

The New Hampshire Gazette

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The Fortnightly Rant

With Champions Like These ...

When in the course of human events one political party is setting fire to every American institution except the Defense Department and the Bureau of Prisons, it's easy to forget that another political party is still out there somewhere.

It would be easier to remember that other party if it were fulfilling its traditional role. In two-party systems, both are supposed to compete. To be fair, though, confusion over roles is quite common these days.

How did the destruction of vital national institutions — a field of endeavor formerly reserved for America's mortal enemies — become the goal of our most ostentatiously patriotic party? It's a natural consequence of worshipping free markets, where disruption is all the rage.

The 241st anniversary of the Original Brexit is as good a time as any — and, the way things are going, perhaps our last chance — to remember that the smugglers and religious fanatics, who stole this land from its aboriginal inhabitants and built a mighty empire on the backs of the enslaved, never intended for us to have political parties in the first place. Considering the behavior of the parties we have, the prescience of The Founders® is impressive.

The U.S. Senate, a fortnight ago, was trying to muster the courage to pass a bill that would deprive 23 million Americans of their health care. At the last minute, though, Majority Leader Mitch McConnell balked. He pulled the bill because his caucus would not commit. They were about to go home for a recess, and they were afraid to confront constituents who had just been condemned to death.

McConnell's effort may have failed for the moment, but it demonstrated how he rose to a leadership position: how many other survivors of childhood polio, cured at public

expense, could summon up the moral flexibility required to make today's children suffer?

Despite their setback, Republicans haven't abandoned their hope of killing Obamacare (the title, perhaps, of Bill O'Reilly's next screed). They made a promise seven years ago, and they are nothing if not relentless. They're still gunning to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, decided 44 years ago; and the way things are going, they might pull it off yet. Their current plan appears to be to repeal Obamacare altogether and issue in its stead an I.O.U., redeemable ... one of these days.

Between the Republicans' steely resolve to do the wrong thing and McConnell's gift for parliamentary chicanery, the lives of millions of Americans now depend on the fortitude, imagination, and wisdom of the Democratic Party. God help them.

Before we consider that terrifying prospect let's refresh ourselves on a couple of basic points.

To begin with, words 26 through 29 of the Preamble to the Constitution are, [to] "promote the general welfare" — a detail which seems to have somehow eluded the rigorous scholars of the Federalist Society.

Also, as the runner-up for the Democratic Presidential nomination recently put it, "the function of healthcare is to provide quality care to all people, not to make billions in profits for the insurance companies or the drug companies."

Having fortified ourselves, let us sneak through the back door of The Pierre, a five-star hotel in Manhattan where the Centene Corporation held its annual investor day conference last month. Ranking 66[.6]th on the Fortune 500, Centene makes \$40 billion every year by insinuating itself between patients and their doctors.

Now let's eavesdrop as an investor



DEMOCRATS ORGANIZING FOR VICTORY IN 2018

queries a spokesperson for the company: "One of the sort of existential threats that I always think about in this business is just a single-payer system ... is there a scenario where we're ever really contemplating a single-payer system in the U.S.?"

"Not in my lifetime," says lobbyist and former Democratic Minority Leader Dick Gephardt, who, in addition to whatever his lobbying fees might be, collects \$315,965 a year for sitting on Centene's board.

Gephardt was speaking of national politics, of course, a field in which Democrats have failed their way to near-impotence. What about, say, California, where, in addition to holding the Governorship, Democrats have two-to-one majorities in both the House and the Senate?

The Senate passed single-payer health there last month. Last week, though, Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon shelved the bill.

Dave Sirota wrote about the bill's

fate for the *International Business Times*:

"Since 2012, Rendon has taken in more than \$82,000 from business groups and healthcare corporations that are listed in state documents [opposing] the measure In all, he has received more than \$101,000 from pharmaceutical companies and another \$50,000 from major health insurers."

It's not just Rendon. "In the same time," Sirota wrote, "the California Democratic Party has received more than \$1.2 million from the specific groups opposing the bill, and more than \$2.2 million from pharmaceutical and health insurance industry donors. That includes a \$100,000 infusion of cash from Blue Shield of California in the waning days of the 2016 election — just before state records show the insurer began lobbying against the single-payer bill."

A properly-situated racket can afford to spread its wealth quite

broadly. Sirota reported that "groups opposing the single-payer measure have delivered more than \$1.5 million to Democratic assembly members since the 2012 election cycle. In all, the 55 Democratic members of the 80-seat Assembly have received more than \$2.7 million from donors in the pharmaceutical and health insurance industries in just the last three election cycles."

Rendon explained to *The Hill* why he shelved the bill: "There was absolutely no funding attached to a \$400 billion proposal, no service delivery mechanism," making the proposal sound like pie in the sky.

In fact, existing local, state, and federal spending would have covered half the cost. The other half could have been largely offset by reduced spending on the part of employers and employees.

Lobbyists, obviously, are quite expensive.

Pitchforks and torches are cheap.

The Alleged News®

Nation's 241st Fourth the Best One Yet

It is perfectly self-evident: the best Fourth is the most American Fourth. This Fourth was the most American, therefore it was the best. What was so American about it? Let us count the ways.

Traitorous "Patriot" Shoots Self — Life Saved by Jackbooted Fed

Every year, large numbers of people gather at Gettysburg, Pa. on the anniversary of the 1863 battle that turned the tide of America's Civil War in favor of the Union.

This year, the attendees included dozens of weapon-toting, self-described patriots who came to protect monuments to the fallen Confederates who fought against the Union — in other words, traitors.

The Sons of Confederate Veterans even recited a salute to the Confederate Battle Flag: "I salute

the Confederate flag with affection, reverence and undying devotion to the cause for which it stands."

"The Confederate battle flag has nothing to do with slavery," a man named Billy Snuffer told a reporter from *HuffPo*. Snuffer said he was the Imperial Wizard for the Rebel Brigade of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

There were a few snags. To begin with, for reasons which would seem to be rather obvious, there are no monuments to traitors at the Gettysburg National Military Park.

Also, the rumor that anarchists, socialists, and anti-fascists were planning to desecrate those non-existent monuments turned out to be unfounded. That rumor, in fact, was debunked before the weekend began, as evidenced by a BBC story



datelined Friday, June 30th.

One of these armed-but-confused so-called patriots made the mistake of resting the butt of his hand-carried flagpole on the butt of a gun he was carrying in a holster. The gun fired, and a bullet hit his leg. Luckily for the anti-government patriot, a taxpayer-funded park ranger was on hand to apply a tourniquet. He was then transported to a hospital on roads paved by either the state or federal government.

GOP Busted! by the Flag Police

At 12:46 p.m. on the Fourth, the Republican National Committee used its Twitter account to flout the Flag Code [4 U.S.C. § 8(d): "The flag should never be used as wearing apparel, bedding, or drapery." [See photo at left.]

There were many responses, mostly scathing critiques of the President. Only a few noted the Flag Code violation. One, from Wayne A. Schneider, provided a helpful link to the appropriate statute. His Twitter bio describes Schneider as "Liberal, Atheist, U.S.A.F. Veteran." We would add, Honorary Flag Police Officer.

Frightened Portland GOP Hides Behind Militia

Portland, Oregon Republicans presumably went into the long

Fourth of July weekend feeling a wee bit less frightened than they have been lately. The Multnomah County Republican Party has voted to use Oath Keepers and Three Percenters, two far-right militia groups, to provide private security at their events.

Let's hope Multnomah County Republicans don't invite the Party's 2008 Presidential candidate to any of their functions. That would be awkward. The founder of Oath Keepers, Stewart Rhodes, told a Tempe, Ariz. radio station in 2015 that Senator John McCain is "a traitor to the Constitution [who] should be tried for treason before a jury of his peers Then after we

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from page one

convict him he should be hung by the neck until dead.”

Sitting next to Rhodes at the time, according to *RightWingWatch.org*, was Andy Biggs, the then-President of the Arizona Senate. Biggs did not object to Rhodes’ call for McCain’s demise. He later said he kept silent out of respect for Rhodes’ right to free speech. Biggs was elected last November to represent Arizona’s 5th District in the U.S. Congress.

Would-Be Chopper Thief Shot

In other news from the great Pacific Northwest, police in Hillsboro, Oregon, about an hour west of Portland, shot a man dead on Monday, July 3rd. He was in the process of trying to steal a Robinson R22 helicopter.

National Polemical Radio

NPR celebrated the Fourth by tweeting the entire Declaration of Independence. Some people found that offensive.

