorities. Right-to-work (RTW) is wrong for the Granite State.

The label of "right-to-work" sustains the myth that union membership is required to work in a business in which a union acts as the bargaining agent for employees. Under federal law, no one can be forced to join a union as a condition of employment or pay dues used for political purposes.

Proponents argue that RTW will lower labor costs and encourage businesses to move to New Hampshire. The non-partisan Economic Policy Institute has found that wages in RTW states are lower than in non-RTW ones and that workers in the former are less likely to have employer-sponsored health insurance. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that workplace deaths are higher in RTW states. RTW may lower labor costs by depriving unions of the funds to be effective advocates for workers, union and non-union alike.

There is no evidence that RTW legislation attracts new businesses to a state. The New Hampshire unemployment rate of 2.7 percent is the lowest in the U.S., leading, consequently, to a shortage of qualified applicants for many job openings. Right now the state needs more workers for its current businesses. New Hampshire's population growth for 2010-

2015 was only 0.2 percent while the percentage of working adults has decreased. The Granite State is tied with Maine for the oldest median age in the U. S. of 42.8 years; the national median is 37.8 years.

While no other New England state has enacted RTW, all have higher minimum hourly wages (\$9-\$11) than New Hampshire's \$7.25 per hour. Our legislature should be working on ways, including increasing the minimum wage, to attract young people to the state and keep them here — not on ineffective and wage-lowering RTW legislation.

Margaret Merritt
Center Sandwich, N.H.

Margaret:

If we had effective truth-in-advertising laws, they'd have to call it Right-to-freeload."

The Editor

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### Democracy or Plutocracy?

To the Editor:

The apparent Russian hacking of Clinton campaign emails has generated extravagant rhetoric from the political class decrying the threat to the American election process. Several Democrats, perhaps still in the denial stage after Trump's unexpected election victory, have made the unlikely claim that Clinton's loss was the result of the Russian hacking. Some hard line Republicans have

harkened back to Cold War rhetoric, making the hysterical claim that the hack was an "act of war." Any intervention in our election process by a foreign power should be taken seriously and commensurate action taken in response. The bombast that has emerged around this issue, however, distorts the severity of the problem and ignores a more fundamental issue with the election process. A 2014 research paper illustrates the problem.

Martin Gilens of Princeton and Benjamin Page of Northwestern have published an empirical paper designed to measure the influence of four groups on U.S. government policy decisions. Preferences of average citizens, economic elites and mass-based (e.g. labor unions) and business-based interest groups regarding 1,779 policy decisions between 1981 and 2002 were determined. The influence of each group on actual policy decisions was analyzed by comparing the actual decision with each group's preferences. If theories about American electoral democracy are correct, i.e. we are a government of the people, by the people and for the people, it should be expected that the influence of the average citizen on policy decisions, played out through the electoral process, would be significant. Gilens and Page's analysis, however, indicated that

average citizens have virtually no influence on policy decisions. According to the authors, "the preferences of the average American appear to have only a minuscule, near zero, statistically non-significant impact on public policy." In contrast, the influence of economic elites on public policy was strong. Gilens and Page state, "the preferences of economic elites ... have far more independent impact upon policy change than the preferences of average citizens." Additionally, when the preferences of the two types of interest groups are considered, both groups have a statistically significant influence on public policy although the influence of business-based groups was far greater than mass-based groups. When all four groups are considered, economic elites have the most influence on policy decisions, business-related interest groups have substantial influence while average voters have virtually no influence.

The Gilens and Page data reveal a fundamental problem with the American electoral system that is far more serious than the revelation of hacked campaign emails. Their study has troubling implications for those who believe in a popular democracy where the majority of the people elect representatives who act in the public interest. The average citizen may vote to determine who holds of-

fice but unless their interests match those of economic elites, they are rarely translated into policy. Rather than a democracy, the Gilens and Page data indicate that we live in a plutocracy. Instead of government of, by and for the people, we appear to have a government of, by and for the economic elite.

The results of the study may provide an insight into the source of the populist revolution that accounted for the success of Bernie Sanders and the election of Donald Trump. Working and middle class Americans have borne the brunt of the economic dislocations of globalization and technological change. After almost three decades of stagnant or declining real income during which the economic elite gained almost all of the benefits of economic growth and being ignored by their elected representatives, working and middle class Americans may have determined on their own that it is time for change. Maybe it is time that their elected representatives pay attention to them.