D.G. Davies responded, “So, NPR is calling for revolution. In-

teresting way to condone violence while trying to sound ‘patriotic.’ Your implications are clear.” Debbie Moshenrose wrote, “Please stop. This is not the right place.” Darren Mills tweeted, “This is why you’re going to get defunded.”

John Lemos III won the prize with this tweet: “Propaganda is that all you know how? Try supporting a man who wants to do something about the injustice in this country #drainingtheswamp.”

Perhaps by way of atonement, or to broaden its appeal beyond the brie and quiche crowd, the network broadcast a segment on the 3rd titled, “How The Story Of Beer Is The Story Of America.” Sadly, it failed to mention Portsmouth’s own Frank Jones, the King of Ale Makers.

None Of Your Glowing Beeswax

The AP reported on July 4th that “to prevent [our] adversaries from learning too much about U.S. nuclear weapons vulnerabilities,” the “results of routine inspections at nuclear weapons bases ... [which] had previously been publicly available,” are now none of the public’s



It's called "Civil Rights Sunday," but it could just as well be called Remedial Civics. These patriots turned out on the Fourth of July weekend to reinforce a few of the old verities: "Science is not a Liberal Conspiracy," "Love Not Hate is What Makes America Great," "No One is Free When Others Are Oppressed," and, our favorite, "Breaking News: Working Class Stiffed by Wealthy." They earned a "beep" from the driver of this Chevy.

business.

In 2014, AP published news reports about "documented security lapses, leadership and training failures, morale problems and other issues" in the Air Force's nuclear missile program. That reporting prompted the Pentagon to conduct reviews which confirmed the AP's stories. AP's 2014 reporting was based on the routine inspection reports that the Pentagon will no longer release.

Sun? What Sun? Oh, That Sun.

New Jersey Governor Chris Christie's approval rating is somewhere around 15 percent. His apparent plan for the Fourth of July weekend was to see if he could drive it lower.

At a Sunday afternoon press conference in Trenton, Christie was asked if he'd gotten any sun?

"I didn't," he said, "I didn't get any sun today."

That statement was proven to be inoperative thanks to photographs taken by NJ Advance Media. They showed the Governor and a dozen family members frolicking at the otherwise-deserted Island Beach State Park that morning. The Park was closed to the public due to a state budget impasse.

The Governor's spokesman issued the latest iteration of "Who you gonna believe? Me, or your lying eyes?"

"Yes," said Brian Murray, "the governor was on the beach briefly today talking to his wife and family

before heading into the office. He did not get any sun. He had a baseball hat on."

The Grand Yam's 4th

Fittingly, the best Fourth — some people say it might have been the Greatest Fourth of July of all time, but who's to say? — was had by The Grand Yam.

As he has done on 22 percent of his days in office, President Donald J. Trump spent part of the weekend at his Virginia golf course. It was his 36th visit to one of his golf clubs since he took office. The taxpayer-funded trip thus served as an infomercial for his string of golf courses, which reportedly represents the largest part of his income stream, making it a violation of the Constitution's emoluments clause. That could be a problem, but only if the Republican Party cared about the Constitution.

The news reports we saw did not specify whether the President was accompanied by the Third Lady, Melania Trump.

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When he was not knocking a little white ball around, The Grand Yam spent the weekend tweeting — “Modern Day Presidentially.”

On July 2nd he posted a video showing himself next to a wrestling ring, beating up CNN — the network that gave him a large part of the \$5 billion in free media coverage that won him his Electoral College victory.

The next day he tweeted, “North Korea has just launched another missile. Does this guy have anything better to do with his life? ...”

Happy Summer!

The fun-loving folks at the Natural Resources Defense Council [NRDC] have calculated the cost in human lives of Donald Trump’s abandonment — with the acquiescence of a servile and deluded GOP — of the Paris Climate Accord.

The report, “Killer Summer Heat, Paris Agreement Compliance Could Avert Hundreds of Thousands of Needless Deaths in America’s Cities,” says “worsening summer heatwaves ... could kill 13,860 Americans each year by mid-century, and as many as 29,850 a year by the end of the century.”

A large percentage of those deaths would occur in cities in the Northeast.

“The top 15 cities in order of potential annual deaths by the 2090s

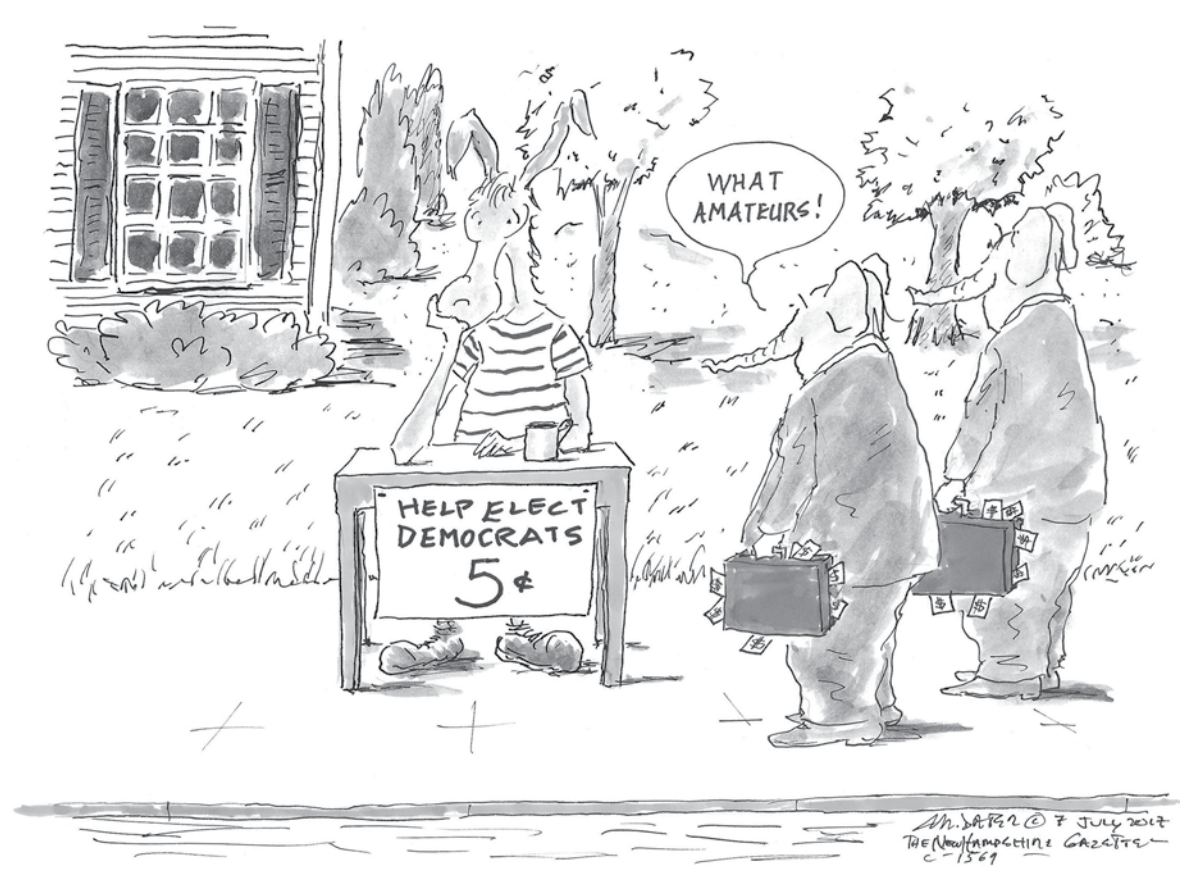
are: New York City (7,370); Philadelphia (5,040); Chicago (2,440); Boston (1,340); Baltimore (1,010); Detroit (870); Providence, RI (670); St. Louis (640); Buffalo (620); Rochester, NY (600); Cincinnati (580); Cleveland (570); Washington, DC (560); Los Angeles (540); Louisville (530).”

The report’s authors reached these conclusions using Spatial Synoptic Classification, which studies the relationships between dangerous weather and human health. City dwellers are especially vulnerable to climate impacts because of the heat island effect. Urban areas are hotter than suburban and rural areas because of their concentration of buildings, pavement and roofing, which intensify summer temperatures. Most vulnerable to the impact from the heat island effect are the elderly, the young, the poor, and people of color, the report finds.

Mutiny!

On Monday, July 10th at 6:30 p.m., RiverRun Bookstore will host A. Roger Ekirch, author of *American Sanctuary: Mutiny, Martyrdom, and National Identity in the Age of Revolution*. The book tells the extraordinary story of the mutiny aboard *HMS Hermione* in 1797, eight years after the mutiny on the *Bounty*.

The bloodiest mutiny ever suffered by the Royal Navy, it led to the



extradition from America, and the hanging by the British, of the martyred sailor Jonathan Robbins. This event plunged the two-decade-old American Republic into a constitutional crisis and powerfully contributed to the outcome of the U.S. presidential election of 1800. It propelled to the fore the fundamental issue of political asylum and extradition, still being debated today — more than two hundred years later.

Gordon S. Wood, an historian so cool he was name-checked by Matt Damon in an Oscar-winning movie, has called Ekirch “one of the most wide-ranging and imaginative historians in America today; there is no one else quite like him in the profession.”

Kirkus Review said Ekirch’s book “covers the mutiny in all its drunken, gory excess, tracks the worldwide hunt and capture of some of the perpetrators, and then offers a masterful dissection of the political consequences of the Robbins affair. The author is especially good on how the debate played out in the pages of the era’s highly partisan press.”

Ekirch’s other works include *Bound for America*, *Birthright*, and *At Day’s Close*. For more information, visit RiverRunBookstore.com.

Hot Off the [de]Press!

Speaking of books, we’re pleased to announce our library’s latest acquisition: a copy of *Mr. Obama Goes to Washington [And Then What Happened, Mommy?]*, by our very own Starving Artist, Mike Dater. This handsome book, the third bound volume of his *oeuvre*, collects the best cartoons that Mike produced during the Obama Administration — which, in retrospect, seem to have been the sanest eight years of the 18 he has been on our masthead. A sprinkling of new items are included, as well. The book provides a narrative text along with Mike’s cartoons, the better to make sense of our increasingly berserk world. There is even an informative preface, included at no additional cost, which provides insight into the history and practice of political cartooning.

It was a little bit shocking to realize, as we thumbed through the book, just how long we’ve been do-

ing this. Today’s paper is our 474th since we resumed regularly-scheduled publication on May 1, 1999. [We first acquired our venerable trade name on May 1, 1989; for our first decade we published episodically from Pierce County, New Hampshire — a place so obscure it appears on no maps.] Mike has been with us for nearly all of that time. We’d like to take this opportunity to once again thank Leonard Seagren for introducing us — we don’t know what we would have done without Mike.

Mr. Obama Goes to Washington may be purchased at RiverRun Bookstore on Fleet Street, or ordered online at MikeDater.com.



Jesus is God, the Way, the Truth, and the Life, according to this gentleman.

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Executive Deception

To the Editor:
O, what a tangled web we weave,
When first we practice to deceive!
— Sir Walter Scott, "Marmion"

The 24 percent of the American population who idolize our so-called POTUS is profoundly practised from birth in religious fantasies, false pride, and the zealously assumed maximum powers of great wealth. Their primitive character and IQ is the same as our so-called POTUS: shallow, self-centered, and critically wing-nut misinformed — by choice! That minority base will not learn or change — nor will phoney POTUS! He never misses a chance to criticise President Obama and Secretary of State Clinton — which soothes the feathers of his small base and reminds them that they are free to enjoy their bigotry — and he wallows in their rally cheers and applause. It is a question whether his condition is arrested development, senile dementia — or both. That recent Cabinet round table of adoration and butt-kissing was only re-fueling an already dangerous ego — and character deterioration.

If James Comey is wishing for tapes of his weird encounter with phoney POTUS he should also be wary of "deletions" if the tapes exist. Mr. Comey should have recorded that sinister meeting on his own — even if the GOP excreted squealing worms at his audacity.

Decades of good will and partnership abroad will be tarnished as the U.S. struggles through this hopefully short period of White Trash leadership in Washington, D.C. Jeff Sessions was specifically chosen as Attorney General to protect phoney POTUS from any future litigations of imprisonment. Serious corkscrew semantics would be required for that. But the eager little toady AG is not equipped for that.

The intelligent super majority of rudely awakened American progressives will now know how to circumvent the corruption and fakery that pervades in the White House and most of Congress. Progressives will remain productive, outspoken, sane, and free thinking. Progress in all industry

and scientific discovery will continue. No good and serious American Citizen will fall prey to fear and malaise — in response to the macabre sudden metamorphosis of the U.S. central government. It will be a driving force to bring it back to a normal democracy.

Helen McKinney
Sapphire, N.C.
Helen:
Thanks! Nothing like a feisty, upbeat message from south of the Mason-Dixon Line to brighten up the Fourth!
The Editor

≈
Same Cruelty, Different Victims

To the Editor:
Yes, the Republican health care plan will leave millions without insurance; however, the numbers will not change if Obamacare remains in place. By permitting people to purchase insurance after they become ill a situation is created where insurance companies must pay for the care of people who never paid into the system before they became ill. As a result the premiums of those who are currently insured skyrocket, making many of them no longer able to afford insurance. So once again we have the traditional liberal outcome of rewarding the irresponsible and punishing the responsible citizens.

We have a situation where a middle class person as an individual subscriber, or one with a small business, in order to pay premiums for an uninsured person, can no longer afford to pay premiums for himself or for his own family. He might continue to purchase insurance but only be able to do so with such a high deductible that it practically leaves him uninsured.

The Democrats do not realize that the Republicans are giving them a gift by replacing Obamacare. In this way when the Republican system fails they will be blamed. If the Republicans leave Obamacare in place it will continue to die a slow death as the insurance companies, unable to pay for the care of the uninsured, and many of the insured dropping out because of skyrocketing costs, leave the system.

The answer of course is a single payer such as Medicare that permits

those younger than 65 to buy into the system. Being more efficient this will bring premiums down when the insurance companies are forced to compete. With his early popularity and with the makeup of the Congress Obama would have been able to accomplish this but failed to even try. With a Republican system that is inadequate, the Democrats now have an opportunity to adopt single party payment as a campaign issue that will be popular. Instead of spending all their energy trying to impeach Trump, they should focus on a platform that brings back their traditional base in the next election; and part of that platform should be single party payer.

John Dente
Wilmington, Del.
John:
Like Rush Limbaugh, you love to exorcise "limousine liberals." Your assessment of the "traditional liberal outcome of rewarding the irresponsible and punishing the responsible citizens" seems off the mark to us, though. The nation's public policy for forty years has been increasingly neo-liberal, which is a different kettle of mercury-laden fish.

Reputable studies have demonstrated that Congress responds, not to the wishes of the majority, but to the wishes of our donor class. Plenty of them ride in limos, but they back reactionaries in Congress. And they're the ones standing in the way of single-payer.
The Editor

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A Perfect Political Storm

To the Editor:
I recently reread the book *The Perfect Storm*, the story about the crew of the *Andrea Gail*, a swordfishing boat, and their deadly encounter with the storm from which the title of the book was named. What struck me was the analogy of this book to what America is now experiencing, not meteorologically but politically.

In the book, the six-member crew of

the *Andrea Gail* made some fatal decisions regarding which direction they should take, even as they were being warned that various meteorological events had come together to form "the perfect storm." Their vote to turn right toward better fishing grounds, rather than turning left and make the safe decision to return home and avoid the "perfect storm," thus ignoring the experts' assessment of the danger, proved to be a fatal decision.

As the 2016 election cycle began, various political forces were gathering: the nomination of Donald Trump as the Republican candidate for President, the impact of third-party candidates, the Bernie Sanders effect, the Russian interference, an ill-informed and apathetic electorate, and an incompetent media. These forces came together to create the perfect political storm, which if ignored, would prove a disaster to the ship *U.S.S. America* and her crew, the citizens of the *U.S.S. America*. Unfortunately, like the *Andrea Gail*, the "crew" of the *U.S.S. America* was given ample, very clear warning of the potential catastrophic effect of the perfect storm heading their way, but chose to ignore the warnings and turned right into the storm, electing Donald Trump and a Republican Congress.

While the *U.S.S. America* and its "crew" will not perish like the *Andrea Gail* and her crew, the effects of this "perfect storm" have already and will continue to cause serious damage to every system of the *U.S.S. America* and her "crew": Unlike the original perfect storm, which lasted only a few days and took 13 lives, the political perfect storm we are now erratically navigating through will last for years and will harm millions, cause the deaths of thousands, harm our environment, the economy, our educational system,

our health care system, the legal system, our relations with allies, and our standing in the world.