Dr. Robert D. Russell

School of Business

Administration, Penn State

Harrisburg, Pa.

Robert:

*We ought to run this letter in every issue until every American knows it by heart.*

The Editor

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ADMIRAL FOWLE’S PISCATAQUA RIVER TIDAL GUIDE (NOT FOR NAVIGATIONAL PURPOSES)

Portsmouth, arguably the first town in this country not founded by religious extremists, is bounded on the north and east by the Piscataqua River, the second, third, or fourth fastest-flowing navigable river in the country, depending on

whom you choose to believe. The Piscataqua's ferocious current is caused by the tide, which, in turn, is caused by the moon. The other player is a vast sunken valley — Great Bay — about ten miles upriver. Twice a day, the moon

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

moves from the mouth of the river, up past New Castle, around the bend by the old Naval Prison, under Memorial Bridge, past the tugboats, and on into Great Bay. This can best be seen when the tide is rising.

Twice a day, too, the moon lets all that water go. All the seawater that just fought its way upstream goes back home to the ocean. This is when the Piscataqua earns its title for xth fastest current. Look for the red buoy, at the upstream end of

Badger's Island, bobbing around in the current. It weighs several tons, and it bobs and bounces in the current like a cork. The river also has its placid moments, around high and low tides. When the river rests, its tugboats