Long after this "perfect storm" passes the damage done to the *U.S.S. America* and her crew will take decades to recover from. Unfortunately, for many, the damage will be permanent and there will be no recovery. We can now only hope that the "crew" has learned a hard lesson and will replace Captain Trump and his first mates Ryan and McConnell as soon as possible, so the *U.S.S. America* and her "crew" can return to safe harbor for repair and recovery.
Rich DiPentima
Portsmouth, N.H.

≈
Obamacare Repeal a Road to Ruin

To the Editor:
My father spent the last four years of his life in a nursing home. The monthly bills started at \$6,250 and increased to \$7,500 as his dementia worsened. He died in late 2009 so the costs would be even higher today.

My father had enough savings to pay the nursing home bills. Most Americans do not. Half of American families have no retirement savings. Few have managed to save \$60,000. \$60,000 would not last ten months in many nursing homes. If the person has a home it will have to be sold to pay the bills. If the person is married his spouse will need to find somewhere to live with little if any savings.

This is where Medicaid comes in. When a family's savings run out Medicaid pays the nursing home bill. At least it does now. If the GOP's repeal of the Affordable Care Act goes through there will be big cuts to the Medicaid program. States, especially New Hampshire, will not pick up the tab. It will be up to the person's chil-



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— John Lennon (1940-1980)
musician, songwriter

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dren to pay for mom or dad possibly just when their own children are ready for college. Those without willing children will get stuck on long waiting lists then dumped into care homes with as little medical help as the state will allow.

If you have employer-provided health insurance and think repealing the Affordable Care Act will not affect you, think again. You will get old. If you are lucky so will your parents.

Walter Hamilton
Portsmouth, N.H.

Walter:
The final outcome of this struggle is yet unknown. If the GOP succeeds in gutting Obamacare, they will be included in the list of those who suffer.
The Editor

The Devil in D.C.!

To the Editor:
Let's see, I could carp about how, for the past 25 years, Main Street has fallen victim to an insidious hate-based experiment in social engineering fomented by powerful corporate elites.
I could carp about the draconian views being shoved down our collective throat in the name of conservative ideology.
I could carp about plutocrats using enormous personal wealth to apply every known propaganda technique to divide us as neighbors, to scapegoat minorities, and to seize control of the political process in a bid to consolidate their power.
I could carp about the consequences of civil negativity, and how Donald Trump's trainwreck array of hacks, misfits, and weasels are turning America into a not-so-funny joke on the world stage.
But that isn't what's bothering me today. It's Mitch McConnell.

When I hear cretins like McConnell rationalize how the fat cats who regularly grease his palm require tax breaks more than more ordinary folks need health care, I'm convinced the devil walks among us. Still, perhaps out of anger or frustration, we keep electing his ilk as our "public servants."

Ask yourself, how many more times must we shoot ourselves in the foot at the polls before we bleed to death?

Rick Littlefield
Barrington, N.H.

Rick:
We can't hear you — we're deaf from all the gunfire.
The Editor

Let Shea-Porter Lead the Fight

To the Editor:
My favorite member of the U.S. Congress, Senator Bernie Sanders [I-VT], who seldom pulls any punches and is almost never wrong, had this to say about the Republicans plan for healthcare, "Thousands of people will die if the Republican healthcare bill becomes law. We should join the rest of the world and guarantee healthcare for all, rather than take it away from 23 million people."

Bernie, as always, was correct! With support for the Republicans' Trumpcare about to bite the dust, the Democrats need to lead the fight and guarantee healthcare as a birthright for all. Medicare-For-All is the most sensible way to accomplish this goal.

We in New Hampshire's 1st District are very fortunate to be represented by Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter, who is perhaps positioned better than any other member of the U.S. House to lead the charge for Medicare-For-All in the House of Representatives. I say this because I know that she receives no campaign money from corporate lobbyists, therefore is not

beholden to the health insurance and pharmaceutical industries (rest assured that Carol has earned the ire of these industries). I also happen to know, based on conversations I've had with her, that she is a big advocate for single-payer healthcare.

Furthermore, Carol has always been a staunch fighter for all the programs that make America a great society and that are so important to so many millions of Americans: Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. I will always remember her as that courageous activist who turned her back on former President George W. Bush at a rally in Portsmouth calling for the privatization of Social Security. Just imagine the devastating effect Bush's Great Recession would have had on Social Security had it been successfully privatized!

It is now incumbent on as many of us as possible to empower Representative Shea-Porter by contacting her and requesting that she sponsor a House Bill to establish Medicare-For-All.

Wayne H. Merritt
Dover, N.H.

The Psychology of Healthcare

To the Editor:
Cognitive dissonance is the simultaneous belief in conflicting realities. Unfortunately, cognitive dissonance is exactly what we encounter when trying to understand healthcare insurance. What are those realities?

One is that many Americans believe it wrong to be pushed into a lifelong single-payer insurance plan — especially when it is run by big government and enforced at the point of a gun. It's a valid fear.

The other reality is that private insurance has historically fragmented the risk pool at the expense of higher-risk groups, creating gross inequities and depriving millions of Americans coverage. Like it or not, universal participation by all citizens

is the only way equitable healthcare insurance can work, and the federal government is the only organization big enough to consolidate the risk pool and ensure full enrollment.

When we're plump, pink, and politically fired up, it's understandable why we might not want to be compelled to shell out extra cash for a program that appears to yield no immediate return. Yet, the minute we're splayed out on a gurney with our check-engine light flashing, none of that will matter. We'll want the best care we can get, and we'll want it now!

In the end, what matters more than any insurance plan is the \$25 aspirin and \$2,500 EKG fee being tacked onto the bill. In the United States, the real culprit may not be who pays, but rather the bizarre unregulated charges we're forced to pay for pharmaceuticals and services.

Rick Littlefield
Barrington, N.H.

N.H. Budget \$12 Billion, Not \$11.7

To the Editor:
The recent headlines in statewide media reported that the legislature final passed a state budget of \$11.7 billion for the next two years. In fact, when the additional \$300 million provided off-budget to the Fiscal Committee (under the control of five House and five Senate members) is included, the total is at least \$12 billion. This arrangement was agreed to for two reasons. The Freedom Caucus of the Republican majority was insistent that the budget be under \$12 billion, regardless of the needs or consequences. On the other hand, most Republicans knew that important services and needs were already being underfunded. While Governor Sununu had proposed significant and worthy goals such as funding all-day kindergarten, eliminating waiting lists for residents with mental illness and disabilities, aggressively addressing the addiction crisis in our state, supporting more renewable energy and lowering electricity bills, most of his goals were either ignored or significantly underfunded.

This legislature did what many have done in the past: ignored the actual

financial demands needed to solve or significantly impact our state's problems, and instead decided what they wanted to spend, and then proceeded to adjust various estimates and questioned the credibility of the financial needs, until they arrived at a budget number that they liked. Yes, they did include some baby steps to address many of the issues, but they also knew that these would not make a real impact on our state's urgent needs: medical care, the environment, renewable energy, building and infrastructure aid to municipalities, and more.

While business leaders kept insisting that they need help with workforce issues and clear environmental regulations, instead they were given a business tax cut with no strings attached. This tax cut was not requested by the mostly out-of-state companies, but will result in a revenue loss for the state of \$208 million by 2022, when the previous session's cuts are included. In addition, the electricity consumption tax was eliminated reducing an average bill by approximately 0.5 percent (another state revenue loss of \$6 million). However, electricity customers can already reduce their electricity bills by 5-10 percent by just changing energy suppliers, which does not reduce state revenues. (See the Public Utility Commission's website.) So far only 18 percent of residential customers have done so.

Finally, it is important to point out that this budget bill also included many items unrelated to the budget, such as measures to restrict women's access to health care and their choices. These social issues seemed more important to the Republican majority, including the Governor, than providing for the general welfare of our state. Other good examples include the Right-to-Work for Less bill which was defeated, the new fetal homicide bill, which passed, and the Anti-Discrimination bill which was rejected.

Throughout the past legislative session, the Democratic leadership reached out to the Republicans to sug-


Hate Mail, &c.

to page six

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The Northcountry Chronicle

Neo-McCarthyism

by William Marvel

Before my father entered Conway's new Kennett High School, in 1923, he spent a couple of years at a little private boarding school in Duxbury, Mass., called Powder Point. I have a photo of him and his class dressed in knickers and knee socks; apparently only the upperclassmen wore trousers. Around 1961, while browsing through a box of my father's memorabilia, I found that photo and a copy of the academy yearbook, the "Powder Horn." The book included no individual portraits or profiles of the graduates, but the class notes made particular reference to an obviously popular student named Alger Hiss.

I knew that name even then. Alger Hiss was the favorite target of Red-baiting Republicans of the McCarthy era. After World War II, Hiss was accused of having spied for Soviet communists in the 1930s, but the statute of limitations had expired so he was charged with perjury for denying it. The first prosecution ended in a mistrial, but on a second attempt the government finally convicted him.

While Hiss languished in prison, my father began a Navy assignment requiring a high-level security clearance. So little did evidence or logic restrain the Congressional inquisition that such incidental association with a suspected communist spy could have seriously curtailed the opportunities of those in sensitive public employment. The witch hunt eventually involved the private sector, and particularly the entertainment industry. People dreaded being exposed for having consorted with communists before the war, when Marxist theory intrigued many intellectuals. Once accused, the only way to save oneself from jail or economic ruin was to confess, repent ostentatiously, and dutifully sacrifice a list of real or imagined collaborators.

With that copy of the "Powder Horn" I ran downstairs and reminded my father of his notorious classmate, but his reaction puzzled me. He rather curtly said he knew no such person at Powder Point. I observed that there were only eight boys in his entire class, and the yearbook identified Alger Hiss as the big man on that tiny campus. My father's denial then turned to dis-

missal. It was another three decades before he admitted the acquaintance, and confessed that his reluctance to concede it earlier had arisen from apprehension of the consequences.

I thought the Old Man had been a little paranoid until I reflected on the atmosphere of the McCarthy era. When I first pestered him about Hiss, I was not aware of the damage public hysteria could inflict. Neither had I yet learned how the opportunistic, the guilty, and the craven often demonstrate their political orthodoxy with exaggerated fervency, and with demands for the virtual destruction of those who might harbor dissenting opinions. Blacklisting demolished many a career in the 1950s, bringing poverty or exile to suspected communist sympathizers, while commercial boycotts scuttled the businesses of the self-employed.

By 1961 the anti-communist frenzy had abated somewhat, but the fear of being branded lingered. Navy pensions were paltry then, so my father still had to work, and after several years of part-time jobs he was hoping for a more secure position with the school district. The gentry in our latter-day Gopher Prairie maintained a measure

of political conformity through the private jobs they offered directly, the public jobs they controlled indirectly, and by selectivity in commercial lending. Economic dependence curbed the expression of unpopular ideas and divergent opinion on local issues, and suspicion of down-right un-American connections also might still have been fatal to employment prospects.

Now the spirit of McCarthyism is back with a vengeance. Because of the Soviet association, its resurgence is most obvious in the herculean effort to stigmatize political opponents as agents of a foreign enemy. As early as last December a columnist of no-less-leftist a publication than *The Nation* excoriated his fellow liberals for regurgitating phony "facts" about Russian collusion with the Trump campaign. More recently, statements and sources behind that claim were spectacularly discredited, bringing abject media retractions and the resignations of prominent reporters, but Democratic activists keep flailing that spavined horse.

The revived spirit of McCarthyism coincides with a comeback in the ploy of using economic intimidation to squelch dissenting opinion

at all levels of political discourse. The abortion debate and gay-marriage referenda often turned into one-sided warfare against opponents, who were targeted personally and commercially; boycotts were deployed against entire states. Liberal executives tried punishing Donald Trump for winning the presidency with corporate boycotts of his and his daughter's companies — while some of us wondered why they were patronizing them in the first place. California has banned taxpayer-funded travel to states that refuse to jump on the transgender bandwagon. Opponents of Arizona's tighter immigration policies suggested boycotting Arizona Iced Tea as "the drink of fascists" until they realized it was brewed in New York.

As in Joe McCarthy's heyday, punitive economic action is again the ultimate response to political disagreement, but this time it comes from the left rather than the right. Proponents of cultural diversity lament political polarization even as they try to force ideological homogeneity, and in their very insistence on universal tolerance they betray a peculiar intolerance of their own.

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

gest bipartisan paths forward on the urgent issues facing our state, only to be told we don't need your help. The agenda of Democrats in this state has very different priorities. However, it is the voters who are the ultimate deciders.

Rep. Peter Somssich
Portsmouth Ward 3
Portsmouth, N.H.

Make America Sane Again

To the Editor:
One of my concerns is that Uncle Sam is like an alcoholic who's

still drinking and in denial about his condition. Substitute a bloated military budget for booze and we're talking endless wars and a potential nuclear holocaust, not merely endless drinking and a potential DUI.

Today is July 4th, as I write this letter. The date makes me reflect on America's identity. Who are we as a nation? Are we on track with our Creator's purpose? Or are we wrapped up in self-destructive behavior, largely in denial about our spiritual disease?

Yesterday, July 3rd, I traveled

by car to Walden Pond in Concord, Mass. — the site of Henry David Thoreau's famous cabin in the woods. On the way, I noticed a hand-made sign taped to a signpost. It simply stated, "Our Leaders Are Insane."

This got me thinking. I don't know who put that sign there, nor when they did so. It's possible it was put there during the Obama Administration. Most likely, though, it was after Trump was inaugurated, given Trump's bad temperament.

If, in fact, our leaders are insane

then it's also true that we, as a people, are insane, too, for having elected such leaders. It's the insane leading the insane. That is, to the degree we have a true democracy, not a plutocracy.

The next time I visit Concord it will be by bicycle, not by car. Cycling is more civilized. True, it will mean a commuting time measured in days, not hours. But that's time well spent, pondering peace instead of war.

Alex J. Boros
Rochester, N.H.

The Post-Trump Era?

by Doug Henwood

How much longer can this go on? As I write this, PredictIt.org gives 71/29 odds that Trump will last the year, but it's mighty tempting to buy the "no" — especially after the revelation that he asked Comey to shut down the Flynn investigation. (Disclosure alert: I bought 100 shares of "no" at \$0.28.)

What is the endgame of the people, mostly Democrats, pounding the drums most heavily? Do they want to impeach Trump, which

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When is daylight robbery not a crime?

by Jim Hightower

I thought Donnie Trump and his fellow Republicans were big law 'n order politicians. So, why are they trying to kill the sheriff and unleash thousands of robbers to run wild across America?

The sheriff they want to kill is the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. The thieves they're out to help are corporate debt collectors who pay pennies on the dollar to

buy huge data bases of overdue bills — then hound the borrowers to pay up. They profit from weak regulations that let them bully, harass, rob, and run roughshod over tens of thousands of consumers every year — including people who've already paid off their debt or never even incurred it.

Every year, the debt collection firms routinely abuse the law and overload our courts by rotely filing hundreds of thousands of lawsuits

against debtors. Masses of these suits are backed by only flimsy, out-of-date, erroneous, forged, or non-existent evidence. Collectors don't care about the evidence, however, for their intent is not to win in court, but to frighten or bamboozle borrowers into paying.

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau recently sided with the victims of this corporate thievery, proposing new rules to stop the abuse. The Trumpist Republicans

have responded with outrage — not at the corporate outlaws, but at the sheriff! Their GOP's 2016 party platform advocates abolishing the consumer bureau, calling it a "rogue agency" for daring to stand up to the real rogues that're openly robbing workaday Americans.

Why are the GOP so shamefully-soft on crime? Because it is not just small fry debt collectors involved in this outlandish shakedown of innocent borrowers, but such

Wall Street powerhouses as JPMorgan Chase and Citibank — which are also generous political donors to Republican candidates.

Daylight robbery is a crime ... or not. Depends on who is robbing whom.

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≈

seems a long shot given Republican control of Congress? Do they want to bruise his weak ego so badly that he resigns? Clearly the job is much harder than he ever imagined — and, by the way, what reasonably sentient person over the age of 8 ever thought the presidency wasn't grindingly hard? But he also wants adulation, not the relentless volleys of shit he's gotten. It's not impossible to imagine him just walking off-stage, especially if his legal situation gets seriously dicey.

What then? President Pence? If Pence were president, the entire Republican dream agenda would sail through Congress in like three weeks. Pence spent a dozen years in Congress (Tea Party branch) and four years as governor of Indiana; he's an appalling figure but he knows how things work. He might not be able to overcome his party's internal divisions, but he probably could do a better job than Trump, and every day would not be a circus as it is now.