and bridges work their hardest. Ships coming in laden with coal, oil, and salt do so at high tide, for more clearance under their keels. They leave empty, riding high in the water, at low tide, to squeeze under Memorial Bridge.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22	MONDAY, JANUARY 23	TUESDAY, JANUARY 24	WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25	THURSDAY, JANUARY 26	FRIDAY, JANUARY 27	SATURDAY, JANUARY 28
<p><b>2008</b>—The Center for Public Integrity documents 935 instances of “orchestrated deception” by President George W.[MD] Bush and seven top officials leading up to the Iraq War.</p> <p><b>2005</b>—Donald Rumsfeld cancels an appearance in Germany to avoid a possible arrest for war crimes.</p> <p><b>1997</b>—Lottie Williams, walking in a Tulsa park, takes a glancing blow on the shoulder from a small falling chunk of a Delta rocket.</p> <p><b>1987</b>—Pennsylvania Treasurer Budd Dwyer, charged with fraud, blows his brains out on live TV.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—The Supreme Court issues its <i>Roe v. Wade</i> decision.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—Salvadorans protest against state violence in Managua; government troops kill 200.</p> <p><b>1959</b>—Ordered illegally to dig coal from under the Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania, with nothing to gauge their clearance, twelve miners drown when the river breaks through.</p> <p><b>1957</b>—George “The Mad Bomber” Metesky, stifed on a worker's comp claim, is arrested in New York for planting 30 bombs over 16 years.</p> <p><b>1948</b>—Boston Mayor James Curley asks MIT to study whether flame-throwers could be used to clear snow.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—Arthur Kasherman becomes the third muckraking Minneapolis newspaperman in 11 years to be shot dead on the street.</p> <p><b>1943</b>—The temperature in Spearfish, S.D. rises 50 degrees in two minutes.</p>	<p><b>2005</b>—Iraq Defense Minister Hazim al-Shaalan is confirmed as a suspect in the disappearance of \$300 million.</p> <p><b>2004</b>—[T]he illiteracy level of our children are appalling,” says George W.[MD] Bush.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—The <i>LA Times</i> reports that “W” keys are missing from White House computers. It’s not true.</p> <p><b>2000</b>—Campaigning for President in Salem, N.H., John McCain tells reporters, “I would never do this again.”</p> <p><b>1992</b>—<i>The Star</i> publishes Gennifer Flowers’ allegation that she had a 12-year affair with Bill Clinton.</p> <p><b>1986</b>—In a mixup, half a ton of uranium is pumped into the sea at Wind-scale, England.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—Richard Nixon claims his “peace with honor” deal with Ho does not betray our allies, abandon our prisoners, or let the war continue in Indochina. It does all three.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—North Korea seizes the <i>USS Pueblo</i> for spying within its waters.</p> <p><b>1957</b>—Klan members in Montgomery, Ala. force Willie Edwards Jr. to jump from a bridge. A judge quashes the indictment of 3 men 19 years later, saying “forcing a person to jump from a bridge does not naturally and probably lead to the death of such person.”</p> <p><b>1870</b>—On the Marias River in Montana, Maj. Eugene Baker's soldiers massacre 173 Blackfoot women and children. Chief Heavy Runner dies holding a U.S. flag given to him to assure their safety.</p>	<p><b>2015</b>—The first snow of the winter falls in Portsmouth. Not the last.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—GOP hack Rich Galen reports (falsely) that outgoing Gore staffers slashed all the power cords in the Office of the Vice President.</p> <p><b>1999</b>—Joe DiMaggio, watching “Dateline NBC,” is disturbed to read in the “crawl” that he has died.</p> <p><b>1992</b>—Gov. Bill Clinton flies to Arkansas so the execution of self-lobotomized cop-killer Ricky Ray Rector — who asks jailers to save the dessert from his last meal “for later” — will enhance his campaign for President.</p> <p><b>1978</b>—A Soviet satellite powered by a nuclear reactor crashes on Great Slave Lake in Canada, contaminating 61,000 sq. mi. of ice.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—“It is with much embarrassment that I have returned alive,” says Shoichi Yokoi, a Japanese draftee who had been hiding on Guam since 1944.</p> <p><b>1961</b>—A B-52 breaks up over Goldsboro, N.C. Three fail-safe devices fail on one armed 24 megaton H-bomb, but a fourth works. Radioactive junk from a second bomb remains 180 feet underground.</p> <p><b>1955</b>—Iwo Jima flag-raiser Ira Hamilton Hayes dies of exposure in Sacaton, Ariz. at 32 years of age.</p> <p><b>1935</b>—The first-ever canned beer [Kreuger] goes on sale in Richmond, Va.</p> <p><b>1692</b>—French priest Louis-Pierre Thury and hundreds of Abenaki raid York, Maine, killing 100 and taking 100 hostage.</p>	<p><b>2005</b>—Conservative columnist Maggie Gallagher admits taking \$21,500 from the government for plugging Bush Administration proposals.</p> <p><b>2004</b>—Senator John McCain confirms to Vermin Supreme that Karl Rove dynamited the Old Man of the Mountain “in a fit of anger” over McCain's defeat of George W.[MD] Bush in the 2000 New Hampshire Presidential Primary.</p> <p><b>2002</b>—Veep Dick “Dick” Cheney asks Sen. Majority Leader Tom Daschle to limit investigations into the events of 9/11.</p> <p><b>1996</b>—Billy Bailey, the 19th of 23 children raised in a two-room shack, is hanged by the State of Delaware, the last American to go that way.</p> <p><b>1995</b>—Due to a missed message warning of a test rocket flight, notorious drunkard Boris Yeltsin is handed Russia's nuclear suitcase.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—Charles Manson and his followers are convicted in the Tate/La-Bianca murders.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—The election of Alexander Dubcek in Czechoslovakia kicks off the “Prague Spring.”</p> <p><b>1966</b>—An SR-71 Blackbird flying at Mach 3.2 disintegrates 78,000 feet above New Mexico, but test pilot Bill Weaver lives to fly again.</p> <p><b>1927</b>—J. Frank Norris of Fort Worth, a Baptist preacher who fatally shot an unarmed man, is acquitted of murder.</p> <p><b>1926</b>—In Passaic, N.J. 16,000 textile workers strike.</p>	<p><b>2006</b>—Joaquin Phoenix is rescued from a rolled car by Werner Herzog.</p> <p><b>2006</b>—The Energy Dept. admits rent-a-cops at the Oak Ridge nuclear site have cheated on antiterrorism drills for up to twenty years.</p> <p><b>2005</b>—Gay hustler and accredited White House correspondent Jeff Gannon asks Pres. G.W.[MD] Bush how he can work with insane people like Harry Reid and Hillary Clinton.</p> <p><b>2005</b>—Federal spending on PR has doubled under George W.[MD] Bush, reports <i>USA Today</i>.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—Britain's <i>Guardian</i> reports [falsely] that Air Force One was “stripped bare” in “an orgy of pilfering” by outgoing Clinton staffers.</p> <p><b>1998</b>—The same day the Project for a New American Century sends a letter signed by E. Abrams, J. Bolton, W. Kristol, R. Perle, D. Rumsfeld, &amp; P. Wolfowitz to Bill Clinton urging him to overthrow Saddam Hussein, the Pres. denies having sex with “that woman.”</p> <p><b>1979</b>—Ex-Veep Nelson Rockefeller, 70, alone in his townhouse with 26-year old Megan Marshak, dies of a heart attack. Oddly, his corpse is not discovered until an hour later, five blocks north at Rockefeller Center, by a security guard.</p> <p><b>1940</b>—R. Reagan marries J. Wyman in a chapel at Forest Hills Cemetery.</p> <p><b>1950</b>—A Douglas C-54 Skymaster disappears en route from Alaska to Wyoming; 44 people go missing.</p>	<p><b>2016</b>—Inhabitants of Lindhurst, New York are startled when a Robinson R22 crash lands, on its side, in the middle of an intersection in a densely-populated residential area. Miraculously, no one is killed.</p> <p><b>2015</b>—It snows so hard in Portsmouth that mail carriers fail to make their appointed rounds.</p> <p><b>2008</b>—The NSA warns that a malfunctioning, bus-size spy satellite will fall out of orbit soon.</p> <p><b>2005</b>—Veep Dick “Dick” Cheney wears a down parka and ski cap to an Auschwitz memorial ceremony.</p> <p><b>2005</b>—<i>Salon</i> reveals that hack writer Michael McManus has been paid \$10,000 to promote Bush programs.</p> <p><b>2000</b>—“I know how hard it is for you to put food on your family,” says George W.[MD] Bush in Nashua.</p> <p><b>1987</b>—Gorbachev announces the new policy of <i>glasnost</i>.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—Eleven hours before a cease fire between the U.S. and North Vietnam takes effect, an artillery shell makes Col. William B. Nolde the last official American combat casualty of the Vietnam War.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—G. Gordon Liddy presents to Attorney General John Mitchell a plan to disrupt the Democratic Convention with “mugging squads, kidnapping teams, and prostitutes.”</p> <p><b>1967</b>—A fire in the <i>Apollo</i> capsule kills three astronauts.</p> <p><b>1957</b>—Martin Luther King's home is bombed for the second time.</p>	<p><b>2008</b>—George W.[MD] Bush delivers his last (!) State of the Union speech, promising a budget that will keep the U.S. “on track for a surplus in 2012.”</p> <p><b>2004</b>—U.S. weapons inspector David Kay tells the Senate pre-war WMD intelligence was “almost all wrong.”</p> <p><b>2003</b>—In his State of the Union Address, George W.[MD] Bush cites misidentified aluminum tubes, non-existent viruses, fictitious alliances, and imaginary uranium as ample justification for his next war.</p> <p><b>1986</b>—Ronald Reagan puts off his State of the Union speech because the space shuttle <i>Challenger</i>, launched under adverse conditions, crashed.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—Unocal drillers using sub-standard pipe cause a 100,000-barrel oil spill off Santa Barbara, creating an 800 square mile oil slick and an environmental movement.</p> <p><b>1958</b>—In Nebraska, Charles Starkweather, 17, and Carol Fugate, 14, kill their 8th through 10th (out of an eventual 11) victims.</p> <p><b>1936</b>—Thrill-killer Richard Loeb is murdered by a fellow-prisoner at whom he made a pass. <i>The Chicago Daily News</i> writes that Loeb, “... a master of the English language, today ended a sentence with a proposition.”</p> <p><b>1922</b>—The roof of the Knickerbocker Theatre in Washington, D.C. collapses under thirty inches of snow, killing 98 and injuring 133.</p> <p><b>1887</b>—New York newsboys strike.</p>
<p>7:02 7:39</p> <p>12:32 1:21</p>	<p>7:55 8:32</p> <p>1:27 2:15</p>	<p>8:44 9:21</p> <p>2:19 3:04</p>	<p>9:28 10:03</p> <p>3:05 3:47</p>	<p>10:08 10:42</p> <p>3:48 4:26</p>	<p>10:46 11:19</p> <p>4:27 5:03</p>	<p>11:23 11:54</p> <p>5:06 5:40</p>
SUNDAY, JANUARY 29	MONDAY, JANUARY 30	TUESDAY, JANUARY 31	WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1	THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2	FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3	SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4