Pence is a horror — fiscal sadist, misogynist, homophobe, lover of the carceral state. He's repeatedly described himself as "a Christian, a conservative, and a Republican, in that order," though given today's modern GOP, it's not clear there's much of a difference among these features. (He should have said he's a reactionary Christian; there are plenty of other kinds.) He's a creationist who rejects climate change, thinks

stem cell research is "obsolete," and once actually said that "smoking doesn't kill." His anti-abortion law was the most extreme in the country. His cuts to Planned Parenthood led to a rural HIV epidemic. Like Sessions, Pence is a maximalist on drugs, including weed. He's hot to privatize Social Security. He likened the Supreme Court's upholding of Obamacare to 9/11.

Should Trump get pushed out, the orchestrated campaign of healing would be painful. It's not far-fetched to imagine leading Democrats channelling Gerald Ford's "our long national nightmare is over." There would be something of what Wall Street calls a "relief rally" on the transition, and it would perversely grease the way for Pence to make the U.S. more like the Indiana he left behind. We should be fighting to keep him in office, as fatally damaged goods.

Several things seem to be driving this campaign to squeeze Trump out, aside from the obvious fact he's an unstable ignoramus. Dems still can't get over the fact that they lost to the most unpopular candidate in the history of polling, but instead of blaming their own terrible candidate (the second-most unpopular candidate in the history of polling) and the slavers' legacy, the Electoral College, they want to blame Russia. (Time was they blamed Comey too — remember when Paul Krugman said that "Comey and Putin installed

a crazy, vindictive can't-handle-the-truth person in the White House"? But he's since been rehabilitated.)

But that's not all: a large part of the political class (Hillary prominent among them, along with John McCain), the security establishment, and their contract-hungry patrons in the military-industrial complex all want desperately to make Russia the enemy, and are reviving zombie tropes from the Cold War to promote their cause. Trump may well have friends in the Russian mob, but his resistance to elite hostility towards the country is one of the few non-awful things about him.

It's been stunning to watch liberals cheering on the security state's war-by-leak against Trump. He's odious, but he is the legally elected president — under an absurd electoral system, but that's the one we've got. (Makes you wonder what they would have done to Sanders, if by some unimaginable fluke he'd won.) And yet we've seen months of praise for the CIA and the FBI as the magic bullets who could deliver us from the short-fingered vulgarian.

The defenses of the CIA began with Trump's disparaging remarks about the Agency before taking office, which were taken as near-blasphemous. For an amateur like Trump, such attacks were extremely risky. In early January, Chuck Schumer presciently warned (on the Maddow Show, of course): "Let

me tell you: You take on the intelligence community — they have six ways from Sunday of getting back at you." You'd almost think that he knew what would come next: an endless series of leaks portraying Trump as Putin's towel boy and, as an extra-special bonus, a pervert (the piss tape) — all applauded by liberals, with little regard for the CIA's 70-year history of lying, assassination, and coups.

Then came the Comey firing, and suddenly the FBI was a noble organization as well. It's far from that, and has always been. As Mark Ames reports in his little history of the Bureau, it has no legal charter; Congress didn't want to authorize a secret police so Teddy Roosevelt created it by executive fiat. Much of the Bureau's history was about persecuting communists — and gay people — and smearing its enemies. It spent the 1960s and early 1970s trying to ruin Martin Luther King, the Black Panthers, and the New Left. In other words, it's been political from the very first, and all these current worries about "politicizing" the FBI are Grade A bullsh_t.

Which brings us back to the endgame issue. Democrats look to be extending the strategy of their failed 2016 campaign by being the not-Trump and nothing more — it's all they've got. They are making no visible effort to come up with an

appealing agenda as an alternative to the deeply unpopular one the GOP has on offer. In fact, they're annoyed at Bernie Sanders for trying to get the party to talk about policy, which is somehow seen as an act of narcissism in the Beltway worldview:

"But the senator, who'll be 79 the next time the New Hampshire primary rolls around, is continuing to put himself at the center of the conversation. He's introduced a Medicare-for-all bill this week that he hopes will force others to sign on." — *Politico*, May 15, 2017

Imagine that! Pushing a bill to expand health insurance coverage at a moment when Republicans are trying to take it away. The ego of that man.

The party's strategy can't be counted a success on conventional measures; Gallup reports that the Dems have lost 5 approval points since November, leaving the two parties with near-identical approval ratings (D: 40 percent, R: 39 percent).

During the early days of the Trump administration, it seemed like a serious left opposition might take form. That's a hazy memory now that so many liberals and even leftists are taking dictation from the security state and throwing around words like "treason." We can do better than this, can't we?

Doug Henwood edits the Left Business Observer: lbo-news.com.