**2002**—George W.[MD] Bush makes a follow-up call to Majority Leader Daschle asking him to limit Congressional investigations into 9/11.

**2001**—“I am mindful not only of preserving executive powers for myself,” says George W.[MD] Bush, “but for predecessors as well.”

**1979**—“I don’t like Mondays,” replies Brenda Spencer, 16, when asked why she shot eleven people, killing two, at a San Diego elementary school.

**1967**—LBJ’s pal Bobby Baker is convicted of income tax evasion, theft, and conspiracy to defraud.

**1964**—*Dr. Strangelove* premieres.

**1925**—The *S-48*, enroute to the Shipyard, grounds itself off Jafrey’s Point, then again in Little Harbor.

**1912**—Anna LoPizzo, 34, is killed by a shot through the heart during the Bread & Roses strike in Lawrence, Mass. A cop probably did it, but anarchists were blamed.

**1889**—Republican John M. Clayton, a Congressional candidate in an election featuring armed white men stealing ballot boxes, is shot through his boarding house window. He’s declared the winner; the seat left vacant.

**1863**—U.S. Army troops and Shoshone Indians clash at the Bear River in Utah. After the Shoshone run out of ammo, rapes and a massacre begin.

**1834**—Workers on the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal go on strike. President Jackson [Dem.] begins a tradition by siccing Federal troops on them.

**2005**—A U.S. official reports that \$9,000,000,000 is ... well ... sort of ... missing in Iraq.

**1992**—After a loud “Bang!,” a Robinson R22 helicopter flying over Malabar, Fla., sheds parts and plummets to Earth, killing the pilot and a student.

**1981**—An FB-111A “Aardvark” based at Pease AFB crashes near homes at Mariner’s Village, about 1.25 miles northwest of Market Square. One apartment building is destroyed; no one is injured.

**1976**—The Supreme Court decides that limiting campaign contributions would unfairly restrict the speech of rich people.

**1968**—Two hundred colonels in the U.S. MACV staff attend a pool party in Saigon. “Not one ... knew Tet was coming” the next day, an analyst says later.

**1945**—A Soviet sub sinks the *MV Wilhelm Gustloff*; some 9,400 drown, mostly civilians, half children.

**1933**—Destabilized by austerity, largely self-inflicted, Germany allows the Nazis to seize power.

**1798**—Rep. Matthew Lyon insults Rep. Roger Griswold on the House floor. Griswold calls Lyon a coward. Lyon spits in Griswold’s face.

**1661**—Oliver Cromwell, dead for two years, is posthumously executed and decapitated. His head goes unburied for 300 years.

**1649**—King Charles I discovers divine right has limits when Oliver Cromwell removes his head.

**2009**—A Robinson R22 helicopter spontaneously disassembles itself over Fillmore, Calif., strewn debris along a 900-foot swath and killing its pilot.

**2003**—At the White House, George W.[MD] Bush tells Tony Blair he’s going to invade Iraq with or without WMDs, and diplomacy will have to fit around the military strategy.

**1984**—President Reagan alleges the U.S. has a problem with “people who are sleeping on the grates ... homeless ... you might say, by choice.”

**1971**—In Detroit, Vietnam Veterans Against the War testify about U.S. policies in Vietnam. Few listen.

**1968**—The Viet Cong and NVA send a message with coordinated attacks from the Delta to the DMZ, including the U.S. Embassy in Saigon: we’re not giving up. The U.S. brass don’t hear it but the public does.

**1963**—“The war in Vietnam is going well and will succeed,” says Bob McNamara, Secretary of Defense.

**1958**—In North Africa, a B-47 crashes on takeoff and burns for seven hours. Luckily the armed nuke on board doesn’t go off.

**1950**—Truman orders the construction of the first H-bomb.

**1945**—Out of the 21,000 U.S. soldiers who desert during WW II, Private Eddie Slovik gets to be the one who’s executed by a firing squad.

**1900**—William Goebel is sworn in as Governor of Kentucky a day after being shot. Three days later he dies.

**2005**—Canada OK’s same-sex marriage; world does not end.

**2004**—Janet Jackson bares a nipple on TV; world nearly ends.

**2003**—The space shuttle *Columbia* disintegrates over Texas.

**1974**—Richard Nixon meets for twenty minutes with the Reverend Sun Myung Moon.

**1968**—In Saigon, AP photographer and former Marine Eddie Adams snaps the anti-Iwo Jima Flag Raising photo of the Vietnam War: General Nguyen Ngoc Loan shooting VC Captain Nguyen Van Lem, whose hands are tied, in the head.

**1964**—Filthy-minded Governor of Indiana Matthew E. Welsh declares the Kingsmen’s song “Louie Louie,” which everyone else finds incomprehensible, to be obscene.