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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, JULY 9	MONDAY, JULY 10	TUESDAY, JULY 11	WEDNESDAY, JULY 12	THURSDAY, JULY 13	FRIDAY, JULY 14	SATURDAY, JULY 15
<p>2004—“I trust God speaks through me,” says George W.[MD] Bush to an Amish group. “Without that, I couldn’t do my job.”</p> <p>1986—Ed “Meese is a Pig” Meese publishes a 1,960 page report on pornography meticulously listing 100 pages worth of obscene movie, magazine, and book titles.</p> <p>1982—Unemployed and barefooted Englishman Michael Fagan, 31, climbs a drainpipe, enters Buckingham Palace, and wakes Queen Elizabeth in her bedroom.</p> <p>1958—Fourteen thousand U.S. troops, equipped with nuclear-capable rockets, invade Lebanon.</p> <p>1958—A landslide falling into Lituya Bay, Alaska, causes a megatsunami over 1,700 feet high.</p> <p>1951—Dashiell Hammett, 57, tubercular author of <i>The Maltese Falcon</i>, is sentenced to six months in prison by the House Un-American Activities Committee for his reticence.</p> <p>1937—Oliver Law, a battalion commander in the Abraham Lincoln Brigade and the first African-American to lead white troops, is killed in action in Spain.</p> <p>1918—Two trains collide head-on in Nashville killing 101 and injuring another 171. It is the deadliest train wreck in U.S. history.</p> <p>1846—Marines of the <i>U.S.S. Portsmouth</i> row ashore and raise the flag at Yerba Buena (now San Francisco) claiming California for the U.S.</p>	<p>2007—China executes its Director of the State Food and Drug Administration. Zheng Xiaoyu took bribes which led to 40 deaths.</p> <p>2001—George Tenet tries to warn George Bush and Condi Rice about Osama bin Laden and al-Qaeda, but can’t get their attention.</p> <p>1989—Fifteen tornadoes cause \$100 million in damages in the northeast.</p> <p>1985—French secret police in the South Pacific blow up Greenpeace’s boat, <i>Rainbow Warrior</i>.</p> <p>1972—Water used to fight an arson fire destroys the U.S.S. Forrestal’s computers and nearly capsizes her.</p> <p>1972—In the Chandka Forest of India, a herd of stampeding elephants, driven mad by the heat, flattens a village killing 24.</p> <p>1949—A 375-foot four-masted steel barque, <i>Pamir</i>, a school ship, is the last cargo-carrying sailing vessel to round Cape Horn.</p> <p>1926—Lightning hits a powder warehouse in Picatinny, N.J. Over three days, millions of pounds of explosives destroy 187 of 200 buildings, injure 38, and kill 19.</p> <p>1873—Verlaine shoots Rimbaud.</p> <p>1805—RIP Revolutionary War soldier Col. William Butler, court martialled for refusing to cut off his ponytail. “Bore a hole through the bottom of my coffin,” his will said, “[so] the damned rascal [his ex-CO] will see that, even when dead, I refuse to obey his orders.”</p>	<p>2012—A Robinson R22 helicopter crashes in Brazil, killing one; in Australia, two R22s crash an hour apart.</p> <p>2003—Condi Rice lies about White House knowledge of Joe Wilson’s Niger investigation; Ari Fleischer outs Valerie Plame as a CIA officer; Karl Rove lies to <i>Time</i> about Wilson’s wife, Plame; and CIA head George Tenet takes the rap for the White House’s lies about Iraq buying uranium.</p> <p>1955—Congress puts “In God We Trust” on all U.S. coins and paper currency; which god is not specified.</p> <p>1953—Ike OK’s the overthrow of Iran’s Prime Minister Mohammed Mosaddeq. What could go wrong?</p> <p>1951—In Cicero, Ill., 4,000 whites attack a building renting to a black WW II vet. The Guard quells the riot; the vet is charged with a crime.</p> <p>1947—In Georgia, eight black prisoners are killed for refusing to work without boots in a snake-filled swamp.</p> <p>1917—A Bisbee, Ariz. posse herds 1,286 striking copper miners into cattle cars and sends them by rail towards New Mexico with no food or water.</p> <p>1864—Four miles north of the White House, at Ft. Stevens, Abraham Lincoln comes under enemy fire.</p> <p>1804—At Weehauken, N.J. Alexander Hamilton fires into the ground in front of Aaron Burr. Burr carefully aims, then shoots Hamilton dead.</p> <p>1713—Queen Anne’s War ends as Indians sign the Treaty of Portsmouth. The settlers soon renege.</p>	<p>2011—In Flandes, Colombia, a Robinson R66 helicopter sheds parts, then crashes, killing the former head of the Civil Air Patrol and his pilot.</p> <p>1982—FEMA pledges that even in a nuclear war, the mail will get through.</p> <p>1979—The White Sox are forced to forfeit a game after explosives damage the field during Disco Demolition Night at Comiskey Park.</p> <p>1973—A fire in St. Louis, Mo. destroys the service records of 16 to 18 million Army and Air Force veterans.</p> <p>1917—After 30 hours in cattle cars no food or water, 1,286 striking copper miners are left stranded in the New Mexico desert. No relief comes until the next day.</p> <p>1908—Birth of Milton Berle, the first American transvestite to have his own television show.</p> <p>1892—The Pennsylvania militia arrives at Homestead, Pa. to protect Andrew Carnegie’s right to make a buck.</p> <p>1872—Orangemen avoid casualties by refraining from marching through Irish tenements in New York.</p> <p>1871—Orangemen are attacked as they march through Irish tenements in New York; 60 die this time.</p> <p>1870—Orangemen are attacked by an Irish mob as they march through Irish tenements in New York; eight die.</p> <p>1864—The <i>Notchez</i> [Miss.] <i>Courier</i> reports that Jones County has seceded from the Confederacy.</p> <p>1817—Pencilmaker and troublemaker Henry David Thoreau is born.</p>	<p>1999—Sen. Bob Smith (R-N.H.) drops out of the Presidential race, and the Republican Party to boot, to run as an Independent.</p> <p>1987—Senator Warren B. Rudman [R-N.H.] sets Ollie North straight during the Iran-Contra hearings: “The American people have the constitutional right to be wrong.”</p> <p>1977—During a heat wave and a financial crisis, with Son of Sam on the loose, lightning strikes cause a blackout in New York City. Chaos ensues.</p> <p>1959—A sodium-cooled nuclear reactor in Simi Valley, Calif. has a partial meltdown, releasing 300 times more radiation than Three Mile Island, a fact kept secret for 20 years.</p> <p>1950—A B-50 Superfortress crashes in Lebanon, Ohio, killing its crew of 16. The fissile core of the nuclear weapon on board not being installed, the crater made by its high explosives was only 25 feet deep.</p> <p>1948—Israeli troops drive 70,000 Palestinians from their homes in Lydda and Remleh.</p> <p>1943—Student Alexander Schmorell and Professor Kurt Huber, co-conspirators in the anti-Nazi pamphleteering group White Rose, are guillotined in Munich.</p> <p>1863—A New York mob, enraged by draft laws exempting the rich and egged on by Democrats, go on a three-day rampage, leveling whole blocks and attacking Greeley’s pro-Union <i>New York Tribune</i>.</p>	<p>2004—The GOP tries to ban gay marriage but can’t rise to the occasion.</p> <p>2003—Robert Novak outs CIA officer Valerie Plame in his column.</p> <p>2000—A Florida jury orders five tobacco companies to pay \$145 billion in damages. An appeals court later lets them off the hook.</p> <p>1991—A derailed tanker car full of pesticide spills into the Sacramento River killing 100,000 trout.</p> <p>1989—Alabama tries twice, 19 minutes apart, to electrocute Horace F. Dunkins, who’s black and developmentally-disabled. The first try fails because the chair is wired wrong.</p> <p>1981—New Hampshire businessman Max Hugel’s stint as Deputy Director of Operations at the CIA ends after 64 days due to revelations of unseemly stock market shenanigans.</p> <p>1976—In Traves, France, unknown persons celebrate Bastille Day by burning war criminal Joachim Peiper’s house—with him in it.</p> <p>1948—Southerners walk out of the Democratic convention to form the pro-segregation States’ Rights Party.</p> <p>1921—Massachusetts’ show trial of Nicolo Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti ends with a guilty verdict.</p> <p>1917—The Army shows mercy to striking miners in the New Mexico desert by imprisoning them.</p> <p>1791—In Lausanne, Vevey, and Rolle, Switzerland, citizens celebrate the liberation of the Bastille, shouting “Live free or die.”</p>	<p>1995—A derecho sends hurricane force winds through New York and New England, toppling thousands of trees and killing three people.</p> <p>1979—Jimmy Carter delivers his “malaise” speech, in which the word “malaise” does not appear.</p> <p>1974—In Florida, on live TV, newsreader Christine Chubbuck pulls a loaded pistol from a shopping bag and shoots herself dead.</p> <p>1971—Nixon says he’ll go to China.</p> <p>1964—The Republican Party saddles itself with Barry Goldwater as a presidential candidate.</p> <p>1954—“Operation Wetback” begins throwing “Mexican-looking” people out of the U.S.</p> <p>1919—The then-honestly-named War Department calls 337,000 Americans draft dodgers.</p> <p>1877—President John W. Garrett, of the B & O Railroad, gives his shareholders a 10% dividend and his workers a 10% pay cut.</p> <p>1865—In Rye, N.H. an optical illusion causes the Isles of Shoals to appear to be only a mile or two offshore.</p> <p>1779—General “Mad Anthony” Wayne’s troops take 700 prisoners with a bayonet charge at Stony Point.</p> <p>1685—Executioner Jack Ketch eventually beheads the Duke of Monmouth, after eight ax blows.</p> <p>1381—Lollard preacher John Ball, for inspiring the Peasants’ Revolt, is hanged, drawn, and quartered as Richard II looks on with approval.</p>
<p>12:02 12:37</p> <p>6:20 6:20</p>	<p>12:37 1:12</p> <p>6:55 6:57</p>	<p>1:12 1:46</p> <p>7:30 7:35</p>	<p>1:48 2:22</p> <p>8:07 8:15</p>	<p>2:27 3:01</p> <p>8:45 8:58</p>	<p>3:09 3:44</p> <p>9:27 9:46</p>	<p>3:56 4:31</p> <p>10:12 10:38</p>