**1963**—Fleetwood Linley, the last living person to have looked upon the face of the dead Abraham Lincoln, dies at the age of 75.

**1960**—Civil rights sit-ins begin at Woolworth’s in Greensboro, N.C.

**1951**—An inevitable confluence: the first television broadcast of an atomic explosion.

**1926**—Col. Billy Mitchell, the lone U.S. military officer who understands the potential of aircraft in warfare, is court-martialled for criticizing his “superiors.”

**1923**—In Japan, most of Tokyo and all of Yokohama are destroyed by an earthquake; 143,000 die.

**2013**—Chris Kyle, America’s favorite sniper, is shot dead at a shooting range.

**2004**—George W.[MD] Bush reluctantly OK’s an investigation of intelligence failures.

**1972**—In Dublin, Irish Catholics, irate over “Bloody Sunday,” burn the British Embassy.

**1970**—Capt. Gary Faust bails out after his F-106 goes into a spin over Montana. The pilotless plane straightens out and lands in a cornfield. It’s later returned to service.

**1966**—Australians burn their conscription papers in Sydney.

**1952**—Winnie Ruth Judd, the “trunk murderess,” makes her fifth escape from Arizona State Insane Hospital.

**1915**—German national Werner Horn bombs the railroad bridge connecting Vanceboro, Maine with St. Croix, Canada. There is little damage; Horn’s frostbite is the only injury.

**1912**—Steeplejack Frederick R. Law successfully parachutes from the Statue of Liberty’s torch.

**1893**—The first close-up in motion picture history is shot at the Edison studio in West Orange, N.J., immortalizing a sneeze.

**1882**—James Joyce is born.

**1870**—The “Cardiff Giant,” hyped for months as a petrified, ten-foot-tall human, is revealed to have been an atheist tobaccoist’s hoax.

**1848**—The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo legalizes America’s seizure of half of Mexico.

**2012**—“Today is the day that in 1924 Woodrow Wilson died, that son of a bitch,” says radio dingbat Glenn Beck, “and I’m happy.”

**2006**—Donald Rumsfeld likens Venezuela’s President Hugo Chavez to Adolph Hitler, inspiring Venezuela’s VP to compare the U.S. with the Third Reich.

**1959**—In Iowa, a plane crash kills Buddy Holly, “The Big Bopper,” and Richie Valens.

**1956**—In Memphis, the Sun studio simultaneously records Elvis Presley, Carl Perkins, Jerry Lee Lewis, and Johnny Cash.

**1953**—J. Fred Muggs, a bad-tempered chimpanzee from Cameroon, becomes the first non-human primate to appear regularly on TV.

**1943**—Four U.S. Navy chaplains aboard the U.S. Army transport *Dorchester* drown after giving their life jackets to others.

**1931**—Arkansas’ state legislature votes to pray for the soul of H.L. Mencken after he calls the state “the apex of moronia.”

**1916**—In Zurich, Hugo Ball opens Café Voltaire, hotbed of dadaism.

**1811**—Future newspaperman and eccentric Horace Greeley is born on a farm in Amherst, N.H.

**1793**—Shot in the face and bayoneted 13 times by the British at Lexington 17 years before, Samuel Whittemore, a farmer, dies of natural causes at 98.

**1468**—RIP J. Gutenberg.

**2011**—After a defective nut causes its hydraulics to fail, a Robinson R44 crashes at the Cessnock Aerodrome in Australia. The pilot escapes with his clothes afire; two passengers don’t.

**1996**—After a sixth sexual encounter, B. Clinton and M. Lewinsky have an actual conversation.

**1976**—Lockheed Aircraft admits paying \$22 million in bribes to sell its product.

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

**1968**—A considerable chunk of Cholon, the Chinese sector of Saigon, is declared a free-fire zone. The South Vietnamese Air Force bombs its own capitol using U.S.-supplied Douglas Skyraiders.

**1968**—Neal Cassady, ur-beat, dies alongside railroad tracks in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico.

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

**1912**—Franz Reichelt, an Austrian tailor, tests his experimental parachute/overcoat from the Eiffel Tower. It is fatally flawed.

**1899**—Philippine revolt against U.S. rule begins.

**1894**—Adolphe Sax, inventor of the saxophone, dies broke.

**1869**—Birth of Bill Haywood, legendary Wobbly.

**1861**—Delegates from six states meet in Montgomery, Ala. to form the Confederate States of America.

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