SUNDAY, JULY 16	MONDAY, JULY 17	TUESDAY, JULY 18	WEDNESDAY, JULY 19	THURSDAY, JULY 20	FRIDAY, JULY 21	SATURDAY, JULY 22
<p>2010—As a running Robinson R44 helicopter is being loaded on a truck at Salt Lake City, an accident kills one person and seriously injures three.</p> <p>1991—The Trump Taj Mahal files for bankruptcy 467 days after opening.</p> <p>1979—A dam, badly built on shaky ground, collapses in Church Rock, N.M., spilling 1,100 tons of radioactive mill waste, 93 million gallons of Effluent, and as much radioactivity as 3 Three Mile Island.</p> <p>1973—Al Butterfield reveals he’s been bugging the Oval office at the behest of The Man himself.</p> <p>1969—<i>Apollo 11</i> heads for the Moon.</p> <p>1963—In NYC, Tom Cornell and Chris Kearns stage the first anti-Vietnam War demonstration.</p> <p>1948—The first commercial flight ever is hijacked, and crashes. The sole survivor, Wong Fu, the hijacker, is released due to jurisdictional difficulties.</p> <p>1945—The Atomic Age begins with a bang at Alamogordo, N.M.</p> <p>1934—Workers in San Francisco conduct a four-day General Strike.</p> <p>1877—B&O RR firemen in Martinsburg, W.Va. strike against wage cuts.</p> <p>1858—To resist prostitutes, Thomas P. “Boston” Corbett castrates himself with a pair of scissors. Seven years later he will kill John Wilkes Booth.</p> <p>1854—A conductor in New York City tells Elizabeth Jennings Graham to get off his streetcar, since she’s black. She refuses. In court, she wins desegregation, \$250, and court costs.</p>	<p>2015—Portsmouth cops, doing the bidding of Seacoast Helicopters, show up <i>en masse</i> at the office of local businessman Mike Thiel and grill him about a letter of complaint.</p> <p>1996—Flight 800 spontaneously explodes off Long Island. Yeah, right.</p> <p>1995—An Australian herding cattle with a Robinson R22 helicopter is killed after it breaks up in mid-air.</p> <p>1965—An American press officer in Saigon tells Morley Safer “if you think any American official is going to tell you the truth, then you’re stupid.”</p> <p>1962—The U.S. conducts its last near-ground atmospheric nuke test: the .018 kiloton “Little Feller.” A company of soldiers is marched through ground zero 26 minutes later.</p> <p>1955—Lightning ignites a huge mine placed near Ypres in 1916. A cow is the only casualty.</p> <p>1944—Two munitions ships explode at Port Chicago, Calif., killing 322, mostly black bomb handlers.</p> <p>1935—RIP Cudjoe Lewis, in Africatown, Mobile, Ala., last known survivor of the Atlantic slave trade.</p> <p>1928—Partying with Mexican Revolution veterans, President Alvaro Obregon tells strolling caricaturist Leon Toral, “Make sure you make me look good.” Toral says, “I will,” and shoots him dead.</p> <p>1877—Gov. Henry Mathews calls out a local militia company to suppress the Martinsburg, W.Va. railroad strike. It sides with strikers, instead.</p>	<p>1985—Still doped up after cancer surgery five days earlier, Ronald Reagan OKs sending arms to Iran.</p> <p>1984—James O. Huberty tells his wife he’s “going to hunt humans,” then kills 21 and wounds 19 at a San Diego McDonald’s. A SWAT team sniper kills Huberty. His widow unsuccessfully sues McDonalds for poisoning his mind with MSG.</p> <p>1981—Norman Mailer’s protegee Jack Abbott, on work release after a stretch for bank robbery, stabs a man to death in the East Village.</p> <p>1972—<i>U.S.S. Ranger</i> is disabled after bolts and a paint scraper are intentionally dropped into the gears.</p> <p>1969—Senator Ted Kennedy gives Mary Jo Kopechne a ride part of the way home from a party, takes a swim, then a nap.</p> <p>1964—Harlem riots after cops kill an unarmed 15-year-old.</p> <p>1944—Ordered by <i>der Führer</i> to kill a fly, aide Fritz Darges suggests it’s a job for the Luftwaffe. He’s immediately banished to the Eastern Front.</p> <p>1939—Hunter S. Thompson is born, Louisville, Ky.</p> <p>1938—Douglas “Wrong Way” Corrigan lands in Ireland after an unauthorized trans-Atlantic flight.</p> <p>1925—H.L. Mencken is nearly run out of Dayton, Tenn. on a rail by its pious Christian inhabitants.</p> <p>1877—Governor Henry Mathews of West Virginia pleads for U.S. Marines to suppress the B & O railroad strike.</p>	<p>2011—Wendi Murdoch deftly deflects a pie aimed at her husband Rupert, as he’s being grilled about phone-hacking by Parliament.</p> <p>2010—Terrorified by a malignity-edited <i>YouTube</i> clip, Sec. of Ag. Tom Vilsack has USDA employee Shirley Sherrod pulled over by the side of the road and summarily fired.</p> <p>2001—Deputy Chairman of the British Conservative party Lord Jeffrey Archer is convicted of perjury and sentenced to 4 years.</p> <p>1994—Dining with reporters in the Capitol, Sen. Howell Heflin (D-Ala.) pulls what he thinks is a hankie from his pocket, and wipes his nose with a pair of panties.</p> <p>1991—South Africa’s government admits it paid Zulus to undermine the African National Congress.</p> <p>1985—Concord, N.H. teacher Christa McAuliffe is chosen to be first “Teacher in Space.”</p> <p>1979—Sandinistas march triumphantly into Managua.</p> <p>1969—John Fairfax completes the first solo cross-Atlantic row.</p> <p>1957—A two-kiloton nuclear warhead carried by an air-to-air missile explodes 18,000 feet above five Air Force volunteers at Yucca Flats.</p> <p>1919—White Washingtonians enraged by racist headlines begin attacking blacks in the nation’s capital.</p> <p>1848—At the first Women’s Rights convention held at Seneca Falls, N.Y., “Bloomers” are introduced.</p>	<p>2002—The FBI arrests three former NASA interns for stealing a 600 lb. safe holding moon rocks.</p> <p>2001—Lori Klausitis, 28, a Congressional aide, is found dead in the Port Walton Beach office of Rep. Joe Scarborough (R-Fla.).</p> <p>1989—Pres. George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush calls for a manned mission to Mars. His farcical notion is quickly laughed off.</p> <p>1985—Mel Fisher begins hauling \$400,000,000 worth of gold off the ocean floor near Key West, Fla., where it had lain for 363 years.</p> <p>1984—Famed runner and fitness fanatic Jim Fixx, age 52, dies of a heart attack while jogging.</p> <p>1973—Martial artist and fitness fanatic Bruce Lee, age 32, dies in Hong Kong.</p> <p>1969—Neil Armstrong takes a walk on the moon.</p> <p>1956—A scheduled election intended to reunify Vietnam is blocked by the South. The Eisenhower administration concurs.</p> <p>1948—Harry Truman kicks off the U.S.’s first peacetime draft.</p> <p>1944—German generals try but fail to kill Hitler with a bomb.</p> <p>1919—Rioting intensifies in Washington, D.C.: white mobs beat blacks in front of the White House.</p> <p>1877—The B & O Railroad strike spreads to Maryland, where workers threaten to blow up bridges and run trains into rivers.</p>	<p>2007—George W.[MD] Bush invokes the 25th Amendment, making Dick “Dick” Cheney President while Bush’s colon is inspected.</p> <p>2000—Long-time Texas voter Dick “Dick” Cheney registers in Wyoming to evade election laws.</p> <p>2000—The FBI and ATF are exonerated in the 1993 Waco, Texas siege which left 80 religious fanatics dead.</p> <p>1954—Geneva Accords free Vietnam from French colonial rule; the U.S. steps in to preserve disorder.</p> <p>1951—A Canadian Pacific DC-10 leaves Vancouver for Anchorage with 37 on board and disappears.</p> <p>1950—Tuffi, a young elephant riding in a German elevated train, gets agitated and breaks a window. She then falls into a river, but survives.</p> <p>1919—A burning dirigible crashes through the glass skylight of a Chicago bank killing 13.</p> <p>1919—With the cops on the sidelines, blacks in D.C., arm themselves and start fighting back in earnest.</p> <p>1918—<i>U-156</i> lands a few shells on the beach at Orleans, Mass. while shelling and sinking the tug <i>Perth Amboy</i> — the first time the U.S. mainland has been attacked since 1812.</p> <p>1877—Pittsburgh militia bayonet and shoot railroad strikers (20 die). Surviving strikers burn 39 buildings and wreck 104 locomotives.</p> <p>1643—Eight men are beheaded in Santa Fe under the unexpected authority of the Spanish Inquisition.</p>	<p>2003—In Mosul, Iraq, U.S. troops kill the Hussein brothers.</p> <p>2001—“I know what I believe,” says G.W.[MD] Bush. “I will continue to articulate what I believe and what I believe — I believe what I believe is right.”</p> <p>1991—Milwaukee police arrest Jeffrey Dahmer, the famous cannibal.</p> <p>1983—A Robinson R22 helicopter falls apart over Canton, Pa. and crashes, killing the pilot and a passenger.</p> <p>1975—Owen J. Quinn parachutes from the top of the South Tower of New York’s World Trade Center.</p> <p>1974—On the steps of the Capitol, 600 young Moonies begin a three-day fast and pray for Richard Nixon.</p> <p>1946—Irgun bombs the King David Hotel in Jerusalem, killing 91.</p> <p>1934—In Chicago, FBI agents shoot John Dillinger in the back.</p> <p>1919—The Army, Navy, Marines, and a downpour finally restore peace to Washington, D.C.</p> <p>1916—A bomb kills 10 and wounds 40 during a Preparedness Day parade in San Francisco. Perjured testimony sends two innocent men to prison.</p> <p>1915—The excursion steamer <i>Eastland</i> nearly tips over at the dock in Chicago, but it’s hushed up to prevent loss of business.</p> <p>1905—Henderson’s Point vanishes from the Piscataqua, thanks to 60,000 tons of dynamite.</p> <p>1877—Militiamen shoot their way out of Pittsburgh, killing 20 more strikers on the way.</p>
<p>4:48 5:22</p> <p>11:01 11:35</p>	<p>5:46 6:18</p> <p>11:55</p>	<p>6:47 7:16</p> <p>12:35 12:52</p>	<p>7:51 8:16</p> <p>1:36 1:51</p>	<p>8:54 9:15</p> <p>2:38 2:50</p>	<p>9:54 10:12</p> <p>3:38 3:49</p>	<p>10:52 11:07</p> <p>4:35 4:55</p>

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